

~EBENEZER 1 (83)

(Eb-en-e'zer) [Stone of Help]

- **A site near which Israel was twice defeated by the Philistines, resulting not only in the death of 34,000 Israelites, including Hophni and Phinehas, but also in enemy capture of the ark of the covenant. News of this latter event precipitated the death of Eli the priest.**
- **And the word of Samuel continued to come to all Israel. Then Israel went out to meet the Philistines in battle, and they took up camping alongside **Ebenezer**, and the Philistines themselves encamped in Aphek. (1 Samuel 4:1)**
- **And the Philistines proceeded to draw up in formation to meet Israel, and the battle went badly, so that Israel was defeated before the Philistines, who went striking down about four thousand men in closed battle line in the field. (1 Samuel 4:2)**
- **When the people came to the camp the older men of Israel began to say; Why did Yehowah defeat us today before the Philistines? Let us take to ourselves from Shiloh the ark of Yehowah's covenant, that it may come into our midst and may save us from the palm of our enemies. (1 Samuel 4:3)**
- **So the people sent to Shiloh and carried from there the ark of the covenant of Yehowah of armies, who is sitting upon the cherubs. And the two sons of Eli were there with the ark of the covenant of the true God, namely, Hophni and Phinehas. (1 Samuel 4:4)**
- **And it came about that as soon as the ark of the covenant of Yehowah came into the camp, all the Israelites broke out into loud shouting, so that the earth was in a stir. (1 Samuel 4:5)**
- **The Philistines also got to hear the sound of the shouting and began saying; What does the sound of this loud shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean? Finally they got to know that the ark of Yehowah itself had come into the camp. (1 Samuel 4:6)**
- **And the Philistines became afraid, because, they said; God has come into the camp! So they said; Woe to us, for such a thing as this never occurred before! (1 Samuel 4:7)**

- **Woe to us! Who will save us from the hand of this majestic God? This is the God that was the smiter of Egypt with every sort of slaughter in the wilderness. (1 Samuel 4:8)**
- **Show yourselves courageous and prove yourselves men, you Philistines, that you may not serve the Hebrews just as they have served you, and you must prove yourselves men and fight! (1 Samuel 4:9)**
- **Accordingly the Philistines fought and Israel was defeated, and they went fleeing each one to his tent, and the slaughter came to be very great, so that out of Israel there fell thirty thousand men on foot. (1 Samuel 4:10)**
- **And the ark of God itself was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died. (1 Samuel 4:11)**
- **So the news bearer answered and said; Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has also occurred a great defeat among the people, and also your own two sons have died, Hophni and Phinehas, and the very ark of the true God has been captured. (1 Samuel 4:17)**
- **And it came about that at the moment that he mentioned the ark of the true God, he began to fall from the seat backward beside the gate, and his neck got broken so that he died, because the man was old and heavy, and he himself had judged Israel forty years. (1 Samuel 4:18)**
- **As for the Philistines, they took the ark of the true God and then brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. (1 Samuel 5:1)**
- **Scholars tentatively place Ebenezer at Majdel Yaba, 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) Southeast of Aphek in the Plain of Sharon, where the Philistines were encamped.**