

Hannah's Story

1 Samuel 1:1-28

I. Some Families Don't Function Well

A. Elkanah came from a good family. Now there *was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim*, and his name was *Elkanah*, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite: (1 SAMUEL 1:1)

B. Elkanah was a polygamist. And *he had two wives*; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. (1 SAMUEL 1:2)

C. Even piety exacerbated Elkanah's problems. And when the time was that *Elkanah* offered, he *gave to Peninnah* his wife, *and to all her sons and her daughters*, portions: *But unto Hannah he gave* a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: *but the LORD had shut up her womb.* (1 SAMUEL 1:4-5)

D. Peninnah harassed Hannah perpetually for what God had done. And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, *so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.* (1 SAMUEL 1:7)

E. Elkanah couldn't resolve the problem. Then said Elkanah her husband to her, *Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am not I better to thee than ten sons?* (1 SAMUEL 1:8)

II. Hannah Turned to God

A. Hannah took her trouble to God who does the impossible. And *she vowed a vow*, and said, O LORD of hosts, *if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me*, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt *give unto thine handmaid a man child*, then *I will give him unto the LORD* all the days of his life, and *there shall no razor come upon his head.* (1 SAMUEL 1:11)

1. Vows are serious business. I will *pay my vows* unto the LORD now *in the presence of all his people.* (PSALM 116:14)

2. Keeping vows is even more serious. A PSALM OF DAVID. LORD, *who shall abide in thy tabernacle?* who shall dwell in thy holy hill? (PSALM 15:1) ALONG WITH In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but *he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.* (PSALM 15:4)

B. Intense devotion and expectation don't always appear obvious. And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? *put away thy wine* from thee. (1 SAMUEL 1:14)

C. Hannah was ready to give the reason for her hope. And *Hannah answered* and said, No, my lord, *I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit*: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but *have poured out my soul before the LORD.* (1 SAMUEL 1:15)

1. Hannah was discrete. *A soft answer turneth away wrath*: but grievous words stir up anger. (PROVERBS 15:1)

2. This pattern becomes a theme across Scripture. But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you* with meekness and fear: (1 PETER 3:15)

D. Hannah acted in faith. Then *Eli answered* and said, Go in peace: ***and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition*** that thou hast asked of him. And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So ***the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad.*** (1 SAMUEL 1:17-18)

1. One can almost hear the voice of Jesus. And he said to the woman, ***Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.*** (LUKE 7:50)

2. An emerging pattern of confidence in God characterizes the believer's life. *Remember* all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice; Selah. ***Grant thee according to thine own heart,*** and fulfil all thy counsel. ***We will rejoice in thy salvation,*** and in the name of our God we will set up *our* banners: ***the LORD fulfil all thy petitions.*** (PSALM 20:3-5)

III. God Answered Hannah's Prayer

A. God gave Hannah Samuel. Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after *Hannah* had conceived, that she ***bare a son,*** and called his name ***Samuel,*** saying, Because ***I have asked him of the LORD.*** (1 SAMUEL 1:20)

B. Hannah did not try to back out on her arrangement with God. But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, ***I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him,*** that he may appear before the LORD, ***and there abide for ever.*** (1 SAMUEL 1:22)

C. In time Hannah came to Shiloh to dedicate Samuel. ***For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition*** which I asked of him: Therefore also ***I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth*** he shall be lent to the LORD. And ***he worshipped the LORD there.*** (1 SAMUEL 1:27-28)