

“Repentance Or Destruction: Will You Humble Yourself?”  
1 Samuel 5:1-12

*“Now the lords of the Philistines gathered to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to rejoice, and they said, ‘Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hand’” (Judges 16:23). “And they stripped him and took his (Saul’s) head and his armor, and sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines to carry the good news to their idols and people. And they put his armor in the temple of their gods and fastened his head in the temple of Dagon” (1 Chronicles 10:9-10). “Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it into the house of Dagon and set it up beside Dagon” (1 Samuel 5:2).*

- Dagon was the chief deity of the Philistines. Dagon was the father of Baal. He was the fish god (*dag* in Hebrew means “fish”), and he was represented as a half-man, half-fish creature. Dagon may also have been worshiped as the provider of grain.

*“See now that I, even I, am He, and there is no god besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of My hand” (Deuteronomy 32:39). “I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides Me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know Me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides Me; I am the LORD and there is no other” (Isaiah 45:5-6). “For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as indeed there are many ‘gods’ and many ‘lords’ — yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist” (1 Corinthians 8:5-6; cf. Psalm 115:1-8).*

- Repetition points to emphasize:
  - 6 times in 13 verses (1 Samuel 4:11-5:1) the phrase “the ark of God was captured” is used.
  - 2 times in 2 verses (1 Samuel 4:21-22) the phrase “the glory has departed from Israel” is used.
  - 4 times in 7 verses (1 Samuel 5:6-12) the phrase “the hand of the LORD was heavy against them” is used.
- The House of Dagon in Ashdod:
  - The Philistines had no issue with worshiping multiple gods. To them Yahweh was just one of many gods, but they would soon be educated to the fact that this was not so. Yahweh is the only God!
  - God is going to lay out a pattern of *cause and effect* so that there is no doubt who is behind these realities that the Philistines are experiencing.
  - Dagon bows to the ark as an invitation to the Philistines to repent and turn from their idols to the living God. They reject the invitation and stand Dagon back up.
  - Dagon’s head (he has no wisdom) and hands (he has no power) are removed showing their coming destruction and defeat if they do not repent. They just readjust their worship of Dagon.
- The Reality of Yahweh:
  - Yahweh terrified them; He afflicted them; He caused a great panic among the Philistines; He caused a deathly panic; *“For we know Him who said, ‘Vengeance is mine; I will repay.’ And again, ‘The Lord will judge His people.’ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Hebrews 10:30-31). “Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:28-29). “Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap” (Galatians 6:7; cf. Hebrews 12:10-11).*

(continued →)

**Worship:** How Great Thou Art (Various Artists)

Christ The Sure And Steady Anchor (Matt Boswell)

**Service Times:** Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;

Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- So they sent and gathered the lords of the Philistines:
  - In 1 Samuel 4:3 we see the Israelites *presuming* on God's power without submitting themselves to God. In 1 Samuel 5:8 we see the Philistines *defying* God's power that was being displayed to lead them to repentance. Both the elders of Israel and the lords of the Philistines were relying on their own wisdom and it led them to great destruction. *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil"* (Proverbs 3:5-7).
- The cry of the city went up to heaven:
  - *"Many times He delivered them, but they were rebellious in their purposes and were brought low through their iniquity. Nevertheless He looked upon their distress when He heard their cry. For their sake He remembered His covenant, and relented according to the abundance of His steadfast love"* (Psalm 106:43-45). *"The cords of death encompassed me; the torrents of destruction assailed me; the chords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help. From His temple He heard my voice, and my cry to Him reached His ears"* (Psalm 18:4-6; cf. Exodus 2:23; 3:9).
  - God is the only refuge from God: *"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that Christ might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit"* (1 Peter 3:18).