

“Hannah’s Commitment”

1 Samuel 1:17-2:10

INTRO:

Today is Mother’s Day. This is a day that we set aside each year to think about and honor the mothers that the Lord has given to us and to thank God for godly mothers in general.

It is important to remember the impact of Godly mothers on sons and daughters that God used greatly outside of the record of Scripture. **(1)** Augustine’s long suffering mother’s name was Monica. She prayed passionately for her son’s conversion. A bishop assured her, *“Go now, I beg you; it is not possible that the son of so many tears should perish.”* **(2)** **(2)** Susannah Wesley also comes to mind. She had a life-long impact on the lives of John and Charles Wesley.

(3) My favorite example is Charles Spurgeon. In his autobiography, Spurgeon wrote: *“My mother said to me, one day, ‘Ah, Charles! I often prayed the Lord to make you a Christian, but I never asked that you might become a Baptist.’ I could not resist the temptation to reply, ‘Ah, mother! the Lord has answered your prayer with His usual bounty, and given you exceeding abundantly above what you asked or thought.’”* In being the godly mother that they were, they were just following the example of Hannah, Samuel’s mom. There were two things about Hannah that caused her to have such a tremendous influence on Samuel’s life.

I. Hannah’s Commitment (1:18-28)

II. Hannah’s Insight (2:1-10)

I. Hannah’s Commitment (1:18-28)

A. The story of Hannah’s prayer is quite well known. She was one of two wives of Elkanah. The other wife, Peninnah, had many children. Hannah had none. She was barren. The LORD had a plan that Hannah did not know about.

1. God has used women who were at first barren to bear some very important people in Israel. Sarah was barren for a long time and she finally becomes the mother of Isaac the chosen one. Rebekah is barren for many years and becomes the mother of Jacob. Elizabeth, the wife of Zecharias, the priest, becomes the mother of John the Baptist.

2. In like manner, the LORD would use Hannah’s child Samuel in a great and unique way. He would become the last of the Judges and the first of the prophets. He would be special man in Israel because his mother was willing to give him over to the God who gave him to her.

B. **Vs. 17** contains Eli's blessing. I include it because the fact that God did exactly what Eli had said is why we read this story. The account in the next verses is, in my mind, incredible.

1. We are told that God remembered Hannah in **vs. 19** and she conceived and had Samuel her son in **vs. 20**. How special was this little guy to Hannah? She named him "asked of the Lord". His very name reminded her that he was God's special answer to her prayers.

2. We also read how she absented herself and her son from the yearly trips to the sacrifice until Samuel was weaned. This could take 3-5 years in the Near East. The years rolled around and Hannah came with her small boy and brought him to God.

"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. Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli. 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. For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. 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."

This must have been extremely difficult for her to do. Samuel was her son, her first son, her only son. Still, she kept her vow and lent him to the LORD.

3. Do you think that she was ever tempted to renege on her promise? Did she think about how much of lent is lent? Although we might be tempted to think that Hannah was bargaining with God when she made this pledge, it is clear that she was not. Do we do this with our children, ourselves?

II. Hannah's Insight (2:1-10)

A. The only way that Hannah could do this is because of her understanding of God and His ways. We find in Hannah's song that she knew three things about her God. First, she knew that He was the source of her blessings (**vs. 2:1-3**).

"My heart rejoices in the Lord; My horn is exalted in the Lord. I smile at my enemies, because I rejoice in Your salvation. No one is holy like the LORD, for there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God. 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."

B. Second, She understood the ways of God in the world (**vs. 4-7**).

"The bows of the mighty men are broken, and those who stumbled are girded with strength. 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. The LORD kills and makes alive;

He brings down to the grave and brings up. The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up. 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.”

God provides these blessings to others also; God helps us if we seek His help.

C. Finally, Hannah understands the end of the story (vs. 9-10).

“He will guard the feet of His saints, but the wicked shall be silent in darkness. “For by strength no man shall prevail. 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.”

God will triumph. His will is primary. How are we a part of this plan?

If God were to ask our best, that which we love more than anything else from us, do we have the confidence and faith that Hannah and Elkanah had to give it to Jesus? Hannah was willing and we will always remember what God did through the gift that He gave to her that she gave back to Him.