

## **1 Samuel 1:1-2:11**

March 15, 2012

### **1 Samuel – A Brief Introduction**

According to Jewish tradition Samuel wrote the majority of the book of 1 Samuel. We know Samuel wrote a book of some sort according to 10:25; and 1 Chronicles 29:29 refer to the book of Samuel the Seer, Nathan the prophet, and Gad the Seer, so most would say that the books of 1 and 2 Samuel included contributions from all three of these men of God.

As far as the timeframe goes, we believe that Samuel was born around 1105 B.C., and ministered as a judge and prophet in Israel between 1067 and 1015 B.C.

1 Samuel covers a 94-year period from the birth of Samuel to the death of Saul.

1 Samuel describes the transition of leadership in Israel from Judges to kings. Three characters are prominent in the book, Samuel, Saul, and David.

Wiersbe has an interesting outline:

The Failure of the Priesthood (1-7)

The Failure of the First King (8-15)

The Training of the New King (16-31)

### **Tonight: 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11**

I. Hannah's Sorrow (1:1-7)

II. Hannah's Supplication (1:8-18)

III. Hannah's Son (1:19-28)

IV. Hannah's Psalm (2:1-11)

It's interesting to me, how immediately after studying the life of Ruth, God focusing, primarily on Ruth; we now come to immediately to another woman, this time Hannah. And what we find is that Ruth and Hannah are lifted up as women who were instrumental and fundamental to the rise of a nation - they are examples of the positive and powerful influence of Godly women in this world.

So, ladies, sisters, I pray you would be encouraged in your role and responsibility, understanding that God, in His word, emphasizes your part in His plan.

## I. Hannah's Sorrow/Situation (1:1-8)

Hannah's husband, Elkanah, was of the lineage of Ephraim.

He not only had Hannah as a wife, but he was also married to another woman by the name of Peninnah.

Now, just in case you're wondering, the Lord apparently **allowed** multiple wives for a time, but not **once** do we ever read of God authorizing or approving it...in the beginning it was not so, right? (we simply read of Adam and Eve - Genesis 2). Later Paul would write to Timothy that a **bishop**, who is to be an example to the church, was to be the husband of **one** wife (1 Timothy 3:2)...just in case you're wondering, and what a difference from Mormonism, that actually advocates polygamy, according to the writings of their founder, Joseph Smith, who had 27 wives at the time of his death.

No - polygamy brings headaches, and more importantly, heartaches.

Here we see that they would all go up to Shiloh, annually, as a "family," supposedly to worship together, but Peninnah would take this time to severely provoke Hannah, due to the fact that Hannah had no children.

In v. 6 Peninnah is called Hannah's "rival."

And here's a couple of problems that we see frequently in the church, when Christians are **competing** rather than **completing**; and there begins the sins of rivalry - it should never be in the church.

It can happen to anyone. Pastor's can be pretty carnal and competitive as they compare the numbers in their body, building and budget. I've even heard stories of the past of guys who competed in seeing who sold the most tapes of their studies.

So, it can happen to anybody...but at the same time I've discovered that a very vulnerable part of the body, unfortunately, are the ladies, the sisters can so easily give blisters to each other.

Maybe it's because they have a tendency to be more emotionally driven than men are, it becomes a type of "sibling" rivalry. But that's not a good reason, and should never be an excuse to sin and hurt someone like this. Ladies, please be careful.

Poor Hannah, she was just going to worship the LORD together with her family, but she would only weep, for her rival provoked her severely, annually, and probably continually bringing Hannah to that place of misery.

And even though we read in v. 5 that her husband loved her and gave her a double portion, we read in v. 7 that she did not eat.

You see in Deuteronomy 14:24-26 ""But if the journey is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry *the tithe*, or if the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, when the LORD your God has blessed you, "then you shall exchange *it* for money, take the money in your hand, and go to the place which the LORD your God chooses. "And you shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen or sheep, for wine or similar drink, for whatever your heart desires; you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household."

They would bring their sacrifices, and they were to rejoice with their family, you know how it is, meeting and eating together; kind of like a Thanksgiving - but due to the provocations of Peninnah, Hannah couldn't bring herself to do partake.

Hannah's sorrow; it's so sad, your heart just goes out to her. But remember, whenever and wherever there is pain, there is always purpose for the lovers and children of God, and Hannah's sorrow, led to:

## **II. Hannah's Supplication (1:9-18)**

How do you respond to **great** sorrow? How bout great supplication?

What can we do when there's deep, heartfelt pain? How bout deep heartfelt prayer?

This is what Hannah did, this is how Hannah responded;

Hannah rises and travels to the tabernacle, she was admittedly bitter in soul, but she brought it to the LORD, praying and then weeping uncontrollably.

As a result of her trials and tears, over the years, she was brought to a place in her heart that said, "Lord, if You look on me, if You remember me and grant me a male child, I will give him back to You all the days of his life."

Which, just as a quick side-note, is a place that **all** parents should be, **all** of the time, with **all** of their children - for our children are not really our children, but God's children - and we need to dedicate them to God, by setting them apart to God, and not only all the days of their lives, but even before they're ever born.

We were noting earlier what a difference a godly **woman** can make.

And we need to also remember the potential in all of our **children**. Never underestimate, what a difference your **child** yes, **your** children, can have for the good, in this world of so much bad.

Malachi 2:15 "But did He not make *them* one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring..."

I like what Wiersbe said about the baby to be born, "As He often did in Israel's history, God began to solve the problem by sending a baby."

Praying will be one of the most important aspects of our parenting. And here we see that Hannah was praying, with heart (v. 13) and with soul (v. 15).

John Bunyan said, *"In prayer it is better to have heart without words, than words without heart."*

It's tragic, actually, that Eli, the High Priest was unable to sense her pain, and accused Hannah of being drunk. What a lack of discernment, tact and love from the high priest of Israel.

But Hannah didn't take offense, she simply explained, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I haven't poured wine into my soul, I've poured out my soul before the LORD."

Which is exactly what **we** need to do when we're going through the fire.

Psalm 42:4 "When I remember these *things*, I pour out my soul within me. For I used to go with the multitude; I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept a pilgrim feast."

Psalm 62:8 "Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God *is* a refuge for us. Selah"

I think one of the NT equivalents would be 1 Peter 5:7 "casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." The Greek word translated "casting" is 1977 **epirriptomai** *ep-ir-hrip'-to* – which means to throw upon, to place upon.

We must cast all our cares on to the LORD, for we do not have the strength to carry those cares ourselves, they'll crush us, in time, every time.

Another related passage would be Philippians 4:6-7 "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Maybe you say, "I've cried and I've tried this before," and I'm pretty sure Hannah had as well – but for whatever reason – this time there seems to have been a "breakthrough," cause notice again what we read in v. 18.

### **III. Hannah's Son (1:19-28)**

#### **A. Birthing Samuel (19-20)**

Aren't you guys/men grateful that you don't have to give birth?

I've learned over time that mom's are amazing, they not only give birth, in pain for hours, but for 9 months they carry and care for their child within them, who sucks the life out of them.

Hannah names her son, "Samuel" which interestingly means, both "asked of God" and "heard by God."

### **B. Weaning Samuel (21-23)**

To wean physically means to bring the child to that point where he no longer needs his mother's milk.

*"Among the Hebrews children (whom it was customary for the mothers to nurse, Ex 2: 7 9; 1 Sam 1: 23; were not generally weaned till they were three or four years old."* – Easton's Bible Dictionary

NLT - "Whatever you think is best," Elkanah agreed. "Stay here for now, and may the LORD help you keep your promise;

### **C. Giving Samuel (24-28)**

NIV "So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord." And he worshiped the Lord there.

NET "Now I dedicate him to the Lord. From this time on he is dedicated to the Lord." Then they worshiped the Lord there."

## **IV. Hannah's Song/Smile (2:1-11)**

### **A. Hannah to Hannah**

My heart rejoices in the LORD, my horn is exalted (strengthened) in the LORD

### **B. Hannah to her enemies**

I smile at my enemies, talk no more so very proudly; let no arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is the God of knowledge; and by Him actions are weighed

NET "For the LORD is a God who knows; He evaluates what people do."

### C. Hannah to God

I rejoice in Your salvation, for there is none besides You,

### D. Hannah to all

No one is holy like the LORD, Nor is there any rock like our God;

### E. Hannah Contrasting

Verse	Negative	Positive	Comment
4	The bows of <b>the mighty men</b> are broken	And <b>those who stumbled</b> are girded with strength	
5	<b>Those who were full</b> have hired themselves out for bread	And <b>the hungry</b> have ceased to hunger	
5	And <b>she who has many children</b> has become feeble	Even the <b>barren</b> has borne seven	
6	The LORD <b>kills</b>	(the LORD) and <b>makes alive</b>	
6	He (the LORD) <b>brings down</b> to the grave	(the LORD) and <b>brings up</b>	(v. 8a) He (the LORD) raises the poor from the dust and lifts the beggar from the ash heap, to set them among princes and make them inherit the throne of glory
7	The LORD <b>makes poor</b>	And (the LORD) <b>makes rich</b>	(v. 8b) For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and He has set the world upon them
9	But <b>the wicked</b> shall be silent in darkness	He will guard the feet of <b>His saints</b>	(v. 9b) For by strength no man shall prevail. (v. 10) The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces; from heaven He will thunder against them. The

			LORD will judge the ends of the earth. He will give strength to His king and exalt the horn of His anointed.
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V. 11, "Then the Elkanah went to his house at Ramah. But the child ministered to the LORD before Eli the priest."

The Hebrew word *sharath* simply means to serve...and this is what Samuel did to the LORD, through the priest, even from his childhood.

Hannah's name means "grace."

*"The story thus far makes it clear that the life and future of a nation depends on the character of the home..."* - Wiersbe