

Series: 1 Samuel: The Chosen King I

Text: 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11

**HI: God wills to save the weak.**

Title: *Snapshot of the Sovereign Lord*

Hook: Snapshot

Date: 1.15.23

Purpose: To proclaim the glory of the sovereign Lord who hears the prayers of the afflicted and descends to redeem them.

FCF: [Fragile condition focus] Like Hannah, we are all too familiar with the brokenness of this world and the woundedness of our souls. The Lord hears the cries of the afflicted, and he steps into history to bring about redemption.

COR: Anxiety, sorrow, pain—Hannah was acquainted with all of these. She could have retreated into the prosperity that being the favorite wife of a wealthy man brought her. But she had a longing for purpose that took her out of herself, and drew her to cry out to God.

Witness of Christ [WC\*]: RHP: Hannah's song → Mary's song → Christ; OR

Typology → Office of anointed king → TL (text link) "The chosen king" from 2:10

Apologetic: Weakness is something we feel, though we've been trained to either ignore it, excuse it, deny it, or defy it. At the height of our weakness, we turn outward, seeking strength in an image, a person, or a cause. The cycle of weakness will not be broken. The good news is... HI.

Form: Inductive

Benediction: James 4:6-10

Outline:

**I. The Lord is sovereign in all circumstances. (1:1-8)**

A. Hannah's rival provoked her. (1-7)

B. Hannah's husband pitied her. (8)

**II. The Lord hears the cries of the afflicted. (1:9-18)**

A. Hannah's prayer marked her. (9-11)

B. Hannah's priest misjudged her. (12-16)

C. Hannah's faith steadied her. (17-18)

**III. The Lord's gracious gifts belong to the Lord. (1:19-28)**

A. Hannah's Lord remembered her. (19-20)

B. The Lord's grace motivated her. (21-28)

#### **IV. The sovereign Lord is right-side-upping this disordered world. (2:1-11)**

A. The sovereign Lord saved this suffering woman. (1-3)

B. The Lord is executing a great reversal. (4-8)

C. The Lord is bringing a great redemption. (9-10)

#### **Main Idea:**

Subject: Why does the sovereign Lord answer Hannah's desperate prayer?

Complement: Because he wills to save the broken and redeem his people.

Exegetical Idea: The sovereign Lord answers Hannah's desperate prayer because he wills to save the broken and redeem his people.

Theological Idea: The sovereign Lord wills to save a broken people to show his matchless glory.

**Homiletical Idea: God wills to save the weak.**

#### **Introduction:**

READ 1 Samuel 1:1-8

**1 Samuel 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.

<sup>2</sup> He 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.

<sup>3</sup> Now 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.

<sup>4</sup> On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters.

<sup>5</sup> But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb.

<sup>6</sup> And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb.

<sup>7</sup> So 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.

<sup>8</sup> And 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?"

Hannah = “favored” Peninnah = “fruitful”

### **I. The Lord is sovereign in all circumstances. (1:1-8)**

READ 1 Samuel 1:9-18

<sup>9</sup> After 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.

<sup>10</sup> She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly.

<sup>11</sup> And 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."

<sup>12</sup> As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth.

<sup>13</sup> Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman.

<sup>14</sup> And Eli said to her, "How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you."

<sup>15</sup> But 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.

<sup>16</sup> Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation."

<sup>17</sup> Then Eli answered, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him."

<sup>18</sup> And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your eyes." Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

### **II. The Lord hears the cries of the afflicted. (1:9-18)**

I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping. <sup>7</sup> My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my foes. <sup>8</sup> Depart from me, all you workers of evil, **for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping.** (Ps. 6:6-8)

Genesis 16:11: "the LORD has listened to your affliction."

Genesis 29:32: "Because the LORD has looked upon my affliction;"

Exodus 3:7-8: The LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup> and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians.

<sup>6</sup> do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:6-7 ESV)

(The story continues, and the pace picks up rapidly from here.) READ 1 Samuel 1:19-28

<sup>19</sup> They 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.

<sup>20</sup> And 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."

<sup>21</sup> The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow.

<sup>22</sup> But 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."

<sup>23</sup> Elkanah 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.

<sup>24</sup> And 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.

<sup>25</sup> Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli.

<sup>26</sup> And 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.

<sup>27</sup> For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him.

<sup>28</sup> Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there.

"God's tendency is to make our total inability his starting point. Our hopelessness and our helplessness are no barrier to his work." Dale Ralph Davis

"Samuel" = "ask for" + "his name is God" – "I asked from the Lord"

### **III. The Lord's gracious gifts belong to the Lord. (1:19-28)**

READ 1 Samuel 2:1-11

**1 Samuel 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.

<sup>2</sup> "There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength.

<sup>5</sup> Those 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.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts.

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> "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.

<sup>10</sup> 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."

<sup>11</sup> Then Elkanah went home to Ramah. And the boy was ministering to the LORD in the presence of Eli the priest. (1 Sam. 1:1-2:11 ESV)

#### **IV. The sovereign Lord is right-side-upping this disordered world. (2:1-11)**

##### **HI: God wills to save the weak.**

READ Luke 1:46-55

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on  
all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup> for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the  
thoughts of their hearts;  
<sup>52</sup> he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of  
humble estate;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

##### **HI: God wills to save the weak.**

Benediction:

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. (James 4)