



→ Lesson 1

What is your favorite season of the year? Why do you look forward to that season?

What are some of the longings that you face on a daily basis?

Are your longings holy and Christ-centered? Which longings are more self-centered?

One of the primary things that become clear in this story is the Character of and glory of God is central. God's character that is constant and enduring is one of the primary themes.

Read I Samuel 1:3; 11

There is the rise of a new name for God..." *Jehovah Sabaoth*" ...which is never met with in the Pentateuch or in the books of Joshua & Judges. In the conflict between this new earthly kingdom of God...Jehovah manifests himself as the Lord of Hosts, to whom all nations and the kingdoms of this world were to become subject.

I Samuel 15:28-29

The Trust of Israel...The language here is to refer to a name for God. He is the unchangeable one, in whom Israel can trust. The language here confirms the constant and enduring character of Christ. Then, with confidence, we trust because man can trust in what is constant.

Why is it important that God is unchanging? Why is it important that he is trustworthy?

Do you live your life daily as though he is trustworthy? How do you view God on a daily basis?

The next piece to the story is the character of the Israelites in the face of their longing. The Incessant Idolatry of God's people is maddening throughout Scripture, but before we judge we should look carefully at our own lives.

The judges...The 40 years of oppression on the part of the Philistines, from which Samson began to deliver Israel, were brought to a close by the victory which the Israelites gained through Samuel's prayer in ch.7.

The line of the judges terminates with Samson...the lineage of the prophets really begins with the introduction of Samuel into the redemptive story line.

Read Chapter 7 & 8.

What do the Israelites reveal about their beliefs in God as a result of their requests in Chapter 8?

How do we look to place human things in the place of God?

The primary point of this story is the relentless progress of redemption & the Gospel through history. The Word of God in this context is defined as below...

“The word of God in the OT is both a word about God and a word from God. The Word of God is always intentional, never idle. The Word of God is the vehicle for the will of God; the Word expresses what God intends. The intention of the Word of God is to serve the purposes of God in the world, to move the world along toward the objectives God has for it.”

Read I Samuel 3:1; 19, I Samuel 8:10, and I Samuel 10:17-19

Here it becomes clear that Samuel exists to point to the real king and the real prophet and the real priest, Jesus Christ. How does Samuel prepare the world for Jesus?

How does the prophetic posture of Samuel reveal parts of who Jesus will be in the future?

Read Acts 13:16-26

Here Paul makes it clear that Samuel introduces the line of David and through this line the Messiah will come. What does it mean for your personal history?

Wrapping it up:

Where in your life do you need to trust God’s constant and enduring nature?

How does this study impact your longings? Do any need to change?

How can your group help you with greater trust in God?



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