

BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL
RESPONDING TO PROBLEMS IN OUR LIVES
1 SAMUEL 1

Introduction

(Give an introduction to the book of 1 Samuel)

Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

We all face adversity in the from of troubles and trials in this sin cursed world!
Job 14:1 Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.

Proverbs 24:10 If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

I. HANNAH'S PROBLEMS EXAMINED.

**A. She Suffered From Internal Problems—
No Doubt She Suffered From Anxiety, Depression, And
Discouragement!**

**1. She Had Feelings Of Inadequacy With Regard To
Her Family Situation!**

Hannah had been unable to conceive children!
In Old Testament times, a childless woman was
considered a failure! My how times have changed!

A woman's barrenness was often a social
embarrassment for her husband!

**2. She Had Feelings Of Rejection With Regard To Her
God!**

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A woman who was barren felt as though she were
cursed of God! **(Note what verse 6 acknowledges!)**
*Psalms 113:9 He maketh the barren woman to keep
house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye
the LORD.*

However, part of God's plan for Hannah involved
postponing her years of childbearing! **We could say,
"God was in it!"**

Part of God's plan for our lives may be some of the very
things that we are prone to question!

**We need to realize that God works even in the
inconveniences, the annoyances, and the problems of
life! (Romans 8:28 coming into play again!)**

She Suffered From Internal Problems...

**B. She Suffered From External Problems That Fueled The
Internal Problems!**

1. The Problem Of Being Oppressed! (By Her Peers)

a. The Constant **Provoking** Caused By The
Bigamist Relationship Of Her Husband
Intensified Her Discouragement! **(Vs 6-7)**

b. The **Disgrace** In The Eyes Of Her
Contemporaries With Regard To Her Infertility
Intensified Her Discouragement!

Knowing that everyone knows your problem and
has their own opinion about it causes distress!

**2. The Problem Of Being Suppressed! (By Her
Husband)**

a. **Her Husband Seemed To Minimize Her
Problems—**He had children already.

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That meant he was content and disregarded this unfulfilled need in Hannah's life.

- b. Her Husband Misunderstood Her Problems**—He saw her actions as a rejection of the love and generosity he bestowed on her.

He was basically saying, *“Forget about your problem, you’ve got me!”* (Vs 8)

3. The Problem Of Giving The Wrong Impression! (With regard to the man of God)

She gave the wrong impression by her actions to one that could help her and actually did help her once she finally revealed her burden to him.

Initially Eli’s impression was, *“This woman is obviously drunk!”* (Vs 13-14)

HANNAH’S PROBLEMS EXAMINED...

II. HANNAH'S PROBLEMS EXPRESSED.

A. First We See Her Improper Expressions.

- 1. Fretting—vs6** (“fret” means *“to be violently agitated”*)
- 2. Weeping—vs7** (“wept” means *“to weep as in mourning”*)
The idea is that she was resigned to the idea that there would be no change in her circumstances!
- 3. Did Not Eat—vs7** (There is no indication here that she was fasting, but rather that this was most likely a stress induced loss of appetite!)
- 4. Bitterness Of Soul—vs 10** (Severely depressed to the point of affecting both her physical and mental well-being!)

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- 5. Mad At God—vs 10** (*“Wept sore”*— means *“to weep in vexation or anger.”* i.e. *“God you’re not being fair with me!”*)

B. Next We See Her Proper Expressions!

1. She Prayed Unto The LORD! (vs 10)

Psalm 113:9 He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the LORD.

1 Peter 5:6-7 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

2. She Poured Out Her Soul Before The LORD! (vs 15)

Psalm 62:8 Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah. The idea behind that statement is that she held nothing back from God, but put the whole matter before Him possibly even to the extent of telling Him she was mad at Him!

3. She Made A Commitment Unto The LORD! (vs 11)

Proverbs 3:5-6 5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Psalm 37:5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

a. She Committed Herself— *“She vowed a vow”*

b. She Committed Her Request— *“...I will give him unto the Lord...”*

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4. **She Shared Her Condition With The Man Of God!**
a. **She Received Spiritual Guidance!**
"Go In peace"

b. **She Received Spiritual Support!**
"God...grant thee thy petition"

III. HANNAH'S PROBLEM EXPELLED.

Faith in the provision of God is what expelled her problems!

- A. **Her Faith Was Expressed In Her Bodily Actions! (Vs 18)**
She got on with her life!
- B. **Her Faith Was Expressed In Her Spiritual Actions!**
She took her burden to the Lord and left it there!
It is possible to put on a front while still carrying a burden, but Hannah didn't!
- C. **Her Was Rewarded In God's Answer To Her Prayer! (Vs 19-20)**
1. *"The Lord Remembered Her"*– Samuel's Birth.

2. *"The Lord Visited"* her again–3 sons and 2 daughters.
(I Samuel 2:20-21)

Conclusion

Are you facing some problems in your life right now?

Maybe you are anxious, or depressed, or downright discouraged over some circumstances of life?

Maybe you are feeling oppressed by someone.

Or maybe you are being misunderstood by those close to you.

Or maybe you have given someone the wrong impression.

How are you responding to those problems?

Will you respond in the wrong way?

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Fretting, weeping, losing your appetite (or maybe trying to eat your problems away)
Letting your problems eat away at your physical and mental well-being?
Maybe even you're mad at God right now and blaming Him!

Or will you respond in the right way?

Pouring out your soul unto the LORD!

Taking your burden to the LORD in faith and leaving it there!

Trusting in the mighty unseen hand of God!

We can say we have left the matter with the LORD, but the proof is in how we express that in our lives!