

THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF

# 1 SAMUEL

[PART 11]

## SENDING GOD AWAY

*Reading: 1 Samuel 5:1 - 12*

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### Introduction

- The armies of Israel had been beaten twice and the **'Ark of God'** had been captured by the Philistines.
- The Philistines placed the ark in the temple of their god Dagon in the city of Ashdod.
- They believed the ark had fallen into their hands.
- The truth was, they had fallen into God's hands.
- Jehovah slays Dagon in his own temple.
- Dagon is helpless against the power of Jehovah.

### 1 The Uniqueness Of Jehovah

- Our God is **'unique.'** There is no other god beside Him.
- Consider [Isaiah 45:5 & 45:18] and [Jeremiah 23:24].
- Our God is **'supreme.'**
- Consider [Psalm 95:3], [96:4], [115:5].
- Our God is an awesome God: speaking, hearing, seeing and working.

### 2 The Omnipotence Of Jehovah

- Having judged this false god (Dagon), Jehovah now judges his followers. [Vs 6].
- The **'tumours/emeralds'** refer to sores caused by a plague of bubonic plague transmitted by rats. [6:4 - 5].
- God will use the powers of nature against those who come against Jerusalem in the last day.

### 3. The Hand Of God

- In [Ch 6/7] note the number of references to **'the hand of God.'**
- Seven times, [5:6], [5:7], [5:9], [5:11], [6:3], [6:5], [6:9].
- Dagon's hands cut off but God's hand heavy against the Philistines.
- **Warning:** Don't get on the wrong side of God's hand.
- Our God's hand is creating, preserving, protecting, wounded, saving and delivering.
- Consider [Psalm 31:15].
- Hands of blessing for His people but heavy/harsh on His enemies.

### 4. The Fear Of The Lord

- This passage reminds us and urges upon us **'the fear of the Lord.'**
- Contemporary Christians are too flippant and cavalier in their approach to and their dealings with this awesome God.
- Consider, [Proverbs 1:7], [Genesis 42:18], [Exodus 1:17], [1 Peter 2:17], [Ephesians 5:21], [Revelation 14:7].
- The fear of the Lord is a healthy **'reverence of the Lord.'**

### 5. Sending God Away

- When God's hand was heavy on the people of Ashdod they sent the ark (Jehovah) away.
- The same happened at Gath and Ekron.
- They should have repented and turned to Jehovah like the people of Ninevah did in Jonah's time.
- The same thing happened in [Mark 5:17] and [Luke 4:29] when they **'sent'** Jesus away.
- In the past 50 years our island nation has **'sent'** God away from our shores.
- When we ban prayer and Bible reading in schools and government buildings and our very streets, we've sent God away.
- Our nation needs to repent and invite Him back.....fast.

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