

~PILES (175)

[Hebrew, *harkavy*]

- Hemorrhoids, are swellings of veins at the anus, frequently accompanied by bleeding. In this often painful disorder, there are vascular tumors beneath the mucous membrane of the rectum, either within the external sphincter, internal hemorrhoids, or on its outer side, external hemorrhoids, or both.
- Piles were among the disorders that Yehowah warned the Israelites they would suffer for disobedience.
- And it must occur that if you will not listen to the voice of Yehowah your God by taking care to do all his commandments and his statutes that I am commanding you today, all these maledictions must also come upon you and overtake you. ([Deuteronomy 28:15](#))
- Yehowah will strike you with the boil of Egypt and **piles** and eczema and skin eruption, from which you will not be able to be healed. ([Deuteronomy 28:27](#))
- He afflicted the Philistines of Ashdod and its territories, Gath and Ekron, with **piles** while the sacred Ark was in their possession.
- And the hand of Yehowah came to be heavy upon the Ashdodites, and he began causing panic and striking them with **piles**, namely, Ashdod and its territories. ([1 Samuel 5:6](#))
- And the men of Ashdod came to see that it was so, and they said; Do not let the ark of the God of Israel dwell with us, because his hand has been hard against us and against Dagon our god. ([1 Samuel 5:7](#))
- Consequently they sent and gathered all the axis lords of the Philistines to them and said; What shall we do to the ark of the God of Israel? Finally they said; Toward Gath let the ark of the God of Israel go around. So they brought the ark of the God of Israel around to there. ([1 Samuel 5:8](#))
- And it came about that after they had brought it around to there, the hand of Yehowah came to be upon the city with a very great

- confusion, and he began striking the men of the city, from small to great, and **piles** began breaking out on them. (1 Samuel 5:9)
- Hence they sent the ark of the true God to Ekron. And it came about that as soon as the ark of the true God came to Ekron, the Ekronites began to cry out, saying; They have brought the ark of the God of Israel around to me to put me and my people to death! (1 Samuel 5:10)
 - Consequently they sent and gathered all the axis lords of the Philistines and said; Send the ark of the God of Israel away that it may return to its place and may not put me and my people to death. For a death-dealing confusion had occurred in the whole city, the hand of the true God had been very heavy there. (1 Samuel 5:11)
 - And the men that did not die had been struck with **piles**. And the cry of the city for help kept ascending to the heavens. (1 Samuel 5:12)
 - The Hebrew word rendered, **piles** *Harkavy*; NW, **hemorrhoids**, Le, **tumors**, AS, RS, and **plague-boils**, AT, as at;
 - And the hand of Yehowah came to be heavy upon the Ashdodites, and he began causing panic and striking them with **piles**, namely, Ashdod and its territories. (1 Samuel 5:6)
 - Is '*opha-lim*', denoting rounded swellings or eminences, **hemorrhoids**, or **tumors** at the anus.
 - Then they put the ark of Yehowah upon the wagon, and also the box and the golden jerboas and the images of their **piles**. (1 Samuel 6:11)
 - Now these are the golden **piles** that the Philistines returned as a guilt offering to Yehowah, for Ashdod one, for Gaza one, for Ashkelon one, for Gath one, for Ekron one. (1 Samuel 6:17)
 - In the Masoretic text, the swellings afflicting the Philistines are referred to as *techo-rim*', meaning, **tumors**. In all six Scriptural occurrences of '*opha-lim*', **piles**, the Jewish Masoretes pointed this word with the vowels for *techo-rim*', **tumors**, and showed this latter term in the margin as the word to be read instead of '*opha-lim*'.

- The five Philistine axis lords returned the Ark to Israel with a guilt offering to Yehowah, consisting partly of five golden images of the **piles**, that is, representations of these swellings.
- At this they said; What is the guilt offering that we ought to return to him? Then they said; According to the number of the axis lords of the Philistines, five golden **piles** and five golden jerboas, for every one of you and your axis lords have the same scourge. (1 Samuel 6:4)
- And you must make images of your **piles** and images of your jerboas that are bringing the land to ruin, and you must give glory to the God of Israel. Perhaps he will lighten his hand from off you and your god and your land. (1 Samuel 6:5)
- Then they put the ark of Yehowah upon the wagon, and also the box and the golden jerboas and the images of their **piles**. (1 Samuel 6:11)
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- In a somewhat similar manner, certain ancient peoples, particularly the Greeks and the Romans, invoked their deities for cures by presenting to them replicas of afflicted body parts, or they presented models thereof in gratitude for supposed cures.
- Since jerboas, mouselike jumping rodents, were bringing the land to ruin.
- And you must make images of your **piles** and images of your jerboas that are bringing the land to ruin, and you must give glory to the God of Israel. Perhaps he will lighten his hand from off you and your god and your land. (1 Samuel 6:5)
- Some scholars believe the Philistines were afflicted with bubonic plague, a highly fatal infectious disease marked by such symptoms as fever, chills, prostration, and painful enlargement of the lymphatic glands, or buboes. This plague is transmitted chiefly through bites by fleas that have bitten infected rats or other rodents that are dying or dead.

- A death-dealing confusion occurred when the Ark was in Ekron, where the men that did not die had been struck with **piles**.
- Hence they sent the ark of the true God to Ekron. And it came about that as soon as the ark of the true God came to Ekron, the Ekronites began to cry out, saying; They have brought the ark of the God of Israel around to me to put me and my people to death! (1 Samuel 5:10)
- Consequently they sent and gathered all the axis lords of the Philistines and said; Send the ark of the God of Israel away that it may return to its place and may not put me and my people to death. For a death-dealing confusion had occurred in the whole city, the hand of the true God had been very heavy there. (1 Samuel 5:11)
- And the men that did not die had been struck with **piles**. And the cry of the city for help kept ascending to the heavens. (1 Samuel 5:12)
- Both pile and jerboa images are mentioned at;
- At this they said; What is the guilt offering that we ought to return to him? Then they said; According to the number of the axis lords of the Philistines, five golden **piles** and five golden jerboas, for every one of you and your axis lords have the same scourge. (1 Samuel 6:4)
- Where the Philistine priests and diviners are quoted as saying; every one of you and your axis lords have the same scourge. But this may mean only that the entire nation, the axis lords and people alike, had suffered a common calamity, the same scourge, not necessarily that the rodents and the **piles** were associated in one epidemic disease or plague.
- The Bible seems to indicate only that the jerboas destroyed vegetation throughout Philistia, thus ruining the land, and does not specifically state that they were carriers of infection to the Philistines stricken by Yehowah.