

Remember Your Victories (Go To Meeting)

Tom Fannin—July 23, 2021

- Do you remember your victories?
- Do we take time to remember what God and Jesus Christ have done for us in our lives in giving us victories?

God wants us to remember our victories and all the things that He has done for us, because it helps us to build a relationship with God and with Jesus Christ.

We're going to talk about the account of King Asa, who experienced great victories. We'll talk a little bit about his father King Abijah who also had a great victory during his reign though God, both of them as kings receiving these victories.

1-Chronicles 13:4: "And Abijah stood up on Mount Zemaraim, in the hills of Ephraim, and said, 'Hear me, Jeroboam and all Israel.'"

We know that Jeroboam was the king of the northern ten tribes, the king of Israel. Abijah was king of Judah. Right away King Jeroboam—after God has given him the ten tribes—turned away from God and also turned the people away from God:

- by setting idols for them to worship
- changing the days that God had appointed to be Holy
- made priests out of men that shouldn't have been priests, who were not from the tribe of Levi

So, Jeroboam did a lot of things immediately when he took over as king, and we see that throughout history in Christian churches. The things that Jeroboam did with Israel still continues on today.

Verse 12—*Abijah speaking*: "And behold, God Himself *is* with us as Commander and His priests with sounding silver trumpets to cry *the* alarm against you. O children of Israel, do not fight against the LORD God of your fathers, for you shall not prosper!"

Abijah is trying to warn Jeroboam and Israel not to come against God, the God of your fathers.

Verse 13: "But Jeroboam caused an ambush to come around behind them, so that they were in front of Judah, and the ambush *was* behind them. And Judah turned, and, behold, the battle *was* before and behind. And they cried to the LORD, and the priests sounded with the silver trumpets. And the men of Judah shouted. And it came to pass as the men of Judah shouted, God struck Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. And the children of Israel fled before Judah. And God delivered them

into their hand. And Abijah and his people killed them with a great slaughter. And there fell down dead five hundred thousand chosen men of Israel" (vs 13-17).

What a great victory that was, and how sad that kinsman here—descendants of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Jacob's 12 sons—fighting against each other. That day 500,000 chosen men of Israel fell! It was a great victory, but very sad that that had to happen!

Verse 18: "And the children of Israel were subdued at that time, and **the children of Judah won because they relied upon the LORD God of their fathers.**"

That's something important for us to remember, because ***they relied on God!***

Verse 19: "And Abijah pursued Jeroboam and took cities from him—Bethel with its villages, and Jeshanah with its villages, and Ephron with its villages. And Jeroboam did not recover strength again *in* the days of Abijah. And **the LORD struck him and he died**" (vs 19-20).

If you were the son/daughter of a king, and you were from the nation of Judah, would you remember this victory given to your father and country? I hope that if we were in that position we would remember for a long time such a great victory!

2-Chronicles 14:1: "And Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David. And his son Asa reigned in his place. In his days the land was quiet ten years. And Asa did *that which was* good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God" (vs 1-2).

Verse 5: "He also took out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the images. And the kingdom was quiet before him. And he built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest, and he had no war in those years because the LORD had given him rest. And he said to Judah, 'Let us build these cities and make walls around *them*, and towers, gates and bars, while the land *is* still before us, because we have sought the LORD our God. We have sought *Him*, and He has given us rest on every side.' And they built and were blessed" (vs 5-7).

I think that's a great example of a king who tried to seek God, tried to follow God and also had the nation follow God. God gave them rest and peace.

Think about us, how would we be if we were given a period of time—ten years just like Asa got—to have quiet and rest.

- What would we do with that?
- Would we go forward and develop ourselves and build spiritual character?

or

- Would we go backward and forget God in a 10-year stretch of peace and quiet in our lives?

We will see what Asa did with this time, where his mind was!

Verse 9: “And Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and three hundred chariots. And he came to Mareshah.”

That’s quite an army coming at you! Think about one million coming toward you. Obviously, this was well-planned by the Ethiopians and what they were going to do. Maybe they knew that this was a nation that has been at peace and rest, and this might be a good time to go challenge them.

Verse 10: “And Asa went out against him, and they set the battle in order in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. And Asa cried to the LORD his God and said, ‘LORD, *it is* nothing with You to help, whether with many or with him who has no power. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God. Do not let man prevail against You’” (vs 10-11).

Verse 12: “And the LORD struck the Cushites before Asa and before Judah. And the Cushites fled. And Asa and the people with him pursued them to Gerar. And the Cushites fell, for none was left alive of them...” (vs 12-13).

One million people plus 300 chariots and none were left alive, What a great victory that God gave Judah at that time under King Asa.

“...for they were destroyed before the LORD and before His army. And they carried away very much spoil” (v 13).

After this time of peace, Asa was still in the right mind and spirit toward God. He turned to God when he saw this coming, and God delivered him and gave him and Judah the victory.

- Does this continue?
- Does Asa continue this attitude and spirit that he had about him to seek and search for God?

2-Chronicles 15:1: “And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded. And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him, ‘Hear me, Asa, and

all Judah and Benjamin. **The LORD is with you while you are with Him.** And if you seek Him, He will be found by you. **But if you forsake Him, He will forsake you**” (vs 1-2)—*a very clear message!*

- Did Asa remember that?
- Do we remember these things?

These very same things can be said of us! As long as we’re with God, He’s with us!

Speaking of Judah and all of those from the tribe of Israel that came to be with Judah, because they knew that God was with Judah and also the Benjamites.

Verse 12: “And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul, and that whoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman” (vs 12-13).

It’s really very similar to the covenant that we entered into! When we entered into this covenant ourselves in baptism, we agreed also that we would seek after God. But here they entered into this covenant and whoever “...**would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death...**” That was the covenant that they all agreed to.

Verse 19: “And there was no war to the thirty-fifth year of the reign of Asa.”

What a blessing to have that much time to have peace and no war in your country. To have blessings! Hopefully he remembered all that time of peace; what God had done for him and his nation. Let’s find out if he remembered this or not.

2-Chronicles 16:1: “In the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Asa, Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah and built Ramah so that he might let no one go out or come in to Asa king of Judah. And Asa brought out silver and gold from the treasures of the house of the LORD and of the king’s house and sent them to Ben-Hadad king of Syria, who lived at Damascus, saying, ‘Let there be a treaty between you and me as *there was* between my father and your father. Behold, I have sent you silver and gold. Go, break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel so that he may depart from me’” (vs 1-3).

We see what’s happening here, don’t we? That great victory that was given to Asa, he forgot. He forgot about the covenant and took that wealth—the spoil they had received—and gave it to someone else for protection and help. In other words, he didn’t go back to God again for help against Baasha, king of Israel. He started to look for someone else for help.

Verse 7: “And at that time Hanani the seer

came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, ‘Because you have relied on the king of Syria and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore, the army of the king of Syria has escaped out of your hand.’”

Asa could have had it all! He could have turned to God and had the victory over Israel and over Syria, but that’s not what he chose to do. Here’s what Asa was reminded of by Hanani the seer.

Verse 8: “Were not the Ethiopians and the Libyans a huge army with many chariots and horsemen?....”

Hanani is asking Asa, ‘Were they not a huge army? *One million people and 300 chariots!* Do you remember that? That day and what happened? *They were all destroyed!* You were victorious and you took all that spoil from them! Do you remember that? Does that come to your mind?

“...Yet, because you relied on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand, for the eyes of the LORD run to and fro in all the whole earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is perfect toward Him....” (vs 8-9).

Something had changed in the heart of Asa! The heart and mind that he had a one time wasn’t there anymore!

“...In this you have done foolishly; therefore, from now on you shall have wars” (v 9).

That’s one way, if we want peace in our lives and prosper spiritually, ***we need to continue to rely on God. Go to God!*** If we don’t, we see what can happen in our lives! We can forget about God and what He’s done for us and turn out to be in a position like Asa was. The rest of the time he was going to be king he was going to have war! We don’t want war in our lives.

Verse 10: “And Asa was angry with the seer and put him in a prison house. for *he was* in a rage against him because of this. And Asa oppressed some of the people at that time.” *He was of a different mind now!*

Verse 11: “And behold, the acts of Asa, first and last, lo, they *are* written in the Book of the kings of Judah and Israel. And in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa *was* diseased in his feet until his disease *was* very grievous. Yet, in his disease he did not seek to the LORD, but to the physicians” (vs 11-12).

Asa could have sought the Lord and went to Him for healing and help. He could have been healed and had more time. But we know where he was at now in his mind. He had left God and turning to others, in this case it was the physicians for

healing for his feet. But it wasn’t going to work.

Verse 13: “And Asa slept with his fathers and died in the forty-first year of his reign.”

God wants us to remember our victories so we will continue to seek Him for deliverance, because that’s what God desires us to do. God wants us to continually go to Him for deliverance and not rely on anyone else. Having trust and faith in Him, because of all the things that He’s done for us. God want us to remember those.

We’re going to go over the account of David and Goliath and we’ll see that David remembered what God did for him.

1-Samuel 17:31: “And the words which David spoke were heard. And they were told before Saul. And he sent for him. And David said to Saul, ‘Let no man’s heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.’ And Saul said to David, ‘You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you *are but* a youth, and he is a man of war from his youth.’ And David said to Saul, ‘Your servant kept his father’s sheep, and there came a lion and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock. And I went out after it and struck it, and delivered *the lamb* out of its mouth. And when it rose against me, I caught *it* by the beard, and struck it and killed it. Your servant killed both the lion and the bear. And this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God.’ And David said, ‘The LORD who has delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.’ And Saul said to David, ‘Go, and may the LORD be with you’” (vs 31-37).

David remembered his victories over the bear and the lion. That gave him the confidence to know that he could also go against this Philistine. *As David remember, God wants us to remember!* In our lives we come across situations where we have our own bears and lions that we to face at times.

Psalms 54:1: “Save me, O God, by Your name, and vindicate me by Your might. Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth, for strangers have risen up against me, and violent men seek after my soul; **they have not set God before them.** Selah” (vs 1-3)—*think on this!*

Many times in our lives don’t we have people come against us. I think of a time in my life where I work I ran into a situation like that. I was in an office and had just taken a position there in the company as a manager. I worked with this certain GM for years and really liked him. Because of that I was able to get an opportunity with the company I had been with for a long time.

It was soon after I took that position that this GM retired. Soon after that an other man came in and he wasn't like the GM whom I really like; he was different. For some reason he did not care for me. He made things pretty difficult. He's the kind of a reviler and bring accusations against people and was very demeaning.

This went on for several years, and not only him but also with another person that reported to him. I know many times I cried out to God, 'Please help me with this,' because at times it felt like it was more than I could handle. We know God says that He won't give us more than we can handle—but it made things very difficult for several years.

Again, I cried out to God for help. Help came! One time I got a phone call and our office pulled together and this GM got relieved of his duties, because he really wasn't doing a good job, and I wasn't the only one being treated this way. He was basically running our whole division in an inappropriate way.

The other person I mentioned was caught up in a lot of things that he shouldn't have been involved in and this was brought to light, too. He was also removed from his position.

God gave me deliverance from two people. I think about that from time to time. When I run into situations now when I think about my job and people I'm working with or for, and maybe you have a bad day, I reflect back on that victory that God gave me in removing two people that were against me, and He put me in a better position. At that time, too, it helped me to reflect on where I was spiritually. Was I do some things that I needed to be needed to be doing?

It's a lesson for me and for all us that God gives us the victories, and sometimes we are challenged by people.

Verse 4: "Behold, God is my helper; the LORD is with those who uphold my soul. He shall reward evil to my enemies. Destroy them in Your faithfulness. I will freely sacrifice to You; I will praise Your name, O LORD, for it is good, for He has delivered me out of all trouble, and my eye has seen its desire upon my enemies" (vs 4-7).

God delivers us from all troubles, doesn't He? As we're talking about here, He wants us to go back and remember those things.

In this spiritual walk we're on, we're going to have problems and trials and difficulties. That's talked about in:

1-Peter 1:3: "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who, according to His

abundant mercy, has begotten us again unto a living hope through *the* resurrection of Jesus Christ from *the* dead; unto an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, reserved in heaven for us" (vs 3-4).

That's what we're all looking forward to; our calling: being in the Kingdom of God as firstfruits.

Verse 5: "Who *are* being safeguarded by *the* power of God through faith..."

This is something we're always to remember; that God is safeguarding us. He's taking care of us continually through His power!

"...for salvation *that is* ready to be revealed in *the* last time. In this you yourselves greatly rejoice; though for the present, if it is necessary..." (vs 5-6).

Sometimes it is necessary for our growth and development to have trials, difficulties, problems and tests because of what they do for us.

"...you are in distress for a little while by various trials, in order that the proving of your faith, which is much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is being tested by fire, may be found unto praise and honor and glory at *the* revelation of Jesus Christ" (vs 5-6).

Yes, we're going to have trials and tests come upon us. We're going to have times like Asa went through when a seemly million-man army are marching toward us. That's going to happen, but we know what those things happen. It's for our testing!

- Can you look at a time in your life when God has intervened in your life and delivered you?
- What are the victories that God gives all of us?
- Do you think about what they all are?
- Have you had healings?
- Have you had protection?
- Have you had special intervention just when you needed it?

All kinds of helps and blessings, which are victories if you look at them in the proper way! ***They are victories!*** We all have a lot of different blessings. Could be:

- health
- a good spouse
- a really good family—children and grandchildren
- the people that God has surrounded you with

Whatever it may be! We can all look at these as

being victories for us from God. Things that God gives us!

We know that the Apostle Paul was delivered many times. He remembered his deliverances. He also shared them and encouraged others with them.

2-Cor. 11—Paul talks about all the things he went through, and he certainly went through a lot. I wouldn't want to go through what Paul did as part of his ministry to the Gentiles, to serve God's people.

Paul was an encourager. Whether he was working with Timothy or Titus, Paul did what he could to help them and instruct them.

2-Timothy 3:10: "But you have closely followed my doctrine, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions *and* sufferings—such as happened to me in Antioch, in Iconium, *and* in Lystra. *You know* what sort of persecutions I endured; **and the Lord delivered me out of them all.** And indeed, **everyone who desires to live Godly in Christ Jesus shall be persecuted**" (vs 1-12).

Paul reminds Timothy that all the things he went through—particularly here—***God delivered him!*** Timothy may have remembered that.

Acts 14—Paul was stoned and left for dead, Timothy may have been there to witness that. Certainly he was very aware of it, as Paul says. But again, Paul makes it clear that ***God delivered him!***

2-Timothy 4:16: "During my first defense, no one stood with me; instead, everyone deserted me. (*I pray that God will not lay it to their charge.*)"

Sometimes we may feel that way, that we are on our own and feel deserted. But we always need to remember that God the Father and Jesus Christ are continually with us. So, even though we feel like no one is standing with us, or we've been deserted, God and Christ are always with us!

Verse 17: "But **the Lord stood by me and strengthened me** [Paul], so that through me the proclamation might be fully made, and all the Gentiles might hear *the Gospel*; and I was delivered out of *the lion's* mouth. And the Lord will deliver me from every wicked deed and will preserve *me* for His heavenly Kingdom; to Whom *be* the glory into the ages of eternity. Amen." (vs 17-18).

God will deliver us from every wicked deed! Sometimes that deliverance may mean death for us, but death is a deliverance finally from this world and what we go through in this physical body. We know what have to look forward to: *The Kingdom!* Yes, that is a deliverance, also! But in all ways, God will deliver us.

The Baptism Covenant is a great victory! Let's read about death and life.

1-Corinthians 15:55: "O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory? Now the sting of death *is* sin, and the power of sin *is* the Law. But thanks *be* to God, **Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**" (vs 55-57).

That is the victory that we need to remember. All of us who are in covenant have overcome this. The penalty against us—sin and death—we have overcome that through Christ. As long as we remain faithful, the sting of death is something we don't have to worry about, ***because we will have life through Christ!*** This is a great victory that all of us who are under the Covenant have experienced. *This victory is through Christ and God!*

Romans 6:10: "For when He died, He died unto sin once for all..." *That's something we always need to remember! Christ died one time! That is it; one time for all!*

"...but in that He lives, He lives unto God. In the same way also, you should indeed reckon yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God through Christ Jesus our Lord" (vs 10-11).

Yes, we are now, all of us, alive unto God! We live our lives to God! We live in newness of life after coming out of the watery grave. That was an expectation; ***part of the victory for us!***

Let's read about what we've been rescued from, which is a very great thing.

Colossians 1:12: "Giving thanks to the Father, Who has made us qualified for the share of the inheritance of the saints in the Light; **Who has personally rescued us from the power of darkness...**" (vs 12-13).

Think about that for a moment. What is the power of darkness? ***We've been rescued from Satan, the demons and this corrupt world that we were born into!*** Satan—the god of this world—is in control over and wants to totally destroy. **God personally rescued us from that!**

How powerful a victory is that for us, to be personally rescued! Think about Asa and the victory he had over a million people. Put that into comparison of what we've been personally rescued from when you think about Satan and the demons, and this world. That God has brought us out of and rescued us.

I think what we've been rescued from is much, much greater in comparison to what Asa was.

"...and has transferred *us* unto the Kingdom

of the Son of His love; in Whom we have redemption through His own blood, *even* the remission of sins” (vs 13-14)—*the penalty of death!* It’s what we need to remember.

Colossians 2:12: “Having been buried with Him in baptism, by which you have also been raised with *Him* through the inner working of God, Who raised Him from the dead.”

Yes, we were raised out of that watery grave in that covenant death to walk in newness of life!

Verse 13: “For you, who were *once* dead in *your* sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has *now* made alive with Him, having forgiven all your trespasses. He has blotted out the note of debt against us *with* the decrees *of our sins*... [repentance on our part] ...which was contrary to us; and He has taken it away, having nailed it to the cross” (vs 13-14).

So, our sins died with Him upon our repentance and entering into this covenant. Those sins were forgotten.

Verse 15: “After stripping the principalities and the powers, He made a public spectacle of them, *and* has triumphed over them in it.”

The day that Christ died enduring that crucifixion, He stripped Satan and the demons—and the powers of this world—of what they had. He made a spectacle of them and He fulfilled His promise. The God of the Old Testament who became flesh and died for sin, that day He triumphed over all of that for us!

What a great victory that day, the day of the crucifixion, that occurred for us! For what happened here on earth, and also in heaven. We need to remember that, because there are consequences for not remembering this particular victory in our lives. Let’s visit a consequence in:

Hebrews 10:26: “For **if we willfully go on sinning after receiving the knowledge of the Truth...**” *We have received and understand the knowledge of the Truth:*

- what it is
- what’s been done
- God’s plan and purpose through Jesus Christ
- we have an understanding of that Truth, that knowledge

“...**there is no longer any sacrifice for sins**” (v 26).

We read in Rom. 6 that Jesus Christ died once for all; one time!

Verse 27: “But a terrifying expectation of

inevitable judgment and of fierce fire, which will devour the adversaries *of God*. *Consider this:* anyone who rejects *the* Law of Moses dies without mercy under *the testimony* of two or three witnesses. **How much worse punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled underfoot the Son of God,** and has regarded the blood of the covenant, with which he was sanctified...” (vs 27-29).

These are ones who have entered into covenant and were sanctified through Jesus Christ and have “...trampled underfoot...” that sacrifice!

“...sacrificed *as* an unholy thing, and has scorned the Spirit of grace? For we know Him Who has said, “‘Vengeance *belongs* to Me. I will recompense!’” says *the* Lord.’ And again, ‘*The* Lord will judge His people.’ **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God**” (vs 29-31).

Once we enter into covenant and we’ve been given this victory, as long as we remain faithful to the end, God and Christ expect us to be faithful to that and to continue to, from that point, to seek Them and go to Them. Not forget like Asa did, but to continue to look to Them for the victories, the help, the deliverance until the end!

That’s why Christ tells us each year to keep the Passover. He instituted the New Testament Passover with the disciples as He introduced the wine and bread, He told them: *Take of these, but do this in remembrance of Me!* Yes, God and Christ want us to remember what’s been done, the victory!

Christ and God are the Ones Who deliver us; They give us the victories! We need to continue to look to Them for this.

Psalm 34:6: “This poor man cried, and the LORD heard, and saved him out of all his troubles.”

God expects us to be of a poor and contrite spirit! We know that God doesn’t call the highborn of this world. He calls people like us, the lowborn. But as we cry out to God, He saves us out our troubles.

Verse 17: “The righteous cry...”

We know that because of Christ and our faith in His sacrifice and faith in God, we have imputed righteousness.

“...and the LORD hears, **and delivers them** out of all their troubles” (v 17).

Verse 19: “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, **but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**”

I know a lot of people over the years in the Church of God, and right now we see people with a lot of different afflictions and problems—health,

family, job, even within the churches; whatever it may be—**but God delivers us out of all troubles, all problems!**

It's good to take time just to think about our victories, and all the things that God has done. When we read God's Word and read through all the examples of all the people whom God has helped down through time, starting back with Abraham and even before with Noah.

All the things that God has done for all the patriarchs and prophets and the kings; down through Christ and the apostles, the New Testament Church and all the things that were done for His people are in God's Word:

- read about that
- reflect on that
- look at the things that God has done for them
- look at what God does for us

The very same thing!

Pray about these things and ask God to bring these things to our remembrance. It is easy for us to forget all the things that God has done for us over the years. It's so easy for us to go back and complain at times and look at some of our situations and problems. **But we need to take time to remember all the victories we have!**

Maybe it's good for us to pray that God will help us to remember all the things that He's done for us. All the victories that He's given us and bring those back to our mind. We can thank Him and praise Him for those things that has been done for us.

There are people in the Bible that maybe we enjoy reading and studying about because they inspire us in what they did, and what God did through them. I enjoy reading about Samuel, because he was given to God when he was young, from his mother Hannah, and promised to God.

God opened her womb and she had a son and she promised him to God, and he was with God from the time he was small. God worked with him and used him. Even when he was young he had favor with God and with men. Just like Jesus Christ.

Samuel was faithful to God his whole life. He was faithful to Israel, also, the nation of God. I enjoy all those things about Samuel and reading about him and what he did as personal example for me.

1-Samuel 12:19: "And all the people said to Samuel... [that asked for a king and they got a king: Saul] ...'Pray for your servants to the LORD your God so that we will not die, for we have added evil

to all our sins to ask a king for us.'"

What we're about to read are a lot of different lessons we can learn from this.

Verse 20: "And Samuel said to the people, '**Do not fear**.... [they had done something they shouldn't have done] ...You have done all this wickedness.... [Samuel confirms that they said that they had done evil] ...Yet, **do not turn aside from following the LORD**....'"

He could have said a lot of things, but he started out with *don't fear*. Samuel was right with God and he had a right spirit within him: the mind of God and the mind of Christ!

"...but serve the LORD with all your heart. And do not turn aside to go after vanities, which cannot profit nor deliver, for they *are vain*" (vs 20-21). *That's true for us today!*

Going after king, wanting a king, is vain, vanity! *They had God to lead them, to guide and deliver them!* But they wanted to go after the vanities and be like other nations.

We have to be careful ourselves, as Samuel instructed them. We don't want to go after vanities. And there are a lot of vanities in the Churches of God! **We need to be on guard for that!**

Verse 22: "Then the LORD will not forsake His people for His great name's sake because it has pleased the LORD to make you His people."

It's pleased God to have a calling for us, too, and for us to answer that call and be in covenant with God, to qualify to be firstfruits in the Kingdom. That pleases God; we are now **His** people. We are from Abraham's seed, then we're Christ's!

Verse 23: "Also, I, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD from ceasing to pray for you...."

What a great attitude from Samuel. He didn't want to sin against God. He wanted to continue to pray for them.

"...But I will teach you the good and the right way" (v 23).

Even though they had done all these things, Samuel still desired that they turn to God; that they remember God; that he prayed for them that he would continue to teach them and help them in any way he could.

Verse 24: "**Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart, for consider what great things He has done for you.**"

We will close with those words! Remember your victories!

Scriptural References:

- 1) 2 Chronicles 13:4, 12-20
- 2) 2 Chronicles 14:1-2, 5-7, 9-13
- 3) 2 Chronicles 15:1-2, 12-13, 19
- 4) 2 Chronicles 16:1-3, 7-13
- 5) 1 Samuel 17:31-37
- 6) Psalm 54:1-7
- 7) 1 Peter 1:3-7
- 8) 2 Timothy 3:10-12
- 9) 2 Timothy 4:16-18
- 10) 1 Corinthians 15:55-57
- 11) Romans 6:10-11
- 12) Colossians 1:12-14
- 13) Colossians 2:12-15
- 14) Hebrews 10:26-31
- 15) Psalm 34:6, 17, 19
- 16) 1 Samuel 12:19-24

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 2 Corinthians 11
- Acts 14

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