

# 1 Samuel 4:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And about the time of her death the women that stood by her said unto her, Fear not; for thou hast born a son. But she answered not, neither did she regard it.

## Analysis

As she dies, attendants try to comfort her: 'Fear not; for thou hast born a son.' In normal circumstances, bearing a son would bring joy and security. But she does not respond - 'she answered not, neither did she regard it.' A son cannot compensate for what has been lost. The attendants' comfort reflects normal values; her non-response reflects accurate theological assessment. Personal blessing means nothing when God's glory has departed. Her priorities exceed those of her comforters.

## Historical Context

The birth of a son ordinarily brought great joy, especially in securing a widow's future. The attendants' words follow conventional comfort formulas. The woman's unresponsiveness signals that something more profound than personal circumstances concerns her.

## Related Passages

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What does her non-response to the birth of a son reveal about her priorities?
2. When do personal blessings fail to comfort because larger realities overshadow them?

## Interlinear Text

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עַל יְה	פָּנָצָב וְת	וְכַעַת ת	מוֹת הָ	וַיֹּאמֶר רִנָּה	וְתִּתְּדַבֵּר רִנָּה	עַל יְה
<b>And about the time</b>	<b>of her death</b>		<b>by her said</b>	<b>the women that stood</b>		<b>H5921</b>
H6256	H4191		H1696		H5324	
אֵל	תִּירְאִ	כִּי	בְּ	בְּלִ	דְּתָ	עָנָת הָ
H408	<b>unto her Fear</b>	H3588	<b>a son</b>	<b>not for thou hast born</b>	H3808	<b>But she answered</b>
H3372		H1121		H3205		H6030
אֵלָ	שְׁתָה		לִבְהָ:			
H3808	<b>not neither did she regard</b>		H7896			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 77:2** (Parallel theme): In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord: my sore ran in the night, and ceased not: my soul refused to be comforted.

**John 16:21** (Parallel theme): A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.