**1 Samuel: Into and Chapter One – What seems bad is not always bad**

* **1 and 2 Samuel originally one book**
* **Called “Samuel” because he’s the first major character**
* **Samuel was almost certainly a major contributor to the writing**
* **Setting: The book centers on the lives of Samuel, King Saul, and King David, from the late Judges to the beginning of the period of the Kings**
* **Date: the book begins around 1120 B.C.**

**1 Samuel 1:1-6**

**Violating God’s design for marriage invites trouble - 1:2**

**Even spiritual people have gaps in their lives - 1:3 (notice the reference to Eli and his sons)**

**Between those you love, showing favoritism among those who would otherwise be equals only compounds problems - 1:4-6**

**1 Samuel 1:7-11**

**Sometimes the Lord allows situations that seem hopeless to bring us to a solution - 1:7-11**

**It is a good thing to care about the problems of others. However, sometimes it’s good to realize that while we care, we may not truly appreciate what or why a person is struggling and simply support them rather than trying to “fix it” - 1:8**

**When we try to help others, we need to be careful not to allow ego to get in the way of understanding. This can be a particular issue between genders. - 1:8**

**Loneliness and isolation can be avenues of help when we turn to the Lord - 1:9**

**1 Samuel 1:12-19**

**Assumptions are wrong and even otherwise spiritual people make them - 1:13-14**

**The right words of encouragement can help a hurting heart - 1:18**

**A humble spirit finds favor in the eyes of God - 1:15-19**

**2**

**1 Samuel 1:20-23**

**Just because things may be emotionally difficult does not mean they are not God’s will – 1:23**

**We must be careful to not allow our emotions to neither govern nor define our relationship with God!**

**1 Samuel 1:24-28**

**We find joy when we live our lives before God, in His will - 1:24-28**

**General**

**The decay of the family inevitably leads to the decay of society!**

**If God has all-power and has our best in mind,**

**our view of life completely changes!**

**From Hannah’s standpoint, she was broken-hearted**

**because she could not get pregnant.**

**From God’s standpoint, He was counting on her having a godly reaction that would supernaturally bring a son and save a nation!**

**Additional notes**