



*Encountering God*  
THROUGH PRAYER

September 29th. through October 4th. 2019

## 1 Samuel 1:4-8

4 When the day came that Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and her daughters; 5 but to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, but the Lord had closed her womb. 6 Her rival, however, would provoke her bitterly to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. 7 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. 8 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?"

## 1 Samuel 1:8-11

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. 10 She, greatly distressed, prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. 11 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."

## 1 Samuel 2:1-5

1 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. 2 “There is no one holy like the Lord, Indeed, there is no one besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God. 3 “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. 4 “The bows of the mighty are shattered, But the feeble gird on strength. 5 “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.

## 1 Samuel 2:6-10

6 “The Lord kills and makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and raises up.

7 “The Lord makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts. 8 “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. 9 “He keeps the feet of His godly ones, But the wicked ones are silenced in darkness; For not by might shall a man prevail. 10 “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.”

## **The Composition and Extent of Hannah's Pain**

- To understand the extent of Hannah's suffering we need to consider the impact childbearing had on women in ancient times.
  - A family's economic status was directly connected to how many children it produced (one reason polygamy was so popular).
  - The Elderly could starve to death unless they had a lot of children.
  - Nations would be at risk of invasion because of diminished army sizes.
  - Because of all this, women who had lots of kids were seen as heroes.
- Cultures that operated this way essentially forced women into an idolatry of family and children.
  - When all of your honor, value, purpose and happiness are wrapped up in anything other than God, you have an idol. A good thing that becomes an ultimate thing.

## The Change in Hannah's Heart

- Notice what the two people in Hannah's life are offering her...
  - Peninnah's (if she's the rival) taunting suggest Hannah's life would be full if she could contribute to the family and her nation (sociological hope).
  - Elkanah's question suggest Hannah's life could be full through his love for her (emotional hope built on romance).
- vs. 9 says that Hannah rose up to pray after eating and drinking.
  - Something has changed because in vs. 7 it tells us that when she was being taunted she would weep and not eat.
  - Hannah still wants a child but why she wants one is very different.
    - ▶ A Nazarite child doesn't help the family economy, can't help you in old age or bring you societal honor.

## **The Treasure in Hannah's Song**

- Before, having a son was the end goal and God was a means. Now, God has become the goal and the child is a means.
  - What she has done is aligned her desires with God's goals.
    - ▶ God was bringing salvation to the world through Israel and when Hannah's desire shifts she begins to contribute to that goal.
    - ▶ The proof is in 1:18-19... She is at peace before finding out she's going to have a son because she's free from the bondage of society's idols.
- Samuel was a king like savior for Israel but Hannah offered deliverance through suffering and submission.
  - Note 1 Samuel 2:8 and 1 Timothy 2:12-15