

God Answers Samuel's Prayer

BIBLE BASIS: Lesson Scripture:

1Samuel 7:3-13

BIBLE TRUTH:

**God hears and answers our prayers according to his will,
John 11:41-42, Luke 11:1-3, Isa. 65:24, Jer. 33:3, 1John
5:13-15, Ps. 66:17-19**

MEMORY VERSE:

**And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a
burnt offering wholly unto the Lord: and Samuel cried
unto the Lord for Israel; and the Lord heard him. 1Sam.
7:9**

Lesson Aim

**That each student will learn how their prayers should
be according to Gods will and how the believers prayers
gives God the legal right or permission to intervene in
the affairs of men. Gen. 1:28,, Luke 18:1**

Introduction

- Some of us can say, I am a product of my mothers prayers. This was the case of Samuels mother, Samuel was a product of his mothers prayers. 1Sam 1:11
- Samuel means “His name is God. Samuel was not only a product of his mothers prayers, but, was called of God to be a prophet and priest and establish God’s authority on earth and among his people. 1Sam. 2:35, 1Sam 3:1-10
- Samuel grew up in the tabernacle at Shiloh under the tutelage of Eli the priest. As a young boy, Samuel received a message directly from God concerning the displeasure with the house of Eli. 1Sam 3:12-14
- Samuel also represent and era of change and was the last of the judges In Israel and the Kingdom era began. 1Sam 8:1-7
- One of his final acts as Judge was anointing both Saul and David as kings of Israel. 1Sam 10:1,6, 1Sam. 16:13
- In this weeks lesson we see how God acted when the prophet Samuel prayed. He delivered His people . It shows us that the prayers of one solitary, godly person can be effective. We dare not undervalue what God will do in response to a faithful servant on his knees. Jam 5:15-17
- The Israelites were in constant danger on being attacked by the neighboring Philistines which had defeated Israel and taken the ark of the covenant from them. 1Sam 4:3-11

Holy or Unholy

- 1 Samuel 7:3-4 And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines..
- Samuel, a prophet, priest and judge, used this opportunity to remind Israel that if they were really serious about following God, they would destroy the images and stop practicing the pagan customs that they had picked up from the inhabitants in the land. Deut. 31:16-17
- In the O.T. God always proclaimed himself a jealous God. This meant that He was never going to be one of many gods; rather, He was to be the only God the Israelites worshiped. It was not that the Israelites wanted to abandon God completely, but they had the notion that they could worship and serve other gods at the same time. Joshua had made it clear that this was not acceptable. Josh. 24:18-20, Lev. 10:10
- When God's will is carried out among His people, they are blessed. This means that our well-being, is altogether linked to the carrying out of God's will not our will. We should not seek our own well-being apart from God's will. This principle of subordination of our own will has been neglected and almost lost, it needs to be rediscovered by the Body of Christ. Luke 11:1-3, Phil 2:4-6, Heb 2:10-12

What Habit Do I Need To Put Away In My Life?

- [4] Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the Lord only
- Change is not change until you change. Repentance is more than just words spoken. It is coming into agreement with God. Our children will often give us an example of what repentance is not: When children are caught doing wrong and must face the consequence of their wrong doing they do everything they can to avoid it. They are not really sorry about what they did, they are only sorry they got caught. Now they say whatever they need to say to avoid the consequence of their wrong doings. Isa. 29:13-16
- Paul gives us a clear example of true repentance. 2Cor. 7:9-11,
- **Baal and Ashtaroth**, practiced sexual rites, their festivals were popular throughout the ancient world. There is nothing like sexual freedom when it comes to leading people away from God. Rev. 2:14
- We should also bear in mind that **Easter** is a fertility festival which derived its name from this goddess **Ashtaroth**. That is why we see **bunny rabbits** and **painted eggs** in the stores at Easter time. The **egg** is a symbol of fertility and the **rabbit** is one of the most prolific of animals. Thus was born the idea that the husband **Baal** with his wife **Ashtaroth** would produce bountiful harvests in the vineyard, the field and the womb. Israel's God and His commandments concerning sexual conduct would certainly not be welcome in the land of Canaan.

Prayer Changes Things

- [5] And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the Lord. [6] And they gathered together to Mizpeh, 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 children of Israel in Mizpeh.
- Samuel calls for a National Day of Prayer for Israel and leads the nation in and intercessory prayer to the Lord. As believers we need to stand in the gap and pray for our nation. Ezek 22:30-31, 1Tim 2:1-4
- According to the Word of God the destiny of a nation is not in the hand of its elected officials or its self appointed dictators alone, but, the fate of a nation is in the hands of the people of God. Prov. 21:1, Jer. 29:11, 2Chron. 7:14.
- Israel drew water and poured it out before the Lord; signifying their humiliation and sorrow for sin. They poured out their hearts in repentance before the Lord. They made a public confession, We have sinned against the Lord; thus giving glory to God, and taking shame to themselves. And if we thus confess our sins, we shall find our God faithful and just to forgive us our sins. 1John 1:8-10
- Samuel also used the gathering at Mizpeh to judge the children of Israel. One of the signs of spiritual renewal is when we see the desire to seek reconciliation for offenses committed against others and draw closer to God. James 4:8-11

When I Do Good Evil Is Always Present

- [7] And when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Mizpeh, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines.[8] And the children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the Lord our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines. [9] And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a burnt offering wholly unto the Lord: and Samuel cried unto the Lord for Israel; and the Lord heard him
- The Philistines had already invaded Israel. When Israel decided to turn from their backsliding and repent of their sins, it stirred up the Philistines. As believers, we must expect that Satan will muster all his force against us, and set his instruments at work to the utmost, to oppose and discourage us. Rom 7:21
- The Israelites begged Samuel to pray for them. What a comfort it is to all believers, that our great Intercessor above never ceases to pray for us. He is seated on the right-hand of God for us. Heb. 7:24-26
- One of the most potent weapons of the enemy is fear. The Israelites were terrified of the Philistines and did not know what to do. It's these kind of occasions of desperation people turn to the Lord. 2Tim 1:7
- Since Samuel was their earthly connection with God, the people pleaded with him to cry to pray for them and ask Him to deliver them. As believers we must live lives that we can pray to God ourselves and ask Him to help us in our time of need. Isa. 59:1-2, Heb. 4:14-16

Victory Is A Gift Not A Work

- [10] And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the Lord thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel. [11] And the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them, until they came under Beth-car.
- Samuel sacrifice a sucking lamb as a burnt offering to the Lord, probably signifying the nations consecration to God now that repentance had taken place. He then cried out to the Lord for Israel and the Lord heard him. Repentance, confession, and forgiveness' should always precede petition. Ps 68:18
- God answers Samuels prayer through and act of nature, giving Israel the advantage over it enemies.
- Samuel knew he was Gods reprehensive for this time in Israel's history. Samuel was devoted to the people of God and felt obligated before God to pray for his people. 1Sam 12:22-23
- While Samuel prayed the enemy showed up and God showed out and the Philistines were confused and began to run and Israel slaughtered them from Mizpeh to Beth-car. This was a great victory for Israel and cause for celebration. 1Cor 15:57-58

Samuel Wants Israel To Remember This Day

- [12] Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Eben-ezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us. [13] So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Israel: and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.
- Samuel erected a memorial of this victory, to the glory of God, and to encourage Israel and remind them of what God had done for them.
- Through successive generations, the church of God has had cause to set up Eben-ezer; neither outward persecutions nor inward corruptions have prevailed against Her, because hitherto the Lord hath helped her: to ? and he will help, even to the end of the world. Matt. 16:16-19
- We have many memorial in America to remind us of our past. We have the Washington and Lincoln and Jefferson memorial in Washinton DC to remind us of the character and contributions of these great men. Many of us will never get the chance to visit these memorial because of the distance they are from here. However, a far more simpler, but much more profound memorial has been provided to every child of God, The Lord Supper. When we partake of its rudimentary element, we remember the victory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ over sin, death and the grave. 1Cor. 15:51-57, 1Cor. 11:23-32