

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE DESTINY OF HUMANITY

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PART 18: DON'T MOCK GOD!

DON'T TAKE WHAT BELONGS TO GOD

The Philistines believed that the God of Israel was just another national god like theirs, and since their fish god named Dagon had seemingly given them victory over Israel, they decided to place the Ark in the house of Dagon. **1 Samuel 5:1-2**

Jesus, the Creator and the founder of Israel was not going to tolerate such an affront and sent an angel to show the Philistines that the God of Israel was superior to their demon god. On the first night, the angel removed the graven image of Dagon and put it on the floor. On the second night, the angel cut off head and hands of the wooden statue and the only thing left of the wooden idol was the tree stump. **verses 3-5**

Judgment in the form of pestilence then fell on the Philistine population in Ashdod and the people were stricken with emerods (hemorrhoids). **verse 6**

The men of Ashdod realized that the God of Israel was plaguing them and they called for the Philistine leaders to find a solution. It was agreed to send the Ark to the city of Gath, but once it arrived there, the men of that city also came down with hemorrhoids.

The leaders of Gath realized that they too were cursed and they sent the ark to Ekron, which was also heavily judged by God. **verses 7- 12**

UNDERSTANDING GOD

Despite the severe suffering of the people, the political leaders of the Philistines let seven months go by before they decided that the Ark must be returned to Israel. **1 Samuel 6:1-5**

The Philistines knew what had happened to the Egyptians. **verse 6**

Politicians are the same in all nations from century to century. In order to fully make sure that the misfortunes being heaped on them was indeed from the God of Israel, they decided to put the ark on a newly made cart, pulled by two milk cows that had just given birth. By taking the calves away from the cows, their natural instinct would be to refuse to take one step. **verses 7-11**

The Philistines watched in wonder as an angel of the Lord drove the cows straight into Israelite territory. **verses 12**

THE ARK RETURNS TO ISRAEL

The people in Bethshemesh rejoiced when they saw the Ark. Levites lifted the Ark from the cart, which was taken apart to be used as firewood, and the cows were killed and offered as a sacrifice to the Lord. **verses 13-15**

The five lords of the Philistines returned to Ekron after seeing how the men of Israel received the ark. **verse 16**



The Ark was not supposed to be opened, but the men in Bethshemesh wanted to see what was inside and that brought the curse of the Lord upon them. God ordered his angels to kill 50,070 men and there was a lot of weeping by the survivors. **verses 17-19**

The survivors did not want the Ark to remain in their territory and sent word to the people of Kirjathjearim to come and get it. **verse 21**

PROPER TREATMENT OF THE ARK

The Ark was brought to the property of Abinadab and his son Eleazar was set apart to be the keeper of the ark and this is where it remained for the next 20 years. **1 Samuel 7:1-2**

SAMUEL CALLS THE PEOPLE TO REPENTENCE

Samuel told the people it was time to repent and reject all pagan gods and goddesses if they wanted to be set free from the yoke of the Philistines. **verse 3**

The people of Israel responded to God's call and Samuel told them to assemble in Mizpeh to repent, seek the Lord and be judged by Samuel. **verses 4-6**

ATTACK FROM THE PHILISTINES

The Philistines decided this was a golden opportunity to wipe out the Israelites when they heard that Samuel had gathered the people in Mizpeh. **verse 7**

The people saw the Philistines coming and cried out to Samuel to call upon the Lord. As Samuel and the people continued to sacrifice and worship the Lord, He supernaturally struck the Philistines with lightning and then the warriors of Israel finished them off. **verses 8-11**

Samuel set up a stone after the battle that he called Ebenezer (stone of help) to commemorate the intervention by the Lord in the fight with the Philistines. **verse 12**

The Philistines were subdued and the land and cities they had captured were returned to Israel and Samuel was firmly established as a judge and leader of Israel. **verses 13-17**

DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE GOD

God had set apart Israel to be a holy people, to preserve the Word of God, and due in time, to receive the Messiah that would pay for the sins of mankind.

Eli started out as a man of God, but he compromised and did not rein in his sons, and as a result, they were all killed.

The Philistines underestimated the living God. This mistake saw thousands killed and millions more suffered from hemorrhoids.

The people of Israel that disrespected God by looking into the Ark paid with their lives.

Christians need to take the Word of God seriously. The Lord is not mocked and there will be judgments when we fail to observe His commandments.

- ❖ God drowned some 600 million people during Noah's flood.
- ❖ He killed all the people in Sodom and Gomorrah.

- ❖ Jesus will return to the earth someday and judge everyone at the end of the 1,000 years kingdom. Anyone who has not made Jesus their Lord and Savior will be cast into the Lake of Fire. There will be no mercy or grace on that day. If your name is not written in the Book of Life, you will be tormented for eternity in the Lake of Fire. **Revelation 20:11-15**

SAMUEL ENDED UP LIKE ELI

Samuel was not raised by his father and mother. He was brought to Eli around 6 years old, who resided at the tabernacle built by Moses and was the priest and judge of Israel.

1 Samuel 1:22-28

As a child and later as a teenager, Samuel observed the way in which Eli raised his sons. Having no guidance from his own parents, Samuel wrongly learned from Eli what a father should do. Samuel later became greatly anointed as a man of God, as a priest and a judge, but he utterly failed when it came to being a father to his children, and just like Eli, he ended up with two worthless sons. **1 Samuel 8:1-3**

Samuel repeated the same mistakes of Eli; he did not restrain his sons and removed them not from their duties. **1 Samuel 3:12-13**

Samuel was the reason why the time of the Judges came to an end. **1 Samuel 8:4-5**

REQUIREMENTS FOR A SPIRITUAL LEADER

Jesus used the apostle Paul to set the standard for a spiritual leader. One of the stipulations of a leader is that he must have his children in control and trained to walk in the way of the Lord. **1 Timothy 3:1-7**

Every father with young children should take note that it is his duty to train up his children to love and revere God and His commandments. **Proverbs 22:6**

Father's, if your children are grown and not walking with the Lord, you should ask God to forgive you for failing to properly train your children. Lay your children on the altar of God and release them, asking the Lord to bring them into compliance with the Word of God. Make sure your children know that you do not approve of their sinful living. They should know that you are not going along with their rebellion against God. **2 Timothy 4:1-5**

The past is the past; meaning you cannot go change what has already happened. Use the time you have left on earth to do the will of God in your life and receive God's forgiveness. **Isaiah 55:6-7; Psalm 103:8-18**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?