

# 1 Samuel 6:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And take the ark of the LORD, and lay it upon the cart; and put the jewels of gold, which ye return him for a trespass offering, in a coffer by the side thereof; and send it away, that it may go.

## Analysis

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**And take the ark of the LORD, and lay it upon the cart; and put the jewels of gold, which ye return him for a trespass offering, in a coffer by the side thereof; and send it away, that it may go.**

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

## **Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds**

## **Romans 2:1 – Judging others**

## 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

לו נשבת מ אשר הרים כל ב הרים לא תא  
H853 the jewels of gold H834 which ye return H0  
H3627 H2001 H7725

מִצְדָּה	בְּאֶרְגָּה	תְּשִׁימֹן	אֲשֶׁר	מִן
him for a trespass offering	and put	in a coffer	by the side	

וְשִׁלְחוּ מִ	את	וְיִכְלְהוּ
thereof and send it away	H853	that it may go