



Lesson 61

EBENEZER

- **Text:** 1 Samuel 7:1-17
- **Setting:** approx. 1100 B.C. in Mizpeh
- **Main Characters:** God and Samuel
- **Plot:** Samuel leads Israel into a time of spiritual revival and relative peace.
- **Key word(s):** “_____”
- **Climax:** *“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.” 7:8*

Repentance and Revival

- 1) (vv 1-2) For _____ years, the people of Israel neglected the LORD (vs. 2). The people began to “lament after the LORD.” This was probably because of Samuel's preaching.
 - a) Samuel must’ve operated in the fashion of an _____ preacher because he is described in verse 3 as speaking to “all the house of Israel.”
 - b) Samuel’s preaching had two emphases:
 - i) The need to repent of _____
 - ii) The need to serve God _____
- 2) (vv 5-6) Samuel summoned the Hebrews to Mizpeh for a time of prayer and sacrifice. Mizpeh was a city in Benjamin not far from Kirjath-jearim.
 - a) Water was drawn and poured out. This was symbolic of _____ and renewal. In verse 6, they confessed, “We have sinned against the Lord.” The sacred act of pouring out water before the LORD was repeated by David in 2 Sam. 23:16.
 - b) The day was also a day of fasting, which is an expression of repentance from sin and _____ on God's grace, mercy, and strength.

Interruption and Intercession

- 3) (vv 7-8) When the Philistines heard of the Hebrew assembly at Mizpeh, they saw an opportunity for an _____. As the Philistine army approached, the Hebrews pleaded with Samuel to intercede for them. Samuel took a lamb and sacrificed it as a burnt offering to the LORD and then cried out unto the LORD.
- 4) (vv 9-11) The LORD intervened by coming against the Philistines with great _____ that threw them into a panic. The Hebrews easily vanquished the invaders with God's help.

Praise and Peace

- 5) (vv 12-14) As a memorial of their God-sent victory, Samuel set up a stone and called it “Ebenezer,” which means “_____.”
- 6) (vv 15-16) Samuel rode a circuit between Ramah, Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpeh. During his leadership of Israel, the Philistines and the _____ kept their distance.
- 7) (v 17) During Samuel’s ministry, _____ was the epicenter of Israel’s spiritual life. It was here that Samuel made his home and established an altar.

