

God's Immanence Revealed

1 Samuel 5:1-7:1

1. God's Care Through Correction 5:1-12

Through God dismantling the Philistine god Dagon and allowing a plague of tumors to take place among the Philistine people, God's immanence in the Philistine nation took place to teach them that their various ways of understanding towards Himself were all wrong, and gave them the opportunity to learn His true identity.

God's immanence continues to break into our world through His care of providing opportunities to reveal to us a greater understanding of Himself. Do we take the time to learn from His caring experiences?

2. God's Grace Through Teaching 6:1-12

The Philistines were Israel's enemies who used their superstitious approach, attempts of magic, and the direction from the pagan priests to reconcile to the one true God. However, Yahweh through His grace, chose to work through their actions to reveal Himself, and gave them the opportunity to bring glory to His name.

Although we have all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, God in His grace will choose to work through contrary ways to reveal Himself and give us the opportunity to bring glory to His name.

3. God's Prompted Convictions 6:13-7:1

Through God's intervention with the seventy citizens who lacked fear towards Himself, this prompted the people of Beth Shemesh to ask the key question, "Who can stand in the presence of the LORD, this holy God?"; a question that the Israelites needed to learn the answer to.

Through God's immanent intervention in our lives, He will prompt key questions for ourselves and will guide us to the answers needed for living as His people.

Conclusion:

God is actively involved in our world. When God displays His immanence, it is a display of His care to correct, teach, and prompt the needed questions so that each person may understand and recognize that He is God, and provide each person an opportunity to begin to live for Him.

Questions:

- Learning through God's caring experiences requires us to have the "fear of the LORD" (Proverbs 1:7, 2:1-6). The Philistines experienced fear towards God which caused them to recognize Yahweh as an all-powerful God who they cannot manipulate or control. What does a healthy experience of the "Fear of the Lord" look like in your life?
- When we fear something more than God, we end up sinning against God. What are the different fears that we should not allow to run our life?
- As you reflect on your life journey, what are the different opportunities that God has provided for you to gain in a greater understanding of our great and awesome God?
- What are the key questions today that people tend to ask about God?
- What kind of questions have you asked about God? How did the answers you received strengthen your faith and empowered you to live a God honouring life?