

**Subject: *The Praise of a Thankful Mother***  
**Scripture: *1 Samuel 2:1-10***

In chapter 1, Hannah prayed for a son. It was a prayer of desperation and a prayer of dedication. It was a prayer that included a vow. Hannah promised to give her son to the Lord for His service all the days of his life. In chapter 2, Hannah prayed again, but this was a different kind of prayer. It was a prayer of joy, thanksgiving, and praise for what God had done.

*Psalm 92:1 It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most high.*

Hannah was so thankful and she wanted to bless the Lord. Her words of praise are like the song of Mary when she found out that she would give birth to the Lord Jesus Christ. We can learn a lot from Hannah about giving praise to God for who He is and what He does.

### **1. Rejoice in God's salvation (vs. 1)**

After Hannah left her son with Eli at the tabernacle, she could have cried and settled into deep depression, but instead she praised the Lord with joy. Most people would sing and rejoice if they could keep their son, but Hannah sang because she could give her son to the service of the Lord. The world doesn't understand the connection between sacrifice and song. The world doesn't realize that believers are not only motivated by duty, but also desire.

Many times we find God's people praising and rejoicing in the midst of difficult situations.

*Acts 5:41 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.*

*Acts 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.*

Hannah rejoiced in the Lord. She rejoiced in His strength ("mine horn is exalted"), she rejoiced God's power over her enemies ("my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies"), and she rejoiced in His salvation ("deliverance"). Hannah is not referring here to salvation from sins, but salvation as God's deliverance of the Jews. She believed that God was going to do great things for His people. She knew that God was going to use her son, Samuel, to change the course of history, and she was right.

### **2. Respect God's sovereignty (vs. 2-3)**

***Jeremiah 9:23-24***

The greatest and highest of all knowledge is to know God as He reveals Himself in Scripture, to know Him as He truly is.

*John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

This prayer shows that Hannah knew God well. We can see it in her prayer.

God is holy (separate from all other beings and from all sin). He is unique, in a class by Himself. There is no other God. He is like a rock (solid and stable) and therefore He provides stability for all who trust in Him. He is a God who knows everything, even our inner thoughts. He weighs everything and everyone in His balance. Eli misunderstood Hannah. He thought she was drinking, but she was actually praying. That could have bothered Hannah, but it didn't because she knew that God knew all about her. He knew her heart, and He knows our hearts and our motives. He is the God of knowledge. He is omniscient, all-knowing.

One of the greatest lessons we ever learn is that God knows everything and we know so little.

***Psalms 139:1-6***

***Isaiah 40:13-14***

***Romans 11:33-36***

Any person who knows God will not be full of pride or arrogance, but they will be full of confidence. The person who knows God, knows that He will humble everyone who stands against Him, His plans, and His people. The fact that God humbles the proud is found all through the books of *1-2 Samuel* (Peninnah, Eli's sons, the Philistines, Goliath, King Saul, Absalom, and even David).

***Romans 8:31** If God be for us, who can be against us?*

### **3. Recognize God's sufficiency (vs. 4-8)**

God reverses the normal order of things. God turns things upside down in order to accomplish His purposes. The ways of God often surprise us. Hannah described some of God's actions and praised God for His ability to turn things around. Seven contrasts highlight God's ability to reverse the order of things or as we say, to turn the tables:

- God weakens the strong and strengthens the weak
- He humbles the satisfied and satisfies the hungry
- He makes feeble the mother with many children and blesses the childless
- He kills the living and gives life to the dead
- He weakens the healthy and restores the sick
- He takes money from the rich and gives to the poor
- He humbles the proud and lifts up the humble

All this does not mean that we should be passive and hope that God changes our circumstances. What it does mean is we can't change our situation on our own without the Lord's intervention.

### **4. Rest in God's security (vs. 9-10)**

The Lord will protect His people. *Psalm 23* says it like this, *He prepareth a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.* What happens on earth is under God's watchful eye and His providing hand. This is my Father's world. And one day the Lord will judge and rule over all people. We pray for that day, *Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

“His king” and his anointed” (vs. 10, “Messiah/Christ,” first ref. in the Bible) points toward the ultimate fulfillment in the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will come to rule and reign over all the earth.

***Psalms 2:1-6** Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.*

Hannah left their son in Shiloh and returned home with a joyful heart and great expectation to see what the Lord would do. That’s the way to live. We need to praise God for who He is, for what He has done, and for what He intends to do in the future. We live in uncertain days, but we know that God has planned a certain outcome and nothing can stop it. It has been said, “We don’t know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future.” God is in control. Let’s apply this message by remembering five ways to praise the Lord:

### **Five Ways to Praise the Lord**

- A. Praise God daily – ***Psalms 35:28** And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long. **Psalms 71:8** Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honor all the day. **Psalms 145:2** Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever.*
- B. Praise God continually – ***Psalms 71:6** By thee have I been holden up from the womb: thou art he that took me out of my mother's bowels: my praise shall be continually of thee. **Psalms 119:164** Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments.*
- C. Praise God vocally – ***Psalms 34:1** I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. **Psalms 51:15** O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. We can praise Him in word and in song.*
- D. Praise God personally – ***Psalms 57:7** My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise. To be “fixed” literally means to be upright. It describes a person whose heart is alert and ready to praise God. Our heart needs a wake-up call. **Psalms 5:3** My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up. God had just as soon hear a blackbird sing as a nightingale. Nobody can praise the Lord for you, and nobody can praise the Lord exactly like you because He has done things in your life that are unique and personal.*
- E. Praise God corporately – ***Psalms 34:3** O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. **Psalms 35:18** I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people. **Psalms 84:4** Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah. **Psalms 122:1** I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.*