

A background image of a sunset or sunrise. The sun is a bright, glowing orb positioned near the bottom center of the frame. Its light creates a gradient of colors from deep orange at the bottom to a pale, hazy blue at the top. Wispy, white clouds are scattered across the sky, catching the light from the sun and appearing as soft, golden highlights. The overall atmosphere is serene and peaceful.

*Fast's  
Ezra and Samuel*

# Fast's Ezra and Samuel

**Isaiah 58:1-4**

**1 Samuel 7:1-8**

**Ezra 8:21-23**

**<sup>1</sup>“Cry aloud, spare not;  
Lift up your voice like a trumpet;  
Tell My people their transgression,  
And the house of Jacob their sins.**

**<sup>2</sup>Yet they seek Me daily,  
And delight to know My ways,  
As a nation that did righteousness,  
And did not forsake the ordinance of their God.  
They ask of Me the ordinances of justice;  
They take delight in approaching God.**

<sup>3</sup>“Why have we fasted,” they say, “and You have not  
seen?”

Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no  
notice?”

“In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure,  
And exploit all your laborers.

<sup>4</sup>Indeed you fast for strife and debate,  
And to strike with the fist of wickedness.

You will not fast as you do this day,  
To make your voice heard on high.

Isaiah 58:1-4 (NKJV)

**<sup>1</sup>Then the men of Kirjath Jearim came and took the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and consecrated Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD.**

**<sup>2</sup>So it was that the ark remained in Kirjath Jearim a long time; it was there twenty years. And all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.**

**<sup>3</sup>Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, “If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.” <sup>4</sup>So the children of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and served the LORD only.**

**<sup>5</sup>And Samuel said, “Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you.” <sup>6</sup>So they gathered together at Mizpah, drew water, and poured it out before the LORD. And they fasted that day, and said there, “We have sinned against the LORD.” And Samuel judged the children of Israel at Mizpah.**

**<sup>7</sup>Now when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel had gathered together at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines. <sup>8</sup>So the children of Israel said to Samuel, “Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines.”**

**I Samuel 7:1-8 (NKJV)**

**<sup>21</sup>Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions. <sup>22</sup>For I was ashamed to request of the king an escort of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the road, because we had spoken to the king, saying, “The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsake Him.” <sup>23</sup>So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer.**

**Ezra 8:21-23 (NKJV)**