1	Fall 2023/Spring 2024 Bible Study
	Rev. Dr. Chris Ascher
2	 How did the Book of Judges end? What does this mean? Is this good or bad? What sense do you get from the author (Samuel)? What are God's people longing for? Did they find their answer within the Book of Judges? Will they find it in the Book of Samuel?
3	What genre is/are "1 and 2 Samuel"?
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6	Fall 2023/Spring 2024 Bible Study Rev. Dr. Chris Ascher
7	 Read 1 Samuel 1:1-11 What do we learn of Samuel's father? (1) Mother?(2) What do we learn of his father's character? (3) What special gift did he give to Hannah? Why? (5) Does this section endorse polygamy or reject it? What challenges would there be to having multiple wives? How would gathering for holidays only make things worse for Hannah? Could Elkanah's love fix things? Why not? (8) Where does Hannah take her concerns? (9-11) What does this teach us to do with our problems? What prayer does she make? (11) Notice the words "remember" and "not forget". How do we sometimes feel when our prayer goes unanswered or we have to wait? What vow does she make? Who does this sound like? (OT, NT)
8	 Read 1 Samuel 1:12-20 What did Eli the Priest notice about her prayer? (12-13) What did he assume? (14) What does this say about the condition of Israel? How does Hannah respond? (15-16) Is this surprising? How does Eli respond? (17) How does Hannah hear Eli's blessing? (18) What does this say about Hannah's faith? What does the text tell us about Hannah's prayer? (19) What specific words are used. How does Hannah confirm that in the child's name? (20)

9 Read 1 Samuel 1:21-28

- Again, where does Elkanah go? Does Hannah go with him?
 - What reason does she give?
 - Why might she be doing this?
- What might Elkanah be thinking? Do you see this reflected in his words? (23)
- Hannah is true to her word and takes him to the tabernacle/temple.
 - How old would Samuel have been when weaned? (24)
 - What kinds of sacrifices were also brought? (24)
- As a parent would you do this? Why/why not?
- As opposed to the other sacrifices, Samuel is a living offering given to the LORD. What does Romans 12:1 say?

10 Fall 2023/Spring 2024 Bible Study

Rev. Dr. Chris Ascher

11 Read 1 Samuel 2:1-11

- What is the first thing Hannah does? What kind? Is she angry/frustrated like last time?
 - Does this tell us anything about our own life?
 - Notice this is in Hebrew poetry. (It is indented) How should we read poetry/songs?
- What key word ends Hannah's prayer? (10)
 - This is the first time it is used in the OT.
 - What significance does it have?
- The themes of Hannah's prayer are picked up in Mary's Prayer The Magnificat in Luke 1:46-55.
 - God OPPOSES the proud & EXALTS the humble.
 - Despite human EVIL, God is still at work.
 - God will raise up a Messianic KING

12 Read 1 Samuel 2:12-21

- How are the sons of Eli described? (12)
 - What example do they give? (13-16) Why is this a problem?
 - Samuel wraps things up with what final description of them? (17)
 - What does this tell us about the High Priest, Eli?
- What do we learn about Hannah and Elkanah? (18-19)
- Compare and Contrast Samuel's family with Eli's family?
 - Which family had the stronger faith? Who should have had it?
 - What effect might the behavior of Eli and his sons have had on Israel? How does the behavior of a pastor effect the members?

13 Read 1 Samuel 2:22-26

- Finally, Eli acts. What report does he hear? (22)
 - Again, what effect does this have on the congregation?
- What comment does he make? (23-25)
 - What observation does he make about sinning and mediators?
 - Did they listen to his warning?
- On the other hand, what comment is being made about Samuel? (26)
- What commentary might Samuel be making to the people of his day and to us about families and faith?

14 Read 1 Samuel 2:27-36

- An unnamed prophet comes to Eli. What does he tell him? (27-31)
 - What is going to happen to Eli's family?
 - Specifically, what would happen to Eli's sons? (34)
- What hope does the Prophet give? (35)
 - Who is this?
 - Option 1 –
 - Option 2 –
 - Option 3 -
 - Notice the word "anointed". What does this mean? Why would it be used?
 - Ultimately what is the contrast between Eli's family and this "other" family.

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