

Ebenezer; 1 Samuel 7:12

- I. Given to The Lord
 - A. Hannah's prayer
 - B. Eli's response
 - C. 1 Samuel 2:1-10
 - D. 1 Samuel 2:26; Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and also with man.
 - E. Samuel's call
 - F. 1 Samuel 3:19–21; 19 And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. 20 And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord. 21 And the Lord appeared again at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.
 - G. The Philistines
 1. The ark is captured and Eli's sons are killed
 2. The ark and the Philistines
 3. The return of the ark
 4. 1 Samuel 6:18b; The great stone beside which they set down the ark of the Lord is a witness to this day in the field of Joshua of Beth-shemesh.
 - H. The Return of Israel
 1. 1 Samuel 7:3–6; 3 And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, "If you are returning to the Lord with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashteroth from among you and direct your heart to the Lord and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines." 4 So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashteroth, and they served the Lord only. 5 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." And Samuel judged the people of Israel at Mizpah.
 2. The Philistines attack Israel at Mizpah
 3. The Israelites are very afraid
 4. God causes thunder and throws the Philistines into confusion
 5. Israel wins the day
 6. 1 Samuel 7:12–13; 12 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.
- II. Ebenezer
 - A. Stones of remembrance
 1. The stone in the field of Joshua
 2. The stones when they crossed the Jordan river
 3. The Ebenezer stone (and there are many more)
 4. They help us remember
 - B. "The Lord has helped us"
 1. And we need help remembering!
 2. Just look at how many times God left His people to their own devices because of their wickedness
 3. What was Israel thinking when they looked at these stones?
 - C. What are our "Ebenezer's"

1. Doug Stone
2. Kenny Cebrun
3. Darren Wilson
4. Vence Gordon
5. Odell Farr
6. Joseph Partin
7. Hebrews 11:39–12:2; 39 And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
8. The greatest “ebenezer” stone of remembrance is the stone that was rolled away from the tomb

III. Where Are You?

- A. Have you lost sight of your “ebenezers;” the things that remind you that “till now the LORD has helped” you?
- B. Luke 4:18–19; Luke 4:18–21; 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” 20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”
- C. John 8:58; Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”
- D. Mark 14:60–62; 60 And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?” 61 But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” 62 And Jesus said, “I AM, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”
- E. Matthew 28:1–6; 1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

IV. Don’t Lose Sight

- A. Just as God used Samuel to help Israel, God is using us in His Kingdom
- B. Just like God gave Israel, we too have stones of remembrance to help us remember that “till now the LORD has helped us”
- C. Raise up your ebezezer high so you never lose sight of it!