

# MARCH 21

## Read 1 Samuel 4-7

### CHAPTER 4

**A**ND 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.

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.

3 ¶ And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, Wherefore hath the LORD smitten us to day before the Philistines? Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies.

4 So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth *between* the cherubims: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, *were* there with the ark of the covenant of God.

5 And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again.

6 And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, What *meaneth* the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews? And they understood that the ark of the LORD was come into the camp.

7 And the Philistines were afraid, for they said, God is come into the camp. And they said, Woe unto us! for there hath not been such a thing heretofore.

8 Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these *are* the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.

9 Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight.

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.

11 And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.

12 ¶ And there ran a man of Benjamin out of the army, and came to Shiloh the same day with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head.

13 And when he came, lo, Eli sat upon a seat by the wayside watching: for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city, and told *it*, all the city cried out.

14 And when Eli heard the noise of the crying, he said, What *meaneth* the noise of this tumult? And the man came in hastily, and told Eli.

15 Now Eli was ninety and eight years old; and his eyes were dim, that he could not see.

16 And the man said unto Eli, I *am* he that came out of the army, and I fled to day out of the army. And he said, What is there done, my son?

17 And the messenger answered and said, Israel is fled before the Philistines, and there hath been also a great slaughter among the people, and thy two sons also,

Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God is taken.

18 And it came to pass, when he made mention of the ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backward by the side of the gate, and his neck brake, and he died: for he was an old man, and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years.

19 ¶ And his daughter in law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, *near* to be delivered: and when she heard the tidings that the ark of God was taken, and that her father in law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and travailed; for her pains came upon her.

20 And about the time of her death the women that stood by her said unto her, Fear not; for thou hast born a son. But she answered not, neither did she regard *it*.

21 And she named the child Ichabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father in law and her husband.

22 And she said, The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken.

## CHAPTER 5

**A**ND the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Ebenezer unto Ashdod.

2 When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon.

3 ¶ And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon *was* fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again.

4 And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon *was* fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands *were* cut off upon the threshold; only *the stump of* Dagon was left to him.

5 Therefore neither the priests of Dagon, nor any that come into Dagon's house, tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod unto this day.

6. But the hand of the LORD was heavy upon them of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and smote them with emerods, *even* Ashdod and the coasts thereof.

7 And when the men of Ashdod saw that *it was* so, they said, The ark of the God of Israel shall not abide with us: for his hand is sore upon us, and upon Dagon our god.

8 They sent therefore and gathered all the lords of the Philistines

unto them, and said, What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel? And they answered, Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried about unto Gath. And they carried the ark of the God of Israel about *thither*.

9 And it was so, that, after they had carried it about, the hand of the LORD was against the city with a very great destruction: and he smote the men of the city, both small and great, and they had emerods in their secret parts.

10 ¶ Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. And it came to pass, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying, They have brought about the ark of the God of Israel to us, to slay us and our people.

11 So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go again to his own place, that it slay us not, and our people: for there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there.

12 And the men that died not were smitten with the emerods: and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

## CHAPTER 6

**A**ND the ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months.

2 And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, What shall we do to the ark of the LORD? tell us wherewith we shall send it to his place.

3 And they said, If ye send away the ark of the God of Israel, send it not empty; but in any wise return him a trespass offering: then ye shall be healed, and it shall be known to you why his hand is not removed from you.

4 Then said they, What *shall be* the trespass offering which we shall return to him? They answered, Five golden emerods, and five golden mice, *according to* the number of the lords of the Philistines: for one plague *was* on you all, and on your lords.

5 Wherefore ye shall make images of your emerods, and images of your mice that mar the land; and ye shall give glory unto the God of Israel: peradventure he will lighten his hand from off you, and from off your gods, and from off your land.

6 Wherefore then do ye harden your hearts, as the Egyptians and

Pharaoh hardened their hearts? when he had wrought wonderfully among them, did they not let the people go, and they departed?

7 Now therefore make a new cart, and take two milch kine, on which there hath come no yoke, and tie the kine to the cart, and bring their calves home from them:

8 And take the ark of the LORD, and lay it upon the cart; and put the jewels of gold, which ye return him *for* a trespass offering, in a coffer by the side thereof; and send it away, that it may go.

9 And see, if it goeth up by the way of his own coast to Bethshemesh, *then* he hath done us this great evil: but if not, then we shall know that *it is* not his hand *that* smote us: it *was* a chance *that* happened to us.

10 ¶ And the men did so; and took two milch kine, and tied them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home:

11 And they laid the ark of the LORD upon the cart, and the coffer with the mice of gold and the images of their emerods.

12 And the kine took the straight way to the way of Bethshemesh, *and* went along the highway, lowing as they went, and

turned not aside *to* the right hand or *to* the left; and the lords of the Philistines went after them unto the border of Bethshemesh.

13 And *they of* Bethshemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley: and they lifted up their eyes, and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see *it*.

14 And the cart came into the field of Joshua, a Bethshemite, and stood there, where *there was* a great stone: and they clave the wood of the cart, and offered the kine a burnt offering unto the LORD.

15 And the Levites took down the ark of the LORD, and the coffer that *was* with it, wherein the jewels of gold *were*, and put *them* on the great stone: and the men of Bethshemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day unto the LORD.

16 And when the five lords of the Philistines had seen *it*, they returned to Ekron the same day.

17 And these *are* the golden emerods which the Philistines returned *for* a trespass offering unto the LORD; for Ashdod one, for Gaza one, for Askelon one, for Gath one, for Ekron one;

18 And the golden mice, *according to* the number of all the cities of

the Philistines *belonging* to the five lords, *both* of fenced cities, and of country villages, even unto the great *stone of* Abel, whereon they set down the ark of the LORD: *which stone remaineth* unto this day in the field of Joshua, the Bethshemite.

19 ¶ And he smote the men of Bethshemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD, even he smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men: and the people lamented, because the LORD had smitten *many* of the people with a great slaughter.

20 And the men of Bethshemesh said, Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? and to whom shall he go up from us?

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.

## CHAPTER 7

**A**ND the men of Kirjathjearim came, and fetched up the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab in the hill, and sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD.

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.

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.

4 Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only.

5 And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD.

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.

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.

8 And the children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines.

9 ¶ And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered *it for* a burnt offering wholly unto the LORD: and Samuel cried unto the LORD for Israel; and the LORD heard him.

10 And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel.

11 And the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them, until *they came* under Bethcar.

12 Then Samuel took a stone, and set *it* between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.

13 ¶ So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Israel: and the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

14 And the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel

were restored to Israel, from Ekron even unto Gath; and the coasts thereof did Israel deliver out of the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

15 And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.

16 And he went from year to year in circuit to Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places.

17 And his return *was* to Ramah; for there *was* his house; and there he judged Israel; and there he built an altar unto the LORD.

## DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Today's chapters relate three great events in the history of Israel. First, we see that God's glory is departed, as chapter 4:1-5 records the great sin of the people; verses 6-10, the great slaughter; and verses 11-22, the great sorrow.

Second, we see that God's name is defended in chapters 5 and 6. God will not reveal His power on behalf of His sinning people, but He will not allow His glory to be mocked or His name to be defied.

The lords of the Philistines added the Ark to the heathen temple, and put Jehovah on the same level as their fish-god, Dagon. Jehovah proved Dagon to be a false god and vindicated His name. The Ark was then moved from Ashdod to Ekron, but the citizens then begged to have it removed. Once again, God had defended His name.

It was decided to return the Ark to Israel; but nobody dared to undertake the task. They finally decided to put the Ark on a new cart and allow the cows to walk down the road unassisted. It would be natural for the cows to seek out their calves; but, if they headed for Beth-shemesh instead, it would be evidence the God was directing them. God did direct the cows and they brought the cart to the field of Joshua. The Israelites in the harvest field rejoiced to see the Ark returned. However, they became curious, looked into the Ark, and God had to judge them.

Third, in chapter 7, God's people are delivered. The Ark was not returned to Shiloh; it remained at the house of Abinadab for twenty years. What was God doing during this time? He was preparing His servant Samuel to defeat the enemy and reestablish the kingdom. No doubt Samuel was ministering to the people from place to place, giving them the Word of God. Verse 3 indicates that Samuel called the people to repent and return to the Lord. This meant

putting away the gods of the heathen, and then preparing their heart to serve the Lord. How tragic that the great nation of Israel had fallen into defeat and disrepute because of their sins! Had Eli been a faithful father and his sons faithful priests, this defeat would never have occurred.

## PROVERB FOR TODAY

"An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin" (Proverbs 21:4).

## TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

**ASSIGNMENT 12:** For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 10.

## HYMN FOR TODAY

### REDEEMED

by **Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915**

The word *redeemed* implies the idea of a slave standing on the trader's auction block being offered to the highest bidder. At last the price is paid by a compassionate new owner, who then gives the slave his unconditional freedom. But the freed slave, out of gratitude to his new owner, offers himself as a loving bond servant for life to his redeemer.

Man has been separated from God by sin and has become a slave of Satan. But man has been redeemed. Because Christ paid the ransom we owed to divine justice, we have been freed from the shackles of sin's bondage and God's eternal wrath. Out of gratitude for this deliverance, we cling to our new master and lovingly determine to serve Him forever. A realization of redemption causes the ransomed to sing repeatedly, "Redeemed—how I love to proclaim it, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb...."

This popular gospel song by Fanny Crosby first appeared with William Kirkpatrick's jubilant tune in

the hymnal *Songs of Redeeming Love*, published in 1882. It is another of the more than 8,000 hymns by the blind American poetess, Fanny Jane Crosby, the most important writer of gospel hymn texts in American history.

*Redeemed—how I love to proclaim it!  
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;  
redeemed thru His infinite mercy—  
His child, and forever, I am.*

*Redeemed and so happy in Jesus;  
no language my rapture can tell;  
I know that the light of His presence  
with me doth continually dwell.*

*I think of my blessed Redeemer.  
I think of Him all the day long;  
I sing, for I cannot be silent;  
His love is the theme of my song.*

*I know I shall see in His beauty  
the King in whose law I delight,  
who lovingly guardeth my footsteps  
and giveth me songs in the night.*

**Chorus:**

*Redeemed, redeemed,  
redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;  
redeemed, redeemed, His child, and forever, I am.*

**ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY**

**1621**

**THE FIRST INDIAN TREATY WAS SIGNED.**

One does not have to travel far in this great nation of ours to find needy mission fields. So often we are prone to think of missions as being outside our own boundaries. Include in your vacation plans sometime a trip to New Mexico and Arizona and see the need for the Gospel among the Indian people. Of course, this same need is prevalent in and among Indians in other states as well as minority groups that know nothing of the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ

and the finished work of the Cross of Calvary. Pray for the work among the Indians. Pray for the missionaries to the Indians. Pray that God will bring many precious Indian souls to Jesus Christ through their labor and ministry.

**1685**

**THE BIRTHDAY OF JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH.**

Though in our church we have allowed no classical music to be played as offertories, preludes, etc., I am nevertheless a great lover of classical music. Almost every day I listen to the classics. One that loves good music would of necessity love to hear the music of Bach. He certainly was one of the masters. In these days of “hirky, jirky” sensual singing, thank God for good music.

**1906**

**THE BIRTHDAY OF JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, III.**

God has given some men the ability to make much money. Such has been the case of the Rockefellers. Regardless of how much money one has, money can become one of his greatest enemies when used wrongly. Each of us should dedicate his physical and material possessions to Jesus Christ. Let us together do this today.

**ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

**1492**

**ALONZO PIETRO, PILOT, SAILED WITH COLUMBUS.**

**1955**

**DEATH OF WALTER WHITE** (61), New York City. Roy Willkins succeeded him as NAACP executive, April 11.

**1965**

**SELMA FREEDOM MARCH.**

**1990**

**NAMBIA GAINED ITS INDEPENDENCE.**

# THE STORY OF THE PSALMS

## Psalm 24

**AUTHOR:** David.

### **THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALM:**

The rebellion is over. David returns to Jerusalem, to the palace and to the house of God. His son, Absalom, has been killed in the battle. David's forces have been victorious. It was a victory for David, but a hollow victory it was because he lost his son. But now he returns to the palace and writes the 24th Psalm. Picture him as he has returned home as you read the Psalm.

This Psalm, however, goes far beyond David. The 22nd, 23rd and 24th Psalms picture the Lord Jesus Christ. The 22nd Psalm beautifully pictures His death, the 23rd Psalm pictures Him as the resurrected one during this age shepherding His sheep and supplying our needs. The 24th Psalm presents Him as the King in the kingdom age, as the Messiah. Hence, David becomes a picture of Jesus. His suffering in the city of Jerusalem and leaving the city pictures death and burial. His love for Absalom while he is away from the city pictures Jesus' love for us now, and his returning to the city to claim the victory pictures Jesus coming to the earth again. His ruling on the throne after the victory pictures the Lord Jesus coming back to earth to rule and reign for 1000 years during the millennial kingdom.

### **THE WAY IT WAS USED BY GOD'S PEOPLE:**

The Jewish people longed for the Messiah. They looked for Him and prayed for Him. When this longing would arrive at its zenith and their hunger for the Messiah's return would reach its peak, they would read and sing the 24th Psalm. When you get hungry for Jesus to return, read the 24th Psalm and pray that He soon will come as King of kings and Lord of lords.

# The Treasure Path to Soul Winning

## MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

### SINNER'S RESPONSIBILITY

(Assignment 12)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning" link back on the DailyKJV page.)

#### **To Repent.**

( ) Acts 17:30 (Luke 13:3, 5) (Acts 20:21)

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent:

#### **To Receive.**

( ) John 1:12

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

#### **To Believe.**

( ) John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

#### **To Confess.**

( ) Romans 10:9 (Matt. 10:32) (Luke 23:42)

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

#### **To Call.**

( ) Romans 10:13

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.