

1 Samuel 6

Chapter 6 of 31 · 21 Verses · Authorized King James Version

The Ark Returned to Israel

- ¹ And the ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months.
- ² And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, What shall we do to the ark of the LORD? tell us wherewith we shall send it to his place.
- ³ And they said, If ye send away the ark of the God of Israel, send it not empty; but in any wise return him a trespass offering: then ye shall be healed, and it shall be known to you why his hand is not removed from you.
- ⁴ Then said they, What shall be the trespass offering which we shall return to him? They answered, Five golden emerods, and five golden mice, according to the number of the lords of the Philistines: for one plague was on you all, and on your lords.
- ⁵ Wherefore ye shall make images of your emerods, and images of your mice that mar the land; and ye shall give glory unto the God of Israel: peradventure he will lighten his hand from off you, and from off your gods, and from off your land.
- ⁶ Wherefore then do ye harden your hearts, as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? when he had wrought wonderfully among them, did they not let the people go, and they departed?
- ⁷ Now therefore make a new cart, and take two milch kine, on which there hath come no yoke, and tie the kine to the cart, and bring their calves home from them:
- ⁸ And take the ark of the LORD, and lay it upon the cart; and put the jewels of gold, which ye return him for a trespass offering, in a coffer by the side thereof; and send it away, that it may go.

9 And see, if it goeth up by the way of his own coast to Beth-shemesh, then he hath done us this great evil: but if not, then we shall know that it is not his hand that smote us: it was a chance that happened to us.

10 And the men did so; and took two milch kine, and tied them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home:

11 And they laid the ark of the LORD upon the cart, and the coffer with the mice of gold and the images of their emerods.

12 And the kine took the straight way to the way of Beth-shemesh, and went along the highway, lowing as they went, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left; and the lords of the Philistines went after them unto the border of Beth-shemesh.

13 And they of Beth-shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley: and they lifted up their eyes, and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it.

14 And the cart came into the field of Joshua, a Beth-shemite, and stood there, where there was a great stone: and they clave the wood of the cart, and offered the kine a burnt offering unto the LORD.

15 And the Levites took down the ark of the LORD, and the coffer that was with it, wherein the jewels of gold were, and put them on the great stone: and the men of Beth-shemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day unto the LORD.

16 And when the five lords of the Philistines had seen it, they returned to Ekron the same day.

17 And these are the golden emerods which the Philistines returned for a trespass offering unto the LORD; for Ashdod one, for Gaza one, for Askelon one, for Gath one, for Ekron one;

18 And the golden mice, according to the number of all the cities of the Philistines belonging to the five lords, both of fenced cities, and of country villages, even unto the great stone of Abel, whereon they set down the ark of the LORD: which stone remaineth unto this day in the field of Joshua, the Beth-shemite.

19 And he smote the men of Beth-shemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD, even he smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men: and the people lamented, because the LORD had smitten many of the people with a great slaughter.

20 And the men of Beth-shemesh said, Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? and to whom shall he go up from us?

21 And they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjath-jearim, saying, The Philistines have brought again the ark of the LORD; come ye down, and fetch it up to you.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Glory — כְּבוֹד (Kavod)

Glory, weight, honor

The Hebrew **kavod** (כְּבוֹד) literally means 'weight' or 'heaviness,' metaphorically denoting glory, honor, or majesty. God's glory (Shekinah) filled the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34) and temple (1 Kings 8:11).

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Holy — קָדוֹשׁ (Qadosh)

Holy, set apart

The Hebrew **qadosh** (קָדוֹשׁ) means holy or set apart—separated from common use for God's purposes. God is 'the Holy One of Israel,' utterly distinct from creation in moral perfection.

Lord — אֲדֹנָי / יְהוָה (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Priest — כֹּהֵן (Kohen)

Priest

The Hebrew **kohen** (כֹּהֵן) denotes a priest—one who mediates between God and people through sacrifices and intercession. Aaron and his descendants served as Israel's priests, foreshadowing Christ the Great High Priest.

Repent — שׁוּב / נָחַם (Shuv / Nacham)

To turn back, relent

The Hebrew **shuv** (שׁוּב) means to turn or return—a physical turning that represents spiritual redirection back to God. **Nacham** (נָחַם) conveys grief or relenting, often used of God 'repenting' of judgment.

Sacrifice — זֶבַח (Zevach)

Sacrifice, offering

The Hebrew **zevach** (זֶבַח) denotes a sacrifice or offering—an animal slaughtered for worship. Old Testament sacrifices foreshadowed Christ, 'the Lamb of God' (John 1:29).

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Samuel 6:2 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 41:8; Exodus 7:11; Daniel 2:2; 5:7

1 Samuel 6:3 **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 6:9; Exodus 23:15; 34:20. **References God:** Deuteronomy 16:16

1 Samuel 6:4 **References Lord:** 1 Samuel 5:6; 5:9; Joshua 13:3; Judges 3:3

1 Samuel 6:5 **Glory:** Joshua 7:19; Isaiah 42:12; Jeremiah 13:16. **References God:** 1 Samuel 5:11; John 9:24. **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 5:9; Psalms 32:4

1 Samuel 6:6 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 7:13; 8:15; 9:34. **References Egypt:** Exodus 14:17

1 Samuel 6:7 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 19:2; 2 Samuel 6:3

1 Samuel 6:9

Parallel theme: 1 Samuel 6:3; Joshua 15:10; 21:16; 2 Samuel 1:6; Ecclesiastes 9:11; Luke 10:31

1 Samuel 6:14 **Sacrifice:** Judges 21:4; 2 Samuel 24:22

1 Samuel 6:16 **References Lord:** 1 Samuel 6:4; Joshua 13:3; Judges 3:3

1 Samuel 6:17 **Parallel theme:** 2 Samuel 1:20

1 Samuel 6:19 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 4:15; 4:20; Colossians 2:18. **References Lord:** Exodus 19:21; 2 Samuel 6:7

1 Samuel 6:20 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 76:7; Malachi 3:2; Luke 8:37; Revelation 6:17.

References Lord: 2 Samuel 6:9; Luke 5:8. **Holy:** Leviticus 11:45. **References God:** 2 Samuel 6:7

1 Samuel 6:21 **Parallel theme:** Joshua 9:17; 18:14

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