

Questions for 1 Samuel 4:1-22

1. A) Are there any textual variants in verse 1 that are worth mentioning?
B) Who was instigating the battle? C) Why was Israel defeated? (Verse 1-2)

2. A) Why did Israel think that having the ark with them would help win the fight? B) Why was using the ark of the covenant in this way such a disastrous idea? (Verses 3-4)

3. A) How loudly did Israel shout when the ark came into the camp? B) What do the Philistines know about the Israelites past? C) How did Israel's plan to use the ark to win, backfire? (Verses 5-11)

4. A) What is the significance of torn clothes and dirt on the head? B) How is Eli described? C) How did Eli die? D) What are some of the positive and negative things we can learn from what was written about Eli? (Verses 12-18)

5. A) What happened to Phinehas' wife upon hearing all the terrible news? B) What does the name "Ichabod" mean? C) Why did she name her child this name and what could this tell us about her character? (Verses 19-22)