

Lesson 3-Homework Samuel's Ministry and Israel's Desire for a King

1st Samuel Chapters 7-9

Directions: Use your study bible, internet, or any other study source to help you with these questions.

1. Locate the following places and write down their geographical locations:

- Kiriath-jearim

- Shiloh

- Mizpah

2. The men of Kiriath-jearim brought the ark to Abinadab.

- What significance did Abinadab and Eleazar have in housing the ark?

- Why did the Israelites take the ark to Kiriath-jearim?

- Why didn't the Israelites take the ark to Shiloh?

3. The Israelites gathered at Mizpah.

- What happened after Samuel offered up a burnt offering?
- How did the Israelites conquer the Philistines?

4. The people wanted Samuel to appoint them a king.

- What prompted Israel to want a king?
- What had God predicted earlier in Deuteronomy 31:16, 20, and 29?

5. List the various demands a king would require.

- Why did Israel still want a king after Samuel explained a king's demands?
- How did God respond to Israel's request?

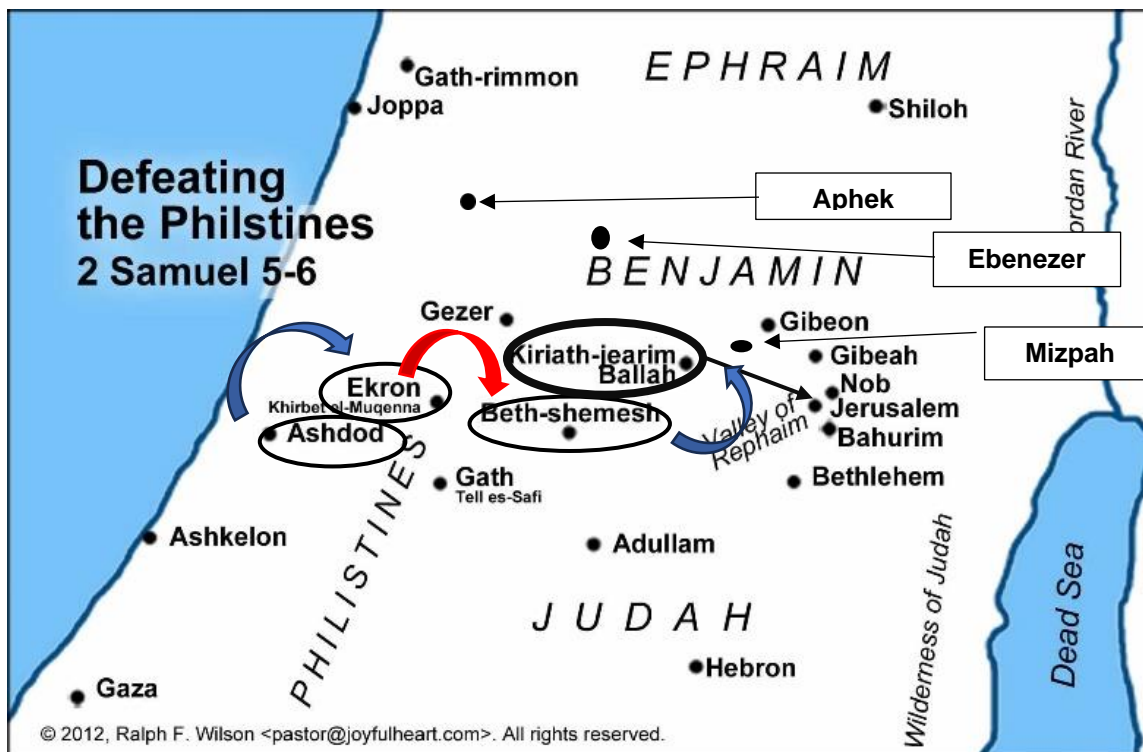
Lesson 3

1 Samuel 7-9 Samuel's Ministry and Israel's Desire for a King

Chapter 7-Samuel's Ministry

Vs. 1-2-Israel Turns to God

- The men of Kiriath-jearim took the Ark of the Lord from Beth-shemesh and brought it into the house of Abinadab, apparently a Levite, in the city of Kiriath-jearim, possibly a Levitical city.
- The ark remained at Kiriath-Jearim for twenty years and Israel lamented after the Lord.
- They consecrated Eleazar, Abinadab's son, to keep the ark.

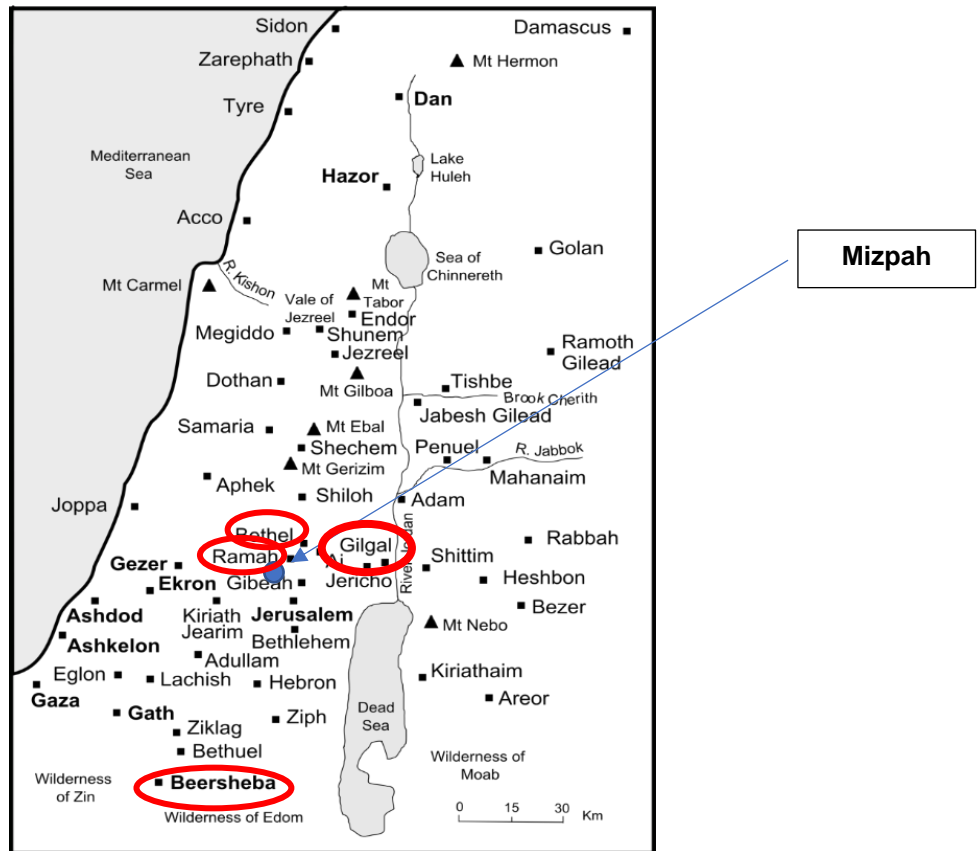


<http://www.jesuswalk.com/david/maps/philistine-defeat-2sam-5-1800x1170x300.jpg>

Vs. 3-6-Samuel Admonishes Israel

- Samuel told the people of Israel to remove all the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth. Samuel also told them to follow the Lord with all their heart.
- Samuel said God would deliver Israel from the Philistines if they served the Lord.
- The Israelites had fallen into idolatry.
- The Canaanites worshiped the Ashtaroth, the Canaanite fertility goddess and the female counterpart to Baal.

- Moses warned the Israelites what would happen if they did not follow God. (Deuteronomy 30:17-20).
- Moses gave Deuteronomy 30:1-5 as a promise if Israel returned to God. This prophecy specifically foretold Christ's **second coming**. It also shows the forgiveness God offers to those with a repentant heart.
- Samuel gathered all the people at Mizpah and prayed for them.

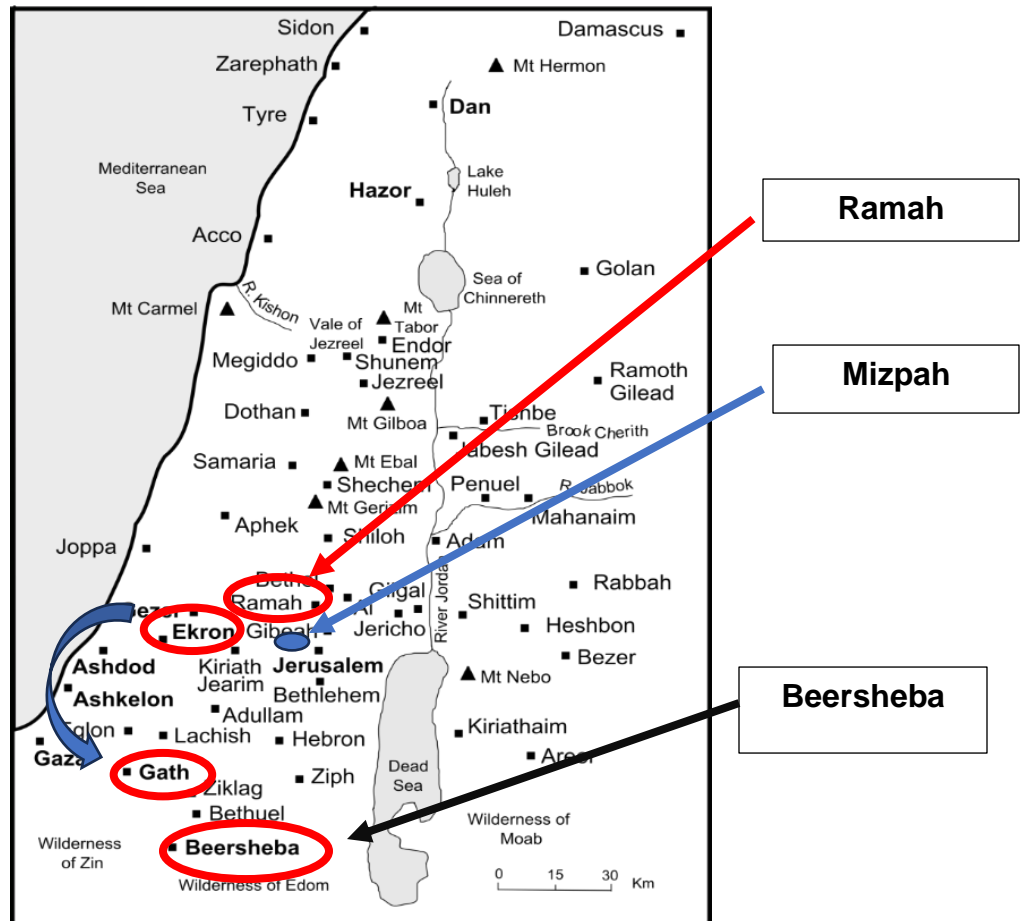


<https://www.thebiblejourney.org/biblejourney2/22-the-world-of-the-old-testament-journeys/ancient-israel/>

Vs. 7-17-The Philistines Attack Israel

- When the Philistines heard Israel had gathered at Mizpah, they decided to attack.
- Overcome with fear, the Israelites cried out to Samuel asking the Lord to save them.
- The Israelites finally recognized the weakness of their own strength and of their **foreign gods**.
- When Samuel offered up a burnt offering, scripture states the Lord thundered with a great thunder and confused the Philistines. With God's help, the Israelites defeated the Philistine army.

- In remembrance of the victory, Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpah and Shen and named it **Ebenezer** saying, “Thus far the Lord has helped us.”
- The Lord punished the Philistines all the days of Samuel.
- The Israelites regained the captured cities from Ekron to Gath.



<https://www.thebiblejourney.org/biblejourney2/22-the-world-of-the-old-testament-journeys/ancient-israel/>

- The Israelites experienced peace within the Amorite territory (Amorites a general name for the original inhabitants of Canaan).
- Samuel returned to his home in **Ramah** and continued to judge Israel.
- Samuel, a circuit-rider judge, traveled while performing religious, military, and civil duties.

Chapter 8-Israel Asks for a King

Vs. 1-8-Israel Asks for a King

- As Samuel grew older, he appointed his sons as judges over Israel. His sons, Joel and Abijah judged in Beersheba (**see map pg. 25**).
- Unfortunately, Joel and Abijah **did not** follow God's laws. They behaved dishonestly, took bribes, and perverted justice.
- Due to their behavior, the elders of Israel came to Samuel and asked for a King.
- Years earlier, Moses predicted Israel would not serve God (Deuteronomy 31:16, 20, 29).
- God intended Israel to serve Him as king, however, they wanted an earthly king.
- This request displeased Samuel and he prayed to the Lord. The Lord told Samuel to listen to the voice of the people and to give them a king.
- The Lord assured Samuel the people rejected **Him** and not Samuel.

Vs. 9-22-Samuel Warns Israel About Kingly Behavior

- Samuel warned a king would:
 - Take their **sons** for war
 - Establish-commanders of thousands and of fifties



<http://godcenteredmom.com/2011/08/03/hear-the-whisper-king-saul>

- Force the people to do the King's plowing and reaping
- Make weapons of war
- Take their **daughters** for perfumers, cooks, and bakers
- Take the best of their fields, vineyards, and olive groves
- Take a tenth of their seed and vineyards
- Take the best Israelites for male and female servants
- Take a tenth of their donkeys and flocks
- Samuel warned they would cry for help, but the Lord would not **answer** their voice.
- The Israelites refused to listen to Samuel's words. They wanted a king like the other nations. They wanted a king to judge them and go with them into battle.



<http://highland5thgradechina.pbworks.com/w/page/24643582/Chinese%20Warfare>

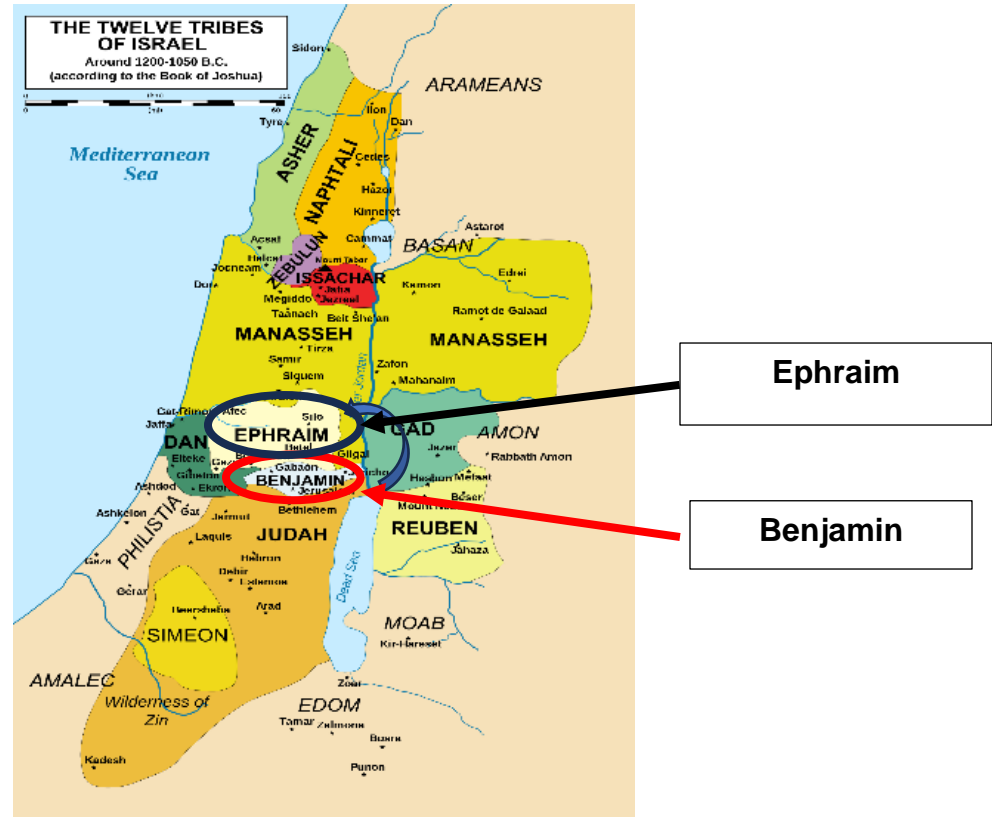
- Samuel told God what the people wanted, and the Lord granted them **their wish**.
- Samuel dismissed the men of Israel and told them to go home.

Chapter 9-Saul Chosen as King

Vs. 1-14-God Prepares Saul to rule as King

- **Saul**, born in the land of Benjamin to a man named Kish, stood taller and had a more handsome countenance than any man in Israel.
- Kish had great wealth and the people knew him as a man of **mighty valor**.

- When Kish's donkeys went missing, he asked Saul to take one of his servants and look for them.



<http://2016greetingcards.com/tag/2015-current-events-in-greece>

- After their long absence and not to worry his father, Saul suggested they return home.
- The servant recommended they seek **Samuel's** advice since they journeyed in the land of Zuph (a region in the hill country of Ephraim) and Samuel resided in the city for religious purposes.
- They could not provide a food offering for Samuel, so Saul's servant offered to give him a fourth of a silver shekel.
- Saul and his servant met some women of the city and asked where they might find Samuel.
- As it happened, Samuel had come to the city to offer a sacrifice in the high place. Typically, **hill-tops** made sacrifices easier to see.
- As Saul and his servant entered the city, they met Samuel coming out to the place of sacrifice.
- The day prior, the Lord revealed to Samuel he would meet Saul and should anoint him **ruler** over the people.
- The Lord told Samuel He heard and would answer the people's cry against the Philistines (The Lord shows His **mercy** and graciousness even when we disobey Him).

- Before Saul could explain about the donkeys, Samuel told Saul he would eat with him and not to worry about the donkeys.
- Samuel also told Saul Israel's hopes would rest upon his family.
- Saul, amazed at these words, wondered why God would choose him since he came from the **smallest** tribe.
- During the dinner, Samuel gave Saul the leg portion of meat. According to **the Law**, the leg and upper part belonged to the Levitical priest (Leviticus 7:32-33).
- Serving this portion of meat to Saul demonstrated God's plan for him.
- After dinner, Saul went to Samuel's home and spoke with him on the rooftop.
- The next day, as they went down to the edge of the city, Samuel told Saul about God's plan.

Summary

God never looks at us as too insignificant, too old, or too untalented for Him to use. We must believe God has a designed purpose for us. We should not worry about our future or the details of our future. We should allow God to direct our steps and accept the fact He knows best.

1st Samuel

Discussion Questions

Lesson 3

1st Samuel Chapters 7-9

1. The people of Kiriath-jearim took the ark into their territory. Kiriath-jearim, formerly a place associated with Baal worship (idolatry), apparently had reformed into a place of worship. America has seen many significant revivals throughout its history.
 - a. Is America ready for a revival? Explain.
 - b. What causes revivals?
 - c. Why do revivals seem to wane as time goes by?
 - d. What can we do to prepare for revival?
2. The Ark of God originally resided in Shiloh. However, Bible scholars feel the Philistines destroyed the city. God could have protected Shiloh but chose not to.
 - a. Can you think of a former Christian ministry that ceased to exist?
 - b. Why do some ministries last only for a time?
 - c. Are ministries intended to last forever?
 - d. Think of some new ministries that have formed over the last decades?
3. The Israelites fell into idolatry and chose not to follow God.
 - a. What causes some Christians lose their flame for serving God?
 - b. Have you ever experienced a weakening of your faith or for your Christian service? Why did this happen? How did you feel?
 - c. Why did the Israelites eventually return to God?
 - d. Do we find ourselves drawing closer to God during difficult times?
4. After the Israelite defeated the Philistines, Samuel placed a stone between Mizpah and Shen. Samuel called the stone Ebenezer meaning, "Thus far the Lord has helped us."
 - a. What significance did this monument have?
 - b. Do you think this stone had much of an effect on the people? Explain.
 - c. Have you ever erected a "spiritual Ebenezer stone" in your life?
 - d. Did that "spiritual stone" have lasting effects?
5. The children of Israel desperately wanted a king.
 - a. Why do you think Israel lost sight of God's protection?
 - b. What warnings did Samuel give the people if they asked for a king?
 - c. Have your desires ever hindered you more than helped you?
 - d. How can we tell the difference between God's voice and our own?