

## 20 YEARS 1 SAMUEL 6:20-21; 7:1-7

### I. There will **always** be Philistines!

**1 Samuel 6:21** And they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjathjearim, saying, The Philistines have brought again the ark of the LORD; come ye down, and fetch it up to you.

**1 Samuel 7:3** And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.

**1 Samuel 7:7** And when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Mizpeh, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines.

#### **Philistines:**

- **Lived in 5 cities / city-states**
- **Probably of Greek+ origins**
- **More advanced technologically**
- **Constant threat**
- **Not a threat before or after this era!**
- **They were replaced by “other” Philistines later!**

### II. The Philistines are **always** after us!

**1 Samuel 4:1** And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out against the Philistines to battle, and pitched beside Ebenezer: and the Philistines pitched in Aphek. **1 Samuel 4:2** And the Philistines put themselves in array against Israel: and when they joined battle, Israel was smitten before the Philistines: and they slew of the army in the field about four thousand men.

**1 Samuel 4:10** And the Philistines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen. **1 Samuel 4:11** And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.

**1 Samuel 7:7** And when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Mizpeh, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines.

#### **Example: Prison break in New York State**

**Job 1:7** And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, **From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.**

**Job 2:2** And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, **From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.**

**1 Peter 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; **because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:** **1 Peter 5:9** Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

**Revelation 12:9** And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. **Revelation 12:10** And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: **for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.** **Revelation 12:11** And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

### III. The Philistines **don't** just attack us, they **prefer** to assimilate us!

**1 Samuel 7:3** And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away **the strange gods and Ashtaroth** from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines. **1 Samuel 7:4** Then the children of Israel did put away **Baalim** (אֱתֵי־הַבְּעָלִים) and

**Ashtaroth** (אֱתֵי־הָעַשְׂתָּרִית), and served the LORD only.

**Christians are downcast, discouraged....**

**How did this really happen?**

- **Habits of silence**
- **Addiction to the media**
  
- **Exclusion from the public arena**
- **Collapse of the “Christian” home!**

No better, no different, no healthier, and in some cases...!

- **Tolerance & love as the primary message of Christianity!**

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**Matthew 7:1** Judge not, that ye be not judged.

**1 John 4:8** He that loveth not knoweth not God; **for God is love.**

**1 John 1:5** This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.**

- **Inability to draw lines**

**Jeremiah 5:30** A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; **Jeremiah 5:31** The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

**Isaiah 30:10** Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: **Isaiah 30:11** Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us.

**Isaiah 28:7** But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment. **Isaiah 28:8** For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.

- **Withdrawal from our callings in society**

**Matthew 5:13** Ye are the **salt** of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

**Matthew 5:14** Ye are the **light** of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

**Matthew 5:16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

- **Toleration of divorce, remarriage, or no marriage – as long as they love each other and are happy!!!**

## IV. We can't defeat the “Philistines” **without** change.

**1 Samuel 7:2** And it came to pass, while the ark abode in Kirjathjearim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years: and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD. **1 Samuel 7:3** And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, **If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.** **1 Samuel 7:4** Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only. **1 Samuel 7:5** And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD. **1 Samuel 7:6** And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and **drew water, and poured it out** before the LORD, and **fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the LORD.** And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpeh.

**What is necessary?**

- **Rejection of false gods**
- **Confession of sin**
- **Passion for God**
- **Intercession by & for this country**