

Dr. Elaine Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 18, Judges and Ruth Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 18, Judges and Ruth, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Phillips' lecture focuses on the transition from the period of the Judges to the monarchy in Israel, specifically exploring the key figures of Samuel, Eli, and Saul. The lecture begins with a review of the spiritual cycle during the time of the judges, then transitions to the geopolitical landscape of the time with the impact and threat of the Philistines. It examines Samuel's role as a judge, priest, and prophet, highlighting his birth, dedication, and divine calling. The lecture addresses the corruption of Eli's sons and the consequences for their priestly service and moves to the capture and return of the Ark of the Covenant. Finally, the lecture describes the people's demand for a king, and the selection and ultimate downfall of Saul due to disobedience and pride, setting the stage for the rise of David.

**2. 15 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 18 – Double
click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the
Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link
there (Old Testament → OT Introduction → OT Lit).**



**Phillips_OTLit_Sessi
on 18.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 18, Judges and Ruth

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from Dr. Phillips' lecture on 1 Samuel, focusing on Eli and Saul.

Briefing Document: 1 Samuel, Eli, and Saul (Lecture 18)

Source: Excerpts from "ElainePhillips_OTL_EN_Lecture18.pdf"

Main Themes:

- **Transition from Judges to Monarchy:** The lecture focuses on the period of transition in Israel from the rule of judges to the establishment of a monarchy, highlighting the key figures of Samuel and Saul.
- **Geopolitical Context:** Understanding the political and military situation of Israel, particularly the threat posed by the Philistines and other neighboring groups, is crucial to understanding the events in 1 Samuel.
- **Samuel as a Transition Figure:** Samuel serves as the last of the judges, a priest, and a prophet (a "seer"), bridging the gap between the old system and the new. His birth is significant as he is born to a barren mother, like many other important figures in the Old Testament.
- **The Sin of Eli's Sons:** The corruption and wickedness of Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas, contribute significantly to the crisis that leads to the downfall of Eli's house and the loss of the Ark.
- **Abuse of the Ark of the Covenant:** The Israelites' instrumental use of the Ark as a "magic box" in battle, rather than a symbol of God's presence and covenant, leads to its capture by the Philistines and a period of turmoil.
- **The People's Demand for a King:** The Israelites' desire to be "like all the other nations" and have a king to lead them in battle represents a rejection of God's kingship and leads to the anointing of Saul.
- **Saul's Tragic Kingship:** Saul, despite being chosen and empowered by God, ultimately fails due to his disobedience, pride, and self-aggrandizement, leading to his rejection as king.

Key Ideas and Facts:

- **The Cycle of Judges:** The lecture starts by reviewing the cycle that characterized the period of the judges: "apostasy, oppression, repentance, deliverance, repetition."
- **Philistine Threat:** The Philistines posed a major military threat to Israel, controlling iron production and making incursions deep into Israelite territory. "They control the production of iron. In fact, it says, the Israelites had to go down to the Philistines. They had their plow shares, their tools, and their mattocks sharpened." Their control extended far into the hill country, cutting off the northern tribes from the south, by the end of Samuel's life.
- **Five Philistine Cities:** The lecture stresses knowing the location of the five Philistine cities: Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Gath, and Ekron.
- **Hannah's Song:** Hannah's song in 1 Samuel 2, sung after giving Samuel to the Lord, emphasizes reversals and the power of God, and is echoed by Mary in the New Testament. "Those who are full hire themselves out for food. Those who are hungry, hunger no more. She who was barren has born seven children. She who has many sons pines away."
- **Eli's Sons' Wickedness:** Eli's sons desecrated sacrifices and slept with women serving at the Tent of Meeting. "Eli's sons were wicked men. They had no regard for the Lord." This led to a prophecy of judgment against Eli's house.
- **The Ark's Capture and Return:** The Israelites took the Ark into battle, hoping for victory, but it was captured by the Philistines. The Ark's presence caused plagues and tumors (possibly bubonic plague carried by rats) in Philistine cities, leading them to send it back with a guilt offering.
- **Rejection of God's Kingship:** The people's desire for a king was seen as a rejection of God's kingship over them. "We want a king because then we're going to be like all the other nations."
- **Samuel's Warning:** Samuel warned the people of the burdens and oppressions that a king would bring.
- **Samuel's Prayer:** Even though the people rejected God, Samuel vowed to continue praying for them. "Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you."
- **Saul's Appearance and Tribe:** Saul was chosen, in part, because he was tall and looked like a king. He was from the tribe of Benjamin, a small and previously

disgraced tribe. This choice possibly being "God's gracious, merciful reinstatement of the tribe of Benjamin."

- **Saul's Anointing and Transformation:** Samuel privately anointed Saul and gave him three signs, and God changed Saul's heart. "The spirit of the Lord will come upon you in power... You will be changed into a different person." This included prophesying.
- **Saul's Disobedience and Rejection:** Saul's disobedience in offering sacrifices at Gilgal and failing to completely destroy the Amalekites led to his rejection as king. "To obey is better than sacrifice."
- **Saul's Pride:** Saul set up a monument to himself, highlighting his pride and self-exaltation.

Quotes:

- "apostasy, oppression, repentance, deliverance, repetition" (Cycle of the Judges)
- "They control the production of iron. In fact, it says, the Israelites had to go down to the Philistines. They had their plow shares, their tools, and their mattocks sharpened."
- "Those who are full hire themselves out for food. Those who are hungry, hunger no more. She who was barren has born seven children. She who has many sons pines away." (Hannah's Song)
- "Eli's sons were wicked men. They had no regard for the Lord."
- "We want a king because then we're going to be like all the other nations."
- "Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you." (Samuel's Vow)
- "God's gracious, merciful reinstatement of the tribe of Benjamin."
- "The spirit of the Lord will come upon you in power... You will be changed into a different person."
- "To obey is better than sacrifice." (Samuel's rebuke to Saul)

Important Map Locations:

- Five Philistine Cities: Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Gath, Ekron
- Shiloh
- Michmash and Geba
- Ela Valley
- Beit Shemesh
- Gilgal

This briefing doc should provide a comprehensive overview of the key points covered in Dr. Phillips' lecture on 1 Samuel, Eli, and Saul.

4. Study Guide: Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 18, Judges and Ruth

1 Samuel: Eli and Saul - A Study Guide

Quiz

Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. What spiritual cycle characterized the period of the judges, and how did this cycle manifest in the lives of the Israelites?
2. What was the geopolitical situation of Israel during the time of 1 Samuel, and which neighboring people posed the greatest threat?
3. Name the five Philistine cities, and explain how the Philistines were able to exert their influence over the Israelites.
4. Describe Samuel's unique role in Israelite history, highlighting the three offices he fulfilled.
5. What is the significance of Hannah's song in 1 Samuel 2, and how does it relate to Mary's song in the New Testament?
6. What were the sins of Eli's sons, and what consequences did they face for their actions?
7. How did the Israelites misuse the Ark of the Covenant, and what happened when the Philistines captured it?
8. What reasons did the people of Israel give for wanting a king, and why was God displeased with their request?
9. Describe Saul's physical appearance and explain why God chose Saul to be king.
10. What were Saul's key character flaws, and what specific acts of disobedience led to his rejection as king?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The spiritual cycle of the judges was apostasy, oppression, repentance, deliverance, and repetition. The Israelites would turn away from God (apostasy), face oppression from their enemies, cry out to God in repentance, and then experience deliverance through a judge, only to fall back into apostasy again.

2. During the time of 1 Samuel, the superpowers like Egypt and Mesopotamia were less influential, leaving Israel vulnerable to neighboring peoples. The Philistines posed the greatest threat due to their control of iron production and their incursions into Israelite territory.
3. The five Philistine cities are Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Gath, and Ekron. The Philistines controlled iron production, giving them a military advantage, and they strategically positioned themselves to infiltrate and control key areas within Israelite territory.
4. Samuel was the last of the judges, and he also functioned as a priest and a prophet (or seer). As a judge, he led and judged Israel; as a priest, he was in the line of Levi and performed religious duties; and as a prophet, he received and communicated God's word.
5. Hannah's song emphasizes reversals, highlighting how God can turn situations upside down. It relates to Mary's song in Luke, as many of the themes in Hannah's song are echoed in Mary's song, suggesting Mary was familiar with and drew inspiration from the scriptures.
6. Eli's sons were wicked and had no regard for the Lord. They abused the sacrificial system by taking more than their share and desecrating the sacred offerings. They also slept with the women who served at the entrance of the tent of the meeting place, which was considered a sanctuary abuse. As a consequence, God announced that the priesthood would be taken away from Eli's family.
7. The Israelites misused the Ark of the Covenant by treating it like a magic box or talisman. They took it into battle with them, thinking it would guarantee victory, but the Philistines captured it, demonstrating that God would not be manipulated or controlled.
8. The people of Israel wanted a king because Samuel's sons were dishonest judges and because they wanted to be like other nations. God was displeased because their request was a rejection of His kingship and a desire to conform to worldly standards.
9. Saul was tall and physically impressive, standing a head taller than everyone else. God chose Saul because he was what the people wanted - someone who looked like a king and could lead them in battle. God hoped that Saul would take the role seriously, but He did not.

10. Saul's key character flaws included impatience, rashness, disobedience, and pride/self-exaltation. Specific acts of disobedience that led to his rejection were offering sacrifices at Gilgal before Samuel arrived and disobeying God's command to completely destroy the Amalekites.

Essay Questions

1. Discuss the transition from the period of the judges to the monarchy in Israel, focusing on the key factors that led to this change and the significance of Samuel's role in the process.
2. Compare and contrast the characters of Samuel and Eli, highlighting their strengths and weaknesses as leaders and the impact of their leadership on the nation of Israel.
3. Analyze the significance of the Ark of the Covenant in the narrative of 1 Samuel, tracing its journey and exploring its symbolic representation of God's presence and power.
4. Examine the reasons behind Saul's initial selection as king and the factors that contributed to his downfall, discussing the consequences of his disobedience and the theological implications of his rejection.
5. Explore the theme of obedience in 1 Samuel, using specific examples from the text to illustrate the importance of obedience to God and the consequences of disobedience, particularly in the lives of Saul and the sons of Eli.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Apostasy:** The abandonment or renunciation of a religious or political belief.
- **Philistines:** A neighboring people who posed a major threat to Israel during the time of 1 Samuel, known for their control of iron production and military prowess.
- **Ark of the Covenant:** A sacred chest containing the tablets of the Ten Commandments, symbolizing God's presence and covenant with Israel.
- **Nazirite:** A person consecrated to God, often through a vow that includes abstaining from alcohol, not cutting their hair, and avoiding contact with the dead.
- **Prophet (Seer):** A person who receives and communicates messages from God, often through visions or revelations.
- **Tabernacle:** A portable tent or sanctuary used by the Israelites as a place of worship and dwelling place for the Ark of the Covenant before the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem.
- **Sacrifice:** An offering made to God as an act of worship or atonement for sin.
- **Monarchy:** A system of government in which a single person, a king or queen, rules over a nation or territory.
- **Disobedience:** The act of failing or refusing to obey God's commands or instructions.
- **Geopolitical:** Relating to the influence of geography on politics and international relations.

5. FAQs on Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 18, Judges and Ruth, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions: 1 Samuel, Eli, and Saul

1. What was the recurring spiritual cycle during the period of the Judges, and how did it contribute to the need for a king in Israel?

The spiritual cycle during the period of the Judges was: apostasy (turning away from God), oppression (suffering at the hands of enemies), repentance (turning back to God), deliverance (being saved by God), and repetition (the cycle restarting). This cycle, marked by periods of disobedience and chaos due to everyone doing what was right in their own eyes because there was no king in Israel, demonstrated a need for a strong, central leader to maintain order and adherence to God's laws.

2. What were the primary geopolitical challenges facing Israel during the time of Samuel and Saul, and how did the Philistines pose a significant threat?

Israel faced constant threats from neighboring peoples, particularly the Philistines. Unlike larger superpowers like Egypt and Mesopotamia, the Philistines directly impacted Israel because they controlled iron production, giving them a military advantage. Their incursions into Israelite territory, as seen in 1 Samuel 13 and during the David and Goliath narrative, aimed to seize territory in the hill country and cut off the northern tribes from the southern tribes.

3. Who was Samuel, and what roles did he fulfill in Israel?

Samuel served as the last of the Judges and acted as a transition figure towards the monarchy. He was a judge, a priest from the line of Levi, and a prophet or seer (one who "sees" visions from God). All of Israel recognized him as a prophet. He judged Israel and built an altar to the Lord.

4. What is the significance of Hannah's song in 1 Samuel 2, and how does it relate to Mary's song in the New Testament?

Hannah's song emphasizes reversals, such as the full hiring themselves out for food and the barren woman bearing many children, indicating God's ability to turn situations upside down. It also alludes to God's power over life and death. Many of the themes in Hannah's song are echoed in Mary's song in Luke, suggesting Mary's familiarity with Scripture and the continuity of these themes in God's plan.

5. What were the sins of Eli's sons, and what consequences did Eli face because of their actions?

Eli's sons were wicked and had no regard for the Lord. They abused the sacrificial system by taking more than their allotted portions and desecrated God's sacrifices. They also slept with the women who served at the entrance of the tent of the meeting place. As a result, a prophet and Samuel received messages from God that Eli's family would be punished, and the priesthood would be taken away from his lineage because Eli failed to restrain his sons despite knowing their contemptible actions.

6. What was the Ark of the Covenant, and how did the Israelites and Philistines mishandle it?

The Ark of the Covenant was God's dwelling place with His people and a symbol of His presence. The Israelites mishandled it by taking it into battle as a "magic box," violating its sanctity. When the Philistines captured it, they placed it in the temple of their god Dagon. The ark caused Dagon to fall and break, and the Philistines were afflicted with tumors, leading them to send it back with a guilt offering of golden rats and tumors. Even after it was sent back, some Israelites looked into it and were struck down as well.

7. Why did the Israelites want a king, and what was wrong with their desire?

The Israelites wanted a king for two main reasons: because Samuel's sons were dishonest, and because they wanted to be like all the other nations with a king to lead and fight their battles. While the corruption of Samuel's sons was a valid concern, their deeper desire to conform to other nations reflected a rejection of God's kingship over them, which displeased the Lord and Samuel.

8. Why was Saul chosen as the first king of Israel, and what were the key flaws that led to his downfall?

Saul was chosen as king partly because he possessed qualities the people desired: he was tall and looked kingly. Additionally, being from the tribe of Benjamin, which was in a low state after the events at the end of Judges, possibly signified God's grace and reinstatement of the tribe. However, Saul's key flaws included impatience (offering sacrifices at Gilgal without Samuel), rashness (making a vow that nearly cost Jonathan his life), disobedience (failing to destroy all the Amalekites and their possessions), and pride (setting up a monument to himself). These flaws led to God rejecting him as king.