

# Hannah's Wise Investment

Text: I Samuel 1:1-28

Introduction:

- The title THE CHRIST (“the anointed”), given to the Lord Jesus Matthew 1:16; Matthew 2:4, is first found in 1 Samuel 2:10; and the other designation of the Saviour as the SON OF DAVID throughout Matthew, is derived from 2 Samuel 7:12-16.
- Here we see a glimpse of the over-arching plan of God for the world, and also his plan and purpose for his individual followers. Isn't it comforting to know that with every major development in history, on the world scene, God is still concerned with each of our individual lives?
- A biblical precedent for baby dedication

## I. **BACKGROUND OF SAMUEL THE PROPHET AND JUDGE**

- a. Jewish tradition is that Samuel is the author of these books, however that can only apply to the events recorded during his lifetime (25:1) Most likely one of the young prophets who studied under Samuel either wrote the entire book, or continued where Samuel left off.
- b. Samuel was raised by God to end the period of the judges and begin the era of the kings. He lived in a day that saw the failure of the priesthood- represented by Eli and his sons, and the introduction of the ministry of prophets.
- c. The Prophets. Samuel was not only both judge and priest and prophet, but as prophet he performed conspicuous services in several directions. Probably the most notable of all his work was the establishment of schools of prophets, which greatly dignified the work of the prophets. After this time, the prophet and not the priest was the medium of communication between God and his people.
- d. Another indication of the very distinguished place assigned to Samuel in the economy of the Old Testament, borne out by the mention of him in such passages as Psalm 99:6; Jeremiah 15:1; Acts 3:24. Though however, Samuel's personal greatness is thus apparent, it is clear that his place is one of relative importance. When we view the

history as a whole, the eye does not rest upon Samuel, and stop there, but is led on to the throne and person of David as typical of the Kingdom and Person of Christ.

- e. Clearly, the personal history of Samuel was only a link to connect DAVID with the Patriarchs, just as the subsequent history connects David himself with our Lord JESUS CHRIST.

## II. HANNAH'S WISE INVESTMENT

- a. Verse 2- Elkanah had 2 wives- Polygamy was a very common practice back in this historical context. The Bible factually, and honestly records polygamy, but it never affirms polygamy. Here we see some of the major problems with the custom.
- b. Verses 5-6 "The Lord had shut up her womb" Hannah was barren- sadly in those days it was a shameful state for a woman
  - i. The ultimate truth that we can get from this is that God makes no mistakes. His way is perfect, and ultimately our life is in His hands!
  - ii. It seems strange that Peninnah (who seems of a bad character) was blessed with children and Hannah (who seems of a good character) was left with barrenness. Often, we don't understand God's ways until He completes His plan.
- c. V. 7- Year after year the taunts from Peninah dug deeper and deeper until finally Hannah took the matter before the Lord at the tabernacle.
- d. It is noteworthy that the name of God as "LORD of Hosts" (Jehovah Zebaoth) appears here for the first time in the Bible. (It is found 281 times in the Bible.) It is the name of God as the Lord of power, the Lord of all the mighty armies of heaven and earth. That it is used the first time in the book which reveals the Kingdom is especially appropriate. Hannah felt attacked by her rival, so she called on the Lord of Mighty Armies to be her protector.
- e. V. 11- Hannah prayed and vowed to give the child back to the Lord! Prov. 11:24-25- There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.
- f. V. 28- She lent him to the Lord, and God paid her good interest for the loan.
- g. This could be translated, "And I also made myself to present for the Lord." The idea is not that Hannah "owned" the child and "lent" him to the Lord. Instead, the idea is that the child is her "prayer," or the fulfillment of her prayer to the Lord.

- h. Application: Hannah mourned her physical barrenness but we should be concerned about being spiritually barren! The burden is to invest in eternity! For those who are single, or can't have children, or their children are already grown- you cannot bear children, but we can all bear fruit for God! Pray for VBS, contribute, participate!
- i. Hannah's wise investment! For the future, and throughout the life of her child!
- j. Churches invested in Paul's ministry- Philippians 4:16-17
- k. We are all investors! No, I'm not just talking about IRA's or 401K's...we are all putting our time, our resources, somewhere for some cause. Let's invest in what matters!
- l. You could say that God established a throne and a kingdom on the cry of one dear woman!

### **III. GOD'S ANSWER**

- a. V. 19 The Lord remembered her- To use the term remembered is an anthropomorphism, a way of explaining God's actions in human terms that we can understand, even if it doesn't perfectly describe God's action. It isn't as if God ever forgot Hannah
- b. Samuel's name means- heard of God

Conclusion: Let's be willing to give God our very best, just as Hannah did! Let's continue trusting, and continue serving!