

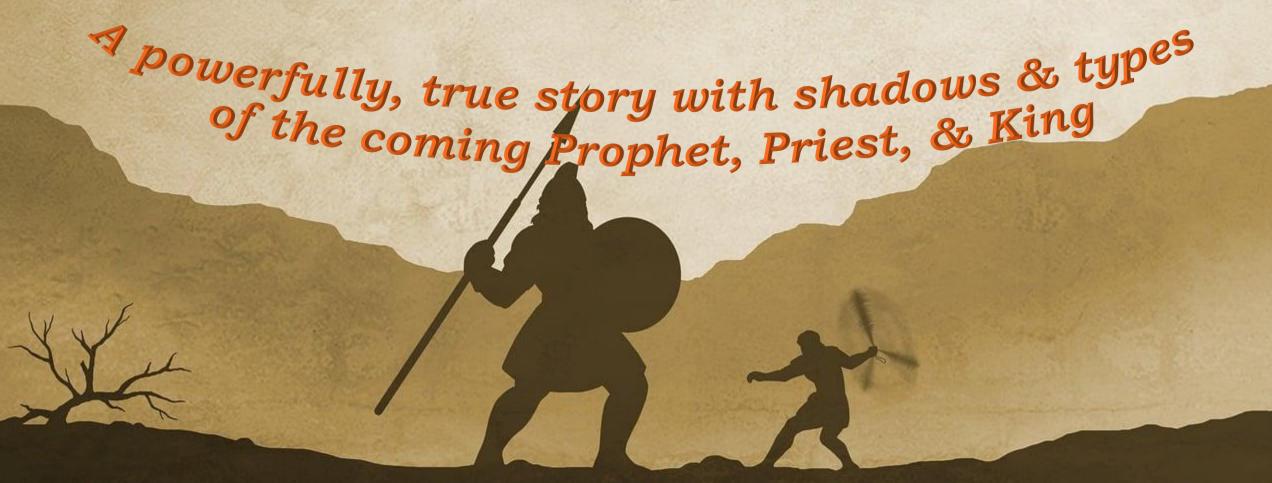






1 SANUEL

(Heard by God)



Choosing to Love, Honor, and Serve Our Heavenly Father

Leading Up to 1 Samuel Chapter 7

- 2091 B.C. 1399 B.C. From Abraham's call to Israel's settlement
- 1100 B.C./ 1096 B.C. **1 Samuel 1** Samuel is born/ He is given to Eli
- 1096 B.C. 1090 B.C. **1 Samuel 2 & 3** Prophecies of judgment are made against Eli's priestly family for grievous disobedience
- 1070 B.C. **1 Samuel 4** Israel brings the ark, but is defeated by the Philistines which results in the ark's capture and the priests' deaths
- 1070 B.C. <u>1 Samuel 5</u> The Philistines' god, Dagon, bows & is broken before Yahweh as the Philistines are severely plagued with tumors.
- 1070 B.C. **1 Samuel 6** After 7 months, the Philistines met with their diviners & sent the ark away but wanted to know if it happened by chance. In Beth Shemesh, foolish & curious Israelites are struck down.

1 Samuel 7:1-4 (LSB) ¹ And the men of Kiriath-jearim came and brought the ark of Yahweh up and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill and set apart Eleazar his son as holy in order to keep the ark of Yahweh. 2 Now it happened from the day when the ark remained at Kiriath-jearim, that the time was long; it was twenty years. And all the house of Israel lamented after Yahweh.3 Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you are to return to Yahweh with all your heart, then remove the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and set your hearts toward Yahweh and serve Him alone; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines." ⁴ So the sons of Israel removed the Baals and the Ashtaroth and served Yahweh alone.

Is your worship of God divided with serving other idols (money, the pursuit of pleasure, selfish ambitions, etc.)?

1 Samuel 7:6-9 (ESV) ⁶ So they gathered at Mizpah 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 people of Israel at Mizpah. 7 Now when the Philistines heard that the people of Israel had gathered at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the people of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines. 8 And the people 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." 9 So Samuel took a nursing lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. And Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him.

The Lord looks upon our hearts and knows when we are truly repentant and seeking Him. Do you regularly examine your heart?

1 Samuel 7:10-12 (NIV) 10 While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. But that day the LORD thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites, 11 The men of Israel rushed out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines slaughtering them along the way to a point below Beth Kar. 12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."

The Philistines didn't recognize the power of repentance and humility before the I ORD Do we?

Samuel interceded for Israel. Jesus, our 'Stone of help' before God, the Holy intercedes for us. He's our Cornerstone and true source of help and salvation. He is the firm foundation we stand on

When we are humble Spirit sends the enemy running. Without humility, the devil will not flee

Is Jesus your Ebenezer? Do you cry out to Him?

1 Samuel 7:13-15 (NKJV) 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. 14 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. We are called to take ¹⁵ And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. Israel's good and bad prophets, ground from the 'Jesus has given us priests, and kings changed with enemy and: Romans power over the **12:18 (CSB)** If enemy when we each generation. When we put walk in obedience possible, as far as it our faith in the true Prophet, depends on you, live at to Him, and His High Priest, and King we are heirs of His eternal kingdom. peace with everyone. rule has no end.

Do you put your hope & trust in people or things that are uncertain, or do you trust Jesus & the Holy Spirit's guidance in all areas of life?