

# Samuel Received Favour From God Through Prayer



## Background Reading:

1 Samuel 2:30-36; 1 Samuel  
6:14-15; Psalm 99:1-9

## Devotional Reading:

1 Samuel 7:3-13



## Central Verse

“And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a burnt offering wholly unto the LORD: and Samuel cried unto the LORD for Israel; and the LORD heard him.” 1 Samuel 7:9, KJV

“Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and sacrificed it as a whole burnt offering to the Lord. He cried out to the Lord on Israel’s behalf, and the Lord answered him.” 1 Samuel 7:9, NIV

## Introduction

God chose Samuel to be the last judge as well as a prophet and high priest. His mother took him to live in the tabernacle under Eli’s tutelage, and Samuel faithfully lead the people his whole life.

Samuel told the people they needed to get rid of their idols. Does this sound familiar? God’s chosen people still regularly turn their backs on Him and pursue idolatry. Samuel told them to commit themselves to God and serve Him only. There was no place for the idols in God’s economy.

If the people obeyed Him, God promised to deliver them from the oppression of the Philistines. The Israelite people agreed to do this. They assembled together at Mizpeh, and Samuel interceded with God for them.

## Discussion

As Israel gathered together, the Philistines heard about it and decided to attack right away. It could be easy to kill all the people in one spot. Israel saw the Philistines were coming, and they were extremely afraid. They ask Samuel

to keep crying out to God on their behalf. God heard them. It was the worst possible scene: the Philistines came closer and closer. Would Israel be wiped out? No God kept His part of the covenant to protect them. He sent thunder so loud that the Philistines panicked. The result was chaos. The Israelites rushed out and pursued and slaughtered the Philistines. It was a decisive victory.

## Conclusion

To remember this incredible victory over their enemies Samuel placed a stone of memorial between Mizpeh and Shen. He called the place “Ebenezer,” which means “a stone of help,” saying, “Hitherto have the Lord helped us” (vs. 12).

God desires us to intercede for those around us who are in need. He wants us to pray for the needs of people in other lands whom we have not even met but whose needs we learn about through missionaries or outreach organizations. Just as Samuel prayed for a seemingly impossible victory so we too can pray that God would work in unusual ways for His honor and His glory. God loves to answer the prayers of those who belong to Him.

## Questions

1. What three things did Samuel tell Israel to do in order for God to deliver them?
2. Why was Samuel so committed to praying for Israel?
3. What was restored to Israel?

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## Essential thought

“Prayer changes for the betterment.”