



Hannah's Prayer: Seeing Ourselves in Our Foremothers

1 Samuel 1:1 (KJVA 1611) Now there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite:

- The Most High God had granted Officer Immanuel; a son of Ephraim, with a healthy loving marriage. However, within that union one thing felt to be missing.

1 Samuel 1:2 (KJVA 1611) And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

- Officer Immanuel and his wife Shiphrah had yet to be blessed with children.

1 Samuel 1:6 (KJVA 1611) And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb.

- For years the house of Officer Immanuel provoked the Lord with prayer and fasting to open the womb of Shiphrah.

Ecclesiasticus 38:1(KJVA 1611) Honour a physician with the honour due unto him for the uses which ye may have of him: for the Lord hath created him.

- Counsel was sought from the physician, specialists, as well as herbalists.

Ecclesiasticus 38:2 (KJVA 1611) For of the most High cometh healing, and he shall receive honour of the king.

- With no solutions provided from the physician, this family began to seek the intervention of the most High that much more.

1 Samuel 1:8 (KJVA 1611)Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am not I better to thee than ten sons?

- As time passed Officer Immanuel and his wife Shiphrah learned to appreciate one another even more. In the season of waiting, their patience, faith, & bond had no choice but to grow.

1 Samuel 1:17 (KJVA 1611) Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.

- Officer Immanuel & Shiphrah sought counsel from the Bishops and Deacons of Israel United in Christ. They were received with love and prayer. Their Deacon had recommended they come to the elders weekly for prayer and anointing. They persisted for months, receiving prayer from the captains, Deacon Malachi, even Bishop Nathanyel. Over time the prayers became more specific and the Lord heard each prayer. Officer Immanuel had begun to pray for a son.

1 Samuel 1:20 (KJVA 1611) Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the LORD.

- After a process of time, Shiphrah had conceived and bore a son. They gave him a name meaning “Mercy of God” for The Most High had heard their prayers and mercifully opened her womb .

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