



This series is sponsored by Rhoda Waxman to honour the memory of her grandparents, Robert and Ida Kurtz z"l

1. Talmud, Berachot 31b-32a

And Rabbi Elazar said: Hannah launched words heavenward, as Samuel I 1:10 says, "And she prayed upon Gd" – this teaches that she launched words heavenward.

2. Classes on the Book of Samuel

<https://www.yutorah.org/search/?teacher=81072&collection=7391>

Hannah's story

3. Judges 21:19

And they said: There is a festival of Gd in Shiloh annually, north of Bethel, east of the road that ascends from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Levonah.

4. Samuel I 1

¹And there was a man from Ramatayim Tzofim, from Mount Ephraim. His name was Elkanah son of Yerocham son of Elihu son of Tochu son of Tzuf, an Ephratite. He had two wives; one was named Hannah, the second was named Peninah. And Peninah had children, and Hannah had no children.

³And that man ascended from his city annually, to bow and to sacrifice to Gd, Master of Multitudes, in Shiloh. And there, two sons of Eli, Chofni and Pinchas, were kohanim for Gd. And on that day, Elkanah would sacrifice and give his wife Peninah and all of her sons and daughters portions. And to Hannah he gave a double portion, for he loved Hannah, and Gd had closed her womb. And her rival angered her greatly, to make her thunder, for Gd had closed her womb. And so he would do each year, when she went up to the house of Gd then she would anger her, and she cried and she did not eat. And Elkanah, her husband, would say to her: Hannah, why do you cry? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart upset? Am I not better for you than ten sons?

⁹And Hannah arose after the meal in Shiloh and after the drinking, and Eli the kohen was sitting on the chair beside the doorpost of the Sanctuary of Gd. And she was of bitter spirit, and she prayed to Gd and she cried greatly. And she swore a vow and she said, "Gd, Master of Multitudes! If You shall surely see the torment of Your maidservant, and You remember me and You do not forget Your maidservant, and You give Your maidservant the seed of men, and I will give him to Gd all of the days of his life, and no razor shall ascend upon his head." And as she prayed at length before Gd, and Eli watched her mouth. And Hannah spoke upon her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not audible. And Eli thought she was intoxicated. And Eli said to her: How long will you be intoxicated? Remove your wine from yourself. And Hannah replied, saying, "No, my master. I am a woman of bitter spirit. I have not consumed wine or intoxicating drink. I poured out my soul before Gd. Do not think your maidservant an evil woman, for out of my sorrow and anger I have spoken until now." And Eli replied, saying, "Go to peace, and may the Gd of Israel give you your request, that you have requested of Gd." And she said, "May your maidservant find favour in your eyes." And the woman went on her way, and she ate, and she was no longer of that face. And they arose early in the morning and they bowed before Gd and they returned, and they came home to Ramah. And Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and Gd recalled her.

²⁰And it was after the annual circuit of seasons, and Hannah conceived and she bore a son. And she named him Samuel, for I requested/borrowed him from Gd. And the man, Elkanah, and his whole family, ascended to sacrifice before Gd the annual sacrifice, and his vows. But Hannah did not ascend, telling her husband: Until the youth is weaned, and I will bring him and he will be seen before Gd, and he will remain there forever. And her husband Elkanah told her, "Do as is good in your eyes, remain until you wean him. Only, let Gd uphold His word." And the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. And she brought him up with her once she had weaned him, with three bulls and an *ephah* of flour and a flagon of wine. And she brought him to the House of Gd in Shiloh, and the child was young. And they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the youth to Eli. And she said, "Please, my master! By your life, my master! I am the woman who stood here with you, praying to Gd. For this child I prayed, and Gd gave me my request which I asked of Him. And I have also lent him to Gd; for all of the days he shall be, he shall be lent to Gd." And she bowed to Gd there.

Fight #1: Hannah vs the Nation

5. Exodus 25:8

And they shall make for Me a Sanctuary, and I shall dwell in their midst.

6. Jerusalem Talmud, Berachot 9:5

Rabbi Zeira said: If your nation has aged, rise and create a fence for her, as Elkanah did, leading Israel on pilgrimages. Thus Samuel I 1:3 says, "And the man ascended from his city, etc."

7. Midrash, Midrash Samuel 1:7

"And the man ascended from his city." He was elevated in his home, he was elevated in his courtyard, he was elevated in his city, he was elevated in all Israel. And all of his ascent was only due to himself.

8. Abarbanel to Samuel 1:3

To teach that even though Chofni and Pinchas, the two sons of Eli, were in the Temple... Even still, Elkanah did not refrain from going there annually to bow and bring offerings, for he was concerned for the service of Gd and he was not concerned with the wickedness of the kohanim, in his great righteousness.

Fight #2: Hannah vs Peninah

9. Malbim to Samuel 1:2

It didn't mention both of them with the definite object... Teaching that he married Hannah first, and at first she was the only woman in the marriage, and then he married Peninah as well... And the Sages were correct in saying that when Hannah saw she could not produce a child, she counseled him to take Peninah as well, and perhaps [Hannah] would be built up through her, as Sarah did with Hagar.

10. Talmud, Bava Batra 16a

Rabbi Levi said: The Satan and Peninah had altruistic intentions... Peninah, as in Samuel I 1:6.

Fight #3: Hannah vs Gd

11. Evidence for Hannah's Anger

- 1:6 Thundering
- 1:10 Prayer "upon" Gd
- 1:10 "Of bitter spirit" – Judges 18:25, Samuel I 22:2, Samuel I 30:6, Samuel II 17:8
- 1:11 Doubled verbs, twice
- 1:11 Remember, and do not forget!
- 1:11 Taking a vow
- 1:12 Praying at length
- 1:16 My sorrow and anger

12. Talmud, Berachot 31b

Hannah said before Gd, "Master of the Universe! Of all of the multitudes of multitudes You created in Your world, would it be difficult in Your eyes to give me one child?" To what may this be compared? To a human king who made a feast for his servants, and a pauper came to the door and said, "Give me one morsel," and they did not pay attention to him. He pushed his way in to the king and said, "My master the king! From the entire meal you made, would it be difficult in your eyes to give me one morsel?"

13. Talmud, Berachot 31b

Im ra'oh tireh – Rabbi Elazar said: Hannah said before Gd: Master of the Universe! If You will see – good. If not, then You will see! I will go seclude myself [with a male] before my husband Elkanah, and since I will be secluded they will give me the sotah water. You will not show Your Torah to be a lie; it says, "And she will be exonerated, and she will conceive! (Bamidbar 5:28)"