

“Historical Books Of The Bible”
1 Samuel 4:1-22
Wednesday November 20, 2013

1 Samuel 4:1-11

C. S. Lewis said “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our consciousness, and shouts to us in our pain.”

1 Samuel 1-7 – The Ministry Of Samuel.

1 Samuel 1:1-2:11 – Elkanah And His Family.

Samuel – “Heard of God” and “Asked of God”

1 Samuel 2:12-3:21 – Shift To Eli And His family. 1 Samuel 2:12

1 Samuel 2:17

1 Samuel 2:26

1 Samuel 3 – Samuel’s Call As A Prophet.

1 Samuel 4-6 – God’s Judgment Upon Israel And The Philistines.

1. Verses 1-11 – Israel’s Defeat

2. Verses 12-20 – God’s Judgment

3. Verses 21-22 – God’s Departure

1. Verses 1-11 – Israel’s Defeat:

1 Samuel 4:1

“Thus the word of Samuel came to all Israel.” – 1 Sam 3:21

In-between 1 Samuel 3-4 is a period of time of about 15 years.

1 Samuel 7:3

Philistines – We are introduced to them in Genesis 21:32 in the time of Abraham, 2000 BC. The Egyptians referred to them as “sea people” who migrated from Greece and the Aegean Sea, Amos 9:7. Settled on the Mediterranean coast 1200 BC s/w of Jerusalem which today is known as the Gaza strip. The Philistines – Appeared in Judges 3:31 but in Judges 13 Became Public Enemy Number #1; 150X in 1 Samuel.

Judges 13:1

This was the longest period of bondage Israel faced during the time of Judges – 40 years, a whole generation.

The name, or term “Palestine” comes from the name Philistine. It was the Romans who renamed the land (200 AD) Genesis 16:12

“camped beside Ebenezer” – literally, “stone of help”.

“Philistines camped in Aphek” – literally, “fortress”.

1 Samuel 4:2

Adversity and Failure are bitter pills to swallow; As hard as failure is, it is an important tool because it has a way of getting our attention and making us teachable.

1 Samuel 4:3

If the elders had recalled the terms of God's covenant, they would have realized that this shameful defeat was caused by Israel's disobedience to God's law. Deut. 28:25

Ark – The presence of God – glory of the Lord. The King of Israel – Holy God – The Ark of the Covenant is mentioned at least 35X in these three chapters

1 Samuel 4:4

How could God bless two sinful men whom He had already consigned to judgment? (1 Sam. 2:29, 34-4:4, 17)

1 Samuel 4:5

The Ark may have been with them in the camp, but the Lord was against them.

1 Samuel 4:6-7

Israel should be saying “Woe to us! Israel was the one in trouble.

1 Samuel 4:8

Philistines were afraid, But Israel – Had No fear of God!

1 Samuel 4:9-10

1 Sam 2:30

Acts 19:13-17 – Seven Sons of Sceva

1 Samuel 4:11

“ark of God was taken” – 5X in verses 11-22 you find the phrase “the Ark of God was [is] taken”

2. Verses 12-20 – God’s Judgment:

1 Samuel 4:12-17

4 – Point Message:

1. “Israel has fled before the Philistines”
2. “a great slaughter among the people,”
3. “your two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead,”
4. “the ark of God has been taken.”

1 Samuel 4:18

We say, “Are You Sitting?” or “I just about fell out of my seat!” Ark gone – He fell and died.

1 Samuel 4:19

“she kneeled down and gave birth, for her pains came upon her.” – Premature birth because: Ark had been taken – Order: Israel defeated ~ Father-in-Law had died ~ Husband had died.

1 Samuel 4:20

“Do not be afraid, for you have given birth to a son.” – Mid-wife attempted to comfort her – she now dying, like Rachel, Gen 35:16-20: birth to Benjamin.

3. Verses 21-22 – God’s Departure:

1 Samuel 4:21

Ichabod – “no glory, the glory has departed”.

Without God, no glory! – Because the ark of God was taken and because of her father-in-law and her husband.

1 Samuel 4:22

James 4:5-10

Application:

1. Adversities And Failure Are Bitter Pills To Swallow, But God Can Use Them To Get Our Attention And To Make Us Teachable.
2. Israel's Defeat Was Due To Israel's Lack Of Obedience And Not Treating God As Holy: 1 Sam 2:30.
3. Ichabod Means "No Glory, Or The Glory Has Departed"; Without God There Is No Glory.