

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY & JUDGMENT ON THE PHILISTINES
(1 Samuel 5-7)

I. THE CAPTURE OF THE ARK OF THE COVENANT (4:1b-22)

II. THE JUDGMENT OF GOD BECAUSE OF THE CAPTURE OF THE ARK (5:1-6:21)

A. The Heavy Hand of Our Sovereign God on the Philistines (1 Samuel 5)

1. Although the Philistines had defeated Israel & Captured the ark on the battlefield, the God of Israel had not been _____ & was _____. His sovereignty & power over _____, the god of the Philistines.
2. The Philistines could feel the hand of the Lord was _____ on them, for God ravaged them & struck them with _____.
3. It has become obvious to the Philistines that the ark of the God of Israel was really a _____ that was too _____ for the Philistines to handle or keep!
4. After a meeting of the leaders of the Philistines, it was determined that they needed to send the ark _____ to the Israelites, for they determined its presence only brought _____ & _____ to them.

B. The Philistines Return the Ark to Israel (1 Samuel 6)

1. The Philistines determined to _____ the ark accompanied with a _____ offering seeking to _____ the God of Israel & _____ the curse off of their own people.
2. This suspicious idolatrous people fashioned golden _____ of their "tumors" & of the "rats" that ravaged their land.
3. Their lords reminded them not to _____ their hearts about this issue, but to remember that even Pharaoh, of the Egyptians, when they hardened their hearts at the first, eventually realized that the Israelites had _____ because of the devastating _____ of God.
 - What should this have taught the Philistines?
4. The Philistines devised a plan to know whether or not all that had happened to them was truly of the _____ or was it only by _____!
5. Israel rejoices when the ark is returned to them. For it was returned to them without paying a _____ for it!

6. God had not only dealt _____ with the unbelieving Philistines, but now is dealing _____ with His own covenant people _____ !

III. THE REVIVAL OF ISRAEL UNDER SAMUEL (7:2-17)

1. The ark was here for 20 years until while all Israel _____ after the Lord.

2. At this time, Samuel challenges Israel to _____ to the _____ & to _____ serve the true & living God. If they will _____ by faith & do this, Samuel says, God will surely _____ them from the _____ of the Philistines!

3. The gathering together of Israel resulted in true _____ of heart, _____ in purpose as they all gathered together at Mizpah for _____ , and _____ or _____ of the Lord!

4. As the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel, the Lord _____ them with thunder from heaven, and Israel was _____ driving them _____ to beyond Beth Car.

5. Then Samuel set up a stone _____ and called it "Ebenezer", reminding Israel that their God had kept His _____ to them.

6. This great revival & victory resulted in:

- a. _____ the Philistines in battle
- b. in keeping the Philistines _____ all the days of Samuel's reign
- c. Israel recovered all previously _____ from the Philistines
- d. there was also _____ between Israel & the _____ during this time

7. So Samuel led Israel as a _____ prophet/preacher & _____ for the rest of His life.

- What can we learn from these chapters?