

THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF

1 SAMUEL

[PART 8]

THE PHILISTINES ARE COMING

Reading: 1 Samuel 4: 1 - 11

Introduction

- The characters in the text were actual, living people.
- The events that took place in the story were real historical events.
- Hannah and Samuel had central stage in [Ch 1 - 3].
- In [Ch 4 - 6] it's the ark of the covenant that takes central stage.

1 Who Are The Philistines?

- The words '**Philistine**' and '**Philistines**' occur 288 times in 18 different OT books.
- The words are used 142 times in 1 Samuel alone.
- A race of people who were neighbours to Israel.
- Believed to historically have originated in Crete.
- A confederation of city states who were ruled by 5 Philistine lords.
- Their chief god was the fish god '**Dagon.**' (See 5:2 - 7)
- Their most famous citizen was '**Goliath of Gath.**'
- Israel's 1st king, Saul killed himself rather than be captured by Philistines in battle.
- Two battles with the Philistines in this chapter, both of which Israel lost.

2 The Geography Of The Battlefield

- The two armies camped by 2 towns (Ebenezer & Aphek) some 28 miles from where ark was at Shiloh.

3 Spiritual Warfare

- In 1 Samuel Israel always seem to be fighting with the Philistines.
- The Christian life is a warfare. [2 Timothy 2:3], [1 Timothy 1:18], [2 Timothy 4:7] and [Ephesians 6:11].
- The Christian is in Christ's army.
- Spiritual Philistines often attack us. Who are they?
- The devil, the world, and the flesh, doubts and fears.
- The chapter tells us honestly Israel LOST the battle.
- That is sometimes the case with us. We loose battles to these spiritual Philistines.

4 Why Has The Lord Defeated Us?

- This was a fair question to put.
- The answer is found in [Deuteronomy 28].
- In [vs 1 - 14] God promises blessings for obedience to His laws and / commandments.
- In [vs 15ff] God warns of the opposite of blessings for disobedience to Him.
- Consider especially [Deuteronomy 28:25].
- There is both an individual and a national application to this.
- Is there an area where you need to be obedient?

5 Get The Ark [Vs 3]

- This was superstition and '**rabbit foot**' theology.
- The 2 wicked sons of Eli carried the ark 28 miles to the site of the battle.
- Everything about the ark was holy and everything about those who carried it was unholy. A bad match [Isaiah 52:11].
- The ark was captured [vs 11] and then we read '**the death notice.**'
- Was God not able to deliver the goods?
- He's removing false shepherds and making way for a new order.

Teaching Biblically • Thinking Biblically • Living Biblically

Whitewell Metropolitan Tabernacle 837-869 Shore Road Belfast BT15 4HS
Tel: 028 9077 7074 Email: info@whitewell.church
www.whitewell.church