

## 1 SAMUEL 5.9-7.2

But after they had brought it to Gath, the hand of the YHWH was against the city, causing a very great panic; he struck the inhabitants of the city, both young and old, so that tumors broke out on them. So they sent the **ark of the God of Israel** to Ekron. But when **the ark of God** came to Ekron, **the people of Ekron cried out, "Why have they brought around to us the ark of the God of Israel to kill us and our people?"** 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; those who did not die were stricken with tumors, and the cry of the city went up to heaven. The **ark of YHWH** was in the country of the Philistines seven months. Then the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners and said, "What shall we do with the **ark of YHWH**? Tell us what we should send with it to its place." They said, "If you send away the **ark of the God of Israel**, do not send it empty, but by all means return him a **guilt offering**. Then you will be healed and will be ransomed; will not his hand then turn from you?" And they said, "What is the **guilt offering** that we shall return to him?" They answered, "Five gold tumors and five gold mice, according to the number of lords of the Philistines; for the same plague was upon all of you and upon your lords. So you must make images of your tumors and images of your mice that ravage the land, and give glory to the God of Israel; perhaps he will lighten his hand on you and your gods and your land. Why should you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? After he had made fools of them, did they not let the people go, and they departed? Now then, get ready a **new cart** and two milch cows that have never borne a yoke, and yoke the cows to the **cart**, but take their calves home, away from them. Take the **ark of YHWH** and place it on the **cart**, and put in a box at its side the figures of gold, which you are returning to him as a **guilt offering**. Then send it off, and let it go its way. And watch; if it goes up on the way to its own land, to Beth-shemesh, then it is he who has done us this great harm; but if not, then we shall know that it is not his hand that struck us; it happened to us by chance." The men did so; they took two milch cows and yoked them to the **cart**, and shut up their calves at home. They put the **ark of YHWH** on the **cart**, and the box with the gold mice and the images of their tumors. The **cows went** straight in the direction of Beth-shemesh along one highway, **lowing as they went**; they turned neither to the right nor to the left, and lords of the Philistines went after them as far as the border of Beth-shemesh. Now **the people of Beth-shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley. When they looked up and saw the ark, they went with rejoicing to meet it.** The **cart** came into the field of Joshua of Beth-shemesh, and stopped there. A large stone was there; so they split up the wood of the **cart** and offered the cows as a **burnt offering** to YHWH. The Levites took down the **ark of YHWH** and the box that was beside it, in which were the gold objects, and set them upon the large stone. Then the people of Beth-shemesh offered **burnt offerings** and presented sacrifices on that day to YHWH. When the five lords of the Philistines saw it, they returned that day to Ekron. These are the gold tumors, which the Philistines returned as a **guilt offering** to YHWH: one for Ashdod, one for Gaza, one for Ashkelon, one for Gath, one for Ekron; also the gold mice, according to the number of all the cities of the Philistines belonging to the five lords, both fortified cities and unwallled villages. The great stone, beside which they set down the **ark of YHWH**, is a witness to this day in the field of Joshua of Beth-shemesh. The descendants of Jeconiah did not rejoice with the people of Beth-shemesh when they greeted the **ark of YHWH**; and he killed seventy men of them. The people mourned because YHWH had made a great slaughter among the people. **Then the people of Beth-shemesh said, "Who is able to stand before YHWH, this holy God? To whom shall he go so that we may be rid of him?"** So they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kiriath-jearim, saying, "The Philistines have returned the **ark of YHWH**. Come down and take it up to you." And the people of Kiriath-jearim came and took up the **ark of YHWH**, and **brought it to the house of Abinadab** on the hill. They consecrated his son, Eleazar, to have charge of the **ark of YHWH**. From the day that the **ark** was lodged at Kiriath-jearim, a long time passed, some twenty years, and **all the house of Israel lamented after YHWH.**

## 2 SAMUEL 6.1-19

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the **ark of God**, which is called by the name of YHWH of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. They carried the **ark of God** on a **new cart**, and **brought it out of the house of Abinadab**, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the **new cart** with the **ark of God**; and Ahio went in front of the **ark**. David and all the **house of Israel** were dancing before YHWH with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out his hand to the **ark of God** and took hold of it, for the oxen shook it. The anger of YHWH was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him there because he reached out his hand to the ark; and he died there beside the **ark of God**. David was angry because YHWH had burst forth with an outburst upon Uzzah; so that place is called Perez-uzzah, to this day. **David was afraid of YHWH that day; he said, "How can the ark of YHWH come to me?"** So David was unwilling to take the **ark of YHWH** into his care in the city of David; instead David took it to the **house of Obed-edom the Gittite. The ark of YHWH remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months; and YHWH blessed Obed-edom and all his household. It was told King David, "YHWH has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God."** So David went and brought up the **ark of God** from the **house of Obed-edom** to the city of David with rejoicing; and when those who bore the **ark of YHWH** had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. David danced before YHWH with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and **all the house of Israel brought up the ark of YHWH with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.** As the **ark of YHWH** came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before YHWH; and she despised him in her heart. They brought in the **ark of YHWH**, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered **burnt offerings** and **offerings** of well-being before YHWH. When David had finished **offering** the **burnt offerings** and the **offerings of well-being**, he blessed the people in the name of YHWH of hosts, and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.