

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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does the Ekonites' 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 וְ	אֶת	אָרוֹן	אֱלֹהִים	עִזָּק וְ
Therefore they sent	H853	And it came to pass as the ark	of God	to Ekron
	H7971		H727	H1961
came	H935	And it came to pass as the ark	of God	cried out
	H727		H430	H2199
that the Ekronites	H6139	saying	They have brought about	אֶת אֵלִים
	H559		H5437	H413 H853
And it came to pass as the ark	H727	of God	of Israel	אֶת לְבָמִית נִישְׁרָא לְאֱלֹהִים
	H430		H3478	H4191 H853
us and our people	H5971			עָמִים

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.