

## WHAT ARE MY EBENEZERS?

### 1 Samuel 7:12

*Denis Loyd, Gospel Advocate, July 2018*

#### INTRODUCTION

- A. Remember! From Santa Claus, the Movie.
- B. Reminders for daily chores.
  - 1. Post it notes, desk calendars.
  - 2. Apps providing alarms for meeting times, appointments, various reminders.
  - 3. Awards, pictures, plaques reminding of what has been and what can be.
- C. God used reminders for the Israelites.
  - 1. The ark of the covenant – God’s holiness and presence.
  - 2. Frontlets – God’s laws, Deuteronomy 6:8.
  - 3. Stone memorial crossing the Jordan, Joshua 4:8-9.

#### I. HISTORY OF EBENEZER, 1 Sam. 7.

- A. The Defeat of the Philistines.
  - 1. The Philistines first defeated Israel and captured the ark, 1 Sam. 4.
  - 2. After the ark was returned to Israel (from Philistines), 1 Sam. 6.
  - 3. Israel lamented after the Lord, vs. 2.
  - 4. Samuel instructed Israel to return to the Lord, v. 3.
    - a. Remove the foreign gods from among you.
    - b. Direct your hearts to the Lord – and serve Him alone.
    - c. God will deliver you.
  - 5. The Philistines gathered to defeat Israel, v. 7.
  - 6. God won a great victory [thunder], v. 10.
- B. Ebenezer – A Memorial Stone, vs. 12.
  - 1. A stone between Mizpah and Shen [about 5-8 miles north of Jerusalem].
  - 2. “*Thus far the Lord has helped us.*”
  - 3. A reminder of God’s victory over the Philistines.

#### II. WHAT ARE MY EBENEZERS?

- A. A Calendar.
  - 1. Specific dates mattered to Israel.
    - a. Special feast days – Passover (Paschal Lamb), 1<sup>st</sup> month (Abib), 14<sup>th</sup> day.
    - b. The Sabbath.
  - 2. First day of the week.
    - a. Lord Supper, Acts 20:7.
    - b. Giving, 1 Corinthians 16:2.
    - c. Don’t forsake the gathering, Hebrews 10:25.
- B. A Clock.
  - 1. Twenty-four-hour days, given by God to be used in the best way we can.
    - a. Daniel prayed 3 times each day, Daniel 6:10.
    - b. The psalmist, Psalm 55:17.
  - 2. We have the same twenty-four-hour day.
    - a. What do we do with it, Eph. 5:16?
    - b. Have we set aside a time each day to pray?
    - c. Have we set aside time each day to read and meditate on God’s Word?
    - d. Do we make Sunday a day to honor and praise God?
  - 3. Neglecting this time (and worship time) leads to an emptiness and incomplete feeling in our lives.

C. A Place.

1. Someone has said, *"A place is sacred when something holy happens there."*
  - a. Bethlehem – birth place of Jesus.
  - b. Cana – first miracle.
  - c. Capernaum – "home" of Jesus.
  - d. Nathanael didn't think much of Nazareth, John 1:46.
2. We hold special places:
  - a. Place we were baptized.
  - b. Place we were married.
  - c. Place where loved ones are buried.
3. We are drawn each Lord's Day to Calvary.
  - a. The blood of Jesus was shed for each of us, 1 Cor. 11:23-26.

D. A Person.

1. God made sure heroes of Israel's past were remembered:
  - a. Abraham
  - b. Isaac
  - c. Jacob
  - d. Joseph
  - e. David
  - f. Elijah
2. We are reminded of people teaching lessons for the church:
  - a. Peter – denied Jesus.
  - b. John – loved and was loved.
  - c. Judas – the betrayer.
  - d. Barnabas – the encourager.
  - e. Paul – endured.
3. People in our lives as examples and encouragers:
  - a. Paul listed many in Romans 16.
  - b. Each of us have "heroes" in our lives for any number of reasons.
  - c. Couples who have touched our lives with living faith.
  - d. Individuals we would not want to disappoint.

**CLOSING**

- A. *"Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I've come.  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home."*
- B. In our journey in life, we need markers to remind us that we do not walk alone.
  1. Ps. 23:4, *"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,  
for Thou art with me..."*
- C. *"Hither by Thy help I've come."*