

1 Samuel 6:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

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

The Ark narrative reveals that God's presence cannot be manipulated through religious symbols or ritualistic practices. Israel's superstitious use of the Ark as a magical talisman demonstrated fundamental misunderstanding of covenant relationship. The Ark's capture and Israel's defeat prove that external religious forms without heart transformation provide no protection from judgment. Yet even in captivity, the Ark demonstrates Yahweh's supremacy—Dagon falls, plagues strike, and the Philistines recognize a power they cannot control or domesticate.

Historical Context

The Philistines, part of the 'Sea Peoples' who settled the coastal plain around 1200 BCE, possessed superior iron technology and organized military forces. Their pentapolis (five major cities: Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, Gath) controlled coastal trade routes and threatened Israelite settlements in the hill country. The Philistine threat created the political pressure that would eventually lead to Israel's demand for centralized monarchy.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen our understanding of God's character, purposes, and ways of working in human history?
2. What specific heart attitudes, thought patterns, or life practices does this passage call you to examine or change?
3. How does this passage connect to the larger biblical narrative of redemption and point toward Christ and the gospel?

Interlinear Text

וַעֲשֵׂה	הָאֲנָשִׁים	כִּי	וַיִּקַּח	שְׁתֵּי	כָרוֹת	עַל	וַיִּקַּח
did so			and took	two	kine	milch	and tied
H6213	H376	H3651	H3947	H8147	H6510	H5763	H631
בָּעֶגְלָה	וְאֵת	בְּנֵיהֶם	כָּל	בְּבֵית:			
them to the cart		their calves	and shut up	at home			
H5699	H853	H1121	H3607	H1004			

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