

# THE STORY

THE BIBLE AS ONE CONTINUING STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

## CHAPTER 10 – STANDING TALL, FALLING HARD

### DISCUSSION OF GENERAL QUESTIONS

- ❶ What is God saying?
- ❷ For what does this section lead me to give thanks? (See God's grace and promises!)
- ❸ What sins does this section lead me to confess? (See God's expectations for his people)
- ❹ For what does this section lead me to pray? (As you ponder the Word, what needs of heart and life for yourself and others come to mind? Consider every word you read as an invitation to turn it into a prayer you speak back to your Lord!)

**Key Events:** the birth of Samuel and his service under the priest Eli, the Israelites ask for a king, the reign of King Saul

### DIGGING IN

- 1) Hannah waited many years for God to answer her request for a son. What is the relationship between faith and patience in the life of a Christian? How do we gain patience?
- 2) When Samuel heard the voice of the LORD calling to him he was to respond, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." Read Hebrews 1:1-2. How does the Lord speak to us today? How can we imitate Samuel's attitude toward listening to the LORD?
- 3) The Israelites and the Philistines treated the Ark of the Covenant like a good-luck charm. (pages 133-134) How are God and symbols of God used like good-luck charms today? How do people, even Christians, try to manipulate God for personal gain?

- 4) Why did the people of Israel want a king? Why did God warn against it?
- 5) Spiritual problems cannot be fixed with man-made solutions. Israel's downward fall (caused by a spiritual problem) would not be fixed by having a king. For the following examples identify the spiritual problem, a "man-made" solution for the problem, and the real solution. Also identify why the man-made solution will not really fix the problem!

**Example**

"Church is too early in the morning." (Yes, it is possible that a service could be too early for someone with health concerns. Let's assume that is not the case. The service is at 9:00am and during the rest of the week this person is at work by 8:00am)

Spiritual problem: God's word not a priority

Man-made solution: Make the service time later

Real solution: Repent. Make God's word a priority

A husband and wife determine that they just aren't in love any more.

The young people are leaving the church.

A person has been hurt by what were perceived as "unloving" actions of the pastor.

- 6) As Saul's reign went on he began taking more and more actions into his own hands while ignoring God's directions. What were the consequences of these actions? How can we identify if we are ever guilty of similar sins?

**FOR NEXT TIME**

Chapter 11: Standing Tall, Falling Hard

Bible Reference: 1 Samuel 1-4; 8-13; 15