

A woman in Israel had been childless for years, but had faithfully prayed for a son. She even “made a vow” to God that if He gave her a son, she would dedicate him to God’s service. (1 Samuel 1:11)

After years of worship and prayer, Hannah conceived and bore a son. After the boy was weaned, she took him to Eli the priest and fulfilled her vow. She gave her longed-for son to the Lord. The boy, named Samuel, “grew in stature, and in favour both with the Lord and men” (1 Samuel 2:26), and ultimately became God’s chief prophet in Israel. (1 Samuel 3:19-21) All because a mother was devoted to the Lord, and kept her promise to Him. Years later, King Solomon would write: “When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it Better not to vow, than to vow and not pay.” (Ecclesiastes 5:4-5)

Being devoted to God is not without sacrifice, but with such sacrifice comes blessing.

1 Samuel 1:27-28 “Hannah said: ‘I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord.’”