

God likes to do miracles with babies. After all, God thought up the idea of babies... that we all come into the world small, helpless, cute, and moist.

It ought not be any great surprise that all the most important people come into the world in this way.

And, it should not surprise us that, just as God works miracles in every area of life...

God works miracles when it comes to babies as well.

In a sense, every baby is a miracle... a person comes into the world! A real new person... thinking, feeling, a soul.

And, some of God's most amazing miracles have preceded very special person.

We begin our story after the birth of Obed to Naomi... and of course to Boaz and Ruth...

Maybe 20 years later and 20 miles away from Bethlehem... where David's grandpa was born.

It is the story that begins the story that runs through 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings... so it is very important.

In fact, it is foundational... and it has much to do with kings and the King of Kings.

1 Cor. 1:27-29 This is a principle that we see throughout the Bible... no, it is more than that. It is the character of God.

1 Samuel 1:1-11 Hannah's grief

1. Hannah is small and weak. ...which is true of all the others to whom these miraculous babies are born.

A. She is barren in a culture where barrenness is considered a curse.

Most of us have no idea the worthlessness of this... but we might feel worthless in other ways.

B. She is in a polygamous marriage where she is mistreated by her rival. (vss. 6-7)

Sometimes we wonder why God puts us through the things He does. Could it be He is preparing to answer prayer?

C. She has a husband who fails to help her where she needs it. (vss. 4-5, 8)

He seems to be trying to be nice... but he fails because he cannot give her what she needs.

2. She takes her sorrow to God. (vss. 9-11)

She is not complaining, feeling sorry for herself, wallowing in depression... she pours herself out to God.

And, she makes a promise... a Nazarite Vow... like Samson and, later, John the Baptist.

1 Samuel 1:12-18 Hannah's faith

1. Though God's prophet is tactless, she's going to seek God anyway. (vss. 12-16)

Eli is not a good prophet. He's the sort of guy that might drive people away from God... drunk, unfamiliar with prayer

But, Hannah is not going to let a person's behavior get between her and God.

2. She believes in God's goodness to her before God does anything. (vs. 18)

Do you see? All she had was the word of a prophet... and a poor prophet at that.

But, her attitude: God had given her something to cling to and cling she would... it changed her outlook.

1 Samuel 1:19-28 God's faithfulness, Hannah's faithfulness

1. God gives her what she has asked for. (vss. 19-20)

God is always faithful. He honors those who honor Him... often in unexpected ways, sometimes in the way we expect.

She recognizes God's answer to prayer. This is a good reason to pray. It glorifies God and helps us.

2. She gives God's gift back to Him. (vss. 24-28)

Now, this is remarkable... and let us not miss how very difficult it must have been... with all of Peninnah's sons around.

She keeps her vow. Have you ever made a promise to God? You did when you were saved.

1 Samuel 2:1-11 Hannah's prayer song

Much like Mary's song in Luke 1:46-55 or Zechariah's song in Luke 1:67-79.

Same themes... same joy... the same God. This is how His people respond to Him.

1. She rejoices in the Lord. (vss. 1-3)

"my heart exalts" = joyful worship from the heart "my horn is exalted" = strength and reputation

She worships God for His salvation and for His wisdom... she does so in the face of Peninnah.

2. The Lord brings low the proud and exalts the humble. (vss. 4-9)

People who think that they are great... God brings to nothing. Those who recognize their poverty, God is their God.

Jesus taught this: **Matthew 5:3-12** This is what God, His King, and His kingdom is like. The ethics of the Kingdom.

3. The Lord's King will do all this! (vs. 10)

And here, at the end of her prayer song it takes an unexpected twist. "His king" "His anointed" Who could it be?

Samuel? Saul? David? No... ultimately she is singing about Jesus, though she does not yet know His name.

Someday God Himself will come and set up His kingdom and make the ethics of His Kingdom the way the world works.

The justice and the character of God will be seen by everyone... this has begun in Jesus and His people.

vs. 11 She goes home and Samuel begins his service to the Lord... a prophetic ministry...

the first in a great line of prophets who speak to kings... that will eventually lead to Jesus.

Jesus, the King of all Kings... who also begins here on earth as a miraculous baby.