

SUMMARY AND REVIEW

Take 5-10 minutes to discuss this week's sermon, *Hannah's Songs*, 1 Samuel 2:1-10.

READ 1 Samuel 2:1-10.

INTRO TO THE TEXT:

About 300 years after the Israelites crossed into Canaan, the nation was being governed by leaders called judges. During this time Israel was sometimes obedient to God and His covenant but was more often unfaithful. 1 Samuel opens with the story of Hannah, a woman who was barren while her husband's other wife, Peninnah, had children. Hannah prayed, vowing that if God would send her a son she would dedicate him to the Lord's service. God heard and Samuel was born. 1 Samuel 2:1-10 is the prayer Hannah sang at the temple as she gave her child back to God.

Hannah's hymn opens with praise. God is holy, unlike any other. The word "holy" means separate or apart. It is used to reflect God's purity: He is completely free from any taint of uncleanness or evil. Hannah says that her "horn" has been lifted, as when an animal raises its horn, symbolizing strength and dignity. She calls God "the Rock", an echo of Deuteronomy 32:4 that will be repeated throughout the Old Testament and will come to be associated with the Messiah. The hymn speaks of how God humbles those who appear to be powerful and raises up the weak. The passage ends with the certainty of judgment and hope for the future. The Hebrew word *messach*, from which we get "messiah", is translated "anointed" and usually refers to the consecration of a priest or king. This idea foreshadows Samuel's role in the selection of Saul as Israel's first king and ultimately points to salvation made available to all nations through Christ Jesus.

RE-READ 1 Samuel 2:1-10.

ANALYZE THE TEXT

1. On a personal level Hannah's "enemy" (v.3) was Peninnah; on a national level the Philistines were the enemy. How were these enemies "silenced" by God?
2. List the role reversals in verses 4-6. What do these verses tell us about God?
3. How do verses 9-10 offer both warning and hope?

APPLY *Break up into separate groups of men and women for the application.*

1. How are you called to respond to the holiness of God? In a culture of 21st century polytheism, how do you respond to pressure to acknowledge other religions as equally valid?
2. What does the image of God as our "Rock" suggest to you? What other words or images might you use to describe this aspect of God's character? How is your daily life impacted by knowing that God is your Rock?
3. Where do you see yourself in regard to the role reversals of verses 4-6? In what areas have you been humbled by God? In what areas has God raised you up? Can you honestly pray that God will humble you when needed?
4. Verse 10 speaks of judgment and victory. Does this bring you to fear or to rejoicing? Why?

MEMORIZE 1 Samuel 2:2

Suggestions for further reading: Compare Hannah's Song to the Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55).