



King Josiah Obeys

2 Kings 22:1-19, 23:1-6, 25

Scripture Guy paced the room as he watched the Philistine who was hard at work at the superhero's lab table. He thought about how the Obliterator had stolen the Wisdom Cube and was preparing to destroy all of King City's wisdom. Now, Scripture Guy and his partner, Kingdom Crusader, had to enlist the help of the wisest man in town: The Philistine! Scripture Guy could see how God was changing the Philistine's heart, but he was still wary of the man who had been his evil enemy for so long.

He was relieved when the phone rang and the voice on the other end requested his help with a rescue downtown. "Duty calls," he announced to Kingdom Crusader and the Philistine. Pulling on his cape, he raced out the door.

Kingdom Crusader waved goodbye and turned to the Philistine. "Thanks for helping us. How are you doing with that invention?"

"Just a moment; you can't rush perfection," the Philistine said, his nose inches from his work. Minutes later, he raised a metal object up into the air. "Voila! The Heart Shield is ready!"

Kingdom Crusader examined it with curiosity. "What does it do?"

"If you hold it over your heart, it will protect you." When he held the shield over his heart, a bright pink glow shone from behind the shield. "If the Obliterator tries to use the Reverse Wisdom Cube against you, you can use it to cover your heart. Then, he won't be able to steal your wisdom!"

Kingdom Crusader looked worried. "But, I thought wisdom was in your brain."

"No, that's intelligence!" said the Philistine. He recited a poem: "Intelligence is being educated or smart. Wisdom comes from God and He puts it in our hearts."

Kingdom Crusader's eyes opened wide. "I remember that rhyme! You used to say it to me when I was a little girl."

"I used to say it to Kasey." He stopped and stared at Kingdom Crusader for a moment. "Wait a minute...are you Kasey?"

Kingdom Crusader lifted her mask to reveal her face. "Yes! It's me, Kasey Carter!" Philistine just shook his head in wonderment.

"Wow, this city is so full of surprise reunions! Does Scripture Guy know who you really are?"

"No. Please don't tell him!" Kingdom Crusader begged, as she pulled her mask back down.

"Your secret is safe with me," he assured. "All these surprise meetings are bringing my mind back to simpler times."

"I was hoping you would remember those days. There was a time when you used to obey God's Word," Kingdom Crusader reminded him.

Philistine got a faraway look in his eyes. "That was a long time ago and I've spent so many years doing bad things. I don't even remember much of God's Word and I lost my Bible years ago."

Kingdom Crusader stood in front of her uncle and put both of her hands on his shoulders. "I could find it for you Uncle Phil! After all, I am a superhero, you know!"

"Thanks, kid, but I don't have much need for it anymore." He picked the shield and walked toward the door. "Anyway, I've got to show this shield to Scripture Guy so he can be prepared for the Obliterator. Be good Kasey, I mean, Crusader."

"I wish I could find Uncle Phil's Bible," said Kingdom Crusader. "I'm sure if he turned to the Good News, it would help him trust and obey God. If I find it, I know the first story I'll read to him." She turned to 2 Kings 22 and read the story about King Josiah, the boy who became king of Judah at 8 years old. "I can't imagine being a king at that age," she thought, "but God sure did show Josiah what to do."

She read about how King Josiah and the people of Israel had been doing wrong in the eyes of the Lord and didn't even know it! They were worshiping idols and false gods, while ignoring the one true God. Years later when Josiah was a grown up king, his priest found the long lost Book of the Law (the Scriptures which are now in the Bible). He read it to the king. King Josiah was so upset about breaking God's laws, that he tore his robes and cried. Then, he did what was right in God's eyes and called together all of the elders, the wise men, the priests, the prophets, and all the people of Jerusalem. He gathered them outside the temple and read every single word in the Book of the Law to them. King Josiah renewed his covenant promise to obey God's Word with all his heart and soul. Then, all the people made that same promise to the Lord. Josiah destroyed all of the false gods and the places where they were worshiped.

"Wow, who knew an 8 year-old boy king would grow up and lead God's people to obey? Hey, that's it! Uncle Phil should do what King Josiah did! In fact, all of King City should read God's Word and obey it."

Scripture Guy burst into the room and held up the Philistine's shield. "Have you seen this invention the Philistine gave me? I thought you said he was a wise inventor. How am I supposed to defend a whole city with this little shield?"

As if on cue, the Obliterator jumped through the door and held up the cube. "Aha! The Redeem Team, together at last! Now, I can use the Reverse Wisdom Cube to sap all your wisdom away. Soon, I will be the only wise man in King City! Ready, aim, fire!" Beams of

laser light pierced the air. Scripture Guy jumped in front of Kingdom Crusader and raised the shield to cover his heart. The beams bounced off of the pink glowing metal shield and scattered around the room. The Obliterator shook the cube and fiddled with its buttons. "It's not working! How can this be? Maybe if I turn it up to maximum zappage..."

"The shield is reflecting his rays and sapping wisdom from the Obliterator!" Scripture Guy exclaimed, as the rays bounced off the shield and targeted the Obliterator instead.

Obliterator's evil glare disappeared and his face went blank as the rays touched his heart. "Whoa! Somehow, I don't feel as smart as I was a minute ago."

"We should turn to God's Word to learn what to do next." Kingdom Crusader slid across the room and grabbed her Bible from the table. She read, "The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord—to follow the Lord and keep His commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul..."

"Uh...duh...my head hurts," Obliterator fumbled with the cube in his hands. As he bumbled out the door, he muttered, "Me no like this cube no more. Bad cube! Me leaving. Me want to go to the playground. Yay! Playground!"

"It worked! It worked!" Kingdom Crusader cheered.

Scripture Guy wiped the sweat from his brow. "Kingdom Crusader, how did you know to turn to the Word of God?"

Kingdom Crusader shrugged. "Well, that's what King Josiah did, so I thought I should, too. King Josiah had a hunger to do what was right! The Bible says: 'Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did— with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Laws of Moses.'"

"Crusader, you impressed me and the Philistine has impressed me with this wonderful shield." Scripture Guy patted his partner on the back.

Kingdom Crusader grinned. "It really worked, didn't it? I told you the Philistine was changing his ways. He might just trust and obey God some day."

"Well, he came through today and so did you by obeying God's Word," Scripture Guy replied. He held the shield up to the light. "We should keep this shield to remind us that God's Word is a shield for our hearts."

"You're right!" Kingdom Crusader agreed. "Reading God's Word shows us how to obey Him!"

"That's right, Kingdom Crusader." Scripture Guy opened the door and politely motioned for Kingdom Crusader to walk through first. "And now, you and I had better head to the playground and get that Wisdom Cube away from The Obliterator before he tries to use it again."

"Amen! This is a job for the Redeem Team! We give everything to honor our King!" Kingdom Crusader said, as they headed out in search of the Obliterator.