

Samuel listens - 1 Samuel 1-4

Cast: God, Elkanah, Hannah, Peninnah, Eli, Samuel
Props: costumes, menorah, sheets, pillows, mattress, water



ACT 1

NARRATOR: Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Once a year he travelled to Shiloh to worship God and offer sacrifice. He would share some of the sacrifice with his family but he gave Hannah twice as much because he loved her. God had stopped Hannah from having a baby, so Peninnah would taunt her until she was in tears and not eating.

ELKANAH: What are crying for, Hannah? Why won't you eat? Why are you so sad? Don't I mean more to you than having 10 sons?

NARRATOR: After the meal Hannah got up and started praying to God as she sobbed. She was praying: "O God, if you will take pity on your servant-girl, remember me and not forget me but will give me a baby boy then I will give him to you for the rest of his life and I promise he will never cut his hair."
Eli the priest saw only her mouth moving so he thought she was drunk!

ELI: How long are you going to stay drunk? Stop drinking so much wine!

HANNAH: No my lord! I am a very sad woman. I haven't been drinking but pouring out my woes to God. I'm not worthless.

ELI: Go in peace. May God give you what you asked for.

NARRATOR: Hannah got up and left to eat something and cheer up. Eventually she gave birth to a baby boy and called him Samuel, because she had asked God for him. When she had stopped breast feeding Samuel she took him up to the temple at Shiloh with 3 bullocks, a bag of flour and a bottle of wine.

HANNAH (to Eli):

My Lord! I am the woman who stood here and prayed to God for this boy and God answered my prayer. I am going to lend him to God for the rest of his life.

NARRATOR:

The boy Samuel served God in front of Eli the priest. The sons of Eli did not know God and acted wickedly. Meanwhile Hannah had 3 sons and 2 daughters.

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ACT 2

NARRATOR:

God did not speak to people very often in those days but one night when old Eli had gone to bed, the lamps were still alight and Samuel lay down in the temple.

GOD: Samuel!

SAMUEL (ran to Eli): Here I am! I heard you calling me.

ELI: I didn't call - go and lie down.

(REPEAT THIS 3 TIMES)

(After the third call) When God calls, you say: Speak, your servant hears you.

GOD: Samuel! Samuel!

SAMUEL: Speak, your servant hears you.

NARRATOR:

God told Samuel the bad things that were going to happen but in the morning when they opened the temple doors Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what God had said. In the end he did.

One day when the bad news came that the enemy had captured the Ark of God, Eli fell backwards off his stool, broke his neck and died.