

Hannah's Plea for a Son

(May We All Be as Diligent)

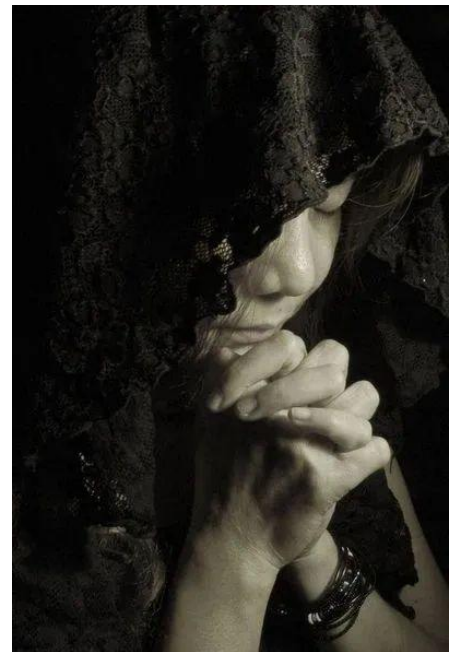
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The Situation

Here we have a story of a woman named Hannah which starts off like this: *“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. 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.”* (1 Samuel 1:1-2 NKJV) Now what we are told is that Peninnah would provoke Hannah to tears and cause her to grieve because she was barren. However, one year as she went with her husband Elkanah to the House of the LORD, she went into the temple and prayed. So below you will find that prayer of Hannah and see how the LORD changed her life.



Hannah Pouring out Her Heart

“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. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. 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.” (1 Samuel 1:9-11 ESV)

Now while she was praying, we are told that Eli the Priest was watching her and accused her of being drunk. For we read: *“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. And Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunken? Put away your wine from you." But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman sorely troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. Do not regard your maidservant as a base woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation." (1 Samuel 1:13-16 RSV)

And What Happens Next?

"Then they got up 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. 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 for him of the LORD." (1 Samuel 1:19-20 NASB20)

So, we see that Hannah prayed and believed the word of Eli the priest. Thus, she did finally conceive and brought forth a son. Therefore, brothers and sisters in Christ, let's not lose heart in our walk with the Lord. For we need to have a faith that can move mountains. And even if we don't always get what we ask for, we know it was for best. So, let's always trust him in everything we think, say and do. Amen.

Hannah's Prayer of Praise

"Then Hannah prayed: "My heart rejoices in the LORD! The LORD has made me strong. Now I have an answer for my enemies; I rejoice because you rescued me. No one is holy like the LORD! There is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. "Stop acting so proud and haughty! Don't speak with such arrogance! For the LORD is a God who knows what you have done; he will judge your actions.

The bow of the mighty is now broken, and those who stumbled are now strong. Those who were well fed are now starving, and those who were starving are now full. The childless woman now has seven children, and the woman with many children wastes away. The LORD gives both death and life; he brings some down to the grave but raises others up. The LORD makes some poor and others rich; he brings some down and lifts others up. He lifts the poor from the dust and the needy from the garbage dump. He sets them among princes, placing them in seats of honor. For all the earth is the LORD's, and he has set the world in order.

"He will protect his faithful ones, but the wicked will disappear in darkness. No one will succeed by strength alone. Those who fight against the LORD will be shattered. He

thunders against them from heaven; the LORD judges throughout the earth. He gives power to his king; he increases the strength of his anointed one.” (1 Samuel 2:1-10 NLT)

Hannah Fulfills Her Promise to God

Now we know that the story does not end there. For we see that Hannah gave her son Samuel over to Eli the priest to minister in the temple. And yes, this is the same Samuel who became that great prophet of Israel. So, we see that through her faith and the commitment to fulfill her vow, she helped shaping Israel’s future forever. But the story does not end there. Because when she did give her son Samuel to Eli the priest, we see that she and her husband had a blessing placed upon them. For we read: *“And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, The LORD give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the LORD. And they went unto their own home. And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.”* (1 Samuel 2:20-21 KJV) Wow, what a blessing that was. For God gave her five more children which hopefully silence forever Peninnah, Elkanah’s other wife.

Closing Comment

So, we see that Hannah was blessed because of her faith and trust in God. Therefore, let us trust God as well for every situation we may be in. And just as He did for Hannah in her situation, he will take care of us as in ours. May God bless you as you do his well. Amen.

Below is a list of the different bible versions that were used in this article. This I included to assist you in your study of God’s word. Therefore: *“Study to show thyself approved to God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* (2 Timothy 2:15 Webster)

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- RSV = The Holy Bible: Revised Standard Version containing the Old and New Testaments, translated from the original tongues: being the version set forth A.D. 1611, revised A.D. 1881-1885 and A.D. 1901: compared with the most ancient authorities and revised A.D. 1946-52. — 2nd ed. of New Testament A.D. 1971. There should be enough in the rest of the description to identify the text.