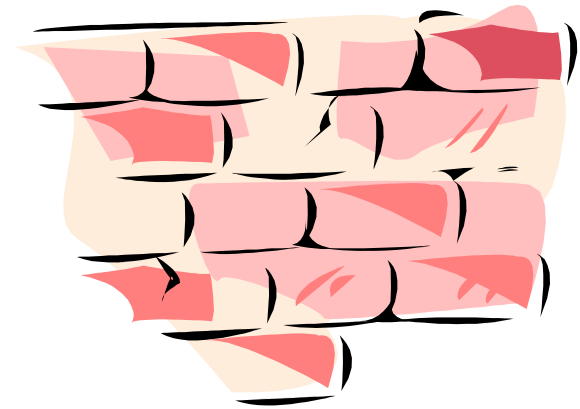


SERMON NOTES SERIES
PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY NOTES

**HITTING A
BRICK
WALL...AGAIN**



DR. JOHN PELIZZARI, PH.D.
SENIOR PASTOR

Hi,

Over the years I have had numerous people ask me for a copy of my sermon notes for their own personal Bible studies. I am glad to be able to present them to you. You have in your hands an exact copy of my sermon notes for your very own personal studies. I pray that as you study the Word, that the Holy Spirit will add even more than what you have before you. Put yourself there in what you are studying. What were they feeling, what were they facing...make the Word come alive by placing yourself there.

I am also including a list of the resources that I use to obtain my information, but I will say this, without the Holy Spirit guiding and teaching you under the anointing all you have is just a bunch of books. I always pray before, during, and upon deliverance of each message I receive. I pray that...***you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Colossians 1:9)***. I am both honored and blessed that you have selected a Sermon Notes Series and I pray that it will be a blessing to you!

With Much Love,
Pastor John

RESOURCES USED

- * The Companion Bible
- * Dake's Annotated Reference Bible
- * Young's Analytical Concordance To The Bible
- * A Dictionary Of Bible Types
- * Vine's Expository Dictionary Of New Testament Words
- * The American College Dictionary
- * World's Bible Handbook
- * The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary
- * Nelson's Three- in- One Bible Reference Companion
- * The Word -The Bible In 26 Translations
- * God's Plan For Man
- * Harper's Encyclopedia Of Bible Life
- * Nelson's Expository Dictionary Of The Old Testament
- * Manners And Customs From the Bible
- * What The Bible Is All About
- * Halley's Bible Handbook

These are just a small listing of the study aides that I use. The greatest study aide available is letting the Holy Spirit be your teacher. May you get to know Him!

Words translated from the Gk = Greek and Hb=Hebrew.

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OUR VISION

“My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge;”

Hosea 4:6

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:”

Proverbs 23:7

“...and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;”

Colossians 1:9

“Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: and by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.”

Proverbs 24:3-5

“And the Gospel must first be published among all nations.”

Mark 13:10

As the Scriptures speak for themselves, our vision is to empower Believers everywhere to live a victorious abundant lifestyle that can be obtained through wisdom and understanding. If you are willing to change the way you think, you can change the way you live. A renewed mind towards the Word of God established you firmly in the faith and opens the door for the blessings and benefits of God to become evident in your life.

Because We Believe In You,
John and Karen Pelizzari

HITTING A BRICK WALL...AGAIN

Habakkuk 1:2 O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save!

1. Habakkuk had been in intercessory prayer for Judah for some time, and it seemed he would never be heard by God. It seemed as though God was never going to send an answer.
2. When heaven is silent and unresponsive to our prayers, it can feel like we hit a brick wall.
 - a. So in response to heaven's silence, we tend to begin question even the very existence of God.
 - b. We cry out and cry out and it seems like God is not listening much less cares.
 - c. We begin to question whether we have been in sin.
 - d. We begin to look at the church and its leadership and question their integrity.
 - e. We do all these things in an effort as to finding out why heaven seems to be shut to our prayers.....why have we hit a brick wall?

3. While we are crying out, matters worsen, our finances get leaner, our spirits become barren, our souls become desperate, doubtful and disappointed and the situations around us get even more worse.

1 Samuel 1:1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim, 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:

4. Here we are introduced to a man named Elkanah, whose name in the Hebrew means “**acquired by God.**”
 - a. Meaning he was chosen by God Himself.

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.

5. We are told that he had two wives:
 - a. Peninnah, who had children.
 - b. Hannah, who had no children.
6. The belief was in those days that if you had no children, you were considered cursed by God.

1 Samuel 1:3 And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the Lord, were there.

7. Elkanah obviously was a church goer. Here we see him making his required yearly pilgrimage.
 - a. He had to leave his hometown Ephraim and travel to Jerusalem.
 - b. This does not translate or symbolize that you're only required to go to church once a year.
 - c. They had to make this pilgrimage in addition to daily temple attendance for registration purposes and extra offerings.

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:

8. This man required his whole family to go to church.
9. So what we see here is that Elkanah offered peace offerings unto God.
 - a. This required that he had to pour out the blood at the foot of the altar, burn the fat with fire, and leave the breast and right shoulder as a tithe for the priests.

- b. He would then take the rest for himself and family to eat during the feast.

1 Samuel 1:5 But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the Lord had shut up her womb.

- 10. Even though everyone in the family received a portion, Hannah got a double portion because of his love for her.
- 11. But notice something else. We are told that “**the Lord had shut up her womb.**”
- 12. She was loved, but she was barren.
 - a. She was blessed but she was barren.
- 13. Did she do something wrong?
 - a. Was there sin in her life?
 - b. Did she have a bad attitude?
 - c. Was she full of resentment because Peninnah had children and she didn't and she was stuck having to help her raise another woman's rug rats.
- 14. It does not say that she was a barren woman from birth. It states that “**the Lord had shut up her womb.**”

- 15. Many of you may have experienced the same thing. Or you may be facing it right now.

- a. God, why aren't you answering my prayers?
- b. God, have I done something wrong?
- c. God, things are getting worse and you are making me feel like you don't care.
- d. How come everyone else around me is getting blessed and I am fixing to lose everything I own?
- e. I've prayed, rebuked, declared, confessed and decreed...I did a Jericho march, and fasted but no matter what I do, it still feels like I hit a brick wall.

- 16. Usually God never responds the way we think He should.

- a. We are told that “**the Lord had shut up her womb.**”
- b. He did it on purpose...but why?

- 17. Here's the key. **When God shuts a womb it is never intended for punishment.**

- a. **He does it on purpose so there will be a greater harvest at a later date.**

b. **Delay does not mean denial.**

c. Let me give you another example.

Luke 1:5 **There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.**

18. Here we are introduced to Zacharias and Elisabeth.

a. Both have a priestly heritage and upbringing.

b. Both have a traceable bloodline that shows they are from a priestly generation.

Luke 1:6 **And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.**

19. Notice, both were:

a. Devout church members.

b. Both were righteous before God, meaning they endeavored to live right.

c. Both walked in all the commandments.

d. Both walked in all the ordinances.

e. Both were considered blameless before God.

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

20. If they were both righteous before God, why were they barren?

a. Why did they live with the curse of barrenness by having no child?

21. And now, biologically it was too late to have any kids.

Luke 1:8-9 **[8] And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, [9] According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.**

22. Zacharias even worked in the ministry serving faithfully in his church.

23. So why were they barren ?

24. **God was saving that womb for a greater purpose!**

a. Out of their delay, John the Baptist was born unto them, who was the forerunner of Jesus.

b. **Delay does not mean denial.**

25. **When God shuts a womb, it's usually on reserve for a later time for a greater purpose.**

26. There are some of you who may be feeling this way today.

a. God, why am I living in barrenness when I have tried to live right and do right?

b. I know I'm saved but I don't see God birthing anything in me or through me.

c. Is it too late? Is my time over?

d. Have I done something wrong?

e. Why are we not seeing any growth in our church?

f. Has God forgotten us? I just don't understand.

g. I have just about all I can take...I am tired of hitting this brick wall.

h. Where is the deliverance, the harvest and breakthrough that You promised?

1 Samuel 1:5 But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the Lord had shut up her womb.

27. Who shut up her womb? The Lord did.

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

28. Notice what satan does by taking advantage of our times of barrenness.

a. She was provoked so much that it hurt every time the thought of it came to mind.

29. Satan caused Peninnah to become her adversary...in her very own household.

a. She provoked Hannah by being able to have kids while Hannah could not.

b. She made taunting remarks, gloating over her many children.

c. And we are not told for how many years this went on.

30. What was satan's purpose?

a. "**For to make her fret.**"

Fret - Hb - *raam* - to tumble, to be violently agitated.

- Specifically to crash (of thunder), meaning every time Peninnah opened her mouth it cause an

emotional storm to brew in Hannah's mind.

- Figurative to irritate with anger.
- To roar, thunder, causing trouble (insinuating arguments and fights).

31. Obviously, based upon this definition, there were a lot of fights and sarcastic remarks.
32. The one who should have comforted her irritated her and mocked her.
 - a. I'm better than you.
 - b. You probably have some secret sin so God is punishing you openly.
 - c. Our church / ministry is growing, you should come to our church.
33. Think about this, you can not get pregnant when you fret because God cannot bless that type of attitude.
 - a. Come to church and act all holy but at home it's a combat zone.

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.

34. This obviously went on for a long time.
35. Notice when satan attacked Hannah:
 - a. **"She went up to the house of the Lord"**...right before she went to church.
 - b. Therefore Hannah couldn't enjoy her worthy portion because she refused to eat it.
36. Satan does that to believers today:
 - a. He will try to provoke you, especially around church time...why?
 - b. So when the message is preached you cannot enjoy your worthy portion.
37. Notice, through all her torment, she kept going to church.
 - a. Even though she was there, no worship was taking place inside her.
 - b. she spent her time in church being focused on what she didn't have and rehearsing all the torments that Peninnah brought on before church services.
 - c. She even stopped eating.
 - d. See, you can't be blessed when your crying and whining.

- e. You can't conceive when you're in turmoil and focused on what you don't have.
 - f. Keep focusing how you were treated by so called believers who told you at one time they loved and cared for you.
 - g. All this was designed to stop God's Word from getting inside her, which was satan's objective all along.
38. Notice, it says that she wept.
- a. Her weeping year after year didn't bring her any results.
39. It's good to pray and fast, go to church and endeavor to live right, but you cannot open a womb that God has closed for a bigger and better purpose.
- a. Especially when His purpose you have no clue about.

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?

40. Her husband tried to comfort her through distraction:

- a. Count your blessings, at least you're married and taken care of.
 - b. Look at all I do for you.
 - c. You might as well accept the fact that this is the way it will always be.
41. Religious folks will do that to you. So does frustration and disappointments.
42. But Hannah refused to settle evidenced by her continuing to go to church.
- a. Don't settle for a lesser plan other than God's purpose and plans for your life based upon the promises He spoke to you.
43. Some folks will even tell you that you're just going to have to wait on God or that He has something else in mind. Yet inside you know different.
- a. But, as we continue on, it will be obvious that God was waiting on Hannah to get her attitude in order.

1 Samuel 1:9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the Lord.

44. Obviously, some of what her husband said sunk in and she started conducting herself in a different manner.

- a. Sooner or later, you're going to have to choose to rise up.

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

45. So we see for years she went to church a very bitter woman because everyone else around her had been blessed with children but not her.

- a. She would come to church and see all the kids the others had.
- b. She would be invited to one baby shower after another year after year.

46. There was an unrest in her spirit that spurred her out of her grief and she decides to pray.

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.

47. Finally, after all those barren, wasted years of bitterness and envy, she gets serious with God. She's tired of hitting a brick wall and getting nowhere.

48. What is she doing? She is beginning to birth in prayer before her natural birth takes place.

- a. See, you have to conceive it in prayer before it is birthed in the physical.

49. She vowed a vow, shows us that she was serious. She made a promise.

50. Many believers are still barren because they have made God all these promises but never owned up to them.

51. Sometimes, God will shut up a womb to see how bad we want it and how serious we will get in order to obtain it.

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

52. Eli noticed that her lips moved, but her voice was not heard, so he thought she was drunk .

53. Her heart was changing before her vocabulary changed.

a. **“She spake in her heart; only her lips moved”**...silent prayer.

b. She had to put the matter back into God’s hand.

c. She had to have a change of heart, getting the bitterness, resentment and envy out.

d. She had to forgive Peninnah...even though she couldn’t verbalize it.

54. Notice, the religious system of that day falsely accused her of being drunk.

1 Samuel 1:14-15 [14] **And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee. [15] And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunken neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord.**

55. Eli assumed because she always came to church with a soured look on her face, she must be a drunk.

a. She was pouring out her bitterness.

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.**

56. So we see for years she came to church and went through all the motions, but inside her was nothing but an **“an abundance of complaints and grief.”**

a. **Daughter of Belial** means daughter of satan, because of being a drunk all the time.

57. Every time she came to church, all she focused on was:

a. What she didn’t have.

b. What was not happening.

c. How God didn’t move in her life like in the lives of others.

d. She spent years coming to church with this kind of attitude

58. So she had no rest, no peace, no worship and the Word never got inside her.

- a. What you cannot conceive in the spiritual will never manifest in the natural.
- b. She didn't strike back at the pastor.
- c. She didn't let misunderstanding cause her leave the church all offended.
- d. You cannot have a "I have a right to strike back" attitude and expect to produce God's miracle.

1 Samuel 1:17 Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.

- 59. Her pastor gets into agreement with her.
 - a. Because they finally communicated instead of assuming things about one another.
 - b. Most believers get offended because they assume the pastor should know.
- 60. Here, Eli was speaking as God's representative, giving comfort, faith, and assurance to a burdened soul. This turned out to be a prophecy to Hannah and it was finally fulfilled.

1 Samuel 1:18 And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her

way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad.

- 61. She finally chose to receive from her pastor and stand in agreeance to what he had spoken over her life. Notice what it did for her:
 - a. **"She went her way"** - she was finally able to go on with her life.
 - b. **"And did eat"** - not only was she able to physically eat now that she was no longer full of anxiety and bitterness, but she was able to digest the spoken Word of God.
 - c. **"Her countenance was no more sad"** - she allowed herself to be changed on the inside.

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.

- 62. Notice, she was finally able to worship again.
 - a. She allowed herself to be open to God and God opened her womb.
 - b. After church they had sex...I'll leave you to interpret that one.

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.**

63. God had shut up her womb on purpose. When God shuts a womb:
- a. It is never for punishment.
 - b. It's always for a greater purpose.
 - c. It's for an appointed time.
 - d. And it's for a specific reason.

1 Samuel 2:18 **But Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child, girded with a linen ephod.**

64. Hannah gave birth to Samuel. He wasn't just another child.
- a. **"He ministered before the Lord."**
65. Do you know what that means?
- a. Jump up one verse.

1 Samuel 2:17 **Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the**

Lord: for men abhorred the offering of the Lord.

66. Eli's sons were corrupt priests. They did not worship or live right before God.
- a. So God birthed a replacement.
67. That means Hannah was barren for a season so that in God's timing he would open up her womb and give birth to a generation changer.
68. When no one else was worshipping, Samuel did. How do we know?

1 Samuel 2:18 **But Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child, girded with a linen ephod.**

69. Children didn't wear ephods. Samuel did...and used it to minister / worship to the Lord.
- a. Eli's sons didn't wear the ephod.
70. **GOD IS NOT THROUGH WITH YOU!**
71. Delay does not mean denial and your barrenness will be turned to bountifulness!

E N D