

## **Dr. Robert Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 5, 1 Samuel 7 – Repentance and Victory Resources from NotebookLM**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

### **1. Abstract of Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 5, 1 Samuel 7 – Repentance and Victory, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

**Dr. Chisholm's lecture focuses on 1 Samuel 7, highlighting "Repentance and Victory" as its central theme.** The lecture explores how the Israelites' sincere repentance and renewed commitment to God led to divine intervention and victory over the Philistines. **The lesson emphasizes that true repentance involves not only emotional change but also concrete actions, such as rejecting foreign gods and turning exclusively to God.** Dr. Chisholm explains how this chapter reveals a key aspect of God's relationship with His people, particularly in responding to sincere repentance. **He also elucidates how this chapter is connected to the broader theme of a polemic against Baal worship.** Finally, the lecture breaks down several observations on the nature of repentance to emphasize its importance as a means to have a renewed relationship with the Lord.

**2. 11 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of  
Dr. Chisholm, Session 5 – Double click icon to play in Windows  
media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and  
click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical  
Books → 1 Samuel).**



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ession05.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 5, 1 Samuel 7 – Repentance and Victory

Okay, here's a detailed briefing document summarizing the main themes and important ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. Robert Chisholm's teaching on 1 Samuel 7:

#### **Briefing Document: 1 Samuel 7 - Repentance and Victory**

**Main Theme:** Repentance and renewed allegiance to the Lord are foundational to a renewed relationship with Him.

#### **Key Ideas and Facts:**

- **Overview:** 1 Samuel 7 is presented as an "upbeat" chapter where Israel experiences genuine repentance and a great victory, facilitated by the Lord's intervention.
- "You can tell from the title that this chapter is going to be somewhat upbeat. It's going to be a good experience for Israel in this particular chapter. They're going to genuinely repent and they are going to win a great victory, or the Lord is going to win a great victory for them."
- **Samuel's Re-emergence:** Samuel, who had been a prominent figure earlier in the narrative, reappears in chapter 7 after a focus on the Ark narrative (Chapters 4-6). He serves as a key leader in guiding Israel's repentance.
- **Israel's Repentance:**
  - The people mourn and seek the Lord, sensing something wrong in their relationship with Him. "And all the people of Israel mourned and sought after the Lord."
  - Samuel calls on the people to rid themselves of foreign gods (Baals and Ashtoreths) and commit themselves solely to the Lord. "If you are returning to the Lord, with all your hearts...then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and ashtoreths and commit yourselves to the Lord and serve him only."
  - The Israelites demonstrate their repentance by discarding their idols, assembling at Mizpah, pouring out water, fasting, and confessing their sins. "So, the Israelites put away their Baals and Ashtoreths...When they had assembled at Mizpah, they drew water and poured it out before the Lord. On that day they fasted and there they confessed, we have sinned against the Lord."

- The pouring out of water is interpreted as symbolizing their repentant spirit and willingness to deprive themselves.
- **Samuel as a Moses Figure:**
  - Chisholm notes that Samuel is portrayed as a "new Moses," which enhances his authority. Samuel intercedes for the people, an action previously associated with Abraham and Moses.
  - "And so, it's possible that the narrator is kind of casting Samuel in the role of a Moses."
  - This is linked to the broader theme of Samuel's credibility, essential for his role in anointing David as king.
- **Victory Over the Philistines:**
  - The Philistines attack when they hear of Israel's assembly at Mizpah.
  - Samuel offers a sacrifice and cries out to the Lord, who responds by thundering against the Philistines, throwing them into panic and routing them. "Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it up as a whole burnt offering to the Lord. He cried out to the Lord on Israel's behalf and the Lord answered him...But that day the Lord thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites."
  - This victory fulfills Hannah's prayer where she anticipated the Lord would thunder against his enemies.
- **Ebenezer Stone:**
  - Samuel sets up a stone called Ebenezer ("stone of help") to commemorate the Lord's help and victory. "And then Samuel took a stone and he set it up between Mizpah and Shein. And he named it Ebenezer...Ebenezer says, thus far the Lord has helped us."
  - This act is also seen as reversing the earlier defeat the Israelites suffered at a place also called Ebenezer (in chapter 4). "This placement of the stones in a different place...it kind of reverse the defeat that occurred in chapter four."

- **Aftermath and Samuel's Role:**

- The Philistines are subdued for a time, and Israel recovers territory.
- Samuel continues to judge Israel, traveling in a circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah. He brings justice and proper worship to the land, building an altar to the Lord in Ramah.

- **Baal Polemic:**

- The chapter highlights a "Baal polemic," demonstrating the Lord's superiority over the Canaanite god Baal.
- The Lord thunders against the Philistines, showing that He, not Baal, controls the storm. "But isn't it significant that when they throw away their Baal idols, the Lord then comes in the battle against their enemies? And how does he reveal himself? In the storm, he thunders against the enemy."
- This polemic is traced back through Judges (Deborah/Barak and Gideon stories), where the Lord demonstrates His power over elements associated with Baal worship (storms, dew).
- The excerpt details the instances where the Lord shows that he is in control of the elements that Baal supposedly controls and that Israel need not fear the Canaanites because of Baal.
- Chisholm suggests that the "pagan gods" have a reality behind them and are tied to spiritual forces (angels who rebelled). "But they did believe that there was a reality behind these gods, because there really is...And so, there are spiritual forces that are behind these pagan gods, I'm convinced."
- **Lessons on Repentance:** Chisholm outlines several principles of repentance illustrated in the chapter:
  1. God's people are responsible for *initiating* repentance. "God's wayward people are responsible for initiating repentance."
  2. Repentance can have a *corporate* dimension. "Repentance isn't just something that individuals do. But sometimes a group of individuals can collectively come together and say we have sinned against the Lord."

3. Repentance begins with *sincere motives* but involves action and changed behavior (repudiation of former allegiances). "The substance of repentance is changed behavior, which often involves a radical repudiation of your former behavior and allegiances."
  4. Repentance results in *exclusive* worship of the one true God. "Repentance results in exclusive worship of the one true God...You have to turn to the one true God and reject all other contenders for the title of God."
  5. Repentance *doesn't insulate you from trouble*, but it brings divine help and protection. "Repentance doesn't insulate you from trouble...But repentance and reconciliation with God do bring divine help and support in the midst of trying circumstances and protection from enemies if God so chooses."
- **Theological Nuance:** Chisholm acknowledges the balance between human responsibility (Arminian view) and divine sovereignty (Calvinist view) in repentance. He asserts that faith precedes regeneration, although acknowledging that some theologians hold the opposite view.

**Concluding Thought:** While 1 Samuel 7 depicts a positive moment of repentance and victory, Chisholm foreshadows that Israel's strong faith will not necessarily be sustained, setting the stage for the challenges explored in subsequent chapters.

## 4. Study Guide: Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 5, 1 Samuel 7 – Repentance and Victory

### 1 Samuel 7: Repentance and Victory - A Study Guide

#### Review of Key Concepts

- **Repentance as Foundational:** Repentance and renewed allegiance to the Lord are foundational to a renewed relationship with Him.
- **Samuel's Role:** Samuel's reappearance and actions in Chapter 7 reinforce his authority and credibility as a prophet, solidifying his role in the transition of leadership from Saul to David. He serves as an intercessor, much like Moses.
- **Idolatry:** The Israelites' worship of foreign gods, specifically Baal and Ashtoreths, and their images. The act of removing these idols signifies genuine repentance.
- **Mizpah Assembly:** The gathering at Mizpah is a public display of repentance, involving pouring out water, fasting, and confessing sin.
- **Philistine Threat:** The Philistine attack during the Israelites' repentance highlights that repentance does not guarantee a trouble-free life but opens the door for divine intervention.
- **Ebenezer:** The stone erected by Samuel to commemorate God's help and victory over the Philistines. It serves as a reminder of God's intervention and a reversal of previous defeat at a place of the same name in Chapter 4.
- **Baal Polemic:** The narrative demonstrates Yahweh's power over Baal, particularly in controlling storms, reinforcing the idea that Yahweh is superior to pagan deities.
- **Lessons on Repentance:** God's wayward people are responsible for initiating repentance.
- Repentance can have a corporate dimension.
- Repentance begins with sincere motives and involves action.
- Repentance results in exclusive worship of the one true God.
- Repentance doesn't insulate you from trouble.

- **Deuteronomy 30:** The passage in Deuteronomy 30 serves as a pattern for repentance, emphasizing the people's responsibility to return to the Lord, followed by God's compassionate restoration.

## Quiz

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. What does the act of pouring out water at Mizpah symbolize?
2. Explain Samuel's role as an intercessor in 1 Samuel 7.
3. Why is Samuel's credibility as a prophet important in the broader narrative of 1 Samuel?
4. What is the significance of the name "Ebenezer"?
5. How does the defeat of the Philistines in 1 Samuel 7 relate to Hannah's earlier prayer?
6. How does the narrative in 1 Samuel 7 challenge the worship of Baal?
7. Describe the conditions Samuel gave the Israelites for returning to the Lord.
8. In what ways does the passage emphasize that repentance involves more than just emotion?
9. What role does Deuteronomy 30 play in understanding the concept of repentance in 1 Samuel 7?
10. How does the attack by the Philistines during Israel's repentance contribute to the overall message of 1 Samuel 7?

## Quiz Answer Key

1. The act of pouring out water at Mizpah likely symbolizes the Israelites' repentant spirit, signifying that they are pouring out their hearts before the Lord. It also demonstrates a willingness to deprive themselves of basic necessities like water, indicating sincerity in their repentance.
2. Samuel serves as an intercessor between the Israelites and God, a role previously held by figures like Abraham and Moses. He cries out to the Lord on behalf of Israel, similar to Moses in Numbers 21:7, seeking rescue from the Philistines, highlighting his authority and credibility as a prophet.

3. Samuel's credibility as a prophet is crucial because he will anoint David as king and remove Saul from office. This credibility validates his actions and choices as divinely inspired, contributing to the pro-David theme in the Books of Samuel.
4. The name "Ebenezer," meaning "stone of help," commemorates God's intervention and victory over the Philistines. It serves as a physical reminder of God's help and reverses the defeat experienced by the Israelites in Chapter 4 at a place of the same name.
5. The defeat of the Philistines in 1 Samuel 7 directly answers Hannah's earlier prayer anticipating a time when the Lord would thunder against his enemies. The Lord's thunderous intervention demonstrates his power and fulfills Hannah's prophetic vision, emphasizing God's sovereignty and vindication of the faithful.
6. The narrative challenges the worship of Baal by demonstrating Yahweh's control over the storm, an element attributed to Baal in Canaanite mythology. The Lord thunders against the Philistines as the Israelites reject their Baal idols, showing that Yahweh, not Baal, is sovereign over nature and can deliver them from their enemies.
7. Samuel instructs the Israelites to return to the Lord with all their hearts, rid themselves of foreign gods (Baals and Ashtoreths), and commit themselves to serving Him alone. He promises that if they do this, the Lord will deliver them from the Philistines.
8. The passage emphasizes that repentance involves more than emotion through the actions the Israelites take, such as getting rid of their idols. They also participate in symbolic rituals, fasting, and confession of sin, however it is their changed behavior that God is looking for.
9. Deuteronomy 30 provides a framework for understanding repentance in 1 Samuel 7 by highlighting the pattern of disobedience, exile, repentance, and restoration. Samuel 7 demonstrates Israel showing their sincere repentance and God offering them a fresh start.
10. The attack by the Philistines during Israel's repentance emphasizes that repentance does not guarantee a trouble-free life. Instead, it creates an opportunity for divine intervention, as the Lord answers Samuel's prayer and thunders against the Philistines.



## Essay Questions

1. Discuss the theological significance of the Ebenezer stone in 1 Samuel 7 in relation to the Israelites' history and relationship with God.
2. Analyze Samuel's leadership in 1 Samuel 7, focusing on his roles as prophet, intercessor, and judge. How does he contribute to the restoration of Israel's relationship with God?
3. Explore the theme of repentance in 1 Samuel 7, comparing and contrasting the actions of the Israelites with the principles outlined in Deuteronomy 30. What are the key elements of genuine repentance, according to these texts?
4. Examine the "Baal polemic" in 1 Samuel 7. How does the chapter portray Yahweh's superiority over Baal, and what implications does this have for the Israelites' identity and worship?
5. Evaluate the relationship between repentance and divine intervention in 1 Samuel 7. Does repentance guarantee deliverance, or does it create an opportunity for God to act? How does this chapter contribute to a broader understanding of God's justice and mercy?

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Repentance:** A sincere turning away from sin and a return to obedience and allegiance to God.
- **Allegiance:** Loyalty or commitment to a person, group, or cause; in this context, loyalty to God.
- **Idolatry:** The worship of idols or false gods, often involving physical images or symbols.
- **Baal:** A Canaanite storm and fertility god, often worshipped through idols and rituals.
- **Ashtoreth (Astarte):** A Canaanite goddess associated with fertility, sexuality, and war, often worshipped alongside Baal.
- **Mizpah:** A location where the Israelites gathered for repentance, prayer, and worship.
- **Intercession:** The act of pleading or praying to God on behalf of others.
- **Burnt Offering:** A sacrifice in which an animal is completely burned as an offering to God.
- **Ebenezer:** A Hebrew name meaning "stone of help," used to commemorate God's assistance.
- **Polemic:** A strong verbal or written attack on someone or something; in this context, a challenge to the worship of false gods.
- **Syncretism:** The merging of different religions, cultures, or schools of thought; in this context, the mixing of Yahwistic worship with pagan practices.
- **Regeneration:** A theological term referring to spiritual rebirth or renewal, often associated with the Holy Spirit's work in a believer's life.
- **Covenant:** A binding agreement or promise between two parties; in the Bible, often refers to God's promises and obligations to His people.
- **Adjudicating:** Making a formal judgment or decision about a problem or disputed matter.
- **Transjordan:** The area of land east of the Jordan River.

## 5. FAQs on Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 5, 1 Samuel 7 – Repentance and Victory, [Biblicalelearning.org](http://Biblicalelearning.org) (BeL)

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided text:

### FAQ: 1 Samuel 7 - Repentance and Victory

- **What is the main theme of 1 Samuel 7?**
- The main theme of 1 Samuel 7 is that genuine repentance and a renewed commitment to the Lord are essential foundations for restoring one's relationship with Him. The chapter highlights how the Israelites, after a period of mourning and seeking God, actively rid themselves of foreign idols, demonstrating a tangible shift in allegiance, which then paved the way for divine intervention and victory over the Philistines.
- **What specific actions did the Israelites take to demonstrate their repentance in 1 Samuel 7?**
- The Israelites demonstrated their repentance through several actions. First, they removed their idols of Baal and Ashtoreth, physically discarding the symbols of their past infidelity. Second, they assembled at Mizpah where they poured out water before the Lord, possibly symbolizing a pouring out of their hearts in repentance and a willingness to deprive themselves. They also fasted and confessed their sins, acknowledging their transgressions against the Lord.
- **How is Samuel portrayed in 1 Samuel 7, and what significance does this portrayal have?**
- Samuel is portrayed as a crucial intercessor and leader in 1 Samuel 7. His role is likened to that of Moses, as he intercedes with the Lord on behalf of the people, similar to Moses's intercession in Numbers 21:7. This comparison reinforces Samuel's authority and credibility as a prophet, emphasizing his importance in removing Saul from power and anointing David, which supports the author's pro-David theme in the books of Samuel.

- **What is the significance of the Lord's "thundering" against the Philistines in 1 Samuel 7?**
- The Lord's thundering against the Philistines is significant because it directly challenges the prevailing Canaanite belief that Baal, the storm god, controlled thunder and lightning. By using thunder to defeat the Philistines, the Lord demonstrated His sovereignty over nature and His superiority to Baal, reinforcing the importance of the Israelites' decision to abandon their Baal idols and reaffirming that Yahweh, not Baal, controls the elements and ultimately their fate.
- **What is the significance of the Ebenezer stone Samuel sets up after the victory?**
- The Ebenezer stone, meaning "stone of help," commemorates the Lord's help and deliverance of the Israelites from the Philistines. It serves as a physical reminder for future generations of God's faithfulness and power. Furthermore, it reverses the memory of a previous defeat at a place also called Ebenezer (1 Samuel 4), symbolizing that the Lord has replaced their defeat with victory, marking a turning point in their relationship with God.
- **What does 1 Samuel 7 teach us about the nature of repentance?**
- 1 Samuel 7 offers several key lessons about repentance. It underscores that repentance is initiated by God's people, involves more than just emotion, and it requires tangible action, such as changed behavior and the rejection of past allegiances. While repentance does not guarantee a trouble-free life, it opens the door to divine help and support. Corporate repentance is also exemplified, showing that groups can collectively acknowledge and turn away from shared sins. It also highlights the rejection of syncretism as repentance is an exclusive commitment to the one true God.
- **What is the "Baal polemic" that is discussed in relation to 1 Samuel 7 and other Old Testament passages?**
- The "Baal polemic" refers to the ongoing theme in the Old Testament, particularly in Judges and 1 Samuel, which challenges and undermines the worship of Baal, a Canaanite fertility and storm god. The narrative suggests that the Israelites need not worship or fear Baal because Yahweh controls all elements that Baal supposedly controlled. Examples of the polemic include the story of Deborah and Barak, the story of Gideon, and the defeat of Dagon through the Ark of the Covenant.

- **How does Deuteronomy 30 relate to the events and themes in 1 Samuel 7?**
- Deuteronomy 30 provides a framework for understanding the cycle of sin, repentance, and restoration that is evident in 1 Samuel 7. Deuteronomy 30 outlines the process of the people carefully reflecting on their sins, their choice to return to the Lord, and the Lord's eventual restoration of fortune and transformation of hearts, when they seek Him. It also emphasizes the people's responsibility to make the first move in reconciliation, which is mirrored in the Israelites' actions of repentance and the subsequent victory granted by the Lord in 1 Samuel 7.