

Theocracy: Is God Still King?
Tumors, Rats and God's Presence

1 Samuel 4:2-7:2

Some helpful background...

We are introduced to the...

- **ARK OF THE COVENANT** Exodus 25:10-22; Numbers 10:35-36
- **PHILISTINES** Genesis 10:13-15; Judges 14-16

Three scenes: Tell the story

Scene One: Chapter 4 **Eli, his sons die, Ark captured**

Scene two: Chapter 5 **The Ark brings problems**

Scene three: Chapter 6 **Ark comes back to Israel**

Take aways from this story

Who is God revealing Himself to?

Genesis 12:1-3; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 1:15, 2:3-5

God is not a genie to be manipulated

1 Kings 8:27; Acts 7:48-50

There can only be one King

1 Timothy 1:15-17; 1 John 5:21; Revelation 19:6, 16

Growth Group Questions

1. What part of Sunday's teaching was most significant to you?

2. Summarize 1 Samuel 4. How do the events in this chapter help us to better understand God's sovereignty, and justice?

3. Read 1 Samuel 4:1-3. Did the Israelites blame the absence of God for their defeat against the philistines? Do you realize now a time in your life that you blamed God for events/situations in your life?

4. Read 1 Samuel 5:6-12. How do the Philistines' assumptions about God parallel to how people today think about God and worship him?

5. In what ways do people in our culture overlook the holiness of God in the Bible? How can we challenge ourselves to live differently?

6. In chapter 5 God's actions remind us to fear the Lord. Read Proverbs 1:7
Psalms 111:10
2 Corinthians 7:1
What do you think it means to fear the Lord? Does this challenge you in any way?

7. Put the events of chapter 6 into your own words. What can we learn from these events?

8. Read 1 Samuel 7:12-13. Have you ever experienced the symbolic act of setting up an Ebenezer stone? Share that experience with your group.

8. Close your time together in prayer.

Seaside Finances			
Weekly Goal	\$22,195	Monthly Goal	\$95,500
Received Last Week	\$12,264	Received in Jan	\$78,554

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