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# A Biographical Study of Hannah

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# Hannah

## CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. Her sorrow
  - A. Hannah was one of Elkanah's two wives (1 Sam. 1:2).
  - B. For many years she was barren and brokenhearted (1 Sam. 1:2, 7).
  - C. She was especially loved by Elkanah (1 Sam. 1:5).
  - D. However, she was ridiculed for her barrenness by Peninnah, the other wife who had children (1 Sam. 1:2, 6-7).
- II. Her supplication
  - A. The rebuke
    1. She visited the tabernacle in Shiloh and stood there praying silently, weeping and vowing she would raise any son God might give her as a Nazarite (1 Sam. 1:9-11).
    2. Eli, the high priest, watching her pray, thought she was drunk and rebuked her (1 Sam. 1:12-14).
- III. The reassurance—Upon being aware of the actual situation, Eli sent Hannah home, promising God would give her a son (1 Sam. 1:15-18).
  - A. Hannah gave birth to Samuel (1 Sam. 1:19-20).
  - B. She would later give birth to three more sons and two daughters (1 Sam. 2:21).
- IV. Her sacrifice
  - A. She offered up a lifeless sacrifice. "They slew a bullock" (1 Sam. 1:25).
  - B. She offered up a living sacrifice. "For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him. Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord" (1 Sam. 1:27-28).
- V. Her song—After the dedication, Hannah uttered a beautiful ode of praise which appears to be the basis of Mary's song found in Luke 1:46-55 (1 Sam. 2:1-10). In this remarkable prayer Hannah mentioned a number of God's divine attributes.
  - A. His holiness—"There is none holy as the Lord" (2:2).
  - B. His omniscience—"The Lord is a God of knowledge" (2:3).
  - C. His omnipotence—"He bringeth low, and lifteth up" (2:7).
  - D. His mercy—"He raiseth up the poor . . . and . . . beggar . . . to set them among princes" (2:8).
  - E. His faithfulness—"He will keep the feet of the saints" (2:9).
  - F. His justice—"The Lord shall judge the ends of the earth" (2:10).
  - G. His Messiah—"He shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed" (2:10).

## STATISTICS

*Spouse:* Elkanah (1 Sam. 1:2)

*Son:* Samuel (1 Sam. 1:19-20)

*First mention:* 1 Samuel 1:2

*Final mention:* 1 Samuel 2:21

*Meaning of her name:* "Grace"

*Frequency of her name:* Referred to 13 times

*Biblical books mentioning her:* One book (1 Samuel)

*Important fact about her life:* She was the godly mother of Samuel (1 Sam. 1)