

LIVING FOR GOD'S GLORY

PROGRAM 2 (#912117)

WEEK 1 (#912325)

©2012 PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



PRECEPTS FOR LIFE

a Production of

Precept Ministries International

P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218

1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: Living For God's Glory

TITLE: Program 2 – What Do You Trust In?

TUESDAY

OPEN

On June 26th, 2002, the Ninth District Court of Appeals ruled that the Pledge of Allegiance was unconstitutional. There were two words that had to go: under God. If we say we are not under God, you can know this: the glory of God will depart—or has it departed from America? We'll talk about it today.

PART ONE

Hello, my friend. I have such great hopes for the way that the Lord can use this series on guarding His glory, or guarding our glory. We'll explain that as we go along because in essence, if you're a child of God—if you guard His glory—you're guarding your glory, because you and I are to live in such a way that we give a correct estimate, a correct opinion of who God is, that we honor God as God, and we order our lives accordingly. Well as I opened up and told you about that ruling by the Ninth District Court of Appeals, where they wanted to declare “under God” unconstitutional in the Pledge of Allegiance. That was a critical time, because if we say we are no longer a

nation under God, if we abandon the knowledge of God and we turn away from Him, we can know this: the glory of God will depart from this nation. Now as we begin this three-week series, what we're looking at is what happens when the glory of God departs from a nation, and we're looking, of course, at Israel. But I want you to listen to this. When that ruling came out, George Bush reminded us that all the presidents before him had echoed these sentiments. It says that Abraham Lincoln referred to America as "this nation under God" in his Gettysburg Address. Dwight Eisenhower added "one nation under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance in 1954. And in 1980, Ronald Reagan understood the significance of those words when he said, "If we forget that we are one nation under God, we will be a nation gone under." And in a sense that was what was happening in the days of Judges. And what I want us to do is, I want us to open our Bibles of course, and look at our Bibles ourselves and look at 1 Samuel; 1 Samuel. And I left you in chapter 2 and I want to remind you that Eli was the priest, and as the priest he was also serving as the judge over Israel. Eli had two sons: Hophni and Phinehas. And those two sons were sleeping with the women who were serving at the doorway of the tent of meeting. Now the tent of meeting is the Tabernacle. This is what God had them construct in the wilderness, it was the way that they worshiped God until they went into the land of Israel, and eventually Solomon built a permanent temple. So the tent of meeting was where they met with God. It's where they made their sacrifices. It was where they worshiped God. And here these guys are breaking the commandments when God says that we should not commit adultery, when God says we should not covet our neighbor's wife, etc. Here they are breaking God's commandments. Eli speaks to them. They do not listen, and God is about to kill them. So God is speaking to Eli. And as He speaks to Eli, this messenger comes to Eli, the priest sent from God, and he's talking to him and he is telling them, "Hey, this is it for your house. This is it for you as a priesthood." And he goes on to say in verse 31 of 1 Samuel chapter 2.

“Behold, the days are coming when I will break your strength and the strength of your father’s house so that there will not be an old man in your house. You will see the distress of My dwelling....” (1 Samuel 2:31-32) Now that’s a very important phrase, “the distress of My dwelling.” He’s talking about “you’re going to see what happens where I dwell in My glory.” And of course Eli understood this. And if you don’t understand it that’s all right; you’re gonna understand it in a few minutes as we look at the text and get it ourselves. He says, **“You will see the distress of My dwelling....,”** verse 32, **“...in spite of all the good that I do for Israel...an old man will not be in your house forever. Yet I will not cut off every man of yours from My altar so that your eyes...fail from weeping and your soul grieve, and all the increase of your house will die in the prime of life. This will be a sign to you...,”** this man of God is speaking to Eli and he says, **“This will be a sign to you....” (1 Samuel 2:33-34)** Now I always mark “sign”. I put like a hexagon and I put that sign there in orange over every reference to “sign” in my Bible because I want to see it. It’s a key word. He says **“This will be a sign to you which will come concerning your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas: on the same day both of them will die.” (1 Samuel 2:34)** Now God is a holy God. God’s a righteous God. God has to judge sin. And since Eli would not stop his sons from their sin, since he would not put a halt to it, since he would not kick them out of the priesthood, then God is going to deal with them. God’s going to kill them. You and I have to understand, Precious One, that God has a total character about Him. He is not just a God of love. He is a God of righteousness. He’s a God of holiness. He’s a God of justice. And God must do what is right. And when we look at His glory, we see in His actions, in the way that He blesses, in the way that He judges, we see a true opinion or estimate of God. So now we’re going to fast forward to 1 Samuel chapter 4. And in 1 Samuel chapter 4 in verse 1 it says this: **“Thus the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out to meet the Philistines in battle and camped**

beside Ebenezer while the Philistines camped in Aphek. [And] the Philistines drew up in battle array to meet Israel. When the battle spread, Israel was defeated before the Philistines who killed about four thousand men on the battlefield.” (1 Samuel 4:1-2) So here they are. Here are the people of God in a battle with the enemy; an enemy that does not know God, that has a false God by the name of Dagon, a statue that they have to move around. And here they are coming against the children of Israel and Israel loses the battle. You say, “God, where are You?” I mean have you ever called on God and said, “God, where are You? Aren’t You supposed to defend me? Aren’t You supposed to take care of me? Aren’t I supposed to do this because You’re on my side?” Well listen, if you want God on your side, you need to live in such a way that you show that you’re on God’s side. So watch what happens. It says, **“When the people came into the camp, the elders of Israel said, ‘Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us take to ourselves from Shiloh....’” (1 Samuel 4:3)** Remember I told you that this is where the tent of meeting, the Tabernacle, was pitched after the children of Israel came across the Jordan under the leadership of Joshua and they went into the land, they went in with a three-prong attack, they set up the tent of meeting, the Tabernacle at Shiloh. This is where God directed them, and you’re gonna find out why if you don’t know it. So this is where God directed them to camp. So this is what they want to do. It says, **“...Let us take [from] ourselves from Shiloh the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD, that it may come among us and deliver us from the power of our enemies.” (1 Samuel 4:3)** You know what’s wrong? We don’t have our magic Ark of the Covenant. Now what is the Ark of the Covenant? The Ark of the Covenant is the most important piece of furniture in the Tabernacle, in the tent of meeting. It is put into the holy of holies. It’s the only piece of furniture there. The holy place, and the holy of holies are separated by a veil. That veil later on, by the way, according to Hebrews 10, is a picture of the flesh of Jesus Christ, which

shows us there's only one way to God. The Ark of the Covenant represents, according to Hebrews also, represents the very throne of God where God sits. It was a box that had a cover on it called the mercy seat. On top of the mercy seat there were two cherubim facing each other with their wings folded over and that was where, when they made a sacrifice on the day of atonement one day a year, the priest would go in and put the blood for the sacrifice for his sins and then go in a second time on the day of atonement and put the blood for the sacrifice for the sins of the people. They only went into the holy of holies one time a year on the Day of Atonement, which is now called Yom Kippur. What was above the Ark of the Covenant? There was a cloud by day, a pillar of fire by night. And what did it represent? We'll talk about it in just a minute.

PART TWO

Welcome back as we study the glory of God. You know I keep thinking "bring back the glory." We're gonna find out when the glory departed. Remember we're looking at the children of Israel. They are losing the battle against the Philistines. They've got an idea. That idea is: hey, let's take the Ark of the Covenant into battle with us. Why? Because over the mercy seat, which was the covering for the Ark of the Covenant; the mercy seat, as I told you, had two cherubim, one on each side facing each other. That was where the Shekinah glory was, that's where the cloud of God's presence was. So they figure: hey, we take the Ark of the Covenant into battle with us, we're gonna win. God's going with us. That cloud that was over that Ark of the Covenant during the day that became a pillar of fire at night was the very presence of God. And that's how they knew that God was with them, one nation, so to speak under God. So they thought: hey, we're under God. We take God with us into battle. Our God is the strongest God. We're gonna win the battle. Hey, good thinking—not if you're living in sin, not if you're not honoring God as God. Watch what happens. Let's go to 1 Samuel chapter 4,

1 Samuel chapter 4, verse 4. **“So the people sent to Shiloh, and from there they carried the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD of hosts who sits above the cherubim....” (1 Samuel 4:4)** Have you got that? I would mark it in my Bible. Under Shiloh, that’s a geographical location. Remember we’re teaching you how to study the Bible on this daily program, whether you are watching it on television, whether you’re listening to it by radio, or whether you’re downloading it, or listening on the internet. How do you find it? You go to “preceptsforlife.com,” “preceptsforlife.com.” While you’re there, I would love to hear from you. It really makes me feel connected to you and I would love to correspond with you, but I just can’t do it individually. But I can talk to you on the program. All right, now, so you want to mark this. **“...The Ark of the Covenant of the LORD of hosts...,”** Jehovah Sabaoth, the One that rules over the armies of heaven and the armies on earth, **“...who sits above the cherubim; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the Ark of the Covenant of God. As the Ark of the Covenant...came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout....” (1 Samuel 4:4-5)** Can you just imagine what’s happening as they come into that camp? I mean they are bringing the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD. The people are so excited and they shout so much that the earth trembles, that the ground underneath them shakes at the noise. **“...So that the earth resounded.” (1 Samuel 4:5)** And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout—now remember they’re just a little battlefield away. **“When the Philistines heard the...shout, they said, ‘What does the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews mean?’ [And] then they understood that the ark of the LORD had come into the camp. The Philistines were afraid [but] they said, ‘God has come into the camp.’ And they said, ‘Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before.’” (1 Samuel 4:6-7)** Nothing like this has happened before. They’ve got the very presence of God with them. **“Woe to us! Who shall deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods...?”** Now remember

they're pagans and they have lots of gods. It says, **"...These are the gods who smote the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the wilderness."** (1 Samuel 4:8) God's reputation had preceded them. God's reputation had gone before and let the Philistines know hey, this is the God that did Pharaoh in, **"...these are the gods who smote the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the wilderness. Take courage and be men, O Philistines, or you will become slaves to the Hebrews, as they [were] slaves to you; therefore, be men and fight."** (1 Samuel 4:8-9) Don't let this overwhelm you. You fight. So the Philistines fought and Israel won. God was with them. The glory of God was there. Oh no! Oh no! Big shock to all these Hebrews that were celebrating that the ark of the LORD had come into their camp and that the ark of the LORD was going with them to battle. Listen to what it says. **"So the Philistines fought and Israel was defeated, and every man..."** every Jew just took off and he **"...fled to his tent..."** Why? He was losing the battle. **"...And the slaughter was very great, for there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers."** (1 Samuel 4:10) I mean you take the wars that we've fought and you add them up. Listen, this is huge, thirty thousand foot soldiers, and God is supposed to be in the midst of them. What kind of a God was this? Well, I want you to go back to 1 Samuel chapter 2 and Hannah's prayer. And I want you to see in verse 3 the last two lines. **"...For the LORD is a God of knowledge, and with Him actions are weighed. The bows of the mighty are shattered...the feeble gird on strength."** (1 Samuel 2:3-4) But it says, **"The LORD kills and [He] makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and [He] raises up."** (1 Samuel 2:6) Where is He? Well watch what happens. It says, **"And the ark of [the LORD]..."** verse 11 of 1 Samuel 4, **"The ark of [the LORD] was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died. Now a man of Benjamin..."** "A man of Benjamin" means he's of the tribe of Benjamin, one of the twelve tribes of Israel. **"...A man of Benjamin ran from the battle line and came to Shiloh the same day with this clothes torn and**

dust on his head,” (1 Samuel 4:11-12) which is a sign of mourning, a sign of grief. He tore his clothes. He put dust on his head and he headed for Shiloh. And he comes to Shiloh and it says, **“When he came...Eli was sitting on his seat....”** (1 Samuel 4:13) So Eli’s sitting on this seat. He’s sitting on this bench, he’s a big man anyway; it’s probably hard to see the bench. **“When he came...Eli was sitting on his seat by the road eagerly watching, because his heart was trembling for the ark of God....”** (1 Samuel 4:13) Although he was a man who did not discipline his sons, he was a man who knew the holiness of the ark of God. **“...So the man came in to tell the city, and all the city cried out. [And] when Eli heard the [sound] of the outcry, he said, ‘What does the noise of this commotion mean?’ [And] then the man came to Eli hurriedly and told Eli....Eli was ninety-eight years old...his eyes were set...Eli could not see.”** (1 Samuel 4:13-15) He wants to know: What’s the noise, what’s the noise of this commotion? He is sitting there. The man is ably—absolutely huge. Why? His sons have been taking the fat of the sacrifice that belongs to the LORD and giving it to him and eating it themselves. And here he is and what happens? We’ll look at it tomorrow. And unless, of course, you read the Word of God ahead of me. Just know this: We need to remain one nation under God.