

Rise & Fall: Hannah (Mother's Day)
Andy Deane · 5/14/2023 · 1 Samuel 1:1-2:10

Hannah's name means "favor" or "grace", but her life doesn't seem represent her name's meaning.

The sad truth is that our lives are full of problems (1:1-8)

1. Family division: *He had two wives* (v.2)
2. Barren: *the Lord had closed Hannah's womb* (2)
3. Enemy: *rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her* (6)
4. Chronic Pain: *This went on year after year* (7)
5. Insensitive Husband: *Hannah, why are you weeping?* (8)

Hannah wrestled with the confusion of knowing God was good but being stuck in a mess (1:9-10)

- Hannah's reality led to a deep anguish and bitter weeping.
- But there was another reality: A God who loved her was still there.

A miracle happens as she prays. It wasn't the one she wanted, but it was one she needed (1:11)

- As Hannah is praying, she has a moment of clarity. She realizes her desire for a son has become an idol.
- She destroys the idol by saying to God, "if you give me a son I'll give him back."
- The miracle: Her heart has changed. She heard God!

The worst part was that in her time of need religious leaders did more harm than good (1:12-18)

- In her purest moment, she was accused of being a drunk.
- She got past this offense and still received a spiritual promise from this flawed priest that gave her hope!
- Hannah worshipped God in faith before anything about her situation changed.

Hannah finally has a positive turn of events (1:19-20)

- It took time, and required patience, but she didn't lose faith while she waited.

Now we wonder if Hannah will honor her word (1:21-28)

- She delayed: *Hannah did not go...after the boy is weaned* (22)
- She obeyed: *now I give him to the Lord* (28)
- Her act of obedience overflows into a prayer that teaches us what the Lord wants us to learn from this.

God allows both good and bad to happen to us to bring about His purpose in our life (2:1-10)

- Hannah's story leads us to three important truths we must understand as we go through difficulties:
 1. *It is not by strength that one prevails* (9)
 - God is more powerful than our trials and our enemies.
 - Zechariah 4:6, *...not by might nor by power but by my Spirit...*
 2. *He will give strength to his king* (10a)
 - The same strength God gave Hannah, He gave Jesus.
 - The same strength God gave Jesus, He will give to you
 3. *and exalt the horn of his anointed* (10b)
 - This is the first place in Bible where Jesus is referred to as Messiah.
 - So out of Hannah's mess we're pointed to the Messiah!
- God not only works in spite of our messes. He actually uses our mess to accomplish his work.

Our Father in heaven knows Hannah's pain. He had to give away His Son Jesus as well.

- Our trials will be different than hers, and so will our outcomes.
- Our hearts of faith in God's goodness can be the same.

How can we live practically out these truths this week?

If we, like Hannah, find ourselves deeply troubled, then let us commit to "*pouring out our soul to the Lord*" in prayer each day for the next seven days. Will you to commit to bringing your pain to God daily this week?