

## Hannah 1Samuel 1:1-8

1 ¶ Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. 2 And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. 3 This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there. 4 And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah 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. 6 And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb. 7 So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat. 8 Then Elkanah 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?" NKJV

Hannah was the first wife of a man by the name of Elkanah. As we noticed last week this was a desperate time for the nation of Israel. Everyone did that which was right in their own eyes. But in every nation God always has those shining lights in the darkness. Hannah was such a light. Just a barren wife of an insignificant Ephraimite man. But God had better things planned for her and for her people. But how little of that could she know now.

Hannah will be preached about in hundreds of pulpits across this nation today on Mother's day. And she deserves to be. We know so very little about her compared to what we know about others in the Bible. But I think that the things we can know about her should be an encouragement to us not to give up but live for God, knowing that God will bless us and that God will accomplish His will through His people.

### I. She Knew Expectation

- A. Hannah was once a young girl with all her hope and dreams.
- B. When Elkanah took her as his wife, here dreams began to be fulfilled.
- C. She no doubt looked forward to raising a family and especially a boy to carry on the family name and inherit her husband's land.

### II. She Knew Disappointment

- 1. 1 Sam 1:6 And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb.
- B. But those things did not happen.
  - 1. It seems that it is a part of God's plan.

2. God often cannot use us until He brings through the crucible, the melting pot.
  3. Had Hannah had children naturally then Samuel would have never been given to the Lord to be the final judge and first prophet over Israel.
  4. God's ways are not our ways.
  5. Without adversity we don't tend to draw near to God.
- C. A second wife was taken to make sure that the land would not go to cousins.
1. No doubt Hannah did not want this but she saw the need for children that she could not provide.
  2. But like Sarah's plan with Hagar, it did not work out well.
  3. Often when we come with a worldly solution we only ruin the blessing God has planned for us.
- D. But in all this she did not become hateful or bitter.
1. She could have, but she did not.
  2. Many times when we are faced with the hard things in life, we become bitter.
  3. We often begin to complain and are miserable to live with.

### III. She Knew Persecution

- A. Jealousy was the natural result of that arrangement.
1. We see that Elkanah loved Hannah most.
  2. But Peninnah had been blessed with children.
    - a. She saw this as a way to steal the heart of her husband.
    - b. No doubt in her mind, Hannah was out of place in their family.
- B. Peninnah began to taunt her rival with these points.
1. Hannah was barren, a sign of God's disfavor.
  2. Peninnah had borne Elkanah several children.
  3. She was using the children to influence her husband and tease Hannah.
- C. Hannah was very sensitive and was greatly affected by these things.
1. So much so that when they come to Shiloh to worship and feast, Hannah cannot eat.
    - a. 1 Sam 1:6 And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her

miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb. 7 So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat.

2. Even when her husband reassures her of his love for her, still she cannot find peace.

D. But she did not try to take repay Peninnah for the evil she did to Hannah.

#### IV. She Knew How to Worship and Depend on God

A. But Hannah does not go off in a corner to sulk but she takes the matter to God.

1. 1 Sam 1:9 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."

2. How often when we have problems we take them to people who can at best only empathize with us.

3. How much better it would be if we would take the matter to the one who can accomplish more than we could ask of think.

- a. Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

B. We see her worship in her great prayer in chapter 2 as we read in our responsive reading.

1. 1 Sam 2:1 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, And 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."

2. This displays a marvelous understanding of God and His ways.
  - a. God's mercy
  - b. His sovereignty
  - c. His justice
  - d. His faithfulness
  - e. His kindness
  - f. How he exalts the humble and humbles the proud

V. She Knew Answered Prayer

A. Her prayer.

1. 1 Sam 1:10 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."
2. She asks God to remember her afflictions.
3. She asks for a child to bring her sorrow to an end.
4. She promises that if God would give her a son then she would give him back to the Lord forever.
- 5.

VI. She Knew How to Be Faithful

A. After he is weaned she brings him to dedicate him to God at the tabernacle.

1. 1 Sam 1:24 Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child was young. 25 Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli. 26 And she said, "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.

2. Can you imagine how difficult that would be.
3. But children are not for us to keep and the best thing we can do is give them God.
4. She was faithful to her promise, knowing that had God not answered her prayer then she would still be childless.

B. But then each year she brings him a new tailor made coat.

1. I can see her, each time, telling him how he was the answer to prayer and that he was a very special child.
2. It was not Eli that prepared for his commission from God.

## VII. She Knew God's Blessing

A. God blessed her with a very special son

B. She no longer had to listen to her rival chide her.

C. God gave her five more children.

1. 1 Sam 2:18 But Samuel ministered before the LORD, even as a child, wearing a linen ephod. 19 Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring it to him year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. 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.

Through over 300 centuries she has been immortalized as one of the outstanding mothers of all time. Each mother here today would do well to follow her example.