

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

I SAMUEL 7:1-12



LESSON: SAMUEL LEADERSHIP BRINGS VICTORY—July 12, 2020

INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 6:19-21 God struck some of the men of Bethshemesh because they looked into the Ark of the Lord. And some 50,062 men were slaughtered. Their question was who could stand before this holy God? And who could take the Ark off of their hands? So, messengers of Bethshemesh were sent to Kirjathjearim saying *"the Philistines have returned the Ark of the Lord, come and get it."*

LESSON: I. RECOVERY OF THE ARK I SAMUEL 7:1-2

1st Samuel 7:1 **And the men of Kirjathjearim came, and fetched up the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab in the hill, and sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD.** After receiving the message from of Bethshemesh, the men of Kirjathjearim came to take the Ark of the Lord off of their hands and brought it into the house of Abinadab. And Eleazar, Abinadab's son was sanctified consecrated to keep and be over the Ark of the Lord.

1st Samuel 7:2 **And it came to pass, while the ark abode in Kirjathjearim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years: and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.** As time passed sorrow gripped Israel, for the ark had remained in Kirjathjearim for 20 years. That meant that all the house of Israel lamented; was in mourning after the Lord for 20 years.

¹The Ark would actually be in Kirjathjearim for a lot longer than this. During the reign of King Saul, the Ark would be brought to Gibeah (1Sam. 14:18), and then when David becomes king over all Israel, he will bring the Ark to Jerusalem (2Sam. 6).

II. REPENTANCE REQUIRED I SAMUEL 7:3-4

1st Samuel 7:3 **And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.** Samuel is the one who is recognized as a judge of the Lord during this time. His main task in life was to bring the people back to the Lord. His work is revival and unification of the people under God's chosen ruler. God spoke through Samuel. And if the people concurred with what was commanded, then God would deliver them out of the hand of the Philistines.

- 1. They had to return to the Lord with all their heart.** They had to determine to only obey the Lord. *"To determine"* means to set your mind on a course of action. *"To return"* means to take action toward God. This kind of commitment means that you don't back out, but you work toward the goal you have set. If you have made a decision to follow God, don't allow excuses, distractions, or second thoughts to deter you from your goal. It seems that there was an opposition of *"if."* *"If ye do return unto the Lord..."* The conditions of returning to the Lord here is the act of repentance which is returning to; a change of direction back to the Lord. God wanted His people to worship Him from the heart, but they had been influenced by the outward and visible form of Canaanite religion.
- 2. They were to put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth.** He speaks as a prophet when he tells them to put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth (goddess of fertility). The Jews had adopted these strange gods way back in Egypt. The people had backslidden into idolatry. Whatever holds first place in our



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lives or controls us becomes our god. If we have foreign gods in our lives we need to ask God to help us dethrone them, making the true God our first priority. *"To put away"* means to remove these idols because there is only One True God and no other!

3. **They were to prepare their hearts unto the Lord.** *"To Prepare"* mean to consecrate ourselves unto God; devote and set aside time for worship. God gets the heart ready for Him as we make time for him!
4. **They were to only serve the Lord.** *"To serve"* means to help, assist, and attend to the things of God with a heart of humility that puts God first as He shows us who and how to help.

Then, God will deliver the Israelites out of the hand of the Philistines; by purging them from all sin, and particularly from all inclinations to other gods. God will then be their Deliverer!

1st Samuel **7:4** **Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the Lord only.** These were not two particular deities, but two genera of idols; the one masculine, Baalim; the other feminine, Ashtaroth. *"Baalim"* is the plural of Baal. *"Baal"* was the chief Canaanite god, the son of Dagan, and the god of agriculture. Basically, Baal was the storm god, the bringer of rain, and thus *"Ashtaroth"*, fertility to the land.

III. RESTORATION BEGUN I SAMUEL 7:5-8

1st Samuel **7:5** **And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD.** Now it's time to come before the Lord's presence. Samuel intercedes for Israel and Samuel said, *"Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the Lord."* Mizpeh had special significance for the Israelite nation. It was at Mizpeh where the Israelites had earlier gathered to mobilize against the tribe of Benjamin (Jdgs.20:1). Samuel was appointed to judge there (7:6), and Saul, Israel's first king was crowned there (10:7). Samuel was known as an intercessor. Samuel planned to lead the people in a time of worship and intercession as they gathered to Mizpeh for deliverance from their enemies, but if they had iniquity in their hearts, the Lord would not hear them.

1st Samuel **7:6** **And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out before the Lord, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the Lord. And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpeh.** ***First***, they had to pour out water before the Lord which became a practice at the Feast of Tabernacles, commemorating the times the Lord provided water in the wilderness (Jh.7:37-39). *"Pouring water before the Lord"* was a sign of repentance for sin; turning from idols and determining to obey the Lord alone was what the Israelites needed to do. ***Second***, the people fasted, and this was required only on the annual Day of Atonement, which preceded the Feast of Tabernacles. The key activity that day was their confession: *"We have sinned against the Lord."* God's covenant promise to Israel was that He would forgive their sins if they sincerely confessed them to Him (Lev.26:40-45). However, no amount of sacrifices or rituals could wash away their sins until God sends the Messiah. And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpeh.

1st Samuel **7:7** **And when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Mizpeh, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines.** ²Notice what happens immediately after they are restored before God, the enemy rises up to confront them. As soon as you become a threat to the enemy, he will be right there ready to destroy you. ³The Philistines have not yet learned their lesson from the heavy hand of God. They assumed that the nation of Israel has gathered at Mizpeh for war. The Philistines have been victorious in waging war with the Israelites before, and so they assumed they will be successful once again. The five lords of the Philistines (the mobilized army) went up against the Israelites, and Israel is now afraid of what the Philistines might do to them. They do not have the Ark to take to war with them, so all they can do is cast themselves upon God and trust in Him. But, they have to remember that they had



² <http://www.ccmanitowoc.org/Library/Guglielmo-Joe/Studies/TH/09-1SA/TH1019.HTM>

³ <http://bible.org/seriespage/hands-dagon-and-hand-god-1-samuel-51-717>

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just repented and fasted unto the Lord that day. Surely, the Lord is on their side! He is their greatest weapon! He is their battle-axe! He is their armor!

1st Samuel 7:8 **And the children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the Lord our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines.** Samuel was a man of prayer and God answered him that day. He was a strong spiritual leader set there to intercede unto God for the people. *"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much"* Jam.5:16c. That's why we should never cease to cry out to the Lord. Jesus, our great Intercessor never ceases; is never silent, for He's always appearing in the presence of God for us. There is power in prayer! The salvation here is purely physical deliverance from the Philistines, but it is typical of spiritual salvation; and both the word *"save"* (Heb. *yasha'*), and the concept of salvation are very prominent in this book. When we cry out to the Lord to save us from our sins, He will also deliver us.

IV. REQUEST ANSWERED I SAMUEL 7:9-12

1st Samuel 7:9 **And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a burnt offering wholly unto the Lord: and Samuel cried unto the Lord for Israel; and the Lord heard him.** Samuel did what the people asked—he ceased not to cry out unto the Lord, meaning he didn't stop crying to God. Then he offered a lamb for a burnt offering; and the Lord accepted the sacrifice. He heard Samuel and answered the prayer for deliverance, and again He saved His people. The whole *"Burnt Offering"* was a type of Christ giving His Perfection to imperfect people, at least to those who will believe. Samuel was a Levite and accordingly (1Chron.23:27-32), he could offer a burnt offering. He could not enter the Tabernacle (*not being a son of Aaron*), in fact, the Tabernacle, at this time, was useless as a center of worship, for the Throne of God, that is, the Ark, had been removed from it.

1st Samuel 7:10 **And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the Lord thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel.** Getting right with God may cause the enemy to attack, but it also gives you great help from God. The Philistines didn't want to give the Israelites a chance to get their army together, and they began to draw near to battle against Israel while Samuel is in the middle of offering up his sacrifice unto the Lord. With Samuel's prayer and his sacrifice, it was not an empty shadow, for God accepted it and thundered with a great thunder! He moved noisily and confused the Philistines, therefore making it easy for the Israelites. They were struck down and defeated before Israel.

1st Samuel 7:11 **And the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them, until they came under Bethcar.** This had given the men of Israel courage for it says, *"...the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh"* went out and pursued the Philistines. They literally had the advantage, rushing out and chasing after, and pursuing the Philistines and eventually striking them down, killing them until they came to Bethcar. ⁴There are going to be times that God will bring the victory all by Himself. But there are also going to be times that we have a part in the victory, in *"chasing those Philistines"* out of our lives. Samuel had sacrificed a lamb. Now they pursue the Philistines as far as the *"house of the lamb."* ⁵God gave Israel the victory, and instead of them being in fear of the Philistines, they rise-up and push them all the way to *"Bethcar"*, which means *"ho use of the lamb."* You see, their victory was assured with the sacrifice of the lamb, but it was not completed until they entered the house of the lamb. Our victory over the enemy began with the sacrifice of our Lamb, Jesus Christ, but the battles will continue until we go to be with Him and enter the house of the Lamb.

1st Samuel 7:12 **Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it**



⁴ <http://www.calvaryfullerton.org/Bstudy/09%201Sa/2002/091Sa07-09.htm>

⁵ <http://www.ccmantowoc.org/Library/Guglielmo-Joe/Studies/TH/09-1SA/TH1019.HTM>

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Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us. ⁶In order to commemorate God's help in defeating the Philistines, Samuel set up a stone between Mizpeh and Shen and called it Ebenezer, which means "*stone of help*." This stone would become a visible reminder that God is the "*Helper*" of Israel.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON: VERSES 13-17

The Philistines' reign was over, and they were not to come near or invade the coast of Israel again. God continued to bless the nation of Israel, even the cities in which the Philistines had taken were restored to Israel and peace was gained with the Amorites; they became allies. Samuel was considered to be God's appointed leader. This chapter concludes with a note on Samuel's circuit, indicating that his authority was well-established, and that it continued throughout his life. He abode in Ramah and there he built an altar unto the Lord.

SUMMARY:

The story is about the repentance of Israel and God hears their cry. Samuel is set as a judge, prophet and priest with authority. We begin with Israel gathering to ask God's forgiveness. If they return unto the Lord with all their hearts; put away the strange gods, and prepare their hearts for Him, He will deliver them out of the hand of the Philistines (7:3-4). Obviously, this was long in coming, and Samuel initiated the place of meeting—Mizpeh (7:5). Israel gathered and Samuel offered up a young whole lamb on behalf of them as they drew water and poured it out before the Lord and fasted. When the Philistines heard about the gathering, they had assumed that Israel was gathering to revolt against Philistine oppression (7:6-7). What they didn't know was that Israel was afraid. Samuel did not cease to cry out to the Lord as he offered a burnt offering unto Him. The Philistines swiftly moved against Israel during Israel's time of repentance and God showed His allegiance to Israel in no uncertain terms. The Philistines drew near, but the Lord thundered with a great thunder upon the Philistines, confusing them, and therefore, the Israelites chased and killed the Philistines all the way to Bethcar territory. Samuel set up a stone between Mizpeh and Shen and called it Ebenezer, which means "*stone of help*" (7:8-12). **(7:1-12)**.

APPLICATION:

God has His man in place to administer justice, but God makes all things possible for the rescue of His people when they return to Him.

