

Text: I Samuel 2: 1-10

Title: The Heart of Grace

Date: February 22, 2009

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Princeton, New Jersey

My subject this morning is: The Heart of Grace. My text is from I Samuel 2: 1-10. It begins "**And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD.**" Hannah means "grace." In this passage, Hannah reveals her heart. That is where I got my title, The Heart of Grace. This is not only the heart of Hannah, but the heart of all those who are saved by God's grace.

I Samuel 2: 1: And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.

A. My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD:

- Hannah's is speaking from the heart about her heart--Everything about a horn speaks of the heart.
- The horn meant strength--the believer's strength is Christ in the heart
- Oil is carried in a horn--the oil of the Holy Spirit is poured out in the heart
- Musical instrument--a bull horn--my heart, rejoiceth in the LORD--knowing the LORD over heaven and earth is doing everything for your good is the music of the heart.
- The word is "qaran"--to shine--the Light of Christ shines in our hearts

B. My mouth is enlarged over mine enemies

Matthew 15:18: But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart.

Psalm 8:2: Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

C. How does God take away the power of our enemies? How does God perfect strength in those who have no strength in and of themselves? He reveals that he is our salvation. Hannah gives that very reason...**because I rejoice in thy salvation.**

Isaiah 12:2: Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. 3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

Now listen to Hannah's Heart--the Heart of Grace--the Heart made new by grace:

I Samuel 2: 2: There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.

A. NONE HOLY AS THE LORD

It means sacred and set apart--none sacred and set apart as the LORD. This is the key to understanding our need of salvation. It is written, Be ye holy for I am holy.

How holy? None holy as the LORD. Then how do I have the power to be holy as the LORD? I don't. If I will be holy as the LORD then only HOLY GOD can make me thus.

B. Here is the second thing grace reveals. NEITHER IS THERE ANY ROCK LIKE OUR GOD.

ROCK means strength, power. No other strength like our God. The fact that the HOLY ONE was her strength is the rejoicing of Hannah's heart--what lifted her heart up!

Deuteronomy 32:4: *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

Psalm 111:9: He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.

I Samuel 2: 3: Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let *not* arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

A. (v3) TALK NO MORE SO EXCEEDING PROUDLY

1. By nature, we are so proud.

- When you are rebuked and you get offended do you know why you get offended? Pride.
- When you make excuses and bring forth arguments to justify yourself in whatever it is you were rebuked about you know why you make those excuses? Pride.
- You know what we are doing? Talking exceeding proudly.
- When we hear of some sinner caught in the act and we say something like, "Why would he do that!" or "Well, I never!" When a poor sinner stiffens their neck against the word of God and we say, "I don't know why he can't see this!"
- Pride...arrogancy! That is all it is!

B. (V3)...let *not* arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

1. And by him actions are weighed--God weighs the actions of the heart
I Kings 8: 39: (thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men);
Psalm 44:21: Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.

To the hypocrite the fact that God weighs the actions by looking upon our hearts should strike fear--but believer that is a great, great blessing for you and me.

Let me give you something my pastor wrote in his bulletin this morning:

Pastor Chris Cunningham. After Peter denied Christ, the question by Christ was, "Do you love Me?" The hypocrite draws nigh with the lips, but the heart is far (Matt 15:8). Peter denied the Lord with his lips, but Christ had ravished his heart. "Thou knowest that I love Thee." Isn't that good?

Peter said, Lord, you have weighed my actions against my heart have been weighed and in spite of the fact that my actions and my words deny you...thou knowest my heart--thy knowest that I love thee.

I Samuel 2: 4: The bows of the mighty men *are* broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength.

A. THE BOWS OF THE MIGHTY MEN ARE BROKEN

- The bow represents the strength of men; those instruments that others can see that we use for intimidation--a bible, making sure others see you pray, works done to be seen of men, and also material wealth.
- The heart of grace knows this, "Man is no match for God."

Isaiah 10: 3: And what will ye do in the day of visitation, and in the desolation *which* shall come from far? to whom will ye flee for help? and where will ye leave your glory?

4: Without me they shall bow down under the prisoners, and they shall fall under the slain.

B. AND THEY THAT STUMBLER ARE GIRDED WITH STRENGTH

- Those who appear mighty outwardly are broken, and those who stumbled are girded with strength.
- A girdle is underpinning. Underneath the exterior--it is in the heart. What did Hannah beginning talking about? **My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD:**
- What is this strength? Verse 2--the LORD our Strength
- **Psalm 18:32: *It is* God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.**

C. HERE IS THE TYPE.

A. Hannah was Elkanah's wife. But he had another wife beside Hannah.

1 Samuel 1: 2: And 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...5 But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb. 6: And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb. 7: And *as* he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.

- The arrows from Peninnah's mighty bow were words spoken so exceeding proudly and arrogantly against Hannah.
- Peninnah boasted of all the fruit she produced; Hannah wept because she knew she was barren and could produce none
- Her husband gave her a double portion--Christ our Husband has rewarded us double for all our sin.
- Yet, Hannah was too barren too rejoice--she did not even have strength in herself to rejoice.
- Until the LORD formed life within her. Within Hannah a son was born. Then she rejoiced.

Application--the anti-type: We know what great things Christ has done for us. But we are so barren in this flesh, we must have Christ formed in us.

Colossians 1: 27: To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Paul knew that God must make known the riches of the glory of Christ in the hearts of the Galatians or else they would mourn in their barrenness before the Judaizers even as Hannah did before Penninah. Therefore Paul said, **Galatians 4:19: My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,**

The heart of grace says, **4: The bows of the mighty men *are* broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength.**

I Samuel 2: 5: *They that were* full have hired out themselves for bread; and *they that were* hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.

A. Some think that Penninah fell into a feeble state and her children died. While Hannah had "many" children (seven stands for that perfect number of children God gave her--this would be the application of a believer in particular.)

Luke 1:53: He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

Matthew 5:6: Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Hannah hungered to have the child God was pleased to give. Do you hunger to have the Son given? His is the LORD our Righteousness. If Christ is the one you hunger and thirst for then you shall be filled.

Those who are rich, full of self and the world, you are a hireling--a prostitute before God

B. And this also may be applied as comparison of the religious nation of Israel, to the Jewish church which appeared barren but shall have brought forth a perfect number of God's elect children when the Gentiles are all born of God.

God has an elect people--seven--a perfect, exact number of children. They shall be born and possess perfection.

None shall be lost--no man can pluck them out of the hand of God and his Christ

Isaiah 65:22: They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree *are* the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

All because of the sure and finished redemptive work of Christ. After we read of Christ's death on the cross and glory before the father in Isaiah 53 then we read in:

Isaiah 54: 1: Sing, O barren, thou *that* didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou *that* didst not travail with child: for more *are* the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD. 2: Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; 3: For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited. 4: Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. 5: For thy Maker *is* thine husband; the LORD of hosts *is* his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

In both cases, one applying to the believer in particular, the other to the church as a whole, the point is this:

I Samuel 2: 6: The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. 7: The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

A. This is how the LORD saves:

1. First he killeth--he bringeth down to the grave, he maketh poor, he bringeth low.

- We must first be made to see that there is no fruit in us
- None holy as the LORD
- Neither any strength in us to produce the fruit God requires
- He must first shut our proud and arrogant mouths.
- He must break our mighty bows
- The Penniah of our natural born self must be made barren

2. Then he maketh alive, bringeth up, maketh rich, lifeth up.

- They that he made to stumble, have a heart created--a girdle of truth--created within
- **Those God makes hungry for Christ are filled with Christ: so that the barren hath born seven--complete;**
- **and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.** This flesh is the enemy over which God exalts the new heart he creates in Christ Jesus--then she (the flesh) will all her children is waxed feeble.

I Samuel 2: 8: He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, *and* lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set *them* among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth *are* the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.

A. ARE YOU POOR IN THE DUST OF YOUR OWN SELF--YOUR OWN FLESH? ARE YOU ON A HILL OF DUNG BEGGING FOR GOD TO BE MERCIFUL TO YOU A SINNER?

Illustration: We begin to hurt in this world. We want to be delivered from the pain. There is a vast difference in wanting to escape the pain and in wanting Christ!

- We try to sound so sincere and consistent
- But in my heart I am yet speaking so proud and arrogantly against God
- We as yet are comfortable enough--even in the pain--that we think we can yet deliver ourselves.
- God does not deliver until we are made to see we are dust, on a dunghill.

Remember now: God weighs the actions--our sincere-sounding words and our God-honoring-looking actions in the heart.

When God spoke to Job's heart, he said 42: 3: **therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.**

(Asaph said) Psalm 73:22 So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was *as* a beast before thee.

Pray for God to make us to know that we are foolish and ignorant: as a beast before him, uttering things we do not understand, things too wonderful for us.

I believe if you can pray that from a broken heart it is because God broke the heart and put the prayer there. Therefore he says:

Matthew 5:3: Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

He lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set *them* among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory

B. (v9) for the pillars of the earth *are* the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.

- He upholds all things by the word of his power, where is he now? When he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high (Heb 1)
- The heart of grace says, he is able to save to the uttermost because the power is the LORD, Jesus Christ the Son of God, has the power.

I Samuel 2: 9: He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail. 10: The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

A. We have been talking about the Holiness of the LORD, the Strength of the LORD, the Power of the LORD, the Salvation of the LORD, now listen to this last phrase: (v10) **and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.**

1. Jesus Christ is the LORD's King; Jesus Christ the Son of God is the LORD's Anointed **And he shall give strength unto his king--Matthew 28:18: And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**

and exalt the horn (the strength) of his anointed.

- The LORD of hosts has raised his Anointed to his heavenly throne, in heavenly Jerusalem, and given Christ the King a name above all names, to whom every knee shall bow. He is above powers and principalities, he is over his church, and each individual elect child in particular By strength shall no man prevail--not in justifying ourselves, not in sanctifying ourselves, not in purifying ourselves, not in keeping ourselves, not in providing for ourselves, not in harming his elect, not in being an adversary to the LORD--the strength is God's King and his Anointed Christ Jesus the Lord. This is what I have been trying to proclaim to you since I met you--for by strength shall no man prevail--not only has the LORD of hosts given all strength unto his King but the LORD of hosts shall exalt his horn--his strength. God's messengers go forth to announce the King's arrival. I have been trying to announce King Jesus to you, the one whose strength the LORD of hosts will exalt.
- Multitudes hear it; multitudes profess to know this truth, but...

How is the strength of our Lord Jesus Christ exalted in this earth? Where is it exalted?

I Samuel 2: 1: And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation. 2: *There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.*

The power, the strength of God Anointed King Jesus is exalted when he creates a new heart in barren, dunghill beggars. We behold none is holy as the LORD and there is none who equal him, neither any strength like our God.

But Hannah--the heart of grace--said, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies.

- The power and strength he works in a sinner's heart makes us to behold that in Christ the Anointed WE have been anointed by God;
- That in Christ the Prince of God we have been set among princes;
- that in Christ the King and High Priest of God we have been made kings and princes before God;
- We are made to behold that Christ the Strength and Power of God unto salvation--the Horn which God shall exalt--is our strength and the Power that shall save them.

The heart of grace says, **mine horn is exalted in the LORD:**

Only by the power of God's grace exercised in the sinner does the sinner behold that I have no strength. But in that very weakness I am made to rejoice that my strength, my horn, is the power and wisdom of Christ Jesus my Lord.

2 Corinthians 12: 9: And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Colossians 1:11: Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

This power of God unto salvation, this wisdom of God remains a mystery to this world-- **1 Corinthians 1:24: But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.**

Luke 10:21: In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.