

The Most Unusual “Missionary” Story in the Bible

“If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s kids, and heirs according to the promise.” (Funnels)

I. One dumb move.

I Samuel 4, 5 & 6

- They thought they had God in a box!
- The first lesson was for God’s people.

Understand the world-view:
If my army can conquer your army that means my god is more powerful than your god.

II. The ark does Philistia.

- Dagon is “schooled.”
- Bubonic plague?
- “You take it! No, you take it!”
- How do we get rid of it?

“Trophy case”
Judges 16:23
1 Samuel 30:10
1 Chronicles 10:10

- *They made sure this was no coincidence. No superstition here.*

III. Insight into the character & purpose of our God.

- He will follow through on his purpose whether his people cooperate, or not.
- God will be glorified! Check out these scriptures:

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. Habakkuk 2:14

He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46:10

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. John 14:12-14

Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts. Isaiah 26:8

- The best choice is to align ourselves with God’s purpose – live to advance his reputation... (*God is looking for funnels, not sponges.*)