

A Man After God's Own Heart – 1 Samuel

1 Samuel 1:1-2:10

"God's Gracious Care for You" – April 23, 2017



Introduction

1 Samuel picks up where the book of Judges left off: *"In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes"* (Judges 21:25). Israel's leadership crisis left the nation in moral anarchy. 1 Samuel shows us God's solution, which comes in unexpected ways from unexpected people. Beginning with a woman who has no hope and no children, God would raise up a child who would bring hope to the nation. Samuel would soon become a prophet and priest in Israel who would anoint God's chosen king. Hannah's story parallels the story of His people; just as He graciously cares for Hannah, He graciously cares for Israel. Knowing the care of a sovereign God makes all the difference for how we live today and our hope for tomorrow.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response.

Sermon Outline

If a sovereign God cares, what does that mean for us?

- I. Our trials are not without hope (1:9-18)
- II. We can trust God with what's precious to us (1:19-28)
- III. Our strength rests in God's unchanging character (2:1-10)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [1 Samuel 1:1-20](#)

Hannah's situation leaves her depressed and broken-hearted. But by the time we reach v18, she has found a new contentment. How did prayer change her? What makes the difference between praying as *mere duty* and pouring your heart out to God? Do you believe prayer moves the hand of a sovereign God? In 1:11 and 1:19 we see the idea of God 'remembering' Hannah. This doesn't mean God had a mental lapse and forgot – He knows all things perfectly, all the time (what theologians refer to as God's 'omniscience'). In fact, in [2:3](#) Hannah refers to Him as the 'God of knowledge.' Scripture speaks of God remembering to help us understand God. In other words, it uses human terminology to help us learn more of who He is and how He cares for us. When God 'remembered' Hannah, it means He attends to her misery and delivers her, in His timing. As Christians, how do we know God is mindful of us? What confidence do we have that God 'remembers' us and cares for us? (Romans 8:31-39)

Additional reading: Philippians 4:11-13, 1 Peter 5:5-7, Psalm 62, Genesis 32:22-29

*For a good book on using Scripture to help us pray, consider reading D.A. Carson's book [*Praying with Paul*](#). It's on sale at the bookstall!

2) Read [1 Samuel 1:21-28](#)

Hannah had made a vow to God (1:11), and here we see her keep her promise. After Samuel is weaned, she entrusts to God the son she had waited for all these years. What do you think made it possible for Hannah to entrust God with Samuel? What is most valuable to you? What is it that you build your identity on? We are not 'owners' when it comes to God. All that we have (including our very lives) has been given to us by our Creator. Are you able to entrust to God the people, relationships, dreams, plans and hopes you cherish most? What difference does *believing God cares* make in trusting God this way?

Additional reading: Philippians 3:7-9, Psalm 73:25-26, 1 Corinthians 4:7, Psalm 24:1

3) Read [1 Samuel 2:1-10](#)

In her prayer, Hannah takes time to praise God for His deliverance for her personally (2:1-3), of his general deliverance of His people (2:4-8) and His promised *future* deliverance (2:9-10). According to this prayer, where does Hannah find her strength? How does knowing how God dealt with His people in the *past* help us in the present? Hannah's prayer ends looking at a King whom God would raise up to deliver His people. Mary, the mother of Jesus quotes part of Hannah's prayer, in what we know as the 'Magnificat' (Luke 1:46-56). When God doesn't answer our prayer the way we expected or in the time frame we'd hoped for, we need to remember how Jesus Himself trusted the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane. In great sorrow, *He* asked for God to take the cup of suffering away, but in the end trusted God saying, "Yet not what I will, but what you will" (Mark 14:36). What does the promise of a future Savior teach us about God? How does it help us trust Him when we are tempted to believe God doesn't care?

Additional reading: Luke 1:46-56, Hebrews 13:8, Romans 15:4, 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

Prayer of Response

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <http://firstbaptistum.com/media.php?pageID=6>