

# REUBEN GEORGE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (REGETS)

AWARENESS AND MOBILIZATION DAY, SUNDAY JULY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2018.  
GENERAL SERMON FOR THE DAY

## KINGDOM PRIORITY AND DIVINE RESPONSE I SAM. 1:1-28; MATT. 6:33

“...remember me ...give your maidservant, a male child, then I will give him to the LORD  
all the days of his life... {I Sam. 1:11, NKJV}

### INTRODUCTION:

Quest for divine blessings and interventions is high in our generation. People go to any length to make God work in their favour.

But on many of such people the words from James find fulfillment:

*You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures (James 4: 2-3, KJV).*

Hannah is an Old Testament believer who turned her situation around because of her unique character and Kingdom priority. She is a case study for people who strongly desire to see God in action amidst their challenges.

### HANNAH’S KINGDOM CHARACTER:

#### Grace to Handle Contradictory Situations:

- She was {most likely} the first wife but childless due to barrenness. A childless woman can be hopeful if she is conceiving but suffering miscarriages, but when there is barrenness {no conception at all} it is double frustration. Hannah was barren but she didn’t become a nuisance to the husband and the second wife.
- There was a deliberate attempt to make her miserable (through provocation) by her rival – Peninnah. Her burden of barrenness was already heavy on her but her rival made it heavier by taunting her. If Hannah were not mature in character, she could:
  - (a) engage her in serious battle;
  - (b) be embittered against the husband {cf Rachael- Gen. 30:1};
  - (c) harm herself; or
  - (d) blaspheme.
- There was a **strong** but **wrong** accusation by the leader (Eli) who was not sensitive to her real plight and said “**How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you**”.  
Yet she responded with **respect** and **politeness** – this level of maturity is sometimes lacking in the church. Some people **slight** and **insult** their leaders when they feel dissatisfied.

### **Eagerness to Make the Best out of the Mess:**

1. She was not pacified by a double portion from the family offering. She wanted to have her own child(ren), and as such, she didn't resign to fate.
2. She continued to go for the yearly worship, though her need was yet to be met. She was a persistent seeker and worshipper of God.
3. She turned her pain into prayer.
4. She desired a blessing from God to bless Him (God) back not for show-off "...give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life...."
5. She cheerfully gave her ONLY child to the Lord accompanied with offerings of thanksgiving. "...she took him up with her, with three bulls, and ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the Lord in Shiloh..." (1:24).

**Note :** She continued to invest into the life of the child she gave to the Lord when she was yet to have other children: "Moreover, his mother used to make him little robe and bring it to him year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice" (1:19).

Priest Eli was so moved that he would pray for Elkanah and Hannah: "The LORD give you descendant from this woman for the loan that was given to the LORD" {1Sam. 2:20}.

### **DIVINE RESPONSE TO THE KINGDOM MINDED**

- ❖ God gave her a unique child as the first installment.
- ❖ God answered Hannah later than her contemporaries but her answer was **far better than theirs:**
  1. Her son could withstand the pressure of sin around him by the sons of Eli – greed, fornication and sacrilege.
  2. He could receive the prophetic word of God when such was so rare –Eli and his sons (priest) could not receive.
  3. He could make accurate prophetic predictions which were confirmed by God
  4. He had established National Ministry (3:20).
  5. He was a **Gem** in spite of the catastrophic situation in Israel.
- ❖ God repaid Hannah with five children – 3 sons and 2 daughters – for one son that she gave to the Lord {1Sam. 2:21}
- ❖ God granted everlasting remembrance to both Hannah and Samuel.

Note that God gives high regard to those who give the first priority to His kingdom.

### **CONCLUSION**

Vital lessons from Hannah:

- Don't lose your (spiritual) sense (don't misbehave) in the face of life challenges.
- Don't stay contented on human consolation – resolutely seek divine intervention.
- Invest your **best** (time and resources) in the kingdom business; your challenges notwithstanding.

- Your burden becomes God’s assignment when you are committed to His Kingdom (Matt. 6:33).

**NOTE:**

1. The preacher should make an altar call for those who are inspired to be admitted for any of our programmes.
2. Special Offering and donations should be collected for the Seminary.
3. Announce our Programmes and the needs of the Seminary.
4. Interview of intending candidates - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2018 by 10am at the following places:
  - a. Ibadan Campus at Gospel Town, Igbo-Oloyin Road, Ojoo, Ibadan, Oyo State.
  - b. Okitipupa Campus at Km. 4, Igbokoda Road, Igodan Lisa, Ondo State.
  - c. Seminary Satellite Campuses (Lagos, Ile-Ife/Modakeke, Ijebu-Ode, Ado Ekiti, Ekure etc)

**Our Current and Intended Programmes:**

- ~ Diploma in Theology,
- ~ Diploma in Information Technology,
- ~ B.A. Theology,
- ~ B.A. Religious Studies,
- ~ B.Ed. English/Religious Studies,
- ~ B.Ed. Management/Social Studies,
- ~ PGD Pastoral Studies,
- ~ Master of Divinity,
- ~ Master of Organizational Leadership (MAOL)

**NEEDS OF THE SEMINARY:**

1. Mikano Generator (100KVA)
2. A Bus and Duties Cars.
3. E-library

All monetary donations and offerings are to be deposited into this account:

Account Name: **REGETS PROJECT ACCOUNT**

Account Number: **2030124938**

Bank: **FIRST BANK PLC**

(The depositor’s name should be the Assembly/District/Region E.g. Victory Ass/Gospel Town/Rg. 11)

Thanks and God bless you.

*Signed*

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**Pastor Dr. Gabriel A. Aina**  
**Provost - 08033049399**