

A Picture of Perfection

Call unto Me and I will answer thee, and show you great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

--Jeremiah 33:3 KJV

Talk about a perfect child! She was born on 07/07/07 and weighed seven pounds. Having heard God's perfect number was seven, I began to wonder. And then my son and daughter-in-law told me her name...Hannah Eileen. The word "handmaiden" came to mind. Immediately, God reminded me about Hannah from the Bible who served as a handmaiden in the temple of the Lord. I wondered if my son and his wife remembered my oldest sister's middle name had been Eileen and she died of heart attack at fifty years of age.

After Hannah's birth, my husband and I went home to get some rest. Later, I got up to pray and read my Bible. I came across the words, "In the last days I will pour My Spirit upon your sons and daughters and on my servants and my handmaidens," (Acts 2:18 KJV). I knew I had just been given my future promise concerning my children and thought to myself, *I can go home to heaven now because I know He does what He promises.*

In June 2008, we received the news Hannah had an incurable genetic disease called MPS I: Hurler's Syndrome. Medical recommendation: enzyme treatments once a week for four hours and a stem cell transplant to slow down the progression of the disease.

She received her first stem cell transplant on September 4th, 2008, my birthday, and our family felt hopeful. However, the stem cell did not work and the doctors decided to do another one on November 15th, 2008.

Hannah never recovered due to complications from the second transplant. On December 26th, 2008, the day before Hannah's death, I read in the *Daily Walk Bible* how the ancient Hebrew people believed seven was God's perfect number. It meant, "Perfection, rest and completion." Hannah died the next day on December 27th, 2008. At the memorial service in Chicago, my husband leaned over to me and said, "You know the things about seven you've been telling everyone; I counted it up and Hannah lived exactly seventy-seven weeks." Her memorial in Texas with all of our family and friends took place on January 7th, 2009 at the decision of her parents.



Although Hannah's life ended early, we have been convinced more than ever that God is sovereign over life and death. Without doubt, we know God knew Hannah from her mother's womb. He knew the disease would eventually take her life and the purpose for sending her our way, if only for a season. Many questions arise when people experience this kind of suffering. We may never have all the answers, but as we keep a sensitive heart, opening our eyes to God way, He truly reveals things we do not know, empowering us to walk through it.

Father, thank You for revealing Your sovereignty over life and death to our family and for providing Your comfort in the midst of suffering. Please help those who are facing the loss of loved ones as you have done for us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.