

Is God Weighty to You?

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1 Samuel 4:1-11

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Review:

- Samuel dedicated to the Lord grew in favor with God & man^{1S2:26}
- God called Samuel^{3:10}, Samuel answers!
- Samuel reminds us as believers we are to be faithful as a kingdom of priests serving God in this world treating all of life as if it were holy – because it is and we get to proclaim God’s glorious Gospel!

Is God Heavy to You?

- Culture often makes much of God on ‘their terms’
- Tyndale¹⁵³⁶-martyred for putting bible in language of people
- Roman Catholic ‘controlled’ God, they fought accessible word
- How do you ‘domesticate’ God? Compare against others?
- We take Word lightly
- Hebrew wordplay: glory (*kabod*); weighty(*kebed*) same root

Taking God Lightly 1b-3a

- Israel went out to battle - did they take God lightly?
- Israel defeated soundly – questioned God

We’ve Got the Ark of the Covenant... that’ll work! 3b-4

- Ark brought forward like a ‘talismán’ to harness God’s power
- Ark taken by Israel if commanded - held covenant^{Ex25,34,37}
- Ark not a charm - only to use when God commanded: led thru wilderness^{Num10:35}; enter land^{Josh3-4}; Jericho^{Josh6}
- People took God lightly - looked to ark, not God
- We can’t “use” God or force God to act – He is God!
- Faith - to bring us a saving knowledge of God^{Jn17:3}
- We are redeemed to be ambassadors^{Eph4:20-24;1Pet2:9} for God
- 1st Great Awakening¹⁷³⁰⁻⁷⁰ vs. 2nd Great Awakening¹⁷⁹⁰⁻¹⁸⁴⁰
- How often do we treat God as “our waiter”? Beware
- Demons believe in God^{Jms2:19}
- We’re created in His image^{Gen1:27} we’re not to recreate God
- We were created for God’s glory, He’s not there for our glory

Two Flawed Religious Responses: 5-9

- Israel - huge shout, God’s gonna help us kick...
- Philistines- wow, we better fight hard, they’ve got a ‘god’

The Danger of False Religion 10-11

- God was working – Israel defeated, Hophni & Phinehas died
- Prominence of Shiloh comes to an end...
- But God was moving!

The Gospel Shown Forth

- Biblical religion is not a technique to manipulate God
- It I a humble appeal for God’s mercy and grace - Cross!
- Abraham^{Gen22:8} *God will provide for himself a lamb...*
- Ark was tangible picture of how God would dwell with His people – not a talisman
- We must look in faith to God alone for showing us mercy to us through His provision: Jesus Christ^{Jn1:29}
- Humble yourself and rest in faith in God’s provision of Christ