

**Close Reading Questions for High School Students on  
Sefer Shmuel: Perakim Zayin-Chet  
by Zvi Grumet**

**פרק ז**

1. According to יהושע טו:ט, the town of קרית יערים was previously called בעל or בעלה (based on יהושע יח:יד). See also יהושע י"ז. How does this name change match with the opening four פסוקים of this פרק? Was this a Canaanite city or an Israelite one?
2. What was the long-term impact on the arrival of the ארון in קרית יערים?
3. How long of a time period does this פרק cover?
4. This פרק returns שמואל to the center of the story and contains the core of his accomplishments as a leader. What is his primary role?
5. How did שמואל try to build a positive cycle (the opposite of the one in ספר שופטים!) based on בני ישראל's behavior? What impact did שמואל's actions have on his own standing with the people?
6. Notice that the פרק opens by mentioning the ארון but almost immediately the ארון disappears as a focus. What replaces it as the central focus?
7. Look at the last פסוק in this פרק. Contrast this to the behavior of עלי and his sons in the beginning of the ספר. In what way does שמואל create an entirely new model of a leader in this פרק?
8. שמואל names a place אבן העזר after the battle with the פלשתים. What other place in this ספר was called אבן העזר?
9. Compare פסוק י in this to ד:ה. In what ways are they similar? In what way are they opposite?
10. How many times in this פרק is the verb שפט used to describe שמואל's activity? Based on the context, what do you think the word means? Why do you think that the stories of עלי and שמואל are not included in ספר שופטים?

**פרק ח**

1. In what ways were the fates of שמואל and עלי similar? Is the text trying to emphasize the failures of these two leaders or a weakness in a model that שמואל was trying to create?
2. What verb is used twice in פסוק ג. What is the text trying to emphasize?
3. What kind of new leadership model did שמואל want to establish? In what ways is it similar to/different from the one requested by the people?
4. Why did שמואל get so upset at the people's request? Make sure to look at יז:יד.
5. What was ה's reaction to the people's request?
6. Notice the roots שפט and מלך. Where are they used together and where are they used to contrast?

7. שמואל tells the people the “rules of the king.” Were these rules that ה' told him, or did he make them up? Compare these rules to the ones in דברים יז:יד-כ. What do you see as the most important differences between them?
8. By the end of the פרק, we see that ה' indicates to שמואל that He had granted the people's request for a king. What does שמואל tell the people?