

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS

1. On the following table, write a brief summary of eight words or less for each chapter.

1	
2	
3	
4	
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2. Study the chapter titles you have written. What divisions of the book can you identify?

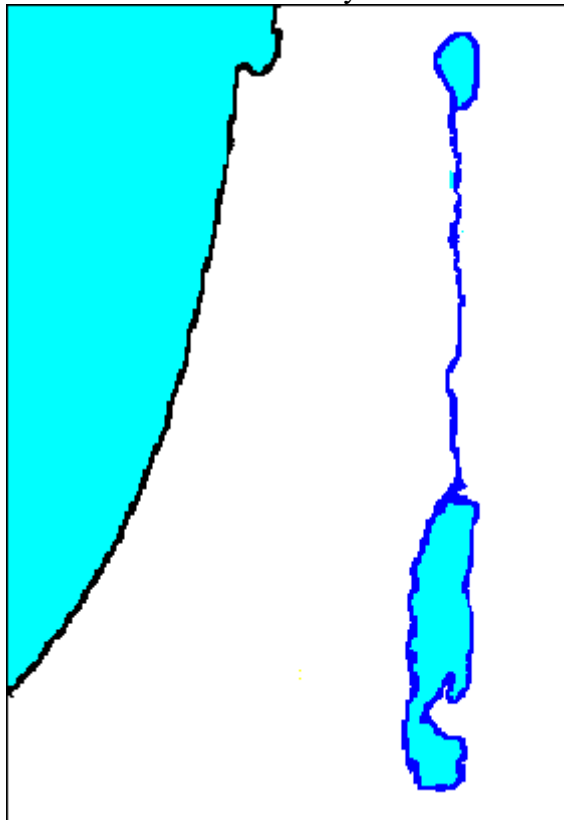
QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 1

THE BIRTH OF SAMUEL – I SAMUEL 1:1 - 28

1. There are five paragraphs in the first chapter of I Samuel. On the following table, write a brief summary of eight words or less for each paragraph.

1:1-8	
1:9-11	
1:12-18	
1:19-20	
1:21-28	

2. In I Samuel 1:1-8, the author described Elkanah's family situation.



- In I Samuel 1:1, the author indicated that Elkanah and his family came from Ramathaim-zophim. On this map, identify where this city is located in relationship to Shiloh, the place of worship.
- In 1:2, the author indicated that Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. How can we explain the fact that he had two wives?
- In 1:3, the author begins to draw a very serious contrast .
 - Who are the people being contrasted?
 - The author gives some initial information about one of the parties being contrasted. What did he say?
- In 1:4, 5, the author draws a contrast between the way Elkanah prepared his two wives for worship.
 - What did the author say about Elkanah's preparation for Hannah?
 - What is the significance of this information?
- In 1:6, the author used four words to paint a picture of Peninnah.

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- 3) Define these four words.
 - 4) How would you describe the way Peninnah felt about Hannah?
 - 5) How would you describe the way Peninnah felt about herself?
 - f. In 1:7, the author described the frequency and results of Peninnah's actions.
 - 6) How does he really describe her actions?
 - 7) What were the results of these actions?
What do these results mean?
 - g. In 1:8, Elkanah asked Hanna four questions.
 - 8) Can you imagine that Elkanah did not know the answer to these questions?
 - 9) If any woman were asked the fourth question, what would the response be?
 - 10) What do these questions tell us about Elkanah?
3. In I Samuel 1:9-11, Hannah went to the temple to pray.
- a. In 1:9, there is an unusual statement. Please read 1:7 and then read 1:9.
 - 11) What, if anything, do you see in these statements?
 - 12) In 1:9, the author stated that Eli was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the temple. What is the significance of this information?
 - b. In 1:10, 11, the author described Hannah's condition as she began her prayer.
 - 13) What is that condition?
 - 14) Observe the way Hannah identified deity in this prayer. What is the significance of this?
 - 15) Three times, in verse 11, Hanna speaks of herself as "Thy maidservant." What is the intent of this type of statement?
 - 16) Hannah's vow is in the form of a conditional statement ("If... then...").
 - 17) What four conditions did Hannah request in her vow? Why?
 - 18) Hannah made two promises she would make if the conditions were met. What are these two promises?
 - 19) What is the significance of this "son" living without a razor coming on his head?
 - 20) If Hannah gave her son to the Lord, how would this help her family situation where Peninnah had several sons who lived in the family?
4. In I Samuel 1:12 – 18, Eli mistook Hannah's desperate prayer for drunkenness.
- a. In 1:12, 13, Hannah was praying and Eli was observing her as she prayed.
 - 21) In verse 12, the author reported that Hannah was praying and her lips were moving, but she made no sound. In view of the fact that these people quite often prayed out loud, what do you make of this?
 - b. In 1:14, Eli accosted Hannah. How would you describe the emotion of his statement to her?
 - c. In 1:15, 16, Hannah made her defense before Eli.
 - 22) In verse 15, Hannah began her defense of her character before Eli. How would you describe what she said?
 - 23) In verse 16, Hannah used 3 different words to describe herself and her situation. Describe or define each of the following:
 - "Worthless woman"
 - "Great concern"
 - "Provocation"
 - d. In 1:17, Eli responded to Hannah's defense of her character.
 - 1) What did he do in his response?
 - 2) What did he fail to do in his response?
 - e. In 1:18, Hannah made a second appeal to Eli.

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- 1) What does this appeal tell you about her feelings about Eli's response?
 - 2) Compare/contrast 1:18 with 1:7. What do you observe? What does this tell you?
5. In I Samuel 1: 19-20, Hannah Conceived and bore a child
- a. In 1:19, there is a definite change in the tone of the writing. How would you describe that change?
 - b. In 1:19, the author said "the LORD **remembered** her." What did he mean by this statement?
 - c. In 1:20, the text indicates that Hannah named her son. This is most unusual. How would you explain this?
 - d. The text indicates that Hannah named her son "Samuel."
 - 1) What does this name mean?
 - 2) On the basis of this meaning, what is the significance of this name?
6. In I Samuel 1:21-28, Hannah fulfilled her promise to give her son to God
- a. In 1:21, the author, speaking about Elkanah, said that he would "offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice" and he also said, "to pay his vow."
 - 1) What is the difference between these two quotations?
 - 2) What does this verse tell you about the character and spiritual life of Elkanah?
 - b. In 1:22, the author draws a contrast between what Elkanah was going to do and what his wife, Hannah, was going to do.
 - 1) What does this tell us about Elkanah?
 - 2) Why would Hannah not want to go up to the sacrifice?
 - c. In 1:23, Elkanah responded to the decision of Hannah.
 - 1) Elkanah had one reservation about Hannah's decision.
 - 2) What did Elkanah mean when he said, "only may the LORD confirm His word"?
 - d. In 1:24, the author gives us one hint about why Hannah decided to wait and then take Samuel to the temple and leave him there. Can you sense what that hint is?
 - e. In 1:25, Hannah fulfilled her vow to give the boy to the LORD. What is the significance of the bull mentioned in this verse?
 - f. In 1:26, Hannah reminded Eli that she was the one who had stood beside him praying to the LORD. Why would it be important for her to do this?
 - g. In 1:27, Hannah explained to Eli that this child that he could see before him was the one for whom she prayed to the LORD. What was she doing?
 - h. Among the Jews, following the Exodus, the first-born son of every family belonged to the LORD. With this in mind, why did she have to make the sacrifice of the bull when she brought Samuel to the temple?
 - i. In 1:28, Hannah continues to explain to Eli what she meant when she promised to give Samuel to the LORD.
 - 1) In this verse she said, "I have also dedicated him to the LORD." She also said, "as long as he lives he is dedicated to the LORD. What is the difference between these two statements?
 - 2) Notice the end of this verse says, "and he worshipped the LORD there." Who is "HE"?
7. Reflect upon this chapter. In what way will this have an impact upon your own dedication to serve God?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 2

CONTRAST – SAMUEL AND ELI’S SONS – I SAMUEL 2:1 - 36

1. There are six paragraphs in the second chapter of I Samuel. On the following table, write a brief summary of each paragraph in eight words or less.

2:1-10	
2:11	
2:12-17	
2:18-21	
2:22-26	
2:27-36	

2. In I Samuel 2:1 – 10, Hannah prays her song of praise..
- Read this prayer in one sitting.
 - Observe the names for God that Hannah employs. What rationale, if any, can you find for using these names in each instance?
 - What does Hannah say about God? Why?
 - In 2:1, Hannah gives praise to God.
 - How would you define/describe the word "exult"?
 - What does she mean by "my horn"?
 - What does "my enemies" have to do with this praise to God?
 - In 2:2, Hannah made three statements about God.
 - What are they?
 - What do they mean?
 - Explain what these have to do with the source of her praise.
 - In 2:3, Hannah warned against pride and arrogance.
 - Describe the difference between the two words.
 - Explain the reason Hannah gives for this warning.
 - In 2:4, Hannah drew a contrast. In the light of Hannah’s statement in verse three, explain her intent in this contrast.
 - In 2:5, Hannah drew two contrasts. The pattern for these follows that established in 2:4.
 - What are these contrasts?
 - What purpose do they serve?
 - Hannah used the number seven. Why would she choose this number?
 - In 2:6, Hannah continued the contrast, but changed the form.
 - In what way is the form changed?
 - What purpose is served by this contrast?
 - In 2:7, Hannah continued the contrast and the form she followed in 2:6. What does this contrast have to do with the purpose behind this prayer?
 - In 2:8, Hannah continued her description of divine actions she began in 2:4. The form, however, is somehow different.
 - In what way has the form changed?
 - She used the image, "Keeps the feet." What does she mean by this image?
 - In 2:9, she continued her description of divine actions.
 - She changed the form of her description again. How did she change it? How does this change help?
 - She used the image "keeps the feet." What does she mean by this?

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- 3) In this verse, the word "for" introduces an explanation.
 - a) What is she explaining?
 - b) How does she explain it?
- k. In 2:10, Hannah changed the style again.
 - 1) In what way has she changed it?
 - 2) What benefit does this change provide?
 - 3) Hannah made two statements about those "who contend with the LORD."
 - a) What does she mean by the word "contend"?
 - b) What is the significance of "thunder in the heavens"?
 - 4) Who are the people who do this?
 - 5) She also made three other statements about divine action.
 - a) What did she mean "judge the ends of the earth"?
 - b) What is the difference between "give strength to His king" and "exalt the horn of His anointed"?
3. In I Samuel 2:11, Hannah left Samuel in the temple as she promised.
 - a. This verse/paragraph is written as a contrast.
 - 1) What is contrasted?
 - 2) What purpose is served by this contrast.
 - b. There is also a parallel in this verse. What parallel can you find?
4. In I Samuel 2:12-17, the author described the sins of Eli's sons.
 - a. In 2:12, the author pictured Eli's sons in two different ways.
 - 1) How would you describe these pictures?
 - 2) Think about these pictures in terms of the ministries they performed. What impression does this create for you?
 - b. In 2:13-17, the author continued the pictures of the priests begun in verse 12.
 - 1) In verse 13 and 14, the author described the way in which the priests received the portion of the sacrifice divinely designated for their use. Compare their custom with the design established in Leviticus chapter seven.
 - 2) In 2:15, the author continued his description of the way in which Eli's sons secured their portion of the meat. Compare this report with the way in which this was supposed to be accomplished. In what ways did the sons fail to comply with the prescribed process? What does this mean?
 - 3) In 2:16 and 17, there is an escalation of the way in which Eli's sons failed to comply with God's design.
 - a) What did they do?
 - b) What attitude do you detect?
 - c) What does this mean?
 - 4) In 2:17, the author summarized the actions of Eli's sons.
 - a) Review 2:13-17 and summarize the failures you see the sons of Eli commit.
 - b) Compare your findings with those of the author.
 - c) In 2:17, the author said the priests, "despised the offering of the LORD." What does this mean?
5. In I Samuel 2:18-21, the author identified the number of children that Hannah had.
 - a. In 2:18, the scene changed and the author identified Samuel's new way of life.
 - 1) Samuel was in the temple and ministering before the LORD, but he was from the tribe of Ephraim, not Levi. How can we deal with this issue?
 - 2) At the end of this sentence, the author wrote of Samuel, "as a boy wearing a linen ephod." What does this mean?

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- b. In 2:19, the scene shifts back to Hannah.
 - 1) It is significant that Hannah did this for Samuel. What difference would it make if she did not make the robe?
 - 2) What is the significance of the fact that after having given her son to serve the LORD, as promised, Elkanah and Hannah continued to come to Shiloh to worship yearly?
 - c. In 2:20, Eli blessed Elkanah and Hannah. Reflect on this blessing. What would cause Eli to do this?
 - d. In 2:21, The author reports the results of Eli's prayer.
 - 1) Does this mean that Hannah gave birth to quintuplets? If not, what does it mean?
 - 2) What does this tell us about God?
 - 3) What purpose is served by the mention of Samuel at the end of this verse?
6. In I Samuel 2:22-26, the author drew a strong contrast between Samuel and Eli's sons.
- a. In 2:22, Eli received an evil report about the conduct of his sons. There are at least two major problems with this report. Can you identify them?
 - b. In 2:23, Eli confronted his two sons about this evil report.
 - 1) What did Eli really do?
 - 2) What change would this make?
 - 3) What should have been done?
 - c. In 2:24, something took place that was not reported.
 - 1) What was it?
 - 2) What is the basis of Eli's response in this verse?
 - d. In 2:25, Eli explained the severity of their actions.
 - 1) Explain Eli's reasoning in the first part of this verse.
 - 2) Read the last sentence in this verse very carefully. Explain in careful terms, what the author said.
 - e. In 2:26, the scene shifts back to Samuel
 - 1) The author mentioned that Samuel was growing in stature.
 - a) What is stature?
 - b) What is favor?
 - 2) There is an obvious contrast between the picture of Eli's sons, in 2:25, and Samuel in 2:26. There is always a purpose in mind when a contrast is used. What is that purpose in this instance?
7. In I Samuel 2:27-36, The prophet announced the death of Eli's sons.
- a. In 2:27, the prophet reminds Eli of God's faithfulness to Eli's father's house in Egypt. What is the purpose of this historical reminder?
 - b. In 2:28, the prophet asked Eli two leading questions.
 - 1) Look at the first question. What is the prophet's point in asking this leading question?
 - 2) By the way, what is an ephod?
 - 3) The second question is different from the first. What is the purpose behind this question?
 - 4) How does the second question relate to the first one?
 - c. In 2:29, The prophet chastises Eli.
 - 1) What does the LORD mean by "why do you kick at my sacrifices and offerings"?
 - 2) What is the difference between a "sacrifice" and an "offering"?
 - 3) Explain the second question the prophet asked on behalf of the LORD.
 - d. In 2:30, the word "therefore" indicates a summary or conclusion is being announced.
 - 1) There is a contrast in this verse. What is being contrasted? For what purpose?
 - 2) Though this is a pronouncement of judgment, there is an expression of mercy. Can you identify the expression of mercy?
 - 3) How would it read if mercy were not extended?

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- e. In 2:31, the prophet becomes more specific in his announced judgments.
 - 1) What does the prophet mean when he reported, "I will break your strength"?
 - 2) How does this differ from "the strength of your father's house"?
 - 3) The closing statement of this verse, "so that...", obviously implies death. What is the significance of this prophetic statement?
 - f. In 2:32, there are two statements separated by a semi-colon.
 - 1) What did he mean by the first statement?
 - 2) How does the second statement relate to the first?
 - 3) The prophet had already told Eli this in 2:31. What is accomplished by saying this again?
 - g. In 2:33, the prophet continued announcing judgment.
 - 1) What is the difference between "eyes fail from weeping" and "(your) soul grieve"?
 - 2) Is the first of these two statements an act of mercy or intense judgment?
 - 3) How does the closing statement in this verse differ from the closing statement in 2:31 and 2:32?
 - h. In 2:34, the prophet continued to announce judgment. What possible benefit is to be gained from providing a sign for Eli?
 - i. In 2:35, the prophet presents a contrast.
 - 1) What is being contrasted?
 - 2) The text does not identify "the faithful priest." Whom do you suspect he spoke about?
 - 3) Whom would you identify as "My anointed"?
 - j. In 2:36, the prophet identified a scenario.
 - 1) What is the significance of this?
 - 2) The remaining persons in Eli's family will make a request. What is the significance of this?
 - 3) How does the first statement differ from the second?
8. Review chapter two with great care.
- a. What is the major theme in this chapter?
 - b. In what way does this chapter impact your life and ministry?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 3

JEHOVAH SPOKE WITH SAMUEL – I SAMUEL 3:1 – 4:1a

1. There are four paragraphs in I Samuel chapter three. On the following table, write a brief summary of eight words or less for each paragraph.

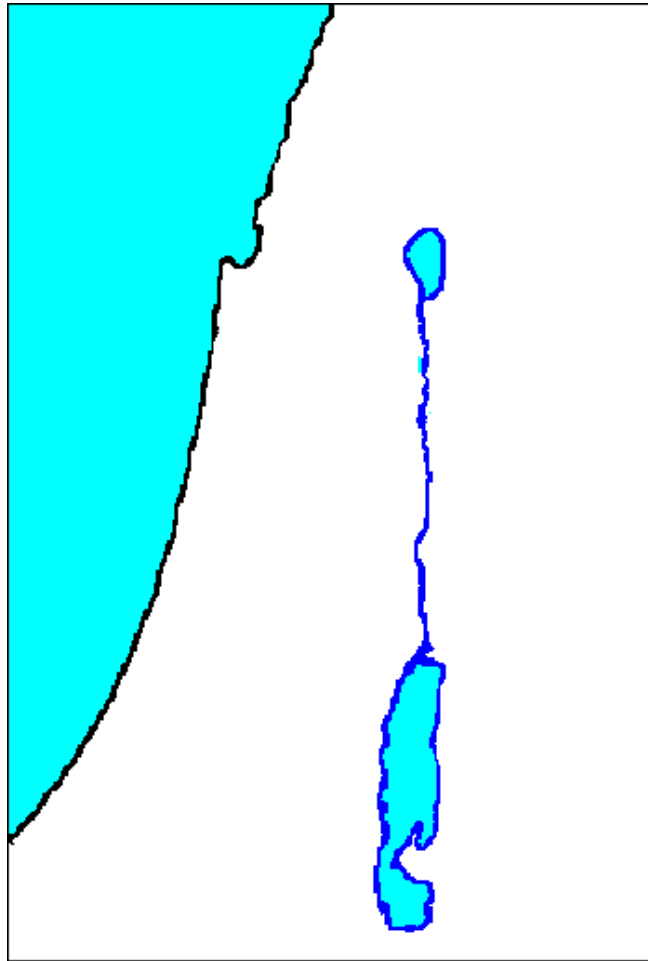
3:1-9	
3:10-14	
3:15-18	
3:19-4:1A	

2. In I Samuel 3:1-9, Jehovah spoke directly to Samuel
- a. In 3:1, the author described the way Samuel served in the temple.
 - 1) The author used two descriptive statements about the spiritual condition in Israel.
 - a) What does the author mean by, "the word of the LORD was rare in those days"?
 - b) What did he mean, "visions were infrequent"?
 - 2) Compare 3:1 with the statements in chapter two that describe the service of Phinehas and Hophni.
 - 3) There is a contrast in this verse.
 - a) What two things are being contrasted?
 - b) What does this contrast accomplish?
 - b. In 3:2, the author provides a background for our thinking.
 - 1) What facts does the author provide concerning Eli?
 - 2) What is the significance of these pieces of information?
 - c. In 3:3, the author described the time of the setting with vividness.
 - 1) Think carefully about this verse. What problems, if any, do you sense in this verse?
 - 2) What did the author mean when he wrote, "the lamp of God had not yet gone out"?
 - d. In 3:4, the author said, "the LORD called Samuel." What questions can you ask about this verse?
 - e. In 3:5, the author reported Samuel's response to God's call.
 - 1) According to this verse, what did Samuel think?
 - 2) What does this fact tell us?
 - 3) Read the verse again. What does this tell you about Eli?
 - f. In 3:6, God called Samuel a second time.
 - 1) How did Samuel respond?
 - 2) What does this tell us about Samuel's character?
 - 3) What did you learn about Eli?
 - g. In 3:7, the author explained Samuel's misunderstanding of God's call.
 - 1) What can we learn from this explanation?
 - 2) What did the author mean when he said, "Samuel did not yet know the LORD"?
 - 3) What did the author mean when he said, "nor had the word of the LORD been revealed to him"?
 - h. In 3:8, the author reported God's third call to Samuel.
 - 1) Again, what NEW information does this present about Samuel?
 - 2) The text says, "Eli discerned that the LORD was calling." What does this mean?
 - 3) If you were Eli, what would you think when Samuel woke you up a third time when you had not called him?
 - 4) Why would Eli discern that it was the LORD calling the third time when he had not realized it the two previous times?
 - i. In 3:9, the author reported Eli's NEW instruction to Samuel.

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- 1) In this verse, Eli said to Samuel, "IF He calls you..." What significance would you attach to the word "IF"?
 - 2) When Eli realized it was the LORD that called Samuel, what other options did he have?
 - 3) What does this say about Eli?
3. In I Samuel 3:10-14, God gave Samuel his first prophetic message to deliver to Eli.
- a. In 3:10, God spoke to Samuel a fourth time.
 - 1) What does this verse say about God?
 - 2) What does this verse say about Samuel?
 - b. In I Samuel 3:11, 12, God told Samuel the results of the prophetic message.
 - 1) What result did God announce?
 - 2) What did God mean when He said, "At which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle"?
 - 3) In 3:12, it was Eli's sons who dishonored their priesthood, but the LORD said, "I will carry out against Eli..." How would you explain this?
 - 4) What does this verse tell us about God?
 - c. In 3:13, 14, God explained why this devastating judgment would come on Eli's household.
 - 1) What explanation did the LORD give?
 - 2) Why would the LORD want Samuel to tell Eli this difficult message again?
 - 3) The LORD said, "The iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever." In view of the "whosoever" passages in the New Testament, how can we explain this divine announcement?
4. In I Samuel 3:15-18, Samuel revealed the LORD'S message to Eli.
- a. In 3:15, the author described the morning after the LORD spoke to Samuel.
 - 1) What does this verse tell us about Samuel?
 - 2) Put yourself in Samuel's position.
 - a) How much sleeping would you be able to do the rest of that night?
 - b) This verse describes Samuel going about his regular duties. In what way would this be different after the LORD spoke this message to Samuel?
 - b. In 3:16, Eli approached Samuel. Read this verse again. What does it tell you about the relationship between Eli and Samuel?
 - c. In 3:17, Eli questioned Samuel about the events of the previous night.
 - 1) What tone do you detect in the words of Eli?
 - 2) It appears that Eli made some assumptions in this verse. What are they?
 - 3) If you were Samuel, how would you feel?
 - d. In 3:18, the author records Eli's response to the report Samuel gave. Eli said,
 - 1) "It is the LORD." How would he know this?
 - 2) What did he mean by this statement?
 - 3) In the last part of the quotation, Eli gave his response to the judgment Samuel reported.
 - a) How would you describe this response?
 - b) Put yourself in Eli's position. How would you feel saying these words?
5. In I Samuel 3:19-4:1a, the author described Samuel's growing reputation.
- a. In 3:19, the author made three statements about Samuel.
 1. What does it mean, "Thus Samuel grew"?
 2. What does it mean, "The LORD was with him"?
 3. What does it mean, "the LORD let none of his words fail"?
 - b. In 3:20, the author identified the spheres of Samuel's growing influence.

Questions for I Samuel 1-15



- 1) On this map, locate the cities of Dan, Shiloh and Beer Sheba.
 - 2) In what way could Samuel "be confirmed as a prophet of the LORD"?
 - c. In 3:21-4:1a, the author continued to describe the growing reputation and influence of young Samuel. How would you explain the meaning of this passage?
6. This chapter deals with what it means to be a servant of the LORD. Reflect on this chapter, putting yourself in Samuel's position. What changes would be required in your life if you were to minister as Samuel did?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 4

THE PHILISTINES CAPTURE THE ARK OF THE COVENANT – I SAMUEL 4:1b-22

1. There are four paragraphs in I Samuel chapter four. On the following table, write a brief summary of six to eight words, for each paragraph.

4:1b-4	
4:5-11	
4:12-18	
4:19-22	

2. In I Samuel 4:1b-4, the author tells the story of the Philistines shocking defeat of the army of Israel.
- a. In 4:1, the author described the battle situation. In a Bible Atlas or the back of your Bible, find the location of the Philistine and Israelite camp.
 - 1) What is the terrain like?
 - 2) How close are these camps to each other?
 - 3) Does the location provide either army with an advantage?
 - b. In 4:2, the author described the battle.
 - 1) Is there any hint in the text or in your study of the maps why one army would win and the other would lose?
 - 2) How would you describe the Philistine victory?
 - c. In 4:3, the elders of Israel responded to the shocking news.
 - 1) What did they say?
 - 2) What does this mean?
 - 3) In view of the elders question, why would they decide to take the ark into battle?
 - 4) Explain the reason they offered.
 - d. In 4:4, the author described the moving of the ark of the Covenant.
 - 1) On the basis of the text, how did they move the ark?
 - 2) How far did they have to move the ark?
3. In I Samuel 4:5-11, the author described the Philistine's capture of the ark.
- a. In 4:5, the author described the reaction of the Jewish soldiers to the coming of the ark. What does he really say?
 - b. In 4:6, the author described the Philistine reaction to the outcry of the Israelite soldiers when they first saw the ark of the Covenant.
 - 1) How would you describe this reaction?
 - 2) This verse indicates that the Philistines discovered the reason for the Israelite outcry. How would they discover this?
 - c. In 4:7, the author gave an additional reaction by the Philistines.
 - 1) What was this second reaction?
 - 2) What did they say?
 - d. In 4:8, the Philistines continue their lament.
 - 1) Read the verse again. Do you see anything unusual here?
 - 2) The author quoted the Philistines, "These are the gods who smote the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the wilderness."
 - a) How would they know this?

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- b) What were these Philistines saying?
 - e. In 4:9, the Philistine leader tried to encourage his soldiers.
 - 1) He used three different means to get his men ready for the fight. What are these means?
 - 2) Is this what was commonly done?
 - f. In 4:10, the author described the battle.
 - 1) He used four descriptives to portray the way the battle was carried out. Identify the four ways.
 - 2) Explain what the author meant by each one.
 - g. In 4:11, the author described the "taking of the ark of God."
 - 1) Study this verse carefully. What did you discover concerning the chronology of events?
 - 2) In this verse, the author linked the taking of the ark with the death of Eli's two sons. Are these two events naturally linked? If so how?
4. In I Samuel 4:12-18, the author described the report of the capture of the ark.
- a. In 4:12, the author indicated that a soldier of the tribe of Benjamin ran to give this tragic report.
 - 1) How far did he run?
 - 2) What does this verse tell us about the way Saul established his army?
 - 3) The author mentioned the soldiers hair and clothing. What is the significance of this?
 - b. In 4:13, there are two emphases – one on the soldier from Benjamin; the other on Eli.
 - 1) Why would the author do this?
 - 2) Describe what the author said about the Benjamite soldier.
 - 3) Describe what the author said about Eli.
 - c. In 4:14, the spotlight is on Eli.
 - 1) What does the author infer about Eli?
 - 2) What does the author say about the Benjamite?
 - d. In 4:15, the author presents a parenthesis in the story.
 - 1) In this parenthesis, the author gives us two pieces of information. What are they?
 - 2) These two pieces of information give us several things. What are they?
 - e. In 4:16, the Benjamite soldier came to speak personally to Eli.
 - 1) What hint did the Benjamite give when speaking with Eli?
 - 2) In view of the reports in 4:13-15, why would Eli ask the question he asked in this verse?
 - f. In 4:17, the soldier provided Eli with four pieces of information.
 - 1) What are these four pieces of information?
 - 2) In view of what the Lord said to Eli in I Samuel 2:27 f.f., and the confirming information God gave Samuel in 3:10-14, why would Eli be shocked that his sons had died?
 - g. In 4:18, the author details the information about the way Eli died.
 - 1) What is the significance of the way Eli died?
 - 2) There is a second sentence at the close of this verse.
 - a) What does it say?
 - b) Why does he say it this way?
 - c) What additional insights do we gain because of this statement?
5. In I Samuel 4:19-22, the author described the death of Phinehas' wife.
- a. In 4:19, the author described the events leading up to the birth of Ichabod.
 - 1) Study this verse very carefully. How does the author describe the tragic events mentioned in this verse?
 - 2) Evaluate the extent of her loss that she became aware of in a period of about one minute.
 - b. In 4:20, the author dealt with the birth process.
 - 1) How would you identify the woman who stood by her?

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- 2) What did this woman say?
 - 3) What does this mean?
 - 4) The verse closes with the words, "but she did not answer or pay attention." What are the possibilities of the meaning of this statement?
 - c. In 4:21, it says, "and "SHE" called the boy Ichabod."
 - 1) Whom would you identify as the woman called "SHE"?
 - 2) This verse also gives some closing information. How does this help us identify "SHE"?
 - d. In 4:22, "SHE" speaks again.
 - 1) Again, who is "SHE"?
 - 2) Compare 4:21 and 4:22. How would you account for the difference?
6. As you reflect upon the message of this chapter, what do you understand to be God's message to you through these experiences?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 5

AGREEMENT TO RETURN THE ARK OF THE COVENANT –I SAMUEL 5:1 - 12

1. There are only two paragraphs in the fifth chapter of I Samuel. On the following table, write a summary of six or eight words for each paragraph.

5:1-5	
5:6-12	

2. In I Samuel 5:1-5, the author tells of the ark of the Covenant being placed in Dagon's temple.
- a. In 5:1, the author described the movement from Ebenezer to Ashdod.
 - 1) Look in a Biblical Atlas or the maps in the back of your Bible to see approximately how far they traveled.
 - 2) Most of these maps indicate, by color, the kind of terrain that can be found in any given area. Describe the physical characteristics of this trip.
 - b. In 5:2, the author described what the Philistines did with the ark. Read this sentence very carefully. What was the author trying to tell us?
 - c. In 5:3, the author described a shocking turn of events.
 - 1) What happened?
 - 2) If you were one of the worshippers of Dagon, how would you feel?
 - d. In 5:4, the author described another shocking event.
 - 1) What happened?
 - 2) Again, if you were a worshipper of Dagon, how would you feel after being shocked like this on two occasions?
 - e. In 5:5, the author gives us a parenthetical insight into the after-effects of the events in 5:4 upon the people who worship Dagon. How would you describe the effect this event had on the philistines?
3. In I Samuel 5:6-12, the author described the outbreak of tumors on the Philistines when the ark was brought into their area.
- a. In 5:6, the author described God's action to deal with the people of Ashdod.
 - 1) How would you describe God's actions?
 - 2) In the minds of people of that day, international events were considered encounters between deities. In view of this, how do you think they thought of the capture of the ark? How would they feel about the outbreak of tumors?
 - b. In 5:7, the author described the reaction of the Ashdod officials to the outbreak of tumors.
 - 1) What were they saying?
 - 2) What were they really saying about Jehovah?
 - c. In 5:8, the officials of Ashdod met with the religious/political leaders.
 - 1) What was their complaint?
 - 2) What solution did they suggest?
 - 3) Why do you think they made that suggestion?
 - d. In 5:9, the author described what happened when the ark was brought to Gath.
 - 1) Compare/contrast 5:9 with 5:6.
 - 2) What, if any, difference do you see?
 - 3) If you see a difference, how would you account for this?
 - e. In 5:10, the author described the movement of the ark from Gath to Ekron.
 - 1) Why would they do this?

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- 2) Describe the reaction of the people of Ekron to the arrival of the ark.
- 3) Compare the arrival of the ark in Gath, 5:9, with its arrival in Ekron, 5:10. What difference(s), if any, do you see here?
- f. In 5:11, the people of Ekron dealt with the problems created by the coming of the ark.
 - 1) What did they do?
 - 2) In what ways was this different from the actions of the leaders of Ashdod and Gath?
3. Review the 12 verses of this chapter.
 - a. How would you describe the events that took place in this chapter?
 - b. In what way, if any, do you see a parallel between life as they experienced it and life as you live it today?
 - c. What helpful information can you gather concerning your own life and problems?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 6

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT RETURNED – I SAMUEL 6:1 – 7:2

1. There are four paragraphs in the sixth chapter of I Samuel. On the following table, write a brief summary of six to eight words for each paragraph.

6:1-9	
6:10-16	
6:17-18	
6:19- 7:2	

2. In I Samuel 6:1-9, the author described the instructions for the return of the ark of the Covenant.
- In 6:1, the author gave us a significant piece of information.
 - What does he tell us?
 - How does this help our understanding?
 - In 6:2, the common Philistine people took the initiative to solve the terrible dilemma that ravaged their cities.
 - What did they do?
 - Why did they have to do this?
 - In 6:3, the religious leaders gave instructions for returning the ark of the LORD. Read this carefully.
 - What were their instructions?
 - What are the implications of these instructions?
 - Do you see agreement or disagreement between the common people and the religious leaders in these instructions?
 - In 6:4, the religious leaders gave their instructions for the guilt offering the Philistines were to make.
 - What is the significance of the number "5"?
 - Why would the religious leaders instruct them to make golden tumors and golden mice?
 - What is the significance of the statement, "for one plague was on all of you and on your lord"?
 - In 6:5, the religious leaders instructed them, "You shall make likenesses of your tumors and likenesses of your mice that ravaged the land and you shall give glory to the God of Israel."
 - What does this mean?
 - Observe the religious leaders said, "Perhaps He will ease His hand from you, your gods and your land." What are the implications of these instructions?
 - Read 6:6 very carefully.
 - Who said this?
 - What does this sound like?
 - Why would they say this?
 - Read this in view of the integrity of the speaker. What did you find?
 - If you were one of the listening crowd when this statement was made, what would you think?
 - In 6:7, the religious leaders continue to speak.
 - Look carefully at these instructions. What special emphasis, if any, do you see?
 - The religious leaders are insisting that the people give special care to the ark. Why, in view of their past actions, would they be doing this?
 - What is the benefit in the use of two milch cows rather than bulls?
 - In 6:8, these religious leaders gave some careful instructions on how the ark of the LORD was to be placed on the cart.

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- 1) In view of what we know about the movement of the ark of the LORD, how would you describe the instructions that the religious leaders gave the Philistine people?
- 2) Read the last sentence in verse eight again. What significance, if any, can you attach to these words?
 - i. In 6:9, the priests continued their instructions.
 - 1) How would you describe these instructions?
 - 2) What do these instructions tell you about the attitude of these religious leaders?
 - 3) In view of the way they spoke, what does it appear that these religious leaders were trying to do with these instructions?
3. In I Samuel 6:10-16, the author described the return of the ark to Beth-shemesh
 - a. In 6:10, the author described how the people began to deal with the instructions of the religious leaders.
 - 1) What did they do?
 - 2) How carefully did they obey the instructions that were given them by the religious leaders?
 - b. In 6:11, the author continued his description of the way the people followed the instructions of the religious leaders.
 - 1) What did they do?
 - 2) What, if any, piece of information did you anticipate, but did not find?
 - c. In 6:12, the author described the trip from Ekron to Beth-shemesh.
 - 1) Earlier, the religious leaders said that if the unguided cart went straight to Beth-shemesh, then this would be an indication that the God of Israel had indeed brought this trouble on them. If on the other hand, the unguided cart stopped or went in another direction, then this was an indication that it was just an accident. What would this verse tell us that their conclusion would have to be?
 - 2) How, if at all, did the religious leaders explain what had happened?
 - 3) Look, again, at the last sentence in this verse. Why would the religious leaders follow the cart to the border of Beth-shemesh?
 - d. In 6:13, the scene shifted from the Philistines to the people of Beth-shemesh.
 - 1) Read this verse again, carefully. What information can one gain from this verse?
 - 2) Why would this information be important?
 - e. In 6:14, the author said, "THEY split the wood of the cart."
 - 1) Whom has the author identified as "they"?
 - 2) What is the significance of the "large stone"?
 - 3) The text states that the cows were offered as a burnt offering to the Lord.
 - a) Why would these cows be offered as a burnt offering?
 - b) How appropriate would this be as a burnt offering?
 - f. In 6:15, the author gives us a different picture of the arrival of the ark.
 - 1) The text states that the Levites took the ark down from the cart.
 - a) How did they do this?
 - b) Read verses 14 and 15 together.
 - 1) What, if anything, did you observe about the two verses?
 - 2) What can one say about these two verses?
 - 2) What would be the significance of the sacrifices that were made on this occasion?
 - g. In 6:16, the scene shifted back to the Philistine religious leaders.
 - 1) On the basis of this verse, what previous observations did you make, if any, that now seem unfounded?
 - 2) What conclusions can you draw on the basis of this verse?
 4. In I Samuel 6:17-18, the scene shifts back to the instructions given by the Philistine religious leaders.

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- a. In 6:17, the author indicated that the five golden tumors were given as a guilt offering for each of the five cities?
 - 1) What additional information does this verse give you concerning the reason the ark of the LORD was taken to the cities where it was taken?
 - 2) How do Gaza and Ashkelon fit into this picture?
 - b. In 6:17, the author indicates the reasoning behind the number of the golden mice.
 - 1) How is the statement in this verse different from the statement in verse 17?
 - 2) Read the last sentence in this verse again. What information does it provide for your understanding?
5. In I Samuel 6:19 – 7:2, the author gives us a glimpse into the events that took place while the ark of the LORD was in Beth-shemesh.
- a. In 6:19, the author indicated that many of the people of Beth-shemesh looked into the Ark.
 - 1) Why would this be a problem?
 - 2) What is the apparent evil committed by these more than 50,000 men?
 - 3) Specifically, what was the reaction of the people?
 - 4) What is the difference between what happened here and what happened in Gath and Ekron?
 - b. In 6:20, the men of Beth-shemesh reacted to what God had done.
 - 1) What emotion do you sense in this verse?
 - 2) Read the verse carefully, again. What do you notice about their reference to God?
 - c. In 7:1, there are several pieces of helpful information.
 - 1) Can you see any reason why they would choose Kiriath-jearim as the new location for the ark rather than some other city?
 - 2) The text indicates that the men of Kiriath-jearim consecrated Eleazar to keep the ark.
 - a) Why might they consecrate Eleazar rather than his father Abinidab?
 - b) What else does this piece of information tell us?
 - d. In 7:2, the author tells us about the time that the ark was in the care of Eleazar.
 - 1) What does the text tell us about this time?
 - 2) Why would the house of Israel "lament after the Lord"?
 - 3) What does this mean?
6. Reflect upon your study of this chapter.
- a. Do you see any places where your failures might, in some way, parallel those of the people mentioned in the chapter?
 - b. Do you see any places where your obedience might be enlightened by the failures of people in this chapter?
 - c. In what way is your spiritual journey affected by what you have studied here?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 7

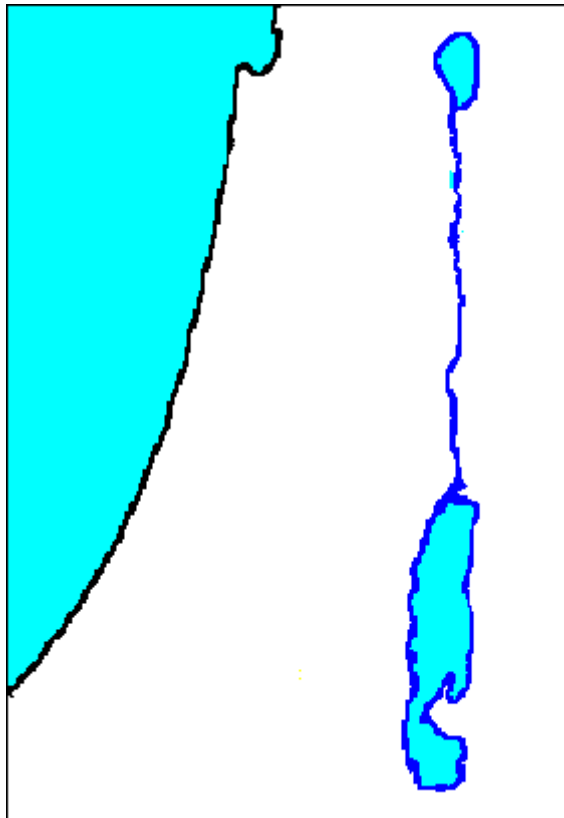
ISRAEL DEFEATED AND SUBDUED THE PHILISTINES – I SAMUEL 7:3 – 17

(Note: as you can see, this study begins with verse three. This is because verses one and two are part of the previous paragraph and chapter.)

1. There are only four paragraphs in the seventh chapter of I Samuel. There is a brief summary of each one on the following table.

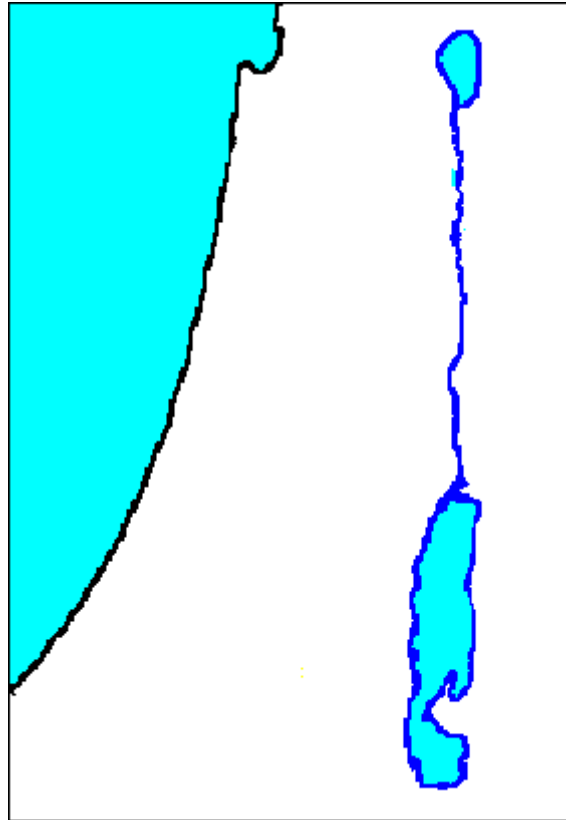
7:3, 4	
7:5-11	
7:12- 14	
7:15-17	

2. In I Samuel 7:3, 4, Samuel urged Israel to put away their idols
 - a. In 7:3, Samuel made a conditional statement urging the Israelites to return to the LORD.
 - 1) Identify the four conditions Samuel mentioned.
 - 2) What does this tell you about Israel?
 - 3) What promise did Samuel make contingent upon Israel meeting these four conditions?
 - 4) What can we learn about Israel from this verse?
 - b. In 7:4, the author recorded Israel's response to Samuel's plea.
 - 1) How did Israel respond?
 - 2) What did this mean?
3. In I Samuel 7:5-11, the Philistines attacked Israel.



Questions for I Samuel 1-15

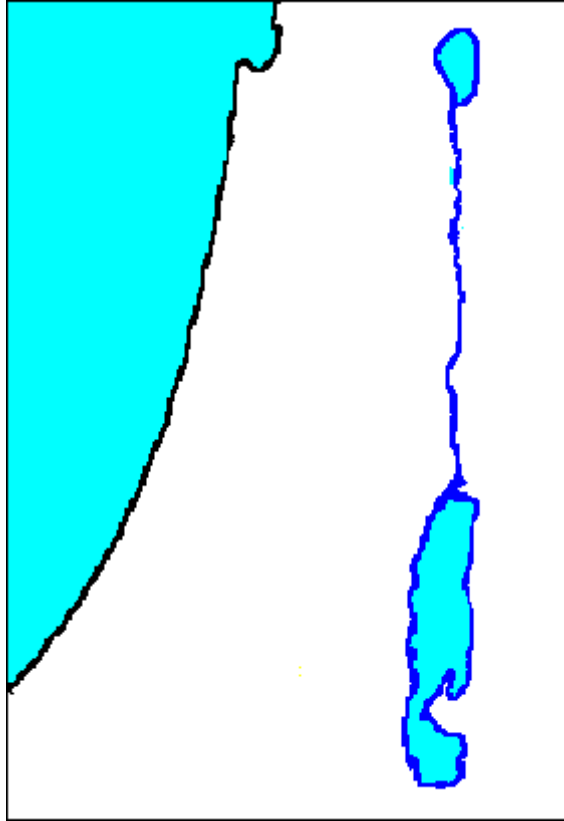
- a. In 7:5, Samuel, who lived in Ramah, told the people to gather in Mizpah and he would pray for them. Locate Ramah, Mizpah, and Shiloh on this map.
 1. Why did he want them to go to Mizpah where he would pray for them?
 2. Shiloh was the location of the temple. Why not pray for them there?
 3. Why not just gather in Ramah where he was located? After all, Samuel was getting older.
- b. In 7:6, the people gathered in Mizpah and poured out water as a sacrifice to the LORD.
 - 1) What is a pouring offering?
 - 2) What did Samuel do when he "judged the sons of Israel"?
- c. In 7:7-9, the Philistines learned that Israel had gathered at Mizpah and came to fight with Israel there.
 - 1) Why would the Philistines want to fight Israel again?
 - 2) How did the Israelites react? Why?
 - 3) In 7:9, Samuel offered a "whole burnt offering." What is this?
- d. In 7:10, the LORD answered Samuel's prayer and sacrifice by thundering against the Philistines.
 - 1) How did the Philistines react?
 - 2) Why would they react in this manner?
- e. In 7:11, the Israelites pursued the Philistines as far as Beth Car.



- 1) On this map, identify the location of Mizpah and Beth Car.
 - 2) The Israelites gathered at Mizpah to sacrifice and pray. When they were attacked in Mizpah, however, they pursued and killed the Philistines. What does this tell us?
4. In I Samuel 7:12-14, Samuel set up the Ebenezer stone near Mizpah.
 - a. In 7:12, Samuel set up a stone and called it "Ebenezer."
 - 1) What was the meaning of Samuel's action?
 - 2) Why was this necessary?
 - b. In 7:13, the author described a new phenomenon.
 - 1) What did he describe?

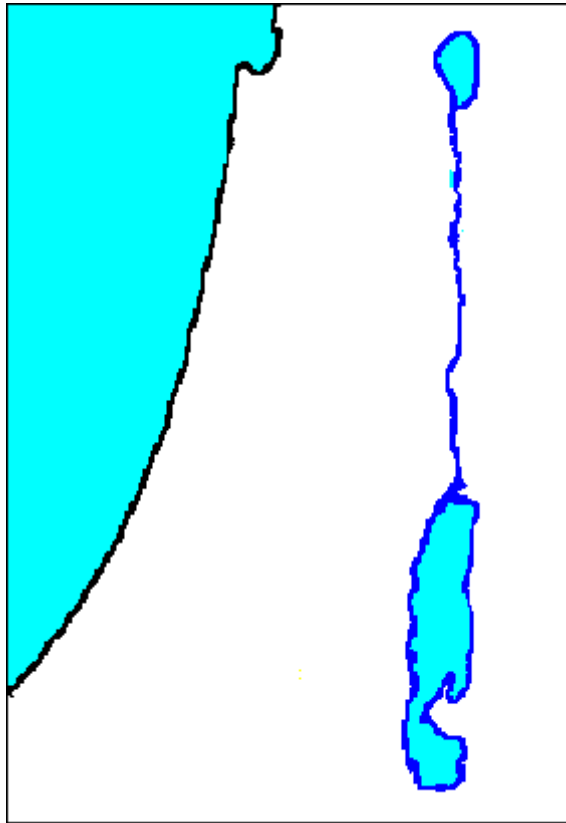
Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- 2) How long did this last?
- 3) What does the author tell us about the basis for this situation?
- c. In 7:14, the author gave some surprising information.



- 1) On this map, identify the locations mentioned in this verse.
- 2) Now, review I Samuel chapters five and six.
 - a) What, if any, connection is there between chapters five and six with 7:14?
 - b) Can you explain this situation?
3. In this verse the author speaks of both the "Philistines" and the "Amorites."
 - a) What is the relationship between the two groups?
 - b) If these are two separate groups, does this mean that there was peace between Israel and the Amorites, but not between Israel and the Philistines?
5. In I Samuel 7:15-17, Samuel judged Israel the rest of his life.
 - a. In 7:15, the author reported that "Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life."
 - 1) What was he saying in this statement?
 - 2) Why would this be important?
 - b. In 7:16, 17, the author described the way in which Samuel served the spiritual needs of Israel.

Questions for I Samuel 1-15



- 1) On this map, identify the locations Samuel visited in this circuit.
- 2) Review I Samuel chapter one. How does 7:16, 17, differ from the practice in chapter one? Can you suggest any reason for this?
- 3) In 7:17, the author indicates three pieces of information about Ramah.
 - a) What are these pieces of information?
 - b) It says he built an altar at Ramah. The Hebrew place of worship was in Shiloh. Can you explain this situation?
6. Review your study of this chapter. There is an overarching ribbon of truth that runs throughout the chapter.
 - a. What is this strand of truth?
 - b. What does this chapter say about that truth?
 - c. How is this going to affect your life?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 8

ISRAEL DEMANDED A KING – I SAMUEL 8:1 – 22

1. We know that there are four paragraphs in the eighth chapter of I Samuel. On the following table, write a brief summary of eight words or less for each paragraph.

8:1-3	
8:4-9	
8:10-18	
8:19-22	

2. In I Samuel 8:1-3, Samuel appointed his sons to be judges, but they were evil.
- In 8:1,2, the author gave us background information on Samuel's two sons. What hint, if any, do you see concerning their character in these two verses?
 - In 8:3, the author makes three accusations against Samuel's two sons.
 - What are the three accusations?
 - What does the author accomplish by these accusations?
 - Describe what the author meant by each of the three accusations.
 - Read verse three in the light of verse two. What did you learn?
3. In I Samuel 8:4-9, Israel's elders demanded a king be anointed.
- In 8:4, all the elders of Israel gathered to meet with Samuel about their judges.
 - Study this verse very carefully.
 - What does this verse tell you about conditions?
 - In 8:5, all the elders of Israel started their coordinated complaint to Samuel.
 - What is the basis of their complaint?
 - Explain how the demand they made would solve the problem they presented?
 - How would you evaluate the validity of their complaint?
 - Can you think of any other solution to the problem they presented?
 - In 8:6, Samuel reacted to the demands of the elders. Samuel was obviously upset by this demand. Think of every possible reason this would upset Samuel.
 - In 8:7, the LORD responded to Samuel's prayer.
 - If you were Samuel, how would you feel when you heard the LORD say this?
 - Think carefully about what the LORD said to Samuel. What was the LORD really saying?
 - In 8:8, the LORD explained the actions of the elders.
 - What does Egypt have to do with this demand?
 - The LORD characterized the demand of the elders.
 - What does this verse tell you about the LORD?
 - Why would these two commands be important for Samuel to do?
4. In I Samuel 8:10-18, Samuel obeyed the two commands of the LORD.
- In 8:10, Samuel obeyed the LORD'S commands. Put yourself in Samuel's position. We know that Samuel was clear that God did not want Israel to have a king. Samuel did not want Israel to have a king. How would he feel as he obeyed this difficult command?
 - Summarize the message, in 8:11, of how a king will run the country.
 - Summarize the message, in 8:12, of how the king will run the country.
 - Summarize the message, in 8:13, of how the king will run the country.

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- e. Summarize the message, in 8:14, of how the king will run the country.
 - f. Summarize the message, in 8:15, of how the king will run the country.
 - g. Summarize the message, in 8:16, of how the king will run the country.
 - h. Summarize the message, in 8:17, of how the king will run the country.
 - i. Summarize the message, in 8:18, of how the LORD will deal with the cry of the people who are determined to have a king.
 - j. Review the summaries you made of this paragraph. In one sentence, indicate what will happen when Israel has a king.
5. In I Samuel 8:19-22 – Samuel complied with the people’s demand for a king.
- a. In 8:19, the author reported the elders response to the message the LORD instructed Samuel to give to them.
 - 1) What did they say?
 - 2) What does this mean?
 - b. The elders made three announcements in 8:20.
 - 1) What are these announcements?
 - 2) What do these announcements constitute?
 - c. In 8:21, Samuel reported the people’s reply to the message he conveyed. How would you describe the tone expressed in this verse?
 - d. In 8:22, the LORD gave Samuel additional instructions concerning the demand for a king.
 - 1) Compare the message the LORD gave Samuel in this verse with what He said in 8:9. What did you discover?
 - 2) How carefully did Samuel obey the command of the LORD given him in 8:22?
 - 3) Again, describe the tone you discern in this verse.
6. Review your study of this chapter.
- a. Record the major theme(s) you discover in the chapter.
 - b. What did you learn about the people of God?
 - c. What did you learn about yourself?
 - d. How will you use this information?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 9

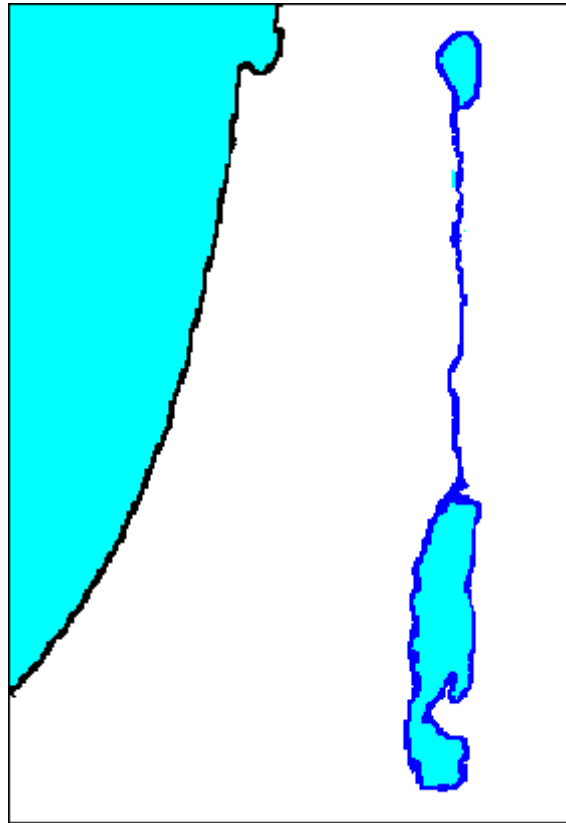
SAUL MEETS SAMUEL – 1 Samuel 9:1 – 27

1. There are six paragraphs in I Samuel chapter nine. There is a brief summary of each paragraph on the following table.

9:1-4	
9:5-10	
9:11-14	
9:15-21	
9:22-24	
9:25-27	

2. In I Samuel 9:1-4, Saul was sent to find his father's asses.
- a. In 9:1, the author described Saul's lineage.
 - 1) What information can we gain from this verse?
 - 2) Was it Kish or Aphiah who was, "A mighty man of valor"?
 - 3) Why would the designation of an ancestor as "a mighty man of valor" be important when writing about Saul?
 - 4) What problem(s) do you see with Saul becoming king of Israel?
 - b. In 9:2, the author described Saul.
 - 1) What did he say about Saul?
 - 2) Why is this important?
 - c. In 9:3, there are two pieces of information that describe for us the economic condition of Kish.
 - 1) What are these pieces of information?
 - 2) What do they tell you?

Questions for I Samuel 1-15



- d. In 9:4, the author described Saul's search for his father's donkeys. On this map. Trace Saul's search for the animals.
3. In I Samuel 9:5-10, Saul and his servant went to see the prophet.
- In 9:5, The servant made a suggestion about their trip.
 - What did he suggest?
 - Why did he suggest this?
 - In 9:6, the servant suggested the possibility of visiting "the man of God" in Ramah.
 - What did the servant say about this man?
 - What did this mean?
 - In 9:7, Saul asked his servant two questions.
 - What does Saul suggest by his first question?
 - Think about the second question. What problem, if any, does it raise In your mind?
 - In 9:8, the servant made a shocking statement.
 - What is that shocking statement?
 - Why is it so shocking?
 - In 9:9, the author makes a parenthetic statement. Why would it be necessary to include this information?
 - Originally, it was the servant who informed Saul that the prophet lived near where they were. In 9:10, however, it was Saul who said, "Let us go." Why would this be?
4. In I Samuel 9:11-14, Saul got directions to find the prophet.
- In 9:11, the author gave us a hint about the time of day when this took place. Study the text carefully and indicate when you feel this took place.
 - In 9:12, the young women responded to Saul's request for information. There is a serious question raised by the answer the young women gave. What is it?

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- c. In 9:13, the young women continued their response to Saul's request. In this verse the young women described what happens when a sacrifice is made. Since Saul is obviously a Jew, why would they bother to explain this?
5. In I Samuel 9:15-21, Saul met with Samuel
 - a. In 9:15-17, God told Samuel of Saul's coming the next day. In view of the fact that Samuel did not want Israel to have a king; the fact that God did not want Israel to have a king: how do you think Samuel would feel receiving these messages?
 - b. In 9:18, Saul approached Samuel. Study this meeting. What did you learn?
 - c. In 9:19, Samuel responded to Saul's inquiry.
 - 1) Think carefully about the things Samuel said. What do they tell you?
 - 2) What do these statements mean?
 - d. In 9:20, Samuel told Saul about the donkeys.
 - 1) When did Saul tell Samuel about the donkeys?
 - 2) If you were Saul, what would you be thinking?
 - 3) In the closing sentence of this verse, Samuel made an unusual statement. What did he mean?
 - e. In 9:21, Saul responded with two questions.
 - 1) What are the questions?
 - 2) What was Saul saying?
6. In I Samuel 9:22-24, Saul ate with Samuel.
 - a. In 9:22, Samuel brought Saul to the feast.
 - 1) What symbolic thing did Samuel do?
 - 2) What did this symbolic act mean?
 - b. In 9:23, Samuel gave the cook some instructions.
 - 1) What were Samuel's instructions?
 - 2) What did these instructions mean?
 - 3) If you were the cook, what would you be thinking?
 - 4) If you were Saul, what would you be thinking?
 - c. In 9:24, Samuel addressed Saul in a special way.
 - 1) What did Samuel say?
 - 2) What did this mean?
7. In I Samuel 9:25-27, Samuel prepared to give Saul God's message.
 - a. In 9:25, Samuel spoke with Saul on the roof.
 - 1) What, if anything, does this signify?
 - 2) What would this fact say to Saul?
 - b. In 9:26, Samuel woke Saul up early.
 - 1) What does Samuel mean by, "That I may send you away"?
 - 2) Why did they have to go out into the street?
 - c. In 9:27, Samuel gave Saul some instructions.
 - 1) What was that?
 - 2) Why would this be necessary?
8. Review your study of chapter nine.
 - a. What does this chapter have to say about the servant's spiritual life?
 - b. What does this chapter have to say about Saul's spiritual life?
 - c. What does the study of this chapter tell you about the nature of God?

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

c. How will this awareness affect your walk with God?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 10

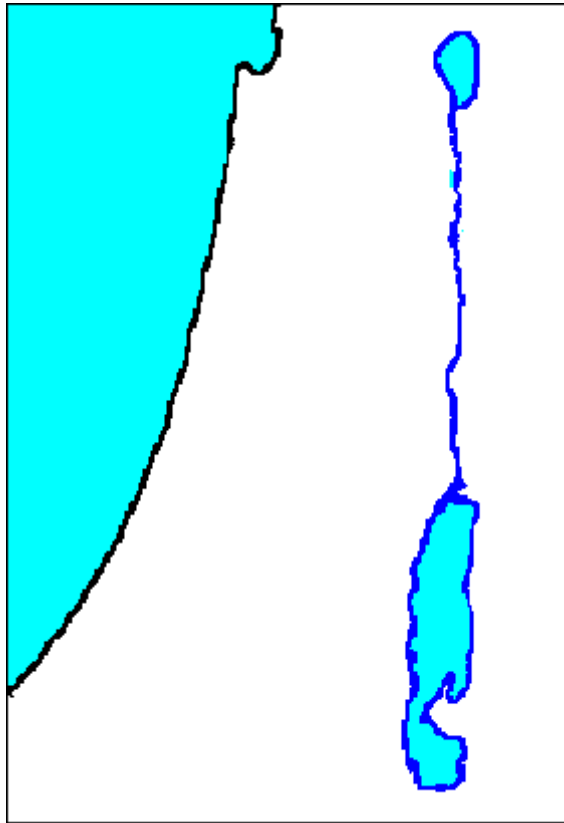
SAMUEL PRESENTED SAUL TO ISRAEL – I SAMUEL 10:1 - 27

1. There are five paragraphs in the tenth chapter of I Samuel. Write a brief summary of each of these chapters on the following table.

10:1-8	
10:9-13	
10:14-16	
10:17-24	
10:25-27	

2. In I Samuel 10:1-8, the author describes Samuel's anointing of Saul as king.
- a. In 10:1, the author described the anointing of Saul.
 - 1) In the anointing of Saul, Samuel did three things:
 - a) What were the three things Samuel did?
 - b) What significance do you attach to each one?
 - 2) Observe that the author concluded the verse with a question.
 - a) Why would he do that?
 - b) In what way would it be different if it were just a simple statement?
 - c) What is the significance of the question he asked?
 - b. In 10:2, Samuel began his prophesies concerning Saul.
 - 1) What did Samuel prophesy?
 - 2) What difference would this make?
 - c. In 10:3, Samuel continued his prophesy concerning Saul.
 - 1) What advance information did Samuel provide?
 - 2) Why would this information be important?

Questions for I Samuel 1-15



- 3) In a Bible Atlas, trace the directions Samuel reported and record them on this map.
 - d. In 10:4, Samuel gave additional information for Saul's journey.
 - 1) Reread this verse. What characteristic stands out as you read this prophecy?
 - 2) Aside from being interesting, of what possible value could this prophecy be?
 - e. In 10:5, the prophecy changes in both content and direction.
 - 1) "The hill of God" is the city of Gibeah.
 - a) Locate the city on this map.
 - b) What does Samuel say about the city?
 - 2) Read the verse again. Is there anything in it that seems strange to you?
 - f. In 10:6, Samuel prophesied that three would happen to Saul:
 - 1) What were the three things?
 - 2) What does this tell you about the ministry of the Holy Spirit?
 - 3) In what way will Saul be "changed into another man"?
 - g. In 10:7, Samuel concluded his prophecies. How would you describe the instructions in this verse for a new believer?
 - h. In 10:8, Samuel gave Saul some explicit instructions.
 - 1) What are these instructions?
 - 2) What is a burnt offering?
 - 3) What is a peace offering?
 - 4) Why would it be so important to wait?
3. In I Samuel 10:9-13, Saul prophesied with the prophets.
- a. In 10:9, something very special happened to Saul.
 - 1) What happened to Saul?
 - 2) What is the relationship between the change and the signs Samuel described?

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- b. In 10:10, Saul prophesied with the prophets. What is the relationship between God changing Saul's heart in verse nine and the Spirit enabling Saul to prophesy in verse 10?
 - c. In 10:11, the author described the local reaction to seeing Saul prophesying.
 - 1) How would you describe their reaction?
 - 2) The crowd asked a question – "is Saul also among the prophets?" Is this a positive or negative reaction?
 - d. In 10:12, This verse continues with the crowd reaction to seeing Saul prophesying.
 - 1) What is a proverb?
 - 2) How would you explain this proverb?
 - e. In 10:13, the author described the conclusion of the prophecy session. If your name was Saul, how would you feel about now?
4. In I Samuel 10:14 – 16, Saul was interrogated by his uncle.
- a. In 10:14, Saul's uncle asked him a question.
 - 1) How would you describe the tone of that question?
 - 2) How would you describe Saul's answer?
 - b. In 10:15, Saul's uncle continued his questioning.
 - 1) Why do you think Saul's uncle was interrogating him?
 - 2) Why wasn't Kish doing the interrogating?
 - 3) Compare the uncle's apparent attitude in verse 15 with his attitude in verse 14.
 - c. In 10:16, Saul explained his conversation with Samuel.
 - 1) Saul made two statements in this verse:
 - a) What were the statements?
 - b) Compare/contrast the two statements.
 - 2) Why would Saul withhold the information about being made king?
5. In I Samuel 10:17 – 24, Samuel introduced Saul to Israel as their king.
- a. In 10:17, Samuel brought the people of Israel to Mizpah for this surprise celebration. Why this city?
 - b. In 10:18, Samuel rehearsed for the people of Israel what God had done for their forefathers as He delivered them from the bondage of Egypt.
 - 1) As you review what has happened in this chapter, what would be Samuel's reason for going over what God had done in the lives of their ancestors?
 - 2. Is there some quality of the character of God that Samuel might be focusing their attention upon? Why?
 - c. In 10:19, Samuel continued his message to the people of Israel. Having described the faithfulness of God in the previous verse, Samuel now turned his attention to the way these people respond to God.
 - 1) How did Samuel describe that relationship in terms of how God treated them?
 - 2) How did Samuel describe that relationship in terms of how they treated God?
 - 3) What does this tell you?
 - 4) How would you describe Samuel's attitude and heart condition at this point?
 - d. In 10:20, Samuel brought all of the tribes near to participate in the decision.
 - 1) How was this decision made?
 - 2) How can we explain this in terms of the way God leads people?
 - 3) Describe the process by which this decision was concluded?
 - e. In 10:21, there is a surprising fact presented.
 - 1) What is it?
 - 2) If you were in that crowd, how would you feel when this was discovered?
 - f. In 10:22, the crowd tried to deal with what they had just discovered.

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- 1) What had they discovered in 10:21?
 - 2) How did this affect the crowd?
 - 3) What did they do?
 - 4) What was the result of this action?
 - g. In 10:23, they found the man God had chosen to be Israel's king.
 - 1) Read the verse again. How would you describe Saul's actions when he was found?
 - 2) Compare Saul's actions in this verse, with what the text says about Saul's size.
 - 3) What did you discover?
 - h. In 10:24, Samuel presented Saul before the people of Israel.
 - 1) Review I Samuel 8:10-18 with this verse again. Then read I Samuel 10:24 again
 - a) What did you find?
 - b) What does this comparison tell you?
 - 2) Examine the integrity with which Samuel spoke in this verse. What did you find?
 - 3) How did the people respond?
6. In I Samuel 10:25-27 the author described how envious men refused to have Saul as their king.
- a. In 10:25, Samuel prepared the ordinances of the kingdom.
 - 1) Why would he do this in view of I Samuel 8:10-18?
 - 2) Why would Samuel place this book before the Lord?
 - 3) The closing statement in this verse has some cultural significance. What could this mean?
 - b. In 10:26, everyone went home.
 - 1) What does the text say about the king's royal residence?
 - 2) God blessed Saul in a very special way in this verse.
 - a) What did God do?
 - b) What does this mean?
 - c. In 10:27, the author draws a contrast with verse 26.
 - 1) How would you describe this contrast?
 - 2) The author concludes the chapter with these haunting words, "but he kept silent".
 - a) Who is "he"?
 - b) How would you explain what this means?
7. Review the chapter again. Focus your attention on the relationship with God that both Samuel and Saul had.
- a. What did you find?
 - b. Make the same kind of comparison between yourself and Samuel. What did you discover?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 11

SAUL ROUTED THE AMMONITES AT JABESH-GILEAD – I SAMUEL 11:1 - 15

1. There are four paragraphs in this brief chapter. On the following table, write a brief summary of eight words or less for each of these paragraphs.

11:1-5	
11:6-11	
11:12-13	
11:14-15	

2. In I Samuel 11:1-5, the author describes the threat of Nahash to overtake and destroy the city of Jabesh Gilead.
- In 11:1, Nahash, king of the Ammonites, laid siege to the city of Jabesh Gilead.
 - If you were Nahash, the Ammonite, why would you attack Jabesh Gilead when Jericho was much closer?
 - Think carefully about the request made by the men of the city. If you were one of these men, why would you make such a request?
 - In 11:2, Nahash responded to the request of the trapped men of the city. Think carefully about the counter-offer that Nahash made.
 - If you were Nahash, would you make such an offer? Why? Why not?
 - What would the people of Jabesh Gilead gain from such an agreement?
 - What would Nahash gain?
 - Think carefully about the condition Nahash added to the agreement.
 - Can you think of anything Nahash would gain from such a condition?
 - Aside from the loss of their right eye, is there any particular loss the men of Jabesh Gilead would sustain?
 - In 11:3, the men of Jabesh Gilead made a counter offer. Think carefully about this offer.
 - What were the men of Jabesh Gilead really requesting?
 - What possible benefit could the Jews realize from this position?
 - What possible benefit were they offering Nahash in order to win his agreement to this request?
 - In 11:4, the text assumes that Nahash had agreed to these terms.
 - What could have possibly have prompted Nahash to accept such an agreement?
 - In this verse, the messengers from Jabesh Gilead came to Gibeah where Saul lived, but they spoke to the people rather than to King Saul. Why?
 - In 11:5, Saul enters the picture.
 - How does the author picture Saul in this verse?
 - Put yourself in Saul's position. You are a new king. You started your reign with a sizeable group dedicated to ending your reign. How would you feel at this point?
3. In I Samuel 11:6-11, Saul led the forces of Israel against the Ammonite army.
- In 11:6, there is a drastic change in Saul.
 - How does the author account for this change?
 - What change does the author report?
 - In 11:7, Saul took drastic action.
 - Oxen were very valuable animals. Why would he take this drastic action?

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- 2) What does this action gain for Saul that a simple command with accompanying promise of punishment would not also accomplish?
 - 3) Notice that Saul said, "Whoever does not come out after Saul, and after Samuel."
 - a) Why would he add the words, " and after Samuel"?
 - b) What does this inclusion tell us about what Saul had in mind?
 - c) It says, "They came out as one man." To what does the author credit this response?
 - c. In 11:8, Saul and the Israelite forces are numbered in the city of Bezek. This is more than 40 miles north of Gibeah, Saul's home.
 - 1) Is there any indication of how they got there or why they chose to meet at Bezek? (A Bible map may be helpful at this point.)
 - 2) The reports of the numbers of two groups of men – 300,000 from all Israel; 30,000 from Judah. What do these pieces of information tell us?
 - d. In 11:9, the messengers from Jabesh Gilead were sent back to the city with a message.
 - 1) What was the message?
 - 2) The author recorded the response of the men of Jabesh Gilead.
 - a) In view of the message that was sent to Jabesh Gilead, how would you have recorded their response?
 - b) We must assume that the Jabesh response was properly recorded. Is there any reason why the people would have to react in this manner?
 - e. In view of the message the men of Jabesh Gilead received in 11:9,
 - 1) Was the message in 11:10 an honest message?
 - 2) Why would they have to say this?
 - 3) Would it have been more honest to say nothing?
 - f. In 11:11, the author described the battle plan and the way it was carried out.
 - 1) The author mentioned that the Israelite forces were divided into three companies. What advantage would this produce for them?
 - 2) They came into the camp "in the morning watch." What are the advantages of this move?
4. In 11:12-13, Saul refused to allow anyone to kill his opponents.
- a. In I Samuel 11:12, the scene changes.
 - 1) Though the text does not tell us, where does it appear that this takes place?
 - 2) If you were writing a chronology for this chapter. What time span would you attach to 11:11-13?
 - 3) Which group is speaking to Samuel in this verse.
 - a) What are they preparing to do?
 - b) To whom are they preparing to do this?
 - b. In 11:13, Saul took a very strong stand.
 - 1) What was his stand?
 - 2) On what basis did Saul take this stand?
 - 3) On the basis of his previous conduct, would you suggest that this was his usual stance or was it unusual?
5. In I Samuel 11:14, 15, Samuel gathered all Israel to the city of Gilgal to make sacrifices.
- a. In 11:14, Samuel issued a command/invitation to all Israel to "go to Gilgal to renew the kingdom there." What does this mean?
 - b. In 11:15, the people of Israel went to Gilgal as Samuel commanded.
 - 1) What did they do?
 - 2) Look at the list you just put together. How do these activities relate to each other?

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- 3) The chapter concludes with the statement, "And there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly."
How would you associate this statement with the rest of the verse? With the rest of the chapter?
6. Reflect upon the teachings of this chapter.
 - a. What have you learned?
 - b. In what possible ways can this relate to your life? To your circumstances?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 12

SAMUEL'S SOLEMN RETIREMENT SPEECH – I SAMUEL 12:1 – 25

1. There are only three paragraphs in the twelfth chapter of I Samuel. On the following table, write a brief summary of eight words or less for each paragraph.

12:1-5	
12:6-18	
12:19-25	

2. In I Samuel 12:1-5, Samuel at the time of his retirement, asked Israel to declare their witness before the LORD.
- In 12:1, 2, Samuel began his farewell address to Israel.
 - How would you characterize the atmosphere of his message?
 - There is a contrast in these two verses. What two things is he contrasting?
 - In 12:3, 4, Samuel continued his farewell address to Israel.
 - What does Samuel mean when he said, "Bear witness against me"?
 - Why does he ask these four questions?
 - In 12:4, the people responded to Samuel's questions.
 - What did they say?
 - What are they trying to say to him?
 - Why was this necessary?
 - In 12:5, there is a change of tone.
 - Why is the LORD witness against these people?
 - Samuel spoke of "His anointed." Of whom was he speaking?
3. In 12:6-18, Samuel issued a warning to the people of Israel.
- In 12:6, Samuel begins his sermon. He spoke of Moses and Aaron.
 - What have they to do with these people?
 - What is Samuel trying to say?
 - In 12:7, Samuel challenged the people.
 - What does he mean when he said, "take your stand"?
 - Why would Samuel want to plead with them concerning the righteous acts of the LORD for them and for their fathers?
 - In 12:8, Samuel continued by a specific statement concerning Jacob and their fathers in Egypt.
 - Again, what is this about?
 - What does this have to do with the people to whom Samuel was speaking?
 - What is Samuel trying to establish here?
 - In 12:9, 10, Samuel draws a contrast with 12:6-8.
 - What does Samuel contrast?
 - In what way, if any, are these people doing what Samuel described in 12:9, 10?
 - Why is Samuel doing this?
 - In 12:11, Samuel talked about God sending four men to deliver Israel.
 - Who are Jerubbaal, Bedan and Jephthah?
 - What did each of the four men in this verse do that resulted in Israel's deliverance and security?
 - What does this have to do with the people to whom Samuel is speaking?
 - In 12:12, Samuel talked with Israel about an incident that had recently happened to them.

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- 1) What does Israel's response to Samuel, "NO, but a king shall reign over us," have to do with Samuel's response, "although the LORD was your king"?
 - 2) Compare the way Samuel refers to deity in this verse with the way he refers to deity in the rest of this chapter. What difference, if any, does this make?
 - g. In 12:13, there seems to be a contradiction.
 - 1) What is this apparent contradiction?
 - 2) What does it mean?
 - 3) How would you describe Samuel's attitude in this verse?
 - h. In 12:14, there is an observable change in Samuel's message.
 - 1) What is this change?
 - 2) This is a conditional statement
 - a) What conditions does Samuel identify?
 - b) Explain each condition?
 - c) What result does Samuel promise?
 - i. In 12:15, Samuel makes a second conditional statement
 - 1) What are the two conditions Samuel mentions?
 - 2) What result does Samuel promise?
 - 3) How would you compare or contrast the conditional statements of 12:14 and 12:15?
 - j. In 12:16, Samuel issued a challenge to Israel.
 - 1) What does Samuel mean, "even now take your stand"?
 - 2) What is Samuel asking of them?
 - k. In 12:17, there is a change in atmosphere.

What is the change?

What is Samuel trying to accomplish in this verse?

Why does Samuel see asking for a king as great wickedness?
 - l. In 12:18, Samuel called upon the LORD to send thunder and rain on Israel's harvest.
 - 1) How would you describe this action?
 - 2) If you were Samuel, why would you do this?
 - 3) One can understand why the people might be afraid of the LORD, but why would they be afraid of Samuel?
4. In I Samuel 12:19-25, Samuel both comforts and warns the people of Israel.
- a. In 12:19, the people responded to Samuel's message.
 - 1) Observe that they requested Samuel to pray for them to "the LORD your God." What did they mean by this identification?
 - 2) Read this verse carefully two or three times.
 - a) Is this repentance?
 - b) If so, how would you describe this repentance?
 - b. In 12:20, Samuel spoke again to the people. Again in this verse there is an apparent contradiction.
 - 1) What is this apparent contradiction?
 - 2) How would you describe Samuel's tone in this verse.
 - c. In 12:21, Samuel issued an instruction to the people.
 - 1) What is this instruction?
 - 2) What reason does he give?
 - 3) What does this verse tell us about the nature of sin?
 - d. In 12:22, Samuel gave an explanation.
 - 1) What explanation does he give?
 - 2) Compare/contrast this verse with 12:18. What did you learn?

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

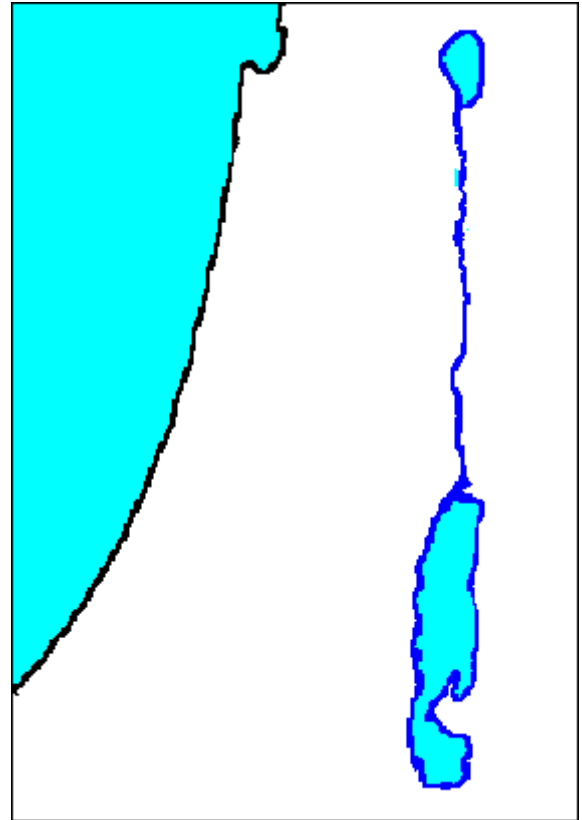
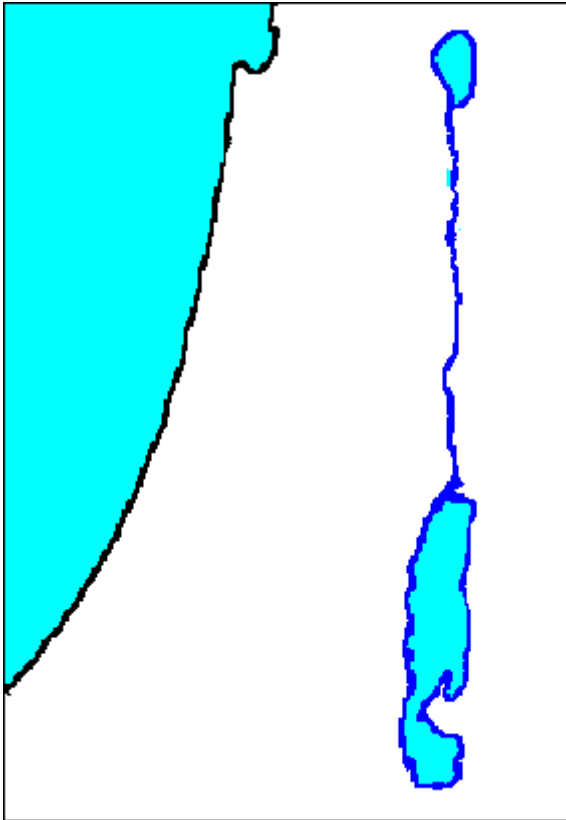
- e. In 12:23, Samuel made a personal commitment.
 - 1) What is his commitment?
 - 2) This is Samuel's farewell address as the leader of Israel. How, then, is he going to instruct these people?
 - 3) In what way would it be a sin against the LORD to cease to pray for Israel?
 - f. In 12:24, Samuel gave Israel three instructions.
 - What are the three instructions?
 - What reason does he give for these instructions?
 - g. In 12:25, the closing verse of the chapter, Samuel issued another warning in the form of a conditional statement.
 - 1) What was his warning ?
 - 2) Study the promise Samuel made. What is obviously ironic about it?
5. In conclusion of the study of chapter 12, we do not have a king and no one is asking for a king. In what way can you apply the message of this chapter to your life.?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 13

SAUL OFFERED A BURNT OFFERING – I SAMUEL 13:1 – 23

1. There are five paragraphs in the thirteenth chapter of I Samuel. On the following table, write a brief summary of each paragraph in eight words or less.

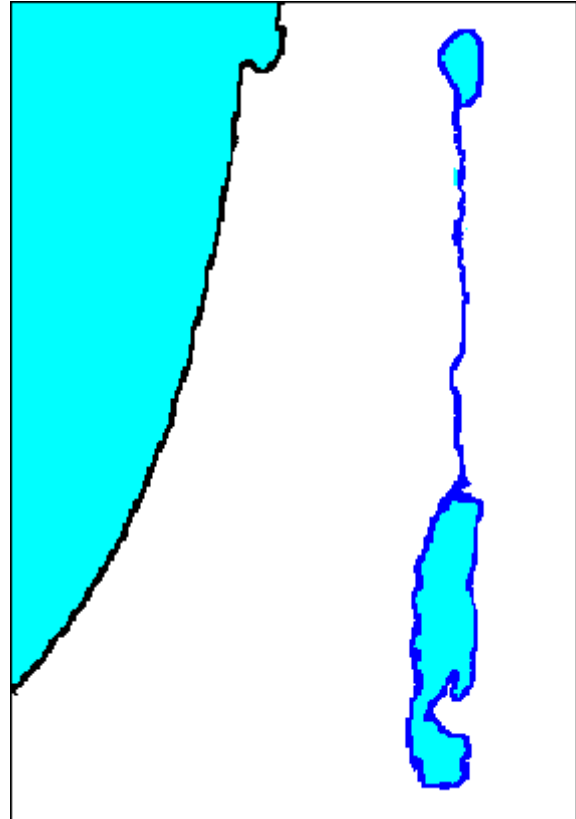
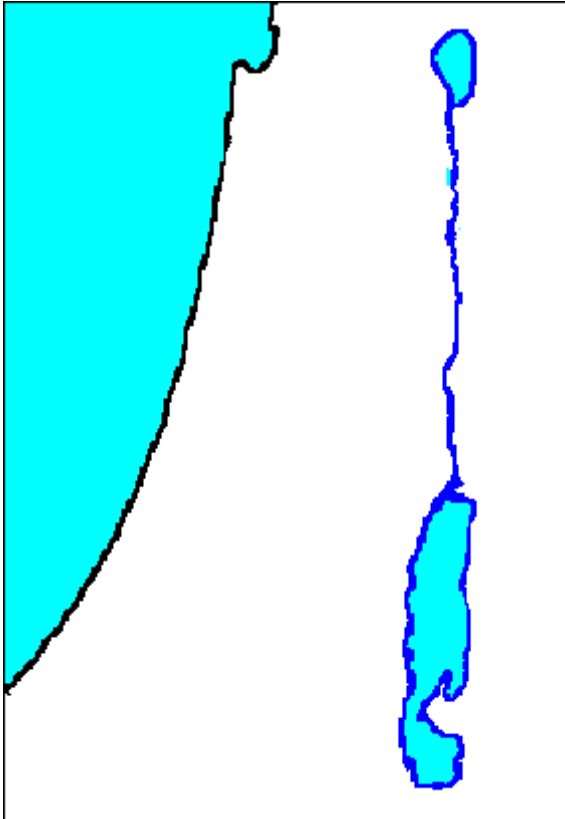
13:1 - 4	
13:5 - 7	
13:8 - 15a	
13:15b - 18	
13:19 - 23	



2. In I Samuel 13:1-4, Saul initiated war with the Philistines.
- In 13:1, the author attempted to explain the length of Saul's reign. What purpose would be served by this action?
 - In 13:2, Saul enlisted men to serve in his army. Attempt to explain Saul's strategy of deployment of troops using this map.
 - Why would Saul place 2,000 men with himself in Michmash?
 - Why would he place 1,000 men with Jonathan in Gibeah?
 - What does this suggest about Saul?
 - In 13:3, Jonathan destroyed the Philistine garrison at Geba. In this verse, there is a hint that both Saul and the Philistines were surprised by this turn of events. Why would this be?
 - In 13:4, Israel heard news of the victory over the Philistines in Geba.

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- 1) In 13:3, the text says, "Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines." In 13:4, the text says, "The news that Saul had smitten the garrison of the Philistines. How can we explain this difference?
- 2) Why would Saul summon the people to Gilgal?
- 3) What does this say about Saul?



3. In I Samuel 13:5-7, the Philistines counter-attacked.
 - a. In 13:5, the author described the Philistine battle plan.
 - 1) On this map, point out the battle plan.
 - 2) Using a biblical atlas map, identify the pluses and minuses as far as the Philistine location is concerned.
 - 3) Using the biblical atlas map, again, identify the pluses and minuses for the Israelite army in this situation.
 - b. In 13:6, the author described the flight of Israel when they realized the threat of the Philistines. Why would the people of Israel do this?
 - c. In 13:7, the author continued to describe the flight of the Israelites. Why would these people flee east of the Jordan River rather than flee west into the mountains and caves as others had?
4. In I Samuel 13:8-15a, Saul made a sacrifice because Samuel was late.
 - a. In 13:8, 9, the author described Saul's dilemma.
 - 1) The author listed two reasons why Saul made the sacrifice. What are they?
 - 2) There is a principle involved in Saul's decision to make the sacrifice. What is that principle?
 - b. In 13:10, the inevitable happened. Saul panicked because the people were leaving him quickly. Samuel was late and Saul felt he had to act. As soon as he did, Samuel came.
 - 1) Why would Saul go out to meet Samuel?

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- 2) Could Saul have known he was doing something forbidden by God?
 - c. In 13:11, 12, Samuel confronted Saul.
 - 1) How would you describe Samuel's confrontation?
 - 2) How would you describe Saul's response?
 - 3) What reasons did Saul give for his actions?
 - 4) How valid were these reasons?
 - 5) How did Saul confess? How did he repent?
 - d. In 13:13, 14, Samuel told Saul the consequences of his known disobedience.
 - 1) What were the consequences Samuel described?
 - 2) Read I Samuel 13:13, 14 carefully. Then read II Samuel chapter 12 just as carefully.
 - a. In what ways are the two situations similar?
 - b. In what ways are the two situations different?
 - e. In 13:15a, Samuel left the city.
 - 1) On this map, trace the trip that Samuel took.
 - 2) Compare this parting with that reported in chapter nine.
5. In I Samuel 13:15b-18, the Philistines look for Saul
- a. In 13:15b-16, Saul numbered his men and set up a defensive camp in Geba.
 - 1) Using a Bible Atlas map, indicate, on the map to the left, where the Israelite and Philistine camps were located.
 - 2) From the same Atlas map, discover the kind of terrain to be found in each camp area.
 - b. In 13:17, 18, the author spelled out the war plan being initiated by the Philistines. On this lower map, show how the war would proceed. Explain how it would work.
6. In I Samuel 13:19-23, The Philistines prepared for a lopsided battle
- a. In 13:19 – 21, the author inserted a parenthesis.
 - 1) What is this parenthesis?
 - 2) What is the purpose of this law the Philistines imposed?
 - 3) What did this law do to Israel?
 - b. In 13:22, the author made a shocking announcement.
 - 1) What is this announcement?
 - 2) What problem does this uncover?
 - 3) How then would the army of Israel defend itself?
 - c. In 13:23, the author gave us some information that would be crucial in battle. What is it?
7. Review your study of chapter 13. Identify the common thread that runs throughout this chapter.
- a. What is that common thread?
 - b. What illustrations of it do you see in this chapter? What difference will this discovery make in you?

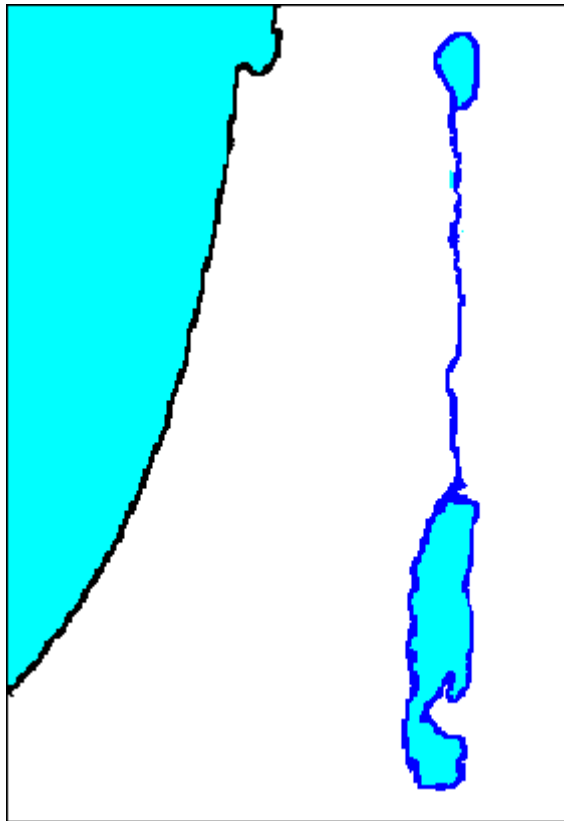
QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 14

JONATHAN ROUTED THE PHILISTINES – I SAMUEL 14:1 - 52

1. There are nine paragraphs in this lengthy chapter of I Samuel. On the following table, write a brief summary of eight words or less for each paragraph

14:1-5	
14:6-15	
14:16-23	
14:24-30	
14:31-35	
14:36-42	
14:43-48	
14:49-51	
14:52	

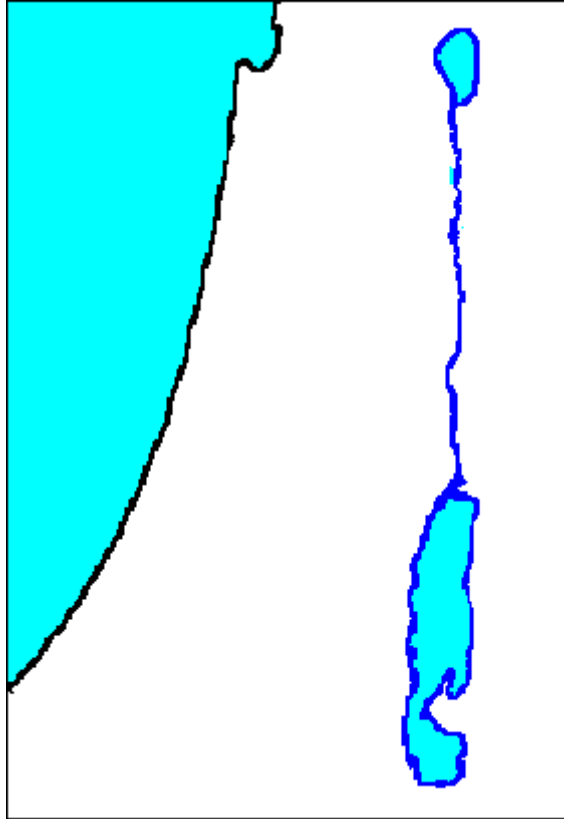
2. In I Samuel 14:1-5, Jonathan scouted out the Philistine forces.
- a. In 14:1, the author gives us information about Jonathan and his relationship with his father.
- 1) What does the author say about the relationship between Jonathan and Saul?
 - 2) What does this verse tell us about Jonathan?



- b. In 14:2, the author gives some geographic information. On this map, locate the following
- 1) The Philistine camp as recorded in 13:23.
 - 2) The location of Jonathan as assumed in 14:1.
 - 3) The location of Saul as identified in 14:2
 - 4) Study this map. What conclusions can you draw from this study?

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- c. In 14:3, you have two different kinds of information.
 - 1) Identify these pieces of information.
 - 2) What do these pieces of information have to do with each other?
 3. What message is the author trying to convey with this information?
- d. In 14:4, the author gives us some information about the area in which both the Philistines and Jonathan were located. What has the author told us in this verse?
- e. In 14:5, the author gives us some additional geographical information.

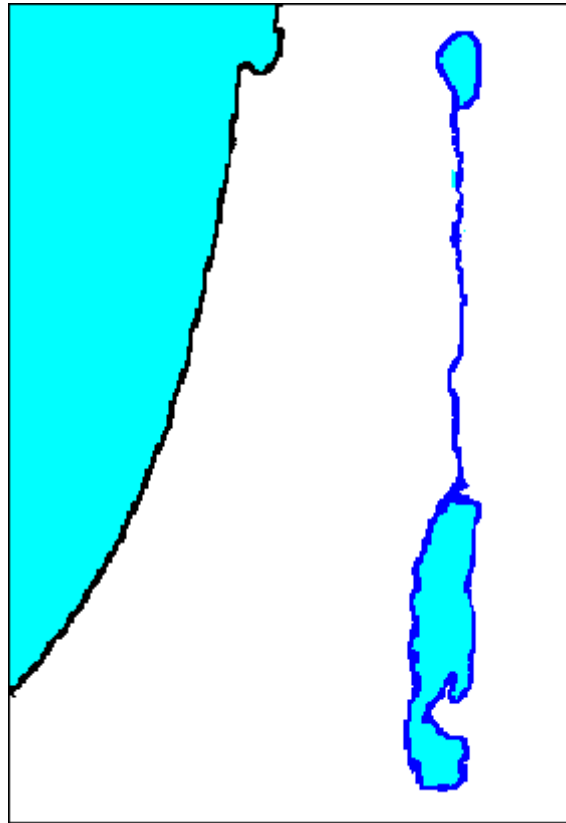


- 1) On this map identify the location of the places the author mentions.
 - 2) Study this map for additional information.
 - a) The Philistines intentionally came to this place. In view of the information on this map, why would they choose this spot?
 - b) In view of the location of both Saul and Jonathan, what appears to be their strategy?
3. In I Samuel 14:6-15, Jonathan and his armor bearer slew 20 Philistines.
- a. In 14:6, Jonathan decided to go on the offensive.
 - 1) Who went with him?
 - 2) Why would he make this choice as opposed to other possibilities?
 - 3) What was the basis of Jonathan's decision?
 - 4) Look carefully at Jonathan's choice of the name he used for deity. What does this suggest?
 - 5) How would you describe Jonathan's attitude as portrayed in this verse?
 - b. In 14:7, the author described the attitude and commitment of Jonathan's armor bearer. How would you describe this?
 - c. In 14:8, the author quotes an exchange between Jonathan and his armor bearer.
 - 1) What does this say about Jonathan?
 - 2) Compare this image of Jonathan with the picture of Saul you see in 14:1-7.
 - d. In 14:9, 10, Jonathan outlined his battle plan with his armor bearer.

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- 1) What attitude do you detect in these verses?
 - 2) In 14:10, Jonathan makes a statement about what God will do. How did he know this?
 - 3) Jonathan used the name "LORD" to identify deity. What does this suggest?
 - e. In 14:11, 12, Jonathan and his armor bearer exposed themselves to the Philistines.
 - 1) There is a comparison in these verses. What can we discover about each side of this comparison?
 - 2) Comment on Jonathan's response to the Philistine invitation.
 - f. In 14:13, 14, the author describes the encounter between Jonathan and these Philistines. In view of the fact that this is two men against more than 20 Philistines, how would you describe this engagement? (remember that in 13:22, only Saul and Jonathan had real weapons of war.)
 - g. In 14:15, the author reports the Philistine reaction to Jonathan's mission. There are two contributing factors to this response.
 - 1) What are these factors?
 - 2) How do they relate to each other?
4. In I Samuel 14:16-23, The Philistines are in disarray and kill each other.
- a. In 14:16, Saul's watching guards observed something happening in the Philistine camp. What did they see?
 - b. In 14:17, 18, the guards reported this activity to Saul.
 - 1) What was his response and his attitude?
 - 2) What is the significance of the ark of the Covenant being on the field of battle rather than in the temple?
 - c. In 14: 19, 20, the tide of battle has turned.
 - 1) How can you account for this great change?
 - 2) How can we explain Saul's instruction to the priest to "withdraw your hand"?
 - 3) The author, in verse 19, wrote, "every man's sword was against his fellow and there was great confusion." About whom is he writing – Jews or Philistines?
 - d. In 14:21, the writer introduces some surprising information.
 - 1) What is this surprising information?
 - 2) How can we account for this?
 - e. In 14:22, the author reported on some unexpected help in the battle.
 - 1) Where did this help come from?
 - 2) Why were these people in this location?
 - 3) In what way could they be helpful?
 - f. In 14:23, the author gives a short wrap-up of this battle.
 - 1) How did he express it?

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

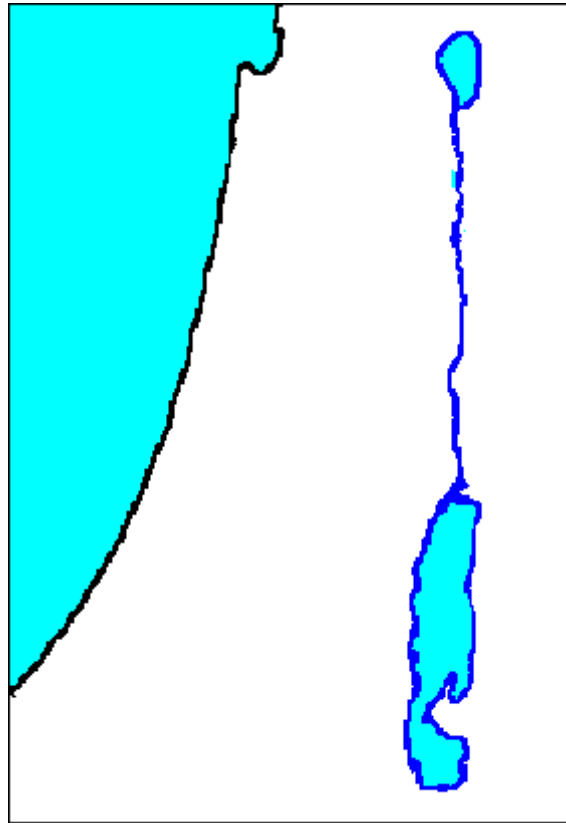


- 2) On this map, identify the critical locations we are talking about at this point of the study.

5. In I Samuel 14:24-30, Jonathan innocently disobeyed Saul's curse.
 - a. In 14:24, there is a difficult thing taking place in Israel.
 - 1) What happened?
 - 2) What would be the consequences of such an action?
 - 3) What major rule of warfare has been violated?
 - b. In 14:25, the author spoke of "people" rather than soldiers.
 - 1) Is there anything significant about this change?
 - 2) If there is a significance, what is it?
 - c. In 14:26-28, the author reported the result of Saul's oath. If you were one of these people and saw Jonathan eat, what would you have done?
 - d. In 14:29, 30, Jonathan responded to the news the people told him.
 - 1) How would you describe Jonathan's response?
 - 2) How would you describe Jonathan's emotional frame of mind?

6. In I Samuel 14:31-35, Israel devastated the Philistines and ate meat with blood.
 - a. In 14:31, the author described an expedition against the Philistines.

Questions for I Samuel 1-15



- 1) Look carefully at a map of this area and list two things that posed major problems for Saul's forces.
 - 2) We should keep in mind as we reflect upon this venture that Saul's forces were outnumbered many times over.
 - b. In 14:28, the author stated that the troops were "weary." In 14:31, the author said that these people were "very weary." What, if anything, is the significance of this information?
 - c. In 14:32, the author reported on a very rash action that the people took.
 - 1) What was that action?
 - 2) How can we account for this unusual action?
 - d. In 14:33, 34, Saul discovered the action of the people.
 - 1) How would you describe his reactions?
 - 2) If you were one of the people,, how would you feel?
 - e. In 14:35, Saul built "an altar to the LORD."
 - 1) What is your initial reaction to this move by Saul?
 - 2) The author commented that this is the first altar Saul built to the LORD. What, if any, significance do you attach to this comment?
7. In I Samuel 14:36-42, Jonathan's trespass was disclosed.
- a. In 14:36, there is a contrast between Saul and the people on one side and the priests on the other.
 - 1) Describe this contrast and its implications.
 - 2) What does this say about Saul?
 - 3) What does this say about the priests?
 - b. In 14:37, Saul inquired of God, but God did not answer him.
 - 1) How would you describe Saul's prayer?
 - 2) If you were Saul, what would your conscience prompt you to do?
 - 3) Why would God not answer?
 - c. In 14:38, Saul took the next step in seeking guidance.

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- 1) What was that step?
 - 2) How would you evaluate Saul's attitude in this action?
 - d. In 14:39, Saul made another oath.
 - 1) What is your immediate reaction to this oath?
 - 2) How would you describe the people's reaction?
 - e. In 14:40, 41, Saul pursued his attempt to discover the sinner. Saul called for a determination whether the sin was with the troops or with himself and Jonathan.
 - 1) What difference would this make?
 - 2) Why would you suppose the people encouraged Saul, "Do what seems good to you"?
 - 3) If you were one of the people, what would you think about the results reported in 14:41?
 - f. In 14:42, the lot was cast again and Jonathan was indicted.
 - 1) If you were Saul, would you have been surprised?
 - 2) Think carefully about casting lots at all. Is this an appropriate tool for believers in God?
8. In I Samuel 14:43 – 48, the people rescued Jonathan from Saul.
- a. In 14:43, Saul verbally attacked his son, Jonathan. In this verse, Jonathan confessed his actions and presented himself for punishment. What does this tell you about this man?
 - b. In 14:44, Saul took an oath against his son Jonathan.
 - 1) What does this oath accomplish?
 - 2) Reflect upon the necessity of death in this instance. What do you think?
 - c. In 14:45, the people and the army intervened in Saul's determination to put his son Jonathan to death.
 - 1) What did the people mean when they said, "Must Jonathan die, who has brought about this deliverance in Israel, Far from it!"?
 - 2) These people then delivered a challenge to Saul. Why did they have to add the words, "As the LORD lives"?
 - 3) This was obviously a successful challenge to Saul. What did it mean to him?
 - d. In 14:46, Saul abruptly changed his strategy.
 - 1) Why would he do that?
 - 2) Why would the Philistines go home when they had not reasserted their superiority in battle?
 - e. In 14:47, 48, you see a brief review of Saul's accomplishments. What does this mean at this point?
9. In I Samuel 14:49-51, the author rehearses the lineage of Saul.
- a. Why would he do this?
 - b. What does it add to the story of I Samuel?
10. In I Samuel 14:52, the author summarizes Saul's battle experiences with the Philistines.
- a. What is the point of this summary?
 - b. The author concludes the chapter saying that Saul started to develop his army. What message did this send?
11. Review your study of I Samuel chapter 14. What spiritual lessons have you learned in this study?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 15

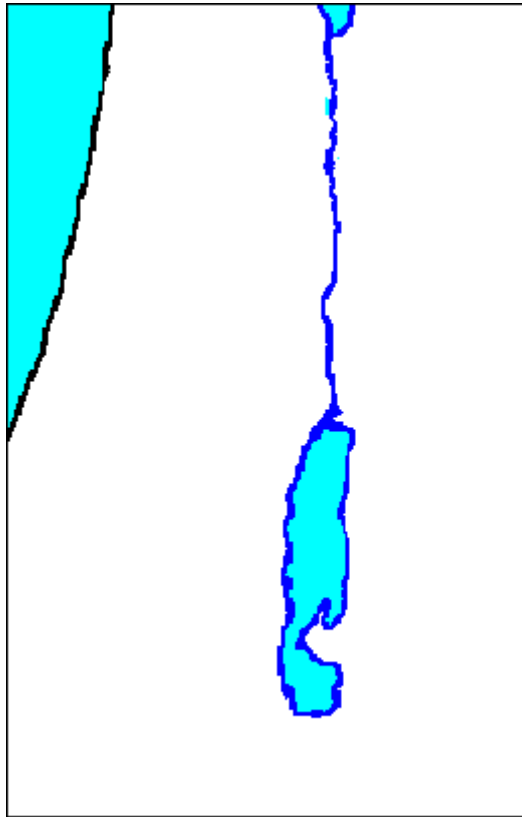
SAUL DISOBEYED GOD'S COMMAND CONCERNING AMALEK – I SAMUEL 15:1 – 35

1. There are six paragraphs in I Samuel chapter 15. On the following table, write a summary of eight words or less for each paragraph.

15:1-3	
15:4-9	
15:10-16	
15:17-23	
15:24-33	
15:34, 35	

2. In I Samuel 15:1-3, Samuel commanded Saul, smite Amalek, destroy everything. In these verses, Samuel made it clear to Saul exactly what God wanted him to do.
- In 15:1, Samuel stressed the fact that he is the one God sent to anoint Saul king. Why does the author say Saul should listen?
 - In 15:2, Samuel explained why God was going to punish Amalek. Why was it?
 - In 15:3, Samuel instructed Saul to destroy Amalek along with everything. What does the author mean by the quote, "do not spare HIM?"
3. In 15:4-9, Saul destroyed Amalek and the people, but spared the king and the best animals.
- In 15:4, Saul set out to carry out this command.
 - How does numbering the people help accomplish this goal?
 - What does the author mean when he reported, "200,000 foot soldiers and 10,000 men of Judah?"
 - In 15:5, 6, Saul prepared for battle:
 - In 15:5, Saul set an "ambush."
 - What is an ambush?
 - Compare this tactic with the way Saul fought other battles. What did you learn?
 - Saul urged the Kenites to leave the city. Identify two reasons he would have for this action.

Questions for I Samuel 1-15



- a) In 15:7, the author described the way this battle was fought. On this map, trace the movement of the battle. Approximately how far did they travel?
 - b) In 15:8, 9, The author described the victory of Saul. Compare 15:8, 9 with 15:3. What did you learn?
4. In I Samuel 15:10-16, Samuel confronted Saul's disobedience.
- a. In 15:10, 11, The LORD spoke to Samuel. What did the LORD mean when He said, "I regret that I have made Saul King?"
 - b. Why would Samuel "cry out to the LORD all night"?
 - c. In 15:12, the author reported about the monument Saul set up "for himself." What is the meaning of this report?
 - d. In 15:13, Saul greeted Samuel and made two statements. Study these two statements and record your observations.
 - e. In 15:14, Samuel responded to Saul's two statements. What does Samuel imply by these words?
 - f. In 15:15, Saul responded to Samuel's penetrating question. Study this verse very carefully. Then compare 15:15 with 15:9. What did you learn?
 - g. In 15:16, Samuel said, in response to Saul's explanation, "wait." Why would Samuel say this?
5. In I Samuel 15:17-33, Saul gave his excuses.
- a. In 15:17, 18, Samuel reviewed the LORD'S dealings with Saul. Why would he do this?
 - b. In 15:19, Samuel responded to Saul's explanation. Study this verse carefully. Now, compare this verse with Saul's statement in 15:13. What did you learn?
 - c. In 15:20, 21, Saul defended his actions.
 - 1) What does Saul really say?
 - 2) Compare this defense with the report found in 15:8, 9. What did you learn?
 - d. In 15:22, 23, Samuel responded to Saul's defense.

Questions for I Samuel 1-15

- 1) In what way, if any, did Samuel refute Saul's statement?
 - 2) What did Samuel really say in these verses?
6. In I Samuel 15:24-33, Saul repented and the consequences came.
- a. In 15:24, 25, Saul's repentance is recorded.
 - 1) How do you define repentance?
 - 2) Did Saul repent?
 - 3) How do you know?
 - b. In 15:26, Samuel responded to Saul's request.
 - 1) How did Samuel respond?
 - 2) What difference would this make?
 - c. In 15:27-29, Saul reacted to Samuel's response.
 - 1) What was Saul's reaction?
 - 2) What did this reaction mean?
 - 3) What was Samuel's reaction?
 - 4) If you were Saul, how would you feel now?
 - d. In 15:30, Saul again confessed and again made a request. Study this verse very carefully.
 - 1) Specifically, what did Saul request?
 - 2) What would this request gain for Saul?
 - 3) In what way will Samuel's presence aid in Saul's worship?
 - e. In 15:31, Samuel agreed to Saul's request. Review 15:31 in view of the author's quotation in 15:26. How can we explain this turn of events?
 - f. In 15:32, 33, There is a dramatic change of direction.
 - 1) How would you describe the situation in 15:32?
 - 2) What, if any, contrast do you see there?
 - 3) In verse 33, Samuel explained the reason for killing Agag. Essentially, what did he say?
 - 4) It is one thing to kill a person. It is quite another thing to "Hew Agag to pieces before the LORD. How would you describe what Samuel did?
 - 5) How would you evaluate Samuel's actions in these two verses?
7. In 15:34, 35, Samuel separated permanently from Saul. In these two verses there is a very sad conclusion to the chapter.
- a. What is this sadness?
 - b. Describe, in detail, what the author meant when he said, "Samuel grieved over Saul."
 - c. What did the author mean when he said, "the LORD regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel"?
8. Reflect over your study of this chapter. What did you learn that will directly affect your spiritual walk?

Questions for I Samuel 1-15