

4. Read 1 Sam. 4:19-22. In light of the catastrophic events of that day, Phinehas' wife names her newborn son "Ichabod," meaning "no glory," or "where is the glory?".
 - a. In light of Isa. 42:8 and 48:9-11, explain what God is doing with regard to his glory and reputation in the events of 1 Samuel 4.
 - b. If Ichabod was named for the absence of God's glory, consider how Jesus revealed the presence of God's glory (John 1:14-18).

Let's Pray:

Sermon Notes

"Rabbit-foot Theology"

1 Samuel 4

July 9, 2017

Introduction

1. The _____ of God (1 Sam. 4:1-11)

2. The _____ of God (1 Sam. 4:12-18)

3. The _____ of God (1 Sam. 4:19-22)

Conclusion:

- b. The Israelites assume “If we bring the ark to battle, Yahweh will be forced to deliver us to protect his honor. ... They now have God under pressure because they have the sign of his presence; hence he dare not allow them to lose.” (Dale Ralph Davis, Focus on the Bible: 1 Samuel, Looking on the Heart, Bell & Blain, Glasgow, England, 2014, pp. 54-55) Can you think of present-day attempts to put pressure on God, to use him to control our circumstances, or to manipulate him into changing our circumstances for the better?

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 7-9-17

Questions adapted from 1&2 Samuel: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 2012, pp. 26-28; Dale Ralph Davis, Focus on the Bible 1 Samuel, Looking on the Heart, Bell & Bain, Glasgow, Great Britain, 2014, p. 58.

Getting Started:

1. Describe a time when you felt you were being manipulated, and what you did in response.

Digging Deeper:

2. Read 1 Sam. 4:1-11.

- a. The elders ask an excellent question in 4:3: “Why did the LORD bring defeat upon us today?” “They [correctly] saw their defeat as an act of God rather than as an achievement of the Philistines. ...What they did not understand was why.” (John Woodhouse, Preaching the Word: 1 Samuel, Crossway: Wheaton, IL, 2008, pp. 89). What explanation can be found in Deuteronomy 28:15,25 for Israel’s defeat by the Philistines in 1 Samuel 4:2? How might their next move have been different than fetching the ark had they considered this truth?

- c. Are there subtle ways you are also tempted to “use” God? If so, how ought you to respond to what you’ve discovered?

- d. What is the difference between basing a prayer on God’s promises and trying to force God’s hand?

3. Read 1 Sam. 4:12-18.

- a. How does this account fulfill God’s warnings in 2:30-34 and 3:11-14?

- b. What does this reveal about God’s sovereign control of all things?