

1ST SAMUEL

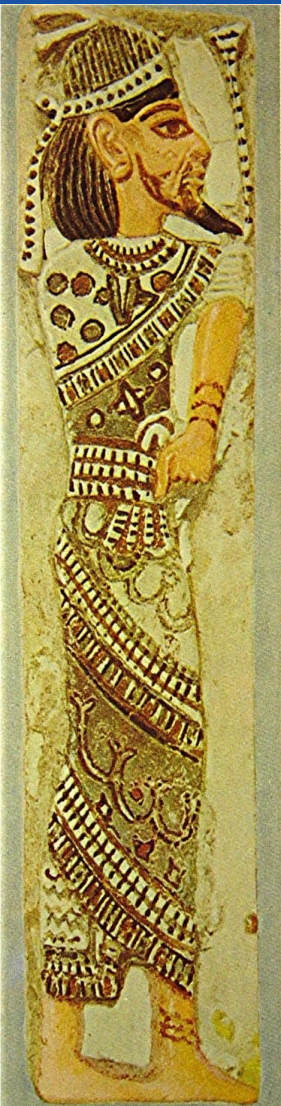
- 1st, 2nd Samuel PLUS
1st, 2nd Kings were originally 1 book
- First translation of Hebrew Scriptures to a foreign language was the Greek Septuagint LXX 250 B.C.
- Translation difficulties primarily due to the tightly woven connection between a culture and its native language



CULTURAL TRADITIONS FORMED BY UNIQUE HISTORY

- Handing down of traditions was word-of-mouth
- Later it was by alphabets and writing
- A word in one society can carry an entirely different meaning in another society
- Cultural concepts difficult to carry across the language barrier
- We face this problem when reading the books of Samuel





ISRAEL WAS NOT A UNITED NATION



- Israel was fragmented and warred against one another
- Many of the Canaanite peoples were still firmly entrenched in Canaan
- Philistines controlled coast and Shefelah
- Israel at peace as long as it remained docile and obedient to the Philistines

RAMATHAIM-ZOPHIM: THE DOUBLE HEIGHTS

- Also known as Ramah
- Samuel's Tomb is located there
- *Elkanah* = God created
- Ephrathite = Ephraimite, or a person from the village of Ephrath, or a person who has abundance
- Genealogy shows Samuel has a Levite heritage
- Kohath clan



HANNAH AND P'NINAH

- Elkanah was well-to-do in order to have 2 wives
- The family journeyed to Shiloh annually for a festival
- This was probably a private family/clan festival not associated with the 3 God-ordained Pilgrimage Feasts
- Eli was the High Priest, his sons were Hophni and Phinehas





YEHOVEH TZAVA'OT

- *Elohim Tzava'ot* = God of Hosts
- *Adonai Tzava'ot* = Lord of Hosts
- *YHWH Tzava'ot* = Yehoveh of Hosts
- Host means multitude
- Refers to stars & angels
- *Tzava* = host (singular)
- *Tzava'ot* sometimes used for heavenly host
- The visible and invisible, spiritual and physical



HANNAH'S DESPAIR



- Elkanah gave a “double portion” to Hannah
- Hebrews’ mindset: the Lord sends blessings AND calamities
- Is God ACTIVE when sending blessings, but PASSIVE when allowing calamities?
- Na’omi stated essentially the same position (book of Ruth)
- Either Hannah sinned and was being punished OR
- Hannah did NOT sin and God had a higher purpose for His harsh choice

“.....because he loved her....”

- Sacrifice was a Zevah Shelamim, because worshipper received the bulk of the meat
- Vs. 5: ***“It was Hannah that he loved”***
- Elkanah had much love for Hannah, but not so much for P’ninah
- P’ninah would taunt Hannah and make her weep



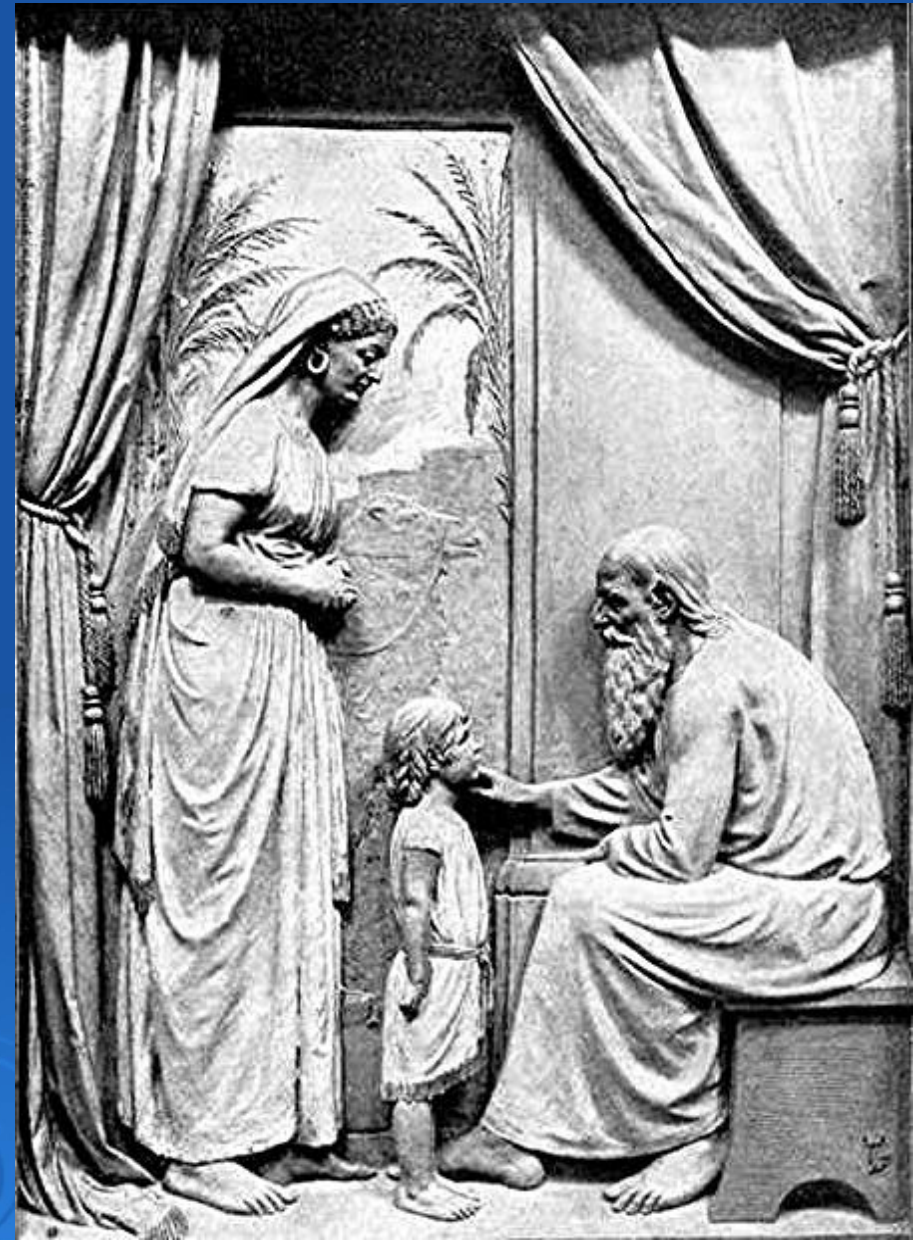
THE RIVAL WIFE

- **Sara** = rival wife, co-wife, 2nd wife
- Better sense of it is “the other wife”
- Eli sitting in a chair, observing Hannah
- A chair was a place of honor, most people merely sat on the ground
- Hannah weeping and praying at the entry to the Sanctuary Tent

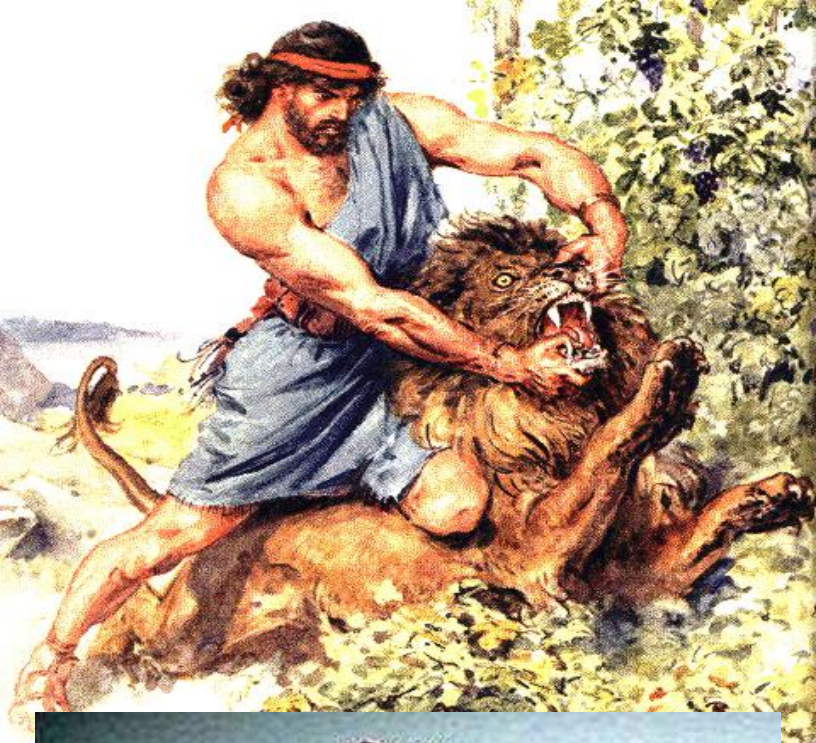


HANNAH'S PLEA TO GOD

- Hannah was coming to the Lord for refuge
- She was NOT asking the Lord to rescue her from some malicious act by Satan, or a natural biological problem
- Hannah wanted the Lord to STOP afflicting her with childlessness
- Hannah did NOT need to produce an heir for Elkanah
- Hannah's concern was to end her humiliation of not being able to fulfill her womanly purpose



SAMUEL THE NAZARITE



- Hannah made a vow similar to Samson's mother
- Samuel and Samson to be lifelong Nazarites (unusual)
- Strange that a Levite would be a Nazarite
- All Levites were already authorized to serve the Lord at the Tabernacle
- Elkanah does not seem to be active as a Levite
- Levites' service is usually starts at age 25, ends at age 50