



**Five-Day Devotional 3
Our God Is Greater
January 19-23, 2026**

From the Pastor's Desk

Devotional Inspiration Our God Is Greater

Introduction: In 1 Samuel 5:6ff, the enemy becomes an unwilling witness to the supremacy of Adonai—the Lord God Jehovah. God does not merely declare His superiority; His enemies testify to it. God stands above all gods, and His authority is revealed without contest.

The Philistines place the ark in the temple of Dagon, expecting dominance. Instead, their god falls—then is shattered—before the presence of the Lord. This is no struggle between equal powers. God does not strive; He acts. His hand is heavy, His rule absolute, and even those who do not worship Him are forced to acknowledge His supremacy. This fits a consistent biblical pattern:

- Egypt recognizes the finger of God—Exodus 9:18.
- Nebuchadnezzar confesses that the Most High rules the kingdoms of men - Daniel 4:17, 34-35.
- Even demons acknowledge the authority of Christ—Mark 1:24; Luke 8:28 and James 2:19.

God's supremacy is not dependent on belief or allegiance; it is objective reality.

Yet Israel faltered—not because God was weak, but because they treated the ark as an object rather than honoring the God who dwelled among them. Familiarity can bred forgetfulness. The same danger confronts us. What the enemy confesses must remain clear and paramount in our lives—shaping our worship, obedience, and trust.

God has declared His supremacy. The enemy has confirmed it. Our calling is not to prove it—but to live as though it is true. **Our God is greater!** This truth is confession, proclamation, and reminder all in one.

The following five-day devotional, drawn from 1 Samuel 5:1–12, is designed to keep this truth central—so that what even the enemy acknowledges remains firmly rooted in the hearts of God's people.

Blessings,

Pastor Fryar

Note to reader: This five-day devotional is designed to encourage and reaffirm that when you pray, you are deepening your walk with God. This is highlighted through use of scripture references from the New King James Version unless otherwise indicated.



Day 1 – God's supremacy needs no defense

- **Scripture:** 1 Samuel 5:1–3. “And when the people of Ashdod arose early in the morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and set it in its place again.”—I Samuel 5:3.

Reflection: The Philistines place the ark of the covenant in the temple of Dagon, assuming Israel's defeat means God has been conquered. Yet before a word is spoken or a battle fought, Dagon falls face down before the ark. God does not argue His case, defend His reputation, or summon Israel to act. His presence alone declares His supremacy.

Human history repeatedly shows that God does not compete—He **reigns**. When we feel pressured to justify God or defend Him through human strength, we forget that His authority is self-authenticating.

Key truth: God's greatness is not proven by our arguments but revealed by His presence.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, forgive me for acting as though You need my defense. Teach me to trust Your unmatched authority and rest in who You are.



Day 2 – False gods cannot stand before the living God

Scripture: 1 Samuel 5:4. “But the next morning the same thing happened-- Dagon had fallen face down before the Ark of the LORD again. This time his head and hands had broken off and were lying in the doorway. Only the trunk of his body was left intact”—1 Sam. 5:4 NLT.

Reflection: Dagon not only falls again but is shattered—his head and hands broken off. This symbolizes the loss of authority, wisdom, and power. The false god is exposed as helpless before the living God.

Idols today may not be carved statues, but they still demand allegiance, security, control, success, or self-reliance. When the presence of God confronts these rivals, they cannot remain intact.

Key truth: Anything we exalt alongside God will eventually collapse before Him.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, search my heart, O God. Reveal any rival I have allowed to stand where only You belong.



Day 3 – The enemy bears witness to God’s power

Scripture: 1 Samuel 5:6–8 “And when the men of Ashdod saw how *it was*, they said, “The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us, for His hand is harsh toward us and Dagon our god.”—1 Sam. 5:7.

Reflection: The Philistines recognize the truth: “*The hand of the LORD is heavy upon us.*” Though they do not repent, they clearly acknowledge His power. God’s sovereignty is so evident that even those who oppose Him must confess it. This moment reminds us that God’s rule is not dependent on belief. He reigns whether acknowledged or not. Our confidence should come from knowing that God’s authority is already established—even among His enemies.

Key truth: God’s supremacy is an objective reality, not a matter of opinion.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, strengthen my faith to rest in Your rule, especially when opposition or confusion surrounds me.



Day 4 – God will not share His Glory

- **Scripture:** 1 Samuel 5:9–11. “The people summoned the Philistine rulers again and begged them, “Please send the Ark of the God of Israel back to its own country, or it will kill us all.” For the deadly plague from God had already begun, and great fear was sweeping across the town.”—1 Samuel 5:11 NLT.

Reflection: As the ark is moved from city to city, God’s judgment followed. The Philistines learn that God cannot be managed, relocated, or contained. His holiness demands reverence.

God’s glory is not negotiable. When people attempt to coexist with His presence while refusing His authority, judgment follows. Reverence is not optional—it is the proper response to His holiness.

Key truth: God’s presence demands submission, not accommodation.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, teach me to honor You fully, not partially. Let my life reflect reverence for Your name.



Day 5 – Living as people who know God Is Greater

Scripture: 1 Samuel 5:12. “And the men who did not die were stricken with the tumors, and the cry of the city went up to heaven.”

Reflection: The cry rises throughout Philistia. God’s power is undeniable. Ironically, those who do not worship Him proclaim His greatness more clearly than Israel had at the battle’s outset.

This calls God’s people to sober reflection. Do we live in such a way that God’s greatness is evident? Or do we forget His supremacy in moments of fear, compromise, or complacency?

Key truth: What the enemy confesses, God’s people must never forget.

Closing prayer: Heavenly Father, You are a Great and mighty God, anchor my life in the truth of who You are. May my faith, obedience, and worship declare without hesitation: **Our God is greater.**