

“Intolerance Saves The Day”
1 Sam. 7:1-14

Approximate dates: 1116 Samuel born
1104 Battle at Aphek (Samuel is 12 yrs. old)
1084 Battle at Mizpah (Samuel is 32 yrs. old)

Preaching and repentance of nation (3-6).

- *7:3 = Conditional response based upon Mosaic covenant--Deut. 28.
- *Baal and Ashtaroth: 12:10, Jdgs. 3:7, 6:25,28, 2 Kgs. 17:16,17.

Panic and prayer at Mizpah (7-10a)

- *Philistines mistake repentance for rebellion!
- *Contrast the Jewish attitude here with their attitude in 4:1-5.

Philistines struck down as far as Beth-car (10b-14)

- *God confuses the Philistines, Ex. 14:24, 23:27, Josh. 10:10.
- *Philistine domination stopped (13) but Israel is still weak (13:19-23).

+Is tolerance leading us to ethical ruin? What had America better do?

Baal was a fertility god who is often pictured holding a lightning bolt (“rider on the clouds”). Ashtaroth was the mother goddess of love and war. Both were connected with sensuality and ritual child sacrifice.