

1 SAMUEL 6; March 21; God Used Nursing Cows

ANALYSIS:

1. How long did the Philistines suffer under the judgment of the LORD before they returned the ark to Israel? _____

2. The pagan priests and diviners counseled the Philistines to send a _____ with the ark, consisting of five _____ and five _____.

3. By making images of emerods and mice the Philistines were giving glory to _____.

4. How did the Philistines prove to their satisfaction that the LORD had afflicted them with emerods and mice?

5. How many people of Beth-shemesh foolishly looked into the ark of the LORD and died? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Untrained cows would normally jump, kick and wreck carts when first tied to one. They would never leave their nursing calves. Moreover, they went straight along the highway to Beth-shemesh, turning neither right nor left. Thus the LORD gave witness, by the action of these cows, to the Philistines that He had indeed done the great evil they were experiencing. He even directed the Philistine counselors to select the unusual manner of returning the ark and the interpretation of the event. The LORD can and does use even His enemies to accomplish His will and glorify His Name.

Before the ark of the LORD was moved it was to be covered (Nu 4:5), it was not to be touched when carried by the Levites lest they die (Nu 4:15), and except for the priest who covered the ark no one was to attempt to view the holy things lest he die (Nu 4:20). The people of Beth-shemesh broke these commands. Let us highly regard every command the LORD has given us and obey Him perfectly!

HELP:

1. 7 months (v 1).

2. Trespass offering; golden emerods, golden mice (vs 2-4).

3. The God of Israel (v 5).

4. They tied two milking cows, separated from their calves, to a cart on which the ark was placed, and watched to see if the cows would take the highway straight to Beth-shemesh -- when they did, the Philistines then knew the LORD had sent them the evil they had suffered (vs 7-9).

5. 50,070 (v 19).