

FROM YONDER-TO-HERE

I SAMUEL 7:12

THE WORDS OF OUR TEXT ARE DERIVED FROM THE BOOK OF I SAMUEL WHICH IS A PART OF THE HISTORICAL TWELVE, WHICH BEGINS WITH THE BOOK OF JOSHUA AND CLOSES OUT WITH THE BOOK OF ESTER.

THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOK IS UNKNOWN, BUT THE HISTORY OF THE BOOK CENTERS AROUND THREE CHARACTERS:

- 1. SAMUEL, WHO WAS THE LAST JUDGE.**
- 2. SAUL, WHO WAS THE FIRST KING.**
- 3. DAVID, WHO WAS ISRAEL'S VERSATILE KING,**

THE EVENTS OF OUR TEXT TOOK PLACE IN 1140 B.C. WHICH WAS A PERIOD OF TRANSITION FOR ISRAEL. FOR THE RULE OF THE JUDGES WAS ENDING, AND THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL WAS ESTABLISHED, AND THE WORLD WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE.

THERE ARE SEVENTEEN LEADING TOPICS IN THE BOOK OF I SAMUEL, AND THE WORDS OF OUR TEXT DEALS WITH THE DEFEAT OF THE PHILISTINES THROUGH THE PRAYER OF SAMUEL.

THE SPIRITUAL MESSAGE OF THE BOOK IS PRAYER, WHICH WAS THE DOMINATING ELEMENT IN THE LIFE OF SAMUEL. AND IT SHOULD BE THE DOMINATING ELEMENT IN OUR LIVES.

- 1. SAMUEL WAS BORN IN ANSWER TO PRAYER.**

2. HIS NAME MEANS, "ASKING OF GOD"
3. HIS PRAYER BROUGHT DELIVERANCE AT MIZPAH,
4. HE PRAYED WHEN ISRAEL INSISTED ON HAVING A KING.
5. AND HE PRAYED INCREASINGLY FOR HIS PEOPLE,

INTRODUCTION

AT THE TIME OF OUR TEXT THE PHILISTINES HAD OVERCOME ISRAEL AND TAKEN THE ARK OF THE COVENANT.

HOPH'NI AND PHINE'HAS HAD BEEN SLAIN, AND ELI HAD FALLEN BACKWARDS AND BROKEN HIS NECK WHEN HE HEARD THE NEWS.

THE PHILISTINES SET THE ARK OF THE COVENANT IN THE HOUSE OF DAGON, AND DAGON HAD FALLEN TO THE FLOOR AND BROKE INTO PIECES. THOSE THAT LOOKED AT THE ARK WERE SMITTEN, SO THE PHILISTINE TOOK COUNSEL ON HOW TO RETURN THE COVENANT TO ISRAEL.

ISRAEL REPENTED, AND AS SAMUEL WAS PRAYING FOR THEM, THE PHILISTINES WERE ON THEIR WAY TO FIGHT AGAINST ISRAEL, BUT GOD THUNDERED WITH A GREAT THUNDER, AND THE PHILISTINES BECAME AFRAID AND GOD GAVE ISRAEL THE VICTORY.

SAMUEL THEN SPOKE TO THEM IN THE LANGUAGE OF OUR TEXT SAYING, "HITHERTO HATH THE LORD HELPED US," IN OTHER WORDS, "FROM YONDER TO HERE, THE LORD HAS HELPED US."

- I. IN THE MAD RUSH OF THE TIMES IN WHICH WE

**LIVE, IT IE STRENGTHENING TO STOP AND MARK
THE PLACE OF OUR BLESSINGS.**

**A. AS A BLACK PEOPLE, AND AS A BLACK FAMILY, WE
NEED TO LEARN THE WISDOM OF REVIEWING
WORTHY DEEDS, PLACES, AND OCCASIONS.**

**1. WHENEVER WE GIVE THOSE WORTHY DEEDS,
PLACES, OCCASIONS, AND PERSONS, THE PROPER
CONSIDERATION AND EVALUATION, WE ARE LIFTED
IN THE PROCESS.**

**2. I KNOW THAT IT'S UPLIFTING TO YOU, TO COME
BACK HOME TO CAMBELTON FLORIDA AND MEET
WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO REMEMBER
HENRY OLDS(1847-1889) AND ETTA BRITT, WHO
PRODUCED GRANDPA "OSCAR" WHO MARRIED
GRANDMA "OLIVIA" OLDS.(1886-1973). LATER HENRY
MARRIED CEILY TUCKER AND FATHERED RAYMOND,
LONNIE, AND ESSIE. OSCAR OLDS FATHERED
TWELVE CHILDREN WITH OLIVIA TUCKER.(1892-1972)**

**3. I KNOW IT'S UPLIFTING TO YOU TO RECALL THE
DAY WHEN MOST BLACK MEN COULD NOT OR
WOULD NOT WORK, GRANDPAPA OSCAR WAS SELF
EMPLOYED, SELLING VEGETABLES THAT HE GREW
ON HIS OWN LAND.**

**4. I KNOW IT'S UPLIFTING TO YOU WHEN YOU
RECALL THAT WHEN OTHER BLACK MEN WERE
SATISFIED WITH STAYING ON THE WHITE**

**MAN'S FARM, SHARECROPPING, GRANDPAPA OSCAR
BOUGHT HIS OWN LAND, AND BECAME A LAND
OWNER.**

**5. I KNOW IT'S UPLIFTING TO YOU WHEN YOU
RECALL THAT WHEN MANY OTHER BLACK MEN
ABANDONED THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN,
GRANDPAPA OSCAR STAYED WITH HIS WIFE AND
CHILDREN "UNTIL DEATH DID THEM PART."**

6. I KNOW IT'S UPLIFTING TO YOU, WHEN YOU RECALL THAT HE AND HIS WIFE WERE BOTH MEMBERS OF THE SAME CHURCH AND THEY WORSHIPED TOGETHER WITH THEIR FAMILY.

B. EXPERIENCE TEACHES US, THAT THE OBSERVANCE OF SPECIAL DAYS WERE IMPORTANT IN THE LIFE OF THE JEWS.

C. WE WHO HAVE CLIMBED SO RAPIDLY COULD CLIMB MORE SURE-FOOTEDLY IF WE HAD MORE REGARD FOR LANDMARKS.

1. IT IS TOO EASY FOR MANY OF US IN THIS GENERATION TO BYPASS AND OVERLOOK THE STRUGGLES AND THE GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS OF THOSE WHO PIONEERED THE WAY.

2. THOSE WHO BLAZED THE TRAILS AND LAID THE FOUNDATIONS ARE PUSHED IN THE BACKGROUND AND FORGOTTEN.

D. THE STONES AT EBENEZER AND BETHEL WERE SIGNIFICANT STONES IN THE LIFE AND EXPERIENCE OF ISRAEL. TO THEM THEY WERE STONES TO BE REMEMBERED.

1. BY TARRYING AT THE STONES OF BETHEL AND EBENEZER, THEY GAINED MORE INSPIRATION AND INCENTIVE TO GO ON,

2. AS YOU MEET WITH YOUR FAMILY, IT SHOULD INSPIRE YOU TO GO ON.

3. AS YOU COME TOGETHER TO WORSHIP TODAY, THIS SHOULD INSPIRE YOU TO GO ON.

4. WHEN YOU GO BY THE OLD HOME PLACE, AND SEE WHERE GRANDPAPA OSCAR GREW HIS VEGETABLES, THAT OUGHT TO INSPIRE YOU TO GO

ON.

II. IN THE WORDS OF OUR TEXT. SAMUEL TOOK A STONE AND SET IT BETWEEN MIZPEH, AND SHEN. AND CALLED IT EBENEZER, SAYING, "HITHERTO HATH THE LORD HELPED US" IN OTHER WORDS, "FROM YONDER TO HERE THE LORD HAS HELPED US."

A. THIS WAS A TIME FOR REJOICING. BECAUSE ISRAEL HAD BEEN RESTORED FROM APOSTASY.

1. THEY HAD TURNED AWAY FROM GOD.

2. THEY HAD TURNED AWAY FROM THEIR FAITH.

3. THEY HAD TURNED AWAY FROM THEIR PRINCIPLES,

4. THEY HAD TURNED AWAY FROM WHAT THEY USE TO BELIEVE IN.

5. BUT BECAUSE OF PRAYER GOD RESTORED THEM EXPOSITION. YOU HAVE SOME MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILIES WHO HAVE TURNED AWAY FROM GOD, BUT IF WE PRAY FOR THEM GOD WILL RESTORE THEM.

B. ON THE VERY SPOT WHERE DEFEAT WAS EXPERIENCED TWENTY YEARS BEFORE, VICTORY IS NOW THE ORDER OF THE DAY. AND SAMUEL STOPPED TO MARK THE PLACE.

1. IN EVERY MOVEMENT, THERE IS A NEED FOR SOMEBODY WHO IS GRATEFUL, TO TAKE THE TIME TO EXPRESS IT..

2. WHEN SAMUEL HAD MADE A THROUGH SEARCH OF THE WILDERNESS THROUGH WHICH THE LORD HAD BROUGHT THEM.

3. WHEN HE RECOUNTED THE YEARS OF STRUGGLE

**4. WHEN HE LOOKED AND REVIEWED THE
OBSTACLES**

**5. WHEN HE LOOKED AT THE PITFALLS AND THE
ENEMY**

**6. WHEN HE LOOKED AT THE SCENE OF NEAR
COLLAPSE HE SAID, "FROM YONDER TO HERE, THE
LORD HAS HELPED US."**

**7. AS HE LOOKED BACK FROM WHERE THE LORD
HAD BROUGHT ISRAEL.**

**a. HE REMEMBERED HOW THEIR PATH WINDED
ONWARD AND UPWARD, FROM THE PASTURE LAND
OF DOTHAN.**

b. HE REMEMBERED THE BREAD LINES OF EGYPT.

**c. AND FROM THE BREAD LINES OF EGYPT, HE
REMEMBERED THE SPRAWLING STREETS
OF
GOSHEN.**

**d FROM THE STREETS OF GOSHEN TO THE
MUDHILLS OF THE NILE, TO THE MIDNIGHT MARCH
OF MILLIONS OUT OF EGYPT UNDER THE
LEADERSHIP OF MOSES: SAMUEL COULD PROUDLY
SAY, "FROM YONDER TO HERE, THE LORD HAS
HELPED US."**

**e. HE COULD RECALL THE CROSSING OF THE RED
SEA.**

**f HE COULD RECALL THE FORTY YEARS IN THE
WILDERNESS,**

**g. HE COULD RECALL THE CROSSING OF THE JORDAN
WHERE THE POET DIPPED HIS PEN IN THE INK OF
GRACE AND SCRIBBLED IN THE BOOK OF TIME, A
SONG THAT WILL NEVER DIE. A SONG THAT
PORTRAYS THE STRUGGLE OF A PEOPLE AND FRAME**

**THE HOPE OF MANKIND FOREVER::A SONG WHICH
PROVED TO BE A TORCH WHICH SHALL EVER GUIDE
AND INSPIRE THOSE WHO STAGGER UP THE DESERT
WAY OF LIFE::AND STAND OF THE BRINKS OF A
GREAT DIVIDE AND SING.**

**III. MEMBERS OF THE OLDS FAMILY, LET ME TELL
YOU SOMETHING “FROM YONDER TO HERE, THE
LORD HAS HELPED YOU”.**

**A. FROM YONDER TO HERE, THE LORD HAS BEEN
GOOD TO YOU..**

**1. YOU HAVE COME THROUGH CONFLICT AFTER
CONFLICT.**

a. SOME OF YOU MIGHT HAVE GOOD JOBS.

b. SOME OF YOU MIGHT BE ON WELFARE.

c. SOME OF YOU MIGHT BE ON SOCIAL SECURITY.

d. SOME OF YOU MIGHT BE UNEMPLOYED.

**e. SOME OF YOU MIGHT LIVE IN SPLIT LEVEL
HOMES.**

**f. WHILE OTHERS OF YOU MIGHT LIVE IN PUBLIC
HOUSING**

g. SOME OF YOU MIGHT LIVE ON EASY STREET.

**h. WHILE OTHERS OF YOU MIGHT BE LIVING IN "A
STRUGGLE."**

**BUT FROM YONDER TO HERE, THE LORD HAS
HELPED YOU.**

**2. FROM YONDER TO HERE, YOU HAVE HAD TO GO
THROUGH
 SOME SORROW.**

a. THE LORD TOOK GRAND PA OSCAR AND GRANDMA OLIVIA FROM YOU.

b. THE LORD TOOK GEORGE OLDS AT THE AGE OF TWELVE.

c. THE LORD TOOK

3. FROM YONDER TO HERE, YOU HAVE COME THROUGH SOME DANGERS, BOTH SEEN AND UNSEEN. BUT THE LORD GAVE YOU STRENGTH FOR THE DIFFICULTIES ALONG THE WAY.

a. YES, YOU CAN SING, “ THROUGH MANY DANGEROUS TOILS AND SNARES, WE HAVE ALREADY COME, IT WAS GRACE THAT BROUGHT US SAVE THUS FAR AND GRACE THAT WILL LEAD US ON”.

**B. THE REASON WHY WE ALL ARE HERE TODAY, IS BECAUSE,
FROM YONDER TO HERE, THE LORD HAS LED THE WAY.**

1. FROM YONDER TO HERE, YOU HAD TO SHED BITTER TEARS.

2. FROM YONDER TO HERE, YOU FALTERED ALONG THE WAY.

3. FROM YONDER TO HERE, YOU HAD SOME DISAGREEMENTS.

4. FROM YONDER TO HERE, YOU HURT EACH OTHERS’ FEELINGS,

5. FROM YONDER TO HERE, YOU COULDN'T GET ALONG WITH EACH OTHER SOMETIMES.

CONCLUSION: I DON'T KNOW HOW Y'ALL FEEL ABOUT IT, BUT I KNOW, FROM YONDER TO HERE, THE LORD HAS BEEN MY ALL AND ALL.

- A. HE HAS BEEN MY BREAD IN A STARVING LAND.**
- B. HE'S BEEN MY LAWYER IN A COURT ROOM.**
- C. HE'S BEEN MY DOCTOR IN A SICK ROOM.**
- D. HE'S BEEN MY FRIEND, WHEN I WAS FRIENDLESS.**
- E. AND THEN, WAY BACK YONDER, BEFORE THE
WIND BLEW FOR
THE FIRST TIME**
 - 1. BEFORE THERE WAS A WHEN OR A WHERE.**
 - 2. BEFORE THE BEGINNING WAS BEGUN,**
 - 3. BEFORE TIME WAS ALLOWED TO LEAVE
ETERNITY.**
 - 4. HE WAS A LAMB SLAIN BEFORE THE FOUNDATION
OF THE WORLD**
 - 5. AND I'M GLAD, THAT EARLY ONE FRIDAY
MORNING
THEY LED HIM UP CALVARY'S HILL.**
 - 6. THEY STRETCHED HIM WIDE, THEY HUNG HIM
HIGH.**
 - 7. HE DIED FOR YOUR SINS AND MINE. YES HE HUNG
HIS HEAD IN THE LOCKS OF HIS SHOULDERS AND
DIED.
DIED, DIED, DIED, OH HE DIED.**
 - 8. HE STAYED IN THE GRAVE ALL FRIDAY NIGHT,
ALL DAY SATURDAY, AND ALL SATURDAY NIGHT..**
 - 9. BUT EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, HE ROSE WITH
ALL POWER IN HIS HAND.**

**F. AND I'M GLAD, THAT JUST LIKE JESUS GOT UP
OUT OF THE GRAVE, ONE OF THESE OLD DAYS,**

a. ABRAHAM IS GOING TO WAKE UP ISAAC.

b. ISAAC IS GOING TO WAKE UP JACOB.

c. JACOB IS GOING TO WAKE UP MOSES.

d. MOSES IS GOING TO WAKE JOSHUA,*****

**e. SOMEBODY IS GOING TO WAKE UP GRANDPA
OSCAR, AND GRANDPA OSCAR IS GOING TO WAKE
UP GRANDMA OLIVIA.**

f. OLIVIA IS GOING TO WAKE UP GEORGE

S. GEORGE IS GOING TO WAKE UP LUCILLE.

h. LUCILLE IS GOING TO WAKE UP KID WATTS.

I. KID WATTS IS GOING TO WAKE UP WILLIE.

j. WILLIE IS GOING TO WAKE UP BERNICE.

k. BERNICE IS GOING TO WAKE UP MARY OLDS.

**l. MARY OLDS IS GOING TO WAKE UP HENRY
MATTHEWS.**

**m. HENRY MATTHEW IS GOING TO WAKE UP
ROSETTA OLDS.**

**n. ROSETTA OLDS IS GOING TO WAKE UP WILLIE
HENRY RICHARDSON.**

**o. WILLIE HENRY RICHARDSON IS GOING TO WAKE
UP BOB HAYES**

p. BOB HAYES IS GOING TO WAKE UP CULLEY OLDS.

- q. CULLEY OLDS IS GOING TO WAKE UP KATRINIA
PITTMAN**

- r. KATRINIA PITTMAN IS GOING TO WAKE UP
THELMA OLDS.**

- s. THELMA OLDS IS GOING TO WAKE UP K.D. KNOX.**

- t. K.D. KNOX IS GOING TO WAKE UP OSCAR
DOUGLAS OLDS.**

- u. OSCAR DOUGLAS OLDS IS GOING TO WAKE UP
MARY.**

- v. MARY IS GOING TO WAKE UP VIOLA OLDS.**

- w. VIOLA OLDS IS GOING TO WAKE UP KELLY BLUE.**

- x. KELLY BLUE IS GOING TO WAKE UP JAMES
ROBINSON.**

- y. JAMES ROBINSON IS GOING TO WAKE UP JETHRO
OLDS.**

- z. JETHRO OLDS IS GOING TO WAKE UP HELEN BLUE.**

- * HELEN BLUE IS GOING TO WAKE UP CHERO OLDS.**

- * CHERO OLDS IS GOING TO WAKE UP EVA HALL.**

- * EVA HALL IS GOING TO WAKE UP MATTHEW OLDS.**

- * MATTHEW OLDS IS GOING TO WAKE UP HELEN
COLLINS.**

- * AND SOMEBODY IS GOING TO WAKE UP JESSIE AND
EARNESTINE, LONNIE AND CURLEY MAE, FAYE AND
GLORIA, LARRY AND JETHRO JR., LORETTA AND
LEANORD, ANNIE AND ROOSEVELT, PHYLLIS**

AND DINA, K.D. JR AND BRENDA, OSSIELEEN AND ALFREDA, LONNIELL AND CALVIN. AND SOMEBODY IS GOING TO WAKE ME UP, AND I'M GOING TO RISE UP AND GO BACK HOME. AND IT WILL BE ALL OVER,

***NO MORE HOMECOMINGS, NO MORE FAMILY REUNIONS. WE WILL ALL BE IN THAT NUMBER THAT JOHN SAW THAT NO MAN COULD NUMBER. WHOSE ROBE HAD BEEN WASHED IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB.**

***IF YOU WANT TO BE IN THAT NUMBER, YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN.**

***YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE BORN INTO THE OLDS FAMILY, BUT DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE BORN INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD?**

SOMEBODY WAS BORN ON MONDAY