

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

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

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

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

וְעַל בָּעֵף יְמִינָה
H376 H834 H3808 H4191 H5221 H6076 H5927

לֹא אָשָׁר מִתְנַשֵּׁה
that died not were smitten

שֹׁׁעַת בָּעֵמִים
H7775 H5892 H8064

and the cry of the city to heaven

Additional Cross-References

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.