

# 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

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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

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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

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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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

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## 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.

**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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