

# The Prayer of Hannah and the Birth of Samuel: A Lesson on Total Dedication 1 Samuel 01:01–28

**1. *The family into which Samuel was born: His parents were carnal bigamists***

- a. The father: Elkanah, a priest with no religious function
- b. The two wives of Elkanah
  - 1) Hannah: Had no child
  - 2) Peninnah: Had children

**2. *The deep sorrow and broken heart of Samuel's mother, Hannah: She was helpless, hopeless, in anguish and agony***

- a. The family was devout:  
Made its annual trip to Shiloh to worship the LORD
- b. The family was deeply divided:  
Seen in the family's meal at the end of the feast
  - 1) Elkanah always gave a double portion of meat to Hannah because he especially loved her
  - 2) Peninnah — the rival wife — mocked and provoked Hannah because she was favoured and childless
    - Taunted Hannah continually, especially at the annual festival
    - Irritated Hannah until she broke out in tears and could not eat

- 1 There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.
- 2 He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.
- 3 Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the LORD Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the LORD.
- 4 Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters.
- 5 But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the LORD had closed her womb.
- 6 Because the LORD had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her.
- 7 This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat.

3) Elkanah attempted to console and comfort Hannah

**3. *The answer to the distressful circumstances: Hannah prayed and trusted in God***

- a. Hannah's bitter misery:  
Peaked at one of the festivals
- b. Hannah's intense weeping and silent prayer, 13
- c. Hannah's vow to the "LORD of hosts"
  - 1) Requested that the LORD give her a son
  - 2) Promised to give the son back to the LORD, to serve the LORD as a Nazarite
- d. Hannah's being misunderstood and condemned
  - 1) Eli, the High Priest, saw her distressful behaviour and wrongly concluded that she was drunk
  - 2) Eli protested against her behaviour at the Tabernacle
- e. Hannah's clarification
  - 1) Denied that she was drunk
  - 2) Declared that she was pouring her soul out to the LORD

8 Her husband Elkanah would say to her,  
"Hannah, why are you weeping?  
Why don't you eat?  
Why are you downhearted?  
Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"

9 Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up.  
Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the LORD's house.

10 In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly.

11 And she made a vow, saying,  
"LORD Almighty,  
if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me,  
and not forget your servant but give her a son,  
then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life,  
and no razor will ever be used on his head."

12 As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth.

13 Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard.  
Eli thought she was drunk

14 and said to her,  
"How long are you going to stay drunk?  
Put away your wine."

15 "Not so, my lord," Hannah replied,  
"I am a woman who is deeply troubled.  
I have not been drinking wine or beer;  
I was pouring out my soul to the LORD.

<p>3) Insisted that she was not a wicked woman, that she was praying out of great anguish and sorrow</p> <p>f. Hannah's assurance and peace of heart</p> <p>1) Eli asked God to grant Hannah's prayer</p> <p>2) Hannah experienced a deep-seated assurance and confidence — peace of heart</p>	<p>16 Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.”</p> <p>17 Eli answered, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.”</p> <p>18 She said, “May your servant find favour in your eyes.” Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.</p>
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