

1 Samuel 1:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD,
and wept sore.

Analysis

The Hebrew expression 'bitterness of soul' (marat nephesh) describes extreme anguish reaching to the core of one's being. Hannah's prayer combined with weeping reveals integrated, whole-person engagement with God. The term 'wept sore' literally means 'weeping, she wept' - an intensive construction emphasizing the depth of her grief. Rather than suppressing her emotions before God, Hannah brought her raw pain into His presence. Biblical prayer does not require composed, polished words but honest expression of the heart's deepest cries.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern religious practice typically involved formal, ritualized prayers. Hannah's spontaneous, emotional prayer represents a distinct Israelite understanding of direct, personal access to God without mediating rituals.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Do you feel permission to bring raw, unfiltered emotions before God in prayer?
2. How does Hannah's example challenge sanitized, emotionally distant approaches to prayer?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה	מִרְחַק	נֶפֶשׁ	וַתִּתְפַּלֵּל	עַל	יְהוָה
H1931	And she was in bitterness	of soul	and prayed	H5921	unto the LORD
	H4751	H5315	H6419		H3068
וַתִּבְכֶּה:	וַתִּבְכֶּה:				
and wept	and wept				
H1058	H1058				

Additional Cross-References

Job 7:11 (Parallel theme): Therefore I will not refrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.

Job 10:1 (Parallel theme): My soul is weary of my life; I will leave my complaint upon myself; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.

Luke 22:44 (Prayer): And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Hebrews 5:7 (Prayer): Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

Psalms 91:15 (Parallel theme): He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

Isaiah 54:6 (References Lord): For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God.

Judges 21:2 (Parallel theme): And the people came to the house of God, and abode there till even before God, and lifted up their voices, and wept sore;

Isaiah 38:15 (Parallel theme): What shall I say? he hath both spoken unto me, and himself hath done it: I shall go softly all my years in the bitterness of my soul.

Psalms 50:15 (Parallel theme): And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Job 9:18 (Parallel theme): He will not suffer me to take my breath, but filleth me with bitterness.

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