

Part 2: judges of Israel

Lesson 8: The End of the Judges - 1 Samuel 1-10

3. God promised to raise up a priest after his own heart (1 Sam 2:35). Whom may God have in mind? Explain.

With the failure of Eli as a judge and a priest, the Philistines arose again (4:1-2). Why did they initially fear the ark of God? (vv. 5-9)

NOTE: The progressive blindness of Eli seems to represent his failed spiritual sight (3:2-4; 4:13-15.)

Who won the war, and how does the name of the grandson of Eli exemplify the result?

4. The Philistines brought the ark where? (5:1-2)

How did the Philistine god Dagon react to the ark? (vv. 3-4)

What did God then do the Philistines? (v. 6)

What did the Philistines determine to do? (5:6-6:9)

How did the Philistines transport the ark back to Israel?

What Israelite king would later use this same method to move the ark? (2 Sam 6:1-3)

5. The people of Israel slowly turn from their wickedness to serve the Lord. They removed their idols and follow Samuel as their judge (1 Sam 6:13-7:6). What does God do to their enemies, the Philistines? (7:7-14)
6. Compare Eli and Samuel and their children. What should we learn from their good and bad examples?

Why did the Israelites "reject" Samuel as their judge?
(1 Sam 8:4-5)

Explain why the people were not really rejecting Samuel when they asked for a king (vv. 6-9). What would a king do to the people? (vv. 10-18)

7. God providentially brings what man to Samuel so that he might be anointed king of Israel?

Describe the man whom God had chosen. What strengths and weaknesses do you see in the new king even before he later rebelled against the Lord?

CHALLENGE: When she received her petition for a son, Hannah praised God in poetic prayer (or song). For the next three days, look for opportunities to return thanks to the Lord for his blessings. If you are so inclined, write your own poetic prayer or sing one of the songs in the hymnal to express your gratitude to God.

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