

Housekeeping Items

- Read *The Making Of A Man Of God*, by Alan Redpath.
- Class notes and audio at www.htchurch.com/samuel.

Provoked To Prayer (1 Sam. 1:1-7)

1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains 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. 2 And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. 3 This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there. 4 And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. 5 But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb. 6 And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb. 7 So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat.

- Hannah might have been loved by her husband, but she had no fruit. There’s often a whole spectrum of blessings that God desires to give us which we often fail to experience because we do not intercede as we should for some things.
- What will you need to intercede about in your own life?

- God knows that we are all weak or that we've been weakened in different areas from the person next to us, and He will use those things in our lives to keep us leaning on Him, and keep us calling out to Him fervently.
- Perhaps Hannah needed Peninnah provoking her in order to pray desperately.
- Hannah mourned and fasted... pictures of strong intercession. Hannah was also fasting in a time appointed for feasting. Remember that Hannah's name, Channah, means grace. God will demonstrate His grace in your life when you pray about that nagging thing in your life the way that she did.

Elkanah's Love (1 Sam. 1:8)

8 Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons?"

- Elkanah already has sons and daughters through Peninnah, and so perhaps he doesn't perhaps feel the utter sense of loss that Hannah does.
- The Hebrew indicates that he was also accusing her of having resentment.
- When we are barren like Hannah, there are few who will understand our desires and our strivings of heart. Not even the truly loving and well-meaning people in our lives can satisfy the things within us that only God can satisfy.
- Hannah, in her wisdom, makes no reply to Elkanah.

Hannah's Double Vow (1 Sam. 1:9-11)

9 So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the LORD. 10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish. 11 Then she

made a vow and said, “O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.”

- Hannah seems to have had a determination that she would do everything she could to get a hold of God. She prayed, she fasted, she went to God’s house.
- Notice she addresses Him, as Elkanah did, as the LORD of Hosts.
- Is Hannah the greatest OT model of devotion by a woman?
- Hannah makes a vow to the Lord, which was always a serious matter. Samuel was being offered to God in two ways.
 - First, he was being given to the Lord in God’s service all his life. Temple service was for Levites between the age of 30 and 50. Hannah’s intention was for Samuel to go above and beyond that.
 - Second, Hannah says that no razor would ever come upon his head. This indicates to us that she envisioned him being a **Nazarite**. A Nazarite was a person who had made a special vow of consecration to God.

The Vows Of A Nazarite

1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When either a man or woman consecrates an offering to take the vow of a Nazirite, to separate himself to the LORD, 3 he shall separate himself from wine and similar drink; he shall drink neither vinegar made from wine nor vinegar made from similar drink; neither shall he drink any grape juice, nor eat fresh grapes or raisins. 4

All the days of his separation he shall eat nothing that is produced by the grapevine, from seed to skin. 5 'All the days of the vow of his separation no razor shall come upon his head; until the days are fulfilled for which he separated himself to the LORD, he shall be holy. Then he shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow. 6 All the days that he separates himself to the LORD he shall not go near a dead body. 7 He shall not make himself unclean even for his father or his mother, for his brother or his sister, when they die, because his separation to God is on his head. 8 All the days of his separation he shall be holy to the LORD. (Numbers 6:1-8)

- God did not command people to live as Nazarites, nor, apparently, did He often call people to be Nazarites in the way He called people to be prophets. Both men and women could do this voluntarily as a way to serve God. There were special components to this vow:
 - First, you could not drink anything made from grapes. Your mind could not ever be clouded.
 - Second, you could not ever cut your hair. You will remember Samson, the most famous Nazarite. When Samson broke that consecration to God, the Holy Spirit was grieved and departed from him. It was perhaps a sign that you were avoiding vanity.
 - Finally, he could not defile himself by touching or coming near to a dead body. This signifies purity.
- It appears Hannah will also put upon Samuel the obligations of a Nazarite from his birth. Besides Samson, we know of no one else who lived like this, with the possible exception of John the Baptist.

An Answer Received By Faith (1 Sam. 1:12-19)

12 And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth. 13 Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. 14 So Eli said to her, “How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!”

15 But Hannah answered and said, “No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. 16 Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now.”

17 Then Eli answered and said, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him.” 18 And 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. 19 Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her.

- Eli was sitting in front of the Tabernacle. He might have been too old now to do too much priestly work. Eli is a picture to us of religious leaders who lack discernment!
- Notice that he totally misreads the situation and misjudges her.
- Hannah remains respectful, and says she’s been pouring out her soul. That’s a picture David would later use in the 62nd Psalm.
- Now Eli responds more favorably, and there is a turning point in Hannah’s own heart where she knows she has her answer.
- Elkanah and Hannah are together as man and wife and God remembers Hannah!

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