

## The Jewish Kingdom - Lesson 7

### Revival and Victory

We left last week with the return of the Ark of the Covenant to Israel. A period of twenty years has passed and God is ready to do mighty things through Israel again. Today we also see the first demands for establishing the monarchy.

#### 16. Revival in Israel - I Samuel 7:3-6

- Baal - one of the more popular false gods in ancient Israel. He is associated with storms and fertility. He was highly adaptable with many localized versions. His name means literally “lord or master”.
- Ashtaroth - a goddess often seen in conjunction with Baal. She was the Canaanite version of the Phoenician Astarte, the Babylonians Ishtar, and the Sumerian Inanna. She was associated with fertility and the stars and her worship was of the basest debauchery.
- vs. 6 - the pouring of water as a libation offering was connected to the Feast of Tabernacles and the Day of Atonement, though through tradition and not Scripture. It is associated with joy (Isaiah 12:3), but perhaps here it symbolizes their remorse and penitence.

#### 17. Victory over Philistines - I Samuel 7:7-12

- vs. 8 - what a change! Twenty years prior they called for the Ark and now they call on God! This shows the tremendous shift in religion back to true worship of God.
- Mizpeh - “watchtower”. A city about 4 miles northwest of Jerusalem that was set on a high hill overlooking the plain of Gibeon.
- sucking lamb - must be eight days old - Exodus 22:30, Leviticus 22:27
- Bethcar - “house of the lamb”. Unknown location somewhere west of Mizpeh.
- Shen - “tooth”, believed to be a crag or rock face but unknown to us today.
- Ebenezer - “stone of help”. A memorial.

#### 18. Samuel as Judge - I Samuel 7:13-17

- We see that Samuel’s time as Judge was a good one for Israel. The Philistines and other enemies were subdued. The people had turned back to worship the true God.
- Samuel’s circuit that he travels is not very large, but shows I think the character and concern of his judgeship. He is active and connected to the people.
- Ramah - Samuel’s birthplace, a shortened form of Ramathaimzophim.

