

# PRAYING In The Bible

## Hannah's Prayer

Mary hears that she will bear a son. That he will be Lord of the highest. She knew what that meant. All Jewish people know what that means. Now Mary was praising God for the promise; although, Jesus was not born yet. In 1 Samuel, they are exiting the period of the Judges. Each Judge could have been the Messiah. This Jewish girl named Hannah makes a vow to the Lord. She is barren and wants to have a son. Hannah promises God to dedicate that son to the Lord.

I mention these two songs (prayers) because many Bible scholars have made parallels between them. Yet, they are told for different reasons. Hanna had prayed for a son. The same could be said of Elizabeth and Zachariah. Yet, Mary gained a son in a controversial and miraculous way.

Hannah is a barren woman. That is not a good thing in her culture. I am astounded that she dedicated Samuel to the Lord. A son would have been precious to the family line. To follow in the footsteps of the father. Yet, it is what Hannah does. In all three births of Jesus, Samuel, and John the Baptist the father agrees with the Lord's decision. Joseph, Zachariah, and Elkanah accept the Lord's will for their first-born son. This song or prayer is a dedication to the glory of the Lord. It is steeped in Jewish praise and honor. So is Mary's prayer but I think Hannah's is amazing. Let us get into it.

There is far too much depth to this prayer for one Bible study but I will do my best. Eve believed her son would bring them back to Eden. He would be one that would crush the head of the serpent. Yet, Cain sinned. Mary was told that her son would be that man. Hannah; however,

just wanted a baby. Yet, she was deeply in love and dedicated to the Lord. So much so that her husband was mildly jealous of her passion. Verse, 1 depicts that sentiment. Her use of the word Horn (victory) and delight does not go unnoticed.

1 Samuel 2:1 *“My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance.”*

We should come to the Lord with a good heart. Does that mean sinless? That is how many people try and bribe the Lord. I am holy like you Lord. I am dedicated and clean. Yet, Hannah comes in reverence and love for the Lord. It is not about her but about God. This prayer in line with our Jesus prayer template. Matthew 22 and Deuteronomy 6 say to Love the Lord your God. Hannah does!

1 Samuel 2:2 *“There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.”*

Let us look at verse 3 *“Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the Lord is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed.”* Job 23:13 *“who can oppose him?”* Isaiah 14:27 *“who can stand against him.”* On and on I could go listing praises to God. Hannah knows what they all knew. Our God is a mighty fortress. From arrogance to deeds, nobody will outsmart or fool our God. Hannah is singing the praises!

1 Samuel 2:4-8 is Matthew 5. Jesus begins the sermon on the mount as if it is a song or prayer to the Lord. Who will inherit the earth? It is the poor, meek, and weak. Why? Because, the Lord makes the poor rich in Him. He makes the weak strong in Him. The meek are those who (through the battle) trust in the Lord (horn). Read these 1 Samuel verses and then go read Matthew 5:3-10 and see the similarities. Just like Jesus prayer template. The Lord comes first.

The kingdom comes first. The Ark of the Lord went first not because it held power. No, it symbolized the faith in the Lord to deliver them ahead of the battle.

1 Samuel 2:9-10 *“For the foundations of the earth are the Lord’s; on them he has set the world. He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness. “It is not by strength that one prevails; those who oppose the Lord will be broken. The Most High will thunder from heaven; the Lord will judge the ends of the earth.”*

Zechariah 4:6 is a great verse *“So he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty.”* The response from the Lord in Job 38 is the same. God does not need to use power to create or reign. His Spirit or will shall reign. Genesis 6 says *“my Spirit will not contend.”* Contend means to struggle or argue. Look over all these verses. In each case God just changes the narrative. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. Hannah knew this. From the four corners of the earth to evil enemies, her God has already won. Her faith is amazing.

The last part of verse 10 says *“He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.”* Eve thought Cain was the anointed. Hannah might have very well thought Samuel was the anointed one. Although, Samuel did great things, he was still a sinful human. Cain was sinful but he could have been great. Read Psalm 148 and pay close attention to verses 13-14. Hannah is putting her hope and joy in the yearning for the anointed. The exalted horn of God. The psalmist is doing the same thing. As you pray today, praise the Lord. Put your whole heart into the hope found in Jesus. He will return! Live a life that believes and lives for God like Hannah did.