

IMMEDIATE ACTION

1 Samuel 7:1-13

¹And the men of Kiriath-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.

²From the day that the ark remained at Kiriath-jearim, the time was long, for it was twenty years; and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.

³Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the LORD with all your heart, remove the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your hearts to the LORD and serve Him alone; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."

⁴So the sons of Israel removed the Baals and the Ashtaroth and served the LORD alone.

⁵Then Samuel said, "Gather all Israel to Mizpah and I will pray to the LORD for you."

⁶They gathered to 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 sons of Israel at Mizpah.

⁷Now when the Philistines heard that the sons of Israel had gathered to Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the sons of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines.

⁸Then the sons of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry to the LORD our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines."

⁹Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it for a whole burnt offering to the LORD; and Samuel cried to the LORD for Israel and the LORD answered him.

¹⁰Now Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, and the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day against the Philistines and confused them, so that they were routed before Israel.

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

¹²Then Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."

¹³So the Philistines were subdued and they did not come anymore within the border of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

See back for instructions

LIBERATION IS NOT DELIVERANCE

Who do you turn to?

Have you ever been surrounded by an enemy or a situation that just seemed to be impossible? Have you ever tried to sort the situation yourself or rely upon other natural abilities? Sons of Israel were being tormented by an enemy and they had tried to sort it out themselves but failed. How were they going to find relief from this situation?

Follow the instructions and discover truth for yourself.

1. Read 1 Samuel 7:1-13 as you read put a box around every reference to Samuel and make a list of what you learn about Him.
2. Re-Read 1 Samuel 7:1-13 this time put a star over every reference to the 'sons of Israel' and make a list of what you learn
3. What 4 things did Samuel advise Israel to do?
4. What was promised to them if they did they obeyed?
5. How did the sons of Israel respond to these instructions?
6. What happened as a result of their obedience?

Reflect:

Who do you rely on in difficult situations? God or Yourself?
Do you allow godly people to speak into your situation?
Is your heart devoted to God in the way that it should?
Is there anything that you need to remove from your life?

*Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you,
and you will honour Me." Psalm 50:15*

Supplied by: **Precept Ministries Ireland**
Cyril Johnston Complex
135 Ballynahinch Road
Carrduff, BT8 8DJ
www.preceptireland.org
info@preceptireland.org

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