A Marriage That Shaped History: Elkanah & Hannah

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday February 10th, 2019

Text: I Sam. 1-2

### Intro

1. The strength of a nation lies not in the size of its army or the amount money it collects.
2. The real strength of a nation lies in its home life.
   1. We see that here as we study I Sam. 1-2, Elkanah & Hannah: A Marriage That Shaped History!
3. Sometimes, it is not what you do, but who you raise that makes a difference!
4. I Sam. 1:1-20: Introduction to Elkanah and his two wives, Peninnah and Hannah.
   1. Elkanah and Hannah gave birth to Samuel by God in answered prayer!
5. There were many godly married couples in OT Israel – Why did theirs help shape history?
6. To understand how their marriage shaped history it is important that we understand the times of the judges in which they lived!

#### Days of the Judges

* 1. The judges span from Othniel to Samuel, and began shortly after the death of Joshua.
  2. In the days of the judges, “every man did what was right in his own eyes” (Jud. 17:6; 21:25)
     1. Continual lapses into idolatry *(Jud. 2:11-13)*
     2. Mass killings of Israelites by Israelites *(Jud. 9:5; 12:6; 20:1-48)*
     3. Sanctioning of gang rape and murder *(Jud. 19:22-20:17)*
     4. Many worthless people in Israel *(Jud. 19:22; I Sam. 10:27; II Sam. 22:5)*
     5. Godless priests (I Sam. 1:3; 2:12-17, 22)
  3. When man does “what is right in his own eyes” the land is polluted with wickedness!

#### A Husband Devoted to the Lord, His Wife, & to the Good of His Family

* 1. Seeing the moral decay of the nation, what kind of husband was Elkanah?
  2. Elkanah
     1. Regularly worshiped. He was a husband devoted to God, his wife and his family! (I Sam. 1:3, 21; 2:19)
        1. He lived in difficult times but we read of him worshiping the God of heaven and offering Him the sacrifices He’d commanded.
     2. The sincerity of his worship (1:3). Contrast his worship to that of the priests who were a bad influence on all who came to worship at the tabernacle *(2:12-17).*
     3. He regularly brought his family to “the house of the Lord” (1:3, 7; Deut. 6:6-9)
     4. He faithfully performed his vows – 1:21. It was common to vow in O.T. God said if you vow, keep it! (Deut. 12:17; Ps. 22:25; Eccl. 5:4)
  3. What about his conduct in the confines of his own home?
     1. He was a good husband (1:8: Look at his words to Hannah!)
     2. He practiced his faith at home (1:22-23: Kept his faith in God). He did not put on his faith when he went to worship and then take it off at home! *(Deut. 6:6-9)*
  4. As we consider this marriage which shaped history, we see that Elkanah was a simple man of faith and was devoted to God and his family!

#### A Wife with Steadfast Faith in God

* 1. What about the wife of this godly man?
  2. Hannah
     1. She continued to trust in God through great hardship! (I Sam. 1:4-7)
        1. The Bible gives emphasis to the problem she had of being childless.
        2. Further, it tells of the trial it was to her in her home (Reviled and mocked by Peninnah):
        3. Elkanah saw the problem and tried to cheer her up, while Peninnah saw the problem and kept making fun of her about it.
        4. This was continual (1:6-7), year after year!
        5. Polygamy is a sin in the N.T. though God tolerated it in the O.T.
        6. In every instance where details of the home life are given, it brought unhappiness – whether it was Sarah and Hagar, Leah and Rachel, or Hannah and Peninnah.
        7. Hannah’s life demonstrates that, in spite of the pain and provocation in her home – She continued to trust in God through great hardship!
     2. She persevered in spite of the sins of her people *(1:14; 2:12-17, 22, 23)*
     3. She held God in His proper place (1:7, 11: Even in great hardship, she believed that God is greater than any problem she faced!
        1. She is portrayed as easily one of the most pious women in the OT – and this at such a low point in the history of God’s people of the OT.
        2. Her prayer marks the first time in the OT that anyone ever used the term, “Lord of Hosts.” In her prayer she recognizes that it is God who is the giver of life.
     4. She saw her proper place before God. Three times in 1:11 this great woman of faith refers to herself as God’s “handmaid” (KJV), lit. “maidservant” (NKJ, NAS, RSV).
        1. Her prayer was looking for a son that she could give to the Lord!
        2. God continued to bless her in that though she didn’t ask for it, He blessed her with more children! (2:20-21)
     5. Her faith looked forward (1:11).
        1. I Sam. 1:24-28 – Hannah saw that she was but a person passing through a small section of the history of God’s people, but she saw that she had something to offer that would outlive her, her son!
        2. Most scholars and historians think that it took 2-3 years to wean a child. However, among the Jews it was not uncommon to wean at 5 years old. It is no stretch to say about Samuel, as with Timothy, “From a child Samuel knew the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make one wise unto salvation” (II Tim. 3:15).
     6. Her faith not only looked forward, but her faith looked back.
        1. In her prayer praising God in 2:1-10 her attention is focused on the Lord. 11x in 10 verses she calls His name – and she speaks of God and His mighty works, not about any advantage she had gained!
        2. She does not forget God’s actions in answering her prayer!
  3. In light of all these facts we can conclude Hannah was a wife with a steadfast faith in God!

#### Days of Samuel

* 1. We have looked at Elkanah as a husband and Hannah as a wife.
  2. What part did they play in the history of God’s people as Samuel’s parents?
  3. Let us remember how things were when they arrived on the scene.
     1. The days of the judges! “Every man did what was right in his own eyes!”
  4. What effects did their son, Samuel, have on the history of God’s people?
     1. He told Eli of God’s plan to “judge his house forever” (I Sam. 3:10-18)
     2. He “was established to be a prophet of the LORD” (I Sam. 3:20)
     3. He judged Israel (I Sam. 7:15-17)
     4. He was God’s agent for instituting the monarchy (I Sam. 10:1; 14:47-48; 16:13)
        1. Saul’s great victories – I Sam. 14:47,48
        2. Anointed David – I Sam. 16:11-13
        3. Remember, that Jesus is the son of David! (Lk. 1:32; Rom. 1:3-4)
     5. With Samuel commenced a succession of prophets which continued until after the captivity (I Sam. 19:20; Acts 3:24)
     6. Only man recorded in OT to be a shadow of Jesus in that he was a prophet (3:20), priest (2:18; 10:8), and judge (7:15-17)!
        1. Jesus Christ is Prophet (Mt. 24:25, 36; Mk. 9:31), Priest (Heb. 6:20; 7:17, 23-24), and King (Mt. 25:31; I Tim. 6:15)!
  5. Samuel was regarded as one of the greatest leaders in Jewish history, next to Moses! (Jer. 15:1; Heb. 11:32)
     1. His influence and righteousness and faithful keeping of God’s laws were held up as a standard by which kings were judged (II Chr. 35:18).
  6. Acts 3:24: “And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and his successors onward, also announced these days.” (Still highly regarded in NT)
  7. Through Samuel Israel began to reform; he ushered in the monarchy and foreshadowed the Savior God would send to save mankind from sin!

## Conclusion

1. This all resulted from the faith of one man and one woman – a married couple who lived in wicked, discouraging times.
2. But in spite of how wicked the world was their faith was in the Lord of Hosts!
   1. Phil. 2:14-16: Reminds us of the example of the Philippians who were living “above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation” and were “lights!”
3. The wicked sons of Eli would perish, but the little child ministering before the Lord would go on to lead God’s people in the ways of righteousness and influence Israel for centuries to come! (II Chr. 35:18)
4. Next to Moses, he was the greatest figure in the history of God’s people in the OT. (Jer. 15:1)
5. On top of all this – I Sam. 2:21: Truly, God gave back to Elkanah and Hannah much more than they had given or asked!
6. The God of Elkanah and Hannah lives today!
7. What kind of influence will you have in the world to help shape history?
   1. *Remember, it is not always what* ***you*** *do, but* ***who*** *you raise!*
8. If you are not a Christian, you need to be! Repent of your sins and be baptized into His name!
9. If you are a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late – Repent and be renewed!
10. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!