



## DGM Message Summary: Bad Men But A Good God

**Message Summary:** Israel went to battle the Philistines but they weren't Spiritually ready for battle and lost. They blamed God. So in an effort to please Him, they get the Arc of the Covenant to pray to – a symbol of God. But, if our hearts aren't right we won't really connect with Him.

### Scriptural References:

- **1 Samuel 4;1**
- **1 Samuel 2:12**
- **Judges 16;20**

### Key Points:

- Israel went out to battle against the Philistines the nation had been led by corrupt priests for decades.
  - Israel was on the outside ready, inwardly not ready In spirit.
  - Israel was defeated by the Philistines who killed about 4 thousand people
- When the people come in the camp, they asked why has the Lord defeated them before the Philistines.
  - They are blaming God, but the answer is, if there's a problem it's not God it's us.
- God is not responsible for the decision he was not involved in making?
- Then they say let's bring the arc of the covenant of the Lord from Shiloh to us and when it comes it might save us from the enemy.
  - They decided the arc was like a lucky charm.
  - But we can't put God in a "lucky charms" box and pour him out at will.
  - Having childlike faith isn't like being challenged – we have to grow up in the ways of the Lord.
  - The Israelites are like children playing church about to have a rude awakening.
- God let them lose even though it made him look bad. 30-thousand people died because of presumption.

- The issue is not that God lost his power, people lost their devotion, and God can wait you out!
- Delilah said 3 times, the Philistines are upon you Sampson. But he's been lulled to a false sense of security and lulled asleep by the enemy.
  - He awoke from his sleep and didn't realize something had changed from his last battle, the life-altering haircut.
  - His heart was a thousand miles away from God but he presumed he'd win again.
- It's vital we keep our relationship with God fresh. We can't live off yesterday's prayers.
  - He did not know that the Lord had departed from him.
  - Sampson's heart became hardened by sin and he eventually became closed off from the Holy Spirit.
  - Sin won't make God leave you but it will make you leave God.
- Then the Philistines took the arc of God to Dagon (a false God). When they got up in the morning Dagon was on his face in front of the arc. Dagon needed help. They had to prop him back up. Next morning Dagon was on his face a second time. Every knee shall bow God cut off the head and arms put it on the altar, only Dagon's torso was left.
  - God doesn't need your help. He is God by himself.
  - God can make a point when he wants to make a point.
- We've got to respect God in the end. He wants our obedience and the obedience doesn't add to him but us.