

“CONTENDING FOR HIS PRESENCE - Part II”

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INTRO: The O.T. ark represented God’s presence, and Israel had to contend for it. So should we!

I. FOLLOWING THE ARK TO WHERE WE’VE NEVER BEEN BEFORE (Josh. 3-6; esp. 3:2-5).

- A. They prioritized following the ark (Josh. 3:6).
- B. The priests bore responsibility for the ark (Josh. 3:8, 11).
- C. When the priests stepped into the Jordan carrying the ark, the water was cut off, so they crossed (Josh. 3:13-18).
- D. The priests stepped out & the water returned (4:10-18).
- E. The people followed the priests carrying the ark into Jericho, and marched around the city once (Josh. 6:1-13).
- F. This was done for 6 days, and they marched around the city 7 times on the 7th day (Josh. 6:14-15).
- G. They shouted, the walls came down, and they took the city (Josh. 6:16-27). **Sometimes you will have to shout BEFORE the walls come down!*

II. THE ARK OF GOD IS CAPTURED (1Sam. 4)

- A. The Philistines captured the ark, and the glory of God departed from Israel (1Sam. 4:1-22).

III. THE ARK OF GOD VS. DAGON (1Samuel 5).

- A. The Philistines brought the ark into Dagon’s temple, but Dagon fell and fell apart before the ark (1Sam. 5:1-5).
- B. A plague came on the Philistines (1Sam. 5:6-12).

IV. THE ARK OF THE LORD IS SENT BACK TO ISRAEL (ch. 6).

- A. The Philistines sent back the ark on a cart pulled by two milk cows, with a trespass offering on the cart (vv. 1-12).
- B. The people of Beth Shemesh rejoiced and made a sacrifice out of the cows and cart (vv. 13-18).
- C. Some looked into the ark & were struck dead (vv. 19-21).

V. REPENTANCE (1Samuel 7)

- A. Israel repented (1Sam. 7:1-6).
- B. Israel was afraid, but Samuel prayed for them (vv. 7-9).
- C. God brought confusion to the Philistines and Israel was victorious (1Sam. 7:10-17).

CONCLUSION: Let’s contend for God’s presence!