

1 Samuel 5-7

God Always Wins – Always Willing to Forgive

Points to Consider

1. God Always Wins
2. God is Always Willing to Forgive

1 Sam 5:1-12

The Philistines put the ark of God in the temple of their god _____.

The first night Dagon fell on his face before the ark.

The second night Dagon fell again, and this time his _____ and head fell off.

The ark rested in three Philistine cities: Ashdod, Gath, and Ekron.

In each of the cities God's hand was very _____ against the Philistines.

In verse 11 we see the idolatry mindset of the Philistines. They wanted to return the ark so that **it** did not kill them.

1 Sam 6:1-12

The Philistine priest and diviners left open the possibility that it was the God of Israel causing the bad things to happen throughout the land.

The spiritual leaders told the Philistines to give _____ to the God of Israel.

Ex 9:13-17

The ten plagues were intended to _____ God's name in all the earth.

1 Sam 6:13-19

The ark returned to God's people who were reaping wheat. They _____ to see the ark and sacrificed the cows as a burnt offering to the Lord.

The five lords of the Philistines returned to Ekron after confirming that the ark, with the trespass offering to the Lord, made it to Israel.

However, joy turned to sadness when they looked into the ark and God killed several men. It is called a _____ slaughter. (Many scholars believe 70 men were killed instead of 50,070; the town is not big enough to support this many wheat harvesters.)

1 Sam 6:20-7:1

The men of Kirjath Jearim took the ark from Beth Shemesh after the great slaughter.

God is Always Willing to Forgive

1 Sam 7:2-17

Samuel gives the people some conditions they must meet in order to get God's blessings.

1. They had to return to the Lord with _____ their hearts.
2. They had to turn away from all idols.

3. They had to _____ their hearts for the Lord.
4. They had to serve God _____.

The people fasted and repented.

Samuel cried out to the Lord and offered up a burnt offering.

The Lord thundered against the Philistines, and Israel defeated them.

Lessons for us

Ezra 7:9-10 *On the first day of the first month he began his journey from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him. 10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.*

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God is serious about obedience!

We must prepare our hearts to seek the Law of the Lord.

We must get rid of the distractions and focus on studying God's book.

We must understand that the study isn't an end unto itself; it is a means to know God.

We must serve God. What are you doing to serve God?