

The Weapons of Our Warfare

Pastor Dennis

1. Lamenting our State

1 And all the house of Israel *lamented after the LORD*.

2. Putting away our idols and recommitting ourselves to total service to Yahweh

3 Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you *return to the LORD with all your hearts*, then *put away* the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and *prepare your hearts for the LORD*, and *serve Him only*; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."⁴ So the children of Israel *put away the Baals and the Ashtoreths*, and served *the LORD only*.

3. Publicly acknowledging our Sins

5 And Samuel said, "Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you."⁶ So they gathered together at Mizpah, drew water, and poured it out before the LORD. And they fasted that day, and said there, "*We have sinned against the LORD*." And Samuel *judged the children of Israel at Mizpah*.

4. Turning to God for Deliverance in Our Fear

7 Now when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel had gathered together at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines *went up against Israel*. And when the children of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines.⁸ So the children 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."

5. Engaging in liturgical warfare.

9 And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. Then Samuel cried out to the LORD *for Israel*, and the LORD answered him.¹⁰ Now *as Samuel was offering* up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. *But the LORD thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel*.

6. Not stopping at worship, putting our worship into action, engaging in non-liturgical warfare.

11 And the men of Israel *went out of Mizpah* and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car.¹² Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."

7. Remaining diligent to maintain the victory

13 So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.