



# 1 | 1 SAMUEL 1:1-18

## GOD OF BROKEN HEARTS

*God loves to turn earthly heartbreaks into heavenly breakthroughs.*

### Outline

*Invention of Electricity*

#### 1. GOD CARES ABOUT OUR HEARTBREAKS (1:1-8)

Hannah is Barren yet Blessed by Elkanah

*A Man of Good Social Standing*

*A Man of Moderate Means*

*A Man Affected by Sin*

*A Man Who Worshipped the Lord*

*A Man Who Loved Hannah*

Hannah is Harassed by Peninnah

Heartbreak Can Be Used by God for Good

#### 2. GOD'S PRESENCE BRINGS OUR HEALING (1:9-16)

Hannah Gave Her Burden to the Lord

She Gave Her Tears to the Lord

She Gave Her Son to the Lord

She Gave Her Heart to the Lord

#### 3. GOD'S GOODNESS RESTORES OUR HOPE (1:17-18)

### Call to Worship

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. —*Psalm 34:8*

### Songs

*All is Well*

*Man of Sorrows*

*Be Still My Soul*

*How Great Thou Art*

*Bow the Knee*

## Announcements

**WELCOME:** We are glad you are here! Be sure to grab a Welcome Packet if you are visiting with us.

**GIVING:** You can give over Zelle through your bank with no fees (use secretary@livinghopechurch.net). We also have a collection box on the Welcome Center. Malachi 3, "Test me in this" Proverbs: "**Give of your firstfruits.**" We believe blessing comes by putting God first.

**TODD GJOVIK:** Bill and Nancy's son-in-law has Covid. Had a bad reaction to the Antibody treatment. Low blood pressure—passed out. Is better and home now.

**PROLIFE MINISTRY:** Sadly the Wood Dale facility was purchased by another abortionist. Our fight continues. We will let you know when our next date is to protest.

**VISITING MISSIONARY:** Don't miss Missionary Jim Robinette to Uganda on September 26 for Sunday School and the morning service. He and Kappy are longtime members of our church. Jim will be giving an update and preaching.

**NEW MEMBERS CLASS:** Good class last week. We do have a link if you want to view it online.

**BAPTISM:** Join us for the baptism of Jennifer Riley at Bethel Baptist in Schaumburg at 7pm on Thursday, September 23.

**BABY SHOWER:** All ladies are invited to a baby shower honoring Emily Cerrillos on Sunday, October 10th at 1:00 pm. Emily is registered at Amazon and Target. Also, please bring a dish to share.

## Introduction

We begin a new series in the book of 1 Samuel called "Exalting God's King." We are learning how to exalt Jesus Christ as King in our lives. Our title this morning is: "God of Broken Hearts".

### *Invention of Electricity*

Imagine what it would be like to live in complete darkness. We sometimes fear in modern times what might happen if the electric grid was attacked or if it failed. But think about this. The electric lightbulb wasn't invented until 1882 and wasn't in widespread use until 1900. In 1925, less than a hundred years ago, only half of the homes in the U.S. had access to electricity. I think we agree that being in darkness is a terrible thing. We are grateful for modern electricity. But how much more grateful are we for spiritual light? Having a connection to God in your spiritual darkness makes all the difference.

Hannah's heart was broken. It seemed she was in a spiritual "blackout" but we are going to learn that through prayer, she's going to have her spiritual lights turned back on.

**What do you do when you are emotionally and spiritually spent?** We do get there sometimes. Have you been there? God never will abandon us, but that doesn't mean we don't at times *feel* abandoned. Sometimes we trust our physical eyes instead of God's word. What do you do when you get to that place of hopelessness and despair? We will all get there at times in our lives. What should we do when our heart is broken into a million pieces? We need to remember that though we feel alone, we are never alone.

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. —*Psalms 34:8*

I want to take us on a journey from utter heartbreak to a heart full of praise. Worry, heartbreak, and despair are facts of life. What is the cure when your heart is broken or confused? **How do we get from heartbreaks to breakthroughs?**

In our day, some people deal with it through drugs or alcohol covering the symptoms. Others turn to mindless entertainment. Some become bitter. Worry is a merciless slave master that keeps us from God. Instead, we need to find the Bible's solution! And the Biblical solution for worry is prayer, or more specifically, *worship*, or seeing the smallness of your problems in light of the greatness of God!

**Key thought:** God loves to turn earthly heartbreaks into heavenly breakthroughs.

How do we get from heartbreak to hallelujahs? How do we get to those heavenly breakthroughs? Let's consider a woman named Hannah.

---

## 1. GOD CARES ABOUT OUR HEARTBREAKS (1:1-8)

---

It was the time of one of the great festivals of Israel when a heartbroken, barren woman realized a deep theological truth, and it broke her. What was that truth? It's one we all know. **"God is in control."** That's great when you believe God is good, but **what if you believe God is withholding something from you?**

### HANNAH IS BARREN YET BLESSED BY ELKANAH

Here was Hannah, she was barren and yet blessed. She was getting older and without any children. **She knew God was sovereign over all things, and that meant that it was God who had closed her womb.** It seemed cruel to her. She was heartbroken. Yet she was blessed with a godly husband, Elkanah, who was as good as they come. He had a very special affection for Hannah and treated her well.

#### *A Man of Good Social Standing*

Elkanah was a well-to-do man. He was of great social standing. The text makes this clear. It goes on and on about where he's from and his famous relatives from Ephraim.

**1 Samuel 1:1** | There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.

Yet for all his good social standing, he couldn't give his wife a baby. That was in God's hands alone.

#### *A Man of Moderate Means*

Elkanah was a man of means. Money wasn't something he lacked. I mean, he had two wives, so he must have had some means.

1 Samuel 1:2a | He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah.

**This suggests that Hannah was Elkanah's first wife.** The couple suffered the all-too-common sadness of being unable to have children, and so, apparently, Elkanah took a second wife. The new wife, Peninnah by name, bore Elkanah a number of children, but Hannah continued to have none.<sup>1</sup> **Having two wives was not a blessing but brought great jealousy between Hannah and Peninnah.**

### *A Man Affected by Sin*

1 Samuel 1:2b | Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.

Elkanah was a godly man, but he was affected by sin. **He made the sinful choice to conform to the culture and have two wives.** It seems that Hannah was Elkanah's first wife, and sadly, she was barren, so he married a second wife. In a sense she was the victim of the sinful choices of her husband who chose to have two wives.

We don't know why Elkanah didn't wait on the Lord and trust Him to work out His plan, but even Abraham married Hagar (Gen 16) and Jacob ended up with four wives! While bigamy and divorce were not prohibited by Jewish law (Deut 21:15–17; 24:1–4), God's original plan was that one man be married to one woman for one lifetime (Mk 10:1–9).<sup>2</sup>

**Ironically, the name "Hannah" means "favored one,"** and Hannah was the favored wife of Elkanah (1:5), but her condition contradicted her name: **How could the favored one be barren?** In her barrenness, Hannah takes her place with the wives of the patriarchs. Sarah was barren, Rebekah was barren, Rachel was barren.<sup>3</sup> And like the wives of the patriarchs, Hannah's faith will be rewarded.

Barrenness is significant ultimately because of God's promise to raise up a "seed of the woman" to crush the serpent's head (Gen 3:15). That was the seed promised to Abraham, but so long as Sarah was barren, the promise was not being fulfilled. Without a son, there was no future for Israel.<sup>4</sup>

### *A Man Who Worshipped the Lord*

Elkanah was a devout man and would yearly offer a tithe—he would donate ten percent of all his livestock to the Lord there at the tabernacle in Shiloh.

1 Samuel 1:3 | Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the Lord.

The yearly festival referred to in verse 3 may be the **Feast of Tabernacles**, celebrated at the end of the summer to commemorate God's provision for Israel in the Sinai desert after

<sup>1</sup> John Woodhouse, *1 Samuel: Looking for a Leader*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2008), 22.

<sup>2</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Successful*, "Be" Commentary Series (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor/Cook Communications, 2001), 14.

<sup>3</sup> Peter J. Leithart, *A Son to Me: An Exposition of 1 & 2 Samuel* (Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 2003), 37.

<sup>4</sup> Leithart, *A Son to Me*, 38.

the exodus (Lev 23:43) and to give thanks for the summer harvest. Normally a joyous occasion, for Hannah it is a reminder of her own unfruitfulness.<sup>5</sup>

Men would sell the tithe (ten percent) of their cattle or sheep each year and bring the money to the tabernacle. Then they would sacrifice an animal and gather round as a family for a bar-b-que of sorts. They would eat this wonderful feast in the presence of the Lord as his guests at his own table—very much like the Lord's table we have today.

In 1980, archeologists discovered the exact location of this tabernacle in Shiloh, and there were still jars and petrified figs that had been stored in the tabernacle that are on display in the Hebrew Museum in Israel. Elkanah worshipped the Lord.

### *A Man Who Loved Hannah*

1 Samuel 1:4-5 | On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. <sup>5</sup>But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb.

During the feast of Tabernacles, it was the custom to give every woman and her children a certain portion of meat, but, of course, Peninnah and her children received the greater part of the sacrifice. To make up, Elkanah would give Hannah a double portion, but she was constantly reminded that she had no children. Elkanah's generosity certainly didn't compensate for her infertility. **So the yearly sacrifice was a time when Hannah's barrenness came home to her more sharply than it ever had before.** The Bible calls Peninnah her "adversary".

### HANNAH IS HARASSED BY PENINNAH

As good a man as Elkanah was, he had two wives. Though this was the common practice of his time, it is nonetheless sinful and **hurtful**. Polygamy caused jealousy between Peninnah and Hannah (cf 1:6). Peninnah was an insecure woman, especially because Elkanah showed Hannah double the favor during the yearly feast of Tabernacles. We read about their jealous relationship. Peninnah used to provoke her more severely on during these special occasions than any other time, taunting her and mocking her because of her barrenness.

1 Samuel 1:6-8 | And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. <sup>7</sup>So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. <sup>8</sup>And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

God's work in Hannah began not only in **barrenness** but also in the **distress of Peninnah's harassment** (1:7). Hannah wept. It was the feast of Tabernacles, but she just couldn't eat. She was provoked. She was attacked. She was mocked. She was despised. As<sup>6</sup> Childlessness was stigma enough for Hannah, but having it rubbed in was intolerable.

<sup>5</sup> Herbert M. Wolf, "1-2 Samuel," in *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible*, vol. 3, Baker Reference Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1995), 193.

<sup>6</sup> Timothy J. Keller, *The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive* (New York City: Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2013), "The Prayer for David", *1 Sam 1:4-20; 2:1-10*.

Peninnah apparently used special worship occasions (1:3–4) for harassing Hannah. **Peninnah herself likely chafed under Elkanah's obvious affection for Hannah (1:5).**<sup>7</sup>

But there was Peninnah, so insecure, she would goad Hannah incessantly. We can imagine how it must have been. We can almost hear Peninnah's voice, goading Hannah to jealousy. We can imagine the harsh and hurtful words.

**"What have you got to thank the Lord for, Hannah? It's a bit of a joke, Hannah, you coming here to give thanks to the Lord year after year when the one thing you want he won't give you!"**

Peninnah just wouldn't stop her ugly words. **"The Lord has closed your womb, Hannah. Isn't it obvious that he does not care about you?"**<sup>8</sup>

Year after year it went on—baiting Hannah, irritating her, winding her up until the sobs broke out, goading her to complain against God.<sup>9</sup>

Peninnah despite all her children is truly the barren one.

The Scriptures say in verse 6, that **Hannah** was **irritated**. The idea is "torn apart by a storm". This is the only place in the Bible where this Hebrew word is applied to someone's interior emotional life. Every other time, it's actually used to denote a real storm. Thunder, roaring, a nor'easter, a hurricane. Here we see Hannah's inner life was characterized by a roaring, stormy agony. Her inner life was as torn up by anger and by despondency as the sea is torn up by the stormy winds.<sup>10</sup>

## HEARTBREAK CAN BE USED BY GOD FOR GOOD

1. **Heartbreak moves us to go to God alone for healing.** God heals the brokenhearted. Though it would not comfort Hannah, it helps us to remember that Hannah is not the first barren woman noted in Scripture. So many are brought so low, and then mightily used of God. All the patriarchs were married to initially barren women who ended up bearing miracle children. We know the names of the patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but do we remember **Sarah, Rebekah, and Rachel**? Sarah's story is most famous, where she bears Isaac at the age of 90. **Rebekah** had no children for the first twenty years of marriage (Gen 25:20–21, 26b), but then she has twins. The barrenness of **Rachel** is like a soap-opera, **competing with three other women** (Gen 29:31–30:24), but then she bears Joseph and Benjamin. The Lord raised up mighty Samson from the fruitless womb of **Manoah's wife** (Jdg 13). And who would have guessed that old, childless **Elizabeth** would give birth to John the Baptist (Lk 1:5–25)? Of course, the most miraculous of births was that of our Lord Jesus Christ, born from the virgin womb of Mary. God has unique kingdom purposes, and he will heal those who are brokenhearted.

2. **In heartbreak, we celebrate that God prefers to use the weak, the powerless and barren.** "God chose what is weak in the world to confound the mighty" (1 Cor 1:27ff). It is "when we are weak" that "the power of Christ" rests upon us (2 Cor 12:9). When we are

<sup>7</sup> Dale Ralph Davis, *1 Samuel: Looking on the Heart*, Focus on the Bible Commentary (Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2000), 16–17.

<sup>8</sup> John Woodhouse, *1 Samuel: Looking for a Leader*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2008), 28.

<sup>9</sup> Dale Ralph Davis, *1 Samuel: Looking on the Heart*, Focus on the Bible Commentary (Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2000), 17.

<sup>10</sup> Timothy J. Keller, *The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive* (New York City: Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2013).



brought low, we must understand that God is preparing us for greater things. We see this in the barren women of the Bible. Barren women seem to be God's instruments in raising up key figures in the history of redemption. **We consider the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They are all married to barren women.** Or what the **previously barren mothers** of the great **deliverers** of Israel (like Joseph, Samson, and Samuel), or the Messiah's forerunner, John the Baptist. Barren women have been God's instruments to bring some of the greatest leaders into our world. **Hannah, therefore, shares in a fellowship of the barren.** It is in this fellowship of powerlessness that God does great things. **God's loves to make our total inability his starting point.** When you are powerless, look to God with all your might. Your powerlessness is a sign that God is about to do something.

**3. Heartbreak brings us to a new place of usefulness since God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.** Many believers and churches today find themselves in the situation of Hannah. The favored ones, the remnant earnest to remain faithful to the Lord and his word, suffer because of indifference or active persecution. Let's take hold of the power of God through prayer. Without prayer, we are a barren people, however, our only hope is in God's Spirit alone to come and revive us. Our first task is to plead with him to open the wombs of our spiritual lives.<sup>11</sup> God wants us to have an abundant spiritual walk with him! He wants our joy to be our connection and communion with him.

---

## 2. GOD'S PRESENCE BRINGS OUR HEALING (1:9-16)

---

**Hannah was heartbroken. She was offered the delicious steaks of the tabernacle sacrifices, but she wasn't hungry** (1:7). How could she eat when Peninnah told her she was barren, and God had made it so? It was true. There was Hannah praying at the gate of the tabernacle, like so many holy women of old had done in the past (Exo 38:8). And Eli was keeping an eye on her. Something was broken in Hannah's heart, but Eli wasn't sure what it was. Eli thought she was drunk (1:14). **Nevertheless, Hannah's focus was on the Lord. That was her only light in the darkness.** When we are afflicted, we are to bring our burdens to the Lord.

We remember the words of David in Psalm 119:67, **"Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep your word."**

### HANNAH GAVE HER BURDEN TO THE LORD

1 Samuel 1:9 | After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord.

**When we are in the darkness of a heavy burden, the best thing to do is take our burden to the Lord.** He will take on our burden if we give it to him. What else could Hannah do, but bring her burden to the Lord? **Our worries are divine reminders of our smallness and our need for God!** We must always remember that as enormous as our burdens seem, they are like a speck of sand in the ocean of God's omnipotence. God gives us burdens to remind us of our smallness and of his greatness. **Magnify the Lord's love, not your worries.**

---

<sup>11</sup> Peter J. Leithart, *A Son to Me: An Exposition of 1 & 2 Samuel* (Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 2003), 39.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. —*Philippians 4:6-7*

There certainly was no help in man. **Hannah was living in dark days.** The priesthood in Israel was represented by a feeble old man, Eli by name, whose sons' behavior was a public scandal.<sup>12</sup> Hannah lived in the time of the judges where **“everyone did that which was right in their own eyes”** (Jgs 21:25). The people were demoralized. The priests were downright immoral. **Sounds a lot like today, doesn't it?**

Hannah can't turn anywhere but to the Lord. Perhaps you are here today, and you aren't sure what to do or where to go. Go to the Lord! You will never be disappointed. God loves to heal the brokenhearted.

### SHE GAVE HER TEARS TO THE LORD

1 Samuel 1:10 | She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly.

Bitter in soul, Hannah began to cry out to the Lord with many, many tears (1:10). Sometimes tears themselves apparently constitute prayer, for the Lord hears “the sound of [our] weeping” (Psa 6:8).<sup>13</sup> **One of the great things missing from our churches is tears. A great percentage of the Psalms are lament Psalms.** That tells us we are to cry to the Lord and bring our burdens to him. He will hear us. Indeed **the Lord is deeply moved by our sorrows and trials.**

You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book. —*Psalms 56:8, NLT*

What should be our response? Go boldly to your loving God with your burdens!

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. —*Hebrews 3:16*

Hannah wept great tears before the Lord. God was moved by her prayers. Now, **God didn't change, but Hannah became the humble instrument** in a dark land that God wanted to use.

### SHE GAVE HER SON TO THE LORD

1 Samuel 1:11 | And she vowed a vow and said, “O Lord of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.”

Hannah vowed she would dedicate her son to the Lord forever, as a permanent Nazirite. According to Numbers 6, the Nazirite separated himself from wine, from grapes, from cutting his hair, and from the dead. In several details, the Nazirite resembled a priest, especially the

<sup>12</sup> John Phillips. *Exploring the Scriptures: An Overview of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2001), 57.

<sup>13</sup> Dale Ralph Davis, *1 Samuel: Looking on the Heart*, Focus on the Bible Commentary (Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2000), 18.



high priest. Nazirites thus lived as if the whole world was a holy place. That's exactly how we as Christians today are to live.

**Interesting Fact:** There are three permanent Nazirites in the Bible: Samson, Samuel, and John the Baptist, and each of them was born to a barren woman.

**Samuel typifies the ministry of John the Baptist.** He was preparing the way for God's king.<sup>14</sup>

In praying like this, was Hannah "bargaining" with the Lord? I don't think so. Bearing a son would have removed her disgrace and perhaps ended her rival's persecution but giving up her own son was another matter. Perhaps it would have been easier for her to go on living in barrenness than to have a child for three years and have to give him up forever.<sup>15</sup>

**Hannah wanted any possible son to serve the Lord every day of his life. That's the best thing we can do for our children.** Give them to the Lord. The world doesn't understand. My child needs an education, but that's not the best thing I can give them. Money is helpful but that is nothing compared to what they need. What do our kids need more than salvation in Jesus Christ? Everything is refuse compared to knowing Christ (Phil 3:8). It's not about money and comfort and a big house. Your child can gain the whole world and lose his or her soul (Mt 16:26). The best thing you can do for the children of your home and of this church today is to follow Christ yourself. How can you point your children to Christ if you don't know him? Hannah did the best thing she could ever do for any child. She gave her son to the Lord.

### SHE GAVE HER HEART TO THE LORD

Hannah pours out her heart to the Lord, and Eli the high priest is so clueless and hasn't seen real prayer at the tabernacle for so long, that he can't tell the difference between drunkenness and earnest prayer. We see that Hannah is part of God's faithful, but Eli is a weak spiritual leader.

**1 Samuel 1:12-16** | As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. <sup>13</sup>Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. <sup>14</sup>And Eli said to her, "How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you." <sup>15</sup>But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. <sup>16</sup>Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation."

Hannah's prayer was a desperate one, so heartfelt that her lips moved, even though **she was praying in her heart** (1:13). The high priest at the time, **Eli, thought she was drunk and rebuked her.**<sup>16</sup> Apparently, prayer at the Shiloh sanctuary was so rare that Eli could not recognize it when he saw it (1 Sam 1:12–13). Eli's inability to identify what Hannah was doing,

<sup>14</sup> Peter J. Leithart, *A Son to Me: An Exposition of 1 & 2 Samuel* (Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 2003), 40.

<sup>15</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Successful*, "Be" Commentary Series (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor/Cook Communications, 2001), 16.

<sup>16</sup> Lawrence O. Richards, *The Teacher's Commentary* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1987), 200.

however, points to the apostasy of the priests and Levites during this period. So long as Israel was “shepherded” by the likes of Eli, Hophni, and Phinehas, she would remain a waste land. **A priest incapable of distinguishing prayer from drunkenness was hardly a suitable gatekeeper at Yahweh’s “house of prayer”** (cf Acts 2:13).<sup>17</sup>

Hannah poured her soul out to God and left her all on the altar with God. She became a living sacrifice. She exercised the priesthood of the believer so much better than the actual priest of the time. But something even more beautiful happened.

---

### 3. GOD'S GOODNESS RESTORES OUR HOPE (1:17-18)

---

Eli noticed it first. Something had changed in Hannah, and Eli the priest could see it.

**1 Samuel 1:17** | Then Eli answered, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him.”

Something happened here. There was a change in Hannah’s heart and in her countenance. She had reached the point of surrender. She did not know if or how the Lord would answer her prayer, but she was content in the will of God. She had reached contentment with her husband whether she had children or not.

Even the lukewarm Eli could recognize God’s hand, and it was clear to him that God would grant her petition. “Go in shalom” is what Eli told her. Shalom is complete well-being, wholeness. Look at the faith of Hannah.

**1 Samuel 1:18** | And she said, “Let your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

Hannah’s faith was so great that she started eating again. She went back to the double portion her husband Elkanah had given her. There was a marked difference in her face. Saints, isn’t it wonderful when the Lord lifts our burdens? There wasn’t an immediate change in Hannah’s circumstances. That would come later. But her heart was resting and trusting in the Lord, and that makes all the difference.

**Hannah went from heartbroken to pure happiness, but her circumstances hadn’t yet changed. Her heart was at rest because her focus had changed.**

So often when we pray, we ask “Why God?” We need to ask a different question. “Who is God?” God is the sovereign of the universe who loves you. He is working all things out for your good and for his glory. Hallelujah!

#### Conclusion

What is the greatest heartbreak ever? Was it not when our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified and buried in a cold tomb? But you see, with God, the place of greatest heartbreak is the place of greatest breakthrough. You know on the third day, Christ came out of that tomb. Hallelujah. What is the breakthrough that God wants to do for you today?

Hannah’s story does not end with her giving her son back to God. No, **God takes whatever we give to him, and magnifies it for his kingdom purposes.** Whatever you give to God you will get back magnified. For Hannah, her son gets to anoint the great king of Israel and through him comes the true **Anointed one, Jesus the Christ.**

---

<sup>17</sup> Peter J. Leithart, *A Son to Me: An Exposition of 1 & 2 Samuel* (Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 2003), 38.