

# 1 Samuel 5:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him.

## Analysis

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The second morning brings intensified humiliation: Dagon falls again, now with 'head...and both the palms of his hands cut off upon the threshold.' Only 'the stump of Dagon' (literally 'only Dagon') remains - the fish-body portion if Dagon was fish-shaped, or simply a mutilated torso. The severing of head and hands represents complete incapacitation: no wisdom (head) and no power (hands). Dagon cannot think or act. The threshold - the temple's entrance point - becomes a place of permanent shame.

## Historical Context

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The specific mutilation of head and hands echoes ancient Near Eastern practices of humiliating conquered enemies. Warriors' heads and hands were often severed and displayed. Applying this treatment to Dagon demonstrates his complete defeat by Yahweh.

## Related Passages

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

## 1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

### Study Questions

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1. What is the significance of Dagon losing his head and hands specifically?
2. How does this scene reverse Philistine expectations about who conquered whom?

### Interlinear Text

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וַשְׁכּוּ מוֹ	בַּבֹּקֶר	מִמָּחָרֵה	יְהוָה ה	דָּג וִן		
And when they arose early	morning	on the morrow	H2009	behold Dagon		
H7925	H1242	H4283		H1712		
נָפַל ל	לִפְנֵי י	אֶרֶץ רָצָה	לִפְנֵי י	אֶר וִן	יְהוָה ה	וְרֹאשׁ אֵשׁ
was fallen	before	to the ground	before	the ark	of the LORD	and the head
H5307	H6440	H776	H6440	H727	H3068	H7218
דָּג וִן	וּשְׁתֵּי יוֹ	כַּף וֹת	יָד יוֹ	כָּרְתוֹת	אֶל	
behold Dagon	and both	the palms	of his hands	were cut off	H413	
H1712	H8147	H3709	H3027	H3772		
הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	בִּקַּי	דָּג וִן	נִשָּׂא ר	עָלָיו:		
upon the threshold	H7535	behold Dagon	was left	H5921		
H4670		H1712	H7604			

### Additional Cross-References

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**Micah 1:7** (Parallel theme): And all the graven images thereof shall be beaten to pieces, and all the hires thereof shall be burned with the fire, and all the idols thereof will I lay desolate: for she gathered it of the hire of an harlot, and they shall return to the hire of an harlot.

**Jeremiah 10:11** (Parallel theme): Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens.

**Jeremiah 50:2** (Parallel theme): Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal not: say, Babylon is taken, Bel is confounded, Merodach is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces.

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