

A Real Biblical And Spiritual Awakening

1 Samuel 4:1-11

1. And Samuel's word came to all Israel. Now the Israelites went out to fight against the Philistines. The Israelites camped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines at Aphek.
2. The Philistines deployed their forces to meet Israel, and as the battle spread, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand of them on the battlefield.
3. When the soldiers returned to camp, the elders of Israel asked, "Why did the LORD bring defeat upon us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the LORD's covenant from Shiloh, so that it may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies."
4. So the people sent men to Shiloh, and they brought back the ark of the covenant of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim. And Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.
5. When the ark of the LORD's covenant came into the camp, all Israel raised such a great shout that the ground shook.
6. Hearing the uproar, the Philistines asked, "What's all this shouting in the Hebrew camp?" When they learned that the ark of the LORD had come into the camp,
7. the Philistines were afraid. "A god has come into the camp," they said. "We're in trouble! Nothing like this has happened before."
8. Woe to us! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? They are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the desert.
9. Be strong, Philistines! Be men, or you will be subject to the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Be men, and fight!"
10. So the Philistines fought, and the Israelites were defeated and every man fled to his tent. The slaughter was very great; Israel lost thirty thousand foot soldiers.
11. The ark of God was captured, and Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

Can we have a real Biblical and spiritual awakening?

Do you really want a Biblical and spiritual awakening?

1 Samuel 4:1 - And Samuel's word came to all Israel. Now the Israelites went out to fight against the Philistines. The Israelites camped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines at Aphek.

1 Samuel 4:2 - The Philistines deployed their forces to meet Israel, and as the battle spread, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand of them on the battlefield.

1 Samuel 4:3a - When the soldiers returned to camp, the elders of Israel asked, "Why did THE LORD BRING DEFEAT upon us today before the Philistines?"

1 Samuel 4:3b-4 - Let us bring the ark of the LORD's covenant from Shiloh, so that it may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies." So the people sent men to Shiloh, and they brought back the ark of the covenant of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim. And Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

The natural inclination when God does not respond our way is to try and put Him in a position where He has no other option than to do what WE consider the right thing.

Just because you have the PRESENCE of God does not mean you will have the VICTORY of God!

1 Samuel 4:5-6 the ark arrives, "When the ark of the LORD's covenant came into the camp, all Israel raised such a great shout that the ground shook. Hearing the uproar, the Philistines asked, "What's all this shouting in the Hebrew camp?" When they learned that the ark of the LORD had come into the camp.

1 Samuel 4:7-11

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1 Samuel 5:1-12

1. After the Philistines had captured the ark of God, they took it from Ebenezer to Ashdod.

2. Then they carried the ark into Dagon's temple and set it beside Dagon.

3. When the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the LORD! They took Dagon and put him back in his place.

4. But the following morning when they rose, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the LORD! His head and hands had been broken off and were lying on the threshold; only his body remained.

5. That is why to this day neither the priests of Dagon nor any others who enter Dagon's temple at Ashdod step on the threshold.

6. The LORD's hand was heavy upon the people of Ashdod and its vicinity; he brought devastation upon them and afflicted them with tumors.

7. When the men of Ashdod saw what was happening, they said, "The ark of the god of Israel must not stay here with us, because his hand is heavy upon us and upon Dagon our god."

8. So they called together all the rulers of the Philistines and asked them, "What shall we do with the ark of the god of Israel?" They answered, "Have the ark of the god of Israel moved to Gath." So they moved the ark of the God of Israel.

9. But after they had moved it, the LORD's hand was against that city, throwing it into a great panic. He afflicted the people of the city, both young and old, with an outbreak of tumors.

10. So they sent the ark of God to Ekron. As the ark of God was entering Ekron, the people of Ekron cried out, "They have brought the ark of the god of Israel around to us to kill us and our people."

11. So they called together all the rulers of the Philistines and said, "Send the ark of the god of Israel away; let it go back to its own place, or it will kill us and our people." For death had filled the city with panic; God's hand was very heavy upon it.

12. Those who did not die were afflicted with tumors, and the outcry of the city went up to heaven.

1 Samuel 5:11 - So they called together all the rulers of the Philistines and said, "Send the ark of the god of Israel away; let it go back to its own place, or it will kill us and our people." For death had filled the city with panic; God's hand was very heavy upon it.

Can we have a real Biblical and spiritual awakening?

Are you willing to pay the price that it requires?

If you want a real Biblical and spiritual awakening, you need to learn to become totally dependent on the Holy Spirit!

If you want a real Biblical and spiritual awakening, you will have to tap into and begin to do the will of God for your life!

If you want a real Biblical and spiritual awakening, you will have to yield your natural desires to the will of the Holy Spirit and follow the Spirit's leading!

What is the price?

Your life... all of it!

1 Peter 2:9 says "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light".

A real Biblical and spiritual awakening, begins as a matter of the heart because the heart is where we know what really matters!

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