

I Samuel 4-7 –13 January 2022

“The Power Of God”

Introduction

- *The book is called “Samuel” b/c it depicts the life & legacy of the man Samuel (1100BC-1000BC)
- *I Samuel can be divided into 3 sections
 - *The instigation of earthly kingship (Chap 1-7)
 - *Focus on Samuel
 - *The failure of earthly kingship (Chap 8-15)
 - *Focus on King Saul
 - *God’s man chosen & tried (Chap 16-31)
 - *Focus on David to be king
- *II Samuel – depicts the entire reign of King David
- *Book opens up showing stark difference between man centered religion & having a real relationship w/ God
- *B/c of this dead religion, they misunderstand the power of God that was available to them
- *These events today are what leads them to cry out to have a king over them
- *They want to see the power of God manifest in someone else rather than having a personal relationship
- *Today, let’s look at 4 true attributes of God’s Power**

1st attribute of the power of God is that it isn't held within material things (Chap 4)

Read Vs 1-2

1. It was right for Israel to want to drive the Philistines out of the land that God had given them
2. Why would God have them loss?
 - a. There's no indication here that they we're praying & depending on the Lord's direction
 - b. Maybe impurity within the camp, like at AI
 - c. Maybe to have them lean on the Lord like with Hur & Aaron holding Moses arms

Read Vs 3-5

1. *"That it may save us"* - Israel wants to use the Ark as a good luck charm or magic genie
2. The special nature of the ark was b/c GOD met them there, not b/c it was anything!
3. They placed the saving ability of God in the ark instead of in God – THAT'S IDOLATRY

Read 6-9

1. The Lord's reputation was known, but the Lord isn't a genie that pops out when you need Him and then you ignore Him the rest of your life
2. Even Philistines thought that the true God was carried in an image. (Ark wasn't even made yet)
 - a. He's not, He's carried in the heart
3. Items & images can easily become idols
 - a. Worship God in spirit & truth
 - b. 3 things in Israel: sea that no one sinks, a day with no work and a tabernacle with no God

Read Vs 10-11

1. Death of Eli's 2 sons is the proof of the prophecy to be fulfilled from chap 2
2. They relied on products instead of the Presence, they relied on formula instead of favor
 - a. Do we put God in an unchanging box that we have all figured out?
 - b. We need to seek new guidance everyday

Read Vs 12-18

1. Eli was always aware of what God wanted be too soft to deal w/ what was w/i his control (his sons)
2. Hard times have come & it's too late to repent

Read Vs 19-22

1. They considered the very glory, majesty & power of God to be the ark, but God isn't there
2. God has done great thing using material items as a symbol of a much larger spiritual principle
 - a. It's the principle we need to know & rely on
 - b. In wilderness – told to make snake on staff
 - c. It became an idol – Read II Kings 18:4
3. Good things can become idols
 - a. Don't settle for a substitute powerless god
 - b. Look to the Lord to do new things

Conclusion – Turn to Jer 7:1-12

1. Don't trust in the lying invented words of man
2. Be strong in the Lord & the power of His might (Eph 6:10)

2nd attribute of the power of God is that it doesn't fear other religions (Chap 5)

Read Vs 1-2

1. Brought ark to 1 of their 5 main city's temples
2. Dagon was a fish god for they were aquarius

Read Vs 3

1. When you have to pick up your god, he's too small. I have a God that picks me up
2. If you have to work at making yourDoe god look good, he's impotent
3. Have you been in religion that expects you to do all the effort? In Christianity – Jesus did it all!

Read Vs 4-5

1. God's showing, He doesn't get nervous b4 idols
2. No gods before Him, neither shall there be after Him – He is God and God alone
3. When you place Jesus among other gods, He stands out as the powerful Almighty God

Read Vs 6-8

1. God glorified Himself above Dagon
2. God knows how to Himself defend what's His
3. He doesn't need to use people, but He delights to use people in His plan
4. Philistines are nervous so they take the Ark to their chief city Gath (Read Psm 66:2-3)

Read Vs 9-12

1. God will get glory & respect
2. In lieu of not having a pure people, He's orchestrating the Ark's return Himself

3rd attribute of the power of God is that it isn't subservient to us (Chap 6)

Read Vs 1-3

1. They have no problem adding a god to their worship
2. For every god they worship, it's a tit for tat relationship...what can this god do for me
3. They now respect Jehovah b/c they know that He has power and control of the ark...and them

Read Vs 4-6

1. God can't be bought with a sacrifice or reward, He delights in obedience
2. They know that the only answer is to submit to God's will.... even the heathen can figure this out
3. They tried bending God to their will, but God wants people bent to His will
 - a. Too many Christians are still trying this
 - b. We're not to be reconciling God to the world, but the world to God
 - c. Don't modify God's will & purpose to make it that way you think people want it

Read Vs 7-12

1. Let the cart & ark just go loose & see if it returns to Israel...& it does

Read Vs 13-18

1. Israel praises God for the ark's safe return
2. Levites take down the ark – this is prescribed

Read Vs 19-21

1. God kills the Israelis (not Levities) who looked upon the ark that should be in the holy of holies
2. I think they're getting the point that they should serve God and follow behind His will
 - a. Not vis versa
 - b. God doesn't follow our will and plan

4th attribute of the power of God is that it's available when we wholly cry out (Chap 7)

Read Vs 1-2

1. Lamented b/c of the oppression of Philistines
2. Ark will remain under Abinadab's supervision until the time David brings it to Jerusalem

Read Vs 3-4

1. Samuel calls them to forsake false gods & worship only Jehovah God, w/ their whole heart...and they do!
2. Repentance is to leave AND cleave BOTH

Read Vs 5-6

1. There is national repentance under one man's instigation...Samuel
2. Glorifying God AND humbling self BOTH

Read Vs 7-8

1. NOW they're depending on the Lord for their help and not just some symbol, possession or lucky rabbit's foot like the ark
 - a. Remember what they said? (Read chap 4:3)
 - b. Don't trust your church or "I have faith"

Read Vs 9-12

1. Now the credit & glory goes to God! Amen!

Read Vs 13-15

1. Obedience to God brings protection and power
2. Read Psm 68:35

Read Vs 16-17

1. Under God's power, Samuel had peace

Conclusion

So, is the power of God being seen in your life?

- 1. Are you looking to the power of objects & items or to God Himself?**
 - a. Don't rely on events or objects from the past but on an ongoing relationship in the present?
- 2. Are you being intimidated by other religions or false brands of Christianity?**
 - a. God knows how to defend Himself, just unleash His Word and the power is there!
- 3. Are you asking God's power to be subservient to your will or are you subservient to His power?**
 - a. He's the Lord & we're the followers
- 4. Do you know what it takes to have God's power fighting with you?**
 - a. A humble heart willing to follow His plan
 - b. Read Rom 1:16 – Be proud of the gospel of Jesus Christ & live in THAT power!