

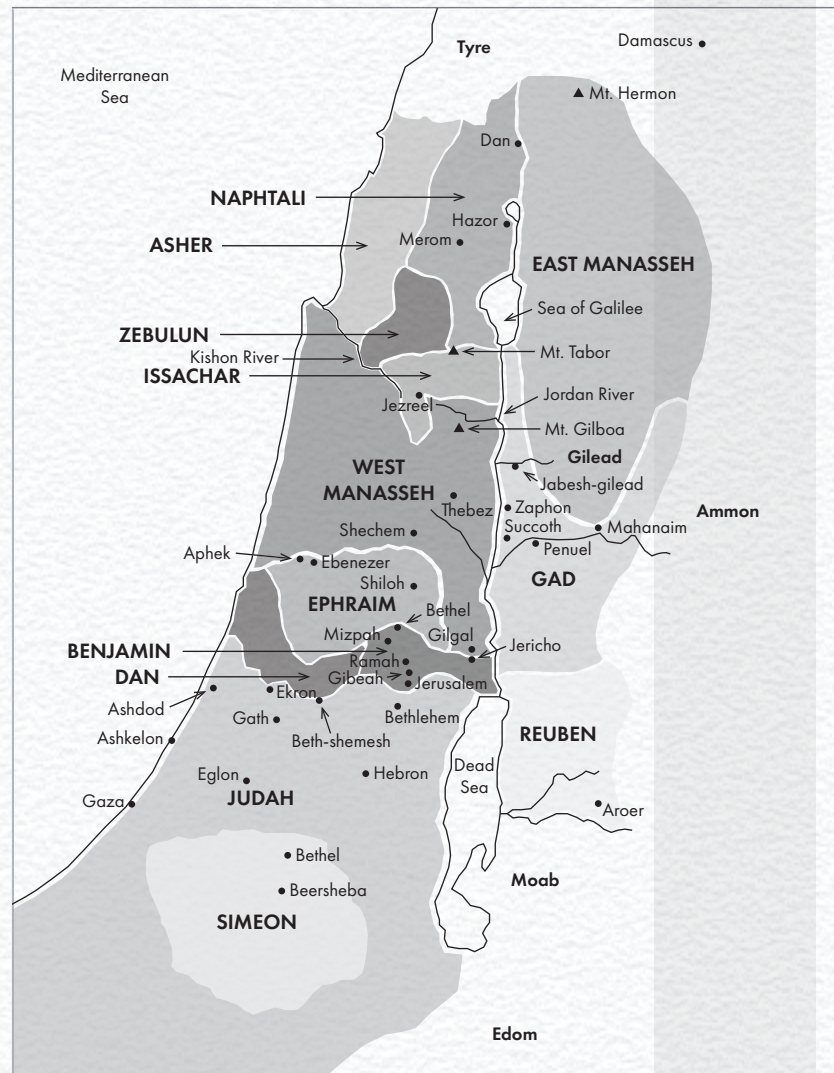
1 Samuel 7

WHEN

- Samuel was born in approximately 1100 B.C.
- Samuel lived until approximately 1012 B.C.

WHERE

- In 1 Samuel 7, the Philistines attacked the Israelites at Mizpah.
- Samuel's home was in Ramah.
- Samuel judged the Israelites in Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah (7:16).



CHARACTERS

- **Samuel** – He grew up in Shiloh under the care of Eli. He judged Israel until his death.
- **The Philistines** – The long-time enemies of Israel. They lived in the cities near the coast of the Mediterranean Sea (Gaza, Ekron, Ashkelon, etc.).

OUTLINE

- **THE ARK IS BROUGHT TO KIRIATH-JEARIM (7:1-2):**
 - + The men of Kiriath-jearim went to Beth-shemesh and took the Ark of the Covenant at their request.
 - + They brought the Ark to the house of man named Abinadab and “consecrated” his son, Eleazar, to care for it.
 - + It remained in his house for the next 20 years.
- **ISRAEL TURNS BACK TO THE LORD (7:3-6):**
 - + After suffering under the oppression of the Philistines, the Israelites lamented their state (7:2) and decided to repent of their disobedience to God.
 - + Samuel told them to put away their false gods, which they did.
 - + All the people gathered at Mizpah and Samuel prayed for them.
- **THE PHILISTINES ATTACK AT MIZPAH (7:7-17):**
 - + When the Philistines learned the Israelites were gathering at Mizpah, they sent an army to attack.
 - + Samuel offered a lamb as a sacrifice to God and cried out to the Lord to help them against the Philistines.
 - + The Lord answered by thundering with “a mighty sound” and He caused the Philistines to fall into a state of confused.
 - + Recognizing God’s aid, the Israelites attacked the Philistines and defeated them.
 - + Samuel set up a stone as a memorial and named it “Ebenezar,” saying, “Till now the Lord has helped us.”
 - + God did not allow the Philistines to oppress Israel anymore during the days of Samuel.
 - + Samuel judged Israel for the rest of his life.
 - + He went on a circuit through Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah and judged the people in each city.

APPLICATION

- A life in the service of the Lord can be lived in well in a small area of the world.
- In the New Testament, we read about people like Paul who traversed multiple countries to spread the gospel, but that isn’t the only way to be faithful to God.
- Samuel spent his entire life judging Israel in cities that weren’t much more than 50 miles apart.
- Community work and international work are different in nature but equal in value.