

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 13TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

HANNAH'S SONG (1 SAMUEL 2:1-10) THROUGH THE LENS OF WHAT JUST TOOK PLACE

We see similarities in the songs of praise offered by Hannah, when David praises the Lord for delivering him from his enemies (2 Samuel 22), and when Mary praises the Lord for fulfilling His promises to her and Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55).

- Hannah's praise is even more beautiful when we remember **she has just given her son to the Lord.**

ARE WE ABLE TO REJOICE IN THE LORD?

The very day Hannah offered her son up to God, she began her prayer with, **"My heart rejoices in the Lord..."**

- Her heart rejoiced in the Lord on this very sad day because of her dedication and trust in the Lord. **If we trust fully in God's timing and provision, we too will be able to sincerely praise God in dark times.**

A CONFOUNDING PRACTICE

Praying in hardships may be foreign to some of us if we have not allowed the peace of God to rest on us as it did for Hannah. **She knew without a doubt that everything that had transpired was completely in the will of God.**

- **"...And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus"** (Philippians 4:6-7).

HANNAH REJOICED IN HER EXPERIENCES

Throughout Scripture a horn is a symbol of power and strength. Hannah prayed, **"My horn is lifted up by the Lord,"** meaning that her strength came from the Lord.

- Though Peninnah tried to bring her down, the Lord lifted her up. She knew **the Lord saved her from barrenness and her enemies, allowing her mouth to boast** (v1).

HANNAH OFFERS A WARNING

Hannah publicly warns those who are prideful and arrogant to be mindful of what they say because **the "God of knowledge" is not swayed by our words, but He accurately judges actions.**

- **We should forsake our pride because He is the "God of knowledge." Compared to the source of knowledge, we know nothing at all. What we do know, we received.**

GOD OF OUR SITUATIONS

Verses 4-8a speak to God's ability to change a situation quickly. **"The foundations of the earth are the Lord's,"** and everything set on "them" is in His control.

- **We should humble ourselves before the Lord, or He will humble us. If we are humble, He will exalt us. If not, He will humble us** (Luke 14:7-11).

HANNAH REJOICED IN GOD'S JUSTICE

God will guide the steps of those who walk in Him, but those who reject Him will stumble in the darkness.

- Those who oppose the Lord will be **"shattered."** Jesus is the cornerstone that was rejected, and **"whoever falls on this stone, will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will shatter him"** (Matthew 21:42-44).

HANNAH REJOICED IN A FUTURE HOPE

"He will give power to his king; he will lift up the horn of his anointed." Hannah knew of the promises of a future king in the Law of Moses. A promise fulfilled partially in David, but wholly in Jesus.

- John the Baptizers' father, Zechariah, quoted Hannah in Luke 1:69 when **he referred to Jesus as "a horn of salvation."**

ELI'S SONS SERVE THEMSELVES (1 SAMUEL 2:11-17)

SAMUEL REMAINED IN SHILOH

The rest of Chapter 2 will **contrast the wickedness of Eli's sons against Samuel's growth in ministry.**

- We can focus on the moral depravity of those in line to lead in the temple and question why God would allow these things to happen, or we can **see God's purpose in raising up Samuel to replace Hophni and Phinehas.**

HOPHNI AND PHINEHAS WERE EVIL MEN

The first thing we learn about Eli's sons is that **they were wicked men.**

- The word used to describe the depth of their wickedness is literally translated as **"sons of Belial."** Scripture does not tell us if Belial was a pagan god or a demon, but the term is used 26 times in the OT to **personify wickedness, worthlessness, and corruption.**

THEY SERVED THEMSELVES AND NOT THE LORD

Eli's sons were in line to be the High Priests but were already **"serving"** in the Temple of Shiloh.

- The second thing we learn about them is that **"they did not respect the Lord."** The text communicates that they lacked respect for the Lord simply because **they did not know Him.** Unfortunately, **people using their priestly positions for personal gain is nothing new.**

THEY TREATED THE OFFERING WITH CONTEMPT

Levitical Law allowed the priests to take the **"breast"** and **"right thigh"** of a sacrifice only after fat portions had been burned at the altar.

- Hophni and Phinehas used a fleshhook to **take more than was allotted.** Their servants were sent to **demand the Lord's portion** before it was burned, and they were **given the authority to take it by force if needed.**

SAMUEL SERVED THE LORD (1 SAMUEL 2:18-26)

"...DRESSED IN THE LINEN EPHOD."

God was not unaware of the state of the Temple. **He was working out a plan and guiding the whole series of events.**

- We see that Samuel is visited by his parents, at least annually, and Hannah would bring him a **"little robe."** As a foreshadowing of Samuel's calling, **he wore the priestly garments as a young child.**

GOD IS ATTENTIVE AND NOT A DEBTOR

Verse 21 says, **"The Lord paid attention to Hannah's need, and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters."**

- Here we see Hannah was given so much more than she gave up. Since she gave up her son, God gave her five kids, not because God owed her, but because **He is attentive and gracious. God will never be in debt to anyone.**

AN INEFFECTIVE REBUKE

While Samuel served the Lord, we see that Eli's sons have been caught up in a church sex scandal.

- It appears Eli sought an excuse for their sins by asking, **"Why are you doing these things?"** Instead of **"a talk"** with his kids, **they needed to feel the consequences of their actions.**

"BUT THEY WOULD NOT LISTEN..."

Eli attempts to course-correct with his sons by pointing out the severity of their sins. He essentially says, **"It's one thing to sin against another, because we have an advocate, but you have sinned against the advocate."**

- **The son's hearts were hardened, and they were unwilling to listen and repent, so their fate was sealed.**

THE LORD'S DECLARATION (1 SAMUEL 2:27-36)

THE LORD'S JUDGMENT

An unnamed **"man of God,"** a prophet, came to Eli and prophesied what was to take place in **priestly lineage because of their sin.**

- **God would remove the power and blessings given to Eli's family** through the lineage of his forefather, Aaron, the first High Priest, and transfer it to another family line under the priestly lineage of Aaron.

THEY IGNORED GRACE AND RESPONSIBILITY

God was gracious with the Priests by revealing Himself to them and choosing them, but **this high calling came with great responsibilities.**

- They were to **live sacrificially,** their **prayer life** was to be as evident as incense rising to the heavens, they were to be **clothed in majesty, glory, and beauty,** and they were to **rely on the provisions of God.**

ELI'S SONS WILL DIE IN ONE DAY

Eli's unwillingness to correct his sons showed that he **"honored [them] more than [God]"** (v29).

This prophecy would be fulfilled many years later when Solomon removed Abiathar from the Lord's temple and replaced him with Zadok (1 Kings 2:27).

- Since the fulfillment wouldn't happen for years, **God gave Eli a sign of His truthfulness: both his sons would die on the same day.**

THE NEED FOR A FAITHFUL PRIEST

Eli is told that God will raise up a faithful priest, and anyone left in his family will live difficult lives.

- This promised faithful priest was partially fulfilled in Samuel and in Zadok, but would **ultimately be fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the "merciful and faithful high priest"** (Hebrews 2:17-18).

INVENTORY

- **What does our heart rejoice in?**
- **Can we rejoice in our experiences?**
- Beginning our prayers with praise puts our **focus on the greatness of God and not on the greatness of our problems.** It cannot just be repetitious lip service when we praise God. **It's not enough to know truth, we have to believe it.**