

Fact Sheet for **“Mother’s Day”**
Psalms 113

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ESV Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

And God said...

"Let there be light," and there was light.

"Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters"

"Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear."

"Let the earth sprout vegetation"

"Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night."

"Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens."

"Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds-- livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds."

"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."

ESV Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. The earth was perfect. Human physiology was perfect. The spiritual condition of Adam and Eve was perfect.

ESV Genesis 2:15-17 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Then that day came when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Eve "took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate." They came to know good and evil as the serpent had said, but they experienced unintended consequences.

God changed the earth He created. He subjected the world to decay (Romans 8:20-21). The earth would now bring forth thorns and thistles (Genesis 3:18). It would now require hard work to people to eat (Genesis 3:19).

Human physiology was no longer perfect. Adam and Eve, and all their descendants, would now be imperfect, grow feeble and die (Genesis 3:19).

People now would need a Savior. In fact, God hinted about Jesus in His curse on the serpent in Genesis 3:15.

Almost three thousand years later a girl was born and her parents named her Hannah. When Hannah was grown she was married to a man named Elkanah. But there was another wife.

ESV 1 Samuel 1:2 He had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other, Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

ESV 1 Samuel 1:6 And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb.

When you read this you can easily imagine the acuteness of Hannah's distress. Hannah's physiology wasn't perfect.

ESV 1 Samuel 1:6-8 And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. ⁷ So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. ⁸ And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

Now the Jewish temple in Jerusalem hadn't yet been built. The tent of meeting that God had Moses construct in the wilderness was in Shiloh, and this is where the people came to worship God. While Hannah was there she was deeply distressed and wept bitterly.

ESV 1 Samuel 1:11 And she vowed a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head."

Eli, a priest, initially thought she was drunk. Her lips were moving but she made no voice. Hannah then explained to him and Eli responded.

ESV 1 Samuel 1:17 Then Eli answered, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him."

God heard Hannah's prayer and gave her a son, Samuel. When Samuel was very young Hannah took Samuel to Shiloh to be raised there. Then Hannah prayed. *Take a moment to read her prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1-10.* Her prayer is in the form of poetry. It is in a form we have come to expect in the book of Psalms. Now take another gander at the first part of verse 8.

**⁸ 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 honor.**

Something very close to these words is found only one other place in the Bible... in one of the Psalms. It is a Psalm that Hannah may have written, or perhaps even Elkanah. *Take a moment now to read Psalm 113.* First notice verses 7-8. Then notice verse 9. No matter who authored this Psalm it is definitely connected to the story of Hannah.

The book of Proverbs ends with these two verses.

ESV Proverbs 31:30-31 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the gates.

Today is a day for praise.
Praise women who fear the Lord, and it is seen in their life.
And praise the LORD as Hannah did!