

- I) V1-11 INTRO: And Hannah prayed and said My heart rejoices in the LORD My horn
Hannah brought Samuel to release him into the service of the Lord
She had prayed, asking God to give her a son, that she might offer him to service
- II) In her prayer, she had vowed that he would be a servant, and live a holy life (1:11)
God answered her prayer and revealed Himself as the God who is Able
Eph 3:20 (He is the God who) is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that
we ask or think, according to the power that works in us
LET ME SHARE A MOMENT ABOUT PRAYER
- III) God is not like the gods of the heathens, distant and incapable of hearing
He is the God **who is with us**, and we can pray to Him with confidence
Jer 33:3 Call to Me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things
which you do not know
- IV) When we pray, we are speaking with the Almighty God of the Universe
The bible is filled with examples of prayer: there are over 350 prayers recorded
WHAT WE FAIL TO GRASP IS DEEP
- V) The God has opened the door for us to speak to Him, whenever we desire to
Heb 4:16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we
may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
- VI) As Christians we have access to God because we have come to faith in His Son
AT ONE TIME OUR SIN SEPARATED US
- VII) Before we were saved, our sins separated us from the Lord
Is 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; Nor His
ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and
your sins have hidden *His* face from you, so that **He will not hear.**
- VIII) Now, because we have come to faith in Jesus, we can draw near to Him
This is the result of His death for us, making the way clear for us to enter in
Eph 2:13 In Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by
the blood of Christ
Heb 10:19 (We now have) boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus
AS CHRISTIANS
- IX) We can know that God hears us because we know that God loves us
Access is ours, and we can come to Him when we need to speak to Him
Ps 34:15 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry

- I) Obviously there are times our prayers are not answered like we want: why?
Sometimes it is because our prayers are **selfish prayers**
Jas 4:3 And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.
- II) Sometimes we do not have faith to believe God will answer them
Jas 1:6-7 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. Let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord
- III) Sometimes we have unconfessed sin
Is 59:2 Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear
Ps 66:18 If I regard iniquity (cherish wickedness) in my heart, the Lord will not hear
- IV) Sometimes God won't grant our request because it does not line up with His will
1 Jn 5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
- V) In our lives, our prayers can be answered with a **yes**, **no**, and sometimes **wait**
- VI) There are various kinds of prayers that we lift to God
1 Ti 2:1 speaks of petitions, prayers, intercession, and giving of thanks
Petitions are requests, prayers, intercessions is intimate, **thanks is gratitude**
IN THE CASE OF HANNAH: THIS IS THANKS
- VII) Hannah had taken her broken heart to the LORD and had **made a request** of Him
She had prayed God would give her a son, one she would **give back to Him**
- VIII) The **high priest Eli** had seen her fervently praying and thought she was drunk
She explained she was not wicked: she was pouring out her soul in prayer
When he heard this, he told her **to go in peace**: God would grant her request
- IX) At his word, she went home at rest and peace, and God fulfilled her request
She conceived, gave birth, and came to the Tabernacle to give him to God
- X) V27-28 For this child I prayed and the Lord has granted me my petition
Samuel (Heard of God): I **have given** back to God **what was asked for** from God

- I) I asked for a child to dedicate to Him, and have given him back to the Lord
SHE IS NOW FULFILLING HER VOW
- II) She brings her only son **to leave him** with the high priest, Eli
Instead of grieving, she worshiped God because **Samuel belonged to God**
- III) V1 **And Hannah prayed** and said **My heart rejoices** in the LORD **my horn is** exalted
As she worshiped the LORD, she began to pray a thankful and joyful prayer
OBVIOUSLY
- IV) This is a **tremendous contrast** to the prayer she had prayed earlier
That prayer was from a broken and bitter heart (1:10), this was filled with joy
WE WILL SEE
- V) The heart of her prayer is how God has showed Himself as the righteous judge
He has brought down the proud (Peninnah) and has exalted the humble (Hannah)
Ps 140:12 I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and
justice for the poor.
- HANNAH OPENED HER HEART, AND PRAYED**
- VI) V1-2 Hannah prayed and said **My heart rejoices** in the Lord **my horn is exalted**
My heart leaps for joy! It was not **a sad time** of letting go of Samuel
God had answered her prayer, and she was overjoyed!
- VII) V1 My horn is exalted in the Lord **I smile at my enemies** because I rejoice in Your
Horn: In the OT, refers to various things, inner strength and power
Ps 92:10 **My horn** You have exalted like a wild ox; I have been anointed with fresh oil
- VIII) She is referring to her inner strength produced by God's goodness toward her
God took away her reproach and removed her sense of being alone
He heard her cry, and in answering her prayer increased her confident faith!
THE RESULT
- IX) V1 I smile at my enemies because I rejoice in Your salvation
Her joy causes her to smile, worship and praise God for His goodness to her
God's salvation out of grief has caused her sorrow to be turned into joy
SHE BEGINS WITH PRAISE
- X) V2 No one is holy like the LORD for **there is none besides** You nor is there any
Her reason for joy is because God is holy, and God is without equal
Ex 15:11 Who among the gods is like You, O Lord? Who is like You---majestic in
holiness, revered with praises, performing wonders?

POINT

- I) Among the many so-called gods, there is just One God, and He heard her prayer!
1 Co 8:5-6 Even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many gods and many lords) yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live
- II) V2 Nor is there **any rock** like our God
Immovable, enduring, strong; available to help those in need
Ps 18:2 The Lord is my rock, fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge
- III) She rejoices because the God of might heard her cry, and answered her
Ps 138:3 On the day **I called, You answered** me; You made me bold with strength in my soul
- IV) V3 **Talk no more so very proudly** Let no arrogance come from your mouth
1:4 tells us Peninnah had sons and daughters
This would refer to Peninnah, who intentionally provoked her for being barren
- V) V3 Let no arrogance come from your mouth
Peninnah, you have spoken harshly to me and have made it a habit
- VI) It is time for you to stop: God has answered my prayer
Ps 86:17 Show me a sign for good, that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; because You, Lord, have helped me and comforted me
- VII) V3 The LORD is the **God of knowledge** (omniscient) knows your unkind heart
Ps 44:21 He knows the secrets of the heart.
Ps 147:5 Great *is* our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding *is* infinite.
- VIII) V3 And by Him all actions are weighed
God knows all things, and is able to **righteously judge** the thoughts of the heart
He knows of your envy of me because Elkanah loves me so deeply
He saw the arrogance and pride of Peninnah, and acted in Hannah's behalf
BASIC LIFE OBSERVATIONS
- IX) V4 The bows of the mighty men are broken and those who stumbled are girded
The proud are humbled, and the humble are lifted to prominence

- I) Though Peninnah could have children, she has been humbled
Pr 3:34 Surely He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble.
THINGS CHANGE QUICKLY
- II) V5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread and the hungry have
Those who at one time were very rich are now very humbled
Those who were at one time famished have now been made full
- III) V5 Even the barren has born seven and she who has many children has become fe
God has made it possible for the barren to be perfectly happy
Interestingly, Hannah went on to have five more children (V21)
- IV) V6 The Lord kills and makes alive He brings down to the grave and brings up
Only God can give life, and only He is the One who takes it away
Job 12:10 The life of every living thing is in His hand, as well as the breath of all
mankind
- V) The whole thought is simply that it is the Lord who gives life
It is He who made it possible for her to have her son
- VI) V7 The Lord makes poor and makes rich He brings low and lifts up
God is behind people *gaining riches* and can make the rich man poor if need be
Pr 22:2 Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all.
- VII) Our financial situation often rests on our relationship to the Lord
Dt 8:17-18 you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have
gained me this wealth.' And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who
gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to
your fathers, as it is this day.
- VIII) The key is learning to rest in Him, no matter what condition you find yourself in
Phil 4:11-13 I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be
abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to
be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through
Christ who strengthens me.
- IX) V8 He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the beggar from the ash heap to set
God can put you in places that you have no intrinsic rights or abilities to inhabit

- I) He did this when he raised Joseph to have authority in Egypt
He did this when he placed Daniel in Babylon
He will do this when He places David as King over Israel
- II) He has done this by giving her Samuel, who is dedicated to serve God
- III) He often does this with His ministers!
- IV) V8 The pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and He has set the world upon them
This is a picture of the stability of the earth, that God keeps it from crashing
Ps 102:25 Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens *are* the work of Your hands.
- V) The foundations of the earth itself are under God's power
Because this is true, it isn't any wonder that all its inhabitants are under His power
THE NT REVEALS
- VI) Heb 1:3 (Jesus upholds) **all things** by the word of His power
Col 1:17 He is before all things, and in Him **all things** (consist) **hold together**
- VII) V9 He will guard the feet of His saints but the wicked shall be silent in darkness
God's people follow Him, and He leads them in righteousness and protection
Ps 121:3 He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber
Ps 37:23-24 The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in Him;
though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with His hand
- VIII) God watches over us, and when we encounter difficulties is there to lift us up
Even in the most troubling times, our difficulty will only be temporary
Ps 40:2 He lifted me up from the pit of despair, out of the miry clay; He set my feet upon a rock, and made my footsteps firm
- IX) V9 But the wicked (hostile toward God; guilty of sin) shall be silent in darkness
The evil live in darkness and stumble and ultimately are left in darkness
Mt 25:30 Cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth
- X) V9 For by strength no man shall prevail
On one hand, wicked shall not prevail against God and His plans

I) Ps 2:1-3 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together, against the Lord and against His Anointed One. Let us break their chains and cast away their cords. The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord taunts them

ON THE OTHER HAND

II) Man by his own effort and strength can never accomplish anything for God
Only what we do by the power of God's Spirit will count for anything
Zech 4:6 Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.

III) V10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces from heaven He will
This is a prophecy: Under Messiah all of His enemies will be vanquished
Ps 2:6-9 I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations *for* Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth *for* Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel

IV) V11 Elkanah went to his house at Rama. But the child ministered to the LORD
Elkanah went home, leaving Samuel to be trained in the traditions of Israel
He began early to be trained as a scholar and priest

V) In the Tabernacle, Samuel should have been safe and secure
As we shall see, **even in a holy environment**, unholiness was rampant