

**Message #5****I Samuel 2:1-10**

Hannah had no idea why she could not have a child. Year after year she was mocked and mistreated. She had no clue that God had a massive sovereign plan in view.

The one thing that Hannah did was pray. When she found herself in a depressing situation, she spent more and more time in prayer. She would regularly go to Shiloh and pray and talk to God (1:9-10).

When her prayer was finally answered, she again went to Shiloh to worship and to pray and talk to God. Only this time the prayer is different. The last time she was at this Tabernacle praying, she was greatly distressed and weeping bitterly. **Previously her prayers were sorrowful petition prayers, but now it is a joyful praise prayer.**

Hannah is the same woman who prayed in chapter 1, but the tone of the prayer is completely different in chapter 2. This prayer in chapter 2 is stirring. It is personal, powerful and prophetic. This prayer is so significant that Mary, the mother of Jesus, incorporated some of it into her own prayer when she had been selected to be the mother of Jesus (Luke 1:46ff).

This text contains the last recorded words of Hannah. The words have been classified as a prayer, a psalm and a song. This has been called “The Song of Hannah” which appears at the beginning of I Samuel and “The Song of David” which appears near the end of II Samuel.

What we certainly see here is this:

**WHEN GOD’S PEOPLE SEE GOD ANSWER THEIR PRAYERS, THEY SHOULD RESPOND BY REJOICING AND PRAISING GOD IN PRAYER.**

Hannah had been completely humiliated by proud and arrogant people who made fun of her. She prayed and prayed and when God finally answered her prayer, she went to God and praised Him.

This truth may be applied to any dispensation. God is sovereign over everything—the positive and the negative. Things may be encouraging or depressing. God is still sovereign and God’s people need to pray. Sometimes the prayers will be petition prayers and when God answers them, those prayers will be turned to praise prayers. That is what we see right here.

Now there are four main themes that are developed in this amazing prayer:

**THEME #1 – Hannah exalts God. 2:1-2**

Hannah opens her prayer by exalting God. Specifically notice where this praise originates, from Hannah’s heart.

What an amazing transformation had taken place in her heart. Her heart had at one time been extremely sad (i.e. 1:8, 10), but now her heart is joyful and praising God.

I want us to carefully observe the use of the personal pronouns in **verse 1**, “my” and “I.” Some say we should never use the personal pronoun “I” or “my” when it comes to God; well Hannah did. God was very personal to her and that is clear right here.

Now there are some key observations we want to make about this praise:

**Observation #1** - Hannah’s heart exulted in the LORD. **2:1a**

When we first saw Hannah, Elkanah asked her why her “heart was sad” (1:8). Her heart is not sad any longer. This praise stems from what was going on in her heart. Her heart was rejoicing over what she had seen God do.

**Observation #2** - Hannah’s horn was exalted in the LORD. **2:1b**

The word “horn” is used many different ways in the O.T.. But the underlying use is the concept of unstoppable power and strength. What Hannah is realizing is that her power and strength are found “in the LORD.”

**Observation #3** - Hannah’s mouth speaks boldly against her enemies. **2:1c**

She was using her speech to boldly speak out and defend herself against those who had been her enemies. The reason that she did this was because she was rejoicing not in herself, but in God:

**(Rejoicing Fact #1)** - She was rejoicing in God’s salvation. **2:2a**

Salvation is a key word of the Bible and salvation in the Bible comes from God. Notice Hannah saw it as God’s salvation, not her salvation. Salvation comes from God, not us. The Hebrew word “salvation” is yeshua. Salvation is found in God and in Jesus Christ.

**(Rejoicing Fact #2)** - She was rejoicing in God’s holiness. **2:2b**

Do not overlook this. There is a majestic holiness to God that no one else has. There is “no one” holy like the LORD.

**(Rejoicing Fact #3)** - She was rejoicing in God’s uniqueness. **2:2c**

There is no God but the God of the Bible. He is the only God. There are not multiple deities. There is one.

**(Rejoicing Fact #4)** - She was rejoicing because our God is a rock. **2:2d**

There is no solid rock like Jesus Christ. All can trust Him and depend on Him. He is the solid bedrock of everything.

**THEME #2** – Hannah warns the proud. **2:3-5**

This is a very unique praise prayer because it includes serious warnings against those who are proud and arrogant.

Most people don't think of a praise service warning those proud and arrogant, but frankly that is what Hannah does. We may assume from this that this prayer/praise was given in some public setting. Certainly her family would have been there to witness the dedication of Samuel. It would be reasonable to assume that some others who worked at the Temple would have been there as well. So she probably had an audience.

As part of her praise, she gives two direct warnings aimed straight at the arrogant:

**Warning #1** - Stop proud boasting. **2:3a**

The first admonition that she gives is to stop “foolishly bragging” about yourself. The word “proudly” is a word that describes high, lofty, arrogant boasting to the point of elevating self to the place of magnificence and majesty (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 153).

The Hebrew really emphasizes the arrogance of these people. In fact, the Hebrew has a double statement of “proudly, proudly.” So these people were doubly guilty of this kind of proud arrogance.

**Warning #2** - Stop arrogant speaking. **2:3b**

The word “arrogant” is a word that describes someone who verbally and boldly actually transfers shining glory to themselves. This specifically has to do with them arrogantly taking credit for what God has done (*Ibid.*, p. 663).

You will notice in **verse 3** the conjunction “for.” That conjunction introduces us to reasons why the arrogant need to stop their arrogance.

Hannah gives five reasons why the proud and arrogant people need to stop their arrogance and boasting:

**(Reason #1)** - Because God has complete knowledge of everything they are saying and doing.  
**2:3c**

God hates pride and He always has knowledge of those who are proud.

**(Reason #2)** - Because God will weigh and judge every arrogant action. **2:3d**

God not only knows everything, He weighs everything. He constantly evaluates what people are arrogantly saying and doing.

**(Reason #3)** - Because God will shatter the arrogant. **2:4a**

This has in mind God bringing mighty, arrogant, political, military and personal powers to nothing.

**(Reason #4)** - Because God will strengthen the feeble. **2:4b**

What an amazing transformation. God will shatter the proud and strengthen and bless the feeble.

**(Reason #5)** - Because God will eventually reverse the arrogant and humble status. **2:5**

Eventually God will humble the proud and exalt the humble. This reversal of fortune will become a major theme of I & II Samuel.

The number 7 is used here to refer to the complete, ideal number. God will bring the humble to complete blessings and He will bring the proud to complete humiliation.

Those who view themselves as self-sufficient and arrogant, who can save themselves and succeed themselves and deliver themselves, will one day be shattered by God.

**THEME #3** – Hannah honors God’s sovereignty. **2:6-9**

No one will ever worship God properly, until they grasp God’s sovereignty. God does not apologize for things that are happening. He takes full credit for everything that is happening. Hannah specifically credits God with nine sovereign works in His dealings with human beings:

**Sovereign Work #1** - God sovereignly takes life and begins life. **2:6a**

We may as well accept this because this is reality. Do you see this? God ordains life and God takes life.

**Sovereign Work #2** - God sovereignly takes people to the grave and raises them up out of the grave. **2:6b**

Sheol was the place where people who died in the O.T. went. There was the fire side of Sheol and the comforting side of Sheol. So when one died, God put a person in Sheol in one of those two places.

Now the mention of “raises up” speaks of the sovereignty of God in being able to bring back to life on this earth, those who have died.

**Sovereign Work #3** - God sovereignly determines who is rich and who is poor. **2:7a**

Notice God not only knows who is rich and poor, He makes it. He determines who has what. Most people who are rich praise themselves for their wealth. Often they are held up as some real financial genius. In all reality, it is God who gave them what they have and one day they will acknowledge that.

**Sovereign Work #4** - God sovereignly determines who is brought low and who is exalted. **2:7b**

God is the One who can bring one low and raise one high.

**Sovereign Work #5** - God sovereignly elevates one who has been humiliated to a place of honor. **2:8a**

The words “sit with nobles” means to be put into a place of honor. God is the one who takes one out of power and raises one into power.

**Sovereign Work #6** - God sovereignly controls all the earth. **2:8b**

Do you see that? God controls everything on the earth. He determines what pillars stand.

**Sovereign Work #7** - God sovereignly runs the whole world. **2:8c**

God is in sovereign charge of everything in the world.

**Sovereign Work #8** - God sovereignly protects those who are godly. **2:9a**

The idea of keeping the feet of His godly ones means God watches over and protects the godly people in all of their actions and movements. He keeps them from slipping. He guards those who are committed to Him.

**Sovereign Work #9** - God sovereignly silences those who are wicked. **2:9b**

Those arrogant proud boasters will eventually have their mouths shut. He will silence them. He will remove them from the earth and they will be cast into outer darkness.

**THEME #4** – Hannah predicts the future. **2:10**

There are some key prophetic predictions made here:

**Prophetic Prediction #1** - God will shatter those who contend with Him. **2:10a**

God is the sovereign judge and eventually He will judge. Those who stood against Him and His Word and opposed Him and His Word will be shattered. This word “shattered” is a scary Hebrew word. It not only refers to destroying something, but also terrifying someone so they are in total terror and fear (*Ibid.*, p. 314).

**Prophetic Prediction #2** - God will thunder against them from heaven. **2:10b**

There is an allusion here to the fact that the One who will reign will come from Heaven. So God will have a king come from heaven who will carry out His judgment on earth.

**Prophetic Prediction #3** - God will judge everyone from the whole earth. **2:10c**

No one will escape the judgment of God. All the ends of the earth will be judged.

**Prophetic Prediction #4** - God will give strength to His King. **2:10d**

Here is a clear prediction of the fact that He will raise up a King. At this point in Israel’s history there was no King, so this is clearly a prophetic point. Hannah’s son Samuel will be used by God to anoint the King. He will anoint Saul and then replace him with David. But in the bigger prophetic picture, what we learn is that there will come a King who will do everything described in these verses. He will judge and He will reign.

**Prophetic Prediction #5** - God will exalt the horn of His anointed. **2:10e**

There will be one King who will be exalted as the great ruling power over all. That King will be Jesus Christ.