

One Year through the Old Testament

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Judges, con't

May 1: Judges 13:1 – 14:20

1. You will notice how the Israelites had dug a hole for themselves for a number of years until God would send a judge. Is there anything to learned from that?
2. A special child was given to this family from Dan's family. Can you name others who were given special but an only child?
3. The angel said the child would be a Nazirite. What was that?
4. How is Manoah's attitude as a father admirable?
5. This was the angel of the Lord. Who is that?
6. What was the reaction of the two future parents? Why is that logical?
7. While Samson had a very religious family, what did he do that was not godly?
8. Was Samson a tease or an instrument of God?
9. How was he dense when it came to the women he associated with?

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May 2: Judges 15:1 – 16:31

1. It was Samson's duty to irritate the Philistines who were always a problem for Israel. How does that occur in the fifteenth chapter?
2. Was Samson righteously angry?
3. What was the deceit that Judah and Samson devised?
4. How do you think Samson led Israel?
5. Look at the weak faith that Samson displayed. How has it shown and how does it show here?
6. What were some of Samson's weakness?
7. What lessons does Samson teach you about dealing with the ungodly?
8. Why didn't Samson see through Delilah's deceit?
9. How did Samson mock God?
10. How is Samson a good example?
11. How is Samson a bad example?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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May 3: Judges 17:1 – 18:31

1. This reading verifies the horrible spiritual condition in Israel. What is the paradox of 17:3?
2. What grave sin did Micah do?
3. What grave sin did the Levite commit?
4. What does it mean that the Danites did not “come into an inheritance?” Wasn’t that all settled long before? What was the problem?
5. Judges 18 seems like a strange chapter, but again it shows the spiritual condition of Israel. 18:6 shows what kind of fraud Micah’s priest was. How so?
6. Look at verse 24. How did his gods show themselves to be non-existent?
7. Syncretism is practicing a religion that has a little bit of this and a little bit of that. How was that true in Israel?

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May 4: Judges 19:1 – 20:48

1. Again, see that the man is from the tribe of Levi, the spiritual leaders in Israel. What does the man's situation reveal about the spiritual state of Israel?

2. Notice the Jebusites were mentioned. Do you remember who they are?

3. The man and his concubine purposely avoided going to the city of the Jebusites because it was unsafe. What does that say about the rest of Israel?

4. What story does this remind you of?

5. What was the Levite saying to the rest of Israel by sending them the body parts? Do you feel sorry for him at all?

6. As we read chapter twenty, there are some real sad things to be noted.
 - a. Look at the Civil war that came out of this.

 - b. Look how Benjamin defended the perpetrators of the crime against the woman.

7. What was God teaching Israel as they lost a lot of fighting men in the war?

8. This is truly a sad story in the history of the nation of Israel – much like the Civil War of our own nation.

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Ruth

May 5: Judges 21:1 - Ruth 1:22

1. What did Israel do at Mizpah that proved dangerous to the tribe of Benjamin?
2. What had happened to the tribe of Benjamin?
3. How was the problem going to get solved?
4. What is the most disturbing point of the whole book of Judges?
5. The book of Ruth takes place during this time. What were the people not taking care to do?
6. Why is Ruth so important?
7. What are exemplary traits of Ruth?
8. How would you characterize Naomi?

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May 6: Ruth 2:1 – 4:22

1. The story of Boaz and Ruth is obviously a love story. What is the reason it is found in the Bible?
2. According to the law of Moses, an owner of the field was to allow people to pick up grain after the harvest or around the edges of the field. That is why Ruth was doing what she was doing. What do you think attracted Boaz to Ruth?
3. Wouldn't it be nice to think that "The Bachelor" was all about this?
4. What is a kinsman redeemer?
5. Naomi was a good coach. What advice did Naomi give to Ruth?
6. What was the reason for uncovering the feet of Boaz?
7. Boaz wasn't the first in line to be the kinsman redeemer. How did God work it all out?
8. Who was their son who was part of the family line of Jesus?

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I Samuel

May 7: I Samuel 1:1 – 2:21

1. While Elkannah is married to two wives, notice the friction that it caused in the household.
2. Why was not having a child such a burden to bear?
3. What kind of woman was Hannah?
4. What kind of high priest was Eli?
5. If God would give Hannah a son, what did she promise?
6. Name others in the Bible who were given special sons but had to wait for that to happen. How many can you name?
7. What kind of sacrifice did Hannah make when it came to her son? How old was he?
8. As you look at Hannah's song in chapter two, what theme seems to ring through it?
9. Eli's sons were of the tribe of Levi too. How did they offend the faith of many in Israel?
10. How is the place of spiritual leader such an important place and what can be done to hold them accountable for the position God has given?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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May 8: 1 Samuel 2:22 – 4:22

1. What kind of father do you see Eli to be?
2. Is there an answer to the question, “But if a man sins against the Lord, who will intercede for him?”
3. God called Samuel to be the last judge in Israel. What does it mean, “Now Samuel did not know the Lord: the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him?”
4. Samuel had to tell Eli all that the Lord had in store for his family. That must have been tough. How about Eli’s reaction?
5. Samuel became the leader of the people of Israel. However, when the people of Israel went to war against the Philistines they took the Ark of the Covenant along. How were they regarding the ark? Why did they lose?
6. How was the prophecy against Eli’s family fulfilled?
7. How had the “Glory departed from Israel?”

Important thoughts from the reading:

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May 9: I Samuel 5:1 – 7:17

1. God's law was preached to the cities of Ashdod, Gath and Ekron. Isn't it curious that they acknowledged God but they did not follow him? Why not?
2. Why was their desire to offer a guilt offering a natural one?
3. Why did they shape the offerings as tumors and rats?
4. How did they acknowledge what happened in Egypt?
5. Why was it miraculous that the cows hitched to the wagon returned to Israel?
6. How was the celebration at Beth Shemesh tempered?
7. How can it be said that Samuel was talking to a bunch of blockheads?
8. How did Samuel show himself to be a good judge?

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May 10: 1 Samuel 8:1 – 9:27

1. How does one explain the faithlessness of children when parents were faithful?
2. Consider how tough but loving it must have been to confront Samuel about his children. How does that require love?
3. Why was having a king such a bad idea?
4. What were the consequences of having a king?
5. What was impressive about Saul...at least at first?
6. Look at 9:14. What was a high place?
7. At this point what kind of man was Saul?
8. How did God communicate with his people?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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May 11: I Samuel 10:1 – 11:15

1. What did 'anointing' mean?
2. Why do you think Samuel laid all things out so well for Saul?
3. Notice that there was a company of prophets. What was that and why was that valuable?
4. Why didn't Saul say anything about being a king (10:16)?
5. Why did Samuel equate wanting a king to rejecting God?
6. Notice how Saul had troubles almost right out of the starting blocks.
7. How did Saul show credibility at first as king?
8. Saul was a Benjamite. What did that mean over the long run?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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May 12: I Samuel 12:1 – 13:22

1. Was Samuel being self- righteous?
2. Look at 12:3. Who said the same words elsewhere in the Bible?
3. What was the purpose of Samuel reviewing the history of the judges?
4. How did God show his disappointment with the people who wanted a king?
5. How quickly did Saul test God?
6. How did he test God?
7. What were the consequences Saul would face for his disobedience?
8. What about the issue of forgiveness yet bearing the consequences of sin? Is there a problem with that?
9. How did the Philistines plague Israel?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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May 13: I Samuel 13:23 – 14:52

1. Why were Saul and Jonathon trying to irritate the Philistines?
2. Jonathon had great faith. How did he express it?
3. The Bible has record of a few ill-advised oaths. Here is one. What are others?
4. How did Jonathon tell it like it is as far as his father was concerned. Was that a violation of the fourth commandment?
5. How do you see Saul's spirituality deteriorate even more?

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May 14: I Samuel 15:1 – 16:23

1. Saul, as we can see, did a series of acts that were disobedience toward God. Why didn't he learn a lesson? Why do we have trouble with the same?
2. Agag was allowed to live. Perhaps we can see people look at the Old Testament and be turned off because the God of the Old Testament is a bloody God. How do we answer?
3. How does God grieve (15:10)?
4. Why did Saul go bad? What was the underlying sin of which he was guilty?
5. What does "to obey is better than sacrifice" mean?
6. Why was Judah afraid of Samuel?
7. Look at 16:7. Why is that such an important passage?
8. What made David a good candidate for kingship?
9. What does 16:14 mean when "the Spirit departed from Saul?"
10. What does music have the power to do?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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May 15: I Samuel 17:1 – 18:4

1. Did the Israelites really have to fear Goliath?
2. What was ultimately at stake if the Philistines had defeated Israel?
3. What was the key point in what David said in 17:26?
4. Eliab did not appreciate David. □ Why would he call David conceited and wicked?
5. Does David's real strength lie in the fact that he killed a lion and a bear? □ Why didn't he say that God was his strength?
6. What does 17:58 seem to indicate?
7. In the next few chapters keep an eye on the friendship of Jonathon and David. □ Jonathon is often overlooked as a real hero of faith?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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May 16: I Samuel 18:5 – 19:24

1. Saul needed to know he was not to be the one to be given all the glory although it was obvious he wanted it. Why is that tough to take when not given the glory? How as Christians do we overcome that temptation?
2. In 18:10 an evil spirit from God is sent. How does one explain that sin when God does not tempt anyone?
3. How would marrying Saul's daughter be a snare to the Philistines?
4. How was Jonathon a real godly friend?
5. Look at 19:14. Why would an idol be in the house in the first place?
6. How did God give Saul all kinds of second chances?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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May 17: I Samuel 20:1 – 21:15

1. Jonathon and David again express their friendship. □ Was Jonathon disobeying his father for the sake of his friendship?
2. I Samuel 20:3 states there is “one step between me and death.” □ What does that mean for all of us?
3. Look at 20:13. □ What is Jonathon conceding most willingly when he says, “May the Lord be with you as he has been with my father?”
4. Saul was turning up the heat on David. □ Yet how does David’s thoughts about Saul remain exemplary?
5. David wasn’t entirely honest with Ahimelech. □ In what way was that true?
6. In eating the consecrated bread, what does God teach about the law of love?
7. David fled to Gath and deceived Achish the king. □ Was he distrusting the Lord to help and protect him?

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May 18: 1 Samuel 22:1 – 23:29

1. Saul was leaving a lot of people discontented and despairing because of his unfair ways. □ How should we react in such a situation where leaders doing ungodly things do the same? □
2. Ahimelech, the priest, defended David and was put to death. □ What does that tell us about doing what is right?
3. David was a blessing to Saul and yet Saul treated him as an enemy. □ Who was really Saul's enemy?
4. What was going on in the land?

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May 19: 1 Samuel 24:1 – 25:44

1. How does David express his respect to the those whom God has placed in positions of representing us in the government? □ Notice the title he calls Saul.
2. Was Saul truly repentant for his hatred for David?
3. Samuel died. □ How would you have reacted if you were living in Israel at the time? □
4. Chapter 25 is all about David's relationship to Nabal and eventually Abigail who would become David's wife. □ What does the story teach you about treating someone with love?
5. Was David asking too much of Nabal?
6. Even though Nabal scoffed at David, what did Abigail recognize about him?
7. We can see that David is also guilty of polygamy. □ Notice that he didn't inquire of the Lord whether it was right to take Abigail as his wife.

Important thoughts from the reading:

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May 20: I Samuel 26:1 – 28:25

1. As we can see, Saul seemed to show sorrow over his treatment of David one moment and then turn and be totally impenitent.
2. Notice again the great respect that David has for the office of king. □What does he call Saul?
3. What are the lessons to be learned by us?
4. What was the purpose that David entered the camp?
5. What does David say that God does when we do what is right?
6. Where did David go to live?
7. Look at chapter 28. □How far had Saul sunk?
8. What was the Urim?
9. Did Saul see Samuel or a likeness of Samuel?
10. What was the bad news? □

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May 21: I Samuel 29:1 – 31:13

1. David had virtually abandoned Judah and went over to Achish, the ruler of the Philistines. □What does that say about Saul?
2. Why did the Philistine muckety-mucks not trust David?
3. How do you view David's relationship to Achish?
4. What trait does David seem to have here that is so admirable?
5. Why was David disturbed along with his men?
6. Why did his army blame David?
7. How did David show his faith at this time?
8. How do you feel about how David treated the two hundred men?
9. We see the downfall of Saul. □Note that Jonathon was also killed at this time. □
10. How was Saul despised?

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II Samuel

May 22: II Samuel 1:1 – 2:11

1. How did the man who came back from the battle think he was honoring David?
2. How, in reality, did he dishonor David?□
3. What is the lesson to be learned about honoring civil leaders?
4. What was the content of the song that David sang?
5. In chapter two, we get to understand a bit more about the politics of Israel.□
What kind of government did it have at this time?
6. How was Israel divided at this time according to the tribes?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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May 23: II Samuel 2:12 – 3:39

1. What was behind all the bloodshed of chapter two?
2. What was the country of Israel undergoing at this time?
3. Notice the multiple wives of David in chapter three?
4. Who is Ishbosheth?
5. Who was and what kind of man is Abner?
6. Who was and what kind of man is Joab?
7. What word best describes Joab – Loyal, ambitious, or vengeful?
8. Why did David mourn for Abner?
9. How was David showing he was a man of character?
10. What did David mean in 3:39?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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May 24: II Samuel 4:1 – 6:23

1. Why all the bloodshed?
2. Why was Ishbosheth's death déjà vu?
3. Why was the transfer of the house of Saul as king to the house of David as king such a big deal?
4. In chapter five we are reintroduced to the Jebusites. □ Do you remember who they are?
5. What was the city of David?
6. Why were the Philistines alarmed that David was the king?
7. Look at 5:23. □ What does that say about David?
8. What great event took place in chapter six?
9. What happened to Uzzah? □ Why?
10. What was David's reaction?
11. How were David's fears quelled?
12. Why was Michal disturbed?
13. What was David's answer?

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Important thoughts from the reading:

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May 25: II Samuel 7:1 – 8:18

1. What did David have in mind to do? □ Why?
2. What was wrong with what Nathan said?
3. What should always be kept in mind when it comes to building the Lord's house?
4. How would David's name be made great?
5. What was God really promising David?
6. What parts of David's prayer are particularly meaningful?
7. Chapter 18 speaks of David's military accomplishments. □ How did he keep from becoming proud?
8. Notice the people he had around him.

Important thoughts from the reading:

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May 26: II Samuel 9:1 – 11:27

1. Why was it important for David to show kindness to Jonathon's household?

2. Why was kindness to Mephibosheth a big deal?□

3. Hanun succeeded Nahash as the king of the Ammonites.□A treaty existed between the Ammonites and Israel.□How was that ruined?□

4. David had some very good warriors around him.□

5. Chapter 11 is a sad part of David's life.□What are lessons to be learned about:
 - a. Temptation

 - b. Once sin takes root

 - c. The evil capabilities of the human heart

6. What does this all say about Joab?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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May 27: II Samuel 12:1 – 12:31

1. Why is parable form a good way to tell the truths of God?
2. Why do we see faults in others and are blind to our own?
3. Again, what is the difference here between forgiveness and consequences of sin?
4. Notice the tense of the phrase “The Lord has taken away your sin” in verse thirteen. What is the significance?
5. How would verses 15 – 22 be of comfort to anyone who has undergone a stillborn birth or miscarriage?
6. What do you think of Joab, David’s commander in chief, from these words?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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May 28: II Samuel 13:1 – 13:39

1. What in David's life contributed to the awful situation between Amnon and Tamar?
2. Tamar showed herself to be a very godly person as she defended herself. □
How did that show?
3. Why do bad things happen to good people? □
4. What kind of man is Absalom? □ Was he really interested in defending Tamar's honor?
5. How is this whole incident a fulfillment of prophecy?
6. What was David's household like?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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May 29: II Samuel 14:1 – 15:22

1. What do you think were the motives behind getting David together with his son, Absalom?
2. What was the point of the parable of the woman of Tekoa?
3. How did David show himself a real man in charge?□
4. Needless to say, Absalom was a son that one hopes anyone wants to have.□ How could have done David done things differently?
5. It is almost unbelievable that great King David was forced to leave Jerusalem at one time.□ Is there anything we can learn from that?
6. Ittai the Gittite is a model for us.□ In what way?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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May 30: II Samuel 15:23 – 16:23

1. Why was the whole countryside weeping?
2. Why would they take the Ark of the Covenant with them?
3. What was admirable about David's resolve?
4. What was David's prayer about Ahithophel? Was that godly?
5. Who was Ziba?
6. What is admirable in the way David treated Shimei?
7. What place did Hushai hold?
8. What would be the ultimate shame on David?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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May 31: II Samuel 17:1 – 17:29

1. What were Ahithophel and Absalom plotting?
2. You need to keep the people straight. □ Who was Hushai and what was Hushai trying to do?
3. Why would Ahithophel hang himself?
4. Does this say something how God could use the evil and intrigue of David's house and reign to still accomplish his purpose?

Important thoughts from the reading: