



Samuel and the Ark of God

1 Samuel 5:1-6, 11; 6:13; 7:3-8, 12-13

“Hey Scoop! Scoop! Where are you?” Kasey called out as she entered the newsroom of the King City Herald.

“Over here, I’m working on the latest top story,” Scoop replied from his corner desk by the window. The typewriter keys clicked under his flying fingers.

Kasey strolled to her tiny reporter’s desk and tossed her notebook next to her typewriter. “Is it about how the Redeem Team defeated the Philistine once again?”

Scoop nodded. “That’s right, Kasey. The Redeem Team will always come out on top because they have God on their side!”

“And they stand for what is right, watching over King City just like God watches over us!” Kasey added as she sat down in her desk chair.

“You’re catching on, kiddo!” he said, pausing briefly to give her a smile.

Kasey swiveled around in her chair to look at Scoop. “Hey Scoop, do you ever worry that one day the Philistine might win?”

Scoop pulled the paper from the typewriter. “I never worry, because God always watches over us. The enemy may win a battle or two, but God will win the final victory.”

“Yes, but the Philistine is always trying to take our power!” Kasey complained.

“He wouldn’t know what to do with the power if he got it. He’s just like the Philistines in the Old Testament, who stole the golden ark of God from the Israelites,” Scoop explained.

“When did that happen?” she asked.

“A good reporter has to do her own research, kid. You can look it up in the first book of Samuel.” Scoop snatched his article from the typewriter and raced to the door. “I have to get this story to the editor’s desk. See ya later, kid!”

Kasey watched Scoop leave and reached for his Bible sitting on the edge of his desk. “Scoop’s right, I’d better research the first book of Samuel.” She found 1 Samuel 5 and read the story. “Wow, this is an amazing story! Samuel was a prophet and judge sent by God during the time the judges ruled over Israel. The Philistines attacked Israel and stole the

ark of God. The golden ark was the box that held the Israelite's holy treasures. God's people must have been so sad to lose something that special. The Philistines put it in their own temple next to the statue of their false god, Dagon."

She kept reading and discovered the Dagon statue had fallen on his face before the ark of God. The Philistines picked Dagon up and put it back, but the next morning it was back on the ground. Only, this time, the head and hands of the statue were broken off and lying on the threshold. Closing the Bible, Kasey looked up. "Yikes, I guess it's pretty obvious that only the one true God has power."

"Even the Philistines learned that," Scripture Guy said as he walked through the newsroom door.

Kasey grinned at the sight of her favorite superhero. "Scripture Guy! Did you hear about the power our God has?"

Scripture Guy strode confidently to the window, his cape swishing through the air behind him. "Oh yes, after breaking their statue, He made them so sick that the Philistine people begged their leaders to, as the Bible says: 'Send the ark of the God of Israel away; let it go back to its own place...'"

"Did they send it back?" Kasey asked as she joined Scripture Guy at the window.

"They sure did!" Scripture Guy answered. "Even enemies know not to fight against such a powerful God!"

Kasey smiled. "I'll bet the Israelites were excited to get the ark of God back!"

Scripture Guy scanned the street below for trouble. "Everyone except the Philistines—they set out to attack Israel again."

"Again?" Kasey exclaimed. "Didn't they learn no one can defeat God?"

Scripture Guy shook his head sadly. "I guess they weren't paying attention. Even the Israelites had a hard time remembering God's power."

"But God had rescued them so many times!" Kasey exclaimed.

"True," Scripture Guy agreed. "But you see, the Israelites had cried out to God for 20 years while the Philistines made their life hard. Finally Samuel said if they would return to God with all their hearts, and promise to serve Him only, then God would protect them from the Philistines."

"What happened? Did God help them?" Kasey wondered.

"Yes, God sent thunder that was so loud the Philistines panicked and the Israelites defeated them. As always, God's powerful presence changed everything!" Scripture Guy said triumphantly. "Let me read what the Bible says happened next, 'Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far has the Lord helped us.''"

"Wow!" Kasey exclaimed. "I feel silly that I ever worried about the Philistine. I should have remembered God is watching over us. He will help and protect us from our enemies. That silly Philistine has no power at all!"

"No Power?! No power?! I am the Philistine! I have all the power!" cackled the Philistine from the fire escape just outside the window. He lifted a green glowing box over his head and howled an evil laugh.

Scripture Guy turned with a start and glared at him. "Philistine, what have you got there?" he demanded. Kasey saw her chance and slipped away unnoticed to the closet phone booth. If trouble was brewing with the Philistine, she needed to change into Kingdom Crusader and be ready to defend the city with Scripture Guy.

"Oh, wouldn't you like to know, Scripture Guy?!" Philistine taunted. "I have in my hands the central power converter for the entire city! What will you do now, Super Dodo?"

Scripture Guy jumped onto the fire escape and ordered, "Put that down, Philistine! King City is God's city and you cannot handle God's power!"

Philistine hopped around like a kangaroo; balancing the converter in one hand over his head. "Well, I'm handling it. Look at me handle it. I'm touching it. I'm touching it!"

Suddenly a yellowish-orange bolt shot out of the converter and straight into his forearm. "Ouch! That hurt!" He screeched over and over as the bolts continued to pound his arm. "Ow, ow, ow! Ouch, that really hurts! Stop! Stop!" Desperately, he tried to drop the converter, but the bolts of power were so strong, it gripped his arm like a claw. "Oh, help me, Scripture Guy...please?"

"It looks like I'd better get over there and save the Philistine from himself. When will people learn God's power is meant to be used for His glory?" Scripture Guy jumped up to the next landing on the escape across from Philistine and climbed wobbly metal stairs. He called out, "This is a job for Scripture Guy! I give everything to honor my King!"

Just then, Kingdom Crusader emerged from a phone booth on the street below and called up, "Wait for me, Scripture Guy! I want to help! Redeem Team to the rescue!"