

I. The Forthrightness of The Leader (3-4)

- A. There was a potential for the people (3a) - “Samuel said to all the house of Israel, “If you are returning to the Lord with all your heart...””
- B. There was a prerequisite for the people (3b) - “...then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your heart to the Lord and serve Him only...”
- C. There was a promise to the people (3c) - “...and He will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.”
- D. There was proof in the people (4) - “So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and they served the Lord only.”

II. The Faith of The Leader (5-6)

- A. Samuel’s faith displayed vertically (5-6a) - “Then Samuel said, “Gather all Israel at Mizpah, and I will pray to the Lord for you.” 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.”
- B. Samuel’s faith displayed horizontally (6b) - “And Samuel judged the people of Israel at Mizpah.”

III. The Fury of The Enemy (7-10a)

- A. Opposition (7a) - “Now when the Philistines heard that the people of Israel had gathered at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel...”
- B. Intimidation (7b) - “And when the people of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines.”
- C. Intercession (8-9) - “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.”
- D. Aggression (10a) - “As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel...”

IV. The Favor of the Lord (10b-13)

- A. The intervention of God (10b) - “But the Lord thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were routed before Israel.”
- B. The initiative of Israel (11) - “And the men of Israel went out from Mizpah and pursued the Philistines and struck them...”
- C. The insights of Samuel (12-13) - “Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, “Till now the Lord has helped us.” 13 So the Philistines were subdued and did not again enter the territory of Israel. And the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.”