

Hannah of The Bible – Mothers Day 8 May 2011

The woman who personifies ideal motherhood.

The name Hannah means, gracious, graciousness or favour.

In the book "All The Women Of The Bible" by Herbet Lockyer.

While it is sadly true that it was a woman who brought sin into Gods fair universe, it was likewise a woman who gave the world the saviour from sin, Amen!

1 Samuel Ch.1 and Ch.2 v1 & v21.

The lesson to be gathered from this fascinating story of Hannah is clearly evident. She was married to Elkanah a Levite of Rama-thaim.

Zaphin,

He had two wives Hannah and Peninnah who had several children with Elkanah, but the wife Hannah whom he loved was barren. She desired to be a mother and went before the Lord many times, and Peninnah took every opportunity to be cruel and malicious.

Hannah is a beautiful example of how the most unpleasant and untoward circumstances can produce character, such as being a blessing to the world.

She knew sorrow but she also knew that there is a God who hears when we persevere in prayer.

I can't tell you why that is, but I do know that when we do it His way, the answer will come.

She continued to stay in a Godly manner even though he heart longed to share a child with the man she loved. She could have become bitter or resentful but no, she continued going to the temple with her husband to worship the living God.

Because of her husbands love for her he bestowed richer gifts upon her rather than the other wife, (I don't think that would have helped matters in the home, do you?) and he even said, am I not better to you than ten sons, a person can feel his compassion for her.

Penninah continued with her jealousy, but true to Hannah's name she manifested grace of self control, though the womb was shut up her heart stayed open to God.

Childless Hannah was not prayerless. In her prayers she found refuge in God. She must have known deep down that someday she would either find her peace or the miracle would take place.

While she continued to pray or intercede, Eli the old priest came to the conclusion that she was drunk, and he confronted Hannah with his opinion.

"How we can inflict pain on people with our judgemental opinions"

Hannah protected her innocence and told him that she was praying bringing her petition before God and vowed to give the child back to Him.

Eli discerning that her desire for a child was intense and her spirit sacrificial, the priest assured her that God had heard her prayer and said, go in peace and the God of Israel will grant you a child what you have asked Him.

She experienced God's love and the sorrow left her heart. She continued serving and trusting God and eventually gave birth to a son whom she named Samuel, which means asked of the Lord. More than anything in the world she wanted a son. She had promised to give him back to the Lord. When weaned Samuel was taken back to the house of the Lord, and there to abide forever. Samuel became a leader of Israel a prophet, judge and priest. Her saintliness and sacrifice were rewarded and she bore Elkanah five more children.

What lesson can we learn from Hannah's life.

1. God wants us to remember whatever our situation may be He will always be there for us.

2. Not to retaliate against our oppressors and to persevere in prayer.