A large, moss-covered stone is set on a stone base, overlooking a valley. The stone is the central focus, with a smaller stone supporting it from below. The background shows a lush green valley under a blue sky with white clouds.

Then Samuel took a stone and set it up...
and called its name Ebenezer, saying,

“Thus far the LORD has helped us.”

1 Samuel 7:12 (New King James Version)

I SAMUEL

GOD'S BOOK OF CONTRASTS

Living Life for Self

Or

Living Life the Lord



HANNAH

MOTHER OF SAMUEL

CONTRAST BETWEEN HANNAH AND PENINNAH

Living Life for Self - Peninnah

Or

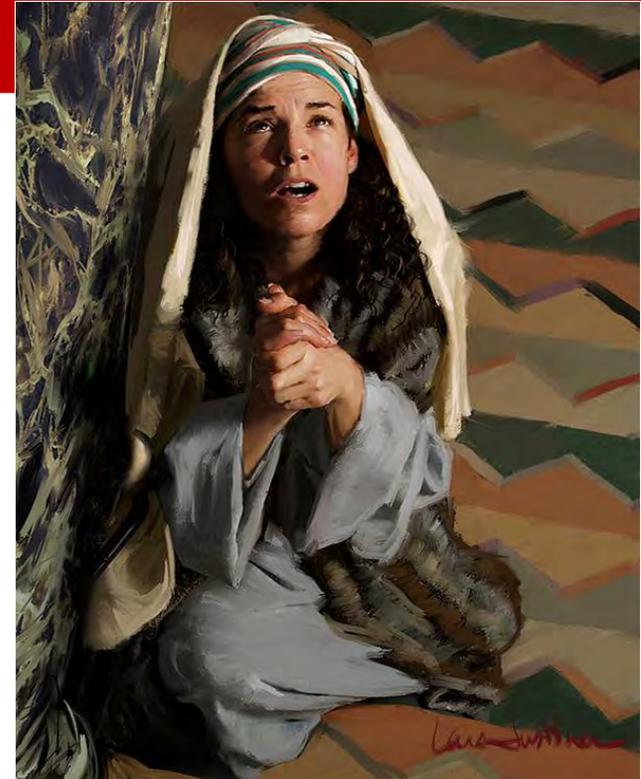
Living Life the Lord - Hannah



HANNAH & PENINNAH

LESSON OF WARNING:

When people do not have relationship with God they seek to strike out at anyone who cause the pain rather than taking the matter to God in prayer for His guidance.



SAMUEL

PRIEST AT THE TABERNACLE

CONTRAST BETWEEN ELI'S SONS AND SAMUEL

Living Life for Self – Eli's Sons

Or

Living Life the Lord - Samuel



SAMUEL MINISTERED TO LORD

I SAMUEL 2:11

*The child
ministered to the LORD
before Eli the priest.
I Samuel 2:11*



ELI'S SONS

- Sins of Greed I Samuel 2:12-17
- Sins of Immorality I Samuel 2:22-25

LESSON OF WARNING:

The results of Religious Leadership without Relationship with God results in the sins of Greed and Immorality



SAMUEL MINISTERED TO LORD

I SAMUEL 3:1-21

Now the boy Samuel ministered
to the LORD before Eli.
I Samuel 3:1





Danger for the Nation

Still in the time of the Judges

Samuel is the last Judge
and first Prophet

People in Israel were
worshipping the false gods
of the Philistines for
economic gain

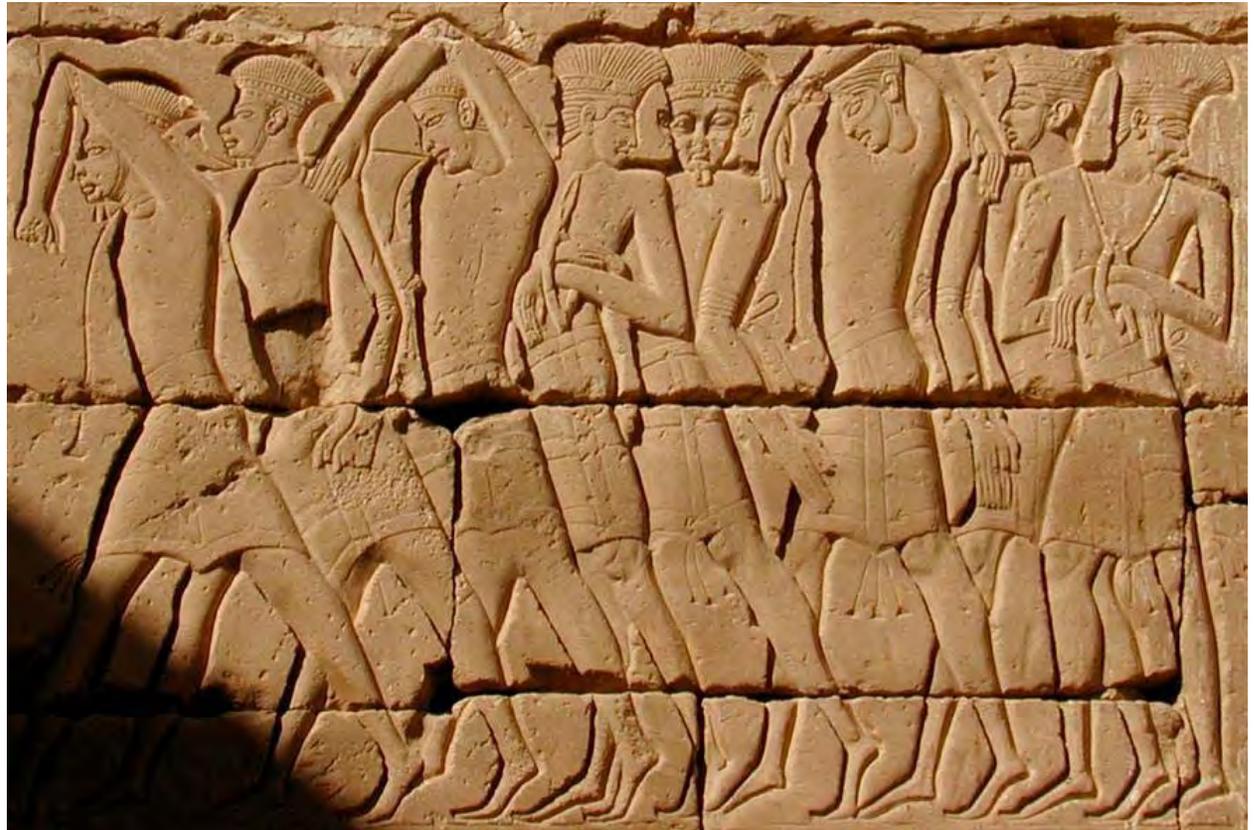
When worship the gods
(source of help) of other
countries – those other
countries overcome the
people of God



Danger for the Nation

LESSON OF WARNING:

When people do not have relationship with God they seek any source to help them out of economic woes even if those sources are forbidden by the one true God.



Danger for the Nation

Philistines rise up in Battle

Raids on crops and cattle

Now all out effort to destroy the nation and fully subdue the people



Danger for the Nation

Philistines move into battle

Israel sought to defend itself

4,000 men died as
Philistines push forward in
their move of destruction



Danger for the Nation

People call for Ark of the Covenant to go before the army

Traditions from the past:

The Ark was the symbol of God's presence with His people

- Crossing Jordan River
- Battle of Jericho



Danger for the Nation

People of Israel gave a great shout when the Ark showed up

Philistines were in great fear remembering what happened to Egypt

Decided to fight: “Be Strong, Conduct yourselves as Men and Fight”



LESSON OF WARNING:

Without a relationship with God people seek to follow traditions of the past rather than seeking God for direction in the present.

Death in the Nation

The Ark as a good luck charm did not work. God allowed defeat.

30,000 of Israel die in battle

Hophni and Phinehas are killed



Death in the Nation

The Ark as a good luck charm did not work. God allowed defeat.

30,000 of Israel die in battle

Hophni and Phinehas are killed

The Ark of the Covenant is captured and taken away to a Philistine city to the temple of Dagon their god.



Death in the Nation

Eli hears news of:

The defeat of Israel

Death of his sons

Capture of the Ark

He falls and dies



Death in the Nation

Phinehas's wife delivers early
and dies in childbirth but names
the boy before she dies

Ichabod

“The Glory Has Departed”

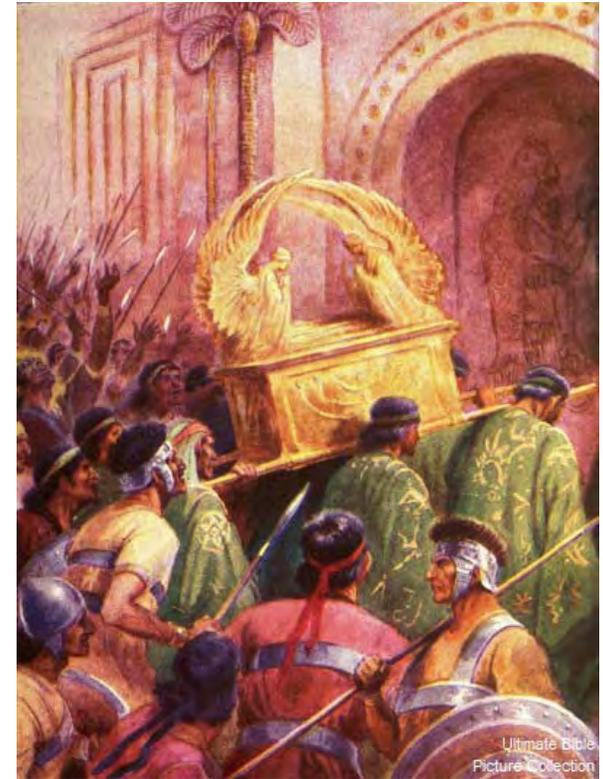


LESSON OF WARNING:

**Without a relationship with God people follow their own ways
and that will often lead to Death (Proverbs 14:12).**

The Departed Glory

The Ark of the Covenant is captured and taken away to a Philistine city to the temple of Dagon their god.





Boils plague symptoms among the people

Dagon falls before the Ark of the Covenant



Philistines capture Ark of Covenant in 1094 BC

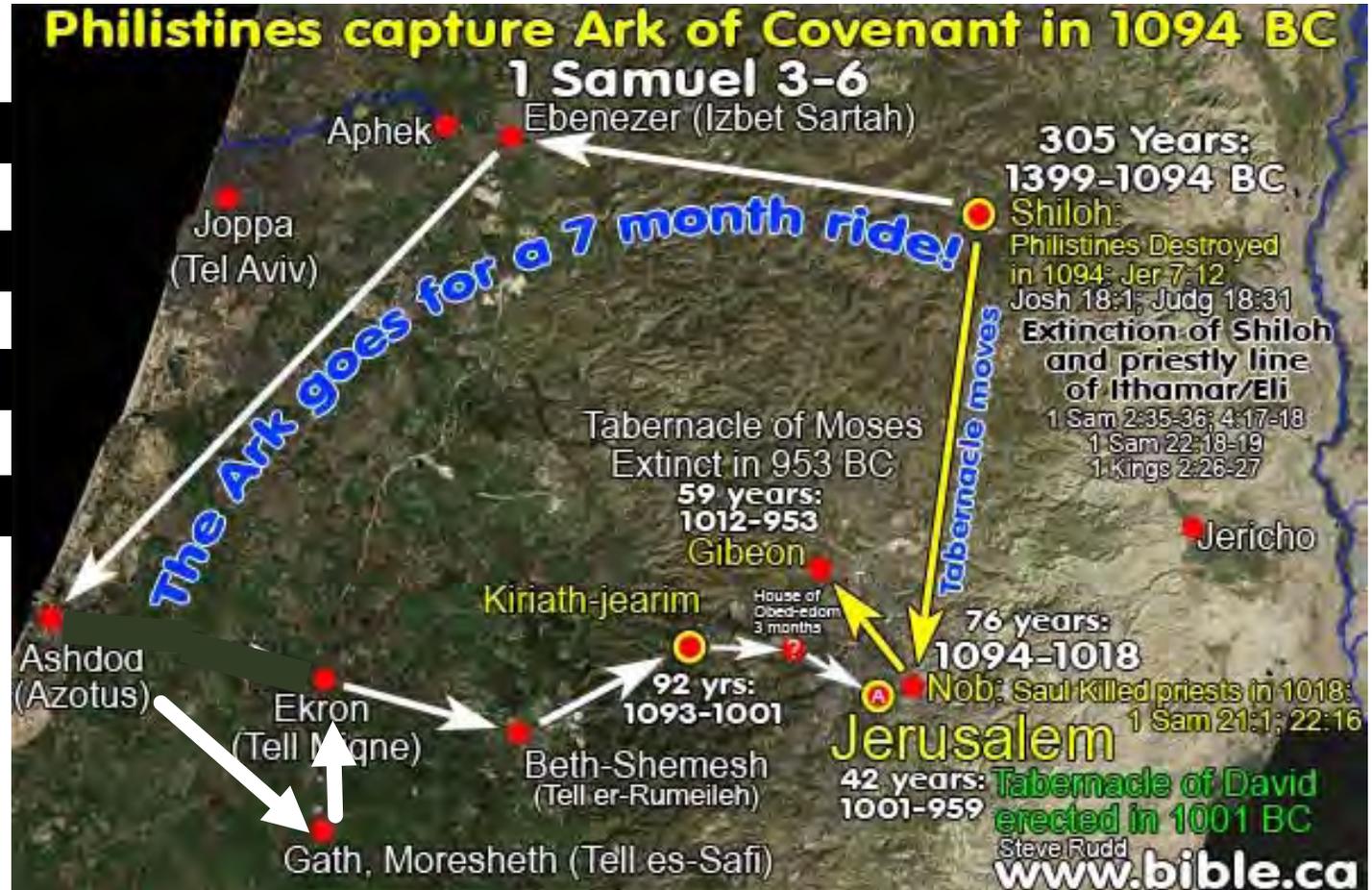
1 Samuel 3-6

The Ark Travels

To Ashdod

To Gath

To Ekron



**Boils plague symptoms among the
people at Ekron**

Send the Ark Back



Offering

5 Golden Rats

5 Golden Tumors



Ox Cart Test

1 Samuel 7 – Path of Repentance

- Return to the Lord
- Put away idols
sources for help rather than God
- Prepare your hearts
- Serve God only



The Church at Ephesus Revelation 2:4-5

Nevertheless I have *this* against you,
that you have left your first love.

Remember therefore from where you
have fallen; repent and do the first
works, or else I will come to you quickly
and remove your lampstand from its
place—unless you repent.



1 Samuel 7 – Path of Repentance

- **Gathered for Worship**
Samuel Sacrificed for them
Samuel prayed for their deliverance
- **God Answered**
- **Thunder and confusion - overcome**



LESSON OF WARNING:

Live a life of relationship with the Lord not following simply the ways of the past.

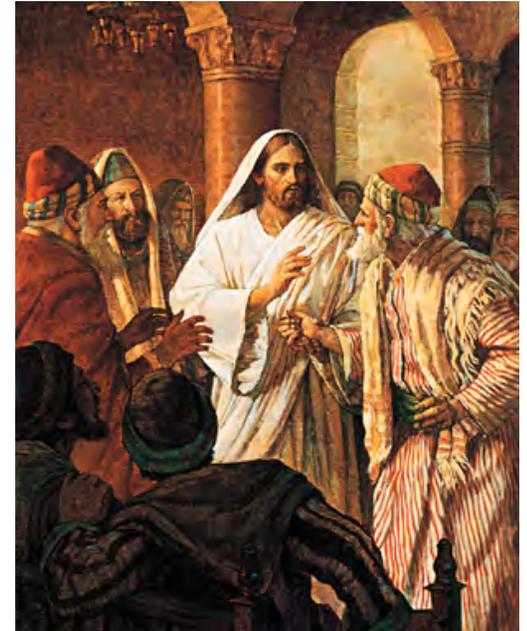
Matthew 15



Matthew 15:1-9

Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, “Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.”

He answered and said to them, “Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? ...you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.

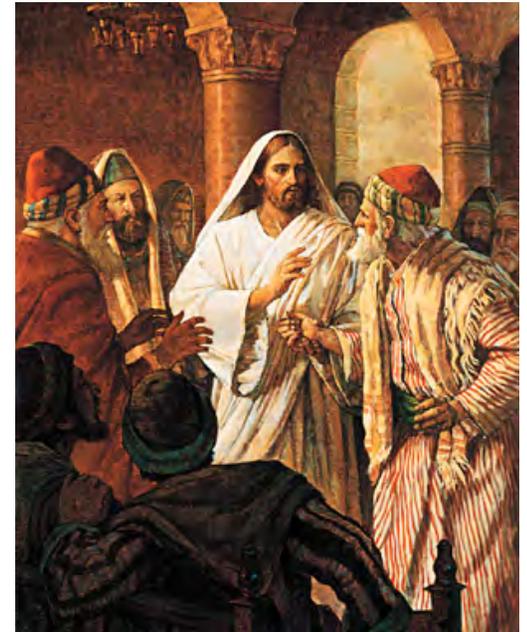


Matthew 15:1-9

Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:

*⁸ ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth,
And honor Me with their lips,
But their heart is far from Me.*

*⁹ And in vain they worship Me,
Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.*

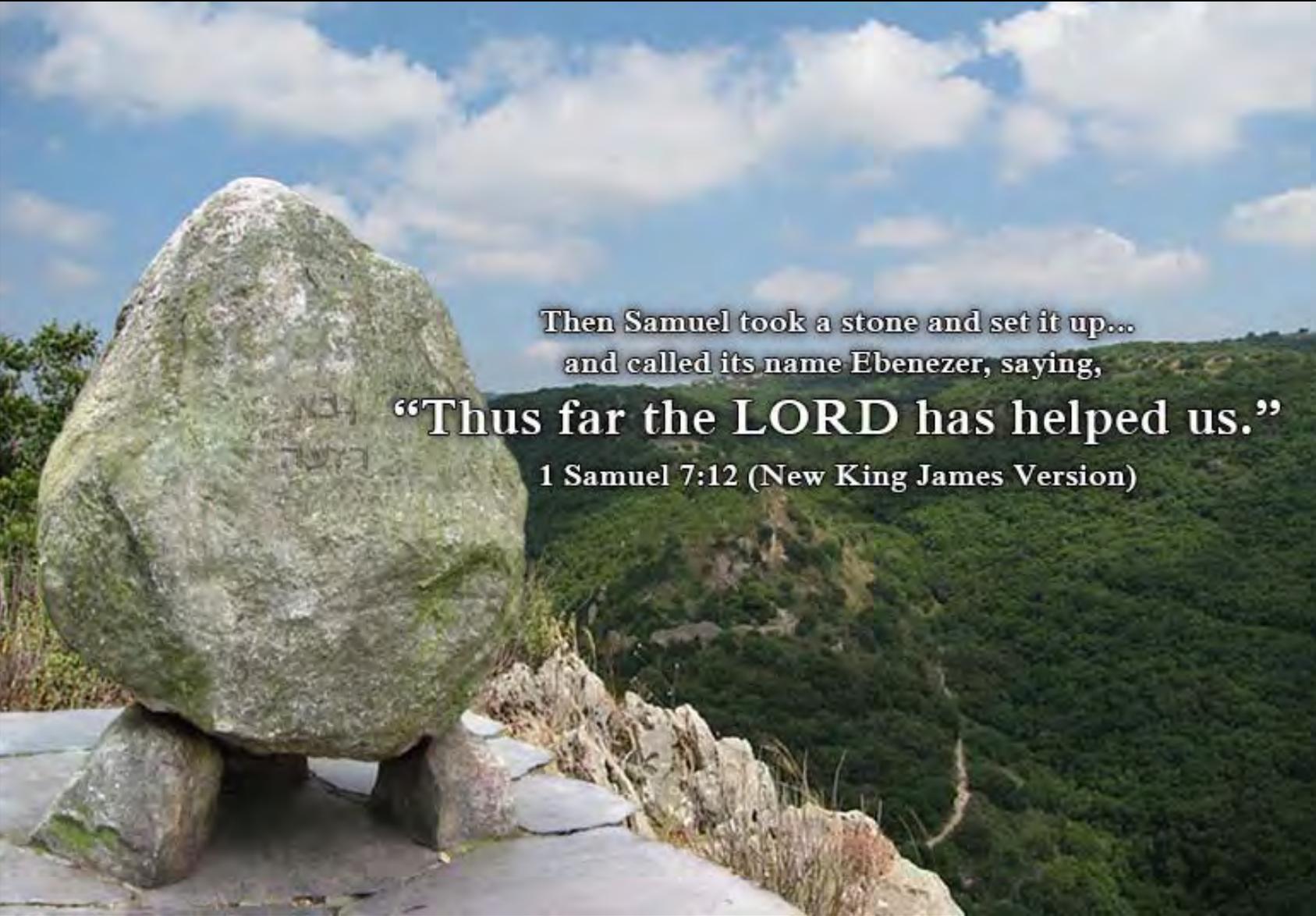


The Battle was the Lord's

So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

1 Samuel 7:13

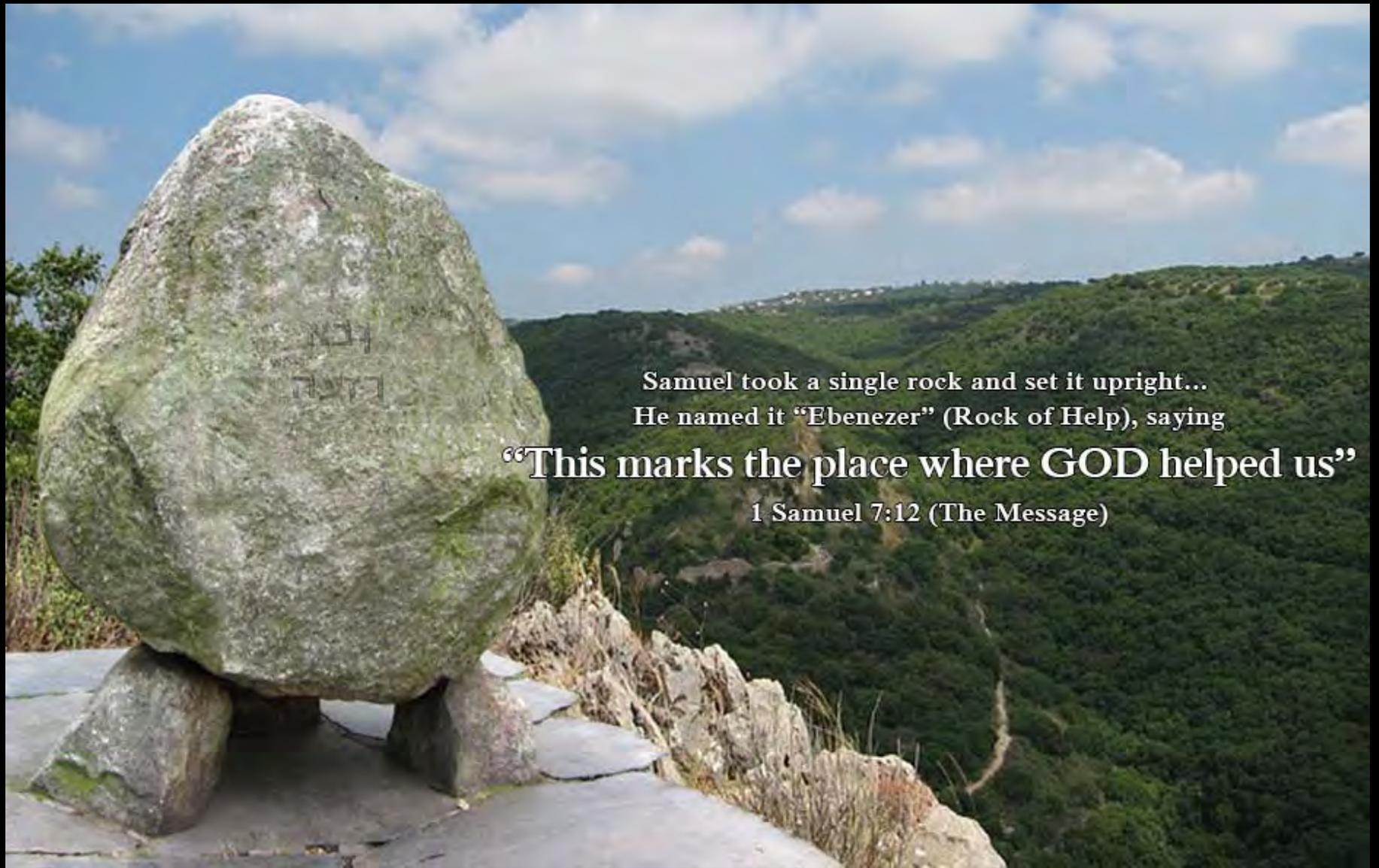




Then Samuel took a stone and set it up...
and called its name Ebenezer, saying,

“Thus far the LORD has helped us.”

1 Samuel 7:12 (New King James Version)



Samuel took a single rock and set it upright...
He named it "Ebenezer" (Rock of Help), saying

"This marks the place where GOD helped us"

1 Samuel 7:12 (The Message)



LESSON For Life:
Set up some memorial that marks the events that
God show Himself strong in behalf of you and
your family.

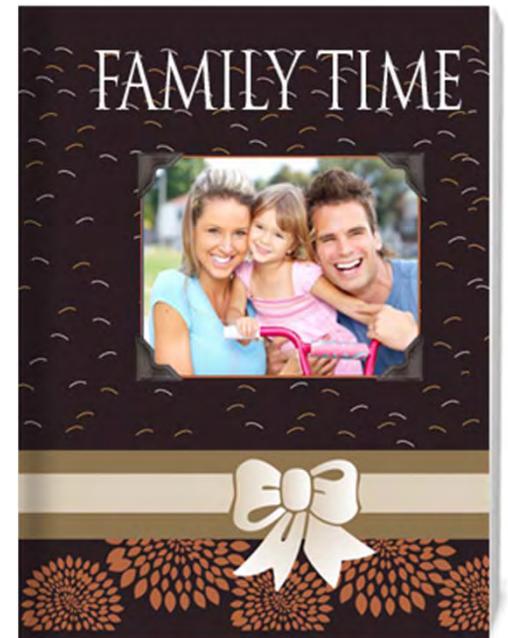
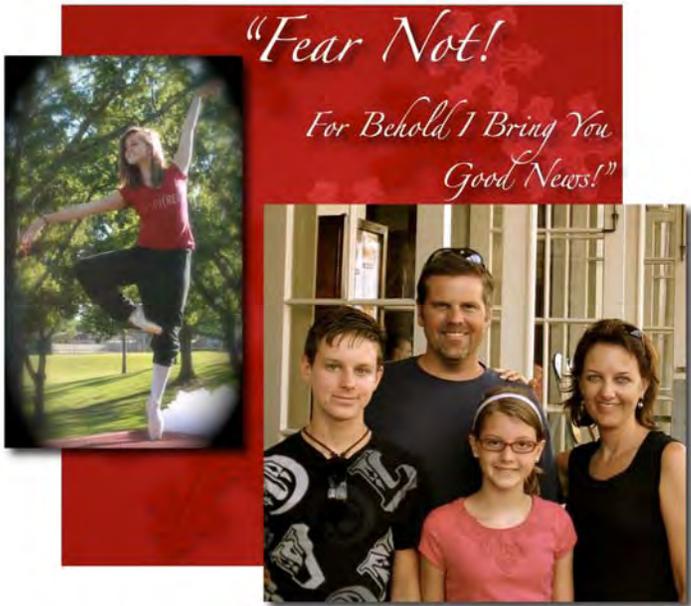
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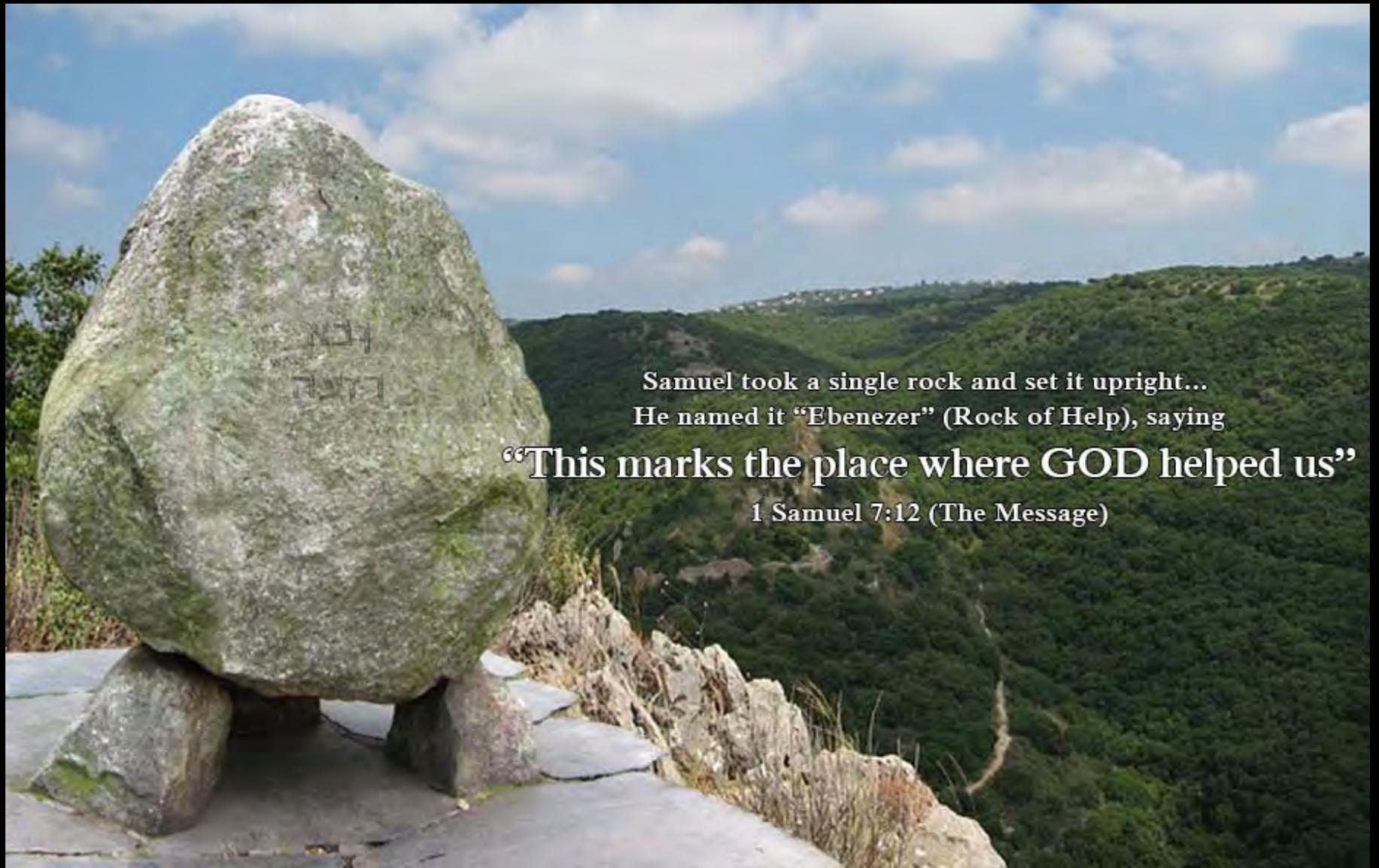
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