SERIES ON 7 SAMUEL P(, *****(, . in Ca

1 Samuel 1:1-28

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. 2 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. 3 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.

4 On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. 5 But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. 6 And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. 7 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. 8 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?"

9 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. 10 She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. 11 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." 12 As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth.

13 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. 14 And Eli said to her, "How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you." 15 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. 16 Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation." 17 Then Eli answered, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him."

18 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.

19 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. 20 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."

21 The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. 22 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." 23 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. 24 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. 25 Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. 26 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. 27 For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition that I made to him. 28 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. And Hannah prayed and said,

1 Samuel 2:1-10

- 1"My heart exults in the Lord; my horn is exalted in the Lord. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. 2 "There is none holy like the Lord: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God. 3 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.

- 4 The bows of the mighty are broken,but the feeble bind on strength.5 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.
- 6 The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

- 7 The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts.
- 8 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.

9 "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.10 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."

1. Covenant faithfulness in a time of covenant unfaithfulness

"It is better to be faithful than famous."

-Theodore Roosevelt

Nehemiah 7:2

I gave the responsibility of governing Jerusalem to my brother Hanani, along with Hananiah, the commander of the fortress, for he was a faithful man who feared God more than most.

Judges 13:2-5

There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had no children. 3 And the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, "Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. 4 Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, 5 for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.

"Ironically, it is his mother who gives the baby the name Samson (13:24a), a name related to the Hebrew noun šemeš ("sun"), which is also the name of the sun deity in Canaanite (as well as in other Semitic) languages."

-Lawson Younger

Judges 17:1-6

There was a man of the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Micah. 2 And he said to his mother, "The 1,100 pieces of silver that were taken from you, about which you uttered a curse, and also spoke it in my ears, behold, the silver is with me; I took it." And his mother said, "Blessed be my son by the Lord." 3 And he restored the 1,100 pieces of silver to his mother. And his mother said, "I dedicate the silver to the Lord from my hand for my son, to make a carved image and a metal image. Now therefore I will restore it to you."

4 So when he restored the money to his mother, his mother took 200 pieces of silver and gave it to the silversmith, who made it into a carved image and a metal image. And it was in the house of Micah. 5 And the man Micah had a shrine, and he made an ephod and household gods, and ordained one of his sons, who became his priest. 6 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Deuteronomy 12:8-10,13-14

"You shall not do according to all that we are doing here today, everyone doing whatever is right in his own eyes, 9 for you have not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance that the Lord your God is giving you. 10 But when you go over the Jordan and live in the land that the Lord your God is giving you to inherit, ... 13 Take care that you do not offer your burnt offerings at any place that you see, 14 but at the place that the Lord will choose in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I am commanding you.

Deuteronomy 12:28
28 Be careful to obey all these words that I command you, that it may go well with you and with your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the sight of the Lord your God.

"Every year Elkanah went up to Shiloh to worship "the LORD of hosts"3 and to offer sacrifices. Our first impressions of Elkanah are of a man who took the Lord seriously and was attentive to his responsibilities before God. Elkanah was a man of faith in God. He gave thanks to God and honored him in the way appropriate to his time."

-John Woodhouse

2. Rising Up!

Philippines 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:6-7

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

"Hebrew text is ambiguous, the Septuagint makes it clear that she arose to stand before the Lord."

-Koowon Kim

"To put it another way, God took note of Hannah who, in total trust of him, refused to give into fate but always dared to make a difference in her apparently insignificant life. God used her faith to advance Israel's grand history of redemption."

-Koowon Kim

Matthew 6:5-8

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites." For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 7 "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him...

3. Joyful Worship

Psalm 113

Praise the Lord!

- Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!
- 2 Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore!
- 3 From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!
- 4 The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens!

- 5 Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high,
- 6 who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?
- 7 He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
- 8 to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.
- 9 He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.

Praise the Lord!

"There is a special logic behind Hannah's action. We might call it the logic of faith. To know that your suffering has come, ultimately, from God's hand could lead to fatalism: "If God is sovereign, then who am I to do any-thing but passively accept my lot?" But that is not the logic of real faith in God. Alternatively the knowledge that God is Lord, even over my tragic experiences, could lead to resentment: "If God has done this to me, then I want nothing to do with him!" Again, this is not the logic of faith. Faith in God means knowing and trusting God's sovereignty and his goodness toward us..."

"...The logic of faith says, "we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose," and therefore nothing in all of God's creation "will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:28, 39). Faith in God, therefore, leads us in our troubles to pray to the God who is sovereign over all things. That is what Hannah did."

-John Woodhouse

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