The God of David

The Glory Departs from Israel
1 Samuel 4-6
Lesson 2

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
September 9, 2012

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me."
John 5:39

▸ Moral stories?

▸ An angry God?

▸ Two versions of God – Old and New Testament

A revelation of Jesus

‣ The lesson on the road to Emmaus

‣ A difference in clarity

‣ Genesis 3:15

‣ A curious and magnificent story

‣ The importance of history

1 and 2 Samuel

‣ The Exodus and conquest of the Promised Land

‣ Anarchy in the era of the judges – 325 years

‣ The power of of evil

‣ The "Hound of Heaven" (Francis Thompson, 1859-1907)

‣ The conscious end point: Christ

Historical Context

▸ Eli

- Age 98 at death after battle at Aphek (4:15)
- Judged Israel 40 years (4:18)
- Typical of the average Israelite – religious structure but no life

▸ Samuel

- Born 1100 – (8:1-3) adult sons before selection of King Saul
- Godly mother, Hannah – looking for King Messiah.
- Began to lead at death of Eli after battle of Aphek (ca. 25 years)
- Led battle of Mizpah after 20 years (7:1-2)

Philistines

‣ Appear in Genesis; altered the course of the exodus

‣ 5 strongholds: Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, Gaza, Gath

‣ Monopoly on smelting iron (1 Sam. 13:19-22)

‣ Dominant power in the days of Eli and Samuel

‣ Neutralized by Samson

The Glory Departs from Israel
1 Samuel 4-6

▸ The capture of the Ark and death of Eli and his sons (4)

▸ The Ark among the Philistines (5)

▸ The return of the Ark to Israel (6)

The Philistines capture the Ark (4)

▸ The muted word of Samuel – 20 years (3:19-4:1 & 7:2)!

▸ Defeat at Aphek – 4,000 men

▸ "Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines?"

▸ Psalm 44 – lament of the righteous in an evil age

A way that seems right . . .

▸ Bring the ark!

▸ Ark of Covenant of LORD of Hosts Who is enthroned on the cherubim

▸ Historical precedent?

▸ Philistine – fear without faith

▸ The way of death

▸ Ichabod – "no glory"

Shiloh destroyed

▸ Not mentioned in 1 and 2 Samuel as worship center

▸ Ark not returned to Shiloh after its return

▸ Samuel moved to his hometown, Ramah (7:17)

▸ Shiloh destroyed – Jeremiah 7:12-14; 26:6, 9

▸ Archeology shows destruction around 1050 BC

The Purpose of God

‣ Forward progress – not a setback

‣ Psalm 78
- Recurring rebellion and recurring grace
- He rejected Shiloh and Ephraim
- He chose Judah and David
  – A new "Sanctuary"
  – A true Shepherd

The Ark among the Philistines (5)

▸ The temple of Dagon
- Father of Baal
- Credited with victory over Samson (Judges 16:23)
- YHWH must serve Dagon
- Dagon falls and is picked up
- Dagon – head and hands cut off
- "His hand is hard against us and Dagon our god" (5:7)

The Ark among the Philistines (5)

▸ The Plague

▸ Three consecutive cities of Philistia

▸ Tumors and mice – Bubonic plague

▸ His hand is hard against us and Dagon our god (5:7)
  • Great panic (5:9) and deathly panic (5:11)
  • The saw clearly the wrath of God but did not repent
  • Sought a way of their own doing to turn the wrath of God away
  • No clear message from Israel how to avert the wrath of God

▸ A severe mercy

The Ark returns to Israel (6)

▸ Priests and diviners provide council
- Guilt offering – sense of sin before God
- Human offering – gold
- Give glory to God of Israel
- Leviticus 11:29 rats are unclean

▸ The test:
- Milk cows – unyoked; recent calves
- Ark on cart with golden gift in box beside it
- The Ark returns – despite the protests of the cows

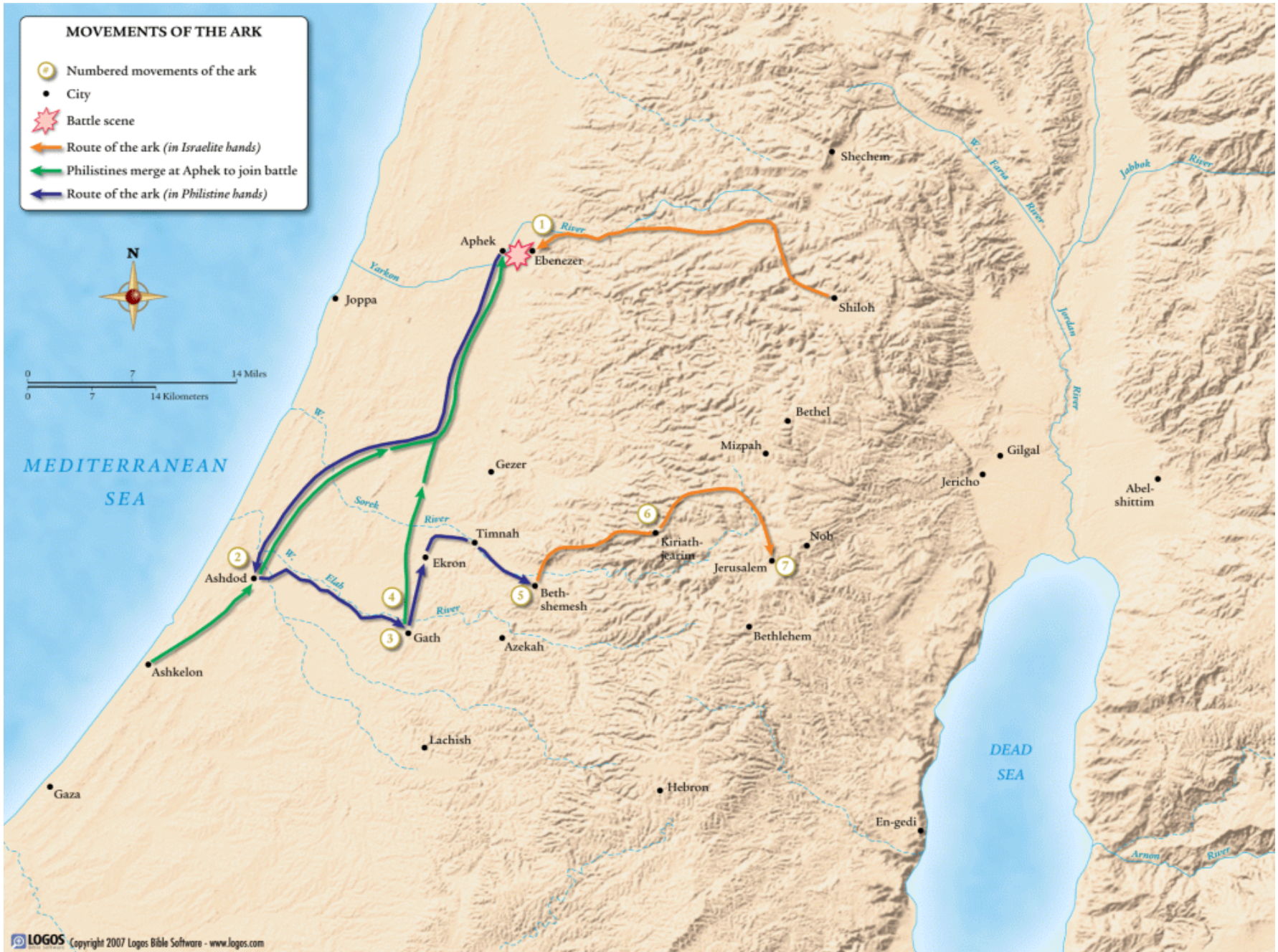▸ Sad sequel – lords return without comment (6:16)

MOVEMENTS OF THE ARK

- ① Numbered movements of the ark
- • City
- ✳ Battle scene
- → Route of the ark *(in Israelite hands)*
- → Philistines merge at Aphek to join battle
- → Route of the ark *(in Philistine hands)*

N

0   7   14 Miles
0   7   14 Kilometers

MEDITERRANEAN
SEA

DEAD
SEA

Shechem

Aphek
Ebenezer
Shiloh

Joppa

Bethel

Mizpah

Gilgal

Jericho

Gezer

Abel-
shittim

Timnah

Kiriath-
jearim

Noh

⑥

Ekron

Jerusalem ⑦

⑤ Beth-
shemesh

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② Ashdod

④

③ Gath

Azekah

Bethlehem

Ashkelon

Lachish

Hebron

En-gedi

Gaza

Yarkon

Sorek

Elah

River

W. Farah River

Jabbok River

Jordan River

Arnon River

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The Ark at Beth-shemesh

▸ Levitical city for Kohathites who cared for the ark (Numbers 4:4, 15)

▸ Reception in Beth-shemesh
- Joy
- Burnt offering – Leviticus 1:3 – should be male animal
- Levites handled the Ark

▸ Wrath in Beth-shemesh
- Looked upon/in the Ark – not touch or see
- 70 men

▸ Send the Ark away!

How to re-write history!

▸ The necessity of the Word of God

▸ A knowledge of God – sovereign/holy/good

▸ The hope of Christ