

WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////

This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!) We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your group.



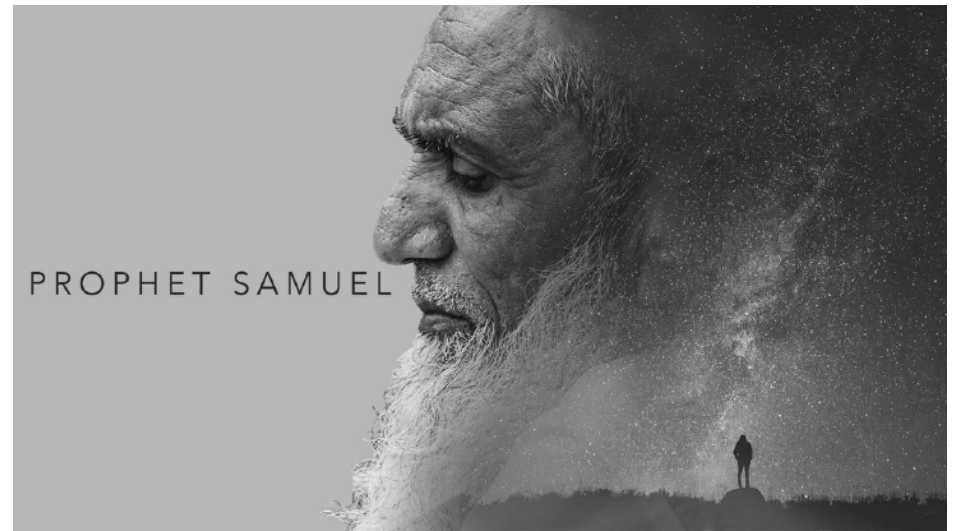
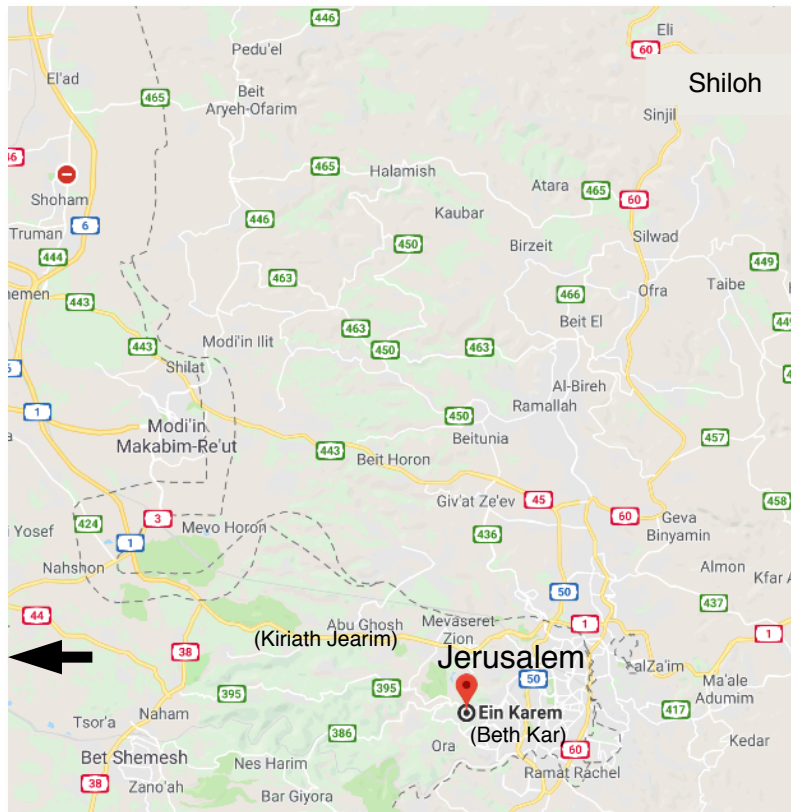
FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Why did all the bad things happen in Israel?
2. Why was Samuel so important in this account?
3. What did you learn about “even-ha-ezer” and how can it be helpful in your walk with Christ?

MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS SERIES

Psa. 99:6 Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel was among those who called on his name; they called on the LORD and he answered them.

THE MAP



May 26 & 27, 2018 | Samuel #3 | 1 Samuel 7 | Dennis Miller, pastor

TWO THOUGHTS FOR THIS SERIES:

1. In each generation there are a FEW people who live differently than those around them, who TRUST God, and who therefore make an enormous positive IMPACT.
2. A Christian life is not measured by success or failure but by a Godly CHARACTER.

SOME CONTEXT

1. After the story of God CALLING Samuel in chapter 3, Samuel is not mentioned from 1Samuel 4:1 to 7:3. We assume that he was TRAVELING and preaching throughout Israel.

1Sam. 4:1 And Samuel's word came to all Israel.

1 Sam 7:16 From year to year he went on a circuit from Bethel to Gilgal to Mizpah, judging Israel in all those places.

2. Some really BAD things happened in Israel while Samuel was AWAY from Shiloh:

- Eli's sons (Hophni & Phinehas) continued as EVIL priests;
- The Philistines attacked Israel and DEFEATED them;
- Hophni and Phinehas took the Ark of the Covenant to the FRONT of the battle to UNLEASH God's power;
- The Philistines CAPTURED the Ark, ROUTED Israel's army and killed Hophi and Phinehas;

- Eil received this news, fell off his chair and DIED;
- Phinehas' wife went into labor, gave birth to a SON, and with her dying breath named the child ICHABOD (meaning *“the glory of the Lord has departed”*).
- 3. However, it was ISRAEL that was embarrassed, not GOD because:
 - The Philistines took the Ark of the Covenant back to Ashdod and put it in the TEMPLE of their god DAGON.
 - The next morning Dagon was lying face-down in FRONT of the Ark, so the Philistines set him back up.
 - However, the following morning, Dagon was lying in front of the Ark again, but his HEAD and HANDS were broken off.
 - The following weeks, God afflicted the Philistines with TUMORS and, in desperation, the Ark was finally placed on a CART and taken to Beth Shemesh.

ISRAEL'S REPENTANCE

1Sam. 7:3 So Samuel said to all the Israelites, “If you are returning to the LORD with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths and commit yourselves to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.” 4 So the Israelites put away their Baals and Ashtoreths, and served the LORD only. 5 Then Samuel said, “Assemble all Israel at Mizpah, and I will intercede with the LORD for you.” 6 When they had assembled at Mizpah, they drew water and poured it out before the LORD. On that day they fasted and there they confessed, “We have sinned against the LORD.” Now Samuel was serving as leader of Israel at Mizpah.

1. If you want to be in a RIGHT relationship with God, do the following:

- a. RID yourselves of your SIN.
- b. COMMIT yourselves to the LORD
- c. Serve Him ONLY — Put Him FIRST.
- d. Give Him the WORSHIP He deserves. (assembled, poured out water, confessed, fasted, etc.) — KEEP Him first.

Lam. 2:19 Arise, cry out in the night, as the watches of the night begin; pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord.

2. And Samuel, who wasn't part of the problem, PRESIDED.

GOD'S RESPONSE

1Sam. 7:7 When the Philistines heard that Israel had assembled at Mizpah, the rulers of the Philistines came up to attack them. When the Israelites heard of it, they were afraid because of the Philistines. 8 They said to Samuel, “Do not stop crying out to the LORD our God for us, that he may rescue us from the hand of the Philistines.” 9 Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and sacrificed it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. He cried out to the LORD on Israel's behalf, and the LORD answered him. 10 While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. But that day the LORD thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites. 11 The men of Israel rushed out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, slaughtering them along the way to a point below Beth Kar.

1. The Philistines HEARD about the assembly and decided to put the Israelites “in their PLACE”.
2. Samuel did not STOP the worship when the Philistine army arrived. While sacrificing a lamb, he called on the people to PRAY.
3. And the battle was OVER as soon as “the LORD answered”.
4. God caused a loud THUNDER, maybe in response to Hannah's SONG, and confused the Philistines. They were CLOBBERED for many miles.

1Sam. 2:9 . . . “It is not by strength that one prevails; 10 those who oppose the LORD will be broken. The Most High will thunder from heaven; the LORD will judge the ends of the earth.

THE REMEMBRANCE STONE

1Sam. 7:12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far the LORD has helped us.”

So that God's VICTORY would not be forgotten, Samuel set up a ROCK and named it “EVEN” (אֶבֶן, a stone) “Ha-EZER” (הָעֵזֶר, the help) — the stone of help.

THE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

1Sam. 7:13 So the Philistines were subdued and they stopped invading Israel's territory. Throughout Samuel's lifetime, the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines. 14 The towns from Ekron to Gath that the Philistines had captured from Israel were restored to Israel, and Israel delivered the neighboring territory from the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites 15 Samuel continued as Israel's leader all the days of his life.

Godly leadership, and a Godly people, led to Godly BLESSINGS. There was PEACE, through strength, among the neighboring countries.