**1 Samuel 2**

**Even in the midst of decaying leadership, God is at work**

 1. **God supports humble people and opposes the proud.** Hannah had complete

confidence in God’s ability to exalt the humble and humble the proud - 2:1-10

 2. **Spiritual victory comes from the Lord, not our strength.** We often gauge the

 seriousness of a problem by our evaluations as men. Hannah’s prayer reminds us of a

 common biblical truth; victory is often not to the strong - 2:9

 3. **Proper prayer rests on a proper knowledge of God.** Hannah’s prayer should remind

 us of the importance of knowing what God is like in relation to our faith. A proper

 view of God adds peace and power to our lives - 2:1-10

 4. **Spiritual authority does not necessarily mean a spiritual person.** Holding an

 important religious position doesn’t necessarily mean we’re spiritual, or even saved –

 2:12

 5. **Some sins bring more serious consequences.** It is clear from the text of 2:12-17 that

 in one sense, all sin is not sin; that is, some sins are more serious (2 Sam. 24:10; John

 19:10 vs. Rom. 3:22-23; James 2:10).

 6. **Our spirituality doesn’t guarantee it in our children -** 2:12-17

 7. **God is at work regardless of the sin of man.** The contrast between vv. 12 and 13, as

 well as 17 and 18, indicates that God was doing a work in spite of the corruption of

 the leadership in the priesthood. Israel did not need to worry. God can take care of

 what He needs done.

 8. **God rewards those who seek Him -** 2:18-21 (see also v. 30b, Heb. 11:6)

 9. **Parents need to realize that simply scolding children may not be enough -** 2:22-25

 (This does not imply engaging in sinful activities that involve abuse, only that some

 behavior requires appropriate action - Pr. 13:24; 22:6, 15; 23:13-14). See also 3:13; 2

 Sam. 13:21. Eli knew better v. 25.

10. **God may not allow a place for repentance.** We should NOT assume God will

 always allow repentance instead of temporal punishment 2:25 (cf. Heb. 12:14-17).

11. **If we harden our hearts to God, God may harden them further** – 2:25 (Pharaoh).

 Freedom from sin, and its consequences, is a blessing. See also Rom. 1:18, 24, 26,

 and 28; Prov. 20:12; Mt. 13:11-17; Heb. 3:7-13

12. **Refusing to honor our parents is serious to God -** 2:25 Note that “because” of v. 25

 should probably be translated “therefore” (Eph. 6:1-3).

13. **Not only are some sins more serious, but their consequences may be more**

 **immediate and/or longer lasting -** 2:27-36. See also Luke 12:48b!

14. **Loving our children is good; putting them ahead of God is not -** 2:29. See also

 3:13 and Lk. 14:25-33 as well as Pr. 3:11-12; 13:24; 19:18; 20:30; 23:13-14.

 Appropriate discipline is not contrary to love.

**Additional Notes**