

A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the foreground, reflecting the sky and surrounding greenery. The shoreline is lush with grass and small white flowers. In the background, a dense forest of tall evergreen and deciduous trees rises against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

1st Samuel

Lesson 2

1 Samuel Chapters 4-6

The Capture and Return of the Ark

Two Themes For This Study

1. Follow God's Commands
2. Repent

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.

1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

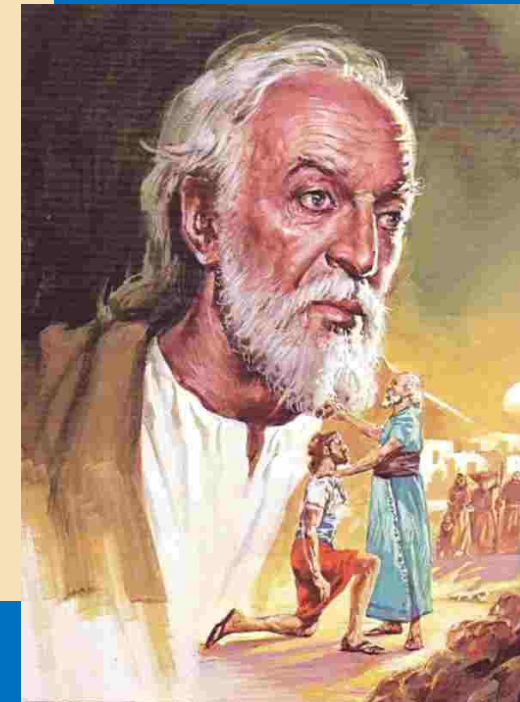
Chapter 4-The Philistines Capture the Ark

Vs. 1-11-Israel's Defeat

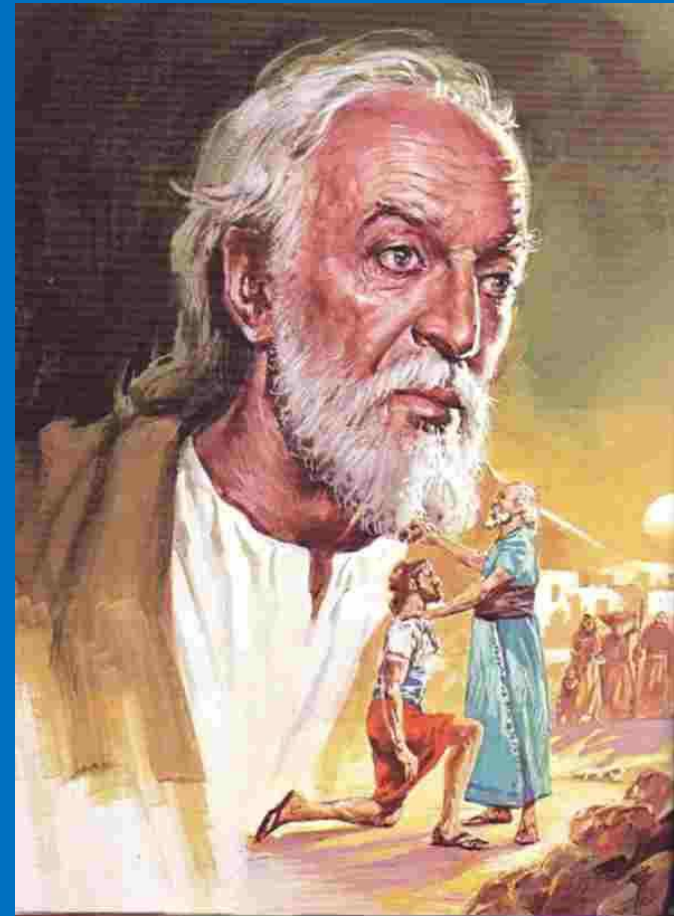
- Note verse 1 states, “Thus the word of Samuel came to all Israel.” This phrase also meant “The Word of the Lord” came to all Israel (3:19-21) [].
- God made it plain that Samuel’s words came from Him.



Shiloh

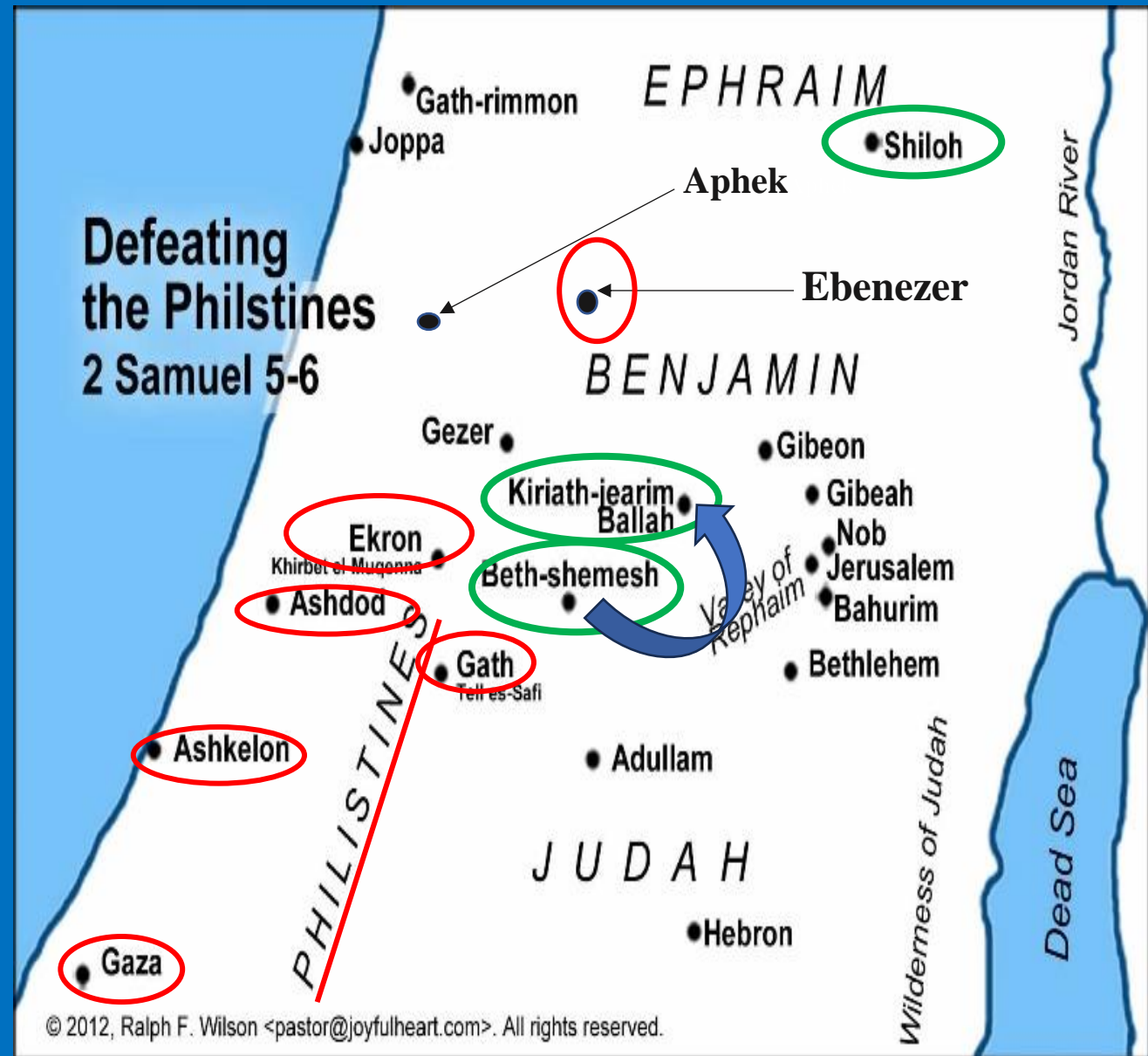


- Can we speak the word of God?
 - **YES!**
 - Speak His Word-the Bible.
- Discouraged?
 - **Speak Joshua 1:7 []**
- Fearful?
 - **Speak Joshua 1:9 []**

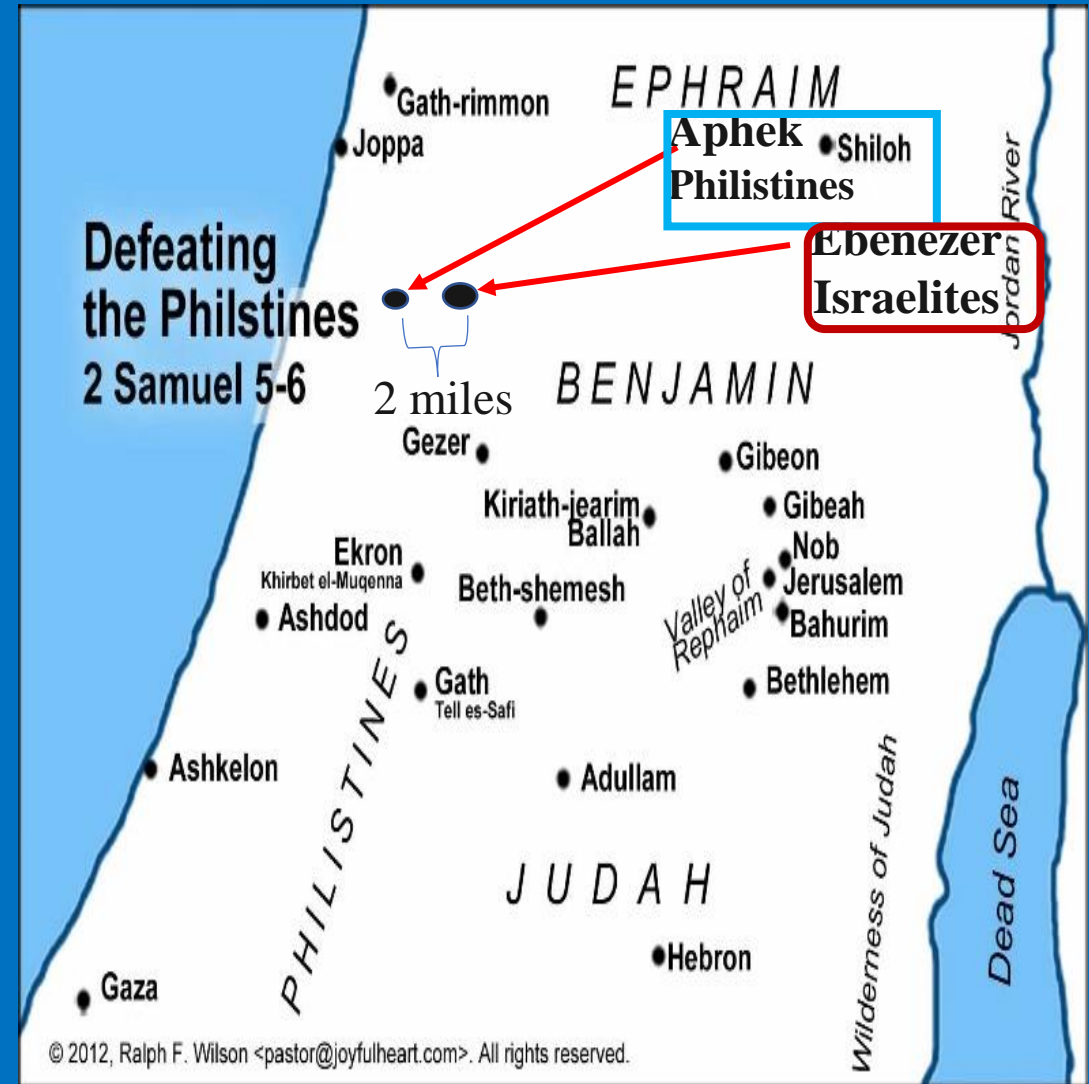


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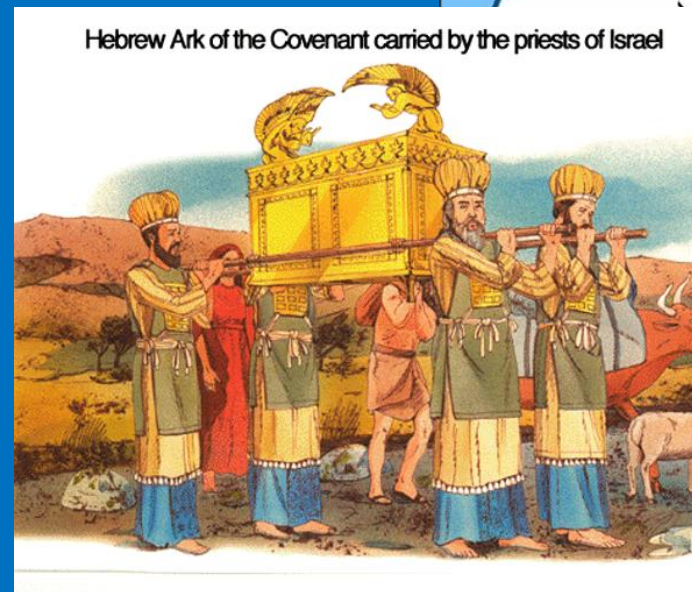
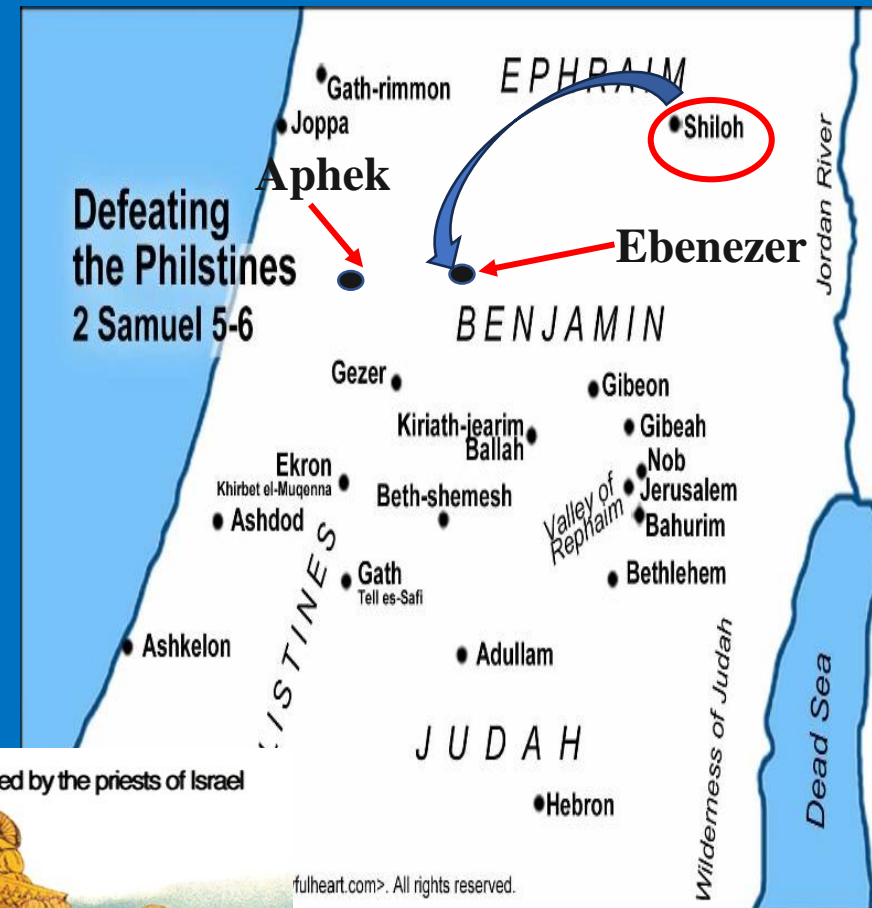
- The Philistines warred against Israel until the end of King David's reign.
- The Philistines, a non-Semitic people, lived along the coast of southern Canaan.
- They controlled the five cities of Ashdod, Ashkelon, Ekron, Gath, and Gaza.



- The Israelites camped at **Ebenezer** while the Philistines camped in Aphek.
- The Israelites suffered defeat and wondered why God had not delivered them.

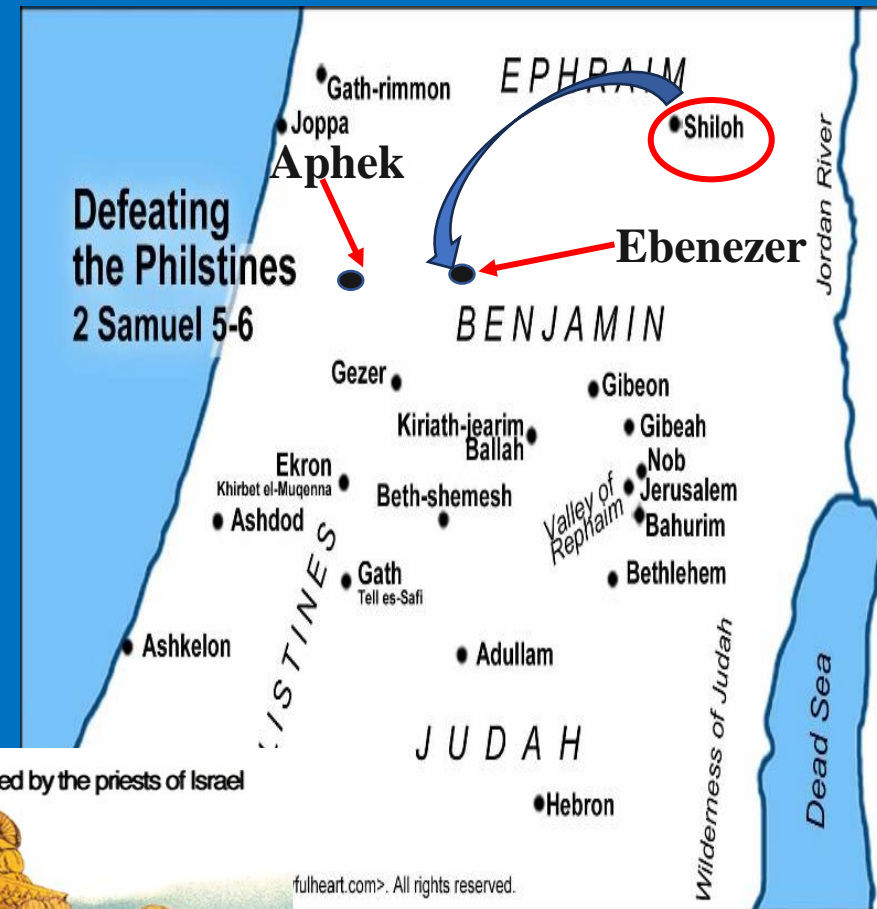


- To rectify this defeat, Israel removed the Ark of the Covenant from **Shiloh** to their camp.
- Since the glory of the Lord rested upon the Ark, the Israelites brought the Ark into their camp thinking the Lord would deliver them.

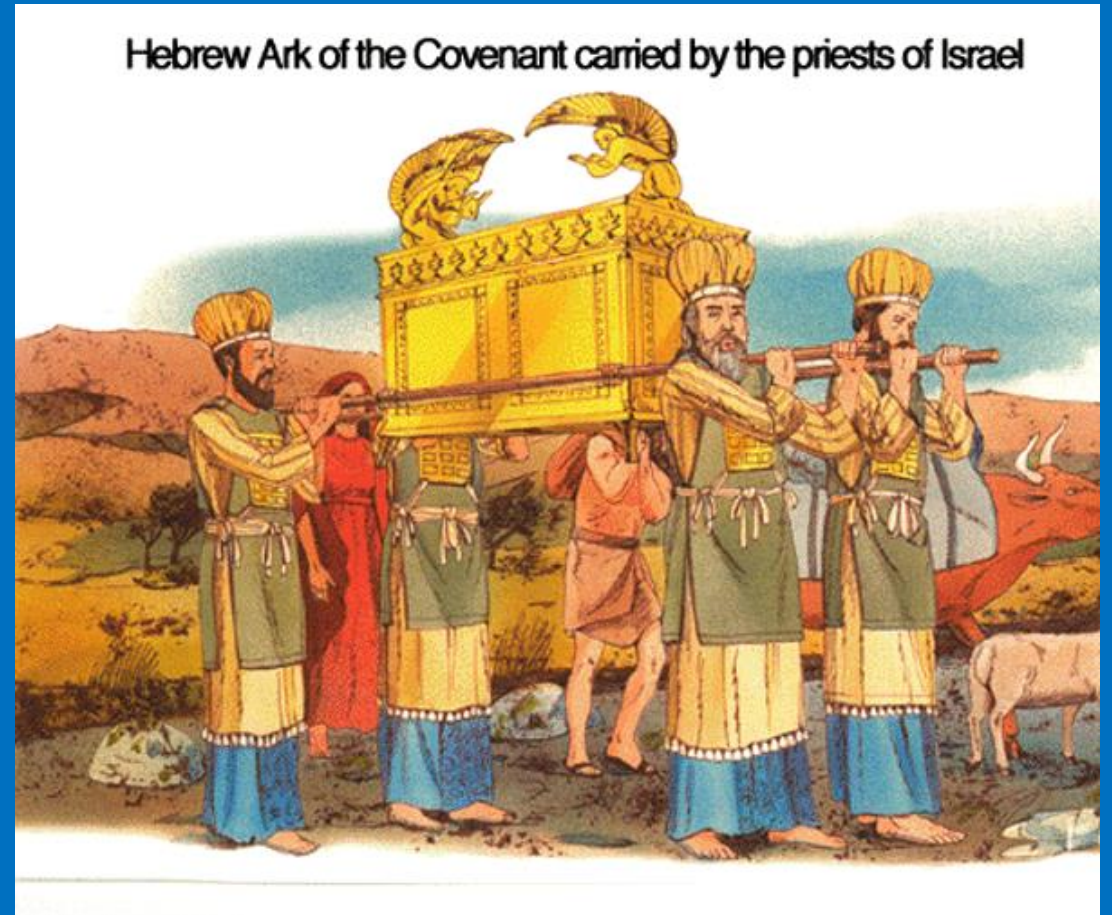


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- The Israelites did not understand continued disobedience resulted in their defeat. (1 Samuel 15:22) [] []
- Vs. 7-8 explains the Philistines fear when they heard the Ark of the Covenant had entered Israel's camp. []
- Everyone has a knowledge of God (Romans 1:18-20) []



- The Philistines remembered how God defeated the Egyptians during Israel's captivity.
- The Philistines strengthened their courage and defeated Israel.
- They killed 30,000 Israelites including Eli's two sons- Hophni [hof-nee] and Phinehas [fin-yas]. To make matters worse, the Philistines took the Ark of God.



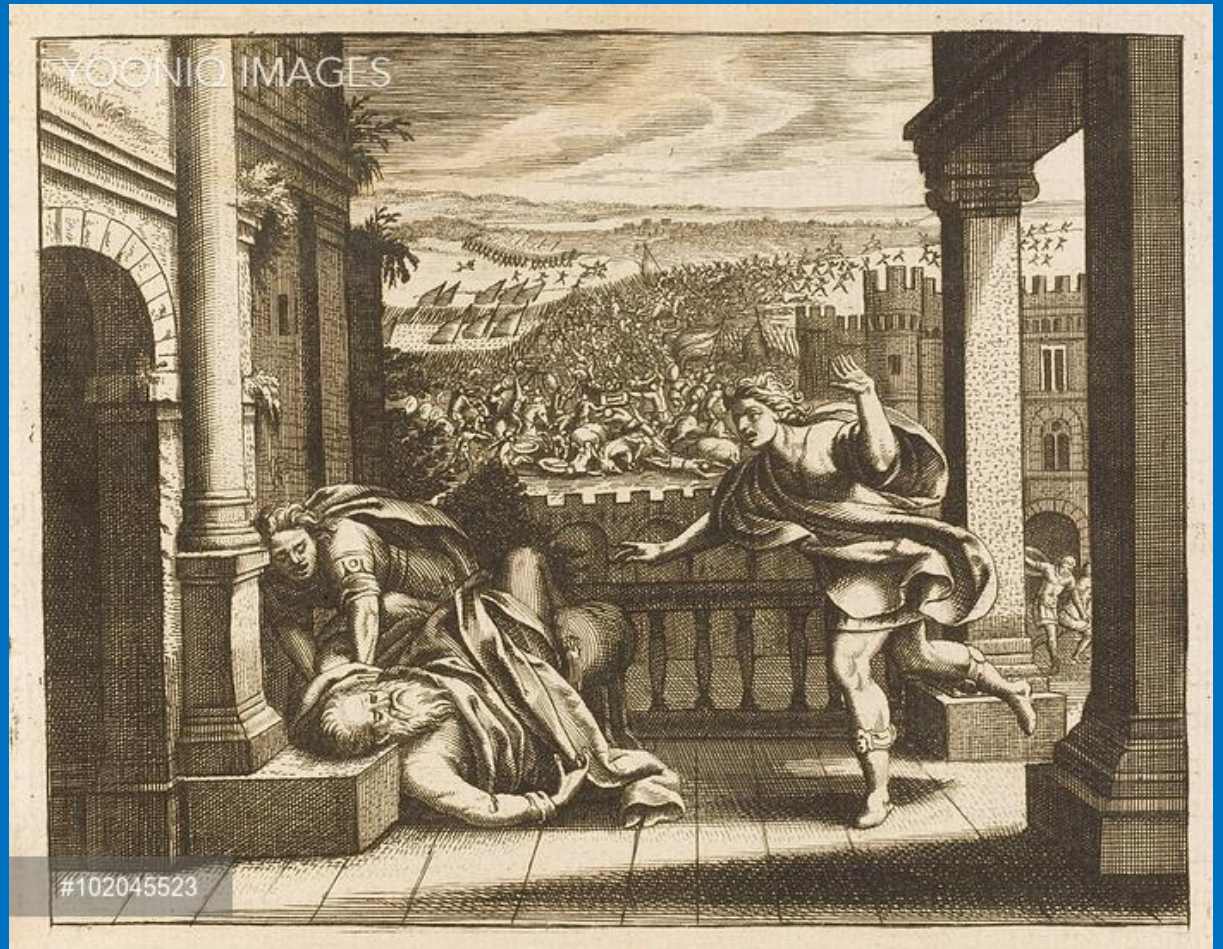
http://www.thelivingmoon.com/42stargate/03files/Christian_Connection_4.html

- **Vs. 12-18-The Death of Eli**
- A man from the tribe of Benjamin ran from the battle to Shiloh . He found Eli sitting on his seat by the side of the road.
- The messenger told Eli his two sons had died.



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- When Eli heard the news of his sons and the Philistines had taken the **Ark of the Covenant**, he fell backward, broke his neck, and died.
- Eli obviously remembered the prophecy that said he would see the distress of God's dwelling (1 Samuel 2:27-35). []



<https://yooniqimages.com/images/detail/102045523/Creative/when-98-year-old-high-priest-eli-learns-of-the-misfortunes-of-his-family-including-the-death-of-his-two-sons-he-falls-and-breaks-his-neck>

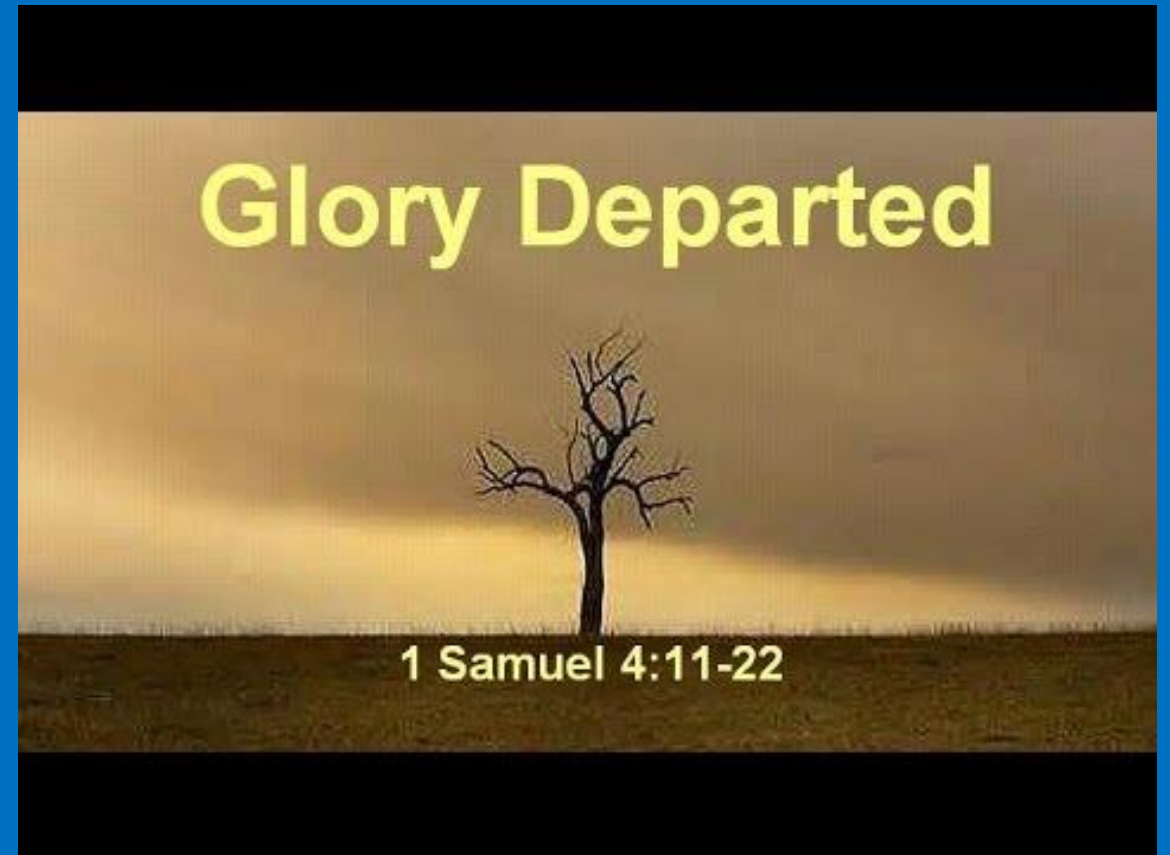
- The capture of the Ark symbolized the absence of the Lord.
- Eli died at the age of **ninety-eight** and he judged Israel forty years.
- [Compare this to Paul's final days] (2nd Timothy 4:7). []



<https://yooniqimages.com/images/detail/102045523/Creative/when-98-year-old-high-priest-eli-learns-of-the-misfortunes-of-his-family-including-the-death-of-his-two-sons-he-falls-and-breaks-his-neck>

Vs. 19-21-The Departure of God's Glory

- When Phinehas' pregnant wife heard her father-in-law and her husband had died, and the Ark of God stolen, labor pains came upon her, and she gave birth to a son and died.



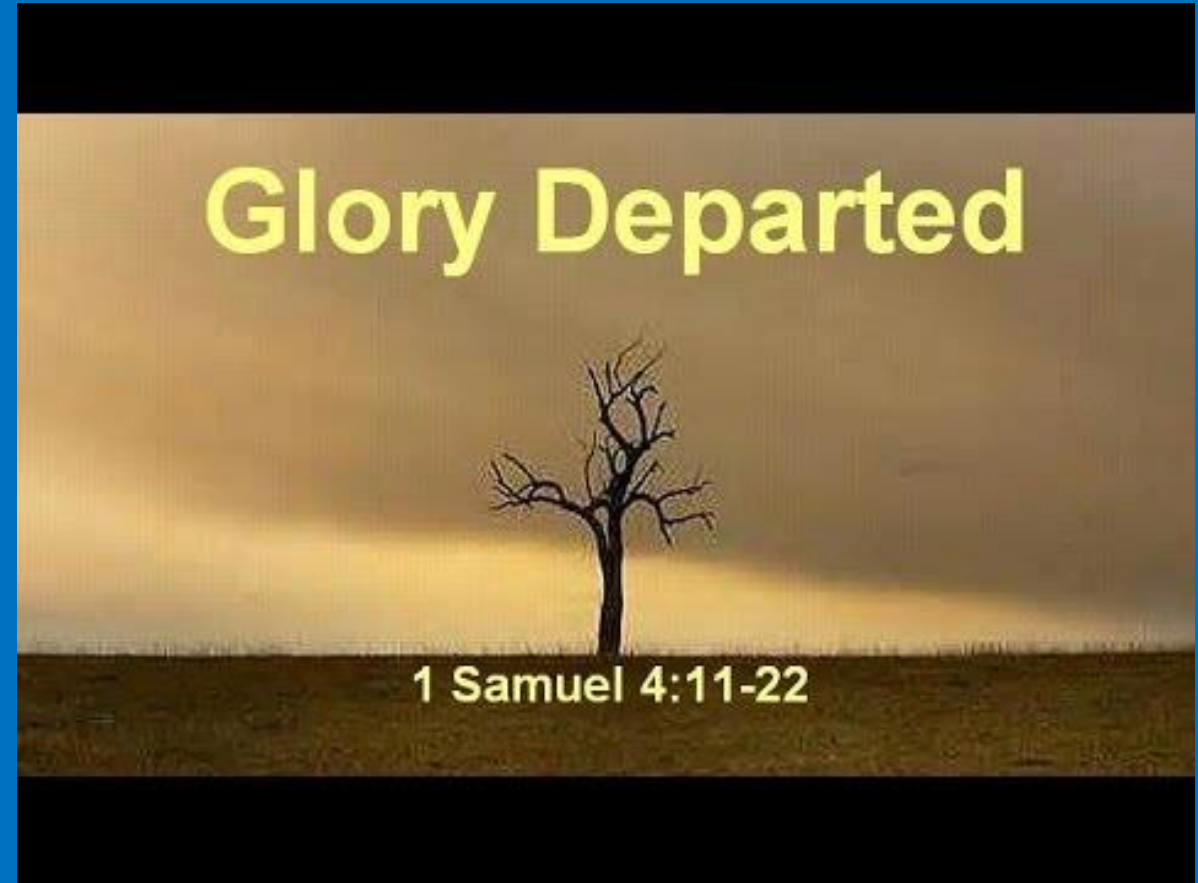
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJa9YTcBtrA>

- Before her death, she named the child **Ichabod**, meaning- “The glory has departed from Israel.

- Can God’s glory depart from a Christian?

NO!

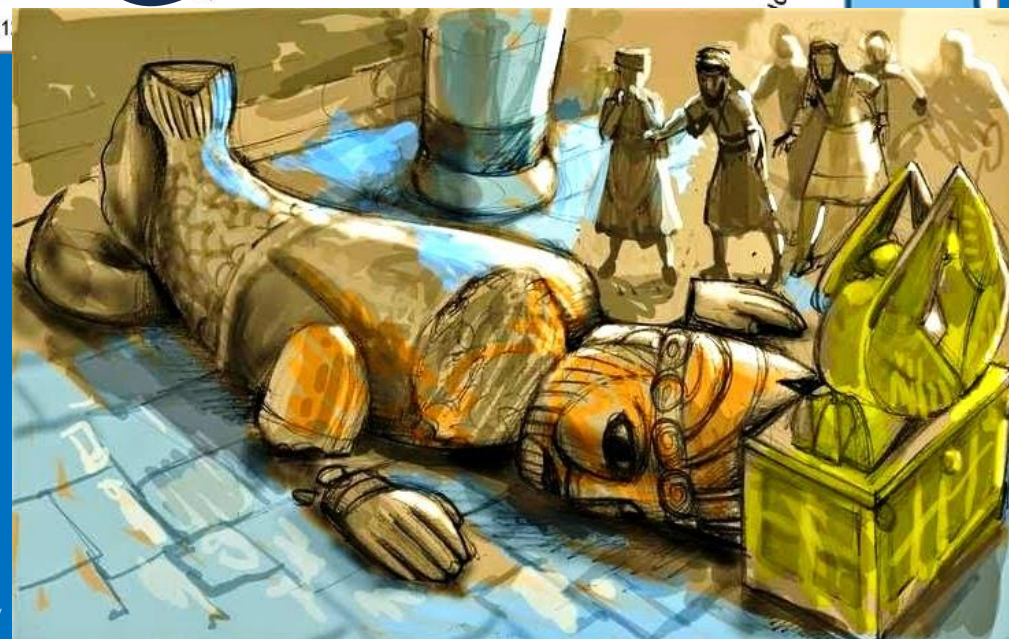
- Ephesians 1:13; 4:3; 2 Corinthians 1:22 []



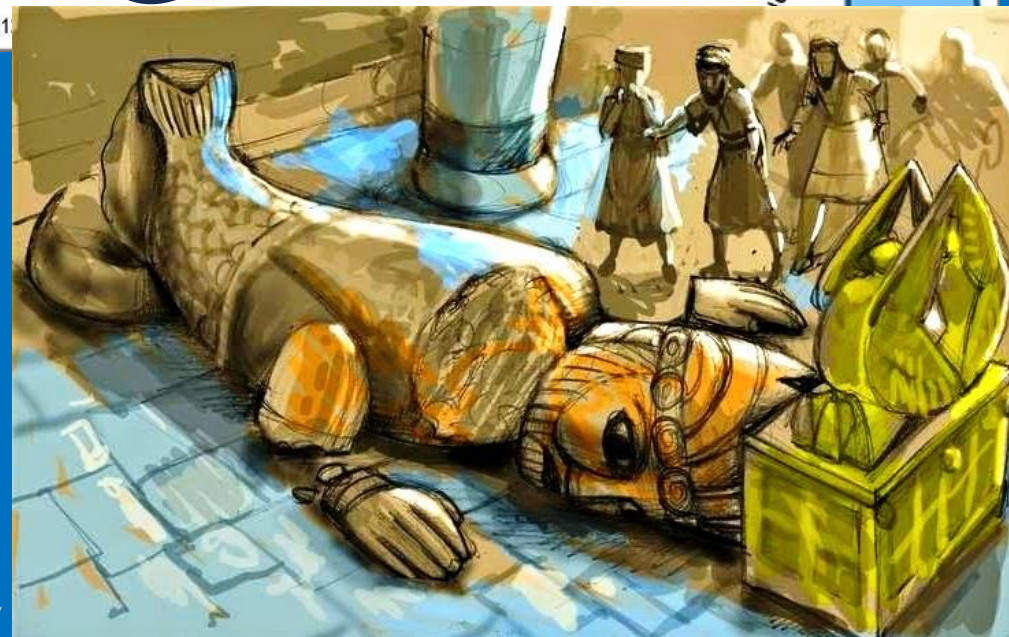
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJa9YTcBtrA>

Chapter 5-God's Curse upon the Philistines

- The Philistines brought the Ark from Ebenezer to **Ashdod** and set it beside their God-Dagon. The Philistines worshiped Dagon as the father of Baal.



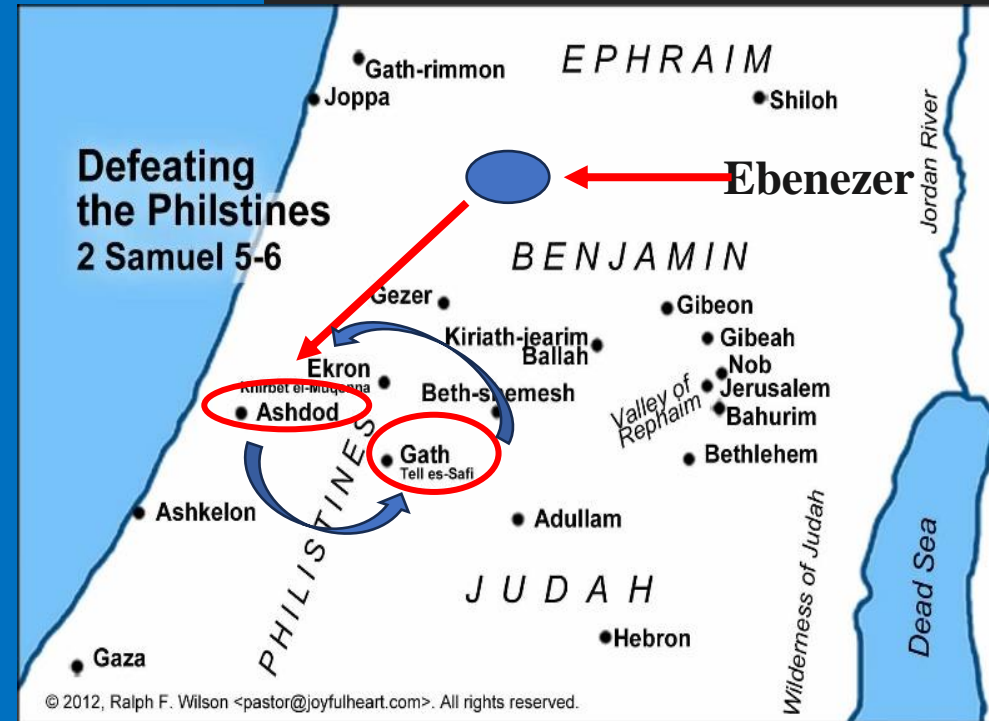
- The next morning, Dagon had fallen on his face before the Ark.
- The Philistines set **Dagon** back in its place. The next morning it fell again before the Ark of the Lord with his head and palms cut off.



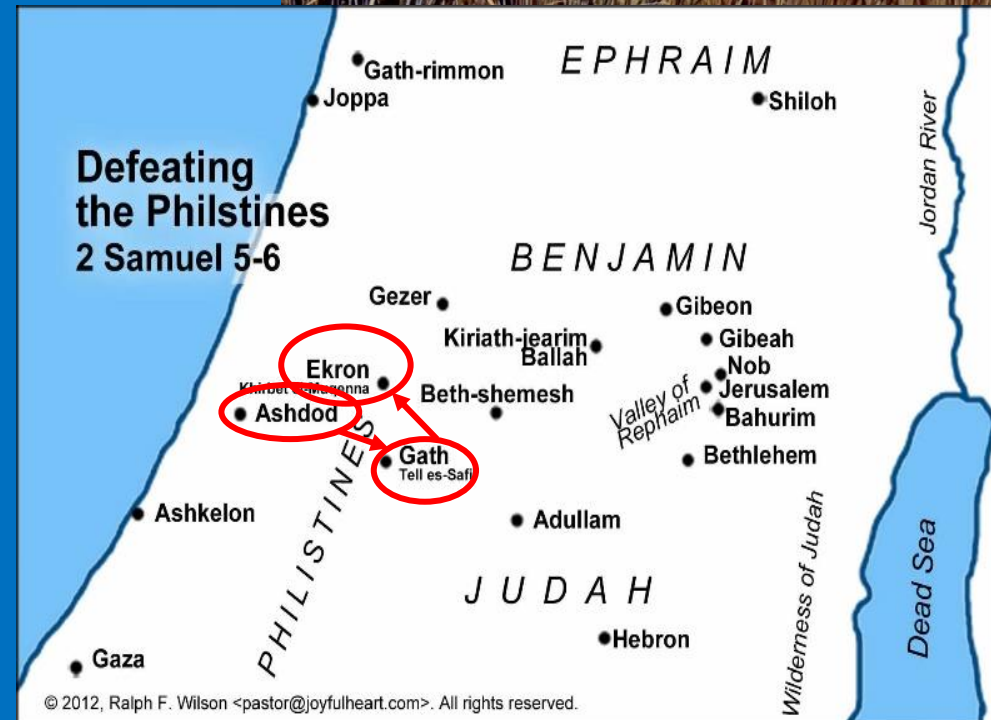
- The Lord smote the Ashdodites and the surrounding area with painful tumors (possibly sores or boils).
- [Realizing the Lord had punished them for taking the Ark], the Philistines sent the Ark to **Gath** (Home of Goliath) [they refused to repent]. Compare with Revelation 9:20-21. []

Punishing The Philistines

- ▣ 1 Samuel 5:6-12
- ▣ Hand of the Lord heavy on them.
- ▣ God strikes men of their cities with tumors.
- ▣ Plague of mice
- ▣ Vs. 12 – “And the men who did not die were smitten with tumors and the cry of the city went up to heaven.”

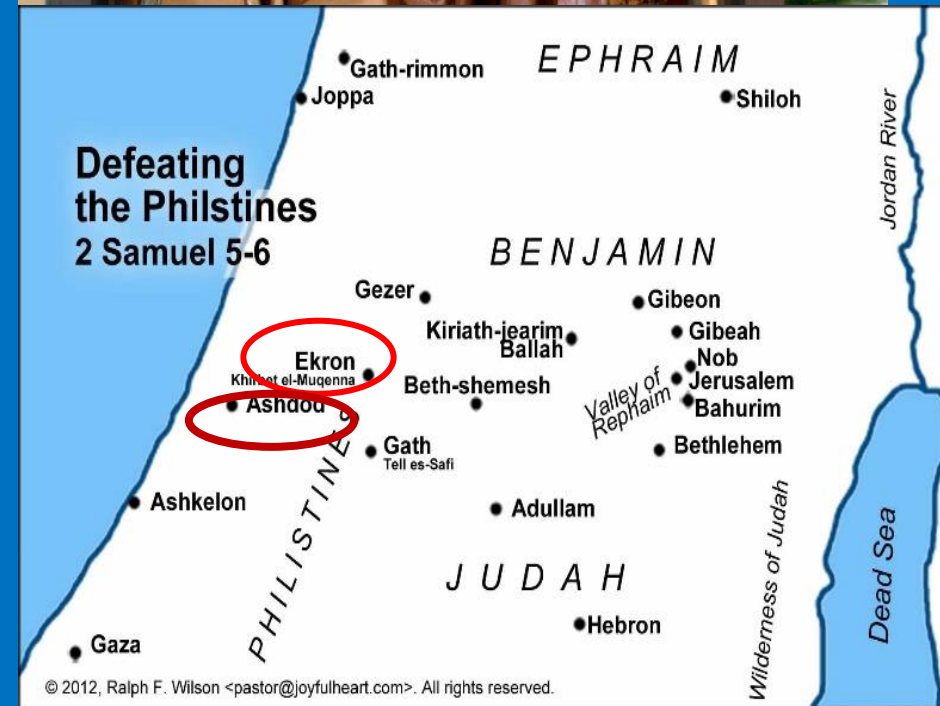


- The Philistines sent the Ark of God to **Ekron**.
- The Ark frightened the people of Ekron and God sent them a deadly confusion.
- Now things get interesting. God did not forget these cities.
- The book of Acts relates how, after Jesus' resurrection and ascension, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Disciples on the day of Pentecost.



- God chose Philip, full of the Holy Spirit, to minister to a eunuch traveling from Jerusalem to Ethiopia.
- Philip explained the gospel message to the Ethiopian and he accepted Jesus as his savior.
- Immediately after the eunuch's baptism, Acts 8:39 states the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away to a city called **Azotus**, the ancient city of Ashdod.

<http://www.jesuswalk.com/david/maps/philistine-defeat-2sam-5-1800x1170x300.jpg>



- God showed the people in Azotus that His anger had not lingered. God wanted to invite them into His fellowship.



Chapter 6-The Philistines Return the Ark

- The Ark of the Lord had resided with the Philistines for **seven** months.
- The Philistines asked the priests and the diviners how to send the Ark away.



- They told the Philistines to accompany the ark with five golden tumors and five golden mice.
- The five golden tumors stood for the five Philistine cities affected by the tumors. Possibly, the five golden mice stood for an infestation of mice-1 Samuel 6:17 []



- The Philistines acknowledged their sin and gave glory to the God of Israel (James 2:19) []
- To test whether God sent these plagues, they hitched two untrained cows to the cart and kept their claws from following.
- Only a supernatural event would keep the cows from following their calves.



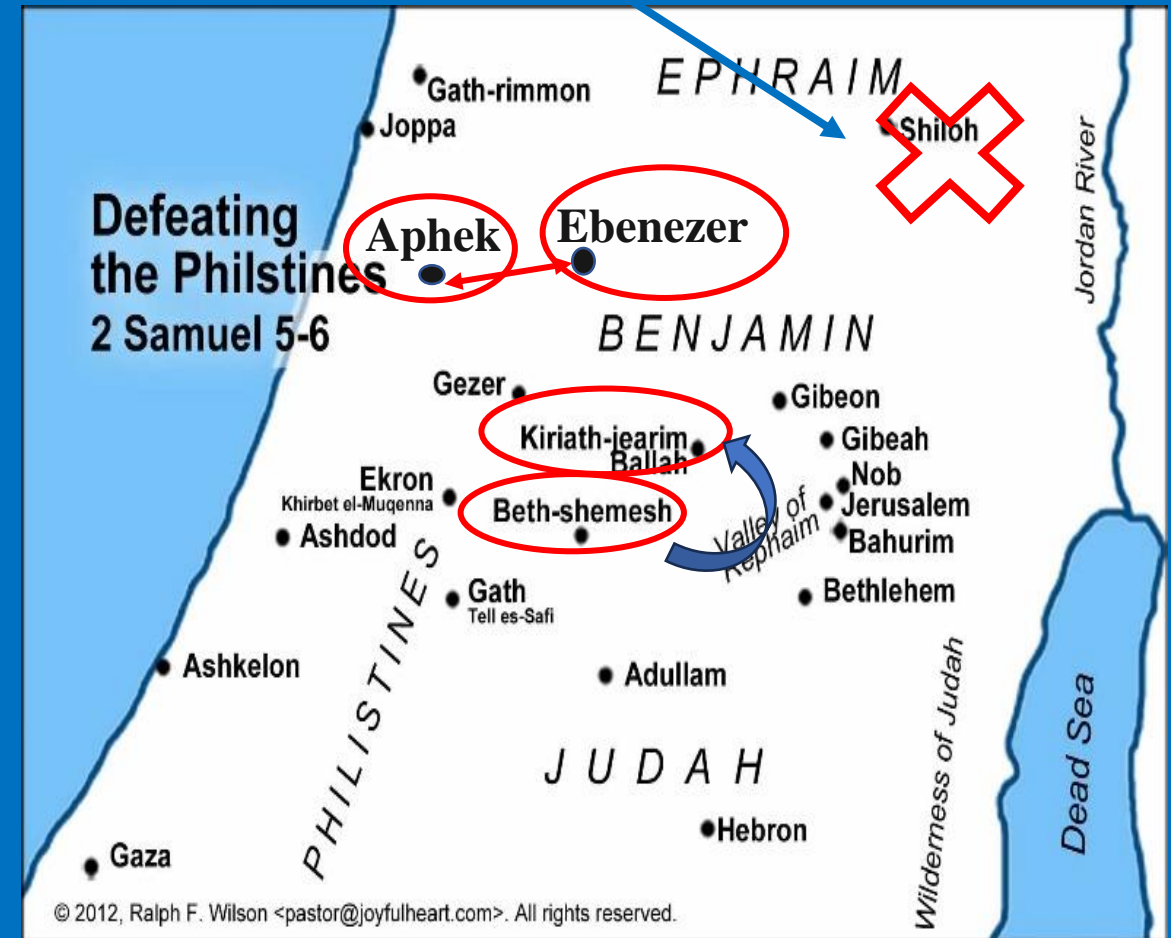
<https://mustardseedbudget.wordpress.com/2012/09/08/dagons-down/>

- The cows went straight to Beth-shemesh [beth-sha-mesh], a **Levitical** city and the original site for the descendants of Aaron.
- The fact the cows lowered meant they did not want to leave their calves but could not turn back. This proved God's judgment.



Shiloh

- The people of Bethshemesh sent messengers to Kiriath-jearim [ker-e-ought ja-har-eem] asking them to take the Ark [no repentance].
- The ark possibly went to Kiriath-jearim [ker-e-ought ja-har-eem] due to Shiloh's destruction during the battle at Aphek. Archaeologists seem to confirm its destruction. [God had a hand in the Ark's demise] Romans 8:28 [].



Summary

We must never feel it necessary to defend God. Sometimes our failures, sins, and bad judgments condemn us into thinking we have let God down. Our failures can trick us into believing we have ruined our testimony. God's strength overshadows our weaknesses. His truths will reach the hearts of every individual despite our shortcomings.

Over---

God loves each of us more than we can imagine. He understands when we fall short of his purpose and plans. Keep focused on God's love and do not worry about how others may view your weaknesses and failures. God always gives us "new beginnings."

End---

1 Samuel 15:22

22 Samuel said, "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice... []

1st Samuel 2:27-35

27 Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, 'Did I *not* indeed reveal Myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt *in bondage* to Pharaoh's house? 28 Did I *not* choose them from all the tribes of Israel to be My priests, to go up to My altar, to burn incense, to carry an ephod before Me; and did I *not* give to the house of your father all the fire *offerings* of the sons of Israel?'

Over---

29 Why do you kick at My sacrifice and at My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling, and honor your sons above Me, by making yourselves fat with the choicest of every offering of My people Israel?' 30 Therefore the Lord God of Israel declares, 'I did indeed say that your house and the house of your father should walk before Me forever'; but now the Lord declares, 'Far be it from Me-for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me will be lightly esteemed (*appraised*); *But I will honor those who honor me, and I will despise those who think lightly of me (NLT)*

Over---

31 Behold, the days are coming when I will break your strength and the strength of your father's house [*Zadok and his family will gain the priestly office during the time of Solomon*] so that there will not be an old man in your house. 32 You will see the distress of *My* dwelling, in *spite of* all the good that I do for Israel; and an old man will not be in your house forever. 33 Yet I will not cut off every man of yours from My altar so that your eyes will fail *from weeping* and your soul grieve, and all the increase of your house will die in the prime of life.

[Next---]

34 This will be the sign to you which will come concerning your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas: on the same day both of them will die. 35 But I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who will do according to what is in My heart and in My soul; and I will build him an enduring house, and he will walk before My anointed always. []

Numbers 4:17-20

17 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, 18 "Do not let the tribe of the families of the Kohathites be cut off from among the Levites. 19 But do this to them that they may live and not die when they approach the most holy *objects*: Aaron and his sons shall go in and assign each of them to his work and to his load; 20 but they shall not go in to see the *holy objects* even for a moment, or they will die." []

1st Samuel 3:19-21

19 Thus Samuel grew and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fail. 20 All Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the LORD. 21 And **the LORD appeared again** at Shiloh, because the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD. []

Joshua 1:7

7 Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. []

Joshua 1:9

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous!
Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is
with you wherever you go." []

Ephesians 1:13

13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise...

Ephesians 4:30

30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

2 Corinthians 1:22

21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, 22 who also sealed us and gave *us* the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge. []

1 Samuel 6:17

17 These are the golden tumors which the Philistines returned for a guilt offering to the LORD: one for Ashdod, one for Gaza, one for Ashkelon, one for Gath, one for Ekron... []

2nd Timothy 4:7-8

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.... []

1st Samuel 15:22

22 Samuel said, “Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. []

- 1st Samuel 4:7-8

7 The Philistines were afraid, for they said, “God has come into the camp.” And they said, “Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before. 8 Woe to us! Who shall deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? These are the gods who smote the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the wilderness. *[They had knowledge but no repentance]* [] See Revelation 20:11-15 []

Romans 8:28

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. []

Romans 1:18-20

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. []

11 Corinthians 6:9-10

9 Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, 10 or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God...18 Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. 19 Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, 20 for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. []

Revelation 9:20-21

20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; 21 and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts. []

James 2:19

9 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. []

Revelation 20:11-15

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

Over---

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. []