

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1)	06 December, 2026.....	1Samuel 01-02.....	Prayer
2)	13 Dec.....	1Samuel 03-04.....	Calling
3)	20 Dec.....	Luke 02.....	(Christmas) Savior
4)	27 Dec.....	1Samuel 05-07.....	Supremacy
5)	03 January 2027.....	1Samuel 08-14.....	King Demanded
6)	10 Jan.....	1Samuel 15.....	Obedience
7)	17 Jan.....	Psalms 139.....	Value of Life
8)	24 Jan.....	1Samuel 16.....	Anointed
9)	31 Jan.....	1Samuel 17.....	Victory
10)	07 Feb.....	1Samuel 18-21.....	Friendship
11)	14 Feb.....	1Samuel 22-24.....	Respect
12)	21 Feb.....	1Samuel 25.....	Discernment
13)	28 Feb.....	1Samuel 26-31.....	Guidance

INTRODUCTION

- In this lesson we see the ARK captured by the Philistines, then it is returned after some misfortunes, and the Philistines are eventually defeated as Samuel makes a sacrifice to the Lord and the Lord responded favorably with bad weather
- How do we secure the Lord's favor today to defeat our enemies, break addictions, and restore health, wealth, and relationships? IOW, what makes us worthy to receive God's blessings?
 - ☐ Are there things we need to do or sacrifices to make?
 - ☐ Do we need to spend hours in prayer or bible reading?
 - ☐ Or do we just "wait on the Lord" to act in His timing?
 - ☐ Other: _____

Passage	Comments
1Samuel 5:1-5	God Mutilates His Competition - God is a jealous God and doesn't tolerate His people chasing after anything or anyone else..... Ex 34:14 - What do we chase after besides God? ☐ Possessions ☐ Money ☐ Power ☐ Happiness ☐ Glamour? - How much more time, money, and energy do we give to other gods in our life than what we give to God?
5:6-12	God Judges the Wicked with Calamity - The Philistines were apparently and unexpectedly hit with incurable hemorrhoids or other ugly ailment. - How do we discern if our nation is under God's heavy hand of judgment? ☐ Wars that last decades? ☐ Fire, drought, floods, tornadoes, and earthquakes with increasing intensity? ☐ Economic/racial turmoil? - The only things left for God to hit us with is famine and pestilence (Is God saving the best for last?)
6:1-18	Man Can Figure it Out if They are Under Judgment - It only took the idolatrous Philistines 7 months to figure out God was not a happy camper with them. - Why hasn't modern man, who is enlightened with more knowledge and technology, figured it out yet? - What is blinding this generation? ☐ Prosperity? ☐ Satan? ☐ Willful Ignorance? ☐ Other? - Why can't Christians make a bigger impact on society? ☐ Prosperity? ☐ Laziness? ☐ Apathy? ☐ Loss of Testimony/Saltiness? ☐ Other?
6:19-21	50,070 are Slain for Peeking into the Ark - Few take God seriously, then or now WHY? Principle to Live By: God wants to bless everyone with "an abundant life" (John 10:10), and even "far more abundantly beyond what we can ask or think" (Eph 3:20), but we need to position ourselves to be blessed → through obedience. Recall Luke 12:15 "...a man's life does not consist in the abundance of things", so "abundance" is in having real purpose and meaning in life now and for all eternity

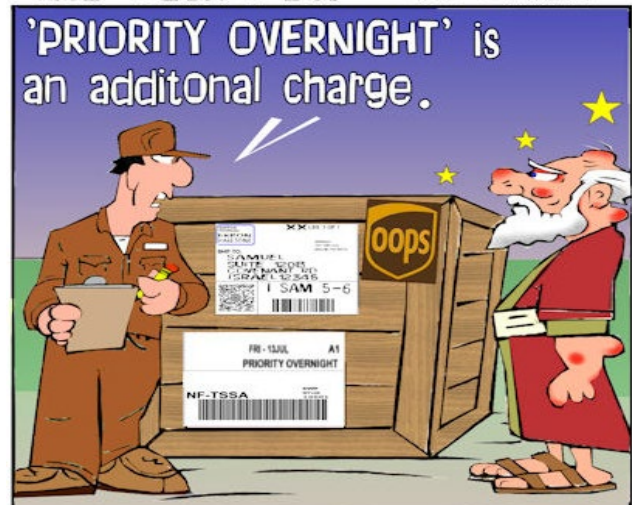
Passage	Comments
7:1-6	Finally, Israel Begins to Move Toward God - It took 20 years, but "Israel lamented after the Lord" - Why do people wait so long before repenting? - Samuel, a God-fearing man, was blunt and told the people what they needed to do to position themselves to be blessed once more – Return with ALL your heart (don't be halfway in). God wants ALL of us, not 99%; after all, He intends to give it His all on our behalf. - v6. So they gathered to make a public commitment that would have a more lasting impactHOW SO?
7:7-14	Why Do Attacks Come As We Draw Closer to God? - Satan knows we are at our weakest when we are distracted emotionally, mentally, physically over our sins. - vv8-9. The distraught people cry out to someone who is right with God (Samuel), and Samuel intercedes for them, and God came to the rescue and restored everything Israel had lost over the previous 20 years. - If we are right with God, who are we interceding for?
7:15-17	Finally, Some Long Awaited Peace - God wants to give us peace individually and nationally. BUT we need to position ourselves individually and nationally to receive God's season of peace – and it may take years for the majority of people to "lament" - Once we are in a season of peace, like Samuel, we can then have time to build things and enjoy life.

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- The idolatrous Philistines recognized they needed to make restitution and a sacrifice for their deeds, yet, the Israelites were oblivious to their need to make atonement with their God.
- God has put the recognition of eternity into the hearts of everyone; and God was forbearing even with the idolatrous Philistines as He "overlooked the times of their ignorance" [Acts 17:29-31](#)
- Also, the concept of atonement via a sacrifice is at the heart of true worship.

NEXT WEEK: 1Samual 8-14. As godly as Samuel was, he apparently inherited some bad parenting skills from his mentor, Eli, or his sons were "wicked from birth." Samuel's wicked sons forced Israel to look for a King, instead of continuing with a line of Judges.

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



After 7 miserable months, the Philistines returned the Ark of the lord ... cuz it positively had to be there over night! **1Samuel 5 & 6**