

## RAMAH

Ramah, (heights), in Mount Ephraim, called Ramathaim-Zophim, you are home to Elkanah, a Levite, of the Kohathite branch, and the blessed father of Samuel, a Nazarite from the womb of his mother, Hannah (cp. 1 Samuel 1:1).

### **Bring Forth the Son**

Elkanah, son of Jeroham, though you are "better to Hannah than ten sons" from the love you have for her; yet there is in Hannah's heart a "bitterness of soul," a deep yearning and constant sorrow with much weeping from wanting so desperately to bring forth a son. You are witness to her prayers and fastings, both in Ramah and in Shiloh at the Tabernacle of the Lord there (1 Samuel 1:7-10). Oh, how Hannah did pray and make her vow:

*And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of Hosts, if Thou will indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but will give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.  
(1 Samuel 1:11)*

Yes, from "a sorrowful spirit" Hannah did "pour out her soul before the LORD"; even from an "abundance of grief" did she speak (1 Samuel 1:15).

Then rising early on the morrow Elkanah and Hannah did worship before the LORD; and returned from Shiloh to you, Ramah. Now, the LORD indeed did remember Hannah and she bore a son and called his name, Samuel for he was "asked of God" (1 Samuel 1:19-20).

Hannah, may we yearn with you in your deep desire, and pour out our soul by the groaning of the Spirit within 'till Christ be formed in us, and the Son come forth to the glory of God, the

Father (cp. Galatians 4:19; Romans 8:26). And may the fully formed Spirit of the Son within us cry "Abba, Father"! unto Him Who is Father and LORD of All (cp. Galatians 4:6).

Hannah, we sing with you your song and prayer to the LORD, and say amen to your proclamations:

*My heart rejoices in the LORD, my horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over my enemies; because I rejoice in Thy salvation.*

*There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside Thee: neither is there any Rock like our God.*

*Talk no more so exceedingly proudly; let not arrogance come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by Him actions are weighed.*

*The bows of the mighty men are broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength. They that were full have hired out themselves for bread; and they that were hungry ceased: so that the barren has born seven; and she that has many children is waxed feeble.*

*The LORD kills, and makes alive: He brings down to the grave, and brings up.*

*The LORD makes poor, and makes rich: He brings low, and lifts up.*

*He raises up the poor out of the dust; and lifts up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and He has set the world upon them.*

*He will keep the feet of His saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.*

*The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall He thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and He shall give strength unto His king, and exalt the Horn of His Anointed.*

*(1 Samuel 2:1-10)*

### **The Sons of Belial Bring Calamity**

Ramah, your son, Samuel, though yet tender in years is growing strong before the Lord in the Tabernacle in Shiloh. He is learning to know the word of the LORD for it is being revealed to him as he ministers there before the Ark of God (cp. 1 Samuel 3:19-21).

Ramah, Samuel will yet return to you in the course of time for calamitous things are coming upon the House of Eli; for the "sons of belial" who wear the ephod in the Holy Place, Hophni and Phineas, have made themselves vile and do practice evil before the LORD and Eli has not

constrained them (cp. 1 Samuel 3:12-14). In one day judgment will fall upon them and they shall be removed (cp. 1 Samuel 2:34). The glory shall depart from Shiloh. The Tabernacle will be moved to Gibeon and Nob and the Ark of the Covenant will rest in Kiriath-jearim in the house of Abinadab, a Levite, under the care of Eleazer, his son (cp. 1 Samuel 7:1). For twenty years the Land shall mourn under the burden of the Philistines (cp. 1 Samuel 7:2).

### **Samuel: Prophet, Priest and Judge in Israel**

Now Ramah, be of good courage for you shall become the principal City, the Seat of Judgment and residence of Samuel, the Prophet, Priest and Judge of Israel. And Samuel shall build an Altar to the Lord in your high places for worship and for the offering of sacrifices, and to serve there as Priest. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba shall know that Samuel is established a Prophet of the LORD (cp. 1 Samuel 3:20). Indeed, Samuel shall also be Judge in Israel and go up from year to year in his Circuit to Beth-el, Gilgal, and Mizpah and return to judge the people in Ramah (cp. 1 Samuel 7:15-17).

Samuel, Prophet, Priest and Judge in Israel you pre-figure the One Who is coming to reign in His Kingdom in righteousness. Samuel, in your unitary tripartite office, and by your threefold function as servant of the Most High God, you are a sign to, witness and vision of the tri-unity of Him Who shall be Prophet, Priest and King. Even Him Who is the Prophet like unto Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15); High Priest of the profession of faith of the people of God (Hebrews 3:1) and King of Kings and Lord of Lords over all peoples of the earth (Revelation 17:14; 19:16). Samuel, you are the vision of that day, that glorious day when Christ shall reign in the heavens and the earth, and of the increase of His Kingdom there shall be no end (cp. Isaiah 9:7).

## Give Us a King!

Ramah, the people are growing restless now under the oppression of the Philistines; Samuel is growing old, and his sons, Joel and Abiah, have become corrupt. Indeed, they sit as Judges in Beersheba, but walk not in the ways of their father. They love lucre, they take bribes and pervert judgment (cp. 1 Samuel 8:1-3). And now the people desire a King.

*Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together and came to Samuel unto Ramah. And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. (1 Samuel 8:4-7)*

Samuel, the LORD is sending one to you in Ramah, the son of Kish, even Saul by name, of Gibeah of the Tribe of Benjamin, "a choice young man and a goodly; and there is not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he is higher than any of the people" (1 Kings 9:1-2, 16).

Oh, Samuel we know you are displeased (1 Samuel 8:6); so warn the people, and "protest solemnly unto them" (1 Samuel 8:9) of their decision to not have the LORD reign over them.

*And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king. And he said, This is the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for himself, for his chariots and to be his horsemen and some shall run before his chariots. And he will appoint him captains over thousands and captains over fifties and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots. And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries and to be cooks, and to be bakers. And he will take your fields, and your vineyards and your olive yards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards and give to his officers and to his servants.*

*And he will take your menservants and your maidservants and your goodliest young men and your asses, and put them to his work.*

*And he will take a tenth of your sheep and you shall be his servants.*

*And you shall cry out in that day because of your king which you shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.*

*Nevertheless, the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;*

*That we also may be like all the nations and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.*

*(1 Samuel 8:10-20)*

Yes, Samuel you have spoken to the people with a strong warning, but they are determined to have a king and the LORD has heard their cry and granted their request (cp. 1 Samuel 9:16). So, the reign of God must now wait for a future day in the which the LORD shall raise up unto Himself One after His own heart, and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be (cp. Genesis 49:10).

Oh, Samuel how you have obeyed the LORD and have done all that was commanded of you by the mouth of the LORD. But even now, Saul has come to disappoint you by his disobedience to the word of the LORD in Gilgal, the place of removal, and you have spoken to him concerning the Kingdom (1 Samuel 15:22-23). The time has come to return to Ramah, and Saul to Gibeah; but oh, how you do mourn for him continually and it has even repented the LORD that Saul was made king over His people, Israel (1 Samuel 15:33-35).

### **Dwellings: Naioth of Ramah**

Samuel, it is not for you to continue in mourning for Saul; it is for you, thou prophet of the LORD, to anoint another king over the House of Israel, and to establish your spiritual sons, the prophets, in the Land. Go now to Bethlehem with your horn of anointing oil, to the house of Jesse and anoint there one of his sons to be king (1 Samuel 16:1). Furthermore, set up dwellings, and call it Naioth of Ramah for your sons, the prophets, to learn the word of the

LORD and to speak to the king and the people in the times to come (cp. 1 Samuel 19:18). Yes, fulfil these assignments now in your latter years before you go the way of all flesh and receive your eternal reward.

See now, Samuel has anointed David, son of Jesse, the Bethlehemite, to be king over Israel; and the dwellings in Naioth of Ramah have been prepared. And now it has come to pass that Saul is pursuing David even unto Naioth of Ramah. Look, David has come to you, Samuel, to receive advice, wise counsel and solace from the LORD (1 Samuel 19:18). And now even Saul has come in his search for David. But wait, this one who came to kill, now lies naked before the LORD! Yea, even prophesying before you, Samuel, in the mighty presence of the Spirit of the LORD at Naioth of Ramah, the dwelling place of the Most High (cp. 1 Samuel 19:23-24).

*And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. . . They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:1-2,9).*

Oh, Ramah, you speak to us of heights, the dwellings of the LORD in heavenly places. For "he that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty" (Psalms 91:1). Behold, Samuel your assignment has been fulfilled! You were the archetype and shadow, but now the Reality and Substance has come. The King, the Son of David, the Beloved, reigns on High; and His dwellings have been prepared. For in the Father's House are many dwellings and the Son has prepared the Naioth of Ramah in the heavenlies (cp. John 14:2). Oh, "blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ. . . when He raised Him from the dead and set

Him at His own right hand. . .and raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 1:3,20;2:6). Hallelujah!

### **Maranatha!**

Alas, Samuel, enter your rest, your heavenly abode; even as your body lies buried in your home in Ramah (1 Samuel 25:1). All Israel will lament over you, but your spirit rejoices with the angels and with your LORD. You have fulfilled your days on earth and shown forth the glory of Him Who is to come. We all with you behold Him Who was, and is, and is to come. Oh, Prophet, Priest and King--Maranatha! Even so, Come, Lord Jesus!