### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 5

1Thereafter, the Philistines took the Chest of God from EbenEzer and carried it to AshDod, 2where they put it into the Temple of Dagon, next to his [image]!  
  
3But when the people of AshDod got up early the next morning and entered the Temple, {Look!} they found Dagon had fallen with his face to the ground before the Chest of God! So they lifted Dagon up and set him back in his place.  
  
Well, Jehovah’s hand continued to be heavy against the people of AshDod and the surrounding country throughout the rest of that day; for He tormented them and struck them all [with boils] on their backsides.  
  
4Then once again, when they got up the next morning, {Look!} they found that Dagon had fallen on his face before the Chest of Jehovah’s Sacred Agreement... But this time, his head had fallen off and both of his hands had broken off at their wrists and were lying by the [front] door… So all that was left of him was his torso!  
  
5And this is the reason why the Priests of Dagon will no longer cross the threshold of Dagon’s Temple in AshDod.  
  
  
6Well, Jehovah continued to oppress and torment the people of AshDod, and He struck [the people with boils] on their backsides throughout its borders.  
  
7And when the men of AshDod realized what was happening, they said:  
  
 ‘Don’t leave the Chest of the God of IsraEl with us, because that’s [what’s making Him angry] with us and with our God Dagon!’  
  
8So the Philistines sent officials throughout the land asking:  
  
 ‘What should we do with the Chest of the God of IsraEl?’  
  
And the people of Gath said:  
  
 ‘You can send it to us!’  
  
So as a result, they sent the Chest of the God of IsraEl to Gath.  
  
9But as they were moving it there, Jehovah created a tremendous problem for them; for He struck all the people of the city (both the small and the great) [with boils] on their backsides.  
  
10Therefore, they sent the Chest of God on to EkRon.  
  
But when it got there, the people started shouting:  
  
 ‘Why are you bringing the Chest of the God of IsraEl to us? Are you trying to kill us?’  
  
11So, they called all the Philistine governors together, who decided that they should send the Chest of the God of IsraEl back to where it belongs, so it didn’t destroy them and all of their people.  
  
12But thereafter, confusion set in... For throughout the city, people started dying as the Chest of the God of IsraEl was being brought there, and both the living and the dying were struck [with boils] on their backsides.  
  
So, cries from the city reached into the heavens!