

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE Reading for May 9:

1 Samuel 5:1-7:17:

These three chapters tell us what happened while the Ark of the Covenant was in Philistia and then how it ended up back in Israel. In chapter 5 we learn that the Philistines placed the ark in the temple of Dagon where God broke the idol of Dagon and caused it to fall down before the ark (as if in worship). The LORD was clearly making a point—even if His people would not always affirm this before the nations, He would—He is the only true God! Additionally, we learn in this chapter that the Philistines broke out with tumors which most likely ended in death for many. As a result, we learn in chapter 6 they return the ark to Israel. The ark first came to Beth-shemesh (6:14), one of the Levite towns, and then to Kirath-jearim, a strategic location at the boundaries of Judah, Dan, and Benjamin and stayed there 20 years (7:1-2). The most likely reason it did not go back to Shiloh was that Shiloh was destroyed by the Philistines. Shiloh never again is its resting place. Later it would be in Nob (1 Samuel 21) and then in Gibeon (1 Chronicles 16:39-40) before eventually being brought to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6).

In 1 Samuel 7:3-17 we find Samuel's prophetic ministry firmly established in Israel. This prepares us for chapter 8 where we learn that Israel demands a king—a request not wrong in and of itself (it was part of God's good plan for His people), yet was made for the wrong reasons. The book is preparing us to see the benefit of the reign of David.

John 6:1-21:

Yesterday we finished reading the third discourse John records, today we come to the fourth sign, the feeding of the 5,000, the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels. Not only does it demonstrate who He is and His ability to provide abundantly through this miracle, the miracle also sets the stage for the rest of the chapter (apart from His walking on water) which will, in one way or another, revolve around or flow out of discussion about food and bread.

Be reminded in today's reading how great our Savior is. Do not shy away from pouring out your heart before Him since He is a powerful refuge for us (Psalm 62:5-8).

Psalms 106:13-31:

For the overview of this psalm see yesterday's comments.

Don't miss these points out of today's passage: Much like yesterday, we learn that sin emerges from lack of Faith in God—whether it is rebellion toward God's Word or leaders, whether it is idolatry or the refusal to follow God's commands.

Proverbs 14:32-33:

Once again we are reminded to pursue righteousness and wisdom based upon their fruits.