



Sermon Title: Jehovah Ezer- The LORD, My Help

Text: 1 Samuel 7:1-12

“Breakthrough begins where idols end. Let the rivals fall, the prayers rise, and Jesus be your only Prize.”

In today’s digital environment, individuals increasingly rely on cloud storage and “Favorites” folders to preserve significant moments. Capturing these instances serves as a method to retain experiences that might otherwise fade from memory. There is a tendency to overlook past achievements or positive events due to current pressures or concerns, resulting in diminished recognition of prior successes.

Prior to the arrival of modern technology such as smartphones, Prophet Samuel encountered similar challenges inherent to human nature. Following two decades marked by spiritual stagnation and significant setbacks, the people of Israel shifted their focus from relying on symbolic objects to seeking guidance from the Living God. When the dust of a miraculous victory settled, The Prophet Samuel did not just offer a quick prayer; he hauled a massive, jagged stone into the middle of the field and slammed it into the dirt. He named it Ebenezer, meaning “Stone of Help,” to signify that true victory comes not from our own power or symbols, but from being aligned with God's presence.

Today, we explore why we need a “stone” in our life—a marker so solid that no matter how much time passes, we can point to it and say, “Right there. That is exactly where my story changed because the Lord has helped me thus far.”

WHOLEHEARTED RETURN (OBEDIENCE BEFORE THE RESCUE).

We often want the **Ebenezer** (the rescue) without going through **Mizpah** (the repentance). But the biblical pattern is clear: **Preparation precedes deliverance**. Before Prophet Samuel ever raised a “Stone of Help,” he called for a “Place of Repentance.” (v.3)

The Three Pillars of Return (vv. 3–4)

To experience the Life-giving strength of *Jehovah Ezer*, Israel had to commit to three specific actions:

1. **Total Commitment:** Returning with the *whole* heart, not just a heart that calls out when in trouble.
2. **Removal of Idols:** Physically putting away the *Ashtaroth*—the cultic images and worldly attachments they relied on for comfort.
3. **Exclusive Service:** Realizing you cannot experience the power of God’s Kingdom while maintaining a permanent residence in the world’s values.

Many of us treat God as our primary power source but keep idols like financial security, career status, or people-pleasing as backup batteries. We think, “*I’ll trust God, but just in case He doesn’t come through, I have this other thing to lean on.*” True obedience means cutting the cord to your Plan B.

We cannot expect God’s hand to act on our behalf if our hearts are turned away from Him. Whether it is hidden sin, selfish ambition, or pride, the breakthrough we are waiting for begins when we allow God to change our hearts.

RELENTLESS DEPENDENCE (FAITH DURING THE BATTLE).

Verse 8 marks a radical shift from self-sufficiency to relentless, persistent dependence on God. The Philistines attacked while Israel was

still fasting and confessing. This is a vital lesson: *The "Philistines" of stress, sickness, or trial often strike when you are at your most vulnerable.* However, unlike their defeat in Chapter 4, the Israelites did not grab their swords first; they grabbed hold of God through intercession. As Prophet Samuel offered a sacrifice, the Lord answered with a “mighty thundering” (v. 10). Scholars and historians suggest this was a deafening, supernatural sound, perhaps accompanied by an earthquake that threw the Philistines into discomfiture (blind panic).

Additionally, the Israelites requested Prophet Samuel to pray on their behalf. This teaches us that seeking support from a trusted community or accountability group is not a weakness; rather, it reflects humility and an understanding that we cannot bear every burden by ourselves. In challenging moments, we must lift our eyes to the hills and remember: *“My help (Ezer) comes from the Lord”* (Psalm 121:1-2). As Charles Spurgeon said, we must simply *“Lay hold on Jesus and keep hold on Jesus.”*

The victory was won at the altar before it was ever won on the battlefield. When we stop trying to manipulate the outcome and instead surrender our fears, God speaks in ways the enemy cannot ignore. Faith is the choice to keep praying even when the enemy is advancing. Do not let your emotions take the lead. Instead of saying “I give up,” say “I give it to God.”

THE LASTING LANDMARK (GRATITUDE AFTER THE VICTORY).

The pursuit of the enemy ended exactly where the defeat twenty years prior had begun. To mark this transformation, the Prophet Samuel did not build a monument to his own leadership or the army’s bravery.


Instead, he set up a massive stone and named it **Ebenezer**—the “Stone of Help.”


Samuel’s declaration, *“Till now the Lord has helped us”* (v. 12), is a present continuous statement. It functions in two directions:


Looking Backward: It acknowledges with deep gratitude that we did not arrive here by our own strength.

Looking Forward: It provides radical hope. If God has helped us “thus far,” we can trust He will not abandon us in the future. He helped in the past, He is helping now, and He will be there for the next mile.

Always acknowledge the Lord in your success. If God intervened in Israel’s desperate situation, is there anything in your life too difficult for Him? An Ebenezer stands as a permanent witness that your story changed because **Jehovah Ezer** showed up.

 **Ponder:** Victory is never won by our own strength or “lucky charms,” but through a wholehearted return to God’s presence. If He has helped you “thus far,” He will surely help you through the “further.”

 **Practical Application:** Create a physical or digital “Ebenezer Marker” this week—a gratitude journal entry, a specific photo, or even a remembrance on your desk—to document a moment where God rescued you, serving as a permanent witness against spiritual amnesia.

 **Prayer:** Lord, help me to identify and remove the 'idols' or 'backup batteries' in my life that I rely on instead of You. Be my Ezer and my only source of strength in the heat of the battle, Amen!