



God Will Not Be Taken Lightly
7th in the “God’s King” Series
1 Samuel 5
July 3, 2022
Pastor Greg Lynas

Introduction

In this passage we get a look at what happened when the Philistines underestimated God.

The Text: I Samuel 5

When the Philistines captured the ark of God, they brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. ² Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it into the house of Dagon and set it up beside Dagon. ³ And when the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord. So they took Dagon and put him back in his place. ⁴ But when they rose early on the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord, and the head of Dagon and both his hands were lying cut off on the threshold. Only the trunk of Dagon was left to him. ⁵ This is why the priests of Dagon and all who enter the house of Dagon do not tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day.

⁶ The hand of the Lord was heavy against the people of Ashdod, and he terrified and afflicted them with tumors, both Ashdod and its territory. ⁷ And when the men of Ashdod saw how things were, they said, “The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us, for his hand is hard against us and against Dagon our god.” ⁸ So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines and said, “What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?” They answered, “Let the ark of the God of Israel be brought around to Gath.” So they brought the ark of the God of Israel there. ⁹ But after they had brought it around, the hand of the Lord was against the city, causing a very great panic, and he afflicted the men of the city, both young and old, so that tumors broke out on them. ¹⁰ So they sent the ark of God to Ekron. But as soon as the ark of God came to Ekron, the people of Ekron cried out, “They have brought around to us the ark of the God of Israel to kill us and our people.” ¹¹ They sent therefore and gathered together 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, that it may not kill us and our people.” For there was a deathly panic throughout the whole city. The hand of God was very heavy there. ¹² The men who did not die were struck with tumors, and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

Some thoughts from this week’s text.

- 1) The Philistines attempt to demote the true living God in service of their own false God, but God proves that he has no intention of being taken lightly.
- 2) Sometimes we get frustrated that culture around us trivializes our God, but here we are reminded that this is not a new phenomenon. God is never surprised or hindered by these things.
- 3) Eventually the Philistines conclude that they cannot stand in the presence of God and they must send the ark away. We too cannot stand in his presence, but through the gospel we can ask for mercy rather than simply avoiding his presence.

Response

Let us constantly be seeking to see the power and sovereignty of God in its proper place, so that we have fewer places in our lives where we take him too lightly.

Sunday Text Questions

1 Samuel 5

July 3, 2022

Pastor Greg Lynas

- 1) Starter question: What stood out to you most in this passage?

- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.

- 3) Why did the Philistines take the ark to the temple of their god? (v. 2)

- 4) Vv. 3-5 show God revealing that he is Lord above all things. How did the specifics of these verses magnify that point?

- 5) V. 6 and on show how God demonstrated that not only did he not serve the Philistines' god, but that he held the people responsible for taking him lightly. What do you think about this?

- 6) What are ways that you see our culture take God too lightly?

- 7) What are ways that you find yourself tempted to demote God from the throne of your own life?

- 8) V. 11 shows the people concluding that they cannot stand in the presence of God. Why is this a necessary conclusion for every Christians?

Further study this week: Passages that help us properly see the might and majesty of God. Jonah Chapter 1 (Mon); I Kings 18:20-40 (Tues); Romans Chapter 9 (Wed); Job Chapters 38 & 39 (Thurs); Job Chapters 40 & 41 (Fri).