

Life of David

Lesson 4

Text

1 Samuel 4:1 - 1 Samuel 5:12

Background

In lesson 3 we learn about the ascension of Samuel as somebody that the Lord speaks to and as somebody who hears from the Lord. Verse 20 tells us, “**And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD.**” In his first order of business as God’s prophet, Samuel has to deliver the news to Eli that God will be enacting the judgment against his house that he promised back in chapter 2 (2:34). Being a prophet was rarely a fun occupation!

As we move into lesson 4, we see the fulfillment of this prophecy come to fruition, as promised. As for how this happens and the other details of 1 Samuel 4:1 - 1 Samuel 5:12, I will leave that up to you to discover as you study this week’s passage.

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.

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.

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.

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:** When Eli dies, it tells us that his eyes were dim (4:15) and that he was heavy (4:18). These details are there for a reason! Some scholars see this as a metaphor for spiritual blindness and a lack of spiritual discipline on Eli’s part. What can we learn from Eli’s deficiencies as we continue to walk in this life and how does this challenge you in your walk with the Lord?

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:** _____
