

1 Samuel 2:1-11: Hannah's Prayer

A Favored One's Boast in the LORD

- I. **Context for the Prayer**
 - A. **Divine Withholding (and Earthly Provocation)** - 1 Sam 1:6-7
 - B. **Divine Deliverance** - 1 Sam 1:19b-20
- II. **Purpose of the Prayer**
 - A. **Marks a mighty work of the Lord** (Ex 15, Deut 32, 2 Sam 22, Luke 1)
 - B. **One of two "Theme Songs" for 1 & 2 Samuel (1 Sam 2, 2 Sam 22)**
 - 1. **Key Theme:** "The Lord brings down those who are indifferent (i.e., prideful) to His rule, and he will raise up those who would lead His people with a humble dependence on him."¹
 - C. **Serves as an Example, Admonishment, and Encouragement**
- III. **Outline of the Prayer**
 - A. **Personal Praise (v. 1-2)**
 - 1. Hannah's Praise was personal - rooted in an intimate knowledge of her deliverer
 - 2. Hannah boasts in the Lord's Unrivaled Righteousness, Wisdom, and Strength
 - B. **Corporate Admonishment (v. 3)**
 - 1. Do not speak "Proud, Proud" Words
 - 2. Why?
 - a) God knows all and judges all actions and motives (Heb 4:13)
 - b) A proud heart is foolish (Rom 1:22)
 - c) A proud heart is opposed to God (Js 4:6, Is 2:12, 66:2, Ps 34:18)
 - C. **His Ways are Higher than Our Ways (v. 4-8)**
 - 1. "What Yahweh has done for Hannah simply reflects the tendency of his ways."²
 - 2. Is 55:9 - For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."
 - 3. 1 Cor 1:26-31 - "God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong...so that no human being might boast."
 - 4. "Dramatic Reversals"³ - Military (Strength and protection), Food (provision), Children, Life/Death
 - 5. God is sovereign over all, and he works through weakness to exalt.
 - 6. God's sovereignty is rooted in his authority as Creator.
 - D. **Promised Final Deliverance (v.9-11)**
 - 1. God will keep and uphold His Children
 - 2. God will judge His enemies, and none can escape.
 - 3. God will establish a king after His own heart (Duet 17:14-20)
 - a) First, in David (1 Sam 13:14, Acts 13:22, 2 Sam 22:3,51)
 - b) Finally, in Christ (Acts 13:23, Rev 22:16,20, Heb 8:)

¹ Khazraee, Ben. Sunday School Notes: Introduction to the Books of Samuel

² Davis, Dale Ralph. 1 Samuel: Looking on the Heart. Pg 23

³ 9 Marks. Bible Talk Podcast. Episode from Aug 1, 2023

IV. Application

A. An Example to Follow

1. Our praise originates from our understanding of God: 1) His Attributes and Character, 2) Present deliverance from circumstances, 3) Promised deliverance in Christ
2. Our praise should move beyond our circumstance to who God is.
3. Praise God for his past/present deliverance.
 - a) *Likewise, you should not despise or demean these little salvation Yahweh works in your behalf, ...Ponder every episode of Yahweh's saving help to you; it will help you believe Luke 12:32.*⁴
4. It's fitting to praise God with Song (Ps 150, Ps 106:12)

B. An Admonishment

1. "Let not arrogance come from your mouth."

C. An Encouragement

1. Provides a poetic expression of God's might, sovereignty, and plan to save. We can use it to guide our own prayers.
2. Our present sufferings will turn to praise (1 Pet 1:6-7, Ps 30:11)
3. When God's way seems mysterious, we can sing with William Cowper that "behind a frowning providence, he hides a smiling face."

"God Moves in a Mysterious Way"

William Cowper

God moves in a mysterious way, his **wonders to perform**;
he plants his footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines, of **never-failing skill**;
he fashions up his bright designs, and works his **sovereign will**.

Ye fearful saints **fresh courage take**, the clouds that you much dread,
are **big with mercy** and will break in blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but **trust** him for his grace;
behind a frowning providence, he hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast, **unfolding** every hour;
the bud may have a **bitter taste**, but **sweet** will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to **err**, and scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter, and **he will make it plain**.

⁴ Davis, Dale Ralph. 1 Samuel: Looking on the Heart. Pg 25