

## 'EBEN-EZER'

Hymn "O Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (verse 2) uses the word.  
3 times in O.T. 1Sa.4:1, 5:1, 7:12: help stone. There is quite a story behind this word. (1Sa.1-7)

### THE STORY

Hannah, wife of Elkanah, dedicates son, Samuel to be raised by high priest. 1:27-28  
Eli, high priest; two worthless sons. 2:12-13a  
Samuel called by God. 3:1, 19-21  
God pours out his wrath on house of Eli. 3:11-14  
Battle with Philistines:  
    They and defeat Israel in skirmish. 4:1-2  
    Ark sent to camp with Hophni and Phinehas. 4:3-4  
    Israel routed, ark captured, Eli's two sons killed. 4:5-11  
    Eli, hearing news, falls and dies. 4:17-18  
    Daughter-in-law dies gives birth to son: Ichabod. 4:19-22  
Philistine cities afflicted by presence of ark. Ark returned to Israel. (20 years later)  
Israel laments after Lord. 7:2b  
Samuel issues call to repentance. 7:3-6  
In next battle, Lord routs enemy. 7:7-11  
Samuel erects memorial: "stone of help": EBEN-EZER. 7:12  
    **Memorial of God's help and their own waywardness.**  
    Erected where the Israelites camped before when they fought against the Philistines.

### LESSONS OF EBEN-EZER

**Memorial served as a reminder and encouragement.**  
    In retrospect: "thus far" with God's help.  
    In prospect: brace for future with God's help.  
**Severed relationships can be restored.**  
    While sin separates, repentance restores.  
**When we willingly obey, His blessings are ours.**  
    When we do evil, "His face is against us." 1Pe.3:12

### SONG CAPTURES ESSENCE OF PASSAGE

God is the source of all blessings. Eph.1:3  
Praise God for His mercy. Heb.13:15  
Ever learn He is to be worshiped. (Not just in "church services"). Rom.12:1  
Lord has brought us thus far. (He has called us out of the world; cleansed us, cares for us.)  
By faith and hope we will reach home. Rom.5:2  
"Home" with God made possible by His blood. Joh.14:1-3  
We are indebted to God for such grace. Tit.2:11  
His goodness should bind us to Him.  
So give your heart to the Lord.

*May EBEN-EZER make each of us recall: it's been with the Lord's help that I have come this far . . . and with the Lord's help I can meet what the future holds for me.*