

1 Samuel 7: Repentant Hearts/Restored Souls

Chapters 5 and 6 Review:

- **Chapter 5: Philistines have the Arc** they won in battle and set it up next to Dagon
- **Dagon bows** to the Living God (head/hands on the threshold)
- **One God** revealed in three persons
- **The futility of idolatry** (burn half /bow to other half)
- The Philistines are judged with tumors and death as the Arc is moved from place to place
- **Chapter 6** : The Philistines fear and **respect YHWH**
- "Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom"
- The Philistines understand the Arc must go back to Israel with a **guilt offering** in order for them to be healed
- The Arc is sent back to Israel on a cart with gold tumors and gold mice
- The Israelites **joyfully receive** the Arc... then **irreverently look** in the Arc. God strikes down many in judgment.
- The Israelites do not acknowledge their sin, instead blame God and **send the Arc away**
- **Sequence of Backsliding:** Sin, consequence, blame God (oh forget it, "Who is able to stand...") and finally... **push God away!**

1 Samuel 7

1And the men of Kiriath-jearim came and took the ark of the LORD and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and **consecrated Eleazar** his son to keep the ark of the LORD. 2From the day that the ark remained at **Kiriath-jearim**, the time was long, for it was **twenty years; and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.**

- **Kiriath-jearim:** Arc sent nine miles west of Jerusalem
- Eleazar was consecrated (set apart) to care for the Arc
- As we will see, Israel has been backsliding into **full blown idolatry for 20 years!**

3Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "**If you return to the LORD with all your heart, remove the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your hearts to the LORD and serve Him alone; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.**"

- Samuel finally speaks:

- Faith without works is dead...If you say you believe...show it
- Calling yourself and Israelite and not serving the God of Israel is futile...meaningless
- Calling yourself a Christian and not serving Christ is hypocrisy...and meaningless
- **Samuel:** Remove foreign gods, turn your heart completely to the Lord and He will deliver you

James 4:6 ... "GOD IS **OPPOSED TO THE PROUD**, BUT GIVES **GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.**" **7Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil** and he will flee from you. **8Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.** Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

- Israel would **say** they served God but were actually involved in the most grotesque religious practices. (Double-minded)...the practices of their enemies.
- **Ashtaroth:** Goddess of love, fertility, sex and war. Worship of Ashtaroth is frequently combined with Baal, her female counterpart. Sexual rituals were designed to prompt the gods to make the earth fertile.(How convenient)
- **Problem:** The worship of Ashtaroth and Baal produced offspring. These offspring were then either:
 - Placed into the **white-hot arms of Baal** as a living sacrifice or **put into jars** and placed inside the walls of Canaanite homes.
 - Though sexual sin seemed a convenient form of worship the results were the death of their own children
- *Isn't it nice to know that children are not sacrificed to the god of unbridled sex here in America...*There is complete forgiveness available

4So the sons of Israel **removed the Baals and the Ashtaroth** and **served the LORD alone.** 5Then Samuel said, "Gather all Israel to Mizpah and **I will pray** to the LORD for you." 6They gathered to 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 sons of Israel at Mizpah. [gave direction]

The Road to Restoration

- First **remove the bad.** There is nothing new under the sun

Isaiah 57:7 You have made your bed on a high and lofty hill;
there you went up to offer your sacrifices. **8 Behind your doors**
and your doorposts
you have put your pagan symbols.

- T Shirts, posters, tattoos,...why so dark? ("you read too much into it...really?)
- Serve the **LORD alone**...nothing added then...
- Blessings start...**Samuel prays**, God brings help
- Water poured: Symbolic of repentance; pouring ones heart out

Psalm 62 (Read)

5My soul, wait in silence **for God only**,
For my hope is from Him.

6He only is **my rock** and my salvation,
My stronghold; I shall not be shaken.

7On God my salvation and my glory rest;
The **rock of my strength, my refuge is in God.**

8Trust in Him at all times, O people;

Pour out your heart before Him;

God is a refuge for us. Selah.

- **Fasted:** They denied themselves, feeding the Spirit

7Now when the **Philistines heard** that the sons of Israel had gathered to Mizpah, **the lords of the Philistines went** up against Israel. And when the sons of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines.

- The enemy is **always** watching, **especially** when we **renew our commitment to God**

1 Peter 5:8 Be of **sober spirit**, be on the alert Your adversary, the devil, **prowls** around like a roaring lion, **seeking someone to devour**

- **Sober spirit:** Understand that the battle never stops, even when we forget...being always ready in prayer
- After fasting, denying themselves, and receiving wisdom, Israel knew who to turn to...the only True God
- After Jesus had told His disciples they must "eat His flesh and drink His blood, most left Him, but Peter knew there was no one else that could save him...**only the only Living God**

John 6: 66 As a result of this [saying] many of His disciples withdrew

and were not walking with Him anymore. 67So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?" 68Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? **You have words of eternal life.** 69"We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."

- Jesus alone can save as we humble ourselves, repent and turn to Him with our **whole heart**
- Israel does this as they ask Samuel to pray

8Then the sons of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry to the LORD our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines." 9Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it for a whole burnt offering to the LORD; and Samuel cried to the LORD for Israel and the LORD answered him. 10Now Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, and the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. **But the LORD thundered with a great thunder** on that day against the Philistines and confused them, so that they were routed before Israel.

- Our enemy will come against us...**BUT THE LORD...**
- King Darius praise God for delivering Daniel from the lions mouths...

Daniel 6:26 "I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom **men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel;**

For **He is the living God** and enduring forever,
And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed,
And His dominion will be forever.

27"He **delivers and rescues** and performs signs and wonders
In heaven and on earth,

Who has also delivered Daniel from the **power of the lions.**"

11The men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and struck them down as far as below Beth-car. 12Then Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."

- Ebenezer: **Stone of Help**
- Now they would call on the **"Rock of Ages"**.
- The **"Never Changing One"**

13So the Philistines **were subdued** and they did not come anymore within the border of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was **against the Philistines** all the days of Samuel. 14The cities which the

Philistines had taken from Israel were **restored** to Israel, from Ekron even to Gath; and Israel **delivered** their territory from the hand of the Philistines. So there was **peace** between Israel and the Amorites.

Benefits of turning to the Lord with *all* our heart

- Enemies subdued (and confused)
- Deliverance from them
- Peace with God
- Restoration of our souls

Psalm 23 (Read)

1The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

3He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. 4Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me;

15Now Samuel **judged Israel** all the days of his life. 16He used to go annually on circuit to Bethel and Gilgal and Mizpah, and he judged Israel in all these places. 17Then his **return was to Ramah, for his house was there**, and there he judged Israel; and he built there an altar to the LORD.

- Samuel the **Nazarite**
- **Samuel, the son** his mother never lost... visits mom (Hannah)

Conclusion:

- If we are real, **our actions will prove it**
- If we are fake, that too will come out
- Years before Samuel the Israelites had promised to help their brothers win a military victory. **Moses admonished them to keep their word**

Numbers 32:20 (Read) So Moses said to them, "If you will do this, **if you will arm yourselves before the LORD for the war**, 21and all of you armed men cross over the Jordan before the LORD until He has driven His enemies out from before Him, 22and the land is subdued before the LORD, then afterward you shall return and be free of obligation toward the LORD and toward Israel, and this land shall be yours for a possession before the LORD. 23"But if you will not do so, behold, **you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out.**

- **Integrity:** *Doing what you say you are going to do*
- Don't be **half-hearted**
- If you make a commitment to the Lord...**arm yourself for war and count the cost**
- Though the cost of following the Lord is high, the cost of not following the Lord is **eternal separation** from Him
- **Good news:** The cost of salvation (forgiveness of your sin, abundant life on earth, and eternal life free of crying, sickness and death) **is FREE. It has been paid for by Jesus!**
- Our commitment to Jesus **must be real** and it **must be complete**. *God is not pleased with a half-hearted commitment*

Revelation 3:15 (Read) 'I know your deeds, that you are **neither cold nor hot**; I wish that you were cold or hot. 16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit [vomit]you out of My mouth.

- **Double-minded:** Not able to make a decision. Indecisive

17'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, 18I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. 19' Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore **be zealous and repent**.

- The **currency is faith** in the finished work of Jesus
 - All of the things "for sale" have already been paid for as we accept them by faith
1. **Gold** symbolizing **purity**
 2. **White Robes** symbolizing worth and sinless ness
 3. **Eye salve** symbolizing **discernment** and knowledge of the Truth
- **All of these** are available through faith in Christ
 - **Repent:** Change your mind, turn completely to Jesus

- **Be Restored:** Allow Him to change your life...get rid of the stuff behind the door
- Jesus Himself invites you personally

20'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if **anyone** hears My voice and opens the door, **I will come in to him** and will dine with him, and he with Me. 21'He who overcomes, **I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne**, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

If you are going to do it, do it with all your heart, mind, soul and strength!