

Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

THE CAPTURE AND RETURN OF THE ARK

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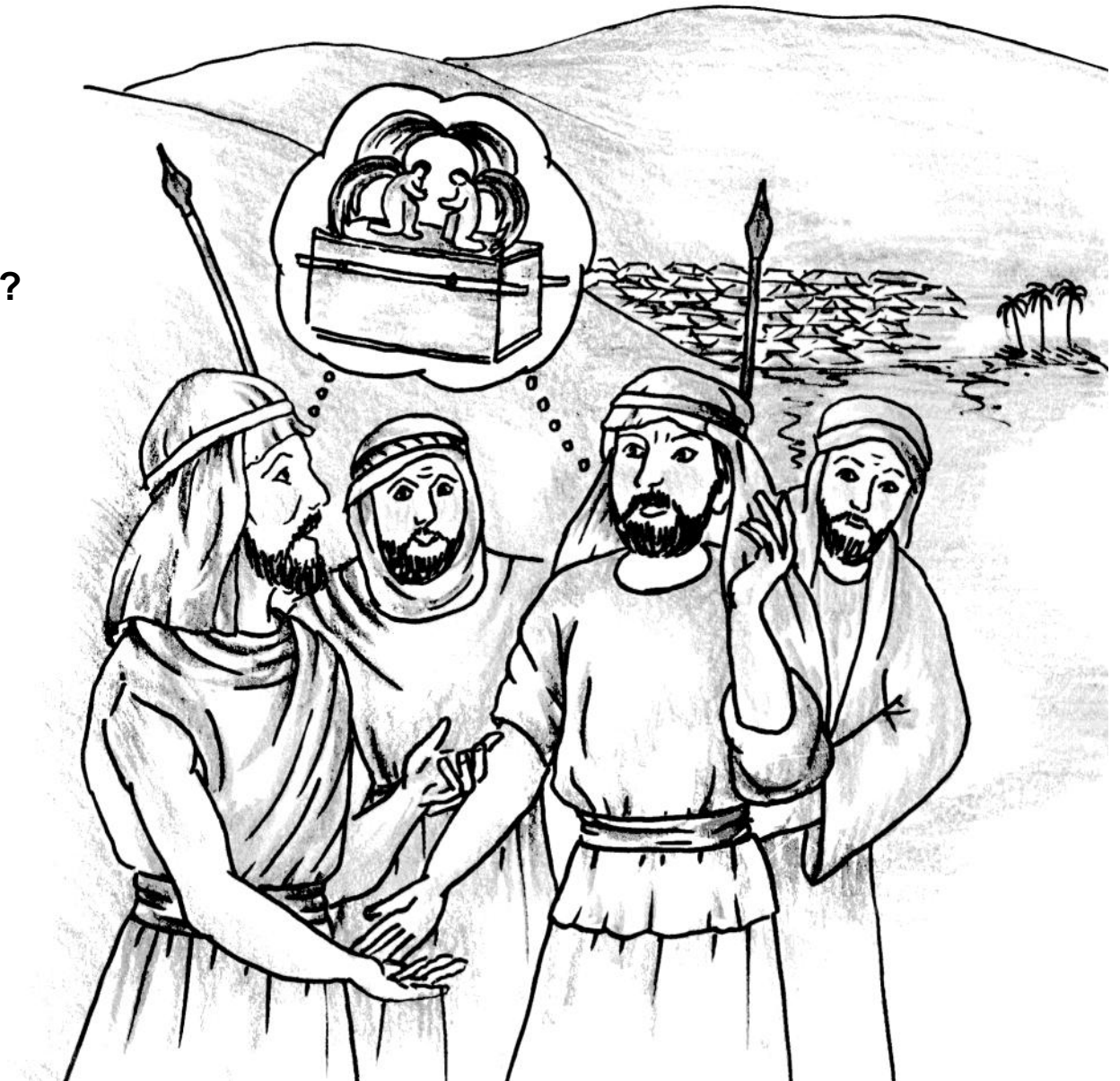
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1 SAMUEL 3:19 — 7:15
THE CAPTURE AND RETURN OF THE ARK
File no. 52

**God's people fought against
the Philistines and lost.**

**Their leaders asked,
'Why did God let us lose this battle?
Next time, we will take
God's Covenant box with us.
Then God will help us.'**

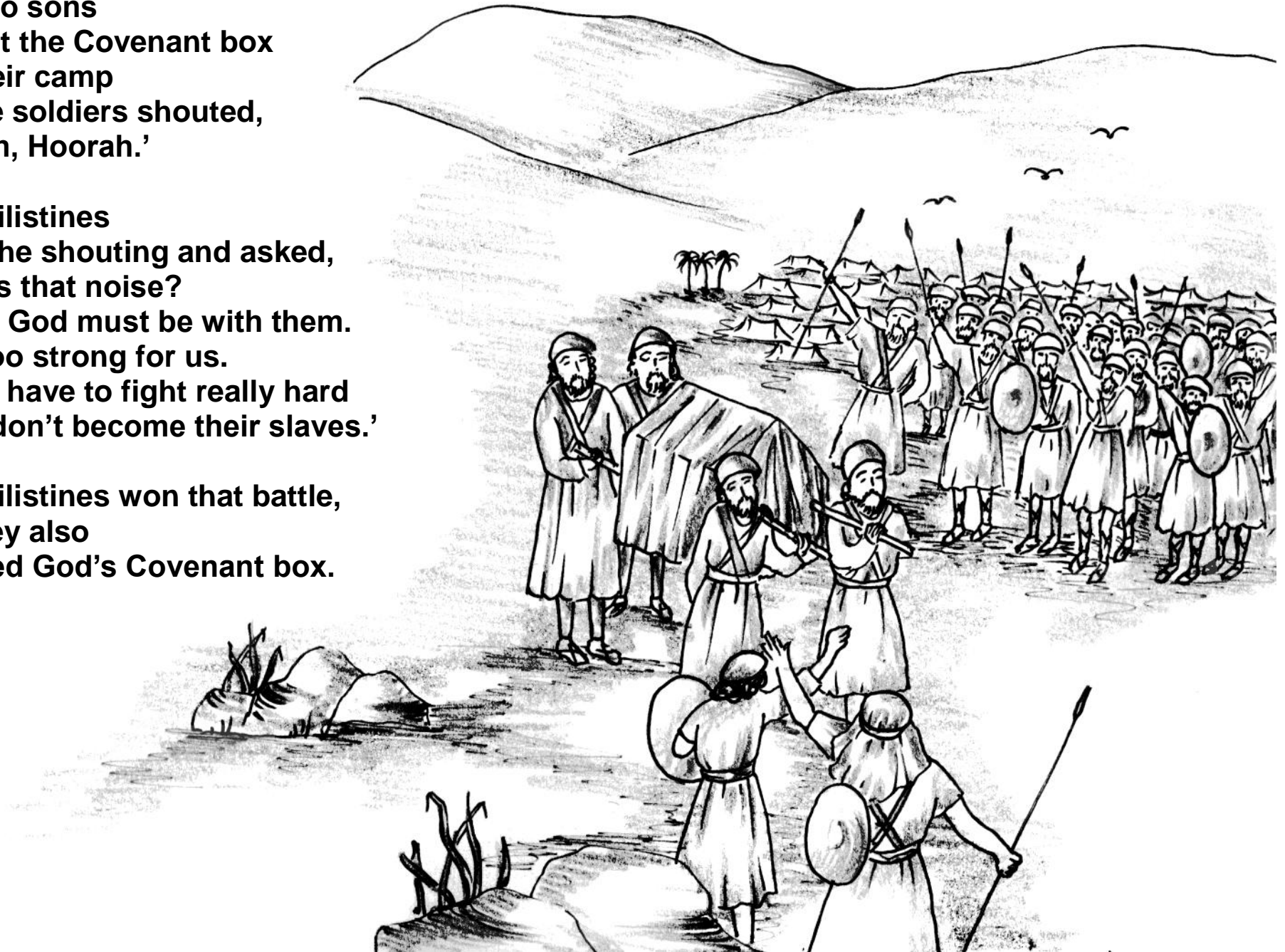
**Instead of trusting God
they were trusting
His Covenant box.**



**Eli's two sons
brought the Covenant box
into their camp
and the soldiers shouted,
'Hoorah, Hoorah.'**

**The Philistines
heard the shouting and asked,
'What is that noise?
Israel's God must be with them.
He is too strong for us.
We will have to fight really hard
so we don't become their slaves.'**

**The Philistines won that battle,
and they also
captured God's Covenant box.**



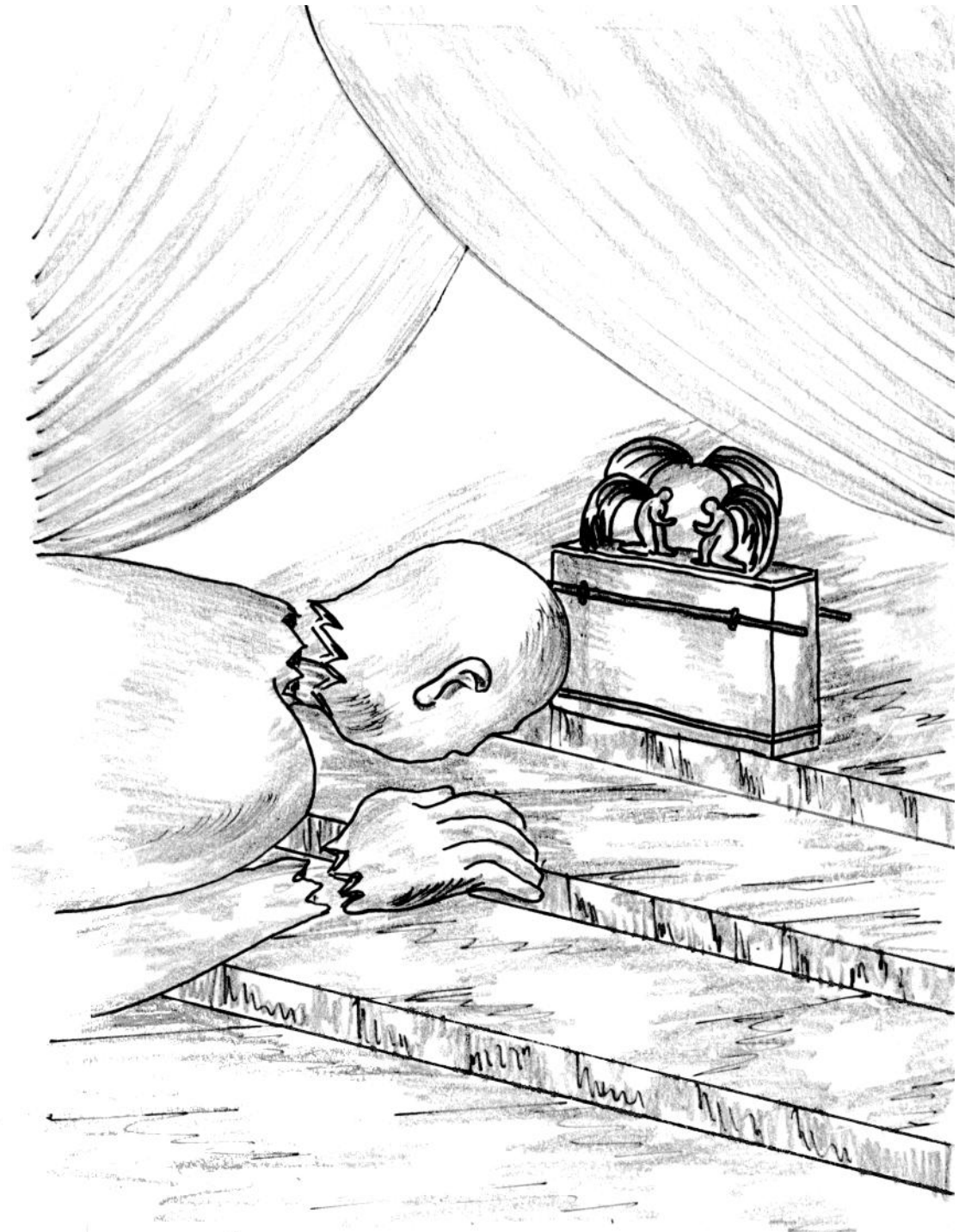
**They took the Covenant box
to their temple
and put it next to their god, Dagon.**

**During the night
Dagon fell on his face,
right in front of God's Covenant box.**

**In the morning
someone saw that
Dagon had fallen.
They stood him up.**

**During the next night
Dagon fell again.
This time his head and hands
had broken off.**

**God was showing the Philistines
that He was not pleased
with what they had done.**



**Then there was more trouble.
The Philistines became sick.**

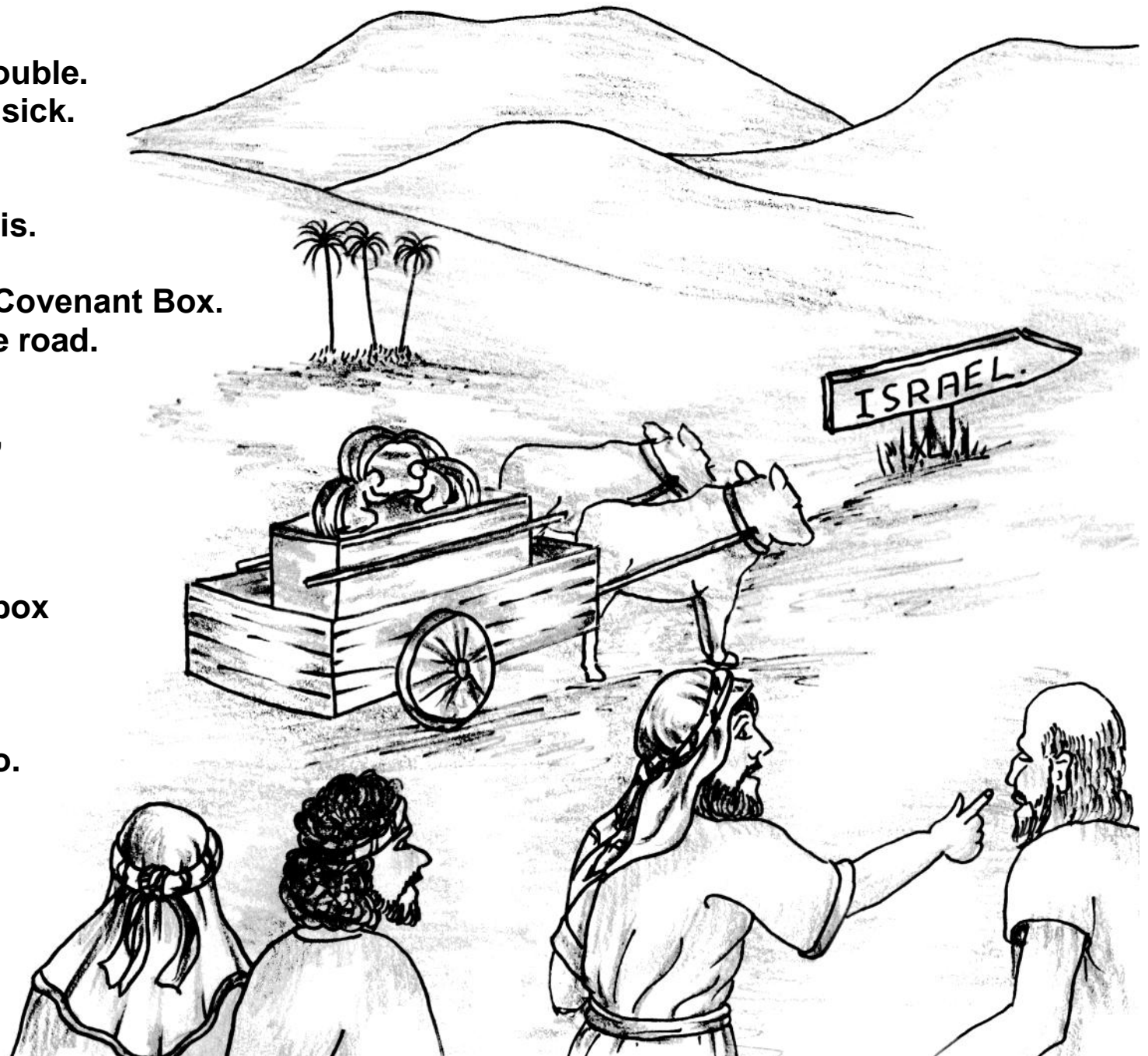
**They said,
'Israel's God is doing this.'**

**'We must get rid of the Covenant Box.
We will send it down the road.
If it goes to Israel,
we know that God
has been punishing us.'**

**They made a new cart.
Attached two cows to it
and sent the Covenant box
on its way.**

**They all watched
to see where it would go.**

It went towards Israel.



God's people were busy
harvesting their wheat.
They looked up
and saw the cart carrying
God's Covenant Box
coming down the road.

They were so happy
they shouted for joy.

The Levites took the Box
off the cart,
made a fire
from the wood of the cart,
killed the cows
and sacrificed them to the Lord.

Some careless men
looked into the Box, and they died.
This frightened everyone.

They were learning
that God was a holy God.

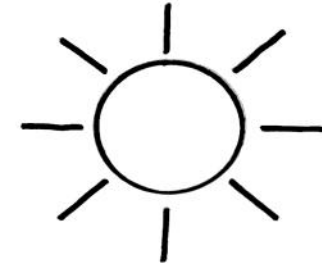
The box was then taken
to Abinadab's house.



**Samuel was now the Priest
and he said to God's people,
'If you put away your idols
and worship only the Lord,
He will save you from the Philistines.
Go to Mizpah and I will pray for you.'**

**The people met at Mizpah
and Samuel prayed for them.**

**The people said,
'We have sinned against the Lord.'**

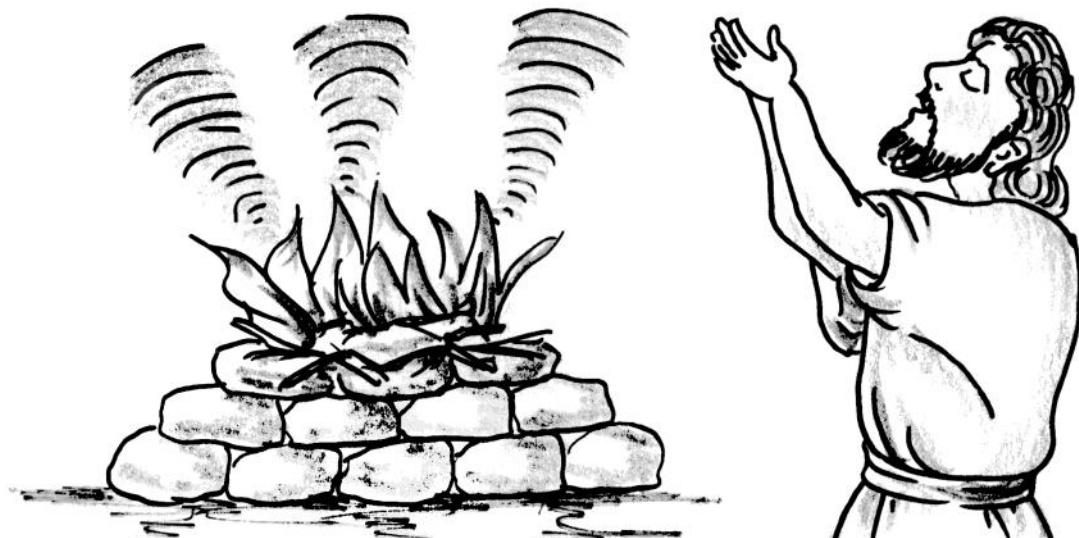
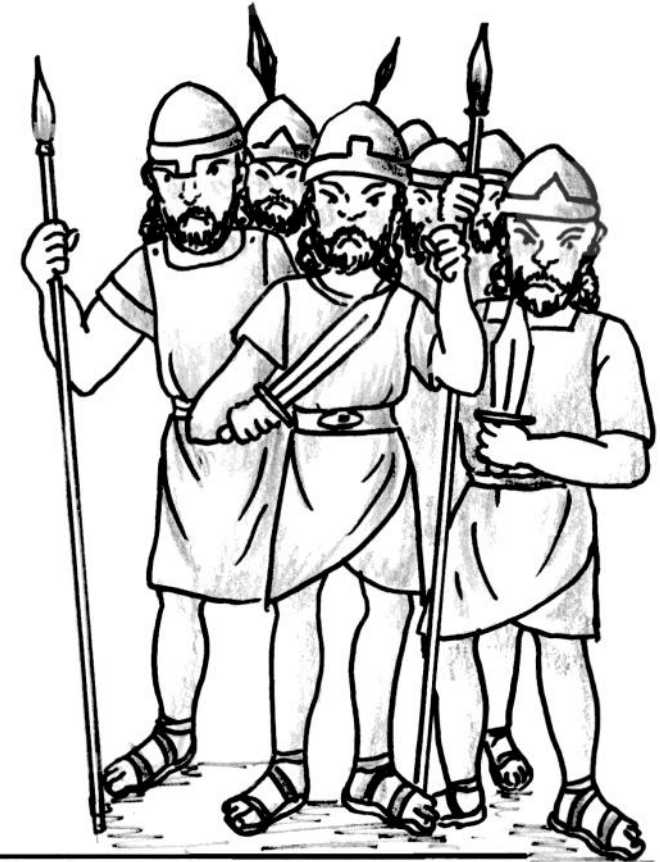


**The Philistines heard
that God's people were at Mizpah,
praying,
and went there to attack them.**

**God's people saw the soldiers coming
and were afraid.**

**They said to Samuel,
'Don't stop praying to the Lord.
Ask Him to save us.'**

**Samuel offered a burnt offering
to the Lord
and cried out to Him
to save His people.**



God answered Samuel's prayer.

**He sent a storm with loud thunder.
The Philistines were afraid
and ran away.**

**The Israelite's chased them
and defeated them.**

**God saved His people
and gave them peace
from their enemies.**

