

**GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND MAN'S COOPERATION
RESULT IN GOD'S PURPOSE BEING CARRIED OUT**

Lesson One

HANNAH COOPERATED WITH GOD BY PRAYER

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 1:1-7; 8-16; 17-28; 2:1-10

Memory Verse: *1 Samuel 1:27 It was for this child that I prayed, and Jehovah has granted me my request that I requested from Him.*

Bonus Verse: *1 Samuel 1:20 And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son and she called his name Samuel, For, she said, I asked for him of Jehovah.*

I. God's sovereignty

- A. Hannah was in [just] the right family.
 - 1. She had the right husband
 - 2. There was a troublesome second wife
 - 3. She had no children
- B. All of her environment caused her to be *desperate* to seek God.

II. Hannah's cooperation

- A. She cooperated by choosing to be a *Nazarite* (one who is separated unto God).
 - 1. She chose not to enjoy the *pleasure* of feasting at Shiloh
 - 2. She chose to *care* for God's purpose
- B. She cooperated by praying.
 - 1. Her desperation drove her to pray to God for a son
 - 2. She was willing to give the child to God for his whole life

III. The result was that God's purpose was carried out

- A. God heard her prayer—(because she sought Him and cared for His purpose).
- B. Samuel was born.
- C. Hannah praises and exalts Jehovah for His "doing" (sovereignty).
- D. *Whenever you pray, then* God can fulfill His purpose.

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Lesson Two

ELI THE HIGH PRIEST FAILED TO COOPERATE WITH GOD

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 2:27–28, 30; 3:1; 2:12–17, 22–25, 27–34; 3:1–8, 13; 4:11–18, 2:35

Memory Verse: *1 Samuel 2:35b . . . And I shall raise up for Myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in My heart and in My mind.*

I. God's sovereignty (Life-Study of Leviticus, Message 28)

- A. Born into [just] the right family, Aaron's family, a family of priests.
- B. The priesthood was failing and the word of Jehovah was rare.

II. Eli did not cooperate

- A. He didn't obey God's word concerning the priesthood.
 - 1. Even a man of God came to remind him of his priestly history and duties
 - 2. He wasn't a faithful priest, he didn't act according to God's heart and mind, and he wasn't for God's house
- B. He didn't obey God's word concerning the raising of his sons for the priesthood.
 - 1. He honored his sons more than Jehovah
 - 2. He did not restrain them
- C. Eli didn't even *expect* God's word to come to him.
 - 1. God's speaking was rare in those days.
 - 2. Even when God spoke to Samuel, Eli *didn't realize* that it was God *until* God called Samuel the *third* time.

III. The result was that God's judgement was carried out and a Nazarite priest was brought in for God's purpose.

- A. God's judgment came to the house of Eli: his two sons were killed in battle, and Eli died.
- B. Samuel was brought in as a Nazarite, one who willingly offered himself to God to carry out His purpose.
- C. *Whenever you obey God's word, then God can fulfill His purpose.*

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Lesson Three

SAMUEL COOPERATED BY KEEPING THE NAZARITE VOW AS A BOY

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 2:11, 18, 20, 26, 28; 3:1-21; 2:11, 18, 35

Memory Verse: *1 Samuel 3:19 And Samuel grew, and Jehovah was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.*

Bonus Verse: *1 Samuel 3:10 Then Jehovah came and stood by and called as at the other times, Samuel! Samuel! And Samuel said, Speak, for Your servant is listening.*

I. God's sovereignty

- A. Samuel was born into [just] the right godly family.
 - 1. Hannah was a desperate, childless mother who chose to care for God's purpose
 - 2. Samuel was given to God as a little boy for God's purpose
- B. God arranged the right environment to perfect Samuel for His purpose.
 - 1. He was raised during the time of a failing priesthood
 - 2. He learned the priestly ways from Eli
 - 3. He observed the failures all around him as a warning

II. Samuel's cooperation as a very little boy

- A. Samuel cooperated by living and *learning* in the temple with Eli.
- B. Samuel cooperated by *growing* in favor with God and men.
- C. Samuel cooperated by *listening* when he was called.
 - 1. He *honored* Eli by running quickly to him the first time he thought Eli called
 - 2. He answered "Here I am", (*not* "Did you call me?") *Three* consecutive times [one after the other]

III. The result was that God's purpose was carried out

- A. Samuel cooperated by living the Nazarite vow (one who is separated unto God).
 - 1. Samuel ministered to Jehovah before Eli.
 - 2. Samuel becoming a faithful priest for God.
- B. God now had a priest who was *listening* and *willing* to *obey* His speaking.
- C. *Whenever you listen and obey, then God can fulfill His purpose.*

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Lesson Four

***SAMUEL COOPERATED WITH GOD
AS A NAZARITE, PRIEST, PROPHET, JUDGE, AND MAN OF PRAYER.***

Scripture Reading: Judges 21:25b; 1 Samuel 1:1-8; 21:28; 7:5, 8; 3:19-20; 7:15-17; 12:23

Memory Verse: *1 Samuel 12:24 Only, fear Jehovah and serve Him in truth with all your heart, for consider what great things He has done for you.*

I. God's sovereignty

- A. The right family—Hannah his mother was a Nazarite.
- B. The right environment.
 - 1. Everyone lived for themselves—Judges 21:25b
 - 2. No faithful priests; Eli wasn't proper
 - 3. No speaking of God and for God
 - 4. No authority; Israel wanted an earthly king like the nations had
 - 5. No prayer; only Samuel prayed for the people—1 Samuel 7:5, 8

II. Samuel's cooperation

(Emphasize this section in contrast with I., B., 1., 2., 3., 4., 5.)

- A. As a Nazarite, he *chose* to live for God, not himself.
- B. As a priest, he was *faithful*. His *whole being* was a proper person according to God.
- C. As a prophet, he was established by God *to speak the word* of God—1 Samuel 3:19-20.
- D. As a judge, he *carried out God's ruling* and law—1 Samuel 7:15-17.
- E. As a man of prayer, he *prayed* for the children of Israel to be kept in the way of God and to be one with God—1 Samuel 7:5; 12:23.

III. The result was that God's purpose was carried out

- A. Samuel turned the whole age, replacing the failing priesthood.
- B. Samuel brought in the proper prophet to speak God's word to His people.
- C. Samuel brought in the king to rule over God's people.
- D. *Whenever you love God, live and speak for God, and pray to God, then God can fulfill His purpose.*

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Lesson Five

***SAMUEL COOPERATED WITH GOD'S CHOICE OF SAUL
EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T AGREE WITH ISRAEL HAVING A KING.***

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 8:4-22; 9:1-27; 10:1-7; 12:10-19, 24;

Memory Verse: *Jeremiah 10:10 But Jehovah is the true God; He is the living God and the eternal King.*

I. God's Sovereignty

A. The right environment of Israel.

1. The people of Israel wanted a king like all the heathen nations
2. Saul's birth

B. God brought Samuel and Saul together.

1. Through the loss of his father's donkeys Saul came to the city where Samuel was
2. God revealed Saul to Samuel (9:17)

II. Samuel cooperated by having a proper attitude—1 Samuel 12:24; 9:17, 26-27; 10:1-7

- A. Samuel had a heart for God and knew that God wanted to be the King to His people.
- B. Samuel listened and obeyed God's speaking about the anointing of Saul.

III. The result was that God's purpose was carried out

- A. Samuel anointed Saul as King of Israel.
- B. But Saul's kingdom did *not* continue.
- C. Eventually *Samuel anointed David as king*, a man according to God's heart.
- D. *Whenever you cooperate with others then God can fulfill His purpose.*

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Lesson Six

SAUL FAILED TO COOPERATE WITH GOD

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel chapters 9, 10, 11; 13:13-14; chapters 14, 15

Memory Verse: *Philemon 21 Having confidence in your obedience, I have written to you, knowing that you will do even beyond the things that I say.*

I. God's Sovereignty

A. Saul's background.

1. Born of the tribe of Benjamin
2. The meaning of Saul's name was "asked for"
3. In his outward appearance he was a handsome young man

B. Saul was chosen to be king.

C. Saul defeated the Ammonites, giving him a good reputation among the people.

II. Saul did not cooperate with God

A. In the battle with the Philistines Saul did not obey God's Word.

1. Saul should have waited for Samuel to make the offerings to God
2. Saul was foolish and impatient making the offering himself
3. This was against God's divine arrangement

B. In the battle with the Amalekites Saul did not obey God's Word.

1. God's word to Israel was to utterly destroy all the Amalekites and their animals
2. Saul spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, claiming that they were for sacrificing to God, and he spared Agag the king also
3. He did not submit to God as his head but *disobeyed* God's word

III. The result was that God allowed Israel to have a king who was just for himself and his own kingdom (his own monarchy).

A. Because of His selfish behavior Saul lost the kingship.

B. The way was prepared for David to become the next king.

C. *Whenever you are patient and obedient, God can fulfill His purpose.*

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Lesson Seven

DAVID WAS OBEDIENT IN HIS YOUTH.

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 16 17:33-37; chapters 16 & 17

Memory Verse: *1 Samuel 16:18b . . . I have just seen a son of Jesse, [David] the Bethlehemite, who is skilled in playing and a mighty man of valor and a man of war and prudent in speech and of good presence, and Jehovah is with him.*

Bonus verse: *Hebrews 5:8 Even though He was a Son, learned obedience from the things which He suffered.*

I. God's sovereignty

- A. David was born into the right family.
 - 1. The family of Jesse, the Bethlehemite, the grandson of Boaz
 - 2. Born as the last of eight brothers, making him humble
- B. He was selected by God and prepared to be the king.
- C. David had the right environment to train him.
 - 1. Assigned to keep his father's sheep
 - 2. Protecting the sheep from the lion and the bear
 - 3. Selected as an attendant of Saul as one who could play the lyre
 - 4. He became Saul's armor bearer

II. David cooperated by obeying and trusting God. 1 Samuel

- A. He was obedient to his father.
 - 1. Whenever Jesse sent for David he came.
 - 2. He was obedient to fulfill his father's word
- B. He was obedient to Saul.
 - 1. When Saul was troubled he came to play his lyre to sooth him
 - 2. Saul came to love David
- C. He *trusted* in the *living God*.
 - 1. When he heard the challenge of Goliath he said, "who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should *defy* the ranks of *the living God*"
 - 2. David *believed* and *was willing* to fight Goliath
 - a. He believed God would deliver him from Goliath
 - b. He believed he was going in the name of Jehovah
 - c. He believed that the whole earth would know that there was a God in Israel
 - d. He believed that the battle was Jehovah's not his

III. The result was that God's purpose was carried out

- A. God had found a man after His heart.
- B. Samuel anointed David, so that he could eventually replace Saul as king of Israel.
- C. God finally had the proper king who cared for God's testimony and God's house.
- D. *Whenever you trust and obey God, then God can fulfill His purpose.*

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Lesson Eight

***JONATHAN COOPERATED WITH GOD
BY BEING LOYAL AND HELPING TO PRESERVE DAVID***

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel chapters 18–20; 23:16–18

Memory Verse: *1 Samuel 18:3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him like his own soul.*

Bonus Verse: *1 John 4:7–8 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God and everyone who loves has been begotten of God and knows God. He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.*

I. God's sovereignty

- A. Born into a kingly family, as King Saul's son.
- B. Jonathan became David's *loyal* friend.
 - 1. He loved David
 - 2. He gave his own robe, armor, sword, bow and belt to David
 - 3. He made a covenant with him
- C. King Saul's jealousy of David.
 - 1. The praise of David by the women after the battle
 - 2. Saul knew that Jehovah was with David
 - 3. All Israel loved David
 - 4. David acted wisely in all his campaigns and succeeded in battle more than all the other servants of Saul

II. Jonathan's cooperation

- A. When Saul spoke of his intention to kill David, Jonathan spoke in favor of David.
 - 1. He reminded Saul that David had done only good for Saul
 - 2. David was restored to Saul's service temporarily
- B. Jonathan's help to David.
 - 1. David appealed to Jonathan to save him
 - 2. Jonathan helped David at the risk of his own life and told him to flee from Saul
 - 3. David and Jonathan departed from each other in the covenant (promise) of their love

III. The result was that God's purpose was carried out

- A. Jonathan's *loyalty strengthened David*.
 - 1. David was supported by Jonathan's love
 - 2. David was tested by Saul but got through by Jonathan's supply (he strengthened his hand in God)
- B. David was preserved to be the next king.
- C. Whenever you are a *loyal and proper friend*, then God can fulfill His purpose.

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Lesson Nine

**DAVID WAS PREPARED AS THE RIGHT PERSON,
HE WAS CHOSEN, TRAINED, ANOINTED, TESTED AND APPROVED BY GOD
TO BE KING.**

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 13:14; 26:23; 2 Samuel 5:12; Acts 13:22b; 2 Cor. 10:18

Memory Verse: *2 Corinthians 10:18 For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.*

Bonus verses: *1 Samuel 13:14 Jehovah has sought a man after His heart for Himself, and Jehovah has appointed him as leader over His people.*

Acts 13:22b He raised up David for them as king, to whom also He testified and said, I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man according to My heart, who will do all My will.

I. God's sovereignty

- A. David was chosen by God to be king—2 Samuel 5:12
- B. He was trained by his circumstances
- C. He was anointed by Samuel according to God's command
- D. He was tested by Saul's persecution, yet he never fought, reacted, or responded negatively toward him.
- E. He was approved by God as the right one to be king

II. David's cooperation

- A. David had a heart for God
- B. He was one with God's choosing, behaving himself according to God
- C. He was willing to be trained by all the things in his environment
- D. He cooperated by respecting God's delegated authority [who was Saul] which was a suffering to him

III. The result was that God's purpose was carried out

- A. God prepared David to be a man according to His heart for His kingdom—1 Samuel 13:14
- B. Before David became the king, he set up a good order and pattern showing how in God's kingdom we should honor, respect and regard God's divine authority
- C. We too must have a heart for God and must respect and honor God and God's delegated authority [Father, Mother, Relatives, Teachers, Elders].
- D. *Whenever you have a heart for God and you respect authority, God can fulfill His purpose.*

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Lesson Ten

WE CAN COOPERATE WITH GOD BY OBEYING HIS WORD

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 1:27; 2:35; 3:10, 8:6-7; 13:14; 16:18; 18:3; 26:23; 2 Samuel 5:12;
2 Corinthians 10:18

Memory Verse *2 Timothy 3:16-17 All scripture is God breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.*

Bonus verse: *1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, Does Jehovah delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of Jehovah? Behold, to OBEY IS BETTER than sacrifice, and to heed, than the fat of rams.*

I. God's sovereignty over us

- A. We were born into the right family.
- B. God gives us the right environment—ie: so many brothers, sisters, our teachers etc.)

II. We must be those who cooperate by obeying God's word.

- A. Like Hannah in our difficulty we can pray.
- B. Unlike Eli, we can obey God's speaking
- C. Like Samuel:
 - 1. As a child we can listen and learn from our environment.
 - 2. We can choose to love God and live for God
 - 3. We can speak for God and stand up for God's true ways and pray.
 - 4. We can cooperate with others even if we don't always agree
- D. Unlike king Saul, we won't fail in cooperating with God.
 - 1. We will not be selfish, but care for others
 - 2. We will learn not to be impatient
- E. Like Jonathan, we will be a loyal and proper friend to others.
- F. Like David:
 - 1. We will trust, obey God and our parents.
 - 2. We will have a heart for God
 - 3. We will be willing to be trained by others over us
 - 4. We will respect God, our parents and those in authority over us.
- G. These stories are a warning and example to us.
 - 1. You have the choice.
 - 2. You can live for God and for His purpose today.

III. God's purpose is carried out (fulfilled)

- A. God will have a people who care only for Him and His desires.
- B. The church, His Body will be built up for God's expression on this earth.
- C. Whenever you obey God's word, God can fulfill His purpose.