

# 1 Samuel 1:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the LORD.

## Analysis

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The phrase 'when the time was come about' (literally 'at the revolution of days') indicates the full term of pregnancy. Hannah names her son 'Samuel' (shemu'el), which she interprets as 'asked of God' (sha'ul me'el). Some scholars note the name more naturally means 'heard of God' or 'name of God,' while sha'ul (asked) becomes the name of Israel's first king (Saul). This wordplay connects Samuel and Saul throughout the narrative. Hannah's naming declaration claims divine response to her prayer, establishing Samuel's identity as one set apart from conception.

## Historical Context

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Hebrew naming practices typically commemorated significant events or divine interventions. The multiple meanings possible in shemu'el allow for rich theological significance. Ancient naming ceremonies were formal declarations of identity and destiny.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does Samuel's name serve as a permanent testimony to answered prayer?
2. What significance do you attach to the names and identities given to your children or spiritual offspring?

## Interlinear Text

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לְתַקֵּף וְתִּהְיֶה	בְּמִזְמָרָה	יָתַר בְּרִית
H1961 <b>was come</b>	<b>Wherefore it came to pass when the time</b>	<b>had conceived</b>
H8622	H3117	H2029
מִזְמָרָה	לְתַקֵּף	יָתַר
about after Hannah	that she bare	a son
H2584	H3205	H1121
אֶת	וְתַקֵּף אֶת	בְּרִית
and called		
H853	H7121	
his name		
H8034		
שְׁמוּאֵל	שְׁמוּאֵל	שְׁמוּאֵל
מִיְהָיו הִנֵּה	שְׁאָלָתִים:	
H3588 <b>him of the LORD</b>	<b>saying Because I have asked</b>	
H3068	H7592	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 2:10** (Parallel theme): And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.

**Matthew 1:21** (Parallel theme): And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

**Exodus 2:22** (Parallel theme): And she bare him a son, and he called his name Gershom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land.

**Genesis 16:11** (References Lord): And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction.

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