

SAMUEL IS CALLED



- Chapter 3, God moves upon Samuel and prepares him to be His Prophet
- A central prophet was a new phenomenon for Israel
- Up to now, a prophet was only for a single tribe
- Moses the last real central prophet

1ST SAMUEL CHAPTER 4: THE BATTLE AT EVEN-EZER



- 1) Philistines capture the Ark of the Covenant
- 2) End of Eli and his 2 sons as the priestly family of Israel
- The Lord has withdrawn Himself from Israel
- Israel did NOT go out to fight the Philistines at Samuel's order

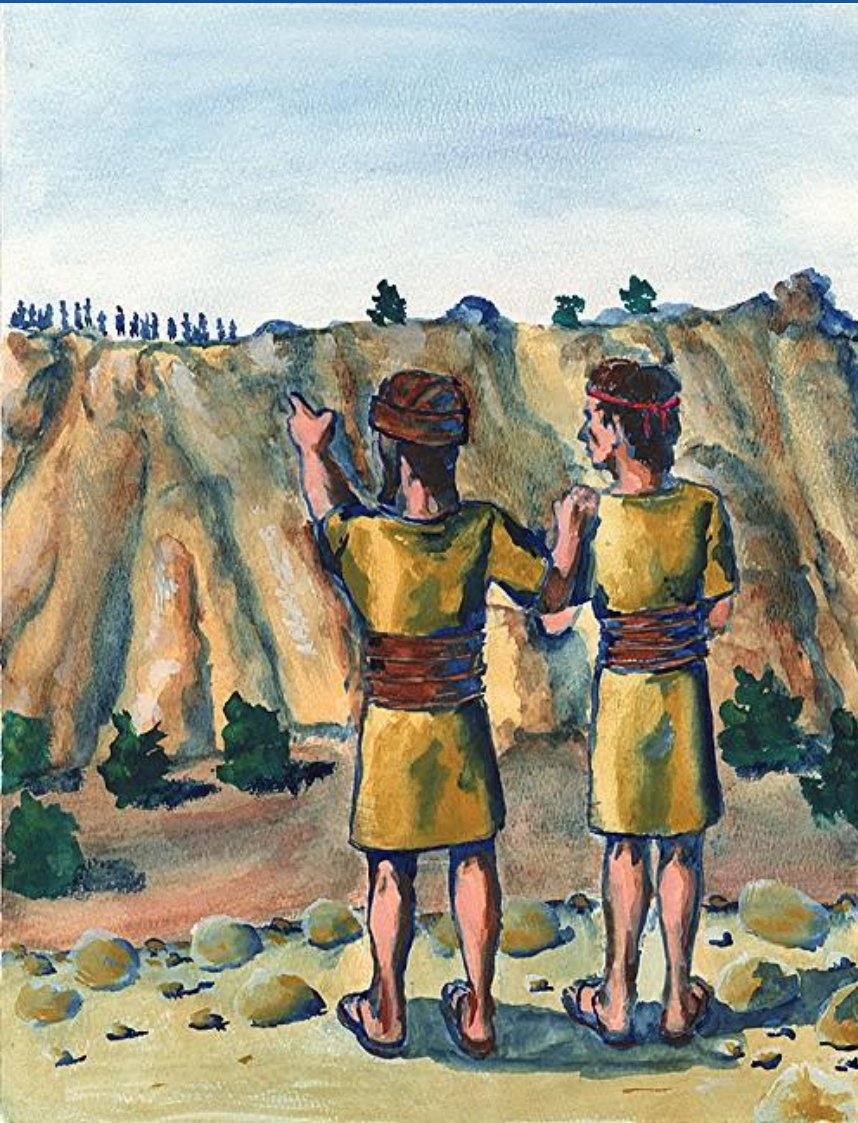
THE SEA PEOPLES

- Battlefield about 20 miles West of Shiloh
- Lowlands
- Egypt spoke of the Sea Peoples in 1200 B.C.
- Philistines had a professional standing army
- Israel was a militia
- Israel's organized army under Joshua had disbanded centuries ago



ISRAEL DEFEATED BY PHILISTINES

WHAT TO DO?



- 4000 Israelites killed
- *Zikne yisrael* = elders
- Decided to have the Ark brought from Shiloh to the battlefield
- Eli did not come, but Hophni and Pinchas did
- When ark arrived the Hebrews “shouted” with joy
- *Teruah* = shout, a type of shofar blast

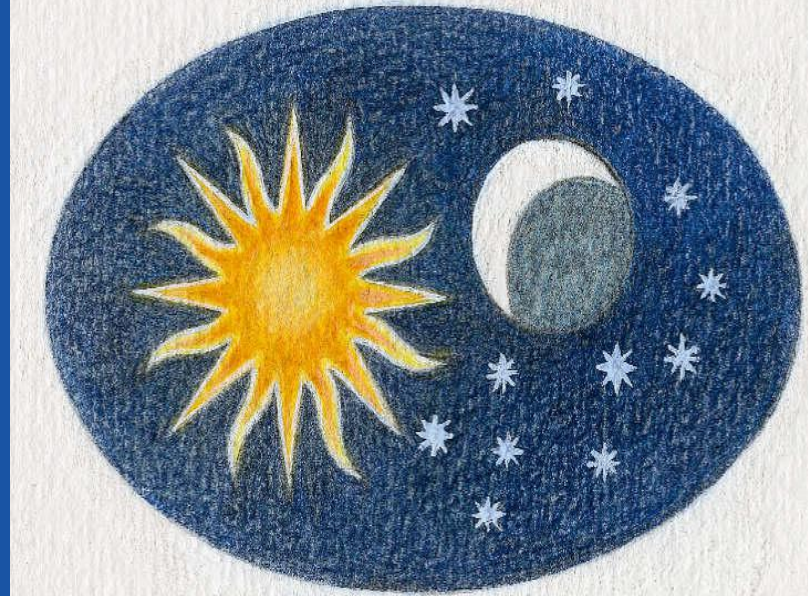
ARK OF GOD ARRIVES

- The Ark presumed the presence of YHWH
- Usual for a nation to bring their gods to the battlefield
- Philistines spoke of the “gods” of Israel
- *Elohim* = gods
- When Hebrews speak of their *elohim*, it is “God”
- When pagans speak of their *elohim*, it is “gods”



ISRAEL FAILED TO IMPRESS THEIR NEIGHBORS

- Philistines assumed Israel had many gods just like they did
- But Israel and Philistines lived side by side for decades
- Israel casual in their worship of YHWH, and willing to behave like their neighbors
- Idolatry was a standard problem in Israel
- Are modern Believers much better?



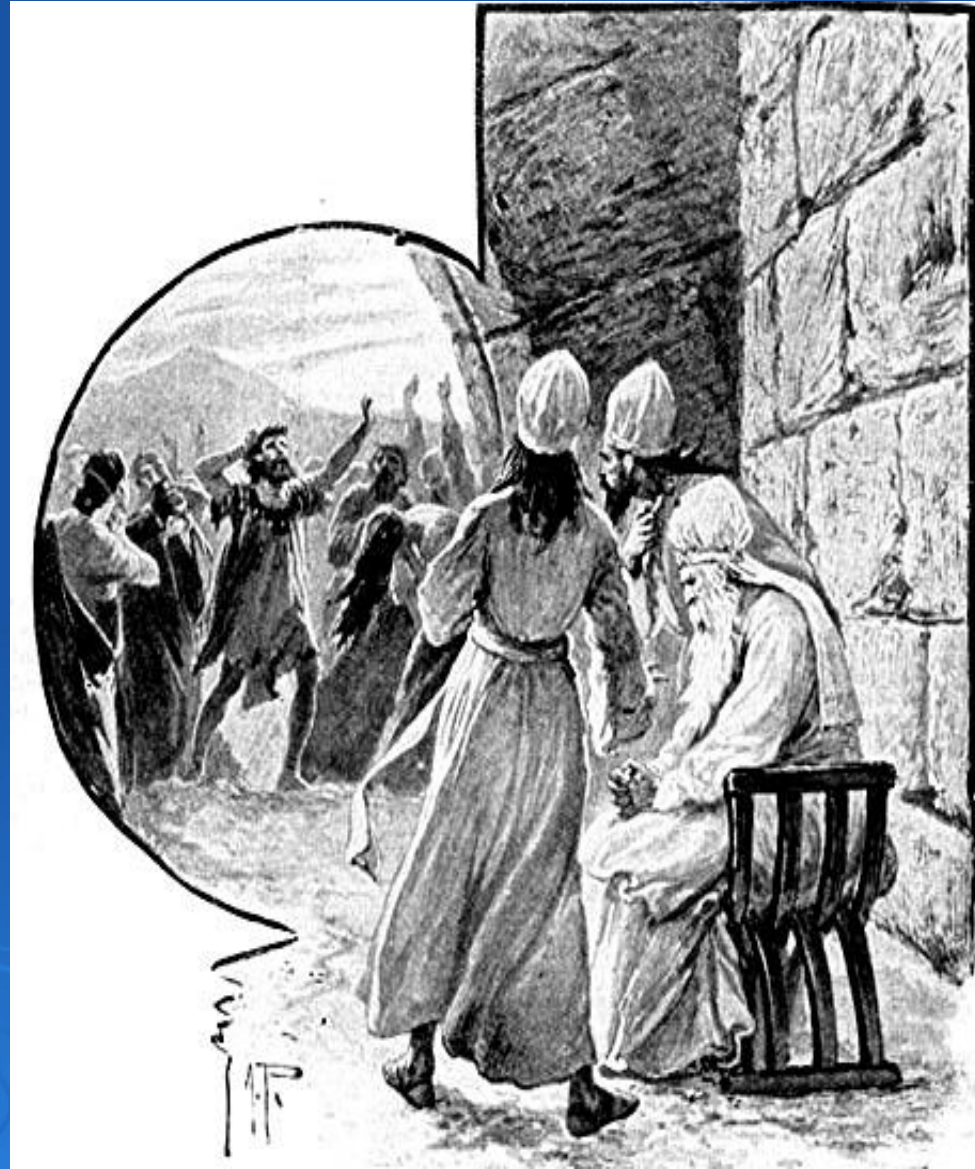
THE ARK IS LOST TO THE PHILISTINES



- 30,000 Israelites killed
- ***“Every man fled to his tent”***
= gave up fighting
- Hophni and Pinchas were also killed
- The loss of the Ark and death of the priests meant God had withdrawn from Israel
- Berleburger Bible 1700’s
- Take the Holy Spirit from Christ and he is only a man
- Take the Holy Spirit from the Ark and it’s only a fancy box

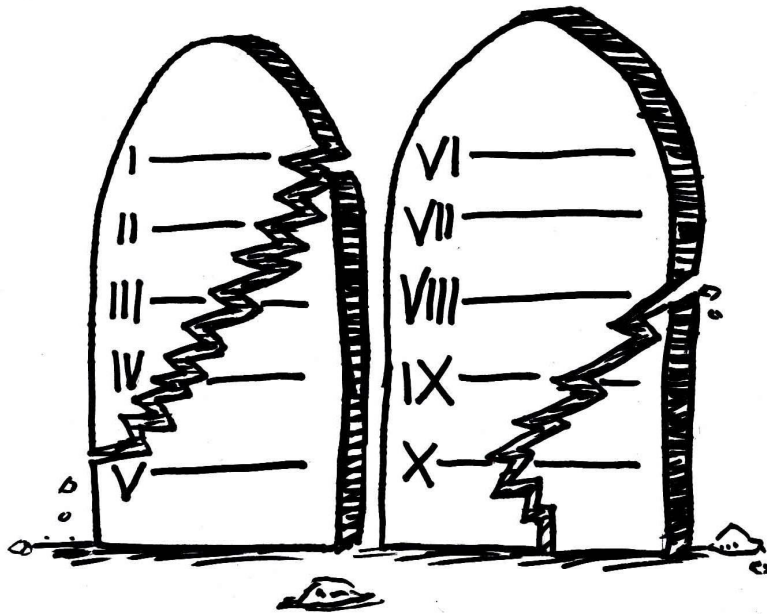
PEOPLE OF SHILOH LEARN OF THE CATASTROPHE

- Runner comes 20 miles to notify Eli
- Eli is 98 years old
- When he hears that the Ark is lost, he falls off of his chair and is killed
- Pinchas's wife goes into abnormal labor and dies
- *Ichavod* = where's the Glory?



CALAMITY!

- For Israel the loss of the Ark meant God was gone!
- Guarantor of Covenants was gone
- Covenants no longer valid
- Land inheritance ceased
- On par with destruction of Jerusalem in later times
- God acted to change the course of Redemptive History



1ST SAMUEL CHAPTER 5



Philistines Pentapolis - Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, Gath, and Gaza

THE CURSE OF THE ARK



- Philistines placed the Ark in the Temple of Dagon
- Humiliating the Dagon idol was only the beginning
- YHWH brought plagues upon the Philistines similar to what He did to the Egyptians
- The Ark of God was a kind of Trojan Horse

TUMORS BROKE OUT ON THE PEOPLE OF PHILISTIA

- The people of Ashdod broke out in tumors and so sent the Ark to Gat!
- When the Ark arrived in Gat they too broke out in tumors
- *Ophalim* = tumors, swellings
- *Ophel* = area between City of David and the Temple Mount
- People of Gat sent Ark to Ekron, but Ekron refused to accept it
- Philistine leaders decided it was time to send it back to Israel!

