

# MARSHALL COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

"And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoices in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in Thy salvation. There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside Thee: neither is there any rock like our God." - **1 Samuel 2:1,2**

This is the introduction to a prayer of thanksgiving from the heart of Hannah. Hannah was a barren woman, until the LORD heard her prayer and granted her petition for a man-child, who she named Samuel. Hannah's prayer covers ten verses that I encourage you to

read. Reading it, you will find that this is one of the most theologically rich portions of scriptures found in the Old Testament. Hannah is seen rejoicing in the LORD by expressing great confidence in His glorious character. Yes, Hannah was thankful for little Samuel, but her gratitude is expressed in her attitude concerning the person of the LORD God.

At the beginning of Hannah's prayer she declares the unique holy character of the LORD. In doing so Hannah speaks of the LORD as pure, above all evil and wickedness, and that He is separate from all that is common and ordinary. The LORD is so

special that Hannah goes on to say that, "neither is there any rock like our God." This describes the unique quality of the LORD as being solid, sturdy, and unmovable, which speaks of His reliability. In Hannah's prayer she declares the absolute rule of the LORD (vs. 9,10). She speaks of the LORD's sovereign providential care for the weak, the hungry, and the down-and-out, as well as the LORD's judgment upon the pride of the arrogant, the mighty, and the wicked (vs. 3-9). Hannah is quick to declare the sovereign will-power of the LORD to do as He pleases as He weighs the actions of mankind (vs.3).

As we embark on Thanksgiving, we see Hannah's heart of thanksgiving as an example. Hannah's intimate knowledge of the LORD was not a result of her prayer being answered, but rather what Hannah declared in her prayer of thanksgiving was all about the character of the LORD that she already knew in her heart. That's why she came to the LORD with her petition in the first place. Therefore her answered prayer became the avenue or means by which Hannah expressed her gratitude toward the LORD knowing that she became a recipient of His grace. We too who are recipients of God's

saving grace, should not make Thanksgiving Day just the start of the commercial Christmas season. When you smell the wonderful aroma of a Thanksgiving dinner that fills the house with joy, be reminded of the wonderful aroma of the Holy Spirit who fills our hearts with the joy of the LORD. Therefore reflect on the Great Giver of all good things (James 1:17), and give God thanks for who He is, as did Hannah. Rejoice with thanksgiving on this special day and all year long.

David C. Hale, pastor  
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