

Listen ...

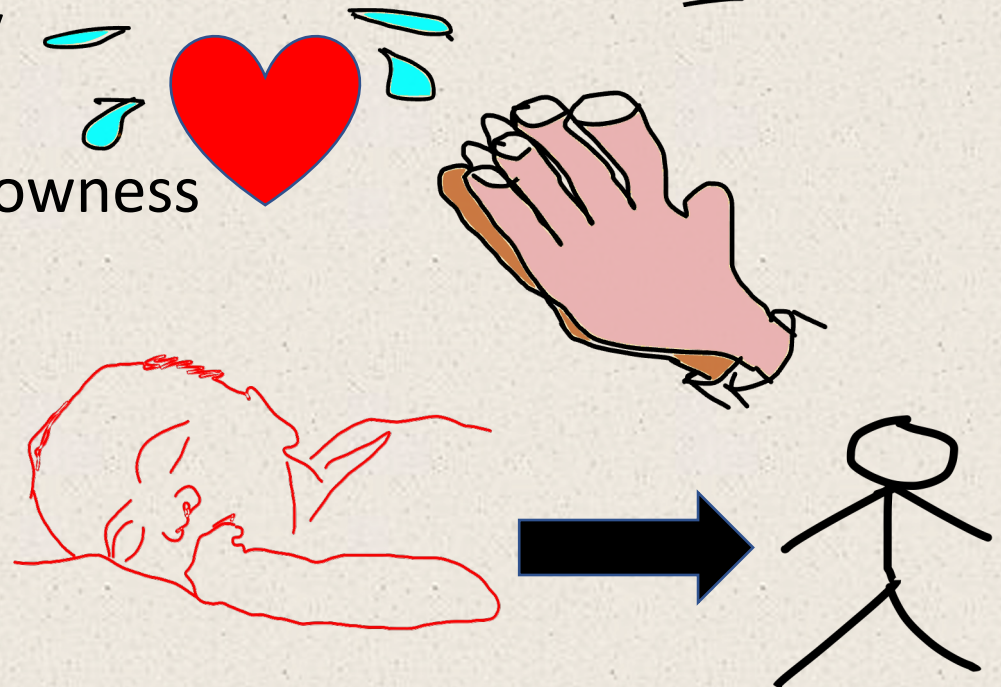
.. A woman is weeping in Shiloh ...

What's going on?

Answer: a lot is going on, more than you can see!

There is a small-scale story

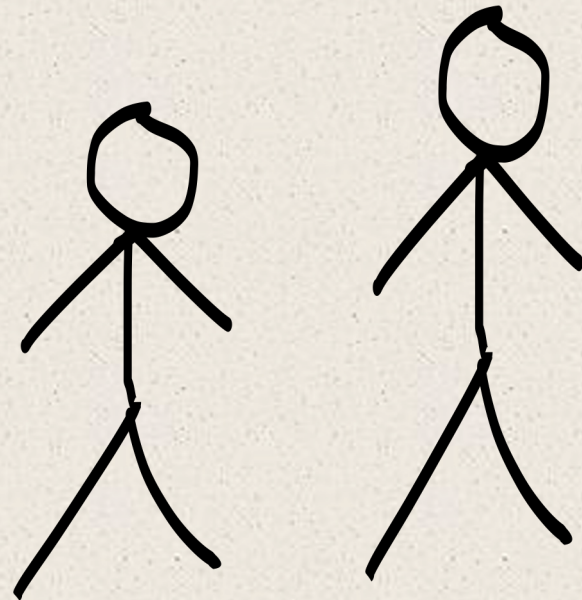
- Of a woman
- Childless, barrenness, lowness
- Distress of heart
- Of a request (sha_al)
- Of an answer
- Of a child born
- But much more ...



The little story – the big story

The story:

- And there is a large scale story
- Of barrenness, lowness
- Of prayer
- Of an answer
- Of a lifting up
- Of a Prophet and Priest
- Of a King and a Kingdom
- ... a forever King and Kingdom
- = the real point of this is **Jesus**



Plan

let's tell the story

Verse by verse

Then - Let's reflect on the lessons

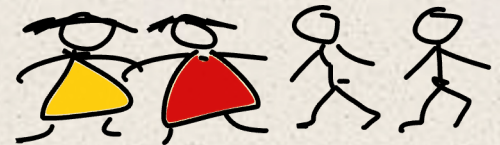
1. *Telling the story – man and wives*

v.1-2 it begins in the middle of nowhere

- Elkanah = “God has possessed”
- good family tree
- well-off

v.2 two wives:

- Hannah = “grace”
- Penninah = “jewel”
- P= +++ H=0



v.3 “go up” x6 = to the LORD of hosts

- respectful
- Hannah = double portion = “the LORD had closed her womb”

... man, wives, and the LORD (x23)

➔ don’t leave the LORD out of the account!

1. Telling the story - provocation



v.6 – her “rival” “provoking provoked her ... to thunder”

- N.B. the LORD had closed her womb

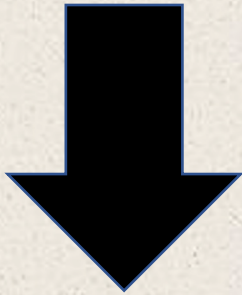
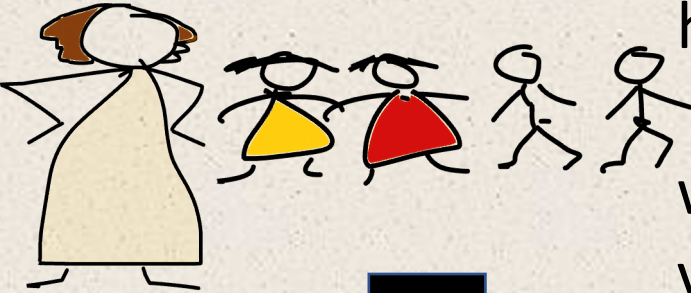
v.7 she wept and would not eat

v.8 well-meaning Elkanah

➔ What will happen next?

➔ What would you do? Very

revealing!



1. Telling the story - prayer



At the temple (tent)
- V.9 Eli (priest) was sitting
doorpost of the temple of the
LORD



- Hannah
 - Bitter in soul (v.10)
 - Prayed (v.10) to the LORD
 - Wept with weeping (v.10)
 - Vowed a vow (v.11)

1. Telling the story – power not alcohol

Eli was keeping watch (v.12)

- outward: mouth, lips
- inward: heart (v.13), “hardness in spirit”

v.15

Eli → reckoned her = drunk

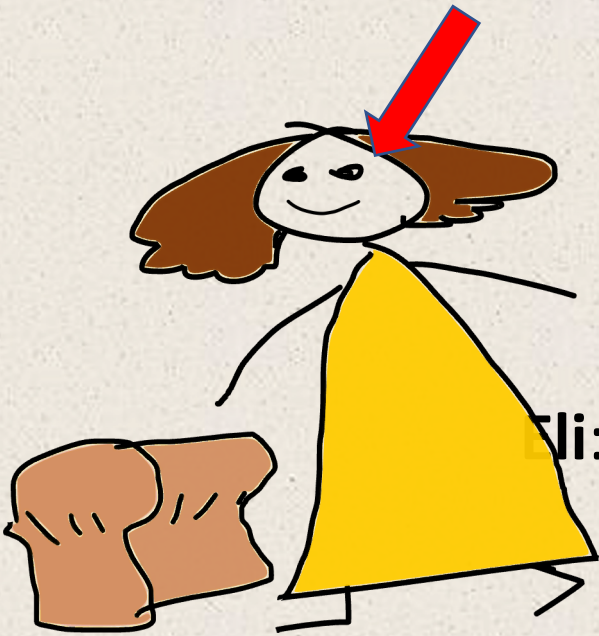
Hannah: NOT alcohol

- pouring out my soul before the LORD
- (like apostles Acts 2:12? Like Ephesians 5:18, a powerful influence)
- I am not a daughter of Belial
- Abundant complaint
- vexation/ provocation
- → she really cared!

- *Q: what do we really care about??*



1. Telling the story – her face was no longer sad



Eli:

- Go in peace
- may the God of Israel give the ask (sha_al) you have asked (sha_al)

Hannah: find GRACE in your eyes

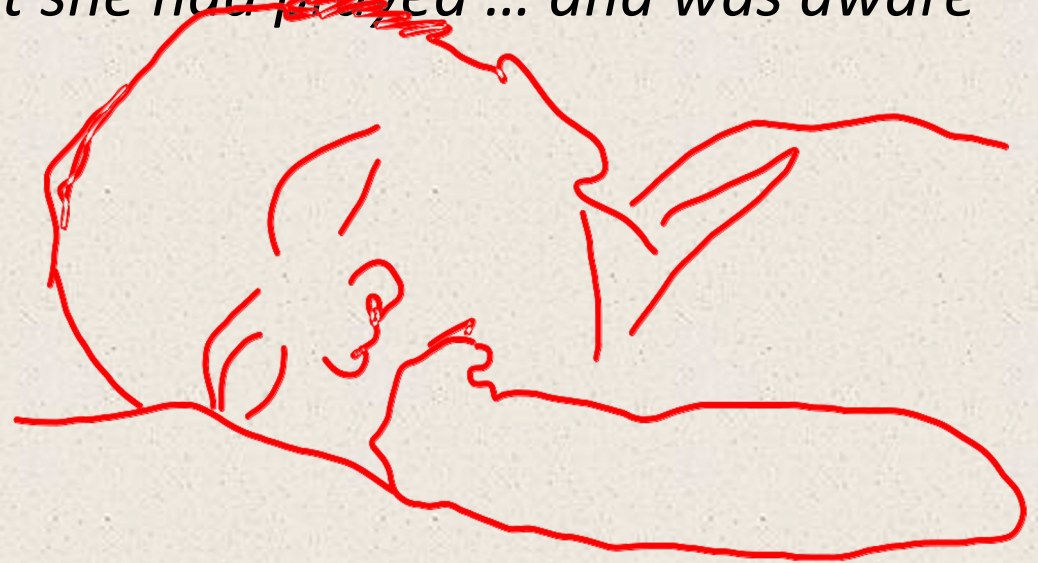
- she got her appetite back
- she got her face back

“cast your cares upon him because he cares for you” 1 Pet 5:7

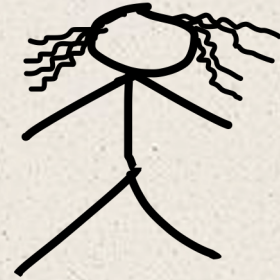


1. Telling the story – baby Samuel born

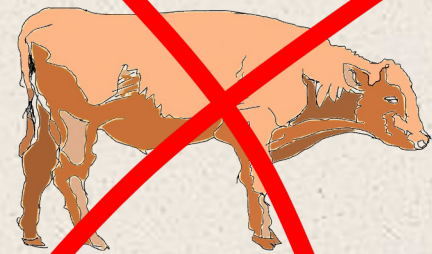
- They entered back home (v.19)
- Elkanah knew his wife (v.19)
- The LORD remembered her (v.20)
- (Hahar hanah) Hannah conceived and bore a son (v.20)
- Name (Shem) = Sha_mu_el *for I asked (sha_al) from the LORD (v.20)*
- ➔ *she remembered that she had ~~prayed~~ ... and was aware of answered prayer*



1. Telling the story – request on request



- “go up” (v.21, v.24) when weaned
- Covered by sacrifices (v.24)
 - → *constant reminder of costly blood*
 - → *Jesus our sacrifice*
- Testimony: “I am the woman who prayed”
- “the LORD has given the ask (sha_al) that I asked (Sha-al)
- Therefore I “give upon request” (Sha_al) him [back] to the LORD
- And he bowed down to the LORD there
- → end up with the LORD



Reflections 1: a right prayer



1. right prayer

- “When the outlook isn’t too good, try the uplook!”
- - what a friend we have in Jesus
- - impossibility: bring it to the Lord in prayer!
- J.C. Ryle “behold he prayeth” Acts 9:11 –

Christian prayer

17 Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

2. Reflections: a single prayer



2. single prayer

It began with this woman, in the middle of nowhere

- she had a baby
- she called his name Samuel
- to dwell in the presence of the LORD for ever (v.22)

It is echoed by another Galilean woman

- she had a baby
- she called his name Jesus

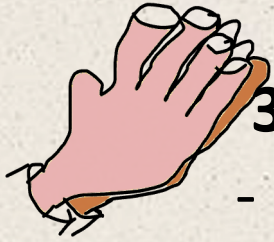
➔ Who knows what will come from a single heart-felt prayer

➔ E.g. an avalanche started by a single stone

➔ E.g. a movement started by a single response



Reflections 3: a prayer to the LORD of hosts



3. prayer TO the LORD

- He is behind this whole thing
- He closed Hannah's womb
- He was the one they "go up" to each year
- He looked on the affliction / remembered / not forgot
- He remembered v.19
- He *gave* and *answered*
- He *received the sacrifices*
- He took the "loan" and honoured it

He used this in his characteristic way ... "raise the poor from the dust ... sit with princes" 2:8

➔ Fullest way in Jesus himself



Reflections 3: a prayer to the LORD of hosts

3. prayer TO the LORD

→ He is the LORD who has the big story of redemption and puts his redemption into our little stories too

→ He is the LORD who came as a baby to a girl in the middle of nowhere, who was the one the world was longing for (even so come Lord Jesus)

→ who needed no priest or bull or goat, but is himself the ultimate prophet, priest and king

→ who cares about us as individuals ...

→ don't we want to end by worshipping him?

