



*'Honing in on the Heart!' Sermon Series*

**Sermon #4:**

*'A Prayer of Praise!'*

Wednesday, January 24th, 2024

*Last Wednesday Night in 1st Samuel:*

- *Last Wednesday night during Midweek Worship we looked at 1st Samuel 1:21-28.*
- I preached a message entitled *'Desperate Dedication!'* and I asked the question: *How can we show the same kind of Desperate Dedication to the Lord that Hannah showed in regards to her son?*
  - **Point 1: *Sacrifice our Time.* (V. 21-23)**
    - *Yearly Sacrifice.* (V. 21)
    - *Young Samuel.* (V. 22)
    - *Yielding Support.* (V. 23)
  - **Point 2: *Supply our Treasures.* (V. 24-25)**
    - *Generous Offering.* (V. 24)
    - *Genuine Offering.* (V. 25)

- **Point 3: *Serve in Totality.* (V. 26-28)**
  - *Remember how far He's brought you!* (V. 26)
  - *Reminded by Samuel's name.* (V. 27-28)
- Based on last Wednesday's message, how can we make sure that we are desperately dedicated to the Lord in all areas of our lives?

*'A Prayer of Praise!'*

*1st Samuel 2:1-11*

*Sermon in a Sentence:*

*In Hannah's Prayer of Praise, we can learn how we can praise the Lord no matter what we are going through when we Exalt the Lord, see the Expansiveness of the Lord, and His Excellence.*

*Intro:*

- Last Wednesday we left off with Hannah and her family worshipping the Lord after Samuel had been dropped off at the temple so that he would be raised there and live there.
  - *But tonight, we get to look at Hannah's response to this entire situation.*
  - *Let's just be honest, with something as emotional and heart pulling as this year long situation that Hannah went through, I'm sure she was worn down.*
    - Emotionally and physically.

- *It would be very easy to see and understand if Hannah went and had a ‘good cry’ away from everyone.*
  - Or if she wanted to go and be by herself for a while.
- ***But instead, this passage reveals to us that yet again, she goes to the Lord.***
  - Tonight we will examine the prayer that Hannah exclaimed after one of the most life altering things that could have ever happened, occurred to her.
- *I believe Hannah will teach us tonight what our lives should be like no matter what happens.*
  - ***We should praise God whether we are on the mountain top or in the valley low. A prayer of Praise should come out of our lips.***

***\*Read 1st Samuel 2:1-11\****

***Question to Ask:***

***How does Hannah give us a great example of what our prayer life should look like and exemplify?***

***Point 1: Exalting the Lord. (V. 1-3)***

- Hannah’s prayer is certainly widely known in the ‘Biblical community’ but also in the world at large.
  - *Hannah’s ‘song’ and ‘prayer of praise’ are a mark of the end of the story concerning Samuel’s birth.*

- From this point forward the scriptures in 1st Samuel will show us of his life and ministry and how God would end up using Him.
- ***Hannah’s Prayer of Praise, is still breathtaking and should be a great example to all believers in Christ.***
  - ***No matter what stage or status you are going through in your own life, we can and should, honor and glorify God. Lifting up Prayers of Praise unto Him.***
- *Mary’s Magnificat has themes that are very similar to what we find here in Hannah’s song.*
  - Also, the songs of David in 2nd Samuel 22-23 are similar.
    - *It’s also important to point out that there are similarities in this passage to Psalms and very close to Psalms 113.*
  - ***Either way, Praising God no matter what is a theme we see all throughout scripture. And it is a theme that should be visible and prevalent in our own lives.***
- Hannah gives us a great example in how to do this, in the way that she exalts the Lord.
  - *I believe verses 1-3 show us WHY she exalts the Lord and it’s the same reason that you and should exalt the Lord too.*

- **Salvation. (V. 1)**

- ‘And Hannah prayed and said, “My heart exults in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation.’
- **Hannah’s prayer is personal because the Lord has saved her from the oppression that she was experiencing from Penninah.**
  - **Our salvation from God is a very personal thing.**
- **We can see that this is personal by looking at verse 1 in the Hebrew text.**
  - **In the Hebrew text there are four first person pronouns that are meant to show delight in what God had did for her.**
    - We should exalt and lift the name of God up simply for what He’s done for us on a personal level.
- Even in the english translation we can see the phrases:
  - ‘My heart exults’
  - ‘My horn is exalted in the Lord.’
  - ‘My mouth derides my enemies.’
  - ‘I rejoice in your salvation.’
- **Hannah is giving God praise for Yahweh’s salvation in the middle of her crisis.**
  - Notice how different this prayer is from her first Prayer back in 1st Samuel 1:11.

- The first prayer was a vow and it came as the result of anguish and hurt.
- This song is a song of praise and thanking God for this salvation she’s experienced.

- **Dale Ralph Davis notes that this is what scholars call ‘Micro Salvation’**

- Meaning God intervened for her and saved her from a situation. Not a reference to her actual eternal salvation.

- **In these verses Hannah is speaking of the heart change that God has done.**

- Just a few verses earlier her husband Elkanah had asked her ‘Why is your heart sad’

- Now, her heart exults in the Lord.

- **When we have an encounter with YAWHEH, our heart and everything about us will change.**

- **John Woodhouse said ‘Hannah spoke of the difference God had made to her ‘heart’, her ‘strength’, and her ‘mouth’. The language is extreme for the very good reason that the impact God had on her was overwhelming.’**

- **God was now the focus of her heart and life, no longer was she focused on what she did not have, but who she had living in her heart.**

- **Sovereignty. (V. 2-3)**

- “There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God. Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.’
- *Hannah continues to exalt the Lord by pointing out the sovereignty of God.*
  - The fact that the Lord is in control of her situation even when she felt in despair.
- *Do we praise God for our salvation and HIS sovereignty in our lives only when things are smooth? Or even when they are rocky?*
  - When Hannah was at Shiloh, she felt the Lord’s Holiness. And she said ‘There is no holy one like the Lord.’
  - See, ancient Canaan was known for their idols.
    - *These were small clay figurines that people prayed to in order to increase the fertility of their owners.*
- *Hannah was different. She did not pray or trust in a clay DEAD figurine, she trusted in almighty God, who she describes here is her rock.*
  - *Isn’t this passage so simple yet relatable? That Hannah felt that there was no ROCK like our God?*
- I’ve been in that situation before and I’m sure you have too. Where you feel like your back is against the wall. And the only one who can trust in is the firm foundation and firm rock of the Lord!
- *Just as Hannah praised God for His sovereignty, so did Moses and the Israelites out of the exodus of Egypt in Exodus 15:11:*
  - *“Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?”*
- *Hannah also shows that she knew God was sovereign by the fact that she knew the scriptures...*
  - The verbiage that is used in these two verses show that she borrowed images and confessions from the Torah in showing God’s holiness and sovereignty.
    - Levitus 10:3, 11:44, 19:2, 20:26 show us this.
  - She also took the term rock (*Hebrew word sur*) from Deuteronomy 32:4, 15, 18, 30, 31.
    - “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice.’ Deuteronomy 32:4

- So far tonight we've seen that we can praise God by exalting Him, but we also need to see that Hannah praises the expansiveness of God.

**Point 2: *Expansiveness of the Lord. (V. 4-8)***

- **The word *expansiveness* can be defined as *covering a wide area in terms of space or scope; extensive or wide-ranging.***
  - I believe these verses change to looking at how wide ranging God is and what He is capable of.
  - ***What Hannah is seeking to get across here, is the way that God delivered her, is similar and characteristic of the way that God rules His world.***
    - The beautiful thing about these verses is the way in which Hannah reflects on the expansiveness of God.
    - How God is all knowing, God is over all, and God is ultimately the judge.
      - ***Our God has such a wide range to His power and glory that we will not fully be able to comprehend on this side of Heaven.***
  - I believe there are **8** to point out here concerning the Expansiveness of the Lord.
- **God is greater than *Warriors. (V. 4a)***
  - 'The bows of the mighty are broken,'
  - It's possible that Hannah is reflecting again on the Egyptians here, as they were very great

warriors that were feared by most in the ancient world.

- ***John Woodhouse points out 'Within a few pages in 1 Samuel the Philistines will appear. The people of Israel will have a reason to tremble.'***
  - It is ironic though, that the 'bows' of the Philistines will appear in 1st Samuel 31:3 (last chapter of the book), and will be responsible for Saul's death.
    - ***Here the Hebrew word for Bow is used (occurs 76 times), and then in 1st Samuel 31 is when Saul will be killed by the archers bows.***
  - ***These warriors were strong, but God is indeed stronger and Hannah shows that here.***
- **God lifts up the *Weak. (V. 4b)***
  - 'but the feeble bind on strength.'
  - ***Hannah knew that there was no one like our God, and that God lifts up the weak!***
    - ***Later on in 1st Samuel God will show us that a young kid with a few rocks would take down a philistine giant in 1st Samuel 17:40-51.***
  - ***But all throughout Samuel who will find God using 'weak' and 'feeble' people to accomplish His will.***

- John Woodhouse said **'Human power and human weakness look completely different if you believe in God as Hannah believed in God.'**
  - **God sees the Wasteful. (V. 5a)**
    - 'Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread.'
    - **1st Samuel 25:1-12 shows us that there was a rich man who had plenty of food and resources, and would not give strangers something to eat and drink.**
      - Oftentimes people who have plenty seem to be the most wasteful of the opportunity that God gives them.
      - **So often those who are 'full' of life and what it has to offer and even full of themselves, don't realize the precious resources and opportunities that God has given that they are wasting.**
    - But Hannah knows that God knows the human heart. Hannah knows that God is the ultimate judge, and that he sees and weighs the human heart.
  - **God sees the Weary. (V. 5b)**
    - but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.'
    - **Hannah had made herself weary desiring a child, a void that only God could fill in her life and He did so.**
- Following the narrative in 1st Samuel 25, verses 18-35 of that passage show us that God would care for the physical needs of the weary strangers.
- **Your material/physical needs is not contingent on human resources, but by God himself.**
  - As Hannah stated in verse 2, there is no rock like our God!
- **God controls the Womb. (V. 5c)**
  - 'The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn.'
  - Now, Hannah goes back to her circumstance and how God's wide range of power and love affected her.
    - **Hannah would one day bore 7 children including Samuel.**
      - **I'm sure God did this on purpose and with symbolism because the # 7 in the Bible often represents completion and perfection.**
  - **The womb that was once closed, is now open and God blessed her greatly.**
    - No matter what doctors or people think, it is ultimately God who is in control of the mother's womb and we must keep that in mind.

- *The phrase ‘but she who has many children is forlorn’ is a reference to Peninnah. A direct compare and contrast here.*
    - *Just as Hannah's barrenness was not unchangeable, Peninnah's happiness was not secure. God can reverse any circumstance upside down, the way HE sees fit.*
  - *God controls the World. (V. 6)*
    - ‘The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.’
    - *God controls every single thing on the planet and this verse shows that the Lord can kill and bring to life.*
      - *When reading this verse within the lens and context of the OT, we should be astounded that Hannah came up with these conclusions about God.*
        - *Her observations about God were way ahead of her time and inspiring.*
        - *The reason why? She knew God. She had a relationship with God, and she wanted Him to be known & praised throughout the world He created.*
- It's been said by scholars of the past that the OT had no concept of resurrection from the dead.
  - *It's clear here that Hannah did grasp that concept to a certain extent because she shows that God ‘bring down to sheol and raises up’*
  - God is in control.
- *God controls Wealth. (V. 7)*
  - ‘The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts.’
  - *Sadly, some people feel they are in charge of their own wealth and destiny, when in reality it is God who is in control and provides what we need and gives us what we have.*
    - *Not even social or economic forces are in charge of our wealth. Not the government or the stock market, it's God.*
  - Don't worry so much about the wealth of this world that you may be poor in Heaven.
- *God knows your Whereabouts. (V. 8)*
  - ‘He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and on them he has set the world.’
  - *God knows where you've been, where you are, and where you are going.*
    - He's the one that lifts us up.



- *Verse 8 is another good example that Hannah had a much different view of the world than we do.*
  - *She viewed the world as if everything was God's and He was in control, instead of her viewing the world the fleshly way as if she was in control.*
- Do we live and think about life remembering all these expansive attributes of God?
  - *I feel God is far greater and far mightier than we often give Him praise for.*
- So far tonight we've seen Hannah's prayer of praise by how she Exalted the Lord, the Expansiveness of the Lord, but we can't forget the Excellence of the Lord.

**Point 3: Excellence of the Lord. (V. 9-11)**

- When we look at this passage as a whole, we would probably say verses 4-8 are the body or the meat of this passage.
  - *One commentator called verses 4-8 as a solid Biblical Worldview.*
  - *To Hannah, this is what her life looked like because she was exalting and rejoicing in Him.*
    - But having a Biblical worldview is not enough, we have to recognize God's excellence and have a good logic based on what we believe about God's Excellence.

- I believe Hannah points out a good conclusion concerning how God affects the lives of the people that He's made.
- *There are Winners. (V. 9)*
  - "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail."
  - *Those who are found in the Lord are the true winners. For theirs is the Kingdom of God!*
    - The ways of the world would quickly tell us that the strong, powerful, or wealthy, the famous and the popular ones are the real winners.
  - *NEWSFLASH: No matter how big or small your house or bank account is has no impact on whether or not you are a winner in eternity.*
    - As this text states 'but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail.'
    - *The wicked will not prevail, for they are not true winners if they are not found in our Lord.*
  - There are winners and there are losers in life.
    - *Those who have a relationship with the Lord are the 'faithful ones'*
    - *Those who don't have a relationship with the Lord are the 'wicked ones'.*
- *There are Losers. (V. 10)*



- ‘The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.’
- *I'd rather God break me to pieces now, on this side of Heaven, than to be broken to pieces by God in hell as punishment.*
  - *Hannah shows us from the beginning of this book, that it is not a wise decision to set oneself up against the Lord.*
  - *All throughout the book of 1st Samuel we will see it demonstrated that you do not want to be on the opposite side of our God.*
- Does your prayer life reflect that you are a victorious winner in our Lord?
  - *Which side are you on?*
  - *Are you a winner, or are you a loser?*

**Conclusion:**

- Tonight we've looked at a beautiful yet simple passage on prayer.
  - *It's my prayer tonight that based on this text, our prayer life will improve.*
  - *That we will seek to see the world God has made in a similar way that Hannah saw the world.*

- May we recognize in our own daily lives that our prayers should be that of praise unto God.
- **Point 1:** *Exalting the Lord. (V. 1-3)*
- **Point 2:** *Expansiveness of the Lord. (V. 4-8)*
- **Point 3:** *Excellence of the Lord. (V. 9-11)*
  - *How does your prayer life need to change before you leave this place tonight?*