

# The Bible From 20,000 Feet Part 32

## 1 Samuel 1:1 – 7:17

Tuesday Night Bible Study, August 4, 2009

### --OUTLINE:

- OVERVIEW OF ISRAEL'S HISTORY AND SAMUEL'S ROLE
- OVERVIEW OF SAMUEL'S EARLY MINISTRY
- PRACTICAL LESSON FROM THE JUDGEMENT GOD BROUGHT UPON ISRAEL DURING SAMUEL'S EARLY MINISTRY

### --OVERVIEW OF ISRAEL'S HISTORY AND SAMUEL'S ROLE

- the prophet Samuel leads Israel in a milestone transition that can be compared to Israel's transition under the leadership of Moses.
- when Israel was stuck in the downward spiral of the judges (book of Judges), God raised up Samuel to lead Israel into the era of the kings where they reached brief high points under David and Solomon (and then entered into a 460 year downward spiral again)
- parallel in time of Moses... Israel was stuck in Egypt for 400 years and God raised up Moses to lead them to the high point of becoming established as a sovereign nation (followed by the 400 year downward spiral of the judges)
- history of Israel before Christ can be divided into 4 main periods:
  - 400 years in Egypt (according to Genesis 15:13)
  - 400 years of judges
  - 460 years of kings
  - 586 years of subordination to other nations
- history books of the 400 years of kings...
  - 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings (these four books are called 1,2,3,and 4<sup>th</sup> Kings in the Jewish Septuagint translation of the Old Testament)
  - 1&2 Chronicles recaps period of the kings from perspective of the Southern Kingdom (after division into north and south)
- history books of the the early part of the post-kingdom years
  - Ezra, Esther, Nehemiah
- prophets of the kingdom years
  - the books of the prophets (title of books bearing the names of the prophets) were written throughout the kingdom years (except Daniel was written shortly after the kingdom years during the Babylonian exile)
- poetry and wisdom literature of the kingdom years
  - books written mostly by David and Solomon... Psalms (mostly David with a few misc. authors, including Solomon and Moses), Proverbs (mostly Solomon), Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes (both Solomon)
  - Lamentations was most likely written by the prophet Jeremiah near the end of the kingdom years (a poetic lament about Israel's destruction)

### --OVERVIEW OF SAMUEL'S EARLY MINISTRY

- the book of Samuel starts with a contrast between the corruption in the Levitical priesthood at the end of the era of the judges with the godly character of Samuel and his mother Hannah.
- the corruption of the sons of Eli the high priest...

--1 Samuel 2:12-17: "Now the sons of Eli [*the high priest*] were corrupt; they did not know the LORD [*the people who were supposed to represent the Lord to the people didn't even know the Lord... the priesthood was filled with woves in sheep's clothing!*]. 13 And the priests' custom with the people was that when any man offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fleshhook in his hand while the meat was boiling. 14 Then he would thrust it into

the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; and the priest would take for himself all that the fleshhook brought up [*the priests were not entitled to all of the offering; the fat was supposed to be offered to the Lord before the priests ate.*] So they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. 15 Also, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who sacrificed, "Give meat for roasting to the priest, for he will not take boiled meat from you, but raw." 16 And if the man said to him, "They should really burn the fat first; then you may take as much as your heart desires," he would then answer him, "No, but you must give it now [*the priests forced people to violate the Mosaic Law!*]; and if not, I will take it by force." [*the priests were supposed to offer the fat to the Lord before they ate, but instead they would serve themselves before God*] 17 **Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.**"

--that is, because of the priests unbiblical practices people hated the tabernacle and the sacrifices... the wonderful reality of the sacrificial system through which people's sins could be forgiven became an object of scorn!

--and that is exactly how it is today... how many people are turned off by church and Christianity because of bad examples and unbiblical practices?

--not only would they abuse the sacrifices but they also abused the people who offered the sacrifices... "they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting." (1 Samuel 2:22)

--Eli told his sons, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people. No, my sons! For it is not a good report that I hear. You make the LORD's people transgress..." (1 Samuel 2:23-24)

--Eli appears to follow the regulations of the law but he never did anything more than yell at his sons for their complete disregard for the law.

--every year Hannah and her husband would travel to Shiloh (where the tabernacle was located throughout the period of the judges) in order to offer sacrifices to the Lord...

--they were one of few who weren't seduced by the corruption of Eli's sons.

--when Eli saw Hannah fervently praying he thought she was drunk (apparently he wasn't used to seeing people praying fervently like she did)... "And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth. 13 Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. 14 So Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!" 15 But Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. 16 Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now." 17 Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him." (1 Samuel 1:12-17)

--Hannah was sorrowful because she was unable to have children.

--earlier in her prayer Hannah vowed that if the Lord would give her a male child she would dedicate him to the Lord's service as a life-long Nazarite (1 Samuel 1:11)

--only three people in the Bible were life-long Nazarites called from birth: Samson, Samuel, and John the Baptist.

--while under the Nazarite vow people lived lives of special dedication in service to the Lord.

--God answered Hannah's prayer and Samuel was born...

--after Samuel was past the stage of nursing, she took him to Eli the high priest at the tabernacle at Shiloh to be dedicated to the Lord's service: "Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child was young. 25 Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli. 26 And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD. 27 For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. 28

Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD." So they worshiped the LORD there." (1 Samuel 1:24-28)

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--Samuel's father was called an Ephraimite because he lived in the region of Ephraim, but he was actually a descendant of Levi and therefore Samuel was qualified to serve as a priest. (the extensive genealogy in 1 Chronicles traces his lineage – 1 Chronicles 6:16-30)

--by the time Samuel was a grown man he was well known across all Israel... 1 Samuel 3:19-21: "So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. [*that is, he passed the test of a true prophet with every prophecy spoken coming to pass – Deuteronomy 18:21-22*] And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD."

--during the early part of Samuel's adult ministry the Lord brought judgement upon Israel once again (one last round in the repeated cycle of the judges where Israel rebelled and God brought judgement upon them to bring them to their senses); then Samuel leads Israel to repentance, serves as a judge for 20 years, and then leads Israel into a new era where kings ruled over Israel.

--in Samuel ch. 4 Israel is defeated by the Philistines in a small battle and lose 4,000 soldiers which prompted the elders in Israel to launch into a larger offense against the Philistines.

--rather than seeking direction from the Lord and trusting the Lord, they trusted in the Ark of the Covenant as a good luck charm... "Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD from Shiloh to us, that when it comes among us it may save us from the hand of our enemies." (1 Samuel 4:3)

--in the second battle, rather than losing 4,000 men they lose 30,000 men and the sacred Ark of the Covenant is stolen!

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--the Philistines then find the Ark of the Covenant to be a plague rather than a treasure...

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And they answered, "Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried away to Gath." So they carried the ark of the God of Israel away. 9 So it was, after they had carried it away, that the hand of the LORD was against the city with a very great destruction; and He struck the men of the city, both small and great, and tumors broke out on them. 10 Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. So it was, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying, "They have brought the ark of the God of Israel to us, to kill us and our people!" 11 So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, "Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go back to its own place, so that it does not kill us and our people." For there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there. 12 And the men who did not die were stricken with the tumors, and the cry of the city went up to heaven."

--after the Philistines return the Ark to Israel, Israel mishandles the Ark (violating the strict regulations given in the Mosaic Law)...

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**--Israel is learning the hard way once again that their real enemy is sin! When Israel followed the Lord He gave them supernatural victory...**

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--not only do we see the repeated lesson about how the real enemy in our lives is sin, but Israel's trust in the Ark of the Covenant rather than God is a lesson about safeguarding against trusting in religious routine rather than God Himself!

**--it's easy to let religious routine build up in our lives while we slowly drift from intimacy with the Lord.**

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--this lesson is summed up by lyrics in the song "The Heart of Worship":

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#### --OVERVIEW OF SAMUEL'S EARLY MINISTRY

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- the corruption of the sons of Eli the high priest...

--1 Samuel 2:12-17: "Now the sons of Eli [*the high priest*] were corrupt; they did not know the LORD [*the people who were supposed to represent the Lord to the people didn't even know the Lord... the priesthood was filled with woves in sheep's clothing!*]. 13 And the priests' custom with the people was that when any man offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fleshhook in his hand while the meat was boiling. 14 Then he would thrust it into

the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; and the priest would take for himself all that the fleshhook brought up [*the priests were not entitled to all of the offering; the fat was supposed to be offered to the Lord before the priests ate.*] So they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. 15 Also, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who sacrificed, "Give meat for roasting to the priest, for he will not take boiled meat from you, but raw." 16 And if the man said to him, "They should really burn the fat first; then you may take as much as your heart desires," he would then answer him, "No, but you must give it now [*the priests forced people to violate the Mosaic Law!*]; and if not, I will take it by force." [*the priests were supposed to offer the fat to the Lord before they ate, but instead they would serve themselves before God*] 17 **Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.**"

--that is, because of the priests unbiblical practices people hated the tabernacle and the sacrifices... the wonderful reality of the sacrificial system through which people's sins could be forgiven became an object of scorn!

--and that is exactly how it is today... how many people are turned off by church and Christianity because of bad examples and unbiblical practices?

--not only would they abuse the sacrifices but they also abused the people who offered the sacrifices... "they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting." (1 Samuel 2:22)

--Eli told his sons, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people. No, my sons! For it is not a good report that I hear. You make the LORD's people transgress..." (1 Samuel 2:23-24)

--Eli appears to follow the regulations of the law but he never did anything more than yell at his sons for their complete disregard for the law.

--every year Hannah and her husband would travel to Shiloh (where the tabernacle was located throughout the period of the judges) in order to offer sacrifices to the Lord...

--they were one of few who weren't seduced by the corruption of Eli's sons.

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--Hannah was sorrowful because she was unable to have children.

--earlier in her prayer Hannah vowed that if the Lord would give her a male child she would dedicate him to the Lord's service as a life-long Nazarite (1 Samuel 1:11)

--only three people in the Bible were life-long Nazarites called from birth: Samson, Samuel, and John the Baptist.

--while under the Nazarite vow people lived lives of special dedication in service to the Lord.

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Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD." So they worshiped the LORD there." (1 Samuel 1:24-28)

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--Samuel's father was called an Ephraimite because he lived in the region of Ephraim, but he was actually a descendant of Levi and therefore Samuel was qualified to serve as a priest. (the extensive genealogy in 1 Chronicles traces his lineage – 1 Chronicles 6:16-30)

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--the Philistines then find the Ark of the Covenant to be a plague rather than a treasure...

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And they answered, "Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried away to Gath." So they carried the ark of the God of Israel away. 9 So it was, after they had carried it away, that the hand of the LORD was against the city with a very great destruction; and He struck the men of the city, both small and great, and tumors broke out on them. 10 Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. So it was, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying, "They have brought the ark of the God of Israel to us, to kill us and our people!" 11 So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, "Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go back to its own place, so that it does not kill us and our people." For there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there. 12 And the men who did not die were stricken with the tumors, and the cry of the city went up to heaven."

--after the Philistines return the Ark to Israel, Israel mishandles the Ark (violating the strict regulations given in the Mosaic Law)...

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--the irony here is that more people were killed when the treasured Ark was returned than when it was lost.

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**--Israel is learning the hard way once again that their real enemy is sin! When Israel followed the Lord He gave them supernatural victory...**

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## **--PRACTICAL LESSON FROM THE JUDGEMENT GOD BROUGHT UPON ISRAEL DURING SAMUEL'S EARLY MINISTRY**

--not only do we see the repeated lesson about how the real enemy in our lives is sin, but Israel's trust in the Ark of the Covenant rather than God is a lesson about safeguarding against trusting in religious routine rather than God Himself!

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And it's all about You,  
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## The Bible From 20,000 Feet Part 32

### 1 Samuel 1:1 – 7:17

Tuesday Night Bible Study, August 4, 2009

#### --OUTLINE:

- OVERVIEW OF ISRAEL'S HISTORY AND SAMUEL'S ROLE
- OVERVIEW OF SAMUEL'S EARLY MINISTRY
- PRACTICAL LESSON FROM THE JUDGEMENT GOD BROUGHT UPON ISRAEL DURING SAMUEL'S EARLY MINISTRY

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- parallel in time of Moses... Israel was stuck in Egypt for 400 years and God raised up Moses to lead them to the high point of becoming established as a sovereign nation (followed by the 400 year downward spiral of the judges)
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the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; and the priest would take for himself all that the fleshhook brought up [*the priests were not entitled to all of the offering; the fat was supposed to be offered to the Lord before the priests ate.*] So they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. 15 Also, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who sacrificed, "Give meat for roasting to the priest, for he will not take boiled meat from you, but raw." 16 And if the man said to him, "They should really burn the fat first; then you may take as much as your heart desires," he would then answer him, "No, but you must give it now [*the priests forced people to violate the Mosaic Law!*]; and if not, I will take it by force." [*the priests were supposed to offer the fat to the Lord before they ate, but instead they would serve themselves before God*] 17 **Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.**"

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And they answered, "Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried away to Gath." So they carried the ark of the God of Israel away. 9 So it was, after they had carried it away, that the hand of the LORD was against the city with a very great destruction; and He struck the men of the city, both small and great, and tumors broke out on them. 10 Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. So it was, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying, "They have brought the ark of the God of Israel to us, to kill us and our people!" 11 So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, "Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go back to its own place, so that it does not kill us and our people." For there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there. 12 And the men who did not die were stricken with the tumors, and the cry of the city went up to heaven."

--after the Philistines return the Ark to Israel, Israel mishandles the Ark (violating the strict regulations given in the Mosaic Law)...

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--the irony here is that more people were killed when the treasured Ark was returned than when it was lost.

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## **--PRACTICAL LESSON FROM THE JUDGEMENT GOD BROUGHT UPON ISRAEL DURING SAMUEL'S EARLY MINISTRY**

--not only do we see the repeated lesson about how the real enemy in our lives is sin, but Israel's trust in the Ark of the Covenant rather than God is a lesson about safeguarding against trusting in religious routine rather than God Himself!

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--this lesson is summed up by lyrics in the song "The Heart of Worship":

....  
I'm coming back to the heart of worship  
And it's all about You,  
It's all about You, Jesus  
I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it  
And it's all about You,  
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## The Bible From 20,000 Feet Part 32

### 1 Samuel 1:1 – 7:17

Tuesday Night Bible Study, August 4, 2009

#### --OUTLINE:

- OVERVIEW OF ISRAEL'S HISTORY AND SAMUEL'S ROLE
- OVERVIEW OF SAMUEL'S EARLY MINISTRY
- PRACTICAL LESSON FROM THE JUDGEMENT GOD BROUGHT UPON ISRAEL DURING SAMUEL'S EARLY MINISTRY

#### --OVERVIEW OF ISRAEL'S HISTORY AND SAMUEL'S ROLE

- the prophet Samuel leads Israel in a milestone transition that can be compared to Israel's transition under the leadership of Moses.
- when Israel was stuck in the downward spiral of the judges (book of Judges), God raised up Samuel to lead Israel into the era of the kings where they reached brief high points under David and Solomon (and then entered into a 460 year downward spiral again)
- parallel in time of Moses... Israel was stuck in Egypt for 400 years and God raised up Moses to lead them to the high point of becoming established as a sovereign nation (followed by the 400 year downward spiral of the judges)
- history of Israel before Christ can be divided into 4 main periods:
  - 400 years in Egypt (according to Genesis 15:13)
  - 400 years of judges
  - 460 years of kings
  - 586 years of subordination to other nations
- history books of the 400 years of kings...
  - 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings (these four books are called 1,2,3,and 4<sup>th</sup> Kings in the Jewish Septuagint translation of the Old Testament)
  - 1&2 Chronicles recaps period of the kings from perspective of the Southern Kingdom (after division into north and south)
- history books of the the early part of the post-kingdom years
  - Ezra, Esther, Nehemiah
- prophets of the kingdom years
  - the books of the prophets (title of books bearing the names of the prophets) were written throughout the kingdom years (except Daniel was written shortly after the kingdom years during the Babylonian exile)
- poetry and wisdom literature of the kingdom years
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