

**Jehovah Vindicates
His Holiness
1 Samuel 4-7**

I. God Proves His Holiness to Israel - 4

1. Israel is defeated by the Philistines – 1-2
They lost about 4,000 men
2. Evaluation brings a wrong conclusion – 3-4
Instead of repentance and prayer
They think the ark will assure God's presence
3. False concept of God
God is not a Genie or a Good Luck Charm
Some use Bible or religious object for good luck
4. Both armies see Ark as advantage – 5-8
Israel celebrates and Philistines are in fear
5. Good Luck Charm proven powerless – 9-11
Israel suffers a great defeat – loss of 30,000 men
The Ark was captured by the Philistines
Two sons of the Eli (the High Priest) are killed
6. News of great loss comes to Eli – 12-18
The city mourns the great loss – 12-13
Eli is overcome by the news and dies – 14-18
7. Daughter-in-law dies in childbirth – 19-22
She named her new born son Ichabod
Ichabod means "The Glory of God is departed"
8. Israel must see God for who He is
Not some good luck charm to be used by us

II. God Defends His Honor - 5

Philistines see Ark as a trophy of war

1. God defends His honor against Dagon – 1-7
In Ashdod god Dagon falls before the Lord – 1-5
People of Ashdod suffer from a plague – 6-7
2. God defends His honor in Gath – 8-9
That city also suffered a plague from God
3. Ark is taken to city of Ekron – 10
People of Ekron want no part of this
4. Philistines plan to return Ark – 11-12
Convinced that God is not a trophy of war

III. Sinners before the Holy God - 6

1. Philistines seek to appease God – 1-12
After the plagues Ark will be returned – 1-2
They will include a trespass offering – 3-5
Remember what God did to Egyptians – 6
Plan to prove if plagues were from God - 7-11
God proves that it was from Him – 12
2. Israelites treat Ark of God lightly – 13-21
Israel rejoices when Ark is returned – 14-15
God smites Israel when they look in the Ark
New appreciation for God's holiness – 19-21

IV. God Delivers His People - 7

1. Ark remains in one place 20 years – 1-2
People desire God's presence & blessing
2. Samuel calls for true repentance – 3-6

- Must put away their strange gods – 3-4
Samuel leads in prayer & confession – 5-6
3. Seek God's help when attacked – 7-9
Samuel leads them in worship
 4. Lord gives victory over Philistines – 10-14
People aware that God gave them victory
 5. Samuel judged Israel all his life – 15-17