

That The World May Know: The Promised Land – Session 4: Confronting Evil

The Shephelah

The foothills – the Shephelah – served as a buffer between the Philistine territory of the coastal plain and the mountains where the Israelites lived. Because control of the Shephelah ensured the security and power of the dominant culture, many battles between the Philistines and the Israelites took place there. To establish the dominance of His people and to preserve His plan for the salvation of the world, God raised heroes to confront the Philistines in the Shephelah.

1. Investigate the following events that took place in the Shephelah. Tell the location, who God used to battle the Philistines, and the result.
 - a. 1 Samuel 13:5 – 7;
1 Samuel 14:1 – 23
 - b. 1 Samuel 17:1 – 16
1 Samuel 17:32 - 52
 - c. Judges 13:1 – 5
Judges 13:24 – 25
Judges 15:3 – 17
 - d. 2 Samuel 11:1 – 5
2 Samuel 11:14 – 17
Matthew 1:6

The Philistines

The Philistines were quite tall, clean shaven, and wore breastplates and small kilts. The soldiers carried small shields and fought with straight swords and spears. They were sophisticated and immoral. The people built carefully planned temples in Gaza, Ashdod, and Beth Shean.

1. What do the following passages reveal about the Philistines and their culture?
 - a. 1 Samuel 13:16 – 22
 - b. 1 Samuel 31:1 – 13
 - c. 1 Kings 22:51 – 53
2 Kings 1:1 – 3
Matthew 12:24 – 28
 - d. Judges 1:17 – 21
Judges 2:1 - 3

Set Apart for God

1. Describe the circumstances of Samson's miraculous birth.
Judges 13:1 – 14
Judges 13:24 – 25
2. Describe what each of the following says about what it means to be a Nazirite:
 - a. Numbers 6:1 – 3
 - b. Numbers 6:4
 - c. Numbers 6:5
 - d. Numbers 6:6 – 7
 - e. Numbers 6:8
 - f. Numbers 6:9 – 12

Samson and the Philistines

1. Samson sought opportunities to confront the Philistines. What was his intent in the following encounters?
 - a. Judges 14:1 – 4
 - b. Judges 15:1 – 5
 - c. Judges 15:9 – 15
2. In what ways did Samson violate his Nazarite vow and compromise his calling?
 - d. Numbers 6:6 -7; Judges 14:5 – 9
 - e. Numbers 6:4; Judges 14:10
 - f. Judges 16:1 – 3

God Uses Failure to Accomplish His Purposes

1. What were the short-term and long-term consequences of Samson's relationship with Delilah, the Philistine woman living in the Sorek Valley?
 - a. Short-term
Judges 16:5
Judges 16:16 – 21
 - b. Long-term
Judges 16:23 – 30
2. Clearly God can use human failure and weakness to accomplish His purposes. Describe the weaknesses of the following people and how God used them.
 - a. Moses
Exodus 3:9 – 11
Exodus 4:1 – 16
Exodus 33:12 – 17
 - b. David
2 Samuel 11:1 – 17
2 Samuel 12:24
 - c. Peter
Luke 22:54 – 62
John 21:15 – 19

References

Exodus 3	1 Samuel 14
Exodus 4	1 Samuel 17
Exodus 33	1 Samuel 31
Numbers 6	2 Samuel 11
Judges 1	2 Samuel 12
Judges 2	1 Kings 22
Judges 13	2 Kings 1
Judges 14	Matthew 12
Judges 15	Luke 22
Judges 16	John 21
1 Samuel 13	