

Life of David

Lesson 7

Text

1 Samuel 8:1-22

Background

Up until 1 Samuel 7:2, Israel has been in chaos. Following the birth of Samuel they had been under Eli the priest of Shiloh and suffered the rampage of his awful sons. After the death of Eli and his household, we enter into a time when the Ark of the Covenant, one of the most symbolic symbols of God's presence, was captured by Israel's greatest enemy, the Philistines. Even during this time, God showed that He didn't need Israel's help to flex His power by supernaturally cutting off the head and hands of the Philistine god's statue. Seven months later the Ark of the Covenant was returned to Israel.

Israel was clearly on a downswing in their cyclical obedience to the one, true God. The return of the Ark along with the downfall of the corrupted priest leadership and the Godly Samuel provided a measure in the right direction.

Enter a now fully grown and fully in tune man of God in Samuel. Chapter 7 shows Samuel instructing the people of Israel to return to Yahweh, disregard their foreign gods, and yet again serve and worship Him. As is the cyclical nature of Israel, they enter into a time of serving God as they are judged by the man of God Samuel for years. As always, this sort of peace and communion with God would change with the leadership.

As we enter chapter 8, we see that Samuel is growing old, he has sons that have turned away from God, and Israel is on the cusp of repeating history in the worst way. With that, Israel demands a king...

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

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

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10. Application: The price to serve an earthly king is very costly as it comes to freedom, money, possessions, and time. The price to serve the King of

Kings is obedience to Him. Yes, our obedience might/will cost us our earthly treasures, but those don't compare to our heavenly treasures. Think about who you are serving and consider the costs. Are you serving an earthly king or are you serving Jesus? Write down your thoughts or self-examining questions 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:** _____
