

- I) V1-11 INTRO: And Hannah prayed and said My heart rejoices in the LORD My horn is exalted
 - a) Hannah had brought her son to release him into the service of the Lord
 - 1) She had prayed, asking the LORD to give her a son, that she might offer him to service
 - 2) In her prayer, she had made it clear that he would be a servant, and live a holy life (1:11)

- II) GOD: Had revealed Himself as the God who is Able
 - a) He is not like the gods of the heathens, distant and incapable of hearing
 - 1) He is the God who is with us, and we can make our petitions to Him with confidence

- III) KEY: Prayer is a conversation we have with the Almighty God of the Universe (Over 350 recorded)
 - a) THE BLESSING IS: God has actually invited us to speak to Him, whenever we desire to
 - 1) Jer 33:3 Call unto Me and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things...

- IV) AS BELIEVERS: We have access to God because we have come to faith in His Son
 - a) Before we were saved, our sins actually separated us from the Lord
 - 1) 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*.

- V) OUR SIN SEPARATED US: But because we have come to faith in Jesus, we can draw near to Him
 - a) This is the result of His sacrificial death for us, making the way clear for us to enter in
 - 1) Eph 2:13 In Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ
 - 2) Heb 10:19 (We now have) boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus

- VI) AS CHRISTIANS: We can know that God hears us because we know that God loves us
 - a) Access is ours, and we can come to Him as His children when we need to speak to Him
 - 1) Ps 34:15 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry.
 - 2) Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- VII) OBVIOUSLY: Sometimes our prayers that we have prayed seem to go unanswered
 - a) Sometimes it is because our prayers are *selfish prayers* (American Idol, or win a game)
 - 1) Jas 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your lusts
 - b) Sometimes we simply do not expect God to answer them, so they are half-hearted prayers
 - 1) Jas 1:6 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.

- VIII) SOMETIMES: God simply will not grant our requests because it does not line up with His will
 - a) 1 Jn 5:14-15 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

- IX) KEY: Our prayers are answered with a yes, no, and sometimes wait
 - a) Often, when we find ourselves in difficult times, we will cry out for God to help and deliver us
 - 1) JESUS ILLUSTRATED THIS FOR US: In the parable of the unjust judge
 - 2) Lu 18:1-8 THE KEY: Jesus makes it clear that His Father is not like this ungodly judge
 - 3) His Father does not put our requests off, and does not grow weary as we cry out to Him

- I) HANNAH: Had taken her broken heart to the LORD and had made her request of Him
 - a) While in the tabernacle, Eli had encouraged her that God would grant her petition
 - 1) At his word, she went home at rest and peace, and God fulfilled her request
 - 2) She conceived, gave birth to Samuel, and came to the Tabernacle to give him to God

- II) V24-28 KEY: I have given back *what was asked* for Jehovah; as long as he lives he is asked *for* Jehovah
 - a) POINT: I asked for a child to dedicate to Him, and have given him to the Lord for His service
 - 1) Instead of becoming inconsolable, 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 in the LORD
 - a) As she worshiped the LORD, she began to pray a thankful and joyful prayer
 - 1) OBVIOUSLY: This is a tremendous contrast to the prayer she had prayed earlier
 - 2) That prayer had been from a broken and bitter heart (1:10)

- IV) THE KEY IDEA: Found in her prayer is how God has revealed Himself as the righteous judge
 - a) He has brought down the proud (Peninnah) and has exalted the humble (Hannah)
 - 1) Ps 140:12 I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and justice for the poor.
 - 2) It is with this knowledge that Hannah opened her heart, and prayed

- V) V1-2 AND: Hannah prayed and said *My heart rejoices* in the Lord *my horn is exalted* in the Lord
 - a) Hannah begins by saying that her heart (her center of moral and spiritual life) rejoices
 - 1) For her, it was not a sad time letting go of Samuel, but a moment of triumphant rejoicing
 - 2) God had answered her prayer, and she was overjoyed!

- VI) V1 MY HORN: Is exalted in the Lord *I smile at my enemies* because I rejoice in Your salvation
 - a) HORN: In the OT, refers to various things, including pride and military/political power
 - 1) Ps 92:10 My horn You have exalted like a wild ox; I have been anointed with fresh oil.
 - 2) She is referring to her inner strength produced by God's goodness, strengthening her

- VII) I SMILE: At my enemies because I rejoice in Your salvation
 - a) God's salvation has caused her sorrow to be turned into joy
 - 1) Her inner joy causes her to smile, and to speak worship and praise to God for His goodness
 - 2) Is 61:3 (God promised) To console those who mourn in Zion, To *give them beauty for ashes*, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.

- VIII) V2 NO ONE: Is holy like the LORD for there is none besides You nor is there any Rock like our God
 - a) HER REASONS FOR HER JOY: God is holy, and God is without equal
 - 1) Among the multitude of so-called gods, there is just One God, and He heard her prayer!
 - 2) 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

- IX) V2 NOR IS: There *any rock* like our God (immovable, enduring, strong; available to help those in need)
 - a) Ps 18:2 The Lord is my rock, fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge
 - 1) She rejoices because the God of might has heard her cry, and could and did answer her

- I) V3 TALK: *No more so very proudly* Let no arrogance come from your mouth For the LORD

- a) NOTICE: The LORD is the *God of knowledge* (every kind of knowledge, omniscient)
- 1) Ps 44:21 He knows the secrets of the heart.
 - 2) Ps 147:5 Great *is* our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding *is* infinite.
- II) POINT: God knows all things, and is able to righteously judge the thoughts of the heart
- a) THOUGHT: He saw the arrogance and pride of Peninnah, and acted in Hannah's behalf
- III) V4 THE BOWS: Of the mighty men are broken and those who stumbled are girded with strength
- a) HOW DOES GOD WORK: The mighty are weakened, and the weak are made mighty
- 1) The proud are reduced to the place of humility, and the humble are lifted to prominence
 - 2) Pr 3:34 Surely He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble.
- IV) V5 THOSE: Who were full have hired themselves out for bread and the hungry have ceased
- a) SECOND: The very rich (landowners) are now working their own fields, the servants now rest
- 1) Obviously, this is fulfilled completely when we are with the Lord in heaven
 - 2) Lu 12:37 Blessed *are* those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching.
- Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down *to eat*, and will come and serve them.
- V) V5 EVEN THE BARREN: Has born seven and she who has many children has become feeble
- a) THIRD: God has made it possible for the barren to be perfectly happy
- 1) Interestingly, Hannah went on to have five more children (V21)
- VI) V6 THE LORD: Kills and makes alive He brings down to the grave and brings up
- a) FOURTH: The whole thought is simply that it is the Lord who gives life
- 1) Only He has the ability to give life, and only He is the One who takes it away
 - 2) Job 1:21 (Job) said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."
- VII) V7 THE LORD: Makes poor and makes rich He brings low and lifts up
- a) ULTIMATELY: God is behind people *gaining riches* and can make the rich man poor if need be
- 1) FIFTH: Our financial situation often rests on our relationship to the Lord
 - 2) 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.
 - 3) 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.
- VIII) V8 HE RAISES: The poor from the dust and lifts the beggar from the ash heap to set them among
- a) SIXTH: God can put you in places that you have no intrinsic rights or abilities to inhabit
- 1) He often does this with His ministers!
- IX) V8 FOR: The pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and He has set the world upon them
- a) Obviously, this is a picture of the stability of the earth, that God keeps it from crashing
- 1) Ps 102:25 Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens *are* the work of Your hands.
 - 2) Heb 1:3 (Jesus upholds) *all things* by the word of His power
- I) V9 HE WILL: Guard the feet of His saints but the wicked shall be silent in darkness

- a) God's people follow Him, and He leads them in paths of righteousness and protection (Ps 23:3)
 - 1) Ps 37:23 The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

- II) THE UNRIGHTEOUS: Live in darkness and stumble and ultimately are left in darkness
 - a) Mt 25:30 Cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth

- III) V9 FOR BY STRENGTH: No man shall prevail
 - a) Man by his own effort, power, and strength can never accomplish anything for God
 - 1) Only what we do by the power of God's Spirit will count for anything

- IV) V10 THE ADVERSARIES: Of the LORD shall be broken in pieces from heaven He will thunder
 - a) This is a prophecy: Under His anointed (Messiah) all of His enemies will be vanquished
 - 1) 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.

- V) V11 THEN: Elkanah went to his house at Rama. But the child ministered to the LORD
 - a) In the Tabernacle, Samuel should have been safe and secure
 - 1) As we shall see, even in a holy environment, unholiness was rampant