Hannah’s Prayer
(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:
A. Background
   1. 1Samuel 1-2 is the only place Hannah is mentioned in the Bible.
   2. Hannah is one of two wives of Elkanah. Peninnah, had children, but Hannah remained childless. Nevertheless, Elkanah preferred Hannah; she is the chiasmus or primary wife - 1Sam. 1:4-5, 9-11
   3. Hannah is a prophetess; she foretells history in advance and is a psalmist. Her psalm is the second psalm recorded in Bible; Moses is the first. Her psalm was written in 1100 BC. David wasn’t even born until 60 years later
   4. Hannah had six children: Samuel, three more sons, and two daughters
B. Hannah’s prayer - 1Sam. 2:1-10

I. A FERVENT PRAYER
   A. 1Thes. 5:17 - Paul isn’t talking about non-stop prayer; it is prayer where one does not give up.
   B. Hannah’s prayer - 1Sam. 1:12-18

II. A PRAYER FULL OF PAIN
   A. She prayed in anguish - 1Sam. 1:10
   B. Her pain was increased by others - 1Sam. 1:6-7
   C. God is the One to ask in times of trouble - Psalm 46:1-2, 50:15, 91:14-15

III. A PRAYER FILLED WITH PROMISE
   A. She offered a vow - 1Sam. 1:11
      1. She was not bribing God, nor bargaining with Him; she was proving her commitment to Him - Ecc. 5:4-5
   B. She wasn’t asking God to do everything for her.
      1. When you pray for growth in the church, are you willing to work for it? - Eph. 4:15-16
      2. When you pray for strength to resist temptation, do you make efforts to minimize your exposure to it? - Rom. 13:14
      3. When you pray for an opportunity to teach, do you go seeking opportunities? - Col. 4:2-4

IV. A FREQUENT PRAYER
   A. She continued to pray - 1Sam. 1:12
   B. Repeating a prayer does not show a lack of faith
      1. Jesus prayed three times in the garden - Matt. 26:39-44
      2. Paul prayed three times - 2Cor. 12:7-8
   C. God wants us to persist in prayer - Luke 18:1-8
V. A FRANK PRAYER
A. She prayed sincerely, not to impress others - 1Sam. 1:13
B. Paul's personal prayer came from his sorrow - Rom. 10:1, 9:1-2
C. Psalm 20:1-4

VI. A PRAYER OF FAITH
A. She was confident she would be answered - 1Sam. 1:17-18
   1. Eli wasn't speaking from inspiration. He offered his hope that God
      would answer her prayer. This encouraged her; someone else believed
      God was listening and would answer. So, Hannah went on her way as if
B. James 1:6-7; Matt. 6:8; Eph. 3:20; Mark 11:24

VII. A FULFILLED PRAYER
A. Hannah received her heart's desire, and more - 1Sam. 1:20
   1. Samuel became a priest of God, a judge of Israel, a mighty prophet,
      and the anointer of kings of Israel
   2. The name Samuel in Hebrew is Shmuel which is translated to mean
      Shema-El “God Heard,” not that she asked for him but rather that God
      heard her prayers.
B. There is a reason why the prayer of a woman is in scripture - Rom. 15:4
   1. Hannah was praying a prayer that illustrates New Testament teaching
      on prayer 1200 years before the New Testament was written
   2. So, pray as Hannah prayed.