

## “CONTENDING FOR HIS PRESENCE - Part III” (1Sam. 4-7)

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

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

- A. Israel was losing in a war against the Philistines (vv. 1-2).
- B. Israel decided to retrieve the ark of the covenant (v. 3).
- C. When the people saw the ark they shouted loudly (v. 5).
- D. The Philistines became afraid (vv. 6-8), and yet defeated Israel and captured the ark (vv. 10-11).
- E. The glory departed from Israel [*“Ichabod”*] (vv. 12-22).

### II. THE ARK OF GOD VS. DAGON (1Sam. 5)

- A. The false god Dagon fell before the ark (vv. 1-3), and when helped up, fell again & lost its head & hands (v. 4).
- B. The Philistines were struck with a plague, so decided to send the ark away (vv. 6-10).

### III. THE ARK IS SENT BACK TO ISRAEL (1Sam. 6)

- A. The Philistines sent the ark back to Israel (vv. 1-13).
- B. The Levites rejoiced and sacrificed the cows pulling the ark, using the wood from the cart (vv. 14-15).
- C. Some men looked into the ark and died (v. 19).

### IV. REPENTANCE (1Sam. 7)

- A. They brought the ark to Abinadab’s house, where the ark remained for 20 years (vv. 1-2).
- B. Samuel told Israel that if they repented, God would deliver them from the Philistines, which is what happened (vv. 3-14).
- C. The Lord brought confusion upon the Philistines, and they were overcome before Israel (v. 10). ***Is God about to bring confusion on the ungodly?***
- D. Israel experienced restoration (v. 14).

**CONCLUSION:** Let’s contend for God’s presence, and not settle for less! Modern day Dagon’s are about to fall before God’s presence (1Sam. 5)! A time of consecration and purification [repentance] will prepare the way (1Sam. 7)!