



Unsolved Mysteries Part 1 - Raiders Of The Lost Hope

BREAKING THE ICE:

Do you believe in conspiracy theories? Why or why not?

GO TO THE SOURCE: Read 1 Samuel 4:1-7, 4:22 and Colossians 1:27

DIG A LITTLE DEEPER:

The Presence of God

- What was the Ark of the Covenant and what purpose did it serve?
 - **STUDY NOTE:** The Ark of the Covenant was one of the most instrumental symbols of FAITH and GOD'S PRESENCE. The contents within the Ark included the tables of the Mosaic law, a pot of manna, and the rod of Aaron. The Ark's origin stemmed from Exodus 25:10 when Moses was commanded by God to "make an ark of acacia wood."
- Looking at verse 5, what do you think went on in their hearts that was cause for such celebration?
 - **STUDY NOTE:** The Ark was a reminder of the presence and power of God.

- Why would God allow the Ark of the Covenant to mysteriously disappear? And why has God kept it from being found?
- Discuss the fear, concern and distress it must have caused the people of God to feel as though God's presence had left them.
- Do you think people are feeling just like that during this COVID19 pandemic?

The Power of God

- Turning over to the New Testament we see the life of Peter the apostle. He said the miraculous (Matt 16:16-18), did the miraculous (Matt 14:22-23), and had miraculous boldness (John 18:10). Why then did Peter deny Jesus when a servant girl asked if he knew Jesus? What happened to Peter's boldness?
 - **STUDY NOTE: Just like the Israelites had boldness when the Ark was with them, Peter had boldness when he was in close proximity to Jesus. The moment Jesus was arrested and taken away, Peter lost his boldness.**
- Read Acts 4:8-13, What changed in Peter's life? How did he regain boldness?
 - **STUDY NOTE: It is clear in scripture that the Spirit of God had come upon Peter. The children of God all possess the Spirit of God. (Romans 8:9)**
- Going back to Colossians 1:27, It says there's a mystery in which Christ lives in you. What does that look like in real life?

Applying the Presence and Power of God

- Have you personally experienced the presence and power of God in your life?
- How do we practically draw from the presence of God in us?
 - **STUDY NOTE: We draw from the promises of God found in the Bible. Example: Psalm 23**
- Pastor Rick quoted Romans 8:35-37. (Read the verses together) We know what a conqueror is, but what does it mean to be "more" than a conqueror?
 - **STUDY NOTE: A conqueror simply wins a victory over an enemy. To be more than a conqueror means that even weapons meant to destroy you even served a purpose in your life.**

MAKE IT COUNT:

- Create a group chat before being dismissed and use it throughout the week to share promises of God found in scripture.
- Journal during your quiet time this week so you can go back to it in years to come and be reminded of how God got you through this season.