**1 Samuel 1:9-13 9So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the Lord. 10And she *was* in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the Lord and wept in anguish. 11Then she made a vow and said, “O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.” 12And it happened, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli watched her mouth. 13Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk.**

Mother’s Day – a day set aside to celebrate the mothers we love every day. The Bible is clear that we are to honor our mothers and fathers. As I’ve said before, mothers can come by birth or by agreement. Mothers can skip a generation – grandmothers are sometimes like mothers, sisters in Christ are sometimes like mothers. Some have one flesh and blood mother and many, many women they consider mother figures in life. Blessed are we to have mothers! Honoring our mothers and fathers is a commandment with promise! God honors children who honor their mothers and fathers.

The Bible tells us that God chose us before the foundation of the world. Ephesians 1:4 says - *just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.* Jeremiah 29:11-12 says - *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.* The God who has a plan for us – the God who chose us from the foundation of the world did not leave the mothers in our lives to accident! He chose us and we can be assured that He chose the women who have influenced our lives as well. Godly women are a gift and a guidance straight from God.

This morning, we’re considering Hannah. Hannah is a wonderful model of motherhood!

Great mothers understand what we see Hannah doing. Hannah prayed before, during, and after. Hannah prayed before during and after. We are to pray before during and after. In the scripture this morning, Hannah prayed before Samuel was conceived. She asked God to look at her situation and give her a child. I know many women who have prayed this prayer, wanting a child. Some have begged God to bring a child to adopt. God looks upon the situation and sees the heart. Look at verses 12 & 13 *And it happened, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli watched her mouth. Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard.* How many mothers have prayed, only lips moving, crying from the heart for their child? I’d say every Godly mother at one time or another has cried from her heart for her child.

But Hannah didn’t stop glorifying God once she had her son. We see that she made a promise to God and, in 1 Samuel 1:24, we see that she keeps that vow. The name Samuel means Heard by God. While she nursed him, she prayed for him, honoring her promise to God and preparing Samuel. He would have been weaned at around 2 ½ or 3 years old. She would have presented him before God to Eli when he was still a young boy, probably no more than 4. Hannah prayed before Samuel was born and she loaned him to God for the rest of his life. During the time she held her son, she prayed and glorified God.

But Hannah didn’t stop praying after she’d loaned Samuel to God. In 1 Samuel 2:9 we read a verse that is heartbreaking to me - *Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring it to him year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.* Hannah prayed for Samuel before he was born, during the time she held him, and now – year by year, she took a little robe she made, knowing that he’d grown since she last saw him, knowing that her little boy was passing into manhood, emphasized, captured by each little robe she made. I have no doubt many prayers and many tears flowed over those little robes. Hannah prayed for her son long after he left her side.

That’s what Godly mothers do and that’s why we are blessed to have them in our lives. Many of us know that as long as our mother is drawing breath, her heart never stops praying for us. Even before children arrive, even while they sit at her table, even as she packs their little robes away and set their little shoes on the mantle piece, her lips still move in silent prayer for the children she holds dear to her heart.

Today, we honor our mothers – whether mother by birth or by agreement – who have prayed before, during and after. We may leave their sight, but we never leave their heart. May we thank God today and every day for the silent prayers of a Godly mother’s heart.