

FINAL STUDY NOTES – *1 Samuel Chapters 6 - 8* 7/28-29/2025

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

- TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using *WAZE* ([waze.com/live map](http://waze.com/live-map)) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com),
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OPENING PRAYER

1 SAMUEL – Chapter 6 – The Ark Returned to Israel (vs. 1-19); The Ark at Kirjath Jearim – (vs. 20-21-; Chapter 7:1); Samuel Judges Israel (vs. 2-17); Chapter 8 – Israel Demands a King (vs. 1-22).

- ***(1Sa 5:11b-12) "Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go back to its own place, so that it does not kill us and our people." [12] And the men who did not die were stricken with the tumors, and the cry of the city went up to heaven.***

The Ark Returned to Israel –

1Sa 6:1 Now the ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months.

- **During which time they moved it from city to city. Until the last city they sought to bring it to, the men cried out, "Do not bring that thing here. What have you against us?"**

1Sa 6:2 And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, "What shall we do with the ark of the LORD? Tell us how we should send it to its place."

- They are looking to their own priests and diviners. They are looking to their religious leaders, seeking advice from them about how they might get rid of this thing, and how they might send it back to Israel.

1Sa 6:3-5 So they said, "If you send away the ark of the God of Israel, do not send it empty; but by all means return it to Him with a trespass offering. Then you will be healed, and it will be known to you why His hand is not removed from you." [4] Then they said, "What is the trespass offering which we shall return to Him?" They answered, "Five golden tumors and five golden rats, according to the number of the lords of the Philistines. For the same plague was on all of you and on your lords. [5] Therefore you shall make images of your tumors and images of your rats that ravage the land, and you shall give glory to the God of Israel; perhaps He will lighten His hand from you, from your gods, and from your land.

- The suggestion made by the priest, is, "Do not send it back empty; you have trespassed against the God of Israel. If you want to be free of these plagues, when you send the ark back, send a trespassing offering with it. They took the symbols of the plagues, five golden tumors and five golden rats, putting them in a chest and sending it back with the ark of the covenant.
- *Give glory to the God of Israel; perhaps He will lighten His hand from you, your gods and your land.*

1Sa 6:6 Why then do you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? When He did mighty things among them, did they not let the people go, that they might depart?

- Their advice was "do not harden your hearts towards God, because it will only get worse. Remember what happened to the Egyptians: they were smitten by ten different plagues. Every time they hardened their heart against God, it got worse. So, learn from them."
- It is interesting that God said this very same thing to His own people in (Psa 95:8) "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness.," How the people provoked God by hardening their hearts against God! Learn! Do not harden your hearts."
- **As the Philistines said, "Learn a lesson from the Egyptians." When Pharaoh hardened his heart, the result was deadly. How soft is my heart? Is it becoming more stiff, hard, or is it becoming softer?**

1Sa 6:7-10 Now therefore, make a new cart, take two milk cows which have never been yoked, and hitch the cows to the cart; and take their calves home, away from them. [8] Then take the ark of the LORD and set it on the cart; and put the articles of gold which you are returning to Him as a trespass offering in a chest by its side. Then send it away, and let it go. [9] And watch: if it goes up the road to its own territory, to Beth Shemesh, then He has done us this great evil. But if not, then we shall know that it is not His hand that struck us—it happened to us by chance." [10] Then the men did so; they took two milk cows and hitched them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home.

- Here is the thing: Let us make sure that this is God who has brought this plague on us. Take a couple of cows who have never been yoked. Remove their calves from them. Hitch up these cows to a brand-new cart and let go. If they go in a straight line to Israel, then we will surely know it was God!

1Sa 6:11-12 And they set the ark of the LORD on the cart, and the chest with the gold rats and the images of their tumors. [12] Then the cows headed straight for the road to Beth Shemesh, and went along the highway, lowing as they went, and did not turn aside to the right hand or the left. And the lords of the Philistines went after them to the border of Beth Shemesh

- Their "lowing" was the expression of their not liking what they were doing! They were being taken away from their calves. They were expressing their own displeasure at being taken away.
- **As I hear the LORD's calling, how much "lowing" do I make? Am I being unduly distracted by my flesh and the world?**

1Sa 6:13 Now the people of Beth Shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley; and they lifted their eyes and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it.

- They were harvesting their wheat when they looked up, hearing, no doubt, the lowing of these cows. They saw this cart with the ark of the covenant! You could imagine the emotions and reactions of these people when they saw the ark of God coming back to them in this fashion. They rejoiced to see it!

1Sa 6:14-15 Then the cart came into the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh, and stood there; a large stone was there. So they split the wood of the cart and offered the cows as a burnt offering to the LORD. [15]

The Levites took down the ark of the LORD and the chest that was with it, in which were the articles of gold, and put them on the large stone. Then the men of Beth Shemesh offered burnt offerings and made sacrifices the same day to the LORD.

- It was a time of great celebration as the ark of the covenant had been returned to them. Notice the priests were the ones that took the ark off of the cart. They broke the cart up, made a fire of the wood, burned the cows as a burnt offering unto the Lord, and had a great celebration.

1Sa 6:16-18 So when the five lords of the Philistines had seen it, they returned to Ekron the same day. [17] These are the golden tumors which the Philistines returned as a trespass offering to the LORD: one for Ashdod, one for Gaza, one for Ashkelon, one for Gath, one for Ekron; [18] and the golden rats, according to the number of all the cities of the Philistines belonging to the five lords, both fortified cities and country villages, even as far as the large stone of Abel on which they set the ark of the LORD, which stone remains to this day in the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh.

- Although the priests suggested to make five golden rats, it seems that the plagues of rats were more widespread than that of the tumors. The tumors would strike the major cities, but throughout all of the land of the Philistines, every village was plagued by these rats. There were numerous, as suggested; but none of the cities wanted to be left off. They all wanted to get rid of the plague of rats. No doubt, a great number of these golden rats were put in this chest as an offering unto God for their trespass against Him, in the keeping of the ark of the covenant in the land of the Philistines.
- Really, the ark of the covenant represented the place where man met God. The golden cherubim were carved above the ark of the covenant. It was a representation of a place where man met God. So, this sacred ark brought back to Israel tremendous rejoicing.

1Sa 6:19 Then He struck the men of Beth Shemesh, because they had looked into (opening the mercy seat!) the ark of the LORD. He struck fifty thousand and seventy men of the people, and the people lamented because the LORD had struck the people with a great slaughter.

- These people were curious to look inside. The ark with its mercy seat represented the most holy thing where man touched God. Sinful man cannot touch God. We do not, in these days, have a proper concept of the holiness of God. I sometimes shudder the way some people refer to God.
- Here are the men of Beth Shemesh showing spiritual degeneracy. It is quite possible, in the celebrating of the ark coming back, that they started drinking and got a little curious: "What does it look like?" They looked into the ark of the covenant. The Lord smote of the people fifty thousand and seventy men. There is a question among commentators whether or not the word fifty thousand is a correct translation of the Hebrew. Most believe that it should read just the seventy men. Those who dare to look were slain. Thus, their rejoicing turned into a period of lamentation because the LORD had smitten of the people with a great slaughter.

1Sa 6:20-21 And the men of Beth Shemesh said, "Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? And to whom shall it go up from us?" [21] So they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjath Jearim, saying, "The Philistines have brought back the ark of the LORD; come down and take it up with you."

- They came to the concept of the holiness of God. As these men began to dare and look at the thing, suddenly there was the awareness of the awesome holiness of God! They said, "Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? And to whom shall it go up from us?" To stand before God to worship Him is not impossible; we are through Christ invited, encouraged, and enabled to do it, but to stand before God to contend with Him we are not able. (Job 9:2, 33) "Truly I know it is so, But how can a man be righteous before God? [33] Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both.
- We cannot handle this thing here, let us get rid of it! They sent messengers to Kirjath Jearim, saying The Philistines have brought back the ark of the LORD; come down and take it up with you." We have a present for you.

1Sa 7:1 Then the men of Kirjath 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.

- Eleazar, the son of Abinadab, whose whole ministry was to take care of it, in their house.

1Sa 7:2 So it was that the ark remained in Kirjath Jearim a long time; it was there twenty years. And all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.

- **They had good reasons to lament.** Their cities were in ruins. Their army had been defeated, and they were living under Philistine domination! The reason was that they were not right with their God!

Samuel Judges Israel – A Wonderful revival in the making!

1Sa 7:3 *Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."*

- **A beautiful verse on revival!** Samuel spoke to all of the House of Israel saying what is just a beautiful verse on revival. There is a 20-year gap that occurs between verses 2 and 3. Now Samuel comes on the scene as a fully grown adult, beginning in earnest now to be a spiritual leader in the nation. He is telling them they can go from being beaten up by their enemies, to life being directed by God, which is much, much better! He is going to tell them how they can have a revival in their nation!
- **There are four keys being given here:**
 - ✓ **The first they needed to do** was to return to the Lord with all your hearts, giving a whole-hearted commitment to God! He so desires that full, close relationship with you! Come back to a place where your personal relationship with God meant something to you. When your heart was engaged in a relationship with the Lord. **(Rev 2:4-5a)** *Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. [5a] Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works.*
 - ✓ **Second** was then put away (all idols), the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you. They were to remove or to put away any idols, which compete with God in our lives. Any sin, any material thing, any hobby, any relationship that competes with Him!
 - ✓ **Third** was to prepare your hearts for the Lord. In other words, once again, make my life completely available to God for Him to use any way that He sees fit.
 - ✓ **Fourth** was to serve him only. We certainly cannot become Christ-like without serving, because the Bible says, **(Mrk 10:45)** *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*
 - ✓ **Then the promise!** As you do these things He will deliver you! You will see everything changed for you in your relationship with the Lord!
- **How we need a spiritual awakening in the United States.** How we need to turn from Baal, Ashtaroath, Mammon, Molech, the god of pleasure. How we need to turn to the true and living God, getting rid of these corrupting influences. Talk about sacrificing your children, which is shocking isn't it? How could they take their babies and sacrifice them to their gods? How could they place their babies in the red-hot arms of Baal and watch them burn to death? How could we kill thousands of little babies in the womb? We are just as guilty as they were.
- **This is such a beautiful verse. How am I doing in each of the four areas mentioned?**
Return! Put away idols! Prepare your heart and serve Him!

1Sa 7:4 *So the children of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and served the LORD only.*

- They followed the advice of Samuel.

1Sa 7:5 *And Samuel said, "Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you."*

- **So, they gathered together in Mizpah.** Probably the purpose was to throw off the yoke of the Philistines. "I will pray to the LORD for you." He had been promising that God will throw off the yoke of the Philistines, "if you will turn to God and serve Him," getting rid of other gods: "then God will deliver you." He gathers them together at Mizpah to pray to the LORD for you!

1Sa 7:6 *So they gathered together at Mizpah, drew water, and poured it out before the LORD (pouring out, emptying their hearts in repentance, an irreversible commitment.) - **(2Sa 14:14a)** *For we will surely die and become like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. And they fasted that day, and said there, "We have sinned against the LORD." And Samuel judged the children of Israel at Mizpah.**

- **It was a time of spiritual renewing.** A time for the confession of sins. It seems that spiritual renewal begins with the confession of sins. The people began to confess, "We have sinned against God!" A revival was then prompted and sparked as the result of confession of sins.

1Sa 7:7 Now when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel had gathered together at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines.

- Twenty years earlier they had been soundly defeated by the Philistines. The Philistines still had garrisons in the cities of Israel. They were subjected to these people. When the lords of the Philistines heard that they were gathered at Mizpah, they gathered all of their army, and they came up to Mizpah to battle. When the children of Israel heard that the Philistine army was on its way, they were frightened.

1Sa 7:8 So the children 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."

- They turned their fears into prayers. The Bible says (1Pe 5:7) *casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.* The Bible tells us that we are not to be worried. We are not to be full of care. How we need to learn to take our fears, our cares, misgivings, and just cast them on the Lord, saying, "Lord, help us!" So, they said to Samuel, "Do not stop praying Samuel!"
- **How true and needful for ourselves and our country today! The Lamb has been offered. Prayers need to be made. And our God will hear! (2Ch 7:14) if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.**

1Sa 7:9-10 And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. Then Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him. [10] Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the LORD thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel.

- **But the LORD thundered!** God joined the battle and just confused them that they were overcome before Israel! The tremendous thunderstorm and lightning gave chance for the Israelites to come rushing down from Mizpah, which is on a higher mount, onto the Philistines. They began to really wipe them out.

1Sa 7:11 And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car.

1Sa 7:12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."

- Earlier, in the same place of great defeat, now they have a great victory! What is the difference? Earlier they went out without prayer, without seeking the guidance and help of God. They went out in their own strength and in their own power. They were then thoroughly defeated. Now, they go out relying upon God. Fearful? Yes. Because they knew their strength was weak, but they were trusting in God. They went with prayer, sacrifice; and now God delivers the enemy into their hands!
- **Thus far the LORD has helped us! Our Ebenezer Stone!** The acknowledging of God and the work of God should always lead you to the worship of God. God has wrought great victory, and they have raised the stone up. "This is a monument to what God has done!" "*Thus far the LORD has helped us!*" This is the beginning of God's work. There are still more Philistines to be wiped out. But God has brought us this far! The encouraging thing about this is that God has not brought me this far to drop me, to let me go, or forsake me! Consider what is your most memorable "Ebenezer Stone!"
- **What a great example for us! How many times, as we are struggling against the flesh and the enemy, do we seek to go out in our own strength, finding ourselves defeated and wiped out. I do not have the power to resist temptations of the flesh. I need the strength and help of God! I must rely upon God to be victorious. Oh, the vast difference between defeat and victory! He is our Ebenezer Stone!**

1Sa 7:13-14 So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. [14] Then the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath; and Israel recovered its territory from the hands of the Philistines. Also there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

- Oh, what a difference for the nation, when they submit and follow the LORD! But carefully go on!

1Sa 7:15-17 And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. [16] He went from year to year on a circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah, and judged Israel in all those places. [17] But he always returned to Ramah, for his home was there. There he judged Israel, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

- *He went from year to year on a circuit.* Could it be that Samuel's family, especially his sons, were affected by his constant travel, being away from home?

Israel Demands a King –

1Sa 8:1 Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel.

- This was a mistake because his sons did not follow in the footsteps of their father.

1Sa 8:2-3 The name of his firstborn was Joel (Yahweh is God), and the name of his second, Abijah (God is my Father); they were judges in Beersheba (far southern part of Israel). [3] But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.

- Samuel's sons did not walk in his ways. There is no hint of corruption in Samuel's life. (*Jer 15:1*) Then the LORD said to me, "Even if Moses and Samuel stood before Me, My mind would not be favorable toward this people. Cast them out of My sight, and let them go forth."
- But. Samuel's sons were corrupt. There was corruption in the courts as the sons of Samuel were judging, they would take bribes, perverting judgment!

1Sa 8:4-6 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, [5] and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations." [6] But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the LORD.

- The hard thing here is that the people are now coming to Samuel, there in Ramah, demanding that he would give them a king. Unfortunately, their desire was to be like the nations around them. (*Deu 17:14*) "When you come to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,'"
- But God had said to His people (and us), (*2Co 6:17*) Therefore "COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE SEPARATE, SAYS THE LORD. DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN, AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU."

1Sa 8:7 And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them."

- The fact that Samuel had made his sons judges gives these people an excuse to ask for a king. Undoubtedly this was a heartbreak to Samuel. God comforts him with the assurance that Israel's rejection is not of him but of God Himself. Samuel's sons are the excuse, but rejection of God's sovereignty is the real reason.
- They have rejected Me, Samuel! I know you are bummed out about how you view this thing in terms of what it says about you. But it is not really about you supremely. It is about Me!
- There is something here that is extremely important. God is giving in to the demands of the people because He will not force you against your will! If you do not want to serve God, He is not going to force you to serve Him. (*Psa 106:15*) And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul.
- God will accommodate your lower standard. If you want to live on a low level, and insist on it, God will accommodate Himself to your lower level. He loves you so much, He will do the best that He possibly can for you at that lower level. However, that is tragic when we bring God down to our level, rather than being elevated and lifted to His level!

1Sa 8:8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also.

- What is happening to Me, is happening to you, Samuel. Since they have come out of Egypt, they have turned to other gods. They have not followed Me and now they are doing the same thing to you. They just do not want to follow you. It has been going around for four hundred years since they came out of Egypt. Samuel, you are just getting a little bit of what I have had for a long time! How we see in the Bible over and over, man's tendency to worship idols!

1Sa 8:9 Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them."

- **Samuel was to let the people know the repercussions of their request.** He was to forewarn and show them that that man is incapable in handling authority and power without corruption. There is a greed within man that keeps him from exercising authority, power, and government over other men without becoming corrupted. It is impossible! Man, just does not have that kind of self-control. So, if you have a king over you, there is going to be corruption. He is going to abuse his position, and you will suffer the results of that abuse.
- **God says that is what is going to happen.** You set up a man to rule over you, and there is going to be corruption. If only God would rule over us. If only we would be satisfied to have God rule over us. Only then can we have a government without corruption, a truly righteous government.

Samuel's Warning Against Kings –

1Sa 8:10-14 So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked him for a king. [11] And he said, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons (6x) and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots. [12] He will appoint captains (raise a standing army) over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. [13] He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. [14] And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants.

- **Are you sure you want a king? The government is going to start to take over.** By eminent domain, they take away your own property. You will not have the rights to your own property. Have you ever tried to build something, and find out all the hoops you have to jump through just to put something on your own property? You do not really have the rights. You think, "Well, that's my land!" But that is not the way the government looks at it.
- **Then the king will start taxing you. It is going to get tough.** And they are going to start crying out to God because of the abuses of government. "If that's what you want, then God is not going to listen." Having been warned, how do they respond?

1Sa 8:15-18 He will take a tenth (we would be happy with that) of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. [16] And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work. [17] He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. [18] And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day."

The Lord Grants Israel's Request –

1Sa 8:19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us,

- **They were warned, but they said that they would still take it.** It is amazing at the bondage that people are willing to live under just because they do not want God to rule over them. Have you noticed that? People will live in bondage to drugs, alcohol, and all other kinds of horrible bondage. When you come to them and say, "Hey, just turn your life over to Jesus Christ: and He can set you free." Immediately they reply, "No, No! I do not want that Man." Then they will go out and tell you how miserable things are, "I wish I were dead," But when you tell them to turn their life over to Jesus, they say, "No, I can't handle that!"
- **This was the choice that the Israelites were making.** Do not fault them too much, because you may be making the same choice. It may be that you are running from God's reigning over your life. It may be that you are living in a life of bondage just because you do not want to submit your life to be ruled over by Jesus Christ. You see, all of these people are not dead. We are surrounded by them today. People are living in abject misery and in horrible bondage who still do not want God to rule over them.

1Sa 8:20-21 that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles." [21] And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of the LORD.

- **It is admirable that Samuel goes back to the LORD once more.** He talks to God about the issues. God was not in need of the information from Samuel. But Samuel needed to spend time with Him.

1Sa 8:22 So the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed their voice, and make them a king." And Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Every man go to his city."

- It is always a bad desire to be like the world around you. We are to be different than the world around us!
- The children of Israel are going to have their way. God is going to give them a king. What was true of Israel in the days of Moses is still true. (*Psa 106:15*) And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul. God will grant Israel's desire for a king, but it will not be to their advantage.
- **God always gives His best to those who leave the choice with Him. Always! Will you and I be sure to remember that?**

SUMMARY

- **As the Philistines said, "Learn a lesson from the Egyptians." When Pharaoh hardened his heart, the result was deadly. How soft is my heart? Is it becoming more stiff, hard, or is it becoming softer?** (*1Sa 6:6*)
- **As I hear the LORD's calling, how much "lowing" do I make? Am I being unduly distracted by my flesh and the world?** (*1Sa 6:12*)
- **This is such a beautiful verse. How am I doing in each of the four areas mentioned? Return! Put away idols! Prepare your heart and serve Him!** (*1Sa 7:3*)
- **How true and needful for ourselves and our country today! The Lamb has been offered. Prayers need to be made. Our God will hear! (2Ch 7:14) if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.** (*1Sa 7:8*)
- **What a great example for us! How many times, as we are struggling against the flesh and the enemy, do we seek to go out in our own strength, finding ourselves defeated and wiped out. I do not have the power to resist temptations of the flesh. I need the strength and help of God! I must rely upon God to be victorious. Oh, the vast difference between defeat and victory! He is our Ebenezer Stone!** (*1Sa 7:12*)
- **God always gives His best to those who leave the choice with Him. Always! Will you and I be sure to remember that?** (*1Sa 8:22*)
- My Ebenezer Stone! Thus far the LORD has helped us! Having brought me this far, God is going to take me all the way. He has not brought me this far just to dump me. He has not begun a good work in me, just to give it up. (*Php 1:6*) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ! (Jud 1:24) Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. Oh yes, He is doing that. I have raised my Ebenezer stone! He is able, and He has helped to keep me from stumbling. **All the way my Savior (not man or an earthly king!) leads me!**

ALL THE WAY MY SAVIOR LEADS ME – F. Crosby/Mennonite Singers (1:59/2:02)

All the way my Savior leads me, What have I to ask beside? Can I doubt His tender mercy, Who through life has been my Guide? Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort, Here by faith in Him to dwell! For I know, whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well; For I know, whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well.

All the way my Savior leads me, Oh, the fullness of His love! Perfect rest to me is promised In my Father's house above. When my spirit, clothed immortal, Wings its flight to realms of day This my song through endless ages: Jesus led me all the way; This my song through endless ages: Jesus led me all the way.

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Study 1 Samuel, Chapters 9-11!