

I. Introduction and review.

II. Praise the LORD who has delivered me. v. 1-2

A. Rejoice in the LORD! v. 1 Phil. 4:4 Ps. 43:4

1. This the second recorded prayer of Hannah's. v. 1a 1:10ff
2. Hannah's delight is in the LORD (the Giver) not merely Samuel (the gift). v. 1b
3. She whose head was bowed down in sadness is lifted up in strength. v. 1cd
Dt. 33:17 Ps. 75:5 89:17,24 18:2,36 35:21 21:21,25 Dan. 8:3ff
4. Who are the enemies from whom God saves? v. 1e Ex. 15:1-2 Ps. 139:21-22

B. Our joyful praise is rooted in the character of God. v. 2

1. God is unique in His holiness. Ex. 15:11 Isa. 6:3 Rev. 4:8
2. God is a Rock. Ex. 17:6 Dt. 32:4,30-31,37 Ps. 86:8 18:1-2 118:22 II Sam. 22:2
23:3 Isa. 8:14 28:16 I Pe. 2:6-8
3. God is incomparable -- there is no-one like Him.
4. This is a challenge to other so-called gods.
5. This is also a challenge to modern day pluralists who claim that all religions are essentially the same.

III. God sovereignly works justice on behalf of His people. v. 4-8

A. It is vain to oppose God. v. 3

1. Pride is unfitting and dangerous in God's presence. v. 3ab Ps. 73:9 75:5,10 94:4
2. You cannot fool the omniscient LORD. v. 3c 16:7 Heb. 4:12 Ps. 73:11 2:4
3. He will act justly. v. 3d Pr. 16:2 24:12 Ps. 66:5

B. God sovereignly reverses the plight of His oppressed people. v. 4-5

1. God acts on behalf of the righteous and brings vengeance upon the wicked.
2. He breaks the power of the mighty and strengthens the feeble. v. 4 17:51 Ps. 20:7 33:16-17 37:15 Heb. 11:32 Ex. 15:4
3. He brings the evil rich to abject poverty while feeding the hungry who trust Him.
v. 5a 25:1ff Mt. 5:5 Luke 6:20-21,24-25
4. He opens the womb of the barren woman while the proud mother languishes.
v. 5b 1:2,5,29 2:21 Ps. 113:9 Jer. 15:9
5. Whom is God about to take down? 2:12ff

C. God sovereignly humbles and exalts. v. 6-8d

1. He is sovereign over life and death. v. 6 2:25,33-34 Dt. 32:39 Ge. 38:7,10 He. 9:27
2. Is this an early reference to the resurrection? Job 19:25 Ps. 16:8-11 90:3 30:3
Acts 2:27-28,31 Isa. 53:10-12 Ezek. 37 Mt. 22:32 John 11:25-26 1:4
3. He is sovereign over wealth and poverty. v. 7 Deut. 8:17-18
4. God can bring people from the lowest to the highest place -- from the ash heap to the throne room. v. 8 18:23 Ps. 75:6-7 113:7-9 Js. 4:6,10 II Sa. 22:28 Zech. 9:3-4

D. The LORD the Creator gives the world moral stability. v. 8e Ps. 75:3 Isa. 51:13,16

IV. God will make all things right. v. 9-10

A. He exerts His power to preserve His covenant people. v. 9a Ps. 91:11f 37:23f I Pe. 1:5

**B. The wicked will be utterly destroyed. v. 9bc, 10abc Ps. 110:1 Ex. 15:6 Ps. 2:9
II Sa. 22:14 Ps. 96:13 98:9 2:8**

C. The LORD will accomplish His purposes through His Anointed King. v. 10de
Ps. 72:1-4, 12-14

1. Hannah is not merely singing about her own situation. She sings prophetically for all of God's people whose horn will soon be lifted. 2:1,10
2. Where did this idea of kingship come from? Judges 21:25 Gen. 17:6,16 49:10 Num. 24:7-9,17-19 Deut. 17:14ff I Sam. 8:5ff
3. Hannah is prophetically looking forward to David, God's anointed King. 16:13
4. Ultimately she looks ahead to Jesus the Messiah and King of Kings. II Sam. 22:51 Ps. 2:6 91:11-12 Isa. 32:1ff Jer. 23:5 Ezek. 37:22,24 Zech. 9:9 Luke 4:18 2:34

V. Concluding applications.

A. Is Hannah promoting liberation theology?

1. Liberation theology emphasizes the teachings of the Bible in which God sides with the oppressed against the oppressors. Luke 6:20ff 1:18 Js. 5:1-6 Ps. 82:3-4
2. Scripture is not against all wealth, only the sinful misuse of wealth.
 - a. It is certainly true that God hates oppression of the weak. Js. 5:1-6 Lev. 19:13 Ex. 23:6 Deut. 24:14-15 Ps. 10:2 82:3-4 Pr. 14:31 22:6
 - b. Scripture affirms the right of private property. Ex. 20:5
 - c. Scripture teaches that wise people who work with skill and diligence will have more wealth than those who are lazy. Pr. 10:4
 - d. God sometimes blesses His people with wealth. v. 7 Deut. 8:18
 - e. The wealthy are to voluntarily care for the deserving poor. Lev. 19:10 23:2 Deut. 15:7 Pr. 19:17 22:9 31:9,20 I Tim. 6:17ff Acts 2:44f 4:32ff
 - f. Scripture forbids injustice towards the rich by showing favoritism to the poor. Ex. 23:3
3. Liberation theology often promotes forcibly creating economic equality by forcibly taking (stealing) from those who have and giving it to those who do not.
4. Liberation theologians tend to focus on what man does here and now politically (through revolution) rather than what God is doing in the history of redemption.
 - a. They often promote hatred and prejudice based upon people's race or wealth rather than their actions and character. Ga. 3:29
 - b. They hold all people of a group responsible for the past sins of some. Dt. 24:16
 - c. They often see the solution to poverty as taking from the rich (equal results), rather than gaining skill and working hard (equal opportunity).
 - d. They focus on the material aspect of a kingdom now. John 18:36
 - e. They look to political revolution rather than Divine intervention.
5. The most important thing about Hannah's story is God working out His plan to bring salvation to His people -- then and now.

B. Hannah's musical theology.

1. Hannah knows her Bible. Exodus 15 Deut. 32 Judges 5
2. Hannah writes from her own experience.
3. Hannah writes under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
4. For which of God's attributes does Hannah praise Him? 2:2,3,2-8,10
5. Hannah's song (psalm) is echoed in many other biblical psalms (songs). II Sam. 22 Ps. 18 75 113.
6. Mary's song shares many themes with that of Hannah. Luke 1:46-55

C. We owe God thanks and praise. Col. 3:16 Eph. 5:19

Discussion questions

- 1. What is the overall theme of Hannah's song?**
- 2. What attributes of God are highlighted in this song?**
- 3. Who are the enemies about whom Hannah speaks?**
- 4. About which King(s) is Hannah speaking?**
- 5. How could a proponent of 'liberation theology' misuse Hannah's story and song?**
- 6. In what sense is God concerned about the oppressed?**
- 7. Are all wealthy people wicked oppressors and all poor people victims of injustice?**
- 8. What are the fatal errors of 'liberation theology'?**
- 9. Write your personal song of praise to God, speaking from your own personal experience while using Hannah's song as a model.**
- 10. How are themes from Hannah's song reflected in later scriptural songs? II Sa. 22 Ps. 18 75 113 Luke 1:46-55**