

Introduction: As a baby Christian I read a positive review of a work of fiction written by a nun who served all her adult life in an inner city mission. The reviewer commented on her realistic portrayal of the various people she had come to know there. A highlight of the review was a quote from a two-bit gambler on what he learned about life: ‘Man deals, but God stacks the deck’. An Augustinian quote, if ever there was one. *** Our passages highlighting Hannah, the favorite wife of Elkanah who was persecuted by the second wife who had children, show how God will bless people who call out to Him with hearts burdened with sorrow and overflowing with tears. However, we must also realize that Hannah’s request involved a vow to fully give back to God what God gave to her. *** Samuel, the son given to Hannah, had profound significance in God’s plan to bring people back to Him. God’s people had reached their lowest point since Joshua’s generation had died. Over more than three hundred years they had fallen deeply into sin and idolatry. But, under the teaching of the flawed high priest Eli, Samuel came to understand the gift of prophecy he had been given by God. He also acted as a priest, offering sacrifices on behalf of the people. Finally, he ruled over all Israel as a judge. He was the first and last man to fill all three offices until The Son of Man Jesus came to earth. Jesus is THE Great High Priest, Prophet and King of kings. *** Now, let’s examine our passages.

I. Hannah prays in bitterness for a son she will consecrate to Yahweh, worships, goes home, conceives by her husband, a Levite, and gives birth to Samuel. (*1 Samuel 9:9-11; 19-20; 1 Chronicles 6:31-38*)

- A. Hannah prays to Yahweh in bitter tears, pleading for a son whom she vows to consecrate to Him as a Nazarite. (*1 Samuel 9:9-11*)
1. Then Hannah rose after eating and drinking at Shiloh. (*Verse 9a*)
Hannah: Her name means ‘grace’. (The Temple widow at Jesus’ consecration may have been named for her.) Her rival wife, Peninnah (‘jewel’), provoked her for being barren (*1:1-8*).
 2. Eli, the priest, sat at the door of Yahweh’s Temple. (*Verse 9b*)
Eli: He was the high priest, ministering in the Tabernacle which was then in Shiloh (‘place of rest’).
 3. Hannah, bitter of soul, prayed to Yahweh, full of weeping. (*Verse 10*)
Prayer: In the midst of a troubled heart and tears, Hannah still prayed.
 4. She vowed: If you will look on Your servant’s affliction, remember and not forget, and give a son (*Verses 11a-c*)
Requests: She expresses a desire for three things of the covenant God: If you truly see my affliction, remember-don’t forget, and give me a son.
 5. Then I will give him to You all his life with no razor on his head. (*Verse 11d*)
Vow: She said to Yahweh, even before You answer me, I have consecrated him to you all the days of his life (*Numbers 6:1-21*). May we learn to always pour out our hearts to God, even in deep sorrow, asking for the desire of our heart, and willing to give back to God what He gives to us.
- B. Rising early, they worshipped and went home; Elkanah knew Hannah and she conceived and bore a son. (*1 Samuel 9:19-20*)
1. They rose up early, worshipped before Yahweh, and went home to Ramah. (*Verses 19a-c*)
Worshipped: First thing in the morning they bowed their faces to the ground before the covenant God who created and rules everything. Then they returned to their home in the hills.
 2. Elkanah knew (had marital relations with) Hannah, Yahweh remembered her and she conceived. (*Verses 19d-20a*)
Remembered: Her primary petition has been answered.
 3. She gave birth to a son and named him Samuel (‘heard [by] God’). She said because I asked Yahweh for him. (*Verses 20b-c*)
Son: The son she asked for, and vowed to return to God, was given to her because God heard and acted on her behalf.
- Bottom line:** Let us live by this truth: prayer according to God’s will is always fulfilled.
- C. Samuel’s grandson was appointed a singer by king David, and Samuel comes from the same son of Levi as Aaron. (*1 Chronicles 6:31-38*)
1. David appointed men to sing in the house of Yahweh. (*Verse 31*)
Singers: David appointed many singers as he prepared to hand off both the Temple and organization for worship to his son Solomon (*1 Chronicles 25*).
 2. They ministered in song in the dwelling tent of meeting until Solomon built the House of Yahweh and they stood in their service according to their order. (*Verse 32*)
No delay: They ministered in song immediately. Their ministry to God was more important than the place they ministered.
 3. Those who stood from the sons of Kohath (were) Heman, the son of Joel, the son of Samuel, the son of Elkanah. (*Verses 33-34a*)
Heman: Heman means ‘he will cause to be faithful’. He was Samuel’s grandson by Joel (‘Yahweh [is] God’). One of his songs is in Scripture. (*Psalms 88*) He addresses his prayer to Yahweh, the God of his salvation. But the rest of the song describes how his suffering is as severe as Job’s. However, instead of being restored, he closes: You have removed from me lover and friend, I am knowing darkness. This would be depressing, except Heman is still declaring he is saved by Yahweh.
 So, with this Psalm, he has caused God’s people to be faithful for over three thousand years.
Elkanah: The name of Hannah’s husband means ‘possessed of God’. He belongs to God.
 4. Sixteen more names are given. (*Verses 34b-38a*)
Sixteen generations: Genealogies are big in *Chronicles*. All we need to know is there were sixteen generations between Elkanah and Kohath. And there were three Elkanah’s in the line.
 5. Kohath was the son of Levi, the son of Israel (Jacob). (*Verses 38b-d*)
Kohath: Kohath was the grandfather of Aaron, the first high priest. (*1 Chronicles 6:1-3*)

Priest: Samuel in Kohath's line, a priest by birth. Samuel acted as a priest (*1 Samuel 16:5*). As men corrupted God's priesthood, He 'stacked the deck' with Hannah's prayer of pain for Samuel to be born to be a priest. In this role, Samuel is a type of The High Priest, Jesus. (*Hebrews 2:17; 3:1-6; 4:14-16*)

Samuel is a type of Jesus

II. After Samuel's birth Hannah praises Yahweh for lifting up the needy; and, as Samuel grows up under Eli, he becomes prophet and judge. (*1 Samuel 2:1-10; 3:19-20; 4:15-17*)

A. Hannah's praise song rejoices in Yahweh saving the needy as He brings down, silences and shatters the contentious, arrogant and wicked. (*1 Samuel 2:1-10*)

1. Then Hannah prayed: My heart rejoices, my strength is lifted up in Yahweh, my mouth is enlarged over my enemies, because I rejoice in Thy salvation. (*Verse 1*)

Joy in salvation: Joy in God's salvation gives right words to enemies, more strength and a glad heart.

2. None holy as Yahweh, because none beside Thee, and no rock like our God. (*Verse 2*)

Holy Rock: Alternating between third and second person, Hannah declares Yahweh to be the only holy rock: perfect and immovable!

3. Stop talking proud arrogance, because Yahweh is knowledge and He sets the standards for deeds; bows of mighty men are shattered, and those staggering from weakness are clothed in strength. (*Verses 3-4*)

Arrogance shattered: Yahweh knows those who are proud and He enforces His standards on them, to shatter their weapons.

Feeble: But He will gird up the feeble ones, they are shattering with His strength.

4. After six contrasts (full-hungry, barren-many children, dead-alive, down to hell-raised up, poor-rich, low-exalted) Hannah declares Yahweh raises the poor and needy to seat them with princes and inherit a throne of glory. (*Verses 5-8d*)

Barren give birth: Hannah has just experienced the joy of motherhood after being barren, and Peninnah will be left to stew in her vindictiveness.

Lifts needy: Best of all, God will always lift up the poor and needy to sit with His royalty. This is fulfilled in the Blessings (Beatitudes) of Jesus (*Matthew 5:3-12*) where He says the poor in spirit are in His Kingdom.

God lifts up the needy

5. The columns of the earth are Yahweh's and He set the inhabited land on them, He keeps the feet of His saints. (*Verses 8e-9a*)

Keep saints: He will guard the steps of His godly ones (those filled with His steadfast LOVE).

6. Wicked ones are silenced in darkness because man will not prevail by might; those contending with Him will be broken in pieces, in heaven He will thunder against them. (*Verses 9b-10b*)

Wicked broken: Both wicked people on earth, and evil powers in the heavens, will be broken. So, we must all repent and turn to God on His terms. And, we should take comfort that, in the end, all wickedness will be destroyed.

7. Yahweh will judge the ends of earth, give strength to His king, and lift up the horn (strength) of His anointed (king). (*Verses 10c-e*)

Anointed: Jesus is The Anointed One (Messiah).

Bottom line: Hannah teaches us praise is the fitting response to answered prayer.

B. As he grew, Samuel was being confirmed a faithful prophet of Yahweh. (*1 Samuel 3:19-20*)

1. Then Samuel grew and Yahweh was with him; he let none of His words fall to the ground. (*Verse 19*)

Growth: Samuel's growth in the words of Yahweh was due to close communion with Him.

2. All Israel, north (Dan) to south (Beersheba) knew Samuel established as Yahweh's prophet. (*Verse 20*)

Prophet: Jesus was also a prophet (*Luke 24:19; John 6:1-14*). Again, Samuel was what Jesus is.

Samuel is a type of Jesus

C. Samuel judged Israel all his life going throughout the Joseph tribes. (*1 Samuel 7:15-17*)

1. Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life and went yearly to Bethel ('house of God'), Gilgal ('rolling wheel') and Mizpah ('watchtower'). (*Verses 15-16*)

Judge: Samuel ruled all the people, acting as God's appointed king. His annual circuit was limited to where the three Joseph tribes came together. But where the other men who judged Israel failed, God had 'stacked the deck' for Samuel to judge His people in righteousness.

2. He returned home to judge from there and built an altar to Yahweh. (*Verse 17*)

Altar: He served as a priest at the altar.

All three: No other man had all three roles. Aaron was priest but not ruler, Moses was ruler but not priest. Only Samuel filled every role Jesus is.

Samuel is a type of Jesus.

Not perfect: Samuel's sons were not fit to rule, they were dishonest and worse, so the people demanded a king, which upset Samuel (*1 Samuel 8:1-9*). However, Samuel's grandson illustrates reversals in a family line (*Ezekiel 18*).

Conclusion: God used Hannah's great sorrow over being childless to bring about the birth of Samuel who would be His prophet, priest and ruler to bring His people back to Him and to set up David as king. At the birth of her son, Samuel, Hannah was inspired to compose a joyful song of prophetic praise.

Samuel is a type of Jesus