

Lessons From The Prayer of Hannah – I Samuel 1:1-20
Bellevue Church of Christ – June 27, 2007

Ramah was the place of Samuel's birth, residence and death (1:19; 2:11; 7:17; 15:34; 16:13; 19:18-23; 25:1) – Possibly the same as NT Arimathea

I Chronicles 6 traces his ancestry to Levi

Literal meaning: "two-heights"

NIV – "a Zuphite"

Compare to structure of Judges 13:2

Relates to territory, not tribal origin

Portions for a meal: Deut 15:19-20

Lit. "one portion of two faces"

¹There was a certain man of **Ramathaim-zophim** of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was **Elkanah** the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of **Zuph**, an Ephrathite. ²He had two wives. The name of the one was **Hannah** and the name of the other, **Peninnah**. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. *Meaning: "red pearl," "coral" (Job 28:18) or "ruby" (Prov 3:15)*

Meaning: "Grace"

³Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts at **Shiloh** where the two sons of **Eli**, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the Lord. ⁴On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵But to **Hannah** he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. ⁶And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. ⁷So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. ⁸And 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?"

Deut 16:16
Lev 23

Priest at Shiloh and Judge in Israel

Location of the tabernacle and the ark of the covenant (4:3-4)

Qualities of her Prayer:

I. Simple

-Matt 6:5-8
-Rom 5:1

II. Specific

*Confidence:
-Heb 4:14-16

*Condition:
-James 4:3

*Commitment:
-Luke 18:1-8

III. Sincere

*The Pharisee and the Tax Collector:
-Luke 18:9-14

⁹After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. ¹⁰She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. 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."** *Possibly as a Nazirite: (Num 6:2-7) Samson: (Judges 13:5; 16:17)*

¹²As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³**Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard.** Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. ¹⁴And Eli said to her, "How long will you go on being drunk? Put away your wine from you." ¹⁵But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, **but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord.**" ¹⁶Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation." ¹⁷Then Eli answered, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him." ¹⁸And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your eyes." Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

Eli was confusing fact and inference

..instead of pouring out wine.

Vivid idiom for praying sincerely (Ps 42:4; Lam 2:19)

¹⁹They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at **Ramah**. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her. ²⁰And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name **Samuel** for she said, "I have asked for him from the Lord."

Samuel="Name of God"
(i.e. One over whom God's name has been called)