

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

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

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

וַיְשִׁלַּח מֹעֲדָה	אֶל	יְהוָה הָאֵלֹהִים	וְעַל	הַעֲגָלָה	וְעַל	תְּמִימָה
And they laid	H853	the ark	H413	upon the cart	H853	
H7760		H727	H3068	H5699		
בְּאֶרְכָּת	וְעַל	עֲכָבָר	בְּזִקְנָת	צְלָמָה	וְעַל	תְּמִימָה
and the coffer	H853	with the mice	H853	and the images	H6754	
H712		H5909	H2091			
טְהִרְיוֹנָם:						
of their emerods						
H2914						

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