

1 Samuel 6:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore make a new cart, and take two milch kine, on which there hath come no yoke, and tie the kine to the cart, and bring their calves home from them:

Analysis

Now therefore make a new cart, and take two milch kine, on which there hath come no yoke, and tie the kine to the cart, and bring their calves home from them:

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

וְשַׂתִּי אַתָּה חֲדֵשָׁה בְּעִגֵּל הַיּוֹם וְעַתָּה הַיּוֹם
H6258 and take Now therefore make cart new a two
H3947 H6213 H5699 H2319 H259 H8147

עַל עֲלֵיכֶם לֹא אַשְׁר רָעַל וְתַפְרֹת
no yoke on which there hath come
H5921 H5923
kine milch H834 H3808 H5927

בְּנֵיכֶם וְבְשִׁבְתְּכֶם בְּעִגֵּל הַפְּרֹת אַתָּה תַּאֲסִרְתָּם
their calves and bring and tie
H1121 H7725 H631 H853 H6510 H5699

מִבֵּיתֵיכֶם מִאַחֲרֵיכֶם
from them home
H310 H1004

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 19:2 (Parallel theme): This is the ordinance of the law which the LORD hath commanded, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring thee a red heifer without spot, wherein is no blemish, and upon which never came yoke:

2 Samuel 6:3 (Parallel theme): And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.

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