

SAMUEL PART III
SPEAKER: PASTOR SHANE CARROLL
SCRIPTURE: 1 SAMUEL CHAPTERS 4-7
FEBRUARY 27-28, 2021

INTRODUCTION

- Samuel's life was a bridge to a new generation.
- He was a bridge from a dark time in the life of Israel.
- Chapters 4-7 show us three things:
 - 1st - In the Old Testament - God's presence leaves.
 - He often does this when people won't respond to Him. He allows them to have what they want.
 - 2nd - God's presence always rules over darkness.
 - 3rd - God always reaches toward His people.
 - And restores what they have lost.

I. WHEN GOD LEAVES THE BUILDING

- 1 Samuel 4:1-3, "At that time Israel was at war with the Philistines... ²The Philistines attacked and defeated the army of Israel, killing 4,000 men. ³After the battle was over...the elders of Israel asked, "Why did the Lord allow us to be defeated by the Philistines?" Then they said, "Let's bring the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord from Shiloh. If we carry it into battle with us, it will save us from our enemies."
- The story of chapter 4 - ichabod= the glory has departed.
- Doing something instead of seeking someone.
- They went for the Ark, not God.

II. DIVINE DISRUPTION: GOD VS. DAGON - 1 Samuel 5

- The Philistines added the Ark in their temple and put Jehovah on the same level as their fish-god Dagon.
- God's overarching power will always win.

- God's Returns - 1 Samuel 6
 - The ark comes back to Israel.
 - We fight the disruption of God's presence because it demands us to change and find wholeness.
 - This is a picture of the simple reality that God needs no help, just willing hearts.

III. GOD'S REACH TOWARD HIS PEOPLE - 1 Samuel 7

- The entirety of Israel's story is a picture of their/our heavenly Father's continual reach toward them.
- God's nature has always been to reach toward people.
 - 1 Samuel 7:3-4, "If you want to return to the Lord with all your hearts, get rid of your foreign gods and your images of Ashtoreth. Turn your hearts to the Lord and obey Him alone; then He will rescue you..."
- The presence of God (the Ark) is with the Philistines for nearly 20 years.
 - God's timing is never our timing, but it is the timing that counts.

IV. FACING DEFEAT, THE HOPE OF REDEMPTION

- With God redemption will always come in some form or another.
- But it will always come on the heels of facing their fear and trusting God to take them back to their failure.
- Redemption comes with the presence of God and the presence of God builds wholeness in each of us.
- They had to come to terms with their rejecting God and choosing to please themselves.
- Israel returns to battle with the Philistines. But they must return to the very place they failed 20 years before.
- Israel won the battle. It was the result of hearts committed to pursuing the presence of God, hearts committed to wholeness, holiness.