



Hannah prays for a son

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1 Samuel 1 ¹ Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim, 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:



Elkanah was a Levite, and could have been a priest.

The Levites had no tribal land; they were scattered among the other tribes to serve as priests.

Elkanah lived in the hill country of Ephraim -- Ramah, but he was still a Levite.

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.

God never sanctioned the practice of multiple wives, but men took them anyway.

Very often when a first wife could not have children a man would take a second wife to bear him sons.

Disregard for God's Laws.

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.

Why Shiloh?

Joshua 18 ¹ And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of the congregation there. And the land was subdued before them.

There was no temple at Jerusalem yet.

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.

Pininnah was just a means to have sons.

He loved Hannah. Result?

Jealousy and meanness.

Trying to love
Two women



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.

Trouble in his home brought on by his sin.

Sin never brings joy.

Sin destroys.

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?

Elkanah didn't understand.

Maybe he didn't know what Pininnah was doing.

Hannah didn't know that **God had a plan.**

The time of this story is right at the end of the era of the Judges, a vile time in Israel's history.

God had raised up many leaders (*judges*) during this time who brought the people back to God, Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Samson

But their repentance never lasted past the life of that leader.

The birth of Samuel marks a change in that pattern.

⁹ So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. *(remember, she didn't eat or drink)*

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.

This was the vow of a Nazarite, separating a person totally unto God.

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.

FAITH

She still didn't have a son.

She wasn't even pregnant.

Her appetite returned, and she was no longer sad.

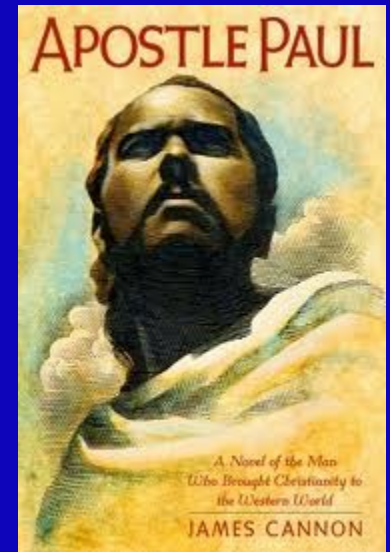
Hebrews 11 ¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

When we have faith in God for something that we want, we are certain that we have it.

We no longer hope for it; in our mind and heart
we have it!

Hannah was no longer sad.

GOOD APPETITE!



Acts 27 ²¹ But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

²² And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of *any man's* life among you, but of the ship. ²³ For there stood by me this night the angel of God, Whose I am, and Whom I serve, ²⁴ Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. ²⁵ Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

FAITH

Faith will speak what God has said.

No fear can exist in the presence of faith.

Faith will produce the good works of obedience.

James 2 ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Have
Faith
in
GOD

