

(9-20-15)

HANNAH: THE GOOD MOTHER!

1 Samuel 1:1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah...

2 And he had two wives; the name of the one was **Hannah**, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

"...from the times of the [OT] prophets the contracting of marriage with several wives has been done away with..."

(Methodius, d. 311)

"Polygamy is first mentioned in the context of a sinful society in rebellion against God where the murderer Lamech took for himself two wives...God never commanded polygamy - like divorce, He only permitted it because of the hardness of their hearts (Deut. 24:1; Matt. 19:8)...Every polygamist in the Bible, including David and Solomon (1 Chron. 14:3), paid dearly for his sins...God hates polygamy, as He hates divorce, since it destroys His ideal for the family (cf. Mal. 2:16)."

(Norman Geisler and Thomas Howe)

Matthew 19:8 He saith unto them, Moses **because of the hardness of your hearts** suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

1 Samuel 1:3 And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.

4 And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions:

5 But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb.

6 And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb.

"When a man so far departs from the original law of marriage as to have two wives, he may expect to have peculiar trials."

(*Family Bible Notes*)

"The custom of those times permitted polygamy; but wherever there was more than one wife, we find the peace of the family greatly disturbed by it."

(Clarke)

1 Samuel 1:7 And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.

8 Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am not I better to thee than ten sons?

"Elkanah kept up his attendance at God's altar, notwithstanding the unhappy differences in his family. If the devotions of a family prevail not to put an end to its divisions, yet let not the divisions put a stop to the devotions."

(Matthew Henry)

1 Samuel 1:9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.

9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.

10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.

11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

12 And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth.

13 Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.

14 And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.

15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

16 Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.

17 Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.

18 And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad.

21 And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.

22 But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up **until the child be weaned**, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.

24 And **when she had weaned him**, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and

one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and **the child was young.**

2 Chronicles 31:16 Beside their genealogy of males, **from three years old** and upward, even unto every one that entereth into the house of the LORD, **his daily portion** for their service in their charges according to their courses;

"O my son, have pity upon me that bare thee nine months in my womb, and gave thee suck three years..."

(2 Maccabees 7:27)

"...children are suckled longer in the East...usually for two or three years."

(*JFB Commentary*)

"Among most eastern nations the women suckle their children much longer than is customary in Europe, and the same custom may be traced in the Bible. When Samuel was weaned, he was old enough to be left with Eli, for the service of the tabernacle...When the Persian ambassador was in England, he attributed to the custom of early weaning the greater forwardness of our children in mental acquirements than those of his own country, where male children are often kept to the breast till three years of age...The practice is nearly the same in other Asiatic countries. In India the period is precisely three years...When the child is weaned, the Persians make 'a great feast,' to which friends and relations are invited..."

(William Goodhugh, *The Pictorial Dictionary of the Holy Bible*, 1845)

1 Thessalonians 2:7 But we were gentle among you, even as **a nurse** cherisheth her children:

11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,

1 Samuel 1:25 And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli.

26 And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD.

27 For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

28 Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. **And he worshipped the LORD there.**

"Samuel was old enough at his weaning to be left at the tabernacle with Eli..."
(Ellicott)

"Samuel appears to have been brought to the sanctuary when he was just weaned, and then he was capable of ministering before the Lord..." (Clarke)

"He had become as subdued and content as a child whose weaning is fully accomplished...At last there must be an end to the suckling period, and then a battle begins: the child is denied his comfort, and therefore frets and worries...sinks into sulks..." (Spurgeon)

"The task to the mother is trying and troublesome. The infant cries, and seems to sob out his heart. He thinks it very hard in her, and knows not what she means by her seeming cruelty...and sometimes she also weeps at the importunity of his dear looks, and big tears, and stretched out hands. But it must be done, and therefore, though she pities, she perseveres; and after a while he is soothed and satisfied, forgets the breast, and no longer feels even a hankering after his former pleasure."

(William Jay, *Evening Exercises for the Closet*)

Psalms 131:2 Surely I have **behaved and quieted myself**, as a child **that is weaned** of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child.

Genesis 21:8 And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast **the same day** that Isaac was weaned.

Isaiah 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? **them that are weaned** from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

Matthew 21:15 And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and **the children** crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; they were sore displeased, 16 And said unto him, Hearst thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?

2 Chronicles 34:1 Josiah was **eight years old** when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years.

2 And **he did that which was right** in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left. 3 **For in the eighth year** of his reign, **while he was yet young**, he **began to seek after the God of David his father**: and **in the twelfth year** he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places...

[Note: Verse 2 actually says it was the 12th year of his reign - not his life - that he purged Judah and Jerusalem. But the point is still applicable. This lad sought after God and was capable at a very young age]

Proverbs 19:18 Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

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