

1 Samuel 5

King James Version (KJV)

5 And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Ebenezer unto Ashdod. (Ashdod was one of the 5 capital cities of the Philistines. Each capital city was over a region or province of the country)

² When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon. (Dagon- one of the Philistine gods; had the body of a fish, the head and hands of a man)

(They regarded the taking of the Ark as if they had defeated God, and took Him prisoner. They are about to learn a lesson)

³ And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again. (Their god can't even right himself. There is only one living God. His name is Yahoveh)

⁴ And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him. (Their god fell and broke apart in front of the Ark of God)

(This is symbolic for submission. Only the fish part remained in tact. God is teaching the Philistines that their idols are nothing, compared to the Living God, Yahoveh)

⁵ Therefore neither the priests of Dagon, nor any that come into Dagon's house, tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod unto this day.

⁶ But the hand of the LORD was heavy upon them of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and smote them with emerods, even Ashdod and the coasts thereof. (The whole population of Ashdod got hemorrhoids)

⁷ And when the men of Ashdod saw that it was so, they said, The ark of the God of Israel shall not abide with us: for his hand is sore upon us, and upon Dagon our god. (They're getting the message. Yahoveh is God, not Dagon)

⁸They sent therefore and gathered all the lords of the Philistines unto them, and said, What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel? And they answered, Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried about unto Gath. And they carried the ark of the God of Israel about thither. (Gath was another of the 5 capitals of the Philistines. This is where Goliath came from)

⁹And it was so, that, after they had carried it about, the hand of the LORD was against the city with a very great destruction: and he smote the men of the city, both small and great, and they had emerods in their secret parts. (They also got hemorrhoids)

¹⁰Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. And it came to pass, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying, They have brought about the ark of the God of Israel to us, to slay us and our people. (Ekron doesn't want it. By now, they're afraid of the Ark – and rightfully so. They don't want to defy Yahoveh)

¹¹So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go again to his own place, that it slay us not, and our people: for there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there. (A plague of mice killed most the population through filth and disease. The ones of them that didn't die got hemorrhoids)

¹²And the men that died not were smitten with the emerods: and the cry of the city went up to heaven. (Lesson learned; there is a God in heaven. It's not Dagon. It is Yahoveh)