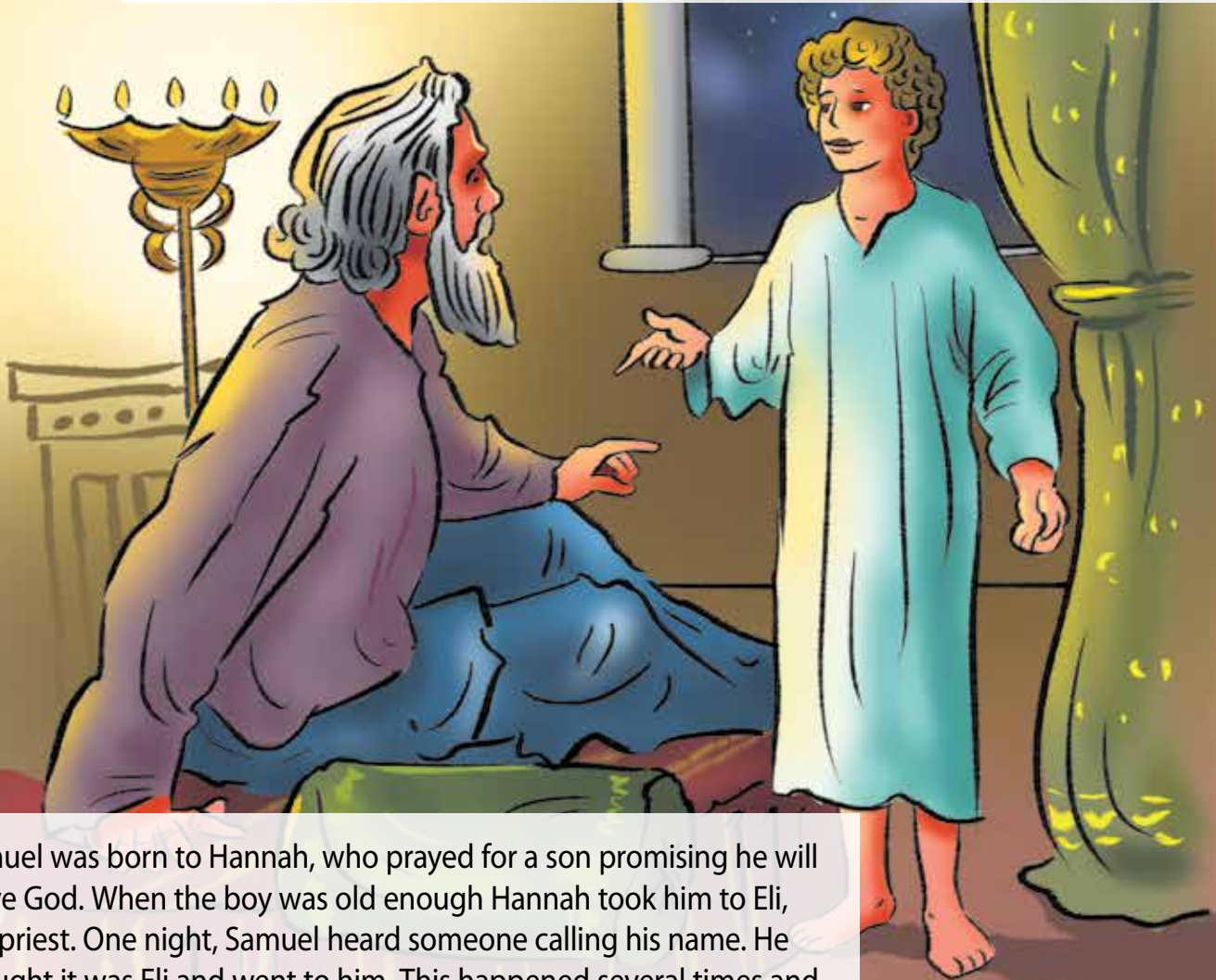




Samuel the Kingmaker

God chose a prophet to help the people choose a king. He also showed them that it is alright to have earthly kings, but even they must be subject to God's laws.



Samuel was born to Hannah, who prayed for a son promising he will serve God. When the boy was old enough Hannah took him to Eli, the priest. One night, Samuel heard someone calling his name. He thought it was Eli and went to him. This happened several times and Eli told him if it happened once more, the boy should answer, "Speak Lord your servant is listening."



Know Now: The name Samuel is a Hebrew baby name. In Hebrew the meaning of the name Samuel is: Name of God; asked of God; heard by God. Samuel was the prophet who anointed Saul and David as kings of Israel in the Old Testament.

Book: *I and II Samuel* is a paperback of 278 pages by Payne David F who in his masterful commentary shows that this Old Testament book combines history and theology as it narrates Samuel's virtues, Saul's defeats, and David's successes in relation to God's activities. The books of Samuel present a drama in which the principal players are the God of Israel, the prophet Samuel, and the first kings of Israel, Saul and David.

God chose Samuel to be His prophet and years later told him to anoint a man named Saul to rule over the Israelites. But when Saul became proud and disobedient, God told Samuel to go to Bethlehem to a man called Jesse. Samuel met Jesse's sons but asked if there was a son who wasn't at home. Jesse sent for the youngest, David, who was out tending the flocks. When David arrived home, God told Samuel he was the one. The prophet then took oil and anointed David in front of his brothers.



The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you go on grieving over Saul? I have rejected him as king of Israel. But now get some olive oil and go to Bethlehem, to a man named Jesse, because I have chosen one of his sons to be king." Then he asked him, "Do you have any more sons?" Jesse answered, "There is still the youngest, but he is out taking care of the sheep." "Tell him to come here," Samuel said. "We won't offer the sacrifice until he comes." So Jesse sent for him. He was a handsome, healthy young man, and his eyes sparkled. The Lord said to Samuel, "This is the one—anoint him!" Samuel took the olive oil and anointed David in front of his brothers. Immediately the spirit of the Lord took control of David and was with him from that day on.

Judges 6: 14-16



Have you witnessed the rite of anointing of a king? Even today the bishops and priests are anointed with oil and given charge by God of leading His community/people. Ask your parents if it is possible to take you to witness such a ceremony!





Do you know whom God chose as the first king? In the maze below is the answer, if you find the correct way to help Samuel reach the message to the destination.

