

MARCH 20

Read 1 Samuel 1-3

CHAPTER 1

NOW there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name *was* Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite:

2 And he had two wives; the name of the one *was* Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

3 And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, *were* there.

4 ¶ And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions:

5 But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb.

6 And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb.

7 And *as* he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.

8 Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? *am* not I better to thee than ten sons?

9 ¶ So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.

10 And she *was* in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.

11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

12 And it came to pass, as she

continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth.

13 Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.

14 And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.

15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I *am* a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

16 Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.

17 Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant *thee* thy petition that thou hast asked of him.

18 And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more *sad*.

19 ¶ And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her.

20 Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, *saying*, Because I have asked him of the LORD.

21 And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.

22 But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, *I will not go up* until the child be weaned, and *then* I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.

23 And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him.

24 ¶ And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child *was* young.

25 And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli.

26 And she said, Oh my lord, *as* thy soul liveth, my lord, I *am* the

woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD.

27 For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

28 Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.

CHAPTER 2

AND Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.

2 *There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.*

3 Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let *not* arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD *is* a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

4 The bows of the mighty men *are* broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength.

5 *They that were full* have hired out themselves for bread; and *they that were hungry* ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.

6 The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.

7 The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

8 He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, *and* lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set *them* among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth *are* the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.

9 He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

11. And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. And the child did minister unto the LORD before Eli the priest.

12 ¶ Now the sons of Eli *were* sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD.

13 And the priests' custom with the people *was, that*, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's

servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand;

14 And he struck *it* into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites that came thither.

15 Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw.

16 And *if* any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and *then* take *as much* as thy soul desireth; then he would answer him, *Nay*; but thou shalt give *it me* now: and if not, I will take *it* by force.

17 Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

18 ¶ But Samuel ministered before the LORD, *being* a child, girded with a linen ephod.

19 Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought *it* to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

20 And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, The LORD give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the LORD. And they went unto their own home.

21 And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

22 ¶ Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

23 And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people.

24 *Nay*, my sons; for *it is* no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD's people to transgress.

25 If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.

26 And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men.

27 ¶ And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him,

Thus saith the LORD, Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house?

28 And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel *to be* my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel?

29 Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded *in my* habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?

30 Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed *that* thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

31 Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house.

32 And thou shalt see an enemy *in my* habitation, in all *the wealth*

which *God* shall give Israel: and there shall not be an old man in thine house for ever.

33 And the man of thine, *whom* I shall not cut off from mine altar, *shall be* to consume thine eyes, and to grieve thine heart: and all the increase of thine house shall die in the flower of their age.

34 And this *shall be* a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them.

35 And I will raise me up a faithful priest, *that* shall do according to *that* which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever.

36 And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left in thine house shall come *and* crouch to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and shall say, Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a piece of bread.

CHAPTER 3

AND the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; *there was* no open vision.

2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli *was* laid down in his

place, and his eyes began to wax dim, *that* he could not see;

3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God *was*, and Samuel was laid down *to sleep*;

4 That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here *am* I.

5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here *am* I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

6 And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here *am* I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here *am* I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.

9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 And the LORD came, and

stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

11 ¶ And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

12 In that day I will perform against Eli all *things* which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

14 And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

15 ¶ And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision.

16 Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here *am* I.

17 And he said, What *is* the thing that *the LORD* hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide *it* not from me: God do so to thee, and more

also, if thou hide *any* thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee.

18 And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, *It is the LORD*: let him do what seemeth him good.

19 ¶ And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let

none of his words fall to the ground.

20 And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel *was established to be* a prophet of the LORD.

21 And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

The events in today's chapters center around three persons—Hannah, Eli, and Samuel. God's sovereign working is seen in the birth of Samuel, for his mother, Hannah, was barren. Hannah prayed that God would give her a son, and even before she had conceived she consecrated him to the Lord. God answered Hannah's prayer and Samuel was born. The name Samuel (which means "requested of God") was given to the child as a token of the Lord's faithfulness in answering Hannah's prayer. Samuel was weaned and presented to Eli, the priest, at the central shrine at Shiloh.

The call of Samuel is covered in chapter 3. Tradition states that Samuel was about twelve years old at this time. He had grown up in the presence of the Lord and learned to serve in His Tabernacle, yet he did not have a personal experience with the Lord. How important it is for those who are raised in Christian homes to make their own personal decisions for Christ! Samuel had filled the lampstand with oil; it was close to daybreak and the lamp was about to go out. Samuel was sleeping and the Lord called him. He first thought that blind Eli needed his help, so he ran to him. Verse 10 records Samuel's conversion. He said, "Speak, for thy servant heareth."

This event was a turning point in history. Up to now, God had not spoken to the people in frequent or widespread (open) visions. But now everyone knew that Samuel was God's prophet and that the Lord was with him. The Lord was now able to appear once again because there was a man whom He could trust. Certainly God could do more for His people even today if He could find a devoted man willing to be His servant!

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right" (Proverbs 20:11).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 12: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 10.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

BARBARA McCAULEY

HYMN FOR TODAY

HIGHER GROUND

by **Johnson Oatman Jr., 1856-1922**

How sad it is to observe someone who has never lived up to his real potential. It is tragic to watch an individual who has great ability that is never used simply because he or she lacks the incentive to pursue a worthy goal. Similarly, it is disappointing to see a Christian fail to evidence spiritual growth of any kind. Scripture teaches that Christian maturity or Christlikeness is a process in which we advance from one level to the next, step by step. But the secret of such development is to have an intense desire to fulfill the purpose God has for our lives.

"Higher Ground" has been a favorite with many Christians since it was first published in 1898. It expresses so well this universal desire for a deeper spiritual life, continuing on a higher plane of fellowship with God than we have ever before experienced.

The author of this stirring text was Johnson Oatman, Jr., a businessman who wrote 3,000 gospel songs in his leisure time. Oatman was ordained by

the Methodist Episcopal denomination but never pastored a church. His hymns were always well received, even though he was paid no more than \$1.00 for any of his texts.

The music for "Higher Ground" was composed by Charles H. Gabriel, music editor of the Rodeheaver Publishing Company. He wrote the music and sometimes the texts for more than 8,000 gospel songs, many of which were especially popular in the Billy Sunday-Homer Rodeheaver campaigns from 1910-1920. This song was used often in the great camp meetings of this era and the singing of it would often bring forth shouts of "Glory, hallelujah!"

*I'm pressing on the upward way;
new heights I'm gaining every day—
Still praying as I'm onward bound,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."*

*My heart has no desire to stay
where doubts arise and fears dismay;
tho some may dwell where these abound,
my prayer, my aim is higher ground.*

*I want to live above the world,
tho Satan's darts at me are hurled;
for faith has caught the joyful sound,
the song of saints on higher ground.*

*I want to scale the utmost height
and catch a gleam of glory bright;
but still I'll pray till heav'n I've found,
"Lord, lead me on to higher ground."*

Chorus:

*Lord, lift me up and let me stand
by faith on heaven's table-land;
A higher plane than I have found—
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.*

**ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY
THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING**

Spring reminds us of the resurrection. The trees and grass have been sleeping for the winter. New life comes. This reminds us of the resurrection of our Lord as well as our coming resurrection.

Spring also reminds us of the new birth. That which was dead was made alive from within and now bears fruit for the enjoyment of all. That which was ugly has become beautiful. That which was lifeless now has life. So we remind ourselves in the spring-time of the new life found in Jesus Christ. At this

time, My, the beauty of God's handiwork, the beautiful trees, the flowers lining the roadside, the green grass like a carpet under foot, and the beautiful sunshine glistening upon it certainly makes one bless God for the privilege of being alive.

Let us pledge God to make this spring one of renewed service for Christ. Perhaps your church is launching into a new Spring Program. Do your best to make it succeed. Be the best Christian, the best teacher, the best deacon, the best preacher, or the best Christian worker you can be for God as you look toward the spring.

1727

SIR ISAAC NEWTON DIED.

Let us thank God for his life and the many things we know because of the discoveries of this great man.

**ON THIS DATE IN
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

1852

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN, A NOVEL BY HARRIET BEECHER STOWE, published in Boston.

MARTIN R. DELANY PUBLISHED THE CONDITION, ELEVATION, EMIGRATION AND DESTINY OF THE COLORED PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, the first major statement of the black nationalist position. Delany said, "The claims of no people, according to established policy and usage, are respected by any nation, until they are presented in a national capacity." He added: "We are a nation within a nation; as the Poles in Russia, the Hungarians in Austria; the Welsh, Irish, and Scotch in the British dominions."

1883

JAN MATZELIGER INVENTED THE FIRST MACHINE TO MANUFACTURE AN ENTIRE SHOE.

1890

BLAIR BILL WHICH PROVIDED FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION and allocated funds to reduce illiteracy among the freedmen was defeated in the Senate, 37-31.

1970

STUDENTS STRUCK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AND DEMANDED INCREASED BLACK ENROLLMENT. The strike ended April 2, after the administration agreed to meet their demands.

A Christian Life:

LOUIS ENTZMINGER

1876-1958

Sunday School administrator and Baptist preacher. Dr. Louis Entzminger began his service for the Lord with a great desire to work with the Sunday Schools of Baptist churches. He began to work on a system that would help to build and maintain such Sunday Schools. Dr. Entzminger was the originator of the six-point system that is so widely used today in most Baptist Sunday Schools, as well as many other denominations. He is also credited for his help in building the largest Sunday Schools in America, either directly or indirectly.

He was instrumental in the founding of the Fundamental Baptist Bible Institute, which later became and is now known as Bible Baptist Seminary in Arlington, Texas. After more than 80 years of life, the majority of them in full-time service for the Lord, Dr. Entzminger slipped quietly away to be with the Lord. His life could well be summed up in the words of another: "Life's race well run, life's work well done, life's crown well won...now comes rest."



The Treasure Path to Soul Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

SINNER'S RESPONSIBILITY

(Assignment 12)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning" link back on the DailyKJV page.)

To Repent.

() Acts 17:30 (Luke 13:3, 5) (Acts 20:21)

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent:

To Receive.

() John 1:12

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

To Believe.

() John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

To Confess.

() Romans 10:9 (Matt. 10:32) (Luke 23:42)

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

To Call.

() Romans 10:13

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.