

HANNA'S PRAYER OF PRAISE

1. Definition of the word praise
2. Why Hannah praised God
3. How Hannah praised God.
4. Reasons why all of us should praise God.
5. What praise does to God
6. Irene's testimony of praise unto her God

DEFINITION OF PRAISE

According to a dictionary concordance to praise is to

- i. worship
- ii. to commend
- iii. to give honour to

According to the complete Christian dictionary praise means

- i. to speak favourably with admiration
 - ii. to offer thanks and honor to God
 - iii. to glorify Him often in song in a church service e.g. I praise you Oh Lord because I am fearfully and wonderfully made (Ps. 139) Praise the Lord, Oh My Soul and forget not all His benefits. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. Ps. 103
- Praise is Kiga / Nyankole – Kusingiza
Praise in Luganda – Kutenda

In the entire bible there is no one who praised God other than David through the Psalms he wrote.

WHY HANNAH PRAISED GOD

- Hannah was the wife of Elkanah
- Hannah had been unable to conceive and have children. She was barren or childless.
- The Jews were like Africans in their view of a childless wife.
- A childless woman was considered a failure.
- Her barrenness was a social embarrassment for her husband.
- Children were a very important part of the society's economic structure.
 - A source of labour for the family.
 - It was a the duty of children to take care of the their siblings.
 - According to the Ancient Middle East Customs, if a wife could not bear children she was expected to give one of her servant girls to her husband to bear children for her. e.g Jacob's family – both Leah and Rachel.
 - A husband was permitted to divorce a barren wife but Elkanah continued to love and take good care of his wife. e.g. Don't I mean more to you than ten sons? 1 Samuel 1:8

Therefore Hannah's challenge:

- 1) was barrenness
 - ◆ outcast
 - ◆ looked down upon
 - ◆ crying all the time
- 2) Hannah's other challenge was Peninah – The bible refers to Peninah as her rival.

The other word for rival was adversary or enemy

v.6 Her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her.

v.7 Hannah would weep and would not eat.

I don't know how long Hannah was barren.

- But this one time when they went to Shiloh, Hannah went to the temple and prayed and made a vow to the Lord.

v.10 In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the Lord. Oh Lord almighty if you will only look at your servant misery and remember me and not forget your servant and give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life and no razor will ever be used on his head.

She was mistaken to drunk by the high priest Eli.

God answered Hannah's prayer and gave her a son whom he named Samuel which means "asked from the Lord"

Samuel was taken to Shiloh at 3 years for that was a customary time for weaning.

Hannah was praising God for the gift of a baby boy.

She had overcome barrenness – she could no longer be looked down upon.

Her rival Peninah could no longer provoke her.

HOW HANNAH PRAISED GOD.

- Hannah demonstrates in her praise of God what Paul means when he tells believers to speak to one another with Psalms hymns and spiritual songs. Ephesians 5:19 "sing and make music in your heart to the Lord."
- Mary the mother of Jesus in her Magnificat quotes some of Hannah's words "My Soul glorifies the Lord and my Spirit glorifies in God my Saviour"
- Hannah was filled with the Spirit and burst out in praise and prophesy.
- Hannah's prayer is similar to Christ's pattern for prayer in Luke 11:2 in that she begins with adoration and worship of God.

My heart rejoices in the Lord in the Lord my horn is lifted high.

Horn symbolises strength.

V1b my mouth boasts over my enemies for I delight in your deliverance.

Perhaps Peninah was not her only enemy.

Hannah attributes her deliverance to God.

V2. She refers to God as the only one Holy but also as the Rock firm, strong.
A building build on a rock cannot be moved by the storm.

Song; a man of this world will let you down but Jesus never fails.

V3. Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance for the Lord is a God who knows and by him deeds are weighed.

- God knows the thoughts of our hearts. We may deceive people and flatter them but God knows the truth about us and he is our judge. (Justice and righteousness)

v4. "The bows of the warriors are broken but those who stumbled are armed with strength"

- God has absolute power to do what he wants. He breaks the weapons of warriors leaving them powerless and strengthens those who were previously weak and stumbling. In other words he reverses people's situations (Modecai & Harman)

v5. Those who were full hire themselves out for food but those who were hungry hunger no more she who was barren has born 7 children but she who has had many sons pines away.

- God gave Hannah not only one son but other 3 sons and 2 daughters.

V6-8 talks of Catalogues of reversals.

"He brings death & makes alive. He brings down to the grave and raises up. He sends poverty and wealth. He humbles and exalts."

v10. Those who oppose the Lord will be shattered He will thunder against them from heaven. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth. He will give strength to his King and exalt the horn of his anointed.

God fights our battles and wins them. Romans 8:35 we are more than conquerors. Hannah's prayer reveals her heart, her depth of knowledge of God and deep understanding of human weakness and insufficiency.

How deep is your knowledge of God?

Hannah fulfilled her vow and left Samuel at 3 years in the hands of the high priest Eli.

Do you always fulfil your vows even when it hurts? What vows have you not fulfilled?

REASONS WHY ALL OF US SHOULD ALWAYS PRAISE GOD.

- Gift of Life.
- Survived dying in your mother's womb.
- God did not create you as a snake or cow or dog.
- Your education
- your job
- your marriage
- your children.
- God's protection over your life.
- Parents
- House
- Car.
- Friends .e.t.c.
- above all, Salvation

WHAT PRAISE DOES TO GOD

- ➔ It puts a smile on His face.
 - ➔ It makes Him glad.
 - ➔ It causes Him to dwell amongst us.
 - ➔ It pleases Him.
 - ➔ It delights Him.
 - ➔ It causes the Lord to be proud of you e.g Job. God boasted to satan over Job.
- Job 1:8. Then the Lord said to Satan "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him."

MILESTONES FOR IRENE

- ◆ My education repeated p7 twice
- ◆ My marriage
- ◆ My call to ordained ministry
- ◆ my matrimonial house

Assignment: Thank God for 5 things he has done for you.

Mention that challenging situation.

Prayer for all fruit of the womb and other challenges of life.