

George Lucas “**Raiders of the Lost Ark**” The First of the Indiana Jones adventures, released in 1981. Set in the time of WW2 Indiana Jones was hired by the US government to locate the mysterious and supernatural “Ark of the Covenant” before it falls into the hands of Adolph Hitler and the Nazi’s who seek to use the Biblical artifact’s power as a means for world domination.

THE LOST ARK

The real search for the True Ark of the Covenant: It’s true power has been lost through the ages. Unless you find it and harness it’s power you will be dominated by your enemy.

Introduction: (1) What is the Ark and (2) What is The Secret of its Mysterious Power.

- I. **WHAT IS THE ARK of the covenant?** It is the symbol or instrument of God’s divine presence - The physical manifestation of God on earth. But, just as electrical wiring is the instrument of electricity, don’t lose sight of the true source of the power and Shechinah Glory of God.

A. The Ark of Moses (God Inspired But Man Made)

Exo 25:8 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Exo 25:9 According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.

Exo 25:22 And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

B. The Man Jesus - Emmanuel (God with Us)

1. The Word (Logos): The Greeks saw it as the ultimate reality of that which gives life and meaning in the world.
2. The Greeks saw this as an impersonal force, but John saw it as the physical manifestation of God in the flesh.

Joh 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Heb_1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

C. The Church: Those who have the Spirit of Christ, “Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

1Co_6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

D. God’s True Presence is in the Holy Ghost:

Joh 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

II. **TRUST THE POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST:** Too many of us today put their trust in the mammon of this world and not the Holy Ghost. Know this, “in the last days perilous times shall come....” **2Ti 3:5** Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

- A. **Don't ever go to battle without the power of the Holy Ghost.** You might find, God is using your enemy to whip you. In the early days of Samuel's ministry Israel went to battle against the Philistines and got their butts kicked (lost about 4000 men). What did they do next?
- B. **They went to fetch the ark.** Even though Israel had taken the ark into battle many times in the days of Joshua that's no insurance you will win (Achan and Ai).

1Sa 4:3 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.

- 1. **Why has the Lord Smitten Us?** They knew it was the judgment of God upon their religious leaders: Eli and his vile sons, Phinehas (Fun-A-Us) and Hophni (Hof-Nee).
 - a) Eli knew Judgment was coming. Samuel didn't hold anything back.
 - b) Israel knew Judgment was coming. They heard the word of Samuel.
 - c) Don't be like Lot who had to be compelled to leave Sodom. Don't hang around with those who God has judged. From such turn away.

1 Sam 3:11 And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of everyone that heareth it shall tingle.

- 2. **They thought the Ark might save them?** A lot of people put their trust in the instruments of God and not in the Holy Ghost (church, preachers, FB posting etc). But, this is a mistake. God told Zerabubel his mission wouldn't be accomplished “by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.” (Zec 4:6)
 - a) They all shouted when the Ark came into the camp. Funaus and hofnee were bringing it down.
 - b) When the Philistines heard the shout they were scared. “They said, ‘God is come into the camp.’ Who will deliver us? They encouraged themselves, “Be strong, act like men.” The Philistines fought.
 - c) The Ark was taken - Eli's sons were slain as well as 30,000 men.

- d) When Eli heard the Ark had been taken he fell back and broke his neck.
- e) When Funaus' wife who was pregnant delivered her child. But, she didn't regard her son. Nor her husband who was killed. She named the Child Ichabod (The Glory of the Lord is Departed from Israel)
- f) It wasn't Samson's hair that was the secret of his power. It was the Holy Ghost.

CONCLUSION: In perilous times such as this, it behoves us to know the secret of our strength. If you don't want the Lord to switch sides on you,, keep your trust in Him and His word. And, put your trust in the Holy Ghost.

- You may be the body of Christ, but the Power is not you, but in you.
- Trust the Power
- Have you received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?

a.

III.

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1Sa 4:2 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.

- You can't have victory when you're living under judgment.

- You can't have victory when sin is in the camp.
- Joshua sent only 3000 men to battle against Ai and could not prevail because of one man, Achan - he took of the accursed thing, a wedge of gold and Babylonian garment.
- Everything in Jericho and Ai were cursed except for Rahab who hid the messengers of the Lord and the silver, gold, brass and iron, which belonged to God. The curse would be upon the person committing the trespass and upon the camp of Israel (Jos 6:18)

1Sa 4:3 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.

- **Why has the Lord smitten us?** Why me Lord? (Achan wasn't even a leader, but the whole camp was cursed because of his disobedience. **God wants obedience and unity among his people.** (One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism)
- They trusted in the mammon (material things) of religion instead of the true riches of God.
- Samaritan woman at the well trusted in the religion of Samaria. Whereas the Jews trusted in the religion of Jerusalem, which was the True religion.
- Ye shall not do like all the heathen of the land who worship at their pleasure where-ever they feel.

Deu 12:5 But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come:

- We understand this as Jerusalem where God did choose to put the Ark, But, Jesus clarified that:

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

- You can't serve God and mammon (Luk 16:13) But, Jesus also said, "If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches." (Luk 16:11)
- In other words:

2Ti_3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Phinehas (Fun-A-Us) Hophni (Hof-Nee)

Deu 12:5 - Israel should not be as the heathen who worshipped their gods at their pleasure anywhere they chose. But, God would choose a place among the tribes of Israel to put his name there (manifest to men His divine presence - Shechinah glory). The reason for having a national center (Headquarters) was to secure unity and then through unity purity. Though this suggests Jerusalem as Jesus agreed was the truth (Psa 78:67-69) as opposed to the Samaritans who corrupted this command under Jeroboam (1 Ki 12:26).

1 And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

21 And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

The Logos: 1

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Greek philosophy, “the ultimate reality of that which gives life and meaning in the world.” An impersonal force. But John saw the logos in Christ, who is the physical manifestation of God in the flesh.

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

1 Sam 4

About the importance of having the Holy Ghost which was then manifested in the Ark of the Covenant: Ex 25

“And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst” (Ex. 25:8).

“There I will meet with you ... on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you” (Ex. 25:22; emphasis added).

Introduction: (1) The Holy Ghost Must be in the Right Place (2)

Lost the battle with the Philistines. Why? They lost the battle with the Lord. When you are fighting against God you will lose every battle with your enemy.

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.