

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

טֹחֲרֵי יָאֵלָה H428 emerods H2914	הַזֶּה ב H2091 And these are the golden	הָשׁ יָבוֹ אֲשֶׁר H834 returned H7725					
כְּלִשְׁתַּיִם H6430 which the Philistines	אֲשֶׁר מִ H817 for a trespass offering	לַיהוָה H3068 unto the LORD	לְאַשְׁדּוֹד H795 for Ashdod	אֶחָד: H259 one			
לְעֵזֶר הַ H5804 for Gaza	אֶחָד: H259 one	לְאַשְׁקֶלֶן וְ H831 for Askelon	אֶחָד: H259 one	לְגַת ת H1661 for Gath	אֶחָד: H259 one	לְעֶקְרוֹן וְ H6138 for Ekron	אֶחָד: H259 one

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.

