

A Mother's Pursuit of God

Hannah's Prayer

1 Samuel 2:1-10

I. She Resolved to Worship God (1 Sam. 2:1-2) She is praying and praising God! Hannah is giving God His due worth. She mentions enemies in verse 1. Naturally we assume this is referring to Peninnah, her rival other wife of her husband, but in reality it's about all enemies of God. We are going to be hurt! What do we do when we're hurt? You WORSHIP CHRIST! He is the only healer of hurt! The Old Testament uses the word horn in verse 2. The word horn is a reference to strength! God is our strength. When you feel bad, worship God our strength, rock, and refuge! She worshipped even when she was in a battle! She battled others- Remember Peninnah, always rubbing it in that Hannah couldn't have children, but that Peninnah could. We'll face these battles with others want we? She battled herself- I'm sure she felt like she wasn't worth anything. She had anxiety and depression. She had an internal battle. She battled God- You can't tell me that she didn't question God! I'm sure she did as she might have said: "why have you made me this way when my desire is to serve you Lord?" You can picture her saying that can't you?

But she worshipped even before Samuel came! We must see this! The great truth in this passage we are going to examine today and throughout God's Word is that we are to worship even when we don't feel like it. Feelings are important, but completely unreliable in matters of faith. In our pursuit of Christ, we must worship even when we don't feel like it. Eugene Peterson states in his book *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction* that "Worship is an act that develops feelings for God, not a feeling for God that is expressed in an act of worship. When we obey the command to praise God in our worship, our deep, essential need to be in a relationship with God is nurtured."

II. She Rested in a Wholehearted Devotion to God (1 Sam. 2:3-7) Moms, you need to rest! I give you a free pass to sleep during this sermon! Hannah rested in the fact that she is hopeless and helpless without the power of Almighty God, the only One who can bring peace! What does God do? Look at the first three lines of verse 3. Do you think she was angry? Sure, this very well could have been directed toward Peninnah! But God has the final word. "By Him actions are weighed." Hannah notes in this statement of her song that God is not dependent on us! He does according to His pleasure, for our good and His glory! When we're attacked, God is all powerful! You will need to tuck this away! Remember this and worship Christ with a wholehearted devotion! Why? Because when you live for God, you will be attacked! 1 Peter 4:12-14 tells us: "***Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.***"

Don't we often seek God in our suffering? At our end is when Christ begins! When we are truly hungry for Christ we desperately depend upon Him! In Matthew 5:3-11 Jesus gives us the Beatitudes or also known as the attitudes Christians should be. Can you see that God is all powerful?

III. She Resembled a God-Centered Worldview (1 Samuel 2:8) Hannah personally reflected upon God's Creation and Sovereign reign. What is a worldview? It's the lenses that you gauge everything in life by. For us, a God-centered worldview is based upon God's Word, it's a biblical worldview. When you reflect upon the cross, do you realize that it's you and I that deserve this pain that Christ gladly took upon Himself? We are always to proclaim the glory and goodness of God. Hannah reflected on the goodness of God. We are to reflect on the goodness of God in our own life! Hannah sees her story in God's story! He cares deeply for us. He is a personal God. He sent Jesus, so that we could have a personal relationship with God! God loves you personally! We love because He first loved us! Hannah resembled the strength of God! I'm reminded of a woman's trust in God recorded in **Proverbs 31:25** *"Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come."* She can laugh, because she knows that God has this whole thing rigged for her good and God's glory! Our worldview in pursuing God must drive us to the Word God! "Faith comes by hearing..."

IV. She Rejoiced in God's Way of Salvation (1 Samuel 2:9-10) What is the way of salvation in these verses? It's God's promise found here! Verse 9 is all about the promise of salvation for those who trust in the Messiah. We see this from verse 10. Those who do not trust Christ will not have eternal life! Lastly, it's not by man's power, but by God's promise that anyone will be saved from Hell. Only through a relationship with Jesus Christ do we have the promise of eternal life! Many Hebrew scholars translate "his anointed" to mean the Messiah. As Hannah pursued God, she rejoiced in God's promised plan, the coming of Christ. John 14:6 points to God's way.

Hannah's pursuit of God indirectly played a significant role in the lineage leading to Christ. By surrendering Samuel to God's service and trusting in His plan, Hannah helped ensure Samuel's obedience and faithfulness, which prepared the way for the coming of Christ. Samuel later played a key role in establishing the monarchy in Israel, a lineage that ultimately included David, a direct ancestor of Jesus.