

# Sunday School Lesson

Lesson For September 4  
**SAMUEL: SPIRITUAL REVIVAL**  
Golden Text—"Prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve him only.—1 Sam. 7:3  
**THE LESSON AS A WHOLE**  
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Approach to the Lesson

Even before the death of Eli it became evident that Samuel was his divinely-appointed successor as judge in Israel. And so, after the disconcerting experiences of the Philistines in connection with the ark of the covenant led them to send it back to the people whose glory it was, we find the young prophet coming immediately to the front, and through his ministry there was a revival of interest in the worship of Jehovah and a true return to God on the part of many. God works through human instruments and he always has the man ready when the hour of blessing strikes. The history of the great awakenings throughout the centuries, first in Israel and then in the Church of the new dispensation, is largely the story of the chosen servants prepared by God and subject to his will, who have been raised up to call an erring people to repentance and to bring them back to their only proper allegiance. Of these, Samuel stands out as one of the greatest of

the whole army of the reformers.

**The Historical Setting**  
For seven months the ark was in the country of the Philistines, after which it was placed by the Philistine lords on a cart drawn by two cows, which though their calves were left behind them, took the straight road to the Israelitish town of Bethshemesh, the people of which placed error in looking into it and were smitten in judgment, so that they were afraid to keep it, but notified the inhabitants of Kirjath-jearim to come and get it. They kept it for twenty years. The time was probably 1141 B.C. to 1120 B.C.

**Verse by Verse:**  
1 Sam. 7:3—"Put away the strange gods." Whether at the close of the twenty years, or, as seems most likely, very soon after the return of the ark, we see Samuel coming to the front as the inspired prophet of Jehovah. He called the people to repentance of past wickedness and to return wholeheartedly to the Lord. Only thus could they expect complete victory over their foes.

Verse 4—"Served the Lord only." It resulted in a thoroughgoing revival. The idols were abolished and Israel turned wholly to the Lord, determined to serve him only.

Verse 5—"I will pray for you." Samuel issued a call for a great

convocation at Mizpeh, where he promised to intercede on their behalf and present their needs before the Lord. His was the energy of faith which inspired confidence in others.

Verse 6—"We have sinned against the Lord." At Mizpeh, in the presence of the great gathering, Samuel poured water out upon the ground as symbolic of their weak and helpless state (see 2 Sam. 14:14), and they observed a penitential fast. Together they confessed their sins as individuals and as a nation. This is always the sure precursor to blessing. Samuel was recognized as their God-appointed judge.

Verse 7—"The lords of the Philistines went up against Israel." When God's people seek his face and repent of their sins, the enemy will always endeavour to hinder revival and blessing. So the Philistines prepared to attack Israel, thus filling the people's hearts with dread.

Verse 8—"Cry unto the Lord our God for us." In their distress they had recourse to prayer and besought Samuel to continue to make intercession on their behalf that they might be saved from the cruel foe.

Verse 9—"Offered . . . a burnt-offering." Divinely guided, Samuel took a little lamb—the very expression of meekness and of weakness—and offered it before God as a burnt offering. It was a type of Christ crucified through weakness, offering himself without spot unto God on man's behalf (Eph. 5:2). As

the smoke of the sacrifice ascended, Samuel's prayers went up to God, who answered according to the love of his heart for Israel.

Verse 10—"The Lord thundered." As the solemn service was in progress, the enemy "drew near to battle against Israel," but a sudden thunderstorm came up of such disastrous character that it terrified the Philistines and they retreated in dismay. Thus God acted for his people.


Verse 11—"The men of Israel . . . smote them." Encouraged by the evidence of divine intervention, the Israelites followed the already discomfited hosts of the enemy, defeating them utterly.

Verse 12—"Eben-ezer." (Returning in triumph to a place near Mizpeh, they set up a stone as a pillar of victory in recognition of the goodness of God. They gave him all the glory, crying, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." The stone was called "Eben-ezer," meaning literally, "Stone of Help.")

Verse 13—"The Philistines were subdued." The victory had far-reaching effects. So long as Samuel ruled over the nation, the enemy did not venture to attack them again.

Verses 14 to 16—Samuel's circuit. As long as he lived (which includes most of the reign of Saul) Samuel was recognized as Judge. He held a "circuit court," going in turn to the chief centers in Palestine, where the people could readily bring their matters to him for adjudication. At Ramah he built an altar and sacrificed to the Lord. Shiloh had been forsaken and Zion not yet chosen, so all was dispensationally in keeping.

**The Heart of the Lesson**  
God is always ready to visit his people in blessing and grant revival and spiritual refreshment when they judge their sins in his presence and cry to him for the deliverance they need. Oh, that we today might be stirred to realize the great need of the whole church of God, so that that there would be a mighty cry of entreaty going up to the throne, accompanied by an honest purging ourselves from all known sin, and a true returning to the place of obedience to his Word. Who can say what blessed results might yet be vouchsafed to his people, and what the glorious effects might be upon a godless world outside?



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To our good friend Mrs. Geo. Lee who celebrates her birthday August 29th, we extend many nappy returns.

Mrs. E. J. Hill of Newmarket is visiting her sister Miss Davey, Island Grove, Lake Simcoe.

Vaughan Blueman took the church services at Birchcliffe United Church and Toronto jail on Sunday, August 21st.

Kingston, Ontario, at one time was the Capital of Canada, from 1841 to 1844.

This is Jubilee year at the Canadian National Exhibition. When on the grounds no better place can be found to secure good meals than the Girls Friendly Society Cafeteria. This may be found near the old Crystal Palace. It is the only Church of England organization on the grounds and the funds raised by this Cafeteria are for G.F.S. building extension.

Tribune readers had full measure last week. Ten full pages of interesting news at the same price. Our Editor has now returned and after his trip is roaring to go. Show us another place the size of Stouffville with a weekly paper that can boast of a ten page edition, all up to date and interesting news.

The best of friends must part and what animal is thought more of than a faithful dog. Thursday of last week the Correspondent's Boston terrier (Paddy) died.

Mr. Lang Blueman has shipped 14 head of cattle down to his farm on Scugog Island.

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## THEFT CHARGED

(Continued from page one)

were Jews demanded \$2 each. We told them at the start that it would be more or less a gamble.

"Did Bob Martin, who was the leader, take anything into the dance hall?"

"No, sir."  
"How was it that you couldn't take the drums back in your car if you brought them up? Were there more people in your car?"

"No sir. I made two trips up."  
"Do you remember a conversation before the dance at the booth about the drums?"  
"There was a little discussion, but not about money. If I had known there was money owing I wouldn't have left the drums."  
"Alright, that's all I wanted to know."

Hutchinson, who is the band leader, was the next witness. He explained that whatever was taken in this night would be divided equally between the orchestra and Mr. Connor. He had gone to the farm where Mr. Connor lived and saw his son Fred. No arrangements about money were made, but he had just engaged the hall for the one night.

Mr. Greer—"Did Mr. Connor make any claim for rent at the time?"

"No, he didn't."  
"Did you receive a bill from Connor?"

"No statements were received by me. This Saturday night I went to the lady who was selling the tickets, and she told me \$4 and some odd cents had been taken in. A couple of the boys wanted their money so I gave them \$2 each. Mr. Connor took some money out of the till first, but I don't know how much it was."

Mr. Greer then produced a hand bill which stated that Bob Martin's orchestra would play three nights a week at this hall. Hutchinson admitted posting these bills, but stated that he wasn't sure they'd play that often. It depended on the money taken in the first night.

Mr. Greer—"You gave Connor no allowance for the hall?"

Hutchinson—"Nothing whatever."

"Did you inspect the hall when you arranged to play?"

"I looked around."

"Was there a piano?"

"No sir. Mr. Connor said he'd get one and put a stand up, and bought a license for us."

"Then you still stick to your version that Connor wasn't to receive anything for this?"

"Yes sir."

The saxophone player, Donald Robertson, was called, but stated that he had nothing to do with the arrangements about renting the hall.

Mr. Connor was called to the stand. He explained that two of the boys came to his farm to rent the hall for the remainder of the season and he agreed to give it to them eighteen nights for \$70.00, on condition that he would get a piano, put up a stand and buy a license for them and he was to receive the \$70 on Saturday night. He had paid \$28 for these three things, and on the Saturday when the boys came to play they had told him that they had no money. When he refused them the hall, they said they would leave the drums as security, and they were to come back with the money for the drums on Wednesday, but they did not come. The following Saturday they sent the drummer up, but Connor would not give him the drums as he had no money with him.

Connor was asked if he had gone into the hall, and he said that he just wanted the money that he had given them for change.

Delbert Shaw, who is employed by Mr. Connor at the farm, and who sells hot dogs at his booth when he is busy, was the next witness. He had overheard the conversation between the orchestra boys and Connor about leaving the drums for security. He had some difficulty in remembering the names of the men who had also heard the conversation.

Magistrate—"I have heard enough of this case. It's a matter for the civil courts. The drums will be released to the accused man."

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