

Study Guide Chapter 4 - 12

1 SAMUEL 4:

- What are the main themes in this chapter?
- Cross-reference who the Philistines are and you learn about them Genesis 10:6-14; Genesis 21:32-34; Exodus 13:17; Exodus 23:28-33; Joshua 13:1-3; Judges 10:6-11; Judges 14:1-4; 16:30.

Back to 1 Samuel 4 1-4

- What happened after the Philistines defeated Israel in battle?
- Cross-reference about the **The Ark of the Covenant** and note what you learn—Deuteronomy 10:1-5; 31:24-26; Exodus 29:42-43; 40:34-35; Numbers 10:33-36; Joshua 3:1-17; Joshua 6:1-10, 15-16, 20; Hebrews 9:4

Why was Israel defeated by the Philistines?

How can you relate the behavior of Israel toward the Ark of the Covenant to the behavior of many people in our times?

Verses 5-11 What happened in these verses?

Verses 12-19 : How does this chapter end? Name at least 3 main events in these verses.

What else can we learn from this Chapter?

1 SAMUEL 5

What is the theme of this Chapter?

Verses 1-5

How does this chapter continue from chapter 4? Relate this to Judges 16:23.

Verses 6-12:

- What events happened in these verses?
- Based on these events, what do you think about God's judgment on a people or nation?
- How could this relate to the present pandemic?

1 SAMUEL 6

What is the theme of this Chapter?

Verses 1-18

- What are the events of these verses? When do they take place? Where, and Why?
- Why did the Philistines return the Ark of the Covenant? Compare their behavior with that of Pharaoh and his encounter with Moses in Exodus.

Verses 19-21: What happened at Beth-shemesh and why? Reference Numbers 4:1-4, 15-20.

Based on these events, what do you think about God's holiness. Compare this to Hannah's prayer in chapter 2:2, 9-10.

1 SAMUEL 7

What are the possible themes for this chapter?

Verses 1-2 : How does this continue from chapter 6?

Verses 3-6 :

- Who is the main character in these verses?
- What did you notice to be very significant in the behavior of Israel?

Verses 7-14:

- What else happened at Mizpah?
- How do you compare the events in these verses with the previous conflict in chapter 4?
- What is the meaning of the name "Ebenezer,"

Verses 15-17

- How does this chapter end?
- What did you learn about God in this chapter?

1 Samuel 8-12: Saul being made king of Israel

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS CHAPTERS STUDIED

- Studied chapters 1 – 3—Samuel's birth; he was a priest and prophet.
- Studied chapters 4–7—The ark was taken by the Philistines, recovered and Samuel was a judge, called Israel to repentance and reconciliation with God. Israel defeats the Philistines.

1 Samuel Chapters 8–12:

Remember what the significance of 1 Samuel is

1 SAMUEL 8

Verses 1-9:

- **How does this chapter begin?**
- What were the names of Saul's children and where were they judges
- What was their character like and how did this impact the cry for a king?
- Samuel was displeased with the cry of Israel for a king. How did God react to Samuel's distress?
- What does the request for a king mean in terms of Israel's relationship with God.
- What does Ezekiel 3:18 tell us about the dangers of having a king reign over Israel?

Cross-references about Israel and kings.

Genesis 17:1-6; 15-16

Genesis 35:10-11

Deuteronomy 17:14-20

Judges chapters 8-9

Reflection: How often do we consult with God before making significant choices in our lives?

Verses 10-18: What did Samuel tell the people about a king? Pay attention to verse 18

Verses 19-22 :

- How did the people respond to the warning?
- Israel rejected God being their King. How does this apply to us today? Being like everyone else.

1 SAMUEL 9

Who become a main character from this chapter?

Verses 1-2:

- What do we learn about Saul from these verses?

Verses 3-14

- How did Saul get to Samuel?

Verses 15-27

- What do we learn from these verses?

1 SAMUEL 10

Verses 1-8

- What are the main events of these verses?
- What does being anointed mean?
- What was Samuel's message to Saul, and what was Saul told to do?
- Look up the root and meaning of the word "Prophecy"

Verses 9-13

- What happened when Saul turned to leave Samuel?
- How did the people know that Saul had changed?

What do you learn from the cross-references about the Spirit of the Lord.

Numbers 11:17, 25-26, 29

Numbers 24:2

Numbers 27:18

Judges 3-15 The Lord's Spirit came on judges of Israel, which ones?.

Verses 14-16

- Who and what are these verses about?

Verses 17-27 :

- What do we learn from these verses? How does this chapter end? What event?
- How was Soul chosen?
- What impressed the people about Soul. (compare to 1 Samuel 16:1-13. What do we learn from this cross-referencing?)

How does this chapter end?

1 SAMUEL 11

What is this chapter about?

Verses 1-11

- What are the main events of these verses?
- What was wrong in Jabesh trying to make a covenant with the Ammonites?
- What drove Saul to lead Israel to this defeat?

Verses 12-15.

- What happened in these verses?
- (Note how Soul acted toward those who detracted him and how he would act in the future. How we grow from innocence to arrogance).
- What was different on how Saul rejoiced and how Israel rejoiced?
- What did Israel miss here? Guess whom they are giving credit.

1 SAMUEL 12:

What are the main events of this chapter?

- Samuel continued to serve the people as their priest, prophet, and judge, but Saul exercised more and more political and military control over the tribes (see 7:15).

Verses 1-5: This is like a farewell speech in which Samuel asked the Israelites to point out any wrong he had committed during his time as Israel's judge.

Why did Samuel tell the people that God will bear him witness that he had taken nothing, nor defrauded or oppressed anyone?

12:6-18

- *What do we make of these verses and what lessons do we learn?*
- *From these verses, what does following the Lord entail?*
- *What happened in these verses that caused the people to fear God?*

Verse 20-21: From these verses, we can see that the people can actually make their choice to have a king as long as it does not lead them to sin and abandon God.

What does this say to us about our relationship with God and money?

Verse 22 tells why the Lord didn't abandon His people. *What are the reasons?*

12:23 *Is failing to pray for others a sin?* Samuel's words seem to indicate *that* it is. His actions illustrate two of God's people's responsibilities: *What are they?*

12:24 This is the second time in his farewell speech that Samuel reminded the people to take time to consider what great things God had done for them (see 12:7). *Why is this important?*

1 SAMUEL 13

What would you say is the main theme for this chapter?

Verses 1-7

A new figure was introduced—Jonathan, Saul's son, old enough to lead 1,000 men in battle against the Philistines. Pay attention to Jonathan's character and how that is different from that of his father.

13:3-4 What do you notice in these verses that tells you something of who Saul was becoming?

13:6 Israel panicked when they saw the vast Philistine army. *What was wrong with this picture?* (Ref: Judges 7: 1-5)

13:9 Rather than waiting for a priest, Saul offered the sacrifice himself which was against God's laws (Deuteronomy 12:5-14) and against Samuel's instructions. What does this say to you about Saul's character? *What do we learn from this event?*

13:12-13 Saul had plenty of excuses for his disobedience. But Samuel zeroed in on the real issue: “You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you.”

- How are we instructed by Samuel’s answer to Saul?
- What does this say to us about Obedience to God’s word?

13:14 By trying to hide his sins behind excuses, Saul lost his kingship. *How does this relate to us in our relationships with self and others?*

13:19-22 Israel was in no position to conquer anyone; the army had no iron weapons, and there were no facilities for turning their tools into weapons. The Philistines had tight control over the technology. Only Saul and Jonathan had spears.

- *Against such superiority, how could the Israelites hope to fight and win their oppressors? (Ref Numbers 13: 26-33)*
- Have you ever felt surrounded by the “enemy” or faced overwhelming odds? What did you do? Please share your experience with the group, if you don’t mind.

Some of the people of Israel became so frightened that they hid in caves, thickets, cliffs, cellars, and pits. Others crossed the Jordan River to go to their brothers’

land in Gad or Gilead. Even those who remained at Gilgal with Saul trembled.

- *What role does fear play in our defeat?*
- *Compare their actions and that of Jonathan in Chapter 14:1-15*

1 SAMUEL 14

In this chapter, we see Saul making some poor decisions as a leader and commander in chief.

- Could you identify them (Ref 14:1, 17; 14:24; 14:31)

14:1-11

- *Why would Jonathan go alone to attack the Philistines and why did he not tell his father?*
- *What does his victory tell you about trusting and having faith in God?*

14:12 Jonathan did not have the authority to lead all the troops into battle, but he could start a small skirmish in one corner of the enemy camp. When he did, panic broke out among the Philistines; the Hebrews who had been drafted into the Philistine army revolted; and the men who were hiding in the hills regained their courage and returned to fight. The battle was worn.

- *What does this say to us about dealing with difficult situations in life? What lessons do we learn from this episode?*

14:24-34 Saul made an oath without thinking through the implications.

- What do you think was the reason for this oath, and *what were the consequences of his rash decisions?*

14:32-34 One of the oldest and strongest Hebrew food laws was the prohibition against eating meat containing the animal's blood

- What was the origin of this law? (Ref Genesis 9:4)
- Why was it wrong to eat blood? (Leviticus 7:26, 27; 17:10-14)

14:35-42

Verse 35 tells about the first altar Saul built. He made provision for the men to eat properly. *What do we learn from this?*

Saul wanted to go immediately and kill all the Philistines, and his men were agreeable. But the priest said they should draw near to the Lord first. It was only then that Saul inquired of the Lord about whether or not they should go after the Philistines. The Lord did not answer?

- *Do you consult God first before you act or as an afterthought? (Ref: Deut 20:1-4; Proverb 16:3).*
- Deuteronomy 20:1-4:
- Prov 16:3
- God should not be an afterthought in our plans. Take it to Him first.

Soul makes a second oath that almost killed his own son, Jonathan. The people intervened and spared his life.

14:39 What do you learn about oaths and vows from the Old Testament? (Ref Lev 5:4; Numbers 30)

- *(Ref Judges 11; Matthew 14:1-12) How do these compare with Saul's oath and the near death of Jonathan?*
- *How could John the Baptism have been saved in the Matthew story?*
- *What do we learn from these stories?*

14:43 How is Jonathan's spiritual character here in strike contrast to Saul's?

"Lots", "Urim and Thummim" were wildly used in this Book. Let us delve deeper into understanding their use.

1. What do you learn about "lots" (Ref: Leviticus 16:8; Numbers 26:55-56; Joshua 7:14; Proverbs 16:33 and 18:18; Jonah 1:7 and Luke 1:9. In 1 Samuel 10, Saul was chosen as king by lot.

"Urim" and "Thummim" Exodus 28:27-30; Numbers 27:18-21;

Verses 47-52 focuses on the enemies "on every side" of Israel whom Saul fought and punished:

- Could you identify the countries and where they border Israel?
- What was the main success of Saul? What did God use him to accomplish for Israel?

Verses 49-51 tell about Saul's family.

- What did you learn about his family?

- From what we have read so far, how would you describe Saul and his relationship with God?