

1 SAMUEL 5; March 20; Idolatry Exposed As Helpless

ANALYSIS:

1. After capturing the ark of the LORD from Israel, the Philistines put it in the house of _____ their god in the city of _____.

2. What did God do to the idol of Dagon the first night?

The second night? _____

3. What unusual physical affliction did God bring upon the people of Ashdod in addition to many dying? _____

4. To which other Philistine cities was the ark taken causing death and affliction? _____ & _____

5. Where did the people of Ekron want to send the ark after suffering deadly destruction through all the city? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Think of these Philistines as men, women, children and families. Their religion is worship to a lifeless idol named Dagon. They have heard of the God of Israel because when the ark of the LORD is brought to the battlefield by Israel, the Philistine soldiers are very afraid (4:5-9). When the captured ark is set beside their idol, the LORD God vindicates His glory by knocking over and breaking Dagon in pieces. However, in spite of this demonstration of God's person, presence and power, these people do not reverence the LORD in humble repentance. Instead they chose to send away the ark which represents God. When did you last thank and worship the LORD for giving you a new heart to seek and know Him?!

Let us practice daily spiritual exercise which will give us a vital faith and life after the example of David: Confession of sin (Ps 51:1-4, 9-10), Meditation on God & scripture (Ps 77:5-6), Prayer at all times & in all matters (Ps 55:16-17), Self-examination to judge and correct our heart (Ps 139:23-24).

HELP:

1. Dagon, Ashdod (v 1-2).
2. Dagon was fallen on his face before the ark of the LORD. Dagon was fallen and broken in pieces before the ark of the LORD (v 3).
3. Emerods (vs 6, 9, 12).
4. Gath (v 8), Ekron (v 10).
5. "Send away the ark ... let it go again to his own place" (v 11).