

1 Samuel 5:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it was so, that, after they had carried it about, the hand of the LORD was against the city with a very great destruction: and he smote the men of the city, both small and great, and they had emerods in their secret parts.

Analysis

Gath fares no better: 'the hand of the LORD was against the city with a very great destruction.' The affliction now includes 'small and great' - no social class escapes. The 'emerods in their secret parts' (more literally, 'tumors broke out on them') spreads through the entire population. Each Philistine city that receives the Ark experiences intensified judgment. God demonstrates His power systematically throughout Philistine territory. The Ark cannot be contained or controlled by pagan strategies.

Historical Context

Gath's experience parallels Ashdod's, confirming that the affliction was connected to the Ark's presence, not local conditions. The inclusion of all social classes demonstrates comprehensive judgment. Gath was a significant Philistine city, later becoming David's refuge (1 Samuel 27:1-4).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does the spreading affliction demonstrate about Yahweh's power beyond Israel's borders?
2. How does God's systematic judgment counter Philistine attempts to manage the Ark?

Interlinear Text

וַיְהִי י	אַחֲרַי	הִסְבוּ	אֶת־ו	וַתְּהִי י	יָד	
H1961	And it was so that after	they had carried it about	H853	H1961	the hand	
	H310	H5437			H3027	
יְהוָה הוּא	הָעִיר	מְהוּמָה	גָּדוֹל	מְאֹד	וַיִּסֶּם	אֶת־
of the LORD	of the city	destruction	and great	with a very	and he smote	H853
H3068	H5892	H4103	H1419	H3966	H5221	
אֲנָשֵׁי י	הָעִיר	מִקְטָן	וְגָדוֹל	וַיִּשְׁתֵּר ו	לָהֶם	
H376	of the city	both small	and great	in their secret parts	H0	
	H5892	H6996	H1419	H8368		
עֲפָלִים:						
H6076						

Additional Cross-References

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.

Deuteronomy 2:15 (References Lord): For indeed the hand of the LORD was against them, to destroy them from among the host, until they were consumed.

1 Samuel 7:13 (References Lord): So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Israel: and the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

1 Samuel 12:15 (References Lord): But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as it was against your fathers.

Psalms 78:66 (Parallel theme): And he smote his enemies in the hinder parts: he put them to a perpetual reproach.

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