

<sup>12</sup> Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, "Till now the LORD has helped us."

*1 Samuel 7:12*

*ESV*



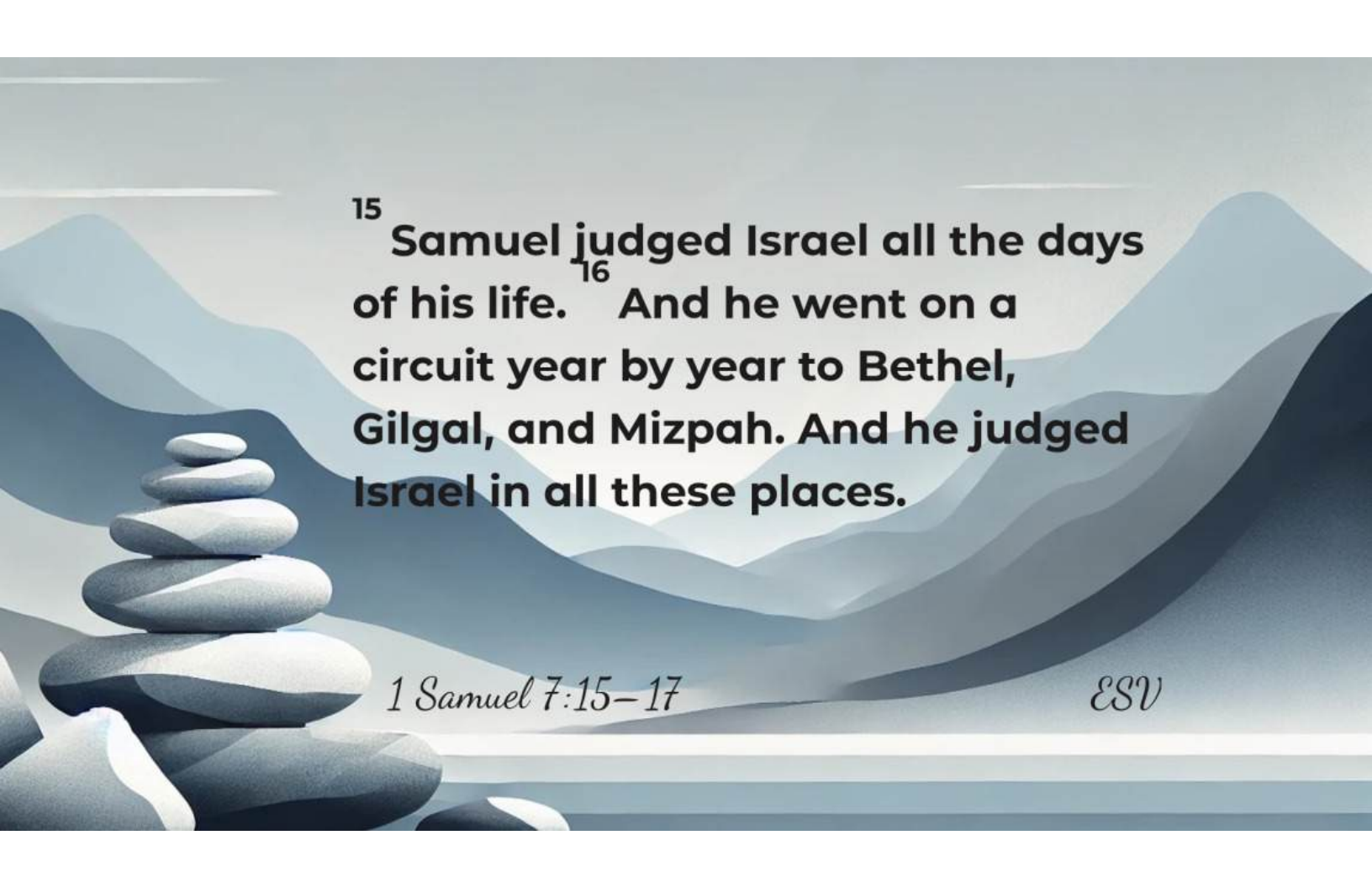
*Remembering  
God's  
Faithfulness*

- The people were not in a good place — it was a time of trial.
- They had begun to question The Lord, and turned to other things for help.
- They lacked faith... But God was faithful.
- As they turned back to him, he fights for them.
- **Ebenezer** means “Stone of Help” and acts as a permanent reminder that God was with them.



*Looking Ahead  
with Expectation*

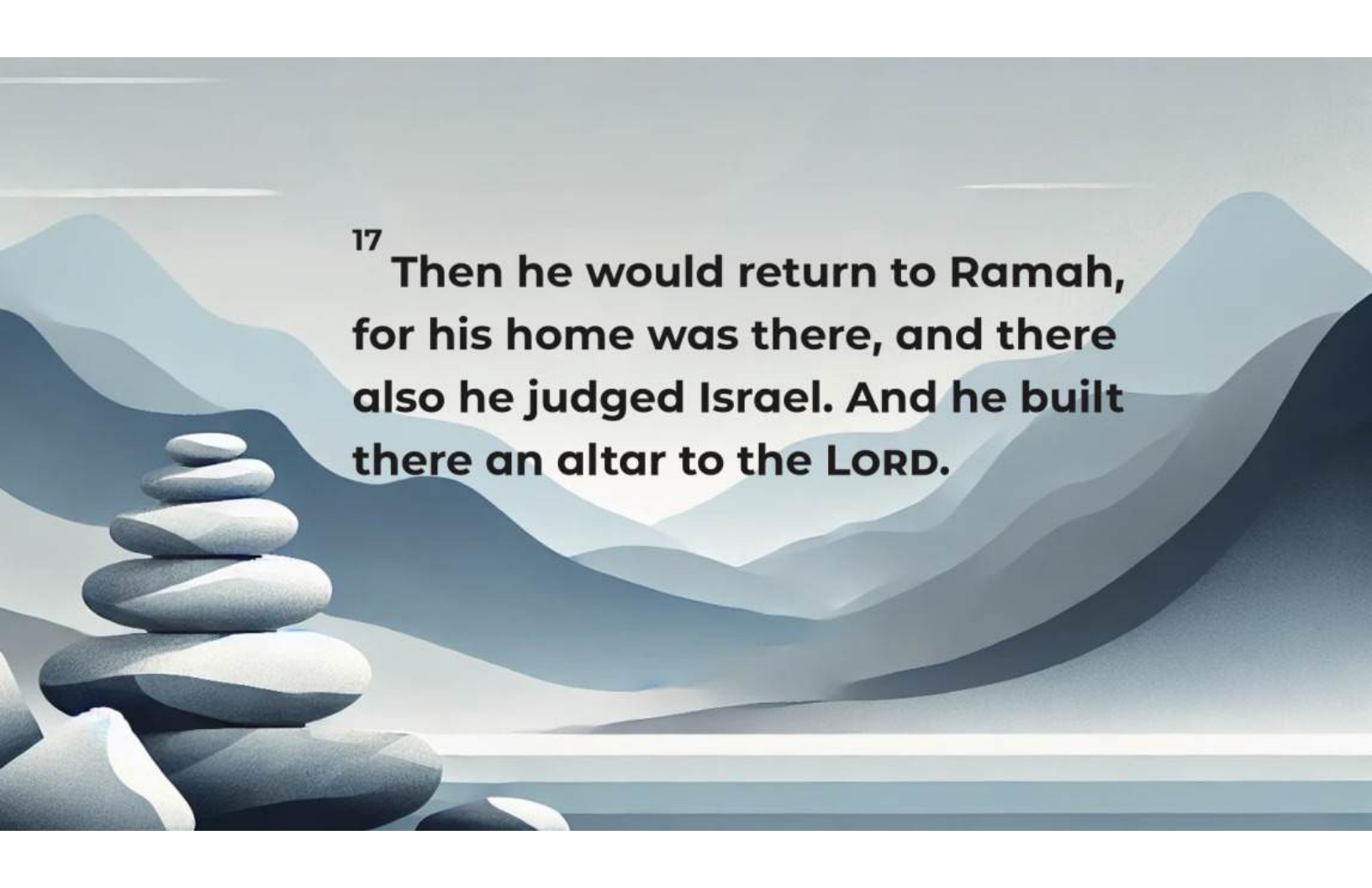
- An ebezzer was deliberately not a dwelling, a tabernacle, or an alter.
- It marked a moment in time, but the Israelites were not called to stay by the stone, worship it, or linger indefinitely.
- Mizpah was just a stop on the journey, but Samuel needed to rerun to the work God had given him to complete.
- The Ebenezer marked a significant moment, and it was good that the people could be reminded of it whenever they returned. But God's work was not done — in us, or in the world.



<sup>15</sup> Samuel judged Israel all the days  
of his life. <sup>16</sup> And he went on a  
circuit year by year to Bethel,  
Gilgal, and Mizpah. And he judged  
Israel in all these places.

*1 Samuel 7:15–17*

*ESV*

A stylized landscape illustration. In the foreground on the left, a stack of five smooth, light-colored stones is balanced on top of each other. The background features rolling hills and mountains in various shades of blue, creating a sense of depth. The sky is a light, pale blue with a few wispy white clouds. The overall mood is calm and serene.

**17** Then he would return to Ramah,  
for his home was there, and there  
also he judged Israel. And he built  
there an altar to the LORD.



*Looking Ahead  
with Expectation*

- Mizpah means “lookout”. It was a staging ground — an opportunity to regroup, and seek the Lord, before going out from there
- There’s a danger in dwelling too long on what has already happened. If we become too nostalgic over the in the places God has brought us to before, the things he has done in the past, we can easily become too comfortable, or fearful to go to the the places he is calling us.



*Looking Ahead  
with Expectation*

**An Ebenezer is not meant to be a stopping point; it's a launchpad. God is always calling us to new challenges, new growth, and new opportunities to trust Him**





## *The Challenge of the Ebenezer*

An Ebenezer marks a moment in time.

- What has God brought you through this year?
- What is worthy of celebration? Of remembering? Of commemorating?
- Are there areas in your life where you need to go to Mizpah — to return to The Lord, and trust him again?
- As you build an Ebenezer, as a reminder of God's faithfulness, where is God calling you on to?
- What are you moving towards? What is the next stage of the journey?
- What do you need for the journey? How will this ebenezer equip you for it?