

THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF

1 SAMUEL

[PART 4]

HANNAH, SAMUEL AND THE YEARLY COAT

Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18 - 21

Introduction

- In the 2 opening chapters of the book, Hannah has the lead role.
- After the verses of our reading Hannah leaves the Biblical stage for good but she leaves a child called Samuel.

1 The Ministering Child

- The tabernacle at Shiloh had become a despised and shocking place due to the godless behaviour of the clergy.
- But in this darkness a light was beginning to shine in the form of a child.
- Consider [2:11], [2:18] and [3:1].
- Even as a child, Samuel **'ministered'** to the Lord.
- Can it be said of you that you are ministering before the Lord?

2 The Yearly Coat

- Notice how Hannah made a new coat (robe) for Samuel each year.
- Was it just because last years was worn out?
- Consider [2:21], [2:26] and [3:19].
- No mention of Samuel from [4:2] until [7:5] and during that time the child grows into a man.

3 Notice Jesus Growing

- Consider the language used of the Child Jesus in [Luke 2:52].

4 Growing As A Christian In God

- Not only is a Christian expected to grow physically but they are expected to grow spiritually.
- It is God's will that we grow in faith and in Him.
- Consider [Psalm 92:12 - 14], [Ephesians 4:15], [Acts 9:22], [2 Thessalonians 1:3], [1 Peter 2:2] and [2 Peter 3:18].
- Samuel grew physically but he also **'grew before the Lord.'**
- Every Christian ought to be growing 'in the Lord' from conversion till we finish **'our course.'**
- Definition of **'Grow:'** **'to increase in size and amount or to become more advanced/developed.'**
- We expect plants, children etc to grow. The Christian should be continually growing.
- No growing is usually an indicator that something is amiss.
- Putting off/ crucifying the old nature and the things of the old nature.
- Putting on the **'Christlike'** nature. (Sanctification)
- An increasing knowledge of God's word.
- Increasing love for the Lord Jesus. Overcoming/mastering temptations.
- Cultivation of a good devotional life.
- Why do some Christians **NOT** grow?
- A lack of availing themselves of God **'three helps for the journey.'**
- Disobedience to God.
- A lack of living out the Bible and its teachings.

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