

I. Introduction:

- A. I want to encourage you to prayerfully study 1 Samuel 1-3 this week.
- B. The words of Hannah's vow that we'll look at tonight, as well as her prayer in chapter two, are especially worthy of prayerful attention.

II. Hannah's situation:

- A. Hannah was facing great distress on three main fronts:
 1. She was barren, unable to bear children. (1 Samuel 1:2, 5)
 2. Her husband Elkanah's other wife Peninnah was described as "her rival" and actually taunted Hannah for her barrenness, which led to irritation and even misery. (1 Samuel 1:6, 10)
 3. The temple leadership, Eli and his sons (Hophni and Phinehas), were compromised and corrupt. (1 Samuel 2:12, 3:13)
 - **Note:** it's very important to differentiate between imperfect leaders and unrepentant leaders.

III. Hannah's vow:

1 Samuel 1:10-11 | ¹⁰ And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the Lord and wept in anguish. ¹¹ Then she made a vow and said, "O Lord of hosts (*Lord Almighty, NIV*), if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."

- What's unique about Hannah's vow is her unusual level of surrender and commitment. She was fully prepared to completely give away what she wanted from God. Under normal circumstances, a Nazarite vow was committed not by a father or mother, but by the individual. It was typically not a lifelong vow, but for a period of time (Numbers 6:1-21). Also, the normal age of service for a Levitical priest was 25-50, not for life.
- Hannah's vow that would become Samuel's consecrated life in a way points to the lifelong commitment of the believer.

IV. Three important questions we must answer in life as believers:**1. What will I do with my pain?**

- **1 Samuel 1:10 (NIV):** "she was in bitterness of soul" ... "and prayed"
- **1 Samuel 1:16 (NIV):** "I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief"
- Pain is inevitable. Will my pain cause me to go deeper in bitterness my whole life, or deeper in God my whole life. Does the trauma of my past become my stumbling block, or my path to a greater consecration?

2. What will I do with my barrenness?

- What do you do when it seems you are producing nothing—when it seems your labors are producing no fruit?
- Do you give up? Do you quit? Do you stop pursuing God? Do you respond like Hannah?

3. What will I do with compromised leadership?

- Do I trust God is sovereign over compromised leaders?
- Am I willing to serve the perfect God by means of serving imperfect people?

V. Two related questions for consideration:

1. **What will I believe about God when I don't get what I want?** Have I considered there is something bigger going on?
2. **What will I do when God gives me what I want?** Will I follow through on my commitment(s) to God?

Help me improve my notes! The first person to point out a legitimate mistake/typo on this document (during service) gets \$1/a gift.

Greater Peoria House of Prayer Announcements for June 9, 2023.

1. **Welcome** to the Greater Peoria House of Prayer... we're glad you're here and blessed to be worshipping God with you! Be sure to pick up any of the **free** materials at the back table in the prayer room or the desk near the front of the Gathering Grounds area downstairs, which includes teaching notes, stickers, pens, prayer cards and more. **Daily schedule:** We currently host evening prayer from 7-8 p.m. seven nights a week. Our **Friday Encounter Night** is from 7-9 p.m. and is our main corporate gathering each week featuring live worship and a teaching to inspire love for Jesus and prayer.
2. **General Announcements:**
 - **Isaiah 62 Fast recap:** I want to encourage you to review the teaching notes for the last four weeks (May 12, 19, 26 and June 2). What God did during that historic few weeks is very important for the season ahead.
 - **Upcoming events:** Kids Camp 2023 is July 17-21 from 3:30-5 p.m. Check out gphop.org/events all the details!
3. **Prayer room ministry opportunities:** If you are interested in leading or ministering during a live worship set by singing, playing an instrument, prayer leading or on the sound board, please contact us at info@gphop.org. We'd love to have you serve on one of our teams! **Team ministry opportunities:** If you feel the Lord has gifted you in the prophetic (or would like to grow in this gifting) and would consider helping on a prophetic team, send an email to info@gphop.org. Contact Mandy Kistner at mandy@gphop.org if you would like to schedule a future healing ministry appointment or help out on the healing team.
4. **Missions:** Please keep the following missionary friends in prayer as well as be considerate of their financial needs: **Ashley Bucknam** (YWAM, Nepal); **Phil Kellenberger** (International House of Prayer; Kansas City, MO) **Babett Mueller** (111 Global; Kansas City, MO); **Kerusso Perhay** (Pioneer 61; Mozambique); **Eric and Erin Simmons** (Bethany Global University; Bloomington, MN); **Alicia Wright** (ACTS, India); **Austin and Amy Zhu** (International House of Prayer; Kansas City, MO).
5. **Military:** Please keep the following members of our military in prayer as they valiantly serve the United States of America: **Jake Gerst**, stationed in Grafenwoehr/Grafenwöhr, Germany. **Kyle Nix**, stationed in Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane County, Washington.
6. **Social media:** Follow us on Facebook (Greater Peoria House of Prayer - GPHOP), Twitter (@GPHOPPrayer), Instagram (@GPHOPPrayer), TikTok, Vimeo and YouTube for regular updates and inspiration. Use these social media sites to get the word out, share pictures, quotes you heard, etc. Contact Derek at derek@gphop.org if you're interested in helping with GPHOP's social media.
7. **Haven ministries:** Do you need space to pray? Maybe your Christian group needs a place to meet every once in awhile. We're making available the upper Prayer Room and lower-level Gathering Grounds for rent by donation. Email info@gphop.org if interested.
8. We provide **free Wi-Fi** to everyone here! The password for the **GPHOP** router is on the chalkboard in the downstairs fellowship area. You can also connect to Xfinity if you have a personal Comcast account.
9. **Prayer requests:** If you would like our community to pray for someone or something specific, please submit it to info@gphop.org.
10. **Giving:** If you have been blessed by the GPHOP and would like sow financially into the ministry, we would be more than blessed. You can give in cash, but if you would like to give to GPHOP with a check, please make it out to "Greater Peoria House of Prayer" or "GPHOP"—your gift is tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity! It's helping make day and night prayer with worship possible in central Illinois. You can place your gift in the Friday night offering during the 7 p.m. teaching or drop it in either of the two black donation boxes. Donations can also be mailed to our physical address at 117 East Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611. Donors can also use PayPal or our website (gphop.org/donate) to give electronically.
 - **Spring '23 fundraiser:** We've extended our spring gift match. Please pray and consider supporting the GPHOP!

*Thank you for helping to **keep this prayer room sacred** by ensuring conversations with others are brief and kindly reminding others to do the same. Use the large Gathering Grounds fellowship area downstairs if you would like to chat at length.*