

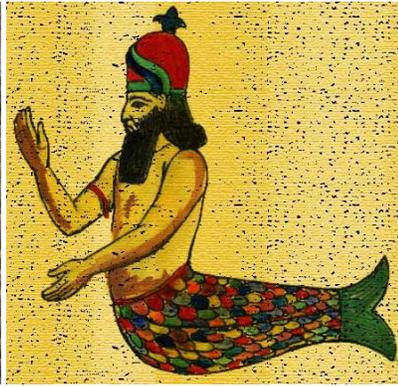
MerFolk Spirits in The Bible

There are a whole host of “MerFolk” spirits for example Sirens, Nixens, Nymphs and Ocean gods to name a few. Today we will be looking at Dagon who is a Principality affecting regions, lands and peoples.

(Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.)



Dagon – The “Merman” god



Dagon Priest

Dagon – The “Merman” god

Dagon was the chief god of the Philistines, their national god and he was father of Baal.

Dagon is half fish and half man, with the body of a fish and the upper chest, arms and head of a man. *(Dagon priests would look like men in fish costumes)* Dagon is and he is often identified with Astarte and sometimes associated with a female half-fish deity (*mermaids*): known as: Derceto or Atargatis (*whose daughter is Semiramis married Nimrod ruled in the city of Nineveh (present day Iraq) They are credited with founding the city of Babylon. Nimrod most likely was a giant. Other giants in Scripture also come from the line of Ham, Nimrod's grandfather. For example, the “sons of Anak” in Numbers 13 were described as giants, and as Canaanites, they were descendants of Ham. Goliath was a Philistine, a people group which Genesis 10:13 says descended from Ham's offspring Egypt.)*

Historically it is said that Dagon was a god of fertility and reproductive power. (wheat or grain and fish can both multiply quickly. *Fish can multiply at quick rates. For example, the gray grouper can produce 340 million eggs in one season*) Dagon was also known as the storm god.

The Philistines depended on Dagon for success and victory in war so they offered various sacrifices for his favor, he was their National god.

What Does the Name Dagon Mean?

Many historians have said that the Hebrew dialect of that time shows that the root word for dag means fish and the whole word Dagon or Dagan was a term of endearment... “little fish.” Not being little, small or insignificant but like “my dear little fish,” a term of affection. Another interpretation of the name is related to the word, grain.

Who Worshipped Dagon?

In scripture, we see that each time Dagon is mentioned, he is worshiped by the Philistine people. The Philistines lived on the south coast of Canaan. Being a coastal people the sea was very important to them and they relied on it as a source of food. Dagon was also worshiped in the general society of Canaanite and Phoenician peoples.

The god Baal is mentioned more in scripture than Dagon. Beth Dagon was a town in the land captured by the Israelites mentioned in Joshua 15:41 and 19:27. In Canaanite texts, Baal is sometimes mentioned as “The son of Dagon.” In scripture he is also mentioned as Baal-zebub (*2 Kings 1:2-16*)

The religion of Dagon continued to at least the Second Century BC, as we see reference to a Dagon temple in the apocrypha book of 1 Maccabees 10:84; 11:4, when the temple at Azotus was destroyed by Jonathan Maccabeas. Josephus also speaks of a Dagon "beyond Jericho" (Antiq. Jud., XIII, viii, 1; De bell. Jud., I, ii, 3):

The early version of Dagon was an Assyrio-Babylonian deity (*Oannes*), whose worship was introduced among the Philistines through Chaldea. (*The ancient Babylonians believed that Oannes came out of the Erythrean Sea (the Red Sea) and came to teach them wisdom.*)

The most famous temples of Dagon were at:

- **Gaza (Judges 16:21-30) and**
- **Ashdod (1 Samuel 5:3,4; 1 Chronicles 10:10).**

The Agenda of the Spirit of Dagon

Through careful study of the scriptures, taking note of the actions and consequences that come from interactions between Gods chosen people, Israel, and the peoples that worship Dagon and his son Baal, who are under this spirit's evil influence...

You will find the following to be some of the agenda of the spirit of Dagon.

- **Influences and seduces hearts & minds**
- **Captures your anointing**
- **Blinds you to the truth of who you are**
- **Blinds you to the true source of your life**
- **Will bring destructive storms into your life**
- **If you keep focused on these storms you become barren & unfruitful**
- **Captures your heart with seduction and idolatry**
- **Wants all your worship and devotion**
- **Cuts off your authority to pray**
- **Deceives you**
- **Binds you**

Dagon ultimately wants your head. The spirit of Dagon will bring storms in your life to kill, steal and destroy what God is doing.

- **To Kill your Spiritual Vision**
- **To Steal your Strength**
- **To Destroy your Dreams and Calling**

Ultimately Dagon can't kill so this spirit goes after not just your eyes, but also your armor and your head

SAMSON and the Spirit of Dagon (Judges 13 - 16)

Before Samson was even conceived his parent's had visitations from the Angel of the Lord. Samson's mother was barren but she was assured she would conceive if she followed exactly what she was told (drink no wine and eat nothing unclean). She and her husband, Manoah, were to raise their son as a Nazarite. Their son was destined to take down the Philistines. So they did as they were told, dedicated Samson to the Lord, brought him up to live a holy life and be set apart as a Nazarite (*Nazarite literally means 'one separated'*).

Samson's hair should never to be cut - Numbers: 6:5

Never drink wine or strong drink, also means no grapes, raisins, grape juice or wine vinegar - Numbers 6:3-4

Stay away from dead bodies - Numbers 6:6-12

Samson name in Hebrew means: Sunlight. His name was a prophetic statement of what he was called to be "a bright light." He was going to bring light to Israel in this dark time. However, Samson had problems controlling his fleshly desires. Judges 14:8-9 he touched a dead lion's body to get the honey out of it. Samson ate some honey but had broken his Nazarite vow, and became unclean. Then he took honey home to share

with his family causing his whole household to become unclean. This left them all open to be spiritually attacked. (*since Samson hid where he got the honey, he also did not do the prescribed cleansing for touching a dead body, Samson later reveals about the lion and honey at his wedding feast and his marriage ended that same day as his wife was given to another Philistine man attending the feast*)

He again desired a Philistine woman and this one, Delilah, and his fleshly desires were Samson's downfall. Delilah's name means Queen of the Night in Arabic and in Hebrew it means Languishing, Lovelorn, Seductive, Dry Up, Be Not Equal and To Become Impoverished. So she was **Samson's spiritual polar opposite** and her name is prophetic because she seduced and weakened him so he was brought down to his own destruction.

Delilah, a follower of Dagon, **filled with that spirit's agenda** was on a mission for the Philistines. Over and over again she tried to get him to tell her what gave him strength. Each time Samson lied to her, but she was so persistent that the scriptures say "*she vexed him till he was sick with death*" She was using a seduction that feeds off of having control. This is a **form of witchcraft**, to lure and tempt Samson to expose his weakness so the Philistines (and **Spirit of Dagon**) could rule over him.

Samson's hair was a source of his strength because it was part of his vow and consecration before God. When he gave this information to Delilah, he valued his relationship with her much more than he valued his vow to God. This was the biggest downfall for Samson. Delilah operated with a spirit of seduction which fed on Samson's lust issues. Scripture is very clear that intercourse creates a physical, emotional, and spiritual bond. In the Hebrew "becoming one flesh" is the knitting of two souls together, which includes the impartation of controlling spirits.

Samson lost his strength and broke his covenant with God. He was now very vulnerable. The Philistines motivated by the principality *and under the influence of the Spirit of Dagon's agenda*, wanted to take down God's anointed Nazarite and appointed deliverer. They seized Samson, gouged out his eyes, bound him with bronze shackles, and took him down to Gaza (*where a **Temple of Dagon** was*) to the prison where he was slave labor grinding grain.

God heard Samson's prayers and gave Samson a second chance, in prison Samson hair grew back and his strength was restored. The Philistines assembled to **offer a great sacrifice to Dagon** their god and to celebrate, saying, "Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands." Samson was brought in for entertainment and he proceeded to destroy the Temple of Dagon which was filled with Philistines, so Samson pushed the two main pillars down killing more Philistines there than he had in his lifetime. (*Judges 16:23-31*)

ARK OF THE COVENANT vs Spirit of Dagon (1 Samuel 4 to 7) **Honor and Shame and the Temple of Dagon**

Dagon is talked about by name again in 1 Samuel 5 thru 7 when the Ark of the Covenant was taken by the Philistines. This is an awesome story of how God shows off His power to the Philistines and their wimpy fish god must bow down. The Middle East is a **Honor and Shame** culture.

We begin in I Sam 5:1 "After the Philistines had captured the ark of God, they took it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. (*Ebenezer means "the stone of help"*). Israel acted presumptuously in removing the Ark from the permanent Tabernacle in Shiloh and taking it to the battlefield – specifically by the hands of two blasphemous, adulterous priests, Eli's sons. This is our first **Honor/Shame** milestone of the story – the holiest piece of furniture on earth was carried into battle by the most dishonorable of men, whose status as priests made their offenses against God astronomically worse. This was a direct affront to God's **Honor**.

So what did He do? God returned the **dishonor** back upon the Israelites. They lost the battle and God placed His Ark into the hands of heathen men, who removed it entirely from the country. We read the wife of Phineas' prophetic utterance in I Sam 4:22 "The esteem (**Honor**) has departed from Israel, for the Ark of God has been taken."

God's Ark now sat in the house (*temple*) of Dagon next to the idol of Dagon. Dagon's priests were the idol's staff, they attended their idol by feeding, bathing, perfuming, adorning it. (*the priests believed that the real Dagon was taking in sustenance and receiving adoration as they cared for this idol*)

So imagine the priests horror the next morning when they went to awaken Dagon to care for him, only to find Dagon had fallen on his face "before the Ark of the LORD." Their god prostrated before the Ark, worshipping the God of the Israelites. An extremely puzzling situation since Dagon had just defeated YHWH in battle and they had "captured" Him and His power.

Dagon found worshipping his defeated foe? To cover up this **Shame** the priests propped him back up, cared for him and went away. Maybe their thoughts were like we read when Elijah went up against the prophets of Ba'al (*Dagon's son*) in I Kings 18?

The next day **Shame upon Shame**, Dagon was lying prostrate again – only this time two of the most honorable parts of its body – the human head and hands, were broken off (*only the fish body remained intact*). In ancient Middle Eastern cultures, execution by beheading was the **least honorable** death and the removal of hands was **extremely Shameful**. (*more on beheading below: in David vs. Goliath, death of King Saul and Jezebel*)

It gets worse, these parts were laying on the threshold. Threshold sacrifices were common in the ancient world, The threshold of an ancient homes or Temples would often have a small bowl cut or carved into the threshold – this is the place where animals were sacrificed at the arrival of an important guest, and whose meat would later be eaten in honor of that guest. The blood of the animal would fill the bowl in the threshold, hence the name of this type of sacrifice.

So, what we see here is the sacrifice of Dagon at the doorway to his own house, his own temple in **Honor of YHWH**. Dagon has not only been **Shamed** in worshiping this defeated god but now he has been executed in the most painfully **Shameful** way imaginable – in his own home, like an animal.

But wait, there's more. God started striking the Philistines with wasting tumors (5;6, 9) Interesting that these **Shaming** sicknesses affected their fertility, sexual ability and crops. Proving again Dagon was no match for the one true God! As we later read about crop eating rats (6:11). So the Philistines moved the Ark from city to city until it came to Ekron, and the inhabitants of that city were in terror of the God of Israel and would not allow the Ark to be brought inside. So where did they put it?

This is important! I Samuel 6:1 "And the Ark of the LORD was in the field of the Philistines for seven new moons." So God's Ark was placed in the **midst of a field** – that was one of Dagon's domains – and for seven months Dagon couldn't do a thing about it. This was **Seriously Shameful**. Dagon could NOT protect himself, his people, their cities, not even his own house – BUT he was also shown to be utterly impotent over his own domain – a field of crops, since Dagon was also a god of grain and fertility. We see in chapters 6 & 7, the Ark was finally returned with offerings to **Honor** the God of Israel and Samuel steps in for the Glory and **Honor** of God, God always triumphs over Dagon.

DAVID vs GOLIATH (1 Samuel 17)

We must take realize that since Goliath was a Philistine, this means Goliath was under the influence of the Spirit of Dagon and it's agenda. So Goliath manifested and operated in almost all of Dagon's ways. Goliath had no idea of who he was really up against when he was confronted by David. Little did Goliath know that the anointed future King of Israel stood before him, a man after God's own heart, a true worshipper of God, one who knew God through intimate communication and constant fellowship.

Goliath had enjoyed terrorizing King Saul and the army of Israel for forty days. This soon came to an end as David heard Goliath's blasphemies, David armed with his shepherd's weapons: his staff, sling and five smooth stones. Weapons he knew would serve him on this battlefield, weapons mighty for his God.

David **RAN** at Goliath with no fear of this giant or the false god standing behind him. David, driven by passion for God, with confidence in his heart, he knew the victory was already won. One sure shot from David's sling,

the stone hit Goliath and he fell as the stone burrowed into his forehead. David RAN stood over Goliath, took the giants sword and cut off his head.

The head of the attacker had to be cut off. The head represents: power, authority, center of communication, removing the head is the ultimate life extinguishing act. The spirit of Dagon working through Goliath attempted to attack David's mind, attack his God-given authority, attack David's kingship, attack his identity and tried to disconnect David from his covenant with God. However, David's life of worship and devotion to God empowered David as David overcame all these attacks and ran into face his opponent and destroy the enemy.

The way David handled this situation applies to us when the enemy comes for us. We use the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, to cut off the head of the enemy so his power over us, his lies, his deception, whatever he tries to throw at us is supernaturally CUT OFF. Then we go into exuberant worship giving God all the Glory for what He has done through us.

DEATH OF SAUL and SPIRIT of DAGON (1 Samuel 28 & 1 Sam. 31, 1 Chronicles 10)

Samuel has died and King Saul's days were numbered, as the Lord refuses to give him counsel. So Saul wraps himself in deception to seek the forbidden consult of a medium so he can talk with the deceased Samuel. Saul is told of his death, the death of his sons and reminded of his rebellion against God when he refused to wipe out the Amalekites.

So the next day the Dagon inspired Philistines attack Israel, Saul already weak, sees the death of his son Jonathan and two other sons. He is then wounded by archers and ultimately commits suicide. Saul knew how the Philistines abused Samson and most likely feared what they would do to him. You can read for yourself what these followers of Dagon did to the bodies of Saul and his sons. Since Saul was a King his head was cut off and his armor removed. They put his armor in the temple of their gods and hung up his head in the temple of Dagon. Messengers were sent throughout the land of the Philistines to proclaim the news among their idols and their people. The bodies of Saul and his sons were fastened to a wall for all to observe and ridicule.

JEZEBEL'S REMAINS (2 Kings 9:30-37)

No woman in the Bible is more identified with wickedness and treachery than Jezebel the Queen of Israel, wife of King Ahab, and persecutor of the prophets of God. Jehu was chosen by God to take down Queen Jezebel once and for all. She operated under the influence of the spirit of Dagon, Baal, Asherah and many more.

She is responsible for instituting massive amounts of idol worship and temple prostitution in the land of Israel. She hosted hundreds of false priests at her tables most notably of Baal (*Dagon's son*) and Asherah. Baal is known as the god of 1,000 faces because he influences many other "gods" and spirits. He too is a principality like Dagon. Baal's evil manifestation in Jezebel had her plot to totally wipe out all the prophets of YHWH, but the God of Israel, raised up a mighty prophet to stand against her: Elijah the Tishbite. Elijah cursed Jezebel, prophesying that she would be killed and dogs would eat her body, not leaving enough to bury.

After Ahab's death, Jezebel continued her evil influence for 10 years in her role as queen-mother, as her sons Ahaziah and then Joram ruled over Israel. Her corrupt influence also spread to the southern kingdom of Judah through her daughter Athaliah, who married Jehoram, king of Judah. Thus, idolatry infected both kingdoms of the Hebrews through this evil queen.

When Elisha anointed Jehu to replace Joram, Jehu became a violent avenger for God to destroy the extreme wickedness in the land. When Jehu entered the city of Jezreel, Jezebel painted her face and eyes and mocked Jehu. He ordered some eunuchs to throw her out a window. She fell to her death, and Jehu's horses trampled over her. After Jehu had eaten and rested, he ordered men to bury Jezebel's body, but all they found was her skull, her feet, and the palms of her hands. Dogs had eaten her, just as Elijah had foretold. Again we see the head and hands are left.

WORSHIPPING GOD OVERWHELMS DAGON

Praise and worship to God as a prophetic warfare strategy is never wrong, and with Dagon it is especially effective. Why? Because, God, Himself shamed and took down Dagon, God's presence overpowered that marine demon and knocked him off his pedestal. We see God's strategy in Joshua 6, praise brought down Jericho's walls. In 1 Samuel 16, David's anointed worship sent King Saul's devils fleeing; they couldn't stand God's presence.

To defeat Dagon's influence in your life, your city, your territory, cultivate an atmosphere thick with worship. Inviting God's presence and drawing close to Him as David did is a key strategy. Use David's Psalms; let the Holy Spirit fill you with songs of deliverance, we know that God inhabits the praises of His people as stated in Psalm 22:3. Exalt God and Him alone, with all that is in you through praise, worship, adoration, and thanksgiving, this will displace all idols and false gods.

By Lynn Altman

A DARING PRAYER AGAINST DAGON

By Jenifer LeClaire

Father, in the name of Jesus, I come into Your presence casting down my idols.
I will have no other God before You. I abolish every idol in my life
and commit to serving You and You alone.

Forgive me for allowing anything to stand between us and help me to keep my eyes
and heart focused on You and only You, because You are worthy of all my praise.

I break the assignment of Dagon to capture my heart and defile my spirit.
I stand against Dagon's attempts to hinder the flow of Your anointing through me
to minister Your Gospel.

I push back Dagon's darkness in my life with wholehearted worship, Lord, help me worship You in
spirit and in truth. Remove anything from my heart that hinders love, in Jesus' name.

I obliterate Dagon's daring plans to blind me from the truth. Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, so that
I can see You as You really are and see the enemy of my soul as he really is.

Lord, give me a revelation of the truth that sets me free from every Dagon and Baal attack.
I stand in my authority and demolish Dagon's head now, in Jesus' name.
Amen and amen.

Sources:

- The Bible
- Defeating Water Spirits by Jennifer LeClaire
- The Catholic Encyclopedia
- Melissa Tumino's "Think about such things" website
- The Jewish Encyclopedia



Contact - Lynn Altman

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/lynne.k.altman>

Email: hephz1bah@yahoo.com