



Annotated Scripture Series



The Sacred Book of
Kings I



Christ the King Books

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Lesson 1: 1 Kings, Chapters 1 - 6

1 Kings Chapter 1

Anna the wife of Elcana being barren, by vow and prayer obtaineth a son: whom she calleth Samuel: and presenteth him to the service of God in Silo, according to her vow:

1:1 There was a man of Ramathaimsophim, of Mount Ephraim, and his name was Elcana, the son of Jeroham, the son of Eliu, the son of Thohu, the son of Suph, an Ephraimite:

Elcana is here called an "Ephraimite" because he dwelled in Mount Ephraim. He was of the *tribe* of *Levi*. (cf. 1 Chronicles 6:34).

1:2 And he had two wives, the name of one was Anna, and the name of the other Phenenna. Phenenna had children: but Anna had no children.

1:3 And this man went up out of his city upon the appointed days, to adore and to offer sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Silo. And the two sons of Heli, Ophni and Phinees, were there priests of the Lord.

1:4 Now the day came, and Elcana offered sacrifice, and gave to Phenenna, his wife, and to all her sons and daughters, portions:

1:5 But to Anna he gave one portion with sorrow, because he loved Anna. And the Lord had shut up her womb.

1:6 Her rival also afflicted her, and troubled her exceedingly, insomuch that she upbraided her, that the Lord had shut up her womb:

Her rival, Phenenna.

1:7 And thus she did every year, when the time returned, that they went up to the temple of the Lord: and thus she provoked her: but Anna wept, and did not eat.

1:8 Then Elcana, her husband, said to her: Anna, why weepest thou? and why dost thou not eat? and why dost thou afflict thy heart? Am not I better to thee than ten children?

1:9 So Anna arose after she had eaten and drunk in Silo: And Heli, the priest, sitting upon a stool before the door of the temple of the Lord;

1:10 As Anna had her heart full of grief, she prayed to the Lord, shedding many tears,

1:11 And she made a vow, saying: O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt look down, and wilt be mindful of me, and not forget thy handmaid, and wilt give to thy servant a manchild: I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.

That is, her son shall be dedicated to the Lord and shall keep certain vows to him (similar to Samson and John the Baptist, who were also *Nazarites*).

1:12 And it came to pass, as she multiplied prayers before the Lord, that Heli observed her mouth.

1:13 Now Anna spoke in her heart, and only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard at all. Heli therefore thought her to be drunk,

1:14 And said to her: How long wilt thou be drunk? digest a little the wine, of which thou hast taken too much.

1:15 Anna answering, said: Not so, my lord: for I am an exceeding unhappy woman, and have drunk neither wine nor any strong drink, but I have poured out my soul before the Lord.

1:16 Count not thy handmaid for one of the daughters of Belial: for out of the abundance of my sorrow and grief have I spoken till now.

That is, do not account me to be drunk like the pagans who worship Belial.

1:17 Then Heli said to her: Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition, which thou hast asked of him.

- 1:18** And she said: Would to God thy handmaid may find grace in thy eyes. So the woman went on her way, and ate, and her countenance was no more changed.
- 1:19** And they rose in the morning, and worshipped before the Lord: and they returned, and came into their house at Ramatha. And Elcana knew Anna his wife: And the Lord remembered her.
- 1:20** And it came to pass when the time was come about, Anna conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel: because she had asked him of the Lord.
- 1:21** And Elcana, her husband, went up, and all his house, to offer to the Lord the solemn sacrifice, and his vow.
- 1:22** But Anna went not up: for she said to her husband: I will not go till the child be weaned, and till I may carry him, that he may appear before the Lord, and may abide always there.
- 1:23** And Elcana, her husband, said to her: Do what seemeth good to thee, and stay till thou wean him: and I pray that the Lord may fulfil his word. So the woman staid at home, and gave her son suck, till she weaned him.
- 1:24** And after she had weaned him, she carried him with her, with three calves, and three bushels of flour, and a bottle of wine, and she brought him to the house of the Lord in Silo. Now the child was as yet very young:

“Samuel” from the word *shema* (hear) and *El'* (God), importing the meaning “asked/heard of God”



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/ec/Samuel_dedicated_by_Hannah.jpg Frank William Warwick Topham / Public domain

- 1:25** And they immolated a calf, and offered the child to Heli.
- 1:26** And Anna said: I beseech thee, my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord: I am that woman, who stood before thee here praying to the Lord.
- 1:27** For this child did I pray, and the Lord hath granted me my petition, which I asked of him.
- 1:28** Therefore I also have lent him to the Lord all the days of his life, he

Samuel is given to the priests to live his youth in the service

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The geography of the two kingdoms of the Hebrews, along with the Philistine territory.

The lands of the Philistines, shown in yellow. The blue and the orange areas are the kingdoms of the Jews, the Holy Land, given by God. The Philistines were an important tribe in Biblical history, as they were the main “pests” against the Jews for many years. The Israelites never quite overcame them.

By Oldtidens_Israel_&_Judea.svg: FinnWikiNoderivative work: Richardprins (talk) - Oldtidens_Israel_&_Judea.svg<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/map-of-israel-and-judah-733-bce>, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10872389> with our additions in yellow.

4:18 And when he had named the ark of God, he fell from his stool backwards by the door, and broke his neck and died. For he was an old man, and far advanced in years: And he judged Israel forty years.

Such was Heli’s shock and upset at hearing of such a tragedy as the Ark of God being taken that he fell back and died.

4:19 And his daughter in law, the wife of Phinees, was big with child, and near her time: and hearing the news that the ark of God was taken, and her father in law, and her husband, were dead, she bowed herself and fell in labour: for her pains came upon her on a sudden.

4:20 And when she was upon the point of death, they that stood about her said to her: Fear not, for thou hast borne a son. She answered them not, nor gave heed to them.

4:21 And she called the child Ichabod, saying: The glory is gone from

“Ichabod” that is, “Where is

Israel, because the ark of God was taken, and for her father in law, and for her husband:

the glory?" or, "there is no glory". The reactions of Heli and his daughter-in-law show us how much the Israelites lamented the loss of the ark, which was but the symbol of God's presence among them. How much more ought Christians to lament the loss of God Himself, when by sin they have driven him out of their souls!

4:22 And she said: The glory is departed from Israel, because the ark of God was taken.



Heli falls from his stool and dies.

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/17/Schnorr_von_Carolsfeld_Bibel_in_Bildern_1_860_088.png Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld / Public domain

1 Kings Chapter 5

Dagon twice falleth down before the ark. The Philistines are grievously afflicted, wherever the ark cometh.

5:1 And the Philistines took the ark of God, and carried it from the Stone of help into Azotus.

5:2 And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it into the temple of Dagon, and set it by Dagon.

5:3 And when the Azotians arose early the next day, behold Dagon lay upon his face on the ground before the ark of the Lord: and they took Dagon, and set him again in his place.

5:4 And the next day again, when they rose in the morning, they found Dagon lying upon his face on the earth before the ark of the Lord:

Dagon was the principal "god" of the Philistines, and the Ark is placed before his idol.

and the head of Dagon, and both the palms of his hands, were cut off upon the threshold:

5:5 And only the stump of Dagon remained in its place. For this cause neither the priests of Dagon, nor any that go into the temple, tread on the threshold of Dagon in Azotus unto this day.



The idol Dagon falls before the Ark and is smashed.

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/12/Dagon_fallen_down_before_the_ark.jpg
Unknown author / Public domain

5:6 And the hand of the Lord was heavy upon the Azotians, and he destroyed them, and afflicted Azotus and the coasts thereof with emerods. And in the villages and fields in the midst of that country, there came forth a multitude of mice, and there was the confusion of a great mortality in the city.

5:7 And the men of Azotus seeing this kind of plague, said: The ark of the God of Israel shall not stay with us: for his hand is heavy upon us, and upon Dagon, our god.

5:8 And sending, they gathered together all the lords of the Philistines to them, and said: What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel? And the Gethites answered: Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried about. And they carried the ark of the God of Israel about.

5:9 And while they were carrying it about, the hand of the Lord came upon every city with an exceeding great slaughter: and he smote the men of every city, both small and great, and they had emerods in

God sends afflictions upon the Azotians similar to those Egypt received during the Exodus: hemorrhoids, infestation/pestilence, confusion and death.

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hither.

16:12 He sent therefore and brought him. Now he was ruddy and beautiful to behold, and of a comely face. And the Lord said: Arise, and anoint him, for this is he.

Samuel is instructed not to consider the older brothers, tall in stature, and he finally meets the youngest, who is smaller, yet has a beautiful countenance, and is "fit for war". Remember how Saul stood a head and shoulders above his brethren. But God chooses whom He wills; outward appearances and esteem in the heart of men are not factors which God takes into account, but rather the heart. And it is David whose heart is pure.



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/35/Felix-Joseph_Barrias_-_Anointing_of_David_by_Saul.jpg Félix-Joseph Barrias / Public domain

16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward: and Samuel rose up, and went to Ramatha.

When the Spirit of the Lord rests upon the true king, David, He leaves Saul, and by divine permission, Saul is then troubled by an evil spirit, who begins to either possess or obsess him.

16:14 But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him.

16:15 And the servants of Saul said to him: Behold now an evil spirit from God troubleth thee.

16:16 Let our lord give orders, and thy servants who are before thee, will seek out a man skilful in playing on the harp, that when the evil spirit from the Lord is upon thee, he may play with his hand, and thou mayst bear it more easily.

16:17 And Saul said to his servants: Provide me then some man that can play well, and bring him to me.

- 16:18 And one of the servants answering, said: Behold I have seen a son of Isai, the Bethlehemite, a skilful player, and one of great strength, and a man fit for war, and prudent in his words, and a comely person: and the Lord is with him.
- 16:19 Then Saul sent messengers to Isai, saying: Send me David, thy son, who is in the pastures.
- 16:20 And Isai took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid of the flock, and sent them by the hand of David, his son, to Saul.



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f6/David_Playing_the_Harp_to_Saul_%28Pl_yusnin%29.jpg Ekaterinburg Museum of Fine Arts / Public domain

- 16:21 And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he [Saul] loved him [David] exceedingly, and made him his armourbearer.
- 16:22 And Saul sent to Isai, saying: Let David stand before me: for he hath found favour in my sight.
- 16:23 So whensoever the evil spirit from the Lord was upon Saul, David took his harp, and played with his hand, and Saul was refreshed, and was better, for the evil spirit departed from him.

No doubt, the evil spirit was chased away from Saul not on account directly of the music, but by David's devotion, and purity of soul, which devils are not able to abide.

1 Kings Chapter 17

War with the Philistines. Goliath challengeth Israel. He is slain by David.

- 17:1 Now the Philistines gathering together their troops to battle, assembled at Socho of Juda: and camped between Socho and Azeca, in the borders of Dommim.
- 17:2 And Saul and the children of Israel being gathered together, came to the valley of Terebinth, and they set the army in array to fight against the Philistines.
- 17:3 And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley

between them.

17:4 And there went out a man baseborn³ from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Geth, whose height was six cubits and a span:

A cubit is about the length of a man's forearm and hand, while a span is considered about the length of his hand alone. Therefore Goliath's height has been approximated at 9 feet 6 inches!

17:5 And he had a helmet of brass upon his head, and he was clothed with a coat of mail with scales, and the weight of his coat of mail was five thousand sicles of brass:

Taking a conservative estimate for the weight of a shekel at about 7 grams, (one quarter ounce), the weight of Goliath's chain mail alone would be about 1,250 ounces, or about 78 pounds! Taking another common weight for the shekel, some estimate it would have weighed about 125 pounds.

17:6 And he had greaves⁴ of brass on his legs, and a buckler of brass covered his shoulders.

17:7 And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the head of his spear weighed six hundred sicles of iron: and his armourbearer went before him.

A spear head weighing at least ten pounds!

17:8 And standing, he cried out to the bands of Israel, and said to them: Why are you come out prepared to fight? Am not I a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose out a man of you, and let him come down and fight hand to hand.

17:9 If he be able to fight with me, and kill me, we will be servants to you: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, you shall be servants, and shall serve us.

17:10 And the Philistine said: I have defied the bands of Israel this day: give me a man, and let him fight with me hand to hand.

17:11 And Saul and all the Israelites hearing these words of the Philistine, were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

17:12 Now David was the son of that Ephrathite, of Bethlehem Juda, before mentioned, whose name was Isai, who had eight sons, and was an old man in the days of Saul, and of great age among men.

17:13 And his three eldest sons followed Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle, were Eliab, the firstborn, and the second, Abinadab, and the third Samma:

17:14 But David was the youngest. So the three eldest having followed Saul,

17:15 David went, and returned from Saul, to feed his father's flock at Bethlehem.

David is a shepherd, from Bethlehem - two important points which help showcase how he is a type of Christ.

17:16 Now the Philistine came out morning and evening, and presented himself forty days.

17:17 And Isai said to David, his son: Take for thy brethren an ephi of frumenty,⁵ and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren,

Frumenty is a medieval dish, and so this translation is a bit antiquated, though it was contemporary for the

³ Baseborn: of low birth or origin

⁴ Greave: a piece of armor used to protect the shin

⁵ Frumenty: (of British origin) an old-fashioned dish consisting of hulled wheat boiled in milk and seasoned with cinnamon and sugar.

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