

“The ark of God was captured, and Eli’s two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.” – 1 Samuel 4:11

“But the people refused to listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.”” – 1 Samuel 8:19-20

1. Introduction

- a. Recap from 1 Samuel 1-3.
- b. A look ahead – 10 more weeks of OT History:
 - i. March 26 (*tonight*) 1 Samuel 4-9
 - ii. April 2 1 Samuel 10-15
 - iii. April 9 1 Samuel 16-31
 - iv. April 16 2 Samuel 1-12
 - v. April 23 2 Samuel 13-24
 - vi. April 30 1 Kings 1-11 (Solomon)
 - vii. May 7 1 Kings 12-22 & 2 Kings
 - viii. May 14 Ezra
 - ix. May 21 Nehemiah
 - x. May 28 Wrap Up Week

2. Philistines Capture Ark, Eli and Sons Die (Chapter 4)

- a. Israel goes out against the Philistines.
 - i. Israel is defeated – about 4000 die.
- b. Israel says “why has the Lord defeated us?” (4:3)
- c. The Israelites decide to get their good luck charm – the ark, and bring it to battle.
 - i. Notice – they don’t repent; they don’t try to clean house at Shiloh.
 - 1. They’ve gone into battle, they’ve lost 4000, but they don’t really cry out to God – they don’t repent.
 - 2. Instead, they grab the ark and head back out.
 - ii. Philistines hear about it and get scared, but are not paralyzed by their fear.
 - iii. They pursue and attack.
 - iv. Philistines defeat Israel again – this time 30,000 die.
 - v. 4:11 - The ark is captured and Eli’s two sons, Hophni and Phinehas die.
 - 1. Fulfills prophecy of 1 Samuel 2:34.
- d. Word passes back to Shiloh about the defeat.
 - i. Eli is described as “sitting on his seat by the road watching for his heart trembled for the ark of God.”
 - ii. When told the news, Eli falls over and breaks his neck.
- e. Eli’s pregnant daughter-in-law gives birth and dies upon hearing the news.
 - i. Names her son Ichabod stating that “the glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured.”

3. The Ark of God Takes Down Dagon and Tumors Spread (Chapter 5)

- a. Philistines return to Ashdod with the ark of the Lord.
- b. Put it in the house of Dagon.
 - i. The next morning, Dagon is found lying face down and they set him back up.
 - 1. Dagon in a position of subservience and worship – prostrate before Yahweh’s ark.
 - 2. They stand him back up.
 - ii. The next morning, Dagon is found face down before the ark of the Lord and his head and both hands were cut off lying at the threshold.
- b. The Philistines are terrified and God afflicts them with tumors.
- c. They take the ark of God to Gath.

- d. God afflicted Gath – tumors break out there too (both young and old).
- e. Then they send it to Ekron, but Ekron is smart enough to not allow it into their city – there was deathly panic throughout their whole city.

4. Two Cows Return the Ark of the Lord to Israel (Chapter 6)

- a. Philistines decide to return the ark of the Lord to Israel after 7 months.
- b. To determine if all of this was coincidence or the hand of God, they decide to load up the ark on a cart and tie it behind two cows.
 - i. If the cows return to Beth-shemesh, they will know it was the hand of God.
 - ii. They go straight to Beth-shemesh.
 - iii. Israel sees it coming and rejoices, they offer sacrifices there.
- c. Some of the men of Beth-shemesh looked into the ark of the Lord and God struck them dead.
 - i. 70 of them.

5. God Delivers Israel from the Philistines (Chapter 7)

- a. The men of Beth-shemesh call out to the inhabitants of Kiriath-jearim, and they come and take the ark to the house of Abinadab on the hill.
- b. Eleazar is consecrated and given charge of the ark of the Lord.
- c. From that time – for 20 years – all the house of Israel mourned and sought after the Lord.
- d. Focus on 1 Samuel 7:2-4.
 - i. Three imperatives:
 - 1. Rid yourselves of the foreign gods.
 - 2. Commit yourselves to the Lord.
 - 3. Serve him only.
- e. Samuel gathers all of Israel at Mizpah.
 - i. God thundered mightily against the Philistines and threw them into confusion.
 - ii. Israel strikes them down.
- f. The hand of the Lord was against the Philistines.
 - i. The cities that the Philistines had taken were restored to Israel.
- g. Samuel is said to have judged Israel all the days of his life.

6. Israel's Demand for and Samuel's Warning Against Kingship (Chapter 8)

- a. As Samuel becomes old, he made his sons judges of Israel.
 - i. They did not walk in the way of Samuel – they were after gain, took bribes and perverted justice.
- b. The elders of Israel approach Samuel and call him out on his sons.
- c. They demand a king: “appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.”
- d. Samuel is displeased and so he prays to the Lord:
 - i. God tells Samuel that it is not him they have rejected, but it is God they have rejected.
 - ii. God tells Samuel to obey their demand, but to warn them.
- e. Samuel tells them what it is going to be like to have a king.
- f. The people respond: we want a king. “That we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.”
- g. Samuel confers with God again and God confirms that Samuel is to obey their voice.

7. Saul is Chosen to be King, Meets Samuel (Chapter 9)

- a. Introduced to Saul – a Benjaminite.
 - i. Father was wealthy.
 - ii. Handsome, young man.

- iii. From his shoulders upward, he was taller than any of the people (big head?)
- b. Saul is sent out (along with one of the servants) looking for his father's lost donkeys.
 - i. They travel around and can't find them.
 - ii. They end up in Zuph and Saul suggests they give up and go back.
- c. The servant suggests that they go to the man of God in Zuph (Samuel).
- d. We're told that the day before Saul came to the city, the Lord revealed to Samuel that Saul was coming and that he was to anoint him prince over the people of Israel.
- e. When Samuel sees Saul, God told him, 'this is the guy'.
 - i. Notice that God has not revealed Samuel to Saul.
- f. Verse 20 is worded a bit oddly, but Samuel says to Saul "And to whom is all the desire of Israel turned, if not to you and all your father's family?"
 - i. Recall that Israel's *desire* here is to have a king.
 - ii. Saul replies humbly.
- g. Saul eats with Samuel, talks with Samuel on the roof.
- h. Saul spends the night and the next morning, Samuel sends him off.
 - i. Asks Saul to send his servant ahead.
 - ii. Saul does.
 - iii. 10:1 – Samuel anoints Saul.

8. For Next Time:

- a. Read 1 Samuel 10-15.
 - i. These chapters smell like the book of Judges in several ways – identify as many as you can.
- b. We're given hints of the David twice in this section of Scripture. Identify them.
- c. Try to identify a three step ascension of Saul:
 - i. Designation
 - ii. Demonstration
 - iii. Confirmation
- d. Samuel gives prophecies and gives some specific instructions to Saul in 1 Samuel 10:2-8.
 - i. When he tells him in verse 7 to "do what your hand finds to do," what do you think Samuel had in mind?
- e. In chapter 11, we read of the Ammonites going up against Jabesh-gilead. When (in the Old Testament History we've been discussing) did we last hear of Jabesh-gilead?
- f. Pay close attention to 15:17-29. Here Samuel identifies Saul's disobedience to the Lord.
 - i. What exactly has Saul done?
 - ii. Does this seem clear cut to you?
 - iii. Do Samuel's words to Saul in verse 15:26 seem a little harsh?

9. Class Handouts, etc Available Online:

- a. I'm making all of the handouts, etc available online at:
 - i. www.toddsmindblogger.wordpress.com