



ÉGLISE ÉVANGÉLIQUE DE LA PÉLISSERIE G E N È V E

So far the Lord has helped us

These words are Samuel's conclusion after a decisive victory by Israel over the Philistines. The Eternal is therefore the God who helps, assists and delivers.

This reality of the GOD-SUPPORT is still ours today, in the difficulties and struggles of our daily lives. We can rely on Him, implore Him and ask Him to intervene in all our situations.

Before this war against the Philistines, the people of Israel were struggling. Samuel, the prophet and judge, hears these complaints, but he does not immediately offer miraculous help to escape the Philistine threat. The Lord wants to gather his people together as at a family gathering to talk to them and invite them to take stock of the situation. The table below shows this method:

Return to the Lord with all your heart
+ Am I in danger of following two masters at once?

Remove the foreign gods and the Astartes from among you
-> What would be too important for me?
Would I be in danger of idolatry?

Turn your heart to the Lord
-> Am I taking the right direction in my heart?
Is it fixed, anchored in God?

Serve the Lord, him alone
-> Is my priority to serve the Lord?

Samuel's message was remarkably clear, and it bore fruit as the Israelites removed all their idols from among them and served the Lord alone. They had thus realised their errors. Samuel was not only a preacher but also an intercessor. He promises the children of Israel to plead with the Lord for them. His insistent prayer is a supplication because Samuel had been well trained by his mother in effective intercession. Indeed, for her, praying meant "pouring out one's soul before the Lord".

Samuel interceded for his people and taught them until old age. The answer to his prayer was a resounding victory. Samuel took steps to ensure that this deliverance would be remembered. He took a stone and placed it between Mizpah and Shen, and called it Eben-Ezer, saying, "The Lord has helped us so far" (v. 12, Eben-Ezer means the stone of help).

We too, throughout our lives, have experienced deliverances granted by God. This is also true of our church in its 200 years of existence. The Lord is a living God who is still there today to help us and intervene on our behalf. It is good to remember what the Lord has done

for us in the past, but we have a living Saviour and Lord in the present. His Word is alive, and we receive it every day to nourish our faith and guide our steps. In prayer we turn to Him for help in our personal and church circumstances. Let us bless the Lord for His daily assistance and help and let us persevere with Him in faith!

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