

³ And when the people had come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, “Why has the Lord defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord from Shiloh to us, that when it comes among us it may save us from the hand of our enemies.”

I Samuel 4:3

“God doesn’t care if we cherish the ark of the Lord if we don’t cherish the Lord of the ark”

I Samuel 7:3-10

³ Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, “If you return to the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the Lord, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.” ⁴ So the children of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and served the Lord only.

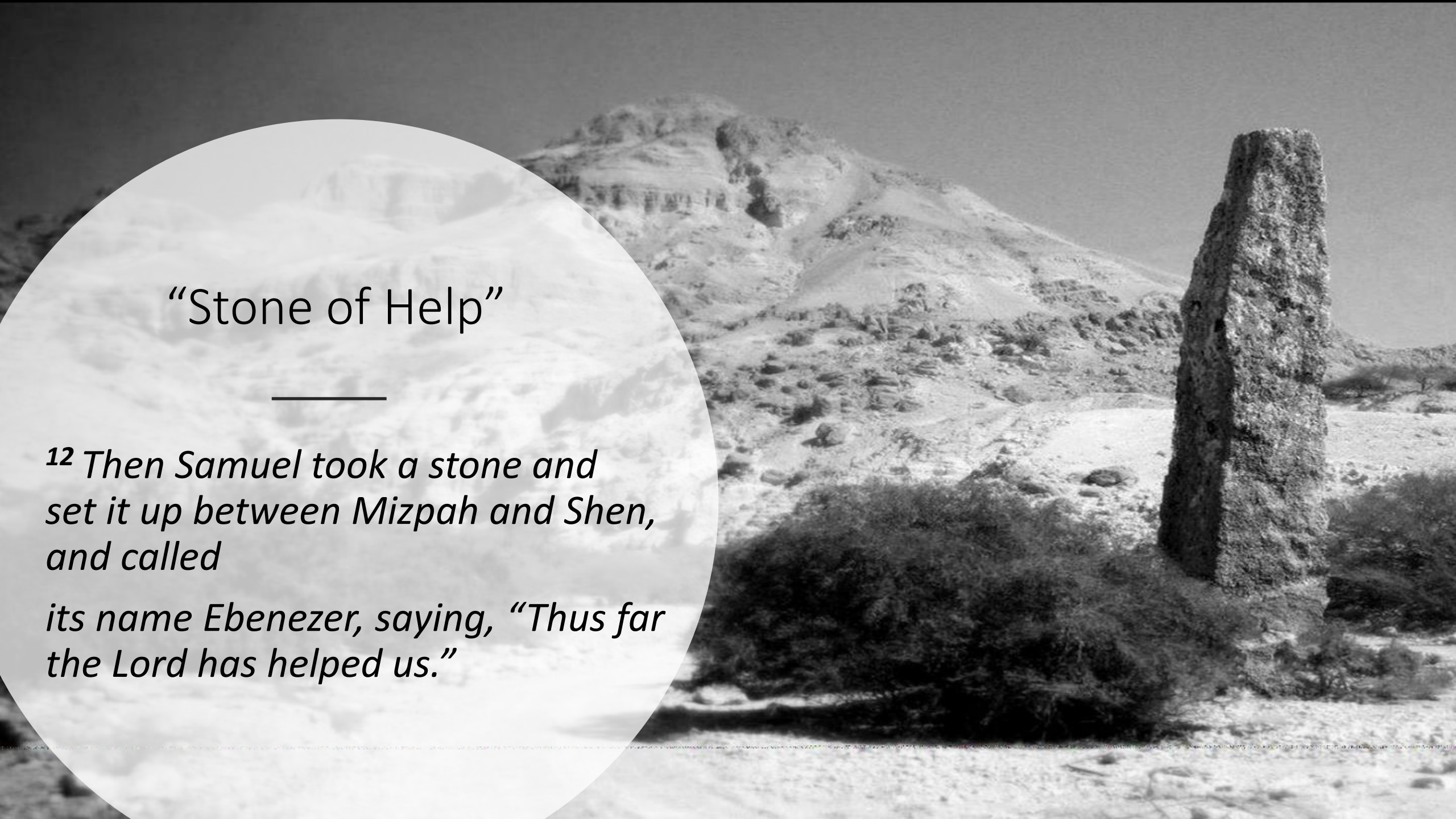
⁵ And Samuel said, “Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the Lord for you.” ⁶ So they gathered together at Mizpah, drew water, and poured it out before the Lord. And they fasted that day, and said there, “We have sinned against the Lord.” And Samuel judged the children of Israel at Mizpah.

⁷ Now when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel had gathered together at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines. ⁸ So the children of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the Lord our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines."

⁹ And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the Lord. Then Samuel cried out to the Lord for Israel, and the Lord answered him. ¹⁰ Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the Lord thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel

“Stone of Help”

¹² Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far the Lord has helped us.”



God is my help:



➤ To save me from my sins

- Do we understand what we were facing and without Him where we would be?
- Do we despise the riches of His goodness? (Romans 2:4-10)

God is my help:



➤ When I walk away from Him

- Have you ever fallen or faltered? What about now?
- God is our helper: He wants your faithfulness, your return
- David felt God's hand upon Him (Ps. 32:4)
- God can use people! (2 Sam. 11:27; 12:1)

God is my help:



➤ Through my trials

- We need strengthening: *“we must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God”* (Acts 14:21-22)
- However, *“we must glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance”* (Rom. 5:3)
- Paul understood how to get there! *“having obtained help from God, to this day I stand”* (Acts 26:22)

God is my help:



➤ For daily living

- You can't do it yourself-you WILL fail! (Jer. 10:23)
- He helps us by His word (Ps. 119:105)
- Paul was an apostle but he had to work at it (I Cor. 15:10)
- I must learn from the example of Christ at the cross