

THE ARK IN THE HANDS OF THE PHILISTINES

SHABBAT MESSAGE

02/04/12

Schemu'el Alef (1 Samuel) 6:1-21

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THE PHILISTINES CAPTURE THE ARK

In Schemu'el Alef (1 Samuel) 4:10 – 11 we read that the philistines battled Israel and killed 30,000 foot soldiers. They also capture the Ark of Elohim.

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A SIDE NOTE:



In Schemu'el Alef (1 Samuel) chapter 4 we read that Israel was smitten in battle by the Philistines and they decided to bring the Ark of Yahweh from Shiloh to go with them into battle.

When the Ark of Elohim arrives in the Israel camp all of Israel shouted so loudly that the earth shook. Verse 5.

The philistines heard the great noise and they learned that the Ark of Elohim came into the Israel camp and they were afraid.

Verse 7 says, *“the Philistines were afraid, for they said, ‘Elohim has come into the camp!’ And they said, ‘Woe to us! For it has never been like this before.’”*

However, verse 8 says something very important. *“Woe to us! Who shall deliver us from the hand of these mighty Elohim? These are the Elohim who smote the Mitsrites with all the plagues in the wilderness.”*

The verse refers to Elohim as “these Elohim”. This translation agrees with the Hebrew.

I believe that this verse is further evidence that Yahweh and Yahshua are One.

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IKAVOD

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In Schemu'el Alef (1 Samuel) 4:19 – 22 we read of Pinchas' wife giving birth after she heard the terrible news.

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She named her son Ikavod or “no glory”.

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THE PHILISTINES TAKE THE ARK TO ASHDOD



In Schemu'el Alef (1 Samuel) chapter 5 we read that the Philistines take the Ark of Yahweh to Ashdod and put it in the temple of their chief mighty-one dagon.

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However, the Philistines find the image of their mighty one face down before the Ark of Yahweh.



This is just the beginning of their troubles. Yahweh smites them with “tumors”.

The Philistines play “hot potato” with the Ark for awhile. Everywhere the Ark is taken Yahweh smites the people.

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THE PHILISTINES GIVE THE ARK BACK

The Philistines know that Yahweh has greater power than their own mighty one.

Schemu'el Alef (1 Samuel) 4:8 and 6:6 they admit that it was Yahweh who brought bad things upon the Mitzrites and they don't want it to happen to them.

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So they send the Ark away in a cart drawn by 2 milk cows with an offering.

The cows head straight for Beyt Shemesh or the House of the Sun. The Hebrew word Shemesh also means service or ministration.

The wagon comes to the field of Yahshua (Yah is Salvation) of Beyt Shemesh.

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YAHWEH SMITES THE MEN OF BEYT SHEMESH

In Schemu'el Alef (1 Samuel) 6:19 we read, *“And He smote among the men of Beyt Shemesh, for they had looked into the ark of Yahweh. ...”*

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CONCLUSIONS

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Yahweh did not make any covenant with the nations. He did not give His Torah to the nations and He did not give any specific commands regarding His set-apart things to the nations.

When the Philistines took the Ark they surly would have touched it, however, we do not read of any deaths occurring because of touching it. They were punished for having the Ark.

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On the other hand –

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Yahweh made a covenant with Israel.

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Yahweh gave His Torah to Israel.

[click](#)

Yahweh gave specific commands to Israel regarding His Set-apart things.

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Vayikrah (Leviticus) 16:2 *“And Yahweh said to Mosheh, “Speak to Abaron your brother not to come in at all times to the Set-apart Place inside the veil, before the lid of atonement which is on the ark, lest he die, because I appear in the cloud above the lid of atonement.”*

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Bemidbar (Numbers) 3:38 *“And those who were to camp before the Dwelling Place on the east, before the Tent of Meeting, were Mosheh and Abaron, and his sons, guarding the duty of the set-apart place, and the duty of the children of Yisra'el. But the stranger who came near was to be put to death.”*

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Bemidbar (Numbers) 4:20 *“They are not, however, to go in to watch while the set-apart objects are being covered, lest they die.”*

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Schemu’el Alef (1 Samuel) 6:19 we read, *“And He smote among the men of Beyt Shemesh, for they had looked into the ark of Yahweh. ...”*

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Shemu’el Bet (2 Samuel) 6:6 – 7 *“And when they came to the threshing-floor of Nakon, Uzzab reached out toward the ark of Elohim and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. And the wrath of Yahweh burned against Uzzab, and Elohim smote him there for the fault. And he died there by the ark of Elohim.”*

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If an Israelite touched the Ark he would die. That is because Yahweh commanded them not to touch the Ark.

Those that do not receive swift punishment for disobedience do not belong to Yahweh.