

**THE DISASTER AT APHEK,
AND THE CALAMITY IN SHILOH**
(1 Samuel 4)

I. THE BIRTH OF SAMUEL (1:1-2:11)

II. THE CHILDHOOD OF SAMUEL (2:12-3:21)

III. THE JUDGESHIP OF SAMUEL (4:1-7:17)

* What do we know about the Philistines?

A. The CAPTURE of the Ark of the Covenant

1. 1st BATTLE: The attack of the Philistines at Aphek resulted in _____ men of Israel dying in battle. (4:1-2)

* What did this indicate in light of God's previous promises to Israel?

* What should this remind each one of us?

2. The elders of Israel chose to put their faith in the _____, and they went about it the _____. (4:3)

* What does this tell us about their spiritual condition?

3. The strategy of the Israelites involved retrieving the _____ out of Shiloh. (4:3-7a)

* Had the Ark been brought to the battlefield before?

* How did Israel react when the Ark came into the camp?

* How did the Philistines react?

4. 2nd BATTLE: The defeat of the Israelites included the death of _____ foot soldiers, along with the Ark of the Covenant being _____ by the Philistines. (4:10-11)

* What does this indicate?

5. _____ and _____ are specifically identified as dying in this second battle. (4:11, 17)

* What should this remind you of?

6. *A Benjamite brought troubling news of the Philistine victory which...*

a. caused the city of Shiloh to _____. (4:12-13)

b. caused Eli to fall backwards and _____ and die. (4:14-18)

c. caused Phinehas' wife to _____ while giving birth to a son she deliberately named _____. (4:19-22)

* Why did God sovereignly allow Israel to be defeated at this time?

* What can you learn from all of this?