

3 May 2015: Preached by Preacher Clement Chew

Topic: **A Study of 1 Samuel – Must God Defend Himself?**

Scripture Text: 1 Samuel 5

1. Israel has departed from the Lord and the Lord chastened Israel to allow the Philistines to win the battle against her and also to take the Ark of God away into the Philistine camp. The Philistines thought that their gods are powerful and stronger than the God of Israel who is the true and living God.
2. The Philistines placed the Ark of God before Dagon their god to show that Dagon has the greater power. Dagon has the appearance of a mermaid. In the next morning, Dagon fell before the Ark of God. The Philistines set up Dagon again and in the next morning again, Dagon fell before the Ark of God again and this time Dagon's head and hands were cut off. God demonstrates His power to show that He is the true and living God and is all powerful.
3. The Ark of God was placed at Ashdod, a very strong city of the Philistines. God smote the city with emerods and the city was so fearful that they sent the Ark of God to another city Gath. A very great destruction happened at Gath and they wanted to send to another city Ekron. The people at Ekron panicked in fear and distress to have the Ark of God sent to them. God defeated the cities of Philistines with His own power.
4. God is sovereign and He can defend His own Name to show that He does not need any man to help Him. In the entire chapter, we do not see any Israelite coming forth with courage to defend the Ark of God. This is a failure on Israel's part. We should see our service to God as our privilege and joy and that He still chooses to use us to serve Him.
5. Let us be humble and serve the Lord acknowledging that we are His unworthy servants. Let us serve the Lord with zeal and courage as there are battles to fight for the Lord in every age and generation.