

# “Hannah’s Hope” // 1 Samuel 1–2 // *The Life of David: The Search for Significance #1*<sup>1</sup>

[\[UBTS Video\]](#)

“Praise God” section: **Ukraine—>Compassion—>Debt  
Free** (vamp entire time)

Praise God for what he’s doing through our friends at the Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary. I told you one of the greatest missionary trips I’ve ever taken was over there with that seminary. So, thank you for your continued generosity that makes partnerships like that possible. What’s been transpiring in Ukraine over the last several months is unjust and heartbreaking. However, through this network of students, grads, and churches, we’ve been able to shelter and serve refugees all throughout Ukraine, provide trauma counseling, and share the good news about the Prince of Peace with them.

And while we’re talking about your impact overseas, let me share a couple of other things. Compassion’s literal words to us were that it was a “watermark day...that broke all kinds of records.” We soared past our previous record of 1000 sponsorships and sponsored just over 1600 kids. In one day! That’s a little shy of our 2000 goal and Joby’s record of 1800, but

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<sup>1</sup> Works Consulted: Timothy Keller, “The Prayer for David,” sermon posted by Gospelinlife.com on Dec. 7, 2003; Tim Chester, *1 Samuel For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading (God’s Word for You)*, The Good Book Company, September 15, 2014; Tim Mackie, The Bible Project, “[Overview: 1 Samuel](#),” March 17, 2016; Jen Wilkin, “[Introduction](#),” July 25, 2018; John Sailhamer, *NIV Compact Bible Commentary*; Beth Moore, “Introduction: Seeking a Heart Life His,” session taught with LifeWay, published in 2010.

here’s what I know--some of you still have that card with the kids picture sitting on your table at home. I refuse to call Joby until you do. Get it in. In addition to the 1600 kids we had \$150k worth of gifts pledged directly to Compassion International. Which, Compassion said, was a new record. So, praise God for that. If we’re going to compete with other churches on anything, it’s going to be giving away money for the Kingdom.

Listen: If you’re new here then I hope you see we’re a church that wants to love and bless our world and love and bless our community from the top to the bottom--and we’re able to have our hands in so many things (and this is the last praise I wanna tell you about) because of your generosity. Listen to this: at this stage, for the first time since anyone can remember, we, TSC, have no debt (we have a little bit on the credit card, so to speak, but we have more than enough cash in the bank to cover it). In the last few years we have paid off a nearly 40 million building debt--and this comes even as our North Durham campus prepares to move into a brand new building, and we celebrate God’s provision through the stewardship of his people.

Can you join me in praising and thanking God? . . . *quick prayer of thanksgiving*. . . *amen*.

[Series Bumper]

## Introduction

In his recent book, *The Second Mountain*, David Brooks talks about the frustration a lot of younger people feel as they launch out into life. They leave college feeling empowered and inspired, but many still are admittedly clueless regarding the most basic questions of all: *What makes a person happy? What makes life significant?*

**Brooks writes,** “Many young people are graduating into limbo. Floating and plagued by uncertainty, they want to know what specifically they should do with their lives.

**So we hand them the great empty box of freedom!** Freedom, we say, leads to happiness! We’re not going to impose anything on you or tell you what to do. Enjoy your freedom! After a few months, the students put down that empty box because they are drowning in freedom. What they want is direction. What is my freedom for? How do I know which path is my path?

**So we hand them another big box of nothing—the big box of possibility!** Your future is limitless, we tell them! You can do anything you set your mind to! The journey is the destination! Take risks! Be audacious! But this mantra doesn’t help them very long, either. If you don’t know what your life is for, how does it help to be told that your future is limitless? What they desire more than freedom is wisdom. What is life for? What makes it good? Worthy?

**So we hand them the empty box of authenticity:** Look inside yourself! Find your true inner passion. You are amazing--a snowflake, a sunbeam, a skittle! Find your truth.

This is useless, too, because the ‘you’ we tell them to consult for life’s answers is the very thing that hasn’t yet formed yet. So they put down that empty box and ask, What cause can I devote myself to that will inspire me and give meaning and direction to my life?

**At this point we hand them the emptiest box of all—the box of autonomy.** You are on your own: It’s up to you to define your own

values. No one else can tell you what’s right or wrong for you. Discover your story.

**How is it that in regards to the biggest question of all [“Where can I find significance?”], we have nothing to say?”**

**I can’t think of a better set-up for our study of the life of David. 1 Samuel, everybody, if you have your Bibles.** This weekend we’re beginning a new series through 1-2 Samuel, following the life of King David.

**To say David is important in the Bible would be a massive understatement.** We have more biographical material on David than any other person in the Bible except Jesus. Outside the narratives of his life in 1–2 Samuel, David gets brought up 241 more times in the Bible--182x in the OT and 59x in the New.

To the Jewish people, David was more than just a historical figure--he was an icon, a symbol of Israel’s past greatness and her future hope. His story has all the elements of an epic drama: he begins his life as an obscure shepherd boy, the runt of Jesse’s seven sons; and yet, through a stunning act of courage he becomes a warrior who defeats the massive giant Goliath. He goes on from there to become the most popular person in Israel and then Israel’s greatest king. In addition to being Israel’s greatest statesman, and warrior, he was also her most prolific songwriter. God describes David as “a man after my own heart,” yet his personal sins devastated not only his own life but also the nation itself.

The story of David for us, however, is more than just the interesting story of a great man. **David's story lays down for us the pattern of salvation.** It creates a silhouette the Messiah will one day step into.

David's story occurs at a time when Israel has begun to demand a King. Up until this point, you see, God had been their King, but Israel now wants a King like the other nations--a king who will give them a sense of national pride, a king who (they believe) will guarantee them prosperity and security.

And that's where David's story connects to yours. Because, you see, we're also searching for those 3 things: **Identity, Security, Happiness.**

- **Identity:** All of us are looking for something that gives us a sense of self-worth, significance. What is that for you? Is it how smart you are? How much money you have? How pretty you are? How healthy and intact your family is? Are you the kind of person who is always comparing themselves to others? Your whole day can be ruined by catching a glimpse of someone on Instagram who looks better than you, has more friends than you, or whose house is prettier? Some lady you know posts a picture of the new brownies she made, and you stare at the picture, but you are not looking at those brownies, you are looking through those brownies at the amazing kitchen behind it and wondering, "Why don't I have a kitchen like that?" Your self-worth constantly rises and falls based on how well you stack up. How your kids are doing. Or, how about this: are you the kind of person whose self-worth is on the line in every competition--you are the kind of person who can't stand losing because a loss feels like a verdict on your worth?
- **Security:** What do you look to to tell you the future is going to be ok? Fill in this blank: **"As long as I have \_\_\_\_\_, everything**

**will be alright."** My job; my 401K; my family; my wife; my health. Maybe it's just you: I'm so amazing, that even if I lost everything, I could start over and rebuild.

- **Happiness:** What makes life right now feel like it's worth living to you? What is the one thing that, without that thing, you wouldn't really want to go on? Finish this sentence: **"I couldn't imagine a good life without \_\_\_\_\_."** Marriage. Money. Success. Freedom. The admiration of my community. The approval of my family.

The search for these 3 things--identity, security and happiness--is what our generation yearns for, and what the story of David is all about.

**Which is why David's story** opens up with another story that, at first, seems pretty random. It's a story about a childless woman really down on her luck. Her name is Hannah, and her story sets up for us the whole David narrative. Every theme in David's life is going to be introduced in this story. We're going to break down this story into Hannah's hurt, Hannah's hope, Hannah's praise, and Hannah's promise.<sup>2</sup>

First,

### **I. Hannah's Hurt**

**[1:2] Elkanah had two wives** (BTW, polygamy is never condoned in the Bible, but it is tolerated. Just about every time you see it, it causes problems, like it will in this story. The ideal is what God created in the

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<sup>2</sup> Tim Keller describes Hannah's story in 3 basic movements: Hannah's Pain, Hannah's Hope, and Hannah's Song, and I think that's a good outline to use.

Garden of Eden--one man and one woman, united for life. But Elkanah has two wives... *The name of (one of the wives) the one was Hannah, and the name of the other, (PANINI) Peninnah* (She was great at making sandwiches. That's probably not how you pronounce her name, but it's how I read it. Actually in Hebrew it would be Pe-NIGH-nah). *And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. [3] Now he (Elkanah) used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts at Shiloh... [4] And on the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah, his wife and to all her sons and daughters. [5] But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her,*

Which strikes me as an odd way of showing affection, doesn't it? The plate of your favorite wife comes by and you give her 2 scoops of mashed potatoes and then wink at her? 2 hot dogs. I guess that communicated back then.

*... though the LORD had closed her womb.* That's Hannah's hurt. She's barren. *[6] And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb.* Who had closed it? The Lord. Because of something Hannah had done? No, God had done it for his purposes and his glory.

*[7] So it went on year by year. As often as she (Hannah) went up to the house of the LORD, she (Peninnah) used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat.*

**Hannah's hurt was so bad she couldn't even eat.** Childlessness is difficult for any woman in any culture, but in that society, that was literally the worst affliction a woman could endure. **For a number of reasons, some of them purely practical:**

- **First, the society was agrarian,** which meant the more sons you had, the more workers you had to work the land, and so the more income you generated for your family. More children meant greater prosperity.

- **Furthermore, this is also an age, remember, before social security or 401K's or retirement homes--**wich meant your children were your retirement plan. The more kids you had, the better you'd be taken care of in old age. That's my plan, too, btw. I always tell our kids, I just need one of you to strike it rich. That's all I ask.
- **On top of that, the economic and military health of the nation was dependent on more children being born.** Thus, the more children a woman had, the more she was considered a blessing to the nation and the more respect she commanded.
- **Finally, for Israelites, there was the whole promise of God of an eternal inheritance thing--**this land had been given to Israelites families forever, and your family's portion of it was contingent on you having sons to hand the land down to. If you didn't have sons, it was like your family was being cut off from that inheritance.

**You feeling this? Having kids was the main thing a woman did back then; the main way she brought value.** Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann says it like this: *"Barrenness in any ancient text is the effective metaphor of hopelessness, for without children, there was no foreseeable future for yourself, for your family, or for your people."*

Now, I know you feel all self-righteous like we've progressed beyond this, and we have, but we have our own new versions of this, and for now the point is that the primary thing that gave women value in that culture, Hannah had none of. Does that make sense? **And what made matters worse is that her rival, Panini, had lots of kids and used that to torment her.**

- The word "grievously irritate" in vs. 6 is not a "you're getting on my nerves, stop leaving the toilet set up" kind of irritation. In Hebrew this phrase means literally "to roar" or "to thunder." (Interestingly, this is the only place where this word is applied to someone's inner condition--usually the word is used to describe an *actual* storm--like a hurricane!).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Tim Keller, *The Prayer for David*, MP3.

- **This is what Hannah feels like on the inside.** Her heart is a tormented hurricane of unhappiness, frustration and insecurity.

Verse 7 says she was so depressed she couldn't even eat! Vs. 10 she was "deeply distressed and wept bitterly." And she prayed about it. She asked God to show her what she'd done to anger him, what she needed to change. She made vows to God about what she'd do if she had a kid. But heaven was silent.

Vs. 6 says that Panini's provocations were continual: Oh, Hannah, could you do the dishes tonight? With all these kids, you know, I am just *so* tired... We all have our roles in this marriage; mine is to have kids; yours is to do the dishes. On the Christmas card each year, Elkanah's side of the card always had her with the 4 boys, her arms all around them, and then over off to the side just... Hannah. BTW, I was thinking this week, how much would it complicate the Christmas card tradition if you had multiple wives?

Hannah's life felt miserable. She had failed in the one thing she thought mattered, and every day Panini threw it in her face. You feeling this?

**Well, Elkanah, her husband, bless his heart, is sweet, but pretty clueless. Look what he does:** [8] *And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"* You gotta love his self-confidence, don't you? "Just being with me, babe--better than 10 sons!" He's already tried the whole "double portion of mashed potatoes" solution and that didn't work; now, he's like, "I'm the love genie; my love can make it all better."

**So, before we go any further, let's stop and ask: Where is this happening to you?**

- See, like I said, we congratulate ourselves as a culture on how we've progressed past this--we no longer judge a woman solely by how many kids she can have. But every culture has things by which they assign value. Things that are important. In our culture, for women, it may not primarily be your child-bearing abilities anymore, but it's how pretty you are, or how thin you are.<sup>4</sup>
- **Consider this:** Historians say that our society is the first one in history to have a pervasive problem of eating disorders among young women. You can prove that. Why? Well, the reasons are always complex, but one reason is societal: Our culture says "This is how you have value." Little girls grow up learning that you are supposed to look like this, and if you don't, you're second class... and so, we have lots of girls out there who are roaring inside, with hurricane type forces at work inside of them, while their rivals on Instagram provoke them continually?
- **BTW, I'm only focusing on women here because** the story is about a woman, but young men are told similar things: your significance is in how athletic you are; what school you get into; what kind of earning potential you have.

So, let me ask again: **Where have you felt judged by this culture? Where are you inwardly 'roaring' this morning?**

- A lot of times, as it was with Hannah, it's not even a standard you signed up for. It just kinda *happens* to you. You don't like it, but you still feel the weight of it. It feels crushing.
- Maybe, like Hannah, you've been tempted to turn to something else to fill the void. For her, it was the affection of your husband.
- Maybe your lack of good looks has produced in you a drive to succeed--that's how you will establish your worth.
- In my school, the popular, cool guys were the athletic ones. When I figured out I wasn't going to be the dominant athlete, it made me roar on the inside, and so I turned to academics. I thought, "Well, I know athletic ability becomes less important as you get older anyway. What really makes you significant is your

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<sup>4</sup> Tim Keller

intelligence and drive. So that's how I will establish my worth." My significance came from how successful I could be compared to others, and as long as I measured up, I felt fine.

- That impulse has stayed with me throughout my life. If another pastor is outpacing me professionally--if his church and ministry is growing more--my first impulse is to find something wrong with him: "Well, they only grow like that because they are theological compromisers." And maybe they are. But the point is that that impulse in me to find that fault was driven by the fact that I had to find fault with them to establish my own worth.

**Maybe ambition is not your thing. Every time I talk like this I look out at the audience and I see a bunch of people nodding their heads saying, "Yes, I get that,"** and a bunch of others looking like, "What's wrong with you, dude? Should you be our pastor?"

Maybe for you it wasn't ambition, but maybe there is some Elkanah somewhere saying to you, "Don't worry if you are not 'enough' in this area, my love will be enough." Maybe you're like, "If I can just have a good family, the love of my husband, decently behaved kids, that will be enough." That's how you deal with those hurricane winds down in there telling you that you are not enough. Or maybe you numb those hurricane feelings of insecurity and doubt through drugs or alcohol or some other stimulant.

But, as with Hannah, it's just not working.

Listen, for many of you, your situation is actually very similar to Hannah. Our culture is different, but not that different. Many women still feel like if they aren't married with kids, a key part of their identity is missing. This is not just sad for them, but *crushing*.

Hannah's hurt is something we all experience at some point, because we're all searching for identity, security and happiness.. So, let's turn from Hannah's hurt to...

## II. Hannah's Hope

**Verse 9 is the turning point of Hannah's story**, but if you're not watching closely, you'll miss it. **1:9 "After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose."** "Hannah rose" is not just a random detail like, "After dinner Hannah stood up and went into the living room." The word "rose" in Hebrew indicates decisive action. She "stood" up--resolved, having made a choice.

**And what was that choice?** Well, look at vs **11**, "And she vowed a vow and said, 'O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.'"

Saying, "No razor will ever touch his head," indicates her intention to take a Nazarite vow. That's what you did if you wanted to dedicate a kid to Temple service. You see, in those days, you couldn't just decide to become a priest, like I decided to become a pastor and went to seminary. In order to be a priest, you had to be born into the tribe of Levi-- and, if you weren't, the only way to become a priest was to take a Nazarite vow, where you basically renounced membership in your family, gave up all your inheritance and went to live at the Temple. So, basically, Hannah is renouncing everything she would have wanted a son for in the first place. Taking a Nazirite vow meant that this child would not grow up in her house--she wouldn't get the emotional joy of having him around; she wouldn't get to show him off at baseball games; he wouldn't provide for her in her old age.

In this statement, she renounced everything she would have hoped to obtain in having a son! But, watch this: **When she was done praying, 1:18, "Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad."**

She has renounced the one thing she thought she needed to be happy, and she gets up no longer sad. And yes, she would get pregnant at the end of this chapter, but she is joyful long before she finds that out. The order here is important. It's not **pray→get pregnant→have joy**. It's **pray→have joy→get pregnant**

**What happened?** The hold that bearing children had on her happiness has been broken.

Hannah found a new source of identity, security and happiness. And what was that? For that answer, we have to turn to chapter 2,

### III. Hannah's Praise

In 1 Samuel 2 Hannah writes a song of praise: She says, **2:1, "My heart exults in the Lord...** My delight, my joy is no longer found in having kids, but in God. Because, **2...there is no rock like our God."** "You are a better source of identity, security and happiness than having children, God."

Hannah goes on in this song to talk about God's unfathomable wisdom, his strength, his beauty and his holiness. She says, **2 "There is none holy like the Lord: for there is none besides you;** IOW, "knowing you is the ultimate treasure. In you, I have the absolute approval of the only one whose opinion matters, and now, having found my identity, security and happiness in you, I'm no longer dependent on children to provide it. Have them, don't have them; I have you."

**This was Hannah's salvation:** learning to find in God what she had previously sought in having children.

In vs. 4, she contrasts the two different ways people go about trying to find identity, security and happiness, and the result of each way: **4 The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength. 5**

**Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn.**

**7 The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts. 8 He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap.**

**There are two ways to try and establish your identity, security and happiness.**

- One is the way of pride: you establish your I,S,H by the strength of your bow--through how many kids you can have or your beauty or your talent or popularity or your ability to earn money--
- the other is the way of faith: you lean into God and let him be the source of these things.
- **If you seek your identity, security and happiness through the way of pride, you will end up broken, hungry and poor.**
- **But, if you seek these things via the way of faith, you will end up strong, fruitful, and abundantly overflowing.**

BTW, Hannah did go on to have a son--his name was Samuel, and he became the greatest prophet Israel had ever known.

In vs. 5, Hannah says, "The barren has borne seven." 7 in Hebrew is the number of completion. This one son would do more for Israel than 10,000 other sons. One "Samuel" had more eternal significance than 10K other children.

Look at vs. **21 Indeed the Lord visited Hannah, and she conceived and bore three (more) sons and two daughters...**

God is a good God who loves to bless people, and when Hannah changed her source of identity from "bearer of many children" to "daughter of the King," God blessed her with multiple children.

Listen: I want to point this out because it is in the text, but please don't hear this that as soon as you get your heart right, God will give you what you'd wanted all along--as is, just get your heart right and God will make you rich and fruitful. That's not the point of this story. But God is a God who loves to bless people. And it's often when we lay down our idolatries, when we release the hold things like success and beauty and fertility and family have on our heart, that God puts a different version of these things--a better version, an eternally significant version of these things, into our hearts. **One Samuel, given to you in faith is worth 10,000 things accomplished by your flesh.**

Which leads me to the last and most important part of this story:

#### IV. Hannah's Promise

##### A. There is a parallel between Hannah's story and Israel's story.

- Just like Hannah sought identity, happiness and security in a son, Israel sought these things in a king.
- To Hannah, God said "Hannah, these things aren't found in sons." To Israel, God says, "These things aren't found in Kings." To both Hannah and Israel, he says, "Identity, security and happiness are found in me."

##### B. There is a parallel between Hannah's story and your story

- Hannah looked to a son for identity, security and happiness; Israel looked for a king. The question I've raised for you? **Where are you looking?**
- **What one thing must you have for life to be good?** What do you care the most about obtaining? What one thing could you not imagine life without. What would be devastating to lose? What are you yearning for that feels like life would never be complete without it? Marriage? Children? Success? Praise?
- **Where are you roaring with dissatisfaction and jealousy right now?** What is there that you feel so driven to obtain that it's like you have a hurricane roaring inside of you? Like you can't eat?

- **What are you seeking, and how are you seeking it?** Are you seeking to establish your identity through the accomplishments of pride, or through the humility of faith?
  - **Works righteousness** is where you try to establish your goodness, your salvation, through good works. Being enough; accomplishing enough; doing enough.
  - There are religious versions of works-righteousness: you act good enough to earn God's favor; there are also secular versions of works-righteousness: you accomplish enough to earn everyone else's favor.
  - **Works-righteousness leaves you bitter, insecure and disappointed.**
  - The gospel offers something different: justification by faith. Accepting what God offers you--himself--as a gift.
- In Jesus is all you need for identity, security and happiness. **Your identity** is found in being his child, his servant; doing his will; and hearing "well done, good and faithful servant" one day. **Your security** is knowing that he holds you in his hand and that nothing and no one can ever remove you; **your happiness** is found in doing his will and knowing his pleasure and being assured he will never leave you or forsake you.
- He's the King Israel is looking for, and Hannah, is looking for, and you and I are looking for.
- And there's nothing you can do to earn his love; you receive it as a gift through the humility of faith.

And that leads me to, most importantly,

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##### C. There is a parallel between Hannah's story and Jesus' story.

- Every Bible story points to Jesus, and this story is no exception. You see, years later the Bible would tell us the story of another woman who faced an impossible birth, just like Hannah. This woman's name was Mary. Her pregnancy was not just improbable,



like barren Hannah's; hers was IMPOSSIBLE: Mary didn't have a husband and she had never slept with a man.

- As with Hannah, for Mary, having a baby meant the loss of everything *she held onto* for significance and security. For a woman to be pregnant out of wedlock in Mary's day meant the loss of reputation; it meant financial hardship; it meant becoming a societal outcast. **But like Hannah, Mary grasped the gospel, that God was a better source of identity and security than reputation, or power or money**, and so she surrendered herself to God's plan and found her identity, security and happiness in him even if it meant the loss of those other things.
- Mary expressed that hope, just like Hannah did, in a song. It was called "Mary's Magnificat," it's in Luke 1, and, get this, much of the wording parallels Hannah's prayer. It's like Mary was quoting her. Mary says

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant... he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. (Luke 1:46–53)

- Do you hear in that the echoes of Hannah's song? Both Hannah and Mary declare that they have found their identity, their salvation, in a God who cared for the poor and the broken and gave *himself* to them.

**Hannah gave birth to Samuel, who became a priest, Israel's greatest prophet, and the one who anointed Israel's greatest earthly King; Mary gave birth to the One who would be the final Prophet, the great High Priest and the King of Kings: Jesus.<sup>5</sup>**

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<sup>5</sup> BTW, most translations of 1 Samuel 2:1–10 translate Hannah's words as declarations (God will cut off the wicked, God will judge the earth, God will strengthen his king). However, technically, in Hebrew, these are requests.

**We want to read this story and say, "I'm like Hannah. She asked, God answered. So if I ask, God will answer."** And yes. But this story is there PRIMARILY to point you to Jesus.

You see, like Hannah, Jesus would be outcast from society. He would be rejected by men and condemned as a criminal. And, like Hannah, Jesus would pray for deliverance from that shame and curse. But whereas God answered Hannah, God turned his back on Jesus.

Why? It was so that Hannah's REAL shame--and our real shame, our God-forsakenness--could be taken away forever so we could be restored to God. You see, our real need, our real shame and brokenness, the source of all the other pain and brokenness, comes not from the fact that we can't have kids or aren't pretty or aren't successful, our real shame comes from the break in our relationship with our Creator. That's what your soul aches for.

Your real problem is that you have lost the approval of your Heavenly Father and you are alienated from him. You don't need more money or more kids or more success to find significance and security, you need to be reunited to God.

And that's what Jesus, the Messiah, accomplished for you. By being forsaken for us, in our place, he would restore us to God.

So don't just read Hannah's story about God answering a prayer and giving her a kid; read it as a story about how God gives us something better than kids; he gives us Jesus. That's Hannah's hope, and the hope I can offer you also, today.

(Invitation: Prayer)

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Hannah is praying, "God, send a Savior to cut off the wicked, judge the earth, and bring his Kingdom." Hannah is praying that Jesus would come!

Let me make this clear: I can offer you something better today than everything else you've been searching for in life. Family disappoints. Success crumbles. Money evaporates. Beauty fades. Jesus is forever. And you can receive him right now if you'll simply repent of your sins and trust him as Lord and Savior of your life.

This is what you've always been looking for, whether you've known it or not. I mean this for real. You can find a joy, satisfaction, security and significance in him you'll never be able to find in anything else.  
**Jesus plus nothing = everything. Everything - Jesus = nothing.**

That doesn't mean you have to stop asking for whatever you are asking for. Like I said, at the end of this story God gave to Hannah 6 kids, because God is a good God and he loves to bless people. But Hannah no longer depended on that son as the foundation of her life; she had Jesus for that. For Hannah, Jesus was life. Jesus was enough.  
**Jesus + nothing = everything. That's the greatest gift God can give you.**

Are you ready for it? My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness... if you believe that, say Amen. And stand up... Need to receive Christ?