

1 Samuel Lesson 9 Samuel and The People of Israel Respond to a Holy God

Key Themes in 1 Samuel :

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

Background:

priest: A mediator between God and man.

judge: an official with authority to administer justice by trying cases.

fasting: In the Old Testament fasting was often used when making a request of God. It was associated with the purification, repentance and the humbling of one's self before God.

lamb for the burnt offering: The burnt offering was associated with atonement for sin and a dedication of one's whole self to God..

Key Words:

Ebenezer : Strong's H72 "eben ha ezer" the stone of the help.

The ark had been returned to Israel and it remained in the home of Abinadab in the town of Kiriath-jearim. When the priests Eli, Hophni and Phineas were killed, Samuel immediately became priest over Israel. Here in chapter 7 of 1 Samuel we see him act as the spiritual leader of Israel. The ark had returned to Israel and now it was time for the people to repent and return to the Lord.

Read 1 Samuel 7 :1-17

1. Samuel sought to bring the people back into the covenant relationship that the Lord had made with them and to remind them of Moses' words in Deut. 30:2-10. According to 1 Samuel 7:3-4 What commands did Samuel speak to the people of Israel and how did the people respond?

2. Reread Deuteronomy 23:14. How were Samuel and the people being obedient to what God wanted of them as stated in this Deuteronomy passage? Compare their actions to that of the priests Hophni and Phineas and the people of Israel in Chapter 4 of 1 Samuel when they too wanted deliverance from the hand of the Philistines.

3. In 7:5 -10 what did Samuel do for the people and what did the people do that showed their repentant hearts? Who did Samuel and those he led look to for deliverance? To what did the people under Hophni and Phineas look to for deliverance? What did the actions of each reveal about their hearts?

Application: The Lord used his faithful servant Samuel to bring about revival in Israel. We often long for revival in our churches. Using Samuel and the people's example in 7:3-10 what should we do to help bring about revival?

4. How did the Lord respond when the Philistines attacked according to 7:10 and 7:11? What does the Lord's actions here reveal about His character?

5. What did Samuel do after the Israelite victory over the Philistines and what did it mean?

Application: What are some of the ways we can "set up an "Ebenezer stone" in our lives?

6. Looking back over the chapter how do you see Samuel fulfilling his role as prophet, priest and judge? How does Jesus fulfill those roles for us today?

