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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:
A1475 ~ Samuel and Eli.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

The history of three famous men whose mothers suffered a long time from childlessness is recorded in the Old Testament of the Bible. In those times, it was considered a social disgrace for a wife not to provide her husband with children.

The three famous men were Abraham's son Isaac, Joseph, a prime minister of Egypt and Samuel, the last judge of Israel. Each of their mothers' grief of being childless for a time was compounded by a rival mother in the household.

Today we will focus on Samuel's mother, Hannah, told at the beginning of the first book of Samuel. It challenges us to consider the promises we make before Almighty God and people. As we go through the many different emotions Hannah experienced while childless, we learn some of the lessons on how God matures us through difficulties. Hannah's story is built around prayer, her personal affliction and persecution.

Every year Elkanah, Hannah's husband, took his family to Shiloh to worship and sacrifice to Almighty God. The town of Shiloh was the first permanent resting place of the Tabernacle of the Creator God. Here the Israelite tribes worshipped at the sacred shrine. When Elkanah handed out to his family the meal from the sacrifice, he always gave a generous portion to Hannah because he loved her greatly, even though she was childless.

It is part of our weak human nature to see something that someone else has and to want it. The English expression is: “The grass on the other side of the fence is always greener.” This represents discontent with our lot in life and wishing we were someone else or had something else. Hannah longed for a child to love. Her rival, like most mothers of young children, probably longed for some free time from the constant care she was providing her own sons and daughters. It would have been natural for her to think Hannah had an easier life and jealously get back at her with mocking words.

Hannah’s trip to Shiloh this particular year started out in the same miserable way it had in past years but it ended with her taking one big step of faith in God.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

Hannah was so upset after the sacrifice meal that she was still childless that she cried bitterly while praying to the Lord in the temple. As Hannah cried out to God, she made a bargain with God. She made a solemn promise that if she were given a son, she would dedicate him to the Lord for his whole life.

Now Eli, the High Priest, was sitting on the seat of the doorpost of the temple of the Lord when he saw Hannah’s distress. But he thought she was drunk. When he rebuked her for her ‘drunkenness’, Hannah explained she had been pouring out her troubles to the Lord. Eli sent her away with a blessing that her prayer, unknown to him, would be answered. Hannah had faith to believe that God would grant her request. She stopped being sad and waited on the Lord to fulfil her petition.

Hannah is known today as a great woman of prayer. Hannah saw God as her only source of help for her problem. But was it right for her to bargain with God? Nowadays, people often use the example of Hannah’s prayer to try to manipulate God into doing things they want. So they tell God that if He does something for them, they’ll do something in return.

In the Bible book Hebrews, Chapter 4, it says: “There is nothing that can be hid from God; everything in all creation is exposed and lies open before his eyes.” God knew the desire and thoughts of Hannah’s heart and He saw that Hannah was genuine in her promise to give back the son she requested of Him.

Our own prayers come into four simple types: “worship” prayers, “sorry” prayers, “thank you” prayers and “asking” prayers. Because Christians know that God always has their best interests at His heart, we should follow the Lord Jesus’ example of prayer in the Gospel book of Luke, Chapter 22. “Father, he said, “if you will, take this cup of suffering away from me. Not my will, however, but your will be done.”

Sometimes we think everything is against us. We are tempted to give in and complain that life’s too hard. In the second book of Corinthians, Chapter 4, we read, “This small and temporary trouble we suffer will bring us tremendous and eternal glory, much greater than the trouble.”

And in Romans, Chapter 8, the Apostle Paul says, “I consider that what we suffer at this present time can not be compared at all with the glory that is going to be revealed.”

When we think our afflictions are working against us, they are producing a glory that will last forever. Compared to our trials, the glory of God is always greater.

The Apostle Paul wrote in the sixth chapter of 1 Corinthians, “In everything we do we show that we are God’s servants by patiently enduring troubles, hardships and difficulties.”

From God’s perspective, our deepest disappointments and sorrows are “for just a moment”. It is difficult for us to accept this while we are in the middle of our hardships, but we can trust the word of our kind and loving Father God.

Within one year Hannah had given birth to a son, Samuel. And as Elkanah went up again to Shiloh to worship, Hannah said, “After the child is weaned, I’ll bring him myself and present him before God – and that’s where he will stay.”

Giving up something we love for a greater cause is difficult and painful. Yet Hannah did keep her promise. Hannah stayed home and nursed her son until he was weaned. Then she took him up to Shiloh where the boy stayed and served God in the care of Eli, the High Priest. Hannah had such faith in her God that she accepted He had heard her prayer. When the time came to release Samuel into Eli’s care as promised, although difficult, Hannah did this willingly. She rejoiced, for she prayed, “The Lord has filled my heart with joy; how happy I am because of what he has done!”

Hannah’s suffering drew her closer to God. And He rewarded her faith in Him by providing her with five more children too. No doubt Hannah always prayed for Samuel even though he was living a good distance away. All parents need to pray that their children, as they grow older, always walk in the ways of the Lord.

There is coming a time when all people will have to give an account of how they spent their life while here on earth. Each person has to answer for him or herself. Parents cannot answer for children and children cannot answer for their parents. Based on your life so far, will you bring a report pleasing to the Lord or will you be ashamed to admit you got it all wrong? Our God is the God of second chances. Pray to Him for yourself and your children today!

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

That was Bob Ayala singing “Comforted by God.”
The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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