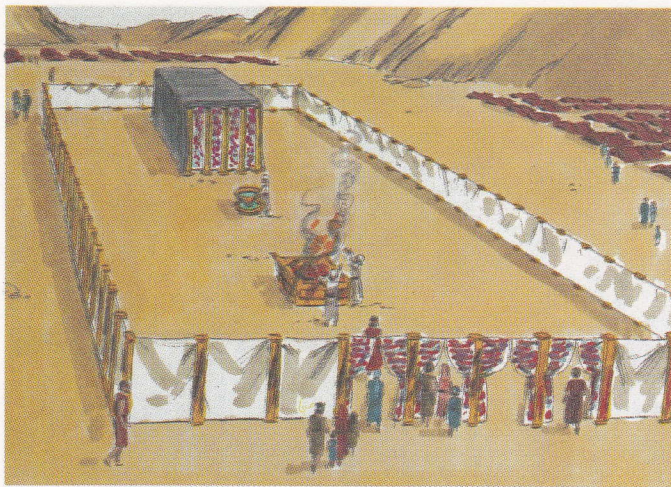


# Samuel the Prophet



**1** Every year a man named Elkanah took his family to Shiloh to offer sacrifices at the Tabernacle of the Lord. Hophni and Phinehas, the sons of Eli, were the priests in charge there.



**2** After the sacrifices one year, Elkanah's wife Hannah prayed for a son. She promised that if God answered her prayer, she would dedicate her son to the Lord for all of his life.



**3** In time Hannah had a son, whom she named Samuel. When he was about three years old, Hannah took him to Eli at Shiloh. She said, "I have come to give my son to the Lord, as I promised."



**4** The sons of Eli were wicked men who did not obey the Lord, even though they were priests. They ignored the rules that God had given Moses about the sacrifice.



**5** The Lord was very angry with Hophni and Phinehas, Eli's sons, because they treated his sacrifices with such disrespect.

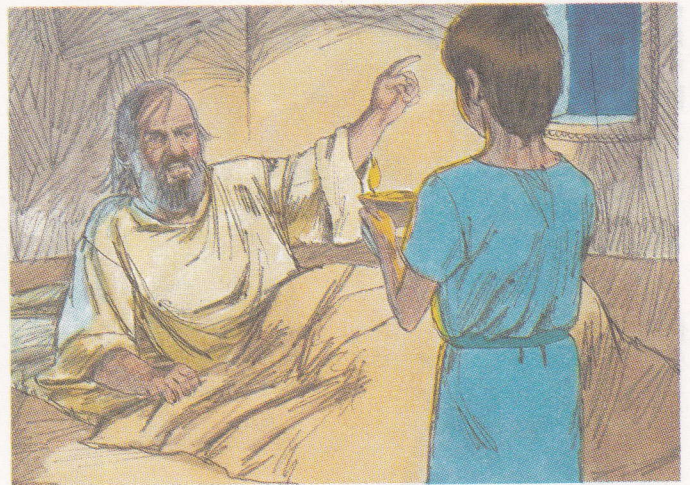


**6** Samuel grew up helping Eli at the Tabernacle. He wore a special linen apron, and every year when his mother came with his father to make a sacrifice to the Lord, she brought him a new robe.

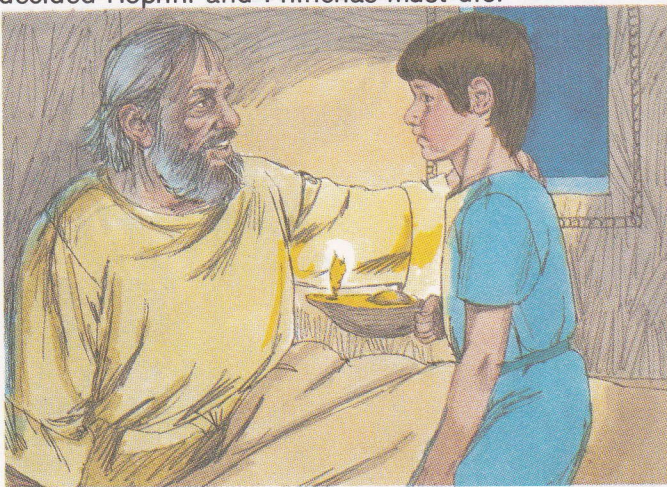




**7** Eli, now an old man, kept hearing of the evil his sons were doing. He tried to make them stop, but they paid no attention to him. Therefore, the Lord decided Hophni and Phinehas must die.



**8** One night Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle. He was awakened by a voice calling his name. He jumped up and ran to Eli to find out what the old man wanted.



**9** Eli had not called him, so he sent him back to bed. This happened two more times. Finally, Eli knew the Lord was speaking to Samuel. He told the boy to say, "Speak, Lord; I am listening."



**10** Samuel did so, and the Lord told him that he was going to punish Eli's wicked sons. Hophni and Phinehas would die; no sacrifice could remove the guilt of their sin.



**11** Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what the Lord had said. But the next morning Eli insisted that Samuel tell him everything. Afterwards Eli said, "He is the Lord; let him do what he thinks right."



**12** Before long, the word of the Lord came true. Eli's wicked sons were killed in a battle with the Philistines. But the Lord was with Samuel, and everyone could see that he was a prophet.