



## GPS for the week of January 24: 1 Samuel 2:12; 1 Samuel 4:1-11

“<sup>12</sup> Eli’s sons were scoundrels; they had no regard for the Lord.”

“<sup>1</sup> Now the Israelites went out to fight against the Philistines. The Israelites camped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines at Aphek. <sup>2</sup> The Philistines deployed their forces to meet Israel, and as the battle spread, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand of them on the battlefield. <sup>3</sup> When the soldiers returned to camp, the elders of Israel asked, ‘Why did the Lord bring defeat on us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the Lord’s covenant from Shiloh, so that he may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies.’ <sup>4</sup> So the people sent men to Shiloh, and they brought back the ark of the covenant of the Lord Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim. And Eli’s two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. <sup>5</sup> When the ark of the Lord’s covenant came into the camp, all Israel raised such a great shout that the ground shook. <sup>6</sup> Hearing the uproar, the Philistines asked, ‘What’s all this shouting in the Hebrew camp?’ When they learned that the ark of the Lord had come into the camp, <sup>7</sup> the Philistines were afraid. ‘A god has come into the camp,’ they said. ‘Oh no! Nothing like this has happened before. <sup>8</sup> We’re doomed! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? They are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the wilderness. <sup>9</sup> Be strong, Philistines! Be men, or you will be subject to the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Be men, and fight!’ <sup>10</sup> So the Philistines fought, and the Israelites were defeated and every man fled to his tent. The slaughter was very great; Israel lost thirty thousand foot soldiers. <sup>11</sup> The ark of God was captured, and Eli’s two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.”

### Sunday, January 24:

**Scripture:** Read above Scripture slowly (even if it is very familiar to you).

**Questions:** What stood out for you as you read this Scripture? What do you hope to be reminded of as you focus on this Scripture this week? Are you willing to do a self-evaluation on your relationship with God this week? Do you agree that this is important to consider?

**Prayer:** Lord, teach me what You want me to hear and see this week. There are some hard truths in these verses but I know that all of Your word is important for me to understand. Speak to my heart so that I have a better understanding of what Your word is saying to me.

### Monday, January 25:

**Scripture:** Read 1 Samuel 2:12: “<sup>12</sup> Eli’s sons were scoundrels; they had no regard for the Lord.”

**Questions:** Are you willing to read more of chapter 2 to get a feel for who Eli’s sons were? Did you know that Eli was a priest that served in the temple? Do you have children you raised in church that have no regard for the Lord? What are you willing to do about that?

**Prayer:** Lord God, help me this week be reminded of the importance of having our children be in relationship with You. Although your punishments may seem harsh, I also know You are a loving and good God. Help me not be discouraged by what I read this week but be encouraged that You are loving and faithful to those who are in relationship with You.

### Tuesday, January 26:

**Scripture:** Read 1 Samuel 4:1-3: “<sup>1</sup> Now the Israelites went out to fight against the Philistines. The Israelites camped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines at Aphek. <sup>2</sup> The Philistines deployed their forces to meet Israel, and as the battle spread, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand of them on the battlefield. <sup>3</sup> When the soldiers returned to camp, the elders of Israel asked, ‘Why did the Lord bring defeat on us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the Lord’s covenant from Shiloh, so that he may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies.’”

**Questions:** What do you do when you do not see God responding as you believe He should? Rather than stopping and asking for God’s presence right there and then, are you one to find something else that will remind you of God and believe that this will give you what you need?

**Prayer:** God, too many times, I try to take things into my own hands rather than looking to You for help. Your word even asks and answers “Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord.” (Psalm 121:1-2). Remind me of Your word when I am feeling like You are not responding to my pleas.

### **Wednesday, January 27:**

**Scripture:** Read 1 Samuel 4:4-5: “4 So the people sent men to Shiloh, and they brought back the ark of the covenant of the Lord Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim. And Eli’s two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. 5 When the ark of the Lord’s covenant came into the camp, all Israel raised such a great shout that the ground shook.”

**Questions:** Did the people of Israel have true faith or do you think they were superstitious? How about you? Do you take God for granted and only turn to Him when you need Him? Or are you constantly in relationship with Him? Do you think God should honor our requests when we neglect Him?

**Prayer:** Lord, deepen my relationship with You. I don’t want to be a person who only seeks You out when I am desperate and need something from You. Help me to be in relationship with You daily so that I can feel confident that my requests will be honored by You.

### **Thursday, January 28:**

**Scripture:** Read 1 Samuel 4:6-7: “6 Hearing the uproar, the Philistines asked, ‘What’s all this shouting in the Hebrew camp?’ When they learned that the ark of the Lord had come into the camp, 7 the Philistines were afraid. ‘A god has come into the camp,’ they said. ‘Oh no! Nothing like this has happened before.’”

**Questions:** Don’t you find it interesting that the enemy was afraid when they learned the ark had come into the camp? Do you see that even they must have known what the ark meant and that they needed to be afraid? How confident are you that God can do anything for you?

**Prayer:** God, sometimes I ask but am not confident of who You are and what You can do. I want to be a person who is confident that You are constantly working with me and for me. Remind me of the times when I have seen Your hand in a difficult situation so that I can be reminded of Your greatness.

### **Friday, January 29:**

**Scripture:** Read 1 Samuel 4:8-9: “8 We’re doomed! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? They are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the wilderness. 9 Be strong, Philistines! Be men, or you will be subject to the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Be men, and fight!”

**Questions:** What is the difference between what the Israelites believed and the Philistines believed? What is the difference between what you believe and someone who has only heard about God? Could you respond to someone who might question you about who God is? Are you prepared to do this if necessary?

**Prayer:** Father God, let me be a person who can talk to others about how Great You are. I don’t want to be someone who hears the stories but someone who is actively engaged in You and all that You have done and are continuing to do.

### **Saturday, January 30:**

**Scripture:** Read 1 Samuel 4:10-11: “10 So the Philistines fought, and the Israelites were defeated and every man fled to his tent. The slaughter was very great; Israel lost thirty thousand foot soldiers. 11 The ark of God was captured, and Eli’s two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.”

**Questions:** What do you think about how this story ended? Does this make you re-think your relationship with God and want to do something to change it? Do you want to be a person who only calls on God when things are really difficult for you?

**Prayer:** Lord, I want to be in relationship with You when things are going fine and when things are difficult. Don’t let my relationship be about prayer only but help me to get to know You better through times alone with You. I also want to be a person in Your Word so that I can tell others how amazing You are.