

ADVERSARIES: CAN'T LIVE WITH THEM... 1SAM. 1:1-20

Proverbs 29:9 If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest.

Proverbs 29:11 A fool uttereth all his mind: **but** a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.

Proverbs 29:20 Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? **there is more hope of a fool than of him.**

What do we learn about adversaries &/ adversity?

I. There are always adversaries &/ adversity!

1 Samuel 1:6 And her **adversary** also provoked her sore, **for to make her fret**, because the LORD had shut up her womb. **1**

Samuel 1:7 And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, **so she provoked her**; therefore she wept, and did not eat.

1 Timothy 1:20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

2 Timothy 1:15 This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; **of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.**

2 Timothy 2:17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: **of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;**

2 Timothy 4:9 Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: **2 Timothy 4:10 For** Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. **2 Timothy 4:11** Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry. **2 Timothy 4:12** And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.

2 Timothy 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: **2 Timothy 4:15** Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.

II. Adversaries come in many forms!

Peninah: the malicious adversary!

1 Samuel 1:1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was **Elkanah**, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite:

1 Samuel 1:2 And he had **two wives**; the name of the one was **Hannah**, and the name of the other **Peninnah**: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

1 Samuel 1:6 And her adversary also provoked her sore, **for to make her fret**, because the LORD had shut up her womb. **1**

Samuel 1:7 And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, **so she provoked her**; **therefore** she wept, and did not eat.

Elkanah: the oblivious &/ well-intentioned adversary!

1 Samuel 1:4 And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions: **1 Samuel 1:5 But** unto Hannah he gave a **worthy** portion; **for he loved Hannah**: but the LORD had shut up her womb.

1 Samuel 1:8 Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? **am not I better to thee than ten sons?**

We have all either been Elkanah or have had an Elkanah!

- He loved her
- He took care of her and....
- He married two women
- He didn't have a clue about jealousy, power struggles and conflict
- He didn't get it
- He shouldn't have opened his mouth

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and **weep** with them that weep.

Proverbs 25:20 As he that taketh away a garment in cold weather, and as vinegar upon nitre, **so is he that singeth songs to an heavy heart.**

Job 2:13 So they sat down **with him** upon the ground seven days and seven nights, **and none spake a word** unto him: for they saw that his grief was very great.

Eli: the cold/callous/careless/"know-it-all" adversary!

1 Samuel 1:12 And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that **Eli** marked her mouth. **1 Samuel 1:13** Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: **therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. 1**

Samuel 1:14 And Eli said unto her, **How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.** **1 Samuel 1:15** And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. **1 Samuel 1:16** Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.

God Himself: the unspeakable/ unthinkable/ unmentionable adversary!

1 Samuel 1:5 But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: **but the LORD had shut up her womb.** **1 Samuel 1:6** And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, **because the LORD had shut up her womb.**

Hannah, a godly woman, didn't seem

However, I'm sure she believed this was ultimately

And I'm sure she knew of this in

Genesis 11:30 But Sarai was barren; she had no child.

Genesis 25:21 And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, **because she was barren:** and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

Genesis 29:31 And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: **but Rachel was barren.**

Judges 13:2 And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; **and his wife was barren, and bare not.**

Luke 1:7 And they had **no** child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

Luke 1:26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, **Luke 1:27** To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. **Luke 1:28** And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. **Luke 1:29** And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. **Luke 1:30** And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. **Luke 1:31** And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. **Luke 1:32** He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: **Luke 1:33** And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. **Luke 1:34** Then said Mary unto the angel, **How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?**

I'm fairly certain Peninah did

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III. Adversaries (& adversity) can actually become allies!

1 Samuel 1:10 And she was in bitterness of soul, **and prayed unto the LORD**, and wept sore.

1 Samuel 1:11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

1 Samuel 1:19 And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her. **1 Samuel 1:20** 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.**

Genesis 21:1 And the LORD visited Sarah **as he had said**, and the LORD did unto Sarah **as he had spoken.** **Genesis 21:2** For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, **at the set time of which God had spoken to him.**

Genesis 25:21 And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: **and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.**

Genesis 30:22 And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb. **Genesis 30:23** And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach: **Genesis 30:24** And she called his name **Joseph**; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son.

Proverbs 17:10 A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.

Growth requires: you, God, Scripture and pain

IV. Adversaries are probably necessary!

Psalms 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. **Psalms 119:71** It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes. **Psalms 119:75** I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.