



Hannah's God

Samuel 2:1-11

February 17, 2019

Sermon Questions

1. In 1 Samuel 1-2, Pastor Jim noted that Hannah has gone from brokenness, to faithfulness and, now in Chapter 2, to joyfulness; all in the midst of giving her son away to Eli and to the service of the Lord. For most of us, giving a cherished son away would be painful. Why do you think giving her son away under these circumstances made Hannah joyful?

2. Pastor Jim stated that Hannah's joy, as indicated in her prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1-11, was rooted in "who God is." What does Pastor Jim mean by that? What must Hannah have believed about God in order to be joyful giving Samuel away? What do you read in this passage that indicates who Hannah believed God to be?

3. Hannah's prayer positions God as the all-sovereign God. She prays specifically that, "There is none holy like the Lord." and that "The Lord kills and brings to life." and that "The Lord makes poor and makes rich." As you look at how life unfolds, how do you make sense of these declarations of Hannah? How can God be holy and bring death and poverty to people, even to Christians?

4. Pastor Jim stated: "Knowing that God is the one who is in charge of all death should comfort us." Why? Knowing this apparently made Hannah joyful. How can that be?

5. Hannah makes reference in her prayer to the restoration of those who suffer. Pastor Jim referred to these as "great reversals" that God causes. Hannah suffered in her barrenness. Her life reversed from barrenness to child-bearing. Does God "reverse" everything? If so, what does that look like in this life? And who does He do this for?

6. Hannah's prayer makes God out to be all powerful and sovereign in this Old Testament passage. Yet, in the New Testament, God comes in weakness and dies on a cross. What do you make of that? Do you see anything in this passage that indicates that God would come to earth to save his people in that way? Do you think Hannah would have ever expected that?

1 Samuel 2:1-12 (ESV)

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.

²“There is none holy like the LORD:
for there is none besides you;
there is no rock like our God.

³Talk 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.

⁴The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble bind on strength.

⁵Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.

The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn.

⁶The LORD kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

⁷The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low and he exalts.

⁸He 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.

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.

¹⁰The 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.”

¹¹Then Elkanah went home to Ramah. And the boy^[a] was ministering to the LORD in the presence of Eli the priest.