

## Exegetical Notes – 1 Samuel 1:21-2:11

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen for Cornerstone Fellowship  
101 Kylies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320  
610-384-1375  
charleshjensen@aol.com

### 1 Samuel 1:21-2:11

#### Verses 1:21-23

<sup>21</sup> *When her husband Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the LORD and to fulfill his vow,* <sup>22</sup> *Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, “After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the LORD, and he will live there always.”*

<sup>23</sup> *“Do what seems best to you,” her husband Elkanah told her. “Stay here until you have weaned him; only may the LORD make good his word.” So the woman stayed at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him.*

- When Elkanah prepared to make his next annual visit to the Tabernacle (see 1:3), Hannah, Samuel’s mother, elected not to go with her husband. She told her husband that she preferred to wait until Samuel was weaned before making the trip. Weaning normally occurred around age three. She also revealed her intention to leave the boy at the Tabernacle at that time. She would literally give Samuel back to God.
- Elkanah raised no objection to any part of Hannah’s plan.

#### Verses 24-28

<sup>24</sup> *After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh.* <sup>25</sup> *When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought the boy to Eli,* <sup>26</sup> *and she said to him, “Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD.* <sup>27</sup> *I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him.* <sup>28</sup> *So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD.” And he worshiped the LORD there.*

- True to her word, when Samuel was weaned, Hannah took him to the Tabernacle to Eli, the priest. She made the appropriate thanksgiving offerings for the birth of a son and then she reminded Eli of the events

which had happened earlier (see 1:9-18). She told Eli of her intention of dedicating the child to the Lord and leaving the boy with Eli at the Tabernacle. She explained that she was placing Samuel under a lifelong vow to God.

### **Verse 2:1**

**2<sup>1</sup> Then Hannah prayed and said:**

***“My heart rejoices in the LORD;  
in the LORD my horn is lifted high.  
My mouth boasts over my enemies,  
for I delight in your deliverance.*”**

- Then Hannah offered prayer. In her address to YHWH she tells Him of her joy. She calls Him her “horn.” The horn of an animal is a sign of its strength. She declares that YHWH is her strength. She declares that His gift to her of a son has silenced Peninnah, her husband’s 2nd wife, her enemy, who made fun of her because she was barren (see 1:3-8).

### **Verse 2**

**2<sup>2</sup> “There is no one holy like the LORD;  
there is no one besides you;  
there is no Rock like our God.**

- She praises God. We sing her words today, “There is no rock like our God.”

### **Verses 3-8**

**3<sup>3</sup> “Do not keep talking so proudly  
or let your mouth speak such arrogance,  
for the LORD is a God who knows,  
and by him deeds are weighed.**

**4<sup>4</sup> “The bows of the warriors are broken,  
but those who stumbled are armed with strength.**

**5<sup>5</sup> Those who were full hire themselves out for food,  
but those who were hungry are hungry no more.**

**She who was barren has borne seven children,  
but she who has had many sons pines away.**

**6<sup>6</sup> “The LORD brings death and makes alive;  
he brings down to the grave and raises up.**

**7<sup>7</sup> The LORD sends poverty and wealth;**

*he humbles and he exalts.*

<sup>8</sup> *He raises the poor from the dust  
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;  
he seats them with princes  
and has them inherit a throne of honor.  
“For the foundations of the earth are the LORD’s;  
on them he has set the world.*

- She warns people not to be proud or to speak harshly to those who seem to have been rejected because God turns the tables and lifts up those who seem broken and who lack blessing.

#### Verses 9-10

<sup>9</sup> *He will guard the feet of his faithful servants,  
but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness.  
“It is not by strength that one prevails;  
<sup>10</sup> those who oppose the LORD will be broken.  
The Most High will thunder from heaven;  
the LORD will judge the ends of the earth.  
“He will give strength to his king  
and exalt the horn of his anointed.”*

- She declares that God guards those who are faithful to Him. One does not prevail because he is strong but because he follows YHWH. Those who do not follow YHWH’s word will fall under His judgment. YHWH watches over those He chooses and anoints them with His blessing. He is our strength and our salvation.

#### Verse 11

<sup>11</sup> *Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before  
the LORD under Eli the priest.*

- After these events happened, Elkanah returned home, but Samuel was left at the Tabernacle to be trained for service to YHWH by Eli.

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