

1 Samuel 2:1-10 — "Hannah's Heartfelt & Triumphant Prayer of Thanksgiving!"

"How vast are the possibilities of prayer. How wide is its reach. What great things are accomplished by this divinely appointed means of grace. It lays its hand on Almighty GOD and moves him to do what he would not otherwise do if prayer was not offered. It brings things to pass which would never otherwise occur." (EM Bounds)

Prayer is the "sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the soul to God, through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, for such things as He has promised, for the good of the church with submission in faith to the will of God." (John Bunyan)

Hannah's Bible Knowledge & Prayers Steeped With Scripture:

- Here is a woman of God, Hannah, pouring out her soul to God! She knows her Bible well. Hannah is SO thoroughly saturated with BIBLE that her prayer of praise drips with language from earlier texts.
- She knows the Word & prays the Word. The two main places from which she draws biblical language are:
 1. Exodus 15 = power of God in delivering from bondage & out of Red Sea (exclusivity of God/warrior/victory of God)
 2. Deuteronomy 32 = power of God & judgment of God over his enemies and protection of His people.

➡ 1 Samuel 2:1-10 - It is a very poetic prayer. The point: **God's people must trust in the LORD!**

NOTE the progression / perspective of the psalm:

1. Hannah speaks to "**HER**" God personally (My heart, MY horn, MY mouth) (v.1)
2. Hannah speaks about God as **Protector** and **Preserver** (v.2-9)
3. Hannah speaks about the **future** Anointed, King ruling the world (v.10)
Starts small (Hannah, microcosm), and gets bigger till it spans the "Ends of the Earth" (V.10, macrocosm)

This God-centered Prayer includes the following elements:**I. EXULTATION IN GOD'S SALVATION (1)**

II. AFFIRMATION OF GOD'S EXCLUSIVITY (2-3)

A. 3x - No one...no one...not any! **God is unique. Ex 15.11 - who is like you among the gods, O LORD?**

Some of the attributes of God brought out in Hannah's prayer:

1. LORD
2. Holy
3. Exclusive
4. Rock
5. God of knowledge
6. Judge
7. Life-Taker
8. Life-Giver
9. Powerful
10. Gracious
11. Owner
12. Creator
13. Protector
14. Executioner
15. Strength-giver
16. Savior (Messiah)

III. RECOGNITION OF GOD'S VICTORY (4-5)**IV. PROCLAMATION IN GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY (6-8)**

How foolish is every sinner. Can we poor worms strut it out against infinite power? Oh, that every obstinate sinner would think of this, and consider his unmeasurable boldness in thinking himself able to grapple with omnipotence! What force can any have to resist the presence of Him before whom rocks melt, and the heavens at length shall be shriveled up as a parchment by the last fire! As the light of God's face is too dazzling to be beheld by us, so the arm of His power is too mighty to be opposed by us.

(Stephen Charnock)

V. CONSOLATION IN GOD'S PROTECTION (9)

1 Peter 1.5 - who are protected by the power of God thru faith for salvation

VI. EXPECTATION OF GOD'S KINGDOM (10)

v.1 = I rejoice in your **SALVATION** (Yeshua) = Jesus

v.10 = God exalts the **HORN** (=strength) of HIS **Messiah**/Anointed = Christ

This is prophetic pointing to *Jesus* > so much so Mary uses this (Luke 1!)

Hannah knew the Law of Moses & thus she knew the promises of a future, coming Messiah-King:

God told Abraham that kings would arise from them (Gen 17:6)

God repeated that promise to Jacob (Gen 35:11)

Jacob said that through Judah would come a KING with a scepter (Gen 49:10)

And in Deut 17 we read about a future king over Israel

And in Deut 18 - a prophet would arise speaking for God.

There is a KING who would be born = David, but ultimately JESUS who would sit on the Throne of David (Luke 1:32-33).

Matthew Henry says:

We have reason to think that this prophecy looks further, to the kingdom of Christ, and the administration of that kingdom of grace, of which she now comes to speak, having spoken so largely of the kingdom of providence. And here is the first time that we meet with the name Messiah, or his Anointed. The ancient expositors, both Jewish and Christian, make it to look beyond David, to the Son of David. Glorious things are here spoken of the kingdom of the Mediator, both before and since his incarnation; for the method of the administration of it, both by the eternal Word and by that Word made flesh, is much the same.

Above all – and again this I regard as most important of all – always respond to every impulse to pray... It is the work of the Holy Spirit... So never resist, never postpone it, never push it aside because you are busy. Give yourself to it, yield to it; and you will find not only that you have not been wasting time with respect to the matter with which you are dealing, but that actually it has helped you greatly in that respect. (Martyn Lloyd Jones)

"Men and women are needed whose prayers will give to the world the utmost power of God; who will make His promises to blossom with rich and full results. God is waiting to hear us and challenges us to bring Him to do this thing by our praying. He is asking us, to-day, as He did His ancient Israel, to prove Him now herewith." Behind God's Word is God Himself, and we read: "Thus saith the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, his Maker: Ask of me of things to come and concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands, command ye me." As though God places Himself in the hands and at the disposal of His people who pray - as indeed He does. The dominant element of all praying is faith, that is conspicuous, cardinal and emphatic. Without such faith it is impossible to please God, and equally impossible to pray." (E.M. Bounds)

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see:

all I have needed thy hand hath provided--

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

I ASKED THE LORD

I asked the Lord that I might grow
in faith and love and ev'ry grace;
might more of his salvation know,
and seek more earnestly his face.

'Twas he who taught me thus to pray,
and he, I trust, has answered pray'r,
but it has been in such a way
as almost drove me to despair.

I hoped that in some favored hour
at once he'd answer my request,
and by his love's constraining pow'r
subdue my sins and give me rest.

Instead of this he made me feel
the hidden evils of my heart,

and let the angry pow'rs of hell
assault my soul in ev'ry part.

Yea more, with his own hand he seemed
intent to aggravate my woe,
crossed all the fair designs I schemed,
humbled my heart, and laid me low.

"Lord, why is this?" I, trembling, cried;
"Wilt thou pursue thy worm to death?"
"Tis in this way," the Lord replied,
"I answer prayer for grace and faith.

"These inward trials I employ
from self and pride to set thee free,
and break thy schemes of earthly joy
that thou may'st find thy all in me."