

# 1 Samuel 5:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So 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.

## Analysis

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The Philistine lords reconvene, now united in determination: 'Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go again to his own place.' The Ark must return to prevent total destruction. The phrase 'that it slay us not' again attributes lethal intent to the Ark's God. The description 'deadly destruction throughout all the city' and 'the hand of God was very heavy there' summarizes comprehensive judgment. The Philistines have learned what Israel forgot: Yahweh cannot be controlled or manipulated.

## Historical Context

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The phrase 'his own place' acknowledges the Ark belongs in Israel, not Philistia. Philistine religion would understand territorial gods; their conclusion that this God operates most powerfully in His own land reflects their theological framework.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. What theological admission do the Philistines make by sending the Ark back?
2. How does Philistine fear contrast with Israel's presumption in chapter 4?

## Interlinear Text

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שְׁלַח וּ	וַאֲסַפּוּ	אֶת	כָּל	סִרְיָי	פְּלִשְׁתֵּי יָם
Send away	and gathered together			all the lords	of the Philistines
H7971	H622	H853	H3605	H5633	H6430
וַיֹּאמְרוּ	שְׁלַח וּ	אֶת	הָאֲלֹהֵי יִם	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וַיֵּשׁ בּ
and said	Send away		the ark	of God	of Israel and let it go again
H559	H7971	H853	H727	H430	H3478 H7725
לְמִקְוֹמוֹ	וְלֹא	יָמָּה יִת	אֶת־	וְאֶת־	עַמִּי
to his own place		that it slay			us not and our people
H4725	H3808	H4191	H853	H853	H5971 H3588
הַהִיָּתָה	מְהוֹמָת	מָוֶת	בְּכָל	הָעִיר	
	destruction	for there was a deadly		throughout all the city	
H1961	H4103	H4194	H3605	H5892	
הַכֶּבֶד	מְאֹד	יָד	הָאֲלֹהֵי יָם	שָׁם:	
heavy	was very	the hand	of God		
H3513	H3966	H3027	H430	H8033	

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 5:6** (References Lord): 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.