

CCH sermon 17th March 2019 1 Samuel 7:12

“Ebenezer!”

- 1 Sam 7:12
- Ebenezer is a funny name isn't it!
 - Those old enough, slightly dodgy 1992 dance track. E Goode.
 - Many reminded of Ebenezer Scrooge in Christmas Carol
 - But name (popular name for children 200 yrs ago) comes from this passage in the bible
 - =STONE
 - =HELP
- Adults looked at passage **2 weeks ago**, so listen podcast if missed.
- Quick **recap**:
 - People were sad about the way unfaithful to God (v2)
 - Returning to him, and Saml told them to get rid idols (v3)
 - At that v moment Phil (arch enemies) decided attack (v7)
 - Call out to Samuel to pray for them (v8)
 - God won battle for them before had to do anything (v10)
 - They only needed to mop up after (v11)
- So took **stone**.
 - Concrete way of remembering God's goodness to this point.
 - Put it in the ground right here at place.
 - V12
 - What a help God had been!
 - What a wonderful word for God- Helper!
- Could say this stone thinks about God's help in 3 ways....

1) LOOKING BACK!

- First the stone looks back on what had just happened.
- That's why put *there*! Where the battle was won.
 - An incredible rescue just happened
 - ALL God's work!
 - They didn't even need to get bows & arrows out!
 - God worked for them
 - Such a contrast ch4
 - when thought treat God lucky charm
 - totally wiped out in battle.

- ➡ And we today are going to be looking back to recent blessings last 6 months- start of church.
 - (hope been writing down!)
 - How kind he's been to us- what a help.
 - Knows our weakness and blessed us.
 - Gracious despite our weakness

2) LOOKING BACK FURTHER!

- “Thus far” (v12) – it's not just very recent, it's looking back further.
 - In this book help to people
 - Causing them to return to him
 - Back: Giving them a good leader in Sam, rid of Eli+sons!
 - Further back: help to Hannah
 - Back: help to another woman- Ruth.
 - Back: many rescues in dark time of Judges
 - Making promises to Abraham
 - Growing the people
 - Bringing out of Egypt (2nd great. rescue in B)
 - Giving them great ways to live- 10C.
 - Bringing them into promised land
- God has been so faithful, and such a helper.
 - Moses named son Eliezer- God been helper in rescuing him from Pharaoh when killed another man (Exod 18:4)
 - In fact God is the helper of the fatherless (Exod 10:14)
 - Not just in the OT (Hebrews 13:6)
- I love rocks-
 - This one obsidian- volcanic glass
 - One of my professors lost his eye, so don't smash it
 - Good to remember how God has been good to us long term
- We look back from a diff time in History.
 - Recent history (1)- each looks to own story:share testimony!
 - Long term history (2) esp back to Jesus- (Mark & easter).
 - His life.
 - His passion: To die & rise rescue us
- ▲ gave piece of rock to each member of family on 17.7.17.

But there's a bit of a future focus too!

3) LOOKING FORWARD!

- At a crossroad it says: Thus far.
 - Yes past, but by implication what's next?!
- What about the way forward.
- How are we going to live?
 - On the one hand bad news.
 - Saw last week wanted King
 - Not wholly wrong
 - But was the way they did
 - Rejected God as King.
 - On the other hand good news
 - God Helper in past
 - And he will be our helper in the future
 - Wonderfully he overturns the wrongs involved in wanting King.
 - Provides us with a King who doesn't
 - Always his plan to give strength to King (1 Sam 2:10).
- I have loved learn. from 1 Sam (didn't know it much) esp. ch 2 p272.
 - Hope you have too.
 - Thing learned, doesn't matter what resources you have.
 - Money
 - Children
 - Guns
 - Power
 - If you have God.
 - He is the one you need.
 - He reverses. He thunders from heaven.
 - And God has given strength to his King.
 - So will you follow Jesus.
- ➡ Adults. (older, younger, married, single)
- ➡ Teenagers.
- ➡ Kids. Will you follow Jesus?

SONG: I'm following the King. I'm ready to obey. First pray.