

THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF

# 1 SAMUEL

[PART 3]

## HANNAH WAS A BOOK JUDGED BY IT'S COVER

*Reading: 1 Samuel 1:9 - 18*

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### Introduction

- Hannah (Hebrew '**Channah**') was one of the great women of the Old Testament.
- She had no children. "**The Lord had closed her womb.**"
- She longed for a child.
- There were other women in the Bible that had the same experience as Hannah. (Sarah, Rachel, Elizabeth etc).
- She was one of two wives of Elkanah.
- She suffered a difficult home and personal life.
- Tired of being taunted for being childless she went to the tabernacle to pray.

### 1 Notice Hannah's Vow

- [vs 10/11] She wept as she prayed and then she made a vow.
- A vow is a solemn promise in which one commits to do something.
- A vow can be between people (wedding vows) or between a person and God.
- Hannah makes a vow with God in order for Him to open her womb.
- God heard and answered Hannah's prayer and Samuel was conceived and born.

- Now would Hannah honour her part of the arrangement?
- Consider [Judges 11:35] and [Eccles 5: 4 - 5].
- Is there a vow you have not honoured?
- Hannah kept her vow. [vs 24].
- She brought the child to the house of the Lord. A brilliant example for every parent.
- She kept her promise and Israel has a great prophet whose prayers were a defence for the nation.
- God honoured Hannah for honouring her part of the vow. [2:21].

## 2 Hannah Was A Book Judged By Its Cover

- Eli (high priest) wrongly judged Hannah by the outward appearance. [1:13/14].
- A praying soul was judged to be a drunken sinner.
- Eli didn't know what was going on in either Hannah's life or heart.
- Remember the wise counsel of Jesus in [Matthew 7:1].
- Remember the wise counsel of God in [1 Samuel 16:7].
- Unless you can see a person's heart **DON'T** judge them.
- Eli would have done better to have judged his own wicked sons. [2:12].
- It's the inside that matters most. [1 Peter 3:4].
- ***"Judge not that you be not judged."*** God in turn judged the house of the judge [1 Samuel 3:13].

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