

Hannah's Story

A Mother's Day Sermon

1 Samuel 1–2

Paul Brinkerhoff | FHBC | May 8, 2016

NARRATOR

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. 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.

NARRATOR

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. On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb.

NARRATOR

And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. 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. And Elkanah, her husband, said to her,

MEN

“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?”

NARRATOR

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. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. And she vowed a vow and said,

WOMEN

“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.”

NARRATOR

As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. 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. And Eli said to her,

MEN

**“How long will you go on being drunk?
Put your wine away from you.”**

NARRATOR

But Hannah answered,

WOMEN

“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. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation.”

NARRATOR

Then Eli answered,

MEN

“Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him.”

NARRATOR

And she said,

WOMEN

“Let your servant find favor in your eyes.”

NARRATOR

Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

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.

And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said,

WOMEN

“I have asked for him from the LORD.”

NARRATOR

The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband,

WOMEN

“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.”

NARRATOR

Elkanah her husband said to her,

MEN

“Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the LORD establish his word.”

NARRATOR

So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. 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. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said,

WOMEN

“Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.”

NARRATOR

And he worshiped the LORD there.

And Hannah prayed and said,

WOMEN

**“My heart exults in the LORD;
my horn is exalted in the LORD.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in your salvation.
There is none holy like the LORD:
for there is none besides you;
there is no rock like our God.**

WOMEN

**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.
The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble bind on strength.
Those who were full have hired themselves
out for bread,
but those who were hungry have ceased
to hunger.**

WOMEN

**The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn.
The LORD kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low and he exalts.
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.**

WOMEN

**For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's,
and on them he has set the world.
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."**

NARRATOR

**Then Elkanah went home to Ramah.
And the boy was ministering to the LORD
in the presence of Eli the priest. . . .
Samuel was ministering before the LORD,
a boy clothed with a linen ephod. And his
mother used to make for him a little robe
and take it to him each year when she went
up with her husband to offer the yearly
sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and
his wife, and say,**

MEN

“May the LORD give you children by this woman for the petition she asked of the LORD.”

NARRATOR

So then they would return to their home.

Indeed the LORD visited Hannah, and she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew in the presence of the LORD. . . .

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and also with man.

1 Samuel 1:1–2:11, 18–21, 26 ESV

Opposition





Prayer-Vow



Shalom

Promise Kept



Artist: Francis W. Topham

A silhouette of a person stands with their back to the camera, arms raised in a gesture of praise or worship. They are positioned in the center-left of the frame, standing on a grassy field with some dry vegetation in the foreground. The background is a vast, dramatic sky filled with large, billowing clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong backlighting effect that silhouettes the person and illuminates the edges of the clouds with a warm, golden light. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright yellow-orange near the horizon.

Song of Praise



Nurture

Anointed





The Lord's Heritage