

“POINTING Ahead”

The Books of Ruth & 1 Samuel
Easter 2012

Welcome! We pray you have a powerful time with the Lord on this blessed Resurrection Sunday!

Why are you here today?

What are you looking forward to?

What led you to believe this was a “special” day?

If it were not for the Word of God, none of us would be here today...

Everything in the Old Testament is “POINTING Ahead” to Christ...

Current Sermon Series Summary: ***“The WORD of God: 2012”***

Notice how EVERYTHING points to Jesus!

<u>Genesis</u>	= 1). PLAN...	2). PEOPLE...	3). PECULIARITY
<u>Job</u>	= 1). PERCEPTIVE	2). PERSPECTIVE	
<u>Exodus</u>	= 1). PROMISES	2). PARTICULARS	
<u>Leviticus</u>	= PURITY		
<u>Numbers</u>	= PREDISPOSED		
<u>Deuteronomy</u>	= 1). PROMPTING	2). PREPARATIONS	
<u>Joshua</u>	= POSSESSION		
<u>Judges</u>	= PATTERN		

Judges 21:25 = *“In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in their eyes.”*

own

Throughout Ruth & 1 Samuel (as well as the rest of the Bible), ask yourself the following:

1. What has God revealed in this Scripture passage?
2. How has God chosen to use this passage to “point ahead?”
3. What is He leading us to look at and focus upon in the future?
4. How will this revelation impact my short and long term decisions?
5. How would I respond if I really believed that what God says is real, is really real?

2 Timothy 3:16 = "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Ruth & 1 Samuel "Characters" POINTING Ahead!

Ruth - points ahead to us... Unlikely benefactor... great grandmother of David... line of Christ!

Boaz - points ahead to Christ... "kinsman-redeemer" – savior... rescues the helpless w/ love!

* Book of Ruth points to the coming king/King! (David & JESUS)

When we get to 1 Samuel, our cast of characters really gets interesting!

1. Hannah

- a. Sarah points to Hannah – childless, tormented by others, God gifts a special child!
- b. Hannah points to Mary – PRAYERS almost identical... both trust/blessed by God

2. Eli

- a. Weak leader... points to cowardice church leaders from all time periods
 - Hannah thought to be drunk... no big deal... sign of corrupted worship
 - Sons not corrected or disciplined... leads to death of all 3
- b. Accepted disobedience leads to loss of Ark to Philistines

3. Samuel

- a. Samuel points to Christ...
 - God sent...
 - Ch. 8 is key link... "We want our own king!" God is not good enough...
 - Ch. 8: God tells Sam... they're not rejecting you... they reject ME...
- b. Samuel appoints the "chosen ones" for the kingdom... just like Jesus!

4. **Eli's Sons** - Bad religious leaders... points to Pharisees & hypocrites/false teachers of today

5. **Ichabod** - "the glory has departed" = born in death... Eli, sons, mom all die & Ark is lost!

6. **Holy Spirit / Ox-Cart** - Ark returned without a driver... after God sends plague with Ark...

7. **Saul**

- a. Saul is sad... he points to all the false converts who “dated” the Lord but left Him
 - God blessed him but he took it for granted...
 - God blessed him but he became proud...
 - God blessed him but he didn’t surrender to the Lord’s authority...
 - God blessed him but he chose not to respect God’s holiness & ways
 - God blessed him but he disobeyed
 - b. God stopped blessing Saul...
8. **Jonathan**
- a. Jonathan points to all future (imperfect) but passionate, disciplined-warriors!
 - b. Jonathan was:
 - Committed to the Lord’s plan (even at the cost of his own “kingdom”)
 - Committed to championing the Lord’s glory (Philistine raid)
 - Committed to his brother in the Lord (David) – “ekklesia koinonia”
 - Committed to fight against compromise... even when hard (dad/David)
 - Committed to living & dying by faith
9. **Jonathan’s Armor-bearer** - a devoted disciple & true co-laborer! see 1 Samuel 14:6-8
10. **David’s brothers** – point to the crowds in Jesus’ day & the scoffers today...

All this points to the cosmic battle... the Spiritual Warfare that Christ WON & we live in today.

T/S: WERE SINNERS & SCOFFERS IN JESUS’ DAY TOO... they pointed to the CROSS!

***** VIDEO: “Good Friday”** (Last Supper; Gethsemane; Golgotha)

T/S: All this points to the **cosmic battle**... the Spiritual Warfare we live in today...

T/S: Let me close by going back to 1 Samuel and taking a closer look at the two most infamous characters of that book (and two of the most famous in all the Bible)

This Easter Sunday...

Let's look at **David & Goliath**

and let us see *what they are pointing to?*

First: let us be certain to establish that **Goliath points to Satan...**

- Champion of the enemy
- Greatest threat to bring death to the people
- He dwarfs any and all not anointed by God
- He mocks, disrespects, intimidates, & gloats
- He is wildly over-confident!

Now... let us look to young David... **David points to Christ!**

- His modest introductions... shepherd boy / carpenter... both born in Bethlehem
- His disrespected welcome from brothers points to Jesus with the Jews
- His unmatched courage & commitment to the glory of God points to Jesus
- David took in sinners & criminals & made some mighty men.... (the gospel!)
- His willingness to fight the good fight points to Jesus' life & death!
- His refusal to wear Saul's armor... like Christ who only fights in/with God's power
- His awareness of God's hand on him points to peace of martyrs thru-out history

- His 5 smooth stones (**PETROS**)
point to simple necessities of the gospel...

- **Christ Crucified**
- **Christ Risen**
- **Grace**
- **Faith**
- **Repentance**

- **His One lethal ROCK (PETRA)
points to Jesus... the Rock of our Salvation!**
 - Jesus was the instrument of death over death...
 - Jesus killed death! Jesus slew Satan! It is FINISHED – Amen!

Look at what:

1. The Battle
2. The Sword &
3. The Head of Goliath

“point ahead to....”

1. The battle with Goliath points to the ever-present reality of Spiritual Warfare...
2. The sword of Goliath points to the cross of Christ.... By his own weapon he was defeated...

3. The head of Goliath points to the empty tomb... here is the proof that death has died!

T/S: I know it sounds like we've finished.... BUT...

**...just as Crucifixion Friday points to Resurrection Sunday...
PRAISE God! Easter Sunday points to Eternal Life!!!**

Don't ever "look BACK" again on Easter Sunday....

This is the day to look ahead – Amen!

**Crucifixion Friday is the day we should all look back
– I pray we never stop...**

**But on RESURRECTION SUNDAY...
It's like the angel said at the tomb...**

"Why are you looking for Him here?"

HE IS RISEN!!!!

Romans 6:23... *“For the wages of sin is death, **but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**”*

Hebrews 12:2... *“For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross...”*

John 14:3... *“I go to prepare a place for you... I will come back...”*

Rev. 5:9-10... *“And they sang a new song (in heaven) saying, “Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and You have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”*