

A background of soft-focus pink cherry blossoms against a clear blue sky. The blossoms are in various stages of bloom, with some showing yellow centers. A central white rectangular box with a thin gold border contains the Mother's Day text.

HAPPY
Mother's
DAY

A background image of pink cherry blossoms with yellow centers, some in sharp focus and others blurred, creating a soft, spring-like atmosphere.

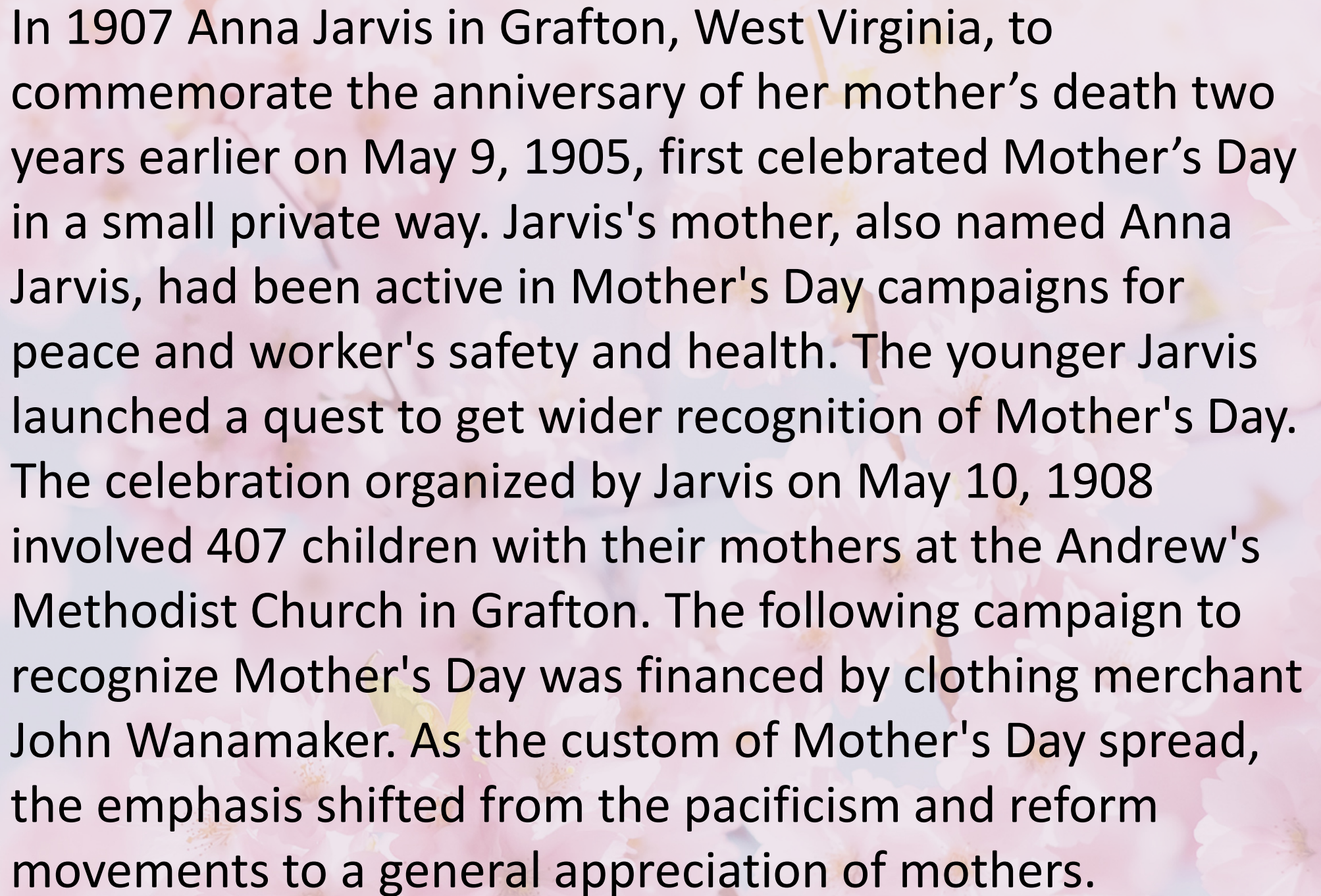
MOTHER'S DAY 2023

1 Sam. 1-2

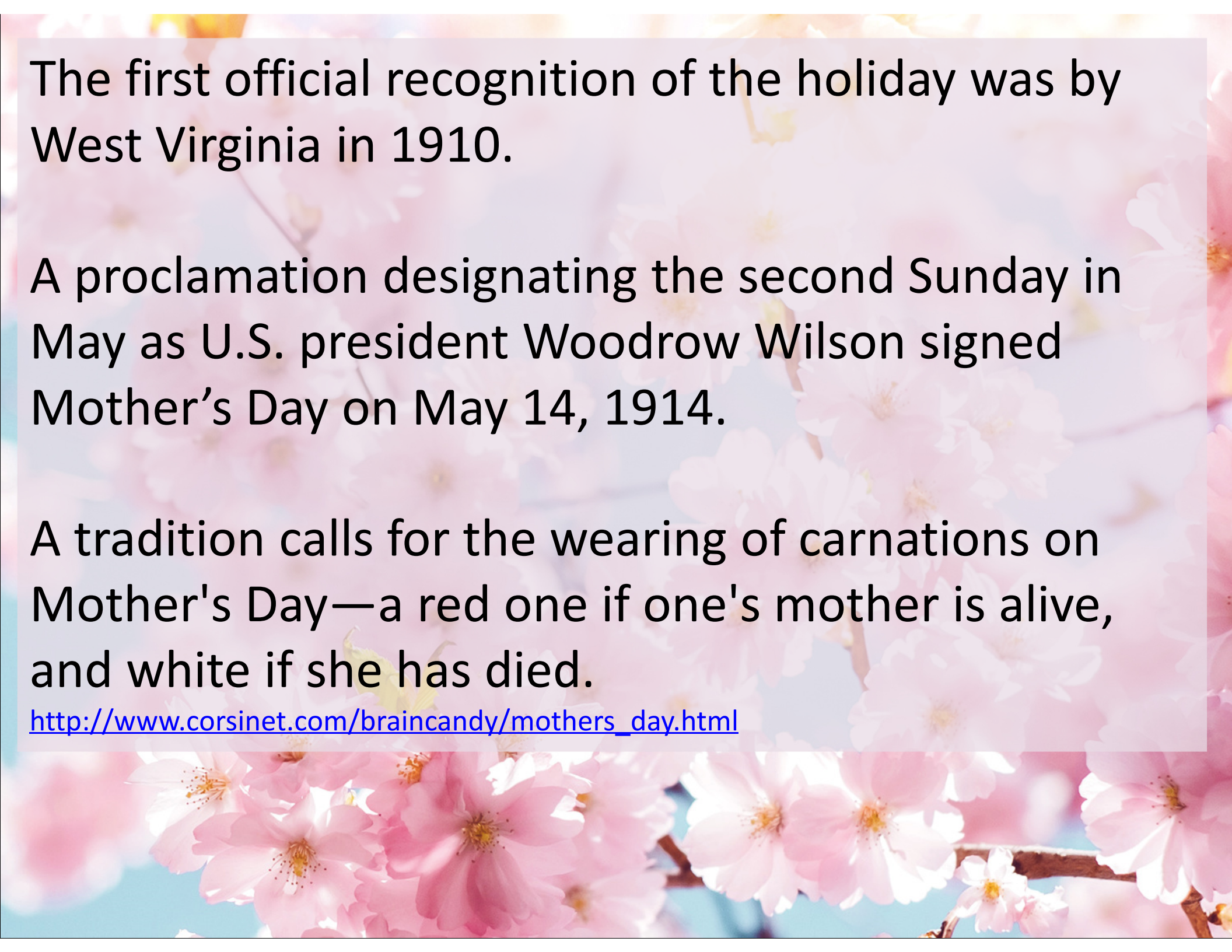
*Grace So Amazing
in the Life of a Graceful Mother – Hannah*

Historical Background

Julia Ward Howe first proclaimed Mother's Day in the United States in 1870 in Boston, and Howe called for it to be observed each year nationally in 1872. As originally envisioned, Howe's "Mother's Day" was a call for Pacifism and disarmament by women. Women's peace groups mostly marked early "Mother's Day". A common early activity was the meeting of groups of mothers whose sons had fought or died on opposite sides of the American Civil War.

The background of the image is a soft-focus photograph of pink cherry blossoms. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing distinct yellow centers. The overall color palette is a mix of light pinks, blush, and hints of white, creating a gentle and celebratory atmosphere.

In 1907 Anna Jarvis in Grafton, West Virginia, to commemorate the anniversary of her mother's death two years earlier on May 9, 1905, first celebrated Mother's Day in a small private way. Jarvis's mother, also named Anna Jarvis, had been active in Mother's Day campaigns for peace and worker's safety and health. The younger Jarvis launched a quest to get wider recognition of Mother's Day. The celebration organized by Jarvis on May 10, 1908 involved 407 children with their mothers at the Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton. The following campaign to recognize Mother's Day was financed by clothing merchant John Wanamaker. As the custom of Mother's Day spread, the emphasis shifted from the pacificism and reform movements to a general appreciation of mothers.

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The first official recognition of the holiday was by West Virginia in 1910.

A proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as U.S. president Woodrow Wilson signed Mother's Day on May 14, 1914.

A tradition calls for the wearing of carnations on Mother's Day—a red one if one's mother is alive, and white if she has died.

http://www.corsinet.com/braincandy/mothers_day.html

A Mother's Love

*A Mother's love is something
that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion
and of sacrifice and pain,*

*It is endless and unselfish
and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it
or take that love away . . .*

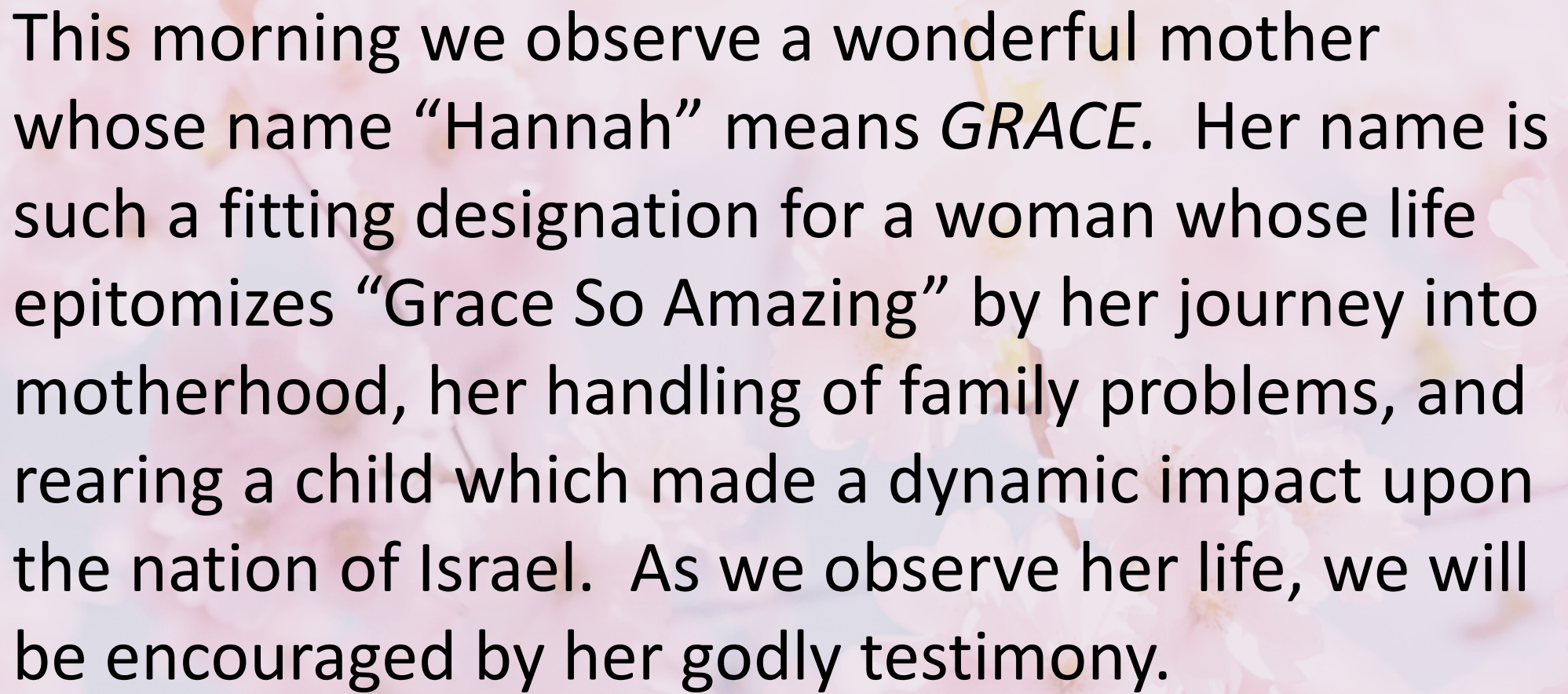
*It is patient and forgiving
when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters
even though the heart is breaking . . .*

*It believes beyond believing
when the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty
of the rarest, brightest gems . . .*

*It is far beyond defining,
it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret
like the mysteries of creation . . .*

*A many splendored miracle
man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence
of God's tender guiding hand.*

—HELEN STEINER RICE

The background of the slide is a soft-focus image of pink cherry blossoms. The petals are a light pink color, and the centers show yellow stamens. The background is slightly blurred, creating a dreamy atmosphere.

This morning we observe a wonderful mother whose name “Hannah” means *GRACE*. Her name is such a fitting designation for a woman whose life epitomizes “Grace So Amazing” by her journey into motherhood, her handling of family problems, and rearing a child which made a dynamic impact upon the nation of Israel. As we observe her life, we will be encouraged by her godly testimony.

I. HANNAH HAD FAMILY PROBLEMS

1 Sam. 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:

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 But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for **he loved Hannah:** but **the LORD had shut up her womb.**

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

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.

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?***

A. The Ramifications of Hannah's Hardship

- ❖ The LORD had shut up her womb. She did not create the chaos in her family.
- ❖ Hannah's "...adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb."
- ❖ Hannah was "violently agitated" by Peninnah's (pen-in-naw') provocation.

Fret = Be violently agitated; specifically, to crash (of thunder); figuratively, to irritate (with anger) -- make to fret, roar, thunder, trouble.

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/7481.htm>

- ❖ Basic issues in life, that the Lord has allowed, may cause believers special challenges.
- ❖ A believer's first response to any challenge should be to pray!

B. The Response of Her Husband

- ❖ Elkanah, year by year, went up to the "House of God" in Shiloh.
- ❖ Elkanah was aware of the tension between the two women, and particularly, Hannah's heartache (v. 8.)
- ❖ Elkanah tried to comfort Hannah by showering her with love, even asking her, "...**am not I better to thee than ten sons?**"
- ❖ Sometimes, men mean well but just do not understand how to solve a wife's dilemma.

II. HANNAH HAD FERVENT PRAYERS

1 Sam. 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**.

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

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.

12 And it came to pass, **as she continued praying before the LORD**, that Eli marked her mouth.

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. ...

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.**

27 **For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:**

Jas. 5:16b “...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

- ❖ Perhaps Hannah's stress from barrenness motivated her to a deeper desire to honor the Lord.
- ❖ Hannah's prayer life is a good indication that her testimony was a shining light in the midst of a dark spiritual time in Israel.

1 Sam. 2:12 Now **the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD. ...**

17 Wherefore **the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.**

❖ No matter how spiritually wicked society becomes, the answer is still the influence of a godly home to influence the children to live to honor God.

1 Pet. 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and **as being heirs together of the grace of life**; that your **prayers be not hindered**.

III. HANNAH HAD FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION

1 Sam. 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.

12 “And it came to pass, **as she continued praying before the LORD...**”

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.

24 And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and **brought him unto the house of the LORD** in Shiloh: and the child *was* young.

25 And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli.

26 And she said, Oh my lord, *as* thy soul liveth, my lord, I *am* the woman that stood by thee here, **praying unto the LORD.**

27 **For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:**

❖ Hannah's life was a testimony to her faith – actions speak much louder than words.

❖ Hannah was faithful to the House of God, as well as continuing in prayer:

1 Sam. 1:1a “And it came to pass, **as she continued praying before the LORD...**”

❖ Hannah continued her faithfulness after giving the sacrificial offer of her son:

1 Sam. 2:19 Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought *it* to him **from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.**

IV. HANNAH HAD FRUITFUL PRESENTATION

1 Sam. 1:28 Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; **as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.**

- ❖ Hannah was not selfishly praying for a son for herself, but for an offering to God.
- ❖ The Lord accepted Hannah's offering, and then blessed her with more children:

1 Sam. 2:21 And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

❖ The last mention of Hannah in the Bible is found in 1 Sam. 2:21. But...Samuel is mentioned 142 times in 121 verses.

Prov. 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

❖ “The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.”

William Ross Wallace

[https://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/the+hand+that+rocks+the+cradle+\(rules+the+world\)](https://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/the+hand+that+rocks+the+cradle+(rules+the+world))

- ❖ Hannah, an insignificant woman within a messed up home humbled herself and prayed for a son. God answered and gave her Samuel.
- ❖ Samuel was the last of the judges, a prophet, and a priest, who anointed the first king of Israel, and was the spiritual influence on David, the man after God's own heart.
- ❖ Samuel was also precious in the eyes of God.

Psa. 99:6 Moses and Aaron among his priests, **and Samuel** among them that call upon his name; they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.

Jer. 15:1 Then said the LORD unto me, Though **Moses and Samuel** stood before me, *yet* my mind *could not be* toward this people: cast *them* out of my sight, and let them go forth.

Acts 13:20 And after that he gave *unto them* judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until **Samuel the prophet**.

Heb. 11:32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and *of* Barak, and *of* Samson, and *of* Jephthae; *of* David also, **and Samuel**, and *of* the prophets:

Summary

- ❖ Mothers are the makers and molders of children who are the leaders of tomorrow.
- ❖ Hannah had a love for her husband.
- ❖ Hannah had a love of heaven.
- ❖ Hannah had a love for her home.
- ❖ Rachel was barren and prayed for children:

Gen. 30:1 And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, **Give me children, or else I die.**

❖ Hannah prayed for a son to give back to the Lord:

1 Sam. 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.

❖ When responding to Eli's false accusation of drunkenness, Hannah exhibited grace:

1 Sam. 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**.

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*.

Conclusion

Deut. 10:12 And now, Israel, **what doth the LORD thy God require of thee**, but **to fear** the LORD thy God, **to walk** in all his ways, and **to love him**, and **to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul**,

Luke 10:27 And he answering said, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart**, and with **all thy soul**, and with **all thy strength**, and with **all thy mind**; and thy neighbour as thyself.

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