Will the REAL GOD PLEASE STAND UP?
I Samuel 5

I. Our God is Sovereign. He is above all other gods. Verses 1-5

The Philistines defeated Israel in battle and they captured the ark of God.

They carried the ark into Dagon’s temple as a trophy of war.

“Even today, when our little gods fall, our first instinct is not to abandon them, but to prop them up again.” Kenneth Chafin

Dagon fell flat on his face before the Lord, just as Goliath would fall before David.

The next day, not only is Dagon face down on the floor, his head and hands are broken off and lying on the threshold.
God would not be manipulated by Israel. God would not allow the Philistines to think that their god was more powerful than he.

“For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. For the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.” Psalm 96:4-5

“I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me, there is no God.” Isaiah 45:5a

II. Our God is Powerful. There is no one who can stay his hand. Verses 6-12

The Lord’s hand was heavy upon them.

- The word heavy is the word for glory.
- God was revealing his power and his glory.

The Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament adds:

- “And rats appeared in their land, and death and destruction were throughout their city.” Verse 6
- “The tumors were in the groin.” Verse 9

It may have been an early outbreak of the Bubonic plague.

Ashdod sends the ark to Gath. Gath sends the ark to Ekron.

What was intended to be a victory parade turns into a panic.
They recognized the source of their affliction, but they would rather send God away, than submit to his hand. They would not bow down before the Lord.

The Israelites thought the ark was the answer to their problems. The Philistines thought the ark was the cause of their problems. Their answer was to get rid of it.

Conclusion

God is sovereign. He is the Lord of heaven and earth. He is above all other gods.

God is powerful. His hand is heavy in judgment, but his hand is glorious when his favor rests upon us.

Turn to him today.