

INTRODUCTION

- * The book of 1 Samuel is a transitional book. It begins in the time of the Judges and leads us into the reign of David.
- * The three primary characters of this book are: Samuel, Saul and David.
- * As the book of Judges was summarized by two key passages (2:8,10 and 21:25), so the remainder of Israel's history can be prefaced with Israel's statement recorded in 8:19-20 "No, but we will have a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations"
- * We have considered the birth of Samuel (in the midst of Hannah's prayer and praise) and the call of Samuel (in the midst of Eli's punishment).
- * Over the past two weeks we considered the loss of the Ark of the Covenant as a result of the chastisement of Eli & his sons and the affliction that the LORD invoked upon the Philistines to reveal His sovereignty to them.
- * We concluded last week's message by considering God's sovereign control of the cattle and cart which brought the Ark of the Covenant back to Israel.
- * Today, we pick up the story with the reception of the Ark by the men of Beth-Shemesh. As well, we revisit the cycle of the judges: Sin (Eli & Sons) ... Chastisement (Philistines) ... Repentance ... Deliverer ... Peace

INSTRUCTION**I. THE RECEPTION OF THE ARK OF GOD (6:13-7:2)****A. Their Reception (6:13-15)****B. Their Reception (6:19)****C. Their Reception (6:20-21)**

1. THE MEN OF BETH-SHEMESH (6:19-21)
2. THE MEN OF KIRJATH JEARIM (6:21 - 7:2)

II. THE LAMENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (7:2-6; 2 Cor 7:8-10; Hebrews 12:16-17)**A. Their Reception from (7:3-4)**

1. THE CALL TO DECIDE (7:3-4; Acts 19:18-19; Joshua 24:14-24; 1 Kings 18:20-21,36-39; Matt 6:19-24)
2. THE NATURE OF THE DECISION (1 Cor 8:4-6; 10:14-20; 2 Cor 6:14-7:1; 11:2-4, 13-15; 2 Cor 4:3-4; Eph 2:1-3; 6:10-12)

B. Their Reception of (7:6)**III. THE PREPARATION OF THE PEOPLE (7:7-14)****A. The Reception of the (7:7-12)**

1. THE GATHERING OF THE PHILISTINES (v. 7)
2. THE SENDING OF THE PHILISTINES (v. 10-11)

B. The Reception of the (7:13-14)**INTROSPECTION**

- * HAVE YOU BEEN SERVING OTHER "GODS"?
- * HAVE THERE BEEN TIMES IN YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU KNOW GOD HAS BEEN CALLING YOU TO REPENTANCE OR TO A MORE COMMITTED SERVICE?

HOW HAVE YOU RESPONDED?
- * HAVE YOU CONSCIOUSLY TURNED AWAY FROM THOSE "IDOLS" WHICH DISTRACT YOU FROM SERVING GOD?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO TAKE BACK TERRITORY THAT YOU HAD PREVIOUSLY SURRENDERED?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO "CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK" ... AND ACT?