

THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF

1 SAMUEL

[PART 10]

JEHOVAH VS DAGON

Reading: 1 Samuel 5: 1 - 7

Introduction

- In chapters 5/6 a sacred piece of furniture takes centre stage.
- The ark is mentioned 22 times in the 2 chapters.

1 What Is This 'Ark Of God?'

- Three arks mentioned in the Bible: Noah's ark, Moses' ark of bulrushes and this ark of the covenant.
- God gave Moses the plans for it along with the blueprints for the tabernacle.
- Bezalel and Aholiab constructed the sacred chest.
- Dimensions: 3.75 feet (L) x 2.25 (H) x 2.25 (B).
- Made of acacia wood and overlaid with pure gold.
- The lid of pure gold was called '**the mercy seat**' with cherubim facing each other upon it
- The space between them was where the '**Shekinah**' resided.
- The blood of sacrifice was sprinkled on the mercy seat to appease the wrath of God for sin and mercy was given.
- Inside the ark was the 10 commandments, bowl of manna and Aaron's rod that budded.
- Two rings on each side had a pole placed through them for transportation purposes.
- The ark was precious because it was where God met with His people.

2 The Ark Speaks Of The Lord Jesus

- Wood speaks of His humanity and the gold of His deity.
- Christ is our mercy seat where we bring our sins.

- He is the fulfilment of the law, the bread of life that came down from heaven and the rod budding speaks of His resurrection.

3 The Philistines Were Aware Of The Ark's History

- How the waters of the river Jordan miraculously parted before it to allow Israel into the Promised Land.
- How it went before Israel as they encircled Jericho and the walls miraculously collapsed.
- [Ch 4:7] **'the Philistines were afraid'** when Israel brought the Ark unto the battlefield.
- When the Philistines captured the Ark they took it to their god, Dagon's temple in Ashdod.
- Dagon was half fish and half man.

4 Jehovah Vs Dagon: Round One

- After the 1st night, **'Dagon was fallen on its face....before the Ark of the Lord.'**
- They hoisted the idol back unto its plinth and **'set it back in its place again.'**

5 Jehovah Vs Dagon: Round Two

- A worse scene greeted the Philistines the following morning.
- This time it was **'a knockout.'**
- A headless **'Dagon'** lies prostrate before the Ark of the Lord.
- Despite being put back in his place - Dagon is fallen.
- Here we see God's power over man made gods. Consider [Psalm 97:9] & [Exodus 18:11].

6 Dagon Is Going To Fall

- Dagon stands for everything that's the antithesis (complete opposite) of our God in this world.
- The world has put its Dagon's before our God.
- Dagon's of false religions, Babylon's monetary systems and rule without God.
- One day, they will all fall before the true God.

Finally

- Dagon lying before the Ark reminds us of [Philippians 2:10 - 11].
- They've put things up before Him and they've cursed Him and dismissed Him.
- But one day soon they will all be made to bow before Him and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

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