

1 Samuel 7

April 26, 2012

V. 1-2a

If you remember, the Ark of the Covenant had been captured by the Philistines (ch. 4), but after somewhere around 7 months, the Ark had returned to the land of Israel, to the people of Israel; eventually it found its way to Kirjath-Jearim, into the house of Abinidab, and into the care of Eleazar – he was to “keep,” to care for the ark of the Lord.

At the time of the writing of 1 Samuel it had been there 20 years. It would actually remain there until the time of David, some 100 years later; not to be moved until 2 Samuel chapter 6

But the Ark was back. And so, some would figure that since the Ark was back that everything would be fine - right?

Wrong!

V. 2

The people were still hurting, they were still struggling – and so they started crying, literally weeping for the **Lord** to return, for their **own hearts** to return.

What had happened was the Ark of God had returned, but the people hadn't returned to God.

Jeremiah 31:9 “They shall come with weeping, and with supplications I will lead them...”

Matthew 5:4 “Blessed *are* those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

It's been said that, “God goes deep, when we weep.”

These tears were real, and they meant that the people were finally ready to surrender. (Notice the word “all” – v.2)

V. 3

“For years God had been preparing Samuel for this strategic ministry...” – Wiersbe – and now the time had come!

What time? Time to return!

Based on Deuteronomy 30:2

1 Kings 8:48 "and *when* they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name:"

Isaiah 55:7 "Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon."

Hosea 6:1-3 "1 Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. 2 After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight. 3 Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, like the latter *and* former rain to the earth."

Joel 2:12-14 "12 "Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." 13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, for He *is* gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm. 14 Who knows *if* He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him -- a grain offering and a drink offering For the LORD your God?"

Get Rid

Get Real

Get Right

Get Ready for God to move

Get Rid (Pluralism and Hedonism)

No one can serve 2 masters! Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Mormonism, Judaism, Catholicism.

Self! Self is the idol to which all men naturally bow!

1 John 5:21 "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen."

Ephesians 4:22-24 "that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of

your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

Relations, Possessions, Ambitions

Get Real

The heart of the matter is the matter of the heart!

Matthew 15:8 “These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with *their lips*, But their heart is far from Me.”

Proverbs 23:26 “My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.”

Get Right

Right there, right ***where*** we belong, where God is not only first, He’s also last, where He’s the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end.

Get Rid, Get Real, Get Right and Get ready.

The word preparation means there’s an expectation – God is about to do an awesome work!

Notice the promise (3b)

Are you on medication? – God will conquer the pill-istines

Trouble with finances? – God will take care of the bill-istines

Like the rest of the world, are you primarily seeking Pleasure – You’ll be free from the thrill-istines

Do you eat too much – He’ll even defeat the meal-istines

Some even say they just don’t ***feel*** like it – God can even conquer the problematic, feel-istines

V. 4

It's not enough to listen, it's not enough to learn; it must go beyond the listening room and the learning room and make it all the way to our living room!

They put away the Baals (the rain God – provision) and the Ashtoreths (God of perversion).

How about you and I; what do we need to put away?

For me

Certain music, certain movies;

I need to keep my flesh under control dealing primarily with sleep and supper;

Computer – Facebook and all the apps that sap the life out of us!

The people exemplified that they were serious in their search of the Savior.

V. 5-6

Don't you love the way they gathered together? There was a unity!

Hebrews 10:25 "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

They drew water and poured it out – symbolizing the time God gave them water in the wilderness.

In John chapter 7 we see the Jews doing the same thing during the feast of Tabernacles. And at the moment Jesus said, John 7:37-38 "...If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.""

The people were thirsting for the living God:

Psalms 42:1-2 "...As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?"

Psalms 63:1 "<<A Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah.>> O God, You *are* my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water."

They fasted – a significant sign that they were seriously seeking the Lord

Pouring water, fasting from food:

Confessing their sins – not just, “I messed up, I made a mistake

V. 7-8

NIV – Do not stop crying out to the LORD our God for us

1 Samuel 12:23 “Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.”

V. 9

Psalm 99:6 “Moses and Aaron were among His priests, And Samuel was among those who called upon His name; they called upon the LORD, and He answered them.”

Apparently Samuel was a great intercessor! Jeremiah 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.”

V. 10

NIV – And threw them into such a panic

Psalm 18:13-14 “The LORD thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered His voice, Hailstones and coals of fire. He sent out His arrows and scattered the foe, lightnings in abundance, and He vanquished them.”

V. 11

NIV – The men of Israel rushed out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, slaughtering them along the way to a point below Beth Car.

V. 12

Took a stone (Genesis 28:18; 35:14; Joshua 4:9; 24:26)

V. 13

NIV - And did not invade Israelite territory again

V. 14-17

A Godly Realization

A Godly Restoration

A Godly Nation