

1 Samuel 2:1-10 - Thursday, June 13th, 2013

- At the conclusion of our study in chapter one last week Hannah had dedicated her miracle son Samuel, to God's service in the tabernacle.
- God is about to use Samuel to take Israel by the hand out of one of Israel's darkest periods and into the greatest period in Israel's history.
- However, as we begin chapter two, it would seem that the Holy Spirit has deemed it necessary to record just how dark it was at this time.

- The reason I'm starting out this way right out of the shoot is because it will be germane to our understanding of the "why" behind the "what."
- Namely, that no matter how bad it is, it cannot change how good God is, and no matter how dark it is, it cannot dim the light of Who God is.
- It's during those times when it's the darkest that the light of the world shines the brightest, and it's always the darkest before the sun rises.

- Such is the case here as we hit the ground running in our study through this book, it's almost as if God wants us to see this darkness first.
- Actually it's for this reason that God has us first go through dark times of deep anguish or as one so aptly said it "the dark night of the soul."
- Let me explain, God's mercy comes when the bright light of joy comes in the morning vis-à-vis our enduring those dark night's of the soul.

Psalms 30:5 NKJV For His anger *is but for a moment*, His favor *is for life*; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy *comes* in the morning.

- It's with this introduction that has now readied us for the magnificence of Hannah's prayer having tasted from this morning cup of rejoicing.

(1) And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation.

- Just in verse one we have important lessons we can learn from Hannah's prayer, chief of which is her barrenness becoming blessedness.
- One commentator says, in chapter one we heard the prayer of a barren woman and in chapter two we hear the praise of a blessed woman.
- A second lesson is, that which Hannah sought in prayer, and wrought through prayer, did not mean that Hannah would cease from prayer.

Charles Spurgeon - "When she had obtained her desire she did not desist from prayer, but the rather she was encouraged to abound in it. Her prayers, however, were no longer salted with sorrow, but were sweetened with the spices of gratitude. She rose from prayer to praise."

- A third lesson is, in addition to her continuing, and abounding, in prayer after receiving her hearts desire, Hannah does not break her vow.
- In other words, Hannah is there at the tabernacle to sacrifice her only begotten son by releasing, and offering, him for the Lord's service.
- Make no mistake about it; this wasn't easy, as it's evidenced by what she says in her prayer to the Lord, that her horn is exalted in the Lord.

- Here's what I'm thinking, when Hannah prays her horn is exalted in the Lord, she's saying that her strength to leave her son is in the Lord.
- This because the horn is a scripture picture of an ox's strength and power. Simply put, the Lord is strengthening and empowering Hannah.
- This dovetails into our fourth lesson, which is that God's calling comes packaged with God's empowering to do hard things He calls us to.

- The fifth lesson I found in verse one is, Hannah had a personal and experiential knowledge of the God of the Word, and the Word of God.
- Here's how I get there, Hannah's prayer bares a striking resemblance and similarity to another prayer that would later be prayed by Mary.
- While we won't take the time to go into this in depth, allow me to at least share with you one similarity between the two from just verse one.

- 1 Samuel 2:1 And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; ...Because I rejoice in Your salvation.

- Luke 1:46-47 NIV And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord (47) and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

Charles Spurgeon - "This is a right noble song, breathing not only warm devotion, but the true spirit of poetry. Hannah was a great original poetess, and even Mary in her sweet hymn of gratitude will be found to have followed in Hannah's track. Though as yet no Psalms had been written which might serve her as models, her song is exquisitely composed, and has a delightful savor of spiritual religion about it."

(2) "No one is holy like the LORD, For *there is none besides You*, Nor *is there any rock like our God*. (3) "Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the LORD *is the God of knowledge*; And by Him actions are weighed. (4) "The bows of the mighty men *are broken*, And those who stumbled are girded with strength. (5) *Those who were full* have hired themselves out for bread, And the hungry have ceased *to hunger*. Even the barren has borne seven, And she who has many children has become feeble. (6) "The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up. (7) The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up. (8) He raises the poor from the dust *And lifts the beggar from the ash heap*, To set *them* among princes And make them inherit the throne of glory. "For the pillars of the earth *are the LORD's*, And He has set the world upon them. (9) He will guard the feet of His saints, But the wicked shall be silent in darkness. "For by strength no man shall prevail. (10) The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces; From heaven He will thunder against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. "He will give strength to His king, And exalt the horn of His anointed."

- Verses two through ten record the remainder of Hannah's prayer and it's really a study unto itself, as we witnessed with just the first verse.
- Be that as it may, I think I'd be grossly remiss were I not to at least take a little bit of time and expound on five truth's I found in her prayer.

1. God will have the final word for those who so arrogantly speak against God, and God's people, as did Hannah's "sister-wife," Peninnah.
2. God will vindicate us before those enemies who intend evil for us, and He does it by bringing good from that which they meant for evil.
3. God will humble those who exalt themselves, and He will also exalt those who humble themselves, and in so doing He silences boasters.
4. God will work it out, and set it right. Just as He sets the world upon the pillars of the earth and strengthens it, so too will He strengthen us.
5. God will be glorified in and through the hardship and difficulty He calls us to and fulfill His purpose of making us into the likeness of Christ.

- Before we leave this magnificent prayer of Hannah, there's one more thing I want to mention, as it ties ever so beautifully to this fifth truth.
- Here's why, in verse ten Hannah prophetically points to Jesus Christ when she says the Lord will exalt the strength of His anointed King.
- This is the first mention in scripture of Jesus referred to as the Messiah in Hebrew, which is Christ in Greek, and anointed one in English.

Charles Spurgeon - "Hannah is the first who sings of the 'anointed' king, and, as there was actually no king over Israel in her day, the words would seem to have a prophetic reference to Christ. He is the crown of all the saints' joyous, and their songs reach their highest notes when they sing of 'the anointed.'"

- God worked everything together for Hannah's good, and His glory, because she loved God, and she was called according to His purpose.
- This is God's purpose for us, such that He works everything for our good and His glory by pointing us to Christ and making us like Christ.
- I suppose it should come as no surprise that John the Baptist's father Zechariah quote's Hannah saying Jesus is the horn of our salvation.