

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

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

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

- ## Interlinear Text

Additional Cross-References

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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