

Life of David

Lesson 6

Text

1 Samuel 7:3 - 1 Samuel 7:17

Background

In last week's study we see the Philistines, after 7 months, had enough of holding onto the Ark of the Covenant. They saw the ark as a trophy of another conquered "god", but realized through it all that this God is not conquerable. They decided they wanted to return the ark and seek forgiveness in their own ways of the God they offended. Enter the Philistines priests and diviners. Through their "expertise" in such matters, they devise a plan to return the ark along with a "trespass offering" so that God's wrath would be mitigated and His hand would be lightened against them.

The first place they came to was Beth Shemesh. The Philistines' plan was to offload the ark and return home. The people of Beth Shemesh were elated as the ark was in their town. They prepared offerings and made sacrifices to the Lord that day. However, they made a critical error in verse 19 as they looked into the ark. This act of disobedience cost Beth Shemesh the lives of 50,000 plus men. We read toward the end of our reading that Beth Shemesh sent messengers to Kirjath Jearim, the ark was taken back to their land, brought into the house of Abinadab, was watched over by Eleazar his son, and remained there 20 years.

With the ark now back in Israel's possession, the story shifts back to Samuel as we dig into this week's study.

Day 1 - Read and Listen

1. Read and/or listen to the passage twice. If possible, use different translations. I highly recommend having the passage read to you. Many apps, including the Blue Letter Bible, have a feature that will read the Bible to you. Meditate and pray on the passage.

Day 2 - Observing the Text

2. Who are the characters listed in the passage? As much as the passage tells you, write down any titles, traits, or additional information about each of the characters in the narrative.

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3. Where does the narrative take place? List out any locations mentioned. To be more specific, study a map from the timeframe of 1 Samuel (approximately 1105 - 971 BC) and see if you can find the locations on a map. Write down any observations from this exercise.

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4. Summarize the main plot points from the passage in the space below.

Day 3 - Understanding the Narrative

5. Name one or more of the conflicts from the passage and how they were resolved or left unresolved.

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6. How does the narrative fit into what you already learned about 1 Samuel? Consider, if applicable, the following: How does the narrative tie to the larger picture of a coming royal priesthood? Do you see any foreshadowing of Jesus as King?

Day 4 - Additional Study

7. Take note of any repeated words, thoughts, or phrases in our passage this week. Write those down below.

8. Did any parts of the passage you read make you think about other stories in the Bible? This includes similar narratives, but could also include similarity in lessons being learned by different people at different times. We call these links “purposeful parallels.” If so, write those down below.

9. **Word Studies:** Use the “Blue Letter Bible” or your favorite word study method to look up any words of your choice in the passage. Be prepared to share your findings with your group. Remember, this is the Old Testament. You will be looking up Hebrew words.

Day 5 - Life Application

Reading the Bible should change you! The purpose of reading any passage or passages is to gain life changing applications you must consider for your own life.

10. **Application:** Israel, after giving up their idols and false gods, were faced with the Philistine aggression again. This time, they shouted in verse 8, “**Do not cease to cry out to the Lord our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of**

the Philistines.” Are you facing hardships right now? Are you treating God like a “lucky rabbit’s foot” similar to chapter 4 or are you truly leaning on His hand to deliver you from it? Think and pray on this and write any reflections on the lines below.

11. **Optional:** Write down any additional life applications from your study time this week down below.

Day 6 - Closing Thoughts and Reflections

As you’ve had time to meditate on this week’s passage, write down any closing thoughts and/or list ways this passage has challenged you. How are you going to take the application from Day 5 and make it a tangible application for you? What are some additional things that you’d like to share with your group? These are just a few ideas to jot down as you close out this week.

Notes from the Teaching

Teacher: _____ **Date:** _____
