

Hannah's Prayer

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Introduction:

- **Isaiah 43:19 – Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.**
- **Isaiah 42:22 – Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob; but you have been weary of me, O Israel!**
- **Isaiah 42:24 – You have not brought me sweet cane with money, or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins; you have wearied me with your iniquities**
- **Read 1 Samuel 2:1-10**

One Thing:

- We can trust in God because we know that He will guard over His people and sustain their hopes

Gospel Thinking:

- To understand the context of Hannah's prayer, we turn to 1 Samuel
- **Read 1 Samuel 1:1-8**
Hannah is childless. And her rival, her husband's other wife was hard at work in making sure that Hannah was fully aware of her situation year after year
- Hannah was distressed because she knew that God was sovereign, but this was not a door that, for whatever reason, He wasn't opening up for her
And on top of that, she had a rival who was provoking her grievously
- But as she experiences God's faithfulness and brings her newborn son to be dedicated to God, she lifts up a prayer to Him
- 3 truths that Hannah understood about God

She understood that God is her superior treasure – vv. 1-2

She understood that God is sovereign in His ways – vv. 3-8

She understood that God is able to accomplish what He declares – vv. 9-10

3 Observations:

1. She understood that God is her superior treasure – vv. 1-2

- vv. 1 - Hannah declares her rejoicing in the Lord
 - Horn symbolizes strength, dignity, power
 - Hannah is referring to the fact that God has given her the strength and the dignity to bear a son
 - And when she is speaking about “my enemies,” she’s not referring to her tormentor, because she is saying enemies, not enemy
 - But she’s referring to all those who oppose God – she’s saying God’s enemies are my enemies
 - And she declares her delight in God’s salvation or deliverance from those enemies who would attack her trust in God

- vv. 2 – And then she declares of God – there is no one holy like the Lord
 - God is like no other – holy like the Lord, that God is completely set apart
 - That God is unique in that He is perfect in all His ways
 - And she reinforces that idea - there is no one besides you, there is no Rock like our God
 - Rock symbolizing strength, faithfulness

- Now, it would be easy or even logical to think that – Hannah is rejoicing in God because He gave her the very thing that she wanted, a baby boy
 - And I’m sure, that to a certain extent that it is true – that Hannah rejoices because of her love for her son

- But you have to remember that Hannah bringing her son to the temple to fulfill a vow she made to God
 - 1 Samuel 1:11 – 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**

- Hannah is bringing her son Samuel to the temple so that he can live there and learn to be God’s minister in that place

- Hannah’s rejoicing is much deeper than treasuring her son

But it's treasuring her ability to fulfill God's calling in her life
 Her longing to be a mother wasn't just about wanting a child for herself – but
 I believe that she saw motherhood as her calling

- Dr. John MacArthur: ***"I am convinced it was no selfish aspiration. The way Hannah immediately dedicated her first son to the Lord and gave him over to serve in the tabernacle at such a young age demonstrates the purity of her motives. She understood that motherhood is the highest calling God can bestow on any woman."***

- Hannah's ultimate reason of praising God is not because she was able to bear a son

But because she was able to fulfill God's purpose for her. More than treasuring her son, what she treasured the most was God and His purposes for her

- Not only did she understand that God is her superior treasure,

2. She understood that God is at work in delivering us – vv. 3-8

- vv. 3 – talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the God is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed

NIV – Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the Lord is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed

- She says you don't know what you're talking about because God doesn't do and work things in that way that you think He should

vv. 4-8 – the bow of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more. She who was barren has born seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away. The Lord brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. The Lord sends poverty and wealth, he humbles and exalts. He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has the inherit a throne of honor. For the foundations of the earth are the Lord's on them he has set the world

- This echoes what Isaiah declares in **Isaiah 55:8-9**, God reminds us that His ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts. In fact, His ways and His thoughts are higher or far more superior than our ways and our thoughts
 - Paul also echoes the same thoughts in **1 Corinth 1:25-31 - For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."**
 - What Hannah is saying is this – how God was at work, it might not seem to make sense according to conventional wisdom
 - It might be even seem contrary to how people think things should be done
 - But even when you might not understand or might not perceive how God is at work, God is at work for your deliverance!
 - She would tell us to trust Him because He is worthy of our trust
 - Think about how God used even Hannah's barrenness to draw her closer to himself
 - In our conventional wisdom, we might think, "God, that's so cruel. Why would you do that?"
 - But what Hannah would testify that through her desperation, what she discovered was a greater treasure than even having child. And that greater treasure was God himself
 - Not only did Hannah understand that God is her superior treasure, and that God is sovereign in His ways – vv. 3-8
- 3. She understood that God is able to accomplish what He declares – vv. 9-10**
- She ends her prayer with this
 - vv. 9-10 – 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. 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

- There is a prophetic element to what she declares here, right?
 - Dr. Walter Kaiser Jr: ***“Just as Yahweh delivered Hannah and granted her the son she prayed for, so the grand finale of history will be the deliverance of God’s covenant people when he shatters his opponents, judges the earth, and brings onto the scene his “Holy One” that royal seed as “the Anointed one,” the Messiah.”***
- What God’s word reminds us is the reality that God isn’t working just to deliver us from our circumstances
 - But His goal is our ultimate deliverance from sin and death
 - And the deliverance that God has declared, we see accomplished on the cross of Jesus
 - That through the death and the resurrection of Jesus, we see God lifting up the name of Jesus above all other names
 - Philippians 2:9 – Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name**
- God is at work in bringing about His ultimate deliverance
 - It might not seem like God is bringing the immediate solution that we would like for him to bring into our immediate circumstances and problems
 - But Hannah would tell us, “trust Him and lean into Him! Because he is able to accomplish His ultimate purposes in your life!”

Gospel Living:

- 2 ways that Hannah’s prayer encourages us in our own prayer
 1. In your prayer life, learn to treasure Him instead of demanding lesser treasures from Him
 2. Even as you express your confusion and hurt, trust in His goodness, and lean on His ways