

# Making Promises

---

## Part 6: The Kingdom

### Review

- God established his kingdom in creation with mankind appointed to rule in his image and have dominion over the earth (**Gen. 1:26-28**), but Adam and Eve violated God's law and chose to seek wisdom apart from him (**Gen. 3:6**).
- Genesis tracks God's election of a family, through which God will ultimately establish his kingdom on earth through a new Adam (**Gen. 12:2-3; 15:13-16; 17:2, 4, 6-8; Gal. 3:16**).
- God continues to grow his people from the seed of Abraham while in slavery in Egypt (**Ex. 1:7-11**). God, through Moses, leads them out of bondage, and through the tabernacle, brings them back into his garden-like presence. Israel becomes a kingdom of Priests (**Ex. 19:6**).
- After wandering through the desert for 40+ years, the children of Israel enter the promised land, but fail to drive out and judge those who are already there as a means bringing about God's kingdom (**Gen. 15:16**).

### Samuel

- The book of 1 Samuel begins with the story of Samuel's birth, in answer to Hannah's prayer. Samuel was the bridge between the era of the judges and that of the monarchy, which he was instrumental in forming. Samuel was considered a **judge** himself (**Acts 13:20**).
  - ◉ Samuel was dedicated by his parents to be a Nazirite and to serve Yahweh at Shiloh. Though not a priest per se, Samuel was a **Levite** (**1 Chron. 6:22-28**), a descendant of Kohath, and thus could minister at the tabernacle and at other local altars.
  - ◉ Along with the rise of the monarchy was that of the school of the **prophets**, of which Samuel apparently was the head (**1 Sam. 3:1, 20**). Though there had been individual prophets in Israel's history, there had not been any established order of prophets until this time.
  - ◉ Although one may not find evidence of apostasy in Eli himself, his sons **Hophni** and **Phineas** in effect transformed the house of Yahweh at Shiloh into a Canaanite shrine with all the corruption and immorality associated with the Baal cult (**1 Sam. 2:12-17, 22-25**). It was in this environment that young Samuel was called by Yahweh and appointed to be both **prophet** and **judge**.

## Historical Setting

- The presence of the **Philistines** in the early years of Samuel must be related to the forty-year oppression (**Judges 13:1**). The only known Philistine oppression in the 12<sup>th</sup> century B.C. commenced in **1124** and ended in **1084**.
  - **Samson** was born early in this period and judged Israel “for twenty years in the days of the Philistines” (**Judges 15:20**); his years of leadership fell within the forty-year span of Philistine rule (**Judges 14:4**) but apparently did not outlast it.
  - Most likely, Samson began his heroic deeds about midway through the oppression, when he was about **twenty** years old, and after twenty years of judgeship died just preceding the end of the oppression.
  - Since Samson clearly was empowered miraculously by the God of Israel, what better way was there to address the problem than to attack the Israelite cult center at **Shiloh**?

## Battle of Aphek

- In 1104 the Philistines had assembled at **Aphek** (25 miles from Shiloh), obviously with the intent of doing battle with the Israelites gathered at **Ebenezer** (2 miles southeast from Aphek) (**1 Sam. 4:1**).
  - The attack on Israel at Aphek could well have been a reaction to the early battles of **Samson** against the Philistines, which began at about this time (1104).
  - When the battle was joined, Israel suffered a crushing defeat. Superstitiously they attributed their loss to the absence of **the ark of the covenant** from the battlefield (**1 Sam. 4:3**).
  - The ark was fetched from **Shiloh** (**1 Sam. 4:4**). The Philistines joined in battle with Israel and achieved an overwhelming triumph. Eli’s sons, Hophni and Phinehas, who had charge of the ark, were slain, and the ark was taken as a **trophy of war**. When word of the disaster reached Shiloh, Eli fell backward and died.
  - After a plague of **hemorrhoids/boils** followed the ark through the Philistine territories of Ashdod, Gath, and Ekron, they sent it back to Israel (**1 Sam. 5:1-12**). For twenty years the ark remained at Kiriath Jearim in the house of Abinadab (**1 Sam. 7:1-2**).
- It was **Samuel** who finally ended the Philistine rule and enabled the Israelites to regain their former territories by commanding them to put away their foreign gods and serve the Lord only (**1 Sam. 7:3-4, 12-14**).

## Part 6: The Kingdom

<b>Acts 13:20</b>	All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet.
<b>1 Chronicles 6:22–28</b>	22 The sons of Kohath: Amminadab his son, Korah his son, Assir his son, 23 Elkanah his son, Ebiasaph his son, Assir his son, 24 Tahath his son, Uriel his son, Uziah his son, and Shaul his son. 25 The sons of Elkanah: Amasai and Ahimoth, 26 Elkanah his son, Zophai his son, Nahath his son, 27 Eliab his son, Jeroham his son, Elkanah his son. 28 The sons of Samuel: Joel his firstborn, the second Abijah.
<b>1 Samuel 3:1</b>	Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.
<b>1 Samuel 3:20</b>	And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord.
<b>1 Samuel 2:12–17</b>	12 Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the Lord. 13 The custom of the priests with the people was that when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant would come, while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand, 14 and he would thrust it into the pan or kettle or cauldron or pot. All that the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is what they did at Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. 15 Moreover, before the fat was burned, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give meat for the priest to roast, for he will not accept boiled meat from you but only raw." 16 And if the man said to him, "Let them burn the fat first, and then take as much as you wish," he would say, "No, you must give it now, and if not, I will take it by force." 17 Thus the sin of the young men was very great in the sight of the Lord, for the men treated the offering of the Lord with contempt.
<b>1 Samuel 2:22–25</b>	22 Now Eli was very old, and he kept hearing all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who were serving at the entrance to the tent of meeting. 23 And he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all these people. 24 No, my sons; it is no good report that I hear the people of the Lord spreading abroad. 25 If someone sins against a man, God will mediate for him, but if someone sins against the Lord, who can intercede for him?" But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for it was the will of the Lord to put them to death.
<b>Judges 13:1</b>	And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, so the Lord gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.
<b>Judges 15:20</b>	And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.
<b>Judges 14:4</b>	His father and mother did not know that it was from the Lord, for he was seeking an opportunity against the Philistines. At that time the Philistines ruled over Israel.
<b>1 Samuel 4:1</b>	And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out to battle against the Philistines. They encamped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines encamped at Aphek.
<b>1 Samuel 4:3</b>	And when the people came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, "Why has the Lord defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord here from Shiloh, that it may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies."
<b>1 Samuel 4:4</b>	So the people sent to Shiloh and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

<p><b>1 Samuel 5:1–12</b></p>	<p>1 When the Philistines captured the ark of God, they brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. 2 Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it into the house of Dagon and set it up beside Dagon. 3 And when the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord. So they took Dagon and put him back in his place. 4 But when they rose early on the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord, and the head of Dagon and both his hands were lying cut off on the threshold. Only the trunk of Dagon was left to him. 5 This is why the priests of Dagon and all who enter the house of Dagon do not tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day. 6 The hand of the Lord was heavy against the people of Ashdod, and he terrified and afflicted them with tumors, both Ashdod and its territory. 7 And when the men of Ashdod saw how things were, they said, "The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us, for his hand is hard against us and against Dagon our god." 8 So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?" They answered, "Let the ark of the God of Israel be brought around to Gath." So they brought the ark of the God of Israel there. 9 But after they had brought it around, the hand of the Lord was against the city, causing a very great panic, and he afflicted the men of the city, both young and old, so that tumors broke out on them. 10 So they sent the ark of God to Ekron. But as soon as the ark of God came to Ekron, the people of Ekron cried out, "They have brought around to us the ark of the God of Israel to kill us and our people." 11 They sent therefore and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines and said, "Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it return to its own place, that it may not kill us and our people." For there was a deathly panic throughout the whole city. The hand of God was very heavy there. 12 The men who did not die were struck with tumors, and the cry of the city went up to heaven.</p>
<p><b>1 Samuel 7:1–2</b></p>	<p>1 And the men of Kiriath-jearim came and took up the ark of the Lord and brought it to the house of Abinadab on the hill. And they consecrated his son Eleazar to have charge of the ark of the Lord. 2 From the day that the ark was lodged at Kiriath-jearim, a long time passed, some twenty years, and all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord.</p>
<p><b>1 Samuel 7:3–4</b></p>	<p>3 And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, "If you are returning to the Lord with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your heart to the Lord and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines." 4 So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and they served the Lord only.</p>
<p><b>1 Samuel 7:12–14</b></p>	<p>12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, "Till now the Lord has helped us." 13 So the Philistines were subdued and did not again enter the territory of Israel. And the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. 14 The cities that the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath, and Israel delivered their territory from the hand of the Philistines. There was peace also between Israel and the Amorites.</p>