
Text: [1 Samuel 1:1-28](#); [1 Samuel 2:1-21](#); [1 Samuel 3:1-20](#) Republic, November 10, 2024
Title: "Hannah, Mother of the Prophet Samuel"

[1 Samuel 1:1-2](#) (NKJV)

- ¹ Now **there was a certain man** of Ramathaim (*Rah-muh-thay-im*) Zophim (*Zoe-fim*), of the mountains of Ephraim (*E-free-im*), and **his name was Elkanah** (*El-kay-nuh*) the son of Jeroham (*Jer-roe-ham*), the son of Elihu (*E-lie-hue*), the son of Tohu (*Toe-hue*), the son of Zuph (*Zoof*), an Ephraimite (*E-free-im-mite*).
- ² And **he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah**, and the name of the other Peninnah (*Puh-nin-nuh*). **Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.**

As most of us know, in the Old Testament days, children were very important for families. They were needed to be the future of the ranch or farm. Consequently, any women who could not have children were sometimes looked down upon. Most of the time we are told in the bible that the women felt bad about not being able to have children.

[1 Samuel 1:3](#) (NKJV)

- ³ This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh (*Shy-low*). Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni (*Hoff-nigh*) & Phinehas (*Fin-knee-hass*), the priests of the LORD, *were* there.

A temple was located in Shiloh. Shiloh was approximately 25 miles north of Jerusalem. Hannah and her family lived about 20 miles to the west of Shiloah, or a little over a day's journey from Shiloh.

[1 Samuel 1:4-5](#) (NKJV)

- ⁴ And whenever the time came for Elkanah (*El-kay-nuh*) to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah (*Puh-nin-nuh*) his wife and to all her sons and daughters.
- ⁵ But **to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb.**

This shows 2 things: Elkanah (*El-kay-nuh*) loved Hannah deeply, but he also had a good heart, and was understanding what his wife might be feeling.

1 Samuel 1:6-8 (NKJV)

⁶ And **her rival** (*the other wife*) **also provoked her severely, to make her miserable,**
because the LORD had closed her womb.

⁷ So it was, year by year, when she (*Hannah*) went up to the house of the LORD, that **she**
(*the other wife*) **provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat.**

⁸ Then Elkanah (*El-kay-nuh*) her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? *Am* I not better to you than ten sons?"

There is not a lot worse than someone making fun of you about something you have no control over. Verses 6 and 7 show the disgusting attitude of the other wife. (Peninnah)

Elkanah did his best to try to make Hannah feel better.

1 Samuel 1:9-15 (NKJV)

⁹ So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the LORD.

¹⁰ And she *was* in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish.

¹¹ Then **she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life,** and no razor shall come upon his head."

¹² And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth.

¹³ **Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved** (*praying silently*), but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk.

¹⁴ So Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!"

¹⁵ And Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I *am* a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, **but have poured out my soul before the LORD.**

Eli sure seemed to "jump to conclusions" on what he saw from Hannah. Maybe he had seen a situation in the past where someone was drunk while in prayer. Regardless, it just seems inappropriate to falsely accuse her so quickly.

1 Samuel 1:16-19 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now."

¹⁷ Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, & the God of Israel grant your petition which

you have asked of Him."

18 And she said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." **So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.** (*She basically had "prayed through & believed it was going to happen."*)

19 Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah (*El-kay-nuh*) knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her.

It appears that Eli was prophesying she was going to get her child. And, the response of Hannah shows she was very relieved, and must have believed it was going to happen.

[1 Samuel 1:20-24](#) (NKJV)

20 So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, & called his name Samuel, *saying*, "Because I have asked for him from the LORD."

21 Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and his vow.

22 But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "**Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the LORD and remain there forever.**"

23 And Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the LORD establish His word." So the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

24 Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with 3 bulls, 1 ephah (*E-fuh*) of flour, and a skin of wine, & brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. **And the child was young.**

I checked about 5-6 commentaries, & they all said weaning was around the first 2-3 yrs. I have one thought about that though. In this case, if she took him that early in life to Eli, that is going to put a lot of responsibility on him. *How much is that child going to benefit Eli when he still needs to be raised and watched after?*

Hannah would need to talk to the child a lot about his assignment in life so that he does not feel abandoned by his parents when he is later turned over to Samuel.

In a way, this story saddens me at this point. She wanted a child so bad, and promised she would turn him over to God if she had a boy. And, she has a boy, and then does exactly what she promised, probably without ever thinking she would have another child. *She is going to see him once a year?* I guess it is better than not having any child at all. But, this child will not fulfill the need for someone to later take over the ranch or farm, or help the parents in old age, or be mom's precious boy that she sees most every day.

1 Samuel 1:25-28 (NKJV)

- 25 Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli.
- 26 And she said (*to Eli*), "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I *am* the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD.
- 27 For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him.
- 28 **Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD."** So they worshiped the LORD there.
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So, Eli does not really know Hannah had the child until she brings the child to him at age 3, or so. And, it appears that Eli does not know until now that Hannah is giving him the child to raise and to help in the temple.

Despite turning the child over to the Lord for God's purposes, Hannah still prays a rejoicing prayer:

1 Samuel 2:1-11 (NKJV)

- 1 **And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD;** My horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation.
- 2 "No one is holy like the LORD, **For *there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.***
- 3 **"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.
- 4 "The bows of the mighty men *are* broken, & those who stumbled are girded with strength.
- 5 *Those who were* full have hired themselves out for bread, And the hungry have ceased *to hunger.* Even the barren has borne seven, And she who has many children has become feeble.
- 6 "The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up.
- 7 The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up.
- 8 He 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. "For the pillars of the earth *are* the LORD'S, And He has set the world upon them.
- 9 **He will guard the feet of His saints,** But the wicked shall be silent in darkness. "For by strength no man shall prevail.
- 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."
- 11 Then Elkanah went to his house at Ramah. But the child ministered to the LORD before

Eli the priest.

Some scholars believe that Hannah's prayer of rejoicing was probably later read by Elizabeth and also by Mary, the Mother of Jesus. They believe Hannah's prayer probably influenced their own prayers of rejoicing. If you recall, both of those women had prayers of rejoicing once they knew they were going to have a child. Elizabeth, in particular, had a life similar to what Hannah's life was like, in that she was barren for a long time, actually barren even longer than Hannah.

Both Elizabeth and Mary had children that God used powerfully. And, both women did not get to have a normal life with their firstborn child because they were God's chosen men. They were around for awhile, but later were very busy in the ministry, and not around much at all. When you think about it, Hannah, Elizabeth and Mary had a lot of similarities.

1 Samuel 2:12-17 (NKJV)

- ¹² **Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the LORD.**
- ¹³ And the priests' custom with the people *was that* when any man offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fleshhook in his hand while the meat was boiling.
- ¹⁴ Then he would thrust *it* into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; and the priest would take for himself all that the fleshhook brought up. So they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there.
- ¹⁵ Also, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who sacrificed, "Give meat for roasting to the priest, for he will not take boiled meat from you, but raw."
- ¹⁶ And *if* the man said to him, "They should really burn the fat first; *then* you may take *as much* as your heart desires," he would then answer him, "*No*, but you must give *it* now; and if not, I will take *it* by force."
- ¹⁷ Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.
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Not having a relationship with God can really change your level of selfishness. Eli's sons were abusing their power, and were a disappointment to other godly men.

1 Samuel 2:18 (NKJV)

- ¹⁸ But Samuel ministered before the LORD, ***even as a child***, wearing a linen ephod.
(*E-fod*)

See picture

[1 Samuel 2:19](#) (NKJV)

¹⁹ **Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, & bring it to him year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.**

So, Hannah never abandoned Samuel. Through the year she is making him his next little robe.

The robe Hannah made would have been a robe for Samuel to wear when he was not ministering to the Lord. She stayed involved in his life, even if it was only once a year.

[1 Samuel 2:20-21](#) (NKJV)

²⁰ **And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "The LORD give you descendants from this woman for the loan that was given to the LORD." Then they would go to their own home.**

²¹ **And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the LORD.**

So, once again Eli's comment came true. Hannah was able to have 5 more kids as her blessing in giving up Samuel to serve the Lord.

[1 Samuel 3:1-21](#) (NKJV)

¹ Then the boy Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. **And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; *there was* no widespread revelation.**

It is an interesting statement here. God was not giving a lot of revelations to people during those days.

Do you think some of that happens today? Yes.

Do you think there are seasons of time that God reveals more to people? Yes

[1 Samuel 3:2-7](#) (NKJV)

² And it came to pass at that time, while Eli *was* lying down in his place, & when his eyes

- had begun to grow so dim that he could not see,
³ and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God was, **and (also) while Samuel was lying down,**
⁴ that **the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!"**
⁵ **So he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And he said, "I did not call; lie down again." And he went and lay down.**
⁶ **Then the LORD called yet again, "Samuel!"** So Samuel arose and went to Eli, & said, "Here I am, for you called me." He answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."
⁷ (Now **Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor was the word of the LORD yet to him.**)

In other words, in verse 7 it is saying tht God had not been speaking directly to Samuel yet. Samuel had never experienced God's voice before this time.

What does it mean for us to know the Lord? You should want to start learning how to hear from God. If you are not hearing from God, I would suggest you ask Him how to hear Him better. This is what it truly means to "know the Lord."

[1 Samuel 3:8-11](#) (NKJV)

- ⁸ **And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. Then he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD had called the boy.**
⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; & it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.
¹⁰ **Now the LORD came and stood** and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."

I am not exactly sure what this means, but at least we can say that God's presence was right there.

[1 Samuel 3:11-13](#) (NKJV)

- ¹¹ Then the LORD said to Samuel: "Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle."
¹² In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.
¹³ For I have told him that I will judge his house forever **for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them.**

Parents, or people in authority, have a responsibility to correct others. Eli did not correct his 2 sons. He knew what they were doing, and yet, did not stop it.

1 Samuel 3:14-18 (NKJV)

- ¹⁴ And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."
- ¹⁵ So Samuel lay down until morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision.
- ¹⁶ Then Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son!" And he answered, "Here I am."
- ¹⁷ And he said, "What *is* the word that *the Lord* spoke to you? Please do not hide *it* from me. God do so to you, and more also, if you hide anything from me of all the things that He said to you."
- ¹⁸ Then Samuel told him everything, & hid nothing from him. And he said, "It *is* the LORD. Let Him do what seems good to Him."
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The bible does not tell us how old Samuel was when God started speaking to him like a prophet. But, just like Dana pointed out a few weeks ago, sometimes we can find information from the Jewish historian, Josephus. I looked into that and found that Josephus said Samuel was 12 years old at that time.

The Works of Flavius Josephus It is in Book 5, chapter 10, Section 1:

#4. "Now when Samuel was twelve years old, he began to prophesy: and once when he was asleep, God called to him by his name;..."

1 Samuel 3:19-20 (NKJV)

- ¹⁹ **So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.**
- ²⁰ **And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel *had been* established as a prophet of the LORD.**
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Verse 19 lets us know that from the time of God first appearing to Samuel, God was with him. We get the strong impression that God was constantly talking to Samuel at that age because his words were from God. God "let none of his words fall to the ground." All of Samuel's words became effective.

Our words can be very similar once we learn how to hear God ourselves. With that, we need to learn the difference of what is "of God" and what is "of our own thinking", and even what could be "of Satan." At that point our effectiveness in the things we

say can reach new levels.

Summary of Hannah and Samuel:

I did not try, in this sermon, to talk about the entire life of Samuel and all he did because this sermon is not about Samuel. It is about the woman who was the mother of Samuel. But, at the same time, you have to at least mention Samuel, so that we know better what happened as a result of Hannah's life - the child she bore and gave back to God.

The story of Hannah is the story of a woman who wanted a child, but also wanted to do God's will. She had never had a child before and she was willing to give up her only child for God's use. That child became a prophet.

Samuel is involved in the stories that are found in I Samuel chapters one through chapter 28. Samuel lived at the end of the age known as the Judges. Judges were the title that was used for God's leaders. Those stories are found in the Book of Judges. They include the lives of people like Gideon, Deborah, and even Samson.

Then Samuel ushered in a new time of God's leaders, the years of the kings. He anointed as king, and oversaw the first two of Israel's kings - King Saul and then King David. He led God's nation in times of war. He was the #1 spiritual leader from God for his people.

A few final verses about Samuel:

Psalm 99:6 (NKJV)

⁶ Moses and Aaron were among His priests, **And Samuel was among those who called upon His name; They called upon the LORD, and He answered them.**

Jeremiah 15:1 (NKJV)

¹ Then the LORD said to me, "***Even if Moses and Samuel stood before Me, (implying that those 2 men were very godly and important men to God) My mind would not be favorable toward this people. Cast them out of My sight, and let them go forth.***

Acts 3:22-24 (NKJV)

²² For Moses truly said to the fathers, '***The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.***

²³ ***And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed***

from among the people.'

²⁴ Yes, & **all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow**, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days.

Hebrews 11:32-35 (NKJV)

³² And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:
³³ who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,
³⁴ quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.
³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

Hannah was blessed to have 5 kids of her own after Samuel. She was lucky enough to have kids like normal parents have, who are around the family a lot. But, Hannah was also lucky enough to have one child who became God's leader for many years.

All of us want our children to turn out well. In many ways, we as parents, live part of our lives through our children. If we are lucky enough to have children who follow God, we feel even better about life. But, we also know we do not have control over how our children will choose to run their own lives. All we can do, once they are grown up, is be what God wants us to be to our children, and say what God wants us to say to them.

I know my own mom would probably have enjoyed life better had I spent my life in St Louis around the rest of her kids and grandkids. I do not know if any of the family has made criticizing comments about me because I haven't been there for a lot of family things. I DO know mom once told me that she told the other kids "Mike is where God wants him to be." She understands.

Do I think women like Hannah will get extra blessing in heaven? Absolutely. She was a woman willing to give up one of the most precious things to her - her first child. The things she sacrificed will be blessed back to her in heaven.