1 Samuel Chapter 7

Please pray before beginning to read and study your bible. Repent of any sin or attitude that would prevent you from hearing the Holy Spirit and ask him to guide your heart and mind as you read. Read through the entire chapter first before going back to read and answer questions. Take notes when God reveals Himself to you.

Chapter 7

1. Why did the Israelites lament after the LORD? After all, according to v. 1, the ark was again in the possession of the Levites and kept by a sanctified priest in Kiriath Jearim and they had Samuel to lead them spiritually.
2. Read Leviticus chapter 26. What promises did God make to the Israelites if they remain faithful to Him and follow His commands? How does God promise to punish them if they reject his decrees and violate the covenant? Do you notice the stepwise progression in severity if warnings are ignored? According to vs. 40-42, what must the Israelites do to regain God's favor?
3. Samuel says that if the Israelites are returning to the LORD, they must do three things. What are they?
4. When the Israelites come together to confess their sin, fast, and worship the LORD, what does the enemy decide to do?
5. How does the Israelite response to the Philistine threat found in v. 8 differ from the plans made in chapter 4?
6. What did the LORD do to the Philistines? Could the people have attributed this to chance or a turn of luck? What had He already done, particularly in those localities that harbored the Ark of the Covenant (chapter 5), that may have also contributed to the Philistines' defeat?
7. Samuel set up a monument, a stone, between Mizpah and Shen to honor God and establish that the victors gave credit to the LORD for deliverance of the Israelites from the hands of their enemy. What was the name of this stone and what does the name mean?
8. This same name is given to the battleground and ultimately the town in which they saw the mighty hand of God work in their favor. What happened the last two times the Israelites gathered for war against the Philistines in the same location, 20 years earlier? Why was the outcome so different this time?
9. An often-overlooked part of the powerful hymn, "Come Thou Fount", mentions the word "Ebenezer". Take some time to meditate on what message the author, Robert Robinson, was conveying. Read a little about his life.

10. Can you find seven ways in which Samuel acted as the LORD's judge and priest for the Israelites in this chapter. What connections can you draw between Samuel's role and Christ's? How many of these responsibilities also fall on our shoulders, as a "royal priesthood" belonging to Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:9)?

Read Exodus 34: 6-7 and list the ways in which the LORD's character, as defined by Himself, is proven true in this biblical account. Thank God for His faithfulness in being who he says he is.

- Are you seeking God's favor without honoring Him with all your heart?
- Have you committed yourself to the LORD and serve Him only?
- Do you value anything in this world above Him?
- Repent of any idolatry, distraction, or hidden sin that has controlled you and kept you from pursuing God, hearing His voice, and discovering His perfect plan for your life.
- Praise the LORD for the times that He has delivered you, taught you an important lesson, or otherwise shown His power to you.
- Honor God with your own Ebenezer, a reminder of His love and faithfulness in your life.