

The Book of First Samuel: Chapters 4 – 6

Sunday, October 15 & Wednesday, October 18

Chapter 4 (Sunday, October 15)

- In **1 Samuel 4: 1 – 4**, what was the result of the battle fought between the Philistines and the army of Israel? What decision was made due to the outcome of the battle?
- From **1 Samuel 4: 5 – 9**, how did the people respond when the ark of the covenant was brought into their camp? What effect did the people's response have on the Philistines, and what acknowledgement did they make?
- What was the result of the next battle, as recorded in **1 Samuel 4: 10 – 11**? Who specifically died in that battle, and why weren't the Israelites successful in battle? (*1 Samuel 2: 34*)
- In **1 Samuel 4: 12 – 18**, how did the people in Shiloh respond when the man brought news of the tragic outcome of the battle? What happened to Eli when he heard the news?
- As recorded in **1 Samuel 4: 19 – 22**, what happened to Phinehas' wife when she heard the tragic news regarding the outcome of the battle? Who did she give birth to, and what did his name symbolize? (*1 Samuel 14: 3*)

Chapter 5 (Sunday, October 15 – Wednesday, October 18)

- From **1 Samuel 5: 1 – 5**, where did the Philistines take the ark of the covenant? What happened to the image of their pagan god in the presence of the ark?

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- In **1 Samuel 5: 6 – 9**, how did God curse the people of the city of Ashdod (where the ark was being held by the Philistines)? As a result, where did they move the ark, and how did God curse the people of that city?
(*1 Samuel 6: 4 – 5*)
- As recorded in **1 Samuel 5: 10 – 12**, where did the Philistines take the ark next? What demand did the people of that city make to the Philistine leaders based on the curses that God had brought against them?

Chapter 6 (Wednesday, October 18)

- From **1 Samuel 6: 1 – 3**, how long had the ark of the covenant been held by the Philistines? What instructions did their priests provide about how to return the ark to the people of Israel?
- As described in **1 Samuel 6: 4 – 6**, what specific offering did the Philistine priests instruct their leaders to make when returning the ark? What historical perspective did they provide?
- In **1 Samuel 6: 7 – 12**, what instructions did the priests give about sending the ark back to Israel? How would the Philistines know if the curses that they had experienced were caused by the God of the Israelites?
- From **1 Samuel 6: 13 – 16**, how did the people of Israel receive the ark? What actions did they take?
- In **1 Samuel 6: 17 – 18**, what specific items were included in the offerings that the Philistines sent with the ark of the covenant? What did these items represent?
- From **1 Samuel 6: 19**, what happened as a result of the people looking into the ark of the covenant? What does this event teach about faith and obedience?
(*Numbers 4: 15; Leviticus 10: 1 – 2*)
- What request did the people of Beth Shemesh make regarding the ark of the covenant, as recorded in **1 Samuel 6: 20 – 21**?