

*Calvary Chapel of El Paso Morning Ladies' Bible Study – After God's Heart*  
*September 14, 2021 – Portrait of Hannah*

Introduction

The heart of our study this year is David. But it would be incomplete without looking into the lives of some of the people who touched his life. As we begin we will see the influence of those who came right before David, and the times in which they lived. Before we learn about Samuel next week, we will look into the life of his mother. We will also get a little background and historical context.

The first part of the book of I Samuel covers events near the end of the 300-year period of the judges – the last 4 or 5 judges. [Note that this is a general summary. Some exact dates within this period are hard to pin down.] Eli the high priest was in his 50's more or less, and had seen many years of decline of Israel under the judges – yet did little to stop it. He lived to be 98 years old. He and his two godless sons died on the same day, when Samuel was already a priest faithfully serving God in the background. But I'm getting ahead.

So how was it that Samuel was such a godly man? We will find out one big reason today – his mother. Years later Mary, another mother, spoke these words:

[Mary said,] *For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.*  
*And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.*  
– *Luke 1:49-50*

The man Samuel would become Israel's transition from being led by judges under God's direction (but they mostly went astray) to being led by earthly kings (most of whom did not listen to God much, either). It was the same years later:

*And there shall be, like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways,  
and reward them their doings. – Hosea 4:9*

All this pointed to man's need of Messiah (Jesus) – King, Priest, Prophet, Judge.

So how does God begin to tell us about the man Samuel who would lead Israel into this new phase of their history? With a godly woman, his mother. – Other examples: Moses, John the Baptist, Jesus.

Hannah was married to a Levite (of the priesthood) in Ephraim, named Elkanah. He was a kind, good husband.

The problem: his other wife was prideful, arrogant, and had children.

Hannah had no children. (Which in those days people thought meant shame and lack of God's blessings.)

When Hannah came to the end of herself (like Abraham and Sarah), she turned to God. Surely during that time she drew closer to God and matured in Him.

Her prayer was sincere, her faith strong, her answer received with joy.

THEN she filled her baby boy with the things of God and gave him to the Lord. Her praise to God included beautiful prophecies, and her blessings from the Lord were great.

### Hannah's Vow – 1 Samuel 1:1-11

Elkanah – Levite of Ephraim – 2 wives

Hannah had no children because the Lord shut up her womb.

Peninnah had children, and mocked Hannah because she had no children.

*Study Book page 2: Question 2* deals with how Peninnah treated Hannah and what Hannah did about it. \*What does that mean for us? Hannah took her complaint and request to the Lord. A great example for us.\*

Think about your own life, *Question 2 b (1)*.

*Study Book page 2: Question 3* deals with Elkanah's attitude toward Hannah.

*Question 3 a* brings up a great thought – he wanted to comfort Hannah, but \*this situation was between Hannah and GOD. A lesson for us in our own lives, and as we see others, "go through things."\*

\*God's timing and His ways are perfect, even though we often do not understand at first.\*

### 1 Samuel 1:3

Note that they went to the temple in Shiloh because it was not yet in Jerusalem. It was actually the Tabernacle (which had been used for the 40 years Israel wandered in the desert), that had been set up permanently as the center of worship of the Lord.

We also see that the high priest was Eli, and his 2 sons were Hophni and Phinehas, priests of the Lord.

So Hannah was sad, year after year. Then one year, she prayed to God at the temple.

She poured out her soul.

*Study Book page 2: Question 4: a* \*Where Hannah turned, and where we are to turn, for help – to the Lord.\*

*Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. – Psalm 61:1-2*

*And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. – 1 Corinthians 10:4*

She vowed to give the man-child to God, for him to serve God all his life. “No razor on his head” = Nazarite, one dedicated to serve the Lord.

### Hannah's Faith – 1 Samuel 1:12-18

Eli thought she was mumbling and drunk.

Hannah denied it and explained that she was praying to God – \*but she did NOT reveal to Eli her request of God. .... Again, only the Rock Christ is our source and brings our answer.\*

So Eli, being high priest, said that God would answer.

Then Hannah left – with \*faith, joy\* ... and a good appetite again!

## Hannah's Gift to God – 1 Samuel 1:19-28

She and her godly family worshipped God before they went home.

Hannah's gift from the Lord – a son; she named him “Samuel” = “Asked of God.”

*Study Book page 4: Question 2: c* deals with how \* God hears and answers us – in His perfect time and way. \*

The question right above it asks you to think about something in your own life, when God heard you. It's always good to think back on the good things God has done for us, and how He did it – encourages us to trust Him for whatever else comes up.

So Hannah stayed home with Samuel until he was weaned – 3 or 4 years.

Her husband Elkanah said, “...*the Lord establish His word.*” So that all would be fulfilled.

So Hannah kept her little boy with her and \* taught him about the Lord. \*

Then when Samuel was weaned, she and Samuel went with the family to the temple in Shiloh to worship the Lord.

\* Now Hannah could tell Eli of her prayer, her answer, and her gift to the Lord. \*

And little Samuel worshipped the Lord there – his mother Hannah had taught him.

## Hannah's Praise, and Her Blessings from God – 1 Samuel 2:1-10 and 20-21

Hannah's Praise – READ verses 1-10

*Study Book Page 5: Question 1* deals with Hannah's prayer of praise and its impact.

My answer included that it shows that \* she trusted the Lord, and that she was willing to allow God to use her \* to prophesy. What about you?

As we look at the details of Hannah's prayer, and of Mary's prayer in *Luke 1:46-55*, think about how these things speak to you in your life in the Lord. Our Study Book had us list attributes of God in Hannah's prayer, and similarities in Mary's prayer.

Here are some that I found:

<u>Hannah (attributes of God)</u>	<u>Mary (similarities to Hannah's prayer)</u>
God is Holy	She rejoiced in God
He is the Rock	She said that God had blessed her
God of knowledge	God is holy
He breaks the mighty	God is mighty
He raises the weak	He lowers the mighty and proud
He fills the hungry	He lifts the low and humble
He gives children to the barren	He fills the hungry
He puts up whom He will, and	He causes the rich to be empty
He puts down whom He will	He helps Israel (strengthens the King)
He keeps the saints	
The wicked go to silent darkness	
He is judge	
He strengthens His King	

Hannah's Blessings from God – verses 18-21

More children!

As with Sarah, Mary and others – the first was a son, the baby of promise; then she was ready for more.

*... And the child Samuel grew before the LORD. – 1 Samuel 2:21*

So \* ~~Hannah was greatly blessed~~ \* with five more children. She now had no shame, and a family of her own.

Next week we will learn about the life of this amazing child of hers – Samuel – as he guided Israel through times of change.

Perhaps the following scripture summarizes Hannah's life:

*Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. – Psalm 37:5*