

# 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

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

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

**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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פָּלֶשֶׁת יִם סְרִגְגִּי אֶת כָּל אֶת שָׁלֹחַ וְיִאָסֶף וְ  
Send away and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines  
H7971 H622 H853 H3605 H5633 H6430

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה יְמִינְךָ אָרֶן שָׁלֹחַ וְיִשְׁלַחַ וְיִאָמְרוּ  
and said Send away the ark of God of Israel and let it go again  
H559 H7971 H853 H727 H430 H3478 H7725

לֹא יְמִית יְמִינְךָ אֶת אֶת שָׁלֹחַ וְיִמְתַּחַם וְ  
to his own place that it slay us not and our people  
H4725 H3808 H4191 H853 H853 H5971 H3588

פִּימְתָּה מִתְּהֻמָּת מִתְּהֻמָּת בְּכָל יְרֵאָה  
destruction for there was a deadly throughout all the city  
H1961 H4103 H4194 H3605 H5892

שָׁמְךָ יְמִינְךָ אֶת מִאָדָם בְּכָל הַכְּבָד  
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.