



Part 7: Persisting through Pain

In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

~ Judges 21:25 NASB

The story of Hannah is a story in its own right. Hannah is not merely the mother of Samuel, the occasion of a birth story that functions as a kind of entryway to the dominating stories of Samuel, Saul and David. She holds her own with the best of them.

~ Eugene H. Peterson
Westminster Bible Companion

It is striking that the authors choose to begin this narrative – which deals often with power struggles between leading men of the country – with a powerless, barren woman.

~ Mary J. Evans
New International Biblical Commentary

Hannah, for her part, while she may have loved her husband, still needed children, and not only for her personal emotional fulfillment. In her society a woman's prestige was based at least partly on her demonstrated ability to produce offspring.

~ Jo Ann Hackett
Women's Bible Commentary

Her motives may have been mixed, but her request was in line with the overarching will of God, who was preparing to bring into the world a man who would be his faithful representative and mouthpiece.

~ Joyce G. Baldwin
Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries

Little did Hannah realize what a significant impact her son would have as a prophet, priest, and judge during this critical period of Israel's history.

~ Herbert M. Wolf
Evangelical Commentary on the Bible

She breaks out of the role of "barren wife" imposed on her by her rival's malice, her husband's love, and her priest's ignorance, and prays herself into the conception and birthing of Samuel, who will preside over the renaissance of Israel's identity as the people of God.

~ Eugene H. Peterson
Westminster Bible Companion

He is not limited by age or physical condition, or by what others think of us. He is the Lord of all and his power knows no limit. Like Hannah, we need to pray to him as the one who alone can help us.

~ Gbile Akanni
Africa Bible Commentary

**No one is holy like the LORD!
There is no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.**

~ Hannah, 1 Samuel 2:2 NLT