

# 1 Samuel 5:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the men that died not were smitten with the emerods:  
and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

## Analysis

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The final verse captures universal suffering: 'the men that died not were smitten with the emerods: and the cry of the city went up to heaven.' The affliction is total - all are either dead or diseased. The 'cry...to heaven' echoes language used for Israel's suffering in Egypt (Exodus 2:23) and Sodom's sin (Genesis 18:21). Now pagans cry under God's heavy hand. The Ark that brought no salvation to faithless Israel brings destruction to presumptuous Philistia. Chapter 6 will show how they attempt to return it.

## Historical Context

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The phrase 'cry went up to heaven' uses language typically applied to appeals for divine attention. Here it describes Philistine suffering reaching the heavens - not to their deaf idol but filling the sky with lamentation. The universal scope of affliction prepares for the Ark's return.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the image of Philistine cries reaching heaven complete the narrative?
2. What has the Ark's captivity accomplished for God's purposes?

## Interlinear Text

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וַתַּעַל בַּעֲפָלָיִם הָכֹחַ מֵתוּ לֹא אֶשְׁרַח וְהָאֲנָשִׁים  
H376 H834 H3808 **that died** **not were smitten** H6076 **went up**  
H4191 H5221 H5927

הַשָּׁמַיִם: הָעִיר שְׁוַעַת  
**and the cry** **of the city** **to heaven**  
H7775 H5892 H8064

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 12:30** (Parallel theme): And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead.

**Amos 5:19** (Parallel theme): As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.