



I Samuel

Part #8 –

We captured God!

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Introduction

Key Scriptures

- And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Ebenezer unto Ashdod. – 1 Samuel 5:1
- **When** the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon. – 1 Samuel 5:2
- And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon *was* fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again. – 1 Samuel 5:3



Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

- And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon *was* fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands *were* cut off upon the threshold; only *the stump of* Dagon was left to him. – 1 Samuel 5:4
- Therefore neither the priests of Dagon, nor any that come into Dagon's house, tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod unto this day. – 1 Samuel 5:5



Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

- But the hand of the LORD was heavy upon them of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and smote them with emerods, *even* Ashdod and the coasts thereof. – 1 Samuel 5:6
- And when the men of Ashdod saw that *it was* so, they said, The ark of the God of Israel shall not abide with us: for his hand is sore upon us, and upon Dagon our god. – 1 Samuel 5:7
- They sent therefore and gathered all the lords of the Philistines unto them, and said, What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel? And they answered, Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried about unto Gath. And they carried the ark of the God of Israel about *thither*. – 1 Samuel 5:8



Introduction – Cont'd

We do not want to consider this kind of change in our crisis now, let's uphold the norms of our traditions and culture – take the cause of the change away...What?

Something had changed for the worse, and they wanted the previous conditions to return. Instead, one must search for the most optimum conditions that was absent before it was exposed by the crisis. Don't return to where you had been!

So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go again to his own place, that it slay us not, and our people: for there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there. And the men that died not were smitten with the emerods: and the cry of the city went up to heaven. – 1 Samuel 5:11,12



Keys

What you fail to conquer, may one day conquer you.

- Ashdod (One of the Pentapolis cities) – Joshua 15:47
- The ark of God of Israel vs the ark of the LORD
- Giving images back to God? – 1 Samuel 6:3-5
- They won that battle, yet they had evidence, that their gods were no match for the LORD GOD of Israel
- The adversary remembers history



In this lesson

- God captured in battle?
- Genitals on fire – signs underneath their seat - hemorrhoids in the secret parts
- Given to images (Praying the wrong way)
- Grose worldly worship is not the standard
- Give us a sign?



God Captured in battle?

And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Ebenezer unto Ashdod. - 1 Samuel 5:1

Seven Months of Hell!

- The spoils of war – The trophy
- When the Philistines took the ark of God
- They put it in the house of their God as a trophy
- They attributed their success to the one they worshipped
- The ark of God (mentioned 10 times) vs the ark of the LORD (mentioned 8 times) – WHY?



Genitals on fire

And when the men of Ashdod saw that it was so, they said, The ark of the God of Israel shall not abide with us: for his hand is sore upon us, and upon Dagon our god. - 1 Samuel 5:7

Signs underneath their seat - hemorrhoids in the secret parts

- The hand of the Lord was heavy...
- A curse of trespass – Deuteronomy 28:15,27
- The ark of God shall not abide with us (Mark 5:17)
- They did not want to change, they just wanted relief



Genitals on fire – Cont'd

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Signs underneath their seat - hemorrhoids in the secret parts

- Let's move it to another location, perhaps there is advantage there (Balaam Numbers 23:27)
- Witness in other parts of the pentapolis – Fear struck these cities
- It shows us that God was not done with Israel though they were defeated in battle at this time.



Given to images

Wherefore ye shall make images of your emerods, and images of your mice that mar the land; and ye shall give glory unto the God of Israel: peradventure he will lighten his hand from off you, and from off your gods, and from off your land. - 1 Samuel 6:5

Looking for answers

- Diviners were summoned to provide clarity...really?
- Even the heathen know you do not approach the presence of the king empty. (Psalms 100:2,4)
- Sweet are the uses of adversity – if there is a silver lining to bad times, it is this: when facing severe challenges your mind is normally at its sharpest – John Huntsman (1 Samuel 6:6)



Grope worldly worship is not the standard

And they laid the ark of the LORD upon the cart, and the coffer with the mice of gold and the images of their emerods. - 1 Samuel 6:11

Praying the wrong way!

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Groser worldly worship is not the standard – Cont'd

Now therefore make a new cart, and take two milch kine, on which there hath come no yoke, and tie the kine to the cart, and bring their calves home from them: - 1 Samuel 6:7

And they laid the ark of the LORD upon the cart, and the coffer with the mice of gold and the images of their emerods. - 1 Samuel 6:11

Wrong standard!

- They put the ark of the Lord on a new cart!
- And the Levites took down the ark of the Lord (1 Samuel 6:15)
- And they set the ark of God upon a new cart – History repeated (2 Samuel 6:3-7)
- Ignorance is not bliss, it is misery!



Give us a sign?

And see, if it goeth up by the way of his own coast to Bethshemesh, then he hath done us this great evil: but if not, then we shall know that it is not his hand that smote us: it was a chance that happened to us. - 1 Samuel 6:9

And when the five lords of the Philistines had seen it, they returned to Ekron the same day. - 1 Samuel 6:16

Signs sort after, but not the Lord God sort after!

- The 7 months of “Hell” did not change the people of the land of the Philistines



Summary

Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee. –
Job 22:21



Next Week

We will continue next week – Still in the book of 1 Samuel – Samuel judges Israel