

“Hannah: Portrait of a Godly Mother”

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Scripture

9“Then 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. She, greatly distressed, prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. **She made a vow** and said, "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."

12Now it came about, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli was watching her mouth. 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. Then Eli said to her, "How long will you make yourself drunk? Put away your wine from you." But Hannah replied, "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**. "Do not consider your maidservant as a worthless woman, for I have spoken until now out of my great concern and provocation." Then Eli answered and said, "**Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him**." 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**.

19Then 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**. 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. 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**." 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. She said, "Oh, my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the LORD. "**For this boy I prayed, and the LORD has given me my petition which I asked of Him. "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."

Hannah

Means "to beseech and be shown favor" and "to be gracious"

Most likely the first wife of Elkanah. He married Peninnah because Hannah was barren

Elkanah was part of the priestly tribe, the Levites, living in Ephraim to the north of Jerusalem

Hannah's History

1 Samuel 1:3-8

"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. When the day came that Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all 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. **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. 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?"

Three Feasts

Israelites were required to go to three annual feasts, this was the Feast of Tabernacles

Elkanah was a Levite who went up to Shiloh more often

Shiloh was the place where the Ark of the Covenant was, about 25 miles north of Jerusalem

Double Portion

Hannah was favored by Elkanah in the public display of the offerings

Deeply Loved

The deep love of a husband is the water that feeds the seed in a woman into a beautiful flower.

Husbands, do you want a godly woman as a wife? Shower her with a deep love.

Elkanah was a bigamist, though, causing much conflict in Hannah's life

Barren

Just like Sarah (Abraham's wife) and Rachel's (Jacob's wife), God providentially closed Hannah's womb

Motherhood considered to be **the pinnacle of a woman's purpose**. Not so today in many places.

Continually Provoked by Peninnah

"Provoked" -> "to thunder against"

Why is your heart sad? -> This reflects anger rather than compassion.

Am I not better to you than ten sons?

With many people around at this time, Elkanah could have felt embarrassed by her expression

You've got me! **Just like a guy, right?**

She got up and ate because he asked her to do so.

She was a Devoted Wife

Hannah's Desperation

9"Then 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. **She, greatly distressed, prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. She made a vow** and said, "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."

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Wept Bitterly

Bitterness of the soul: "The belief that God got it wrong"

She Vowed in Her Heart

"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."

How many of you have prayed, "If you do this, Lord, I will..."?

Most prayers in Israel were audible, so Eli thinks she is drunk

A Nazarite Son Committed to the Lord

Nazarite Vow -> never to shave, like Samson or Paul for a period of time (Acts 18:18)

It was a spiritually dark time in Israel, she was from a priestly family, Eli's sons (Phineas and Hophni) were priests but horrible examples for the people.

Hannah wanted only one son, not many children.

This son could be the one that was faithful to lead Israel back to God. A Nazarite for life!

1 Samuel 2:35

"But I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who will do according to what is in My heart and in My soul; and I will build him an enduring house, and he will walk before My anointed always."

She Poured Out Her Soul

So desperate she was, that she emptied herself in prayer to God

She did not whine or complain to Elkanah.

She continually brought her prayer to God.

Dedicated Prayer is a characteristic of a Godly Woman

She was a Devoted Saint

Eli's Responsive Prayer

Then Eli answered and said, "**Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him.**" 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.**

Eli supported Hannah's prayer with his own – Eli was not the best high priest, but did well here

Hannah is refreshed and looking forward to an answered prayer.

Hannah's Dedication

19Then 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.** 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."

The Lord heard and answered her prayer for a son.

"The Lord Remembered her"

God recognized Hannah's love for Him in her devotion and fervent prayer

"Samuel" -> "the Name of God" – applied to Hannah's situation -> "Heard by God"

21Then the man Elkanah went up with all his household to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and pay his vow. 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.**" 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. She said, "Oh, my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the LORD. "**For this boy I prayed, and the LORD has given me my petition which I asked of Him. "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."**

Hannah dedicated her life to train up Samuel – she was the ultimate "stay at home" Mom.

The first three years of life are the most important in the development of a child. She wanted to make sure Samuel was raised correctly.

She was a Devoted Mother

The Magnificat of Mary

Luke 1:46-55

"And Mary said: "My soul exalts the Lord,

And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

"For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.

"For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name.

"AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.

"He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart.

"He has brought down rulers from their thrones and has exalted those who were humble.

"HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS; And sent away the rich empty-handed.

"He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy,

As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his descendants forever."

Hannah's Magnificat

Blessed Forever for Her Motherly Commitment

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Then Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD, My mouth speaks boldly against my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation. "There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides You, nor is there any rock like our God.

"Boast no more so very proudly, do not let arrogance come out of your mouth; **For the LORD is a God of knowledge**, and with Him actions are weighed. "The bows of the mighty are shattered, But the feeble gird on strength. "Those who were full hire themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry cease to hunger. Even the barren gives birth to seven, but she who has many children languishes.

"**The LORD kills and makes alive**; He brings down to Sheol and raises up. "The LORD makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts. "**He raises the poor from the dust**, He lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with nobles and inherit a seat of honor; **For the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, And He set the world on them.** "**He keeps the feet of His godly ones**, But the wicked ones are silenced in darkness; For not by might shall a man prevail.

"Those who contend with the LORD will be shattered; Against them He will thunder in the heavens, The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; And He will give strength to His king and will exalt the horn of His anointed."

Hannah would eventually have three sons and two daughters (1 Samuel 2:19).

She gave birth to the man that changed the course of Israel

Samuel was the last Judge and the first Prophet

We see Hannah's Knowledge and Love for God on Display

A Devoted Wife

A Devoted Saint

A Devoted Mother

Mother's Day Prayer

Benediction