### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 7

1Well thereafter, people from KiriAth JaiRim went to [BethShemesh] and took the Chest of Jehovah’s Sacred Agreement, then they carried it to the home of AmiNadab, [who lived on] a hill.  
  
And EliEzer and his sons [purified] themselves there, so they could serve as guardians of the Chest.  
  
2But the ‘day’ that the Chest was to be kept in KiriAth JaiRim became many days… In fact, it stayed there for 20 years!  
  
Meanwhile, the whole house of IsraEl had started [returning to the worship of Jehovah].  
3So SamuEl spoke to the house of IsraEl and said:  
  
 ‘If you wish to return to Jehovah with your whole hearts, you must remove the gods of the foreigners who live among you as well as their sacred poles, then you must prepare your hearts to serve Jehovah alone.  
  
 ‘If you’ll do this, He will rescue you from the hands of the Philistines!’  
  
4So the sons of IsraEl [got rid of their images of] the BaAls and their sacred poles of AstarOth, and they started serving only Jehovah.  
  
5Then SamuEl said:  
  
 ‘All of IsraEl must now gather at MizPah, and I’ll pray to Jehovah for you there.’  
  
6So all the people traveled to MizPah.  
  
There they drew water and poured it out on the ground before Jehovah, and they fasted throughout the whole day; for they said:  
  
 ‘We have sinned against Jehovah.’  
  
Then SamuEl prayed on behalf of the sons of IsraEl there at MizPah.  
  
  
7Well, when the Philistines heard that all the sons of IsraEl had gathered at MizPah, the Philistine governors assembled their armies to attack them! And when the IsraElites heard of this, they were frightened because of what the Philistines were doing.  
  
8So they went to SamuEl and said:  
  
 ‘Don’t just remain silent! Call out to your God Jehovah and ask Him to rescue us from the hands of the Philistines!’  
  
9Then SamuEl took a newborn lamb and sacrificed it as a whole burnt offering to Jehovah before all the people, and he called to Jehovah on behalf of IsraEl, and Jehovah listened.  
  
10Meanwhile, just as SamuEl was offering up the sacrifice, the Philistines started their attack… And then the voice of the Lord spoke like thunder to the Philistines, which confused them, so they turned and retreated.  
  
11And at that, the men of IsraEl swarmed out of MizPah and they pursued the Philistines, cutting them down all the way to the borders of BethCar.  
  
12Well thereafter, SamuEl took a [block of] stone and erected it between MizPah and the old city, which he named EbenEzer, which means, The Rock of the Helper.  
  
For he said:  
  
 ‘This is where Jehovah came to our aid.’  
  
13So, Jehovah humbled the Philistines on that day, and they didn’t enter the borders of IsraEl thereafter; for the hand of Jehovah was against the Philistines during the entire lifetime of SamuEl.  
  
14And the Philistines also had to give back all the cities between EkRon and Gath that they’d taken from the sons of IsraEl. So, the borders of IsraEl remained free of the Philistines, and there was also peace between IsraEl and the Amorites.  
  
  
15Well, SamuEl served as the mediator between IsraEl [and God] for the rest of his life. 16And each year, he would make the circuit between BethEl, GilGal, and MizPah, where he would speak to God on behalf of IsraEl.  
  
17Then he would return to his home in RamAh, where he served as the mediator for IsraEl and where he built an Altar to Jehovah.