

# 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 worshipping 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
  - 3) Elkanah attempted to console and comfort Hannah

- 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.
- 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?"

**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
  - 3) Insisted that she was  
not a wicked woman,  
that she was praying  
out of great anguish and sorrow
- f. Hannah's assurance  
and peace of heart
  - 1) Eli asked God to grant  
Hannah's prayer

- 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.
- 16 Do not take your servant  
for a wicked woman;  
I have been praying here  
out of my great anguish and grief."
- 17 Eli answered, "Go in peace,  
and may the God of Israel grant you  
what you have asked of him."

2) Hannah experienced a deep-seated assurance and confidence — peace of heart

**4. *The result of the prayer and faith of Samuel's mother: God heard and healed her affliction — gave her a son***

- a. The LORD remembered Hannah's prayer
- b. The son was born and was named Samuel

**5. *The faithfulness of Hannah: She nursed the child and kept her promise to dedicate Samuel to the LORD***

- a. She was committed to diligently weaning the child — above all else, even above attending the annual festival
  - b. She was committed to fulfilling her promise: She informed her husband that the child would be dedicated to the LORD right after he was weaned
  - c. She was supported by her husband in her decision to dedicate the child, to the LORD
  - d. She dedicated Samuel to the LORD's service
- 1) She took the baby Samuel to the Tabernacle after he was weaned

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.

19 Early the next morning they arose and worshipped before the LORD and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her.

20 So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the LORD for him."

21 When her husband Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the LORD and to fulfil his vow,

22 Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, "After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the LORD, and he will live there always."

23 "Do what seems best to you," her husband Elkanah told her. "Stay here until you have weaned him; only may the LORD make good his word." So the woman stayed at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

24 After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh.

2) She also took a bull, a half bushel of flour, and some wine for the dedication service

3) She had the bull presented to the LORD

4) She and her husband then took Samuel to Eli, the High Priest

- She reminded Eli of her agonizing prayer for a child some years earlier

- She demonstrated a selfless devotion to God: She gave Samuel to the LORD, to serve the LORD his whole life

25 When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought the boy to Eli,

26 and she said to him,  
“Pardon me, my lord.  
As surely as you live,  
I am the woman who stood here beside you  
praying to the LORD.

27 I prayed for this child,  
and the LORD has granted me  
what I asked of him.

28 So now I give him to the LORD.  
For his whole life  
he will be given over to the LORD.”  
And he worshipped the LORD there.