

Hannah's Song
Seeing Life Through the Character of God

1 Samuel 2:1–10

Read 1 Samuel 2:1–10 together. As you read, notice the contrasts: the strong and the weak, the full and the hungry, the proud and the humble. These contrasts form the rhythm of this song.

Introduction

Hannah's song comes after a long and painful journey. She had been childless, deeply distressed, misunderstood by Eli, and continually provoked by Peninnah. She came before God with tears and poured out her soul. God answered her prayer and gave her Samuel.

Yet Hannah does not spend most of her song talking about Samuel. Her worship moves from what God has done to who God is. She has learned that what looks strong is not always secure, what looks permanent may not last, and what looks hopeless is not beyond God.

Central thought: Worship helps us see our circumstances through the character of God rather than seeing God only through our circumstances.

1 Worship Changes the Centre of Our Story

"My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn is lifted high" (vv. 1–2). Samuel is the answer to Hannah's prayer, but he is not the centre of her worship. God is. The horn is an ancient image of strength, dignity, and restored standing. Hannah had been humiliated and wounded; now she can say, in effect, "God has lifted my head again." Her deepest joy rests not only in the gift but in the Giver: "There is no one holy like the LORD."

Reflect Together

1. What has changed between Hannah's prayer in chapter 1 and her worship in chapter 2?
2. What is the difference between thanking God for His gifts and finding our deepest joy in God Himself?

2 Worship Reorients the Way We See Power

"Do not keep talking so proudly ... for the LORD is a God who knows" (vv. 3–5). We often judge by what can be seen: position, money, appearance, education, influence, or achievement. God sees beneath appearances. He knows our motives, wounds, pride, faithfulness, and the injustices that others may never notice. Hannah's worship reminds us that visible success is not the same as lasting strength.

3. Which forms of strength or success are you most tempted to trust? Why?

3 Worship Helps Us Understand Suffering

Hannah declares, "The LORD brings death and makes alive ... he humbles and he exalts" (vv. 6–8). These words express a strong confidence in God's sovereignty. They do not explain the cause of every hardship or suggest that suffering is simple. They do tell us that our present circumstances never tell the whole story about God.

In chapter 1, Hannah might have concluded that God had forgotten her. Through prayer and worship, she learns to reverse that process. Instead of deciding who God is only from what is happening around her, she begins to interpret what is happening through what she knows of God's character. That is one of the deepest movements of faith.

4. When life is painful, what do you tend to assume about God? How could God's character reshape the way you see that situation?

4 Strength Does Not Have the Final Word

“It is not by strength that one prevails” (v. 9). This becomes a major theme in 1 and 2 Samuel. Eli, his sons, and Saul will be brought low. Samuel and David will be raised up. Saul looks like the perfect king, while David is the forgotten shepherd boy. God later says, “People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

Yet Hannah’s song is not merely about weak people defeating strong people. David will also fail when he begins to trust his own position and power. The warning is for everyone: never confuse the strength God gives us with independence from God.

5. Why can success be spiritually dangerous? What signs show that a person—or a church—has begun to trust its own strength?

5 God Is Writing a Larger Story

Hannah ends by speaking of God’s king and “his anointed” (v. 10), even though Israel has no king yet. Her song has moved from one woman’s pain to God’s purpose for a nation. Samuel will anoint Saul and David; for Christians, the promise ultimately points beyond David to Christ.

When Hannah wept in the temple, she could see only her pain. God could see the whole story. We too may see only the small and unfinished part we are living today. Hannah’s song does not promise that we will understand everything now. It invites us to entrust the unfinished story to the God who knows, raises up, and remains faithful.

6. What unfinished situation do you need to entrust to God today? Where might He be inviting you to release fear, hurt, or the need to control the outcome?

Prayer

Share your prayer requests with one another. Pray especially for the areas where you need to release fear, hurt, pride, or control, and ask God to help you see your circumstances through His character.

哈拿之歌

透过神的属性看人生

撒母耳记上 2:1-10

请一起阅读撒母耳记上 2:1-10。阅读时，请留意其中的对比：强壮的与软弱的、饱足的与饥饿的、骄傲的与谦卑的。这些对比构成了这首诗歌的节奏。

引言

哈拿唱出这首诗歌之前，走过了一段漫长而痛苦的路。她一直没有孩子，心里极其愁苦；祭司以利误解她，毗尼拿也不断刺激她。她流着眼泪来到神面前，向祂倾心吐意。神垂听了她的祷告，赐给她撒母耳。

然而，哈拿在诗歌中并没有花很多篇幅谈论撒母耳。她的敬拜从神为她所做之事，转向神自己是谁。她明白了：看起来强大的，不一定稳固；看起来长久的，也可能消逝；看起来毫无希望的，也不会超越神的能力。

中心思想：敬拜帮助我们透过神的属性来看自己的处境，而不是单凭自己的处境来判断神。

1 敬拜改变我们故事的中心

“我的心因耶和华快乐；我的角因耶和华高举”（1-2节）。撒母耳是神对哈拿祷告的回应，但他不是哈拿敬拜的中心；神才是。“角”在古代象征力量、尊严和恢复的地位。哈拿曾受羞辱，内心也曾受伤；如今她仿佛在说：“神再次使我抬起头来。”她最深的喜乐不只在神所赐的礼物，更在赐礼物的神：“只有耶和华为圣。”

一起思想

1. 从第一章哈拿的祷告，到第二章她的敬拜，她有了什么改变？
2. 为神所赐的礼物感谢祂，与在神自己里面找到最深的喜乐，两者有什么分别？

2 敬拜改变我们看待权势的眼光

“人不要夸口说骄傲的话……因为耶和华是大有智识的神”（3-5节）。我们常常凭眼睛所见来衡量人：地位、金钱、外表、教育程度、影响力或成就。但神看得比外表更深。祂知道我们的动机、伤痛、骄傲和忠心，也看见那些别人可能永远不会察觉的不公。哈拿的敬拜提醒我们：眼前的成功，并不等于长久的力量。

3. 你最容易倚靠哪一种力量或成功？为什么？

3 敬拜帮助我们面对苦难

哈拿宣告：“耶和华使人死，也使人活……他使人卑微，也使人高贵”（6-8节）。这些话表达了她对神掌权的坚定信心。它们并不是在解释每一种苦难的原因，也不是说苦难很简单；却告诉我们，眼前的处境永远不能完全说明神是谁。

在第一章，哈拿本来可能会认为神已经忘记了她。但借着祷告和敬拜，她学会把这个思考过程倒转过来。她不再只根据周围发生的事来判断神是谁，而是根据自己对神属性的认识，重新理解正在发生的事。这正是信心最深的转变之一。

4. 当人生痛苦时，你通常会怎样揣测神？神的属性可以怎样改变你看待那个处境的眼光？

4 力量没有最后的决定权

“人都不能靠力量得胜”（9节）。这句话成为撒母耳记上、下的重要主题。以利、他的两个儿子和扫罗都将被降卑；撒母耳和大卫却被兴起。扫罗看起来像最理想的君王，大卫却只是一个被人忽略的牧羊少年。后来神说：“人是看外貌；耶和华是看内心”（撒母耳记上 16:7）。

然而，哈拿的诗歌不只是说弱者会打败强者。当大卫开始倚靠自己的地位和权力时，他也会失败。这个警告是给每一个人的：永远不要把神所赐的力量，误以为是我们可以不再倚靠神。

5. 为什么成功可能成为属灵上的危险？一个人或一间教会开始倚靠自己的力量时，会出现哪些迹象？

5 神正在书写一个更大的故事

哈拿在诗歌的结尾提到神的王和“受膏者”（10节），可是当时以色列还没有君王。她的诗歌已经从一个女人的痛苦，扩展到神对整个民族的计划。撒母耳将膏立扫罗和大卫；对基督徒来说，这个应许最终越过大卫，指向基督。

当哈拿在圣殿里哭泣时，她所看见的只有自己的痛苦，神却看见整个故事。我们也可能只看见今天正在经历的、微小而尚未完成的一部分。哈拿的诗歌并没有保证我们现在就会明白一切；它邀请我们把尚未完成的故事交托给那位认识我们、使人升高、永远信实的神。

6. 今天，你需要把哪一件尚未完成的事交托给神？祂可能正邀请你在哪一方面放下惧怕、伤痛，或控制结果的需要？

祷告

彼此分享代祷事项。特别为那些需要放下惧怕、伤痛、骄傲或控制的地方祷告，求神帮助我们透过祂的属性来看自己的处境。