

# Keynotes from Steven Drivers pm Sermon on 16/1/2022

## 1 Samuel 2 verses 1-10 Series: "The real King" Part 3"

### "Who do you think you're talking to?" Part 2

Scripture references from the ESV

**1 Samuel 2:1-10** And Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD.

My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. <sup>2</sup> "There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God. <sup>3</sup> Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. <sup>4</sup> The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength. <sup>5</sup> Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. <sup>6</sup> The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. <sup>7</sup> The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts. <sup>8</sup> He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honour. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them he has set the world. <sup>9</sup> "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail. <sup>10</sup> The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed

As we saw last week, when we enlarge our vision of who God is, our prayers get transformed:

- God is involved in all things, which means that we can pray to him about all things
- God is above all things, so we can have confidence that God will answer us in the same way that he has answered all the saints who have gone before us
- God knows all things, so we can lay bare our soul to our God who knows us intimately and knows any situation better than we do.

As we build this better vision of who God is, we can now start to explore what his unchanging purpose and his unchanging will are. Often, we try to impose our will on

God, rather than seeking to understand what he is doing and what his plan is. We need to search out what his will is and have our prayers directed by him.

Hannah has found who this God is, and he is the same God for all his people. What he did for Hannah is a glimmer of or a pointer to what he will do for all his people who are faithful to his ways.

At this point in history, Israel has no king. They have just had the series of disastrous judges. Their problem didn't lie in the fact that they had no king, but in their rejection of the King they should have been looking to all along, ignoring and defying him.

Later, Israel will ask for a human king, like all the other nations. God warns them that this will not end well (**1 Samuel 8:11-18** see p4).

A king appointed by human standards will lead to a kingdom defined by manmade standards, where manmade strength and power are abused. Israel, as a kingdom, will cease to be the nation it was called to be as the poor are made poorer and the low are brought lower. They will cease to be:

- a blessing to one another and instead be a broken nation
- a blessing to all nations and instead make war with all nations
- fruitful in number and will be barren both spiritually and numerically

That is exactly what happens, as they appoint king after king and end up split apart and exiled from the promised land.

### **That is what rejection of God as ruler looks like**

We see the same in our newspaper headlines today - abuse of power, people going hungry and families scraping by, trying to get food on the table.

We see this in ourselves today where our self worth is defined by human standards.

We set ourself up as king, or set our culture as king, inevitably falling apart when we show one sign of weakness or imperfection.

### **We need a reversal. We need to be saved**

Hannah's prayer shows us a pattern that she has grasped by seeing who God is and applying that across all creation. She has realised that **God, the true ruler, has his pattern of salvation**. Her prayer points us to the pattern of what God does for his people when he acts in his ruling power (**vv4-8** above).

God's divine power reverses any effect of human power – when the feeble are armed with divine power, human strength cannot win. We see this pattern again in **1 Samuel 17** (please read this in your Bible), when David faces Goliath. King Saul tried to 'help' David by giving him his armour, but this was relying on human means in what seemed a hopeless situation. David, however, relied on divine strength and won. The weak have been made strong. This is God's pattern and we see it throughout scripture.

- No matter how weak someone seems to be, when God's divine power is at work, they are made strong (**v4**).
- Those who are hungry will be fed by God, satisfying their need (**v5**). The pattern of the world shows that those who rely on their own ability to satisfy their needs will always hunger for more. It is only God who can provide for our needs and fully satisfy us. Looking back at the exodus, we can see how God provided manna for his people, and there were even leftovers!
- God promises the barren will have children(**v6**). The Bible shows us seven women who were unable to have children – Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, Manoah and Hannah here. Two more will get a mention later!

This pattern of how God works is not just about Hannah.

**God's pattern is about God's people moving from being spiritually unfruitful to being abundantly full of life and full of joy.**

In **vv6-8** (above), Hannah declares that life and death, adversity and prosperity are all determined by God. It is in his hands to reverse them and he can bring salvation to all things. In his all-knowing sovereign power, he rules in all matters of life, and **from that ruling power, God continually reveals a pattern of reversal, a pattern of salvation.**

Throughout scripture, God shows us this pattern. He takes those who are lowly and weak and elevates and strengthens them, using them to bring about a form of reversal for his people. They are a pointer to what is to come.

Hannah recognises that her situation isn't unique, but that this is God's pattern.

- God does not work through strength but through weakness.
- He does not work through the wealthy but the through the poor

Hannah broadens out her prayer still further to point to **the God who anoints his King of Salvation.** (vv9-10)

At this point, Israel had no king, so why is Hannah talking about a king? The word 'anointed' can be translated as Messiah – the anointed king. We might think she is talking about David, the man God picked who is a man after God's own heart.

David, after all, was not an obvious choice, yet God picked him and he was anointed by Samuel (Hannah's son). Hannah has been made strong by God's reversal pattern, and this pattern is repeated with God's chosen king. Yet it can't be David she is talking about. In David's reign we don't see:

- The Most High thundering from heaven
- The Lord carrying out his rightful judgement on the ends of the earth
- The true fulfilment of all these patterns

Although David was a great king, he fell short and his kingdom suffered. By the end of his reign, all the warnings God had given his people about earthly kings had come to pass.

David is just a pointer – a part of the pattern that points us to the true Messiah.

When Samuel was born, Hannah gave him back to the Lord. (1 Samuel 1:28 see p4).

For his whole life he would be a Nazirite, given over to the Lord and set apart for his service. The only other person in the Bible who is described like this is Elizabeth's son, John the Baptist. Elizabeth was another previously barren woman, just like Hannah.

Elizabeth is the new Hannah, and therefore it follows that John must be the new Samuel.

- Where Samuel prepared the way for David, John prepared the way for his descendant, Jesus

In this part of the pattern, God went even further since Jesus was conceived not through a barren woman but one who was a virgin.

Mary's song (**Luke 1:46ff** see p4) is a deliberate echo of Hannah's. Mary also declares that this pattern of reversal is coming to fulfilment. In one commentary on that passage, we read this statement:

**The King is coming, and he will turn the world upside down.**

Jesus is the ultimate fulfilment of all the patterns we have come across:

- God incarnate made weak
- He was humbled on the cross and brought down to the grave
- God the Father made him alive
- God raised him up from the grave
- God seated him on a throne of honour

Jesus is the ultimate fulfilment of God's purposes.

- He takes us, who are dead in our sin, and gives us new life
- He takes us, who are weighed down by guilt and lifts us up with him in glory

In the end, God's judgement will be carried out through him, as he brings down those who defy God and raises up those who admit their need of him and put their trust in him.

**Jesus has ascended into heaven but we can be certain of his return and the final judgement.**

**The King is coming and he will turn the world upside down.**

Jesus is bringing about a great reversal through his salvation work but at the moment, we still find ourselves living in a culture where power is abused, the low are made lower and the rich are made richer. Churches are considered to be old-fashioned and irrelevant. Many are closing as more people leave.

How then should we pray? We need to pray in line with the will and purposes of God. Jesus will return and will turn all of this on its head.

If you know Jesus, you are a glimmer of what is to come. You have experienced this saving reversal in your heart. When we pray, we need to let our God direct us to this hope. We need to read God's word to direct our prayers.

We need to pray in anguish at our current situation, as Hannah did initially (**1 Samuel 1:10** see p4).

- We can pray that God would bring revival in our community.
- We can pray for people to come to know Jesus who we might think never would.
- We can pray for glimmers in Broadstone of what is to come.

When we have confidence in who our God is, knowing what he has already done, our prayers will not be prayers of duty and will cease to feel pointless. We will pray with hunger, delight and expectation that God will give us a foretaste of what is to come – **our King's return.**

**1 Samuel 8:11-18** He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots. <sup>12</sup> And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. <sup>13</sup> He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. <sup>14</sup> He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants. <sup>15</sup> He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants. <sup>16</sup> He will take your male servants and female servants and the best of your young men <sup>[a]</sup> and your donkeys, and put them to his work. <sup>17</sup> He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. <sup>18</sup> And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day."

**Luke 1:46ff** And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.  
 For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup> for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
 and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> And his mercy is for those who fear him  
 from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;  
<sup>52</sup> he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
 and exalted those of humble estate;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
 and the rich he has sent away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
 in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

**1 Samuel 1:10** She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly