

1st Samuel 4 Lessons and Principles

- 1) Israel made an idol out of the Ark of God, and were depending on this object to save them in battle, and God took their idol away by allowing the Philistines to capture it. Sometimes we are guilty of worshiping an object instead of the true God. Example the church building, or a particular pastor might be the focus of our worship, and God can and will take those away.
- 2) The glory of God departed – The glory left when Israel stopped repenting and trusting God and started trusting in the Ark itself, an object. The glory of God will depart from us here at the Chapel if we stop living a repentant life and put our faith in objects of the world.
- 3) Even though the Philistines saw the evidence that the God of Israel was the one true god and far more powerful than their idol Dagon, they still did not turn to Him, but chose to send Him away. Man can be slapped in the face with proof of who is the one true God, and still turn from Him and follow tradition - don't follow tradition, follow Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God. It requires changing your life.
- 4) The Philistines would not listen to what God was trying to tell them, they just set their statue back up and glued it back together and ignored God. If God is calling you to do something or to follow a particular path, just do it, don't wait for the second call it may be very difficult for you.
- 5) God gave the Philistines three opportunities to repent and turn towards Him, Ashdod, Gath, and Ekron and they could have benefited greatly, instead the Ark became a curse and a judgement for them. The same is true of the presence of God among men today, which can be as a fragrance of life to some and the aroma of death to others ([2 Corinthians 2:15-16](#))