

## The literary structure of 1 Samuel 4-7

(The ark stories + Samuel's emergence)

**A. Israel is defeated** under Eli's rule even though the ark was present, due to Israel's sin and unfaithfulness – 4:1-10

**B. Eli's house is judged/ the ark is captured** – 4:11-22

**C. The ark in captivity** – the Lord defeats the Philistines – 5-6:11

**B<sup>1</sup>. The ark returns/ Levites of Beth-Shemesh are judged** – 6:12-7:2

**A<sup>1</sup>. The Philistines are defeated** under Samuel's rule after their repentance and restoration to God – 7:3-17

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\*In A Israel was defeated at Ebenezer. In A<sup>1</sup> the Philistines were defeated and this was memorialized by a stone named Ebenezer. These references to an Ebenezer form the bookends of this section.

- A and A<sup>1</sup> both have to do with a battle with the Philistines, but with opposite results.
- B and B<sup>1</sup> both have to do with judgment on the leaders of Israel - priests and Levites, and with the ark being captured and then returned.
- C is the center point and highlights that God is more than able to save Israel.