

Study Aids

Discussion Questions for “What’s the Message?” Lessons

Lesson 48

Questions:

In this lesson we see a new element enter into our picture. We see the fearful strength of a trained army and full-time soldiers, well equipped with the latest weapons. And the very thing that could not happen finally does happen. The Israelites are defeated, and the Ark of the Covenant is captured by heathen pagans and placed before their victorious idol-god. If you were an Israelite at this time, how would this defeat impact you? What would it mean to you? Would you conclude that Yahweh has deserted you, or worse? Would it mean that Yahweh was not all-powerful as you had thought? Had Yahweh been defeated?

Would it destroy your faith? Or strengthen it?

Could you possibly have had the insight to comprehend that it was not God who had deserted Israel, but Israel who had deserted God?

Can you see that this truth applies to us today, regardless of what country you live in, or what political party you claim membership in? Can you see that your relationship with God is what comes first in your life? Can you see that if this relationship is broken, that – just like Israel – you will see a very dark day of separation from God?