

1 Samuel 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth.

Analysis

The phrase 'continued praying' (Hebrew: *hirbetah lehitpallel*, literally 'multiplied to pray') indicates extended, persistent intercession. Eli's observation of her mouth shows her intensity, yet also his suspicion. The high priest watched but could not hear - a subtle commentary on his spiritual deafness that would be confirmed by God's message in chapter 3. True prayer often appears strange to those focused only on external forms. Hannah's extended communion with God contrasts sharply with the brief, formulaic prayers typical of religious ritual.

Historical Context

Jewish tradition holds that Hannah's silent prayer established the model for the *Amidah* (standing prayer), the central prayer of Jewish liturgy. The *Talmud* (*Berakhot 31a*) derives several laws of prayer from Hannah's example.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What can we learn from Hannah's persistence in prayer despite being misunderstood?
2. How might your prayer life be viewed by those who observe only external forms?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	וַיַּהֵי	הָרְבָתָה	הָרְבָתָה	לְפָנָי	לְהַתְפִּיל	לְ
H1961	H3588	And it came to pass as she continued	H7235	praying	before	
the LORD	that Eli	marked	H853	her mouth	H6419	H6440
H3068	H5941	H8104		H6310		
פִּיכָּה:	אֲתָה	שָׁמֵר	וַיַּעַל	יְהוָה	הָרְבָתָה	

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (Prayer): Pray without ceasing.

James 5:16 (Prayer): Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Colossians 4:2 (Prayer): Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

Ephesians 6:18 (Prayer): Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Luke 18:1 (Prayer): And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;