

Raise An Ebenezer 1Samuel 7:1-14

Understanding Our Songs

"O Thou Fount Of Every Blessing"

"Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I've come"

What is an Ebenezer and why/how do I raise it?

Understanding what we sing is necessary to fulfill command to sing

Ebenezers

Samuel's Stone of The Helper - 1Samuel 7:1-14

Egypt Exodus thru Canaan Conquest God gave victory though should have lost

Repaid with complaining, unwillingness to remove heathen gods or nations

20 years Samuel's life, Ark exiled while nation threatened by Philistines, terrified weakened Israel:

Samuel raised stone memorial to God's care

"Til now the Lord has helped us"

Gratitude the Ebenezer stone expressed helped subdue the enemy, prevent future skirmishes and restore what had been lost

Near Mizpah where Jacob set up own Ebenezer long ago

Jacob's Stone of Help - Genesis 28:10-22

God's promises to Abraham renewed to Jacob, Plan for bringing salvation through him revealed

Jacob vows devotion to God as acknowledges Providential care sets up 'pillow' stone as memorial

Covenant renewed with Jacob's family after return

Genesis 35

Joshua's Stepping Stones - Joshua 4:19-24

God instructed memorial construction after Israel entered Canaan through dry Jordan river bed.

A monument for future generations of God's constant care for the nation

Though not specifically called "stones of help" were memorials to help God given to His people

Raising Ebenezers

What are some "Ebenezers" that we can 'raise' as reminders to self and future generations?

Reminders of the help God has given in our struggle

Provide strong foundation for generations to come

Count Your Blessings

Samuel raised Ebenezer because he saw how richly God had blessed him and the people of Israel

Paul preached that God's blessing is evident - **Acts 14:17**

James reminds us of God's gifts - **James 1:17**

Spiritually blessed with collection of God's Word rather than 'piece at a time' as in days of old

Poorest among physically blessed beyond dream of early Christian

Regularly giving to help others can be reminder - **1Corinthians 16:1-2**

Counting blessings will give blessing: grateful heart ready to share

Gratitude Is An Anchor

Joshua's stepping stones were to be a reminder for thankfulness that God had provided the way

Gratitude anchors our hearts and promotes contentment over anxiety - **Colossians 3:15**

We have much for which to be thankful - **1Thessalonians 5:16-17**

Acknowledgement of goodness & our limitations, promotes humility, generally encourages future blessings - **Proverbs 3:9-10**

We have much future promise for which can be grateful - **Philippians 4:6**

Prayer is excellent way to show gratitude

Using gifts appropriately & giving glory to God for them

Build The House Of The Lord

Jacob promised to build house of the Lord (Nation of Israel) with his pillar of stones

We show reverence for God by build up his house today - **1Peter 2:1-5**

Build on foundation of apostles & prophets inspired words & records, not our traditions & ambitions - **Ephesians 2:19-22**

We must be integral part of church, not a spare brick - **Romans 12:1-2**

Looking back as grow older, strength in the Body will be a point of reminder to show the young

Build Your Discipleship

Discipleship is about making applications of Christ's doctrine - **Matthew 7:24-27**

Only obedient can be said to have built upon rock of revealed truth

Those who go their own way are constructing on shifting sand

Obedience to Master shows gratitude, living Ebenezer - **Acts 2:41-47**

They lived in the apostles' doctrine as obedient disciples

Instruct Future Generations

To raise our young in nurture & admonition of God, must look to concrete reference points to show how God has blessed us - **Ephesians 6:4**

Moan & complain about Christian life, be less likely to choose it

Circumvent Word & go own way, they learn lesson of cutting corners and rebelling against God

But if we teach our children to look around them when they pray and praise God for all they have, physically and spiritually, they will be on their way to a faithful life

Must use the language of gratitude with our children, as a stepping stone through the Jordan and a memorial when they wonder why we are what we are and have what we have

Be sure to raise an Ebenezer, a 'Rock of Reminder,' today and every day.

Is the Lord your helper? If not, why not?

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