

# PHILISTINES CAPTURED THE ARK OF GOD

- Israel took on the Philistines without consulting the Lord
- Ark was brought from Shiloh to Even-ezer, and there it was captured
- God was not “attached” to the Ark, He came and went
- Hophni and Pinchas died, which led to their father Eli’s death

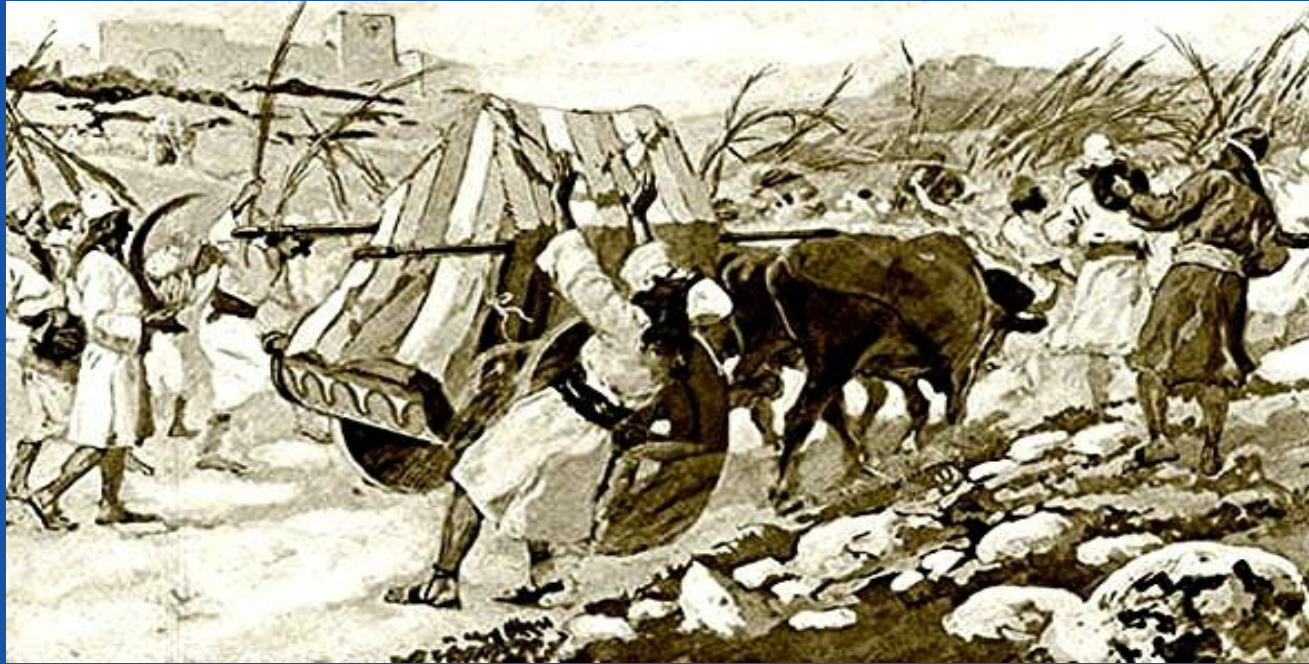


# THE ARK HAD TO GO!

- Philistia was a 5 city confederacy
- Ark tumbled the Statue of Dagon
- Plague of tumors
- Every city and village in Philistia was affected
- How to appease the God of Israel to STOP the plagues?



# WHY DIDN'T ARK KILL PHILISTINES?



- ONLY those joined to Israel's covenants are subject to the TERMS of those covenants
- God's laws are ONLY for God's elect
- The ONLY people God has ever made a covenant with were the Hebrews
- Provision was made for gentiles/foreigners/*ger* to join Israel's covenants



# BELIEVERS HAVE OBLIGATIONS TO GOD

- No earthly penalty for remaining a pagan...BUT
- A) Spiritual destiny is destruction
- B) No relationship with God is possible
- Philistines were NOT party to God's covenants
- Sin is a violation of God's laws
- Philistines not prohibited from touching Ark as were the Israelites



# 1<sup>ST</sup> SAMUEL 6 AND 7: THE ARK OF GOD RETURNED

- God afflicted the Philistines for 7 months
- 5 Philistine Lords asked their priests and diviners in what **MANNER** to return the Ark
- A gift **MUST** accompany the Ark
- '***Asham*** = reparation offering
- Idea is one of accepting **FAULT** and then paying compensation to the Deity



# 5 GOLDEN MICE



- What penalty and in what form will appease Yehoveh?
- ***“5 gold mounds  
NAMELY 5 gold mice”***
- In addition to painful swellings there was a mice infestation
- God attacked the human flesh and the food supply
- Diviners warned NOT to be hard headed and receive what the Egyptians suffered!



# THE TWO-COWS SOLUTION



- New cart to be built, so would not be unclean
- 2 MILK cows, never yoked
- Philistine leaders and diviners not certain it was God that caused the trouble
- By using the cows, if they behave UNNATURALLY then they knew it was YHWH and not chance
- Cows went straight up the road to Beit-Shemesh

# TRAGEDY AT BEIT-SHEMESH



- ***Beit-Shemesh*** = house of the sun
- Wheat harvest time, about May/June (Shavuot)
- Beit-Shemesh was 1 of the 48 Levitical cities
- ***'ad 'abel haggedolah*** = “Great platform of Abel”
- 70 people died, probably Levites....NOT 50, 070



# ONLY THE AUTHORIZED LEVITES CAN CARRY THE ARK



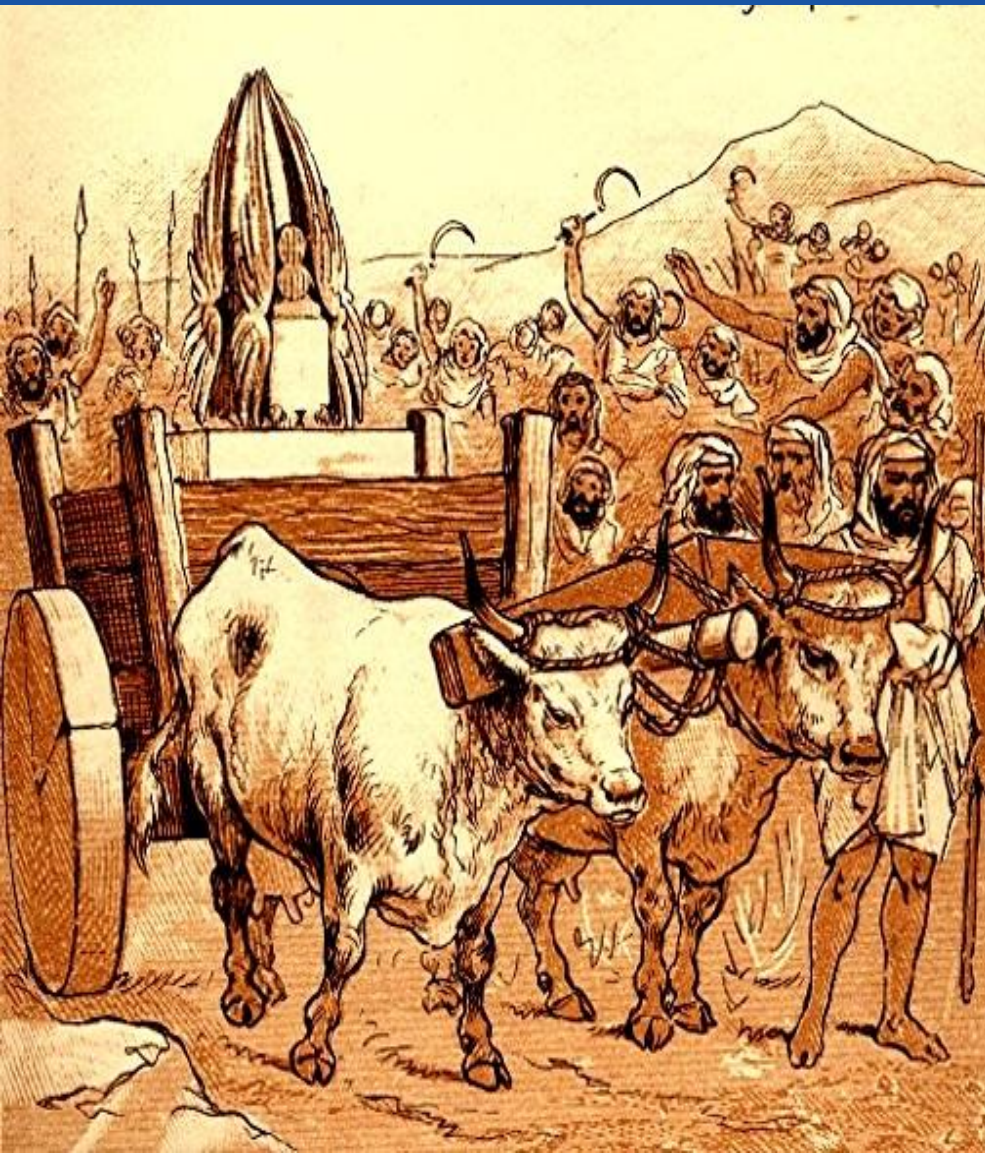
- Only the clan of Kohath can carry the Ark
- Levites of Beit-Shemesh dealt with the Ark in an unauthorized way, and 70 were killed by God
- “Who can stand before God” means, “who can attend the Ark”
- Israel had been without a proper priesthood for so long, they didn’t even know the procedures or consult the Torah any more

# ARK MOVED TO KIRYAT-YE'ARIM

- ***Kiryat-Ye'arim*** 8 miles NE of Jerusalem
- Before conquest was called ***Kiryat-Baal***
- In Samuel's day was called ***Kiryat Baal-Judah***
- An ancient "high place"
- Baal was worshipped there at one time, now apparently YHWH replaced Baal



# PRIESTLY FAMILY NOW TENDED TO THE ARK



- Avinadav and his son El'azar were priests
- Ark remained in *Kiryat-Ye'arim* for 20 years
- No one quite sure why it wasn't returned to Shiloh
- Where was Ark housed while at *Kiryat-Ye'arim*?