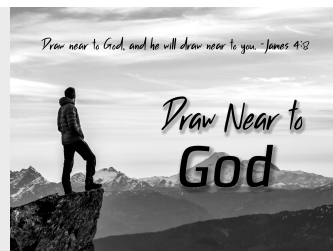


How the true story of the lost ark, helps us find the real God.

Draw Near to God – Part 4

Noah Largent 8/11/19



1 Samuel 5:1-5 “After the Philistines had captured the ark of God, they took it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. ² Then they carried the ark into Dagon’s temple and set it beside Dagon. ³ When the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the Lord! They took Dagon and put him back in his place. ⁴ But the following morning when they rose, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the Lord! His head and hands had been broken off and were lying on the threshold; only his body remained. ⁵ That is why to this day neither the priests of Dagon nor any others who enter Dagon’s temple at Ashdod step on the threshold.

The ark of the covenant (Ex. 25:10–22; 37:1–9)

once at home in the temple, it was the only object in the Most Holy Place. The ark itself was an acacia wood chest, overlaid with pure gold, measuring 3.75 feet long, 2.25 feet wide, and 2.25 feet high.

Inside were the stone tablets of the Testimony (the Ten Commandments). The author of Hebrews adds that it contained “a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron’s staff that budded” (Heb. 9:4). The ark was not to be touched by human hands. Two wooden poles, overlaid with gold, were used to transport it and were not to be removed from the ark. The mercy seat, or atonement cover, was a solid golden slab that fitted perfectly on top of the ark. The golden cherubim, which were hammered out of the same piece of gold, had wings outstretched over the mercy seat and faces that looked downward (in reverent awe). It was here, from between the cherubim, that God spoke to Moses, the representative of the people of Israel.



1. God is not a lucky charm. The story of the lost ark reminds us of the consequence of trying to manipulate God.

Acts 8:18-20 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money ¹⁹ and said, “Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” ²⁰ Peter answered: “May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money!

2. After the second demonstration that Dagon wasn’t equal to God, the Philistines had a choice; move Dagon out of the temple and give God his rightful place or keep their false, but comfortable order. One of the tragedies of this story is their failure to move God into his proper place.

Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

3. God made us to draw near to Him! But we have to do it on His terms, not ours.

Deut. 13:4 It is the Lord your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.

John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. (*“follow me” occurs 20 times in the gospels*)

Notes:
