

April 8 Answers

- 1) The birth of Samuel and the judgment of Eli's house (1 Sam 1–4). Hannah was barren because God had **closed** her womb, but she did not become **bitter** or turn to other **gods** for help. Instead, she poured out her heart to God and asked Him to look on her misery. This teaches us that we should always bring our problems to God. He said, "Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will **sustain** you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved" (Ps 55:22). Little did Eli know as he watched Hannah's earnest yet silent prayer, that God was about to raise up a prophet and judge whose life would be a **rebuke** to the wickedness of his own sons. God called Samuel to speak for Him, and Samuel responded in obedience. "Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and He let none of his words **fall** to the ground" (1 Sam 3:19; Josh 21:45). This shows us how much God longs for those who will say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant **hears**" (1 Sam 3:9). God warned Eli twice, once through a man of God and once through Samuel, that his house was about to be **judged**. Eli **scolded** his sons, but he did not **discipline** them or **remove** them from service. If we coddle our children and excuse their sin, we **dishonor** God and set the stage for their ultimate destruction. The ark was captured, Eli's sons were killed, and his own neck was broken. Eli refused to honor God above his children, and his life ended in tragedy.