

Mountain of the Lord Church
A CERTAIN MAN NAMED ELKANAH
1 Samuel 1

February 14, 1999

(1 Samuel 1:1) "Now there was a certain man from Ramathaim-zophim from the hill country of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite."

511. 'Elqanah, el-kaw-naw'; from H410 and H7069; God has obtained; Elkanah. the name of seven Isr.:--Elkanah.

The word Elkanah means that God has obtained. What had God obtained? God obtained a certain man. There was something special about this one man God obtained.

259. 'echad, ekh-awd'; a numeral from H258; prop. united, i.e. one; or (as an ordinal) first:--a, alike, alone, altogether, and, any (-thing), apiece, a certain [dai-] ly, each (one), + eleven, every, few, first, + highway, a man, once, one, only, other, some, together.

The word certain is the Hebrew word echad, which means unity or oneness. Both the KJV and NASB translate it as certain and it refers to this particular one. Elkanah was one that stood out in his day, in his generation. His life was distinguished by something that made him a certain man from Ramathaim and not just another man.

(Proverbs 22:29) "Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before obscure men."

If a man is skilled at golf, he will not stand before obscure men. He will play on the PGA Tour. He will play in the major tournaments. He will play before great crowds. He will play before kings. He will stand out in his profession. Elkanah was not a professional golfer, but he stood out for some certain reason.

What was it that made Elkanah stand out? Was it the fact that Elkanah's family was a light to the nations? Last week we looked at the strife between Hannah and Penninah. There was a lot of hurt and strife in the home. Elkanah missed the mark in this area. But, at the same time, he had other excellent qualities that God wants us to learn from.

- Spiritual leader in his home—Elkanah was a spiritual leader in his home. Elkanah brought and prepared the sacrifices for the offerings. He sacrificed the offerings. He distributed the sacrifices to his family so that they could partake of the offerings. He was making sure that their sins were forgiven and atoned for. He was making sure that they were in right standing with God.

He instructed his family in the ways of the Lord. Hannah knew about vows. His family knew about sacrifices and offerings. His family went to worship with him. They worshiped as a family. He brought his children up in the ways of the Lord. Little Samuel

was worshipping the Lord before he even knew the Lord.

(1 Samuel 1:28) ""So I have also dedicated him to the LORD; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there."

When Samuel is born and Elkanah is getting ready to go to Shiloh to present his annual sacrifice and offering, Hannah asks to stay behind. Elkanah goes on irregardless. He was not going there on his wife's behalf. He was not going there for the sake of raising children in the church. He was leading his family as a spiritual leader.

Are we taking our family with us? Are we instructing them in the ways of the Lord? Are we being a role model to our family? Are we teaching them to love one another? Are we teaching them how to work hard? Are we teaching them good stewardship—how to tithe, how to give offerings, how to save, how to invest, how to live debt free? Are we teaching our family to serve one another? Are we teaching them to show compassion and care to one another? Are we teaching them how to pray? Are we teaching them how to study the Bible? Are we teaching them how to worship? Are we really being spiritual leaders?

But this is not why Elkanah was a CERTAIN man from Ramah.

- Elkanah loved Hannah, his wife. Over and over the Scriptures command husbands to love their sweetheart. By the way, have you told your sweetheart that you love her today? Ephesians 5:25-33 tells husbands three times in that passage to love their wives. A husband is to lay his life down for his wife. He is to serve her and die to self so that his wife can live a more abundant life. He is wash his wife with the word of God. Husbands, do you know what areas your wife needs washing in? Do you know how to wash your wife with the word? Do you know how to pray over her? Do you know how to lovingly confront her when she goes astray? Do you encourage her? Do you prophesy over her?

(Ephesians 5:25-33) "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. "FOR THIS CAUSE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL CLEAVE TO HIS WIFE; AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH." "This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband."

Last summer I read a book about the five languages of love. It was excellent. My parents gave it to me for our 20th anniversary last August. We went away to Colorado for a fantastic 5 days together. It was wonderful. We were up at Breckenridge. The book gave

5 different ways to communicate love to your spouse.

1) Quality Time—Spending undistracted time together. Dinner dates are great for this. A quiet romantic dinner when you can share your feelings with one another is ideal.

2) Acts of Service—Some people like to be served. Karen likes to be served. She likes to have the bed made for her. Guess who makes the bed every day. If your wife likes to be served, get those honeydo lists done as an act of love.

3) Gifts of love—Some people like to receive gifts. My sister Della likes gifts. You can tell how a person likes to be loved by how they express love. Della is always buying gifts and giving them.

4) Words of Affirmation—These are words that encourage and build up. Some people like to be encouraged. The plan of the enemy for my life is discouragement. I have a tendency of getting discouraged. Words of encouragement and affirmation go a long way with me.

5) Physical Touch—Some people like to touch and be close. They are fuzzy wuzzy type of people like Rich Hyde. Others like their space and don't want you invading their space by getting too close. But there are many who like to be loved by physical touch. Holding hands is a big deal to a person who loves to be loved by physical touch.

AND then there are those who like to be loved in all five ways. You are safe then. Scripture tells us that Elkanah loved his wife. BUT, I do not believe that is why he was a certain man.

(1 Samuel 1:5) "but to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, but the LORD had closed her womb."

Scripture tells us to live with our wives in an understanding manner so that our prayers are not hindered. The word hindered in the Greek means chopped down. If we are not living in unity and in right relationship with our wives, our prayers will be chopped down before they get to heaven. A divided house will not stand.

(1 Peter 3:7) "You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered."

Elkanah lived with his wife in an understanding way. He knew the source of Hannah's problem of bitterness. He also gave her permission to stay behind and not bring Samuel until after he was weaned. This was her first child and she was being protective of him.

BUT, this is not why Elkanah stood out, why he was a CERTAIN man.

- Elkanah was a Levite. As a Levite, he was in the ministry. The reason he lived in the land of Ephraim was because the Levites did not have their own land. He had a spiritual position. He was a somebody. No, the Scriptures tell us very little about Elkanah as a Levite. It was not this that made him a CERTAIN man from Ramahaim.
- Elkanah was a man of principle. He knew that Hannah had made a vow unto the Lord. He made sure that she followed through on her vow and that the word of the Lord was fulfilled. He wanted to make sure that he and Hannah did their part. Both he and Hannah were in the habit of making annual vows unto the Lord. He was a man of his word and kept his word.

(1 Samuel 1:23) "And Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you. Remain until you have weaned him; only may the LORD confirm His word." So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him."

But what was the real reason that Elkanah was called a CERTAIN man? If we look at a person's tombstone, they will very often have an epitaph, which gives a saying or something about the person that stands out. We don't have a tombstone to look at, but we do have the record books to look at to see what it was that made Elkanah a CERTAIN man.

(1 Samuel 1:28) "'So I have also dedicated him to the LORD; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there."

(1 Chronicles 6:31-34) "Now these are those whom David appointed over the service of song in the house of the LORD, after the ark rested there. {32} And they ministered with song before the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, until Solomon had built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem; and they served in their office according to their order. {33} And these are those who served with their sons. From the sons of the Kohathites were Heman the singer, the son of Joel, the son of Samuel, {34} the son of Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Eliel, the son of Toah,"

(1 Chronicles 25:1-7) "Moreover, David and the commanders of the army set apart for the service some of the sons of Asaph and of Heman and of Jeduthun, who were to prophesy with lyres, harps, and cymbals; and the number of those who performed their service was: {2} Of the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Asharelah; the sons of Asaph were under the direction of Asaph, who prophesied under the direction of the king. {3} Of Jeduthun, the sons of Jeduthun: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the direction of their father Jeduthun with the harp, who prophesied in giving thanks and praising the LORD. {4} Of Heman, the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel and Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti and Romamti-ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, Mahazioth. {5} All these were the sons of Heman the king's seer to exalt him according to the words of God, for God gave fourteen sons and three daughters to Heman. {6} All these were under the direction of their father to sing in the house of the LORD, with cymbals, harps and lyres, for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun and Heman were under the direction of the king. {7} And their number who were trained in singing to the LORD, with their relatives, all who were skillful, was 288."

Elkanah did something that touched the heart of God. He was a worshiper of the living God. He was one who not only worshiped the Lord, but produced a heritage of worshipers, prophetic worshipers of the Lord. His descendants became key pillars in the Davidic order of worship. Elkanah passed down a heart and a passion for worship. He passed down an anointing in worship to his children and his children's children. He passed down musical skills. He gave instruction and training in prophetic worship. He passed down godly character. He laid the groundwork for worship which would impact millions and millions of believers for eternity.

Elkanah's line of musical descendants:

- Samuel worshiped the Lord. 1 Sam 1:28
- Heman, son of Joel, son of Samuel, son of Elkanah worshiped the Lord. 1 Chr 6:31-34
- 14 sons and 3 daughters of Heman worshiped the Lord

Elkanah's descendants did the following:

- prophesied with lyres, harps, and symbols
- prophesied giving thanks and praising the Lord
- were trained in singing
- were skillful
- were under proper authority of their father and the king

What are the things that made Elkanah a worshiper? What are the qualifications of a worshiper? What makes you a worshiper or not a worshiper?

1. Right standing with God. We must be pure before the Lord. We must have our sins atoned for. You cannot experience intimacy with a holy God when you are covered in filth. You cannot go to the wedding feast in old dirty clothes. We must put on the Lord Jesus Christ. We must clothe ourselves in righteousness. We must worship the Lord in holy array.

The Lord is calling the church to intimacy. All over the world, the Spirit is saying the same thing. In order for there to be intimacy, there must be an increased holiness. What God allowed in the past is not acceptable anymore.

(Psalms 66:18) "If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear;"

(Hebrews 10:19-20) "Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, {20} by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,"

(Psalms 96:7-9) Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. {8} Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts. {9} Worship the LORD in holy attire; Tremble before Him, all the earth."

(1 Samuel 1:4) "And when the day came that Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and her daughters;"

2. Right standing with others. We must be in right relationship with others. There is nothing like unforgiveness and bitterness to keep us from worshiping. If we cannot love one that we do see, how can we love God who we can't see.

We can break this down into two further categories.

- A. Spouse/Family/Closest relationships
- B. With others

(Malachi 2:10-16) (B. OTHERS) ""Do we not all have one father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers? {11} "Judah has dealt treacherously, and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD which He loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god. {12} "As for the man who does this, may the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob everyone who awakes and answers, or who presents an offering to the LORD of hosts. (A. SPOUSE) {13} "And this is another thing you do: you cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. {14} "Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. {15} "But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did that one do while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then, to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. {16} "For I hate divorce," says the LORD, the God of Israel, "and him who covers his garment with wrong," says the LORD of hosts. "So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.""

(B. OTHERS) (Matthew 5:23-24) ""If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, {24} leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering."

3. Must be a giver. Worship is about giving to the Lord. If we are there to take instead of give, we cannot be a worshiper. There are givers and takers. Jesus was both. He gave His life and took our sins so that we could have life. But are you a giver or a taker? It says about the wicked sons of Eli that they despised the offering of the Lord. Do you look forward to presenting your tithes and offerings or is this something that you despise? When we come to worship, we come to give unto the Lord.

(1 Samuel 1:3) "Now this man would go up from his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas were priests to the LORD there."

(1 Samuel 1:21) "Then the man Elkanah went up with all his household to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and pay his vow."

A. Tithes and Offerings. We must be faithful with both our tithes and offerings. The tithe is not the mark of a giver. It is the starting point. Your offerings are above and beyond your tithe.

(Malachi 3:7-12) "From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes, and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of hosts. "But you say, 'How shall we return?' {8} "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed Thee?' In tithes and offerings. {9} "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! {10} "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. {11} "Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it may not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the LORD of hosts. {12} "And all the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts."

(Luke 16:10-13) "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. {11} "If therefore you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous mammon, who will entrust the true riches to you? {12} "And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? {13} "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

(Genesis 14:17-20) "Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). {18} And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. {19} And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; {20} And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tenth of all."

B. Fat Portion of the offering. This is referring to the very best part. God is not pleased or moved by outward obedience. He wants our best. The quality of our offering will be determined by our heart attitude. Are we trying to get by with the minimum or are we trying to give God the fat part of our paycheck? Are we trying to honor God in our offerings or are we trying to satisfy the requirements?

The sons of Eli not only despised the offering of the Lord, but they took the best or the fat of the offering instead of giving it to the Lord. They took it for themselves. They spent the money that should have been going to the Lord on themselves and their own selfish things. They were robbing God. It was idolatry. The Lord is the owner of all, not just the 10%. Are we using it to advance His kingdom or are we using it to build our own empires? Are we using it to live a life of pleasure or to give our Lord pleasure?

(Genesis 4:1-7) "Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a manchild with the help of the LORD." {2} And again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller

of the ground. {3} So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground. {4} And Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering; {5} but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. {6} Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? {7} "If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

(1 Samuel 2:12-17) "Now the sons of Eli were worthless men; they did not know the LORD {13} and the custom of the priests with the people. When any man was offering a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand. {14} Then he would thrust it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. Thus they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. {15} Also, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give the priest meat for roasting, as he will not take boiled meat from you, only raw." {16} And if the man said to him, "They must surely burn the fat first, and then take as much as you desire," then he would say, "No, but you shall give it to me now; and if not, I will take it by force." {17} Thus the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for the men despised the offering of the LORD."

C. Our lives. The Lord wants us to present our lives to Him as a holy and acceptable sacrifice which is pleasing to Him. We give our lives to Him by giving it to His body. As we serve one another, give to one another and share with one another, we are giving pleasing sacrifices to the Lord.

(Hebrews 13:15-16) "Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

(Romans 12:1) "I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."

(1 Samuel 1:22-25) "But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "I will not go up until the child is weaned; then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD and stay there forever. And Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you. Remain until you have weaned him; only may the LORD confirm His word." So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with a three-year-old bull and one ephah of flour and a jug of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh, although the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and brought the boy to Eli."

4. Worship in Spirit and Truth. The Father is looking for worshipers who will worship Him in Spirit and truth.

(John 4:21-24) "Jesus said^d to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall you worship the Father. {22} "You worship that which you do not know; we worship that which we know, for salvation is from the Jews. {23} "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. {24} "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.""

(Ephesians 5:18-20) "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, {19} speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; {20} always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;"

(Colossians 3:16-17) "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. {17} And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."

(1 Corinthians 14:15) "What is the outcome then? I shall pray with the spirit and I shall pray with the mind also; I shall sing with the spirit and I shall sing with the mind also."

5. Worship in Faith. Scripture makes it clear that without faith, it is impossible to please God. Since this is true, our worship must be full of faith in order for it to be pleasing to God. In James we find that this faith is evidenced by our works. In Hebrews 9:14 we find that this faith is evidenced by a) hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience (salvation) b) bodies washed with pure water (baptism).

We know that Elkanah was a man of faith because of the vows he made annually. He was believing God to do things every year. These things cost him something as well. He said to God, "If you will do this or that, I will do this for you." Hannah made a vow to the Lord. She was a woman of faith.

(Ephesians 3:11-12) "This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, {12} in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him."

(Hebrews 9:14) "how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

(Hebrews 11:1) "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

(Hebrews 10:21-22) "and since we have a great priest over the house of God, {22} let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

(James 2:17-20) "Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. {18} But someone may well say, "You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." {19} You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. {20} But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?"

(1 Samuel 1:21) "Then the man Elkanah went up with all his household to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and pay his vow."

6. Longs to worship. Elkanah and his wife arose early in the morning to worship the Lord before they departed to their home. They wanted to worship. They were eager to worship. They wanted to get some worship in one more time before heading home to Ramah. Do we inconvenience ourselves to worship? Do we go out of our way to spend time in the early morning seeking the face of God in prayer and the word? Do we go out of our way to serve our brothers? David was a man who was eager to worship also. He said "early in the morning will I seek Thee." That shows an eagerness to worship. Abraham was a man who arose early in the morning to worship the Lord. Jacob was a man who arose early and built an altar to worship the Lord.

(ELKANAH) (1 Samuel 1:19) "Then they arose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned again to their house in Ramah. And Elkanah had relations with Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her."

(DAVID) (Psalms 63:1-4) "(A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.) O God, Thou art my God; I shall seek Thee earnestly; My soul thirsts for Thee, my flesh yearns for Thee, In a dry and weary land where there is no water. {2} Thus I have beheld Thee in the sanctuary, To see Thy power and Thy glory. {3} Because Thy lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise Thee. {4} So I will bless Thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Thy name."

(ABRAHAM) (Genesis 19:27) "Now Abraham arose early in the morning and went to the place where he had stood before the LORD;"

(JACOB) (Genesis 28:18) "So Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on its top."

(MOSES) (Exodus 24:4) "And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. Then he arose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel."

(JESUS) (Mark 1:35) "And in the early morning, while it was still dark, He arose and went out

and departed to a lonely place, and was praying there."

(ALL THE PEOPLE) (Luke 21:38) "And all the people would get up early in the morning to come to Him in the temple to listen to Him."