

**Introduction:**

- Response to WV Grants message Friday night at Clyde Oliver's Campmeeting.
  - He said that the strong man over this region was Dagon and his five lords.
- This is only an introduction to Dagon tonight. It will give you 'Bereans' a place to start in your study.
- Dagon - was the God of the Philistines and seemingly always at war with Israel. (Opposes the works of God)
  - Judges 16 we are introduced to the 'Lords'- A Philistine word, *seren* always appears in the plural and designates the five lords of the Philistine pentapolis – Ashdod, Ashkelon, Ekron, Gath, and Gaza. Patterson, R. D. (1999). [1546](#) [177](#). In R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 635). Moody Press. I will say more about these later.

**I. Dagon****A. Who is Dagon?**

1. Dagon is a god of the Philistines. It is half man and half fish. The lower half of the man is the fish. It would not surprise me if it is connected to darwinism, which has man crawling out of the sea. "Dagon is the Avenging devil of the sea." Wiki infernal names.
2. He is considered the father of Baal - economies. I.e. "Bull market!"
3. He is also considered a fertility god especially in association with grain. (note to self - Bread)

**B. Two main passages where the god Dagon appears in scripture.**

1. *"Now the lords of the Philistines gathered to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to rejoice, and they said, "Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hand."* (Judges 16:23, ESV) Note: blood sacrifice required.
2. 1 Samuel 5:1-6:5 - when the ark of God was captured by Philistines.
  - a) found face down before the ark.
  - b) Found face down, head and hands cut off and laid at the threshold. I believe it was trying to crawl away.
  - c) This is why the Philistines always leaped over threshold after that.
3. Seen briefly in Joshua as a town Beth Dagon (Joshua 15:41; 19:27)
4. Seen in 1 Chronicles 10:10 Saul's head was placed in temple of Dagon.

**C. Characteristics of Dagon**

1. Dagon causes the people of God to turn away from the Lord. It did this to Israel. So God gave Israel over to the Philistines. Zephaniah 1:9-17
2. Dagon lured Samson into the lap of Delilah. Sexually motivated. Seduced.
  - a) *"Then he came up and told his father and mother, "I saw one of the daughters of the Philistines at Timnah. Now get her for me as my wife.""* (Judges 14:2, ESV)
    - (1) Dishonor of authority, of parents and the word of the Lord.

- (2) Rebellious to the word the Lord given to Samson.
- b) *"Samson went to Gaza, and there he saw a prostitute, and he went in to her."*  
(Judges 16:1, ESV)
3. Dagon put out the eyes of Samson. Judges 16:21
- a) Spiritual blindness. And they bound him with chains.  
(1) Mother and Father were told he was not to take a wife outside of Israel.  
(2) Samson insisted on taking a Philistine wife. (Rebellion against God.)
- b) Dagon closes the revelatory realms when possible. If he can't close the revelatory realm he will close the eyes to the revelation.
- c) Samson was told by God not to marry outside of Israel but he insisted on taking a Philistine wife.
- d) Samson, formerly was unable to be defeated by his foes, falls to Delilah's deception and is placed in slavery, where he ground mill for the Philistines. While there, they gouged out his eyes (Judges 16:23).
4. 1 Samuel 6:4 Five Gold Rats The Dagon priests instruction to the lords. Lords = rats.
- a) Rats are associated with the underworld and spiritual realms. They burrow into the ground, live in the dark, prefer the dark.
- b) Rats are considered resourceful, aggressive and unclean.
- c) Rats prefer night time movement (darkness) and they prefer to be unseen when moving. You most often do not see them but you will see their effects.
- D. Five cities represent the five lords of the Philistines.
1. Gaza - meaning: strong city. Samson was imprisoned here. Samson brought down the temple of Dagon here.
  2. Gath - meaning: wine press. Home of Goliath This spirit will 'press you' or oppress you.
  3. Ekron - meaning: to be torn up by the roots.
  4. Ashkelon - meaning: weighing place.(Port city); Trading port = weighing grain.
  5. Ashdod - meaning: powerful

## II. Five Lords of the Philistines.

- A. Lahmi - brother of Goliath.
1. *"And there was again war with the Philistines, and Elhanan the son of Jair struck down Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam."* (1 Chronicles 20:5, ESV)
  2. His name means: Eater of bread. This spirit will consume resources.
  3. Bethlehem - means House of Bread.
  4. He comes to steal the bread (Word)
  5. Lahmi is killed by Elhanan the son of Jair.

- a) Whose name means: **God has been gracious!**
- B. Saph - or Sippai (1 Chronicles 20:4)
  - 1. *"After this there was again war with the Philistines at Gob. Then Sibbecai the Hushathite struck down Saph, who was one of the descendants of the giants."* (2 Samuel 21:18, ESV)
  - 2. The name meaning of Saph is: Fence keeper. Threshold.
  - 3. Killed by Sibbecai the Hushathite.
    - a) Whose name means: **Yahweh intervenes!**
- C. Ishbi-benob - 2 Samuel 21:16, 22
  - 1. Name means - My dwelling is at Nob. His seat is in the highest place. (Pride)
  - 2. Killed by: Abishai - the son of Davids sister, Zeruah. He was the first to volunteer when David went into the camp of Saul. He wanted to kill Saul but David stopped him.
    - a) His name means - **my Father is a gift, or my Father exists.** (Faith)
    - b) David grew faint while fighting. This spirit wears leaders down.( Weariness.)
    - c) Abishai kills him!
- D. Goliath - Fought against David. 1 Samuel 17:1-ff
  - 1. His name means: to uncover, expose, to exile.
    - a) He exposed what was in the heart of Saul.
    - b) He exposed David anointing to be King.
    - c) David kills Goliath. David Means **beloved of God.** Covered by God hidden in him.
- E. Unnamed - 2 Samuel 21:20 war again in Gath
  - 1. 12 fingers and 12 toes
  - 2. Jonathan the son of Shimea, David's brother/nephew, killed him.
  - 3. His name means - **Yahweh has given!**

### III. How To Defeat These Spirits

- A. Judges 13:5 (ESV) "...for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines." No wine or grapes for mom.
  - 1. Holy
  - 2. Set apart to God.
- B. Know that God is gracious.
- C. Know that God will intervene
- D. Walk in faith. Know that God exists. Maybe that is why Bob Jones prophesied to FCC that he saw the faith of Abraham here. "If you keep looking up you will not backslide."
- E. Know you are God beloved. This is your identity. Stay close to the Father. Ps 91.
  - 1. Know who you are and where you sit.

2. Practice spiritual disciplines. Word, prayer, fasting.
- F. Know that God gives us our enemies!

**Conclusion:**

The head representing his authority and his arms representing his ability or power. God made it CRYSTAL CLEAR that Dagon had neither! Tumors–Dagon being a “*fertility*” god could not protect his people and God once again showed He was master over that as well!

The Ninevites, Assyrians, would’ve worshipped Dagon. God didn’t transport the prophet inside a large fish by accident. They would’ve paid better attention to Jonah knowing he’d traveled in a large Piscean vessel.