

1 SAMUEL 2:1-10 - HANNAH'S PRAYER

Study 2

A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

Do you believe in God? What a strange question for people at a Bible study, but even the people of God can unintentionally forget the true character of the God we worship.

Perhaps a better way to say it is, "Do you believe in God, the way that Hannah Believes in God."

In all, Hannah's prayer is a framework for a Christian worldview. Our secular counterparts would have a worldview along the lines of, "we are the result of time and chance, therefore, truth is relative, and morality is a social construct (i.e., morals as what best suits the majority).

Opposed to this Hannah sees a God that is, totally perfect, utterly incomparable, He creates, sets the boundaries for life and governs the affairs of men.

Do you believe in this God?

READ 1 Samuel 2:1-10

HANNAH'S PRAYER

Hannah's Prayer could be divided into three movements:

1. A vision of this incomparable God, (i.e., there's none like Him) (1-2)
2. The transformation that he makes in his world (3-8)
3. A glimpse of his coming Kingdom (9-10)

Question

What are some noticeable features or themes of:

1. Verses 1-2
2. Verses 3-8
3. Verses 9-10

4. Can you think of other parts of the Bible where any of these features or themes are mentioned.

WHICH WORLDVIEW DO YOU ACCEPT?

Which worldview do you accept? Are you a product of time and chance? Or do you believe in the God of Hannah?

The worldview that you accept will make a radical impact on how you live. Is there a God? Is he totally powerful? Has he spoken to us? Has he set the boundaries? Or is this life all a product of time and chance?

The answer to this question will determine how you live, what side of history you will be on, and the kingdom in which you will live.

There are two kingdoms in history: that of this world, and God's kingdom. There are two types of people, those who defy God or ignore him and those who humble themselves before God.

There is a line down the center of history. On one side are the self-reliant, the self-righteous. Those who make their own rules, and set their own boundaries.

And those who are humbled by their sin, and bend their knee to their creator.

Maybe you have made gospel choices which mean you cannot afford the lifestyle of your neighbours. Maybe you have chosen to give your time to serve others rather than indulging yourself. Maybe you have served on a children's camp instead of going on holiday

Maybe you have made choices that mean you face hostility. You speak for Christ even though it will harm your career or ruin your day.

It is worth it because God's King is coming, and when he comes he will turn the world upside down. What is lost in this life will be gained for eternity.

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Bible stories of barren women given children by God encourage us in our 'impossible' situations. Consider the relevance of this to you at this stage in your life with God.
2. Am I ever in danger of substituting 'human gimmicks' for dependence on 'the God of the impossible'?
3. 'Our despair ... may be another prelude to a mighty work of God.' What illustrations can you think of that demonstrate this, either from Scripture or experience.
4. Which is your greatest concern for your children, grand-children, nieces, nephews—fame, prosperity or godliness?
5. In which part of your life do you need to remember: It is worth it? How will you allow the truth that God's King has come to make a difference to you today?