

Conflict and Crisis: The Judges

1 Samuel 2: 1



"And Hannah prayed and said: 'My heart rejoices in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, because I rejoice in Your salvation'"

1 Samuel 2: 1.



I. Introduction

Children are the gift of God. This was the experience of Hannah, the mother of Samuel, who, after receiving her son, decided to sing a song of thanksgiving, as well as to present him to serve his entire life in the sanctuary.



"Your children are the greatest gift God will give to you, and their souls the heaviest responsibility He will place in your hands. Take time with them, teach them to have faith in God. Be a person in whom they can have faith. When you are old, nothing else you've done will have mattered as much."

Lisa Wingate



“We cannot always build the
future for our youth, but we can
build our youth for the future.”
Franklin D. Roosevelt



“A child is the
greatest joy, the
ultimate blessing.”
Emily Laughton



"Every child is a gift to the world! Isn't that exciting? Our children are not only a gift from God to us, but also a gift to others. Each child God has given you is a gift from God to the world. Who knows which one will be another David, or Paul, or Einstein or Billy Graham! Or anointed and faithful builders, teachers, store managers or whatever! And of course, godly mothers and fathers. Praise God, the world will never be the same because of the children that you have brought into the world and will bring into the world."
Nancy Campbell



"A child s a special
possession from God."
Lailah Gifty
Akita, Think Great:
Be Great!



“One learns more of Christ in being married and rearing children than in several lifetimes spent in study in a monastery.”
Martin Luther



“A mother is the most precious person in the world for her child. And in return, a child is the most valuable gift of God for his mother. What a blessed relationship!”
(DS)



II. Context



The Structure of 1 and 2 Samuel

A	1 S. 1 - 7	Samuel and the End of Eli. Samuel's ruling over Israel
B	1 S. 8 - 15	Saul's Failure
C	1 S. 16 - 20	David Rises in Popularity in Saul's Kingdom
D	1 S. 21 - 31	SAUL DESIRES TO KILL DAVID. HE IS KILLED HIMSELF
C'	2 S. 1 - 8	David rises in Popularity, ruling over Israel
B'	2 S. 9 - 20	David's Failure
A'	2 S. 21 - 24	End of David.

The song of Hannah in 1 Samuel 2 is in parallel with the Song of David in 2 Samuel 22. The content confirms that Hannah has the similar vision of God's action as the king David. The beginning and the end of the book of Samuel are framed with two outstanding poems.

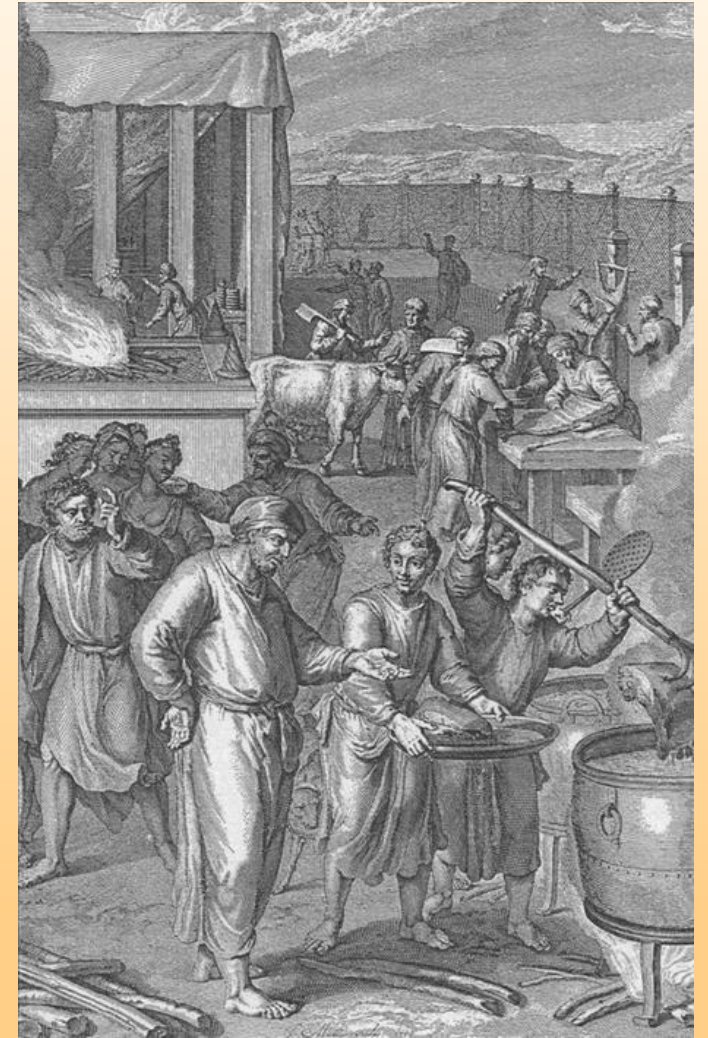


The Structure of the first 7 chapters of 1 Samuel

A	1: 1 – 2: 11	Samuel's birth and lifelong dedication to the Lord
B	2: 12 - 26	Eli's sons disrespectful of God
C	2: 27 – 3: 1a	Prophecy against Eli's sons. They will be killed in one day
D	3: 1b – 4: 1a	Samuel's Call
C'	4: 1b - 22	Fulfillment of the prophecy against Eli's sons.
B'	5: 1 – 7: 1	Philistines show respect to God
A'	7: 2 - 17	Samuel's Victory and lifelong ruling over Israel

The corruption in the house of the Lord with the sons of Eli didn't prevent Hannah to give her child to God.

(1 Samuel 3: 12 – 17). Through her attitude we have the opportunity to learn that the faithfulness to God is always the right solution, even in the midst of an apostasy.



III. The example of Hannah, the mother of Samuel, is encouraging us to be faithful and patient. She is the proof that God's promises are true



1. After receiving the gift of her child Samuel, Hannah decided to present to God a prayer of thanksgiving.

"And Hannah prayed and said"



"God smiles when we praise and thank Him continually. Few things feel better than receiving heartfelt praise and appreciation from someone else. God loves it, too. An amazing thing happens when we offer praise and thanksgiving to God. When we give God enjoyment, our own hearts are filled with joy."
William Law



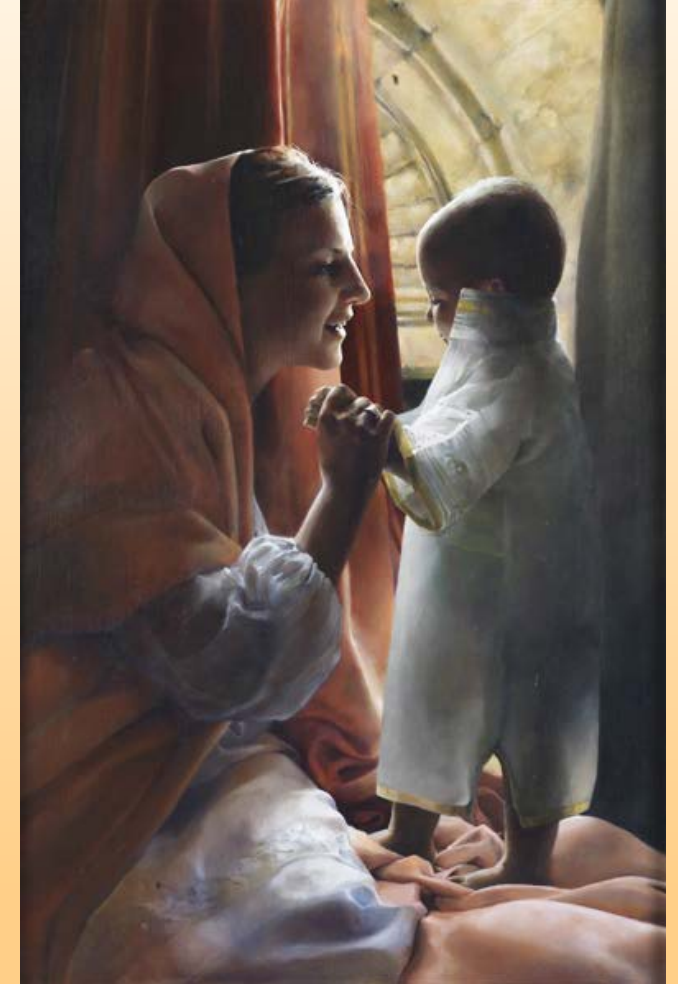
“You will have as much joy and laughter
in life as you have faith in God.”
Martin Luther



“Be the joy of my heart;
Take all of me to Yourself, and abide therein.
The house of my soul is, I confess, too narrow for You.
Enlarge it that You may enter.
It is ruinous, but do repair it.
It has within it what must offend Your eyes;
I confess and know it,
But whose help shall I seek in cleansing it but Yours alone?
To You, O God, I cry urgently.
Cleanse me from secret faults.
Keep me from false pride and sensuality
That they not get dominion over me.”
Augustine

2. Hannah is sharing her great joy of receiving her child

"My heart rejoices in the LORD"



"Because Hannah believed God for a son and gave Samuel back to God, God did something else amazing. Not only did He allow Hannah to conceive, thus reversing her shame and giving her a new position as a mother, but God blessed Hannah's legacy. Her faithfulness to God continued on in her son, Samuel, who became a priest. Samuel was the one who later set David apart as the next king and anointed him. Jesus came from the line of David. Wow! Hannah's faithfulness didn't just impact her life and family; her faithfulness affected an entire nation!"

Laura Bagby



“God had granted Hannah the desire of her heart; she had been highly favored of Heaven, and she felt that she could do no less in token of her gratitude than to make a public acknowledgment of the divine mercy and loving-kindness. The spirit of inspiration came upon her, and although a retiring and timid woman, her voice was now heard in the assembly of the people, sounding forth the praise of God.”

Ellen G. White, Signs of the Times,
October 27, 1881, par. 15.



"Children are our most valuable resource."
Herbert Hoover, 31st President of the
United States



3. We are totally
dependent on God.
Our power grows as
we grow in our
relationship with God

"My horn is exalted in the
LORD"



"My Horn:

My strength and glory (which are often signified by an horn,) are advanced and manifested to my vindication, and the confusion of mine enemies."

John Wesley



“My horn is high doesn’t mean ‘I am proud’, but ‘my power is great in the Lord’. The horn is the symbol of strength, and is taken from oxen whose strength is in their horns (Deut. 33: 17; Ps. 75: 5, etc.) The power was high or exalted by the salvation which the Lord had manifested to her.”
Keil and Delitzsch, Commentary on the Old Testament, vol. 2, p. 382.



“What is the meaning of “my horn”? Force, glory, prominence, using a metaphor from the brute beasts. God implanted in them only the horn by way of glory and weaponry, and if they lose it, they lose most of their force. And like a soldier without weapons a bull without horns is easily disposed of. So by this, the woman means, my glory is exalted. How is it exalted? In my God, she says.”
John Chrysostom, Homilies on Hannah



4. The joy and the
certitude of salvation
are stronger than the
mockeries of the
enemies

I smile at my enemies, because
I rejoice in Your salvation'"



“Hannah had patiently waited for years, praying for what she desired so very much. It was in the Lord's hands, she knew, and during those bleak years of hope she never gave up. And then, after at long last having received of the Lord's goodness, she remembered Him with gratitude. Her joy was enriched because Samuel was the product of the Lord's power. She spoke boldly in the midst of those who would ridicule her, not being ashamed because the LORD was the God of her salvation. May we also enjoy the same exultation, boldness and joy in the Lord today, for He is also the God of our salvation!”

Jon W. Quinn

“We could say that it is a Christian’s duty to be as joyful as he can possibly be. We could also say it is God’s purpose, and God’s plan, and God’s will to see that we are as joyful as we could possibly be.”
John MacArthur



"Calvin was accused of presumption for daring to assert that believers could have certitude of salvation; but he thought it obvious that if salvation is in fact God's gift, we should not worry about earning it. Rather, we should simply trust in God's promises and live our lives in thankful praise and love of God, expressing that gratitude in our love of neighbor. This is perhaps the most practical contribution of the Reformed tradition to the everyday life of Christian believers."

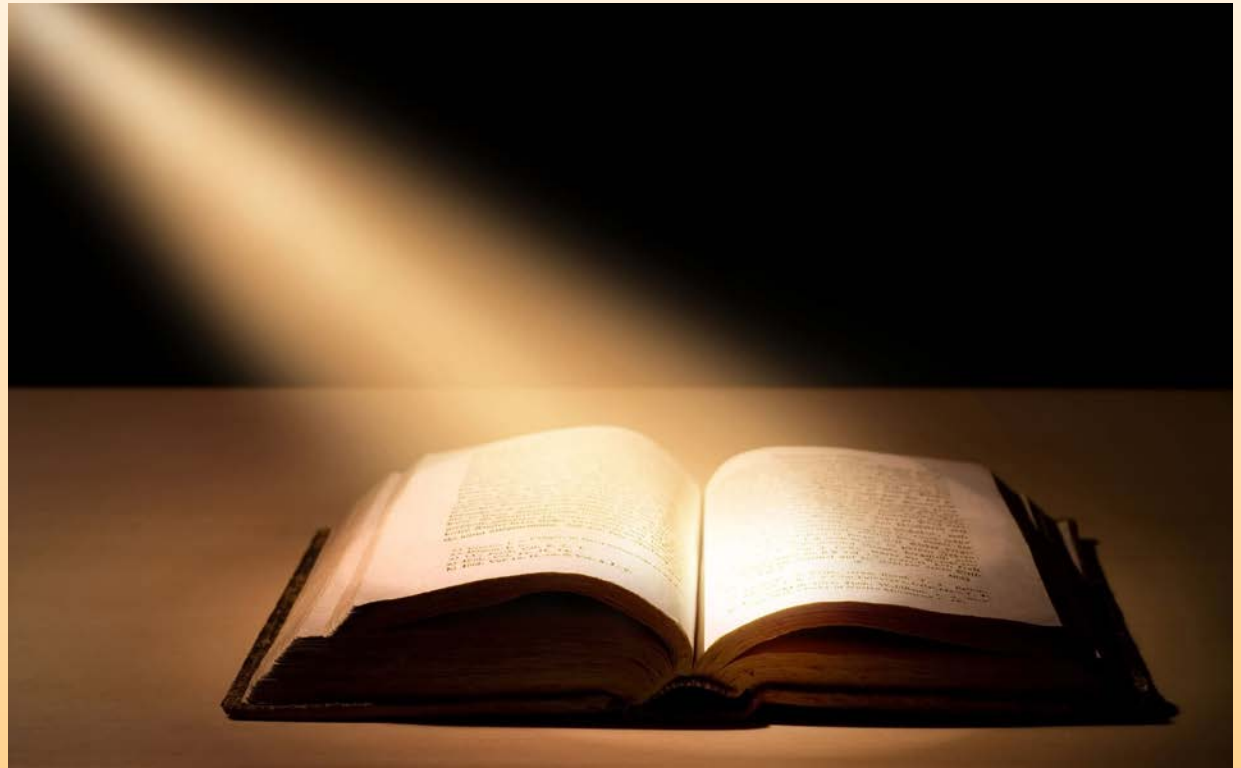
Dennis E. Tamburello, Christ at the Center.
The Legacy of the Reformed Tradition



“When any soul approaches God as his Father, heaven becomes his home. He is a member of the royal family, a child of the heavenly King. He holds a life insurance policy endorsed by the Lord God who created him; and all who hold this life insurance policy are linked with the family of the redeemed by a tie which cannot be broken... Only through Christ is there hope for the soul’s salvation. He will identify Himself with your present and eternal good, and there is no favor in all the world can compare with this. It raises man above all distinctions of wealth, above all title or any earthly dignity. Through faith in the righteousness of Christ, man holds the hand of angels. Receiving Christ he is elevated and ennobled.”
Ellen G. White, Letter 34, 1901, pp. 1, 2.

“What is your assurance of salvation? The promise of God's Word. If God says it, that settles it, because God cannot lie. You can trust the promise of God's Word.”

Rick Warren



V. Conclusion



“Parents, give your children to the Lord, and ever keep before their minds that they belong to Him, that they are the lambs of Christ’s flock, watched over by the True Shepherd. Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord; and it is said of him, “Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words [the Lord’s words through Samuel] fall to the ground.” 1 Samuel 3:19. In the case of this prophet and judge in Israel are presented the possibilities that are placed before the child whose parents co-operate with God, doing their appointed work.

Children are a heritage from the Lord, and they are to be trained for His service. This is the work that rests upon parents and teachers with solemn, sacred force, which they cannot evade or ignore. To neglect this work marks them as unfaithful servants; but there is a reward when the seed of truth is early sown in the heart and carefully tended.”

Ellen G. White, Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 143.

"Children are God's ongoing witness of His kingdom: a perpetual reminder of what it means to belong to the father. Children are an unspoken sermon in every home for simplicity, joy, and humility of that which makes the world worth living in. They remind us what it means to be a real Christian."

Winkie Pratney



"If you neglect to instruct (your children) in the way of holiness, will the devil neglect to instruct them in the way of wickedness? No; if you will not teach them to pray, he will to curse, swear, and lie; if ground be uncultivated, weeds will spring."
John Flavel



“It was Hannah, the woman of prayer and self-sacrifice and heavenly inspiration, who gave birth to Samuel, the heaven-instructed child, the incorruptible judge, the founder of Israel’s sacred schools.”

Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*,
p. 372.



Global Rebellion and the Patriarchs

Genesis 28: 15

