

Hannah

"The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king, and exalt the power of his anointed." 1 Samuel 2:10b

NUGGET – These words come from the song that Hannah sings in the presence of Eli the priest after lending her first-born son, Samuel, to serve in the house of the Lord. Interesting words are these especially since, at that time, there was no king yet in Israel!

Hannah sings from a place of joy, as we'll see in **GOING DEEPER**. There is a dimension of gratitude for what God has done for her. However, along with it a sense that what God has done for her is also of importance beyond just her. She knows that what is to come for her son and for Israel is the hands of God alone.

Focus for a moment on the key words, 'judge', 'strength' and 'power'. These are actions that Hannah attributes to the Lord. She is giving glory to God through these words. Now when we get into the **GOING DEEPER** section, we'll learn that God has brought her through quite a lot before singing this song, so she has reason to give God glory.

Take note also that these words connect to the Lord in specific ways:

- judging – the ends of the earth
- giving strength – to his king
- and exalting the power – of his anointed.

According to these words the influence of God will be seen both far and wide and in very specific ways. In some respects, this can be understood as a prophetic song. She sings the truth of God and tells of what God will yet do for His people. The twin ideas of the Lord's 'king' and 'anointed' lead us to the one who will also be the 'judge'. With these words Hannah effectively proclaims the work of Jesus.

Jesus has come as the infant-king and as the anointed one. In His work as king, He defeats the power of death; He triumphs over the world's great enemy. As the anointed one, He has come to take away the sin of the world. He is the one who bears the punishment for the wrongs of the world.

And the whole world, the entire earth, will know this when Jesus returns in power and glory to also be the judge. Hannah, in these words from this song of praise, prophecy and glory sets the tone for what is soon to come in Israel, judgment and mercy; law and gospel. And what comes to Israel – comes to the world.

APPLICATION – Remembering that Hannah has reason to give God glory and that she has placed her son into God's hands...

1. What reasons do you have to give glory to God this week? What has God brought you through that would allow you to raise your voice in song and sing of God's judgment, strength and power?
2. What are you facing these days that you would like to see the hand of God working in? How would your attitude toward that circumstance be different if you 'got a memo' from God telling you it was taken care of? (Not that you'd get what you want, but that you'd get what's best for you.)

PRAY – Perhaps open a hymnal and find there a hymn or song that you can use to pray and give glory to God with.



Peace in Christ, Pastor Tom Rhodes

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

'HEARING, SHARING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL'

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Going Deeper together. We meet in the Fellowship Hall during the Education Hour for discussion and prayer with all those who're able to come. If you're not able to make it Sunday, please feel free to e-mail me with your comments or questions so that we can have the benefit of sharing them together.

GOING DEEPER

First, please read the story of Hannah in [1 Samuel 1:1 – 2:21](#). (For our purposes today you can skip verses 12-17 in chapter 2, however those verses become important as you read of Samuel later.)

The first part of Hannah's story involves her husband's, Elka'nah's other wife, Penin'nah. She and Hannah are spoken of as rivals. And though they're married to the same man who, according to verse 5 loved Hannah, she was irritated. Take note that their rivalry was a long-standing one and was provoked yearly when they went up to the sacrifice. It's one thing to be irritated and out of sorts, it's another to have that irritation be long standing and on going. Keeping in mind the words and actions of all the players, how would you describe Hannah's circumstances in verses 1-8?

Verses 9-18 see Hannah change. Looking at just the prayer and vow of Hannah in verse 11 and how she comes to that – why might she have waited so long to offer this prayer?

In verses 12-18 the conversation between Hannah and Eli is interesting. Since Samuel is the author of this book, we can presume that he knows both his mother and his mentor, so he knows these details of this story quite well. Notice that Eli has a change of heart toward what he, at first glance assumes, is a drunken woman. After she gives her explanation Eli speaks to her words of blessing and comfort. How can we apply what Eli does in our lives?

When Hannah, at last, bears a son she names him Samuel, which from the text means, because I asked the Lord for him. And if you look in the footnote it says Samuel sounds like the Hebrew for 'heard of God' as though God heard and replied. Giving her boy this name does more than simply give her something to call him, that name sets the course of his life. Naming our children is among the most powerful things that we as humans do. It has been the source of tension and joy for many couples because names mean so much.

When Hannah has weaned Samuel and he is able to eat food, she brings him to Eli to serve the Lord with him. Various translations use phrases such as 'lent him to the Lord all the days of his life', 'give him to the Lord' and 'he will belong to the Lord'. In all of these, the idea is that he remains, from now on, apart from his mother and stays with Eli. Of course we see this as a bittersweet thing, however Hannah gives no indication of that.

Look closely at the prayer or song of Hannah. What themes run through this beautiful prayer?

The last we hear of Hannah is in verses 18-21. It is touching to note that she clothed him over the years as he grew. Also Eli gives Elka'nah and Hannah a blessing that results in more children being born to Hannah. It's interesting that the blessing is about 'replacing' the child that she gave to the Lord and that in addition to 2 girls there were 3 sons given to them. Now it would be easy to draw a parallel to the Trinity by this and that may not be out of line. However, I think it more important to note that the blessing of the Lord was one of abundance, having 5 children given. Hannah teaches us that the blessing of God is often more than what we can imagine or hope for. God's peace and blessing be with you! Pastor Rhodes