

January 21, 2001

1 Samuel 6:1-9

In this chapter, we see that as a result of sin, God gave the Philistines the victory over His people, and even delivered the ark into the hands of the Philistines as a reproach to the sins of His people. The ark remained in the hands of the Philistines for seven months, and while it was there, the *God of the ark* smote the Philistines with physical illnesses they could not deal with. The Philistines knew their problems were caused by the God of Israel, yet they kept His ark as long as they could. Finally they moved to get rid of the ark rather than repent and trust in the God of the ark. They called their wise men together to see how they should deal with the situation. And they sent the ark back to Israel.

V. 5 continues with the advise of their wise men on how to deal with the problem.

1) **V. 5, and from off your land.**

These men **knew it was** the hand of the Lord God against them and against their land. This statement, as well as the rest of the word of God, shows us that the **unsaved are just as accountable** to the God of the ark as are God's chosen people. We also see that the **pagan lands are as much under** the Lord's sovereign control as are those lands that claim Christianity.

One of the **big arguments against ASHCROFT** is that he actually **used** the term **KING JESUS** in one of his speeches. Never mind that he was **quoting** one of our founding fathers. The **pagans were very** upset that Ashcroft implied that **Jesus Christ is King over** everything and everyone, and they want nothing to do with that. Particularly since the Senate **considers itself the final** authority of the land.

God only has **one standard** of Judgement. Every man will answer to God according to the same standard. God's standard of justice is always the ten commandments, whether saved or unsaved. And He will judge all men by Christ Jesus. Without Christ, no man stands a chance.

Hebrews 9:27 *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

2) *V. 5, ye shall give glory unto the God of Israel.*

Here we see that even the pagans will glorify God. Though their trust in the gold to purchase peace with God was misplaced, God still received the glory from it.

Psalms 76:10 *Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.*

Here we see that God even controls the **amount of wrath** the wicked can exert against one another and against His people. And this doctrine is clearly presented throughout Scripture.

Except in North America, Christians world wide are being **slaughtered by Moslems**, while the media generally ignores it. But they will pick up in a minute any hint that Christians might defend themselves against the Moslems, such as the **SERBS**.

I received this e mail last week:

FRASER CATHEDRAL BOMBED

The Fraser Cathedral in Lui, Western Equatoria in Southern Sudan, has been hit and severely damaged by bombs dropped by Sudan Air Force antonovs.

Today, Frontline Fellowship received a letter from Rev. Kenneth Baringwa in which he reports that there have been bombing raids in the entire Mundri County and it is very heavy . . .

The Church that Will Not Die

Reportedly about 12 bombs were dropped on each raid. At Lui, the birthplace of Christianity in Moruland, the church building received direct hits and part of the wall and roof have collapsed. This church building in Lui stands on the site of the very first church established in Moruland. It was initially built by pioneer Scottish missionary Dr. Kenneth Fraser in 1921. The church in Lui was burned down by government forces in 1965. It was later rebuilt by 1983, but when the National Islamic Front government forces swept into Lui, the congregation had to again flee into the bush and the church building was vandalised. In 1997 the church was restored and since that time Frontline Fellowship has shown Christian films many times in the cathedral and conducted numerous service there. Jesus Christ is building His church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18).

Intensified Bombing of Christian Missions and Churches

Over the last year Lui has been subjected to aerial bombardments eight times. The nearby Frontline Fellowship mission base and Christian Liberty High School has endured bombing raids by the Sudan Air Force seven times since April and Peter Hammond had 2 services interrupted by artillery or aerial bombardment just in the last year.

Pray for Protection

Please alert your church to urgently pray for the Frontline mission team who at this time are seeking to minister to the beleaguered Christians in Sudan.

Finally brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honoured, just as it was with you. And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith. 2 Thessalonians 3:1, 2

What is happening in the Sudan is **not unusual** where there is a large Muslim population. But the Word of God tells us that the Lord only allows the Muslims so much leeway as they attempt to destroy Christianity.

3) V. 5, *From off your gods.* They admitted that Israel's God was more powerful than their own god, yet they wanted freedom **FROM THE LORD GOD** so they could **continue** to serve their own god.

Illustration:

The arguments in the ASHCROFT HEARINGS are over the fact that Ashcroft might answer to **another God**, and not to **those who have established themselves as gods**, such as Kennedy.

The statements by the pagans who were and are against Ashcroft make it clear **Separation of Church and State means separation of Israel's God from the state, so the state can be its own god.**

All of those trying to derail Ashcroft will **gladly talk about God**, and even claim they **believe** in God and trust in Him in their daily lives, particularly at election time. Even the **pagans may admit** that there is only one God, and that one God controls all events in heaven and earth.

The fear is that Ashcroft believes in only **one God**, and the God he believes in can only be approached one way, through **His Son, Jesus Christ**. The problem is that Ashcroft has been **vocal that his God has only one standard** of justice, and that standard is in the **Bible**.

In other words, though **others may think** they are worshiping the one true God, if they are **not going** through

Christ, they are worshipping one of many gods:

John 8:54 *Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God: 55 Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying.*

4) V. 6, *Wherefore then do ye harden your hearts...?* This is a **strange message** coming from Philistine counselors who denied the authority of Israel's God from over them. But it was good advice. There seems to have been some argument or disagreement about giving back such a trophy of war as *the ark of God*.

Illustration:

The number 2 radio talk show host after Rush Lumbaugh is Dr. Laura (January 18, 2000). She claims to be a Jew, meaning that she **denies Israel's God**, the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet more often than not, she gives good, sound advice to her callers, which primarily consists of **just good common sense**.

In other words, one **does not have** to be a follower of the Lord Jesus to give **good advice**. However, Psalms 2 tells us **not to seek** the *counsel of the ungodly*, and the *ungodly* must be defined as those who **reject Christ** as the final answer. **Denial of Christ makes one a false prophet** or false teacher, regardless of how they present themselves otherwise. (Isa. 53:5, 2 Pet. 2:1.)

As the Egyptians... This is honest history. There was no attempt to rewrite history, and make those supernatural events simply acts of nature. Furthermore, we should **learn from the experiences** of others, particularly when we see how the Lord has moved against hardness of heart *These things are written for our admonition.*

5) Vv. 7, 8, *a new cart, &c.* The Philistines did **not know how** the ark was to be moved, so they did the best they could. Though unlawful, the **ignorance** of the Philistines **made this sin excusable**. Though ignorance will not suffice in the final judgment, **ignorance now causes God to overlook** many things. This warning is issued by the Lord:

Mark 4:24 *And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.*

Acts 17:30 *And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*

King David knew better, yet he tried to move the ark like the Philistines moved it here in 1 Samuel, and it cost a man his life. What the Philistines were able to do, David was unable to do. Thus we see that the **heathen can do a lot of things** that God's people cannot. The heathens escape the death penalty because they do not know the word of God. (See message, Stripes 1/2/2000, with Salvian's quote on the end.)

A born again child of God will meet an early death in the Devil's slaughterhouse if he insists on serving Dagon, adultery, &c. (1 Cor. 5.) But that the ungodly are not under the death sentence as defined in 1 Corinthians 5.

David no doubt though he could move the ark on a cart contrary to the law of God because he saw the Philistines move it this way, and they got away with it. How many things do **Christians see the devils crowd get away with**, and then they think they can also?

Problem:

There is a **large percentage of unsaved masquerading** as God's people in the churches. These unsaved professing Christians are able to do God's work in a worldly way — the Philistines were able to move the ark on a cart without the Lord striking them down. Then **true believers see** unsaved professing Christians get away with doing the Lord's work in an unscriptural way, so **they try it also**. Then they **reap the wrath** of God as did David when he tried to move the ark as did the Philistines.

In other words, Christians **are influenced** by the methods they see others use. Because those others look, sound and seem just like we are, we are **intimidated by their success**, and we then try to do God's work in the world's way. How many **modern day** Bible believing church **methods** being used are **unlawful**, but those unlawful methods are being **used because unsaved** professing Christians are successfully using them?

6) V. 9, *he hath done us this great evil...*, or if it was chance...

The enemy is **continually** at our side, **assuring** us that the **same things happen** to everyone, and that it **just happened** to us. In other words, our enemy tells us that there is **no need to look** for the causes of our difficulties as being from the hand of God:

there is no need to examine why we are not being advanced;

there is **no need to enquire** of the Lord where we have gone astray, and what **we should do** about it;

there is no need to accept **personal responsibility** for anything, for the same things happen to everyone.

Those things just happen in your life by **chance**, so no need to humble yourself before God, and seek His face and seek His answers for your difficulties.

7) And the wicked especially seek to attribute all things to chance; Biblical Christians must ascribe all things to the hand of God — there is nothing done without God's providence and decree. (Geneva)

Daniel 4:35 *And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?* (See also Dan. 4:17, 25, 32, 5:21, 8:4, Rom. 11.)

Whenever we face difficulties in our lives, and there will be plenty, the first thing we should do is get alone with the Lord and see if it is His hand at work, and what we should do about it.

Though history's events may not clearly reveal God's hand, we know by faith that His hand is controlling history, and that all events are working according to His own good pleasure. (Eph. 1:5, 9, Phil. 2:13.)