

**Close Reading Questions for High School Students on
Sefer Shmuel: Perek Hey - Vav
by Zvi Grumet**

פרק ה

1. To where did the פלשתים bring the ארון after they captured it? Why do you think they brought it there?
2. What happened in the building where they brought the ארון? What impact did it have on the פלשתים?
3. What happened to the residents of the cities to which the ארון was brought?
4. Based on their reactions to what was happening to them, how do you think the פלשתים understood the ארון?
5. Why do you think 'ה did all those things?

פרק ו

1. Can you identify how the people viewed the ארון in this פרק? Was it similar to or different from the way the פלשתים saw it?
2. How many of בני ישראל died in the first round of battle? How many in the second round?
3. Why would 'ה let the ארון get taken? Isn't that a חילול ה'?
4. ע'לי receives some bad news. Read the text carefully – which piece of bad news was, for him, the worst?
5. Notice the similarity between פסוק יד and פסוק ה'.
6. Find the similarities between the birth of כבוד and the birth of בנימין).
7. Even though it is not explicit in this פרק, later on, it becomes clear that the taking of the ארון led to the imminent destruction of שילה as a religious center. What sin of בני ישראל caused this great tragedy?
8. שילה is the first place we hear of the destruction of שילה. Look at that פרק and see if you can find the idea underlying his rebuke to the people and how it connects with this פרק.
9. What new aspect of ע'לי's leadership do we learn toward the end of this פרק?
10. Notice the order of bad news as reported to ע'לי and contrast it with the order of the bad news given to פנחס's wife.