

# **1 SAMUEL 7 – REPENTANCE, CONFESSION, CLEANSING, INTERCESSION – THEN VICTORY! -- EBENEZER - Thus far the LORD has helped us!**

5/12/18 Sat Morn Prayer – P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

## **COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING** – Robert Robertson – John Wyeth Repository – CCCM #50

*1 Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace; Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above; Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of Thy redeeming love.*

*2 Here I'll raise my Ebenezer; Hither by Thy help I'm come; And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.*

*3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee: prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above*

**Chapter 7 is a study in revival.** God first raised up a man, Samuel, who **called the people to repentance, confession, and cleansing. Intercession was made through the blood of a lamb** (a type of Calvary's Lamb), and **then there was victory.** These are the **steps to individual as well as national revival.**

It must have been with very different feelings from those of their last encounter, when the ark of God was carried into the battle, that the host of Israel now faced the Philistine army near Mizpah. Then they had only the symbol of God's gracious presence, **now they had the reality.**

- Then **their spiritual guides were the wicked Hophni and Phinehas; now their guide was holy Samuel.**
- Then they had rushed into the fight, not concerned about their sins; **now they had confessed them, and through the blood of sprinkling they had obtained a sense of forgiveness.**
- Then they were puffed up by a vain presumption; **now they had a calm but confident hope.**
- Then their advance was not hallowed by prayer; **now the cry of needy children had gone up** from God's faithful servant.
- The battle with the Philistines **had already been fought by Samuel on his knees.** There can be no surer token of success than this.
- Are we engaged in conflict with our own troublesome sins? Or are we contending against transgression in the world around us?
- Let us **first fight the battle on our knees.** If we are victorious there we need have little fear of victory in the other battle.

***1Sa 7:1-2 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. [2] 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.***

- The Israelites were lamenting for a long period of time, apparently not convicted of their evil deeds, including the idolatry of worshipping foreign gods and not serving the LORD only.

***1 Sa 7:3 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."***

- Now Samuel speaks and tells Israel to **do these three things:**
  - 1) **Return to the LORD;**
  - 2) **Put away the foreign gods;**
  - 3) **Prepare their hearts for the LORD and serve Him only!**

***1 Sa 7:4 So the children of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtoreths and served the LORD only.***

- So, **they did put away the Baals and Ashtoreths** and served only the LORD!

***1 Sa 7:5 And Samuel said, "Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you."***

- Then the Israelites were told to all gather at Mizpah. **There he would pray to the LORD for them!**

***1 Sa 7:6 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.***

- When they were gathered at Mizpah, as a symbol of repentance, they drew water and poured it out before the LORD, confessing their sin – “***We have sinned against the LORD.***” It was symbolic of their repentance. In their humiliation they look at them selves as spilled water that cannot be gathered up again.
- ***Psa 22:14 I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.***
- ***1Sa 1:15 But Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.***

***1Sa 7:7 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.***

***1Sa 7:8 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."***

- The enemy recognizes that Israel are all gathered together. They decide to attack them. The Israelites were justifiably fearful because of the strength of the Philistines, being dominated by them.
- They asked Samuel to pray continually for the LORD to give deliverance from the Philistines.

***1Sa 7:9 And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. Then Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him.***

***1Sa 7:10 Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the LORD thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel. 1Sa 7:11 And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car.***

- Samuel takes a young, tender lamb and offers it as a substitutional, ***whole burnt offering*** of confession and total consecration. He ***then cried out to the LORD*** for victory ***and the LORD answered him!***
- The LORD used ***loud thunder*** to confuse the enemy and Israel overcame them, striking them down, driving them back!

***1Sa 7:12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."***

- Samuel knew the nation needed to remember this supernatural victory, which God gave to a repentant and humble Israel. The ***victory was the LORD's***, not by Israel, so he named the stone “***Ebenezer***” – stone of Help!
- He also knows there was much more to be accomplished, that the battle with the Philistines were not finished, so he could say, “***Thus far the LORD has helped us.***”

***1Sa 7:13 So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.***

- We now see the Philistines were subdued and didn't attack Israel anymore. In fact, the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel!

#### **SUMMARY:**

- **Notice the necessary steps: Repentance, confession, and cleansing. Intercession** was made through the **blood of a Calvary type lamb**. Then there was victory!
- The battle with the Philistines **had already been fought by Samuel on his knees**. There can be no surer token of success than this. Is this **our usual recourse** or is it **usually our last resort?**
- What Baals and Ashtoreths **do we need to put away?** Are we serving the LORD only?
- **Is your Christian walk characterized by the LORD's hand being against your enemies?**

**Pray Today For:** Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct.

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