

“My God’s Better Than Your God” 1 Sam. 5

As we continue the “Ark narrative” (ch. 4:1-7:2), we’ll see it is obvious that any abuse of it can prove to be fatal (ch. 4, here and in 6:19, 2 Sam. 6:7). Here the Philistines will pay for downsizing God and His Ark.

The Ark at Ashdod (5:1-8a)

- *Ashdod, Gath, Ekron, Ashkelon, and Gaza were the five principle cities of the Philistines (see “five lords” in 6:16). Carting off the idols after battle was common (2 Sam. 5:21, 1 Chron. 14:12).
- *Dagon loses his dignity (falls prostrated before Ark and mutilated).
- *People lose dignity (tumors = lit. *hills / mounds*; LXX, Josephus =
- *Dagon and Israel: see Judges 16:23, 1 Chron. 10:8-10, Isa. 46:1.
- *Contrast Dagon’s hand cut off yet note Lord’s active *hand*--6a,7b,9

The Ark at Gath (8b-9)

- *Gath is 2nd in line (a history of giants--17:4, Josh. 11:22, 1 Chron. 20:8).
- *Apparent skepticism goes away w/more tumors and *great confusion* (9).

The Ark at Ekron (10-12)

- *Ekron is third and also experiences tumors and *great confusion* (11).

QUESTIONS: *What is so ironic about these events?*

Do we downsized God or at times treat God like a trophy?