

## ***Ebenezer: The God Who Helps*** *Looking back at God's Help, Stepping forward in God's Faithfulness*

### ***1 Samuel 7:12***

*"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, 'Till now the Lord has helped us.'"*

Ebenezer is a memorial that declares that the Lord faithfully helped His people up to this point and calls them to remember and to trust Him for all that lies ahead. This memorial is a milestone of the past, a celebration of the present, and a reminder of future grace.

God gives tangible help to undeserving people, not because He is obligated, but because He is good, and He calls us to thank and trust Him for ongoing provision and future victory.

### **God's help is tangible**

❖ Israel set up a stone in a place where they had once tasted defeat and now remembered victory.

↳ God's help arrived through a miracle in which thunder from heaven confused the enemy and brought victory to the people of Israel. The Lord's provision shows how His faithfulness leaves visible markers in our lives.

*1 Samuel 7:12 "Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, 'Till now the LORD has helped us.'"*

*Luke 12:32 "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."*

*Acts 17:28 "for 'In Him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are indeed his offspring.'"*

### **God is not obligated to help**

❖ God's help is a result of His Grace—not a result of our obedience.

↳ God is not required to meet our needs; His plan is unfolding to reveal His grace, character, and salvation to the world—therefore, His provision always leads to worship.

*Romans 9:15-16 "For He says to Moses, 'I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.'"<sup>16</sup> So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy."*

*Psalms 145:9 "The Lord is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made."*

*Romans 11:35-36 "'Or who has given a gift to Him that he might be repaid?'"<sup>36</sup> For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen."*

*James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."*

### **God's help is undeserved**

❖ God's help meets us in our unworthiness.

↳ Israel had a long record of unfaithfulness, misusing the ark of the covenant, following idols, and being inconsistent. The repentance of the people of Israel did not purchase the provision of the Lord; their repentance led them back to the provision of God.

*Romans 5:6-8 “For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—<sup>8</sup> but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

*Luke 18:13-14 “But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’<sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

*1 Corinthians 1:27-29 “But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.”*

### **God’s help reveals His goodness**

❖ The purpose of help is not just relief but revelation. God shows who He is through what He does.

↳ Every provision from our God becomes an Ebenezer moment, where we celebrate the evidence of the heart of God toward His people.

*Romans 2:4 “Or do you presume on the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?”*

*Romans 8:28-29 “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.”*

*2 Corinthians 4:7 “But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.”*

### **God can be trusted for future help**

❖ Past help is a foundation for future trust and confidence in the Lord.

↳ “Till now” is not resignation—it’s the foundation for hope. Ebenezer is the confidence that leads us to trust in the next year.

*Matthew 6:31-34 “Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’<sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup>But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. <sup>34</sup>‘Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.’”*

*Hebrews 13:5-8 “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’<sup>6</sup> So we can confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?’<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”*

*Philippians 1:6 “And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”*

#### **Endnote:**

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