

After Gods own Heart series

1Samuel 1

Historical books—Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles – change of government from Judges to Kings--**Theocracy-ruled by God** to **Monarchy-ruled by man**. Time from Jordan crossing to Babylonian captivity 650 years.

Three main personalities in book of Samuel—Samuel, Saul & David – Author is Samuel **10:25** up until his death **ch 25** then Nathan & Gad 1Chron 29:29 pen the rest. Samuel highly regarded 2nd only to Moses **Ps99:6 Jer15:1**

1Now there was a certain man from Ramathaim-zophim from the hill country of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.

Elkanah in family of Kohathites-**priests in care of holy articles-** 1Chron 6:35-38, priestly tribe of Levi. Called an Ephraimite from the area he lived in.

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

Why two wives? Hannah barren w/o son to carry on family name so second wife Peninnah for practical purpose of producing a son. Favoritism results & strife follows. Faith would say wait, trust God for son thru Hannah.

3Now this man would go up from his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas were priests to the LORD there. 4And when the day came that Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and her daughters; 5but to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, but the LORD had closed her womb.

The Nation & priesthood in spiritual shambles '**every man did what was right in his own eyes**' But still Elkanah went up yearly to worship. He didn't make excuses or justify not going up. People make excuses for compromise but in reality there is no excuse but only "**I'm backslide**" be honest.

Peninnah jealous that Hannah is the favorite & retaliates by taunting her inability to have children. Greatest shame is that culture-cursed of God.

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6Her rival, however, would provoke her bitterly to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. 7And it happened year after year, as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she would provoke her, so she wept & would not eat.

Elkanah's family was a worshipping family--contrast to Eli—those in ministry are to be examples to others—Yet strife in Elkanah's family a horrible situation--inner turmoil when come to church. **Xmas-McKinley** - As God wants harmony & unity when coming to Him to worship. And if there isn't keep coming to Him to worship **until** there is harmony & unity.

In spite of strife it didn't keep Elkanah from worship. Division should never keep us from devotion. Peninnah should have been worshipping instead she was tormenting Hannah—Enemy attacks at our most vulnerable times in church, servicing together, dealing w/ children, Mondays, on our way to church, etc. They came year after year-**committed**-**bear burdens not be one**

Things escalate even when attending church--God allows unjust, uncalled for situations, cruel & hurtful--we wonder why God would allow it. We want what is good & right but until pressure comes depth & value of what asked for is not appreciated—pain & pressure create **value**-diamond in the rough. **Carbon plus diamond seed thin as a human hair add 2,500 degrees F & 825,000 ppsi pressure you've formed raw diamond a thing of value.** So it is w/ prayer

8Then 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 better to you than ten sons?"

Hannah didn't retaliate but went to Lord sorrowful & broken. Trials can be tools of enemy to drive us away from God or to God. **Elkanah is no help**—*'live w/ your wife in an understanding way as w/ a weaker vessel'*

Sometimes it's hard to find out what's wrong what make the wife tick not ticked-Husbands are usually good at the ticked option.

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Hannah when not understood didn't contend w/ him. Easy to develop personality that is hard on edge when not understood but she practiced fruit of spirit self control – *turned feeling of being misunderstood into reasons for prayer.*

9Then Hannah rose after eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. 10And she, greatly distressed, prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. 11And she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if Thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of Thy maidservant and remember me, and not forget Thy maidservant, but wilt give Thy maidservant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head."

Hannah experienced years of hurt & misunderstanding. No one knew the depth of anguish & longing in her soul. God was allowing sorrow to purify her prayers. It's easy to pray selfish prayers when things are going smooth. Prayers that don't glorify God '*Before I was afflicted I went astray but now I keep your word*' Ps 119:67 – Right kind of prayers glorify God & accomplish His good & divine purposes & my benefits are residual-**the left overs**. We are to pray *Thy will be done* **not** my will be demanded. She prays specifically then obligates herself selflessly '*give me and I will give back*'

Pain makes prayers real Jesus Lk 22:44 *And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.*

Eli's world is about to change--God was about to move in a big way & not to Eli's comfortable carnal way of life. God was about to sweep aside the old guard that was hindering His work & raise up a new work thru Hannah giving birth to Samuel.

12Now it came about, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli was watching her mouth. 13As for Hannah, she was speaking in her heart, only her lips were moving, but her voice was not heard. So Eli thought she was drunk. 14Then Eli said to her, "How long will you make yourself drunk? Put away your wine from you." 15But Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman oppressed in spirit; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have poured out my soul before the LORD. 16"Do not consider your maidservant as a worthless woman; for I have spoken until now out of my great concern and provocation."

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Eli is predisposed to think the worst –He is backslid & his sons corrupted the ministry—he assumed others were just like him & his boys. *To the pure all things are pure but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure but both their mind and conscious are defiled’ Titus 1:15.* We are to *Judge not lest you be judged* So much good in worst of us....

Loud prayers are not more effective than soft prayers--God spoke to Elijah in a *‘still small voice’* – *Downtown prayer walks screaming*

Sorrow & grief brought to the surface honest & heartfelt petitions to God. Hannah didn’t react to Eli’s accusation, she didn’t hit back w/- *“what about you & your sons, worthless shepherds”* – But explained herself – let God be our defense, *don’t return evil for evil. ‘By presumption comes nothing but strife’...a soft answer turns away strife’*

17Then Eli answered and said, “Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him.” 18And she said, “Let your maidservant find favor in your sight.” So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

Eli, even in his carnality, God uses for the peoples sake--he is still God’s priest w/ God’s affirming word—**prayers granted**. It is ashame when leaders are able to bring blessings on others but they themselves are not blessed because of sin. Able to bring the knowledge of God to a heart yet they themselves are not able to partake because they’ve lost touch w/ God in their own lives.

No longer hearing God speak in the present but falling back on Him speaking from past experience--what was learned years ago. **Caiaphas** was HP but lost touch w/ Lord & in a vicious way said of Jesus *‘one man but die for the nation’ Jn 11:50* not understanding the prophetic significance.

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Hannah assured that God heard her request & would answer. His answer to our prayers is always up to Him yes or no. He knows all that is in the future & what is best. For us to know that He hears our prayers, assures us that our situation is in His hands. Father knows best which brings joy & peace to the heart.

19Then they arose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned again to their house in Ramah. And Elkanah had relations with Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. 20And it came about in due time, after Hannah had conceived, that she gave birth to a son; and she named him Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked him of the LORD."

19 Hannah having Gods promise in her heart was able to worship more completely & intimately—Starting day w/ worship seeing Elkanahs great responsibility w/ his family. When we **say** God has first place we need to act on it by starting day w/ Him first thing. Habits good & bad are hard to break. *Came about in due time* **'Be not weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap if we faint not...don't give up...Gal 6:9**

God sees, He hears & He will act

21Then the man Elkanah went up with all his household to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and pay his vow. 22But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "I will not go up until the child is weaned; then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD and stay there forever." 23And Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you. Remain until you have weaned him; only may the LORD confirm His word." So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him.

Stay at home mother raising the kids should never excuse herself from worship but because she is a **worshiper** it may be prudent to stay home for a time as she raises & nurtures the little ones in the Lord-**begins & continues**

Elkanah agrees – Each has sphere of responsibility to Lord & each other & should not try to force the other to do it my way. We are much more willing to do what God is impressing us to do than what our spouse is insisting us to do.

When we are unable to attend public worship it should cause us to be more diligent in private devotions. But when opportunity opens again we should be all the more eager to attend services. **Covid-19 fell away**

24Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with a three-year-old bull and one ephah of flour and a jug of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh, although the child was young. 25Then they slaughtered the bull, and brought the boy to Eli. 26And she said, "Oh, my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the LORD. 27"For this boy I prayed, and the LORD has given me my petition which I asked of Him. 28"So I have also dedicated him to the LORD; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there.

Hannah fulfills her vow, Samuel about 5 years old as she brings him to Shiloh in a questionable environment. A great sacrifice trusting God to care for her child. We are not more privileged than others by our sacrificial service to the Lord & think we can obligate God by doing more than others. ***Lk 17:10 "So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.'"***

Whatever we give back to God is something we had already requested of Him & He graciously gave to us. So we only give back what He has given to us in the first place. ***1Chron 29:14 "But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from Thee, and from Thy hand we have given Thee.*** Hannah follows thru w/ her commitment – Some are **Crisis Christians**, committed to the Lord in a crisis, crying out to Him for help & deliverance. Willing to do & commit themselves to serve, give, do for Him whatever. Then crisis passes & they forget about their commitment until the next crisis. Hannah is a woman after Gods own heart.

Eli was able to see the fruit of ministry yet it didn't move him to action. He remained complacent ***Pr 1:32 For the waywardness of the naïve shall kill them and the complacency of fools shall destroy them.*** **Rise of one family fall of another**