

¹And the ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months.²And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, What shall we do to the ark of the LORD? tell us wherewith we shall send it to his place.³And they said, If ye send away the ark of the God of Israel, send it not empty; but in any wise return him a trespass offering: then ye shall be healed, and it shall be known to you why his hand is not removed from you.⁴Then said they, What shall be the trespass offering which we shall return to him? They answered, Five golden emerods, and five golden mice, according to the number of the lords of the Philistines: for one plague was on you all, and on your lords.⁵Wherefore ye shall make images of your emerods, and images of your mice that mar the land; and ye shall give glory unto the God of Israel: peradventure he will lighten his hand from off you, and from off your gods, and from off your land.⁶Wherefore then do ye harden your hearts, as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? when he had wrought wonderfully among them, did they not let the people go, and they departed?⁷Now therefore make a new cart, and take two milch kine, on which there hath come no yoke, and tie the kine to the cart, and bring their calves home from them:⁸And take the ark of the LORD, and lay it upon the cart; and put the jewels of gold, which ye return him for a trespass offering, in a coffer by the side thereof; and send it away, that it may go.⁹And see, if it goeth up by the way of his own coast to Bethshemesh, then he hath done us this

¹وَكَانَ تَابُوتُ اللَّهِ فِي بِلَادِ الْفِلِسْطِينِ سَبْعَةَ أَشْهُرٍ.²فَسَأَلَ الْفِلِسْطِينِيُّونَ الْكَهَنَةَ وَالْعَرَّافِينَ، مَاذَا تَعْمَلُ بَتَابُوتِ الرَّبِّ. أُخْبِرُونَا بِمَاذَا نُرْسِلُهُ إِلَى مَكَانِهِ.³فَقَالُوا، إِذَا أُرْسِلْتُمْ تَابُوتُ إِلَهِ إِسْرَائِيلَ فَلَا تُرْسِلُونَهُ قَارِعًا، بَلْ رُدُّوا لَهُ قُرْبَانًا إِنْكُمْ. حِينَئِذٍ تَشْفُونَ وَتَعْلَمُ عِنْدَكُمْ لِمَاذَا لَا تَرْفَعُ يَدُهُ عَنْكُمْ.⁴فَقَالُوا، وَمَا هُوَ قُرْبَانُ الْإِنْكُمْ الَّذِي تَرُدُّهُ لَهُ. فَقَالُوا، حَسَبَ عَدَدِ أَقْطَابِ الْفِلِسْطِينِيِّينَ، خَمْسَةَ بَوَاسِيرٍ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ وَخَمْسَةَ فِيرَانٍ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ. لِأَنَّ الصَّرْتَ وَاجِدَهُ عَلَيْكُمْ جَمِيعًا وَعَلَى أَقْطَابِكُمْ.⁵وَاصْنَعُوا تَمَاثِيلَ بَوَاسِيرِكُمْ وَتَمَاثِيلَ فِيرَانِكُمْ الَّتِي تُفْسِدُ الْأَرْضَ، وَأَعْطُوا إِلَهَ إِسْرَائِيلَ مَجْدًا لَعَلَّهُ يُخَفِّفُ يَدَهُ عَنْكُمْ وَعَنْ آلِهَتِكُمْ وَعَنْ أَرْضِكُمْ. وَلِمَاذَا تُفْلِطُونَ فُلُوبَكُمْ كَمَا أَغْلَطَ الْمِصْرِيُّونَ وَفَزَعُونَ فُلُوبَهُمْ. أَلَيْسَ عَلَى مَا فَعَلَ بِهِمْ أَطْلَقُوهُمْ قَدْ هَبُوا.⁷فَالآنَ خُذُوا وَاعْمَلُوا عَجَلَةً وَاجِدَةً جَدِيدَةً وَبَقَرَتَيْنِ مُرْصِعَتَيْنِ لَمْ يَعْطَمَا نِيرٌ، وَارْبِطُوا الْبَقَرَتَيْنِ إِلَى الْعَجَلَةِ، وَأَرْجِعُوا وَلَدَيْهِمَا عَنَّهُمَا إِلَى الْبَيْتِ.⁸وَخُذُوا تَابُوتَ الرَّبِّ وَاجْعَلُوهُ عَلَى الْعَجَلَةِ، وَصُغُوا أَمْتَعَةَ الذَّهَبِ الَّتِي تَرُدُّونَهَا لَهُ قُرْبَانًا إِنْكُمْ فِي صُنْدُوقٍ بِخَانِيهِ وَأَطْلِفُوهُ قَبْدَهُ. وَانْطَرُوا، فَإِنْ صَعَدَ فِي طَرِيقِ نَجْمِهِ إِلَى بَيْتَشْمَشَ فَإِنَّهُ هُوَ الَّذِي فَعَلَ بِنَا هَذَا الشَّرُّ الْعَظِيمَ. وَإِلَّا فَتَعْلَمُ أَنَّ يَدَهُ لَمْ تَصْرُبْنَا. كَانَ ذَلِكَ عَلَيْنَا عَرَضًا.¹⁰فَفَعَلَ الرَّجَالُ كَذَلِكَ، وَأَخَذُوا بَقَرَتَيْنِ مُرْصِعَتَيْنِ وَرَبَطُوهُمَا إِلَى الْعَجَلَةِ، وَحَبَسُوا وَلَدَيْهِمَا فِي الْبَيْتِ، وَوَضَعُوا تَابُوتَ الرَّبِّ عَلَى الْعَجَلَةِ مَعَ الصُّنْدُوقِ وَفِيرَانِ الذَّهَبِ وَتَمَاثِيلِ بَوَاسِيرِهِمْ.¹²فَاسْتَقَامَتِ الْبَقَرَتَانِ فِي الطَّرِيقِ إِلَى طَرِيقِ بَيْتَشْمَشَ، وَكَانَتَا تَسِيرَانِ فِي سَبِيلِهِ وَاجِدَةٍ وَتَجَارَانِ وَلَمْ تَمِيلَا يَمِينًا وَلَا شِمَالًا، وَأَقْطَابُ الْفِلِسْطِينِيِّينَ يَسِيرُونَ وَرَاءَهُمَا إِلَى نَجْمِ بَيْتَشْمَشَ.¹³وَكَانَ أَهْلُ بَيْتَشْمَشَ يَحْضُدُونَ حِصَادَ الْجَنْطَةِ فِي الْوَادِي. فَزَفَعُوا أَغْيُهُمْ وَرَأُوا التَّابُوتَ وَقَرَّحُوا بِرُؤُوسِهِ. فَأَتَتِ الْعَجَلَةُ إِلَى حَقْلِ يَهُوشَعَ الْبَيْتَشْمَشِيِّ وَوَقَفَتْ هُنَاكَ. وَهُنَاكَ خَجَرٌ كَبِيرٌ. فَسَقَفُوا حَشَبَ الْعَجَلَةِ وَأَضَعُوا الْبَقَرَتَيْنِ مُخَرَّقَةً لِلرَّبِّ.¹⁵فَأَنْزَلَ الْأَوْبُونُ تَابُوتَ الرَّبِّ وَالصُّنْدُوقَ الَّذِي مَعَهُ الَّذِي فِيهِ أَمْتَعَةُ الذَّهَبِ وَوَضَعُوهُمَا عَلَى الْحَجَرِ الْكَبِيرِ. وَأَضَعَدَ أَهْلُ بَيْتَشْمَشَ مُخَرَّقَاتٍ وَدَبَّحُوا دَبَّاحٍ فِي ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ لِلرَّبِّ.¹⁶فَرَأَى أَقْطَابُ الْفِلِسْطِينِيِّينَ الْخَمْسَةَ وَرَجَعُوا إِلَى عَقْرُونَ فِي ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ.¹⁷وَهَذِهِ هِيَ بَوَاسِيرُ الذَّهَبِ

great evil: but if not, then we shall know that it is not his hand that smote us: it was a chance that happened to us.¹⁰ And the men did so; and took two milch kine, and tied them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home:¹¹ And they laid the ark of the LORD upon the cart, and the coffer with the mice of gold and the images of their emerods.¹² And the kine took the straight way to the way of Bethshemesh, and went along the highway, lowing as they went, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left; and the lords of the Philistines went after them unto the border of Bethshemesh.¹³ And they of Bethshemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley: and they lifted up their eyes, and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it.¹⁴ And the cart came into the field of Joshua, a Bethshemite, and stood there, where there was a great stone: and they clave the wood of the cart, and offered the kine a burnt offering unto the LORD.¹⁵ And the Levites took down the ark of the LORD, and the coffer that was with it, wherein the jewels of gold were, and put them on the great stone: and the men of Bethshemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day unto the LORD.¹⁶ And when the five lords of the Philistines had seen it, they returned to Ekron the same day.¹⁷ And these are the golden emerods which the Philistines returned for a trespass offering unto the LORD; for Ashdod one, for Gaza one, for Askelon one, for Gath one, for Ekron one;¹⁸ And the golden mice, according to the number of all the cities of the Philistines belonging to the five lords, both

الَّتِي رَدَّهَا الْفِلِسْطِيُّونَ قُرْبَانَ إِيْمٍ لِلرَّبِّ، وَاجِدُ
لَأَشْدُودَ، وَوَاجِدُ لِعَزَّةَ، وَوَاجِدُ لَأَشْقَلُونَ، وَوَاجِدُ لِحَتَّ،
وَوَاجِدُ لِعَقْرُونَ.¹⁸ وَفِيرَانُ الذَّهَبِ يَعْدِدُ جَمِيعَ مُدُنِ
الْفِلِسْطِيِّينَ لِلْخَمْسَةِ الْأَقْطَابِ مِنَ الْمَدِينَةِ الْمُخَصَّصَةِ
إِلَى قَرْيَةِ الصَّخْرَاءِ. وَشَاهِدُ هُوَ الْحَجَرُ الْكَبِيرُ الَّذِي
وَضَعُوا عَلَيْهِ تَابُوتَ الرَّبِّ. هُوَ إِلَى هَذَا الْيَوْمِ فِي حَقْلِ
يَهُوشَعَ الْبَيْتَشْمِيسِيِّ.¹⁹ وَصَرَبَ أَهْلُ بَيْتَشْمَسَ لَأَنَّهُمْ
تَطَرُّوا إِلَى تَابُوتِ الرَّبِّ. وَصَرَبَ مِنَ الشَّعْبِ خَمْسِينَ
أَلْفَ رَجُلٍ وَسَبْعِينَ رَجُلًا. فَتَنَحَّ الشَّعْبُ لِأَنَّ الرَّبَّ صَرَبَ
الشَّعْبَ صَرْبَةً عَظِيمَةً.²⁰ وَقَالَ أَهْلُ بَيْتَشْمَسَ، مَنْ يَقْدِرُ
أَنْ يَقِفَ أَمَامَ الرَّبِّ الْإِلَهِ الْقُدُّوسِ هَذَا، وَإِلَى مَنْ يَصْعَدُ
عَنَّا.²¹ وَأَرْسَلُوا رُسُلًا إِلَى سَكَّانِ قَرْيَةِ بَعَارِيمَ قَائِلِينَ، قَدْ
رَدَّ الْفِلِسْطِيُّونَ تَابُوتَ الرَّبِّ، فَأَنْزِلُوا وَأَصْعِدُوهُ إِلَيْكُمْ.

of fenced cities, and of country villages, even unto the great stone of Abel, whereon they set down the ark of the LORD: which stone remaineth unto this day in the field of Joshua, the Bethshemite.¹⁹ And he smote the men of Bethshemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD, even he smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men: and the people lamented, because the LORD had smitten many of the people with a great slaughter.²⁰ And the men of Bethshemesh said, Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? and to whom shall he go up from us?²¹ And they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjathjearim, saying, The Philistines have brought again the ark of the LORD; come ye down, and fetch it up to you.