

Hannah discerned in her journey of Prayer, Peace and Pregnancy that:

God works through _____

not through _____

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Hannah also discerned that God had a person in mind.

The Most High will thunder from heaven; the LORD will judge the ends of the earth. “He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.” 1 Samuel 2:10

The “anointed horn” is a reference to the “Messiah” in Hebrew scriptures.

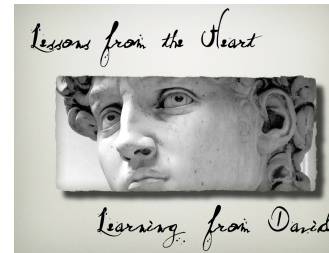
2 Take Aways:

1. God’s love is _____.

2. Our suffering is never _____

but we’ll seldom know the _____

of our suffering in this life. See Romans 8:28



God’s Heart Revealed Through Hannah’s Story

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Psalm 73:25,26

Hannah’s Story:

There was a certain man ...whose name was Elkanah 2 He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. 3 Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the LORD Almighty at Shiloh,...Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. 5 But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the LORD had closed her womb. 6 Because the LORD had closed Hannah’s womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. 7 This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat.

I. Why was Hannah crying?

- _____ in the Bible is never seen in a positive light.
- _____ in ancient societies destroyed future hope.

3 Things were contingent upon child bearing in Hannah’s day

1. Greater economic prosperity
2. Future security
3. National security

What appears on the surface to be a bargain with God upon closer scrutiny is not.

17 Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him." 18 She said, "May your servant find favor in your eyes." Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast. 19 Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the LORD and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. 20 So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the LORD for him."

Vss. 10,11-Prayer Vs. 18- Peace Vs. 20 Pregnancy

... then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head." 1 Samuel 1:11

So what Hanna is really saying here when she's prays in verse 11 is

"Lord all my life I wanted a child for my sake, for my benefit, but now sovereign Lord I want a child for your sake."

III. What did Hannah learn?

"The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. 5 Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away. ... 8-He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness. "It is not by strength that one prevails; 1 Samuel 2:4,5,8

John H. Bruggeman OT scholar:

"Barrenness in any Hebrew text is the effective metaphor for hopelessness."

Because the LORD had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to **irritate** her. 1 Samuel 1:6

Irritate- actually is the idea to roar or to thunder, a deep emotional discord.

II. What changed Hannah's outlook?

Her husband Elkanah would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?" 1 Samuel 1:8

Isn't my love for you big enough to replace this other loss for you?

Hannah could have said, "Isn't one wife enough for you?"

Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. 1 Samuel 1:9

In the Hebrew that phrase "stood up" is actually an idiomatic phrase that actually means to be "firmly resolved" or "decisive action."

Hannah rejects both Peninnah's approach and Elkanah's

In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. 11 And she made a vow, saying, "LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head." 1 Samuel 1:10,11