

HANNAH: A MOTHER'S PRAYER By Lucinda Davidoff May 9, 2021

Happy mother's day to all the mothers out there today. And to all the prospective mothers and those that have a mother's heart towards those around them. We honor and bless you.

Having the heart of a mother truly changes who you are and how you view the world. Being a mom teaches you, enriches your life and deepens and strengthens your character.

Psalm 127:3 Children are a gift from the Lord, they are a reward from Him.

Sitting and listening to children is one of my favorite things to do. Just hearing and seeing how they interact with the world or mimic the adults around them is so precious.

A mother's heart is not born when she conceives a child, but actually each one of us has an innate mothering nature within us.

I remember the first doll I owned and how I loved her and protected her and valued her, and got so mad at my brothers when they played football with her!

I remember mothering the 6 siblings that followed me, and how I would organize them daily to clean their rooms, get bathed, eat, do homework. Punish them when they didn't listen.

I remember disciplining a group of girls in my twenties that lived in a children's home due to abusive situations and how they deeply impacted my life as I was trying to impart love into their hearts, they wrecked mine with their sweet and beautiful hearts.

Motherhood for me started way before I was even married. And so I believe it has been for many of the moms here today.

And then I had my firstborn. Oh how I deeply love him. So deeply proud of who he is and who he is becoming. The amount of love I feel for him, is just so overwhelming. And with each of my boys a deep deep well of love sprung up, so different for each one and as they all reflect a different facet from heaven.

Motherhood has changed me and taught me about life since I was a little girl and motherhood still changes me today.

Today I'd like us to look at a Mom in the Bible. Her name is Hannah and we look at her prayer.

1 Samuel 1:1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name *was* Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. **2** And he had two wives: the name of one *was* Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. **3** This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, *were* there. **4** And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. **5** But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb. **6** And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb. **7** So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat.

Hannah's Vow

8 Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? *Am* I not better to you than ten sons?"

9 So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the LORD. **10** And she *was* in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish. **11** Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."

12 And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth. **13** Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. **14** So Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!"

15 But Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I *am* a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my

soul before the LORD. **16** Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now.”

17 Then Eli answered and said, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him.”

18 And she said, “Let your maidservant find favor in your sight.” So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer *sad*.

Samuel is Born and Dedicated

19 Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. **20** So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, *saying*, “Because I have asked for him from the LORD.”

The process of Hannah’s transition:

- 1. Hannah desired a baby, but she could not have one.** What is it that you desire that you just can’t have right now? What is the missing piece in your life that you are yearning for?
- 2. Hannah had a rival** A **rival** is a competitor or contender that you want to defeat. Rivalry is the "against each other" spirit between two competing sides

The objective of her rival was to make her miserable. And to remind her of what is missing in her life.

Peninah **severely** taunted Hannah

This reminds me of the scripture **John 10:10** The thief has come to steal, kill and to destroy

What is taunting you or what is making you unhappy in your life today. Know that our fight is not against man but against princes and principalities in the heavenly places

Ephesians 6:12 "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*."

3. The taunting of Peninah, the deep vexation of Hannah's spirit EVENTUALLY drove her to ARISE. (V9) 9 So Hannah arose

What the enemy has planned to destroy you and deeply vex you, can ultimately lead you to your greatest turn around, if you let it drive you to Jesus.

In the beginning she took her baroness lightly, it wasn't a big deal. Because she was well loved by her husband. The midwives told her it's ok, it's gonna happen eventually, just relax and enjoy life.

She had a wealthy husband, she had friends, she had provision.....those things masked the pain of baroness.

The emptiness, the hurt, the sorrow the vexation of her soul grew year by year and she came to a place of being done! Done with SORROW, Done with grief and this caused Hannah to ARISE

How many more years do you want to take to get to the place of total surrender, no turning back?

The thirst for a child grew and grew and became unquenchable....

4. Hannah comes into the temple...

Coming into the temple in today's terms is coming to church, to the house of God. It is here where the corporate anointing dwells.

She came in one way but we see she leaves a different woman

Hebrews 10:25 Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

5. Hannah poured out her heart.... V10 she came in as a BITTER woman filled with ANGUISH- but she came to the right place? Where are you taking your pain?

Hannah wept in anguish severe mental pain suffering...Give me a child or I'll die.

Look at the affliction: something that causes pain or suffering.

Hannah came to lay down her pain before the Lord

6. Hannah started to contend with God

Hannah moved from a place of being a contender with Peninah and she started contending with God.

She was yoked to Peninah through Elkanah but as she comes into the presence of God and starts contending with God, the yoke of that association is broken with Peninah and Hannah realizes she can be free from that yoke and be tied to a yoke of purpose with God and her husband.

Who are you contending with? An ex? An ex husband? Your children? Your in laws? Your daughter in laws? Your finances? Your addiction?

She realized that her baroness had nothing to do with Peninah...But rather a destiny that needed to be unlocked within her and within the nation of Israel.

7. Hannah prays as one that has a covenant with God

Someone that has a covenant with God realizes that it's bigger than their desires only but that God is unlocking kingdom INSIDE of them

Every old testament account we read about all circles back to those that honored their covenant and those that esteemed their covenant lightly.

10 And she *was* in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish. **11** Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."

Here's the shift Hannah calls herself a maidservant – she doesn't just stay in place of anguish she shifts to a place of purpose by asking for a MALE child that will serve God

Hannah is reminding God that she is in covenant with Him and He has an obligation towards her.

Remember me and do not forget your maidservant: I have been faithful to the covenant...I have come back to covenant...for while I was distracted by that which masked my pain. For a few years I lived with my pain instead of coming to you directly and pouring myself to you.... The alcohol, the drugs, the sex, the relationship....but now I am bringing my pain to You Lord. I forgot about my covenant LORD for a few years , but I am back to start walking in the covenant and living a life of purpose.

Had Hannah not come to God with her affliction. Had she not remembered her covenant rights, she would have died without a child.

Then I will lend him back to you Lord: Hannah is getting BOLD with her prayers now...she shifted from wailing and anguish to prayer of petition.
If you give me this child, I will lend him back to you Lord, and you Lord will be blessed if you bless me? Really Hannah you are saying you can bless the Lord by being in covenant with Him! Absolutely. I can bless the Lord with my life, my giving, my children.

When you get into the presence of God you CANNOT stay in a place of hopelessness. God will ALWAYS shift you to a place of PURPOSE AND DESTINY.

Hannah barter with God and says to Him, Lord this child is going to be a blessing to you

8. Hannah prayed the prayer of petition.

1 Samuel 1:17 Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your **petition** which you have asked of Him."

God of Israel speaks of the bigger picture again. If we can zone out as moms and see the bigger picture, the greater purpose of us stepping out of our pain and into destiny we would understand the spiritual warfare and why satan wants to keep us trapped.

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the **petitions** that we have asked of Him." –**1 John 5:14-15, NKJV**

A petition is "a formal request addressed to a sovereign superior for a particular right or grace."

What is that right or grace based that you are petitioning is dependent on the word of God or covenant of God.

So therefore anything we ask or petition according to the will of God is rightfully ours.

Pray the prayer of petition and have the confidence Hannah had.

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; **7** and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

When Hannah leaves the temple she is a changed woman, she knows God will answer her prayer but more than that we can see that in the following chapters her identity had shifted from having a child to rejoicing in the Lord.

Let's look at Hannah's prayer in chapter 2.

This is the prayer that Hannah prayed when she was giving her son back to God. Think about it , he was only about 3 years old and she joyfully prays these words. She's not lamenting or regretting her decision. That tells me she found her identity in the Lord....instead of being a mom lets read.

Hannah's Prayer

1 Samuel 2:1 And Hannah prayed and said:

"My heart rejoices in the LORD;
My horn is exalted in the LORD.

I smile at my enemies,
Because I rejoice in Your salvation.

2 "No one is holy like the LORD,
For *there is* none besides You,
Nor *is there* any rock like our God.

3 "Talk no more so very proudly;
Let no arrogance come from your mouth,
For the LORD *is* the God of knowledge;
And by Him actions are weighed.

4 "The bows of the mighty men *are* broken,
And those who stumbled are girded with strength.

5 *Those who were* full have hired themselves out for bread,
And the hungry have ceased *to hunger*.
Even the barren has borne seven,
And she who has many children has become feeble.

6 "The LORD kills and makes alive;
He brings down to the grave and brings up.

7 The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
He brings low and lifts up.

8 He raises the poor from the dust
And lifts the beggar from the ash heap,
To set *them* among princes
And make them inherit the throne of glory.

“For the pillars of the earth *are* the LORD’s,
And He has set the world upon them.

9 He will guard the feet of His saints,
But the wicked shall be silent in darkness.

“For by strength no man shall prevail.

10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces;
From heaven He will thunder against them.
The LORD will judge the ends of the earth.

“He will give strength to His king,
And exalt the horn of His anointed.”

11 Then Elkanah went to his house at Ramah. But the child ministered to the LORD before Eli the priest.

1 Samuel 2:18-21 But Samuel ministered before the LORD, even as a child, wearing a linen ephod. Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring it to him year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “The LORD give you descendants from this woman for the loan that was given to the LORD.” Then they would go to their own home. And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the LORD.