



Repent. Rely. Remember.
9th in the “God’s King” Series
1 Samuel 7
July 24, 2022
Pastor Greg Lynas

Introduction

In this passage we see God’s people turning back to him, and then we see God show them an awesome display of care.

The Text: I Samuel 7

¹ And the men of Kiriath-jearim came and took up the ark of the Lord and brought it to the house of Abinadab on the hill. And they consecrated his son Eleazar to have charge of the ark of the Lord. ² From the day that the ark was lodged at Kiriath-jearim, a long time passed, some twenty years, and all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord.

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 Ashtaroth 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 Ashtaroth, 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. ⁷ Now when the Philistines heard that the people of Israel had gathered at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the people of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines. ⁸ 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. ¹⁰ As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel. But the Lord thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were defeated before Israel.

¹¹ And the men of Israel went out from Mizpah and pursued the Philistines and struck them, as far as below Beth-car.

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. ¹⁴ The cities that the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath, and Israel delivered their territory from the hand of the Philistines. There was peace also between Israel and the Amorites.

¹⁵ Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. ¹⁶ And he went on a circuit year by year to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah. And he judged Israel in all these places. ¹⁷ Then he would return to Ramah, for his home was there, and there also he judged Israel. And he built there an altar to the Lord.

Some thoughts from this week’s text.

- 1) God blesses Israel with the return of the ark before the people have repented of their sin. It was his undeserved favor that caused the people to see and confess their sin.
- 2) After seeing God’s goodness, the people rely on him and turn to him in their hour of need.
- 3) When God saves his people, they intentionally setup a reminder of his goodness that will proclaim his mighty deeds to themselves and future generations.

Response

Let us be sure to rely on God in our moments of need and be intentional about remembering his faithfulness in a way that others can see.

Sunday Text Questions

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- 1) Starter question: What stood out to you most in this passage?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) At the beginning of this chapter, we see that God blesses the people by returning the ark before they have repented of their sin. Why is this significant?
- 4) Have there been times in your life that God has gotten your attention by blessing you even though you weren't walking in faith? Elaborate.
- 5) In Verses 5-7 we see that when the people started pursuing God, the enemy decided to attack. Have you ever felt like the moments when you're walking in obedience are the moments you feel most attacked? Talk about this.
- 6) In verses 8-9, the people rightly turn to God and rely on him in their moment of crisis. How easy is it to rely on God when crisis strikes in your own life?
- 7) In verse 10-11 God does not save his people by simply giving them the strength to overcome, but by providing miraculous thunder that throws the enemy into confusion. Why is this significant?
- 8) What was the point of the Ebenezer? (vs. 12)
- 9) What are ways that you can keep Ebenezers before you and your household?

Further study this week: Passages that help us to repent, rely and remember. Joel 2:13 (Mon); Luke 15:7 (Tues); Proverbs 3:5-6 (Wed); Matthew 6:25 (Thurs); Psalm 78 (Fri).