

THE BOOK OF FIRST SAMUEL

"Revival Under Samuel"

1 Samuel 7:1-17

Introduction

1. Samuel had an unusual call from the Lord for service (1 Sam. 1-3). From the very beginning, he was a man set aside for a peculiar ministry. He did not rest until his goal for ministering to Israel was reached. He did not quit the work of God.
2. There is little doubt that Samson and Samuel had a number of contacts one with another. Their joint intent on being used of God is evident with the ultimate defeat of the Philistines at Mizpeh.
3. It is probable that Samuel ministered in the central section of the land--Mizpeh, Bethel, Gilgal, and Ramah (1 Sam. 7:15-17). This was the very area of attack from the Philistines (1 Sam. 10:5; 13:4). He lived in the hot spot of the nation. His students probably touched the other areas.
4. The climax of Samuel's spiritual ministry was the great revival at Mizpeh. Elements included in this are these:

1. LAMENTATION v. 2.

This verb is used only three times in the Old Testament (here, Ezek. 32:18; Mic. 4:2). Two thoughts are involved:

- a. Emotion Wailing is dominant. Deep emotion is expressed within one's heart.
- b. Dedication This is clear from the words "after the Lord." The removal of the ark from the camp had lasted 20 years. They yearned for HIM! A true revival begins with this sort of spirit (Psa. 51:17).

2. DETERMINATION v. 3.

What is involved here is a true returning unto the Lord with all of its implications. If revival is to come, then this must be seen. It means to convert to the Lord with the full heart. Specifics are mentioned:

- a. Put away This verb accents strong and vigorous action of separation from false gods. Two are mentioned: Ashtaroth and Baalim. This is the most serious of sins before God--the worship of false deities. Anything or anyone displacing the Lord is this sort of thing.

- b. Prepare This verb means to "get right, make ready, or to apply the heart, and mind." See its usage in the Old

Testament (2 Chron. 12:14; 19:3; 30:19; Ezra 7:10; Psa. 78:8). This is all toward the Lord. That is the important item.

c. Serve This verb marks the servility of the one returning to the Lord. It is expected that this will be "only" unto the Lord. Utterly for God--this is the truth! It is like our Lord (Psa. 40:8).

3. APPLICATION vv. 4-7.

Returning to the Lord is not an expression but an action. Hence, it is seen here that Israel took action to support their profession. Here they are:

a. They put away The false gods were put aside.

b. They served the Lord They were utterly separated unto the Lord.

c. They drew water Like David, they poured this out unto the Lord (2 Sam. 23:16). It is an evidence that all they possessed belonged to Him.

d. They fasted While fasting is not a normal exercise of New Testament activity, the matter was perfectly acceptable in the Old Testament as an expression of personal commitment to the Lord.

e. They confessed This is a true attendant of revival. They did it. They acknowledged sin. Wrong admitted is a necessary corollary of revival.

Conclusion With the record made right, the results of such a work of God are enormous. Here are some of them: 1)

Promise. God would deliver them from the Philistines (v. 3). Samuel would pray for them (v. 5). 2) Leadership.

God gave Israel stable and strong guidance (v. 6). A people without a leader is a sad group to behold. 3)

Witness. It wasn't long before the Philistines heard what was going on in Israel (v. 7). This is a great point for those who walk with the Lord (Psa. 51:13). 4) Triumph.

God gloriously intervened to give Israel the victory over the Philistines. It came through a thunderstorm (v. 10). The verb "discomfited" means to put into confusion (cf.

Josh. 10:10). This resulted in a total rout of the Philistines (vv. 10-14). 5) Worship. Under the leadership of Samuel, they offered a whole burnt offering to the Lord

(v. 9). Giving comes from reviving! Oh, may God send us refreshing revival for all of us. Amen.