

This week's reading:

April 16: 1 Samuel 5 – 8

April 17: 1 Samuel 9 – 11

April 18: 1 Samuel 12 – 13

April 19: 1 Samuel 14 – 16

April 20: 1 Samuel 17 – 19

April 21: 1 Samuel 20 – 22

April 22: 1 Samuel 23 – 25

April 23: 1 Samuel 26 – 28

Summary:

April 16: 1 Samuel 5 – 8

1 Samuel 5 picks up with the ark in the hands of the Philistines and the chaos this arrangement causes. **(Note:** While comical, this little aside shows the power of God is not just over Israel, but all of His creation.)

1 Samuel 6 promptly returns the ark to the Israelites **(Note:** This entire situation should have been a lesson to both the Israelites and Philistines as to the power of God and how He should be followed.)

1 Samuel 7 delivers Israel from their enemies (again). **(Note:** Despite the sin-loving idolatry of Israel, and the repeated turning from God since the time of Joshua; God is faithful to His promises regarding His people.)

1 Samuel 8 sees Israel not learning the lesson of 1 Samuel 6 and demanding a king; which is ultimately a rejection of their current king, God. **(Note:** While a King was always the end of God's working with Israel—Genesis 49:8 – 12—Israel's desire for a king is a rejection of God which unfortunately should have been expected based on the last few hundred years that has been shown since Joshua's death.)

April 17: 1 Samuel 9 – 11

1 Samuel 9 – 11 outline the search for and anointing of Saul as king of Israel as well as his first action as Spirit empowered leader. **(Note:** Saul should have never been seen as the expected king. As a member of the tribe of Benjamin he does not meet the criteria of the King-to-come of Genesis 49 as coming from the tribe of Judah. What Saul is however, is the perfect embodiment of every worldly king's attribute: handsome, mighty, tall. Saul is everything the world seeks, but nothing that God has promised.)

April 18: 1 Samuel 12 – 13

1 Samuel 12 sees Saul firmly planted as King.

1 Samuel 13 shows the difficulty in battle against the Philistines.

April 19: 1 Samuel 14 – 16

1 Samuel 14 shows the beginning of the decline of Saul (already) as despite God's deliverance Saul foolishly commands his men to make their work harder. **(Note:** Saul's reasoning is not for the benefit of the nation or God; but his own vengeance. This is the danger of the wrong king, the world pulls the heart away from God and our own sin joins gleefully in the trip.)

1 Samuel 15 continues the slide downward as Saul is unfaithful and the kingdom is promised to another. **(Note:** I've always thought the unintentional humor of v. 14 is great, but pay attention to whose God is to be praised in v. 15. Saul sets up an altar to

himself, does not follow the command, and argues with the judgment of God. This is not the Godly leader the Israelites need. Saul's repentance is not a seeking of grace, but of a seeking of favor with God.)

1 Samuel 16 shows the successor and right king of Israel, David. **(Note:** David begins his rule as a type of Christ, a king who is named but not with a consummated kingdom yet. Christ is King and Lord, but does not rule directly, yet.)

April 20: 1 Samuel 17 – 19

1 Samuel 17 is the famed David & Goliath confrontation. **(Note:** Goliath was the underdog. David will be king; therefore he will not die in this battle. David battles in the name of, and power of, God; he cannot be defeated.)

1 Samuel 18 shows the friendship of David and Saul's son Jonathan, as well as the hatred and jealousy Saul has for David.

1 Samuel 19 continues the devolving relationship of Saul and David as Saul's rule continues to decline.

April 21: 1 Samuel 20 – 22

1 Samuel 20 shows the covenant of Jonathan and David **(Note:** Despite modern teachers trying to show the opposite; the relationship b/t David & Jonathan is never presented in the Bible as anything but appropriate and is not a homosexual relationship.)

1 Samuel 21 pictures David on the run from Saul and the protection David receives.

(Note: This incident will be used by Jesus to explain the proper place of the Law in the lives of God's people.)

1 Samuel 22 shows the anger and hatred of Saul as he kills his own priests for aiding David. **(Note:** While evil, this event fulfills the prophecy against Eli's house. Abiathar while still priest will be removed by Solomon and God's judgment against the House of Eli will be finalized.)

April 22: 1 Samuel 23 – 25

These 1 Samuel chapters show the righteousness of David as he interacts with Saul and the people around him. He is shown as a true leader and not a rebel.