

Sunday, December 29, 2024 – First Sunday after Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

1: 11 – (Hannah) made this vow: “O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a Nazirite until the day of his death.”

1: 20 – Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, “I have asked him of the Lord.”

1: 22 – Hannah to Elkanah – “As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord and remain there forever; I will offer him as a Nazirite for all time.”

1: 27-28 – Hannah to Eli – “For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.”

2: 18-20 - Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD”; and then they would return to their home.

2: 21 – And the Lord took note of Hannah; she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord.

Last week we mentioned the strong similarities between the Song of Hannah in 1 Samuel 2 and the Song of Mary in Luke 1.

There is also a strong resemblance between 1 Samuel 2: 26 and Luke 2: 52.

Luke must have been very familiar with 1 Samuel.

1 Samuel 2: 26 - Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

Luke 2: 52 - And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Psalm 148

Psalm 146-150 all begin and end with Hallelujah.

2 - Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

5 - Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created.

3 - Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

7 - Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps.

[Louie Giglio Mashup of Stars and Whales Singing God's Praise-cut - Bing video](#)

Can you even imagine what it would be like to have all of the following join in praising God?

8 - Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind

9 - Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars

10 - Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds

11 - Sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world

12 - Young men and maidens, old and young together

Colossians 3:12-17

It is typical of Paul's letters to contain two parts – what is true/what we should believe and what is right/how we should live.

Colossians 1-2 contain a tremendously exalted description of Jesus.

Colossians 3-4 describes how the reality and nature of Jesus should impact how we live.

1: 15 – He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

1: 16 – In him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers - all things have been created through him and for him.

1: 17 – He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

1: 18 – He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

1: 19 – In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

1: 20 – And through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of the cross.

3: 12 - Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

3: 13 - Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

3: 14 - Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

3: 15 - Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. And be thankful.

3: 16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

3: 17 - And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Luke 2:41-52

41-43 - Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

44-47 - Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

48-50 - When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them.

51 - Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

52 - And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.