

Ten-Year Journey
"Our Ebenezer"
1 Samuel 7:1-12

I. **R _____ (vs. 1-4)**

- a. Earlier the Philistines had subjugated Israel and taken the Ark of the Covenant. But God had supernaturally forced them to return it.
- b. Likely trying to convince God to free them from the Philistines **men** from *Kiriath-jearim* took the ark **into the house of Abinadab** and they **consecrated Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the Lord**. (cf. 2 Sam. 6:3-4; Joshua 15:57)
- c. But **the time was long...twenty years** because it was not about returning the Lord's Ark back to Israel, it was about returning Israel's **hearts** back **to the Lord**! (cf. Gen 35:2; Joshua 24:14, 23; 1 Sam. 13:19-22; 2 Cor 7:10)
- d. Samuel called them to repent and they decided to follow God, **the sons of Israel removed the Baals and the Ashtaroth and served the Lord alone.**

II. **R _____ (vs. 5-7)**

- a. **Mizpah** means "watch-tower" and it was likely a holy place about 5 miles from Jerusalem that was considered a holy place and whose terrain gave a strategic advantage (cf. Gen. 31:49; Judges 11:11; 20:1)
- b. They demonstrated the rededication of their hearts by pouring out water **before the Lord...fasted** and confessed that **"We have sinned against the Lord."** (cf. Lev. 16:29, 31; 23:27, 32; Num. 29:7; Ps. 22:14; 2 Sam. 14:14)
- c. Following God has a cost, so the Philistines **went up against Israel** and **they were afraid of the Philistines** but they did not abandon their commitment (cf. 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Peter 5:8; Matt. 5:10)

III. **R _____ (vs. 8-11)**

- a. **The sons of Israel** did not rely on themselves or another nation's support; instead, they had Samuel **cry out to the Lord**.
- b. This is not a form of "Let God, Let God;" it is an understanding that we must make a volitional decision to follow God, knowing He is the One working **IN** us, **THROUGH** us, and **FOR** us (cf. Phil. 2:12-13)
- c. **a suckling lamb**...may be a foreshadowing of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (cf. Lev. 22:27; John 1:29)
- d. **the Lord answered him...with a great thunder**...that **confused** the Philistines (cf. Josh 10:11; Judges 5:4, 20-21; Ps. 20:6-7; 29; John 12:29)
- e. Israel trusted God's provision and **struck them down as far as below Beth-car**

IV. **R _____ (v. 12)**

- a. God's people continually forget to remember Him (cf. Deut. 32:18; Judges 3:7; 1 Sam. 12:9; Ps. 78:11; 106:13, 21; Jer. 23:27; Hos. 2:13; 13:6)
- b. Samuel establishes an **Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us."** in much the same way Jesus establishes the Lord's Supper **"in remembrance of me"** (cf. Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 11: 23-26)
 - i. **Present** = gives God worship and glory for what He has already done
 - ii. **Future** = motivates us to place our trust in God going forward based on what He has done in the past