

"The Pillars of the Earth -- Hannah & Samuel"

A Little Review:

We have seen over several of our fellowships how Almighty God worked in the hearts of men, even using a Gentile woman, Rahab, for Israel's deliverance and the sacred commentary was given in Jos. 6:25-27, in Heb. 11:30-31, and in Matt. 1:5-6. Our central focal point last time was this sacred commentary as it stands written in the New Testament:

Heb. 11:30-31

"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days. By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace."

- ***Rahab was exalted and her name was included in Hebrews 11. Joshua was exalted also as Israel's courageous and faithful leader. Although his name is not included in the record of Hebrews chapter 11, it is implied, of course, in verse 30.***
- ***And, as we mentioned several fellowships ago, Rahab is much more important than Joshua 2 & 6 indicates. Yes indeed, for I am sure that you remember that very well known scripture from the New Testament's genealogical record of our savior, the very Seed of the Woman himself:***
- ***Then, in our last meeting, we saw how finally, at the appointed time, God raised up Deborah as the fourth judge over his people. And then, how a woman named Jael who was married to the grandson of Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses, was used of the Lord to finish the work against Sisera and the Canaanites.***
- ***WITHOUT THE BOLD TESTIMONY OF A FEW CALLED OUT ONES, THE PEOPLE OF GOD COULD NOT "FLOURISH IN THE LAND GOD HAD GIVEN THEM".***
- ***Take note well of the wording here in Joshua chapter 4 and verse 23: "So God subdued on that day Jabin the king of Canaan before the children of Israel." The purpose and work of God was clearly revealed here. This is the divine***

commentary on that in God's word. The Israelites were to know well that it was the Lord who had delivered them and therefore that their victory was really the Lord's. But did they know this? Not so well, it seems, as we shall see as we continue reading in the book of the Judges.

- *Nevertheless, God, sets his seal on his work by own testimony found in chapter 5, often called by commentators, the Song of Deborah:*

Judges 5:24-27

24 Blessed above women shall Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite be, blessed shall she be above women in the tent.

I hope you set aside the time to read this chapter in its entirety and were blessed as I was.

Our Outline for Today

God is at work in this world "behind the scenes" often invisibly but in ways only his people know. It is appropriate for this time in which we are living (and on this specific day too), that we remember often that God uses the "weak things" to manifest forth his great power. And, as we have seen, he used so many women who ordinarily would have been hidden in Israel's history, to accomplish his great purpose of the ages.

We continue today observing that as the Long War Against God proceeds, and as we shall again see today, also during the period of the Judges, that the Lord God used his servants Elkanah & Hannah in that long war.

- *Hannah's Cries Were Heard by God (1 Sam. 1)*
- *Hannah's Cries Were Transformed into Singing (1 Sam. 2)*
- *Hannah's Cries Were Fulfilled Through Her Son Samuel (1 Sam. 2&3)*

I. Hannah's Cries Were Heard by God (1 Sam. 1)

[READ] 1 Sam. 1:1-11

1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite:

2 And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of

the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

3 And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.

4 And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions:

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.

7 And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.

8 Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am not I better to thee than ten sons?

9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.

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.

- *What can we learn from these verses? Who was Hannah? It seems that she was a woman of no apparent distinction of the tribe of Ephraim (where Bethlehem is located). Her husband was godly man named Elkanah.*
- *But, probably more importantly, she was a woman who was barren though she had cried out often to the Lord regarding this. However, her sorrow was mixed with here faithful walk before the Lord and she seems not to have ever wavered in that.*

This will be our story too if we do not ever waver in our walk with the Lord.

[READ] 1 Sam. 1:12-18

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.

So Eli had not heard Hannah's prayer request! But he does as the Lord to fulfil it.

[READ] 1 Sam. 1:19-28

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 [literally, in Hebrew, "asked of God"], 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.

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.

- *What was Hannah's response to the gift of a son?*
- *What would your response have been? Would it have been like Hannah's?*
- *Has your faith in Almighty God sustained you through the trials of life?*

[Your comments?]

II. Hannah's Cries Were Transformed into Singing! (1 Sam. 2)

Hannah's Song is one of the most "precious" portions of scripture [compare chapter 3 and verse 1] . Let's read it and then consider its meaning and gain the blessing.

[READ] 1 Sam. 2:1-10

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 arrogance 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: **(compare with Psalm 113:7)** 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.

- ***What was the central theme of Hannah's "Song"?***
 - ***It is a song of thanksgiving and praise (before the answered prayers!). It has these components:***
 - ***God's glory is its starting point***
 - ***His work on earth***
 - ***His final judgment of sinners***
 - ***So this song is all about God and his works! Therefore it is all about his glory! It goes far beyond the specific situation of Hannah. She does not even mention directly the birth of Samuel. Very interesting, is it not? How might you have prayed in that situation were you in Hannah's place?***

- ***Hannah's cries were transformed into singing as her long desired son was brought into this world. In what ways is this "song" a blessing to you? Your thoughts?***

- ***What is the most profound and valuable lesson it teaches?***
 - ***Our "sorrows are turned to dancing" when we consider the Lord God and who we are in his plan. You may recall the Psalm of David given at the dedication of his house in Jerusalem:***

Ps. 30:4-12

4 Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

5 For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: **weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.**

6 And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved.

7 LORD, by thy favour thou hast made my mountain to stand

strong: thou didst hide thy face, and I was troubled.

8 I cried to thee, O LORD; and unto the LORD I made supplication.

9 What profit is there in my blood, when I go down to the pit? Shall the dust praise thee? shall it declare thy truth?

10 Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me: LORD, be thou my helper.

11 Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;

12 To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.

We have found these words to be so comforting in times of need, sorrow and great loss. Perhaps the Lord will bless you with them as well today if he has not already. He is there ministering the abundance of his grace even now, whatever the circumstances. Amen.

III. Hannah's Cries Were Fulfilled Through Her Son Samuel (1 Sam. 2 & 3)

[READ] 1 Sam. 2:11-12

11 And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. And the child did minister unto the LORD before Eli the priest.

12 Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD.

1 Sam. 2:18-21

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.

1 Sam. 2:22-26

22 Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how

they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

23 And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people.

24 Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD'S people to transgress.

25 If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.

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

But God's judgment would fall on the house of Levi because of Eli's sons:

1 Sam. 2:31-35

31 Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house.

32 And thou shalt see an enemy in my habitation, in all the wealth which God shall give Israel: and there shall not be an old man in thine house for ever.

33 And the man of thine, whom I shall not cut off from mine altar, shall be to consume thine eyes, and to grieve thine heart: and all the increase of thine house shall die in the flower of their age.

34 And this shall be a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them.

35 And I will raise me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever.

God would, however, in his faithfulness toward Israel and in his sovereignty over the affairs of men and to fulfill the promises regarding the Seed of the Woman, would bring a high priest to the nation in due time (in approximately 700 years)! That high priest, of course, would be Israel's Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ. Here the "proof" of God's plan being fulfilled some day was that both of Eli's sons would die on the same day! And they did. Amen. Please see 1 Sam. 4:11 & 17 for this fulfillment.

[READ] 1 Sam. 3:1-4

1 And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. **And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.**

2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see;

3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;

4 That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I.

We can assume and shall soon see, Lord willing, that Hannah had a legacy through Samuel. God was working a great work in his redemptive plan regarding the Seed of the Woman. Elkanah and Hannah played their parts. Samuel played his. And even we, some 2700 years later, are still the beneficiaries! Thanks to God for his precious word of truth!

BUT THE WORK WAS THE LORD'S, WAS IT NOT? AND SO IT IS WITH US AS WELL TODAY -- IF WE WILL REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE WORD OF THE PROMISE! SO BE IT.

[Your comments?]

Final Scripture:

1 Sam. 2:8 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.

If God has worked so powerfully in Israel's history, even when they were under the bondage of the Mosaic Law, how might he be working today under grace?

[Any Comments?]