

Outline

- ◆ The Family of Hannah (1:1–2:11, 18–21, 26)
- ◆ Her spouse (1:1–2): Hannah is married to Elkanah.
- ◆ Her sorrow (1:3–8): Hannah is heartbroken because she does not have any children.
- ◆ Reassurance by Elkanah (1:4–5, 8): Elkanah tries to comfort Hannah, reminding her of his love and devotion to her.
- ◆ Ridicule by Peninnah (1:6–7): Elkanah's other wife, Peninnah, taunts Hannah because she has no children.
- ◆ Her supplication (1:9–18)
- ◆ The promise (1:9–11): Hannah visits the Tabernacle and prays that if the Lord will give her a son, she will give him back to the Lord.
- ◆ The protest (1:12–16)
- ◆ Eli's condemnation (1:12–14): When the priest Eli sees Hannah praying, he wrongly concludes that she is drunk.
- ◆ Hannah's clarification (1:15–16): Hannah quickly explains that she is praying to the Lord out of great anguish and sorrow.
- ◆ The prayer (1:17–18): Eli asks the Lord to grant Hannah's request. Hannah rejoices over Eli's prayer.
- ◆ Her son (1:19–28; 2:11, 18–20, 26): The Lord honors Hannah's request, and she gives birth to Samuel. Hannah dedicates Samuel to the Lord and leaves him at the Tabernacle after he is weaned. She visits Samuel yearly, making a coat for him each year and watching him grow.
- ◆ Her song (2:1–11): In this remarkable prayer, Hannah praises the Lord for his holiness, his omniscience, his sovereignty, his compassion, and his justice.
- ◆ Her sons and daughters (2:21): The Lord blesses Hannah with three more sons and two daughters.

Willmington, H. L.: *The Outline Bible*. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House Publishers, 1999, S. 1 Sa 1-2:21

Discussion

- ◆ Have you ever felt as though God has forgotten you? After all, this is a big world, populated by millions and millions of people. It's easy to think that we have gotten lost in the crowd.

God remembers us when our hearts are broken.

- ◆ There are times in the believer's life when God seems to withhold from us the one thing we want the most. Would anyone be willing to share about a time when your heart was broken because it seemed God was withholding something you wanted most? How did it turn out in the end?
- ◆ God knows what it feels like to lose what you cherish most. What cherished things can you think of that God has lost? (Obvious answer is Christ. God also lost us in the fall and gave His only begotten Son to get us back.)

God remembers us while we are praying.

- ◆ There are a lot of different ways we can respond to disappointment. But Hannah shows us a better alternative. Hannah prayed about it. Hannah did not complain to her husband. Hannah did not try to get back at Peninnah. Hannah did not complain to the priest. Often the people we expect to understand in a time of great disappointment don't.
- ◆ Do you find comfort in God through your times of prayer.
- ◆ If so, why?
- ◆ If not, why not?

God remembers us after our prayers have been answered.

- ◆ God answers prayers in his own time and in accordance with his own purposes. When the time is right, God will move in response to our prayers. But it is equally important to know that when the time is right, God will only move in a way that is consistent with his plan. God hasn't forgotten you, even when the answer is "No."
- ◆ Share a time when you were able to look back and thank God for saying, "No" or for unanswered prayers.
- ◆ What is so disappointing to you when God doesn't give you the answer you were hoping to get?
- ◆ How do we often approach prayer? Do we go to God to get or do we go to Him to be changed by His heart? In other words, are we trying to get God on our page or do we pray to get on God's page? How can we change our approach to prayer if a change is needed?
- ◆ God will never, never, never, never forget you.
- ◆ In his own time. In his own way. For your good and his glory, God will remember you!