

**All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James**

## **1 Samuel:2**

### **Hannah's Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**([Luke 1:46-56](#))**

**1And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.**

The “horn” represents Biblically strength and power. Hannah makes a reference to her power and strength has been increased due to God’s response to her prayer. It is all about God it is never about us, even though she uses terms like, “my”, “mine” and “I”. The focus on all of this is God.

These first 10 verses are a passionate prayer from a woman who God blessed and answered her prayer. She is totally committed to God and does not hesitate to call out her enemies like David would in prayers. My sense is that she passed onto Samuel a good deal of her strength and tenacity before releasing him to Eli.

Persistence in prayer needs to continue after God answers. It is a conversation with God, and that conversation should never stop.

However, thanking God for an answer is important even if the answer is no by believing it should be His Will over our own will.

Hannah declared to the Lord that her heart was rejoicing. She declares her “horn is exalted in the Lord”. Not pride, but strength in her Spirit.

She also declares that “I rejoice in thy salvation”.

Salvation in the old testament was the same as in the new testament with one difference and that I think is location if we take the story about Lazarus and the rich man seriously. Salvation whether Old Testament or New Testament is based on Faith in God. The Old Testament saints like Hannah believed that God was who He said He was and though under the Law were saved by that Faith. The same Faith that made Abraham Righteous.

In my estimation of the Bible Old Testament Saints went to Abrahams Bosom and waited there in comfort and joy until the Messiah was Crucified and raised from the dead. Jesus then went to Abraham’s Bosom described as in a shaft or great chasm opposite what is described as “hell” “a place of torment, afar off”. Jesus then led the captives of Abrahams Bosom free and to

Heaven with Him. The location changes for those Believers who died from then on was changed until the end of Tribulation.

We know that Old Testament Saints were set free from being sent to Abraham's Bosom instead of in a place, "hell", or as Luke puts it; "of torment afar off", that place across the "great gulf", that is described in Luke 16:19-31 such explicit detail I take it as descriptive of an event in history and an actual place.

***Luke 16: 19There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. 27Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29Abraham saith unto him, They have***

*Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*

This last phrase is striking. “**neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.**” An explicit declaration of Christ and how many would refuse to Believe in Him even though He rose from the dead.

No one in the Old Testament was saved by the Law.

*Galatians 3: 11But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, **The just shall live by faith.** 12And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. 13Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: 14That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit **through faith.***

2**There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.**

3**Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.**

4**The bows of the mighty men are broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength.**

5**They that were full have hired out themselves for bread; and they that were hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.**

**6The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.**

**7The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.**

**8He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, *and* lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set *them* among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth *are* the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.**

**9He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.**

**10The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.**

Hannah seems to have rightly divided the Word of God, knowing who the Creator is, What are His Powers, and What He has done and will do with Believers and un-believers. Eternity with Christ for the Believer and eternity in Hell for the unbeliever.

**11And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. And the child did minister unto the LORD before Eli the priest.**

Samuel began learning and ministering in the House of the Lord at a young age. His ministry grew as God saw Samuel as a true

servant and faithful Believer in the God of Creation, the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob.

### **The Sins of Eli's Sons**

**12Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD.**

This phrase declares that Eli's sons were evil by nature, even though his offspring, they acted in evil ways using their power against the people for personal gain.

**13And the priests' custom with the people *was, that*, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand;**

Where it says that the “***priest's custom***” is not referring to all priests because that was not what the law says. This is clearly about Phineas and Hophni, this was their custom. The flesh hooks that God authorized were to be used by the priests to handle the raw meat at the sacrifice, so their hands did not come into direct contact with the sacrifice. Phineas and Hophni perverted the design and use to their own purpose.

The following from Leviticus was the prescribed manner of Law as to how the priests were to receive their share. As you can see Phineas and Hophni operated under their own rules.

**Leviticus 7: 28And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 29Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, He that offereth the sacrifice of his peace offerings unto the LORD shall bring his oblation unto the LORD of the sacrifice of his peace offerings. 30His own hands shall bring the offerings of the LORD made by fire, the fat with the breast, it shall he bring, that the breast may be waved for a wave offering before the LORD. 31And the priest shall burn the fat upon the altar: but the breast shall be Aaron's and his sons'. 32And the right shoulder shall ye give unto the priest for an heave offering of the sacrifices of your peace offerings. 33He among the sons of Aaron, that offereth the blood of the peace offerings, and the fat, shall have the right shoulder for his part. 34For the wave breast and the heave shoulder have I taken of the children of Israel from off the sacrifices of their peace offerings, and have given them unto Aaron the priest and unto his sons by a statute for ever from among the children of Israel.**

**14And he struck *it* into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites that came thither. 15Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw.**

“Sodden” means to be boiled. They obviously wanted to roast or cook their meat instead of eating boiled meat for their own personal preference. Ignoring what God said was to be done.

**Leviticus 3:16 And the priest shall burn upon the altar: it is the food of the offering made by fire for a sweet savour: all the fat is the LORD'S.**

As you can see in 1 Samuel 2:14-16 Phineas and Hophni violated God's Law. The fat was to be burned as a sweet aroma to the Lord. But these evil men took it for themselves.

**16And *if* any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and *then* take *as much* as thy soul desireth; then he would answer him, *Nay*; but thou shalt give *it me* now: and if not, I will take *it* by force.**

I'm pretty sure God did not tell the Priests to forcibly take offerings from their brethren.

**17Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.**

The term, "These young men" is a reference to Phineas and Hophni. Their actions were not only violation of the Law, but they were also to be God's representative to Israel. Not only did they offend their fellow Hebrews they were an affront to God. It also says that what Phineas and Hophni did made their fellow Hebrews "abhorred the offering of the Lord" meaning the loathed or hated this offering.

**18But Samuel ministered before the LORD, *being* a child, girded with a linen ephod.**



Normally the linen ephod was reserved for the Lord's servants that were much older. Samuel was an exception due to his heart for God.

**19Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought *it* to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.**

Mom's and their sons have a rare connection. Can you imagine the pain Hannah must have felt to not be able to see her son on a daily basis but had to wait for an annual visit. She of course wanted to make each meeting special so she would sew him a new coat each year.

**20And 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.**

**21And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.**

Eli took responsibility to pray on behalf of Hannah that she would be rewarded for her selflessness with more children. God honored that prayer with 3 boys and 2 girls.

### **Eli Reproves his Sons**

**22Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.**

These boys were indeed a work of evil. You would wonder how such boys could come from a man so dedicated to God as Eli. It would be hard to say how such a turn of events would cause these boys to turn to evil in many ways; but they did.

**23And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people. 24Nay, my sons; for *it is* no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD'S people to transgress. 25If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him?**

Father Eli tried to intervene, but it was far too late. We are told to train up a child in the way that he should go so in his later life he would not turn from it. Apparently just as in modern day we have seen Pastor's kids turn from God in striking ways to walk in the world.

Eli knew the condemnation his own sons would endure at the judgement of God.

***Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:***

**Galatians 2:6**

***But as for the highly esteemed—whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism—those leaders added nothing to me.***

**Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.**

From Berean Bible Study notes:

*This phrase indicates divine judgment. The concept of God hardening hearts or allowing individuals to persist in their sin is seen elsewhere in Scripture, such as with Pharaoh in Exodus ([Exodus 9:12](#)). It reflects the biblical principle that persistent sin leads to judgment ([Romans 1:24-28](#)). The death of Eli's sons serves as a sobering reminder of the consequences of sin and the seriousness with which God views the corruption of those who are meant to serve Him.*

**26And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men.**

God wants men and women to be at peace with all men and women if possible.

***Romans 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.***

A quote from Berean Bible Study Bible notes:

***“If it be possible, as much as lieth in you”***

*This phrase acknowledges the reality that peace is not always achievable due to circumstances beyond one's control. It emphasizes personal responsibility in the pursuit of peace, suggesting that believers should do everything within their power to foster harmony. This aligns with the broader biblical teaching that while God desires peace, human free will and sin can create*

*obstacles. The phrase echoes the sentiment found in [Matthew 5:9](#), where Jesus blesses peacemakers, indicating that peace is a valued pursuit in the Christian life.*

In life we have total control over only one thing, our attitudes. The term in that verse “as much as lieth in you” speaks directly to our attitude. Our attitude toward other people, our work, our ministries, it is all within our control as to our attitude.

Do you want to find favor with God and with mankind? Do what Samuel did:

*1 Samuel 2:[26](#)**And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men.***

We have already been introduced to Phineas and Hophni, both who found NOT favor with the Lord or with men. Their selfish attitude allowed Satan to rule their lives and ruin their lives and those around them. The Lord will not be mocked!

### **A Prophecy against Eli's House**

**[27](#)And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house?**

God sends a prophet to Eli the Priest. There were several occasions when God would send a prophet to someone in

leadership of Israel, often to chastise them and correct their behavior. Some would listen and repent, others were so narcissistic and full of themselves they would refuse to acknowledge their sin.

God recalled through this un-named prophet the history of Israel's captivity and ultimate saving by God through Moses. To remind Eli the cost to bring Israel out of bondage and to provide for them the Law and select Levi as the Priestly Tribe of Israel to God.

**28And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel?**

The Ephod was an emblem of authority for the Priests. The Ephod had attached to it the Urim and Thummim used for discerning God's Will. It was all a type and shadow of the coming the promised Messiah. The honor to wear these garments and carry out God's Law of sacrifices was granted to a very few people in all of Israel. To disgrace and use this great honor for self-aggrandizing and personal profit was an affront to God and He would not be mocked.

**29Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded *in my* habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?**

God through this prophet is calling Eli out for what his sons had done. In this verse Eli is counted as co-conspirator, like due to partaking in the unauthorized food obtained by his boys.

God's promises usually come with a caveat of obedience. You do this and I'll do this. God never changes His mind or His promise unless forced to do so by the actions of men. God had decided that the house of Levi would walk before God forever in this high honor. But due to the sin and failure of Eli to govern his house and oversee the responsibility of the Priests Office, God would repent of His determination and withdraw from Eli. As time progressed almost the entirety of the Priesthood dissolved in to narcissism and self-promoting.

**30Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed *that* thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.**

***Proverbs 3:9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:***

We as well as Eli were given an amazing gift, God's Love. His Love has no condition, but His blessings come with a condition. The condition is obedience. Eli did not walk in obedience to God's Law.

We are now NOT under the Law like Eli but we are under God's Grace. For us Salvation is based solely on Faith.

***Ephesians 2:8 [8](#)For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: [9](#)Not of works, lest any man should boast. [10](#)For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.***

God's Blessing however are based on obedience. This is quoted from "Got Questions"

*"There is a saying: "Good is its own reward." But we may also wonder whether God rewards us in other ways if we obey His Word. Does being good earn us additional blessings and benefits aside from the pleasant feeling? This question can have two answers, so we'll look at both of them.*

*First of all, God's pleasure at obedience is documented over and over in Scripture, especially in the Old Testament ([Psalm 91:14–15](#); [Isaiah 58:13–14](#)). God's [covenant with Israel](#) at Sinai was very much conditional, as it was based on their obedience, and His promises to bless them depended on whether or not they kept His commands ([Leviticus 3](#)). The Old Testament records the consequences Israel experienced when they kept or broke the covenant ([Deuteronomy 8:19–20](#); [Daniel 9:11–12](#)). When Israel*

obeyed, God prospered them ([Exodus 15:26](#)). When they defied Him, He brought judgment ([2 Kings 24:2–3](#)). During that time in human history, God offered tangible rewards for obedience to His commands.

By the time Jesus came to earth, the leaders of Israel had added to God's law and turned it into a religious system without the relationship. They believed themselves righteous because they followed the system of rules they had set up. They assured themselves that they were God's favorites because they were descendants of Abraham and because they were so religious.

However, Jesus rebuked the religious leaders of the day, saying, "You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men'" ([Matthew 15:7–9](#)). The Pharisees were obedient to the letter of the law in some respects, but they nullified other parts of the law by their own traditions. They were rebuked because whatever show of obedience they had was motivated by [self-righteousness](#), not love for God. Those who were promised rewards for obedience were rebuked many times because their obedience was not from the heart and was incomplete ([Isaiah 29:13](#); [Malachi 2:13–17](#); [3:8–15](#); [Matthew 23:15–28](#)).

So, what about now? Does God reward us for being obedient to His Word? We can better answer this question by recognizing that God's Word is the instruction manual for our lives. When we apply its principles, our consciences are clean and our lives function as they were designed to function. Consider it this way: a man purchases an unassembled swing set for his children. He is not the engineering type and has no experience in working with tools. But if he reads the manual and consults with people who have assembled such things before, he will be able to set up the swing



*set the way it was designed, and he and his children will be greatly rewarded for his trouble. If he ignores the owner's manual, however, he's courting frustration and possibly disaster. There are built-in rewards for simply following instructions.*

*Psalm 1:1–4 explains it this way: “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.” When we follow the way of wisdom, we reap better experiences, and those better experiences produce rewards such as material provision, relational benefits, and mental and emotional health. Those are God's rewards for people who follow His instruction.*

*God's reward to those who obey His Word can seem like natural consequences. For example, a child obeys God's Word and honors his parents. He finds that he is blessed with closer familial relationships, less conflict, and more trust. Are these the direct blessings of God for obedience or the natural consequences of treating parents well—or both? Another example: a teenager obeys God's Word and avoids sexual immorality. She finds that she is blessed with less complicated romantic relationships, fewer heartaches, and an absence of STDs. Is she experiencing the direct blessing from God for obedience or the logical outcome of choosing the path of abstinence—or both?*

*God does not always define reward the same way we do. When we think of God rewarding us for behaving well, we usually think of tangible, material goodies. But God has eternity in mind. The Bible and ensuing history are filled with examples of people who obeyed the Lord at great cost to themselves. Scripture's godly men and women often did not appear to reap any earthly rewards*

for their obedience, yet many are listed in the Hall of Faith as people whose rewards are in heaven. [Hebrews 11:39–40](#) summarizes: “All these were approved through their faith, but they did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, so that they would not be made perfect without us.”

Obedience to the Word includes obedience to the gospel, and that carries great reward. When we accept God’s offer of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, we are pronounced righteous in His sight ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#); [Galatians 3:13](#)). There is no longer any condemnation waiting for us because, in His grace, God considered the sacrifice of His Son as sufficient payment for the great debt we owed Him ([Romans 8:1](#); [Ephesians 2:8–9](#); [Colossians 2:14](#)). As part of that salvation, we are promised an eternity in glory with Him.

None of salvation’s benefits are a reward for our performance. Forgiveness and heaven are gifts granted to us because of God’s great love. The most unworthy criminal who cries out in repentance on his deathbed will receive the same pardon and eternity in heaven as the missionary martyred on the mission field ([Luke 23:39–43](#); [Matthew 20:1–16](#)). However, Jesus does promise many different kinds of [rewards in heaven](#) for every deed done in His name on earth ([Mark 9:41](#); [James 1:12](#); [Revelation 22:12](#)). When we walk in fellowship with Him, keeping our sins confessed and our lives free of besetting sins, we are rewarded daily with [fruit from the Holy Spirit](#) ([Galatians 5:22–23](#)), communion with God ([James 4:7–8](#)), and power to resist the attacks of Satan ([Ephesians 6:10–17](#)). Whatever struggles we face on earth in order to obey God’s Word will be overly compensated in eternity with rewards we cannot even imagine ([Romans 8:18](#)).”

**31Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house.**

Due to the sin of Eli's sons, his power as Priest was going to be cut off. Another part of this curse was that the men of his lineage would not live to become old men. Age in this setting was something that others admired. That was going to end for Eli and his lineage.

**32And thou shalt see an enemy *in my* habitation, in all *the wealth* which *God* shall give Israel: and there shall not be an old man in thine house for ever. 33And the man of thine, *whom* I shall not cut off from mine altar, *shall be* to consume thine eyes, and to grieve thine heart: and all the increase of thine house shall die in the flower of their age.**

God will inflict the pain of loss on Eli and his family, death will haunt the entire family of Eli. God will not be mocked.

**34And this *shall be* a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them.**

The first King of Israel Saul would have killed off most if not all of Eli's offspring or lineage, 85 priests would die in that one day all due to the sins of Eli's sons.

***1 Samuel 22:18 And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod.***

**35And I will raise me up a faithful priest, *that* shall do according to *that* which *is* in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever. 36And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left in thine house shall come *and* crouch to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and shall say, Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a piece of bread.**

How the mighty have fallen is a theme that finds its way through Scripture. Always attaching itself to those who would be self-serving and not God serving.

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