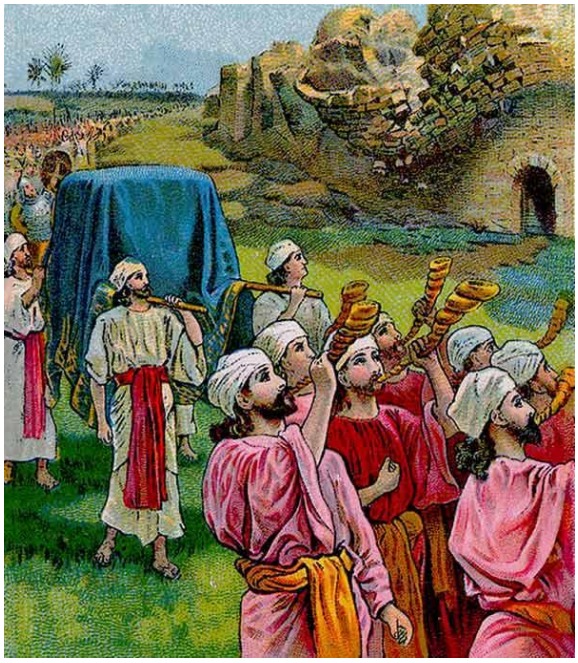
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The Journeys of the Ark of the Covenant
First Samuel 4:1b to 7:1



The biblical narrative suddenly changes to **the Philistine** campaign against **Isra'el**. Not only was **Isra'el** defeated in the battle, but **the Ark of the LORD** was captured (see the commentary on **Exodus, to see link click Fr – The Ark of the Covenant in the Most Holy Place: Christ at the Throne of Grace**), **'Eli's** two **sons** were killed, and **'Eli himself** fell over dead when **he** heard the news. **The Ark** was brought into enemy territory (see **Be – The Ark in the Land of the Philistines**), but the Philistines sent it back to Isra'el after they suffered greatly because **the hand of God** was heavy on **them** (see **Bi – The Ark on the Move**). Even though **the Ark** was captured, **YHVH** was not defeated. **He** was certainly **ADONAI** even in enemy territory.[110] These **three chapters** are commonly called "**the Ark** narrative," because apart from the powerful, invisible working of **the LORD**, **the Ark** is the only "character" who acts in the story. Of special interest is the fact that **Samuel**, for whom **Chapters 1-3** have so carefully prepared us, is not mentioned in the narrative. It is not necessary, however, to say that **the Ark** has

displaced **Samuel** as the central actor. Rather, this narrative witnesses the direct will and action of **ADONAI**, for which **the Ark** is merely a narrative "vehicle."[111] **He** acts alone. **Certainly the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear (Isaiah 59:1).**