

## 1 Samuel 7:2-17

So far in the story of 1 Samuel we have had highs and lows. We've seen a miraculous birth, promise of a king and Samuel's word coming to all of Israel. But in the last study we saw that word fulfilled in God's judgement of his people as they are defeated by the Philistines not once, but twice, his removal of apostate leaders and the ark's capture before God enacts his own defeat of the Philistines.

### Look at 6:19-7:2

What can we glean from these verses about the relationship of Israel to God at this point. Why do you think the author mentions the length of time the ark was at Kiriath Jearim?

### Verses 3-6

What changes and what does it involve?

### Verses 7-12

There seems to be a deliberate link between these events and 4:1-11. (Amongst other things, both are called Ebenezer.)

What are the big contrasts drawn between the two episodes in terms of:

- a) The people of Israel and their attitude?
- b) Their solution to the coming battle?
- c) The priests
- d) The result

### Verses 13-17

What were the consequences that followed all of this throughout Israel?

### Thinking it through

What does this chapter teach about what God wants for his people?

What sort of leader do the people of God need?

How does it point us to Jesus?