

“A Mother Named Grace”

1 Samuel 1 & 2

*Presented by
Pastor Justin Greene*

Motherhood presents a myriad of challenges that only start at birth. Consider what happened on August 27th, 2010. Kate Ogg was saying a final goodbye after doctors gave up hope of saving her premature baby. The Mail Foreign Service writes, *“She tearfully told her lifeless son – born at 27 weeks weighing 2lbs – how much she loved him and cuddled him tightly, not wanting to let him go. Although little Jamie’s twin sister Emily had been delivered successfully, doctors had given Mrs. Ogg the news all mothers dread – that after 20 minutes of battling to get her son to breathe, they had declared him dead. Having given up on a miracle, Mrs. Ogg un-wrapped the baby from his blanket and held him against her skin. And then an extraordinary thing happened. After two hours of being hugged, touched and spoken to by his mother, the little boy began showing signs of life. At first, it was just a gasp for air that was dismissed by doctors as a reflex action. But then the startled mother fed him a little breast milk on her finger and he started breathing normally. I thought, ‘what’s going on’ said Mrs. Ogg. A short time later he opened his eyes. It was a miracle. Then he held out his hand and grabbed my finger. He opened his eyes and moved his head from side to side. The doctor kept shaking his head saying, ‘I don’t believe it, I don’t believe it.’”*¹

Her son fully recovered as a result of what has become known as “Kangaroo Care”-- the triumph of a mother’s God given love in the challenge of birth.

As we honor mothers today, let’s look at 3 more challenges every mom will face as illustrated in the life of Hannah.

^{1.} <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-1306283/Miracle>

ISRAEL DARK DAYS

Israel was in great trouble because:

- Each man did what was **right** in **his** own eyes.

- God's **voice** was not **heard**.

- The priests were "**white washed**" pagans.

A MOTHER'S PRAYER

Hannah reveals 3 challenges to godly motherhood.

1. It is a challenge to turn household **grief** into an **occasion** of **profound** worship.
 - Hannah was **abused** (verses 6,7)

- **Misunderstood** both in her home and at “church” (verses 8, 12-15)
- **Despondent** (verse 10)
- But found great **peace** through worship (verses 17, 18)

Thought:

You CAN **trust** God with a desire **He** authors!

2. It is a challenge to **dedicate** your child to God.....then **release** them!

Note:

- Her declaration of **dedication** (verse 11)
- Her **understanding** of what that “dedication” might mean (verse 22)

- Her husband's **response** (verse 23)

- Her **conviction** (verses 27,28)

3. It is a challenge to **parent** and still see the **big picture**.

Hannah's "birthday" prayer (2:1-11) lifts up the glory of God's plan of **Salvation**.

Thought:

Our life and home are only one tiny **thread** in the **tapestry** of God's plan.

The Result

When the situation was dire, God highlighted this story. God's answer to a mother's prayer transformed a **nation**!