

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 13TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

WORSHIP (1 SAMUEL 2:1-10)

HANNAH'S SONG

Chapter Two starts with "Hannah prayed." It's important to notice the difference between this prayer and her prayer in Chapter One. Before, she cried out in anguish and made a vow of complete surrender. This time, she cries out in joy BECAUSE OF her surrender. This is more than a prayer: she sings, glorifies, prophesies, and worships!

OUT LOUD

Hannah says her heart rejoices, and her mouth boasts. She has experienced God's blessing and has the strength to tell the world of His victory over her weakness. Before, she whispered. Now, she shouted.

- **An authentic experience with Jesus will make us want to share His salvation with anyone that can hear.**

NO ONE LIKE THE LORD

Hannah's praise recognizes the unique power of God. No one can boast about themselves or say they know more than God. Not only does He know more, but He also knows each person's actions and motives.

- **How arrogant do we become when we believe OUR efforts alone will decide our future?**

REVERSALS

Verses 4-8 reveal that God is the One that ultimately has control of our past, present, and future. Hannah included her own story in the list but was able to see other ways that God works for those that follow Him.

- **It's not our strength, position, wealth, influence, or abilities that will grant us favor with God. It is our faith.**

FAITH, TRUST, SURRENDER

Hannah declares that the one who rejects and opposes the Lord will perish. Her surrender strengthened her faith in God's ability to protect and provide for her and everyone that would follow Him.

- **Hannah ended her song telling of the King of Kings that would be the Messiah. Do we live like we know what she knew?**

EXTREMES (1 SAMUEL 2:11-26)

IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRIEST

Elkanah and Hannah returned home but left Samuel in the care of Eli, the priest. Eli has two sons that are following their father in the priesthood. Samuel, also a Levite, is being trained by Eli to be a priest.

- **Eli is raising these boys but they will take different paths.**

WICKED MEN

Eli, apparently a moral man, had lost control of his sons. They gorged themselves on fatty cuts of meat. They even engaged in the cultic practice of temple fornication. They didn't follow the Lord; they used their position for their own satisfaction.

- **Yes, it is possible to have a position "in church" and still not follow Christ.**

FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS

By contrast, Samuel served the Lord. His parents would bring love and gifts each year during the annual sacrifice. Eli would pray for Hannah to have more children to replace the one she had given to God.

- **Although his blessing was sincere, he may not have understood that children can not be replaced.**

THE LORD PAID ATTENTION

Hannah would have five more children, but Samuel would always be her firstborn son. She must have drawn strength and peace from God as she watched him grow up "in the presence of the Lord" (vs. 21).

- **What are we doing to ensure our children grow up "in the presence of the Lord?"**

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

Eli, in his old age, confronted his sons and their sins. But that's all. He had the authority and power to remove them from their positions, but he took no action.

- **Each new day would bring new disgrace to the temple while others would be encouraged to practice wickedness by their example.**

JUDGMENT (1 SAMUEL 2:27-36)

FORGOTTEN CONTRACT

An unnamed man of God comes and reminds Eli of God's commitment to the tribe of Levi. God had chosen, provided for, and protected the priests as they honored Him. But Eli and his sons were guilty of honoring themselves more than God.

- **Eli's family would be removed from the priesthood. The priesthood would survive.**

BROKEN PROMISE?

God had said that Eli's family would walk with Him forever, but it was conditional: the priests must honor God to be honored by God. God would make a new promise: Eli's descendants would die violently.

- **It may offend the modern reader, but we must realize that God is the promise keeper, and His justice is righteous.**

THE SIGN

God told Eli that it would begin with his sons, and they would die on the same day.

- **Eli was moral and used by God, but he failed to stand for righteousness. Our culture lives like God will allow anything because it seems like He isn't even watching. God honors those who honor Him and disgraces those who despise Him.**

"I WILL RAISE UP...."

As God was preparing to tear down, He was preparing to raise up and provide a leader for His people.

- **God would replace wickedness with godliness. Young, obedient Samuel would be the next Judge because he would live a life honoring God. It would be Eli's end and Samuel's beginning.**

WORSHIP

- People worship anything. Authentic worship centers on the one true God.
- **Authentic worship aligns our perspective with God's will.**
- **God gives us people for encouragement and opportunities to rest, but worship brings transformation as we experience the living God.**

HEARING

- Because of their sin, Eli and his son's couldn't hear God.
- **Because of their surrender, Hannah and Samuel trusted and heard God.**
- **Hearing God begins with obedience. Obedience begins with surrender. Surrender begins with humility. Are we simply too proud to hear God?**

LEGACY

- Many people want to leave a legacy.
- **Eli is remembered as the priest who lost it all and Hannah is remembered as the woman who gave it all to the Lord.**
- **Will we decide to lay down our pride, surrender in obedience, hear God, and worship Him like we never have before?**