

Are God's Rules Outdated?

Do you think that many of the rules from the Bible are outdated?

Do you think that some of the rules in the Bible do not make sense and no longer apply to us?

What Does The Bible Say?

Is it true that if you looked inside the Ark of the Covenant, you would die?

So the Philistines want to return the Ark of the Covenant.

19 But the Lord killed seventy men from Beth-shemesh because they looked into the Ark of the Lord. And the people mourned greatly because of what the Lord had done. 20 “Who is able to stand in the presence of the Lord, this holy God?” they cried out. “Where can we send the Ark from here?” 21 So they sent messengers to the people at Kiriath-jearim and told them, “The

Philistines have returned the Ark of the Lord. Come here and get it!” (1 Samuel 6:19–21 NLT)

9 But when they arrived at the threshing floor of Nacon, the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the Ark. 10 Then the Lord’s anger was aroused against Uzzah, and he struck him dead because he had laid his hand on the Ark. So Uzzah died there in the presence of God. (1 Chronicles 13:9–10 NLT)

Was that fair?

Why was Uzzah killed as he tried to do something good for God?

Do you think that many of the rules from the Bible are outdated?

To find the answer, we need first to see the history of the Ark of the Covenant.

Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 2 “Record the names of the members of the clans and families of the Kohathite division of the tribe of Levi. 3 List all the men between the ages of thirty and fifty who are eligible to serve in the Tabernacle. 4 “The duties of the Kohathites at the Tabernacle will relate to the most sacred objects. 5 When the camp moves, Aaron and his sons must enter the Tabernacle first to take down the inner curtain and cover the Ark of the Covenant with it. 6 Then they must cover the inner curtain with fine goatskin leather and spread over that a single piece of blue cloth. Finally, they must put the carrying poles of the Ark in place. (Numbers 4:1–6 NLT)

15 The camp will be ready to move when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the sacred articles. The Kohathites will come and carry these things to the next destination. But they must not touch the sacred objects, or they will die. So these are the things from the Tabernacle that the Kohathites must carry. (Numbers 4:15 NLT)

17 Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 18 “Do not let the Kohathite clans be destroyed from among the Levites! 19 This is what you must do so they will live and not die when they approach the most sacred objects. Aaron and his sons must always go in with them and assign a specific duty or load to each person. 20 The Kohathites must never enter the sanctuary to look at the sacred objects for even a moment, or they will die.” (Numbers 4:17–20 NLTNLT)

So God gave rules on how to move the Ark of the Covenant some 440 years earlier.

Did the rules change? NO!

Uzzah died because he did not follow the rules on how to move the Ark of the Covenant.

How Can You Obey?

11 Then David summoned the priests, Zadok and Abiathar, and these Levite leaders: Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab. 12 He said to them, “You are the leaders of the Levite families. You must purify yourselves and all your fellow Levites, so you can bring the Ark of the Lord, the God of Israel, to the place I have prepared for it. 13 Because you Levites did not carry the Ark the first time, the anger of the Lord our God burst out against us. We failed to ask God how to move it properly.” 14 So the priests and the Levites purified themselves in order to bring the Ark of the Lord, the God of Israel, to Jerusalem. 15 Then the Levites carried the Ark of God on their

shoulders with its carrying poles, just as the Lord had instructed Moses. (1 Chronicles 15:11–15 NLT)

When David followed God’s rules, he was able to move the Ark safely.

When God gives us a rule, it is always for our benefit.

For instance, in Leviticus 18 & 20, God gave us restrictions on sexual practices.

Abnormal Physicality

6 “You must never have sexual relations with a close relative, for I am the Lord. (Leviticus 18:6 NLT)

Blood Clotting

12 From generation to generation, every male child must be circumcised on the eighth day after his birth. (Genesis 17:12 NLT)

Disease

13 “When the man with the discharge is healed, he must count off seven days for the period of purification. Then he must wash his clothes and bathe himself in fresh water, and he will be ceremonially clean. (Leviticus 15:13 NLT)

Quarantining

46 As long as the serious disease lasts, they will be ceremonially unclean. They must live in isolation in their place outside the camp. (Leviticus 13:46 NLT)

Ocean Currents

The birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas. (Psalm 8:8 NLT)

Ship Building

15 This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. (Genesis 6:15 NLT)

God is always right, only a foolish person would go against God.

How are you going to do life? Following God, or your will?

Additional Notes:

If you would like to use your home to disciple others, check out our training at www.crosswaveschurch.com/host. Cross Waves has produced short videos to train you how to use your home to reach others for Christ. So please check it out.

Notes:

Today's Deep Dive Into The Bible comes from Heiser, M. S. (2014). I Dare You Not to Bore Me with the Bible. (J. D. Barry

& R. Van Noord, Eds.) (p. 55). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press; Bible Study Magazine.

Explore:

Ark of the Covenant - A wooden chest overlaid with gold that contained the tablets of the law. It served both practical and symbolic purposes and was instrumental in both rituals and miracles. The Israelites believed the ark of the covenant was symbolically Yahweh's throne—representing His very presence on earth.

- In Exodus 25, Yahweh gives Moses instructions for the construction of the ark.
- In Exodus 35, Moses repeats Yahweh's instructions for constructing the ark to the people.
- In Exodus 37 contains the account of the building of the ark and reiterates Yahweh's instructions.

We also see the Ark of the Covenant in the books of Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, and in 1 and 2 Samuel.

Sarlo, D., & Swann, J. T. (2016). Ark of the Covenant. In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, ... W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

Explore:

Raiders of the Lost Ark^[a] is a 1981 American action-adventure film directed by Steven Spielberg and written by Lawrence Kasdan, based on a story by George Lucas and Philip Kaufman. It stars Harrison Ford, Karen Allen, Paul Freeman, Ronald Lacey, John Rhys-Davies, and Denholm Elliott. Ford portrays Indiana Jones, a globe-trotting archaeologist vying with Nazi German forces in 1936 to recover the long-lost Ark of the Covenant, a relic said to make an army invincible. Teaming up with his tough former lover Marion Ravenwood (Allen), Jones

tries to stop rival archaeologist Dr. René Belloq (Freeman) from guiding the Nazis to the Ark and its power.

Lucas conceived *Raiders of the Lost Ark* in the early 1970s.

Seeking to modernize the serial films of the early 20th century, he developed the idea further with Kaufman, who suggested the Ark as the film's goal. Lucas eventually focused on developing his 1977 space opera *Star Wars*. Development on *Raiders of the Lost Ark* resumed that year when he shared the idea with Spielberg, who joined the project several months later. While the pair had ideas for set pieces and stunts for the film, they hired Kasdan to fill in the narrative gaps between them. Principal photography began in June 1980 on a \$20 million budget and concluded the following September. Filming took place on sets at Elstree Studios, England, and on location mainly in La Rochelle, France, Tunisia, and Hawaii.

Though prerelease polling showed little audience interest in the film, especially compared to the superhero film *Superman II*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark* became the highest-grossing film of 1981, earning approximately \$330.5 million worldwide and played in some theaters for over a year. It was a critical success, receiving praise for its modern take on the serial film, its non-stop action and adventure, and the cast, particularly Ford, Allen, and Freeman. The film was nominated for several awards and, among others, won five Academy Awards, seven Saturn Awards, and one BAFTA.

Raiders of the Lost Ark is now considered one of the greatest films ever made and has had a lasting impact on popular culture, spawning a host of imitators across several media, and inspired other filmmakers. The United States Library of Congress selected it for preservation in the National Film Registry in 1999. *Raiders of the Lost Ark* is the first entry in what would become the Indiana Jones franchise, which includes three more

films—Temple of Doom (1984), Last Crusade (1989), and Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008)—a television series, video games, comic books, novels, theme park attractions, toys, and an amateur remake. A fifth film is scheduled for release in 2022.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raiders_of_the_Lost_Ark

Explore:

After the Philistines captured the Ark of God, they took it from the battleground at Ebenezer to the town of Ashdod. (1 Samuel 5:1 NLT)

8 So they called together the rulers of the Philistine towns and asked, “What should we do with the Ark of the God of Israel?”

The rulers discussed it and replied, “Move it to the town of Gath.” So they moved the Ark of the God of Israel to Gath.

9 But when the Ark arrived at Gath, the Lord’s heavy hand fell

on its men, young and old; he struck them with a plague of tumors, and there was a great panic. (1 Samuel 5:8–9 NLT).

5:1–5. That the Lord of Israel was not only omnipresent but also omnipotent was a fact that the Philistines were about to learn.

Bearing the ark like a trophy of conquest, they took it first to the temple of Dagon at Ashdod, some 50 miles southwest of Shiloh.

There they laid it at Dagon's feet (or tail) as though to say that

Dagon was victor and the Lord his prisoner. But the next

morning Dagon lay prostrate before the ark. Restored to his

pedestal once again, Dagon, on the following day, again lay in

submission before the Lord, this time shattered and V 1, p 437

broken. Only his torso remained intact. Head and hands were

broken off and lay scattered across the threshold or podium. The

word translated "threshold" (miptān) may also and perhaps

ought to be understood as the pedestal on which the idol stood.

So embarrassed were the Philistines over this misfortune of their god that they forever after refused to set foot on the scene of his calamity.

5:6–12. The Philistine people were affected as well, for the Lord sent a plague on the inhabitants of Ashdod which was evidently carried by mice (“rats,” niv; 6:4–5) and caused large tumors to erupt on their bodies (5:6). The nature of the plague is unclear but seemed to consist of growths particularly in the rectal area as the Hebrew ‘ōpēl indicates. Perhaps it was a hemorrhoid-like condition, as suggested in many versions.

In complete despair over this turn of events, the Ashdodites decided to send the ark on to Gath, some 12 miles southeast and toward Israel. The same disaster befell the Gathites, however (v. 9); so finally the ark was moved to Ekron where its deadly reputation had already preceded it. The citizens of Ekron fared no better than the others and at once determined to send the ark

(the chest which, in their view, contained the God of Israel) back to its own land. This seems naive to modern readers, but people in all times have attempted to box God in and manipulate Him to their own convenience.

Merrill, E. H. (1985). 1 Samuel. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, pp. 436–437). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

Explore:

Building an ark (Genesis 14–17). God told Noah what his task was: to build a wooden vessel that would survive the waters of the Flood and keep Noah and his family safe. If the cubit mentioned was the standard cubit of eighteen inches, then the vessel was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It had three decks, one door, and a series of small windows eighteen

inches high right under the roof, providing light and ventilation. The three decks were divided into compartments (Gen. 6:14) where the various animals would be kept and where Noah and his family would live.

This vessel was designed for flotation, not navigation. It was a huge wooden box that could float on the water and keep the contents safe and dry. Dr. Henry Morris calculated that the ark was large enough to hold the contents of over 500 livestock railroad cars, providing space for about 125,000 animals. Of course, many of the animals would be very small and not need much space; and when it came to the large animals, Noah no doubt collected younger and smaller representatives. There was plenty of room in the vessel for food for both humans and animals (v. 21), and the insects and creeping things would have no problem finding places to live on the ark.

Wiersbe, W. W. (1998). Be basic (p. 96). Colorado Springs, CO: Chariot Victor Pub.

Explore:

Numbers 4:1–49: Within the tribe of Levi, different families and clans are responsible for caring for different parts of the tabernacle. The Kohathite clans have the care of the sanctuary. The Gershonites are responsible for the tenting, curtains and ropes. The Merarites look after frames, posts and pegs.

Although the Kohathites are responsible for the furniture of the sanctuary, only Aaron and his sons are allowed to dismantle the shielding curtain and pack the sacred furnishings. If the Kohathites touch the holy articles, they will die. They are, however, allowed to carry them once they are reverently packed.

Knowles, A. (2001). The Bible guide (1st Augsburg books ed., p. 83). Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg.

Explore:

1 Chronicles 15:11 The transition from the rule of Saul to David involved a transition from the old Mosaic tabernacle to the new place David had established on Mount Zion in preparation for the temple (see v. 1). The father of Abiathar, the priest Ahimelech, was in charge of the old tabernacle when it left Shiloh and was moved to Nob (1 Sam. 21:1). Ahimelech (also known as Ahijah; see 1 Sam. 14:3; 22:9) was Eli's great-grandson. Eli must have been a descendant of Aaron's son Ithamar, for the priesthood was taken from his line and given to the line of Eleazar, another son of Aaron (6:3, 4; see 1 Sam. 2:22–36). The line of Eleazar produced Zadok (6:8). During David's time, representatives of both the Ithamar and Eleazar high-priestly lineages served concurrently. Zadok, who descended from Eleazar, served at the tabernacle at Gibeon. Abiathar, a descendant of Ithamar, was chief priest at Jerusalem. When Solomon came to power, Abiathar was deposed and

Zadok ministered as high priest at the temple (1 Kin. 2:26, 27, 35).

Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1997). The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version (1 Ch 15:11). Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.

Question 1 of 5

How would you explain that the authors of the Bible knew the difference between demon possession and mental illness or other diseases?

Question 2 of 5

How would you explain that God's rules never get outdated?

Question 3 of 5

Why was the Ark of the Covenant so important to Israel?

Question 4 of 5

Why do you think that God wanted the Ark of the Covenant carried and not put in wagons?

Question 5 of 5

How do you explain how Noah knew how to build a better ship than today's modern designs, or how did the Israelites know that the eighth day after birth was the best time to circumcise a son?