

- I) **V1-INTRO:** Then the men of Kirjath Jearim came and took the ark of the LORD and brought it
 - a) The Philistines had captured the ark of the covenant, and had taken it to one of their temples
 - 1) They placed it next to their god Dagon, as a symbol of Israel's God being in subjection
 - 2) This was not a good idea

- II) **WHEN THEY ENTERED THEIR TEMPLE:** They found their idol laying at the feet of the ark
 - a) After setting it back in its place, once again they entered in and found it on the ground
 - 1) This time its hands and head were removed, symbolizing that it had been defeated

- III) **THIS ALONE:** Should have awakened the Philistines to the futility of idol worship
 - a) The fact that they had to help the god should have made them think of how futile idolatry is
 - 1) Is 41:7 Then (the goldsmith) fastened it with pegs, *That it might not totter.*
 - 2) Is 46:7 They bear it on the shoulder, they carry it and set it in its place, and it stands; From its place *it shall not move.* Though *one* cries out to it, yet it cannot answer nor save him out of his trouble.

- IV) **INSTEAD OF RETURNING THE ARK:** They moved it from place to place for seven months
 - a) It was sent to each of the five main cities of the Philistines, and in each place disaster struck
 - 1) The people were stricken with tumors and the land was infested with rats
 - 2) Ultimately, they put the ark on a cart and sent it back to Israel

- V) **IT ENDED UP:** In the priestly city of Beth Shemesh, a city about 20 miles south west of Jerusalem
 - a) At first, the people responded with great joy, but their lack of reverence was met with judgment
 - 1) God dealt with their impiety severely, and many died
 - 2) In fear, the people sent the ark away to another city called Kirjath Jearim

- VI) **V1 THEN:** The men of Kirjath Jearim came and took the ark of the LORD and brought it into the house
 - a) These people acted reverently, and took charge of the ark properly
 - 1) It would seem that Abinadab was a priest, and his son was consecrated to care for the ark

- VII) **V2 SO:** It was that the ark remained in Kirjath Jearim a long time; it was there *twenty years*
 - a) For twenty years, Israel was under the rule of the Philistines
 - 1) For all of those years, Israel continued neglecting God and pursuing foreign god

- VIII) **TWENTY YEARS:** Is a very long time
 - a) So much happens over a twenty-year period
 - 1) 20 years ago: The world's population was 5.19 billion, and today it is 6.76 billion
 - 2) 20 years ago: The Berlin Wall was torn down, and East and West Germany were reunified
 - 3) Mikhail Gorbachev was named Soviet President, and George H. W. Bush was elected Pres
 - 4) US troops invaded Panama, seeking the capture of General Manuel Noriega
 - 5) The Exxon Valdez sent 11 million gallons of crude oil into Alaska's Prince William Sound
 - 6) Army Gen. Colin R. Powell became the first black Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
 - 7) A San Francisco Bay area earthquake measuring 7.1 in magnitude killed 67 and injured over 3,000. Over 100,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed.
 - 8) The Federal debt: \$2.68 trillion (today, approximately 11 trillion dollars)
 - 9) Unemployment was 5.3%
 - 10) The Cost of a first-class stamp was \$0.25 and gasoline was 97 cents a gallon
 - 11) Ave monthly rent was \$420.00, the ave. house was \$120,000.00, and a new car cost \$15,000.00

- I) **IN 1989:** The Best Picture of the year: Rain Man

Record of the Year: "Don't Worry Be Happy," Bobby McFerrin^[L]_{SEP}]

First World Wide Web server and browser was developed by Tim Berners (and Al Gore?)

a) Twenty years is a long time, and many things happen over the course of twenty years!

- II) **IN THE CASE OF ISRAEL:** The people continued neglecting God and chasing idols
- a) But during this time, undoubtedly Samuel continued his role of prophet and judge in Israel
- 1) His voice was respected in Israel, and undoubtedly he moved throughout the land, teaching
 - 2) 1 Sa 3:20 All Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD
- III) **OVER THE COURSE OF 20 YEARS:** Israel finally came to her senses and returned to the LORD
- a) V2 Israel lamented after the LORD
- 1) The word lament actually carries a joyful connotation
 - 2) LAMENT: To go mourning after; to seek with great humility
- IV) **POINT:** During the twenty years, Israel became broken before the Lord and sought Him
- a) Gradually, through the influence of Samuel, Israel sorrowed over their sin and sought God
- 1) They had a sorrow over their sin, but also a joy in a renewed desire for fellowship with God
- V) **V3 THEN SAMUEL:** Spoke to all the house of Israel saying If you return to the LORD with all your
- a) **WHAT IS THE ANSWER:** For all of the misery that they have lived in
- 1) They are to repent, follow the Lord completely, and produce fruits of righteousness
- VI) **FIRST:** Samuel tells them to return to the Lord with complete sincerity
- a) This is a call for repentance
- 1) Is 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.
 - 2) Hosea 6:1 Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.
- VII) **SECOND:** Put away the foreign gods (Baal-V4) and the Ashtoreths from among you
- a) Baal and Astarte (Babylon) were Phoenician idols thought to be husband and wife
- 1) They represented nature and reproductive power and were worshipped in orgies
 - 2) Astarte is also Ishtar, Aphrodite, and is known in Jewish mythology as the demon of lust
 - 3) POINT: Repent from your sexual immorality
- VIII) **THIRD:** Prepare (arrange, settle) your hearts for the LORD and serve Him only
- a) You shall have only One God, and no foreign god
- 1) Dt 13:4 You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.
 - 2) Ezek 18:31 Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel?
 - 3) Mt 6:24 No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.
- IX) **V4 THE RESULT:** So the children of Israel put away the Baals and Ashtoreths and served the Lord only
- I) **V5-6 SO:** They gathered together at Mizpah drew water and poured it out before the LORD
- a) Mizpah means watchtower: it is a hill high enough to be able to see everything around it

- 1) By being on a hill, seen by everybody, it is an outward declaration of faith in God
 - 2) **GENUINE FAITH:** Is observable, and requires courage
- II) **V6 POURING OUT THE WATER:** Was a symbol of repentance
- a) Water in the desert is considered life: the pouring out of water symbolizes pouring out a life
 - 1) Ps 22:14 I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.
- III) **V6 AND THEY FASTED:** That day and said there We have sinned against the LORD
- a) No excuses, no blaming of others: just a complete ownership of their sin
 - 1) They mourned over their sin, and were overcome with moral grief
 - 2) Ps 51:4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight--That You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.
- IV) **V7-8 NOW:** When the Philistines heard that the children of Israel had gathered together
- a) The Philistines immediately moved to destroy Israel
 - 1) Not everybody is happy when you get right with God!
 - 2) The people are afraid, and ask Samuel to keep praying for their deliverance
- V) **V9-14 AND:** Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD
- a) Suckling lamb was around seven days old, and reveals something small and tender
 - 1) This best represents the new and fresh life Israel had, in the Lord: a picture of conversion
 - 2) A whole burnt offering was a picture of complete consecration
- VI) **V10-11 NOW:** As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering the Philistines drew near to battle
- a) The lamb is being sacrificed, and the armies of the Philistines draw up for battle
 - 1) Israel has great fear, but God steps in and thunders against the Philistines
 - 2) Is 59:19 When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him.
- VII) **KEY:** The result was Israel being strengthened, and the Philistines fleeing in confusion
- a) Ro 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
- VIII) **V12 THEN:** Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name
- a) Ebenezer: stone of help, but we will continue needing His help!
 - 1) Phil 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he who has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ
- IX) **V13 SO:** The Philistines were subdued and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel
- a) This was a significant victory, and was something that Israel would remember
 - 1) The *stone of remembrance* kept the victory before their eyes, constantly
 - 2) When they passed by, they could remember how God had delivered them
 - 3) Vine St., OCES, Maple St., Ontario High School, Gardiner Springs, Ayala Park
- I) **V14 THEN:** The cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel
- a) They recovered the things that at one time were lost (leaving Ekron and Gath)

1) 2 Co 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

2) AMORITES: Once powerful nation that had been in constant conflict with Israel is now asking for a truce

II) V15-17 AND: Samuel judged Israel *all the days of his life*

a) As priest, he went about his ministry duties judging and caring for the people

1) But he always returned home, and made sure to perform sacrifices to the Lord there

2) He performed his duties as a priest, and cared for the things of God in his hometown