

HANNAH THE MODEL MOTHER

1 SAM 1, 2:1, 21

Text:

Introduction:

All that is recorded of this mother is an inspiration and an example for all today.

Hannah is an example of how the most unpleasant circumstances can produce a character who is a blessing to others.

Notice:

1. SHE MADE AN INVESTMENT IN THE FAMILY

(Ill. Hannah invested her life in her family in spite of the fact that circumstances weren't as pleasant as they should have been in her home. Yet, she persevered to make her investment in the family she loved.)

A. She Invested In Spite Of Difficulty - v. 1-2

Right off the bat we learn that Hannah was married to a man with two wives. This is a recipe for disaster! Yet, Hannah was not looking for the

exit! She stayed in the family and she worked to make the best of a bad situation!

(Note: God never said the family would be an easy place to live! Families are great and they are wonderful, but every one of them is filled with people and therein lies the potential for trouble.

There will be disagreements and there will be trouble, but the secret lies in not running away!

Learn to make an investment in your family regardless of the difficulties you face in life! It's gotten too easy to walk away in our society! God's people need to learn the truth that marriage and family is a lifetime investment!)

B. She Invested In Spite Of Discouragement - v. 5-6

1 Samuel 1:5-6 (KJV)

⁵ But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb. ⁶ And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb.

Her husband's other wife, Peninnah, had children, but Hannah was barren. Peninnah used Hannah's barrenness as a means of ridicule. She mocked Hannah and made her life miserable! It seems to me that I detect a hint of jealousy in this home.

All of this criticism and belittling made life practically impossible for Hannah, yet she continued to invest in the family! What a testimony!

C. **She Invested In Spite Of Desperation - v. 5-6**

Both of these verses tell us that Hannah was barren because God had chosen this lot for her! She was in a situation that was of the Lord's doing and nothing she could do would ever change it! What Hannah did not know was that God's plans for her life were good plans.

(III. The plans of God for us are good plans - **Jer. 29:11; Rom. 8:28.**)

Jeremiah 29:11 (KJV)

¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Romans 8:28 (KJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

2. SHE MADE AN INVESTMENT IN THE FAITH

It appears that family was important to Hannah, but it also appears that faith was very important to her as well. She made a wise investment in the faith.

A. Her Faith Was Personal - v. 10-11; 2:1-10

1 Samuel 1:10-11 (KJV)

¹⁰ And she *was* in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. ¹¹ And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

1 Samuel 2:1-10 (KJV)

¹ And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation. ² *There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.* ³ Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let *not* arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD *is* a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. ⁴ The bows of the mighty men *are* broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength. ⁵ *They that were* full have hired out themselves for bread; and *they that were* hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble. ⁶ The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. ⁷ The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up. ⁸ He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, *and* lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set *them* among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth *are* the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them. ⁹ He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man

prevail. ¹⁰ The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

In these verses, I see a woman who knows the Lord on a personal level.

B. Her Faith Was Practical - v. 10-18

1 Samuel 1:10-18 (KJV)

¹⁰ And she *was* in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. ¹¹ And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head. ¹² And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth. ¹³ Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. ¹⁴ And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee. ¹⁵ And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I *am* a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. ¹⁶ Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto. ¹⁷ Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant *thee* thy petition that thou hast asked of him. ¹⁸ And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more *sad*.

Her prayer and her dialogue with Eli. Hannah was a woman who possessed a practical faith in God! She didn't just know about Him, she knew Him and she trusted Him for all her needs. She

leaned upon Him and trusted Him for the impossible in her life. She didn't just talk about faith in God, she fleshed it out by the way she lived.

Note:

Again, Hannah sets the standard that we should resolve to meet. Not only should we possess a testimony concerning our faith, but we must live out that testimony day by day as we go through life.

C. Her Faith Was Profound - v. 11, 20-23

1 Samuel 1:11 (KJV)

¹¹ And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

1 Samuel 1:20-23 (KJV)

²⁰ Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, *saying*, Because I have asked him of the LORD. ²¹ And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow. ²² But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, *I will not go up* until the child be weaned, and *then* I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever. ²³ And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him.

She asked God for son and she promised to give that son back to the Lord for His glory!

(**Note:** This kind of faith is always honored by the Lord - v. 19-20)

1 Samuel 1:19-20 (KJV)

¹⁹ And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her.

²⁰ Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, *saying*, Because I have asked him of the LORD.

3. SHE MADE AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

A. Through The Length Of Her Commitment - v. 11, 22; 2:18-21

1 Samuel 1:11 (KJV)

¹¹ And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

1 Samuel 1:22 (KJV)

²² But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, *I will not go up* until the child be weaned, and *then* I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.

1 Samuel 2:18-21 (KJV)

¹⁸ But Samuel ministered before the LORD, *being* a child, girded with a linen ephod. ¹⁹ Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought *it* to him from year to year, when she came up with

her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰ And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, The LORD give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the LORD. And they went unto their own home. ²¹ And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

Hannah made the ultimate commitment a mother can make. She totally gave her child to the Lord! She held nothing back! She committed him to the Lord before he was even was with child, she dedicated him to the Lord when he was born and she gave him to the Lord when he was weaned.

Note:

This is the kind of commitment God is seeking in His people! He wants us to invest the totality of our lives on His altar, **Rom. 12:1-2.**

Romans 12:1-2 (KJV)

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

He wants us to give all we have and are to Him, without holding anything back from Him! He wants a once for all commitment for His glory!)

B. Through The Life Of Her Child - v. 21-28, 2:26

1 Samuel 1:21-28 (KJV)

²¹ And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow. ²² But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, *I will not go up* until the child be weaned, and *then* I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever. ²³ And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him. ²⁴ And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child *was* young. ²⁵ And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli. ²⁶ And she said, Oh my lord, *as* thy soul liveth, my lord, *I am* the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD. ²⁷ For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: ²⁸ Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.

1 Samuel 2:26 (KJV)

²⁶ And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men.

Hannah presented her son Samuel to the Lord and he, by the grace of God, became a mighty man of God.

He set a standard of righteousness for the nation of Israel. He was a man greatly used of the Lord.

He was the man who anointed David as king.

He was the man who served as the spiritual leader of Israel for many years.

He was the man he was because of the investment his mother made in his life before he was born and during all those early years.

Because she made the kind of investments she did, an entire nation was blessed for many years.

Conc:

Hannah made the right investments in her family in her faith and in the future. She exhibited a life of faith that is a cut above the ordinary! However, what she did is a challenge to you and me today!

What kind of investments are you making in the lives of those around you? Whether you know it or not, you are investing every day you live!

The good thing about spiritual investments is this: if you have been investing in the wrong stocks, God will allow you to change the way your investments are distributed today. If you see areas that need attention, the place to make the changes is right here in this altar!

Some of you have children you need to bring to this altar. Some have parents and other family members that need the Lord, why not come and make an investment in them?