

We will begin the third lecture on the Books of Samuel. /We will begin with 1 Samuel chapter 6. /The title of chapter 6 is, "The Ark Returns." /Let's look at the main points.

/First, the Philistines try to send back the ark of the LORD. /Verses 1-6. /Second, the ark of God is sent on a cart pulled by cows. /Verses 7-12. /Third, the people of Beth Shemesh receive the ark of the LORD. /Verses 13-16.

/Fourth, the gold tumors and gold rats. /Verses 17-18. /Fifth, those who look into the ark of the LORD are put to death. /Verse 19. /Sixth, the people of Beth Shemesh tell the Israelites to take the ark of God.

/Read verses 1-2. /When the ark of the LORD had been in Philistine territory seven months, the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the LORD? Tell us how we should send it back to its place."

/The ark of the LORD was taken by the Philistines from the Israelites. /The ark of the LORD remained in Philistine territory for seven months. /There was affliction wherever the ark of the LORD was sent to.

/Thus, the Philistines wanted to send back the ark of God to its original place. /The Philistines thought, "How can we send the ark of God back to its place?" /Then in verse 3, the Philistine diviners gave their answer.

/Verse 3. /They answered, "If you return the ark of the god of Israel, do not send it away empty, but by all means send a guilt offering to him. Then you will be healed, and you will know why his hand has not been lifted from you."

/The Philistine diviners gave their answer. /They said that they were to give a guilt offering when they sent the ark back. /In verse 4, it says that they needed to send five gold tumors and five gold rats.

/Hence, the Philistines gave an offering to God. /Then they gave five gold tumors and five gold rats. /Of course, the Philistines were wrong in the way they gave offerings to God.

/Their way was completely different from how the Israelites gave their offerings to God. /The Philistines gave their all in giving an offering to God, in their own way. /However, this was not true faith, true faith in God.

/Verses 7-8. /"Now then, get a new cart ready, with two cows that have calved and have never been yoked. Hitch the cows to the cart, but take their calves away and pen them up. Take the ark of the LORD and put it on the cart, and in a chest beside it put the gold objects you are sending back to him as a guilt offering. Send it on its way,

/Here it tells us how they were to send the ark of God back to Israel. /They made a new cart. /Then they took two cows that had never been yoked.

/The cows were nursing, and they had calves. /The ark of God was put on the cart. /The gold objects were put in a chest and placed on the cart.

/The cart was sent on the way to Beth Shemesh in Israel. /They then watched to see if the ark of God would arrive safely in the land of Israel. /There was no one who pulled the cart.

/The two cows walked on their own down the road. /If the cows arrived safely in Israel, they would acknowledge that it happened by the power of God.

/They would know that the afflictions that came upon the land of the Philistines was God's power. /However, what would they think if the cart with the ark of God did not arrive safely in Israel?

/They would then think, "All that happened did not happen by God's power!" /What ultimately happened? /The ark of God arrived safely in the land of Israel by the power of God.

/The two nursing cows were yoked and they carried the cart to Israel. /The Philistines wanted to see God's power and providence.

/Verse 12. /Then the cows went straight up toward Beth Shemesh, keeping on the road and lowing all the way; they did not turn to the right or to the left. The rulers of the Philistines followed them as far as the border of Beth Shemesh.

/The two cows carried the ark of God, and they arrived safely at Beth Shemesh. /The cows kept pace with each other and they wanted straight. /The cows arrived safely in Beth Shemesh by God's strong power.

/The cows did not turn to the right or to the left. /The ark of God symbolizes the church. /We too must have faith like the cows that carried the ark of God. /The ark symbolizes the church.

/The cows had never been yoked. /Hence, it was very difficult for them to walk with a yoke. /Still, they carried the ark of God and pulled the cart. /We too must follow the Lord even if the road is difficult.

/We must carry the cross and follow the Lord. /We must go even if we've been never down that road before. /If God tells us to leave our father's household, we must leave.

/The two cows headed straight towards Beth Shemesh. /The two cows kept in pace with each other as they walked. /We believers must also cooperate with one another, and we must walk together with the heart of Jesus. /Philippians 4:2. /2 Corinthians 5:14.

/We must follow the Lord by the power of God. /We must be in step with believers and

cooperate with them, and follow the Lord. /Parents and children in families must become one in heart, and they must cooperate with each other and live with faith.

/Third, the cows lowed all the way as they carried the cart. /The cows were female cows that was nursing their young. /The cows longed for their young. /They left their young behind.

/They could not look back. /The cows needed to carry out their important calling of carrying the ark. /This means that we must cut off empathy for our parents or children and follow Jesus. /Mark 10:29-30.

/We must transcend our instincts and empathy, and we must follow Jesus. /Abraham sacrificed his only son Isaac. /Fourth, the cows did not turn to the right or to the left. /They walked down the right path.

/We too must always walk down the path of the truth. /We must not turn to the side. /We must walk down the right road.

/Verse 14. /The cart came to the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh, and there it stopped beside a large rock. The people chopped up the wood of the cart and sacrificed the cows as a burnt offering to the LORD.

/The people at Beth Shemesh chopped up the wood of the cart. /Then they sacrificed the cows as a burnt offering to God. /Nothing belongs to us when we stand before God. /Our church, /our homes, /our lands. /We offer everything we have to God.

/The cows ultimately offered their lives to God as burnt offerings. /In the end, we must offer our lives to God. /Acts 20:24. /Philippians 2:17. /Romans 12:1.

/The cart was burned up, and the cows were given as burnt offerings to God. /Only the ark remained. /We must bring up the church of the Lord. /We must boast only of Jesus and lift Jesus up on high. /The people at Beth Shemesh at Israel rejoiced when they saw the ark of God.

/Verse 17. /These are the gold tumors the Philistines sent as a guilt offering to the LORD-- one each for Ashdod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron.

/The Philistines sent gold tumors as a guilt offering to the LORD. /The Philistines consisted of the cities of Ashdod, Gaza, /Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron.

/Verse 19. /But God struck down some of the men of Beth Shemesh, putting seventy of them to death because they had looked into the ark of the LORD. The people mourned because of the heavy blow the LORD had dealt them,

/Some men of Beth Shemesh looked into the ark of the LORD. /How many of them died? /Seventy of them were put to death. /Why did the men of Beth Shemesh look into the

ark? /They were probably thinking, "Is the ark of the LORD safe?" /This was unbelief.

/No one other than the priest was to look or touch the holy things. /Numbers 4:15-20. /We must especially not cross over God's holy boundaries. /Exodus 19:12. /There was a man named Uzzah. /1 Chronicles 13:7-10.

/Uzzah was put to death for reaching out and touching the ark of God. /He erred against the glory of God. /God personally leads his church. /We do not carry the church with our own human strength.

/God personally carries and leads his church. /Therefore, we must not cross over God's boundaries. /There is a boundary between God and man. /We must not err against the glory of God.

/Verses 20-21. /and the men of Beth Shemesh asked, "Who can stand in the presence of the LORD, this holy God? To whom will the ark go up from here?" Then they sent messengers to the people of Kiriath Jearim, saying, "The Philistines have returned the ark of the LORD. Come down and take it up to your place."

/The men of Beth Shemesh looked into the ark of God, and seventy men were killed. /Thus, the people of Beth Shemesh were afraid. /They sent the ark of God to Kiriath Jearim. /If they treated the ark of God well, they would have received blessings.

/These people did not even think to repent of their wrongdoings. /They were simply afraid of the ark of God. /If they repented of their sin and treated the ark of God with reverence, they would have received blessings.

/Obed-Edom treated the ark of God well, and he received blessings. /1 Chronicles 13:13-14. /Obed-Edom treated the ark of God well, and he received blessings. /The ark of God symbolizes the church today.

/It also symbolizes God's presence and promise. /We must support the church with hearts that fear God.

/We will now continue with 1 Samuel chapter 7. /The title is, "Revival Movement at Mizpah." /Let's look at the main points. /First, the ark of the LORD remains in Kiriath Jearim for twenty years. /Verses 1-2.

/Second, Samuel tells Israel to return to the LORD with all their hearts. /Verses 3-4. /Third, the revival movement at Mizpah. /Fourth, the Israelites defeat the Philistines. /Verses 7-12. /Fifth, restoration of Israel, and Samuel's rule. /Verses 13-17.

/Read verses 1-2. /So the men of Kiriath Jearim came and took up the ark of the LORD. They took it to Abinadab's house on the hill and consecrated Eleazar his son to guard the ark of the LORD. It was a long time, twenty years in all, that the ark remained at Kiriath Jearim, and all the people of Israel mourned and sought after the LORD.

/The ark of God remained in the house of Abinadab at Kiriath Jearim. /The ark of God remained at Abinadab's house for twenty years. /God's sanctuary was originally in Shiloh. /However, the people could not give offerings to God in his sanctuary for twenty years.

/Israel became stained by the world and chased after idols. /The Israelites were slaves to the Philistines. /Now, the Israelites sought after the LORD. /They wanted to return to God.

/Verse 3. /And Samuel said to the whole house of Israel, "If you are returning to the LORD with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths and commit yourselves to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines."

/The prophet Samuel told the Israelites to return to God with all their hearts. /If you are returning to the LORD, get rid of idols. /The Israelites were to get rid of all foreign gods and the Ashtoreths.

/Israel worshiped idols for twenty years, and they did not receive blessings because of the idols. /In verse 3, Samuel said, "If you are returning to the LORD with all your hearts." / We must return to God with all our hearts.

/We must return to God with all our strength. /We must truly repent and return to God. / We must diligently pray. /Then we will grow closer to God.

/We must also throw away idols. /Anything that we love more than God is an idol. /Anything that we rely on more than God is an idol. /Nowadays, money is an idol, and people are idols.

/Knowledge is an idol, and pleasures are idols. /The greatest idols is oneself. /We serve idols when we selfishly serve ourselves.

/Verse 3 says, "commit yourselves to the LORD and serve him only." /When we serve God only, other things will drift away from us. /We cannot serve both God and the world at the same time. /God would help the Israelites when they committed themselves to God.

/Verses 5-6. /Then Samuel said, "Assemble all Israel at Mizpah and I will intercede with the LORD for you." When they had assembled at Mizpah, they drew water and poured it out before the LORD. On that day they fasted and there they confessed, "We have sinned against the LORD." And Samuel was leader of Israel at Mizpah.

/Samuel was a man of prayer. /12:23. /We pastors must pray hard. /Then believers will be blessed. /People will repent and believe in Jesus and be saved. /Believers will be blessed.

/In verse 6, it says, they drew water and poured it out before the LORD. /This meant that

they poured out their hearts to God. /Lamentations 2:19. /We must pour out our hearts to God.

/Second, they fasted on that day. /Fasting is the act of surrendering oneself. /It is also having a humble attitude before God. /Third, they confessed their sins. /They said, “We have sinned against the LORD.”

/The Israelites repented. /We too must humbly repent before God. /We must have a proper relationship with God. /We must meet God and we must serve God.

/Verse 7. /When the Philistines heard that Israel had assembled at Mizpah, the rulers of the Philistines came up to attack them. And when the Israelites heard of it, they were afraid because of the Philistines.

/Israel assembled at Mizpah. /The Philistines then came to attack them. /When we try to live by faith, the devil comes and tempts us and tries to make us fall. /We receive temptations from the devil when we try to walk in the truth.

/We must overcome the devil’s temptations. /In verse 8, the people said, “Do not stop crying out to the LORD our God for us.” /The people asked Samuel to pray for them.

/The people trusted the prophet Samuel. /2 Chronicles 20:20. /Pastors must pray hard for the congregation. /Believers must repent and be humble before God. /Believers must receive guidance from pastors.

/We will continue with verse 9.

/Read verses 9-10. /Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it up as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. He cried out to the LORD on Israel’s behalf, and the LORD answered him. While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. But that day the LORD thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites.

/Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it up as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. /Samuel gave a sin offer to God. /We must believe that Christ shed the blood of redemption for us.

/We must believe in Jesus and go before God. /We must be thankful to God and love the Lord. /Here, Samuel prayed with all his heart to God.

/God then allowed Israel to gain a great victory through his supernatural works. /Verse 12 says, “Ebenezer.” /Ebenezer means, “stone of help.”

/The stone was set so that first, the people would thank God when they saw the stone. /Second, it was so that the people would remember that God helped them. /Third, it was so that the people would no longer retreat in the place where they gained victory over

their enemies.

/God helps us today. /We cannot do anything if God does not help us. /We must rely on God and pray to God. /Then God will help us.

/Verses 13-14. /So the Philistines were subdued and did not invade Israelite territory again. Throughout Samuel's lifetime, the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines. The towns from Ekron to Gath that the Philistines had captured from Israel were restored to her, and Israel delivered the neighboring territory from the power of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

/God allowed the Israelites to get revenge. /The land the Israel had lost was restored to her. /There was peace in the land. /In this way, God restores everything when we live by faith.

/Samuel went from place to place and judged all of Israel his entire life. /Samuel judged over Israel and built an altar for the LORD. /During this time when Samuel faithfully served God, Israel's enemies did not attack.

/We will continue with 1 Samuel chapter 8. /The title is, "Israel Asks for a King." /Let's look at the main points.

/First, Samuel's sons become judges. /Verses 1-3. /Second, the people ask for a king. /Verses 4-9. /Third, Samuel is cautious about anointing a king. /Verses 10-18. /Fourth, God tells Samuel to anoint a king. /Verses 19-22.

/Read verses 1-2. /When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges for Israel. The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba.

/Samuel grew old, and he appointed his sons as judges for Israel. /However, Samuel's sons did not follow their father's footsteps. /Samuel's sons turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.

/Did Samuel fail to properly educate his sons? /Samuel, a prophet of God, probably educated his sons well. /Yet, his sons did not receive their father's teaching, and they were not upright.

/It is God's grace for one's children to live by faith. /Parents also have the responsibility to properly teach their children. /Abraham taught his sons well. /Yet, Isaac obeyed but Ishmael did not. /Ezekiel 18:20. /Therefore, we must show interest in our children's education, and we must properly teach our children with faith and love.

/Verses 4-5. /So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."

/Samuel's sons went down the wrong path. /The people came to Samuel and said, "You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways." /"Appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."

/Samuel was not pleased when he heard this. /Samuel then prayed to God for a solution to this problem. /Why was Samuel displeased when he heard the people's demand? /The period of the judges was a time when the people served God as king and were ruled by God.

/God brought up judges to rule over the Israelites. /However, if a king was anointed, the people would not receive God's direct rule. /Still, God told Samuel to listen to the people's demand for a king.

/God said in verse 7, "It is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king." /God told Samuel to warn the people about what the king will do to them.

/Verse 9. /Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do."

/God told Samuel to warn the people about what the king who will reign over them will do.

/Here we will conclude the third lecture on the books of Samuel. /Thank you.