A MOM GIVES UP WHAT SHE CANNOT KEEP
1 Samuel 1-2

"What does a godly mother look like?"
"How do I know one when I see one?"
Does her life always go well?
Does she always "have it all together?"
Jim Elliott: "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose!"
Affirmation applies to parenting.
We try to cling to what's not ours to keep!
Sam begins under conditions that mark Judg.
Rebellion and scandal are prevalent
Leaders should be example; encourage people to sin!
So, how do you make difference in culture going to pot?

God uses a <u>godly mother</u>
to prepare deliverer for his people

SAMUEL'S PROMISE 1:1-19

Contrast to nation, esp. to priesthood
H. stands out as example–committed to God, to walk with Him –whatever others do!

She's childless.
In mid-east. culture children=evidence of God's blessing
Wife's inability to conceive is considered "curse"
God uses "unblessed" woman to bless His people!
Elkanah seems godly, though has 2 wives.
Marital situation => results in jealousy & strife
Inability to conceive doesn't diminish his love
He tries to console Hannah.
They have each other; that's all that matters. 1:8
Isn't *all that matters* to Hannah. She wants a son!
She takes petition to God–pours out her heart

<u>1:11</u> *"She made a vow, saying, "Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery & remem-ber me, & not forget your servant but give her a son, I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life"*

So this is **Hannah's plight:**
Country living in sin; under foreign oppression.
Personally, has no child –faces mocking competitor
What cause does she have for optimism?
What cause to trust God? *<u>WE</u> ever feel that way?*
Hannah <u>trusts God</u> in spite of <u>adversity</u>.
Eli notes intensity of prayer=> she's drunk 12-13
More normal to see woman drunk in temple,

than intense in prayer!

Eli assures H.: God will grant her request 17 *"Eli answered, "Go in peace; may the God of Israel grant you what you've asked of him."*

Hannah trusts God to fulfill desire 18-19

SAMUEL'S BIRTH 1:20-28 **20-22** *"Hannah... gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, "Because I asked the Lord for him..." [22]Hannah... said to her husband, "After the boy is weaned, I'll take him & present him before the Lord, & he'll live there always*

H. names him Sam. because she asked God for him

H. keeps her vow, though she wants to keep her son

H. doesn't cling to gift–clings to Giver

H. gives up her child;

leaving him, to serve however God wants.

She takes Sam. to temple; presents him to Eli.

27-28 *"I prayed for this child, & the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. [28]So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord." & he worshiped the Lord there."*

H. ex. of woman who, though her marriage is not ideal, is committed to God's will for her family.

HANNAH'S SONG 2:1-11

Hannah praises the Lord, her Rock 1-2

She warns arrogant 3

Though arrogant make fun, God makes right.

God humbles the proud & exalts lowly 5-7 *"Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more. She who was barren has borne 7 children, but she who has had many sons pines away... [7]The Lord sends poverty & wealth;* ***he humbles & he exalts****.*

God brings down proud; lifts up humble & needy.

Disposition of *all* things in His hands.

Barren one ends up with full contingent of children

One with *many* sons ends up "pining away"

Hannah expresses confidence in future 9 *"He will guard feet of his saints but the wicked will be si-lenced in darkness. "It's* ***not*** *by strength that 1 prevails"*

Trusts God Who holds future in HIS hand.

"God cares for those who trust Him!"

SAMUEL'S YOUTH 2:12-26

Hannah's commitment is reflected

in her son's commitment to please God

Their commitment in contrast to Eli's family

Eli's sons have reputation for <u>wickedness & lack of respect for God</u> 12
"Eli's sons were wicked men; they had no regard for the Lord.

Sam's commitment shown by <u>faithful ser-vice</u> <u>18</u> *"But Sam. was ministering before the Lord"*

Eli hears sons' reputation & speaks to them,

but **is unwilling to <u>take action</u> <u>22-25</u>** *"Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing... [23]So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours. [24]No, my sons; it's not a good report I hear spreading among the Lord's people. [25]...His sons, however, did not listen to their father's rebuke, for it was the Lord's will to put them to death.*

Eli *nags* them, but doesn't <u>*DO*</u> anything to stop them!

He's more concerned about what sons think
than about pleasing God.

In contrast... **Sam. keeps <u>growing spiritually &</u>**
<u>socially</u> <u>2:26</u> *"Samuel continued to grow in stature & in favor with the Lord & with men."*

What do we learn from Hannah's ex.?

1. We can <u>trust God in the dark</u>!
She trusts Him even when she can't understand what He's doing
Her son learns to trust Him also.

2 . Doing what <u>God wants</u> is more important than <u>having happy kids</u>!
More than having them at all! God's will comes 1st
What makes difference between Sam. & Eli's sons?
Sam.'s mother models commitment to God
Godly parents influence their children!
Eli's more committed to pleasing sons,
than to pleasing God.
Hannah determines to please God

Henry Ward Beecher: "It's not hard to make a child or a tree grow right if you train them when they're young, but to make them straighten out after you've allowed things to go wrong is no easy matter."

For H., being woman God wants her to be doesn't depend on ideal home
She's determined to please God
–whether anyone else does or not!

3. We can <u>trust God with our kids.</u>
Give them to Him– to use any way HE pleases!
He loves them more than we do!
We can trust Him with them!

That's kind of moms we need–kind of *parents!*
God wants parents who love HIM
more than they love their kids

–willing to obey Him first.

–willing to let go of their kids when He asks for them.

May God give us women <u>and</u> men committed to be this kind of parents!