



Hannah

OF THE BIBLE

1 Samuel 1:1-2

- (1) *There was a certain man of Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham son of Elihu son of Tohu son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.*
- (2) *He had two wives; the name of the one was **Hannah**, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but **Hannah** had no children.*
- (5) *but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb.*
- (6) *Her **rival** used to provoke her...because the Lord had closed her womb.*
- (7) *...Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat.*
- (8) *Her husband Elkanah said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?”*
- (9) *After they had eaten and drunk..., Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord.*
- (10) *She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly.*

1 Samuel 11 *She made this vow:*

“O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head.”

- (12) *As she continued praying before he lord, Eli observed her mouth.*
- (13) *Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk.*
- (14) *So Eli said to her, “How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine.”*
- (15) *But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord.*
- (16) *Do not regard your servant as a worthless women, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time.”*
- (17) *Then Eli answered, “Go in peace, the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him.”*
- (18) *And she said, “Let your servant find favor in your sight.”*
- (19) *They rose early in the morning and worshipped before the Lord; then they went back to their house...Elkanah **knew** his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her.*
- (20) *In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him **Samuel**, for she said, “ I have asked him of the Lord.”*
- (22) *...Hannah...said to her husband, “As soon as he child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and remain there forever; I will offer him as a **nazirite** for all time.”*
- (23) *Her husband Elkanah said to her, “Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only—may the Lord establish his word.”*
- (27) *For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him.*
- (28) *Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.”*

There are several barren women “motifs” in the Bible. For example, in **Genesis**

- 21:1-8 Sarah (formerly Sarai)--the wife of Abraham (formerly Abram) and now known as the father of many. Sarah also gave birth to Isaac.
- 25:19-26 Rebekah—wife of Isaac & the mother of Easu & Jacob
- 30:1-2, 22-24 Rachel—the bride of Jacob who became Israel, the father of the 12 tribes

Hannah’s vow was typical of vows made in the Bible.

- (1) *A condition is stated, then*
- (2) *a commitment is made if the condition is met.*

In The New Oxford Annotated Bible (NRSV), questions arise regarding the passage known as **The Song of Hannah, 2 Samuel: 1-10**

- It may have been added considerably later than the surrounding context
- It is a psalm of national thanksgiving, **but** *its thankful tone appropriately reflects Hannah’s sentiments.*

The Tenakh indicates Hannah’s song is similar in style and content to Ps. 113:7-8 which expresses thanks and praise to God for a victory over an enemy. It fits neither Hannah’s situation nor her personality. Moreover, a king is mentioned in v. 10, whereas at Hannah’s time the monarchy had not yet been established in Israel. The song was put in Hannah’s mouth because of v.5, *while the barren woman bears seven*, and because of its general idea, that God often completely reverses the fortunes of human beings, in accordance with their conduct. (p. 563)

- (1) Why is Samuel important in biblical history?
- (2) Hannah was willing to relinquish everything. Was the outcome worth the price?
- (3) What if Hannah had **chosen self pity** when she found herself barren? **Discouragement leading to bitterness and bitterness to despair? Succumbed to resigned resentment or smoldering anger with God.** BUT ***She chose a prayer*** that captured God’s heart and played into His master plan for Israel.
- (4) Where do our blessings come from?
- (5) How can we cope with unfulfilled desires in our life?
- (6) Compare Hannah’s prayer in 1 Samuel: 1-11 with Mary’s in Luke 1:46-56. Are there any similarities? What do these prayers teach us about prayer?

The Divine Office (Luke 1:46-56 [The Magnificat])

My soul glorifies the Lord, * my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness; * henceforth all ages will call me blessed.
The Almighty works marvels for me. * Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age, * on those who fear him.
He puts forth his arm in strength * and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones * and raises the lowly.
He fills the starving with good things, * sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant, * remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers, * to Abraham and his sons for ever.

The Song of Hannah, 2 Samuel: 1-10	The Song of Hannah, 2 Samuel: 1-10
<u>THE SONG OF HANNAH</u>	<u>THE SONG OF HANNAH</u>
The New Oxford Annotated Bible (NRSV),	The Tanakh/The Jewish Study Bible
<p>Hannah prayed and said,</p> <p>“My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory.</p> <p>There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.</p> <p>Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.</p> <p>The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength. Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down the Sheol and raises up.</p> <p>The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts. He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, To make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor.</p> <p>For the pillars of the earth are the Lord’s, and on them he has set the world. “He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might does one prevail.</p> <p>The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king, and exalt the power of his anointed.”</p> <p>(11) Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, while the boy remained to minister to the Lord, in the presence of the priest Eli.</p>	<p>And Hannah prayed:</p> <p>“My heart exults in the Lord; I have triumphed through the Lord. I gloat over my enemies; I rejoice in Your deliverance.</p> <p>There is no holy one like the Lord, Truly, there is none beside You; There is no rock like our God.</p> <p>Talk no more with lofty pride, Let no arrogance cross your lips! For the Lord is an all-knowing God; By Him actions are measured.</p> <p>The bows of the mighty are broken And the faltering are girded with strength. Men once sated must hire out for bread; Men once hungry hunger no more. While the barren woman bears seven, The mother of many is forlorn. The Lord deals death and give life, Casts down into Sheol and raises up.</p> <p>The Lord makes poor and makes rich; He casts down, He also lifts high. He raises the poor from the dust, Lifts up the needy from the dunghill, Sewtting them with nobles, Granting them sets of honor.</p> <p>For the pillars of the earth are the Lords; He has set the world upon them. He guards the steps of His faithful But the wicket perish in darkness— For not by strength shall man prevail.</p> <p>The foes of the Lord shll be shattered; He will thunder against them in the heavens. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth. He will give power to His king, And triumph to His anointed one.”</p> <p>(11) Then Elkanah [and Hannah] went home to Ramah; and the goy entered the service of the Lord under the priest Eli.</p>