

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY & JUDGMENT ON ISRAEL
(1 Samuel 4-7)

I. THE CAPTURE OF THE ARK OF THE COVENANT (4:1b-22)

A. Israel Battles The Philistines (4:1b-11)

- Who are the Philistines?

1. In 1 Samuel 4, the scene _____ from that of individual characters within the nation (chp 1-3) to a _____ battle scene with their enemies, the Philistines.

2. No where in this passage do we see Israel _____ Jehovah, Eli, or Samuel as to _____, or _____ they should engage this enemy!

3. Because of *self confidence* & their failure to _____ the Lord here, Israel was soundly _____ in this confrontation!

- How could such a defeat happen?
- Had the ark been brought to the battle field before?
- What was so special about the Ark of the Covenant? (4:4)
- Had Israel been successful in their prior journeys with the Ark of the Covenant?

Acts 17:16-ff

Colossians 2:9-19

4. So they sent for the _____ at Shiloh, & Eli's sons _____ & _____ brought the ark into the camp of Israel.

5. Israel was _____ by the presence of the Ark of the covenant in their camp!

6. The result of the battle was _____ for the nation of Israel.

B. The Report of the Outcome of the War Reaches Shiloh (4:12-22)

1. A Benjamite came from the battle line with a report of the battle & old Eli is sitting by the road, his heart _____ in concern for the _____ of the covenant.

2. The Benjamite gave Eli a concise summary of what had happened:

a. Israel has suffered a great _____ & _____ in battle!

b. _____ Israeli soldiers are _____.

c. both Hophni & Phinehas were _____, &

d. the _____ of the covenant has been _____ !

3. To Eli, Israel's national defeat & the loss of his two sons was _____ to the loss of the _____ of the covenant. Totally overcome by _____, the last blow of bad news knocked him backward to the ground causing his neck to break & _____ old Eli.

4. The summery of Eli's life stated that he had judged Israel for _____.

- Why did God sovereignly allow Israel to be defeated at this time?

Psalm 78:59-64

Jeremiah 7:12

5. As Phinehas's wife delivers this child & before she dies, she names him _____ meaning "_____ " for she senses the glory of the Lord had _____ Israel with the capture of the ark, the death of both her father-in-law, & her husband!

- What does all this mean to you?