

# 1 Samuel 6:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**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.**

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

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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

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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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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וַיִּשֹׂא מוֹ      אֶת      אֶרֶץ      יְהוָה      אֶל      הָעֶגְלָה      וַיֵּאֱתָן  
**And they laid**      H853      **the ark**      **of the LORD**      H413      **upon the cart**      H853  
H7760      H727      H3068      H5699

וְהָאֲרוֹן      וְאֵת      עֶבְרֵי      הַזֶּה      וַיֵּאֱתָן      צִלְמֵי  
**and the coffer**      H853      **with the mice**      **of gold**      H853      **and the images**  
H712      H5909      H2091      H6754

טְחֻרֵיהֶם:  
**of their emerods**  
H2914