

Lesson 15: 1 Samuel 7:7-17 - 10:1

Samuel as Judge, The Philistines are Defeated, Israel Asks for a King, Saul is Chosen

In 1 Samuel 4-6, Israel was in a battle with the Philistines. The wicked sons of Eli were killed in the battle and the Ark of the Covenant **was stolen by the Philistines**. In 1 Samuel 5, the Ark of the Covenant was placed in the Philistine temple of the pagan god Dagon. The idol of Dagon was toppled, and it was found face down in the Philistine temple, near the Ark. In chapters 5 and 6, terrible tumors (and mice) began to afflict the people in the city of Ashdod, where the pagan temple and the Ark were being kept. The Philistines moved the Ark to the city of Gath and again, in that city, the inhabitants were afflicted with tumors and mice. Then the Ark was sent to the city of Ekron with the same result and many deaths.

The Philistines ultimately returned the Ark to Israel with an offering that they hoped would appease the LORD. Samuel calls the people of Israel together to repent, to rid themselves of their idols of Baal and Astartes, and to worship the **LORD alone**. Samuel calls all of the tribes to a gathering at Mizpah and the Philistines threaten again. This is where our readings today begin.



1. Read 1 Samuel 7:7- 27 and footnotes.

In verses 7:7-10, what is the mood of the Israelites in these verses?

What is Samuel doing in these verses? Do the Israelites have confidence in Samuel?

In verses 7:10-14, how does the LORD make his presence known?

How did this affect the Philistines?

How did the presence of the LORD affect the Israelites?

How does Samuel commemorate these events? See verses 7:12-14.

Check footnotes for the meaning of Ebenezer.

How did turning to the LORD alone affect Israel? Find 3 examples in verses 7:13-14.

2. Read 1 Samuel 7:15-17. How did Samuel manage to judge over all of Israel rather than just a single tribe?

3. Read 1 Samuel 8:1-9 and footnotes. Share any footnotes you have that are interesting.

What do we know about Samuel's sons?

What kind of judges are they?

How do the people of Israel react to these judges?

What does the LORD tell Samuel to do in verses 8:7-9?

4. Read Judges 8:10-22 and footnotes.

What problems did Samuel say would occur if Israel had a king?

What reasons do the people make for having a king? (Verses 5, 19, and 20)

What instructions does the Lord give Samuel? See verses 8:21-22.

5. Read 1 Samuel 9: 1-27 and footnotes.

What do we learn about Saul in verses 1 and 2?

Saul and his servant are on a quest. What are they searching for? See verses 3-10.

What suggestion did Saul's servant offer?

What objection did Saul have, and how was the problem solved? See verses 9:6-8.

What is a seer? See verses 9:9-14.

Who is the seer? What does he tell Saul in 9:19-20?

What does 9:21 suggest about Saul's character? Compare it to Judges 6:15.

6. Read 1 Samuel 9:27 and 10:1. What was it that Samuel told Saul after dismissing his servant? Do you think Saul saw this coming?