

- We sorrow when we lose someone or something good in our life
- Hannah, David, and Jeremiah show us how they responded to sorrow

The state of being sorrowful is when your mind is uneasy or in pain because you have suffered a loss of something good. You grieve and miss that something good that you have lost. You may even feel sorrowful to the point that you are overwhelmed by your loss. The loss of a loved one, the loss of a job and finances, the loss of health, and growing uncertainty in life, are some reasons you may experience sorrow. People who are sorrowful may become depressed if they don't handle it with prayer and the Word of God. However, sorrow can be good when it causes you to sorrow over sin leading you to a change in thinking and behavior that is pleasing to God (2Corinthians 7: 9-10).

This past year in particular has been a rough year for most people everywhere. Many have lost a loved one or a job and finances, while others have suffered illnesses including the COVID virus. 2020 has turned our way of life upside down! We sorrow over the growing decay of our nation's morals and the growing corruption in our society. We miss the "old" America that we loved. Being sorrowful can rob us of our peace and make being hopeful difficult. However, God desires for us to have peace and to have hope in Him, not in the world.

We will briefly look at the lives of Hannah, David, and Jeremiah, as examples of saints who were sorrowful. We will see it is part of life in this world to suffer sorrow at times and that God's Word has the answer for our sorrow; just as it did in the lives of Hannah, David, and Jeremiah.

Question #1: Read 1Samuel 1-2:21. We are reading to get the context and to fully see how Hannah was sorrowful and how the LORD responded.

A. Read 1Samuel 1:1-10. Summarize Hannah's dilemma.

B. Read 1Samuel 1:11. Who did she take her sorrow to first?

C. Read 1Samuel 1:12-14. Who saw her and what did he assume about her?

D. Read 1Samuel 1:15-16. Describe Hannah's response.

E. Read 1Samuel 1:17. What did the priest Eli promise her?

Question #1 continued:

F. Read 1Samuel 1:18.

(1) What was different about Hannah when she left Eli?

(2) Think about a time when you had a dilemma. How did you change after someone spoke to you about the LORD and gave you real hope?

G. Read 1Samuel 1: 22-28. Was Hannah faithful to the promise she had made to the LORD?

H. Read 1Samuel 2: 19. How do we know Hannah always loved her son and thought about him?

I. **Read 1Samuel 2:1-10.** Slowly read Hannah's prayer. She has now had a son and has taken him to Eli the priest to minister with him for the LORD. Hannah has personally experienced God's grace in her life by the answer to prayer with a son. We learn later in 1Samuel that Hannah had more sons and daughters (1Sam 2:21). Hannah's dilemma was no more! (1) What does her prayer in this passage tell us about Hannah? (2) How does this prayer give you hope?

Question #2: Next we will look at David, a man after God's heart (Acts 13:22), who is a favorite character of the Bible. He was used of God in many ways, yet David was no stranger to sin and sorrow. We will read about David's sin which resulted in sorrow for him. Read 2Samuel 11: 1-12:23 to have the context of David's sin and sorrow.

A. Summarize David's sin that resulted in his sorrow.

B. Read 2Samuel 12: 15-17. How did David respond when he learned the child was sick?

C. Read 2Samuel 12:18-22. How did David respond when he learned the child had died?

D. Read 2Samuel 12:23. What was David's hope?

Question #3: The prophet Jeremiah is called the weeping prophet because he sorrowed over Judah, the southern kingdom consisting of two tribes. Jeremiah received his call to be a prophet of the LORD during the reign of King Josiah (627/626 B.C.) of Judah and continued until the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. Israel, the northern kingdom of 10 tribes, had already been defeated in 722 B.C. by the Assyrians.

A. Read Jeremiah 1:1-10.

(1) What did the LORD ordain for Jeremiah? (verse 5)

(2) How does the LORD encourage Jeremiah? (verses 6-9)

(a) Is anything too hard for the LORD? (verses 6-9)

(3) Think about Jeremiah 1:10. How would this cause sorrow for Jeremiah?

B. Read Jeremiah 2:1-2. Fill in the blanks.

"_____ and _____ in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown" (Jeremiah 2:2)

Question #4: Read Jeremiah 20:1-13. This passage provides insight into how Jeremiah was typically treated.

A. Read Jeremiah 20:1-3. What happened to Jeremiah?

B. Read Jeremiah 20:4. Describe what the LORD told Jeremiah.

C. Read Jeremiah 20:9-11

(1) What was Jeremiah unable to do?

(2) What did Jeremiah know that gave him comfort and confidence?

Question #4 continued:

D. Read Jeremiah 20:13. How did Jeremiah handle what he had just been through?

(1) How is this an example for you to follow?

Question #5: We will briefly look into the book of Lamentations. Tradition holds that Jeremiah is the author of Lamentations because its' author had witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. Support for this is found in 2Chronicles 35:25; 36:21-22. The KJV dictionary defines lamentation as when one grieves, mourns, weeps; to express their deep sorrow. Seeing his beloved Jerusalem destroyed would certainly cause Jeremiah to weep and be sorrowful. But more than that he wept over Judah's unrepentant idolatry. Because of this God allowed the Babylonians to destroy Jerusalem. Lamentations was written to sorrow about what happened to Judah and Jerusalem. However, in the midst of all the destruction that Jeremiah saw he still saw hope!

A. Read Lamentations 3:22-23.

(1) Put these verses into your own words.

(2) As you consider these verses how does this give you hope?

Question #6:

We have now looked at five things that can keep us from living with hope: fear, worry, despair and depression, and sorrow. Think about what we have studied and try to identify one area that hinders you as you try to live with hope and keeping your focus on the Lord. Then write 2-3 scripture verses that will help you when you are challenged...because one day you can count on it, you will.