

THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF

1 SAMUEL

[PART 14]

THE PLACE OF YOUR GREATEST DEFEAT CAN BECOME THE PLACE OF YOUR GREATEST VICTORY

Reading: 1 Samuel 7:7 - 14

Introduction

- For 20 years Israel had been in a bad place of their own making.
- They had turned away from God and the hand of the oppressing Philistines was against them.
- Three times in the chapter the term **'the hand of the Philistines'** is used. [Vs 3, 8 & 14].
- Against this backdrop Samuel emerges as a catalyst for revival.

1 Defeating Your Philistines

- Every Christian has **'Philistines'** in their experience.
- The Philistines of temptation, guilt, personal weakness, doubts, fears, trials and troubles.
- In [Ch 4] when Israel had previously locked horns with the Philistines they were **'hammered.'**
- But that had been at a time of disobedience to God on their part.
- Now in [Ch 7] they have repented and Samuel is fighting the battle on his knees. Notice the difference.
- **Question:** How do I defeat my Philistines?
- Obedience to the Lord. [15:22].
- Prayer to the Lord.

- Get your **'Big Brother'** involved in those **'bullying'** you and **'picking'** on you.
- Ask Him for His help.
- Stop depending on the help you bring to the table. Its His help that wins the battle.

2 The Lord Is Your Helper

- Consider [vs 12] of our reading.
- Ebenezer had been the place of defeat in [Ch. 4] but now Samuel calls this place of victory, **'Ebenezer.'**
- Consider [Psalm 54:4], [Psalm 121:1] and [Hebrews 13:5 and 6].

3 The Holy Spirit Is Your Helper

- In the **'Upper Room Discourse'** in [John 14 ~ 16] Jesus speaks about **'the Helper'** who is the Holy Spirit.
- The word **'Helper'** comes from Greek word **'parakletos'** meaning **'one called alongside us to help.'**
- Consider [John 14:16, 14:25, 15:26 and 16:7].
- After Christ's ascension and exaltation, the Father poured out the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.
- When a person gets saved the Holy Spirit comes **WITHIN** effecting the work of salvation.
- The Holy Spirit has a 2nd distinct work when He comes upon us to anoint/ equip, empower us.
- The coming of the Holy Spirit **UPON** is the baptism with the Holy Spirit. [Acts 1:8].
- Occurred in [Acts 2] (Jerusalem), [Acts 8] (Samaria), [Acts 10], (Caesarea) and [Acts 19] at (Ephesus).
- **NB.** Every believer needs **TWO** baptisms.
- Baptised in water and baptised in the Holy Spirit.
- [Acts 19:2] **"Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?"**
- The Holy Spirit is our **'Ebenezer.'**

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