

Double Fruitfulness
(Saturday 10th May, 2014)

1 Samuel 1

1 ¶ Now there was a certain man of **Ramathaim Zophim**, of the mountains of **Ephraim**, and his name was **Elkanah** the son of **Jeroham**, the son of **Elihu**, the son of **Tohu**, the son of **Zuph**, an **Ephraimite**.

Ramathaim-zophim= "double height of the watchers"

Ramathaim-zophim] Literally, **the two high places of the watchman**; these were, no doubt, two contiguous hills, on which watchtowers were built, and in which watchmen kept continual guard for the safety of the country and which afterwards gave name to the place.

Ephraim= "double ash-heap: I shall be **doubly fruitful**"

Elkanah= "**God has possessed**" or "God has created"

Notice the list of ancestors: (Oldest first)

Zuph or Zophai= "honeycomb" (speaks of the Word of God – JESUS!)

Tohu= "lowly" (humility)

Elihu= "He is my God" (glory)

Jeroham= "showing pity" (mercy)

Elkanah= "God has possessed" or "God has created" (possessed!)

2 And he had two wives: the name of one was **Hannah**, and the name of the other **Peninnah**. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

Hannah= "grace"

Peninnah= "jewel"

3 This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in **Shiloh**. Also the two sons of **Eli**, **Hophni** and **Phinehas**, the priests of the LORD, were there.

Shiloh= "place of rest"

Eli= "ascension"

Hophni= "pugilist" (handful, fist)

Phinehas= "mouth of brass" (hard mouthed)

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4 And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters.
5 But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb.

A double portion – a portion for two people!
He loved grace!

6 And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb.
7 So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat.
8 Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons?"
9 ¶ So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the LORD.
10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish.

Hannah lived in a place called 'double fruitfulness' and was surrounded by the fruitfulness of others, and was continually provoked by her barrenness.

What kept Hannah going? She knew she was loved!

11 Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."
12 And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth.
13 Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk.
14 So Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!"
15 And Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.
16 "Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now."
17 Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him."
18 And she said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

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20 So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name **Samuel**, saying, "Because I have asked for him from the LORD."

Samuel= "his name is El" (His name is God)

1 Samuel 2

1 ¶ And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD. **I smile at my enemies**, Because I rejoice in Your salvation.

2 "No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.

3 "Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the LORD is the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed.

4 "The bows of the mighty men are broken, And those who stumbled are girded with strength.

5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, And the hungry have ceased to hunger. **Even the barren has borne seven**, And she who has many children has become feeble.

Grace has brought in a new season!

8 He raises the poor from the dust And **lifts the beggar from the ash heap**, To set them among princes And make them inherit the throne of glory. "For the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, And He has set the world upon them.

18 But Samuel ministered before the LORD, even as a child, wearing a linen ephod.

19 Moreover **his mother used to make him a little robe**, and bring it to him year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

20 And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "The LORD give you descendants from this woman for the loan that was given to the LORD." Then they would go to their own home.

21 And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived and **bore three sons and two daughters**. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the LORD.