



THE WOMAN

1 Samuel 1:1–2:11

“Hannah wept and would not eat.”

Good Creation

The Fall

The Promise: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel.” (Gen 3:15)

Abraham (land, blessing, offspring)

Exodus (out of Egypt into Canaan)

Anarchy of the Judges

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Anarchy of the Judges

“In those days there was no king in Israel.
Everyone did what was right in his own
eyes.”

(Judges 21:25)

1:1 There was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephrathite.

²He had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other, Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

“And because you listen to these rules and keep and do them... there shall not be male or female barren among you.”

(Deut 7:12–14)

³Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the LORD.

⁴On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb. ⁶And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb.

⁷So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. ⁸And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?”

⁹After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD.

¹⁰She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD
and wept bitterly.

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~~Fatalism~~

~~Resentment~~

Faith

¹¹And she vowed a vow and said, “O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.”

1. She acknowledges God

O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.”

2. She humbles herself

“O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.”

3. She expresses her deep desire in a way that seeks God's glory

“O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then **I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life**, and no razor shall touch his head.”

4. She appeals to God's actions in the past

“O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.”

“And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob...” (Exod 2:24)

“Then the Lord said, ‘I have surely looked on the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry...”

(Exod 3:7; cf. 4:31)

¹¹And she vowed a vow and said, “O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son [**male seed**], then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.”

¹²As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. ¹⁴And Eli said to her, “How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you.”

“You shall conceive and bear a son. Therefore be careful and drink no wine... for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb...”

(Judges 13:3–5)

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¹⁵But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. ¹⁶Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation.”

¹⁷Then Eli answered, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him.” ¹⁸And she said, “Let your servant find **favour** in your eyes.” Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

¹⁹They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. ²⁰And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, “I have asked for him from the LORD.”

²¹The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. ²²But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, “As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there forever.”

²³Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the LORD establish his word.” So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him.

”If her husband makes them void on the day that he hears them, then whatever proceeds out of her lips concerning her vows shall not stand. Her husband has made them void, and the Lord will forgive her.”

(Num 30:12)

²⁴And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. ²⁵Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli.

²⁶And she said, “Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. ²⁷For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. ²⁸Therefore I have **lent** him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is **lent** to the LORD.” And he worshipped the LORD there.

“For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

(Matt 16:25)

“No one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, will not receive a hundredfold now... with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.

(Mark 10:29–30)

1. Our hope and joy are in the Lord who saves

^{2:1}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.”

1. Our hope and joy are in the Lord who saves

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

2. The Lord saves through judgement and reversal

³“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.”

2. The Lord saves through judgement and reversal

⁴“The 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.”

2. The Lord saves through judgement and reversal

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.** 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.”

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3. The Lord saves us through the Son

^{10b}“He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed [Messiah].”

3. The Lord saves us through the Son

God had saved Hannah from her distress through a son.

God would save Israel from their distress through a son.

God saves us from our distress through the Son.

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour... holy is his name... he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty...”

(Luke 1:46–55)

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