

THE ARK: ON TREATING A HOLY GOD AS COMMON

1 Samuel 4-6; 2 Samuel 6

The Ark of the Covenant was the center of OT religion; it revealed one particular trait of God—His _____
The Shekinah glory of God was manifested between the outstretched wings of the _____ on the mercy seat
The _____ was a huge object lesson: sinful human beings are barred from the presence of a holy God
God called men to set Him apart in how they treated Him: He demanded to be treated as _____ & different

I. THE ARK IN _____ 1 Samuel 4:1-4, 10-11

Men profaned (treated as common) God by using the Ark of the Covenant as a good _____

A. The _____ Were Involved

- 1) Hophni & Phineas had a knowledge of the truth, but their lives were _____ by that truth
- 2) Our nation is filled with people who run into big trouble and their response is often to _____, but there is no real submission to God; their prayers are the equivalent of rubbing a _____
- 3) The story ends by God making clear: "I will be regarded as _____ by those who draw near to Me!"

B. The _____ Were Involved

We can do the same thing—think we can make sure God is on our side, use Him for our own _____

II. THE ARK BESIDE _____ 1 Samuel 5:1-4

The pagan Philistines treat the Ark with respect: they put it in their _____ on equal footing with their god

A. An Example of _____

- 1) Our constitution ensures that each citizen has an equal _____ to advocate for his ideas and views
- 2) Just because all have equal right to voice their ideas does not mean that all ideas are equally _____
- 3) Many hold the nonsensical idea that mutually exclusive views can all be _____ at the same time

B. The Response of God: our God will not tolerate being treated as _____—like any other god
God Himself cast down _____ and dashed him to pieces: "Besides Me there is no God!" (Is.44:6)

III. THE ARK ON A _____ 2 Samuel 6:1-3

God's people moved the ark in the same way as the _____ even when the Law gave clear directions
We see illustrated another error of God's people: handling our God in a way we copy from the _____

A. The World Thinks God Is Interested in Their _____

- 1) God doesn't expect our best: He demands _____ --that we perfectly keep His Law
- 2) The worldling gives his best to God thinking it is the right way to get back from God what he _____
- 3) We must never fall into this error: God is not interested in dealing with us on a _____ basis
- 4) We can never put God in our debt: though we serve Him constantly, we are _____ servants

B. The World Thinks God Is Interested in _____

- 1) Even Bible-believing Christians fall into the trap of thinking God must be pleased with big _____
- 2) Our holy God says, "My son, give Me thine _____!" NOT, "My son, give Me a big building!"