

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why did Israel send for the Ark?
2. Why did Israel lose the battle and the Ark of the Covenant to the Philistines?
3. How did Israel misplace their confidence?
4. How can we prevent from falling into a similar situation as Israel did with the battle and the Ark?
5. What are some reasons this had to happen to Israel?

SUMMARY:

The Israelites found themselves in a very desperate situation as the Philistines were winning the battle against them. They had not sought the council of God and the next best thing they thought might bring them victory was the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord. Surely the Lord would be present with the Ark. To their dismay the battle was entirely lost and even the Ark was captured and taken. They had again failed to look to God the Creator, but had instead looked to the Creation. What a miserable end it would be to find that, after living a sincere life—perhaps sincerely following some existing philosophy—we must hear the words, “I know you not.” (Matthew 25:12)

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #4

April 23, 2023

Second Quarter

CAPTURE OF THE ARK

LESSON TEXT: *1 Samuel 4:1-22*

LESSON SETTING: The Lord had established Samuel as His prophet. Israel was at war with the Philistines.

TIME: About 1141 B.C.

I. THE DESPERATE SITUATION. 1 Samuel 4:1-2

- A. Despair. Acts 27:20; Revelation 9:6
- B. Hope Needed. Romans 4:18; 8:24; Hebrews 6:18-19
- C. Faith Needed. Genesis 22:8; Daniel 3:17; Hebrews 11:6

II. MISPLACED CONFIDENCE. 1 Samuel 4:3-5

- A. In Man. Isaiah 31:1; Jeremiah 17:5
- B. In Riches. Job 31:24-25, 28; Mark 10:24; Luke 12:19-20
- C. In Self. Proverbs 28:26; Matthew 26:33; 1 Corinthians 10:12

III. INEVITABLE DEFEAT. 1 Samuel 4:6-22

- A. Defeated. Joshua 7:4; Judges 3:13
- B. Judgment. Galatians 6:7-8; Revelation 14:15; 21:27

GOLDEN TEXT: THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH: BUT THE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

Romans 6:23

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: 1 Samuel 5:1-12; 6:1-21

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: 2 Samuel 6:11-19;
Jeremiah 7:1-16; Acts 17:22-29

QUARTERLY THEME: Samuel and Saul - 1 Samuel

TOPIC: THE RETURN OF THE ARK

INTRODUCTION:

God will not be mocked and the people of the Philistines were afflicted because of the presence of the Ark of the Covenant. For seven months they kept it, taking it from one place to another, the destruction of each city as the result. The Philistines must have realized to a certain extent God's supremacy or they would not have recalled all He had done to the Egyptians many years before when they afflicted the Israelites. They feared Him enough to wish to be rid of the Ark, so they planned to send it back to the Israelites on a new cart drawn by cows that had never gone that way before. It was returned safely. How wonderfully God provides and protects His own. We are His and we know as long as we submit ourselves entirely unto Him, He will protect and provide for us regardless of the situation in which we may find ourselves. It may seem impossible to be delivered, but if our faith in Him is complete, He will care for us. How we should rejoice in such a wonderful God!

CENTRAL TRUTH: God's power is greater than all the forces of evil.

GOLDEN TEXT: *HOW LONG HALT YE BETWEEN TWO OPINIONS? IF THE LORD BE GOD, FOLLOW HIM.* 1 Kings 18:21

It seems that knowledge of God and a sharing of His blessings often does not cause men to rely on Him and obey His laws. So often these two opinions arise. Do we need God or are we sufficient unto ourselves? Israel many times wavered between these questions. Even the pagan Philistines realized the might of the God of Israel and determined to return the Ark with a gift to win His favor. Also the two cows were caused by the power of God to leave their calves and go to Israel by a certain way. Isaiah, the Prophet was moved to write: "The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib; but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider." (Isaiah 1:3)

We, of this day and time, have every day experienced the goodness and grace of God. We, too, ought not waver in the "valley of decision", but should follow Him, knowing that the Lord is God, by the grace which was revealed through His Son,.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF April 24 – 30

- Mon. *God Versus Dagon. 1 Samuel 5:1-9
- Tue. *The Ark at Ekron. 1 Samuel 5:10-12
- Wed. *What to Do? 1 Samuel 6:1-9
- Thu. *The Return of the Ark. 1 Samuel 6:10-18
- Fri. *The Lament of the Smitten. 1 Samuel 6:19-21
- Sat. Amend Your Ways. Jeremiah 7:1-7
- Sun. Songs in the Night. Acts 17:22-29

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