

# 'The Rise of the Kings Series'

## Sermons in the Book of 1 Samuel

### Message 3 - 'Dedicating God's Gift' 1 Samuel 1:19 - 28



God's hand moved upon Hannah's situation and He gave her the desire of her heart. Hannah's reaction is one of great joy, but she was not lost in the moment, she kept her vow to the Lord with the support of her husband Elkanah. We live in a day and age when the biblical concept of family has been attacked, and victimised to such an extent, that godly homes are a very small minority. Hannah and Elkanah were in a unique situation about to be used by the Lord, and Samuel to hold a unique place in the course of redemptive history; however, there are some common principles that we saw relating to family life:

**1. The Principle of Trust** - As the priests offered the burnt offering, Elkanah had taken his family to the worship God, and surely Hannah's heart must have been full of joy. Just as the sacrifice was offered, so it was that Hannah had ultimately given herself as a living sacrifice unto the Lord. This is the first principle of trust, that for each person, not just those in the family situation, but we must trust God implicitly. The hope that Hannah had been given had come from the Lord because she had been ready not only to abandon herself to him and to give back any blessing to the Lord, but also because she trusted the Lord without reserve. There is also another element of trust that we see demonstrated, and that is the relationship of trust between parents. A family must be a place of trust otherwise relationships can be hard. Elkanah had the authority as a husband to annul the vow, to stop it there and then. Yet, what is clear is that Elkanah trusted Hannah, and honoured her, and more importantly the Lord by supporting all that needed to be done. He trusted the Lord, but he also trusted his wife. The relationship between the two was strengthened by this act of trust. The home must be a place of trusting cooperation; we have seen it here between two parents.

**2. The Principle of Training** - Hannah taught Samuel by example, and repeated the importance of prayer. Even in those formative years she taught him and trained him in the things of God. Gospel-ordered families should seek to train, encourage, and point their children to the things of God from formative years. However, there needs to be balance.

**3. The Treasure of Godly Children** - The time eventually came for Elkanah and Hannah to take Samuel to Shiloh. They brought with them the necessary sacrifices in order to worship the Lord. They presented their son to Eli. I actually think this is a huge step of faith by Elkanah and Hannah, not only were they giving their precious son away, but considering the desperate spiritual condition of Israel with Eli and his two wicked sons, it took much to leave Samuel with him. Yet, therein again is the element of trust, that the Lord would keep Samuel and protect him as the Lord had done with His servants in the past. As Hannah had faithfully called upon the Lord, and upheld her vow, whilst she must have shed tears at the giving over of her son, she could rejoice that he would grow to be used of God. Children are a privilege, and godly children are a treasure.



## Penzance Baptist Church

'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs