

- I. God's return from exile
 - A. Israel's devastation
 - B. Philistia's humiliation
 - C. The wise men's counsel
 - D. A triumphal return from battle
 - E. Will God's presence mean blessing for Israel?

- II. Beth-Shemesh: Israel's Continuing Rebellion
 - A. The town of Beth-Shemesh (see Joshua 21:13-16)
 - B. Israelites who behave like Philistines (see Numbers 4:5, 19-20)
 - C. Does Israel know what peace with God looks like anymore?

- III. Samuel the Leader
 - A. Mizpah: a place of witness (see Genesis 31:48-50)
 - B. Call to put aside gods and goddesses
 - C. Fasting and confession
 - D. A threat and a prayer for prayer
 - E. Sacrifice and prayer (see Exodus 29:18; Leviticus 8:21; Psalm 18:13; Isaiah 29:6; 1 Samuel 2:10)
 - F. Ebenezer
 - G. Samuel the good judge

- IV. The Anointed Leader
 - A. The Preacher of Repentance
 - i. like Samuel, Jesus calls those who hear him to repentance
 - ii. putting aside gods and goddesses
 - iii. a decisive *and* an ongoing process
 - B. The Good Judge
 - i. what does a judge do? he settles disputes and wrongdoing
 - ii. Jesus *knew* and *practiced* love and obedience toward God (see Luke 11:42)
 - iii. all judges live under judgment, for all are hypocrites: not He
 - C. The True Priest
 - i. prays without ceasing (7:8; see Isaiah 62:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 4:14-5:10; 7:23-28)
 - ii. sacrifices faithfully (Hebrews 9:22)
 - D. The True Lamb (John 1:29)