

Reedy Fork Baptist Church

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

BIBLE STUDY

Theme: "By the Help of God, I'm Still Here"

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 7:10-17, 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,^[b] saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us."

¹³ So the Philistines were subdued and they stopped invading Israel's territory. Throughout Samuel's lifetime, the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines.

¹⁴ The towns from Ekron to Gath that the Philistines had captured from Israel were restored to Israel, and Israel delivered the neighboring territory from the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

¹⁵ Samuel continued as Israel's leader all the days of his life.

¹⁶ From year to year he went on a circuit from Bethel to Gilgal to Mizpah, judging Israel in all those places.

¹⁷ But he always went back to Ramah, where his home was, and there he also held court for Israel. And he built an altar there to the Lord.

I. Key Words:

- Memorial Stone
- Ebenezer

II. People, Places, & Times:

- Samuel
- Philistines
- Israel
- Mizpah
- Beth Kar
- Shen

III. Background:

In 1 Samuel 7:12, the prophet Samuel erects a memorial stone to commemorate God's deliverance of Israel from the Philistines. He names it "Ebenezer," which means "stone of help", and declares, "Thus far the Lord has helped us".

IV. In Depth:

1. Lesson Emphasis: 1. The Context of Spiritual Revival

- A. Years of Oppression:** For decades, the Philistines dominated Israel militarily and culturally. Years earlier, Israel had lost the Ark of the Covenant to them in battle, and the central sanctuary at Shiloh had been destroyed.
- B. National Repentance:** The prophet Samuel challenged the Israelites to rid themselves of foreign idols (the Baals and Ashtoreths) and return wholeheartedly to God.
- C. The Mizpah Assembly:** As the people gathered at Mizpah for a national day of fasting, prayer, and confession, the Philistines caught wind of the assembly and marched to attack them.

2. Lesson Emphasis #2: The Divine Deliverance

- A. The Battle:** With the Israelites unarmed, frightened, and vulnerable, Samuel offered a burnt offering and cried out to the Lord for deliverance.
- B. The Miracle:** Instead of a traditional military victory, God supernaturally intervened by sending a massive, deafening thunder that threw the Philistine army into complete chaos.
- C. The Route:** Capitalizing on the Philistines' confusion, the Israelites pursued and defeated them, driving them out of their territory. [1, 2, 3]

