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END
GIVING**

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This is a God-sized number!!

**YEAR
END
GIVING**

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Advent

The Season of Hope and Expectation

HOPE

PEACE

JOY

LOVE





Prayers

The Prayer (Song)
of Hannah
1 Samuel 1-2



The beginning of the First Book of Samuel is placed late in the period of the judges, which is probably the mid-eleventh century B.C. It is set against the background of “the grand finale” of the book of Judges, chapters 17–21, which gives “a disconcerting picture of cultic and moral chaos,” as described in the formulaic expression: “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judg. 17:6; 21:25). In this dark time in the history of Israel, Yahweh chose as his prophet Samuel, who was destined to appoint the first kings in Israel.

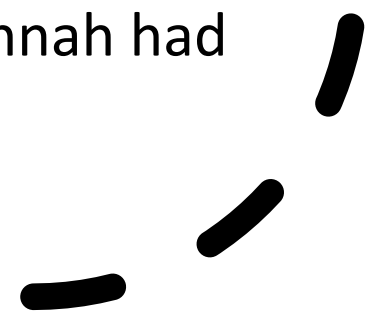


~ David Tsumura, *The First Book of Samuel*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2007), 103.



The Setting (1 Samuel 1:1-2)

¹There 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. ²He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.



One of the things that's so interesting about Christianity was one of the reasons it grew in the Greco-Roman world was that women flocked into it. They loved it. The reason women flocked into it was Christianity was really one of the very first [to have a sexual ethic]... [The Church] came along, and it said, "You should have no sex outside of marriage." You right away think, "Boy, that's kind of puritanical," and it's true. In a way it was, but it was absolutely liberating to women because in that time, polygamy, which meant men had a lot of women, was normal, but most of all, there was an absolute double standard when it came to sex in the pagan world. Men could have sex with anyone, anywhere, anyway, anytime. Women, especially



married women, could not... There was an utter double standard, but along comes Christianity that says, "One man, one woman in marriage is the only place for sex." What that did was immediately meant, first of all, women felt empowered. Women finally felt sexual justice, and families were incredibly strong... We also know, for example, there were 140 men for every 100 women in the Greco-Roman world, but it was 100 and 100 inside the Christian world. Do you know why there was that incredible imbalance? That was because it was normal when your baby was born if it was a girl to kill it. Infanticide was absolutely normal.

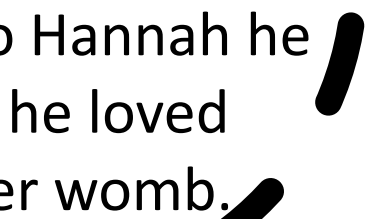
~ Timothy J. Keller, *Grace to the Barren* sermon, March 15, 1998, (New York City: Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2013).





Elkanah + 1 point (1 Samuel 1:3-5)

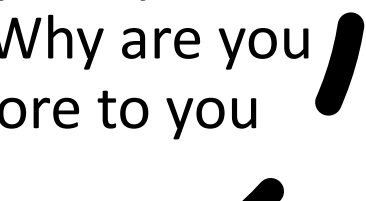
³Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the LORD Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the LORD. ⁴ Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵ But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the LORD had closed her womb.





Elkanah - MINUS 10 pts!
(1 Samuel 1:6-8)

⁶Because the LORD had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. ⁷This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. ⁸Her husband Elkanah would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"



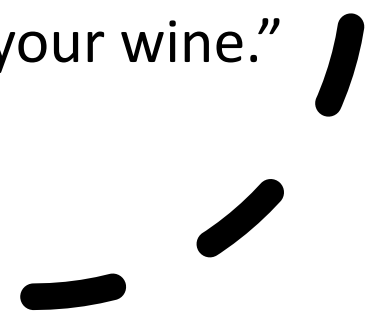
The Heart of Hannah (1 Samuel 1:9-16)

⁹Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the LORD's house. ¹⁰In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. ¹¹And she made a vow, saying, "LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."



The Heart of Hannah (1 Samuel 1:9-16)


¹²As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk ¹⁴ and said to her, “How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine.”





The Heart of Hannah (1 Samuel 1:9-16)

¹⁵“Not so, my lord,” Hannah replied, “I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the LORD. ¹⁶ Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.”



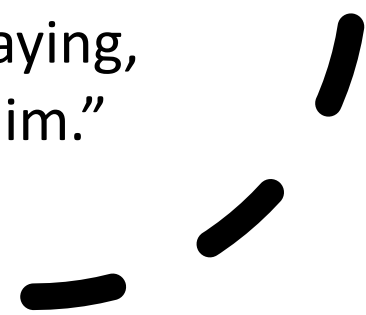
The expression pouring out my soul denotes not simply an inward state of one's heart or mind, but an involvement of the whole being. Hannah's prayer completely consumes her. The [hebrew root word] means "to pour (some thing) out of (its container) into (some place)." Here, with this expression, Hannah rephrases the narrator's comment "she was praying before the Lord" (v. 12). Hannah "pours out" words of agonizing petition.





The Answer (1 Samuel 1:19-20)

¹⁹Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the LORD and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. ²⁰So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, “Because I asked the LORD for him.”




Elkanah's Honor (1 Samuel 1:22-23)


²¹When her husband Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the LORD and to fulfill his vow, ²²Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, "After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the LORD, and he will live there always." ²³"Do what seems best to you," her husband Elkanah told her. "Stay here until you have weaned him; only may the LORD make good his word." So the woman stayed at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him.



Numbers 30:13


Her husband may confirm or nullify any vow she makes or any sworn pledge to deny herself.






Hannah's Sacrifice (1 Samuel 1:24-28)

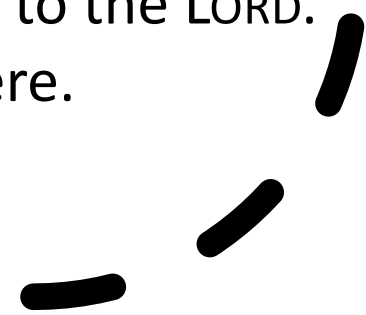
²⁴After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. ²⁵When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought the boy to Eli, ²⁶and she said to him,





Hannah's Sacrifice (1 Samuel 1:24-28)

“Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD. ²⁷I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. ²⁸So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD.”
And he worshiped the LORD there.






The Prayer of Hannah – 2 Samuel 2

¹Then Hannah prayed and said:

“My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance.










The Prayer of Hannah – 2 Samuel 2 *God the Victor*


²“There is no one holy like the LORD;
there is no one besides you; there is no
Rock like our God.





The Prayer of Hannah – 2 Samuel 2
God the only One who knows

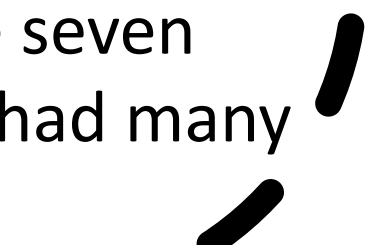
³“Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the LORD is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed.





The Prayer of Hannah – 2 Samuel 2 ***The God who hears the broken***

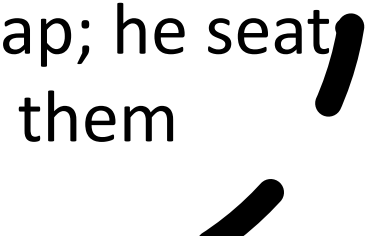
⁴“The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. ⁵Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away.”





The Prayer of Hannah – 2 Samuel 2 ***The God who is in control***

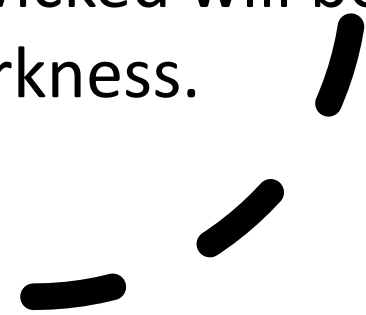
⁶“The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. ⁷The LORD sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts. ⁸He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor.





The Prayer of Hannah – 2 Samuel 2 ***The Creator and Judge***


“For the foundations of the earth are the LORD’s; on them he has set the world. ⁹He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness.”





The Prayer of Hannah ***The God who is all***


“It is not by strength that one prevails;
¹⁰those who oppose the LORD will be
broken. The Most High will thunder
from heaven; the LORD will judge the
ends of the earth.





The Prayer of Hannah
The God of my salvation

“He will give strength to his king and
exalt the horn of his anointed.”





Luke 2:19

But Mary treasured
up all these things
and pondered them
in her heart.

BOTTICELLI,
Sandro
Lamentation
over the Dead
Christ with
Saints
c. 1490
Tempera on
panel, 140 x
207 cm
Alte
Pinakothek,
Munich

