

# 1 Samuel 4:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And his daughter in law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, near to be delivered: and when she heard the tidings that the ark of God was taken, and that her father in law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and travailed; for her pains came upon her.

## Analysis

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Phinehas's wife, pregnant and near delivery, receives the triple news: Ark captured, father-in-law dead, husband dead. The shock induces labor; her 'pains came upon her.' The phrase 'she bowed herself' suggests collapse, indicating the birth occurs amid crisis rather than normal conditions. This unnamed woman becomes a prophetic voice, naming her son in a way that interprets the disaster theologically. Women in 1 Samuel often function as spiritual discerners (Hannah, this woman, the medium of Endor).

## Historical Context

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The connection between severe emotional trauma and premature or complicated labor was recognized in ancient cultures. The wife of Phinehas represents the broader community's suffering, experiencing personal, family, and national tragedy simultaneously.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does this woman's experience embody the comprehensive nature of the disaster?
2. What role do women play as spiritual interpreters throughout 1 Samuel?

## Interlinear Text

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וְכִלְתָּ וְ	אִשְׁתּוֹ	פִּינְחָס	הָיָה	וְלָדָהּ			
And his daughter in law	wife	Phinehas	was with child	herself and travailed			
H3618	H802	H6372	H2030	H3205			
וַתִּשְׁמָע	אֶת	הַשְּׂמוּעָה	אֲלֵהֶם	וְהִלָּקְחָהּ	אֶת־	אֲרוֹן	הָאֱלֹהִים
and when she heard	H853	the tidings	that	was taken	the ark	of God	
H8085		H8052	H413	H3947	H727	H430	
וַיָּמָתוּ	וְהָיָה	וְאִישׁ	וַתִּכָּבֵּעַ				
were dead	and that her father in law	and her husband	she bowed				
H4191	H2524	H376	H3766				
וְלָדָהּ	כִּי	בָּרָאָהּ	עַל־	צָרֶיהָ:			
herself and travailed	H3588	came	H5921	for her pains			
H3205		H2015		H6735			

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