

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](#)

Psalm 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

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|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| וְאָסֵר וּמְלָאֵךְ | עַל וְתִפְרֹת | שְׁתִּים | לִיקְחָה וְכֵן | בְּאָנָשִׁים | לְעֵשׂ וְ | | |
| did so H6213 | H376 | H3651 | and took H3947 | two H8147 | kine H6510 | milch H5763 | and tied H631 |
| בְּעֵגֶל הַ | בְּבִית | כָּל וְ | בְּנִיאָה מִ | וְאַתְּ | תְּמִימָה | וְאָסֵר | |
| them to the cart H5699 | H853 | their calves H1121 | and shut up H3607 | at home H1004 | | | |

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