

August 31, 2025

1 Samuel 5

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James

There is more to the story of the Philistines. As we will see they worshiped Dagon. Dagon according to archologists was called the “fish god”. He was depicted as half man half fish called a merman. He was believed by those who worshiped him as the father of all gods. Most specifically the father of Bale.

1 Samuel 5

The Ark among the Philistines

1And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Ebenezer unto Ashdod.

Ebenezer means “the stone of help” and Ashdod means “ravager”. Ashdod was one of five major cities of the Philistines and was at the heart of their kingdom. The major worship of Dagon was there and that is where they brought the symbol of God’s presence in the world.

The word “Ebenezer” doesn’t seem to be applicable to Israel as a “stone of help”, at least not at this moment. But God, in His infinite Wisdom and Power can change things. As we will see it will

eventually be exactly that; God is a stone of HELP, immovable and unchanging and will not be mocked.

2When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon.

Isaiah 42:8 I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

In this time and within these heathen cultures it was a common practice to capture the god of your enemy and place it in your place of idol worship. The idea was that you were showing your enemy that you were the victor, and your god was more powerful than their god. They were not well acquainted with the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob, but would soon learn of His Power over the universe.

3And 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.

It is likely that this is the first occurrence of such a thing in their seafaring history. Their god lying face down on the ground in their temple. The image of the half man, half fish, with head and hands of a man, body of fish laying prostrate before the God of Israel was likely disconcerting. Their assumption was some type of unfortunate accident.

4And 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.

Beheaded and hands amputated in a show of force upon their false god by the God of Creation. The ark is a symbol, it certainly is not God, it is a representative of God's presence. Even though a representation of God Almighty, God will not be mocked.

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

The idea of God placing the remains of Dagon on the Philistine temple threshold is probably God poking His finger into the eye of the idol worshipers. The threshold was where everyone entering the idol temple would step. So now it was blocked by this forever catastrophe to the Philistines.

In the middle east especially the soles of the feet were thought to be the filthiest part of the human anatomy due to its constant contact with the dirt of the earth. If you recall you may have seen Arab's taking off their shoes and hitting the statue of people like Saddam Hussain from Iraq as a show of utter disrespect. So, God places the remains of Dagon right where everyone steps as a further disgrace to their idol worship.

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

6But 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.

From Strong's Concordance; "emerods"

"tchor (tekh-ore)"

a boil or ulcer (from the inflammation), especially a tumor in the anus or pudenda (the piles) -- emerod."

Similar to hemorrhoids.

7And 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.

As the Philistines continue to get acquainted with the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob, the pain only increase.

Isaiah 45:23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

The folly of the world and its leaders thinking that there is no God. That they are the gods of this planet and can commit whatever atrocity they chose and not be held accountable.

We as human beings seldom see the true soul of any man. But this past week a man revealed what filled his heart and his soul when he shot a number of children in a church.

Count the cost of this man's folly. He had attended school at this catholic church. Somewhere in his education he must have heard of God's judgement of homosexuality, and it offended him. He along with his mother declared himself to be a woman and even legally changed his name. He bought various firearms and wrote such things as wanting to kill Trump. He had a picture representing Jesus Christ that he would use for target practice. He declared his hatred of Christ and God. He then killed several children and then himself.

He will not go to hell for the killing of the children or himself, but he will be judged for that. He revealed his soul's condition with the only unpardonable sin, rejecting Jesus Christ as God's Son and his own Savior. He sent himself to burn in hell for eternity. Totally consumed by Satan a current day brand of Idol worship.

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*.

So, what did the men of Ashdod have against their Gathite brethren? It is likely they wanted to test the presence of the Arc in a different area of their nation to see if it had similar effect. We are not told if they warned their brothers in Gath, likely not or they would have gotten recorded pushback.

We will see later that Israelites were treated differently than the heathen Philistines if they touched the Arc. Apparently, God was satisfied with allowing them to touch the Arc and carry it about for a larger impact of judgement. God also used the Philistines as an instrument of punishment against His chosen people Israel for their adultery with idol worship.

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.

Same story just a different location from Ashdod to Gath. Not satisfied with the damage done to the first two major cities perhaps they will send it to their brethren in Ekron? The word was out as to the destruction that followed this Arc so the folks at Ekron objected strongly about bringing it into their city. Those in power were deaf to the pleas of their countrymen and planted the Arc squarely in Ekron.

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.

The people of Ekron had heard of what had been happening when the Ark of God arrived in various cities. They pled with their fellow Philistines to not bring the Ark of the God of the Israelites within their city. But those in power declined their request and the city suffered more than the earlier cities.

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.

The devastation increased with each passing location. Finally at the last location in the land of the Philistines death took many. Those that did not die suffered greatly from these tumors, again likely hemorrhoids or something similar.

12And the men that died not were smitten with the emerods: and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

Not the cry of indignation as in vs 10 where they were agitated with their fellow Philistines for bringing the Arc to them. This plea is to heaven to the power of the God of Israel to spare them.

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James