

“Hannah’s Song”  
1 Samuel 2:1-10  
(Preached at Trinity, May 1, 2016)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. **1 Samuel** opens with the introduction of Elkanah and his two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah was fertile and enjoyed the birth of children while Hannah was barren.
2. To make matters worse for Hannah, Peninnah often mocked her and provoked her because of her childlessness. This caused ever increasing sorrow to Hannah.  
**1 Samuel 1:5-6 NAU** - ". . . but the LORD had closed her womb. <sup>6</sup> Her rival, however, would provoke her bitterly to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb."
3. As we’ve seen, Hannah responded as one who had entrusted her life to God. She prayed and made a vow before God. She pledged that if God would give her a son. We read in **Verse 19** that God heard her prayer - "Elkanah had relations with Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her."
4. Hannah gave birth to a son and named him Samuel. And she remembered her vow. She waited until Samuel was weaned which could have been three years or longer, and then she fulfilled her vow – **Verses 24, 28**
5. As we enter **Chapter 2** we find that Hannah didn’t remember her vow with hesitation or regret. There was no sorrow over her vow to permanently devote her son in service to God. Quite the contrary. Her heart was lifted up in praise.  
**1 Sam. 2:1 NAU** - "My heart exults in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD"
6. **Verses 1-10** set before us what is known as “Hannah’s Song.” Tonight I want us to explore this wonderful text of praise and exaltation.  
The entire song flows from Hannah’ statement in **Verse 2**  
**1 Samuel 2:2 NAU** - "Indeed, there is no one besides You"  
No one can compare with God. The rest of her song is an exposition of this statement.
7. Her song of praise is divided into three sections
  - I. **Verses 1-3** – Hannah’s personal experience of deliverance
  - II. **Verses 4-8** – Hannah moves from her personal experience to the way God’s reigns over the earth.
  - III. **Verses 9-10** – God’s ultimate redemptive purpose – the consummation

I. **Verses 1-3** – Hannah’s personal experience of deliverance

- A. God interacts personally in the lives of His people
1. Notice the personal pronouns of **Verse 1** - My, my, my, I
  2. Every believer is on a journey of grace. We suffer great affliction upon this earth but God is always present and is always involved in our lives.
  3. This is amazing knowing the nature of God. He is holy. In fact, Isaiah declares that God is Holy, Holy, Holy. Hannah declares:  
**1 Samuel 2:2 NAU** - "There is no one holy like the LORD"
- B. Holiness is a part of God’s Divine essence. It is essential to His Divine being
1. Holiness, as it applies to God, has two basic meanings.
    - a. First of all, it speaks of God’s moral perfections  
 God is wholly perfect. He is without error, without sin. He never makes a mistake or a misjudgment. He is flawless. In this sense holiness is a communicable attribute. We are commanded to conform to this moral perfection.  
**1 Peter 1:15-16 NAS** - "but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; <sup>16</sup> because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."  
 (1) Sometimes God’s holiness is described in the sense of beauty. He is infinite beauty, altogether lovely  
**Psalms 27:4 NAU** - "One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD And to meditate in His temple."  
**Psalms 96:6 NAU** - "Splendor and majesty are before Him, Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary."  
 (2) In answer to the philosophical question, what is beauty? God is beautiful and all that reflects Him in His Divine perfections
    - b. But second of all, it refers to God’s otherness.  
**1 Samuel 2:2 NAU** - "There is no one holy like the LORD"  
 (1) He is apart, separate, distinct—He is wholly other. He dwells in absolute majesty and glory that nothing imperfect shall ever look upon.  
 (2) This is Hannah’s meaning here  
**1 Samuel 2:2 NAU** - "There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides You"  
 (3) God’s holiness refers to His divine, transcendent nature. God alone is infinite, eternal, immutable, self-existent. God alone has no beginning.  
 (4) Our Confession reads: LBC 2:1 – “. . . infinite in being and perfections; whose essence cannot be comprehended by any but Himself; a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, who only hath immortality, dwelling in light which no man can approach unto; who is immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, every way infinite, most holy, most wise, most free, most absolute . . .”

2. The amazing thing is that this God would enter into the lives of men
    - a. We are in a relationship with Him. And it is a love relationship. You might say that God's Word is His love letter to us. He reveals Himself and interacts with us through His Word.
    - b. He also interacts with us through His acts of Divine Providence
- C. Hannah knew God to be a mighty God
1. She knew this by God's revelation of Himself. We have God's Word
  2. She also knew this through the observation of creation.  
**Psalms 19:1 KJV** - "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."
  3. But as a child of God, Hannah knew God's mighty power through the experience of grace; through her experience of God's power in her life.
    - a. **Verse 1** - "My horn is exalted in the LORD"  
Horn is a figure of strength. Hannah was strengthened through God's mighty power.
    - b. Hannah had found God more than sufficient  
**1 Samuel 2:2 NAU** - "there is no one besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God."
    - c. This is the experience of all of God's people  
Listen to David:  
**2 Samuel 22:2-4 NAU** - "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; <sup>3</sup> My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; My savior, You save me from violence. <sup>4</sup> "I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, And I am saved from my enemies."
- D. Hannah's response to God's gracious provision was exaltation and praise
1. What a contrast between this prayer and Hannah's earlier prayer
    - a. Earlier she was in great distress  
**1 Samuel 1:10 NAU** - "She, greatly distressed, prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly."  
(1) I've shared many times that in the Hebrew a word is intensified by repeating it. For example in **Genesis** God says to Adam, "for in the day you eat from it you shall surely die"  
The phrase "surely die" is simply the word for "die" (מוֹת) repeated twice – "surely, certainly, most assuredly die."  
(2) Here the phrase "wept bitterly" is simply the word for weep (בִּכָּה) given twice – "wept bitterly, in anguish, in great distress"
    - b. Now Hannah's prayer is simply exaltation and praise  
**1 Samuel 2:1 NAU** - "My heart exults in the LORD"

2. Her languish has been turned to great joy. Her enemy has been made powerless. **Verse 3** draws our attention to Peninnah but isn't limited to the behavior of Peninnah. The first clause is in the plural. It speaks of all who live in proud arrogance.

Whether she had Peninnah in mind we cannot know but it would surely fit.

**1 Samuel 2:3 NAU** - "Boast no more so very proudly, Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth; For the LORD is a God of knowledge, And with Him actions are weighed."

**1 Samuel 2:5 NAU** - "Even the barren gives birth to seven, But she who has many children languishes."

E. Many are our afflictions in this life

1. Tears are often shed by the bucket. But our God proves Himself mighty over and over. This is the experience of God's people.

**Psalms 34:19 NAU** - "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all."

2. What a wonderful testimony of God's love. He is holy and transcendent. He is high above His creation. And yet, He is mindful of us.

**Psalms 23:6 NAU** - "Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

II. **Verses 4-8** – Hannah moves from her personal experience to the way God's reigns over the earth.

A. Hannah describes how God's rule over the earth is absolute and universal

1. **Verse 3** reminds us that God weighs the actions of men
2. **Verse 4** – God determines the power of men
3. **Verses 5, 7-8** – God determines our earthly condition
  - a. Those who are full today may find themselves begging tomorrow while those in poverty become full
  - b. **Verses 7-8** describes the source of all earthly wealth. God distributes wealth according to His good pleasure
  - c. Those who are barren are blessed with a full house while those with many children enter into misery
  - d. God humbles and God exalts

**1 Peter 5:6 NAU** - "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,"

4. **Verse 6** – Our lives are in God's hand – He kills and makes alive

B. Hannah's point in these verses is the absolute dominion of God

1. Yes, many are the afflictions we suffer in this life. But our God is sovereign over them all.
2. The earth rests upon God's dominion. He established it and reigns over it. We are under God's authority
3. This should humble us. In order for us to praise God like Hannah did we must humble ourselves before the mighty hand of God.

### III. Verses 9-10 – God’s ultimate redemptive purpose – the consummation

- A. All of history is moving towards a predetermined plan. God has a purpose
1. God is sustaining His saints. History is a display of God’s redemptive purpose.
  2. To the untrained eye it would seem that there is no design.  
**2 Peter 3:3-4 NAU** - " Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, <sup>4</sup> and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."  
    - a. History seems to be unfolding without any purpose. One generation comes and another follows and there doesn’t seem to be any design.  
“all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.”
    - b. Peter declares God’s ultimate design  
**2 Peter 3:9 NAU** - "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."
    - c. God is about His purpose of saving His people. This is why history is continuing. God is saving His own.  
The Old Covenant was pointing forward to God’s Redeemer and King.
  3. This is one reason Hannah was in such anguish over being barren. Sure it was a personal sorrow to see other women with children while she had none. And it didn’t help that Peninnah continually mocked her childlessness. But Hannah understood God’s covenant promise.  
**Genesis 3:15 NAU** - "And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."  
**Genesis 22:18 NAU** - "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed"  
Hannah wanted to share in this covenant promise. And indeed she did. God would give her a son who would become a judge, prophet, and priest.
- B. As we come to the second half of **Verse 10** Hannah prophesies future monarchy
1. This small child, Samuel, would be used of God to begin the kingdom of Israel. He would anoint Saul and then David. Hannah declares:  
**1 Samuel 2:10 NAU** - "He will give strength to His king, And will exalt the horn of His anointed."
  2. But there’s much more here. In Hannah’s prayer she foretells God’s ultimate design, the grand finale. God delivered her from her barrenness but she speaks of a much greater deliverance from a much more dreadful barrenness.
  3. We live in a world where it seems God is not reigning. It’s a world where the Peninnah’s go about in their haughty arrogance.  
But Hannah announces her future hope! God will deliver His people.  
**1 Samuel 2:9 NAU** - "He keeps the feet of His godly ones"

4. There is coming a time when God will put to an end all ungodliness  
**1 Samuel 2:10 NAU** - "Those who contend with the LORD will be shattered; Against them He will thunder in the heavens"
5. All will stand before God as the righteous Judge  
**1 Samuel 2:10 NAU** - "The LORD will judge the ends of the earth"
6. God would raise up one greater than David. He would bring His Anointed King to sit upon the throne.
  - a. The Hebrew word for anointed is מָשִׁיחַ mashiach. The NT Greek word is Χριστός
  - b. This is the first mention of the Messiah in the OT. He is God's anointed King. His Kingdom would shine brightly and will reign forever and ever. Through the Anointed One true justice will reign upon the earth.

#### Conclusion:

1. God is continually reminding us that He will surely deliver us through Christ Jesus. His continual deliverance out of the adversities of life is testimony to God's great and final deliverance.  
**1 Samuel 2:9 NAU** - "He keeps the feet of His godly ones"
2. And all of the details of life have a grand purpose. If Peninnah had not taunted Hannah she might not have cried out to God in anguish. And she might not have given birth to Samuel and dedicated him unto God. But God ordained this for the calling of His great prophet, Samuel.
3. What wonders is God working in your life? And what is God using to drive you to prayer.