

Grace Upon “Grace” 1 Samuel 1-2

I. Unpacking the Text

A. The characters (1:1-3)

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|--|---|
| 1. Elkanah <ul style="list-style-type: none">-- A Levite-- Likely prosperous-- Devout-- Caring | 2. Hannah (“Grace”) <ul style="list-style-type: none">-- Elkanah’s favorite-- Barren |
| 3. Peninnah <ul style="list-style-type: none">-- May have become Elkanah’s wife because of Hannah’s barrenness-- Had several children-- Was mean to Hannah | 4. Eli and his sons, Hophni and Phinehas <ul style="list-style-type: none">-- High priestly family-- Eli was a weak spiritual leader-- His sons were “wicked” |

B. Hannah’s Situation (1:4-8)

1. Her problem

- a. The Lord had closed her _____ (1:5-6)
- b. Her pain was exacerbated by . . .
 - 1) the “_____” taunts of her rival, Peninnah (1:6-7)
 - 2) her husband’s well-intentioned efforts to _____.
 - 3) the setting of the Feast of Tabernacles which was given to celebrate _____
- c. This situation continued “_____” (1:3, 7).

2. Her anguish

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| -- Weeping (“bitterly” – vs. 10) | -- Not eating |
| -- “deeply distressed” (10) | -- “troubled in spirit” (15) |
| -- “great anxiety and vexation” (16) | |

C. Hannah’s Action (1:9-18)

1. Her Vow: If “Yahweh of Hosts” “remembers” her and gives her a son, she will return that son to serve the Lord all the days of his life (See Exodus 22:29; 13:2, 13).
2. Eli’s misinterpretation of Hannah’s behavior
3. Hannah’s resolution
 - She explained herself to Eli
 - Eli blessed her with a prayer that God would hear her prayer
 - Hannah was at peace

D. The Birth of Samuel (1:19-20): “_____ of God”

E. The Dedication of Samuel (1:21-28)

- This was done by Elkanah and Hannah together
- Hannah fulfilled her vow
- God gave her five more children (2:20-21).

F. Hannah's Psalm of Praise (2:1-11).

1. General Notes

- a. This Psalm forms an "inclusion" (literary envelope) with the Psalm of David recorded in 2 Samuel 22.
- b. It appears to be an existing Psalm which uses military imagery to convey its message. Hannah probably sang it because it fit her situation so well.
- c. This Psalm became the template for the Psalm of Mary ("The Magnificat" – Luke 1:46-55)

2. Content

- a. Hannah extols the greatness of _____ God who delivered her (2:1-2)
- b. She warns self-sufficient "_____" against arrogance – because God reverses the fortunes of the "haves" and the "have nots" (2:3-8)
- c. Summary: Those who oppose the Lord will be brought down (He "_____" against them), but those who trust in him will be established (2:9-10).
- d. Prophetic Conclusion: God will give this same strength to his "_____" king (2:10).

II. Expanding The Author's Frame of Reference

- A. Historical context: Judges 21:25. Israel was morally adrift with _____.
- B. Hannah appears as a type or picture of Israel, who was spiritually _____. God's answer to Hannah's prayer was a provision not only for her but for Israel.
- C. This passage is one of several Birth Narratives in Story of Redemption where the _____ was God's answer to hopelessness and desperate need:
 - Isaac (Genesis 21:1-4)
 - Moses (Exodus 2:1-10)
 - Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14-17)
 - Jesus (Matthew 1; Luke 1-2)

III. Biblical Principles Illustrated by the Story of Hannah

- A. Our deepest needs are ultimately met by God Himself – and whatever he _____.
- B. Resolution to anguish comes through heart-felt _____ with God through prayer that seeks to advance his _____ in our world.
- C. Most of God's purposes are advanced through the faithful devotion of _____ disciples.
- D. The adversity we encounter as a result of living in a fallen world is designed by God to accomplish his purposes _____ us, _____ us, _____ us, and _____ us.
 1. In some cases (at least), the adversity itself is _____ orchestrated by God.
 2. One of God's purposes for our suffering is always to increase our _____ upon him, and to enlarge our _____ to know and experience him.
 3. It's never just about _____. There is always more at stake in my response to adversity than my personal welfare. I should expect that God intends to benefit others through my _____. In fact, the greatest impact of my life may come from the _____ I have on other individuals who, in turn, _____.