



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

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Way Point 62

God's Voice in the Night

Story of Call of Samuel

Travel Log

Personal Notes

How do we hear God speak? Elijah is a great example of God not speaking as we expect. Elijah is at the mouth of a cave where he had been hiding. *1 Kings 19:11b-13 ...And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: 12 And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. 13 And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?*

The Lord spoke in that still small voice. Have you every heard the still small voice of God? It is one of the things that is almost unexplainable to even other believers as God speaks into our spirit. Most of the time it is that still small voice in times of quietness of soul.

Our Way Point this study brings us back to our story of Hannah and Samuel, her son. We left off the story in Way Point 59 with Samuel being born after Hannah prayed for a child. Remember the commitment she had made to God. *1 Samuel 1:11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts...wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life...*

I- Keeping of the Promise:

Time has passed and Hannah has not gone to the temple as she normally did year after year with Elkanah. *1 Samuel 1:22-24 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.*

She did not go up until the time came for her to fulfill her vow or promise to God. How do we keep our word to God? Is making a vow to God a serious thing? The vowing of a vow is addressed in *Numbers 30:2 If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth* (also see *Deut 23:21; Ecc 5:4-5*). Making a promise to God is a serious matter.

Horizontal lines for writing personal notes.



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You may have heard about the rich man on the airline flight. When there was some doubt that they would land safely he said, "God if you get me off this plane I will give you half of what I have to you." A minster sitting behind him approached him after they landed and said I heard what you told God and I am here to collect it. The man replied, "I made another deal with God that if I ever got on another plane He could kill me." This somewhat humorous story is also in many ways born of truth. Many people will vow a vow or make a promise to God, not always under duress, and the renege on the promise.

Hannah had vowed a vow to the Lord. Notice the keeping of the promise. *1 Sam 1:24 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.*

Hannah cared for and loved Samuel with a love of a mother's heart. She nursed him and cared for him knowing that in a short time she would give him up. How do you think she felt? How do you think she treasured every moment? There is certainly a lesson in valuing every moment with those we love here.

How old was Samuel when she took him to the temple? Certainly, it was not as soon as he could eat solid food. Eli was not equipped to become a day care for a small child.

John Gills commentary says, "At the usual time of weaning children...some refer this not only to the milk of the breast, from which he was weaned, but to such food as was common to children, and so supposes him grown up to nine or ten years of age."

Other speculates that he was even older when the proper time came. We are not told specifically in the Scriptures. *Reese Chorological Bible* calculates it as three years.

II- The Dedication:

So, the time has come for Hannah to bring Samuel to the temple. As we have seen in all probability, years have passed and Eli has seen many worshippers since.

1 Samuel 1:25-28 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.



Coordinates:

1 Samuel 1:22-3:21; 7:15-17

Sights to See:

- 1- The voice of the Lord may take a form that we do not expect. Elijah heard a still small voice.
- 2- A vow or promise made to the Lord is a serious matter and the entering into such a promise should not be taken lightly.
- 3- Once promised we should do everything within our power to fulfill the promise.
- 4- Jim Elliott, the missionary killed by the Indians of Ecuador, entered in his journal on October 28, 1949 "He is not fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." Hannah gave up her son and was rewarded with five others as well as eternity with him.
- 5- When we give our best to God He will be faithful to care for it and return in to us in eternity.
- 6- Lets learn to hear the voice of God as He would speak to us and help others to understand when God is speaking to them.
- 7- God honors a life that is totally surrendered to Him.
- 8- When God calls we need to say, speak, for the servant heareth.



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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.

The Lord spoke to Samuel three times and each time he went to Eli thinking it was him calling. After the third time Eli realized it was God and gave him some godly advice.

The fourth time the Lord spoke Samuel answered and made himself available for whatever God wanted to say or for him to do. God spoke to him and told him of the fate of Eli and his house. *1 Samuel 3:11-14 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.*

Samuel lay that night and was afraid to tell Eli what God had told him. Eli however will not allow Samuel the courtesy of not telling him the bad news.

A couple of questions beg asking. First, are you listening for the voice of the Lord and expecting a call on your life. If you are not listening expectantly, perhaps the call is being given and not recognized. Second, how would you respond when He calls? What are you willing to give up serving God? I cannot answer this question for anyone but myself, you must answer for yourselves.

IV- The Prophet Samuel:

We see that God had placed His hand upon Samuel to make him a prophet after His revelation in the temple to him that night. *1 Samuel 3:19-21 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.*

This one, who was given as promised to the Lord would be used by God through his life. Some call him a circuit riding preacher because it says in *1 Samuel 7:15-17 And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. 16 And he went from year to year in circuit to Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places. 17 And his return was to Ramah; for there was his house; and there he judged Israel; and there he built an altar unto the LORD.*

Samuel was on the greatest men of God who ever lived and served during this or any time.