

Intro

~ Hannah teaches us how to overcome heartbreak and pain.

~ 1 Samuel picks up where the period of the Judges ends. The book of Judges was a chaotic period of about 350 years in the life the Israelites. It was summarized by the phrase we see repeated in Judges, “there was no king in Israel and every man did that which was right in his own eyes.” (17:6; 21:25)

~ It would seem that to go to Shiloh where the ark of the Lord was, it would have been a great place of worship. It was only a place of worship because the Lord was there. Eli doesn't seem to be the spiritual leader the people needed and his children were sons of the Belial (they were worthless and wicked in the matters of spiritual things)

~ the fact that Eli thought Hannah was drunk when she was praying is an indictment on the people. Maybe Eli thought this because he hadn't seen “real praying.” Maybe people were showing up drunk at the place of worship, or maybe it's an indictment on Eli in that he couldn't discern “real prayer.”

Outline

1-5 = Hannah's problem – she's barren

6-10 = Hannah's pain = she's provoked by Peninnah

11-16 = Hannah's pouring = she pours out her pain to the Lord

17-19 = Hannah's peace = she's ok now

20-23 = Hannah's promise = she will keep Samuel home and promises to give him to the Lord when he's weaned

24-28 = Hannah's promise performed = she gives Samuel to the Lord

David also had complaints (Ps 142 in KJV)

Ps 142 – a prayer of David when he was hiding in a cave

v1 Maschil of David; A Prayer when he was in the cave. I cried unto the LORD with my voice; with my voice unto the LORD did I make my supplication.

v2 I poured out my complaint before him; I shewed before him my trouble.

v3 When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me.

v4 I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.

v5 I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.

v6 Attend unto my cry; for I am brought very low: deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I.

v7 Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name: the righteous shall compass me about; for thou shalt deal bountifully with me.

David used the same Hebrew words that Hannah did of pouring out and complaint in Ps 142:2

~ Poured out (8210 shaw-fak = to spill out) Hannah uses it in 1 Sam 1:15.

~ Complaint (7879 see-ak = a contemplation, what we've been obsessed with) Hannah uses it in 1 Sam 1:16.

~ Complaint = literally means my meditation. What we are so much occupied my thoughts at the time I expressed them aloud. The word means David was full of care and of anxiety and he went and poured this out freely before God.

Ps 55:22 and 1 Peter 5:7 teach us what to do with our burdens – we pour them out to the Lord

~ Ps 55:22 Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

- This explains what the Lord will do if we cast our burden on the Lord. He'll sustain us and won't allow us to be moved
- *“FB Meyer - As the R.V. marginal rendering of Psa_55:22 suggests, thy burden is that which God has given thee to carry. It did not come by chance nor from the evil intent of men. He cast it on thee; cast it back on Him. We cannot do our work so long as we stoop beneath the exhausting waste of anxiety and care. Hand all over to thy Father's care. Let no burdens break the Sabbath-keeping of thy heart! Neh_13:19.”*
- Albert Barnes says, “The Margin here is, “gift.” The “literal” rendering would be, “Cast upon Jehovah what he hath given (or laid upon) thee; that is, thy lot.”

- (Gesenius, Lexicon) The phrase, “he gives thee,” here means what he appoints for thee; what he allots to thee as thy portion; what, in the great distribution of things in his world, he has assigned to “thee” to be done or to be borne; cast it all on him. Receive the allotment as coming from him; as what “he” has, in his infinite wisdom, assigned to thee as thy portion in this life; as what “he” has judged it to be best that then shouldst do or bear; as “thy” part of toil, or trouble, or sacrifice, in carrying out his great arrangements in the world. That portion thus assigned to “us,” we are directed to “cast upon the Lord;” that is, we are to look to him to enable us to do or to bear it.
- As it is “his” appointment, we should receive it, and submit to it, without complaining; as it is “his” appointment.

~ 1 Pet 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

- This explains why we cast our burden on the Lord. It’s because he cares for us.

~ Life is filled with hard, bitterness and grief – we’re not meant to carry these things on our shoulders.

~ The Lord has big, strong, and eternal shoulders that are meant to carry the burdens of his people.

~ The blessing out of Hannah pouring out her complaint to the Lord was Samuel

~ We may not get the miracle or blessing we want from God for having poured out our heart to the Lord our transformation is important in this process.

These times like Hannah had teach us:

1 what to do with our burden.

2 that God allows the burden.

3 God uses these burdens in our lives.

4 these burdens teach us to trust him.

5 that God is still the same.

6 we don’t have to run from the burden but run to God with our burden and give it to him.

7 the burden is designed to be bigger than we are.

8 the burden may be the means of God fulfilling his plan through our life.

Conclusion

Pouring out our heart to the Lord – what does it look like?

1 draw near (Matt 11:28,29; James 4:8)

- Go to the Lord – don’t carry the burden alone.

2 be honest with God (1 Sam 1)

- Hannah was honest with God and didn’t hold back her pain and confusion.

3 let your requests be made known to God (Phil 4:6,7)

- Hannah was specific about her situation.
- God already knows the things we need to tell the Lord about them.
- Talking to the lord is for our benefit.

4Thankfulness (Phil 4:6,7)

- Paul said to let your request be made known with thanksgiving.
- Thankfulness fosters trust in God.
- Thanksgiving keeps us from self-centered prayer.
- Thanksgiving helps us if God says no.