

1 Samuel 7

King James Version (KJV)

7 And the men of Kirjathjearim came, and fetched up the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab in the hill, and sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD. (These were Levites; probably of the house of Aaron)

²And it came to pass, while the ark abode in Kirjathjearim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years: and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD. (It would be 89 years from the taking of the Ark by the Philistines, until King David would move the Ark to Zion, just outside of Jerusalem. Only then, the tabernacle was restored as it had been at Shiloh)

³And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines. (They had adopted all the gods of the Canaanites, since they arrived into the Promised Land)

⁴Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only. (Temporarily; over the years, with each new generation, they kept going back to their idols and false gods)

⁵And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD. (Samuel would be the last judge of Israel. He was truly a good man of God and one of the greatest judges) (Mizpeh = watch tower)

⁶And they gathered together to Mizpeh, 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 children of Israel in Mizpeh. (Water is symbolic of people pouring out their hearts in repentance to God. Samuel as judge, would have consecrated the people before God after they repented) (Judge = to set things right and to rule <in the Hebrew>. This word judge has a different meaning than our word judge, today)

⁷And when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Mizpeh, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard it, they were

afraid of the Philistines. (They had been beaten down so much by the Philistines that they feared them)

⁸And 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. (Pray to God for deliverance)

⁹And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a burnt offering wholly unto the LORD: and Samuel cried unto the LORD for Israel; and the LORD heard him. (Samuel was a righteous judge, unlike Eli. Although Samuel wasn't a priest, God accepted his offering because God had called Samuel to be His prophet. Also, after Eli, the tabernacle was in total disarray)

¹⁰And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel. (God threw them into total confusion and fear. That made them weak in the battle against Israel)

¹¹And the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them, until they came under Bethcar. (Bethcar= house of pasture)

¹²Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us. (Shen = a tooth <Hebrew>) (Ebenezer = stone of help)

(In Chapter-4, 20 years earlier, Ebenezer was where Israel lost 30,000+ men in battle to the Philistines)

¹³So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Israel: and the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. (Not for any length of time or with any success; there continued to be border skirmishes, by Israel continually prevailed against them)

¹⁴And the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron even unto Gath; and the coasts thereof did Israel deliver out of the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites. (The regions of Ekron & Gath, not the cities themselves) (The Amorites <Canaanites> were fierce warriors and had run Dan out of their own land)

¹⁵ And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. (He would be the last judge of Israel that God raised up)

¹⁶ And he went from year to year in circuit to Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places. (He made a circuit around Israel) (Bethel, Gilgal, Mizpeh -> NE, NW, SE corners of Israel)

¹⁷ And his return was to Ramah; for there was his house; and there he judged Israel; and there he built an altar unto the LORD. (Shiloh had been forsaken after the Ark was removed and lost by Eli)