

## *The Light of Motherhood*

*“Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the LORD” (1 Samuel 1:20).*

A little boy forgot the verse he was to quote in the Sunday school program. But, never fear! His mother was seated on the front row to help him in his hour of need. When he located her and stared at her with that blank look on his face, she whispered the words of the text, “I am the light of the world.” With renewed assurance, he stood up straight and said authoritatively, “My mother is the light of the world.”

We can’t help but laugh at the mistake. Yet, we readily admit that there is an element of truth in the statement. A good mother shines as a bright light in a dark world. Her leadership role is more significant than the leadership of the world’s rulers. This caused that great military leader Napoleon Bonaparte to declare, “Let France have good mothers, and she will have good sons.”

I’m personally grateful for the influence of my dear mother. She never was a schoolteacher, but she taught many helpful lessons. She never managed a corporation or a bank, but she helped manage a family. I never saw her in a courtroom, but I saw her in the ladies prayer room. Through her daily example, she became a big light in the sky of my life.

*The light of motherhood is a wonderful blessing to be desired!* Hannah was one of Elkanah’s two wives. The other, Peninnah, was a mother of children, but “Hannah had no children” (1 Sam. 1:2). Of course, Hannah wanted a child and wanted one desperately. To her, motherhood would not be a terrible burden. The burden she carried was not being a mother. She reminds us of the privilege and blessing of motherhood.

*The light of motherhood is greatly enhanced through prayer!* In her helplessness, Hannah “prayed unto the LORD” (1 Sam. 1:10). The most inspiring mother not only feels her needs and the needs of her family, but she knows only the Lord can supply these needs. Reflecting upon what he gained from his mother, Abraham Lincoln said, “I remember my mother’s prayers and they have followed me. They have clung to me all my life.”

*The light of motherhood is brightly reflected in commitment!* Hannah was not playing games. If she was given a son, she promised, “I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life” (1:11). And as our text reads, upon his birth, she “called his name Samuel, saying, ‘Because I have asked him of the LORD’” (1:20). The son she committed to the Lord would become a great asset in Israel’s future. May the Lord bless all our mothers and mothers to be, inspiring them to lives of prayer and total commitment.