

EBENEZER

1 Samuel 4:1b-8:22

Key Verse: 7:12

* THE GLORY HAS DEPARTED (4:1b-7:1)

1. *Who were the Philistines? (Jdg 3:2,3; 1Sa 13:19,20; 17:1-4) What happened when the Israelites went out to fight them?*
2. *What did the Israelites decide to do in their desperation? (3,4) Why? What did the ark of the Lord's covenant mean to the Israelites? (cf. Ex 25:8,21,22; Dt 31:9; Jos 3:5,6)*
3. *When the ark came into the Israelite camp, how did the people respond? How did the Philistines react? Who won the battle? Why? What was wrong with using the ark in this way?*
4. *What was the news that was brought to Eli? What happened to him when he heard it? What happened to his daughter-in-law? Why did she name her son Ichabod?*
5. *Why did the Philistines decide to send the ark back home? How did they send it? Why did they send the gold tumors and gold rats? Why did they use two cows with calves?*
6. *What happened to the Israelites who did not respect the ark of the Lord? What was done with the ark after this? Why?*

* RETURN TO THE LORD (7:2-8:22)

7. *Why were the people so sorrowful? Why did they mourn and seek the Lord? How long did this go on? What did Samuel tell the people to do if they really wanted to return to the Lord? How did they respond?*
8. *What did Samuel do next? (5,6) What kind of leader was he at Mizpah? When the Philistines gathered to attack, what did Samuel do? What was his prayer topic? How did God answer? (7-11)*

9. Why did Samuel set up the Ebenezer stone? What does Ebenezer mean? What is the basic Biblical truth we should learn here? [Other important Biblical truths are "The Lord will provide" (Ge 22:14) and "Immanuel." (Isa 7:14)]

10. Why did the people want a king? Why did Samuel oppose this idea? (8:1-22) What did Samuel do about it? How did God deal with this problem?