**1 Samuel**

We are moving into the era of the kings. First, we see Eli, who was the High Priest and a judge of Israel. We see the birth of Samuel who will become a great prophet in Israel. In 1 and 2 Samuel, we will read about King Saul and King David.

**Chapter 7:** Israel defeated the Philistines in battle. In verse 12, they set up a stone and name it Ebenezer saying, “Thus far has the Lord helped us) Many people ask what does Ebenezer mean in the song ‘Come Thou Font’.

**Chapter 12:** Verse 7: Notice how many times in the Old Testament, the people have to be reminded of all that God has done for them. God is usually trying to convince His people of His grace and mercy. It is God’s grace that leads to change. The same is true today. In the Old Testament, it was Israel coming out of Egypt and for us today, it is the cross and empty grave of Jesus. It is important for us to make it a priority in hearing the Gospel. This is why being in church worship every week is so important. We need to hear the grace of God in Christ Jesus for us.

**Chapter 20:** Verses 14-15 (and 23 and 31). Why would Jonathan need a promise from David that David would not kill him? They were great friends. David was going to be the next King of Israel and Jonathan knew this. What would a new king typically do once he became the king? He would get rid of all rivals to his throne- including the male descendants of the former king. Jonathan wants to make sure this doesn’t happen to him.

**Chapter 27: V**erse 6. Achish welcomes David. Why now and not before (1 Samuel 21:10-15) when David had to act like a madman to get away? It is clear now that he and David share the same enemy- Saul. Before, it was unknown.

**Chapter 28:** Witch of Endor- for some reason, God allowed this to happen. It also shows how far Saul had fallen from God. Deuteronomy 18:11 and Leviticus 20:27 tells us that spiritualists and mediums were forbidden and those who used them should be put to death.

**Chapter 29:** Verses 7-8: David was a warrior. His family and possessions were taken by the enemy. You would think David would go and fight to recover what was taken. But David gives us a great lesson here. What should be done first? We need to go to the Lord. David put his own personal desires aside to first seek out God. May we all have the same attitude.