

1 Samuel 1:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb.

Analysis

Peninnah's role as Hannah's 'adversary' (Hebrew: *tsarah*, also meaning 'rival wife') introduces a pattern of provocation. The verb 'provoked' (*ka'as*) indicates deliberate, repeated irritation designed to cause grief. Her cruelty exploited Hannah's deepest wound and turned joyful worship occasions into times of torment. This domestic persecution mirrors the spiritual opposition believers face from the enemy who attacks at points of vulnerability. Yet God uses such trials to drive His people toward desperate dependence on Him.

Historical Context

The term *tsarah* specifically describes a rival wife in a polygamous marriage, highlighting the inherent tension in such arrangements. Ancient Near Eastern texts also document conflicts between co-wives competing for status through fertility.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when others exploit your vulnerabilities or areas of perceived failure?
2. What spiritual lessons might God be teaching through the provocations you face?

Interlinear Text

וְקָרַבְתָּה	אֶצְבָּעָתָה	מִגְּעָן	בְּעָזָב	בְּעָבָרֶב	בְּרַעַתְּמָה
also provoked	And her adversary	H1571	her sore	H5668	for to make her fret
H3707	H6869		H3708		H7481
רָצַחַתְּ	בָּעֵד	רָצַחַתְּ	בָּעֵד	רָצַחַתְּ	בָּעֵד
had shut	because the LORD	H3068	up	H1157	her womb
H3588	H5462				H7358

Additional Cross-References

Job 6:14 (Parallel theme): To him that is afflicted pity should be shewed from his friend; but he forsaketh the fear of the Almighty.

Job 24:21 (Parallel theme): He evil entreateth the barren that beareth not: and doeth not good to the widow.

Leviticus 18:18 (Parallel theme): Neither shalt thou take a wife to her sister, to vex her, to uncover her nakedness, beside the other in her life time.