

Title: The Unknown Stone

Text: 1 Samuel 7:1-13

Target: A rock is rock until a rock is repurposed and then it becomes a stone. For the rock itself hasn't changed, but what it is being used for has, thus requiring a name change. Today, we seek to repurpose rocks to stones.

- I. **The Intervention of Samuel:** 1 Samuel 7:3-6
 - A. **Call to Repentance:** *"direct your heart to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines."* (Vs. 3) *2 Chronicles 7:14
 - B. **Cause for Remembrance:** *"Then Samuel said, "Gather all Israel at Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you."* (Vs.5)
 - C. **Confession of Rededication:** *"So they gathered at Mizpah and drew water and poured it out before the LORD and fasted on that day and said there, "We have sinned against the LORD."* (Vs. 6)

- II. **The Importance of the Sacrifice:** (1 Samuel 7:8-11)
 - A. **Fear of the People:** *"And the people of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that he may save us from the hand of the Philistines."* (Vs. 8)
 - B. **Faith in the Lamb:** *"So Samuel took a nursing lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. And Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him."* (Vs. 9)
 - C. **Faithfulness of God:** *"As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel. But the LORD thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were defeated before Israel."* (Vs.10)

- III. **The Inscription on the Stone:** (1 Samuel 7:12-13)
 - A. **Location of the Stone:** *"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen"* (Vs.12)
 - B. **Lesson of the Stone:** *"and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, "Till now the LORD has helped us."* (Vs.12)
 - C. **Legacy of the Stone:** *"So the Philistines were subdued and did not again enter the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel."* (Vs.13)

Take Away: The **X** that marks the spot is the place where you go from this place and put an **X** in a location that reminds you daily that you are "KNOWN BUT TO GOD".