

Maranatha Fellowship CRC
Farmington, NM 87401

Sunday, May 14, 2023, 10:00 AM (Happy Mother's Day!)

Message: God Answers the Silent Prayer of Hannah, a hurting, barren woman turned blessed mother!

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 1:9-20; Text: 1 Samuel 1:18-20

Context:

After Israel was rescued from slavery in Egypt, they made a covenant with God at Mount Sinai and eventually entered the Promised Land. Israel was supposed to be faithful to God and obey the covenant commands there. Before the book of Samuel, Judges showed how Israel failed at that task *big time*. This period of moral chaos showed Israel's need for wise, faithful leaders. The book of Samuel provides an answer to that need. Part one of the book picks up from the chaos of the book of Judges, and we are introduced to a touching story about a woman named Hannah. And she is grieved because she has never been able to have children. By God's grace, she finally has a son named Samuel. And in joy, she prays this amazing prayer (1 Samuel 2:1-10). The prayer is about how God opposes the proud and exalts the humble; it's about how God works out his purposes in history despite tragedies and human evil. And also it is about how God will one day raise up an anointed King for His people. When the epidemic disease of moral chaos exists in a nation and begins to affect, even a poor barren woman is suspected and misunderstood. The priest Eli failed to discern. His judgment was faulty due to a clouded mind.

Hannah's poem has been placed here at the beginning of the book to introduce these key themes: God opposes the proud and exalts the humble. Hannah's heart rejoices the Lord (1 Samuel 2:1a). God was so good to Hannah, a barren woman. He answered her silent prayer and blessed her to be the mother of Samuel. Samuel means 'Asked of God; because I asked the Lord for him.' He was a wise leader of Israel and a prophet, judge, priest, and kingmaker.

Outline:

- I. Introduction
 - A. One of the most inspiring mothers in the Bible – Hannah
 - B. **Illus.** Miracle Mandy – a Special Delivery
 - C. Background – 1 Samuel 1:1-2

- II. A time when the people of Israel were neglectful of faith and were going through general decay
 - A. Eli's two sons – Hophni and Phinehas – were not conducted properly (2:2, 13-17, 22-25)
 - B. Peninnah, Elkinah's younger wife, was highly irritating and provoking
 - C. Some practical applications

- III. The Story of Elkanah – a man caught between two wives – a difficult position for a man to be in
 - A. He kept Hannah's spirit up and comforted her when she wept (v. 4-5)
 - B. Elkanah gives his best to his wife; he gently reproves her (v. 8)
 - C. Eli, the priest, and his reproof to Hannah (v. 9)
 - D. Hannah makes a Nazarite vow (v. 11), and her humble vindication (v. 17)
 - E. The Lord remembered Hannah (v. 19b, 20)

- IV. Conclusion:
 - A. God blesses those who are humble; God blesses Hannah B.
 - B. We, Christians, need to be faithful to God's Word.
 - C. The story of the Gospel D. We have a reason to rejoice E. Jesus comforts us in his word

Questions and Answers (Refer to 1 Samuel 1:1-20, NIV for answers)

1. Some facts about Elkanah (v. 1-8): (Mark True or False)

- A. Elkanah, son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the Son of Zuph, an Ephramite, was from the hill country of Ephraim (v. 1) T F
- B. He had two wives; one was called Hannah, and she did not have children, but the other wife, Peninah, had children. T F
- C. Year after year, Elkanah went up from his town to worship and sacrifice the LORD Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, two sons of Eli, were priests of the LORD (v. 3) T F
- D. Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninah (v.4) T F
- E. But to Hannah, he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the LORD had closed her womb (v. 5) T F
- F. Because the LORD had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her (v. 6) T F
- G. This went on year after year. Whenever Hanna went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat (v. 7) T F
- H. Elkanah would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?" (v. 8) T F
2. Once they finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the LORD's house (1 Samuel 1:9). What happened next?
- A. In her deep anguish, Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly (v. 10)
- B. She made a vow, saying: "LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the day of my life, and no razor will ever be used on his head" (v. 11)
- C. None of the above D. All choices above are correct.
3. As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving, but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk and said to her, "How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine" (1 Samuel 1:12-13). What was her response, and what was Eli's answer?
- A. "Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the LORD. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief."
- B. Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him."
- C. Hannah said, "May your servant find favor in your eyes." Then she went her way and became something, and her face was no longer downcast.
- D. None of the above E. All of the above
4. **Take a home lesson** (Take the choice/s below that apply to you)
- A. God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble B. Are you in deep trouble? Are you in deep anguish? Come to the Lord in silent prayer. It's okay to weep. D. Are you misunderstood? Clarify the matter to those who misunderstand you. E. Pray for your enemies, especially for those who persecute you. F. Remember Jesus and what Peter preached in Acts 2:23-24. The people Jesus came to seek and save turned away from him. Like Peninnah hated Hannah, Jesus' brothers also hated him. He was falsely accused, unjustly arrested, and killed without mercy. But God raised from the dead. G. God comforts us in his Word: 1 Samuel 1:8 H. Pour your soul into God in prayers. Remember how Hannah (1 Samuel 2:1-10). God answered (1 Samuel 1:20). I. Forgive and Love: 1 John 4:8; Love: 1 Corinthians 13. J. I don't see it this way. K. Yes, I agree. God opposes the proud and exalts the humble. L. Stay encouraged; God knows everything!