

God Blesses Hannah with a Son

A woman named Hannah loved God very much. She prayed everyday, and thanked God for giving her a good husband, named Elkánah, who loved her. But Hannah was also sad, because she had no children. Hannah really wanted to be a mother. It was hard for her to see other women who had many children, while she herself had none.

Elkanah tried to comfort her, but still Hannah was sad. Often her prayers were mixed with tears because of her sadness. She begged God to bless her with a child. Years went by, and still Hannah was without children. But she remained faithful in her prayers. She promised God that if she had a son, she would bring him to the temple to serve the Lord all his life.

Each year, the Jewish people came to the temple in Jerusa-lem to offer special worship to God. For many who did not live near the city, it was a long trip. Hannah and Elkanah made the trip each year. Once as Hannah was praying at the temple, Eli the temple priest noticed her. Hannah was praying silently in her heart, and only her lips were moving. Eli thought she was a drunken woman, and scolded her.

Hannah answered Eli calmly and politely. She said, "No, sir, I have had nothing to drink. But I am greatly troubled." Eli understood, then, that Hannah was a faithful person who loved God. He said to her, "Go in peace, and may God grant what you have asked from Him." Hannah left the temple and was no longer sad.

We know that many people must wait to have their good wishes fulfilled by God. Hannah's prayer was answered, and her little son was born. She named him Samuel, which means "I have asked the Lord to give him to me." She thanked God with a beautiful song of praise and promised to lend him to God. Some of the words of the song are these:

**My heart rejoices in the Lord,...because I rejoice in Thy salvation.
There is no one holy like the Lord, ...**

**He raises up the poor from the dust
he lifts the needy from the ash heap
to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor...**

**The Lord will judge the ends of the earth;
he will give strength to his king and praise the power of his anointed.**