

Sermon Outline

Samuel - the last Judge in Israel | Geoff Lin

1 Sam 1:11 And she [Hannah] made a vow, saying, "LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then **I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life**, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

1. The Word of the Lord is revealed to Samuel (1 Sam 3:1-4:1a)

Scene 1: Israel's leadership shifts from Eli to Samuel (3:1-9)

The bigger and better story we belong to ...				
Genesis	Exodus	Lev/Num/Dt	Joshua	Judges (Ruth)
God's promise to Abraham	Moses leads Israel out of slavery in Egypt	40 years wandering in the desert	Joshua leads Israel into the Promised Land	After Joshua dies, Israel descends into anarchy

Jdg 17:6 In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

Jdg 18:1 In those days Israel had no king.

Jdg 19:1 In those days Israel had no king.

Jdg 21:25 In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

1 Sam 4:18 ... He [Eli] had led [lit. "judged"] Israel forty years.

- "the house of the LORD" = Tent of Meeting (cf 1 Sam 2:22)

- "the Ark of God" contains The Ten commandments

Scene 2: God pronounces judgment on the house of Eli (3:10-14)

- Eli's 2 corrupt sons Hophni and Phineas (Ch 2) extort worshippers by demanding personal payments and kickbacks before they would offer sacrifices on their behalf, and sleep with the women who served at the Tent of Meeting

Q. What should Eli have done?

Scene 3: Eli seals his own fate (3:15-18)

Q. How should we read Eli's response in v18?

- when God closed Hannah's womb, she turned towards Him (not away from Him)

Scene 4: Samuel's word comes to all Israel ... (3:19-4:1a)

2. The Ark of God is captured by the Philistines (1 Sam 4:1b-4:11)

Q. Has the LORD finally abandoned His people?

What we're skipping over (4:12-7:12): In Ch 5 the Ark is taken to Ashdod in Philistia and all by itself knocks down a statue of the Philistine god Dagon and inflicts the Philistines with terrible diseases ... In Ch 6 the Philistines unilaterally decide to send the Ark back to Israel ... In Ch 7 the people of Israel turn back to the LORD, who delivers them from the Philistines

3. Samuel judges (leads) Israel (1 Sam 7:13-17)

For next week: please read 1 Samuel 3-7

So what, for us?

i. God's Old Testament people Israel ≠ the modern-day nation-state of Israel

- we are neither anti-Semitic nor Zionist

<https://www.trinitycity.church/sermons/6-thinking-theologically-about-the-israeli-palestinian-conflict/>

ii. In our bigger and better story, God has spoken by His Son to all peoples on earth

Gen 12:1 **The LORD had said to Abram**, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; **and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.**"

Heb 1:1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. 4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

Homework: make a list of everything that's wonderful about Jesus ...

"Give us a king to lead us!" (1 Samuel)		
10/5	Hannah - the faithful woman in Israel	1 Samuel 1-2
17/5	<i>Samuel - the last Judge in Israel</i>	1 Samuel 3-7
24/5	THE King of Israel	1 Samuel 8
31/5	What is a Christian? (Commitment Sunday)	
7/6	Saul - Israel's First King	1 Samuel 9-15
14/6	David - Israel's Second King	1 Samuel 16-17
21/6	Civil War in Israel - Part 1	1 Samuel 18-31