MIZPAH

Mizpah, Watchtower, you have been given to the Tribe of Benjamin (Joshua 18:21, 26), and have become the observer and a watcher and lookout for all Israel. Situated on the loftiest hill above the plain of Gibeon, on Mount Neby Samwill, you overlook the Land to watch, to see and to gather the people in the times of great trouble and grand celebrations.

Mizpah, Place of Assembly

Mizpah, the place of assembly for Israel, call the people to gather at your Altars to offer sacrifice to the LORD. Call the people to return to the LORD and to repent of their idolatry, their sin and the uncleanness that has defiled the Land; for, indeed, you are the place of assembly, intercession, confession and consecration to the LORD.

Mizpah, the "sons of Belial" in Gibeah have committed a grave sin against a man of God, a Levite from Mount Ephraim. Now, "all the children of Israel have gone out and the congregation has gathered together as one man, from Dan even to Beersheba, with the land of Gilead, unto the LORD in Mizpah" (Judges 20:1). Mizpah, give your advice and counsel as to what shall be done for the man of God regarding the evil that has been done to his concubine in the streets of Gibeah (cp. Judges 20:7). Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron, inquire of the LORD for Israel before the Ark of God: "And the LORD said: Go up: for tomorrow I will deliver them into thine hand" (Judges 20:28). Now, all Israel has agreed to strike Gibeah with the sword and burn the city with fire to cleanse the Land and destroy the wicked for their evil deed. See, all Israel has now gone up to fight and twenty-five thousand men of Benjamin have fallen before the armies of Israel in that terrible day of wrath (cp. Judges 20:9-48).
Now, Mizpah command the people to put away their strange gods, Baalim and Ashtaroth; and to prepare their hearts for the LORD, and serve Him alone; then shall there be a great deliverance by the hand of the Almighty from the hands of all the enemies of Israel who dwell in the Land and from all who do oppress (cp. 1 Samuel 7:1-16).

Samuel: Prophet, Priest and King

Mizpah, speak to us and tell of Samuel, the great Prophet, Priest and Judge of Israel; tell us of the Ebenezer Stone, and share with us the mysteries you hold within. Samuel, you have called the people to Mizpah, the place of watching and observation. The Ark of the Covenant has been returned by the Philistines after being taken in battle, and now rests in the house of Abinadab under the care of Eleazar, the priest. Samuel, Judge, Prophet and Priest, intercede for the people of God, and make sacrifice of the Lamb for restoration. Let the water be poured out before the LORD, for a washing, a cleansing and a purifying work; so there may be an offering and sacrifice in righteousness. All the people have come with fasting and in a contrite spirit before you, Samuel, as you sit to judge the people of God (cp. 1 Samuel 7:5-9).

Samuel, through all your intercession and offering of the Lamb for sacrifice, the people are now prepared for battle. For the Philistines have heard of the assembly and are coming to war against the Tribes. Samuel, lead the people as Judge, as did those before you: Othniel, Ehud, Barak and Gideon. Yes, even as the LORD did in former days, He now "thunders with a great thunder. . .upon the Philistines, and discomfits them; and they are smitten before Israel: And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them, until they came under Beth-car" (1 Samuel 7:10-11).
The Ebenezer Stone

Oh, Mizpah, what a great victory the LORD has wrought in Israel! Now let Samuel memorialize it by setting up the great Stone, the Ebenezer Stone, saying, "Hitherto hath the LORD helped us" (1 Samuel 7:12). Let us remember the victory and celebrate it with great joy and rejoicing in God our Savior for He has heard our cry, He has seen our contrite hearts, and has come to help us in our time of need. He has fought for us and delivered us from all our fears. May His Name be praised forever!

Samuel: A Judge in Israel

Samuel, you will now begin your Circuits in Mizpah, Bethel, Gilgal and in your seat in Ramah. Today you have set things in order (1 Samuel 7:15-17). The Kingdom is established under the reign of Jehovah, the God of Israel, and the Land has rest from all her enemies.

Oh, Mizpah, how soon does the heart of this people wax cold. How soon do they depart from the LORD, from having Him reign over them. How soon do they return to the ways of the people of the earth and remove themselves from the God of Heaven. For "all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, And said unto him, Behold, thou are old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations" (1 Samuel 8:4-5).

Call an Assembly, Anoint a King

Mizpah, Samuel has called for an assembly (1 Samuel 10:17) to anoint the people a king this day; for so he had done to Saul in private in Ramah, when Samuel "took a vial of oil, and poured
it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, 'Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be
captain over His inheritance?'” (1 Samuel 10:1). Now, Mizpah, in the hearing of all Israel,
Samuel has declared, "See ye him whom the LOD has chosen, that there is none like him among
all the people. And all the people shouted, and said, 'God save the king!'” (1 Samuel 10:24).

Yes, Mizpah, the people have demanded a king, and the LORD has obliged. For see, says the
LORD to Samuel, the people have not rejected thee, but they have rejected Me, that I should
not reign over them.

**Assemble, Watch and Pray**

Oh, Mizpah, teach us to be watchers lest we, too, be turned out of the way and depart from the
Living God. Teach us to assemble in the presence of the LORD with contrite hearts. Teach us to
be intercessors for the household of faith. Teach us by the words of the prophet and by the
words of the LORD: "I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and watch to see
what He will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved" (Habakkuk 2:1). "Watch
with Me. . .and pray that you enter not into temptation. . ." (Matthew 26:38,41). "Watch,
therefore, and pray always that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that
shall come to pass and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36). "Take heed, watch and
pray: for you know not when the time is. . .What I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch!" (Mark
13:33,37).

Oh, LORD, we are watching with You; we are watching for you, and as we watch we cry from
the depths of our hearts: Oh, LORD, reign! Oh, LORD, rule! We wait before You our Sovereign
Head. We assemble in holy convocation: for prayer, for the offering up of ourselves "a living
sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto you our God, which is our reasonable service of worship" (cp. Romans 12:1).

Oh, LORD, teach us to be watchmen, even those of whom Thy prophet, Isaiah, spoke: "Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion" (Isaiah 52:8). "I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD keep not silent" (Isaiah 62:6). "For thus hath the LORD said unto me, 'Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he sees'" (Isaiah 21:6).

*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that brings good tidings, that publishes peace: that brings good tidings of good things, that publishes salvation: that says to Zion, Thy God Reigns! (Isaiah 52:7)*