

I Samuel 1:27,28

A CHILD: ASKED FOR AND LENT TO

- I. The important setting.
 - A. The larger setting is in home of Elkanah who had two wives: Hannah and Peninnah (2).
 - 1. Children were an Old Dispensational sign of God's blessing the nation (Deut. 28:4,18).
 - 2. Hannah, like Job, wrongly took the sign for the reality and concluded that her name ("grace") was false.
 - 3. Hannah's grief was increased by the persecution of Peninnah.
 - B. At a Passover feast Hannah was "marah" (in bitterness), crying in prayer, and then vowed a vow (10,11).
 - 1. First, note that Hannah (the object of God's grace) prayed.
 - 2. Second and specifically, Hannah prayed for "this child."
- II. Hannah's vow and the vow of baptizing parents.
 - A. Hannah vowed to "give him unto Jehovah all the days of his life" (11); "as long as he liveth he shall be lent to Jehovah" (28).
 - 1. He was to be used in the service of Jehovah, trained for this work (not used to develop the family land and life).
 - 2. Once he was weaned she brought Samuel to the house of God and to Eli the High Priest at Shiloh.
 - B. Godly believers when gifted with a child (or gifted without a child) return it (daughter as well as a son) to Jehovah.
 - 1. Unbelief declares the child to be the product of our will, to be ours to be done with as we please.
 - 2. Graced believers see the child as a gift, as always belonging to the Giver.
 - C. Constantly and fervently pray.
- III. The result of God's real blessing is that Samuel "worshipped Jehovah."
 - A. Samuel acknowledged God to be the most blessed One, full of majesty and blessing, worthy of all praise.
 - 1. He began to do what we all will do forever in heaven.
 - 2. It was in the way of giving himself to the service of God that God called him to a specific work and calling.
 - 3. See Samuel as a mighty man of prayer for Israel (I Sam. 7:5ff; 12:11,18,19) like to Moses (Psalm 99:6; Jeremiah 15:1).
 - B. Blessing results for godly parents like Hannah and we can declare: "My heart rejoiceth in the Lord" (2:1).
 - 1. All the work of instruction our children in the way and fear of Jehovah accompanied by fervent prayers is "graced."
 - 2. We work at instructing and praying so there is no greater joy than to hear that the elder's children walk in truth.