

THE  
*Wise Women*  
OF CHRISTMAS

There was a certain man from Ramathaim,  
a Zuphite from the hill country of  
Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah...  
He had two wives; one was called Hannah  
and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had  
children, but Hannah had none.

*1 Samuel 1: 1 - 2*

*A Dysfunctional  
Family Trap*

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Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the Lord. Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her..

*1 Samuel 1:3-5*

Because the Lord had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. This went on year after year.

*1 Samuel 1: 6 - 7*

*A Cultural Trap*

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“Give me children, or I die.”

*Genesis 30 : 1*

**“Barrenness in any ancient text or narrative is the effective metaphor for hopelessness. For without children, there was no foreseeable future for yourself, your children, or for your people. Barrenness meant there was no human power to invent a future at all.”**

**Walter Bruggeman**

...her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. This went on year after year.

1 Samuel 1: 6 - 7

Irritate

*Irritate*

*thunder or roar as  
in a storm*

Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat.

*1 Samuel 1:7*

*A Personal Trap*

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Once when they had finished  
eating and drinking in Shiloh,  
Hannah stood up.

*1 Samuel 1:9*

In bitterness of soul  
Hannah wept much and  
prayed to the LORD.

*1 Samuel 1 : 10*

And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me..."

*1 Samuel 1: 11*

**Lord of hosts:**  
***Yahweh Saboath***

Hannah is *hooking*  
*her heart* onto one of  
the attributes of God

“...then I will give him to the LORD  
all the days of his life, and a razor  
shall never come on his head.”

*1 Samuel 1:11*

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Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him." So the woman went her way and ate, and face was no longer sad. Then they arose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord, and returned again to their house in Ramah. And Elkanah had relations with Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her."

*1 Samuel 1: 17 - 19*

“My heart exults in the Lord;  
My horn is exalted in the LORD  
My mouth speaks boldly against my enemies,  
Because I rejoice in your salvation.  
Those who were hungry cease to hunger;  
The LORD makes poor and rich;  
He brings low, He also exalts.  
He raises the poor from the dust,  
He lifts the needy from the ash heap”

*2 Samuel 1: 1, 5, 7 - 8*

And he will give strength to his king,  
And will exalt the horn of his anointed.

*2 Samuel 1 : 10*

My soul exalts the Lord,  
and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.  
"For the Mighty One has done great things for me;  
And holy is His name.  
He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
And has exalted those who were humble  
He has filled the hungry with good things  
And sent the rich away empty handed  
He has given help to Israel his servant."

*Luke 1 : 46, 49, 52 - 54*

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