**1 Samuel**

*I Samuel 5-6*

Ark

1. Represented the untouchable holiness of God
   * And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about. (Exodus 25:11)
2. Represented God’s desire to meet with and commune with His people
   * And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which [are] upon the ark of the testimony, of all [things] which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel. (Exodus 25:22)
3. Represented the greatest need of man - Mercy

Philistines Response to Judgment

* Depart from Us
  + Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways. (Job 21:14)
  + And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts. (Mark 5:17)
  + And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. (John 3:19)
* Focused on the Temporal versus Eternal
  + Did not submit in repentance on the mercy of God
* Pass the Buck
  + They sent therefore and gathered all the lords of the Philistines unto them, and said, What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel? And they answered, Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried about unto Gath. And they carried the ark of the God of Israel about [thither]. (1 Samuel 5:8)
  + Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. And it came to pass, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying, They have brought about the ark of the God of Israel to us, to slay us and our people. (1 Samuel 5:10)
* Slow Learners
  + And the ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months. (1 Samuel 6:1)

Philistines Trespass Offering

* 5 Wherefore ye shall make images of your emerods, and images of your mice that mar the land; and 1) ye shall give glory unto the God of Israel: 2) peradventure he will lighten his hand from off you, and from off your gods, and from off your land. 6 3) Wherefore then do ye harden your hearts, as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? when he had wrought wonderfully among them, did they not let the people go, and they departed? 7 Now therefore make a new cart, and take two milch kine, on which there hath come no yoke, and tie the kine to the cart, and bring their calves home from them: And take the ark of the LORD, and lay it upon the cart; and put the jewels of gold, which ye return him [for] a trespass offering, in a coffer by the side thereof; and send it away, that it may go. (1 Samuel 6:5-8)

1. Give glory to God
2. Seek the mercy of God
3. Avoid a hard heart
4. Offer only the best
   * New Cart
   * Two Milch Kine – No Yoke Upon Them
     + NOTE:….bring their calves home from them
   * Jewels of Gold (Five Golden Mice / Five Golden Emerods)
5. Understand nothing happens by chance

Joyous Occasion – Sad Outcome

* Reiterates God’s untouchable holiness
* Reiterates the importance of following God’s commandments
* Points to Jesus Christ
  + Only He can stand before this holy LORD God!
  + Only He can represent us!