The Ark of God brought trouble to the Philistines. They put it in the temple of Dagon, their false god. In the morning, the idol Dagon had fallen on its face. The Philistines lifted Dagon up - but next morning he was down again. This time Dagon was broken in pieces.

Sickness and death spread among the Philistines. To see if God was punishing them, the Philistines had two cows pull a cart with the Ark aboard.

But they kept the cows' calves. "If the cows go up to Israel, and leave their calves, we will know God has done it," they said. And the cows went up!

Then Samuel, who was now a grown man, spoke to all the people of Israel. "If you return to the LORD with all your heart, He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."

But they kept the cows' calves. "If the cows go up to Israel, and leave their calves, we will know God has done it," they said. And the cows went up!

The people obeyed God's faithful prophet. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

Then Samuel, who was now a grown man, spoke to all the people of Israel. "If you return to the LORD with all your heart . . He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."

Hannah was a good woman, married to Elkanah, a good man. They both worshipped God and showed kindness to others. But something was missing from Hannah's life.

She wanted to have a baby. Oh, how she wanted a baby! She waited and prayed and hoped and waited some more. No baby came!

"The entrance of Your Words gives light." Psalm 119:130

English

God knows we have done bad things, which He calls sin. The penalty for sin is death.

God loves us so much He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a Cross and pay our penalty. Jesus came alive and went back to Heaven! Now God can forgive our sins.

If you want to turn from your sins, say this to God:
Dear God, I believe Jesus died for me and now lives again. Please come into my life and forgive my sins, so I can have new life now, and then be with You forever. Help me live for You as Your child. Amen. John 3:16

Read the Bible and talk to God every day!

Written by Edward Hughes
Adapted by Lyn Doerksen
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Old Eli the priest saw Hannah praying. He thought Hannah was drunk with wine because her lips moved but no sound came. Eli scolded Hannah!

But Hannah told Eli about her prayer for a child and her promise to God. “Go in peace,” Eli answered. “And the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him.” Eli’s words gave Hannah hope.

Soon great joy filled Hannah’s heart. “The LORD remembered her” and answered her prayer. She and Elkanah had a little boy who was named Samuel (which means “Heard by God”). But would Hannah remember the LORD and her promise to Him?

No, Hannah was waiting until Samuel was old enough to live at the tabernacle and help Eli in God’s service. Then she brought him to the tabernacle.

God honored Hannah’s great faithfulness. After Samuel, God gave her three more sons and two daughters.

Every year, Hannah went to the tabernacle to worship God – and to bring a new robe she made for Samuel.

Eli should have fired them from working in the tabernacle. But he didn’t.

One night, Samuel heard a voice call him. The boy thought it was Eli calling. “Here I am,” he said.

“Go in peace,” Eli replied. This happened three times. Then Eli knew God wanted to speak to Samuel.

God’s warning came true. During a war with the Philistines, Eli’s two evil sons led the Ark of God before Israel’s army. The enemy captured the Ark and killed Hophni and Phinehas along with many Israelites. When Eli heard this, he fell off his seat, broke his neck, and died the same day.