



Sunday, May 8, 2022

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to 1 Samuel 1:1-28

Sometimes it seems as though God doesn't care. When we know that God is sovereign over all things, and things begin to go against us, and the desires of our hearts are not satisfied, then we can begin to think that God has forgotten us or that He simply does not care.

Yet we are reminded time and again in Scripture that God not only knows all things and is sovereign over all things, but that He is working all things together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28). He works in mysterious ways, ways that are often not readily apparent to us, but He is working for our good. It was the LORD who closed Hannah's womb; it was the LORD who opened her womb and gave her a son.

In the same way, it was the LORD who allowed the people of Israel to suffer under their persecutors during the time of the Judges. It was the LORD who delivered them when they cried to Him. It was the LORD who allowed the people of Israel to go into exile because of their disobedience. And it was the LORD who delivered them through the gift of a Son, Jesus. In Him, we know forever and always that God has not forgotten us, but has remembered our affliction, and sent a Son to deliver us when we cry to Him. May we have deep confidence in God's fatherly kindness toward us, and may it drive us to pray.

Context

1 Samuel opens during the time of the Judges. At that time there was no king in Israel and everyone did what was right in their own eyes. The people were constantly persecuted by their neighbors, whom they had failed to drive out at the LORD's command. 1 Samuel, then, is the story of how the LORD provided leadership for Israel during times of crisis.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-28

“Hannah’s Facelift”

The Virtuous Man

- Status (1-2)
- Godly (3)
- Responsible (4)
- Loving and compassionate (5)

The Unfortunate Woman

- God had closed her womb (5)
- Rival provokes her because of it (6-7)
- Deeply depressed (7)
- Husband attempts to help (8)

The Lord Had Closed Her Womb

- Elkanah...favored her
- Penninah...irritated her
- Hannah...prays to God

Important Elements in Prayer (10-16)

- Deeply felt need
- LORD Almighty
- Vow—deeply committed
- Humility—your servant
- Kept on praying
- Praying in her heart
- Pouring out your soul to the LORD

The Almighty God

- Assurance from the man of God (17-18)
- Answer from Almighty God (19-20)

Discuss

- 1) When are you most tempted to think that God doesn't care about you?
- 2) The New City Catechism defines prayer as "pouring out our hearts to God," as Hannah did in her grief. How closely does your prayer life resemble that definition?
- 3) What happens when spiritual leaders do not know God or recognize his work in the world?
- 4) What does God's answer to Hannah's prayer teach us about His character?
- 5) What does Hannah's fulfillment of her vow teach us about how we ought to respond to the LORD?