

## HANNAH: MODEL OF A GODLY MOTHER

(1Sa 1:1-28) 05-10-20

Grace Bible Church, Gillette, Wyoming

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- I. PURSUED A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD (1Sa 1:1-5)
  - A. Hannah's Hometown
    1. Ramah - Hannah's account begins in the town of **Ramathaim-zophim from the hill country of Ephraim** or otherwise known today as "Ramah of Benjamin."
    2. Jeremiah/Matthew - Ramah is mentioned by Jeremiah in regard to Rachael "weeping for her children" who were carried into captivity from Ramah (Jer 31:15; 40:1). Matthew applied it to the Jewish mother's that would weep at Herod's "Slaughter of the Innocents" (Mat 2:18).
  - B. Hannah's Husband
    1. Elkanah - One could possibly assess Hannah's spiritual life by looking at her husband's religious duty. Her husband was Elkanah who would annually **worship** and **sacrifice** to the Lord at Shiloh (v. 3 - approx. 15 miles north of Ramah. It became the permanent location of OT Tabernacle). Jewish men had to attend three feasts annually (Passover, Pentecost, and Feast of Tabernacles).
    2. Two Wives? (2) - God never commanded polygamy nor did He ever condone it (Gen 2:24). However, He temporarily tolerated it in the OT (cf. Deu 21:15-17). In all probability, Elkanah married Peninnah because Hannah was barren. Nevertheless, he loved Hannah more than Peninnah and gave her a double portion at the Feasts (1Sa 1:5).
  - C. Hannah's Spirituality
    1. Hannah was fervent in prayer and poured her heart out to the Lord (1Sa 1:10, 15).
    2. Hannah made a vow (in agreement with her husband, Num 30:13) unto the Lord and kept that vow (1Sa 1:11, 28).
    3. Hannah engaged in the worship of the Lord (1Sa 1:19a).
    4. Hannah prayed after the Lord answered her prayer (1Sa 2:1-10).
    5. Hannah rejoiced in the Lord's salvation (1Sa 2:1).
    6. Hannah exulted in the Lord for His great power over enemies (1Sa 2:1, 6-8).
  - D. Mother's Application
    1. If you really love your child, then you will want your child to know Jesus as Savior. But you cannot lead your child to Jesus unless you know Jesus as your Savior (1Jo 5:11-13).
    2. In addition, your personal relationship with the Lord is the basis for walking in the Spirit, your spiritual character, and wisdom to raise your child in the Lord (Gal 5:16, 22-23, 25).
- II. PERSEVERED IN GREAT DIFFICULTIES (1Sa 1:6-10,12-18)
  - A. Hannah was Barren
    1. Barren Womb (1Sa 1:2, 5, 6, 8) - Of all of the things that Hannah had to endure, being barren was perhaps the worst. As a whole, women are born with the innate desire to be mothers.
    2. Not Satisfied - Pro 30:15-16 states, *There are three things that will not be satisfied, Four that will not say, "Enough": Sheol, and the barren womb, Earth that is never satisfied with water, And fire that never says, "Enough."*
  - B. Hannah was Ridiculed
    1. Hannah's Rival (1Sa 1:2, 6-8) - It was bad enough that Hannah had to live alongside of Elkanah's other wife, **Peninnah**, but she also had to endure Peninnah's ridicule ("**provoke her bitterly to irritate her**") for being barren.
    2. Hannah Distressed - It was so difficult for her that she lost her appetite, was greatly distressed, and wept bitterly (1Sa 1:8,10).
  - C. Hannah was Falsely Accused
    1. Accused of Drunkenness (1Sa 1:9-16) - Adding insult to injury, when Hannah went to the Temple, she was falsely accused of being **drunk** by **Eli**, the **priest**. Here she was pouring

out her heart before the Lord and she was accused of being a “**worthless woman**” (v. 16, *beliyyaal* - “worn out garments,” i.e. *drunken bum*).

2. Not Accustomed to Prayer - On a side note, this asks the question, what kind of people was Eli accustomed to seeing in the Temple, drunkards? Was this the first time Eli saw a person praying in the Temple?

D. Mother’s Application

1. At times, all mothers are overwhelmed with difficulties in the lives of their family. They do so much for others but are so often unappreciated.

2. How did Hannah deal with this? She relied on the Lord. She went to the **Temple** (1Sa 1:9), she **prayed** (1Sa 1:10a) and she **wept** before the Lord (1Sa 1:10b).

3. Afterwards, it said that Hannah “**went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad**” (1Sa 1:17-18). Pouring out one’s heart before the Lord is the only way to lift a burden off our hearts (Php 4:6-7). The ultimate example is our Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mat 26:38; Luk 22:44; Mar 14:36 cf. Rom 8:15; Mat 26:45-46).

III. PERCEIVED SPIRITUAL POTENTIAL (1Sa 1:11, 19)

A. Lord Closed and Opened Her Womb

1. Sovereign God - This illustrates that our Lord is absolutely sovereign in all things, including closing (1Sa 1:5,6) and opening wombs (1Sa 1:19; 2:21).

2. Special Prophet - In this case, the Lord allowed all this to happen in order to raise up a prophet of God in a time that was spiritually bankrupt.

B. Prayer and Vow for a Special Child

1. Create Heart’s Desire (1Sa 1:11) - The Lord also did this to create an insatiable desire in Hannah’s heart to pray for a son and vow to give that son to the Lord.

2. Special Child - Hannah perceived the potential in Samuel because she would give him to the Lord from childhood. Samuel would be a special child in that he would serve the Lord, take a Nazarite Vow (Num 6:5-8, “holy to the Lord”), and become a great Prophet of the Lord.

C. Mother’s Application

1. All children are special to the Lord and special to their mothers. But there is a spiritual aspect in which mothers ought to perceive a child’s potential in the Lord.

2. Mothers may want their children to grow up, get a good education, get a good job, marry a good wife, and live in a good house (all good things). But she should ultimately desire that her children know the Lord and walk with the Lord regardless of those other things. The Lord moved in Hannah’s heart and caused her to see the spiritual potential in Samuel.

IV. PATTERNED A LIFE OF PRAYER (1Sa 1:20, 26-27)

A. Hannah’s Prayer Life

1. Hannah’s Prayers - There is no question that Hannah’s life was a pattern for a life of prayer. We see Hannah praying throughout Ch. 1 & 2 (1Sa 1:10, 12, 26, 27; 2:1-10).

2. Samuel’s Name (1Sa 1:20) - When she gave birth to a son, she named him “Samuel” (*Shehmu’el*) which means “name of God.” But as a play on words when adding a few letters, it sounds like *sha’ul me’el* which means, “**I have asked him of the LORD.**”

3. Hannah’s Identity (1Sa 1:26-27) - Hannah identified herself to Eli as the “**woman who stood here beside you, praying to the LORD.**”

B. Samuel’s Prayer Life - Following his mother’s example, Samuel grew up to be a man of prayer.

1. Samuel prayed for Israel’s return to the Lord and defeat over the Philistines (1Sa 7:5, 8).

2. Samuel prayed when the people wanted a king over them instead of the Lord (1Sa 8:6).

3. The people wanted Samuel’s prayers so that they would not die (1Sa 12:19).

4. Samuel stated it would be sin for him to cease praying for Israel (1Sa 12:23).

C. Mother’s Application

1. A mother’s spiritual training is much more effective when her life is an example of her biblical teaching. There is nothing more powerful than a life that shows the reality of God through a life of prayer. Teach your children to pray and teach them by your example.

2. Pray for your children. Pray with your children. Consider it sin if you cease to pray for them.

V. PRESENTED HER CHILD TO THE LORD (1Sa 1:21-28)

A. Hannah Dedicated Samuel

1. Serve Forever (1Sa 1:22) - Hannah did indeed keep her vow to the Lord after Samuel was **weaned**. She literally gave him to the Lord to serve Him **forever**.

2. Play on Words (1Sa 1:27-28) - Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord. The word "**dedicate**" has the root meaning "ask" and is used 4 times (**petition, asked, dedicated** twice). The idea is that Hannah asked for a son and the Lord gave her one. Then Hannah gave her son back to the Divine Giver.

B. Mother's Application

1. Mothers need to be willing to give and dedicate their children to the Lord. I believe you have to at least talk to your children about the possibility of full-time ministry. Then be willing as a parent to give them to the Lord for whatever ministry and wherever the Lord leads them.

2. Also teach them that whatever they do, they are in full-time ministry. Lead your children to Christ and dedicate your children to Christ. Pray for them from maternity to ministry.

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