

THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF

1 SAMUEL

[PART 12]

PEEPING INSIDE THE ARK IS A NO NO

Reading: 1 Samuel 6:1 - 9

Introduction

- Dagon was like a **'Humpty, Dumpty'** having a great fall before the Ark of the Lord.
- The Philistines believed that by capturing the Ark Jehovah had fallen into their hands.
- The opposite was the case.
- Jehovah judged their god, their land and themselves by rat carried bubonic plague.
- They realised they must return the ark with a **'trespass offering.'**

1 Doing The Right Thing The Wrong Way

- The Philistines returned the ark by means of a cart pulled by 2 cows.
- This was not the way Jehovah had decreed it should be carried. [Exodus 25:13 - 14].
- Many years later king David brought the ark back to Jerusalem but he did so the Philistine way.
- A man called Uzzah perished because of this fatal mistake on David's part. [2 Samuel 6].
- David did not follow God's way.
- So you are a Christian? Are you following the Lord His way or your way?
- The church needs to do things God's way, not the Philistine way.
- The church is bringing in Christian entertainers to win the lost! That's the Philistine way.
- The gospel alone is God's way of reaching the lost and perishing.

2 Was It By Chance?

- The Philistines wanted to know if what had happened to them was Jehovah's judgement or just chance.
- They devised a test to determine the truth. See [vs 9].
- They wanted to know if it was just '**chance**' or just a '**bad break**.'
- What is chance? Chance is not a thing. Its '**no thing**.' Its '**nothing**.'
- It does not exist. It does not make anything happen. Yet people ascribe to it almost magical qualities.
- Are we to accept that the universe is the result of '**time and chance/ nothing?**'
- People make chance a substitute for God.
- I believe in a God who has a great purpose and plan that incorporates me and you.
- Things don't happen by chance, they happen by God.
- Jehovah speaks to these Philistines through cows rather than prophets.

3 Peeping Inside The Ark

- Beth Shemesh was a boarder city meaning '**house of the sun**.'
- They rejoiced to see the ark coming towards them.
- They sacrificed the 2 cows as an offering to Jehovah.
- Consider [vs 19] "**Jehovah struck the men of Beth Shemesh.....**"
- They took the '**mercy-seat**' of and looked inside.
- They exposed themselves to the bare law of God.
- Consider [Romans 7:12] and [2 Corinthians 3:6].
- Something has to be between the law and the sinner if the sinner is not to die.
- What? The blood of a sacrifice.

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