

What Went Wrong?

1 Samuel 4

Pastor Alan Feere · Sunday Morning · October 4, 2026

INTRODUCTION

Failure is always an _____. God is always faithful and true to His Word... the failure is not _____ but _____.

In just 10 verses Israel lost _____ soldiers (vv. 2, 10), though they had God's _____ behind them and were acting in God's _____.

So what went wrong? Even in the positive, they missed the _____...

I. The Presumption of _____ (v. 3)

1 Samuel 4:3 ...Wherefore hath the LORD _____ us to day before the Philistines?...

Israel correctly understood that God had smitten them, but they thought they could _____ how He would deliver them!

- We know that God is sovereign... yet rely on our own _____
- Miss the _____ of God, and the lesson He is teaching
- _____ another for our own struggles

A. The Acknowledgment of God's _____

They asked why God had smitten them without genuinely _____ their own spiritual condition.

1 Samuel 2:6–7

When adversity comes, our first response should be to _____, examine our hearts, and submit to His will.

B. The Absence of Spiritual _____

Israel asked the right question but failed to seek the right _____.

Haggai 1:5 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; _____ your ways.

Not “Why is God allowing this?” but “What is God trying to _____ me through this?”

II. The Problem of _____ (v. 3)

A strategy based on _____ rather than _____.

A. The Reliance on a Religious _____

They wanted the benefits of God's presence without walking in God's _____.

B. The Replacement of Repentance with _____

They wanted to change their circumstances without changing their _____.

1 Samuel 7:3 ...If ye do return unto the LORD with all your _____... and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.

C. The Presumption of Guaranteed _____

Their confidence was in a _____ rather than in the sovereign God.

Proverbs 14:12 *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of _____.*

III. The _____ of Sin (v. 4)

Israel's defeat was not a military failure. It was a _____ tragedy.

A. The _____ of Spiritual Leadership

1 Samuel 2:12 *Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the _____.*

B. The _____ for God's Holiness

1 Samuel 2:30 ...for them that _____ me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

God is holy, and He will not be treated casually or _____.

C. The _____ of Unconfessed Sin

Galatians 6:7-8 *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man _____, that shall he also reap.*

We must deal with sin God's way before its consequences _____.

Conclusion

- God is _____... "he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it" (Philippians 1:6)
- I am _____... our plans come to nothing if not from the Lord
- Sin is _____... the wheels fall off because of sin

TAKE IT HOME

Israel wanted God to fight their battles while living the way they wanted to live. They were seeking the power of God without _____ and seeking God!

MY NOTES
