

1 SAMUEL 4:1-22

1. War with the Philistines (vv. 1-2)

2. "Get the Ark!" (vv. 3-5)

3. Philistines Pep Talk (vv. 5-9)

4. The End of Israel? (vv. 10-11)

5. The End of Eli's House (vv. 12-18)

6. Ichabod (vv. 19-22)

7. Our Place in the Story

1. What are some things that you can praise God for this week?
What are some ways that you could use prayer?
2. What insight, principle, or observation from the message did you find most helpful, most challenging, or most troubling?
3. Read Psalm 78:56-64 and Jeremiah 7:1-15. What do these passages say about the events of 1 Samuel 4? What do they add to our understanding of this account?
4. Reflect on the idea that the worship of God happening at Shiloh was not “better than nothing,” but that nothing would actually be better (demonstrated by God putting an end to it).
 - a. What ideas or assumptions might this challenge?
 - b. How does this make you reflect on the worship of God today? You could think of the broader Evangelical world, or even our own church.
5. Reflect on the Philistines challenge in verse 9 to “be men.”
 - a. In context, what does this phrase mean?
 - b. Compare with 1 Corinthians 16:13.
 - c. What kind of strength does God expect from Christian men? Can/should physical strength ever be a part of this picture?
6. Consider what it means to do/pray things “in Jesus’ name.”
 - a. Read Esther 3:10-15 and 7:3-10. What happens when things are done “in the name of the king” that the king did not actually approve of?
 - b. What kinds of things can a police officer do or demand “in the name of the law”?
 - c. In light of these reflections, consider passages where we see prayer or acts performed in Jesus’ name. What’s actually going on here?
 - d. Now consider Col. 3:17. What does this actually look like? Pray—in Jesus’ name!—for the help and wisdom to do this.