

1 SAMUEL

The Heart of God

“The Ark of the Covenant”

1 Samuel 4:1-7:2

Intro:

The Philistines were aggressive marauders from Crete bent on taking Israel's land.

For 200 years they harassed Israel which came to an end when David finally conquered them.

The Ark was a wooden chest wrapped in gold that was to be a symbol of God's presence among His people.

It was placed in the Holy of Holies within the tabernacle, and was where the High Priest went yearly to sprinkle the blood of a sacrificial animal to make atonement for his sins and the sins of the people.



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I. A Presumption:

Israel was in near apostasy in their faith and practice with Yahweh.

Instead of inquiring of the Lord, they elected to trust in a religious artifact. They presumed to have the answer and solution to their dilemma.

They presumed God would go before them when they never asked Him to show up.

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II. A Superstitious Attitude:

The Jews were using the Ark like a Talisman.

They had come to take God for granted. While God often worked powerfully in relation to the Ark, it was never a guarantee of His favor.

Due to the leaders' arrogance, Israel lost 34,000 men.

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III. Human Perception:

Due to their defeat the Israelites perceived God to be inactive and impotent against the Philistine gods.

We often perceive God to be disinterested to our plight when He seems slow to answer.

We need to remember He always has our best interests to heart in all His dealings with us.

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IV. The Greatness of God:

The Philistines thought they had captured Israel’s God, but it was God who had captured them.

God humiliated the Philistine god, Dagon, and struck the people with a deadly plague.

Thru His demonstration of power the Philistines revered Israel’s God and acknowledged His judgment on them.