

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE

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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: I Samuel, Part 1 (The Heart of a Leader)

MONDAY

OPEN

I don't know where you are today beloved or where your loved one is or where your friend is, but I can tell you this, that if all seems dark, if all seems hopeless, I have good news. And that good news is that this is not all there is to this life. There is hope, if you are a child of God there's hope. You say, but I'm not. Well if you're not, then there's Jesus, so you can have hope.

PART ONE

I love the privilege of studying God's Word with you. I love it that you want to know God's precepts for life and that you want to move through the Word of God and look at a book in its wholeness and in its context. And that's what we're going to do; we're going to look at 1 Samuel. You say, "but that's Old Testament Kay. Hey, come on; let's get in New Testament days." I want you to know that the things that were written beforehand, that were

written in this Old Testament are written for our instruction. And you love a good story, don't you? Well we're going to look at quite a story as we move through 1 Samuel. And as we go through this book, you are going to learn and gain so many practical insights for your life. I am standing on tiptoe in anticipation of what God is going to do as a result of this series. And so I want to make sure that you go on line to preceptsforlife.com and you download the study guide that goes with 1 Samuel, because I want you right there with me. I want you studying with me. And you say, "But oh Kay, I listen to you when I'm driving in the car." Well I don't want you studying right then. I just want you listening. But you know what? You can get the CD's of this program and you can listen to them and it is going to be like going to God's school and sitting there and having the Holy Spirit be your professor as He takes the things of God and reveals them to you. Well, I asked you at the opening of the program if you were in a place where it seemed so dark, and a place of, of hopelessness and wondering you know, God, I can't stand this. How long is this going to last? And what I wanted you to know was that wherever you are this is not the end of the story. It's not all there is to life. There is hope if you're a child of God. And there's hope beloved, as you're going to see, because the book of 1 Samuel takes us from darkness to light. It takes us from a cycle of defeat to a future filled with hope. And you know that is so important for you to keep in perspective when you are in any difficult situation of life. Because if you're in a hard spot that's not the end. It's one event in all of life. You say, but it has been an event too long and it looks like because I'm in a bad marriage or it's with my child or I have a terminal disease and you think oh, that's it, that's what life is all about, and it's not. I want you to go to Jeremiah, chapter 29. You say, I thought we were going to study 1 Samuel. We are, but I want to show you a principle that you see in Jeremiah, chapter 29. And it's a picture that God wants His people to have so that you can keep trials and difficulties and testings and frustrations, all in the bigger perspective of life that belongs to

God. Now in Jeremiah, chapter 29 in verse 10 it says: “For thus says the Lord, when seventy years have been completed for Babylon I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.” (Jeremiah 29:10) Now what is He saying to them? He’s saying [you’re going to be in captivity for seventy years. It’s going to look like all is lost. It looks like you’re out of the land, you’re never going to return again, everything’s over. And He says I want you to know that it’s not over because I am God and because I made you a promise. And because I made you a promise I am going to fulfill My good word to you to bring you back to this place.] “‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope....’” And this is what He’s saying. He’s saying, [listen, this dark period of history or this dark period in your life, this hopeless time is going to pass, because if you belong to God, whether you’re part of the nation of Israel or whether you’re part of the family of God and the church of Jesus Christ you can know this: that God has a future for you and God has hope for you.] And this is what we see as we come to Samuel. We see that Samuel takes them from darkness to light. You say, well, but wait a minute. What do you mean from darkness to light? Well, the book of Samuel follows the book of Judges. You say, but Ruth is in there. Yeah, I’m going to deal with Ruth in just a minute. But historically Ruth slots in to the time of the judges and Samuel follows the time of the judges, but it’s still the time of the judges. And those were very dark days. Those were like 320, 340 years of darkness of defeat for the nation, and yet, because they’re God’s people God has a future for them and they have hope because they have God. And so as we look at 1 Samuel, what I want to do is I want to show you what happens in the midst of darkness. And even Jeremiah talks about it. So let me take you to Jeremiah 29:11 & 12 & 13 before we leave there. Now let me say 11 again because it’s so good, you’re going to love hearing it. “‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a

hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you....” Now this is what I want you to see, that He is saying, “...you will call upon Me...[you will come to Me, you will] pray to Me and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. [and] I will be found by you,’ declares the Lord, ‘and I will restore your fortunes and...gather you from all the nations and from all the...places where I have driven you... and I will bring you back to the place where I sent you into exile.” (Jeremiah 29:11-14) Now what we see as we open the book of Samuel is we find a woman who has, in a sense, lost hope. We find a woman by the name of Hannah who comes to God and who cries out to God, who comes to Him who seeks Him, who calls to Him, and who is heard by God. When you come to Me and you seek for Me with all your heart I will be found of you. And so what I want you to see today, if nothing else, is that God is in the business of turning darkness to light. God is in the business of pulling us out of a cycle of defeat and giving us a future that is filled with hope. And it’s vital that you understand this and you keep this proper perspective on life. So let’s go to 1 Samuel, chapter 1, verse 1 and I’m going to read just a couple of verses and then what I want to do is I want to put this book into context because O, when you see the context... This morning as I was praying for you and preparing to teach you today, I thought O God, that’s so neat. I can’t wait to share it with them. All right 1 Samuel, chapter 1, verse 1. “Now there was a certain man from Ramathaim-zophim from the hill country of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jerhoam, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the sons of Zuph, an Ephraimite.” Now that is really exciting, isn’t it? But what God wants you to know is hey, there was a man, and I know all about this man and this is his heritage. “[And] He had two wives: the name of one was Hannah and the name of the other was Peninnah; and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. Now this man would go up from his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Shiloh....”(1 Samuel 1:1-3a) All right

now, I want to stop there for just a minute and say hey, we're studying the Word of God together. You are discovering God's precepts for life so that you will have knowledge, so that you will have truth, so that you can walk in the light of it and you can have victory in any circumstance. Now to get that knowledge and to understand truth, you've got to get into the Word of God and you've got to do more than just sit down and read it. I mean that's a good place to begin. But you want to pause on these words. You want them not to go into your mind and then you lose them later. You want to absorb what God is saying. And so this radio program is all about studying God's Word inductively. By inductively I mean that you are going to observe the text in such a way that you discover what does it say. And I mean you really learn what does it say. And then how to interpret the text so you know hey, I've read this. I know what it says, what does it mean? And I'll just give you a little hint. If you study it and observe it enough, interpretation's going to fall in your lap, because God means what He says. Then there's application. And application is, okay, now how am I to live in the light of these precepts for life? How am I to order my life? How am I to change my thinking or to change my behavior? Well this is what we'll look at as we come back in just a moment.

PART TWO

Welcome back my friend. You may have a cup of coffee or a cup of tea, but do you have a pen? Because you're going to need that pen because I want you to mark the text in your study guide. I want you to open it to 1 Samuel, chapter 1. And when we study the Word of God inductively; and by inductively I mean that you and I go to the Word of God for ourselves to see what it says. You know God intends for every child of God to be able to understand His Word and He has given you a resident tutor. And that resident tutor that lives inside of you is the Holy Spirit and He is inside you to lead you and to guide you into all truth. And so as you begin, let's just

begin and say Lord, we ask You now to open the eyes of our understanding so that we might behold wondrous things out of Your Word. Thank you Father, for what You're going to do, as we do what we're supposed to do and that's study to show ourselves approved unto You a workman that needs not be ashamed, handling accurately the Word of truth. Father, thank you, in Jesus name, amen. Well, precious one, when you study and you observe the text you need to ask the five W's and an H. Who; who are the main characters here and what and when and where and why and how. And so you take each one of those questions and you ask like who, who is this about. Now this is very important because 1 Samuel is a historical book, but it also has awesome prophecy in it that you and I are going to see and discover together. Well when we look at 1 Samuel, chapter 1, we find out that there are three main characters. The first one is Elkanah and he has two wives. One of them is named Hannah and the other one is named Peninnah. All right now we've seen the who. We know that he is an Ephraimite. And when you find out where somebody is from or when you find out where something is taking place this is what I do, is I double underline it in green. I just always have a little ruler around and I use it for my straight edge. And so then I stop and I underline in verse 1 that this man is from Ramathaim-zophim, from the hill country of Ephraim. And so I double underline that. Then the other thing that is so good for you to do to see the where, that is, is to look at a map. And so when you download your study guide you're going to find a map in the study guide so that you can always see where you are. So when I find out where I double underline it in green. When I find out when, when I come to a time phrase that is significant or a phrase that connects thoughts like then or after or when, I put a clock around it. I draw a green circle and I put two little balls at the bottom. It's not a digital clock and then a little dinger on top and that's my sign for time. And this is what you see in verse 3: "Now this man..." and who was this man? It's Elkanah, "...would go up from his city..." We know what his city is. He's from

Ramathaim-zophim and, "...[he] would go up from his city yearly..." Ding, you know, there's the clock. So I would put a clock there. "...[He goes] up from his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Shiloh..." (1 Samuel 1:3a) Now this is where he's going. Shiloh is a very important place and it's very important because the Ark of the Covenant and the tabernacle were in Shiloh for several hundred years. So you want to double underline that. This is where he's going to worship. Who is he going to worship? He's going to worship the Lord of hosts. Now this is a title for God that you meet for the first time in the book of Samuel and that is what is so awesome. And when you meet it in 1 Samuel you can know this that God is showing you His sovereignty, His power over the things in heaven and all the hosts of heaven, over the good angels and the bad angels, over the sun and the moon and the stars and the planets and over everything on the earth. Now El Elyon is another name of God that shows Him as the Most High God, as the sovereign God. But here He's depicted in Samuel as the Lord of hosts. So let's go back. Now where are you today? Where is your loved one? Does it seem dark? Does it seem hopeless? Well, it's all right, because there's the Lord of hosts. And the Lord of hosts is Sovereign. He's in charge of what's going on. And no trial is without an end. Have you got that? [No trial is without an end because God has given you a future and God has given you hope.] (Jeremiah 29:11) So as you look at this and as you read it, you're stopping and you're picking up truths that are going to help you to know your God and to be able to be strong and to be able to live as more than a conqueror. Well, the next verse tells us who he sees there in Shiloh. It says, "...And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests to the Lord there." (1 Samuel 1:3b) Right away, at the beginning of this account the author of 1 Samuel who is a scribe for God, wants you to know hey, there are three other people that are very key players in what you are going to learn. Now we're going to learn it tomorrow. But he wants you to know that there are three priests at Shiloh when Elkanah goes up with Peninnah

and Hannah to worship the Lord yearly, and that's Eli and Hophni and Phinehas. Now we're going to find out later who Hophni and Phinehas are and their relationship to Eli. But we come to verse 4 and it says, "When the day came that Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all [of] her sons and her daughters; but to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, but the Lord had closed her womb. Her rival, however, would provoke her bitterly to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb." (1 Samuel 1:4-6) So here is a woman and life is dark. And it seems hopeless because her competitor, Elkanah's other wife not only has one son, she has more than one. She not only has one daughter on top of a son, but she has more than one. And here is Hannah and she has none. And everything looks dark and everything looks hopeless, and she is in bitter pain. It says in verse 7, "It happened year after year..." Ding, that's a time phrase you want to mark. This wasn't something that just happened one year and then things changed. No, this was: "...year after year, as often as she went up to the house of the Lord ...;" Peninnah would provoke Hannah, "...so [that] she [Hannah] wept and would not eat. Then Elkanah her husband said to her, 'Hannah, why do you weep and why do you not eat and why is your heart sad? Am I not better to you than ten sons?'" (1 Samuel 1:7-8) He really didn't understand, did he? He was good and she had a wonderful husband, but it wasn't enough. There was a void in her life. And what's going to happen to her? Well beloved, remember God promises a future and a hope and tomorrow we're going to see her future. And in looking at that you and I are going to learn how we can walk as more than conquerors. I'll see you tomorrow.