

1 SAMUEL 7; March 22; Israel Returns to the LORD

ANALYSIS:

1. The ark abode in Kirjath-jearim for ____ years, and all the house of Israel ____ after the LORD.
2. Samuel called all Israel together at _____, demanded they put away the strange _____, and prepare their _____ to serve the LORD only.
3. When the Philistines attacked repenting Israel, the LORD _____ upon them and gave Israel the victory.
4. After the defeat of the Philistines, Samuel set up a stone at Eben-ezer which meant _____.
5. Samuel had a _____ between Bethel, Gilgal and Mizpeh where he _____ Israel all the days of his life.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

For the words, "We have sinned against the LORD" (v 6), to have value and meaning, Israel had to put away the strange gods and images which represented them. Israel faced the temptation to keep a secret idol "in his heart" (Ezek 14:3-8). The LORD would not hear Israel if they did this.

Nor will the LORD accept and bless us unless we have heart cleaning and get rid of any secret sin or hidden idol standing between us and our holy Lord Jesus.

Let us ask the LORD to help us examine and judge ourselves (1 Cor 11:28-32; Psalm 26:1-2; 139:1-6). Then let us simply and honestly confess and forsake anything that would hinder experiencing His peace, power and blessing of victorious holy living. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

HELP:

1. 20 years, lamented (v 2).
2. Mizpeh, gods, hearts (vs 3-5).
3. Thundered (v 10).
4. Hitherto hath the LORD helped us (v 12).
5. Circuit, judged (vs 15-16).