

1 Samuel 5:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore 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.

Analysis

The Ark moves to Ekron, and the Ekronites immediately recognize the threat: 'They have brought about the ark of the God of Israel to us, to slay us and our people.' Their cry shows learned experience - they know what happened to Ashdod and Gath. The phrase 'to slay us' attributes intentional, aggressive action to the God of the Ark. The Ekronites understand better than Israel's elders that this God acts according to His own purposes, not human manipulation.

Historical Context

Ekron was the northernmost of the Philistine pentapolis, located closest to Israelite territory. The Ekronites' immediate alarm suggests news had spread of the Ark's devastating effects in other cities. Their outcry represents Philistine consensus forming against keeping the Ark.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does the Ekronites' immediate recognition of danger indicate about the Ark's reputation?
2. How has Philistine understanding of Yahweh evolved through chapters 4-5?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשְׁלַח ו אֶת אֲרוֹן יְהוָה י וּמִקְרֹן אֱלֹהֵי י
Therefore they sent H853 And it came to pass as the ark H727 of God H430 to Ekron H6138 H1961

וַיִּזְעַק וּמִקְרֹן אֱלֹהֵי י אֲרוֹן כָּב וָא
came H935 And it came to pass as the ark H727 of God H430 to Ekron H6138 cried out H2199

אֶת אֱלֹהֵי י הֵסִיבוּ לָאֵמֹר רַקְעֹנֵי ים
that the Ekronites H6139 saying H559 They have brought about H5437 H413 H853

וְאֵת לְהַמִּית נִי יִשְׂרָאֵל ל אֱלֹהֵי י אֲרוֹן
And it came to pass as the ark H727 of God H430 of Israel H3478 to us to slay H4191 H853

עַמִּי:
us and our people H5971

Additional Cross-References

Amos 1:8 (References God): And I will cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod, and him that holdeth the sceptre from Ashkelon, and I will turn mine hand against Ekron: and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish, saith the Lord GOD.