

## VICTORY UNDER SAMUEL

I Samuel 7:2-17



When the Philistines had taken the Ark of the Covenant they put it into the temple of their big idol, but in the morning the idol had fallen down. They set up the idol again, but the next morning it had fallen and broken. Sickness and trouble began to come, so after several months the Philistines sent the Ark back to the land of Israel, but not to the tabernacle. The Israelites were very glad to have the Ark again, but they were growing very careless, so, after they had appointed a good man to put the Ark in a safe place and

take care of it, most of them forgot all about it.

Samuel did not forget. Year after year he grew until he was a man, wise and good. He prayed to God and lived as God wanted him to live, but the other people of Israel were not like Samuel. They made idols for themselves and they worshiped these idols as if they had never heard of the true God.

At last Samuel began to go from town to town, talking to the people about their own true God, and after a long time they promised to give up their idols. Samuel called for a great meeting in Mizpah, and there the people met and begged God's forgiveness and had a holy and wonderful service. But as they were praying, a message came. say-