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HANNAH'S BATTLE PLAN

"The story of a woman who knew when to war!"



CRYSTALENE REYES

Text Extract.....5

**Loved this mini ebook? Ready to continue your
journey?14**

About the Author16

HANNAH'S BATTLE PLAN

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Text Extract

1 Samuel 1: 1-2, 6-7, 10-17 taken from NKJV

1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name *was* Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. 2 And he had two wives: the name of one *was* Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

6 And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the Lord had closed her womb. 7 So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the Lord, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat.

10 And she *was* in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the Lord and wept in anguish. 11 Then she made a vow and said, “O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.”

12 And it happened, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli watched her mouth. 13 Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. 14 So Eli said to her, “How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!”

15 But Hannah answered and said, “No, my lord, I *am* a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord. 16 Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now.”

17 Then Eli answered and said, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him.”

Hannah's Battle

Plan

They say the battlefield is where warriors are made — where grit, purpose, and desperation collide. But not every battle is fought with swords. Some happen in silence, in prayer, in the aching wait for breakthrough. Hannah wasn't on a physical battlefield, yet she waged war every day — against barrenness, shame, and the sting of unanswered prayers. Her weapon wasn't a blade, but a broken heart and unwavering faith. Just like her, many of us fight battles others can't see — in waiting rooms, in whispered prayers, in tears cried behind closed doors. But sometimes, it's in those invisible wars that God births the greatest victories.

To explore Hannah's story, we look to the book of Samuel. Those of us who are familiar with Bible scripture would have heard and read about the prophet, Samuel. Samuel was an honest and fair judge who had been known for exhorting Israel to turn away from idolatry. He was a man who loved God and obeyed Him without question. He grew up in God and lived for God,

as a consequence of how he was brought up perhaps, as from the moment he was weaned, Samuel's mother, Hannah, would have given him to the Lord to be brought up by Eli, the priest, as she had promised... as she had promised... but what was the nature of Hannah's promise. From where did it originate?

To find such an answer, it is imperative that we take a look back at the narrative of 1 Samuel 1. Here, we see a man by the name of Elkanah, who had two wives, one named Peninah and the other, Hannah. Hannah had been childless and she wanted a son. She wanted a son so badly that **Hannah Wept**. Scripture tells us that Peninah, Elkanah's other wife had many children and so Hannah was made to be miserable year after year, as she accompanied her husband and his other wife to the house of the Lord. Peninah, her opponent, sought outward pleasure in provoking Hannah as she had the very thing that Hannah desired. This provocation led Hannah to the point of misery. Blinded by misery, Hannah desired not even to eat.

I am sure that there are many of us who can relate to this kind of blinded misery. I most certainly can! We all go through moments when we want something so bad that we weep because we feel as though God has forgotten us, so we weep out of bitterness, or we weep out of self-pity, or we weep simply to get His attention,

but we weep. Our adversary, the devil, glories in these moments when we are down as he takes pleasure in seeing our hurt, our pain, but this is exactly the moment when we have a choice to make. We could choose to remain weeping or we could choose to weep for a while and then effect our battle plan. You see, weeping is not necessarily a bad thing. As a matter of fact, it puts us right in the position of submission and frailness that God desires of us. It breaks us down and exposes our heart to our Father which leaves us in the perfect stance to worship... and this is exactly what Hannah transitioned to: **Hannah Worshipped.**

As seen in Scripture, through her tears, Hannah began to speak to the Father. She surrendered to him and offered the male child that she had not yet received, back up to the Lord in faith, even before she was gifted with her request. Her worship turned into a prayerful war as she warred in prayer to the Father, crying out to Him for what she desired. **Hannah Warred.** As Hannah's desire for a son grew deep enough, she became hungry enough and she looked up! She diverted her attention from her opponent. She stopped focusing on Peninah and she started focusing on God. She sought after His Kingdom and recognized Him as the One who gifts all desires. Hannah looked up!

The Bible says that Eli, the priest, witnessed Hannah's stance, and as he looked at Hannah, he believed her to be **drunk**. Now, let's really think about this for a moment, have you ever seen or witnessed a person who is said to be in a drunk state? To be **drunk** speaks of a state of disequilibrium. According to an online definition at dictionary.com, to be drunk means to be in a temporary state in which one's physical and mental faculties are impaired. Imagine Hannah had been so overcome by sorrow and poured out to the Lord so entirely, that she was perceived to have been in a state where her physical and mental faculties had been impaired, non-functional. Can you imagine the state of rawness that Hannah would have exhibited before the Lord? This mesmerized me, so much so that I dug deeper to understand Hannah's position.

According to the Old Testament Hebrew Lexicon, the word, drunk, having come from the Hebrew transliterated word, shakar, was used to reflect a state of staggering helplessness under calamity, a state of uncovering, a state of nakedness. My oh my! Imagine, Hannah warred naked before the Lord! Glory to God! This is the kind of warring that God requires of us, brethren. We must come to him baring nothing but our drunkenness of spirit, our naked hurting hearts, seeking Him and only Him and His attention upon our plight. Are we yet desperate enough, like Hannah, to enlist a battle

plan that requires us to war naked before the Lord or are we still clothed and reserved in our fight? God's word encourages us to seek Him first always in all things so that all things may be added unto us. What exactly are we wanting, saints of God? Are we hungry enough yet to look up? Have we been mocked enough yet to decide that enough is enough? Are we ready to war in prayer, to war in worship? Can we taste His Glory all around us?

You see, whether we choose to acknowledge it or not, we live in a war, and because of this, we are called to be warriors! We are called to worship God in this war. Not just in song, but as a lifestyle. Look at Elkanah, the husband of Hannah. He went up to God's house every year, and not just him, but his entire family, wives and children included. We must become so committed to a life of worship that we must war not just by ourselves but with our entire family in tow. We must worship in prayer. Hannah prayed! We must worship in meditation. Hannah meditated as the Bible says in Verse 13 that as Hannah prayed, her voice was not heard, only her lips moved. We must worship in deed! We must honour God by keeping our word, our promise, like the promise that Hannah kept. We must worship in attitude! Hannah was humble, despite Peninah's provocation! Pride always comes before a fall. We must be careful to worship with a humble spirit, the very opposite of a prideful one. When we worship in these things, we WAR! Hannah Warred!

Can we really worship God enough to truly pay him back for all that he has done for us? Worship determines our walk. Our direction is determined through our worship and every soldier knows that in order to conquer, it is important to have direction or else face being conquered by the enemy. There must be a BATTLE PLAN.

After these things, **Hannah received a Word.** Let's take a look at Scripture again. The Word of God in Verse 17, after Eli, the priest began to understand the plight of the woman (Hannah) before him, states that Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him." Hannah received a Word. All she had left to do now was wait on God to show up and show off in her life. She need not worry about Peninah. She needed no longer to be sorrowful. She could wait now basking in the glory of the Word that she had been given.

Are we willing to wait on God, especially when waiting can be painful? Hannah had not even received her son yet that she had so desperately prayed for, but yet, she was no longer sad. Her countenance lifted at the Word of God that she had received, for our Father is not a man that He should lie! She wanted her blessing badly enough to trust in the Lord with all her might! She continued to war and worship and wait, and in so doing, **Hannah Witnessed.** She became a witness, a walking testimony of God's goodness and glory and favour. She

turned her eyes away from her adversary, Peninah and her children, and she **CHOSE** to walk by faith and not by sight. Brethren, let us not be hasty to give up on what God has promised us. It is also important to note that when God had kept His Promise, Hannah kept hers! Hannah had promised God that if He had delivered her male child to her that she would dedicate this said male child back to God as a witness of His Faithfulness! And so, **Hannah kept her promise.**

When it seems impossible, let us walk by faith and not by sight. Our Father is a Father who restores things! Even if it dies, God specializes in restoration. Lazarus was buried in a tomb, yet he lived. He was restored. What do you have for God to restore? What are you desperately seeking after? Turn your focus and **LOOK UP. SEEK UP.** Draw up your battle plan. Though you may weep, turn your weeping into war. A war filled with worship and prayer and God's Word and then you will become that witness that God is seeking to create in you!



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About the Author

Crystalene Reyes is a devoted Christian, wife, and mother of five—three biological and two bonus children whom God blessed her with through the sanctity of marriage. Her love for the Lord began at a young age when her grandmother took her to church, igniting a faith that, though tested, has remained steadfast. She holds a Diploma in Theology, a Bachelor of Education, and a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. As a teacher and entrepreneur, Crystalene is the co-owner and founder of Divinely Guided Learning (CS Reyes Learning) in Trinidad and the founder of Divinely Guided Books, an online Christian platform

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