

# **SAMUEL THE MAN WHO WAS PROOF OF EBENEZER**

1 Samuel 7

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# SAMUEL THE CONQUERING PROPHET

- He was Israel's last judge and a great prophet.
- He was also a great conqueror.
  - Under his leadership the yoke of a twenty-year oppression upon Israel by the Philistines was broken.
  - He did not bring victory through brilliant military tactics.
  - He brought victory by getting Israel right with God.

# ISRAEL'S OPPRESSION BEGAN BECAUSE OF SIN.

- The people were worshipping idols
- Eli's sons had, without much restraint from Eli, corrupted worship.
- God, through an unnamed prophet, told Eli that great judgement was coming upon his family because of this corruption.
- The judgement came in the form of the Philistines who attacked the Israelites (1 Samuel 4-6).
- Thirty thousand Israelite soldiers were killed.
- The ark was captured but returned when it became a curse to the Philistines.
- Eli died when he heard the news of the defeat.

# PREPARE FOR WAR

- The three D's of getting right with God
  - 1 Samuel 7:3; And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, “If you are returning to the LORD **with all your heart**, then **put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you** and **direct your heart to the LORD** and **serve him only**, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.”
- Get right with God by getting the right doctrine
  - “put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you”
- Get right with God by getting whole hearted devotion to God
  - “with all your heart”
  - “direct your heart to the Lord”
- Get right with God by getting your duty
  - “serve him only”

# GATHER FOR WAR (1 SAMUEL 7:5-9)

- *A dedicating time.*
  - “And they gathered at Mizpeh, and drew water and poured it out before the LORD” (v. 6).
- *A fasting time.*
  - The Israelites “fasted on that day” (v. 6).
- *A confessing time.*
  - “We have sinned against the LORD” (v. 6).
- *A teaching time.*
  - “Samuel judged the people of Israel at Mizpeh” (v. 6).
- *A disturbing time.*
  - “They were afraid of the Philistines” (v. 7).

# PRAY BEFORE WAR (1 SAMUEL 7:5-9)

- *A promise to pray.*
  - “I will pray to the Lord for you.” (v. 5).
- *A plea for prayer.*
  - “Do not cease to cry out to the Lord our God for us.” (v. 8).
- *A price with prayer.*
  - “Samuel took a nursing lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the Lord.” (v. 9).
- *A portal of prayer.*
  - The “lamb” speaks of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God through whom all our prayers must come.
- *The passion in prayer.*
  - “And Samuel cried out to the Lord for Israel.” (v. 9).
- *The power of prayer.*
  - “The Lord answered him.”

# THE WAR (1 SAMUEL 7:10-11)

- The Start of the Battle
  - “The Philistines drew near to attack Israel” (v. 10).
- The Sound from Heaven
  - “The Lord thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were defeated before Israel” (v. 10).
- The Smackdown by the Israelites
  - “And the men of Israel went out from Mizpah and pursued the Philistines and struck them.” (v. 11).
- The Subduing of the Philistines
  - “So the Philistines were subdued and did not again enter the territory of Israel.” (v. 13).

# THE MEMORIAL (1 SAMUEL 7:12)

- The promptness of thanksgiving.
  - “Till now the Lord has helped us.”
- The place of the thanksgiving.
  - “between Mizpah and Shen”
  - The same place in 1 Samuel 4:1-2 where they experienced defeat 20 years before.
- The perpetualness of thanksgiving.
  - A stone would be a lasting memorial.



# THE PEACE (1 SAMUEL 7:14-17)

- Cities restored
  - “The cities that the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored.” (v 14).
- Cities judged (Courts)
  - “And he went on a circuit year by year to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah...Ramah” (v.16-17).
- Cities worship (Consecration)
  - “...Ramah.... And he built an altar there.” (v. 17).

# CONCLUSION

- Israel's story
  - Israel suffered for twenty years under the oppression of the Philistines.
  - The oppression started because of Israel's sin.
  - To be freed from the oppression required them to get right with God.
  - When they got right with God, he gave them the victory.
- Your story
  - Are you oppressed?
  - Get right with God.
  - He will give you the victory.