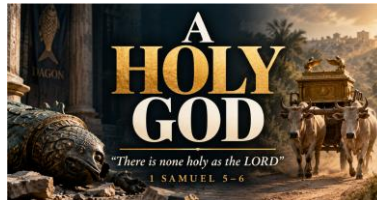


Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Scriptures for Today: 1 Samuel 5:1-6:21 – There is none holy as the LORD.

Today's Message:

"A Holy God"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we witnessed the judgment of God and the fall of Eli's house. God's people had put their trust and faith in a box – the ark. They tried to use God, and the results were catastrophic. Today, we will see the consequences of God's ark being taken by the Philistines. It is probable that they viewed the capture of the ark as the capture of Israel's God – but they were dead wrong! They discovered how holy God truly is. God does not share His glory with another, and He will not be manipulated by men. There will be real pain and consequences to both the Philistines and Israel. And like God's people, we will discover, "Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God?" Amen. This is God's message to you ...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text 1 Samuel 5:1-6:21

A. God will not share His glory 5:1-5

Exodus 20:3

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

1. God will not share His glory with an IDOL.

KEY TRUTH

Biblically, God's glory refers to His greatness, His honour, His majesty, and His reputation.

1Samuel 5:1 – And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought... unto Ashdod.

1Samuel 5:2 – ... they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon.

1Samuel 5:3 – ... Dagon was **fallen upon his face**... before the ark of the LORD...

1Samuel 5:4 – ... Dagon was fallen... and the head of Dagon... hands... cut off...

1Samuel 5:5 – Therefore neither the priests of Dagon... in Ashdod unto this day.

"Dagon was fallen upon his face" – Notice the position; what a thought! Amen. Amen.

"Fallen... the head... hands... stump" – the false god is prostrate before the ark of God!

SCRIPTURE WITH SCRIPTURE

Elijah and Baal
Herod

1 Kings 18:39
Acts 12:23

God demonstrated that He alone deserves glory.
God demonstrated that He alone deserves glory.

KEY TRUTHS

- God is a **jealous** God! He will not share Himself with other gods! **Exodus 20**
- God will not share His glory with an idol in your life. He **deserves glory** from you!



Application

An idol does not have to be a statue!

What gets placed beside God in your life?

Dagon represents anything that competes with God for your:

Worship
Affection
Attention
Dependence
Obedience

What competes with God in your life?

B. God will not be manipulated 5:6-12

2. God will not be manipulated or coerced by **PEOPLE**.

1Samuel 5:6 – But **the hand of the LORD** was heavy upon them of Ashdod...

1Samuel 5:8-10 – ... carried about unto Gath... sent **the ark of God** to Ekron...

1Samuel 5:11-12 – ... a deadly destruction... **the hand of God** was very heavy there.

“The hand of the LORD” – communicates God’s strength, power, and judgment – **heavy!**

“They sent the ark of God” – the shell game; “If we move it, the problem will go away.”

Important Note

God is no man’s servant.
We are to be His servants!

Important Note

They wanted to shuffle the problem away thinking that if they just hide it, it will go away.
However, God was their problem!

SCRIPTURE WITH SCRIPTURE

Balaam	Num 22-24	God will not be manipulated to go against His will!
Jonah	Jonah 1-4	God controlled wind, sea, whale, plant, worm, wind!
Nebuchadnezzar	Daniel 4:35	God greatly humbled him; He does what He pleases!

KEY TRUTHS

- They were attempting to manipulate God – control or influence their outcomes!
 - ✓ Do not **pray** just for God to bless your plans – ask for His will and His best for you.
 - ✓ Do not use **Scripture** to justify what you want – ask what God wants for your life.
 - ✓ Do not use **religious activity** as leverage with God – be very, very careful here!
- God is not a vending machine where you put in **prayer, church attendance, money, and good deeds** and expect God to give you whatever you want. Amen.

C. God is the Supreme Ruler over all 6:1-21

3. God is God alone! He will have His way! There is none **HOLY** as the Lord! (**1Sam 2:2**)

1Samuel 6:1 – And **the ark of the LORD** was in... Philistines seven months.

1Samuel 6:9 – ... if it goeth up by the way of his own... but if not... it was a chance...

1Samuel 6:12 – ... the kine **took the straight way...** lords of the Philistines... after...

1Samuel 6:19 – ... **smote the men...** because they... looked into the ark of the LORD...

1Samuel 6:20 – ... the men...said, **Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God?**

“If it goeth up... if not... chance” – priests devise test designed to see if this is really God!

“The kine took the straight way” – untrained, separated from young, pulling a new thing!

“He smote... a great slaughter” – God killed 50,070 of His people! 1Sam4 = 34,000 enemy

Important Note

Israel could not get the ark to victory!
The Philistines could not keep the ark!
And now 2 milk cows carry the ark straight back to Israel!

Psalms 115:3

But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

Isaiah 6:3

... Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts...

SCRIPTURE WITH SCRIPTURE

Nadab + Abihu	Lev 10:1-3	They offered strange fire; God’s fire devoured them!
Uzzah	2 Sam 6	Touched the ark with good intentions; God killed him!
Isaiah	Isaiah 6	Isaiah saw the LORD on His throne... said WOE is me!

KEY TRUTHS

- God possesses supreme authority and exercises supreme rule over His creation!
- God does as He **pleases!** He did not need: king, a priest, prophet, army, military campaign!
- God is **holy** – set apart, sacred, absolutely pure, and completely distinct from sin.

“... Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God?”

God’s people learned that God is not to be treated casually. He is holy! Who can stand before Supreme Holiness? The answer is not for you to try harder, or become religious, or clean yourself up. God’s holiness demands justice and judgment. **The answer is Jesus Christ.**