

REVIVE the REMNANT

WHO ARE THE REMNANT?

Revelation 12:17 (KJV) And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

1. Those who keep the commandments of God
2. Those who have the testimony of Christ

The devil is at war with the remnant

THE PHILISTINE RESPONSE TO GOD'S PRESENCE

1 Samuel 5:1–4 (NLT) — **1** After the Philistines captured the Ark of God, they took it from the battleground at Ebenezer to the town of Ashdod. **2** They carried the Ark of God into the temple of Dagon and placed it beside an idol of Dagon. **3** But when the citizens of Ashdod went to see it the next morning, Dagon had fallen with his face to the ground in front of the Ark of the LORD! So they took Dagon and put him in his place again. **4** But the next morning the same thing happened—Dagon had fallen face down before the Ark of the LORD again. This time his head and hands had broken off and were lying in the doorway. Only the trunk of his body was left intact.

THE PHILISTINES

PHILISTINES REPRESENT IN SCRIPTURE

- A people out of covenant with God
- An amalgamation of many different people and cultures into one culture...all opposed to God
- The Philistines were opposed to all true spiritual discipline; they worshiped strange gods in the form of animals, and resorted to all kinds of sorcery and soothsaying
- A people who had lingering animosities with the Israelites and vv.

**WHAT WAS THE ERROR OF THE PHILISTINES CONCERNING THE
“PRESENCE OF GOD”?**

THE PHILISTINE ERROR

1. The error that God could ever be placed “along side” of any other god. God is the only true God
 - a. Ark treated as a “trophy god” for Philistines
2. The error that God would be a showpiece for people to come and see, like a circus event.
 - a. The people gathered to see the Ark like He was a prized caged lion for spectators to “come and see”.
3. The error of mockery of God’s creation
 - a. We are “sons of God’ NOW! 1 John 3:2
 - b. Man created to rule over all creations



THE PHILISTINE ERROR:

NO REGARD FOR GOD

1. The error that God could ever be placed “along side” of any other god. God is the only true God
 - a. Ark treated as a “trophy god” for Philistines
2. The error that God would be reduced to a showpiece for people to “come and see”.
 - a. The people gathered to see the Ark like He was a prized caged lion for spectators to “come and see”.
3. The error of mockery of God’s creation
 - a. We are “sons of God’ NOW! 1 John 3:2
 - b. Man created to rule over all creations



THE ISRAELITE ERROR

1 Samuel 6:13–16 (NLT) — 13 The people of Beth-shemesh were harvesting wheat in the valley, and when they saw the Ark, they were overjoyed! **14** The cart came into the field of a man named Joshua and stopped beside a large rock. So the people broke up the wood of the cart for a fire and killed the cows and sacrificed them to the LORD as a burnt offering. **15** Several men of the tribe of Levi lifted the Ark of the LORD and the chest containing the gold rats and gold tumors from the cart and placed them on the large rock. Many sacrifices and burnt offerings were offered to the LORD that day by the people of Beth-shemesh. **16** The five Philistine rulers watched all this and then returned to Ekron that same day.

THE ISRAELITE ERROR

NO REGARD FOR THE HOLINESS OF GOD: PRIDE

1 Samuel 6:17–20 (NLT) — 17 The five gold tumors sent by the Philistines as a guilt offering to the LORD were gifts from the rulers of Ashdod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron. **18** The five gold rats represented the five Philistine towns and their surrounding villages, which were controlled by the five rulers. The large rock at Beth-shemesh, where they set the Ark of the LORD, still stands in the field of Joshua as a witness to what happened there. **19** But the LORD killed seventy men from Beth-shemesh because they looked into the Ark of the LORD. And the people mourned greatly because of what the LORD had done. **20** “Who is able to stand in the presence of the LORD, this holy God?” they cried out. “Where can we send the Ark from here?”

God slew them because they had “looked” into the ark of the Lord (1 Sam. 6:19)

Looked: 3. LN 25.102–25.115 (qal) *find delight*, *gloat*, i.e., *take pleasure in a situation* (Ps 22:18[EB 17]); (hif) *find delight* (Ps 59:11[EB 10]), note: NIV translates “gloat” implying a *satisfaction over another’s misfortune*;

They gloated over the fact that the Ark had been returned to them, and with the tumor and rat golden images.

When God’s Presence is manifest, we cannot gloat over the fact that “He visited us”.

We do not have a corner on God’s Presence.

He will resist the proud but draw close to the humble

Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains* :

2 Samuel 6:1–7 (NLT) — **1** Then David again gathered all the elite troops in Israel, 30,000 in all. **2** He led them to Baalah of Judah to bring back the Ark of God, which bears the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies, who is enthroned between the cherubim. **3** They placed the Ark of God on a new cart and brought it from Abinadab's house, which was on a hill. Uzzah and Ahio, Abinadab's sons, were guiding the cart **4** that carried the Ark of God. Ahio walked in front of the Ark. **5** David and all the people of Israel were celebrating before the LORD, singing songs and playing all kinds of musical instruments—lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets, and cymbals. **6** But when they arrived at the threshing floor of Nacon, the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah reached out his hand and steadied the Ark of God. **7** Then the LORD's anger was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him dead because of this. So Uzzah died right there beside the Ark of God.

THE CHURCH'S ERROR:

IMPROPER STEWARDING OF HIS PRESENCE

- The ark was designed to be carried by men and not on a cart driven by animals...God's Presence is carried by men
 - David chose the Philistine method of carrying God's Presence

1. Lack of Preparation in Understanding the Ways of God

- Found themselves at the threshing floor of Nacon or "Preparation"
- They had ignored God's way of handling His Presence and instead chose a way that was more convenient. Chose to do it the "World's way"
- Compromise for convenience

2. Familiarity Can Cause Carelessness

- Being too familiar with God's Presence causes us to become careless in the way we "honor" His Presence
- Lack of respect; lack of reverence; do what's convenient and makes the most sense
 - Fit Him into our program or agenda
- Do we "touch others" with our attitudes, words, offenses and give not regard to how God may respond?
- In revival, the programs and agendas get kicked out and His Presence will set the agenda

3. God Does not Grandstand for Man

- David brought 30,000 of his choice men to watch the procession of God's Presence into Jerusalem
 - God's Presence is for all
 - Ragamuffin Revival in man's eyes: the least to the greatest will be welcome
 - God will use least likely people to honor Him
- During revival, there will be signs, wonders and miracles but they can never be the main event.
- God's Presence must be held in highest esteem and all that is done must point to Him and His Word
- Word of God was compromised because of the "big event"
- Presence of God is Holy and cannot be used as a drawing card or platform for fame

REVIVING THE REMNANT

1. THE REMNANT EXALTS THE MAJESTY OF GOD
 - a. Psalm 29
2. THE REMNANT MAGNIFIES THE HOLINESS OF GOD
 - a. Isaiah 6:1-8
3. THE REMNANT STEWARDS WELL THE PRESENCE OF GOD
 - a. Psalm 15