

Samuel – God’s Kingdom and its King. (1) Hannah’s story. (refs for Bible study 18/7/19).

The book of Samuel begins the story of God’s Kingdom and the coming of King Jesus, Ac.3v24, Lk.1v31-33.

**Hannah’s problem:** v1-8, Elkanah and Hannah, a godly couple, contrast the ungodly sons of Eli, v3.

- **barren:** Unable to have children, a source of shame in her day. God is sovereign, 5-6, and had a purpose. The miracle pregnancy is one of God’s specialities: Sarah, Rachel, Manoah’s wife, Hannah, Elizabeth, and Mary all have a key role in God’s plan. See how Gabriel encourages Mary’s faith, Lk.1v36-37. God does ‘the impossible’ and sends a Saviour.
- **domestic conflict:** polygamy was never God’s intention, Gen.2v24. It is always presented in a negative light. The cause of grief, tension, jealousy. Penninah taunted Hannah continually. God allowed Hannah to reach an end of herself so that he could get the glory. Don’t judge by appearances. It was Hannah, not her rival, who had a place in God’s plan to set up his kingdom, and ultimately to bring his King into the world.

**Hannah’s prayer:** v9-16, she did the right thing – and prayed. Her prayer was...

- **passionate:** she poured out her soul, with tears and passion, 9-10. Do we know that kind of praying?
- **intimate:** her prayer was between her and the Lord, v12-13. Do we what kind of intimate prayer? Notice how wrong Eli gets it – O for a Priest who understands, and makes no errors of judgement! We have, Heb.4v15.
- **specific:** not vague, but precise and specific, v11. Let us follow her example by being specific in prayer!
- **submissive:** humble: ‘your maidservant’ x3, she vows to give her son back to God. ‘Lord, give me a son who will serve and know you!’ We should regard our children as gifts to give back to God. In Christ we have an even greater example of submissive prayer, Mt.26v39.

**Hannah’s peace:** v17-20, ‘go in peace’ said Eli, v17, and she did, v18. It was a God-given peace. She left her burden with God and did not go back to pick it up again. She trusted in a big God – ‘The Lord of hosts’ is first used here, v3,v11. God answered her prayer, v19-20. He always does, though not necessarily in the way we expect. The answer here was far bigger than she could’ve guessed. Her prayer brought the first coming of Christ a step nearer. Are we praying the kind of prayers that could make his *second* coming nearer? Eli the priest couldn’t give her peace, but we have a Priest who does, Jn.14v27. So let us pray passionately, intimately, specifically & submissively, so that we can enjoy the peace given by King Jesus, our perfect, all-wise High Priest.