

## UNIT 2

### 1 SAMUEL 4–8

#### I/ Lessons in “Arkeology”

- A. The Israelites lose the Ark (4:1-11)

Whenever the church stops confessing “Thou art worthy” and begins chanting “Thou art useful” – well, then you know the ark of God has been captured again. -Dale Ralph Davis

- B. The death of Eli (4:12-22)

Phinehas’ wife was wrong. The glory of God had indeed departed, but not because the ark of God had been captured; the ark had been captured because the glory had already departed. -H.L. Ellison

C. The Philistines and the Ark (5:1–6:12)

The living God cannot be used, manipulated, or managed. Spiritual power is not a matter of getting our hands on the right method or technology. The personal God cannot be reduced to an impersonal power. -Eugene Peterson

D. The Israelites and the Ark (6:13–7:1)

## II/ Samuel Judges Israel (7:2-17)

*Return, O Holy Dove, return,  
Sweet Messenger of rest!  
I hate the sins that made thee mourn  
And drove Thee from my breast*

*The dearest idol I have known,  
Whate'er that idol be,  
Help me to tear it from Thy throne,  
And worship only Thee.*

"O For A Closer Walk With God" by William Cowper

### III/ Israel Demands A King (8:1-22)

Though Yahweh had proved himself capable of delivering through judge-deliverers raised up as occasion required, living in dependence on Yahweh required a kind of day-to-day trust. And the elders desired something more stable, more constant... There is ever a tendency in the human heart to seek security and safety in individual leaders, social institutions, financial instruments, ecclesial structures or political parties, rather than in God himself and *his* King. There is, as Paul notes, ever the danger of being conformed in our thinking and living to the world around us (Rom 12:2). -V. Phillips Long