

- I) **V1 INTRO: And the word of Samuel came to all Israel**
  - a) In this chapter, God is about to fulfill His promise to Eli (1 Sa 3:13)
    - 1) Nu 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not make it good?
- II) **IT WOULD SEEM, V1: Should be attached to the last verse of chapter 3**
  - a) As it stands, it appears to say that Samuel commanded Israel to battle the Philistines
    - 1) It is actually simply saying that Samuel's word was recognized as authoritative in Israel
    - 2) ALSO: Samuel, as God's prophet has also become a Judge in the nation
- III) **V2 NOW ISRAEL: Went out to battle against the Philistines and encamped beside Ebenezer**
  - a) **THE PHILISTINES:** Are mentioned around 286 times in the OT, the first time in Gen 10:14
    - 1) It is estimated that they were in Israel from 1200 BC to roughly 730 BC
    - 2) Judges 13 speaks of how Samson had to deal with them (1160 BC)
- IV) **PHILISTINE: Means migrant, wanderer, or divider: it can be translated "Sea Peoples"**
  - a) **QUOTE:** It has been suggested that the Philistines formed part of the great naval confederacy, the "Sea Peoples," who had wandered, at the beginning of the 12th century BC, from their homeland in Crete and the Aegean islands to the shores of the Mediterranean and repeatedly attacked Egypt during the later Nineteenth Dynasty. Though Ramesses III eventually repulsed them, he finally resettled them, according to the theory, to rebuild the coastal towns in Canaan.
    - 1) These towns would have included the main cities: Ashdod, Ashkelon, Ekron, Gath, and Gaza
- V) **V1 AT THIS TIME: They are continuing to plague Israel, and Israel responds aggressively**
  - a) **Ebenezer:** A memorial stone erected by Samuel where God helped Israel to defeat the Philistines
    - 1) This occurs around 20 years later and is mentioned in 1 Sa 7:12
  - b) **Aphek:** A city a few miles north east of Tel Aviv
- VI) **V2 THEN: The Philistines put themselves in battle array against Israel. And when they joined**
  - a) When the two armies engaged, Israel was defeated at a loss of 4,000 men
- VII) **V3 AND: When the people had come into the camp the elders of Israel said *Why has the LORD* defeated**
  - a) They had expected victory, and the defeat completely took them by surprise
    - 1) **KEY:** They had gone out in *self-sufficiency* and *selfishness*, without seeking God's direction
- VIII) **FACT: God had warned them that if they were unfaithful He would allow them to be defeated by enemies**
  - a) He had made it clear to their father's that this would happen if they rejected Him
    - 1) Dt 28:15 If you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you
    - 2) Dt 28:25 The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies
- IX) **V3-4 LET US: Bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord from Shiloh to us *that when it comes***
  - a) The people are surprised that they have been defeated: they obviously had overconfidence
    - 1) They thought that they were God's people, and that victory was inevitable

2) Josh 23:3 You have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations because of you, for the LORD your God *is* He who has fought for you.

I) IN THEIR MIND: They knew their enemies had not defeated them, *but that God had*

a) This made it clear to them that *God was not with them*, and they are truly surprised

1) Instead of asking God what they had done wrong, they took matters in their own hands

2) They went and God the Ark of the Covenant (Testimony), and brought it to the battle field

II) V4 WHY: Because the Ark symbolized God's power and His presence in the nation

a) Ex 25:22 There I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which *are* on the *ark of the Testimony*, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.

III) KEY: When their fathers had entered the promised land, they brought the Ark

a) When they crossed the Jordan River to enter in, the priests carried the Ark

1) Josh 3:14-16 So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

IV) KEY: The Ark *symbolized* His presence, but was not His *actual* presence

a) Ac 7:48-50 The Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the LORD, Or what is the place of My rest? Has My hand not made all these things?'

V) SADLY: Their behavior was just as pagan as the Philistines (V8)

a) KEY: They used the ark like a good luck charm, not understanding what a relationship with God is

1) SUPERSTITIONS: Water from the Jordan, blessed handkerchiefs, holy anointing oil, autographed pictures of Jesus, scapulars, crosses that glow in the dark, making the sign of the cross all miss the point

VI) V4 AND: The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas were there with the ark of the covenant of God

a) They were hirelings, just doing what they are paid to do!

1) ALSO: This reminds us that they were going to die at the same time, as God had said

VII) V5 AND: When the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp all Israel shouted so loudly

a) The people shouted with joy when they saw the ark being brought into the camp

1) They anticipated victory over the Philistines and have a great pep rally! Thunderous

VIII) V6-8 NOW: When the Philistines heard the noise of the shout they said What does the sound

a) INTERESTINGLY: They had heard of what God had done centuries before, and feared

1) Reminds me of what Rahab had said to the two spies she was hiding in Jericho

2) Josh 2:9-11 I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who *were* on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. And as

soon as we heard *these things*, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He *is* God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

3) PAGANS: Worshiped tribal gods, and they thought the Jews had *gods* who were greater

- I) V9-11 BE: *Strong and conduct yourselves like men* you Philistines that you do not become servants
  - a) Their fear of becoming slaves to Israel gave them the nerve to fight, and to win
    - 1) INTERESTINGLY: Israel had been commanded to uproot the inhabitants of Canaan
    - 2) Dt 9:4 Do not think in your heart, after the LORD your God has cast them out before you, saying, 'Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land'; but *it is* because of the wickedness of these nations *that* the LORD is driving them out from before you.

II) THEY HAD BEEN COMMANDED: Not to have any dealings with the inhabitants but disobeyed

a) Lev 20:23 You shall not walk in the statutes of the nation which I am casting out before you; for they commit all these things, and therefore I abhor them.

b) Judges 2:2-3 (God said) you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this? Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be *thorns* in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.'"

c) Ps 106:34-36 They did not destroy the peoples, concerning whom the LORD had commanded them, But they mingled with the Gentiles and learned their works; they served their idols, which became a snare to them.

III) THESE PAGAN NATIONS: Are a type of the flesh (our old nature, unregenerated and in rebellion)

a) If the flesh is not overcome, it will rise up and overcome you

1) KEY: You do not make a compromise with your flesh, you put it to death

2) Col 3:3-6 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

IV) V12-18 THEN: A man of Benjamin ran from the battle line the same day and came to Shiloh

a) In spite of their attempts to win the battle through *superstition* and *flesh*, they were defeated

1) God allowed the ark to be taken, and the messenger runs and informs Eli

2) KEY: Though Eli failed to discipline his sons, he had a genuine concern for the ark of God

V) V18 NOTICE: Upon hearing it was captured, he fell back and broke his neck

a) He took the news of his sons' death calmly, but died when hearing of the ark's capture

1) With all his faults, he cared for the things of God and the ark's capture was greater heartache

VI) V19-22 NOW: His daughter-in-law Phinehas' wife was with child due to be delivered

a) Not only did Eli's sons die, but his daughter-in-law died giving birth

1) She lost her father-in-law, and her husband but her greater sorrow was the capture of the ark

2) Ichabod: The glory has departed

3) This reveals how deeply she had taken to heart the carrying off of the ark of God

'09 1 SA 4 THE GLORY HAS DEPARTED 2/8/09

4