

1st Samuel

Workbook-Part 1

Instructor Manual

Mervin W. Tapsfield

1ST SAMUEL

SOURCES:

English Standard Version: Study Bible. Wheaton: Crossway, 2008.

MacArthur. *The MacArthur Study Bible*. Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2006.

Ryrie, Charles. *Ryrie Study Bible: Expanded Edition: New American Standard Bible*. Chicago: The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, 1995.

Scriptures taken from *LIFECHURCH: A Digital Ministry*. Life Church/YouVersion. Edmond, Oklahoma, 2024. NASB Version.

WEB SITE FOR LECTURE NOTES:

www.swordofthespiritstudies.com (click on “1st Samuel at the very top of the web site page).

YOUTUBE SITE FOR LIVE LECTURE:

Sword of the Spirit Studies (click on my picture in the round circle then click on “videos” at the top.

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Table #

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Page</u>
One-Samuel Called to Ministry	3
Two-The Capture and Return of the Ark	15
Three-Samuel's Ministry and Israel's Desire for a King	23
Four-The Coronation and Early Acts of Saul	33
Five-Saul's Disobedience	42
Six-David Replaces King Saul	54
Seven-David's Attempt to Evade Saul	65
Eight-David Builds an Army	74
Nine-David and Abigail	85
Ten-David's Blessing and Saul's Death	94

Lesson 1-Homework Samuel Called to Ministry

1st Samuel Chapters 1-3

Directions: Use your study bible, internet, or any other study source to help you with these questions.

1. Find the following facts.

- When did the author(s) write 1st Samuel?
- List the main characters in the book of 1st Samuel (look at the chapter titles).
- How many chapters does 1st Samuel have?

2. Facts concerning Israel's judges.

- How many judges presided over Israel? (Internet search or Bible study notes)
- When did the judges preside over Israel?
- Describe the effectiveness of the judges.

3. The titles of 1st and 2nd Samuel appear to give Samuel the credit for writing both books.

- Could Samuel have written both books according to 1 Samuel 28:3?

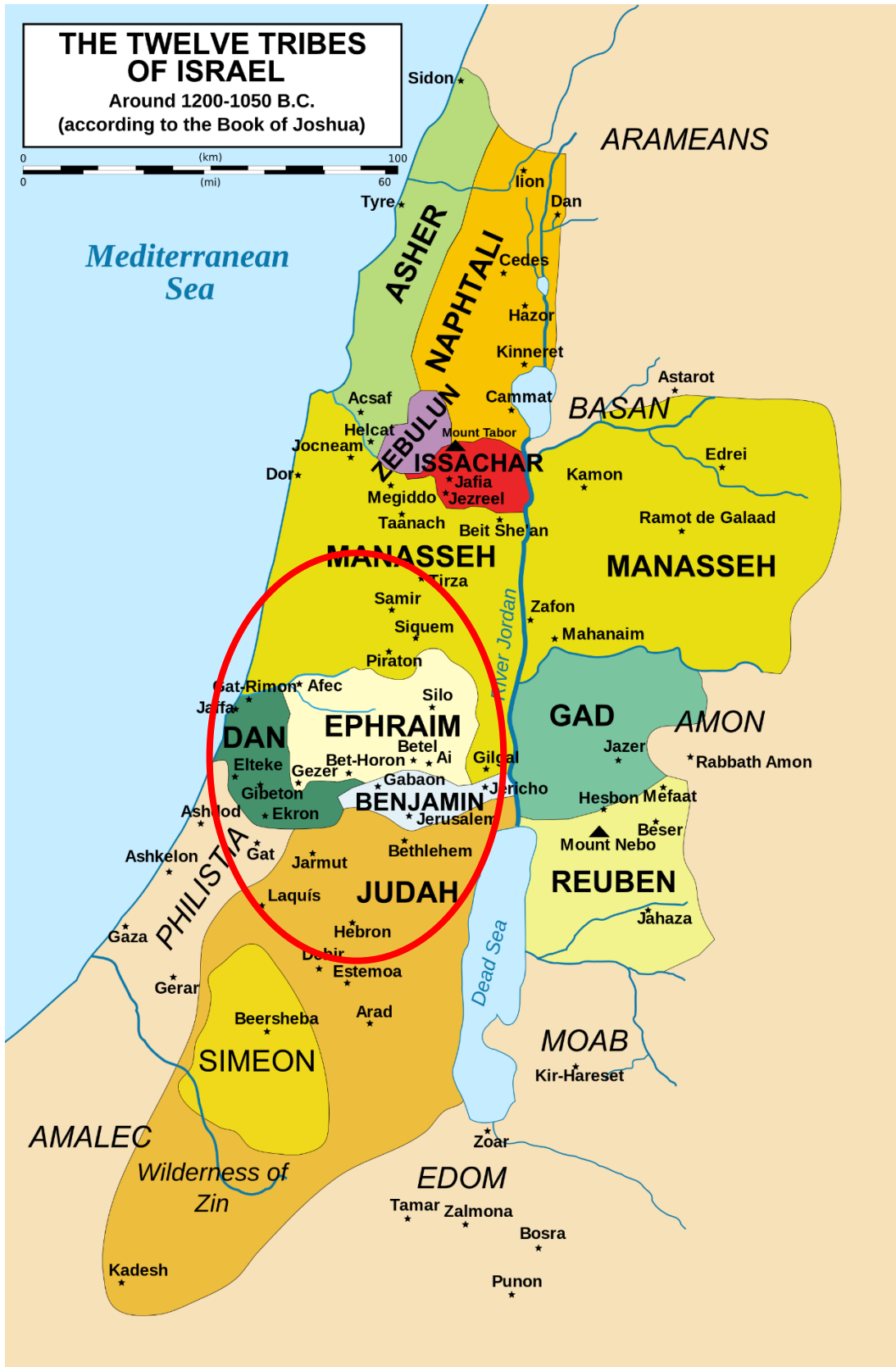
- List some suggested authors that might have contributed to writing the books. (Look up 1st Chronicles 29:29).
- Explain why both books cite Samuel as the author.

4. According to Old Testament Law, all Jews had to attend three sacrifices.

- Name the three sacrifices.
- Explain the importance of each sacrifice.

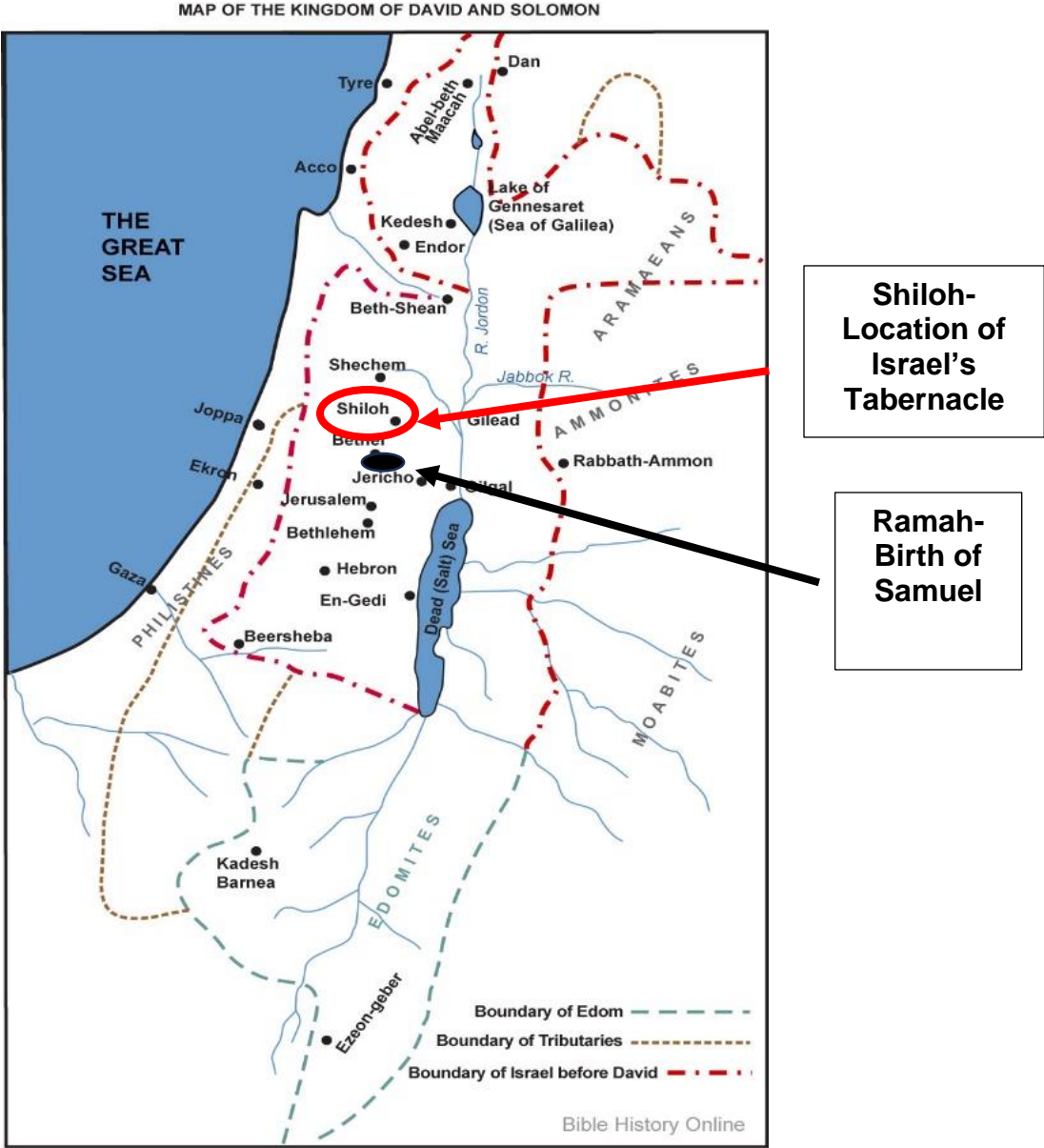
5. Identify each of the following on a map and write down the general location.

- Ephraim
- Ramah
- Shiloh



Lesson 1-Samuel Called to Ministry

1st Samuel Chapters 1-3



http://www.bible-history.com/maps/kingdom_david_solomon.html

Background of 1st Samuel

- 1st and 2nd Samuel have **Samuel's** name attached to the books. Samuel reigned as Israel's last judge. Samuel may have written only the first part of the books since 1st Samuel chapter 25 records his death.
- Perhaps Nathan and Gad wrote the remaining parts of the Samuels since 1st Chronicles 29:29 indicates they both wrote and chronicled the events of King David.
- After Moses died, about 1405 B.C., God called **Joshua** to lead the Children of Israel into the Promised Land.



https://christianliteracyproject.blogspot.com/2012_09_01_archive.html

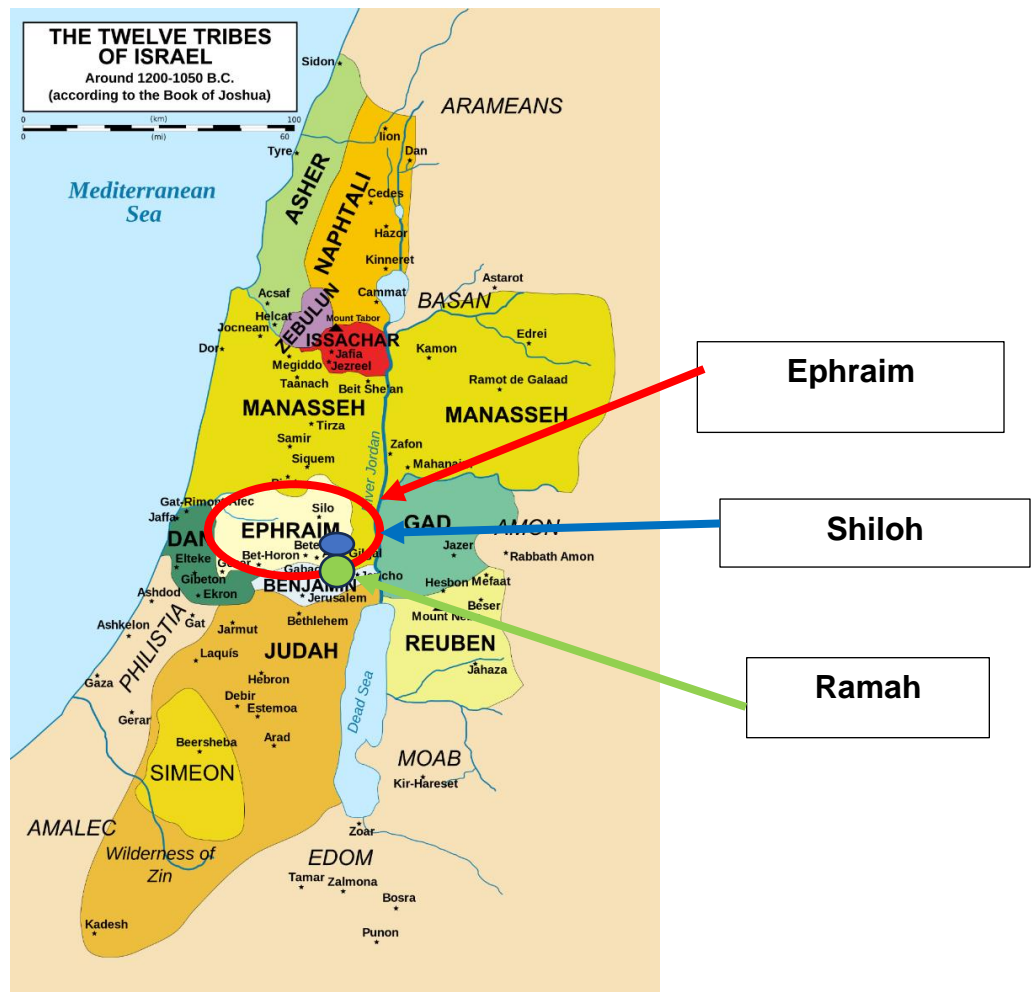
- Joshua, around 90 years old, conquered the heathen tribes of Canaan. Joshua led the Israelites from 1405-1385 B.C.

- From 1375-1025 B.C. (350 years), God provided Israel Judges for **military** and **civil** leadership. Israel had a loose confederacy with no earthly king.
- **Saul**, Israel's first king, instituted a monarchial reign.
- The time of the Judges brought Gods mercy and favor upon Israel. However, when the Israelites disobeyed the law, oppression and death fell upon them.
- The book of 1st Samuel chronicles the lives of: Samuel, King Saul, Jonathan, and the early years of David.

Chapter 1-The Birth of Samuel-1085 B.C

Vs. 1-8-Background of Elkanah, Hannah, and Peninnah

- A man by the name of **Elkanah** had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah.
- Elkanah, a Levite, lived in the city of Ramah within the hill country of Ephraim located five miles north of Jerusalem.



- Peninnah could have children, however, **Hannah** could not have children.
- Three times a year, every male Israelite had to appear at the tabernacle for three festivals: Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, and Booths (Exodus 23:14-17).
- Elkanah, by law, had to attend the tabernacle located at **Shiloh** (see map above).
- Recent archaeology has confirmed many bones at the ancient site of Shiloh, thus confirming the sacrificial system.
- Peninnah would provoke Hannah for not having children. As a result, Elkanah gave double portions of the sacrifice to Hannah for he loved her more than he did Peninnah.
- Hannah, distraught over Peninnah's provocation, refused to eat during her last pilgrimage.
- Trying to comfort Hannah, Elkanah asked if he was not better than **10** sons? (He didn't really get the problem).



Vs. 9-18-Hannah Petitions the Lord for a Son

- While Eli sat on the seat by the doorpost of the temple (tabernacle), he observed Hannah praying and weeping.
- Hannah vowed that if the Lord of hosts would give her a child, she would dedicate the child to the Lord all the days of his life. She also vowed that her son would live as a **Nazirite**.
- A Nazirite, a person specifically dedicated to the Lord, could never cut their hair (Samson was a Nazirite).
- Since only Hannah's lips moved and no audible words spoken, Eli thought she was drunk and rebuked her.
- After explaining Hannah's intent in petitioning the Lord, Eli blessed her and said, "Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him."
- Hanna went home no longer sad for she **believed** Eli's words. (Zechariah 4:6; James 1:2-8)

Vs. 19-28-Hannah Has a Son

- As time passed, Hannah had a son which she named **Samuel**. Samuel means "name of God." His name served as a continual reminder of God's mercy toward those who call upon the Lord.
- Hannah decided not to attend the next mandated feast but told Elkanah she would go after she had weaned the child.
- Hannah and Elkanah remained true in keeping Hannah's **vow**.
- An interesting note, Elkanah agreed to Hannah's wishes.
- After weaning Samuel, Hannah brought the child to Eli and dedicated him to the Lord. This dedication meant Samuel would live his life as the Lord's servant and would grow up under the guidance of Eli.



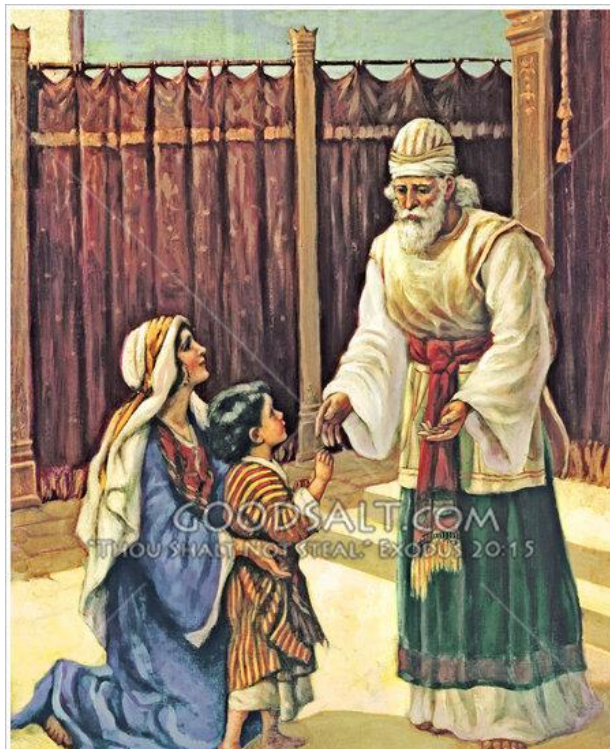
Chapter 2-Samuel's Ministry at Shiloh

Vs.1-10-Hannah's Song to the Lord

- After dedicating Samuel to the Lord and giving him to Eli, Hannah sang a praise song to God. Some of the phrases included:
 - “My heart **exults** in the Lord”
 - “I rejoice in Your salvation”
 - “The feeble gird on strength”
 - “Those who were hungry cease to hunger”
 - “Not by **might** shall a man prevail”
 - “And He will give strength to His king [messiah] and will exalt the horn of His anointed.
 - Mary's Magnificat contains many of these themes (Luke 1:46-56).

Vs. 11-36-God Judges Eli

- Eli had two very **sinful** sons, Hophni and Phinehas.
- Translation calls them “sons of Belial” or wicked men. 2 Corinthians 6:15 uses this name for Satan.
- Eli's sons would steal from the offerings and would take for themselves extra portions.
- The sons had sexual relations with the women who came to the tabernacle.
- Each year when Hannah came for the yearly sacrifice, she would bring Samuel a little hand-made robe. Because of the Lord's favor, He blessed Hannah with **three** more sons and **two** daughters (this would make a great time for giving a lesson on tithing-lol).



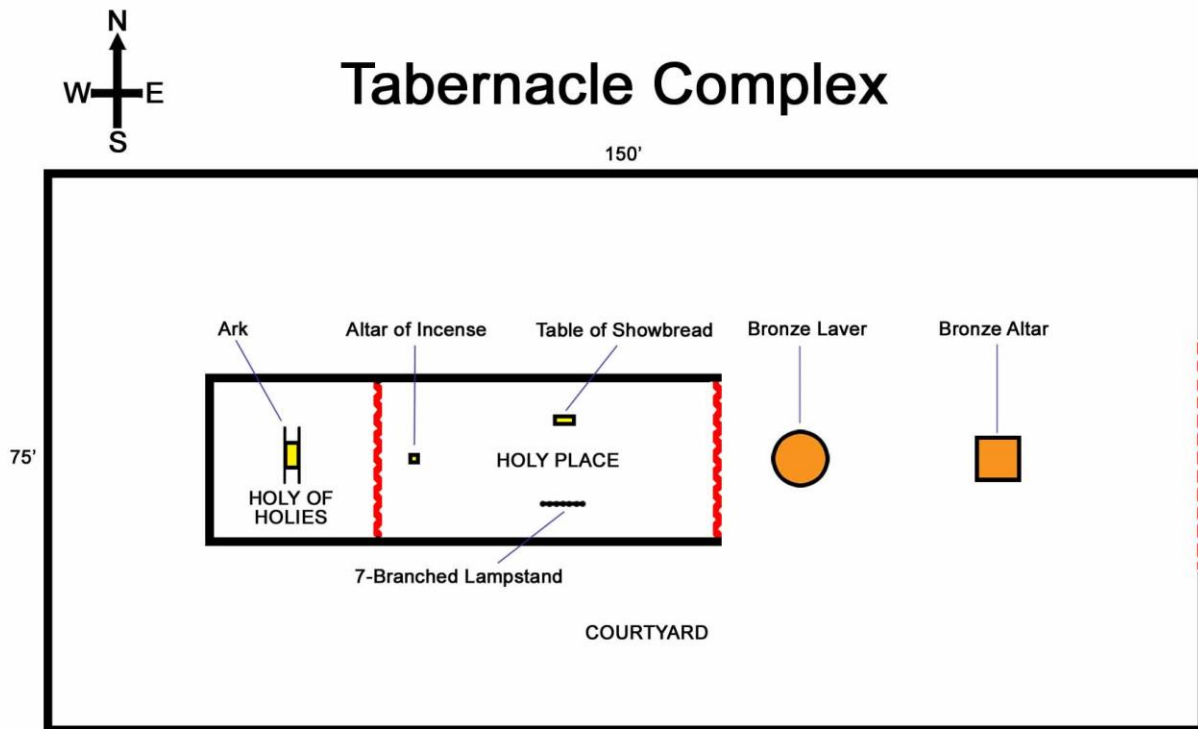
<http://picphotos.net/hannah-dedicates-samuel-to-the-temple-bible-realistic-bible/>

- Samuel stayed at the tabernacle and grew before the Lord.

Chapter 3-God Calls Samuel to Service

Vs. 1-15-Samuel Hears God's Voice

- Samuel grew and ministered before the Lord.
- Due to the sins of Israel, the Lord **rarely** spoke to the people.
- Vs. 2 indicates Eli laid down some time before the lamp of God went out.
- The lampstand stood in the Holy place. The priest filled the lamp with oil at twilight and kept it burning until morning.
- Apparently, this incident took place sometime just before dawn.
- During these morning hours, God spoke to Samuel.
- It is interesting to note that Samuel apparently slept in the **Holy Place** when God called him.



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[<http://pixshark.com/tabernacle-of-moses-layout.htm>]

- God called to Samuel three times. Thinking Eli had called, Samuel went to him.
- By the third time, Eli realized that God had spoken to Samuel. Eli told Samuel the next time he heard the voice he should reply, "**Speak**, Lord, for Your servant is **listening**."
- God told Samuel judgment would fall upon the House of Eli due to the iniquity of his sons and Eli's lack of correction.

Vs. 16-21-Samuel Tells Eli About the Prophecy

- When the morning hours came, Eli asked Samuel what the Lord had said.
- Eli recognized the Lord had spoken, and he **accepted** God's word.
- Samuel continued to grow with the Lord's blessing him.
- The Lord spoke through Samuel and all his words came to pass. As a result, all Israel realized the Lord had confirmed Samuel as a prophet.

Summary

Psalm 103:8 states, "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness." God loves us, understands our weaknesses, our sins, and our anxieties. He does not want to punish us for our failures but to respond quickly when we turn to him and repent. God desires us to approach Him with confidence and to seek Him as a refuge and a place of great comfort. God intends for us to prosper and not to perish.

1st Samuel

Discussion Questions

Lesson 1

1st Samuel Chapters 1-3

1. Under the Law, the Jews had to obey very strict ordinances. Some of those ordinances included attending feasts throughout the year. All males had to go to Jerusalem and observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, and Feast of Booths. Under the blood of Jesus, Christians are free from the law.
 - a. What traditions do Christians observe today?
 - b. What two ordinances did Jesus expect Christians to follow? (1st Corinthians 11:23-26; Matthew 28:16-20).
 - c. Do these ordinances cause one to gain salvation or to lose salvation if not observed? Explain.

2. Hannah promised to dedicate her child to the Lord if she conceived.
 - a. Have you ever bargained with God? Did He answer your prayer?
 - b. How should a Christian apply John 14:13 and 15:7 to daily prayers?
 - c. Has God ever said “no” to your prayer? Did you ever thank Him for not answering a prayer? Explain.

3. Look at Hannah’s praise to the Lord (1 Samuel 2:1-10).
 - a. Can you think of a time when any of those phrases represented your feelings toward God? Explain.
 - b. Should we keep these memories alive in our mind? Explain.
 - c. Have you ever journaled and made a list of blessings or answered prayers? What impact did it have on you?

4. The Lord punished Eli for not correcting his sons.
 - a. Why didn’t Eli rebuke sons?
 - b. Does God punish us for the sins of our sons and daughters?
 - c. How should we respond to a son, daughter, or loved one who sins against the Lord?

5. It took Eli three times before he recognized the Lord’s voice.
 - a. List various ways in which God talks to us?
 - b. Have you ever experienced God talking to you? Did you recognize His voice at first? What did you do?
 - c. How does one differentiate between God’s voice and our own thoughts and desires?