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Hannah’s Prayer is Answered
First Samuel 1: 1-28



During the period of **the Judges**, **the Israelites** were in a state of extreme distress because **they** lacked godly leadership. **The priesthood** had defiled, there was no sustained prophetic message from **the LORD (3:1)**, and **the Torah** was being ignored throughout the Land. As **He** often did in **Isra’el’s** history, **God** solved the problem by sending a baby. Babies are **Ha’Shem’s** announcement that **He** knows the need, cares about **His people**, and is at work on **their** behalf. The arrival of a baby ushers in a new life and a new beginning; babies are signposts for the future, and their conceptions and births are miracles that only **God** can do **(Gen 30:1-2)**. To make the even seem even greater, **YHVH** sometimes selects barren women to be their mothers, as when **He** sent **Isaac** to **Sarah**, **Jacob** to **Rebekah**, and **Joseph** to **Rachel**.[10]

Without a break in **the** action from **Judges**, the book opens with an introduction of one particular family. At first, the husband is mentioned, but the main character in the chapter is to be **the first-named wife**, who was bold enough to believe that

ADONAI would hear and answer **her** prayer for **a son**. The chapter records the answer to **her** prayer and ends with the fulfillment of **her** vow. **Her** motives may have been mixed, but **her** request was in line with the overall will of **YHVH**, who was preparing to bring into the world **a man** who would be **His** faithful representative and mouthpiece.[11]