

## 1 **EBENEZER: VICTORY THROUGH SACRIFICE**

1 Samuel 7:9

### 2 **1 Samuel 7:2-14 (1)**

- : <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.*"

### 3 **1 Samuel 7:2-14 (2)**

- <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.

### 4 **1 Samuel 7:2-14 (3)**

- <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." <sup>9</sup> 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.

### 5 **1 Samuel 7:2-14 (4)**

- <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car. <sup>12</sup> 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."*

### 6 **1 Samuel 7:2-14 (5)**

- <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> Then the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath; and Israel recovered its territory from the hands of the Philistines. Also there was peace between Israel and the Amorites

### 7 **Ebenezer = stone of help**

- Israel twice defeated by the Philistines
- Four reasons for the defeat:
  - 1) They faced a powerful enemy.
  - 2) They were guilty of sins against God.
  - 3) They trusted in the ark, not the God of the ark
  - 4) God is a holy God and was angry with them because of their sin and disobedience.

### 8 **1 Samuel 7:3-6**

- Samuel called on them to repent.
- They confessed their sins to God.
- The Philistines came to attack them again.
- Is there any hope for Israel?
- Our enemy is Satan: Can God help us?
- God is a holy God: If there is sin in our hearts God cannot help us.

### 9 **1 Samuel 7:9**

- There is one more thing that must happen before God can help us.
- ILLUSTRATION: Church camp in Kuryiongpo, South Korea

- KEY TO EBENEZER: A sacrifice must be offered
  - Why is this sacrifice necessary?
  - And what or who is the sacrifice?

## 10 I. SACRIFICE DEFEATS THE ENEMY

- The Philistine attack – They wanted to make slaves of God's people
- Samuel offered a sacrifice
  - Now God can help them.
  - Now they are trusting in God.
- Today Satan is our enemy.
  - The bad news
  - The good news

## 11 He was crucified on the cross

- John 1:29 says, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" The single lamb that Samuel offered to God was a type or picture of Jesus, the Lamb of God. He came into the world to be our sacrifice.
- 1 Peter 2:24: "Who his own self bare our sins in his body on the tree (cross), that we being dead to sins should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye are healed."

## 12 He was crucified on the cross (2)

- 1 John 3:8 says, "He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."
- Hebrews 2:14: Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

## 13 Why Jesus Died

- Jesus died on the cross as my substitute.
- He was buried
- He rose from the dead.
- Satan's power could not hold Jesus in the grave.
- If we believe in Jesus, then God also delivers us from Satan's power.

## 14 II. SACRIFICE TURNS AWAY THE WRATH OF GOD.

- God's anger turned away from Israel
- What about us?
  - Romans 1:18: <sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,
  - Romans 5:9: "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."

## 15 Propitiation

- Romans 3:25: "Whom (Jesus) God set forth to be a propitiation by His blood."
- Propitiation means the turning away of wrath by an offering.
- Philistines understood the need for an offering - 1 Sam. 6:3
- Star Trek -- *Enterprise-Shields Up -protection from their enemy.*
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## 16 III. SACRIFICE SHOWS US THE LOVE OF GOD.

- His holiness produces wrath against sin. But His love wants to save the sinner.
- How do we know that someone loves us?
- Illustration: A Diamond Ring
- Example: Edward VIII of England

## 17 How do we know that God loves us?

- John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in

Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

- Romans 5:6-8, v. 8: "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
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