

What should we do with the Ark? 1 Samuel 6:1-7:2

INTRODUCTION

What we encounter in today's study is the holiness of God displayed amongst the Philistines and the Israelites. What we are given here in 1 Samuel 6 is a powerful reminder that God's holiness results in judgment when He is not revered as decidedly distinct. Because of His holy justice, people suffer and even die in the Bible when they treat God as if He were typical or normal or just one more thing, one more obligation, one more source of advice, one more relationship.

I. A _____ God among the _____ (6:1-12)

The circumstances of the story are summed up in the first sentence of the chapter: (read 6:1). When the Philistines first captured the ark of the covenant, they thought it was a great victory but as time went on the Philistines began to regard the ark as a burden, not as a trophy. Why did they keep it for **seven months**? Because they were reluctant to give up such a wonderful "trophy" of what they at first felt was a great victory over the God of Israel. **It can take a long time before we realize the futility of resisting God.**

A. The _____ (6:2)

B. The _____ (6:4-9)

C. The _____ (6:10-12)

Logical though their offering might be, it is not biblical. The cessation of the plagues and the healing of the Philistines are not results of their "guilt offering", but a gift of God's grace.

II. A _____ God among the _____ (6:13-7:2)

Suddenly our perspective shifts, and we join the workers in the fields of Beth-Shemesh. For them seven months had passed since the dreadful defeat of the Israelites at Aphek. Clearly life went on for these people, but we know nothing of their experiences over the seven months since the Philistines had taken the ark.

A. A joyous _____ (6:13)

B. An _____ worship service (6:14-18)

C. A holy God must be _____ as such by His people (6:19-7:2)

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning? Let me share with you some truths to ponder from our study:

- **God is often doing things in our lives for His glory that in the moment feel like _____ and _____.**
- **We are _____ to choose to worship something that _____ us rather than worship the One who _____ nothing.**
- **The Philistines look for _____ instead of _____ and try to _____ the consequences of their sin instead of getting in _____ with God.**
- **There's a difference between being _____ of God and the _____ of the Lord. The _____ drives you to reject and push Him away. The _____ welcomes Him for who He is and rejoices and relishes the relationship.**
- **There's a difference between _____ for the Lord and showing _____ for the Lord. The _____ provokes His anger while the _____ receives Him gladly.**