

1 Samuel 1:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

Analysis

Hannah's respectful response ('No, my lord') maintains proper deference despite being falsely accused. Her self-description as 'a woman of sorrowful spirit' uses the Hebrew phrase *qeshat ruach* (hard/difficult of spirit), indicating severe emotional distress. The denial of intoxicating drink echoes the Nazirite restrictions she would later impose on her son. Her phrase 'poured out my soul' (*shaphak nephesh*) pictures prayer as complete emptying of oneself before God - an outpouring that leaves nothing hidden or held back.

Historical Context

The Hebrew verb *shaphak* (to pour out) is used elsewhere for pouring blood, water, or wrath. Its application to prayer suggests complete self-offering before God. This language later appears in Lamentations 2:19 and Psalm 62:8.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does 'pouring out your soul' before God look like in your prayer life?
2. How do you respond when falsely accused or misunderstood in spiritual contexts?

Interlinear Text

אָפּגע answered H6030	חַנָּה And Hannah H2584	וְתֵאמֶר and said H559	לֹא H3808	אֲדֹנָי No my lord H113	אֲשֶׁר I am a woman H802
קִשְׁתָּ of a sorrowful H7186	רוּחַ spirit H7307	אֲנִי כִי H595	וְיַיִן neither wine H3196	וְשִׁכָר nor strong drink H7941	לֹא H3808
שָׁתִיתִי I have drunk H8354	וְאֶשְׁפֹּךְ but have poured out H8210	אֶת H853	נַפְשִׁי my soul H5315	לִפְנֵי before H6440	יְהוָה the LORD H3068

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 62:8 (Parallel theme): Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.

Lamentations 2:19 (References Lord): Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street.

Psalms 42:4 (Parallel theme): When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday.

Psalms 143:6 (Parallel theme): I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land. Selah.

