



Samuel, God's Righteous Judge

(1 Samuel 7:3-17)

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- 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 Ashtaroath 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 Ashtaroath, 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.

1 Samuel 7:3-17

- 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.

1 Samuel 7:3-17

- ¹² Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shenⁿ 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.

Not This Kind of “Judge”



What a “Judge” was in Ancient Israel

- “In premonarchical Israel, the Lord, ‘Judge of all the earth’ (Genesis 18:25), appointed judges by causing the spirit of God to descend upon them (Judges 3:9). To lead armies and deliver the Israelites from their oppressors (Judges 2:16, 3:10).”
- *--Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*

Judges of Ancient Israel



JUDGES OF ISRAEL

Gideon

Major Judges

Tola

Minor Judges

ConformingToJesus.com



A Cycle of Disobedience

(Judges 2:16-19)

- ¹⁶ Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them.
- ¹⁷ Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the LORD, and they did not do so.
- ¹⁸ Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them.
- ¹⁹ But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways.
- **Sin—punishment—cry for help—deliverance—repeat**

Example of a “Judge”: Othniel

- ⁷ And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. They forgot the LORD their God and served the Baals and the Asheroth. ⁸ Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia. And the people of Israel served Cushan-rishathaim eight years.
- ⁹ But when the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the people of Israel, who saved them, Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. ¹⁰ The Spirit of the LORD was upon him, and he judged Israel.
- He went out to war, and the LORD gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand. And his hand prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim. ¹¹ So the land had rest forty years. (Judges 3:7-11)
- **Sin—punishment—cry for help—deliverance—repeat**

Sermon Theme

**God's Providence through Samuel's
(Obedience, Faith, and) Leadership**

I. Repentance:

A call to turn away and turn back (7:3-4)

- 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.

I. Repentance:

A call to turn away and turn back (7:3-4)

- “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face **and turn from their wicked way**, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- “From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, ‘**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’” (Matthew 4:17)
- “**Repent therefore, and turn back**, that your sins may be blotted out” (Acts 3:19)

II. Prayer:

A call to seek God's face (7:5-6)

- 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.

II. Prayer:

A call to seek God's face

- “Restore us, O LORD God of hosts!
Let your face shine, that we may be saved!” (Psalm 80:19)
- “Rejoice always, ¹⁷ **pray without ceasing**, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)
- “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit himself intercedes for us** with groanings too deep for words.” (Romans 8:26)

III. Protection:

God's blessings upon those who seek Him (7:7-11)

- 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.

III. Protection:

God's blessings upon those who seek Him

- “The Lord will **protect you** from all evil; He will keep your soul.” (Psalm 121:7)
- “God is **our refuge and strength**,
a very present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1)
- “But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and **guard you** against the evil one.” (2 Thessalonians 3:3)

IV. Peace:

God provides beyond our expectations (7:12-14)

- ¹² Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shenⁿ 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.

IV. Peace:

God provides beyond our expectations

- “Peace I leave with you; **my peace I give to you**. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” (John 14:27)
- “Now to him who is **able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think**, according to the power at work within us.” (Ephesians 3:20)

V. Permanence:

Ways to stay on the right path (7:15-17)

- 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.

V. Permanence:

Ways to stay on the right path

- “**Choose** this day whom you will serve . . . But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15)
- - “I was glad when they said to me,
 “**Let us go to the house of the LORD!**” (Psalm 122:1)
- “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to **meet together**, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Review

- I. Repentance:** A call to turn away and turn back (7:3-4)
- II. Prayer:** A call to seek God's face (7:5-6)
- III. Protection:** God's blessings upon those who seek Him (7:12-14)
- IV. Peace:** God provides beyond our expectations (7:12-14)
- V. Permanence:** Ways to stay on the right path (7:15-17)



Let Us Pray

