

1 Samuel 2:1 — “And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.”

1 Samuel 2:2 — “There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.”

1 Samuel 2:3 — “Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.”

1 Samuel 2:4 — “The bows of the mighty men are broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength.”

1 Samuel 2:5 — “They that were full have hired out themselves for bread; and they that were hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.”

1 Samuel 2:6 — “The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.”

1 Samuel 2:7 — “The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.”

1 Samuel 2:8 — “He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.”

1 Samuel 2:9 — “He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.”

1 Samuel 2:10 — “The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.”

INTRODUCTION

- Hannah's prayer begins with the LORD answering one woman's grief.
 - It reaches outward to the way He rules over:
 - ? strength and weakness,
 - ? life and death,
 - ? poverty and riches,
 - ? saints and wicked men,
 - ? His king and His anointed.
- 1 Samuel is **Book 9 of 66**.
 - This is chapter 2 of 31 in 1 Samuel.
 - It is **chapter 238 of 1,189** in the Bible.
- Chapter 1:
 - Hannah was barren.
 - Peninnah provoked her year after year.
 - Hannah prayed.
 - The LORD gave her Samuel.
 - Hannah brought Samuel to Shiloh and lent him to the LORD as long as he lived.
- Chapter 2 opens after Hannah has:
 - received the son she prayed for,
 - surrendered that son to the LORD.
- The rest of 1 Samuel repeatedly follows the pattern Hannah sings about:
 - outward strength can fall,
 - the lowly can be raised,
 - the LORD determines the outcome.

- [STRONG] Hannah begins where all of those truths begin: **“My heart rejoiceth in the LORD.”**

I. THERE IS NONE HOLY AS THE LORD — VERSES 1-3

1 Samuel 2:1 — “And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.”

- Hannah prayed for a son, and the LORD gave her Samuel.
- She has now brought Samuel to Shiloh and given him to the LORD’s service.
- Her first words are still: **“My heart rejoiceth in the LORD.”**
- Twice in this verse she says **“in the LORD.”**
 - Samuel was the gift.
 - The LORD was the source of her joy.
- “Mine horn is exalted”:
 - pictures strength and dignity being raised.
 - Hannah had lived under years of provocation.
 - Now the LORD had vindicated her.
- “My mouth is enlarged”:
 - Hannah can speak openly of what God has done.
- “Thy salvation”:
 - here speaks of the LORD’s deliverance in Hannah’s affliction.
- Application:
 - When God answers prayer, let the answer turn our hearts toward the One who answered.
 - **Enjoy the gift, but rejoice in the LORD who gave it.**

1 Samuel 2:2 — “There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.”

- Hannah moves from her deliverance to the character of the LORD.
- **“There is none holy as the LORD.”**
 - He is holy.
 - He is set apart from every rival.
- **“There is none beside thee.”**
 - No one is equal to Him.
 - No one occupies His place.
- **“Neither is there any rock like our God.”**
 - The Rock speaks of:
 - ? strength,
 - ? stability,
 - ? security.

Deuteronomy 32:4 — “He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.”

- People change.
- Circumstances change.
- Human strength fails.
- **The Rock remains true, just, and right.**
- Hannah can surrender Samuel and still rejoice because her confidence rests in the LORD Himself.

1 Samuel 2:3 — “Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.”

- Proud speech is foolish before **“a God of knowledge.”**
- The LORD knows what people cannot see.
- He weighs actions correctly.

- Peninnah's provocation belongs in the immediate background.
- Hannah's warning reaches every proud mouth.
- Human applause cannot overturn God's judgment.
- Reputation cannot overturn God's judgment.
- Position cannot overturn God's judgment.
- Success cannot overturn God's judgment.
- [WARNING] **Walk humbly before the God who knows the truth.**

II. HE BRINGETH LOW, AND LIFTETH UP — VERSES 4-8

1 Samuel 2:4 — “The bows of the mighty men are broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength.”

- The first reversal concerns strength.
- The mighty man:
 - has a bow,
 - has a weapon,
 - appears powerful,
 - yet his bow is broken.
- The one who stumbled:
 - appeared weak,
 - could hardly stand,
 - is now **“girded with strength.”**
- Strength is put upon the weak one.
- **Visible strength never makes a man independent of the LORD.**

1 Samuel 2:5 — “They that were full have hired out themselves for bread; and they that were hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.”

- The reversals move into ordinary life.
- Those who were full:
 - become needy enough to work for bread.
- Those who were hungry:
 - have their hunger ended.
- Hannah then uses the condition she knew personally:
 - **“the barren hath born seven.”**
- Later this chapter records:
 - Samuel,
 - three more sons,
 - two daughters.
 - Six children are recorded for Hannah.
- “Seven” here pictures abundant fruitfulness rather than a literal count.
- Hannah's experience supplies the language, but the song has grown wider than her household.
- Application:
 - Present abundance gives no ground for pride.
 - Present lack does not place anyone beyond the LORD's rule.

1 Samuel 2:6-7 — “The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.”

- Now the repeated subject is named plainly: **“The LORD.”**
- His rule reaches:
 - life and death,
 - the grave,
 - poverty and riches,

- o being brought low,
- o being lifted up.
- Even the grave lies beneath His authority.
- **“He bringeth low, and lifteth up”** controls this whole section.
- It humbles the person who is high:
 - o wealth gives no man independence from God.
- It steadies the person who is low:
 - o poverty puts no one beyond His care.
- [PAUSE] **The LORD rules over both conditions.**

1 Samuel 2:8 — “He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD’S, and he hath set the world upon them.”

- Hannah stretches the reversal as far as she can:
 - o dust -> raised up,
 - o dunghill -> lifted up,
 - o beggar -> among princes,
 - o low place -> throne of glory.
- Then Hannah gives the reason: **“for.”**
 - o The earth belongs to the LORD.
 - o He has set the world in its place.
 - o The pillars picture an established world under His rule.
- The God who owns the world is not limited by the low place we can see.
- Application:
 - o If God lifts you up, stay humble.
 - o If you are brought low, keep trusting Him.
 - o **Neither position changes who rules.**

III. BY STRENGTH SHALL NO MAN PREVAIL — VERSES 9-10

1 Samuel 2:9 — “He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.”

- **“He will keep the feet of his saints.”**
 - o Feet picture a person’s steps and course.
 - o The LORD keeps His people.
- The wicked:
 - o spoke proudly earlier in the song,
 - o will finally be silent.
- His keeping is real even through trouble.
- The strength of the wicked does not control the final outcome.
- **“By strength shall no man prevail.”**
- This becomes a key to the rest of 1 Samuel:
 - o Eli’s sons hold priestly position while Samuel is a child.
 - o Saul will look impressive while David is overlooked.
 - o Goliath will tower over David.
- [STRONG] **Visible power cannot overrule the LORD.**

1 Samuel 2:10 — “The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.”

- Hannah began in verse 1 with:
 - o **“mine enemies.”**

- She ends with:
 - **“the adversaries of the LORD.”**
- Her prayer has moved:
 - from one woman,
 - to one household,
 - to **“the ends of the earth.”**
- **The LORD is Judge over all.**
- Later in this same book Hannah’s language is acted out:

1 Samuel 7:10 — “And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel.”

- Hannah also speaks of:
 - **“his king,”**
 - **“his anointed,”**
 - before Israel has a king.
- Samuel will:
 - anoint Saul,
 - then anoint David.
- The royal line ultimately leads to Christ, the promised Davidic Messiah.
- The prayer closes where it began:
 - Verse 1 — Hannah’s horn is exalted.
 - Verse 10 — the horn of the LORD’s anointed is exalted.
- The strength connection closes the argument:
 - Verse 9 — **“by strength shall no man prevail.”**
 - Verse 10 — the LORD **“shall give strength unto his king.”**
- [REPEAT] **Strength given by the LORD serves His purpose.**

CONCLUSION

- Hannah could surrender Samuel because her confidence was bigger than the circumstance that had once consumed her.
- She knew the LORD as:
 - the holy God,
 - the Rock,
 - the God of knowledge,
 - the One who brings low and lifts up,
 - the Keeper of His saints,
 - the Judge whose rule reaches to the ends of the earth.
- That leaves:
 - **no safe place for pride,**
 - **no good reason for despair.**
- If you are strong:
 - remember where strength comes from.
- If you are low:
 - remember who can lift up.
- If people misjudge you:
 - remember the God of knowledge.
- If the future looks stronger than you are:
 - remember, **“by strength shall no man prevail.”**
- [SLOW] Hannah’s prayer teaches us to place the weight of our confidence where circumstances cannot move it.

- **Trust the Rock.**
- **Walk humbly before Him.**
- **Rejoice in the LORD.**
- **[STRONG] There is none holy as the LORD.**