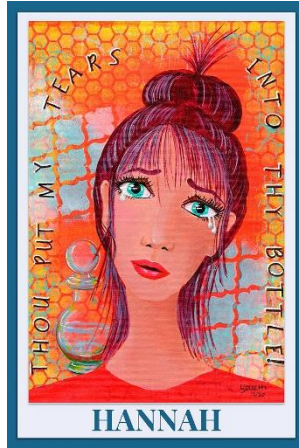




## Hannah



### Details of Artwork:

Dated: December 2020

Author: Yobeth Puckett, Artist

Media: Mixed Media Acrylic Fine Art Reproduction

Based on 1 Samuel 1 & 2

Characteristics: Surrender

**Synopsis:** This tearful young woman is set against a background ablaze in orange and yellow with patterns of pale sky blue that represent the turmoil in Hannah's heart. Her longing for a son kept her from enjoying the love of her husband and other gifts that God had given. It wasn't until after she surrendered the object of her desire to God that she was able to find peace within and appreciate the blue skies that represent hope for tomorrow and how much God cared about her troubles.

**Story:** In 1 Samuel 1 and 2 we meet Hannah. Hannah had long prayed for a son but the Lord had closed up her womb and "she was in bitterness of soul". Although her husband, Elkanah, loved her very much and showed her much favoritism, she still wanted a son desperately. Elkanah did not understand why his love was not enough for her. His favoritism was probably one of the reasons his other wife, the mother of his children, continually ridiculed Hannah for being childless.

One year when the family had gone to the tabernacle to worship and offer sacrifices Hannah slipped off by herself to pray. As she wept and prayed, she made a vow to the Lord that if he gave her a son she would give him to the Lord all the days of his life.

When Eli, the priest, saw Hannah's lips moving and her weeping he accused her of being drunk. She quickly denied that she'd had anything to drink, but was pouring her soul out to the Lord. 1 Samuel 1:17-18, "Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him. And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad".

Hannah's prayer was answered, and she bore a son and named him Samuel. But now Hannah needs to explain to her husband the vow that she'd made with the Lord. Although, he had the power to void her vow, Elkanah truly loved Hannah, and let her vow stand. Not only that but when Samuel was weaned, at about 3-4 years old, he went with Hannah and participated in the sacrifice to dedicate him to God.

I know Hannah was delighted and thankful when Samuel was born and you'd think it would be difficult, even heart wrenching, to then give him up but that wasn't the case. In 1 Samuel 2 we are told that Hannah rejoiced in the Lord, and exalted in the Lord, and poured out praises to Him. In surrendering her heart's desire to God, Hannah found her heart filled instead of emptied!

God continued to bless Hannah and she bore 3 sons and 2 daughters. She visited Samuel every year at the tabernacle when they came to worship and offer sacrifices. When Samuel was still a child the Lord called him, and he began to prophesy as a child. He was one of the Old Testament's great men of faith.

**History:** When Hannah made a vow to the Lord, she wasn't trying to bargain with him. It wasn't a tit for tat quid pro quo offer like many people make when they're in a desperate situation. She wasn't bartering when she made her vow. Four times in the Old Testament a vow made to the Lord is identified as a freewill or voluntary offering. (Lev. 7:16; 22:21; Num. 15:3; Deut. 12:17)

Since Hannah was married to Elkanah when she made the vow it was within his power to have voided her vow. (Numbers 30:6-8) but he did not.

Did you know that God cares so much for you that he has a bottle where he keeps your tears and a book to record them? Hannah's tears were not in vain. Look at Psalms 56:8b "put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?"

When I taught Sunday School for 4-5 years old, one of the first memory verses they learned was 1 Peter 5:7. He doesn't want you to bear your own burdens, he'll bear them for you if you'll give them to him.

**Memory Verse:** 1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

**Another Story:** God wants to be first in our hearts. It was only when Hannah surrendered the object of her desire to God that she was released from her anguish and found peace.

In another story, God told Abraham to take his son Isaac to sacrifice, which is a picture of what God did for us with Jesus. In Isaac's case God also supplied the lamb to sacrifice in place of Isaac.

In the New Testament, Jesus repeatedly told his disciples and others to deny themselves, to take up their cross, and follow Him.