

Date: 29.03.20220

Time: 11am

Service taken by: Rev Gavino Fioretti

Scripture: 1 Samuel 2:1-10

We saw last time how God did good to Hannah. This intervention from God brought joy to Hannah. Her heart that had been so downcast and low has been lifted up and filled with joy. Hannah recognises that behind these earthly gifts is a Heavenly Giver. The source and fountain of all these blessings is God and so she is joyful and rejoices in the Lord, rather than in Samuel. The only way for us to be truly happy is in and because of God. Hannah's joy is from God and as she prays, she reminds of who God is and reasons to worship Him.

- **The first reason for Hannah worshipping God is because God is unique, He is different (verse 2)**

Hannah knows that there's no-one like God. There is no-one on the same level as Him – only God is worthy of worship. He alone is God and there is none beside Him.

God is unique in His being, person, character and dealings. He is holy. Other "gods" cannot be compared with Him. He has unlimited power. He controls everything. He is the One that we need.

Our God is merciful. Our God is a compassionate Father, slow to anger and abounding in love. No-one is as caring, kind and protective as our God.

- **The second reason for Hannah worshipping God is because of God's justice (verse 3)**

The problem with human justice is that humans don't know all the facts. They base their decisions on shaky evidence. But God knows all that happens and the facts. His judgement is absolutely right. God brings divine judgement. In the human justice system, justice doesn't always follow – the decision-makers don't always do what is right. But God's decisions are absolutely right. He is just. The evil will not be treated innocent, or the innocent guilty.

God is righteous. He stands for the innocent and punishes the wicked. God intervenes because He is just (vs 4-5). We might not see justice in this life, but it will come. He will judge according to what is right.

We'll all have to stand before God, the judge. If it's in our own righteousness that we expect to be able stand before God, what a terrible day that will be. But it's Jesus that makes a difference – if it's His righteousness we're relying on then we can stand. To stand before God, you need God's forgiveness and Jesus' righteousness. Come to Christ. Ask Him to give you His righteousness. Then you'll be judged not for what you've done, but what Jesus has done.

- **The third reason for Hannah worshipping God is because of God's sovereignty (verse 6)**

We're comfortable with the idea that God brings life, but we don't like that God brings death. He's in control of those who live and of those who die.

God's behind the living and the dying. Have we worshipped God for His taking life away? Job says, *"The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord"* (Job 1:21). God is never the author of evil, but everything that happens is according to God's plan and under the umbrella of His will.

God is behind and not outside of COVID-19. God is in control and nothing is outside His sovereign will. Even through COVID-19, God is working for the good of His people. Even when God allows bad things to happen in lives, He is still good.

Jesus says,

"I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. 5 But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!" (Luke 12:4-5)

Jesus is not speaking about the devil in this passage, but about God. Don't be against God – He gave you life, He holds your life in His hands and He has the right to take your life away.

God has control of poverty and wealth (verse 7). If we're wealthy or if we're poor, it's God's will. God has no pleasure in injustice, but in His providence, some suffer poverty. Behind everything is God. Behind Hannah's suffering that she had before, came joy. Hannah knew that it was God behind it all.

Imagine if God could only wish for good, but couldn't control the evil – what a terrifying place the world would be. But God is in control. He is using everything according to a plan that is good.

Stephen was a great and godly man, but it was God's will for him to die – but through Stephen's death, the church was built and established.

We don't like when God uses poverty or death as part of His plan, but even these means can bear great fruit.

The earth is restrained by God. Creation depends on Him. God cares for the whole of creation. He's in control of the whole of creation. Hannah was barren, but God controls nature and gave a child to Hannah. Jesus calmed the storm and raised the dead. God is in control. God can take COVID-19 away – it cannot go above God's will and sovereignty. God is in control. Rest in the fact that God is King.

- **The fourth reason for Hannah worshipping God is because of God's care**

God provides a son for the barren. He provides for the poor. In verse 9, we see that He guards the feet of His people – He prepares the ground for the road we'll walk because He's keeping us safe and making sure we don't fall.

Jesus is the anointed One spoken of in verse 10. Because of Jesus, we're God's anointed ones.

If we do God's will and obey His commandments, it's because God has given us the strength. If we're faithful to Him, it's in His strength – it's all of grace. If we obey God, it's God's strength and spirit that's working in us.

We need to remind ourselves of God's strength and care and to depend on this.

Hannah praised God for doing what she knew no-one else ever could.