

1 Samuel 5 & 6: [The Holiness of God](#)

Chapter 4 Review

- After a period of **spiritual drought**, Samuel is called to **speak the Word of the Lord to “all Israel”**
- The Israelites lose a battle to the Philistines
- Instead of turning to the Lord they turned to the Arc as a “Lucky charm” to win the next battle
- The wicked priests Hophni and Phinehas led the way, making themselves somebody
- Israel lost the battle and Hophni and Phinehas were killed
- Ely their father fell backward and died after hearing the Arc was captured.
- Phinehas’ wife was told the news while giving birth
- She said what other thought: The glory has departed from Israel
- Instead of trusting in “The stone of help” Israel trusted in what could not save (Superstition and idolatry)
- The Philistines are about to meet the Living God

1 Samuel 5

1Now the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. 2Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it to the house of Dagon and set it by Dagon.

Dagon: Could be: *little fish; diminutive from dag = a fish, **the fish-god**; the national god of the Philistines. This idol had the body of a fish with the head and hands of a man. It was an Assyrian-Babylonian deity, the worship of which was introduced among the Philistines through Chaldea. The most famous of the temples of Dagon were at Gaza*

*Recent evidence suggests that it was the god of agriculture or the storm god. In any case **this god was worshiped for over 2000 years!***

- **Previously**, Samson destroyed a temple of Dagon
- **Later**, Saul's head will be placed in the temple of Dagon

3When the Ashdodites arose early the next morning, behold, Dagon had **fallen on his face to the ground** before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and set him in his place again. 4But when they arose early the next morning, behold, Dagon had **fallen on his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD**. And the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off on the threshold; only the trunk of Dagon was left to him.

- The Ark is a picture of Jesus (wood=flesh, gold=deity, mercy seat reveals His character (God of restoration and forgiveness))
- Set up as an equal next to Dagon
- Dagon bowed down to the true God, as will all other false gods, religions and philosophies
- Worship of Idols is the worship of demons (important)

1 Corinthians 10:19 What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? 20No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, **they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons.**

- There is One God, revealed in the Father and Son as well as the Holy Spirit
- Speaking of the Father...

Isaiah 44:6 (Read) "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
**'I am the first and I am the last,
And there is no God besides Me.**

- Speaking of the Son, Jesus...

Revelation 22 :12 "Behold, **I am coming quickly**, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. 13"**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.**"

- ...and the Father

Isaiah 44: 7 (Read continued)

'Who is like Me? Let him proclaim and declare it;
Yes, let him recount it to Me in order,
From the time that I established the ancient nation.
And let them declare to them the things that are coming
And the events that are going to take place.
8'Do not tremble and do not be afraid;
Have I not long since announced it to you and declared it?
And you are My witnesses
Is there any God besides Me,
Or is there any other Rock?
I know of none."

- Speaking of the **insanity of worshipping a false god, like Dagon...**

Isaiah 44: 9 (Read) Those who fashion a graven image are all of them futile, and their precious things are of no profit; even their own witnesses fail to see or know, so that they will be put to shame.
10Who has fashioned a god or cast an idol to no profit? 11Behold, all his companions will be put to shame, for **the craftsmen themselves are mere men**. Let them all assemble themselves, let them stand up, let them tremble, let them together be put to shame. 12The man shapes iron into a cutting tool and does his work over the coals, fashioning it with hammers and working it with his strong arm. He also gets hungry and his strength fails; he drinks no water and becomes weary. 13Another shapes wood, he extends a measuring line; he outlines it with red chalk He works it with planes and outlines it with a compass, and makes it like the form of a man, like the beauty of man, so that it **may sit in a house**. 14Surely he cuts cedars for himself, and takes a cypress or an oak and raises it for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a fir, and the rain makes it grow. 15Then it becomes **something for a man to burn**, so he takes one of them and warms himself; he also **makes a fire to bake bread. He also makes a god and worships it**; he makes it a graven image and **falls down before it**. 16Half of it he burns in the fire; over this half he eats meat as he roasts a roast and is satisfied. He also warms himself and says, "Aha! I am warm, I have seen the fire." 17But the rest of it he makes into a god, his graven image He falls down before it and worships; he also prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my god." 18They do not know, nor do they understand, for He has smeared over their eyes so that they cannot see and their hearts so that they cannot comprehend. 19No one recalls, nor is there knowledge or understanding to say, "I have burned half of it in the fire and also have baked bread over its coals I roast meat and eat it Then I make the rest of it into an abomination, I fall down before a block of

wood!"

- **Idolatry:** something more important to you than God
- What is more important to us than God?
- Where do we get our direction from...TV, musicians, friends that are a mess themselves?
- What does **Lord** mean? He is first. **His Word is our authority!**
- Speaking of the Father jump over to...

Isaiah: 45:21"Declare and set forth your case;

Indeed, let them consult together

Who has announced this from of old?

Who has long since declared it?

Is it not I, the LORD?

And there is **no other God besides Me,**

A righteous God and a Savior;

There is none except Me.

22"Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth;

For I am God, and there is no other.

23"I have sworn by Myself,

The **word has gone forth** from My mouth in righteousness

And will not turn back,

That to **Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.**

- ...and of the Son

Philippians 2: 6 (Read)...although He [Jesus]**existed in the form of God**, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that **at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

- There is **One God** revealed in the Father and the Son as well as the Holy Spirit
- All false gods, religions and philosophies *will* bow before Him!

Back to Samuel 5

- Though their god was humiliated, the Philistines just added to their superstition

5Therefore neither the priests of Dagon nor all who enter Dagon's house tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day.

- The "threshold" became "magical" to them because Dagon's broken head landed on it

Zephaniah 1:9 That I will punish the princes, the king's sons
And all who clothe themselves with foreign garments.

9"And **I will punish on that day all who leap on the temple threshold, Who fill the house of their lord with violence and deceit.**

- Even when proven false, people hold on to tradition, such as...
- JW at 4 in the morning shown that Jesus was God (I don't want it!)
- Mormonism DNA evidence (not Native Americans)
- Catholicism (We don't use the King David version of the bible)
- Muslims (burning down a building because people called them a violent religion?)
- God wants people to repent and gives them every opportunity but...
- He **will not give His glory to another**

6Now the **hand of the LORD was heavy** on the Ashdodites, and He ravaged them and smote them with tumors, both Ashdod and its territories. 7When the men of Ashdod saw that it was so, they said, "The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us, for His hand is severe on us and on Dagon our god." 8So they sent and gathered all the lords of the Philistines to them and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?" And they said, "Let the ark of the God of Israel be brought around to Gath." And they brought the ark of the God of Israel around. 9After they had brought it around, the hand of the LORD was against the city with very **great confusion**; and He smote the men of the city, both young and old, so that tumors broke out on them. 10So they sent the ark of God to **Ekron**.

- **Ekron:** Northernmost part of the Philistine territory

And as the ark of God came to Ekron the Ekronites cried out, saying, "They have brought the ark of the God of Israel around to us, **to kill us and our people.**" 11They sent therefore and gathered all the lords

of the Philistines and said, "Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it return to its own place, so that it will not kill us and our people" For there was a **deadly confusion** throughout the city; the hand of God was very heavy there.

- **NIV:** Death had filled the city with panic
- The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom
- They were beginning to understand this was a Living God, not at all like their statue
- They were being taught reverence and respect for this awesome Holy God...a God who loved them too!
- God loves us right where we are at, but too much to allow us to stay where we are at. He will get our attention!

12And the men who did not die were smitten with tumors **and the cry of the city went up to heaven.**

- God would hear their cry and have mercy on them

[1 Samuel 6](#)

1Now the ark of the LORD had been in the country of the Philistines **seven months.**

- They suffered seven months before bowing to the Lord

2And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, "What shall we do with the ark of the **LORD?**

- This word LORD is the proper Name of God...**YHWH**
- The Philistines are now respecting the Holiness of the true God and will seek to please Him

Tell us how we shall send it to its place." 3They said, "If you send away the ark of the God of Israel, do not send it empty; but you shall surely return to Him a **guilt offering**. Then you will be **healed** and **it will be known to you why His hand is not removed from you.**"

- **They knew** they were guilty, as we all do
- **They acknowledged their sin**
- They knew their need to be healed
- God helps those who...know they cannot help themselves
- God hears the humble

4Then they said, "What shall be the guilt offering which we shall return to Him?" And they said, "Five golden tumors and five golden mice according to the number of the lords of the Philistines, for one plague was on all of you and on your lords. 5"So you shall make likenesses of your tumors and **likenesses of your mice that ravage the land**, and you shall give glory to the God of Israel; perhaps He will ease His hand from you, your gods, and your land.

- Rats... the plague?

6"Why then do you **harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts?** When He had severely dealt with them, did they not allow the people to go, and they departed?

- The deliverance from Israel was known throughout the nations
- When Joshua sent spies into Jericho, the prostitute Rehab had already heard about what how God delivered Israel from the Egyptians

Joshua 2: 8 (Read) Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, 9and said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have melted away before you. 10"For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. 11"When we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

- The New Testament example of God's mighty power is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead

7"Now therefore, take and prepare a new cart and two milch cows on which there has never been a yoke; and hitch the cows to the cart and take their calves home, away from them. 8"Take the ark of the LORD and place it on the cart; and put the articles of gold which you return to Him as a guilt offering in a box by its side. Then send it away that it may go. 9"Watch, if it goes up by the way of its **own territory to Beth-shemesh**, then He has done us this great evil But if not, then we will know that it was not His hand that struck us; it happened to us by **chance**."

- If it goes to Israel...then it was God
- Superstition engrained

10Then the men did so, and took two milch cows and hitched them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home. 11They put the ark of the LORD on the cart, and the box with the golden mice and the likenesses of their tumors. 12And the cows took the straight way in the direction of Beth-shemesh; they went along the highway, lowing as they went, and did not turn aside to the right or to the left. And the lords of the Philistines followed them to the border of Beth-shemesh. 13Now the people of Beth-shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley, and they raised their eyes and saw the ark and were glad to see it. 14The cart came into the field of Joshua the Beth-shemite and stood there where there was a large stone; and they split the wood of the cart and offered the cows as a burnt offering to the LORD. 15The Levites took down the ark of the LORD and the box that was with it, in which were the articles of gold, and put them on the large stone; and the men of Beth-shemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices that day to the LORD. 16When the **five lords of the Philistines saw it**, they returned to Ekron that day.

- Imagine these five powerful men watching this!

17These are the golden tumors which the Philistines returned for a guilt offering to the LORD: one for Ashdod, one for Gaza, one for Ashkelon, one for Gath, one for Ekron; 18and the golden mice, according to the number of all the cities of the Philistines belonging to the five lords, both of fortified cities and of country villages The large **stone** on which they set the ark of the LORD is a **witness to this day** in the field of Joshua the Beth-shemite.

- The stone is a witness of God's faithfulness in bringing the Ark back to Israel, and...
- A witness of the continuing unfaithfulness of Israel...

19He struck down some of the men of Beth-shemesh because they had **looked into the ark of the LORD**. He struck down of all the people, 50,070 men, and the people mourned because the LORD had struck the people with a great slaughter. 20The men of Beth-shemesh said, "**Who is able to stand before the LORD, this holy God?** And to whom shall He go up from us?" 21So they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kiriath-jearim, saying, "**The Philistines have brought back the ark of the LORD**; come down and take it up to you."

- No record of the Philistines opening the Arc
- The Israelites knew better; they knew the law
- The Philistine lords saw their irreverence!
- The response of the Israelites is not that they have sinned, but the consequence of their sin!
- After denying their sin, gratitude toward God is gone as the Philistines are given credit for bringing the Arc back, not giving glory to God!
- **Sequence:** Sin, consequence, blame God (oh forget it, "Who is able to stand...") and finally... push God away

Conclusion:

We are to fear God and not treat God or the things of God with irreverence. God is Holy and perfect. He will listen to the humble as their cry goes up to heaven.

- God's **Holy Spirit** allows God to **deal with us individually**
- He is here to convict us of **sin**, **righteousness** and **judgment**
- **Sin** (we live our lives apart from God)
- **Righteousness** (no one is righteous but God alone)
- **Judgment** (We cannot stand before God in our sin)
- He is our comforter as we humble ourselves and confess our need

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** **10**If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

We do have sin; we sometimes live our life as if God does not exist.
Turn to Him and be healed.