

HANNAH: A GODLY MOTHER OF GREAT FAITH

1 Samuel 1-2

INTRODUCTION

God's standard – One man, One woman, for life

- woman staying at home ...

Assault on the family, began in the Garden of Eden, when Satan approached the woman and not that man.

For decades, we have seen women going out of the home and surrendering the raising of their children to others. Men disengaged. Men not loving their wives. Men beating and abusing their wives and children. We have seen the sexual freedom and sexual perversion in our country, beginning adultery, moving to homosexuality, spiraling downwards.

In marriage vows, “so long as we shall live” morphed into “so long as we shall love” and morphed again into “so long as we shall lust”.

Just this week:

- two brothers lost a television show on HGTV because they spoke up in the past in defense of the biblical family
- Nintendo apologized over lack of same-sex relationships in life simulator video game
- President Obama publicly congratulated the first openly gay football player selected in the draft
- Kansas accepted the logically, anatomically, and biblically ludicrous concept of “same sex marriages”

The ink is not even dry on the acceptance of homosexual and polygamy is already on its way to acceptance.

- polyandry, bestiality are next ... and pedophilia is coming

And we have the blood of millions of innocents spilled into the ground under the banner of “A Woman’s Right to Choose”

There is nothing new under the sun. The nation of Israel, at a point of time, was in a very similar situation... it was the period of the judges in Israel.

- **Judges 21:25 – “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”**

The land was in a state of turmoil and confusion. The nation was weak. The Philistines were gaining ground. People had deserted the Lord and the worship. There was no strong preaching and the leaders were wretched and corrupt.

High Priest – Senior Pastor as it were – was an obese undisciplined, unsaved slob who couldn’t get up from his seat to see the decay of the worship and didn’t care. The “associate pastors” were degenerate thieving perverts who would steal from the offerings of the people and were having orgies at the foot of the Temple of God. The Elders and the people were degenerate.

God decides to raise up one man. A strong man. A special man.

*Give me a man of God - one man,
Whose faith is master of his mind,
And I will right all wrongs
And bless the name of all mankind.*

*Give me a man of God - one man,
Whose tongue is touched with heaven’s fire,
And I will flame the darkest hearts
With high resolve and clean desire.*

*Give me a man of God - one man,
One mighty prophet of the Lord,
And I will give you peace on earth,
Bought with a prayer and not a sword.*

*Give me a man of God - one man,
True to the vision that he sees,
And I will build your broken shrines,
And bring the nations to their knees.*

~ George Liddell

But ... to do this, God first decides to raise up one woman.
A strong woman. A special woman ... **A godly Mother.**
A mother named Hannah.

Proposition: An outline for you – doesn't begin to capture the riches in 1 Sam 1-2, but will help you track ...

Hannah:

- I. Runs to her God** in times of trouble.
- II. Trusts her God** for His answer to her petition.
- III. Praises her God** for lifting up the lowly.

So That: We are reminded of what the apostle Paul said in **1 Cor 10:11**, that these things happened as an example, written for our instruction. What an example! What instruction!

I. Hannah Runs to her God in Times of Trouble

1 Sam 1:1-16

Point – The world is full of distress, trial, pain

Proof – Background: **1:1-5a** – “**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.** ²**And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah and the name of the other Peninnah; and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.** 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.** 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; ⁵but to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah,”

Elkanah was a godly man. There is a small problem here in that he had two wives. Is God endorsing polygamy? Absolutely not! We know this from Genesis. Polygamy was a sin. Sadly, it was very prevalent in the culture of the day but never accepted to God. In the same way that we see heroes of the faith like David and Abraham painted with their warts, this is a giant wart on Elkanah. Nevertheless, he is painted as a godly man and he loved God.

“double portion” – He also loved Hannah.

Illustration – We ate recently at Butterfield’s restaurant (in Scottsdale) having a special breakfast with Margie, Rebekah, and Jadon. I ordered one of their special hot chocolate drinks. When it came to our take, the kids were all looking at it with excited eyes... and I unconsciously grab it and brought it in front of Margie. Jadon and Rebekah looked at me with puzzled eyes. This is the type of double honor preferential treatment I seek to give my wife.

Application – There is no situation, no trial, no trouble, no temptation, no job loss, no home loss, no disease ... no nothing that a shared love of God and a shared love of each other cannot overcome. And not just overcome, but be valiantly victorious.

And understand that a godly father will produce a better mother.

1:5b-10a – **“but the LORD had closed her womb. ⁶Her rival, however, would provoke her bitterly to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. ⁷And it happened year after year, as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she would provoke her, so she wept and would not eat. ⁸Then 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?’ ⁹Then Hannah rose after eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. ^{10a}And she, greatly distressed,”**

Barrenness of the womb is a common theme. It was a huge stigma for women at this time in the nation of Israel. Hannah's distress is aggravated by the irritating provocations of her rival. Barrenness all points to the sovereignty of God (like firstborn replacement) All three matriarchs: Sarai, Rebekah, Rachel, as well as Hannah and Elizabeth, were barren which set the stage for God to work and demonstrate His goodness.

Application – Is there any barren womb? Is there any paralysis? Is there any cancer? Is there any job loss? Is there any disappointment or betrayal that does not have the Sovereign hand of God behind it?? The same God that was behind Hannah's barrenness is behind each of us and our trials.

Point – Hannah runs to her God during times of distress through prayer

Proof – 1 Sam 1:10b-16 – “**prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly.** ¹¹And she made a vow and said, ‘O LORD of hosts, if Thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of Thy maidservant and remember me, and not forget Thy maidservant, but wilt give Thy maidservant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head.’ ¹²Now it came about, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli was watching her mouth. ¹³As for Hannah, she was speaking in her heart, only her lips were moving, but her voice was not heard. So Eli thought she was drunk. ¹⁴Then Eli said to her, ‘How long will you make yourself drunk? Put away your wine from you.’ ¹⁵But Hannah answered and said, ‘No, my lord, I am a woman oppressed in spirit; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have poured out my soul before the LORD. ¹⁶Do not consider your maidservant as a worthless woman; for I have spoken until now out of my great concern and provocation.’”

Hannah wants a child, not to one up Peninnah, not to brag, not to impress Elkanah. Hannah wants a child because she believes a child is God's best design for her as a woman.

Psa 56:8 – “You have kept count of my wanderings; Put my tears in Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?”

11 – “O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head.”

Hannah understands that God remembers His promise.
God is faithful to His Covenant and loyal to His people.

Illustration –

Gen 25:21 - God heard Isaac’s prayers and opened the womb of Rebekah.

Gen 30:22 - “Then God remembered Rachel, and God gave heed to her and opened her womb.”

Exod 2:24 - “So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

Application – Rest on the promises of God, put all your burdens on them

- God is faithful He remembers His promises

Hannah runs to her God in times of trouble...

II. Hannah Trusts her God for His Answer to her Petition

1 Sam 1:17-28

Point – Hannah has peace, satisfaction, a lifted countenance

- she brought her troubles to the throne of grace
- now she leaves her troubles at the throne of grace

Proof – **1 Sam 1:17-18** – “Then Eli answered and said, ‘Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him.’”¹⁸ And she said, ‘Let your maidservant find

favor in your sight.’ So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer *sad*.”

Proof – 1 Sam 1:19-20 – “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. ²⁰And it came about in due time, after Hannah had conceived, that she gave birth to a son; and she named him Samuel, *saying*, ‘Because I have asked him of the LORD.’ ²¹Then the man Elkanah went up with all his household to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and *pay* his vow. ²²But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, ‘*I will not go up until the child is weaned;*’”

Point – Focus on high calling as **wife/mother**

- She has a unique focus of ministry – to her husband, to her children - period.
- She leaves her personal interest at the foot of her child’s crib

Tit 2:5 - (young women are) “to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.”

1 Tim 5:14 - “Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach.”

Hannah stayed at home with Samuel until he was weaned and then she dedicated him to the Lord by bringing him to be raised as a Nazarite (Num 6:2-21). There is not a finer example of a godly mother seeking after God's heart to be found in the Bible than Hannah.

Point – sometimes praise demands a sacrifice

Hannah left her troubles at the throne of grace. Now, Hannah leaves her gift from God at the alter of God’s service.

Proof – 1 Sam 1:22b-28 – “then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD and stay there forever. ²³And 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. ²⁴Now 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. ²⁵Then they slaughtered the bull, and brought the boy to Eli. ²⁶And she said, ‘Oh, my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the LORD. ²⁷For this boy I prayed, and the LORD has given me my petition which I asked of Him. ²⁸So 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.”

Heb 13:15 – “Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God”

The real test of the motive of a petition, the real test of the heart, the real test to confirm the desire is not a lust is.....

Are you willing to give God’s answer, God’s gift back?

Illustration– James 2:21 – “Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?”

When Praise Demands a Sacrifice

*When praise demands a sacrifice, I’ll worship even then
Surrendering the dearest things in life
And if devotion costs me all
He’ll find me faithful to His call
When praise demands a sacrifice*

Application – Are you willing to sacrifice on the altar that which is most precious to you?

Runs to her God in Time of Trouble,

Trusts her God for His Answer to her Petition, ...

III. Hannah Praises her God for Lifting Up the Lowly

1 Sam 2:1-10

Hannah is a woman of **beauty**.

Hannah is a woman of a **lifted countenance**: humility, trust, peace.

- when God is the apple of your eye, your eyes shine.

Hannah is a woman of **poetry**.

2:1 – “**And Hannah prayed and said, ‘My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted in the LORD. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation.’**”

→ No better summary of Hannah!

Hannah praises her God who saves her from her barren situation. She praises her God who rescues her from her blackened sin.

This is unwavering “**faith**” – not in the outcome of the prayer, but in the object of the prayer!!!

- our prayers do not change Him
– but God uses our prayers to change us

Hannah’s heart rejoices in the Lord – not in the baby. Her focus is the Giver; not the gift, the Provider; not the provision.

Sovereignty of God

Point – exaltation of the anointed

A major theme of **1 and 2 Samuel** is that God is a lover of the lowly .

2:2-10a – “**There is none holy like the LORD; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.** ³**Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.** ⁴**The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength.** ⁵**Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. The**

barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. ⁶The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. ⁷The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts. ⁸He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them he has set the world. ⁹He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail. ¹⁰The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth;”

Hannah is a woman of the Word. She knows:

Deut 32:39 – “See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me; It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded, and it is I who heal; And there is no one who can deliver from My hand.”

Moses wrote this around 1400 B.C., 300 years before Hannah (ca. 1110 B.C.). It had been around a long time, and she knew it well.

Illustration – Hannah understands the radical reversal of position
1 Samuel 1-3: House of Eli → being humbled
Samuel → being exalted

Eli had two sons, Hophni and Phinehas. Never, in the entire story of Eli and these two sons, is their mother's name mentioned and the results are utterly tragic.

Remember: **1:12 –13** – “**Now it came about, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli was watching her mouth.** ¹³**As for Hannah, she was speaking in her heart, only her lips were moving, but her voice was not heard. So Eli thought she was drunk.**”

Why does Eli have this misunderstanding? He misinterprets because, now listen → because people invariably will expect you to think, behave, and respond the way they would. Eli was an

obese disobedient undisciplined slob. He thinks Hannah is drunk because he is a drunkard.

House of Eli → humbled Samuel → exalted

Illustration – Just like Mary in *Magnificat* – Luke 1:52 – “He has brought down rulers from *their* thrones, And has exalted those who were humble.” - same plan, same way God works

Hannah is a woman of poetry and a woman of prophecy → The Future King!

Heb Order (Canon) Judges → Samuel

Judges 21:25 – “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

10b – “He will give strength to his king and exalt the power of his anointed.”

The books of Samuel are filled with the proud being humbled and the humble being exalted.

1 Samuel

1-3: House of Eli → Humbled Samuel → Exalted

4-7: Philistines → Humbled Ark → Exalted

8-31: Saul → Humbled David → Exalted

2 Samuel

1-8: David’s Enemies → Humbled David’s Kingdom

9-24 David → Humbled Future King → Exalted

In Hannah’s prayer of thanksgiving, she finishes the prayer with reference to “His king” and “His anointed” Hannah petitions the Lord to judge the world and prosper His anointed king. The Hebrew word for Messiah comes from the Hebrew word translated as “**anointed**” in Hannah’s prayer.

- *mashiyach* - Messiah!

CONCLUSION

What is Hannah's reward for her dedication?

Multiplied blessings for Hannah:

God blessed Hannah with 3 more sons and 2 daughters

Proof – 1 Sam 2:18-21a – “Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy clothed with a linen ephod. ¹⁹And his mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, ‘May the LORD give you children by this woman for the petition she asked of the LORD.’ So then they would return to their home. ²¹Indeed the LORD visited Hannah, and she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters.”

Multiplied blessings for Samuel.

Proof – 1 Sam 2:21b – “And the young man Samuel grew in the presence of the LORD.”

1 Sam 3:19-21 – “Thus Samuel grew and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fail. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the LORD. ²¹And the LORD appeared again at Shiloh, because the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD.”

The power of one woman. A strong woman. A special woman ...
A godly Mother. The mother of a prophet who points to the future King!