

Hannah's Prayer of Celebration

1 Samuel 2:1-10

¹ Then Hannah prayed and said:

*"My heart rejoices in the LORD;
in the LORD my horn is lifted high.*

*My mouth boasts over my enemies,
for I delight in your deliverance.*

² *"There is no one holy like the LORD;
there is no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.*

³ *"Do not keep talking so proudly
or let your mouth speak such arrogance,
for the LORD is a God who knows,
and by him deeds are weighed.*

⁴ *"The bows of the warriors are broken,
but those who stumbled are armed with strength.*

⁵ *Those who were full hire themselves out for food,
but those who were hungry are hungry no more.*

*She who was barren has borne seven children,
but she who has had many sons pines away.*

⁶ *"The LORD brings death and makes alive;
he brings down to the grave and raises up.*

⁷ *The LORD sends poverty and wealth;
he humbles and he exalts.*

⁸ *He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;*

*he seats them with princes
and has them inherit a throne of honor.*

*"For the foundations of the earth are the LORD's;
on them he has set the world.*

⁹ *He will guard the feet of his faithful servants,
but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness.*

"It is not by strength that one prevails;

¹⁰ *those who oppose the LORD will be broken.*

*The Most High will thunder from heaven;
the LORD will judge the ends of the earth.*

*"He will give strength to his king
and exalt the horn of his anointed."*

Hannah Rejoices

¹ Then Hannah prayed and said:
*“My heart rejoices in the LORD;
 in the LORD my horn is lifted high.
 My mouth boasts over my enemies,
 for I delight in your deliverance.*
² *“There is no one holy like the LORD;
 there is no one besides you;
 there is no Rock like our God.*

<p>1 Samuel 1 ¹⁵ <i>“Not so, my lord,” Hannah replied, “I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the LORD. ¹⁶ Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.”</i></p>	<p>1 Samuel 2 <i>“My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. ² <i>“There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.</i></i></p>
<p>Hannah’s desperate prayer for God’s intervention for a child</p>	<p>Hannah’s prayer of celebration of who God is and what He is doing</p>
<p>Deeply troubled, pouring out her soul, great anguish and grief.</p>	<p>Rejoices, her horn (strength) is lifted high</p>

There is a great contrast between Hannah’s 2 prayers (from great anguish to rejoicing). Hannah’s joy and prayer of celebration was based on the Lord, not Samuel. Yes, God answered her prayer by opening her womb and blessing her with Samuel. But, in the process of her prayers being answered, Hannah came to a place where she discovered the greatest blessing, she met God and realized that He is not what the world has portrayed Him to be. She was despised, outcast, seen as a disgrace and curse because of her barrenness, but God did not see her in that way. God saw her in her brokenness, in her deep trouble, anguish and grief. God met her there and lifted her up.

1 Samuel 1:18

She said, “May your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.

Hannah experienced peace before she was pregnant. After having a child, Hannah kept her promise to dedicate Samuel as a Nazirite. (A Nazirite is a volunteered Levite who would serve God all his life in the temple. That meant Hannah would be separated from Samuel and could only see him once or few times a year.) Hannah was willing to let go of the very thing that she has asked God for.

⁶ *“The LORD brings death and makes alive;
he brings down to the grave and raises up.*
⁷ *The LORD sends poverty and wealth;
he humbles and he exalts.*
⁸ *He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;
he seats them with princes
and has them inherit a throne of honor.*
*“For the foundations of the earth are the LORD’s;
on them he has set the world.*

Hannah’s joy also came from the place of trusting in God’s sovereignty. Hannah recognizes that everything is in God’s hands. God is in control, and God can bless her with or without children. Hannah trusts the Lord knows to give us what is best for us.

In her cries to God, Hannah met God, and came to a place of surrender, a place of trust, recognizing that God, in His sovereignty, love and goodness will give us what is best for us. He knows how to give vindicate and restore dignity to His people, in His ways.

Man’s Arrogance

³ *“Do not keep talking so proudly
or let your mouth speak such arrogance,
for the LORD is a God who knows,
and by him deeds are weighed.*
⁴ *“The bows of the warriors are broken,
but those who stumbled are armed with strength.*
⁵ *Those who were full hire themselves out for food,
but those who were hungry are hungry no more.*
*She who was barren has borne seven children,
but she who has had many sons pines away.*

⁹ *He will guard the feet of his faithful servants,
but the wicked will be silenced in the place of
darkness.*
*“It is not by strength that one prevails;
¹⁰ those who oppose the LORD will be broken.*
*The Most High will thunder from heaven;
the LORD will judge the ends of the earth.*

Eli’s sons	Hannah
Ordained priests	Disgrace, cursed, shame, humiliation
Exploit their power and position	Without power or position
Cause damage to the people	Taunted by people
Thought they will never be punished	Was deeply trouble, in great anguish and grief
Profaned the name of the Lord	Called upon the name of the Lord

God truly knows and weighs the hearts of His people. He sees each person inside out. God will bring vindication to those who seek Him and bring judgement to those who oppose Him.

Reversal of Fortune:

V. 4	<i>The bows of the warriors are broken</i>	<i>but those who stumbled are armed with strength</i>
V. 5	<i>Those who were full hire themselves out for food</i>	<i>but those who were hungry are hungry no more</i>
V. 5	<i>but she who has had many sons pines away</i>	<i>She who was barren has borne seven children</i>
V. 9	<i>but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness</i>	<i>He will guard the feet of his faithful servants</i>
Vv. 9-10	<i>It is not by strength that one prevails; those who oppose the LORD will be broken The Most High will thunder from heaven; the LORD will judge the ends of the earth.</i>	

Throughout Scriptures, God has showed us the values of His kingdom often contradicts the values of the world. While the world despises the poor, God tends and cares for the poor. Jesus associated Himself with sinners, tax collectors, prostitutes, the outcast. He fed the poor, He cared for the needy, He freed the oppressed, and He brought judgment to the wicked. He condemned the self-righteous religious leaders who were prideful and arrogant. They were the ones who were supposed to do what Jesus did, to care for the people, to lead them to God. But, they were like the sons of Eli, abusing their power and position, and adding burden to the people.

The Coming King

*“He will give strength to his king
and exalt the horn of his anointed.”*

1. Hannah’s prayer end with a prophetic word.
 - During Hannah’s days, there were no kings. In fact, Hannah’s son, the prophet Samuel, will be anointing the first 2 kings of Israel.
 - The word, “his anointed”, is translated as the Messiah. This verse is not only pointing to Israel’s kings, but also to the Messianic King, Jesus Christ.

2. Mary, the mother of Jesus
 - Many years after Hannah’s song of celebration, Mary, an ordinary humble person, was chosen by God to bear the child who would become the Messiah, the king that would bring deliverance to Israel.
 - When she was pregnant with Jesus, Mary rejoiced in the Lord, and burst into a song of praise and celebration, and prophesied about the ministry of Jesus.
 - We see how God repeatedly uses what is simple and small, probably unnoticed or useless in the eyes of the world, and fulfil His great purposes through them.

3. Although Jesus was king, He chose to live in humility.
 - He didn’t live in a palace; in fact, He had no place to call His home.
 - He spent time with the people that the world would not.
 - He was rejected, mocked, beaten, humiliated, and murdered.

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ *In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*

⁶ *Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;*

⁷ *rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.*

⁸ *And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!*

⁹ *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,*

¹⁰ *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*

¹¹ *and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*

- Jesus was vindicated in His resurrection from the dead. Now He seats in the highest place and is given the name that is above every name. God honoured the humility of Jesus. He will do the same for those who are choose humility.

We can put our hope in knowing that God knows each of us. He knows our hearts and He know our situation. The world functions in a system where we need to continuously strive and prove ourselves to be somebody important. But, God looks to those who are poor in spirit, those who are humble and meek, those who would seek the Lord, instead of boasting in their bows, chariots and horses. And He brings vindication to those who look to Him.

Look to the Lord instead of striving to meet the standards of the world. He accepts us, He loves us, He is kind to us. Our God is a holy God who does not look at us as the world does. He gives meaning and dignity to individuals. We can take great comfort that, like Hannah and Samuel, God often uses simple things in this world, for His great purposes.

The greatest vindication, the greatest blessing is when we appear before the Lord on Judgment Day, no matter what we have been through in our life on earth, we see Him face to face, He embraces us, saying, “Well done, my good and faithful servant,” and we join Him in communion, enjoying the relationship we have with Him.

Prayer Items

1. Hannah's prayer:
 - Learn to be "poor in spirit" – recognize our need for the Lord
 - Our encounters with the Lord: the knowledge of His love and acceptance
 - Trust and rest in the blessing and vindication of the Lord
 - Be more Christlike in our values: courage to bring God's values to workplaces
2. Church
 - Open doors for us to reach out to our new community
 - Salvation: opportunities & courage to be God's witnesses
 - Empowerment to confidently lead in the workplace
 - Ministries: Life Explorers, Redeeming Roses, Destiny Kids & Teens, Worship, Sunday School, Lifeline Youth
 - Si Yun & Ee Khai (Jayden's parents): Si Yun – colon cancer
 - Thanksgiving: Francis, Kaesha & Asmita's mom
3. Covid-19 pandemic
 - Deliverance & protection
 - Those infected & their family: healing, comfort & strength
 - Every person: rid of our selfishness, to be considerate and responsible
 - Leaders (government and companies): wisdom, compassion & integrity
 - Grace and favour upon the foreigners, poor and vulnerable
4. Malaysia