

Sermon Outline

Raiders of the Lost Ark

1 Samuel 5:1-7:14

Introduction: Indiana Jones and the Ark of the Covenant

Context: Cliffhanger (ch 4): Israel defeated; the Ark exiled; Israel has no leader; the glory departed (Ichabod)

A: The Philistines defeat the Israelites (4:1-11)

B: The ark is exiled in Philistia – Ichabod (4:12-22)

C: God destroys Dagon and plagues the Philistines (5:1-12)

D: God Returns the Ark to Israel in absurd fashion (6:1-18)

C1: God plagues the Israelites (6:19-21)

B1: The ark is exiled in Kiriath-Jearim (7:1-2)

A1: The Israelites defeat the Philistines (7:3-14)

I. **5:1-12: The Ark in exile: Yahweh judges the enemy for 7 months**

Yahweh dominates Dagon (5:1-5)

Yahweh devastates the Philistines (5:6-12)

Five golden tumors!? What a dumb idea! (6:1-18)

God's dealing with pagans (Romans 1:18-22)

II. **6:19-7:2: The Ark returns: Yahweh judges His people for 20 years**

A great blow to Israel (6:19, Romans 2:9-11)

A good question and a bad question (6:20-21)

The Ark is exiled in Israel for 20 years (7:1-2, 2 Sam 6)

III. **7:3-14: The Return of the faithful priest/prophet/leader – Samuel**

The necessity of repentance – for Israel and us (7:3-6)

Humility, Intercessory prayer and Fasting (7:7-9)

God defeats the Philistines (7:10-11)

Ebenezer (stone of help): Hitherto our help (7:12-14)

IV. **The Gospel according to the Lost Ark**