

A New Look at the Old Testament



Sermon Notes
July 22, 2018

Hannah's Cry - What happens when God doesn't answer prayer?

Hannah's story is from 1 Samuel 1. She was a devout Israelite woman who was not able to have children. Her prayers for a child went unanswered for years. But God had a plan for Hannah's life that was far greater than she could see at the time. As she cried out to God year after year, her prayer changed and she became the source of revival in Israel.

1 Samuel 1:1-20

There was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephrathite. 2 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.

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. 4 On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. 5 But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. 6 And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. 7 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. 8 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?"

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. 10 She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. 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." 12 As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. 13 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. 14 And Eli said to her, "How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you." 15 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. 16 Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of

17 Then Eli answered, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him." 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. 19 They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her. 20 And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, "I have asked for him from the Lord."

Notes:

APPLICATION *for Daily*

This week, I want us to pray for our church and our community - to experience a renewal of our faith. God is faithful and will move when His people pray.

- **Monday** - Pray, asking God to show us ways in which we, the body of Christ, have missed God's mark. Ask for forgiveness and repentance for the body of Christ.
- **Tuesday** - Pray for a renewal of our faith in Jesus Christ. Ask God to give us a hunger for Him and a desire to draw closer to him.
- **Wednesday** - Ask God to revive the Church globally. Ask for a renewed sense of purpose to proclaim the gospel and unity in the Holy Spirit.
- **Thursday** - Ask God to put a burden on your heart and on the church for the things that burden Him.
- **Friday** - Pray for our community, that God would draw near to us and that His will is done.

QUESTIONS *for Discussion*

What is an unanswered prayer in your life today?

What has God taught you in this time (or another time) of unanswered prayer?

In what ways do you compare yourself to others? How does it affect you when you do this?

Is prayer a priority in your life today? Why or why not?

Who is someone you can begin praying for - that they would come to faith in Jesus?