
A Study In 1 Samuel
"God Is Not A Good Luck Charm"
1 Samuel 4

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Introduction: As we continue our study, the stage has been set for radical change in Israel.

1. Remember, we are in the era of the Judges.
 - There is a vacuum of political and spiritual leadership.
 - God has been silent.
 - Israel is suffering.
2. God has raised up Samuel and is beginning to speak through him, so things are about to change.
3. Change is a challenging subject.
 - No matter how bad things are, there are some who are committed to the status quo.
4. Before change can occur, the forces holding things in place must be overcome.
5. That means sometimes, things get worse before they get better.
6. Here in chapter 4 we see this unfold, and as we do, we are reminded "God is not a good luck charm".

I. Israel Verses The Philistines

- A. Arch Enemies
- B. Initial Defeat
- C. A Question
- D. A Really Poor Answer

E. Catastrophe

II. Rock Bottom

- A. The Priesthood
- B. The Ark
- C. Ichabod

Conclusion: At this point in the narrative things couldn't get much worse.

1. There is a bright spot in the story.
 - God is speaking through Samuel.
 - A dysfunctional priesthood has been purged.
 - A wrong attitude has been confronted.
 - God is faithful.
2. He is at work to make Israel great.
3. It will take time, there will be times of progress and setbacks, but it will happen.
4. The same is true today.
5. If you're feeling like an Ichabod, don't lose hope.
6. God is the one who turns evil into good!