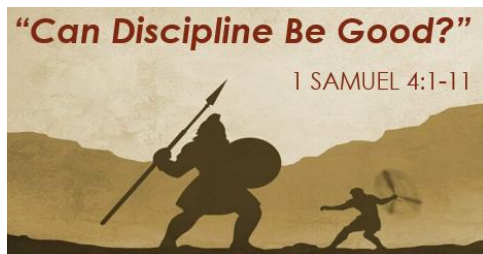
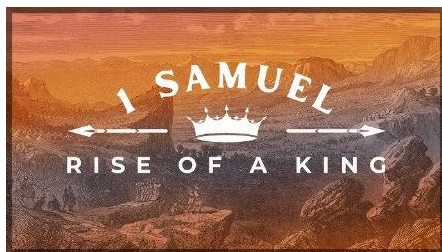


6/15/2025



### Discipline/Correction is good...

- ▶ It causes a person to realize what he is doing is wrong...
  - ▶ I cannot continue on this path.
  - ▶ I must correct what I'm doing.
  - ▶ and *Stop* the wrong behavior.
- ▶ *Hebrews 12:6* "Whom the Lord loves He chastens, disciplines, corrects..."
- ▶ Do we understand the discipline of God?

### Here in 1 Samuel 4

- ▶ God is disciplining Israel.
- ▶ Our eyes and thoughts are taken off Samuel for a time as we focus now on Israel and her problems.
- ▶ And while they don't see the problem...
- ▶ They don't recognize their sin.
- ▶ They attempt to manipulate God into a "holy war" by using the ark.

### What can we learn from 2 countries at war, a problem with priests, and an involvement with a piece of holy furniture?

- ▶ Is it possible that God will use...
- ▶ Is it possible that we might try to...
- ▶ Is it possible that the discipline might...
- ▶ Is it possible that the difficulties are...
- ▶ What is the narrator doing here in this text? What does he want us to learn, know?

### What about God's chastening in your life?

*It's a good thing, right?*

*I want to share some facts about Israel's discipline that God brought about... That can help us when God is disciplining us.*

*3 facts:*

🔊 OVER 🔊

### What about God's chastening in your life?

#### I. The beginning of discipline

- A. The curse of sin (*vs. 1-2*)
  - B. The question of why (*v.3*) their ignorance of Moses' words
- > *Deuteronomy 28:1,7,15,25* – emp: *v.1* shalt hearken diligently, *v.15* wilt not hearken

#### II. The manipulation in discipline (*vs. 3bff*)

- A. When defeat is needed *Why? This is the discipline!*
- B. When calling on God is wrong! *To manipulate*

#### How do we try to manipulate God?

1. By bargaining.
2. By making false promises.
3. By getting a lot of people to pray.
4. By thinking "works" will put us in favor with God. When HE WANTS OUR HEARTS!
5. By religious artifacts – crosses, family Bible, religious certificates.  
Looking for "tangible" things and forgetting, or putting aside the **SIN** of the heart. (*Psalms 66:18*)
6. By trying to mimic the successes of the past or others –
7. By "putting on" excitement

- C. People will fight for a bad cause as well as a good one (*vs. 6-9*)

#### III. Tragedy in discipline (*vs. 10-11*)

- A. Sinning against an omnipotent God
- B. The agony of defeat (*v.10*)

#### CONCLUSION:

- O that we would respond to God's discipline!
- Repent and humble ourselves before God.

#### Psalm 51:1-4 – it took 2 years to admit...

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out **my** transgressions. <sup>2</sup> Wash **me** thoroughly from **mine** iniquity, and cleanse **me** from **my** sin. <sup>3</sup> For I acknowledge **my** transgressions: and **my** sin is ever before **me**. <sup>4</sup> Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.