

## Old Testaments Characters

### HANNAH: Praying in Pain (1 Samuel 1)

January 19, 2022



**Introduction:** *Suffering and pain usually affect people's relationship with God in one of two ways. Sometimes we grow bitter or angry toward God for seemingly abandoning us and are tempted to "curse God and die" (Job 2:9)/ At other times our afflictions drive us to a new dependence and humility before God that deepens our walk with God.*

*For many years Hannah suffered the lonely pain of being unable to have a child in a culture where a woman's value was measured by her ability to bear children. From her we can learn how to pray while going through our pain.*

1. It is possible that Elkanah took a second wife because of Hannah's infertility. How do you think it made Hannah feel to live in the same home with the other wife and her children?
2. How did Peninnah add further pain and grief to Hannah each year when they went to Shiloh?
3. Summarize the physical, emotional, and spiritual effects of this ordeal on Hannah.
4. How might you have responded in Hannah's situation?
5. What does Hannah's prayer in v.11 reveal about her desperation?
6. Why do you think God allows Hannah, and sometimes us, to reach such a point of despair?
7. How and why does the priest Eli respond to Hannah's intense prayer? How does Eli later serve as a channel of God's comfort and blessings to Hanna?
8. How does Hannah fulfill her vow to the Lord? Why would that have been difficult for her?
9. Hannah's son became the great prophet Samuel. How can her experience encourage you to persevere in prayer?
10. How have you seen God turn around a seemingly hopeless situation into a great good/testimony?

#### For reflection:

- *When you are suffering or in pain, how do you react? Give an example.*
- *What crisis and stresses are causing you to pray in pain at this time?*
- *Have you ever felt like you were trapped in a hopeless situation? Explain.*

#### Now or Later: Read Luke 18:1-8.

- *What specific teaching on prayer does Jesus give from the parable of the persistent widow?*
- *What else do you learn about the power of faithful prayer from the example of the widow?*

**A time of prayer:** Pray God would give you courage to trust God even when you can't fully understand what God is doing in your life?