



The Rise of The King

The Origin Story

Throughout history, the power of storytelling has been as timeless as the rising of the sun. For generations, men have been stirred by the call of the hero—the one who stands when others shrink, who rises when all seems lost. Our journey begins not with myth or legend, but with a living, breathing narrative that gives us deep insight into the character and nature of God.

You may have heard tales of slingshots and giants, but that is a one moment in a much broader story. You may know the name, but do you know the story? Not just of a shepherd-turned-king but of the unseen hand that guided his rise, at work since the dawn of creation. This is more than a tale—it is the unfolding of a divine plan, a story written by the Author of history Himself. As we step into these pages, we will find that the true hero of this story is greater than David, greater than any warrior—He is the King of Kings, the One who was to come.

1st Samuel

1. **Setting the Stage:** Transition from the time of the Judges to the era of the Kings.
 - **Historical Background:** Israel, at this time, is a loosely organized tribal confederation, often oppressed by neighboring peoples and struggling with internal corruption and idolatry.
 - **Link to Ruth:** The book of Ruth concludes with the genealogy leading to David, setting the scene for the dramatic shift in Israel's leadership structure. Ruth's story of redemption and loyalty serves as a precursor to the themes of divine sovereignty and human responsibility we see in 1 Samuel.

Core Theme: "But the Lord had closed her womb" (1 Samuel 1:5)

1. **Hannah's Plight:**
 - **Cultural and Personal Crisis:** In ancient Near Eastern culture, barrenness was seen as a curse or a personal failure. For Hannah, this was not just a private grief but a

social humiliation, amplified by Peninnah's provocations (1 Samuel 1:6).

- **Spiritual Aspect:** The repeated phrase "the Lord had closed her womb" introduces a key theological theme — God's sovereignty in our sufferings and desires.

2. **God's Sovereignty in Our Trials:**

- **Divine Purpose:** While the immediate situation seems dire and causes Hannah great distress, it is part of a larger divine plan. This theme of God working through human hardship echoes throughout Scripture, as seen in the stories of Joseph, Job, and even Christ Himself.
- **Formation Through Refusal:** Sometimes, God's "no" is a formative tool, shaping our desires and our destinies more profoundly than His "yes" might have. Hannah's barrenness drove her to a deeper dependency on God, culminating in her vow.

Hannah's Response: Despair, Vow, and Faith

1. **From Despair to Dedication:**

- **The Vow:** In her profound misery, Hannah makes a vow, promising that if God gives her a son, she will dedicate him to the Lord's service for all his days (1 Samuel 1:11). This act of surrender is both a moment of desperation and a profound act of faith.
- **Theological Reflection:** Explore the idea of vows in biblical context — not as transactions, but as expressions of trust and surrender to God's will.

2. **Faith and Fulfillment:**

- **Trusting God's Servant:** After Eli the priest assures her of God's favor, Hannah's countenance changes: "She went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad" (1 Samuel 1:18). This shift signifies a deep trust in God's promise through His servant.
- **The Birth of Samuel:** The fulfillment of her vow through Samuel's birth is not just a personal victory for Hannah but a pivotal moment for Israel, ushering in the era of prophets and kings.

Conclusion: Seeing Christ in Hannah's Story

1. **Christological Connections:**

- **The Greater Samuel:** Just as Samuel was dedicated for God's service, leading Israel in a new direction, Christ comes as the ultimate servant and savior, dedicated from birth to save His people.
- **God's Sovereignty and Our Salvation:** Discuss how Christ's life, death, and resurrection show God's sovereign plan to turn human suffering into divine salvation.

2. **Dynamic Ending:**

- **Invitation to Reflection:** Encourage the congregation to see their trials through the lens of Hannah's story. Ask, "Where do you see Christ as we embark on this study? How can you trust in God's sovereign plan, even when His answers seem like a 'no'?"
- **Commitment to Trust:** Challenge the congregation to commit to trusting God's bigger narrative in their lives, echoing Hannah's journey from despair to dedication and ultimately to delight in God's plan.

This outline aims to connect Hannah's personal story with the broader tapestry of God's work in history, culminating in Christ, and to encourage a personal and communal reflection on the role of divine sovereignty in our lives.