

Hannah's Hope
(1 Samuel 1:4-11)

“..the Lord had kept her from conceiving.”

God likes to do His most extraordinary work through the most unlikely of people.

“Barrenness is the way of human history. It is an effective metaphor for hopelessness.”

—Walter Brueggemann

HANNAH TAKES A STAND

(v.9) “Hannah got up after they ate and drank at Shiloh.”

(v.7) “Whenever [Hannah] went up to the Lord’s house, her rival taunted her in this way every year. Hannah wept and would not eat.”

(v.8) “Hannah, why are you crying?” her husband Elkanah asked. “Why won’t you eat? Why are you troubled? Am I not better to you than 10 sons?”

HANNAH LIFTS HER HEART

(v.10) “Deeply hurt, Hannah prayed to the Lord and wept with many tears.”

(v.15) “I am a woman with a broken heart. I haven’t had any wine or beer; I’ve been pouring out my heart before the Lord...I’ve been praying from the depth of my anguish and resentment.”

(v.11) “O Lord of Hosts...”

“Remember, look upon the misery of your servant.”

(v.18-19) “Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast. Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the LORD and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah lay with Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her [and opened her womb].”

HANNAH GIVES HER HEART
(1 Sam 1:11; 2:1-10)

“Lord of Hosts, if You will take notice of Your servant’s affliction, remember and not forget me, and give Your servant a son, I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and his hair will never be cut.”

“Every problem is a theological problem, and the habitual discontent of us singles is no exception. I long to be married. My younger sister got married two months ago. [But] God will not be less good to me because God cannot be less good to me. It is a cosmic impossibility for God to shortchange any of his children. It is a cosmic impossibility that anything can be better to me now than being single. [continued]

You see, we singles are chronic amnesiacs—we forget who we are, we forget whose we are. I am a single Christian. My identity is not found in my marital status but in my redemptive status. I 'm one of the "haves", not one of the "have-nots".
[continued]

I may meet someone and walk down the aisle in the next couple of years because God is so good to me. I may never have another date and die an old maid at 93 because God is so good to me. Not my will but his be done. Until then I am claiming as my theme verse, “If any man would come after me, let him...”

—Paige Benton Brown, *Singled Out By God for Good*

1 Samuel 2:10

“Those who oppose the Lord will be shattered; He will thunder in the heavens against them. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth. He will give power to His king; He will lift up the horn of His anointed.”

Reflection Questions:

- What causes me to lose hope?
- Pray, “Lord, open my heart to trust your love.”