

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

We started our study last week through the book of 1 Samuel, and in chapter one, we were introduced to Hannah.

And we found Hannah broken.

We learned in chapter 1, that she was unable to conceive.

We also found out that her other husband's wife, mocked her because of this.

She felt worthless.

But through constant prayer and fellowship with the Lord, she makes a vow –

that if God found favor in her and blessed her with a son, she would give the son back to Him.

The life of her son would be dedicated in serving God.

And upon making that vow, a peace offering to the Lord, we see that she walks out of there no longer broken. She was a different person.

And she conceived and Samuel was born 9 months later and she honored the vow by bringing Samuel to the tabernacle and dedicated his life to the Lord.

Before we jump into chapter two, I want to show you a quick testimony.

This was an interview done by Greg Laurie with Chuck Smith.

If you don't know who Chuck Smith is, he was the person that God used to bring about the Jesus Movement of the 60's and 70's and early 80's and he is also the founder of the Calvary Chapel movement.

Very similar circumstances –

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Let's pray...

[1Sa 2:1-36 NKJV] 1 And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation. 2 "No one is holy like the LORD, For [there is] none besides You, Nor [is there] any rock like our God. 3 "Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the LORD [is] the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed. 4 "The bows of the mighty men [are] broken, And those who stumbled are girded with strength. 5 [Those who were] full have hired themselves out for bread, And the hungry have ceased [to hunger]. Even the barren has borne seven, And she who has many children has become feeble. 6 "The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up. 7 The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up.

8 He raises the poor from the dust [And] lifts the beggar from the ash heap, To set [them] among princes And make them inherit the throne of glory. "For the pillars of the earth [are] the LORD's, And He has set the world upon them. 9 He will guard the feet of His saints, But the wicked shall be silent in darkness. "For by strength no man shall prevail. 10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces; From heaven He will thunder against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. "He will give strength to His king, And exalt the horn of His anointed." 11 Then Elkanah went to his house at Ramah. But the child ministered to the LORD before Eli the priest.

Chapter two opens up with Hannah's prayer –

You may remember that chapter one ended up with the family worshipping the Lord after Hannah brings Samuel to the tabernacle to repay the vow she made.

The prayer she makes here in chapter two is a very different prayer than those she prayed in chapter one.

In chapter one, she was praying for a need.

The prayer that we see here in chapter two, is a prayer of praise.

It is a prayer of exaltation.

But, I want to remind you that in order for Hannah to be able to pray this prayer of exaltation in chapter two, she had to go through chapter one.

She had to be broken in order to see God's providence in her life.

It is the same thing that we saw in the life of Naomi in the book of Ruth – and a recurring theme throughout scripture.

The Holy Spirit does not give us every prayer she prayed (in chapter 1) - when she came to the tabernacles – The only record we have is when she makes the vow.

Yet, we have her complete prayer as she brings Samuel to the tabernacle.

Her prayer can be separated into three different parts.

Verse 1,2 – What God has done

Verse 3-8 - What God is doing.

Verse 9,10 – What God will do.

Let's look at verse one again,

[1Sa 2:1 NKJV] 1 And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation.

Now, keep in mind that her prayer is not circumstantial –

She is rejoicing even though she knows that her son will never come home.

But notice that she is rejoicing in the Lord.

It's the same thing that Apostle Paul tells us in the book of Philippians 4.

[Phi 4:4 NKJV] 4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

We need to remember that during those times when everything around us is falling apart – we can still rejoice in the Lord.

I asked you to underline where Hannah says “My horn” The horn in scripture is always a picture of strength.

You can find multiple examples in the Book of Psalms.

Psalm 89:17

Psalm 92:10

Psalm 148:14

Hannah is proclaiming and acknowledging that her horn/strength comes from the Lord.

I also had you guys highlight when Hannah says that she smiles at her enemies – because once we come to the conclusion that God is sovereign and in control of everything, it doesn't matter if the world ridicules us.

Remember, in chapter one, Hannah allowed Peninnah's ridicule to affect her. Hannah cried and did not eat because of it.

Not anymore.

From verse 3-8, Hannah prays about His providence over every aspect of our lives.

The prayer is no longer about her – It is about God's sovereignty over everything that happens all of us.

Everything that we have – He is responsible for.

That is why we should be humble and not believe that what we got is because of our own ability.

That is why we place our trust in Him and not our 401k or our savings account.

In the book of Daniel, we have the events in the life of Belshazzar.

You guys can read chapter 5 on your own.

He was the son of Nebuchadnezzar.

And He saw how his father failed to give glory to God –

Belshazzar doesn't learn from his father's errors.

He doesn't humble himself, he doesn't give glory to God - he

throws a party for his friends and orders them to bring over the

golden vessels from the temple so that they could drink from them.

And as they are partying – having a good time, a hand shows up and starts writing on the wall.

And Belshazzar brings in his people so that they can decipher what the hand wrote.

But no one could decipher it.

And he finally brings in Daniel who tells him that it is a judgment from God against him and his kingdom, their days were numbered because they failed to realize that it was God who put them in the position that they were in.

He is the only one that deserved the glory.

And that very night, Belshazzar is killed and his kingdom divided – just like Daniel told him.

It was God who put Belshazzar in that position and it is God who can take it away.

In the same way that it was God that had closed the womb of Hannah and it was God that caused her to conceive.

That is what Hannah is acknowledging – God's hand in everything.

Verse 10 is an interesting verse because Hannah is praying about something that hasn't occurred yet.

[1Sa 2:10 NKJV] 10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces; From heaven He will thunder against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. "He will give strength to His king, And exalt the horn of His anointed."

I asked you to underline He will give strength to His king – it is significant because Israel, at this time had not had a king yet – remember, Samuel is the last of the judges.

Hannah is speaking prophetically here – she is not referring to King Saul or King David – she is speaking about Jesus Christ.

The Hebrew word for anointed used here by Hannah – is the word Messiah.

The first reference to “Messiah” comes from Hannah – which I told you last week means (“favored/grace”).

[1Sa 2:11 NKJV] 11 Then Elkanah went to his house at Ramah.

But the child ministered to the LORD before Eli the priest.

Here in verse 11 we see a young Samuel serving the Lord – it is the fulfillment of Hannah’s vow.

Now, keep this verse in mind as the scriptures tell us about Eli’s sons.

12 Now the sons of Eli [were] corrupt; they did not know the LORD.

Eli was the priest, and here his two sons that are supposed to dedicate their lives working in the tabernacle – they were corrupt.

The ancient Hebrew calls them sons of Belial. Belial was a pagan god and the phrase sons of Belial refers to worthless and wicked men.

They were supposed to be successors to their father Eli.

They already had certain priestly duties.

Yet, it says that they did not know the Lord.

So what were they doing – let's take a look.

13 And the priests' custom with the people [was that] when any man offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fleshhook in his hand while the meat was boiling. 14 Then he would thrust [it] into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; and the priest would take for himself all that the fleshhook brought up. So they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. 15 Also, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who sacrificed, "Give meat for roasting to the priest, for he will not take boiled meat from you, but raw." 16 And [if] the man said to him, "They should really burn the fat first; [then] you may take [as much] as your heart desires," he would then answer

him, "[No], but you must give [it] now; and if not, I will take [it] by force." 17 Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

Now, in verse 13, it mentions the priest customs – however, the priest customs changed from the original law of Moses.

Turn to the book of Leviticus,

[Lev 7:28-32 NKJV] 28 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 29 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'He who offers the sacrifice of his peace offering to the LORD shall bring his offering to the LORD from the sacrifice of his peace offering. 30 'His own hands shall bring the offerings made by fire to the LORD. The fat with the breast he shall bring, that the breast may be waved [as] a wave offering before the LORD. 31 **'And the priest shall burn the fat on the altar, but the breast shall be**

Aaron's and his sons'. 32 'Also the right thigh you shall give to the priest [as] a heave offering from the sacrifices of your peace offerings.

The sacrifice, consisted of a portion to God, a portion to the priests and a portion to the one who offered the sacrifice – we saw Hannah and her husband partake of the their portion in chapter one.

However, the priest portion only consisted of the breast and the right thigh – in their greed, they changed it to whatever they could fish out with a three-pronged flesh hook.

We also saw that the priests were supposed to burn the fat first. That is important because the fat was the best portion of the offering and it was what God demanded. The best – not the leftovers.

So the priests were taking their portion before the fat could be offered up to God.

And it could be that the reason that they wanted their portion raw – was so that it would be easier to sell it again. They would profit financially by stealing from the Lord.

Not only were they robbing God, they were making the people hate bringing sacrifices to God because they would feel ripped off – the sons of Eli were threatening them to take it by force.

It is the same thing that the priests were doing at the temple when Jesus flips the tables over.

18 But Samuel ministered before the LORD, [even as] a child, wearing a linen ephod. 19 Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring [it] to him year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. 20 And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "The LORD give you descendants from this woman for the loan that was given to the LORD." Then they would go to their own home. 21 And

the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

As the sons of Eli are ripping God off, Samuel is ministering to the Lord.

An ephod was an outer apron that the priests would wear. And we see Hannah making Samuel one every year as he grew older and bigger.

Church, it's been said that "One can never out give the Lord".

I believe that this is true.

We might think that Hannah gave too much when she brought Samuel to the tabernacle, but notice that God gives back to her many times what she gave to Him.

22 Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

The sons of Eli were not only ripping the people off – they were having sex with women in the tabernacle.

Notice that Eli knew what was going on all along and he did nothing about it.

23 So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people."

It is not the first time that someone told him what his children were doing.

24 "No, my sons! For [it is] not a good report that I hear. You make the LORD's people transgress. 25 "If one man sins against another, God will judge him. But if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?" Nevertheless they did

not heed the voice of their father, **because the LORD desired to kill them.**

This phrase simply means that the Lord desired to bring judgment upon the sons of Eli for what they had done to the people.

26 And the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the LORD and men. 27 Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Did I not clearly reveal Myself to the house of your father (Aaron) when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? 28 'Did I not choose him out of all the tribes of Israel [to be] My priest, to offer upon My altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod before Me? And did I not give to the house of your father all the offerings of the children of Israel made by fire? 29 'Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded [in My] dwelling place, and honor your sons more than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?'

We don't know who this was; this man of God. However, his identity is not important - He was a man of God, and God raised him up to speak to Eli and Eli's whole family at this important time.

Eli's sons violated what God had intended for the priests.

God was the one that was supposed to provide for them – and they took it upon themselves.

However, the biggest problem was that Eli knew about and he did nothing. He looked the other way.

He valued his sons' happiness over God's word.



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30 "Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: 'I said indeed [that] your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the LORD says: 'Far be it from Me; for those

who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed. 31 'Behold, the days are coming that **I will cut off your arm and the arm of your father's house**, so that there will not be an old man in your house. 32 **'And you will see an enemy [in My] dwelling place**, [despite] all the good which God does for Israel. And there shall not be an old man in your house forever. 33 'But any of your men [whom] I do not cut off from My altar shall consume your eyes and grieve your heart. And all the descendants of your house shall die in the flower of their age. 34 'Now this [shall be] a sign to you that will come upon your two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas: **in one day they shall die, both of them**. 35 'Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest [who] shall do according to what [is] in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever. 36 'And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left in your house will come [and] bow down

**to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and say,
"Please, put me in one of the priestly positions, that I may eat
a piece of bread." ' "**

Everything that we see from verse 31-34, we will see fulfilled in two weeks in chapter 4.

Eli's house will be cut off – he and his sons will die.

An enemy in God's dwelling – the Philistines will capture the Ark

In one day – Hophni and Phinehas will both die on the same day.

The faithful priest that God is going to lift up is partially fulfilled in the life of Samuel.

However, it also point to Jesus Christ – because unlike the other priests, who served for a time and were replaced, Jesus Christ, our High Priest, will serve forever.

What a difference we find in the lives of Hannah compared to Eli and his sons. May we walk humbly before Him and glorify Him in everything we do.

Amen...

Let's pray...

