

# Hannah and Elkanah

## *Husband Wife Interactions*

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# What We Will Learn

- Elkanah was leader in all family affairs
- Empowered each of his two wives as co-lead
- Hannah interacted with God on behalf of herself, husband, and their children
- Knowing her husband will follow her lead
- They were blessed abundantly
- 1 Samuel 1 and 2

# Elkanah and Hannah Marriage

- Elkanah married to two wives
  - Peninnah (had children)
  - Hannah (had no child)
- Elkanah was leader in all family affairs
- Expected each wife to lead her sub family
  - Peninnah: herself and children
  - Hannah: herself and state of childlessness
- 1 Samuel 1:1–8

# 1 Samuel 1 (NIV)

1 There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah ...

2 He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.

# 1 Samuel 1 (NIV)

3 Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the Lord.

4 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.

# 1 Samuel 1 (NIV)

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.

# 1 Samuel 1 (NIV)

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.

8 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?”

# Hannah's Empowerment

- Hannah knew she could petition God directly
- And make a vow regarding child
  - Independent of husband Elkanah
  - Independent of Chief Priest Eli
- Husband accepted her as co-leader
- Loved her
- 1 Samuel 1:9–11

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## **1 Samuel 1 (NIV)**

9 Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the Lord's house.

10 In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly.

## 1 Samuel 1 (NIV)

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.”

- She made this vow knowing her husband will follow her leadership

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# Hannah's Empowerment cont'd

- She named the child
- She decided to keep child home until weaned
- She chose what to sacrifice at the dedication
- She led official handover of child to Eli
- She led the dedication prayer
- 1 Samuel 1:20–28
- 1 Samuel 2:1 and 2:11

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## 1 Samuel 1 (NIV)

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.”

21 When her husband Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfill his vow,

## 1 Samuel 1 (NIV)

22 Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, “After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the Lord, and he will live there always.”

23 “Do what seems best to you,” her husband Elkanah told her. “Stay here until you have weaned him; only may the Lord make good his word.” So the woman stayed at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

# 1 Samuel 1 (NIV)

24 After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh.

25 When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought the boy to Eli,

## 1 Samuel 1 (NIV)

26 and she said to him, “Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the Lord.

27 I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him.

28 So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord.” And he worshiped the Lord there.

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# 1 Samuel 2 (NIV)

1 Then Hannah prayed and said:

“My heart rejoices in the Lord;  
in the Lord my horn is lifted high.  
My mouth boasts over my enemies,  
for I delight in your deliverance.

11 Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but  
the boy ministered before the Lord under Eli  
the priest.



# Blessing for Hannah and Elkanah

- Their son Samuel ministered to God and became prophet at a young age
- Hannah conceived several times and gave birth to three sons and two daughters
- 1 Samuel 2:18–21 and 2:26

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# 1 Samuel 2 (NIV)

18 But Samuel was ministering before the Lord—a boy wearing a linen ephod.

19 Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice.

## 1 Samuel 2 (NIV)

20 Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the Lord give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the Lord.” Then they would go home.

21 And the Lord was gracious to Hannah; she gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord.

# 1 Samuel 2 (NIV)

26 And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people.

# What We Learned

- Elkanah loved his wife Hannah
- Empowered her to co-lead family affairs
- Hannah interacted with God on behalf of herself, husband, and their children
- Knowing her husband will follow her lead
- They were blessed abundantly

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