

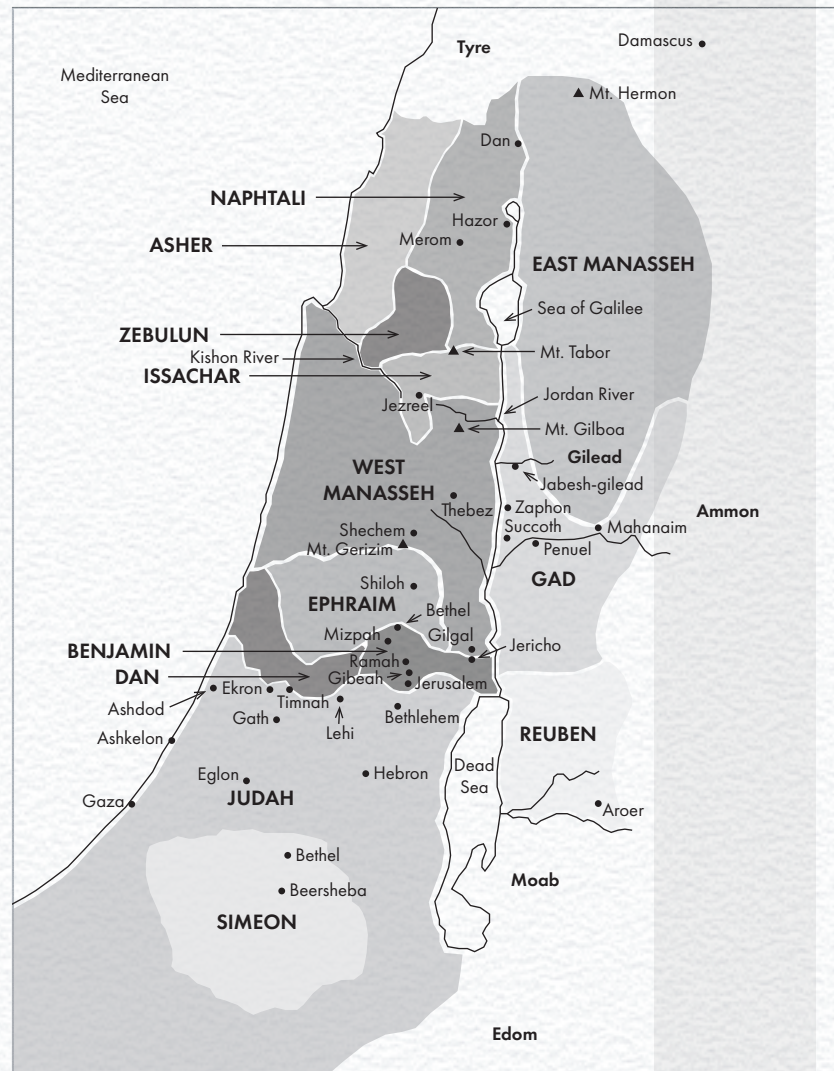
1 Samuel 1

WHEN

- The birth of Samuel is usually dated between 1100 B.C. and 1070 B.C.
- Samuel was the final judge of Israel. Most scholars place the period of the judges between 1450 B.C. and 1000 B.C. The books of Judges, Ruth and 1 Samuel fall within this period of history.

WHERE

- Elkanah, Hannah, and Peninnah lived in Ramah, between Gibeah and Mizpah.
- The Tabernacle of God was in Shiloh during these days.



CHARACTERS

- Elkanah – A man from the tribe of Levi who lived in the hill country of Ephraim.
- Penninah and Hannah – The two wives of Elkanah.
- Eli – The 14th judge of Israel. He was a priest who served God at the Tabernacle.
- Samuel – The firstborn son of Hannah. He grew up in Shiloh serving the Lord at the Tabernacle.

OUTLINE

- THE BIRTH OF SAMUEL (1:1-20):
 - + A man named Elkanah had two wives, Peninnah and Hannah.
 - + Peninnah had born Elkanah several children, but “the Lord had closed” Hannah’s womb.
 - + Peninnah made fun of Hannah because she was childless.
 - + Every year, their family would go to Shiloh and offer sacrifices to God.
 - + On their annual visit, Hannah was distressed and went to the Tabernacle to pray and ask God for a son.
 - + She promised the Lord, if He gave her a son, she would give him back to Him.
 - + Eli, the priest, assumed Hannah was a drunk, because he observed her lips moving, but she wasn’t making any sound.
 - + He confronted her and told her to put away her wine.
 - + Hannah clarified that she wasn’t drunk, rather she was pouring out her soul to God.
 - + Realizing his foolishness, Eli blessed Hannah and expressed his hope that God would answer her prayer.
 - + Shortly after returning to their house in Ramah, Hannah conceived.
 - + She gave birth to a son and named him Samuel.
- HANNAH GIVES SAMUEL BACK TO THE LORD (1:20-28):
 - + When Samuel was weaned, Hannah took him to Shiloh.
 - + She offered sacrifices to God at the Tabernacle before bringing Samuel to Eli.
 - + She told Eli about her vow, and how God had answered her prayer and given her a son.
 - + Hannah gave Samuel to Eli, who raised him and taught him to serve the Lord.

APPLICATION

- We know very little about the details of 99.9% of people’s lives. We should be slow to assume bad things about another person when we don’t know anything about them.
- Eli assumed Hannah was a drunk, when in-fact she was a virtuous woman.
- Eli interpreted the details of the scene very poorly.
- Eli’s interpretation of Hannah’s actions may have been shaped by his past, but they certainly weren’t shaped by Hannah’s past.
- Mat 7:2 - For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.