

Notes on 1 Samuel 7 – 12

St. Jerome Adult Bible Study

1. What was the spiritual state of Israel before the assembly at Mizpah?
2. Why do the Philistines attack during the assembly at Mizpah and how is Israel's approach to battle different than in chapter 4?
3. "Ebenezer" means "stone of help" – why did Samuel set it in place?
4. In 1 Sam 7:3-4 we hear once more of Israel's betrayal by worshipping other gods – as Christians, we are adopted sons and daughters of Israel; how are we like them regarding other "gods"? Who, or what are some of those gods?
5. Samuel's sons "did not walk in his ways." How were they different? What was the seemingly direct result?
6. Why was Samuel upset about the people wanting a king? Was their rejection of Samuel the same as rejection of God? Was this yet another "turning away" from THE LORD?
7. What other king should the Israelites have remembered? Should they have foreseen problems in the future?
8. Outline the chain of events which the LORD used to put Saul where he wants him?
9. What is God's purpose for Saul? How does this illustrate God's mercy?
10. Why does Samuel anoint Saul privately in 10:1?
11. Why is Saul silent about being the king when speaking to his uncle about the donkeys?
12. Why does Samuel go through the long elimination process when he already knows that Saul is supposed to be the king?
13. Did his bitter words have any effect upon the Israelites?
14. How did Israel respond to their new king? Why the mixed reaction? Does this sound familiar?
15. I guess I would fight too if I got the message delivered with pieces of ox.
16. Does Samuel really believe that Israel will remain faithful? Is his advice for Israel alone or for us today as well? What challenges do we face?