

1 Samuel 6:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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;

Analysis

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;

The narrator provides an itemized account of the guilt offering, listing each city's contribution. The Hebrew 'asham' (trespass or guilt offering) terminology shows the Philistines understood their affliction as punishment requiring compensation. Five golden tumors represented the five cities - a symbolic acknowledgment that the plague had touched all of Philistia. The enumeration 'for Ashdod one, for Gaza one...' emphasizes corporate responsibility; each city bore guilt and each contributed to atonement. This pagan appropriation of Hebrew sacrificial concepts demonstrates how God's revelation influenced surrounding cultures while also showing the inadequacy of external forms without heart transformation. The Philistines offered gold but not themselves, substitutes but not surrender.

Historical Context

The five cities formed a confederation controlling the southern coastal plain. Ashdod hosted Dagon's primary temple; Gaza was the southernmost city; Ashkelon possessed a major seaport; Gath was the inland agricultural center; Ekron lay

nearest Israelite territory. Each city's golden tumor acknowledged local experience of the plague.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does the Philistines' city-by-city acknowledgment of guilt teach about corporate responsibility for sin?
2. How do people today offer religious substitutes rather than genuine heart surrender?

Interlinear Text

טָהֹרִים וְאַל־הַ

H428

emero^{ds}

פְּזַבְּ בָּ

And these are the golden

H2091

הַשְׁׁבָּרָא אֲשֶׁר־

H834

returned

H7725

פְּלַשְׁתִּים

which the Philistines

H6430

אֲשֶׁר־

for a trespass offering

H817

לִיהְיוֹת

unto the LORD

H3068

לְאַשְׁדָּד וְ

for Ashdod

H795

אֶחָד:

one

H259

לְעִזָּהָר וְאֶת־אֶחָד:

for Gaza

H5804

one

H259

לְאַשְׁקָּל וְאֶת־אֶחָד:

for Askelon

H831

לְאֶת־אֶחָד:

one

H259

לְגַת וְאֶת־אֶחָד:

for Gath

H1661

לְעִזָּהָר וְאֶת־אֶחָד:

for Ebron

H6138

אֶת־אֶחָד:

one

H259

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 1:20 (Parallel theme): Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

