The book of Samuel begins with the nation of Israel in crisis.

“In those days, Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.”
Judges 21:25

God’s answer was to raise up a man who would lead them.

The book of Samuel begins with the nation of Israel in crisis.

Introduction
It is easy to be discouraged when we look at the things going on in our nation.

We may wonder
• Does God care?
• Does he hear our prayers?

I & II Samuel tell the story of three men.
• Samuel – The leader God provided.
• Saul – The leader the people wanted.
• David – The leader after God’s own heart.

I Samuel is primarily a book about God – the God who makes something out of nothing and who uses ordinary people to accomplish great things.

I. God Starts with a Person. Verses 1-8

The story begins with
• A certain man
• Living in an out of the way place – Ramathaim.
• A Zuphite – from the Kohathite clan.
• Elkanah – “God has created a son”.
• He has two wives – Hannah and Penninah.
• A faithful man.
• A generous man.
What does this have to do with Israel’s crisis?
When God addresses the needs of the nation he starts with an individual.

“God and man are constantly searching for leaders in the various branches of Christian enterprise. In the Scriptures, God is frequently represented as searching for a man of a certain type. Not men, but a man. Not a group, but an individual.” J. Oswald Sanders

“The Lord has sought a man after his own heart.” I Samuel 13:14

“Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem...if you can find but one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth, I will forgive this city.” Jeremiah 5:1

“I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.” Ezekiel 22:30

II. God moves us to pray. Verses 9-18.

Hannah faced a personal crisis. Have you noticed how often God uses circumstances to get us to pray?

Hannah wept and prayed. She asked God for what she deeply desired – a son.

When was the last time we wept in prayer?
Hannah made a vow to God – a Nazirite vow.
She prayed to the Lord Almighty, the Lord of hosts.
Hannah’s prayer changed her. Verse 18
What Hannah didn’t know was that her prayer would change the nation and the world.
God only knows what will happen when we pray.

III. God answers our prayers.
Verses 19-28

“There Lord remembered her.”
Hannah gave birth to a son and named him Samuel – “Heard of God”.
After Samuel was weaned, she gave him to the Lord for the rest of his life.

God’s answer came in the shape of a tiny baby.
Sometimes the most significant events in life go quietly unnoticed by all but a few.

Conclusion
Does God care about our nation?
Does God care about the circumstances of our life?
Will we be faithful?
Will we pray?