

**I. Introduction: Does God care?**

**II. God brings deliverance to His distressed people.**

**A. We are introduced to an ordinary, yet extraordinary, family in Israel. v. 1-5a**

1. This is a godly family living in a dark age.
2. This is not the only time the Lord chooses to do great things through an obscure but faithful family.
3. What was Elkanah doing with two wives? v. 2 Ge. 2:18f Mt. 19:5,8 Mal. 2:15

**B. Hannah's barrenness is a great personal tragedy. v. 5b-8**

1. God alone opens and closes the womb. 1:5b Gen. 30:2
2. While children are always seen as a blessing, there was a particular significance in the Old Testament era to bearing sons. 1:11 Gen. 3:15 Ps. 127
3. A religious feast, which should be a time of great joy, becomes sorrowful. v. 3,7b
4. Hannah's grief is compounded by the taunts of her rival. v. 6
5. Hannah's husband cannot comfort her. v. 8, 5
6. She is not the first barren woman to yearn for a child. Gen. 11:30 25:20-21,26 30:1 Judges 13 II Kings 4:13-17 Luke 1:4ff

**C. Hannah cries out to the Lord. v. 9-11**

1. Hannah's deep distress moves her to earnest prayer. v. 9-10 Ex. 2:23ff
2. She approaches God with reverence acknowledging His powerful majesty. v. 11a
3. She vows to devote her son to God. v. 11b Nu. 6:2ff Jg. 13:7 Pr. 31:2

**D. She is terribly misunderstood and misjudged by Eli the Priest. v. 12-16**

**E. Eli blesses Hannah who leaves with hope. v. 17-18**

**F. God answers Hannah's prayer for a son. v. 19-20 Gen. 26:21 Ps. 113:9**

1. God sometimes miraculously answers prayer using ordinary means.
2. Samuel's name is a reminder of God's answer.
3. The birth of this child is a great turning point in the history of Israel.

**G. Hannah keeps her vows. v. 21-28**

**H. Hannah gives praise to the LORD. 2:1-10**

**I. Hannah is blessed with many more children. 2:21**

**III. What practical lessons can we learn from Hannah?**

**A. Is it valid to use Old Testament narrative as a moral example? I Co. 10:8-10 Lu 17:32**

**B. Biblical principles of the family are exemplified.**

1. Our families can be bright lights in dark days.
2. We place a high value on children. Ps. 127:1ff
3. Our families worship the LORD together. 1:3ff,21ff Deut. 6:1ff
4. A husband should love and respect his wife. 1:8,21,23,24 Pr. 31:11a I Pe. 3:7
5. We also see the consequences of violating God's ideal for marriage. 1:2,6

C. Be careful before you judge (or assume the worst of) others. v. 12-16 I Co. 13:7 Pr. 18:13,17 Mt. 7:1ff I Th. 5:14 Eph. 5:18

D. God uses trials to make us seek Him more earnestly.

1. Our trials are from His sovereign hand. 1:5 James 1:2ff Eph. 1:11 Ro. 8:28
2. Cry out to God in your distress, pouring out your soul. v. 10-11,15 Ps. 142:2
3. Your trial may not end exactly like Hannah's did. 2 Cor. 12:7-10
4. God will give you strength and peace. v. 18b Phil. 4:6-7 Ps. 46:10 I Pe. 5:6

E. Your ultimate hope must be in God, not in a husband or children. 2:1-2 Jer. 17:5-8

F. God uses 'ordinary' means to provide extraordinary answers to prayer. v. 19b

G. Should we dedicate our children to God? Luke 2:23.

#### IV. What is God doing through Hannah?

A. Hannah's story contains much more than a moral example.

1. This chapter isn't primarily about Hannah, it is about God Whose care for Hannah is His care for Israel. Ex. 3:7 4:31 Dt. 26:7 Neh. 9:9
2. Hannah's barrenness and distress mirrors the condition of Israel. Dt. 7:14 Gen. 12:1ff
3. God is beginning the process by which He will provide a great deliverer (David) for His people.
4. Samuel is the key figure of transition -- the prophet and kingmaker.
5. Samuel's birth brings hope to God's people.

B. Hannah's story points to God's final and decisive deliverance of His people through Jesus Christ. Isa. 9:6-7 7:14

1. Hannah sings of the LORD's Anointed King (Messiah). 2:10b
2. Hannah's true deliverance/identity comes not through a husband or a baby, but through the Savior.

#### V. Concluding applications: God does care. 2:1-10 Ps. 113:5-8

#### Discussion questions

1. How is Hannah's story unique?
2. How is Hannah's story like our story?
3. How can a single person or a childless person learn from Hannah?
4. What could counselors learn from Eli's mistake? 1:14
5. How does God use ordinary means to provide extraordinary answers to prayer?
6. How does this passage point to Christ?