LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 5 June 2016  1 Samuel 1-2  Answered
2) 12 June  1 Samuel 3-4  Called
3) 19 June  1 Samuel 5-7  Worthy
4) 26 June  1 Samuel 8-11  King
5) 3 July  1 Samuel 12-14  Fear
6) 10 July  1 Samuel 15  Anointed
7) 17 July  1 Samuel 16  Delivered
8) 24 July  1 Samuel 17  Protected
9) 31 July  1 Samuel 18-21  Faithful
10) 7 August  1 Samuel 22-24  Blinded
11) 14 August  1 Samuel 25  Respect
12) 21 August  1 Samuel 26-29  Victory
13) 28 August  1 Samuel 30-31

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 responds 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

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| 1 Samuel 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 ailments
  - 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?

| 6:19-21       | 50,070 are Slain for Peaking 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

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 “looked over 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: 1 Samuel 8-11. 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

“PRIORITY OVERNIGHT” is an additional charge.

After 7 miserable months the Philistines returned the Ark to the Lord. COUZ it positively had to be there over night! 1 Sam 5 & 6