

A Sacrifice of Love

Scripture

"Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, [saying], "Because I have asked for him from the LORD." Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "[Not] until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the LORD and remain there forever." And Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the LORD establish His word." So the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him. Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child [was] young. Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli. And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I [am] the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD. "For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. "Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD." So they worshiped the LORD there." (1Sa 1:19-28 NKJV)

Devotion

Hannah received a child from the Lord and now she gave him up to the Lord. Others have been willing to do the same. Abraham offered up Isaac, and of course the Father gave His only begotten Son.

How dear this child must have been to her. Longing for so many years, now nursing her little boy, surely her heart leaped with joy. How very precious are our children to us!

What a great sacrifice our God has made. All too often we attend worship services and partake of the Lord's Supper without the proper attitude. Our heavenly Father gave us His only Son to die a horrible death on the cross. With all the pain inflicted to his flesh, the separation that took place as Jesus took our sins upon Him must have been the more difficult. Not that the hypostatic union was ever dissolved or broken, or that the Father ever stopped loving Christ, but the comfort that Christ enjoyed from the Father was held back as the wrath of Almighty God was poured out upon sin.

God gave us the picture of Father and Son that we might understand this sacrifice more fully. I remember when my son was only five and on a snowy winter morning he had a horrible asthma attack. My wife and I frantically drove him to the hospital, he had never had an attack before and I thought he was going to die. Racing through snow-pack streets we risked life and limb to save him. Our lives seemed unimportant at that time. As foolish as my actions might have been, it demonstrates how precious a son is to his father. O my dear friends what the Father did in sacrificing His Son goes beyond our comprehension.

The next time you open the Word, or you bow in prayer, or attend a worship service will you remember the Father's sacrifice. For God so loved the world that He gave us His only begotten Son.