

The  
Action  
Bible

The  
Prophets

# The Wicked Queen and the Defiant Prophet

BASED ON 1 KINGS 16:29–17:6

ABOUT 60 YEARS AFTER ISRAEL SPLIT INTO TWO KINGDOMS, AHAB COMES TO THE THRONE. EVENTUALLY, AHAB PROVES HIMSELF TO BE THE MOST EVIL IN A LONG LINE OF BAD KINGS. BUT HIS FIRST—AND MOST WICKED—ACT BEGINS WHEN HE MARRIES JEZEBEL, A FOREIGN PRINCESS WHO WORSHIPS A FOREIGN GOD.

IF I AM TO BE QUEEN OF ALL ISRAEL, THEN ALL OF ISRAEL MUST WORSHIP MY GOD, BAAL.

PLEASE, MY DEAR, BUILD ME A TEMPLE FOR BAAL.

ANYTHING YOU ASK FOR, MY QUEEN.

OH, GOOD. BECAUSE I'VE ALREADY INVITED SEVERAL HUNDRED PRIESTS FROM MY HOME COUNTRY TO SETTLE HERE.

MORE SACRIFICES TO BAAL, JEZEBEL'S GOD OF RAIN. HMMMPH!

SHE DOESN'T RESPECT THE ONE TRUE GOD, THAT WICKED QUEEN.

WATCH YOUR TONGUE! OR YOU'LL LOSE IT. QUEEN JEZEBEL WON'T STAND FOR TALK LIKE THAT.

NOR WILL SHE STAND FOR ANY COMPETITION WITH HER GOD.

MANY OF MY PEOPLE HAVE TURNED TO YOUR GOD, BAAL.

MY GOD? HE'S ALSO YOUR GOD, AHAB, AND EVERYBODY'S GOD. ONLY BAAL WILL BE WORSHIPPED WHERE I AM QUEEN.

THAT WON'T BE EASY—THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE IN ISRAEL WHO WORSHIP ISRAEL'S GOD.

THEY WON'T WORSHIP ISRAEL'S GOD ANY LONGER. SHUT DOWN THE TEMPLES. KILL ANYONE WHO WON'T BOW TO BAAL.

EVEN AS SHE GIVES HER ORDERS, A STRANGER IN TRAVEL-WORN CLOTHES APPEARS BEFORE THE THRONE.

WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU GET PAST THE GUARDS?

I AM ELIJAH, AND THE LORD IS MY GOD. YOU THINK BAAL CONTROLS THE RAIN AND THE CROPS? I WILL SHOW YOU WHO IS IN CHARGE. THERE WILL BE NO RAIN IN THIS LAND—NOT EVEN A MORNING DEW—UNTIL I SAY SO.

GUARDS! KILL THIS MAN!

BUT ELIJAH DISAPPEARS BEFORE ANYONE CAN LAY HANDS ON HIM. OUTSIDE THE PALACE, THE WORD OF THE LORD COMES TO ELIJAH.



FOLLOWING THE LORD'S INSTRUCTIONS, ELIJAH GOES TO A TINY CREEK EAST OF THE JORDAN RIVER.



THERE, RAVENS BRING HIM BREAD AND MEAT IN THE MORNING AND EVENING.

THE LORD HAS A SENSE OF HUMOR. HE COULD HAVE USED ANY KIND OF MIRACLE TO FEED ME, YET HE'S USING UNCLEAN BIRDS TO BRING ME FOOD.



I WILL WAIT HERE UNTIL GOD TELLS ME MY NEXT STEP. I MUST SAY, I'D RATHER PASS THE TIME WITH UNCLEAN ANIMALS THAN WITH BAAL-WORSHIPPING PEOPLE.

MEANWHILE,  
JEZEBEL IS  
FURIOUS.

OBADIAH, SINCE  
YOU ARE OUR CHIEF  
STEWARD, I ORDER YOU  
TO HUNT DOWN ANYONE  
WHO STILL WORSHIPS  
YAHWEH AND KILL THEM.  
ESPECIALLY THE  
PROPHETS, AND  
ESPECIALLY  
THIS ELIJAH.



BUT OBADIAH  
HIMSELF IS STILL  
FAITHFUL TO THE  
LORD. INSTEAD OF  
KILLING THE LORD'S  
PROPHETS, HE  
SECRETLY HIDES  
THEM IN CAVES.

AS THE MONTHS GO BY WITH NO RAIN, ISRAEL'S ONCE-GREEN LAND  
SLOWLY BUT STEADILY BECOMES A DESERT. THE STREAMS DRY UP  
AND THE CROPS DIE. A FAMINE OVERCOMES THE LAND.



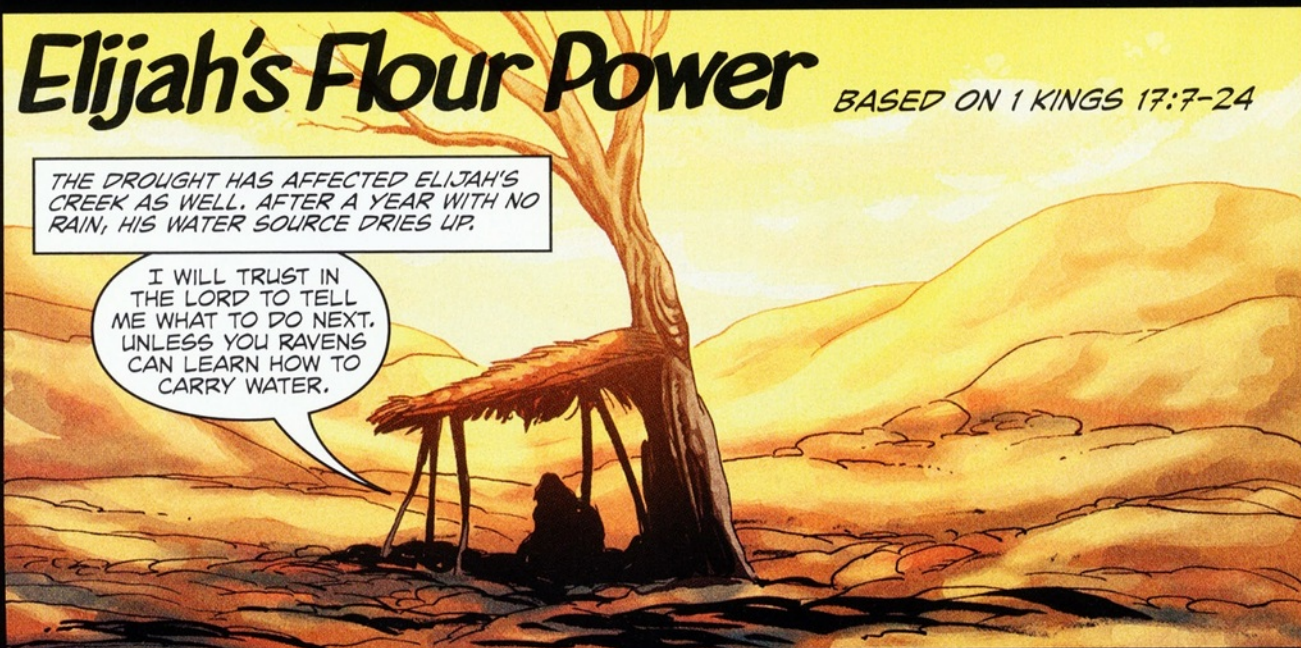
THIS  
IS ALL  
ELIJAH'S  
FAULT!

# Elijah's Flour Power

BASED ON 1 KINGS 17:7-24

THE DROUGHT HAS AFFECTED ELIJAH'S CREEK AS WELL. AFTER A YEAR WITH NO RAIN, HIS WATER SOURCE DRIES UP.

I WILL TRUST IN THE LORD TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO NEXT. UNLESS YOU RAVENS CAN LEARN HOW TO CARRY WATER.



GO HIDE IN JEZEBEL'S HOMELAND. I HAVE CHOSEN A WIDOW WHO WILL PROVIDE FOR YOU.

GOD WANTS ME TO LEAVE ISRAEL AND LIVE AMONG BAAL WORSHIPPERS? AND HOW WILL A POOR WIDOW HAVE ANY FOOD DURING A FAMINE? WELL, I STAND BEFORE YOU, LORD. I TRUST AND OBEY.



WHEN ELIJAH ENTERS THE TOWN OF ZAREPHATH, HE SEES AN OLD WOMAN GATHERING STICKS.

MOTHER, COULD YOU PLEASE GIVE ME A DROP OF WATER, A CRUMB OF BREAD?



IN DESPAIR, THE WOMAN ANSWERS HIM BLUNTLY.

YOU ARE AN ISRAELITE. YOUR LORD MAY GRANT YOU LONG LIFE. BUT I AM NOT SO LUCKY. I HAVE BUT A HANDFUL OF FLOUR LEFT AND NO MONEY TO BUY MORE FOOD FOR ME AND MY SON. I AM GATHERING THESE STICKS TO COOK ONE LAST MEAL BEFORE WE DIE OF STARVATION.

AT LEAST WE WILL DIE TOGETHER.





MY LORD  
WILL PROVIDE  
A MIRACLE FOR  
US. GO BAKE  
YOUR BREAD ...  
AND HAVE  
HOPE.

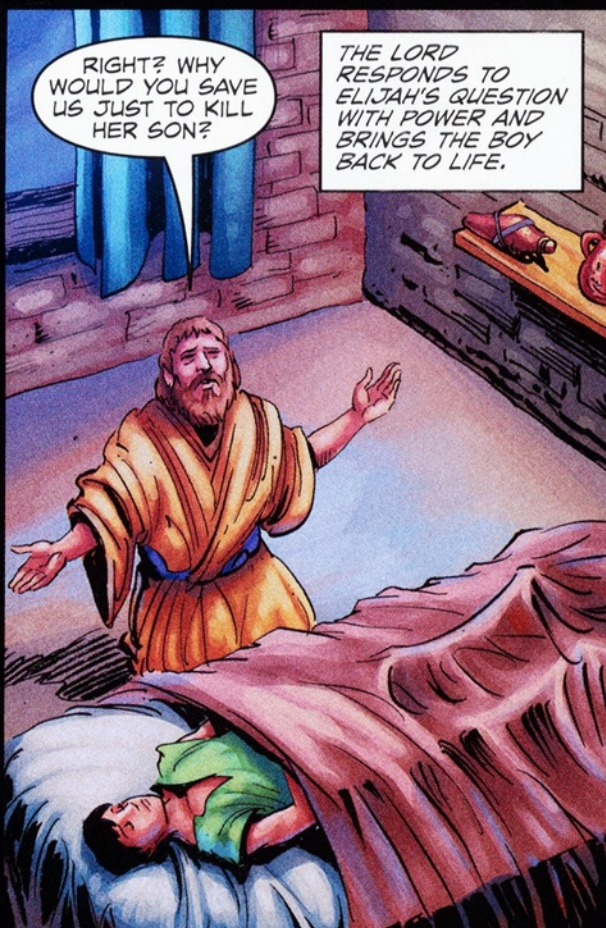
TRUE TO ELIJAH'S WORD, EVERY  
TIME THE WIDOW COOKS, HER JAR  
OF FLOUR ALWAYS HAS A LITTLE  
EXTRA LEFT OVER. AND HER JAR  
OF OIL NEVER RUNS DRY. FOR TWO  
YEARS, THOSE TWO TINY JARS  
PROVIDE FOOD FOR HERSELF, HER  
SON, AND ELIJAH.



BUT TRAGEDY SEEMS  
NEVER FAR FROM HER  
HOUSEHOLD.

WHY DID YOU  
COME HERE? YOUR  
GOD NEVER NOTICED  
ME OR MY SINFUL WAYS  
BEFORE YOU CAME. NOW  
HE'S PUNISHED ME BY  
KILLING MY ONE  
AND ONLY SON.

HAVE PEACE,  
MOTHER. MY GOD  
DOES NOT WORK  
THAT WAY.



RIGHT? WHY  
WOULD YOU SAVE  
US JUST TO KILL  
HER SON?

THE LORD  
RESPONDS TO  
ELIJAH'S QUESTION  
WITH POWER AND  
BRINGS THE BOY  
BACK TO LIFE.



SEE, YOUR  
SON IS NOT  
DEAD, BUT  
ALIVE.

NOW I  
BELIEVE IN  
YOUR GOD AND  
TRUST THAT  
YOU SPEAK HIS  
TRUTH.

THROUGH THIS MIRACLE, GOD  
SHOWS THAT HE CARES FOR  
ALL PEOPLE, NOT JUST THE  
ISRAELITES.

# Battle of the Gods

BASED ON 1 KINGS 18

ELIJAH HAS BEEN HIDING IN SIDON FROM THE ATTACKS OF QUEEN JEZEBEL. AFTER THREE YEARS OF DROUGHT, GOD TELLS ELIJAH TO RETURN TO ISRAEL SO THAT THE RAINS MAY COME AGAIN.

IT IS TIME TO BE SEEN.



THE FIRST PERSON HE MEETS ON THE ROAD IS OBADIAH, WHO IS LOYAL TO THE LORD EVEN THOUGH HE'S KING AHAB'S CHIEF COUNSELOR.

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, ELIJAH, IS IT REALLY YOU?

TELL KING AHAB I AM HERE.



ARE YOU KIDDING? HE'LL KILL YOU. AND THEN HE'LL KILL ME.

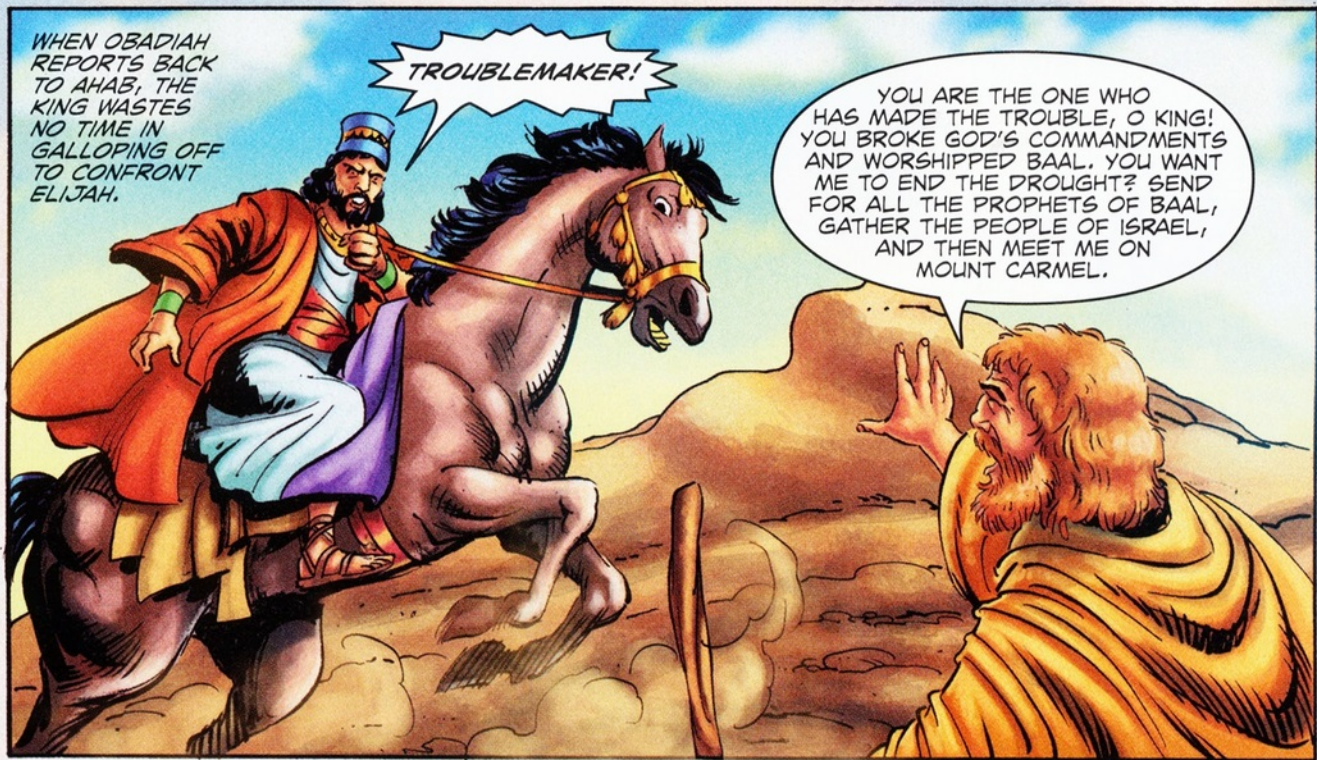
WHICH LORD DO YOU SERVE? AHAB OR YAHWEH?



I'VE SPENT THREE YEARS PROTECTING THE LORD'S PROPHETS FROM AHAB AND JEZEBEL. I AM THE LORD'S SERVANT.

THEN TRUST IN ME. TRUST IN THE LORD. TELL AHAB WHERE I AM.





WHEN OBADIAH REPORTS BACK TO AHAB, THE KING WASTES NO TIME IN GALLOPING OFF TO CONFRONT ELIJAH.

TROUBLEMAKER!

YOU ARE THE ONE WHO HAS MADE THE TROUBLE, O KING! YOU BROKE GOD'S COMMANDMENTS AND WORSHIPPED BAAL. YOU WANT ME TO END THE DROUGHT? SEND FOR ALL THE PROPHETS OF BAAL, GATHER THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, AND THEN MEET ME ON MOUNT CARMEL.

AHAB IS HAPPY WITH THIS PROPOSITION, SINCE MOUNT CARMEL IS CONSIDERED THE SACRED DWELLING OF BAAL. HE BRINGS ALL THE PROPHETS OF BAAL—450 OF THEM—TO MEET ELIJAH, AND THOUSANDS OF ISRAELITES FOLLOW THEM TO SEE WHAT WILL HAPPEN. THE MORNING DAWNS ON A GREAT CROWD GATHERED ON THE MOUNTAIN BY THE SEA.



PEOPLE OF ISRAEL! HOW LONG WILL YOU LIMP BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE LORD AND BAAL? IF BAAL IS GOD, WORSHIP HIM. IF THE LORD IS GOD, WORSHIP HIM—AND HIM ONLY. TODAY, YOU MUST CHOOSE!

WE SHALL HAVE A CONTEST. BRING TWO BULLS. GIVE ONE TO BAAL'S PROPHETS AND ONE TO ME. LET THEM MAKE AN OFFERING AND CALL ON THE NAME OF THEIR GOD. I WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD, THE GOD WHO ANSWERS—WITH FIRE—IS THE REAL GOD.

OH! AND I'LL LET THEM GO FIRST.

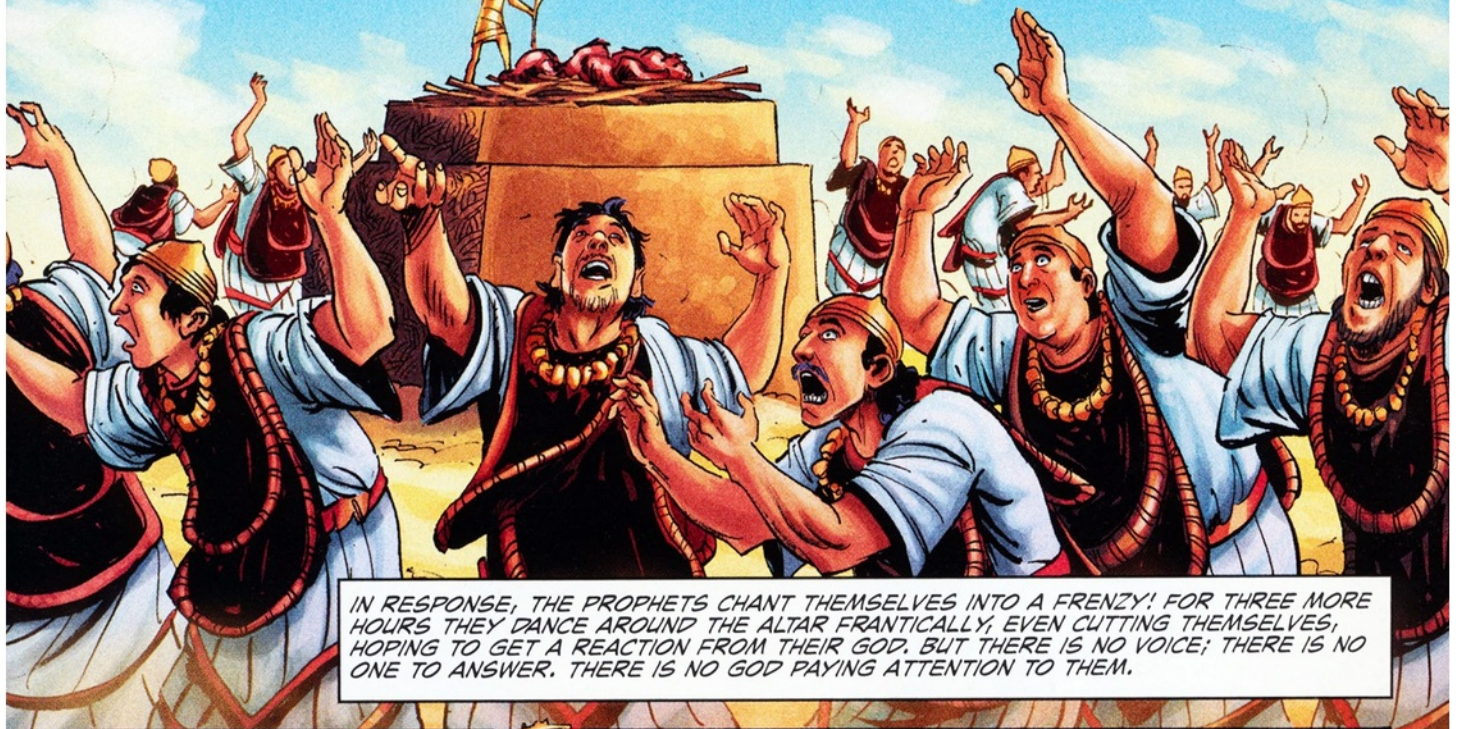
THE CROWD REACTS WITH AWE AT THIS TEST, KNOWING THAT IF ELIJAH LOSES, AHAB WILL CONDEMN HIM TO DEATH.



THE PROPHETS OF BAAL ARE FORCED TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE. WITH GREAT CEREMONY, THEY PREPARE THE ALTAR AND SACRIFICE AND BEGIN TO CHANT AND CALL UPON THEIR GOD.

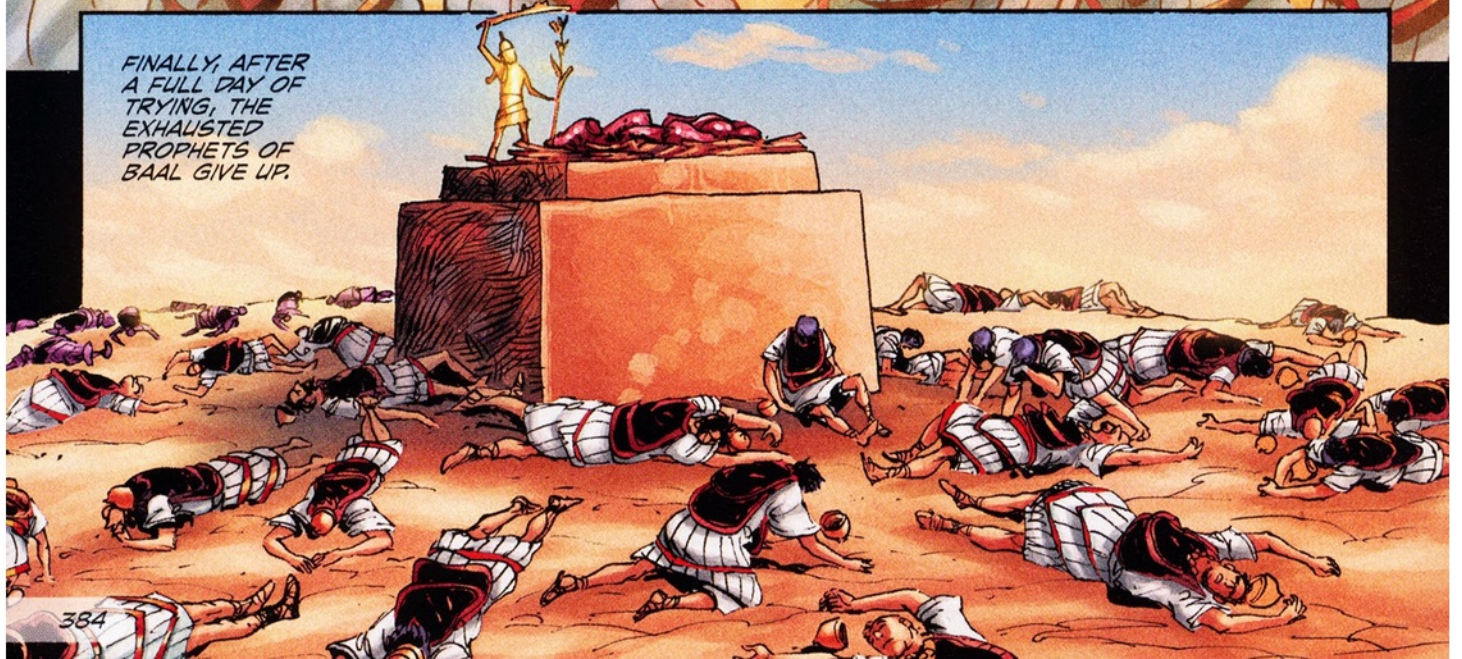
THE PROPHETS CHANT PRAYERS TO BAAL FROM MORNING UNTIL NOON. BUT THERE IS NO VOICE; THERE IS NO ONE TO ANSWER.

CALL A LITTLE LOUDER! PERHAPS BAAL IS DEEP IN THOUGHT AND CAN'T HEAR YOU. OR MAYBE HE'S IN THE BATHROOM. OR SLEEPING!



IN RESPONSE, THE PROPHETS CHANT THEMSELVES INTO A FRENZY! FOR THREE MORE HOURS THEY DANCE AROUND THE ALTAR FRANTICALLY, EVEN CUTTING THEMSELVES, HOPING TO GET A REACTION FROM THEIR GOD. BUT THERE IS NO VOICE; THERE IS NO ONE TO ANSWER. THERE IS NO GOD PAYING ATTENTION TO THEM.

FINALLY, AFTER A FULL DAY OF TRYING, THE EXHAUSTED PROPHETS OF BAAL GIVE UP.



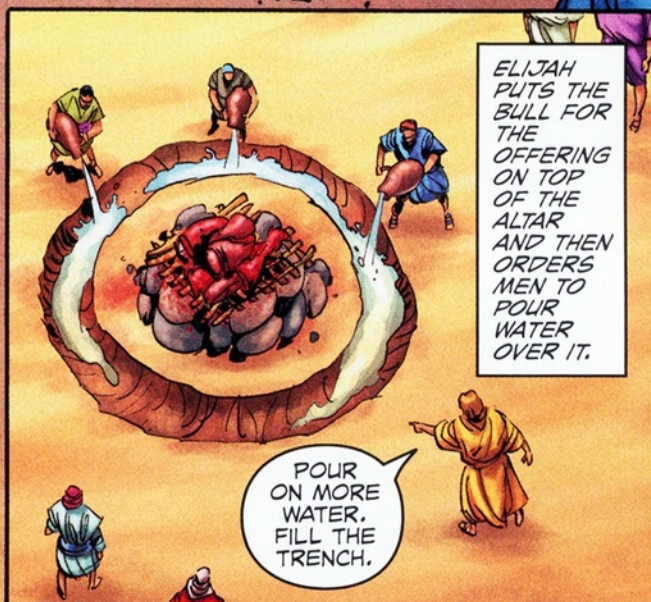
NOW IT IS ELIJAH'S TURN. AS THE DAYLIGHT DWINDLES, HE CALLS THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL TO COME NEAR. THEN HE TAKES 12 STONES, ONE FOR EACH TRIBE OF ISRAEL, AND USES THEM TO REBUILD AN ALTAR TO GOD.



WHEN THE ALTAR IS FINISHED, ELIJAH DIGS A DEEP TRENCH AROUND IT.

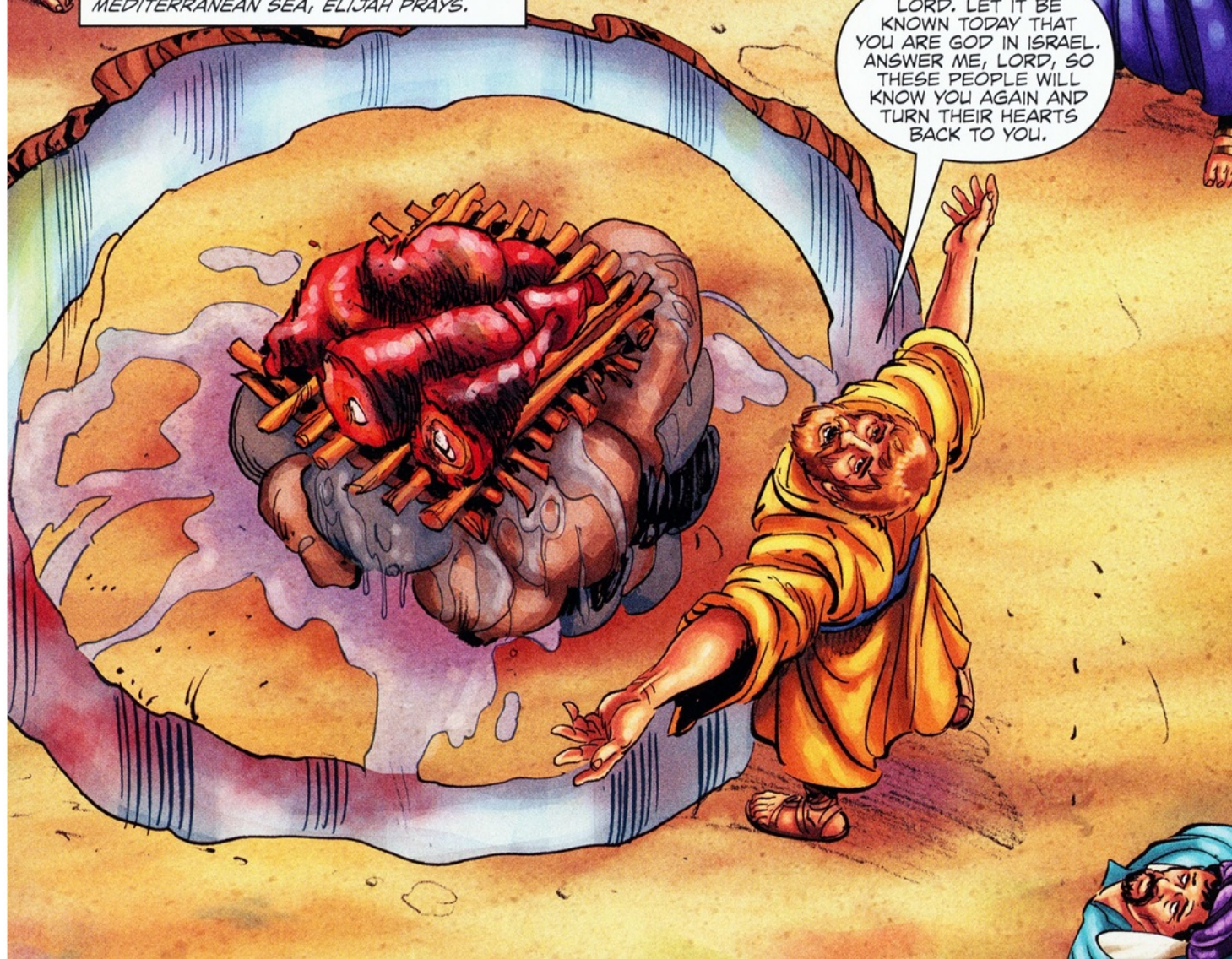



ELIJAH PUTS THE BULL FOR THE OFFERING ON TOP OF THE ALTAR AND THEN ORDERS MEN TO POUR WATER OVER IT.



THEN, BEFORE THE WATER-SOAKED ALTAR, AS THE SUN IS SETTING OVER THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA, ELIJAH PRAYS.

HEAR ME, O LORD. LET IT BE KNOWN TODAY THAT YOU ARE GOD IN ISRAEL. ANSWER ME, LORD, SO THESE PEOPLE WILL KNOW YOU AGAIN AND TURN THEIR HEARTS BACK TO YOU.





INSTANTLY, LIGHTNING STRIKES  
OUT OF THE CLOUDLESS SKY  
AND BURNS UP NOT ONLY THE  
SACRIFICE, BUT THE STONES OF  
THE ALTAR AND EVERY DROP  
OF WATER IN THE TRENCH.

**KRA-  
KOOM**

THE  
LORD IS  
GOD!!

WHEN THE PEOPLE SEE GOD'S POWER,  
THEY TURN ANGRILY AGAINST THE  
FRIGHTENED PROPHETS OF BAAL.

THE  
LORD—HE  
IS GOD!

THE  
PROPHETS  
OF BAAL ARE  
FALSE!

THEY KILLED  
THE PROPHETS OF  
GOD. THEY SHOULD  
BE PUT TO  
DEATH!

LOOK,  
JUST AS GOD  
HAS PROMISED,  
A CLOUD TO  
BRING THE  
RAIN!

THAT'S  
IT?

SUDDENLY THE TINY CLOUD GIVES  
WAY TO A HUGE DOWNPOUR!  
WITHIN MOMENTS, EVERYONE IS  
DRENCHED. KING AHAB FALLS TO  
THE GROUND IN SHOCK.

GET UP, KING AHAB. THE LORD HAS SHOWN  
HIMSELF AGAIN IN HIS LAND. THIS IS A RAIN OF  
REPENTANCE, TO RENEW AND PURIFY GOD'S  
LAND AND HIS PEOPLE.

NOW YOU  
HAD BETTER GET IN  
YOUR CHARIOT AND HEAD  
BACK TO JEZEBEL, BEFORE  
THE PARCHED GROUND  
BECOMES TOO MUDDY  
FOR YOUR WHEELS.

AS AHAB SPURS ON HIS HORSES, GOD GIVES ELIJAH  
THE STRENGTH TO OUTFRAN EVEN THE KING'S CHARIOT.  
THIS LETS ELIJAH GET BACK TO TOWN FIRST, SO  
HE CAN GIVE CREDIT FOR THE RAINS TO THE LORD  
BEFORE AHAB HAS THE CHANCE TO SPREAD FALSE  
RUMORS ABOUT THE CONTEST.

# The Sound of Silence

BASED ON 1 KINGS 19:1-18

ELIJAH BRINGS NEWS OF THE LORD'S OVERWHELMING VICTORY AT MOUNT CARMEL, AND THE END OF THE THREE-YEAR DROUGHT. IN THE HOMES OF ISRAEL, THERE IS JOY, THANKSGIVING, AND REPENTANCE.

RAIN AT LAST! PRAISE THE LORD!

YES, IT WAS THE LORD WHO ANSWERED WITH FIRE. WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE WORSHIPPED BAAL.

BUT IN THE PALACE, QUEEN JEZEBEL IS FURIOUS ...

WHEN THE PEOPLE SAW THE FIRE FROM GOD, THEY TURNED ON THE PROPHETS OF BAAL AND KILLED THEM. ELIJAH—

MY PROPHETS ARE DEAD? SO HELP ME, GODS, IF BY THIS TIME TOMORROW ELIJAH IS NOT THE SAME!

FOR YEARS, ELIJAH HAS TRUSTED THE LORD IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE. BUT WHEN HE HEARS OF JEZEBEL'S DEATH THREAT, FEAR AND DESPAIR OVERTAKE HIM.

I MUST FLEE FAR, FAR AWAY INTO JUDAH, THE DESERT! EVEN JEZEBEL WON'T FIND ME THERE.

ELIJAH JOURNEYS SOUTH FOR WEEKS, CROSSING ALL OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH. THEN HE CONTINUES INTO THE WILDERNESS. BUT AFTER A DAY'S TRAVEL ...

I'VE HAD ENOUGH! LORD, JUST TAKE MY LIFE. I THOUGHT AHAB AND JEZEBEL AND ALL OF ISRAEL WOULD REPENT AND TURN BACK TO YOU WHEN THEY SAW MY MIRACLES, BUT THEY PERSIST IN THEIR WICKEDNESS. I AM JUST A MAN. MY EFFORTS ARE WASTED. LET ME DIE.

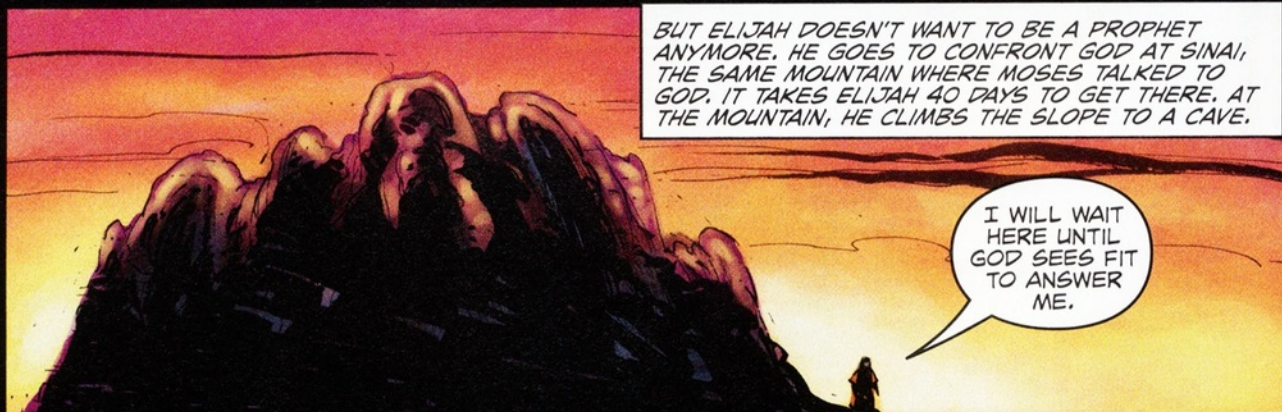
THEN, HUNGRY AND TIRED, ELIJAH FALLS ASLEEP. WHILE HE'S SLEEPING, A MESSENGER OF THE LORD APPEARS WITH BREAD AND WATER.

WAKE UP, ELIJAH, AND EAT.

WITHOUT QUESTIONING THIS LATEST MIRACLE, ELIJAH EATS AND FALLS BACK ASLEEP. WHEN HE WAKES AGAIN, THE MESSENGER IS STILL THERE, WITH MORE FOOD.

GOD IS NOT WILLING TO LET ELIJAH GIVE UP IN THE DESERT.

YOUR JOURNEY IS NOT YET DONE. EAT, OR ELSE THE WAY WILL BE TOO HARD FOR YOU.



BUT ELIJAH DOESN'T WANT TO BE A PROPHET ANYMORE. HE GOES TO CONFRONT GOD AT SINAI, THE SAME MOUNTAIN WHERE MOSES TALKED TO GOD. IT TAKES ELIJAH 40 DAYS TO GET THERE. AT THE MOUNTAIN, HE CLIMBS THE SLOPE TO A CAVE.

I WILL WAIT HERE UNTIL GOD SEES FIT TO ANSWER ME.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ELIJAH?

I HAVE ZEALOUSLY DEFENDED YOU, LORD. BUT IT HASN'T MADE ANY DIFFERENCE.



COME SEE ME AT THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE.

A POWERFUL WIND TEARS APART THE MOUNTAINSIDE!

BUT GOD IS NOT IN THE WIND.



THEN AN EARTHQUAKE SHAKES APART THE ROCKS!

BUT GOD IS NOT IN THE EARTHQUAKE.



THEN LIGHTNING SPLITS THE SKY INTO A THOUSAND PIECES!

BUT GOD IS NOT IN THE LIGHTNING.

AND AFTER THE STORM SUBSIDES COMES THE SOUND OF SHEER SILENCE.

THE GENTLE WHISPER OF THE LORD ASKS ELIJAH AGAIN.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ELIJAH?

LORD, THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL DON'T SERVE YOU. THEY WORSHIP IDOLS. THEY HAVE KILLED ALL THE OTHER PROPHETS. I, I ALONE AM LEFT, AND NOW THEY WANT TO KILL ME.

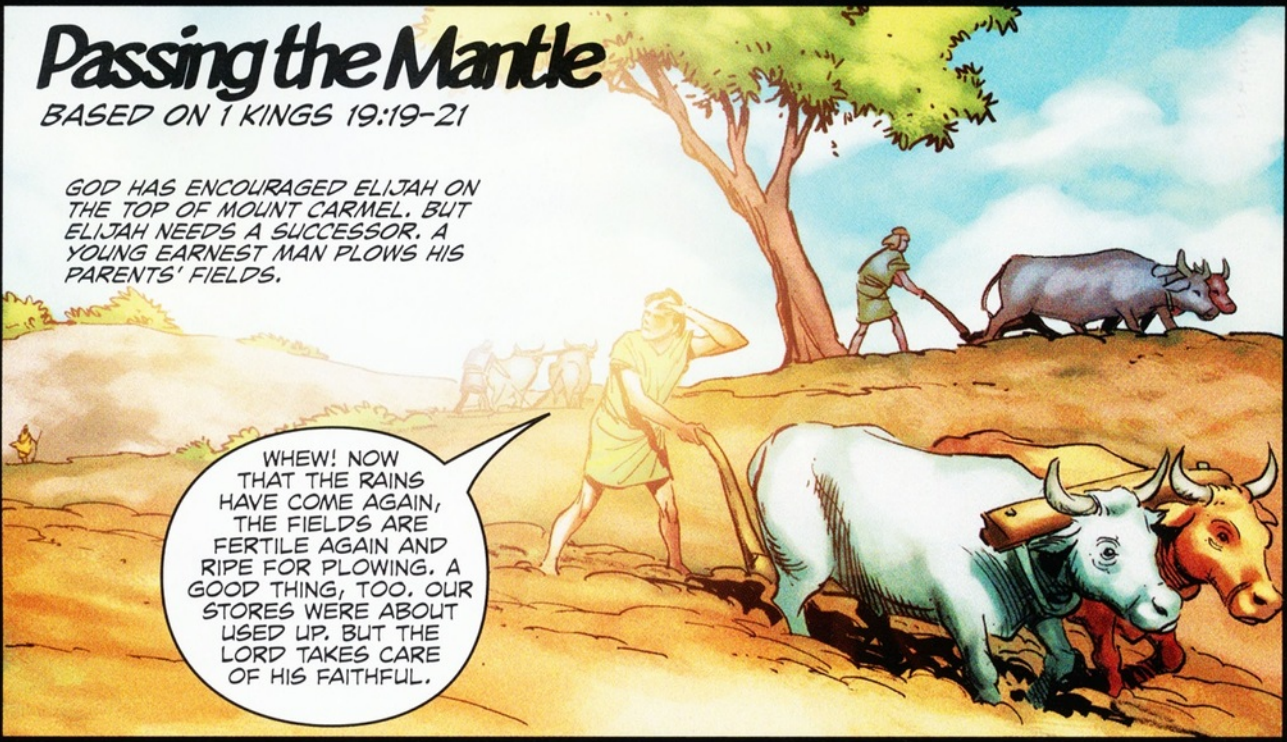
YOU ARE NOT ALONE. I HAVE KEPT A REMNANT IN ISRAEL, SEVERAL THOUSAND STRONG, WHO HAVE NEVER BOWED TO BAAL. AND I WILL BRING FORTH THOSE WHO WILL HELP FORWARD MY PLAN, TO EASE YOUR BURDEN. GO TO THE FOREIGN COUNTRY OF ARAM AND ANOINT HAZAEL TO BE THEIR NEXT KING. THEN GO FIND JEHU, A CAPTAIN IN ISRAEL'S ARMY. HE SHALL BE THE NEXT KING AFTER AHAB. FINALLY, SEEK OUT A YOUNG MAN WORKING IN HIS FIELDS. HIS NAME IS ELISHA, AND HE SHALL WALK IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS AND BE MY NEXT PROPHET.

RENEWED AND REFRESHED BY GOD'S PROMISES, ELIJAH RETURNS TO ISRAEL TO CONTINUE HIS MINISTRY.

# Passing the Mantle

BASED ON 1 KINGS 19:19-21

GOD HAS ENCOURAGED ELIJAH ON THE TOP OF MOUNT CARMEL, BUT ELIJAH NEEDS A SUCCESSOR. A YOUNG EARNEST MAN PLOWS HIS PARENTS' FIELDS.




WHEW! NOW THAT THE RAINS HAVE COME AGAIN, THE FIELDS ARE FERTILE AGAIN AND RIPE FOR PLOWING. A GOOD THING, TOO. OUR STORES WERE ABOUT USED UP, BUT THE LORD TAKES CARE OF HIS FAITHFUL.

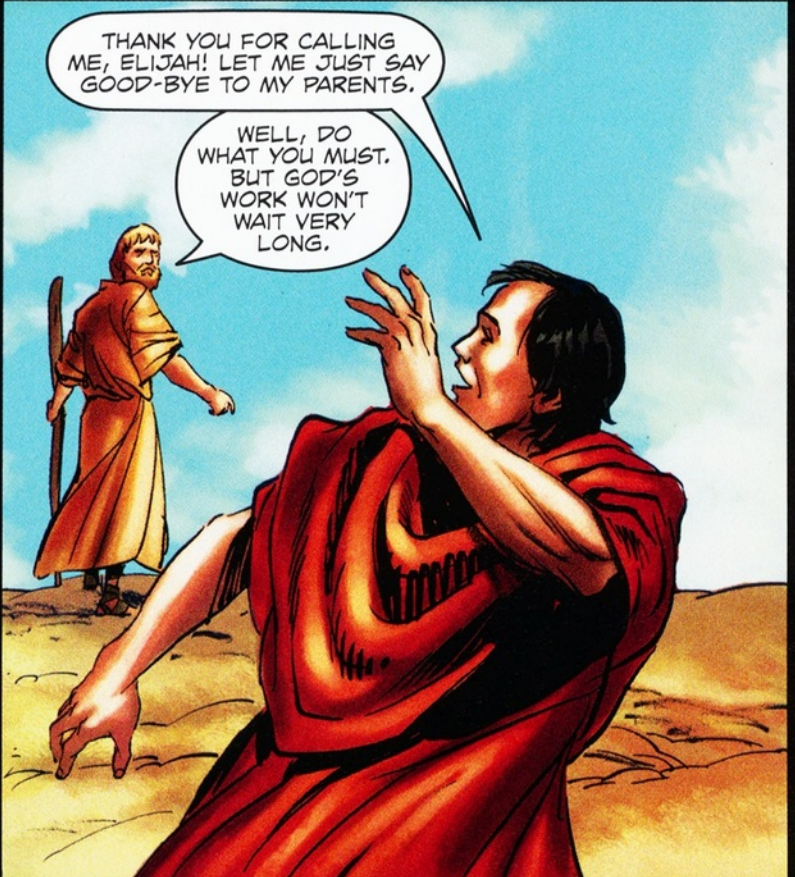


ELIJAH! THE LORD'S PROPHET!

WITHOUT A WORD, ELIJAH TAKES OFF HIS MANTLE AND PLACES IT ON ELISHA'S SWEATY SHOULDERS.



DOES THIS MEAN ...?



THANK YOU FOR CALLING ME, ELIJAH! LET ME JUST SAY GOOD-BYE TO MY PARENTS.

WELL, DO WHAT YOU MUST. BUT GOD'S WORK WON'T WAIT VERY LONG.

ELISHA RETURNS HOME AND GIVES A FAREWELL FEAST FOR HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS. HE SLAUGHTERS HIS OXEN AND BURNS HIS PLOW TO COOK THE MEAT.

EAT, MY FRIENDS, AND WISH ME WELL ON MY NEW JOURNEY. GOD HAS CALLED ME; I HAVE TO OBEY. THIS BURNED-UP PLOW REPRESENTS MY OLD LIFE—IT MUST BE DESTROYED SO I CAN FOLLOW MY NEW LIFE WITH GOD.

THAT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD, ELISHA, BUT WE COULD HAVE SOLD THAT!

I HAVE TO BURN MY PLOW BEHIND ME, FATHER. I KNOW LIFE AS A PROPHET WILL BE HARD, AND I DON'T WANT THE TEMPTATION TO COME BACK HOME TO MY OLD LIFE.

YOU'RE GIVING UP A LIFE OF COMFORT TO FOLLOW GOD'S CALL. I'M PROUD OF YOU, SON.

WHEN HE HAS MADE HIS FAREWELLS, ELISHA SETS OUT TO FOLLOW ELIJAH.

# The Grapes of Envy

BASED ON 1 KINGS 21

WHILE ELIJAH AND ELISHA DO GOD'S WORK IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, KING AHAB MAKES A SURPRISE VISIT TO ONE OF HIS SUBJECTS.

NABOTH, I WANT TO BUY THIS VINEYARD. OR, IF YOU LIKE, I'LL GIVE YOU ANOTHER ONE IN EXCHANGE FOR IT.

I'M SORRY, O KING, BUT OUR FAMILY HAS OWNED THIS VINEYARD FOR MANY YEARS. IT WOULD NOT BE RIGHT TO SELL IT TO SOMEONE OUTSIDE THE FAMILY.

YOU MAY ALSO FIND THAT IT IS NOT RIGHT TO DISPLEASE YOUR KING!

LIKE A SPOILED CHILD WHO CAN'T HAVE HIS OWN WAY, AHAB RETURNS TO THE PALACE.

WHAT'S THE MATTER? ARE YOU ILL?

NO, I WANT NABOTH'S VINEYARD, BUT HE WON'T SELL IT TO ME.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHO'S THE KING HERE? DON'T WORRY, I WILL GIVE YOU THE VINEYARD.



QUICKLY, JEZEBEL WRITES A LETTER TO THE CITY LEADERS, BUT SHE SIGNS THE KING'S NAME TO IT.

FIND TWO SCOUNDRELS AND HAVE THEM ACCUSE NABOTH OF BLASPHEMING AGAINST GOD. THEN STONE NABOTH TO DEATH.

WHEN THE ELDERS RECEIVE THE LETTER ...

BUT NABOTH IS A GOOD MAN! THIS LETTER MAY SAY AHAB, BUT IT'S THE WORK OF JEZEBEL.

DO WE DARE DISOBEY THESE ORDERS IF THEY CAME FROM THE QUEEN?

NOT IF WE VALUE OUR LIVES. NO ONE CAN SAVE NABOTH IF JEZEBEL IS OUT TO GET HIM.



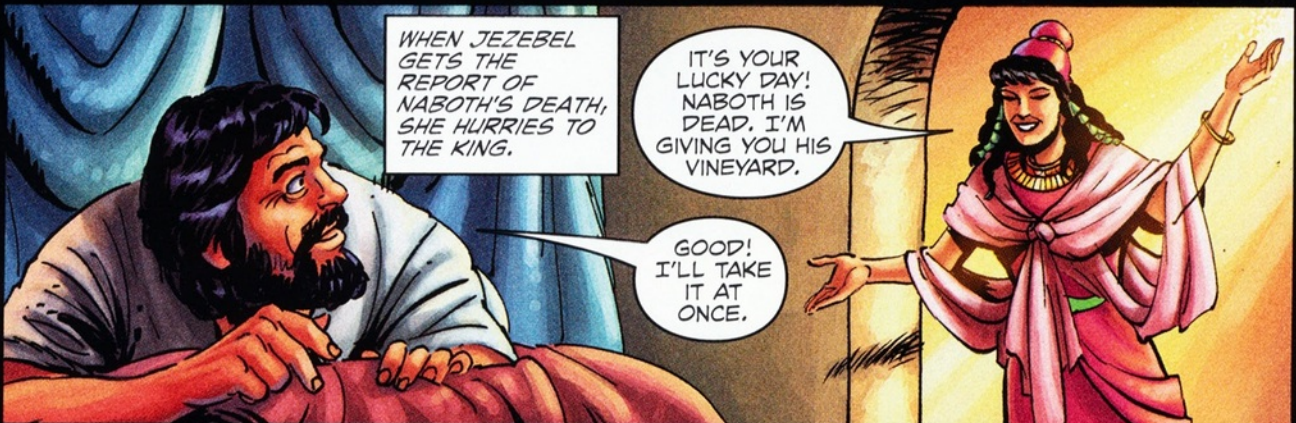
THE ELDERS CARRY OUT JEZEBEL'S INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY AS SHE HAS COMMANDED. AT THEIR HANDS AND HER ORDERS, AN HONORABLE MAN IS WRONGLY EXECUTED. NABOTH IS STONED TO DEATH IN THE STREETS, AND STRAY DOGS LICK HIS BLOOD OFF THE STONES.



WHEN JEZEBEL GETS THE REPORT OF NABOTH'S DEATH, SHE HURRIES TO THE KING.

IT'S YOUR LUCKY DAY! NABOTH IS DEAD. I'M GIVING YOU HIS VINEYARD.

GOOD! I'LL TAKE IT AT ONCE.



I LOVE GETTING WHAT I WANT. AND I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO PAY FOR IT.

BUT AS KING AHAB IS GLOATING OVER HIS NEW VINEYARD, ELIJAH, THE PROPHET OF GOD, SUDDENLY APPEARS ...



IF IT ISN'T MY OLD ENEMY!

YES, AND I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM GOD. DID YOU KILL TO GET YOUR WILL? THEN YOU WILL SUFFER AS NABOTH SUFFERED—AND SO WILL YOUR WIFE, JEZEBEL!



# A Bad Disguise

BASED ON 1 KINGS 22

FOR MOST OF AHAB'S REIGN IN ISRAEL, JEHOASHAPHAT HAS RULED JUDAH. FOR YEARS, THE DIVIDED KINGDOMS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH HAD WARRED WITH EACH OTHER. BUT JEHOASHAPHAT HAS BEEN A GOOD KING WHO HONORS THE LORD—AND HAS EVEN MADE PEACE WITH ISRAEL! JEHOASHAPHAT ALSO LETS HIS SON MARRY AHAB AND JEZEBEL'S DAUGHTER, ATHALIAH.



ONE DAY WHEN THE KING OF JUDAH COMES FOR A VISIT, AHAB ASKS HIM A KINGLY FAVOR.

THE ARAMEANS TOOK ONE OF MY CITIES. WILL YOU HELP ME DRIVE THEM OUT?

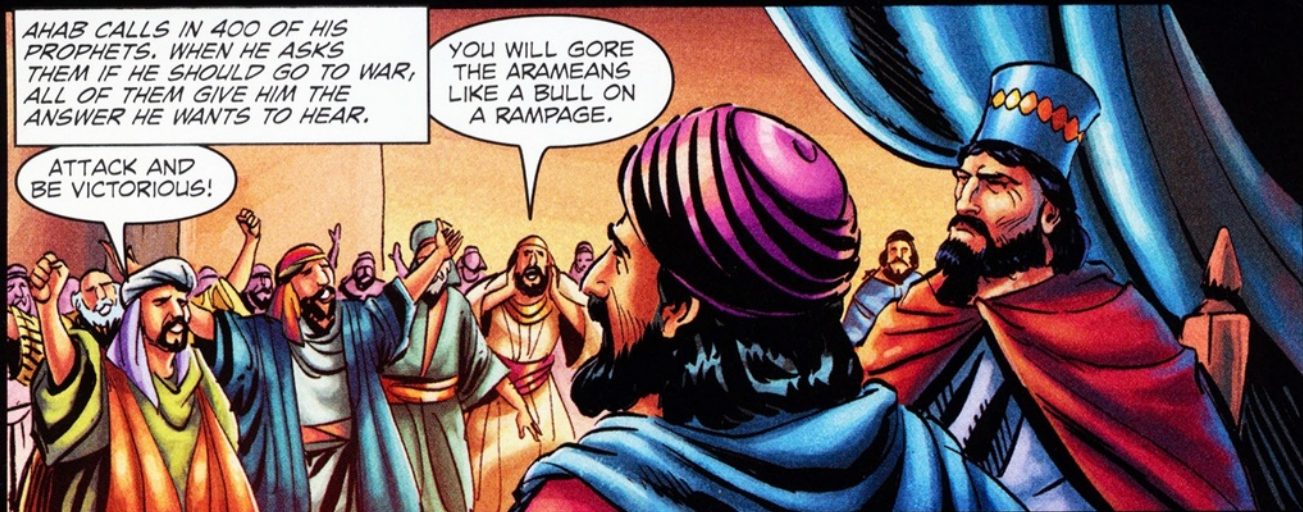
YOUR WAR IS MY WAR, AHAB. BUT YOU SHOULD SEEK THE LORD'S ADVICE FIRST.



AHAB CALLS IN 400 OF HIS PROPHETS. WHEN HE ASKS THEM IF HE SHOULD GO TO WAR, ALL OF THEM GIVE HIM THE ANSWER HE WANTS TO HEAR.

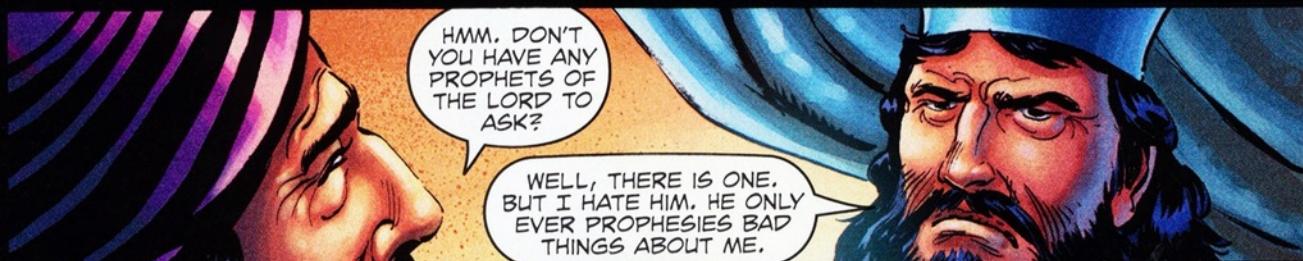
YOU WILL GORE THE ARAMEANS LIKE A BULL ON A RAMPAGE.

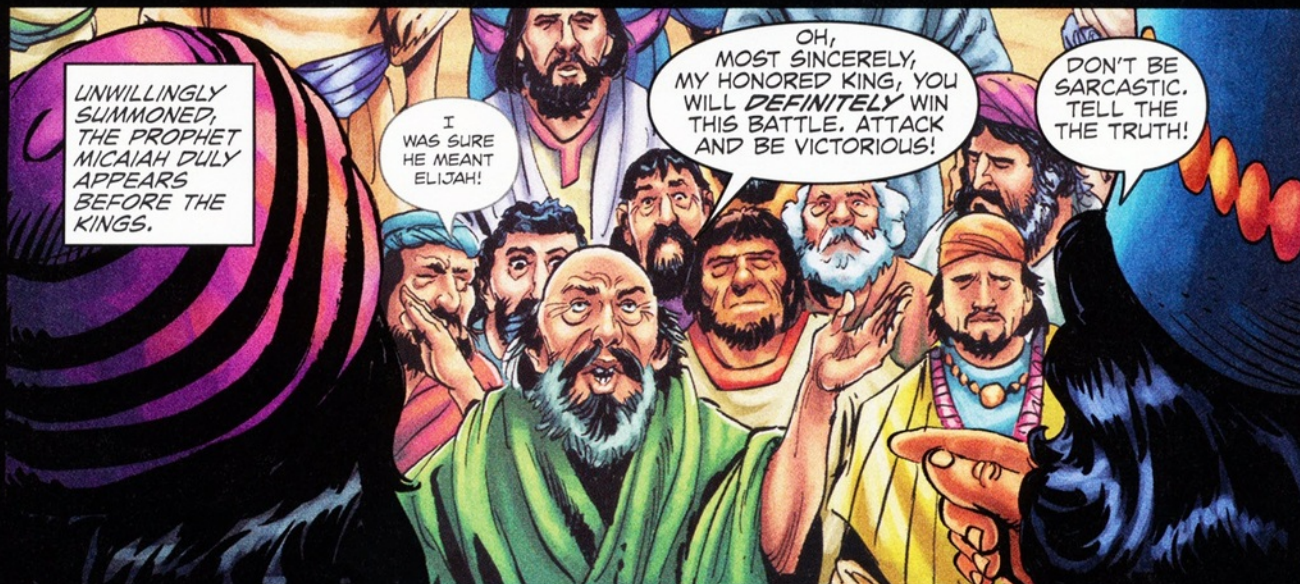
ATTACK AND BE VICTORIOUS!



HMM. DON'T YOU HAVE ANY PROPHETS OF THE LORD TO ASK?

WELL, THERE IS ONE. BUT I HATE HIM. HE ONLY EVER PROPHECIES BAD THINGS ABOUT ME.





UNWILLINGLY SUMMONED, THE PROPHET MICAIAH DULY APPEARS BEFORE THE KINGS.

I WAS SURE HE MEANT ELIJAH!

OH, MOST SINCERELY, MY HONORED KING, YOU WILL **DEFINITELY** WIN THIS BATTLE. ATTACK AND BE VICTORIOUS!

DON'T BE SARCASTIC. TELL THE TRUTH!



YOU WANT THE TRUTH? ALL THESE PROPHETS ARE LIARS, AND THE ARAMEANS WILL CERTAINLY KILL YOU. MAY I GO NOW?

SEE? I TOLD YOU HE HATES ME.



TAKE HIM AWAY. LOCK HIM UP. YOU'LL GET OUT OF PRISON WHEN I RETURN SAFELY.

IF YOU RETURN SAFELY, THEN I'M NOT A PROPHET OF THE LORD. I MEAN IT.

AS KING AHAB PREPARES FOR BATTLE AGAINST THE ARAMEAN INVADERS, HE WORRIES ABOUT MICAIAH'S PROPHECY.

I'LL DISGUISE MYSELF SO THE ENEMY WON'T RECOGNIZE ME!

AHAB IS RIGHT—THE ENEMY DOESN'T RECOGNIZE HIM. THE ARAMEAN SOLDIERS FOCUS THEIR ATTACK ON KING JEHOASHAPHAT. BUT IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE, A STRAY ARROW STRIKES AHAB.

DRIVE ME OUT OF THE FIGHTING! I'VE BEEN WOUNDED.

BUT THE BATTLE IS SO FIERCE AROUND THEM THAT HIS DRIVER IS UNABLE TO RETREAT. AHAB FAINTS, PROPPED UP FOR HOURS AS HE SLOWLY BLEEDS TO DEATH IN HIS OWN CHARIOT. WHEN THE BATTLE FINALLY ENDS FOR THE DAY ...

LOOK! THE KING IS DEAD!

WITHOUT THEIR KING, THE ISRAELITES RETREAT, AND THE CAMPAIGN FAILS. KING AHAB'S BODY IS TAKEN BACK TO HIS CAPITAL FOR BURIAL, AND HIS CHARIOT IS TAKEN OUTSIDE THE CITY TO BE WASHED. MICAIAH'S PROPHECY AND THE FIRST PART OF ELIJAH'S PROPHECY HAS COME TRUE.

# Chariots of Fire

BASED ON 2 KINGS 2:1-18

AHAB'S KINGDOM PASSES TO HIS SONS, BUT QUEEN JEZEBEL REMAINS THE POWER BEHIND THE THRONE. DURING THE REIGN OF HER SECOND SON, JORAM, ELIJAH RECEIVES A MESSAGE FROM GOD.



SO THEY SET OUT TOGETHER. GOD HAS REVEALED TO BOTH OF THEM THAT THIS IS ELIJAH'S LAST JOURNEY, BUT THEY SAY NOTHING. WHEN THEY REACH THE JORDAN RIVER, ELIJAH STRIKES IT WITH HIS CLOAK—AND THE WATERS PART. THEY WALK ACROSS ON DRY LAND.



ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER, ELIJAH STOPS, AS IF HE HAS REACHED THE END OF HIS JOURNEY.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO ASK BEFORE GOD TAKES ME AWAY?

YES, LET ME INHERIT YOUR SPIRITUAL POWER.



ONLY GOD CAN GRANT THAT. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO SEE WHAT GOD DOES NEXT, THEN YOUR REQUEST WILL BE ANSWERED.



FOR A MOMENT, ALL IS STILL.

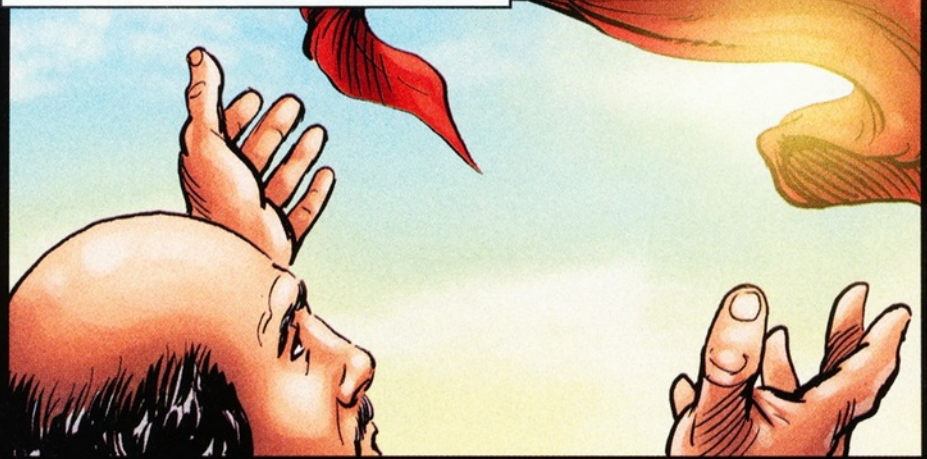
THEN ...

MY  
FATHER!





WHEN ELIJAH'S MANTLE DROPS FROM HEAVEN, IT CONFIRMS THAT THE MIRACLE ELISHA WITNESSED MEANS HE IS TO CARRY ON ELIJAH'S WORK BY HIMSELF.



WHEN ELISHA GOES BACK TO THE JORDAN RIVER, HE STRIKES THE WATER WITH ELIJAH'S MANTLE—AND THE WATERS PART.

GOD'S POWER HAS COME TO ME. THANK YOU, MY LORD.



A GROUP OF YOUNG PROPHETS ARE WAITING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER, AND THEY WITNESS ELISHA'S PARTING OF THE WATERS.

WE KNOW GOD HAS TAKEN ELIJAH'S SPIRIT, AND NOW WE KNOW THAT YOU ARE TRULY HIS HEIR.

SHOULD WE LOOK FOR ELIJAH'S BODY SO WE CAN GIVE HIM A PROPER BURIAL?



LOOK ALL YOU LIKE, THERE WILL BE NOTHING FOR YOU TO FIND.



THE PROPHETS SPREAD THE NEWS THROUGHOUT ISRAEL THAT ELIJAH HAS BEEN TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN, AND ELISHA HAS TAKEN HIS PLACE.

# A Rash of Miracles

BASED ON  
2 KINGS 2:19-24; 4; 6:1-7

NEWS THAT ELIJAH IS GONE SPREADS QUICKLY. IN THE PALACE OF SAMARIA, QUEEN JEZEBEL GLADLY PASSES THE NEWS ON TO HER SON.

WITH ELIJAH OUT OF THE WAY, WE CAN RULE ISRAEL AS WE PLEASE.



UNDER THE QUEEN'S EVIL INFLUENCE, MEN FEEL FREE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THOSE WHO HAVE OPPOSED THE QUEEN.

YOUR HUSBAND OWED ME MONEY WHEN HE WAS ALIVE. PAY ME WHAT HE OWED, OR I'LL TAKE YOUR SONS AS SLAVES!



SLAVES! NO! O GOD, WHAT CAN I DO?



SADLY, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING YOU CAN DO. LUCKILY, YOUR BOYS WILL MAKE WONDERFUL SLAVES. REMEMBER, THE LAW IS ON MY SIDE.

IN DESPERATION, THE WOMAN RUNS TO ELISHA.

MY SONS! THE MONEYLENDER WILL TAKE THEM AS SLAVES—TOMORROW—UNLESS I GIVE HIM THE MONEY MY HUSBAND OWED HIM. AND I HAVE NO MONEY! I'M DOWN TO MY LAST JAR OF OIL.

DON'T WORRY. I PROMISE YOU WILL HAVE A SURPRISE FOR THE MONEYLENDER WHEN HE COMES.





BORROW ALL THE EMPTY JARS YOU CAN FROM THE NEIGHBORS. POUR YOUR OIL INTO THE JARS AND TRUST GOD TO HELP YOU.

THIS IS EVERY JAR IN THE VILLAGE, MOTHER.

AND THEY'RE ALL FULL OF OIL THAT WE CAN SELL. I'LL PAY OFF THAT WICKED MAN AND STILL HAVE MONEY TO TAKE CARE OF YOU BOYS. IT'S A MIRACLE!

WITH A GRATEFUL HEART, THE WOMAN THANKS GOD FOR SAVING HER SONS. THEN SHE SELLS THE OIL AND WAITS FOR THE MONEYLENDER. EARLY THE NEXT MORNING ...



WHERE ARE MY SLAVES? I TOLD YOU TO BE READY FOR ME.

I AM READY FOR YOU. COME OUT, BOYS.



HERE'S THE MONEY WE OWE YOU. TAKE IT, AND NEVER COME BACK.

ELISHA PERFORMS MANY MIRACLES TO PROTECT GOD'S PEOPLE AND GOD'S NAME. TO SAVE A VILLAGE, HE PURIFIES A POLLUTED WELL.



JUST LIKE ELIJAH BEFORE HIM, HE RAISES A YOUNG BOY FROM THE DEAD.



AND WHEN A GANG OF YOUNG MEN THREATEN HIM ...



WE'LL SEND YOU UP TO HEAVEN LIKE YOUR MASTER, BALDY!

ELISHA CALLS DOWN THE CURSE OF GOD—AND TWO BEARS COME TO HIS DEFENSE, MAULING 42 OF THEM.

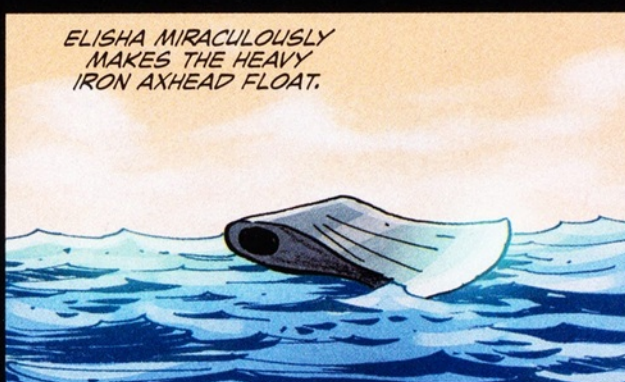


WHEN THE COMPANY OF PROPHETS IS BUILDING A SETTLEMENT FOR ELISHA TO LIVE IN, AN ACCIDENT HAPPENS.



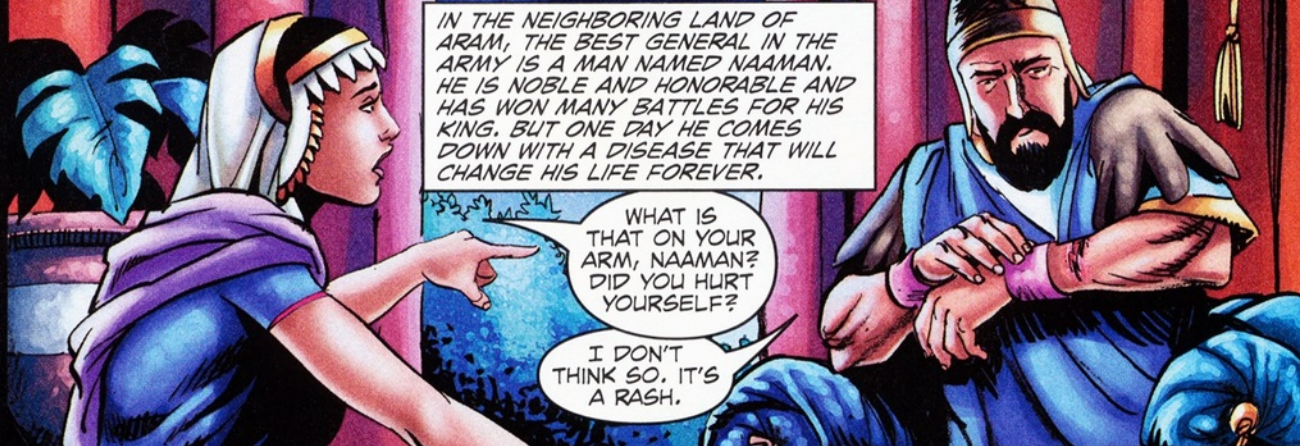
OH NO! IT WAS BORROWED. I'D HAVE TO BE A SLAVE FOR A LIFETIME TO PAY IT BACK!

ELISHA MIRACULOUSLY MAKES THE HEAVY IRON AXHEAD FLOAT.



# A Miracle for a Rash

BASED ON  
2 KINGS 5



IN THE NEIGHBORING LAND OF ARAM, THE BEST GENERAL IN THE ARMY IS A MAN NAMED NAAMAN. HE IS NOBLE AND HONORABLE AND HAS WON MANY BATTLES FOR HIS KING. BUT ONE DAY HE COMES DOWN WITH A DISEASE THAT WILL CHANGE HIS LIFE FOREVER.

WHAT IS THAT ON YOUR ARM, NAAMAN? DID YOU HURT YOURSELF?

I DON'T THINK SO. IT'S A RASH.



OH NO! IT'S LEPROSY!

WHAT WILL I DO? THIS DISEASE WILL SLOWLY KILL ME. MY FAMILY, MY CAREER—ALL GONE!

BUT GOD HAS SET THE STAGE TO SHOW HIS POWER ONCE AGAIN. NAAMAN'S HOUSEHOLD HAS SEVERAL ISRAELITE SLAVES. HE HAS ALWAYS TREATED THEM WELL, AND ONE SERVANT GIRL WISHES TO HELP HER MASTER IN RETURN.

THERE'S NO CURE!

THERE IS A PROPHET IN ISRAEL WHO CAN DO MIRACULOUS THINGS.

IF MY MASTER WOULD GO TO HIM, HE WOULD SURELY BE CURED.



ALTHOUGH NORMALLY NAAMAN WOULD NEVER SEEK HELP FROM FOREIGNERS, HE FEELS HE HAS NO CHOICE. NAAMAN GOES TO ASK HIS KING FOR PERMISSION TO VISIT ISRAEL, AN ENEMY COUNTRY.

I'M AFRAID IT IS A FOOL'S ERRAND, NAAMAN, BUT IF THERE'S ANY CHANCE OF A CURE, I WANT YOU TO FIND IT. I'LL GIVE YOU A LETTER TO TAKE TO THE KING OF ISRAEL.



NAAMAN SENDS THE LETTER TO KING JORAM IN SAMARIA, THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL. THE LETTER DOES NOT MENTION ELISHA BY NAME, SO THE KING DOESN'T UNDERSTAND IT.

WHAT'S THIS?  
THE KING OF ARAM  
IS ASKING ME TO  
CURE HIS GENERAL  
OF LEPROSY?

ARAM HAS BEEN FIGHTING WITH ISRAEL ON AND OFF FOR SEVERAL YEARS, INCLUDING THE BATTLE THAT KILLED JORAM'S FATHER, KING AHAB. JORAM SUSPECTS THIS IS AN EXCUSE FOR ARAM TO WAGE WAR AGAINST ISRAEL AGAIN.

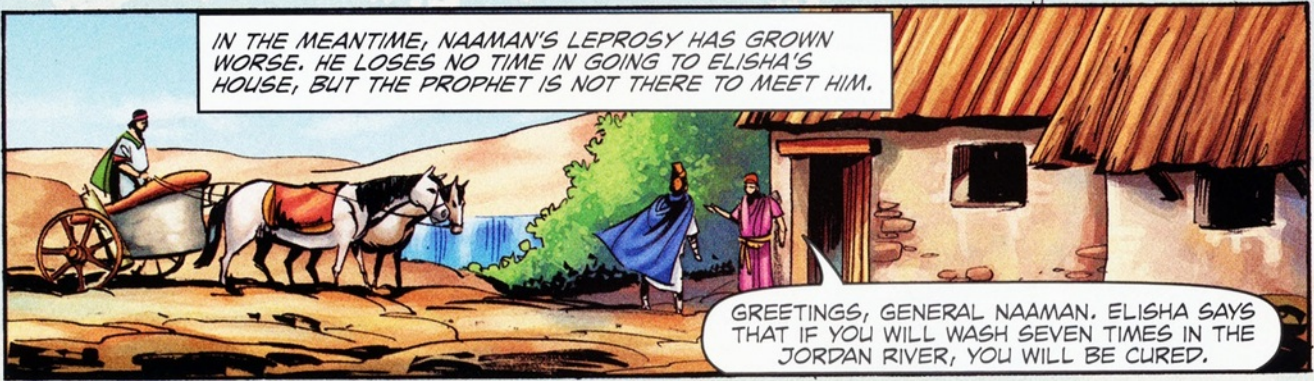
AM I A GOD  
THAT I CAN CURE  
AN INCURABLE  
DISEASE? IS THE  
KING OF ARAM  
TRYING TO PICK A  
FIGHT WITH ME IF  
I DON'T DO THIS  
IMPOSSIBLE  
REQUEST?

WHEN ELISHA HEARS OF  
KING JORAM'S DISTRESS,  
HE SENDS HIS SERVANT  
TO THE KING.

DON'T PANIC.  
ELISHA SAYS THAT  
IF YOU SEND NAAMAN  
TO HIM, THE GENERAL  
WILL LEARN THE  
POWER OF GOD  
IN ISRAEL.



IN THE MEANTIME, NAAMAN'S LEPROSY HAS GROWN WORSE. HE LOSES NO TIME IN GOING TO ELISHA'S HOUSE, BUT THE PROPHET IS NOT THERE TO MEET HIM.



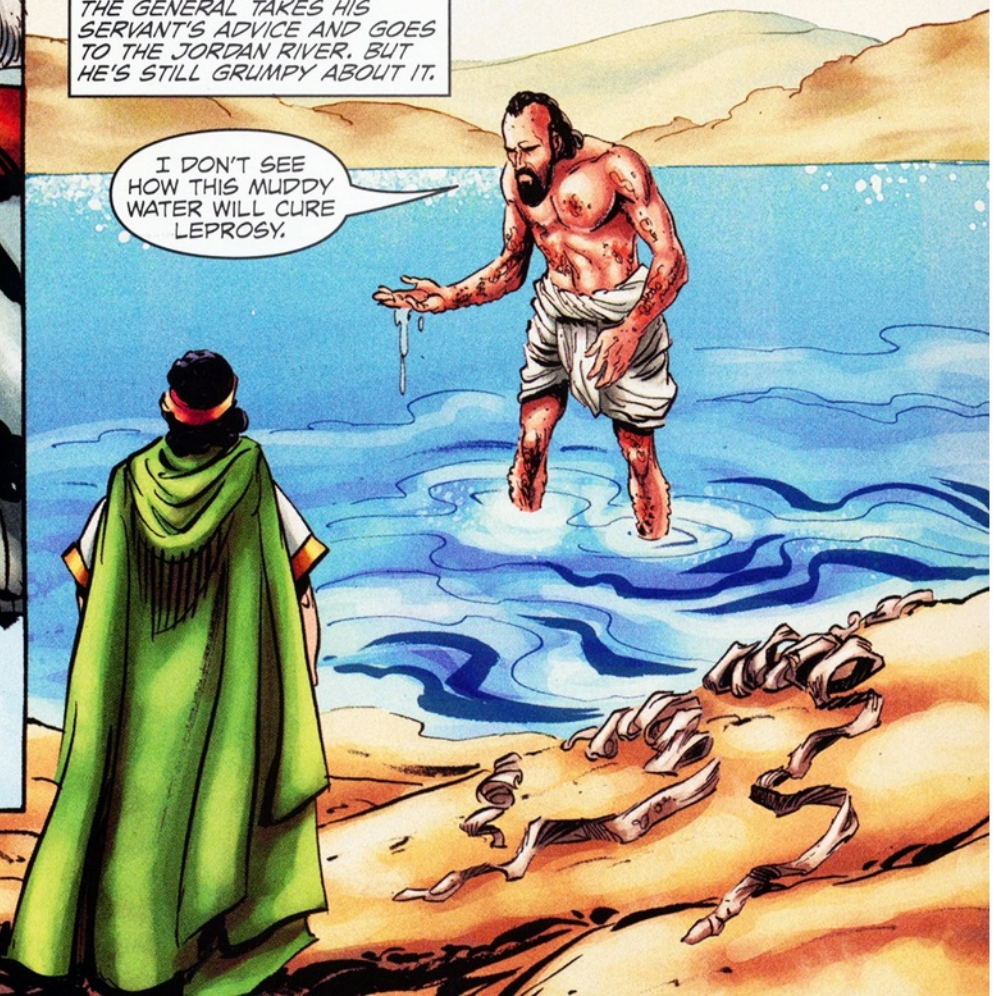
GREETINGS, GENERAL NAAMAN. ELISHA SAYS THAT IF YOU WILL WASH SEVEN TIMES IN THE JORDAN RIVER, YOU WILL BE CURED.

MY LORD, THINK ABOUT IT. IF ELISHA HAD ASKED YOU TO DO SOMETHING HARD, YOU WOULD HAVE DONE IT EAGERLY. WHY NOT DO THIS EASY THING? DON'T LET YOUR PRIDE STAND IN THE WAY OF A POSSIBLE CURE.



THE GENERAL TAKES HIS SERVANT'S ADVICE AND GOES TO THE JORDAN RIVER. BUT HE'S STILL GRUMPY ABOUT IT.

I DON'T SEE HOW THIS MUDDY WATER WILL CURE LEPROSY.



WHAT? ELISHA WON'T EVEN MEET ME? I'VE ALREADY HUMBLERD MYSELF TO COME TO THIS BACKWATER TOWN, AND NOW HE INSTRUCTS ME TO WASH IN A BACKWATER RIVER? WE HAVE BETTER RIVERS IN DAMASCUS—I COULD HAVE WASHED IN ANY OF THOSE.

I'VE HAD ENOUGH HUMILIATION. IF YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A FOOL OF ME, THEN I'M LEAVING.

IN GRUDGING OBEDIENCE, NAAMAN DIPS HIMSELF SEVEN TIMES IN THE JORDAN RIVER ...

NAAMAN!  
LOOK!  
YOUR SKIN  
IS AS  
CLEAR AS  
MINE!

I'M  
CURED! I  
DON'T HAVE  
LEPROSY  
ANYMORE!



OVERCOME  
WITH  
GRATITUDE,  
NAAMAN  
RETURNS AT  
ONCE TO  
ELISHA'S  
HOUSE.

I APOLOGIZE FOR MY  
PRIDE. NOW I KNOW THERE  
IS NO GOD EXCEPT ISRAEL'S  
GOD. PLEASE ACCEPT THESE  
GIFTS IN PAYMENT FOR WHAT  
YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME.

THANK YOU, NAAMAN,  
BUT I CAN'T ACCEPT  
ANYTHING. I DIDN'T  
HEAL YOU, GOD DID.



THEN NAAMAN RETURNS TO HIS  
HOME IN ARAM, TO THE FAMILY HE  
THOUGHT HE WAS ABOUT TO LOSE.

I THANK  
GOD EVERY DAY  
FOR HEALING  
ME. HE GAVE  
ME MY LIFE  
BACK.



# Invisible Army

BASED ON 2 KINGS 6:8-23

BUT THE HEALING OF NAAMAN DOES NOT KEEP THE KING OF ARAM FROM PLOTTING AGAINST ISRAEL. HE HAS HIS SOLDIERS SET UP AN AMBUSH TO CAPTURE THE KING OF ISRAEL. BUT AS KING JORAM IS ABOUT TO RIDE INTO THE TRAP ...

STOP!  
ELISHA SENDS WORD  
FOR YOU TO TAKE  
ANOTHER ROAD THE  
ARAMEANS ARE WAITING  
ON THIS ROAD TO  
CAPTURE YOU.



FOR DAYS, THE ARAMEAN SOLDIERS WAIT FOR THE ISRAELITE KING—BUT HE DOESN'T COME. TIME AND TIME AGAIN, THE ARAMEAN KING SETS UP A TRAP, AND ELISHA WARNS THE ISRAELITE KING TO ESCAPE. FINALLY, IN FRUSTRATION ...

I'VE HAD ENOUGH!  
WHICH OF YOU IS A  
TRAITOR??

NONE OF US, O KING. IT'S  
ELISHA, THE PROPHET IN ISRAEL.  
HE KNOWS EVERYTHING YOU DO.

ELISHA, IS IT? FIND OUT  
WHERE HE IS, AND I'LL  
SEND AN ARMY TO KILL HIM.

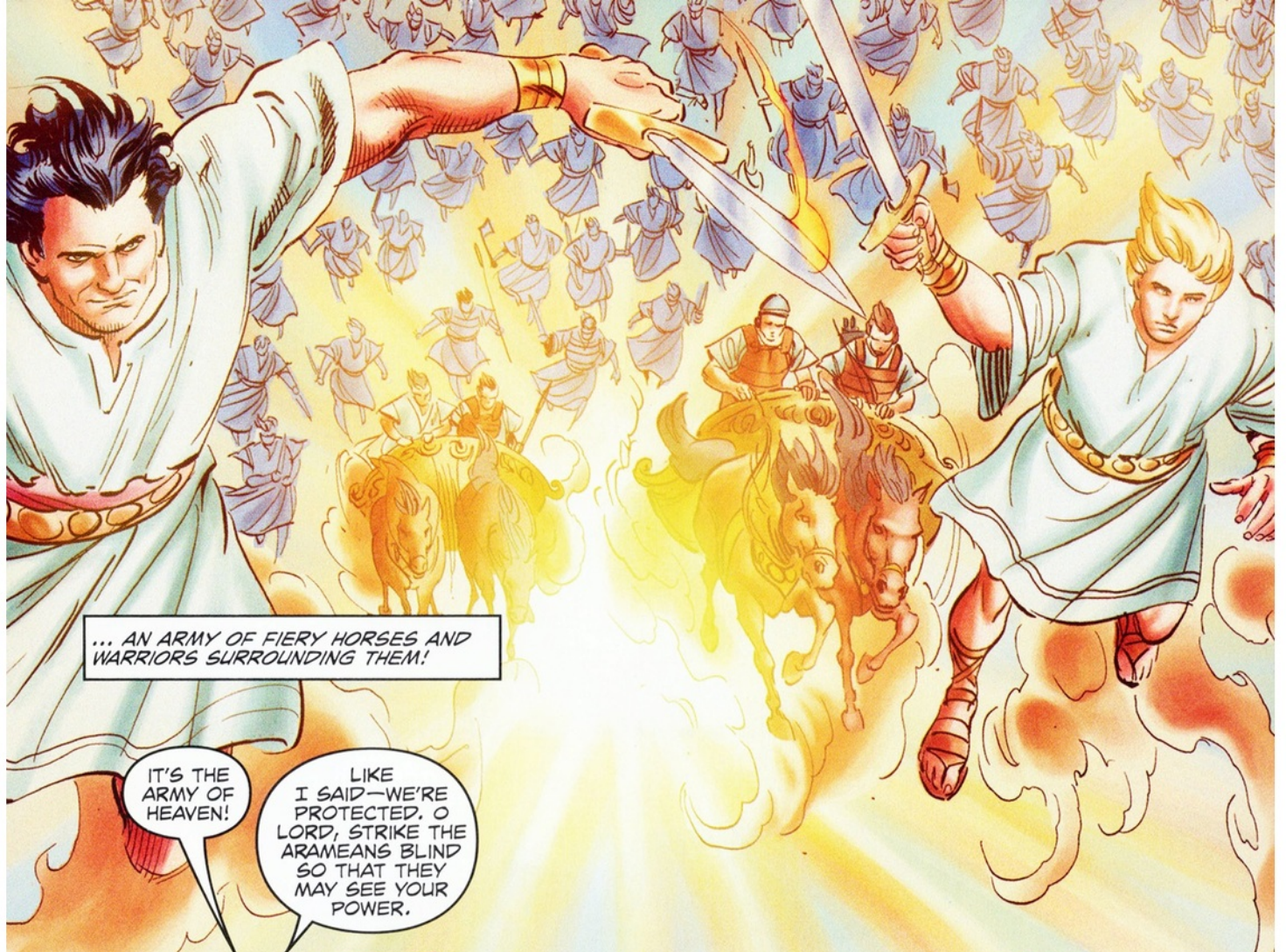
THE ARAMEANS QUIETLY SNEAK IN AND  
SET UP THEIR CAMP BY NIGHT. THE  
NEXT MORNING, ELISHA'S SERVANT  
RISES EARLY AND SEES THE ARMY.

ELISHA! WE'RE  
SURROUNDED BY  
THE WHOLE ARAMEAN  
ARMY! WE'RE  
OUTNUMBERED.

NO,  
THEY  
ARE.



ELISHA PRAYS, AND THE SERVANT'S  
EYES ARE SUDDENLY OPENED. HE  
LOOKS OUT OVER THE SURROUNDING  
ARAMEAN ARMY, BUT NOW HE SEES ...



... AN ARMY OF FIERY HORSES AND WARRIORS SURROUNDING THEM!

IT'S THE  
ARMY OF  
HEAVEN!

LIKE  
I SAID—WE'RE  
PROTECTED. O  
LORD, STRIKE THE  
ARAMEANS BLIND  
SO THAT THEY  
MAY SEE YOUR  
POWER.



I CAN'T SEE!  
WHAT HAPPENED?

I'M  
BLIND!

I'LL HELP YOU.  
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR  
ELISHA; I'LL TAKE  
YOU WHERE YOU CAN  
SEE HIM.



ELISHA LEADS THE ENEMY SOLDIERS TEN MILES SOUTH AND INTO THE CAPITAL CITY OF ISRAEL.



O LORD, OPEN THEIR EYES SO THEY CAN SEE YOU.

INSTANTLY, SIGHT RETURNS TO THE ARAMEANS.

WE'RE IN SAMARIA!

WE'RE TRAPPED! THEY'LL KILL US!



SHALL WE KILL THEM, ELISHA?

NO! THEY'RE MY GUESTS. FEED THEM AND SEND THEM HOME.



TO THEIR AMAZEMENT, THE ARAMEAN SOLDIERS ARE TREATED TO A FEAST AND RELEASED TO GO HOME.

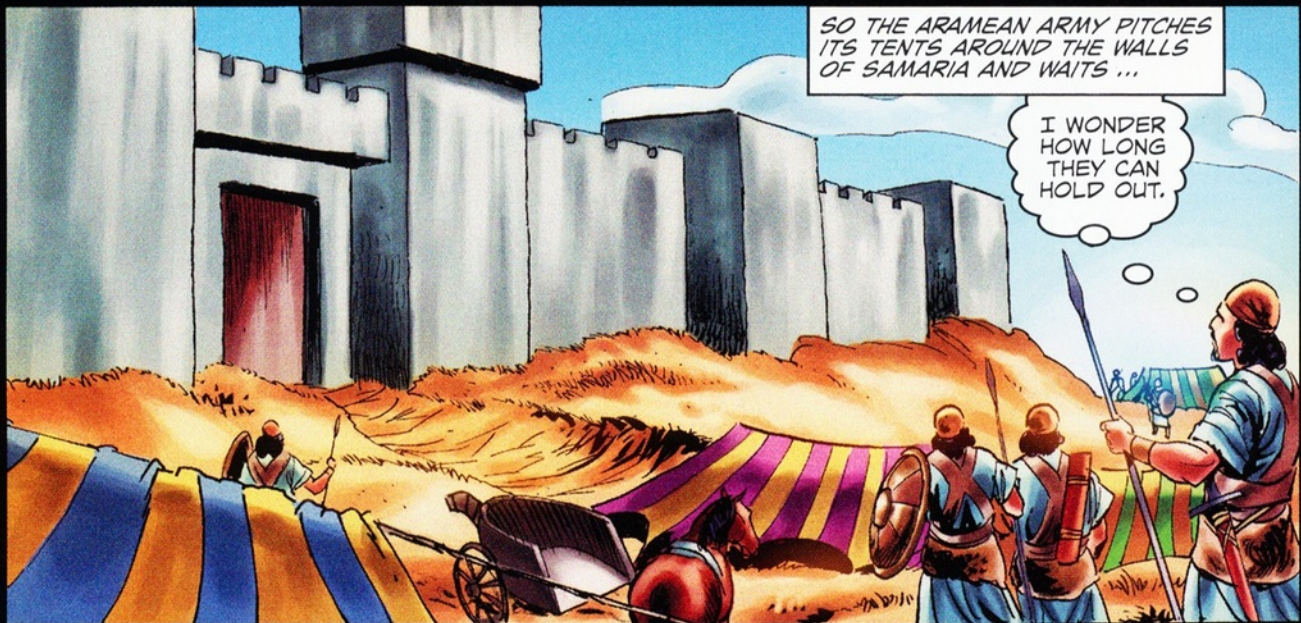
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WE TRIED TO KILL BOTH THE KING AND ELISHA—AND THEY TREAT US LIKE FRIENDS!



BACK HOME, THE ARAMEANS TELL ABOUT THE KINDNESS OF THE ISRAELITES AND THE POWER OF THEIR GOD, AND FOR A TIME THE TWO NATIONS HAVE PEACE.

# Lepers Under Siege!

BASED ON 2 KINGS 6:24-7:16



THIS IS THE MOMENT THE QUEEN MOTHER, JEZEBEL, HAS BEEN WAITING FOR.

YOUR PEOPLE ARE STARVING—AND WHAT IS ELISHA'S GOD DOING ABOUT IT? NOTHING! GET RID OF ELISHA AND CALL ON MY GOD, BAAL.

YOU'RE RIGHT, MOTHER. I'LL ORDER HIM PUT TO DEATH IMMEDIATELY.

BUT ELISHA HAS NO FEAR OF THE WEAK KING WHO WAVERS BETWEEN GOD AND BAAL.

THIS SIEGE IS NOT THE LORD'S FAULT. IT IS ISRAEL'S OWN PUNISHMENT FOR NOT STAYING FAITHFUL TO GOD. NEVERTHELESS, THE LORD SAYS THERE WILL BE ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE TOMORROW.

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! WHAT, WILL YOU MAKE THE WHOLE ARMY DISAPPEAR? EVEN THEN, IT WOULD TAKE DAYS FOR FOOD TO GET HERE.

MEANWHILE FOUR LEPERS EXILED OUTSIDE THE CITY PONDER THEIR FATE.

I'M STARVING.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? THERE'S NO FOOD IN THE CITY. THE ARAMEAN SOLDIERS ARE THE ONLY ONES WITH FOOD AROUND HERE.

THEN LET'S GO OVER TO THE ARAMEAN CAMP. MAYBE THEY'LL GIVE US SOMETHING TO EAT. IF WE STAY HERE, WE'LL DEFINITELY DIE.

IF WE SURRENDER TO THE ARAMEAN SOLDIERS WE MIGHT DIE—BUT THEY ALSO MIGHT HAVE MERCY ON US AND FEED US. EITHER WAY, WE HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE.

I WANT TO SURRENDER FIRST! MAYBE THEY'LL GIVE ME FIRST CHOICE OF FOOD.

IN DESPERATION,  
THE FOUR HUNGRY  
LEPERS APPROACH  
THE ARAMEAN CAMP.

SOMETHING  
STRANGE IS GOING  
ON. THERE'S NOT  
A GUARD IN SIGHT.  
MAYBE IT'S A  
TRAP ...

MAYBE IT IS—  
BUT IT'S THIS OR  
STARVE TO DEATH.  
I'D RATHER DIE  
QUICKLY THAN  
SLOWLY.

HOW CAN I  
SURRENDER  
WITHOUT A GUARD  
TO SURRENDER  
TO?

THERE'S  
NOBODY  
HERE!

BUT  
THEY LEFT  
ALL THEIR  
FOOD.

AND THEIR  
STUFF. LOOK,  
GOLD! WE'RE  
RICH!

FOR A WHILE,  
THE LEPERS REVEL  
IN THEIR GOOD FORTUNE.  
BUT THEN ...

YOU KNOW,  
IT'S PROBABLY NOT  
RIGHT TO KEEP ALL OF  
THIS FOOD FROM THE  
STARVING PEOPLE IN  
THE CITY.

IF WE  
DON'T SHARE  
THE GOOD NEWS,  
PEOPLE MIGHT  
BLAME US.

WELL,  
OKAY, BUT FIRST  
LET'S HIDE SOME  
TREASURE FOR  
OURSELVES.



THE LEPERS GO BACK TO THE CITY AND POUND ON THE GATES UNTIL A GUARD ANSWERS.

THE ARAMEANS ARE GONE.

GONE? WHERE?

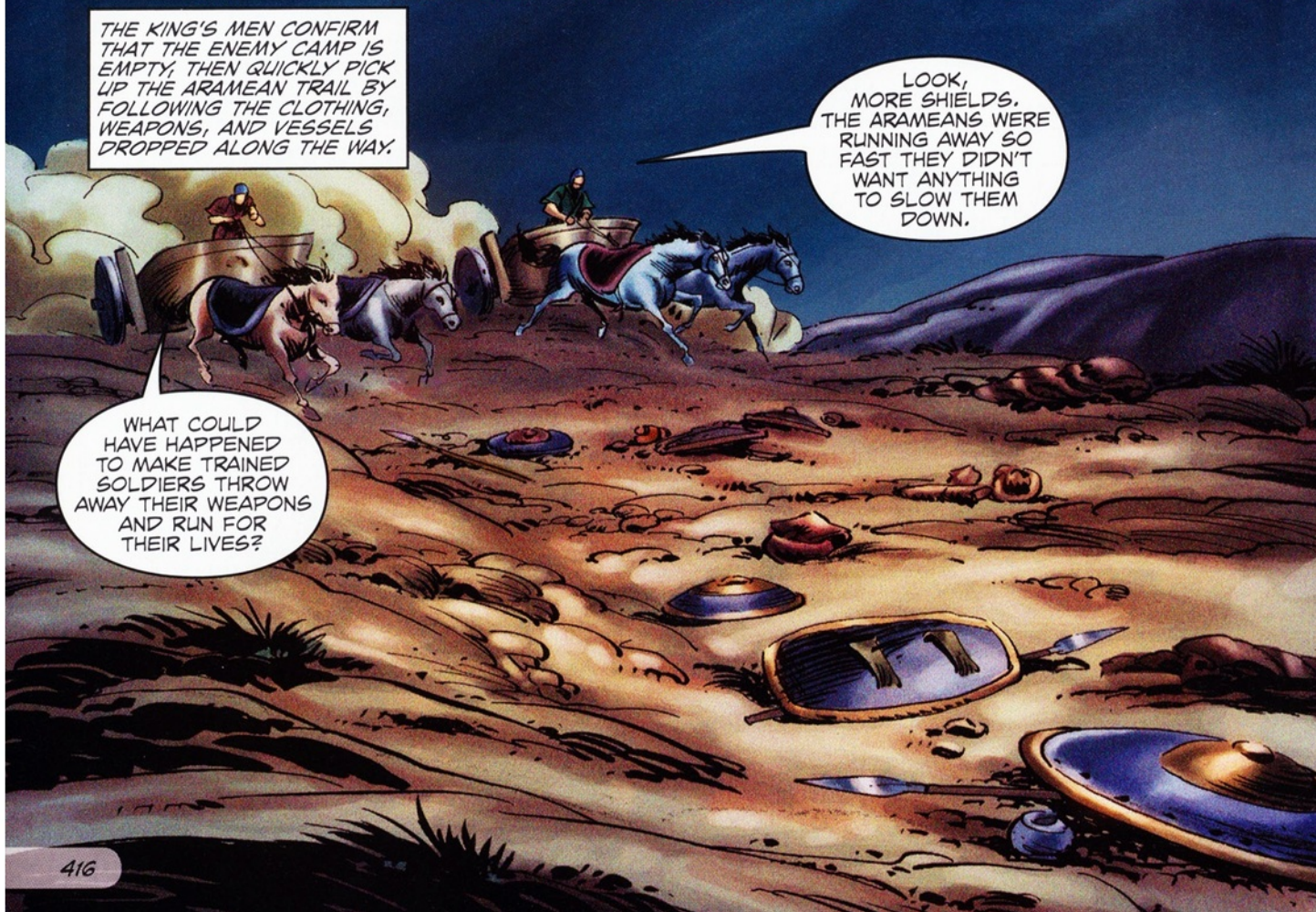
WE DON'T KNOW—WE JUST ATE THEIR FOOD.



ROUSED FROM HIS BED, KING JORAM RECEIVES THE NEWS AND CALLS FOR HIS ADVISERS.

IT MUST BE A TRAP. THE ARAMEANS ARE WAITING IN AMBUSH TO CAPTURE US IF WE LEAVE THE CITY.

MAYBE, BUT LET'S SEND OUT A FEW MEN TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON.



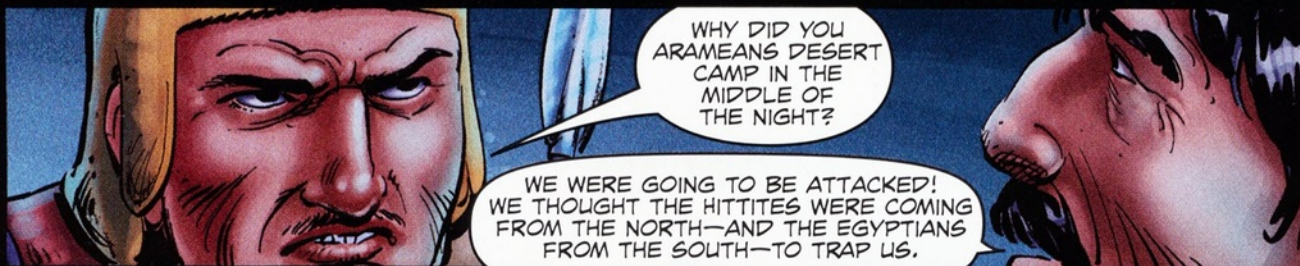
THE KING'S MEN CONFIRM THAT THE ENEMY CAMP IS EMPTY; THEN QUICKLY PICK UP THE ARAMEAN TRAIL BY FOLLOWING THE CLOTHING, WEAPONS, AND VESSELS DROPPED ALONG THE WAY.

LOOK, MORE SHIELDS. THE ARAMEANS WERE RUNNING AWAY SO FAST THEY DIDN'T WANT ANYTHING TO SLOW THEM DOWN.

WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO MAKE TRAINED SOLDIERS THROW AWAY THEIR WEAPONS AND RUN FOR THEIR LIVES?

THE ISRAELITE SCOUTS FOLLOW THE FLEEING ARAMEAN ARMY TO THE JORDAN RIVER. ALONG THE WAY THEY OVERTAKE ONE OF THE ENEMY SOLDIERS.

PULL UP—  
HERE'S ONE WHO  
DROPPED BEHIND.  
MAYBE HE CAN  
TELL US WHAT  
HAPPENED.



WHY DID YOU  
ARAMEANS DESERT  
CAMP IN THE  
MIDDLE OF  
THE NIGHT?

WE WERE GOING TO BE ATTACKED!  
WE THOUGHT THE HITTITES WERE COMING  
FROM THE NORTH—AND THE EGYPTIANS  
FROM THE SOUTH—TO TRAP US.



THERE  
WERE NO  
SIGNS OF  
ANY OTHER  
ARMIES.

YOU  
SAW  
THEM?

WE  
HEARD  
THEM.

AND  
THAT WAS  
ENOUGH.

BACK IN SAMARIA, THE STARVING ISRAELITES RUSH OUT TO THE ARAMEAN CAMP, EAT THEIR FILL, AND HAUL THE REST OF THE FOOD BACK TO THE CITY.

YOU  
SAID THERE  
WOULD BE  
FOOD, ELISHA,  
BUT I DIDN'T  
BELIEVE  
YOU.

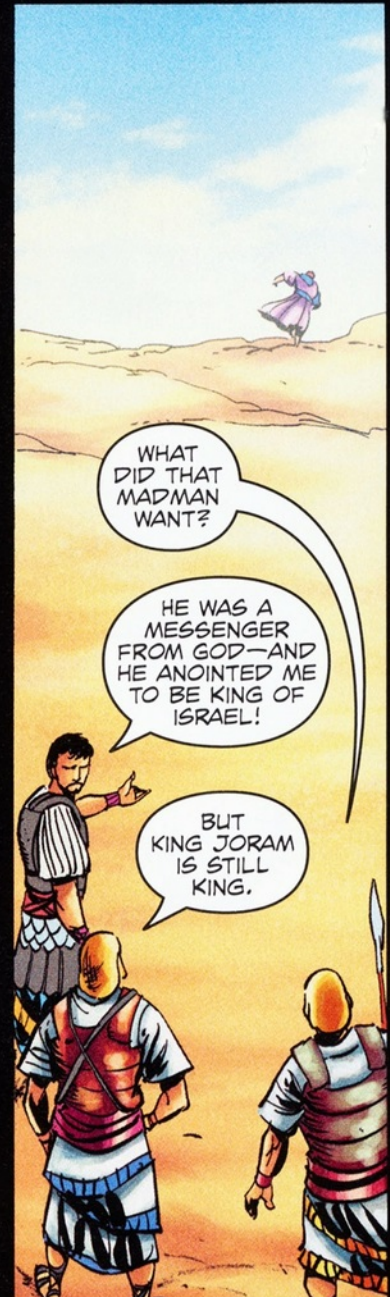
IT  
WAS THE  
LORD WHO  
PROMISED  
THE  
FOOD—AND  
YOU CAN  
ALWAYS  
COUNT ON  
THE  
PROMISES  
OF GOD.



# Anointed Jehu, Painted Jezebel

BASED ON 2 KINGS 9

IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT GOD HAD SAVED ISRAEL, KING JORAM AND HIS MOTHER KEEP ON WORSHIPPING BAAL. IN ANOTHER BATTLE AGAINST ARAM, JORAM IS WOUNDED. HE LEAVES CAPTAIN JEHU IN CHARGE AND RETURNS HOME TO RECUPERATE. THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE LORD'S PROPHECY TO ELIJAH TO BE FULFILLED. ELISHA CALLS FOR A YOUNG PROPHET TO MAKE A QUICK JOURNEY FOR HIM.



IT IS A TENSE  
MOMENT. WILL THE  
ARMY SUPPORT  
JEHU OR JORAM?



FOR SEVERAL SECONDS, NO ONE SAYS A WORD. THEN ...



JEHU IS  
KING!

LONG  
LIVE THE  
KING!

HIS MEN GO WILD WITH  
JOY! THEY BLOW THEIR  
TRUMPETS AND THROW  
DOWN THEIR GARMENTS  
TO MAKE A THRONE.

THANK YOU  
FOR SUPPORTING ME,  
MY FRIENDS. BUT WE MUST  
TAKE CARE OF JORAM AND  
HIS WICKED MOTHER,  
JEZEBEL. QUICKLY,  
BEFORE WORD CAN  
SPREAD.



JEHU AND A COMPANY OF MEN  
SET OUT AT ONCE—AND AS  
THEY APPROACH JEZREEL ...

CHARIOTS! A WHOLE  
LINE OF THEM. THE  
LEADER DRIVES LIKE  
A MADMAN!

IT MUST  
BE JEHU.



JORAM THINKS JEHU IS BRINGING NEWS OF THE WAR. SO WITH HIS NEPHEW-KING AHAZIAH OF JUDAH-HE RIDES OUT TO MEET JEHU.

DO YOU BRING NEWS OF PEACE?

HOW CAN THERE BE PEACE IN ISRAEL WHILE YOU AND YOUR MOTHER, JEZEBEL, WORSHIP BAAL?

TREACHERY, AHAZIAH! FLEE FOR YOUR LIFE!

KREEEK

THAT'S THE FIRST BLOW STRUCK FOR ISRAEL.

BUT NOT THE LAST! YOU, FOLLOW AHAZIAH AND KILL HIM. I GO TO MAKE JEZEBEL PAY FOR HER SINS!

IS IT RIGHT FOR JEHU TO ORDER AHAZIAH'S DEATH? HE'S A DESCENDANT OF DAVID!

BUT ALSO A DESCENDANT OF AHAZ. HE AND HIS MOTHER, ATHALIAH, WORSHIP BAAL IN JUDAH. WE MUST FOLLOW JEHU'S ORDERS, RIGHT OR NOT.

MEANWHILE, NEWS OF JEHU'S REBELLION REACHES THE PALACE IN JEZREEL BEFORE HE DOES.

QUEEN JEZEBEL!  
JEHU HAS  
KILLED  
YOUR SON!

JEHU!  
HE'LL  
BE HERE  
NEXT!

WITHOUT PANICKING, JEZEBEL  
CALMLY SITS AT HER MIRROR AND  
PUTS ON HER FINEST MAKEUP.

HE WILL NOT  
SEE ME CRY.  
AND I WILL NOT  
BEG FOR MY  
LIFE.

JEZEBEL!  
IT IS FINALLY  
TIME FOR YOU  
TO PAY FOR  
YOUR SINS.

THAT'S WHAT  
ALL REBELLIOUS  
SERVANTS SAY.  
YOU WILL NOT  
LAST A WEEK  
AS KING.

JEHU ORDERS THE PALACE SERVANTS TO SHOW THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO HIM BY PUSHING QUEEN JEZEBEL FROM THE WINDOW TO HER DEATH IN THE STREET BELOW. HER BODY IS LEFT UNBURIED, AND THE WILD ANIMALS EAT HER REMAINS. SO JEZEBEL PAYS WITH HER LIFE FOR THE EVIL SHE HAS DONE—AND THE FINAL PART OF ELIJAH'S PROPHECY COMES TRUE.

JEHU LOSES NO TIME CELEBRATING HIS NEW KINGSHIP.

FIND ANY OTHER RELATIVES, FRIENDS, AND SERVANTS OF AHAH AND JEZEBEL. KILL THEM ALL FOR THEIR WICKEDNESS.

DESTROY THE IDOLS OF BAAL!

JEHU WIPES OUT THE WORSHIP OF BAAL IN ISRAEL. BUT EVEN THOUGH HE COMMITS GOOD ACTS FOR THE LORD, HE IS MOSTLY REMEMBERED FOR HIS EAGERNESS TO KILL ANYONE HE THOUGHT MIGHT CHALLENGE HIS RULE.

PRIDE GOES BEFORE THE FALL.

# A Queen's Plot

BASED ON 2 KINGS 11:1-3;  
2 CHRONICLES 22:10-12

ELISHA HAS ANOINTED JEHU TO BE THE NEXT KING OF ISRAEL. JEHU ASSURES HIS CLAIM TO THE THRONE BY KILLING ANYONE RELATED TO THE WICKED AHAZ AND JEZEBEL. TO THE SOUTH, IN THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH, AHAZIAH'S MOTHER, ATHALIAH, RECEIVES THE NEWS ...

I BRING BAD NEWS. YOUR MOTHER, QUEEN JEZEBEL, AND BROTHER, KING JORAM, ARE DEAD. AND YOUR SON, KING AHAZIAH, IS DEAD TOO. ISRAEL'S NEW KING—JEHU—HAS KILLED THEM ALL.



POOR LITTLE PRINCE JOASH! YOUR FATHER, AHAZIAH, IS DEAD, AND YOUR GRANDMOTHER HATES YOU.



STOP HOVERING! TAKE MY GRANDSON AWAY AND LEAVE ME ALONE IN MY TERRIBLE GRIEF.

BUT ATHALIAH'S GRIEF IS ONLY A COVER FOR HER PLAN.



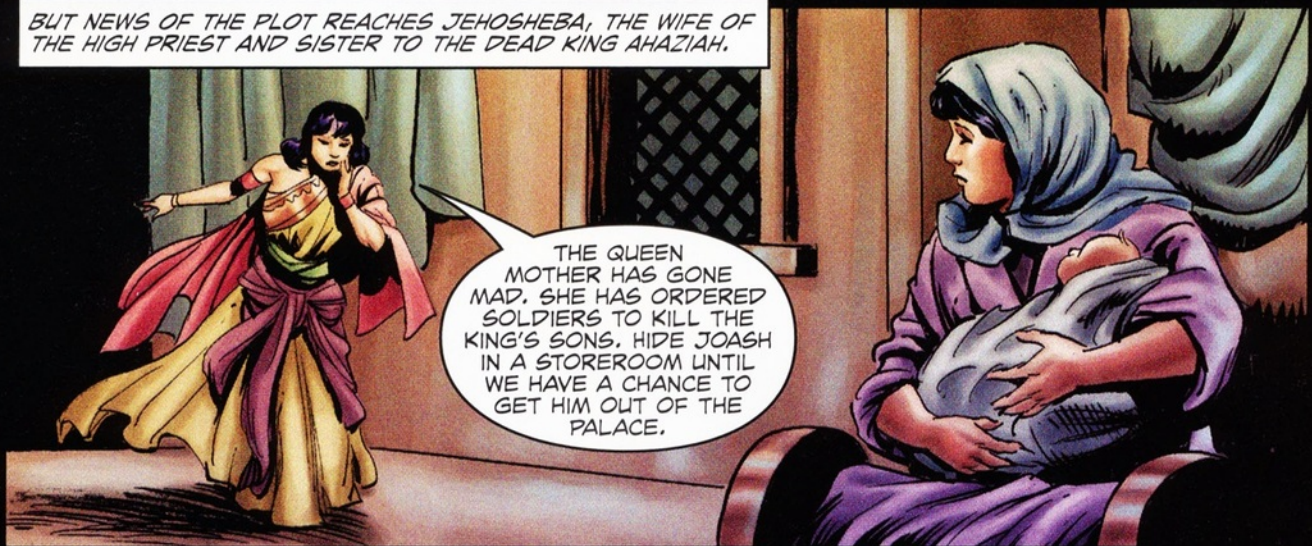
THE GOD OF ISRAEL HAS KILLED ALL MY FAMILY. VERY WELL. I WILL KILL ALL OF HIS FAMILY. NO DESCENDANT OF DAVID WILL BE LEFT ALIVE TO RULE IN JUDAH. THEN I CAN BE QUEEN AND WORSHIP BAAL LIKE MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME.

SHE ACTS AT ONCE TO CARRY OUT HER BOLD PLOT.



ORDER YOUR SOLDIERS TO KILL ALL OF THE KING'S MALE RELATIVES. DON'T LET EVEN ONE OF THEM ESCAPE—NOT ONE.

BUT NEWS OF THE PLOT REACHES JEHOSEBA, THE WIFE OF THE HIGH PRIEST AND SISTER TO THE DEAD KING AHAZIAH.



THE QUEEN MOTHER HAS GONE MAD. SHE HAS ORDERED SOLDIERS TO KILL THE KING'S SONS. HIDE JOASH IN A STOREROOM UNTIL WE HAVE A CHANCE TO GET HIM OUT OF THE PALACE.

THAT NIGHT ...



IT'S A ROTTEN BUSINESS—KILLING BABIES.

IT WAS QUEEN ATHALIAH'S WISH, NOT OURS.

THAT WAS CLOSE!



YES, THE SLIGHTEST CRY COULD HAVE COST JOASH HIS LIFE. WE MUST HURRY TO BRING HIM TO MY HUSBAND.

*UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, THE TWO WOMEN HURRY TO THE TEMPLE OF GOD. THEY MEET JEHOIADA AT THE SUR GATE.*

WE HAVE  
BABY JOASH.  
HELP US SAVE  
HIM FROM THE  
QUEEN.

COME IN!  
WE CAN HIDE  
HIM IN THE  
TEMPLE.

ONLY  
THE PRIESTS  
USE THIS ROOM.  
JOASH WILL BE  
SAFE HERE AS  
LONG AS IT IS  
NECESSARY TO  
HIDE HIM.

*A FEW HOURS LATER, THE QUEEN'S OFFICER REPORTS THAT ALL MALE DESCENDANTS TO THE THRONE ARE DEAD—NOT REALIZING THAT THEY HAVE MISSED ONE.*

NOW  
THERE IS NO  
ONE TO SAY  
I CANNOT  
RULE  
JUDAH.

*ONCE THE IMMEDIATE DANGER IS OVER, JEHOSEBA REJOINS JEHOIADA IN THE TEMPLE. FOR SIX YEARS, ATHALIAH RULES JUDAH WITH A CRUEL HAND UNTIL AT LAST THE PEOPLE BEGIN TO COMPLAIN. UNKNOWN TO THEM—IN A SECRET ROOM OF THE TEMPLE—YOUNG PRINCE JOASH SPENDS THOSE SIX YEARS BEING RAISED BY THE HIGH PRIEST AND HIS WIFE.*

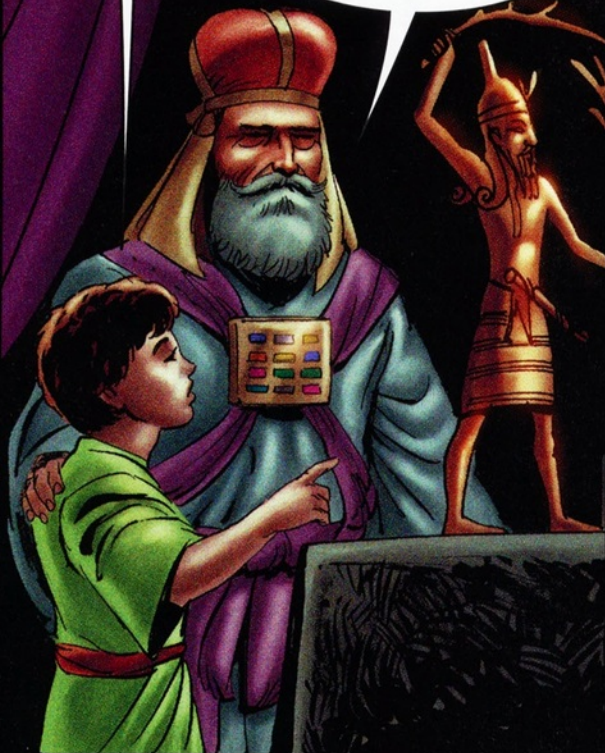
# The Boy King of Judah

BASED ON 2 KINGS 11:4-21;  
2 CHRONICLES 23

FOR YEARS JEHOIADA RAISES THE YOUNG PRINCE JOASH SECRETLY IN THE TEMPLE.

WHAT'S THIS?

THE IDOL BAAL—  
THE CAUSE OF ALL THE  
TROUBLE IN JUDAH. YOUR  
GRANDMOTHER WORSHIPS  
IT. WHEN YOU ARE KING,  
YOU MUST DESTROY IT  
AND LEAD YOUR PEOPLE  
BACK TO GOD.



NOW,  
TELL ME THE  
WORD OF GOD  
YOU HAVE  
LEARNED  
TODAY.

"YOU MUST  
LOVE THE  
LORD YOUR  
GOD WITH  
ALL YOUR  
HEART AND  
WITH ALL  
YOUR SOUL  
AND WITH  
ALL YOUR  
STRENGTH."



JEHOIADA WAITS UNTIL  
THE PEOPLE ARE TIRED  
OF ATHALIAH AND READY  
TO SHAKE OFF HER RULE.  
THEN HE CALLS TOGETHER  
ALL THE COMMANDERS  
OF THE GUARDS WHO ARE  
FAITHFUL TO THE LORD  
AND HE KNOWS HE CAN  
TRUST.

MEN, FOR SIX YEARS WE HAVE LIVED UNDER THE YOKE OF  
A BAAL-WORSHIPPING TYRANT. YOU DID THIS BECAUSE YOU  
THOUGHT THERE WAS NO LONGER AN HEIR OF DAVID. THIS IS  
PRINCE JOASH, YOUR RIGHTFUL RULER, WHO EVERYONE THOUGHT  
WAS DEAD. I AM GOING TO ANOINT HIM KING OF JUDAH ON THE  
NEXT SABBATH. BE THERE WITH YOUR MEN TO PROTECT HIM ...  
AND TO MAKE SURE ATHALIAH DOES NOT ESCAPE.



THE NEXT SABBATH IN THE TEMPLE, JEHOIADA HANDS OUT THE SPEARS AND SHIELDS IN THE TEMPLE, WEAPONS THAT USED TO BELONG TO KING DAVID.

GOD PROTECT US, AND DAVID'S WEAPONS DEFEND US.



MEANWHILE, IN THE PALACE ...

THE SOUND OF CHEERING—IT'S COMING FROM THE TEMPLE. I WONDER WHAT IT MEANS!



QUEEN ATHALIAH HEARS THE SOUND OF SHOUTING AND RUSHES TO THE TEMPLE—TO FIND A SMALL BOY BEING CROWNED KING.

LONG LIVE THE KING OF JUDAH!

GOD SAVE THE KING!

GOD SAVE THE KING!



CONSPIRACY! CONSPIRACY! STOP THIS AT ONCE!





WHO IS THIS BOY?

YOUR GRANDSON JOASH. HE'S THE TRUE KING OF JUDAH.



THAT'S A LIE! JOASH IS DEAD! GET RID OF THIS BOY!



TAKE HER OUT OF THE TEMPLE!

QUEEN ATHALIAH IS FORCED FROM THE TEMPLE AND PUT TO DEATH.



IN THE TEMPLE, THE CORONATION OF KING JOASH CONTINUES ...

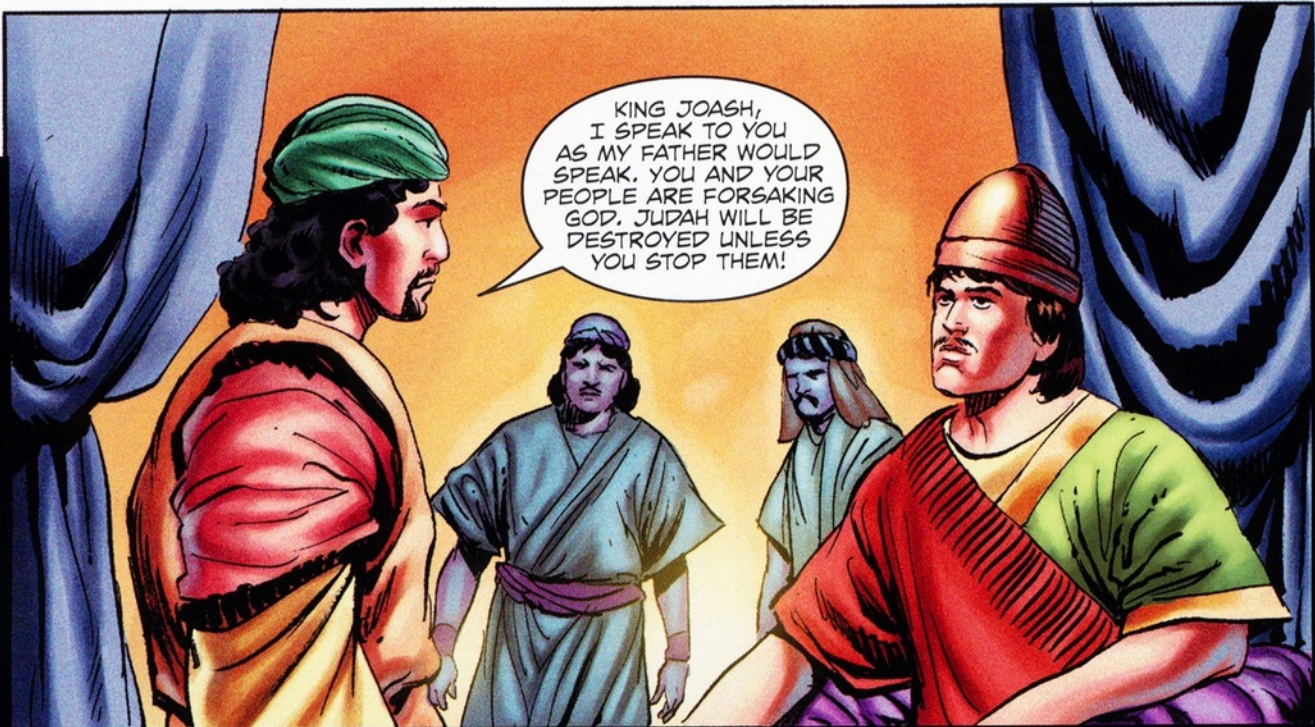
DO YOU PROMISE TO OBEY GOD'S LAW AND RULE YOUR PEOPLE ACCORDING TO HIS WORD?

I PROMISE!

# Dagger in the Night

BASED ON 2 CHRONICLES 24:17-27; 2 KINGS 12

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF JEHOIADA, THE HIGH PRIEST, JOASH DESTROYS THE TEMPLE OF BAAL AND LEADS HIS PEOPLE BACK TO THE WORSHIP OF GOD. THE HOUSE OF GOD IS REPAIRED, AND FOR YEARS JUDAH PROSPERS. BUT WHEN JEHOIADA DIES, JOASH IS TOO WEAK TO STAND UP UNDER THE PRESSURE OF THOSE WHO WANT TO TURN HIM AWAY FROM GOD. FINALLY, JEHOIADA'S SON, ZECHARIAH, GOES TO THE KING.



KING JOASH,  
I SPEAK TO YOU  
AS MY FATHER WOULD  
SPEAK. YOU AND YOUR  
PEOPLE ARE FORSAKING  
GOD. JUDAH WILL BE  
DESTROYED UNLESS  
YOU STOP THEM!

AS SOON AS  
ZECHARIAH LEAVES,  
JOASH'S ADVISERS  
GIVE THEIR ADVICE.

ZECHARIAH IS A  
TROUBLEMAKER.

HE SHOULD BE  
PUT TO DEATH  
BEFORE HE  
TURNS ALL OF  
JUDAH AGAINST  
YOU.



YOU'RE RIGHT.  
STIR UP THE  
PEOPLE SO  
THEY WILL GET  
RID OF HIM.

AND SO JOASH, WHO WAS ONCE  
A GOOD KING, LISTENS TO EVIL  
ADVICE. ZECHARIAH—SON OF THE  
MAN WHO HAD SAVED JOASH'S  
LIFE—IS STONED TO DEATH BY A  
MOB. AND SOON HIS PROPHECY  
OF DISASTER COMES TRUE ...

ZECHARIAH'S PREDICTED DISASTER COMES SOON—IN AN ATTACK BY THE KING OF ARAM. DURING THE ATTACK, JOASH IS WOUNDED AND HIS EVIL ADVISERS ARE KILLED. IN AN ATTEMPT TO SAVE JERUSALEM, JOASH TRIES TO BUY OFF THE ENEMY. HIS WOUND IS TOO SERIOUS FOR HIM TO LEAVE THE PALACE, SO HE SENDS A MESSENGER.



GIFTS FROM MY LORD, KING JOASH OF JUDAH. THESE ARE ALL THE RICHES WE HAVE IN OUR TEMPLE. HE ASKS THAT YOU ACCEPT THEM AND LEAVE JERUSALEM IN PEACE.

TELL YOUR KING I ACCEPT HIS OFFER.



HOW IS THE KING TODAY?

NO BETTER, NO WORSE. TOO BAD THE ARAMEANS DIDN'T KILL THE KING ALONG WITH THE MEN WHO ADVISED HIM TO MURDER ZECHARIAH. WITH THEM GONE, WE COULD SAVE JUDAH—IF IT WEREN'T FOR ...



THAT NIGHT, WHEN ALL THE PALACE IS ASLEEP ...



REMEMBER, WE'RE DOING THIS TO SAVE OUR COUNTRY.

SO KING JOASH IS MURDERED BY HIS OWN MEN.

FOR ALMOST 100 YEARS, JUDAH IS RULED BY KINGS WHO WAVER BETWEEN WORSHIPPING GOD AND HEATHEN IDOLS. DURING THIS PERIOD, GOD SENDS PROPHET AFTER PROPHET TO WARN THE PEOPLE OF THEIR WICKED WAYS. SOME PROPHETS DO BETTER THAN OTHERS ...

# A Fishy Story

BASED ON JONAH

GOD SENDS A MESSAGE TO JONAH, A PROPHET OF ISRAEL.

GO TO THE CORRUPT CITY OF NINEVEH AND TELL THE PEOPLE IF THEY DON'T TURN AWAY FROM THEIR SINS I WILL DESTROY THEM.

JONAH IMMEDIATELY MAKES HIS WAY TO JOPPA, A BUSY SEAPORT TOWN WITH SHIPS GOING TO ALL CORNERS OF CIVILIZATION. THERE HE INQUIRES OF A SHIP'S CAPTAIN ...

WHERE'S THIS SHIP GOING?

TO TARSHISH.

IS THAT CLOSE TO NINEVEH?

OH, I'M SORRY. IT'S THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION FROM NINEVEH.

PERFECT.

HAVING PAID FOR HIS JOURNEY OF DISOBEDIENCE, JONAH BOARDS THE SHIP.

I'M SORRY, GOD. I CAN'T GO TO SUCH A FILTHY, DESPICABLE PLACE AS NINEVEH.

BUT GOD ISN'T ABOUT TO LET JONAH GET AWAY FROM HIS DUTY THAT EASILY. HE HURLS A GREAT STORM AT JONAH'S SHIP.



THE SHIP IS GOING TO BREAK APART IN THIS WIND!

THROW THE CARGO OVERBOARD! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE.

BUT THE STORM ONLY RAGES ON MORE FIERCELY.



SOMEONE MUST HAVE ANGERED THE GODS!

IT WASN'T ME! I DON'T THINK.


ALTHOUGH JONAH KNOWS THAT GOD IS ANGRY WITH HIM, HE DOESN'T ADMIT TO THE SAILORS THAT HIS DISOBEDIENCE IS THE CAUSE OF THE STORM. IN DESPERATION, THEY DRAW STRAWS TO FIND OUT WHO HAS ANGERED THE GODS.



JONAH! WHAT DID YOU DO TO ANGER YOUR GOD SO?




I KNOW THE ONE TRUE GOD AND I AM NOT DOING WHAT HE HAS ASKED ME TO DO. JUST THROW ME OVERBOARD TO MY DEATH, AND THEN GOD WILL LET YOUR SHIP GO.



BUT THE SAILORS DON'T WANT TO THROW JONAH INTO THE SEA. THEY TRY TO ROW BACK TO LAND, BUT THE SEA GETS EVEN MORE ROUGH.

WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT! IT'S GETTING WORSE.


WE HAVE NO CHOICE! WE'LL HAVE TO THROW JONAH OVERBOARD.



LORD, DON'T BE MAD AT US FOR THROWING THIS MAN INTO THE SEA.



LOOK! WHAT IS THAT THING?



JONAH ASSUMES HE WILL DROWN, BUT GOD DOESN'T INTEND TO LET HIM OFF THE HOOK THAT EASILY.

LORD, HELP ME!

THE MOMENT THE SEA MONSTER SWALLOWS JONAH, THE STORM CALMS. AT THIS, THE SAILORS GIVE PRAISE TO GOD, WHO THEY NOW KNOW COMMANDS ALL OF NATURE.

BUT JONAH IS NOT DEAD. GOD KEEPS HIM ALIVE INSIDE THE GIANT FISH FOR THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS. THIS GIVES HIM LOTS OF TIME TO THINK AND PRAY ... AND MAYBE REALIZE HOW ARROGANT IT WAS TO DISOBEY HIS LORD.

LORD, I CALLED OUT TO YOU AND YOU SAVED ME. THE WATERS WERE ALL AROUND ME, BUT YOU KEPT ME SAFE. YOU ARE THE ONE WHO SAVES!

GOD HEARS JONAH'S PRAYER AND MAKES THE FISH SPIT HIM UP ON DRY GROUND.

NOW DO WHAT I HAVE COMMANDED!

ONCE AGAIN, GOD TELLS JONAH TO GO TO NINEVEH. THIS TIME JONAH OBEYS.

TURN AWAY FROM YOUR SIN, OR THE WHOLE CITY WILL BE DESTROYED. THIS IS WHAT GOD SAYS.

AND WHEN GOD DOES PUNISH YOU LIKE YOU DESERVE, DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU.

*BUT TO JONAH'S SHOCK AND DISMAY, THE PEOPLE ACTUALLY LISTEN TO HIM. TO SHOW HOW SORRY THEY ARE, THEY PUT ON BLACK CLOTHES—EVEN THE KING!*

THIS IS A ROYAL ORDER. CALL OUT TO GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEARTS. STOP DOING EVIL. THEN GOD MIGHT TAKE PITY ON US.

GOD SEES THAT THE PEOPLE OF NINEVEH HAVE TURNED AWAY FROM THEIR SIN. THEN, TRUE TO HIS HOLY WORD, HE DOES NOT DESTROY THEM AFTER ALL.

*JONAH DOES NOT TAKE GOD'S CHANGE OF HEART VERY WELL.*

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN! EVEN WHEN PEOPLE ARE SCUM AND DESERVE TO DIE, YOU SHOW THEM MERCY, LORD. JUST KILL ME, IF THIS IS THE KIND OF WORK YOU'RE GOING TO ASK ME TO DO.

*BUT GOD SCOLDS JONAH FOR HIS ATTITUDE.*

YOU'RE ALWAYS SO WILLING TO DIE, YOU AND YOUR PRIDE. BUT THERE ARE 120,000 PEOPLE IN THE CITY OF NINEVEH, AND I DESIRE THAT THEY HAVE THE CHANCE TO LIVE.

HOSEA

HOSEA LOVES HIS WIFE, GOMER, VERY MUCH. BUT ONE DAY SHE LEAVES HIM. THE LAW SAYS HOSEA CAN DIVORCE HIS WIFE, BUT HE CHOOSES TO STAY MARRIED TO HER. HE TELLS THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL THAT THEY HAVE TREATED GOD THE SAME WAY. GOD LOVES HIS PEOPLE, BUT THEY HAVE RUN AWAY TO WORSHIP IDOLS.

DON'T YOU SEE HOW MUCH GOD LOVES YOU, EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T LOVE HIM BACK? IF GOD CAN LOVE AN UNFAITHFUL PEOPLE, THEN I CAN LOVE AN UNFAITHFUL WIFE.

AMOS

AMOS, A SHEPHERD AND FIG-PICKER, IS WATCHING HIS SHEEP WHEN GOD CALLS HIM TO A DANGEROUS JOB. AMOS GOES TO THE CITY OF BETHEL IN ISRAEL AND GIVES GOD'S MESSAGE.

YOU ARE LIKE A CROOKED WALL THAT MUST BE DESTROYED BEFORE A NEW ONE CAN BE BUILT.

JOEL

LIKE A MIGHTY ARMY DESTROYING EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH, MILLIONS OF LOCUSTS SWARM OVER JUDAH. THEY EAT ALL THE CROPS AND LEAVE EMPTY FIELDS BEHIND.

WHAT THE BIG LOCUSTS MISS, THE YOUNG LOCUSTS WILL EAT. BUT IF YOU WILL TURN BACK TO GOD, HE WILL REPAY YOU FOR WHAT THE LOCUSTS HAVE EATEN.

AND IN THE LATER DAYS, GOD'S SPIRIT WILL BE WITH YOU. YOUR CHILDREN WILL PROPHECY; THE ELDERLY WILL DREAM DREAMS, AND THE YOUNG WILL SEE VISIONS.

MICAH

MICAH, A SMALL-TOWN PROPHET, WANTS LIFE TO BE BETTER FOR THE POOR. HE DARES TO TELL THE WEALTHY LEADERS OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL WHAT THEY ARE DOING WRONG.

YOU HATE JUSTICE, AND YOU HOLD DOWN THE POOR. YOU KNOW WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO DO! BE FAIR, BE FORGIVING, AND BE FRIENDS WITH GOD.

ONE DAY, IN THE LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, A SAVIOR WILL BE BORN AND HIS KINGDOM WILL LAST FOREVER.

# A Burning Coal

BASED ON ISAIAH 6

ONE DAY A YOUNG MAN NAMED ISAIAH IS PRAYING IN THE TEMPLE, WHEN HE SEES A VISION. THE LORD IS SEATED ON A THRONE, FLYING AROUND HIM ARE SERAPHIM, HEAVENLY CREATURES WITH SIX WINGS. WHEN THEY SPEAK, THE WALLS SHAKE AND THE TEMPLE FILLS WITH SMOKE.

HOLY,  
HOLY, HOLY  
IS THE LORD  
ALMIGHTY. THE  
WHOLE EARTH  
IS FULL OF  
HIS GLORY!





WITH THIS COURAGEOUS ANSWER, ISAIAH STARTS ON HIS JOURNEY TO BECOME ONE OF THE GREATEST OF THE HEBREW PROPHETS. HE PROPHESES MOSTLY DURING THE REIGN OF KING HEZEKIAH.

# Hezekiah's Healing

BASED ON 2 KINGS 17:1-18:16; 20;  
2 CHRONICLES 29-30; ISAIAH 38-39

THROUGH THE  
INFLUENCE OF PROPHETS  
LIKE ISAIAH, HEZEKIAH IS  
A RIGHTEOUS KING.

OUR FATHERS  
DISOBEYED GOD,  
AND JUDAH HAS BECOME  
WEAK. WE WILL SERVE  
THE LORD, AND WITH  
HIS HELP MAKE OUR  
NATION STRONG  
AGAIN.



BUT BEFORE HEZEKIAH CAN BEGIN TO  
REFORM THE RELIGION OF JUDAH, A  
CATASTROPHE STRIKES. OFF TO THE  
NORTH, THE PEOPLE SEE SMOKE  
AND FEAR THE WORST.



BEFORE LONG, SHOCKING  
NEWS FILLS THE STREETS  
OF JERUSALEM WITH  
GRIEF AND ALARM.

THE KING  
OF ASSYRIA HAS  
DESTROYED THE  
CITY OF SAMARIA AND  
TAKEN THE PEOPLE  
OF ISRAEL AWAY  
AS CAPTIVES.

OUR BROTHERS  
MURDERED! OUR  
SISTERS TAKEN  
FROM THE LAND  
GOD GAVE US!



WITH THE FALL OF SAMARIA, THE  
NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL COMES  
TO AN END. GREAT MASSES OF PEOPLE  
ARE CARRIED AWAY, NEVER TO RETURN.  
THE FEW ISRAELITES LEFT IN THE LAND  
MIX WITH THE OTHER NATIONS THAT THE  
CONQUERORS BRING IN.





WITH ISRAEL CONQUERED, WE ARE ALL THAT REMAINS OF GOD'S PEOPLE. AND SENNACHERIB, THE KING OF ASSYRIA, WILL NOT BE CONTENT WITH JUST ISRAEL. HIS NEXT MOVE WILL BE AGAINST JERUSALEM. WE MUST PREPARE TO DEFEND THE CITY—BOTH SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY.

AT HEZEKIAH'S ORDERS, THE TEMPLE IS REPAIRED, AND THE KING LEADS HIS PEOPLE BACK TO THE WORSHIP OF GOD.

GOD'S HOLY TEMPLE HAS BEEN REBUILT IN JERUSALEM. KING HEZEKIAH INVITES ALL ISRAELITES EVERYWHERE TO COME AND WORSHIP IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD. ESPECIALLY THOSE SCATTERED IN EXILE BY THE ASSYRIANS—WE WELCOME YOU HOME TO GOD'S TEMPLE.



AT HEZEKIAH'S DIRECTION, WORKERS BUILD A TUNNEL BETWEEN A SPRING OUTSIDE THE WALLS AND A POOL INSIDE THE CITY.



THIS WILL PROTECT THE FLOW OF WATER TO US AND CUT OFF THE WATER SUPPLY FOR THE ASSYRIANS.

MY BROTHERS ARE HELPING TO BUILD UP THE WALLS. THANK GOD WE HAVE A KING WHO WILL DEFEND US.

THEN HEZEKIAH CALLS THE PEOPLE TOGETHER ...



DON'T BE AFRAID. WE HAVE MORE POWER ON OUR SIDE THAN ASSYRIA HAS, BECAUSE THE LORD GOD IS WITH US.

HEZEKIAH FIGHTS OFF ASSYRIA, BUT TEN YEARS LATER THE ASSYRIANS ATTACK AGAIN. THIS TIME HE PAYS ASSYRIA A RANSOM OF SILVER AND GOLD TO LEAVE JUDAH ALONE—AND HE IS FORCED TO TAKE SOME OF IT FROM GOD'S TEMPLE. SOON AFTERWARD, HE BECOMES DEATHLY ILL. THE PROPHET ISAIAH VISITS HIM AT HIS SICKBED.

I AM SORRY, MY KING. THE LORD HAS SPOKEN: "GET YOUR WILL READY AND CHOOSE YOUR HEIR TO THE THRONE. YOU WILL NOT RECOVER FROM THIS SICKNESS."

AFTER ISAIAH LEAVES, HEZEKIAH CRIES OUT TO THE LORD.

LORD!  
HAVEN'T I BEEN  
YOUR FAITHFUL SERVANT?  
I'VE SERVED YOU WITH  
MY WHOLE HEART AND  
TRIED TO DO WHAT YOU  
THINK IS GOOD.

AT THAT MOMENT, ISAIAH COMES BACK INTO THE ROOM.

VERY WELL, GOD HAS HEARD YOUR PRAYERS. HE WILL GIVE YOU ANOTHER 15 YEARS TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE. BUT DON'T RULE IN FEAR! MAKE SURE YOU LEAD THEM IN HOLINESS AND FAITH.

THANK YOU, LORD! AS PROOF OF YOUR PROMISE, WILL YOU MAKE THE SHADOW ON THE SUNDIAL OF AHAZ GO BACKWARD TEN DEGREES?

HEZEKIAH LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW AT THE STEPS OF THE SUNDIAL ...

GOD MIRACULOUSLY MAKES THE SUN MOVE BACKWARD IN THE SKY TO SHOW HE WILL KEEP HIS PROMISE TO HEZEKIAH.

AFTER HEZEKIAH GETS BETTER, AMBASSADORS VISIT HIM FROM A DISTANT COUNTRY CALLED BABYLON.

OUR KING HEARD YOU WERE SICK, AND SENT US WITH THESE LETTERS AND A GIFT.

WELL, THANK YOUR KING FOR ME. MAY I SHOW YOU AROUND?

HEZEKIAH SHOWS OFF HIS ARMY AND ALL THE RICHES HE HAS STORED UP IN THE TEMPLE AND HIS VARIOUS WAREHOUSES.

AFTER THEY'VE SEEN EVERY PIECE OF WEALTH IN THE CITY, THE AMBASSADORS HEAD BACK TO BABYLON. AS THEY'RE LEAVING, THE PROPHET ISAIAH COMES TO SEE HIS KING.

YOU PRIDEFUL KING! YOU MAY DEFEAT THE ASSYRIANS, BUT BABYLON WILL ONE DAY BE THE DESTRUCTION OF JUDAH! YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE TAKEN AWAY FROM JERUSALEM AND SERVE AS SLAVES TO THE BABYLONIAN KING.

WHO WERE THOSE MEN, AND WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

THEY WERE AMBASSADORS FROM SOME FAR-OFF COUNTRY YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF—I FORGET THE NAME ... BABEL? ... BABILU? ... BABYLON! VERY NICE FELLOWS. I SHOWED THEM ALL MY TREASURES.

OH! WELL, AT LEAST IT WON'T HAPPEN IN MY LIFETIME.

# Insults and Prophecies

BASED ON 2 KINGS 18:17-19:37; 2 CHRONICLES 32; ISAIAH 9:6; 36; 52:13-53:12; NAHUM

EVENTUALLY, THE DAY THAT HEZEKIAH HAS BEEN PREPARING FOR COMES. SENNACHERIB SENDS THE ASSYRIAN ARMY AGAINST JERUSALEM. BUT INSTEAD OF MAKING AN ARMED ATTACK ON THE CITY, THE ASSYRIAN KING SENDS A TASK FORCE TO TRY TO FRIGHTEN THE PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM INTO SURRENDERING.

WE HAVE CONQUERED OTHER CITIES, AND THEIR GODS DIDN'T SAVE THEM. WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOUR GOD CAN SAVE YOU?



HEZEKIAH'S COMMANDERS TRY TO HAVE A DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATION WITH THE ASSYRIAN FIELD COMMANDER.

PLEASE! I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR LANGUAGE. DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS IN HEBREW, WHERE OUR SOLDIERS CAN HEAR.

BUT WE WANT YOUR MEN TO HEAR. AND WE WANT THEM TO UNDERSTAND US WHEN WE TELL THEM ...



... WHEN WE'RE FINISHED WITH YOU, YOU'LL BE EATING YOUR OWN FECES AND DRINKING YOUR OWN URINE!



AFTER A WHILE, THIS KIND OF ATTACK BEGINS TO HAVE AN EFFECT.

HOW DO WE KNOW GOD WILL SAVE US?

OTHER CITIES HAVE FALLEN. AND REMEMBER, THE ASSYRIANS ALREADY CONQUERED ISRAEL. THE LORD DIDN'T SAVE THEM!



WHEN NEWS OF THE PEOPLE'S FEAR REACHES KING HEZEKIAH, HE TEARS HIS CLOTHES IN ANGUISH.



IN DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES LIKE THESE, ONLY GOD CAN SAVE US. SEND FOR ISAIAH! ASK HIM IF GOD HAS ANY COMFORT.

ISAIAH BRINGS AN ENCOURAGING WORD FROM THE LORD.

DO NOT LISTEN TO THE INSULTS OF THIS ARROGANT KING. THE LORD WILL DEFEND HIS CITY—THE CITY OF HIS SERVANT DAVID. HAVE FAITH! GOD WILL NOT DESERT US.



THAT NIGHT, THE LORD SENDS AN ANGEL WHO ANNIHILATES THE ASSYRIAN ARMY.



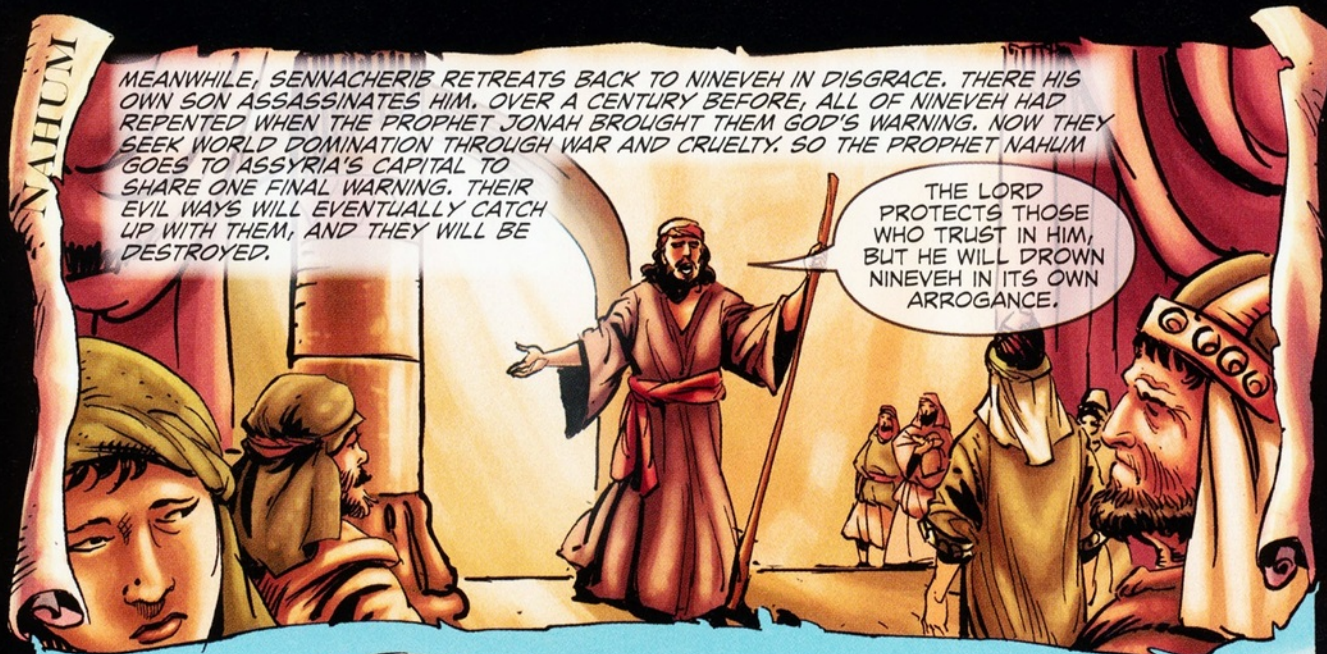
THE NEXT MORNING, WHEN THEY SEE THAT THE ENEMY SOLDIERS ARE ALL DEAD, THE PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM GO WILD WITH JOY.

ISAIAH SAID GOD WAS ON OUR SIDE!

AND GOD DOESN'T ABANDON PEOPLE WHO TRUST IN HIM.



NEVER AGAIN WHILE HEZEKIAH IS KING DO THE ASSYRIANS TRY TO TAKE JERUSALEM. HEZEKIAH LEADS HIS PEOPLE IN THE WORSHIP OF THE TRUE GOD, AND FOR YEARS THEY ARE HAPPY AND AT PEACE.



MEANWHILE, SENNACHERIB RETREATS BACK TO NINEVEH IN DISGRACE. THERE HIS OWN SON ASSASSINATES HIM. OVER A CENTURY BEFORE, ALL OF NINEVEH HAD REPENTED WHEN THE PROPHET JONAH BROUGHT THEM GOD'S WARNING. NOW THEY SEEK WORLD DOMINATION THROUGH WAR AND CRUELTY. SO THE PROPHET NAHUM GOES TO ASSYRIA'S CAPITAL TO SHARE ONE FINAL WARNING. THEIR EVIL WAYS WILL EVENTUALLY CATCH UP WITH THEM, AND THEY WILL BE DESTROYED.

THE LORD PROTECTS THOSE WHO TRUST IN HIM, BUT HE WILL DROWN NINEVEH IN ITS OWN ARROGANCE.

UNDER HEZEKIAH'S REIGN, JUDAH TRUSTS IN THE LORD, BUT WHEN HEZEKIAH EVENTUALLY DIES, HIS SON LEADS JUDAH INTO IDOLATRY. ISAIAH SPENDS HIS REMAINING YEARS PLEADING WITH HIS PEOPLE TO DESTROY THEIR IDOLS AND RETURN TO GOD. BUT ONLY A FEW LISTEN. HE WARNS THE KINGS OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THEY DISOBEY GOD, BUT THE KINGS IGNORE HIS WARNINGS. AT LAST ISAIAH PROPHESES DESTRUCTION ...



BECAUSE JUDAH HAS TURNED AWAY FROM THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL, IT WILL BE DESTROYED. THE PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM WILL BE CARRIED AWAY AS CAPTIVES.



IS THERE NO HOPE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE?

YES. GOD WILL SEND A DELIVERER TO SAVE ALL WHO BELIEVE IN HIM. AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, AND THE PRINCE OF PEACE.



GOD'S SERVANT WILL SUFFER FOR US. HE WILL BE DESPISED AND REJECTED BY MEN. BUT EVEN THOUGH WE REJECT HIM, HE WILL BE SPEARED AND TORTURED FOR OUR SINS.

AND BY HIS WOUNDS ... WE WILL BE HEALED!

THE PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND AT THE TIME, BUT ISAIAH IS PREDICTING THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST.

# A Righteous King and a Reluctant Prophet

BASED ON 2 KINGS 22-23;  
2 CHRONICLES 34-35;  
JEREMIAH 1

JOSIAH BECOMES THE KING OF JUDAH WHEN HE IS ONLY EIGHT YEARS OLD. THE HIGH PRIEST HILKIAH HELPS RAISE HIM, TEACHING THE YOUNG KING TO REMAIN TRUE TO GOD.

HIS FAITH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS ARE LIKE THAT OF A YOUNG DAVID.

BUT GOD ISN'T ONLY RAISING UP A RIGHTEOUS KING—HE IS ALSO RAISING UP A RELUCTANT PROPHET.

THIRTEEN YEARS LATER, GOD SPEAKS TO A YOUNG MAN NAMED JEREMIAH.

BEFORE I FORMED YOU IN THE WOMB I KNEW YOU. AND I SET YOU APART TO BE A PROPHET TO THE NATIONS.

BUT I AM JUST A CHILD. NO ONE WILL LISTEN TO ME.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

INVADERS COMING DOWN FROM THE NORTH TO DESTROY JUDAH! WILL ANYONE BELIEVE ME?

NO, THEY WILL FEAR YOU AND TRY TO KILL YOU. BUT DO NOT BE AFRAID, FOR I AM WITH YOU.

# ZEPHANIAH

*DURING THE YOUTH OF BOTH JOSIAH AND JEREMIAH, ZEPHANIAH PROPHESIES ABOUT THE DAY OF THE LORD, WHEN GOD WILL PUNISH ALL THE NATIONS WHO DISOBEY HIM.*

*BUT FOR THOSE WHO ARE FAITHFUL—THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU, AND HE IS A MIGHTY SAVIOR. HE WILL TAKE GREAT DELIGHT IN YOU; HE WILL COMFORT YOU WITH HIS LOVE; HE WILL SING WITH JOY ABOUT YOU.*

*YOUNG JOSIAH RULES JUDAH FIRMLY BUT FAIRLY. ONE DAY HE DECIDES ...*

*IT'S BEEN DECADES SINCE MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER HEZEKIAH REPAIRED THE TEMPLE. THE WALLS ARE CRUMBLING. I WANT THEM REPAIRED IMMEDIATELY.*

*WORKERS BEGIN AT ONCE. AS THEY CLEAR THE RUBBLE, THE HIGH PRIEST HILKIAH NOTICES ...*

*STOP! WHAT'S THAT OBJECT BEHIND THOSE STONES?*

*WHEN HILKIAH OPENS THE ANCIENT SCROLL, HE IMMEDIATELY REALIZES ...*

*PRAISE GOD! IT'S THE LONG-LOST TORAH—THE BOOK OF THE LAW THAT GOD GAVE TO MOSES!*

BUT AS HE READS THE SCROLL TO KING JOSIAH, HILKIAH'S JOY TURNS TO DESPAIR.

GOD'S LAWS ARE CLEARLY STATED—AND SO IS THE PUNISHMENT FOR ANYONE WHO DISOBEYS THEM.

THEN JUDAH IS DOOMED! WE HAVE BROKEN GOD'S LAWS MANY TIMES. I HAD NO IDEA.



CAN WE JUST PRETEND WE DIDN'T FIND THIS SCROLL?

NO! WE CANNOT IGNORE GOD'S WORD.



JOSIAH IS SO UPSET THAT HE QUICKLY SENDS SEVERAL HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS TO THE PROPHETESS HULDAH.

IS THERE ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE?

THIS IS WHAT GOD SAYS: "BECAUSE JUDAH DISOBEYED ME, JUDAH WILL BE DESTROYED. BUT BECAUSE JOSIAH'S HEART IS HUMBLE BEFORE THE LORD, THE DESTRUCTION WILL NOT HAPPEN WHILE JOSIAH IS KING."



HOPING TO WIN GOD'S FORGIVENESS FOR HIS NATION, JOSIAH READS THE SCROLL OF GOD'S LAWS TO THE PEOPLE. HE ASKS THEM TO COMMIT TO FOLLOWING GOD'S COMMANDS, AND HE REESTABLISHES THE CELEBRATION OF PASSOVER.

WHY IS THIS NIGHT DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER NIGHTS? ...



# Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

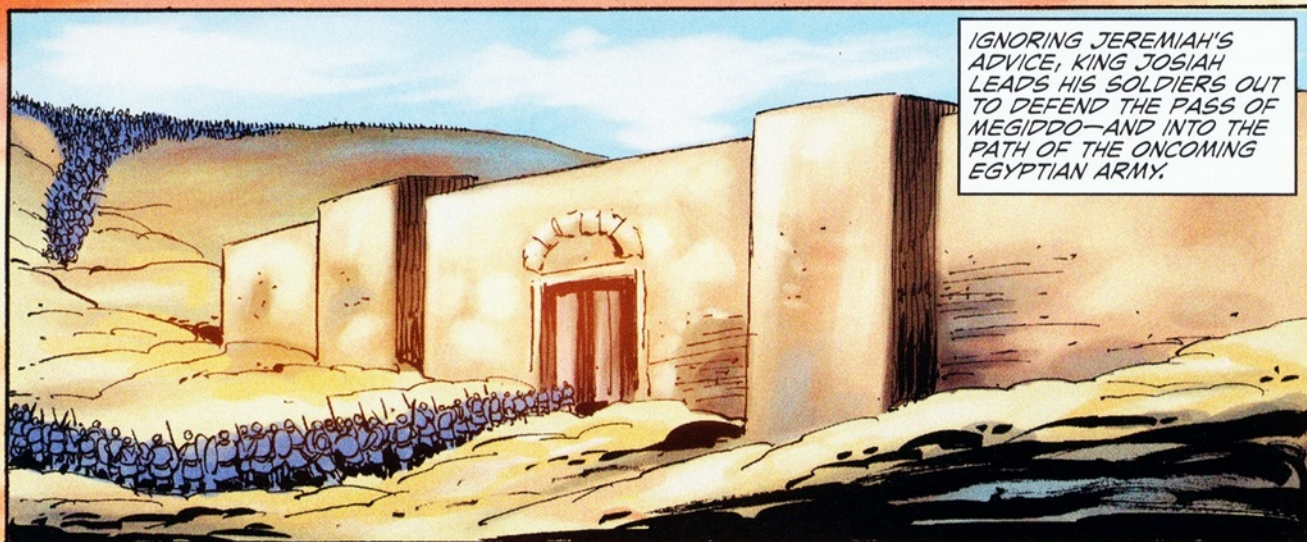
BASED ON 2 KINGS 23:29–24:4; HABAKKUK

FOR SEVERAL YEARS, JEREMIAH AND THE KING WORK TOGETHER TO DESTROY IDOL WORSHIP. NEVER BEFORE OR SINCE HAS THERE BEEN A KING LIKE JOSIAH. HE SERVES THE LORD WITH ALL HIS HEART, SOUL, AND STRENGTH. THEN ONE DAY, A MILITARY COMMANDER BRINGS SOME FRIGHTENING NEWS.

THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE IS FALLING APART, JUST LIKE NAHUM PREDICTED. EGYPT'S ARMY IS MARCHING NORTH. I THINK PHARAOH NECO HOPES TO GRAB WHAT'S LEFT.

IF EGYPT BECOMES THE NEXT SUPERPOWER, THEY WILL WANT TO CONTROL JUDAH AS WELL. I MUST STOP THEM.

STOP EGYPT? BUT IT'S ONE OF THE STRONGEST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD. AND GOD HAS WARNED ME THAT BABYLON IS THE COUNTRY THAT WILL ONE DAY DESTROY JERUSALEM, NOT EGYPT.



IGNORING JEREMIAH'S ADVICE, KING JOSIAH LEADS HIS SOLDIERS OUT TO DEFEND THE PASS OF MEGIDDO—AND INTO THE PATH OF THE ONCOMING EGYPTIAN ARMY.

IN THE BATTLE, PHARAOH NECO FACES OFF AGAINST KING JOSIAH AND KILLS HIM.



WHEN SOLDIERS BRING JOSIAH'S BODY BACK IN HIS CHARIOT, JEREMIAH IS OVERCOME WITH GRIEF AT THE DEATH OF HIS GODLY KING. HE KNOWS THAT JOSIAH'S DEATH MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR JERUSALEM. NOW JEHOIAKIM SITS ON THE THRONE OF JUDAH AS A PUPPET RULER FOR EGYPT. BUT HE DOES EVIL AND LEADS HIS PEOPLE AWAY FROM THE LORD—AND DISREGARDS JEREMIAH'S WARNINGS.



## HABAKKUK

AT THIS TIME, THE PROPHET HABAKKUK ASKS GOD SOME TOUGH QUESTIONS. WHY IS THE WORLD SO UNFAIR? WHY WOULD GOD LET A GOOD KING DIE, WHILE WICKED PEOPLE LEAD RICH AND HAPPY LIVES?

WATCH AND WAIT! I PROMISE THAT IN THE END, EVERYONE WILL GET WHAT HE DESERVES. BUT FOR NOW, THE RIGHTEOUS MUST TRUST IN ME AND LIVE BY FAITH.

I WILL TRUST IN THE SOVEREIGN LORD, WHO GIVES ME SURE FOOTING ON TREACHEROUS GROUND.

HOW LONG, O LORD, MUST THE RIGHTEOUS CALL FOR YOUR HELP? WHY DO CRIMES GO UNPUNISHED? ANSWER ME, PLEASE!

IN THE MEANTIME, MORE BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO JUDAH. BABYLON COMES TO POWER JUST LIKE JEREMIAH PREDICTED. THE BABYLONIAN KING, NEBUCHADNEZZAR, CONQUERS EGYPT AND FORCES JUDAH TO SURRENDER. TO ENSURE JEHOIAKIM'S LOYALTY, NEBUCHADNEZZAR TAKES MANY OF THE PRINCES AND JERUSALEM'S FINEST YOUNG MEN AS HOSTAGES.

ALL JERUSALEM SADLY WATCHES ITS FINEST YOUNG MEN BEING MARCHED AWAY. AMONG THE HOSTAGES ARE A YOUNG MAN NAMED DANIEL AND HIS THREE FRIENDS. GOD WILL SOON SHOW HOW HE CAN WORK GOOD OUT OF THIS SAD EVENT.



# Unpopular Prophecies

BASED ON JEREMIAH; 2 KINGS 23:36-24:1

THE NEW YOUNG KING JEHOIAKIM CONTINUES HIS ANCESTORS' TRADITION OF DISHONORING GOD.

MY FATHER ORDERED US NOT TO WORSHIP ANY GOD BUT JEHOVAH, AND LOOK WHAT HAPPENED! JUDAH IS NO LONGER A FREE COUNTRY. CLEARLY GOD CANNOT SAVE US. IT SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO WORSHIP ANY GOD ANYBODY THINKS MIGHT HELP US. MAYBE THE BABYLONIANS' GODS ...

TO JEREMIAH'S DISMAY, THE PEOPLE HAD NOT REALLY BELIEVED IN JOSIAH'S REFORMS. IN THEIR HEARTS, THEY ARE HAPPY TO FOLLOW JEHOIAKIM IN HIS IDOL WORSHIP. SO JEREMIAH PREACHES AT THE ENTRANCE TO GOD'S TEMPLE.

YOU THINK GOD IS SATISFIED WITH YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE CIRCUMCISED. BUT YOU MUST ALSO CIRCUMCISE YOUR HEARTS!

THE PEOPLE DON'T LISTEN, SO JEREMIAH COMES BACK TO PROPHECY AT THE TEMPLE AGAIN.

BECAUSE YOUR HEARTS ARE FALSE, YOUR WORSHIP DOES YOU NO GOOD. YOUR PRAYERS DO YOU NO GOOD. YOUR SACRIFICES DO YOU NO GOOD.

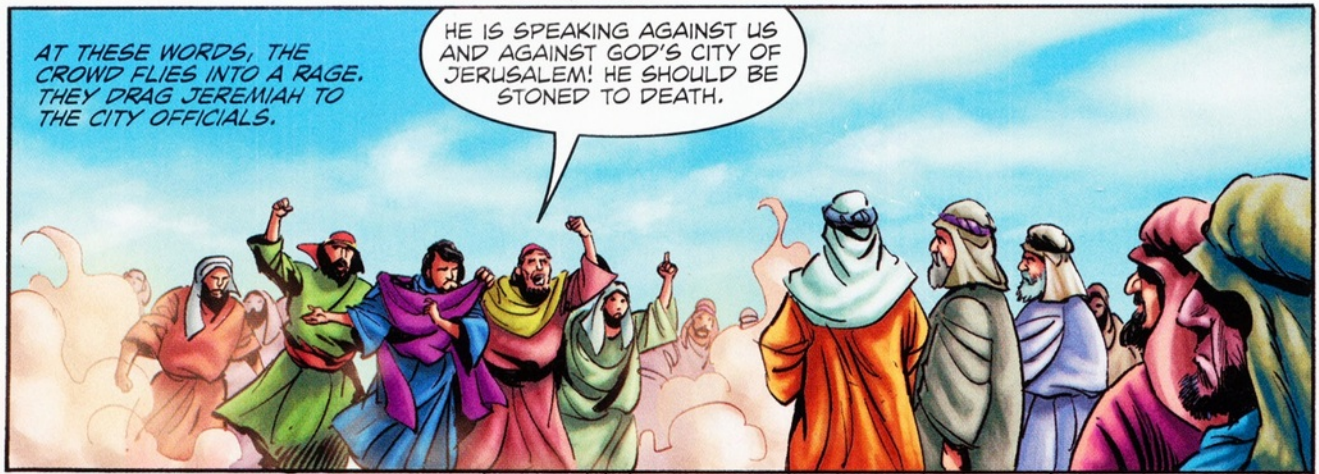
AND AGAIN ...

GOD HAS TRIED TO DISCIPLINE AND CORRECT YOU, BUT IT DOES YOU NO GOOD. SO NOW GOD WILL DESTROY JERUSALEM AND EXILE YOU TO BABYLON! BECAUSE YOU SERVE FOREIGN GODS IN YOUR OWN LAND, YOU WILL NOW SERVE FOREIGNERS IN A FOREIGN LAND.

AND AGAIN ...

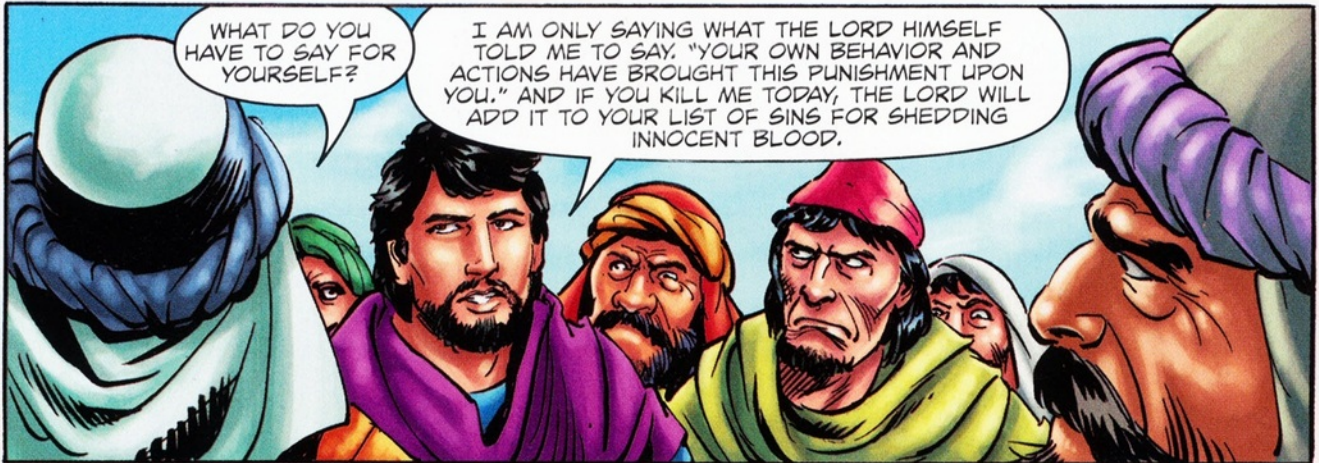
IF YOU REALLY KNOW EVERYTHING, WHEN IS THIS SUPPOSED "EXILE" GOING TO HAPPEN?

YOU SHOULD START PACKING.



AT THESE WORDS, THE CROWD FLIES INTO A RAGE. THEY DRAG JEREMIAH TO THE CITY OFFICIALS.

HE IS SPEAKING AGAINST US AND AGAINST GOD'S CITY OF JERUSALEM! HE SHOULD BE STONED TO DEATH.



WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?

I AM ONLY SAYING WHAT THE LORD HIMSELF TOLD ME TO SAY. "YOUR OWN BEHAVIOR AND ACTIONS HAVE BROUGHT THIS PUNISHMENT UPON YOU." AND IF YOU KILL ME TODAY, THE LORD WILL ADD IT TO YOUR LIST OF SINS FOR SHEDDING INNOCENT BLOOD.

THANKFULLY, ONE OF KING JOSIAH'S OLD OFFICIALS IS AT THE TEMPLE. AHIKAM HAD BEEN AN HONEST AND RIGHTEOUS MAN IN THE SERVICE OF JOSIAH, AND HE BELIEVES IN THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD THROUGH JEREMIAH.



PEOPLE, WHAT JEREMIAH SAYS IS NOT NEW. THE PROPHET MICAH PREDICTED THE SAME THING ABOUT JERUSALEM A CENTURY AGO, AND KING HEZEKIAH DID NOT PUT HIM TO DEATH. WE MUST NOT KILL THIS MAN FOR SPEAKING SIMILAR WORDS.

THE PEOPLE ARE STILL INFURIATED AT JEREMIAH, BUT THEY CANNOT STONE HIM WITHOUT AHIKAM'S PERMISSION. SULKILY THEY RETREAT ... FOR NOW. AS JEREMIAH BRUSHES HIMSELF OFF, A YOUNG SCRIBE, BARUCH, COMES FORWARD.



I BELIEVE YOU, JEREMIAH! IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP YOU?

I NEED SOMEONE TO WRITE DOWN MY PROPHECIES. THESE PEOPLE MAY ACTUALLY KILL ME SOMEDAY, AND GOD'S WORD MUST LIVE ON.

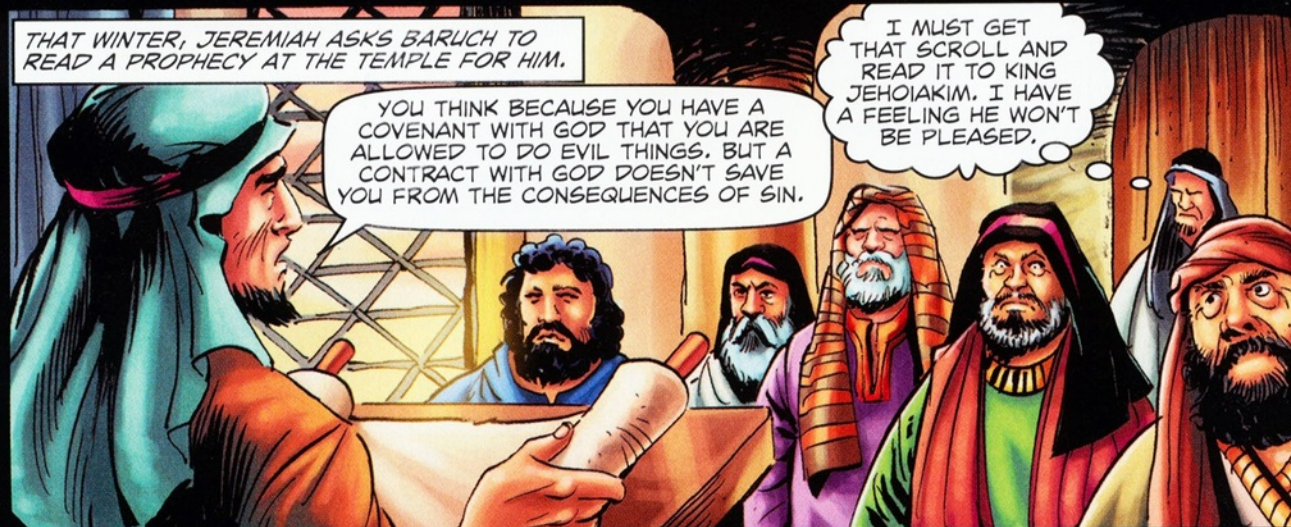


THAT JEREMIAH IS SUCH A DOOMSAYER.

I KNOW. HE GETS SO ANGRY ABOUT LITTLE THINGS. JUST BECAUSE I BURN INCENSE TO THE GODDESS OF HEAVEN DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T STILL WORSHIP GOD.

RIGHT! NOW THAT THE BABYLONIANS ARE IN CHARGE, IT NEVER HURTS TO BAKE SOME BREAD IN THE NAME OF ISHTAR.

AND THE PEOPLE'S SINNING CONTINUES ...



THAT WINTER, JEREMIAH ASKS BARUCH TO READ A PROPHECY AT THE TEMPLE FOR HIM.

YOU THINK BECAUSE YOU HAVE A COVENANT WITH GOD THAT YOU ARE ALLOWED TO DO EVIL THINGS. BUT A CONTRACT WITH GOD DOESN'T SAVE YOU FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN.

I MUST GET THAT SCROLL AND READ IT TO KING JEHOIAKIM. I HAVE A FEELING HE WON'T BE PLEASED.



THE EVIL KING DOESN'T SAY A WORD AS JEREMIAH'S PROPHECY IS READ TO HIM. INSTEAD, WHEN HIS OFFICIAL IS FINISHED READING, JEHOIAKIM SILENTLY TAKES THE SCROLL AND THROWS IT INTO THE FIRE. AFTER HE WATCHES IT BURN AWAY TO NOTHING, HE FINALLY SPEAKS.

ARREST JEREMIAH AND BARUCH. MAYBE PRISON WILL SHUT THEIR MOUTHS.



BUT JEREMIAH AND BARUCH HAVE ALREADY HIDDEN THEMSELVES.

THIS IS TOO HARD, JEREMIAH. EVERYONE IS AGAINST US. LIFE IS NOTHING BUT PAIN AND SADNESS.

IT'S GOING TO GET SADDER AND MORE PAINFUL YET FOR THE PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM. BUT YOU SHOULD BE CONTENT WITH WHAT YOU HAVE—THE LORD PROMISES THAT HE WILL AT LEAST SPARE YOUR LIFE.

SOON GOD GIVES JEREMIAH AND BARUCH ANOTHER MESSAGE TO SHARE WITH THE PEOPLE—WHETHER THEY WANT IT OR NOT.

THIS WILL DO NICELY.



I'D LIKE TO BUY THIS POT, PLEASE.



PEOPLE! ISN'T THIS A FINE POT? THE POTTER CLEARLY TOOK HIS TIME AND CRAFTED A BEAUTIFUL PIECE OF ART.



SUDDENLY, HE SMASHES THE POT TO THE GROUND.

**SMASH**



AND EVEN THOUGH GOD SET OUR PEOPLE AND OUR CITY APART, YOU HAVE TURNED YOUR BACKS ON HIM. SO HE WILL SMASH THIS CITY TO PIECES JUST LIKE I SMASHED THIS POT. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!



A PRIEST NAMED PASHHUR HEARS THE COMMOTION. HE COMES OVER AND SEES THE SHATTERED REMAINS OF THE POT AND THE PEOPLE MURMURING AMONG THEMSELVES.



HELLO, JEREMIAH. WHAT'S THE BAD NEWS FROM THE LORD TODAY?

YOU ARE. THAT'S WHY GOD IS GETTING RID OF YOU.

AT THIS INSOLENCE, PASHHUR HAS JEREMIAH BEATEN AND THROWN INTO STOCKS FOR THE NIGHT. IN HUMILIATION AND PAIN, JEREMIAH CRIES OUT TO THE LORD.



CURSE THE DAY I WAS BORN! WHY DIDN'T YOU LEAVE ME IN THE WOMB, LORD? WHY DID YOU FORCE ME INTO BEING YOUR PROPHET? YOUR WORDS ARE NOTHING BUT DOOM AND DESTRUCTION, AND THE PEOPLE HATE ME FOR IT. BUT IF I TRY TO IGNORE YOUR PROPHECIES, YOUR WORD BURNS IN MY HEART AND SETS FIRE TO MY BONES.



BUT YOU ARE MY PROTECTOR. IF THE ALMIGHTY LORD CANNOT SAVE ME, NO ONE CAN. I PUT ALL MY HOPE IN YOU.

JEREMIAH IS RELEASED THE NEXT MORNING, BUT TROUBLE BREWS IN THE PALACE.

WHY SHOULD WE PAY TRIBUTE TO BABYLON? I SAY LET'S STOP AND USE THE MONEY TO BUILD UP OUR OWN ARMY. THEN WE'LL BE READY IF BABYLON ATTACKS AGAIN.

YOU'RE RIGHT—THOSE HOSTAGES IN BABYLON ARE NOT AS IMPORTANT AS ALL OF US HERE IN JUDAH.



WORD LEAKS OUT THAT KING JEHOIAKIM IS BREAKING HIS AGREEMENT WITH BABYLON. BUT JEREMIAH KNOWS THE KING'S DECISION IS AGAINST THE WILL OF GOD, AND NO ONE CAN DEFY GOD!

# Ezekiel's Exile

BASED ON EZEKIEL; JEREMIAH 29:1-14

KING JEHOIAKIM'S REVOLT AGAINST BABYLON IS WELL UNDER WAY WHEN—SUDDENLY—HE DIES. BABYLON EASILY OVERWHELMS JUDAH'S ARMY. YOUNG KING JEHOIACHIN, WHO HAS RULED THREE MONTHS, IS FORCED TO SURRENDER TO KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR.

THIS TIME I WILL TAKE YOUR TREASURES, YOUR NOBLES, YOUR SKILLED WORKERS, AND YOUR KING! LET THIS BE A LESSON TO THE ONES WHO ARE LEFT.

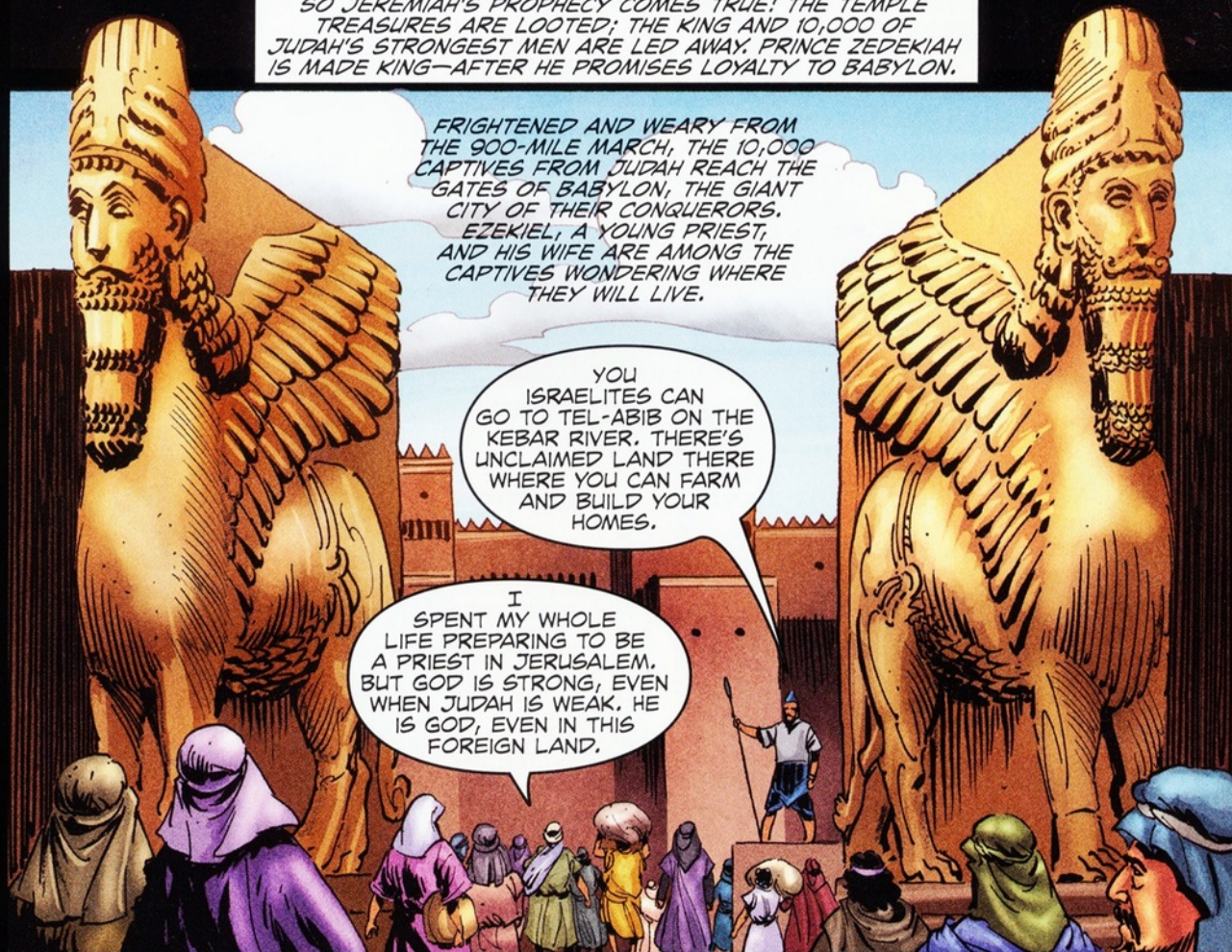


SO JEREMIAH'S PROPHECY COMES TRUE! THE TEMPLE TREASURES ARE LOOTED; THE KING AND 10,000 OF JUDAH'S STRONGEST MEN ARE LED AWAY. PRINCE ZEDEKIAH IS MADE KING—AFTER HE PROMISES LOYALTY TO BABYLON.

FRIGHTENED AND WEARY FROM THE 900-MILE MARCH, THE 10,000 CAPTIVES FROM JUDAH REACH THE GATES OF BABYLON, THE GIANT CITY OF THEIR CONQUERORS. EZEKIEL, A YOUNG PRIEST, AND HIS WIFE ARE AMONG THE CAPTIVES WONDERING WHERE THEY WILL LIVE.

YOU ISRAELITES CAN GO TO TEL-ABIB ON THE KEBAR RIVER. THERE'S UNCLAIMED LAND THERE WHERE YOU CAN FARM AND BUILD YOUR HOMES.

I SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE PREPARING TO BE A PRIEST IN JERUSALEM. BUT GOD IS STRONG, EVEN WHEN JUDAH IS WEAK. HE IS GOD, EVEN IN THIS FOREIGN LAND.



IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOW, EZEKIEL WORKS HARD TO MAKE A LIVING IN THE NEW LAND.

IT IS NOT AS BAD AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE. WE'RE TOGETHER, AND THEY TREAT US WELL.



BUT GOD HAS MORE IN STORE FOR EZEKIEL THAN BEING A FARMER IN A FOREIGN LAND ...

ONE DAY, OUT BY HIMSELF ALONG THE KEBAR RIVER, EZEKIEL SEES AN AWE-INSPIRING SIGHT IN THE SKY.

THAT'S LIKE NO STORM I'VE EVER SEEN.

FIRE BURSTS FROM THE CLOUD. FOUR CREATURES—EACH WITH FOUR WINGS AND FOUR DIFFERENT FACES—FLASH BACK AND FORTH LIKE LIGHTNING. BY EACH CREATURE IS A WHEEL, AND ABOVE ALL THIS IS A GLORIOUS THRONE.

IT'S A VISION OF THE GLORY OF GOD!



IN A STRANGE AND BEAUTIFUL VISION, GOD CALLS EZEKIEL TO BE HIS PROPHET AND SPEAK TO THE PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM WHO ARE CAPTIVES IN BABYLON.

YOU ARE MY WATCHMAN, EZEKIEL. YOU MUST WARN THE PEOPLE OF DANGER. IF YOU WARN THEM AND THEY DON'T LISTEN, THEN I WILL STILL BE PROUD OF YOU. BUT IF YOU DON'T WARN THEM, I WILL BLAME YOU FOR THEIR DEATHS.

FOLLOWING GOD'S COMMAND, EZEKIEL BUILDS A MODEL OF A CITY, AND AROUND IT HE PUTS AN ENEMY CAMP. THEN HE TOUCHES A TORCH TO HIS MODEL, SETTING IT ON FIRE!

NO! NOT JERUSALEM! NOT OUR HOLY CITY!

IT WILL BE DESTROYED.

TO CONFIRM EZEKIEL'S PROPHECY, JEREMIAH WRITES A LETTER FROM JERUSALEM TO THE CAPTIVES.

JEREMIAH SAYS IT IS GOD'S WILL THAT WE MAKE OUR LIVES HERE BECAUSE JERUSALEM REALLY WILL BE DESTROYED. AFTER 70 YEARS, GOD WILL LET US GO BACK. "I'VE ALREADY MADE PLANS FOR YOU," GOD SAYS. "PLANS THAT WILL GIVE YOU HOPE AND A BRIGHT FUTURE."

THE PEOPLE ARE DISMAYED TO HEAR ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM. THE HOPE THAT JEREMIAH PROMISES SOUNDS LIKE SMALL COMFORT COMPARED TO LOSING THEIR HOMELAND.

OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY—IN ASHES! WHY WOULD GOD ALLOW IT?

OUR FOREFATHERS WORSHIPPED IDOLS. THEY'RE TO BLAME FOR THIS. IT ISN'T FAIR THAT WE HAVE TO PAY FOR THE SINS OF OTHERS.

NO—YOU, TOO, HAVE SINNED. IT'S YOUR FAULT TOO. BUT GOD LOVES YOU. HE WILL FORGIVE YOU IF YOU STOP DOING WRONG AND START DOING WHAT HE WANTS YOU TO DO. THOSE WHO OBEY GOD WILL RETURN HOME—AND BUILD A NEW NATION!

ONE DAY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD WHISKS EZEKIEL FAR AWAY TO AN ANCIENT BATTLEFIELD, WHERE MANY BRAVE SOLDIERS HAD DIED. IN THIS FORGOTTEN VALLEY, TIME AND NATURE HAVE LEFT NOTHING BUT THE BONES OF SOLDIERS LONG DEAD.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, EZEKIEL? IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THESE DUSTY OLD BONES TO COME BACK TO LIFE?

THAT'S A TRICK QUESTION, LORD. ONLY YOU KNOW WHAT MIRACLES YOU CAN DO.

PROPHECY TO THEM, EZEKIEL. TELL THEM THAT I WILL KNIT THEM BACK TOGETHER AGAIN!

FEELING A BIT SILLY, EZEKIEL OBEYS.

BONES! HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD! HE WILL BRING YOU TO LIFE!

FOR A MOMENT, ALL IS STILL. THEN THE BONES START TO RATTLE AND MOVE.

HE WILL GIVE YOU TENDONS AND FLESH AND COVER YOU WITH SKIN ONCE AGAIN!

AS EZEKIEL PROPHESES, THE BONES FORM BACK INTO HUMAN BEINGS— BUT THERE IS STILL NO LIFE IN THEM.

TELL THEM I WILL FILL THEM WITH MY BREATH, MY SPIRIT.

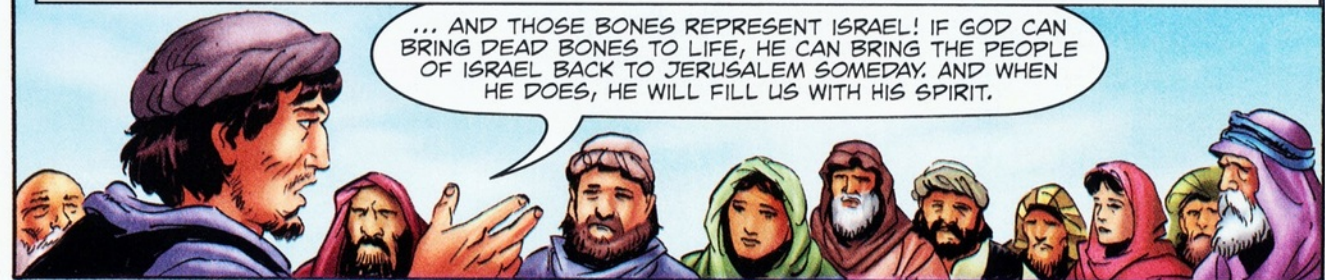


EZEKIEL CONTINUES TO PREACH, AND THE BODIES START BREATHING AGAIN. THEY COME TO LIFE AND STAND UP, THOUSANDS OF THEM!



EZEKIEL IS TRANSPORTED BACK TO HIS FELLOW JEWS IN BABYLON, WHERE HE TELLS THEM THIS STORY.

... AND THOSE BONES REPRESENT ISRAEL! IF GOD CAN BRING DEAD BONES TO LIFE, HE CAN BRING THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL BACK TO JERUSALEM SOMEDAY. AND WHEN HE DOES, HE WILL FILL US WITH HIS SPIRIT.



GOD SAYS: "I WILL GATHER YOU FROM ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD AND BRING YOU BACK INTO YOUR OWN LAND."



"I WILL CLEANSE YOU FROM ALL YOUR FILTH AND IDOLS."

"AND I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT IN YOU AND MOVE YOU TO FOLLOW MY DECREES AND KEEP MY LAWS. YOU WILL LIVE IN THE LAND I PROMISED YOU; YOU WILL BE MY PEOPLE, AND I WILL BE YOUR GOD."



"I WILL GIVE YOU A NEW HEART AND PUT A NEW SPIRIT IN YOU; I WILL REMOVE FROM YOU YOUR HEART OF STONE AND GIVE YOU A HEART OF FLESH."



"THERE WILL BE A NEW TEMPLE AND A NEW JERUSALEM, BUT JERUSALEM WILL HAVE A NEW NAME THAT MEANS ...

... THE LORD IS THERE!"

# The Yoke's on Jeremiah

BASED ON JEREMIAH 27; 37-38

BACK IN JERUSALEM, KING ZEDEKIAH STILL RULES—AS LONG AS HE REMAINS LOYAL TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR. FOR A FEW YEARS ZEDEKIAH PAYS HIS TRIBUTE TO BABYLON. THEN, IN SPITE OF JEREMIAH'S WARNINGS, HE BEGINS TO THINK ABOUT REBELLING. HE CALLS TOGETHER THE OTHER FOREIGN KINGS WHO ARE RULED BY BABYLON.



WHEN JEREMIAH LEARNS THAT THERE IS TALK OF ANOTHER REVOLT, HE PUTS AN OX YOKE ON HIS SHOULDERS AND BURSTS INTO THE KINGS' CONFERENCE—UNINVITED.



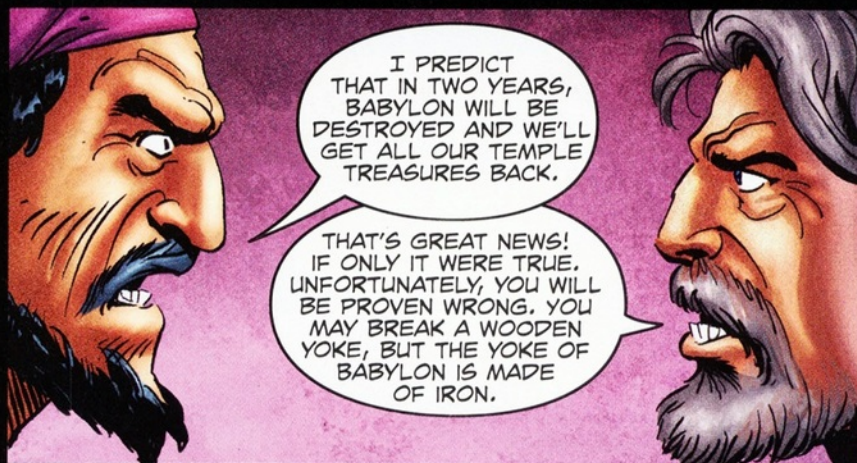


BUT ONE OF THE PROPHETS IN ATTENDANCE—HANANIAH—DOESN'T APPRECIATE JEREMIAH'S INTERRUPTION.

OH, REALLY? BECAUSE GOD TOLD ME EXACTLY WHAT TO DO WITH THE YOKE OF BABYLON. BREAK IT!



**KRAK**



I PREDICT THAT IN TWO YEARS, BABYLON WILL BE DESTROYED AND WE'LL GET ALL OUR TEMPLE TREASURES BACK.

THAT'S GREAT NEWS! IF ONLY IT WERE TRUE. UNFORTUNATELY, YOU WILL BE PROVEN WRONG. YOU MAY BREAK A WOODEN YOKE, BUT THE YOKE OF BABYLON IS MADE OF IRON.



GOD IS TIRED OF YOUR LIES IN HIS NAME. YOU'LL BE DEAD WITHIN THE YEAR.

ZEDEKIAH KNOWS JEREMIAH IS A TRUE MAN OF GOD, BUT HE DOESN'T WANT TO LISTEN. EVEN WHEN HANANIAH DIES A FEW MONTHS LATER, ZEDEKIAH STILL DOESN'T WANT TO BELIEVE JEREMIAH. DURING ALL OF THIS TIME, EGYPT HAS KEPT AN ANXIOUS EYE ON THE GROWING TENSIONS IN JUDAH. AT THE RIGHT MOMENT, IT SENDS AN AMBASSADOR TO KING ZEDEKIAH.

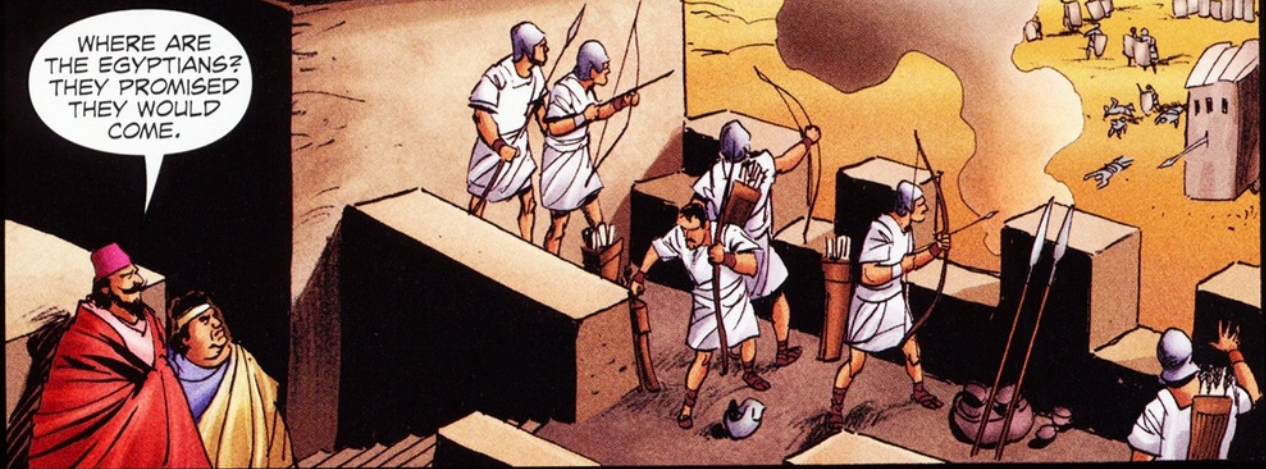


BABYLON IS YOUR ENEMY AS WELL AS OURS. ALONE, NEITHER OF US CAN DEFEAT THEM, BUT ...

TOGETHER, WE CAN DO IT!

AS JEREMIAH PROPHESED, BABYLON ANSWERS THIS LATEST REVOLT WITH A SWIFT ATTACK. FOR WEEKS THE SOLDIERS OF JUDAH FIGHT TO DEFEND JERUSALEM'S WALLS.

WHERE ARE THE EGYPTIANS? THEY PROMISED THEY WOULD COME.



SUDDENLY, THE ATTACK STOPS ...

THE BABYLONIANS ARE BREAKING CAMP. THEY'VE GIVEN UP THE SIEGE!



WE'VE WON! JUDAH IS FREE!

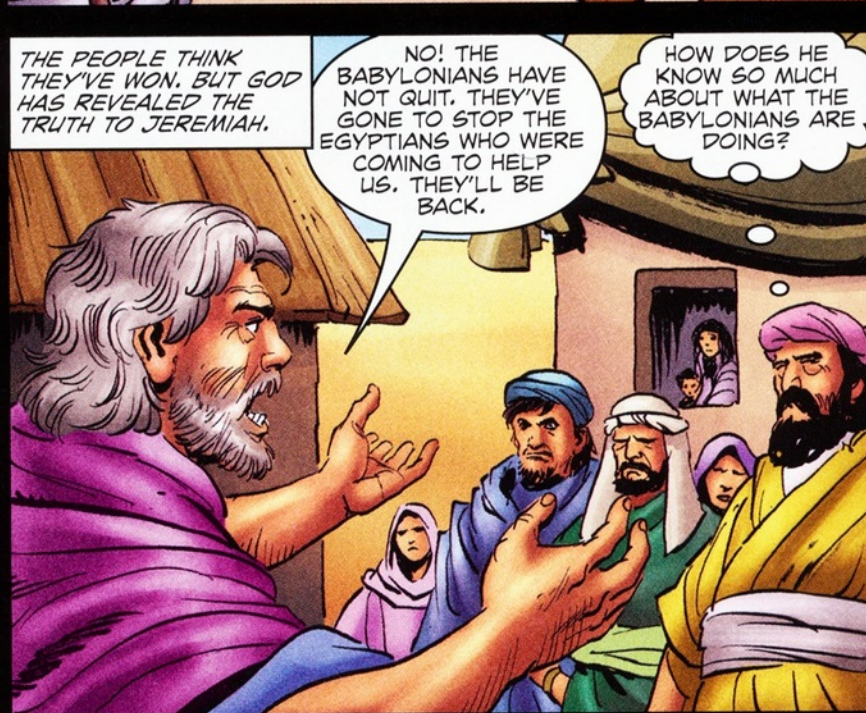
WHAT DOES GOD HAVE TO SAY NOW, HUH?

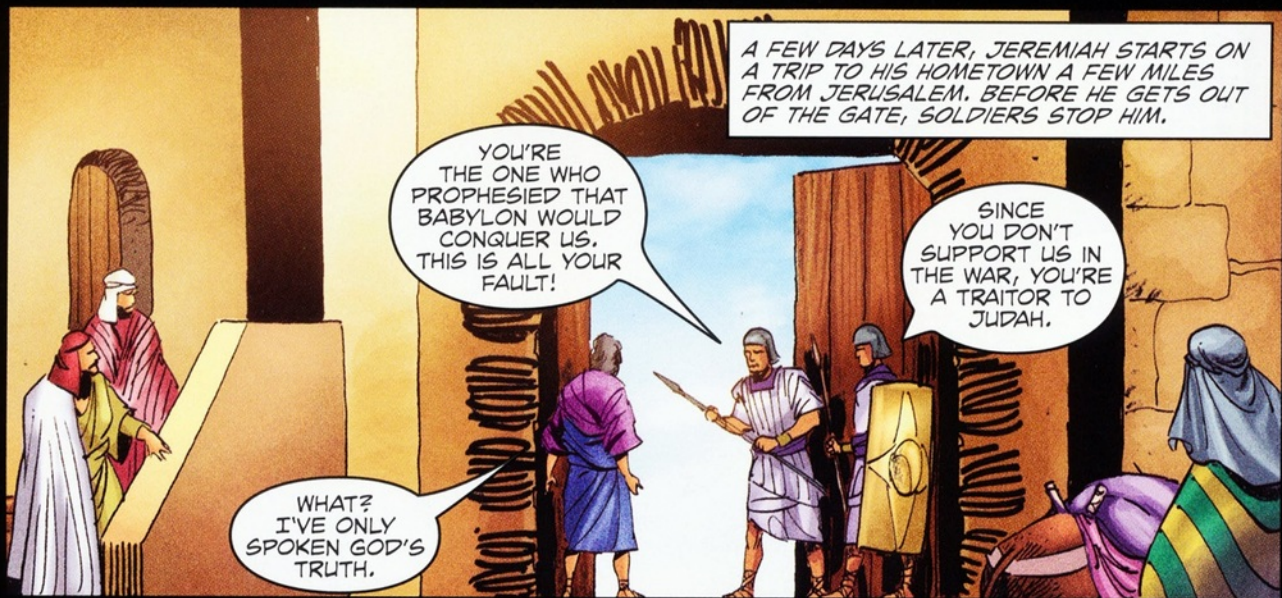


THE PEOPLE THINK THEY'VE WON. BUT GOD HAS REVEALED THE TRUTH TO JEREMIAH.

NO! THE BABYLONIANS HAVE NOT QUIT. THEY'VE GONE TO STOP THE EGYPTIANS WHO WERE COMING TO HELP US. THEY'LL BE BACK.

HOW DOES HE KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT WHAT THE BABYLONIANS ARE DOING?





A FEW DAYS LATER, JEREMIAH STARTS ON A TRIP TO HIS HOMETOWN A FEW MILES FROM JERUSALEM. BEFORE HE GETS OUT OF THE GATE, SOLDIERS STOP HIM.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PROPHECIED THAT BABYLON WOULD CONQUER US. THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!

SINCE YOU DON'T SUPPORT US IN THE WAR, YOU'RE A TRAITOR TO JUDAH.

WHAT? I'VE ONLY SPOKEN GOD'S TRUTH.

IN SPITE OF HIS INNOCENCE, JEREMIAH IS THROWN INTO PRISON. WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, THE BABYLONIANS DEFEAT THE EGYPTIANS AND RETURN TO THE GATES OF JERUSALEM. JEREMIAH'S ENEMIES BRING HIM BEFORE THE KING AND ACCUSE HIM OF BEING A TRAITOR.



I REPEAT THE WARNING GOD GAVE ME. INVADERS FROM THE NORTH WILL CONQUER JUDAH. GOD CHOSE THE BABYLONIANS TO DESTROY OUR NATION BECAUSE OF THE SINS OF OUR PEOPLE.

IT'S THIS KIND OF TALK THAT MAKES OUR SOLDIERS LOSE COURAGE. PUT THIS TRAITOR TO DEATH, OR THE CITY WILL FALL.



HE'S IN YOUR HANDS. DO WHAT YOU WANT WITH HIM.

QUICKLY—BEFORE THE KING CAN CHANGE HIS MIND—JEREMIAH'S ACCUSERS PUT HIM IN AN OLD EMPTY WELL BENEATH THE PRISON FLOOR.



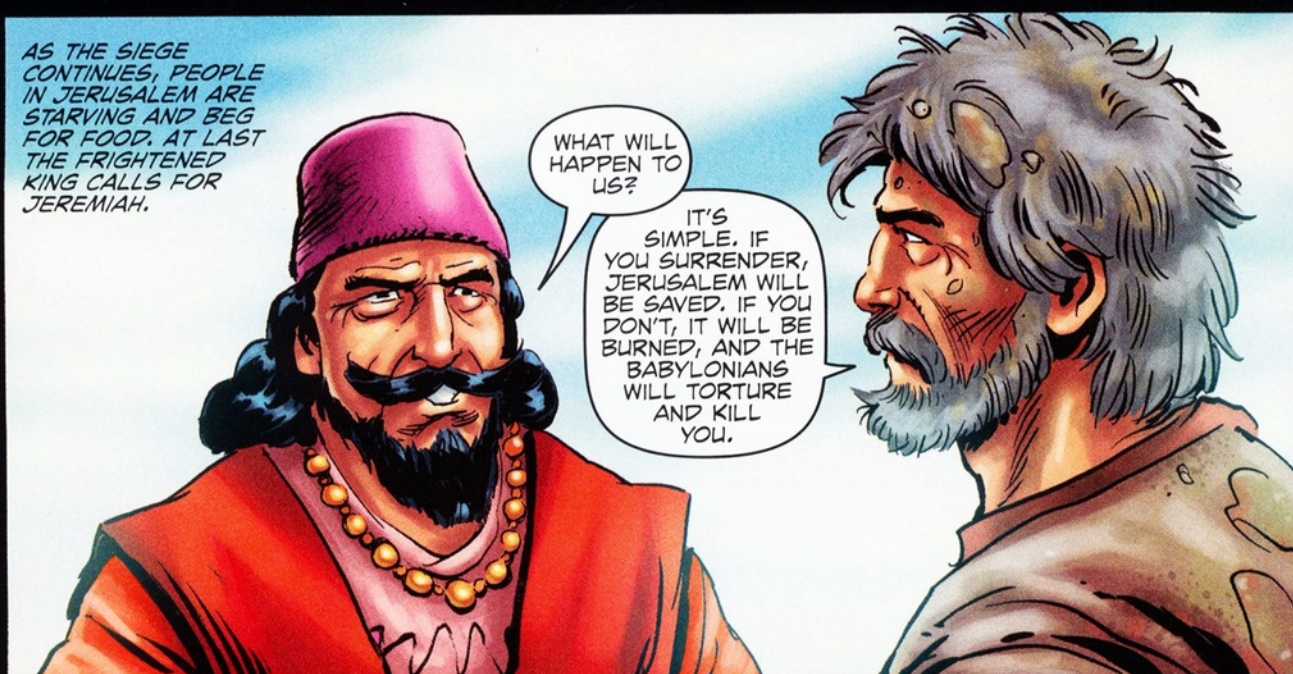
LET HIM STARVE TO DEATH!

THE OLD WELL DOESN'T HAVE WATER IN IT ANYMORE—BUT IT DOES STILL HAVE MUD AND SLIME. JEREMIAH GAGS TO BE TRAPPED IN SUCH FILTH AND WONDERS HOW LONG HE CAN SURVIVE. BUT EBED-MELECH, A SERVANT IN THE PALACE, GETS PERMISSION FROM THE KING TO PUT JEREMIAH IN THE PRISON YARD.



THANK GOD FOR YOUR HELP. I WOULD HAVE DIED IN THAT AWFUL HOLE.

AS THE SIEGE CONTINUES, PEOPLE IN JERUSALEM ARE STARVING AND BEG FOR FOOD. AT LAST THE FRIGHTENED KING CALLS FOR JEREMIAH.



WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US?

IT'S SIMPLE. IF YOU SURRENDER, JERUSALEM WILL BE SAVED. IF YOU DON'T, IT WILL BE BURNED, AND THE BABYLONIANS WILL TORTURE AND KILL YOU.



SURRENDER? I DON'T DARE. MY OWN PEOPLE WOULD TURN AGAINST ME.

YOU SHOULD BE MORE CONCERNED THAT GOD HAS TURNED AGAINST YOU.

ZEDEKIAH IS UNHAPPY WITH THIS ANSWER. HE KEEPS JEREMIAH UNDER HOUSE ARREST. THE SIEGE GOES ON, BUT AFTER 30 MORE MONTHS ...

# Jerusalem Falls!

BASED ON JEREMIAH 39-44; 2 KINGS 25;  
2 CHRONICLES 36:15-23;  
LAMENTATIONS; OBADIAH

FOR TWO AND A HALF YEARS, FORCES FROM THE GREAT BABYLONIAN ARMY ATTACK THE CITY OF JERUSALEM. AT LAST THEY BREAK THROUGH THE WALL. AS BABYLONIAN SOLDIERS POUR THROUGH THE BROKEN WALLS, KING ZEDEKIAH TRIES TO ESCAPE WITH HIS FAMILY.



THE BABYLONIANS CAPTURE ZEDEKIAH BEFORE HE CAN REACH THE RIVER. THEY PUT OUT HIS EYES AND BRING HIM TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD.

BUT KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR HAS HEARD OF JEREMIAH'S PROPHECIES ALL THE WAY FROM BABYLON. HIS CAPTAIN HAS SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.



SINCE YOU COULDN'T SEE YOUR DUTY TO KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR, NOW YOU WILL SEE NOTHING EVER AGAIN.

TAKE HIM TO BABYLON!

JEREMIAH, WE KNOW THAT YOU ARE FAITHFUL TO YOUR GOD. BECAUSE YOU TRIED TO KEEP YOUR COUNTRY FROM REBELLING AGAINST US, YOU ARE FREE! GO WHEREVER YOU WANT AND LIVE WHEREVER YOU WANT. IF YOU COME BACK WITH ME TO BABYLON, I WILL MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE WEALTH AND COMFORT FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.



THANK YOU, BUT NO. I MUST STAY HERE TO HELP GOD'S PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN LEFT IN ISRAEL WITHOUT A LEADER.

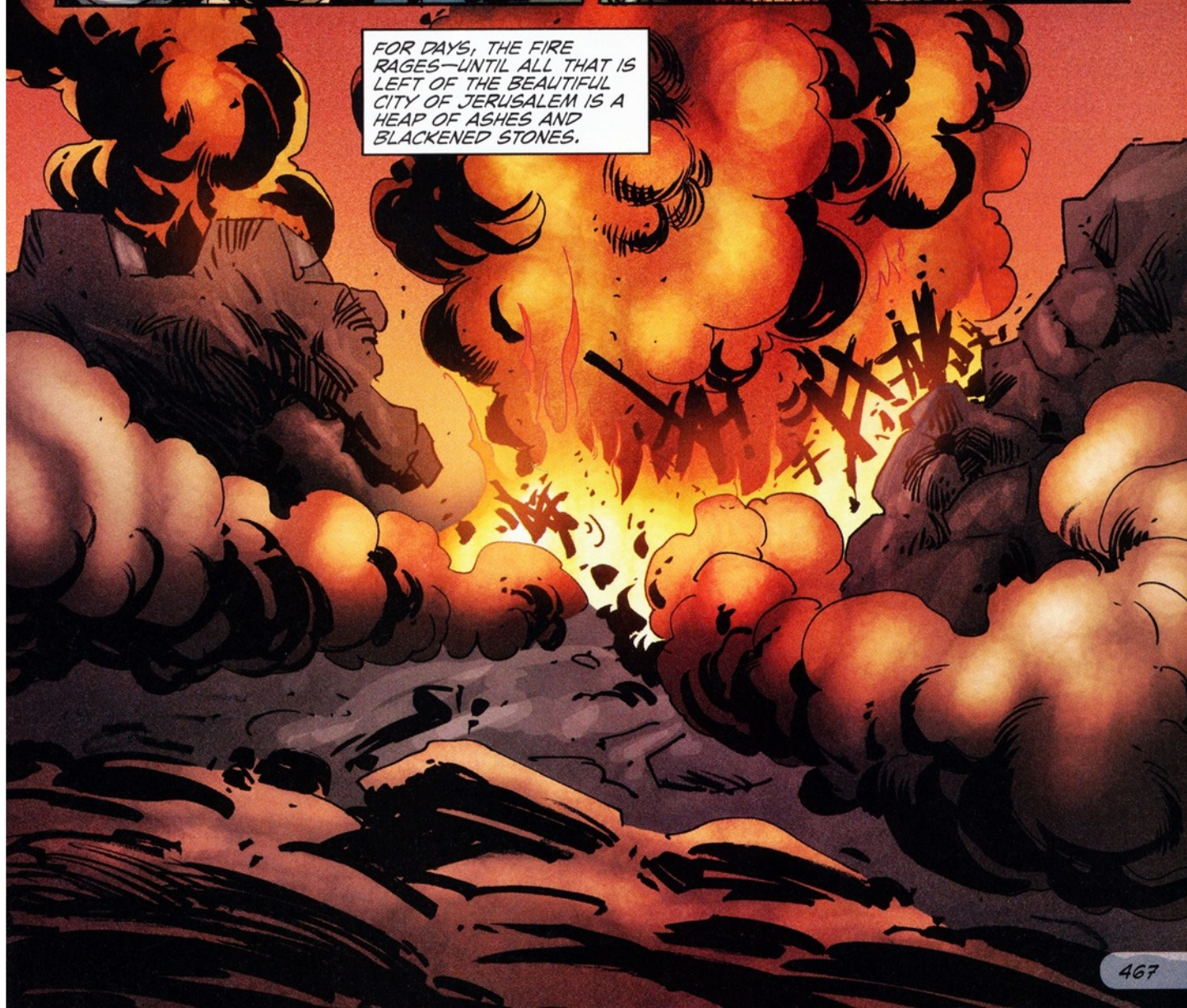
THEN THE BABYLONIANS STRIP THE SILVER, GOLD, AND VALUABLE OBJECTS FROM THE TEMPLE AND PALACE BUILDINGS.



SET FIRE TO EVERY CORNER OF THE CITY. DON'T LET ANYTHING SURVIVE THAT WOULD GIVE ANYONE IDEAS ABOUT REBUILDING JERUSALEM.



FOR DAYS, THE FIRE RAGES—UNTIL ALL THAT IS LEFT OF THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF JERUSALEM IS A HEAP OF ASHES AND BLACKENED STONES.



TO LAMENT MEANS TO EXPRESS SORROW. IN THE BOOK OF LAMENTATIONS, JEREMIAH SHARES THE GRIEF THE JEWS FEEL OVER THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM.

AND NOW THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM LIE EMPTY.  
BITTERLY OUR CITY WEEPS TONIGHT—  
COMFORT IS FAR FROM HER.  
DESTRUCTION HAS COME FROM BABYLON,  
ENEMIES HAVE TAKEN HER TREASURES,  
FOR THE LORD HAS REJECTED HER. BUT REMEMBER,

GOD'S GREAT LOVE WILL NOT LET US BE BURNED UP FOREVER.  
HIS LOVE WILL NEVER FAIL BECAUSE  
IT IS NEW EVERY MORNING. GREAT IS GOD'S FAITHFULNESS!

JERUSALEM, DAUGHTER OF ZION, YOU WILL RETURN.  
KEEP YOUR HEART STRONG AND YOUR EYES FOCUSED ON THE LORD.  
LORD, YOUR THRONE WILL LAST FOREVER.  
MAY YOU RESTORE US AND BRING US BACK TO YOU!



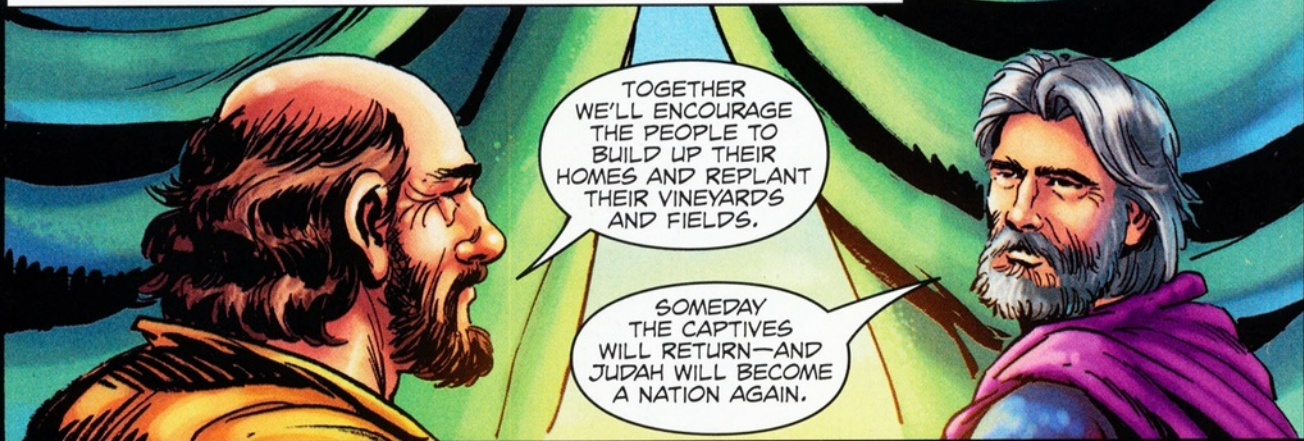
ISRAEL'S ANCESTOR, JACOB, SPENT A LIFETIME FIGHTING WITH HIS BROTHER ESAU. NOW ESAU'S DESCENDANTS, THE EDMUTES, CELEBRATE THAT THEIR COUSINS IN JERUSALEM HAVE BEEN CONQUERED. THE PROPHET OBADIAH SCOLDS THEM FOR THEIR HEARTLESS ATTITUDE.

YOU SHOULD NOT KICK YOUR BROTHER WHEN HE IS DOWN. DO NOT TAKE JOY OVER THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH IN THE DAY OF THEIR DESTRUCTION, AND DO NOT MOCK THEIR TROUBLES, FOR THESE SAME TROUBLES WILL COME TO YOU SOMEDAY.

OBADIAH



THE BABYLONIANS SET UP HEADQUARTERS AT MIZPAH AND APPOINT GEDALIAH AS GOVERNOR. GEDALIAH HAS ALWAYS BEEN FAITHFUL TO THE LORD AND BELIEVED THE WORDS OF JEREMIAH. PLEASED TO HAVE A GODLY GOVERNOR, JEREMIAH JOINS HIM AND BECOMES HIS ADVISER.



TOGETHER WE'LL ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO BUILD UP THEIR HOMES AND REPLANT THEIR VINEYARDS AND FIELDS.

SOMEDAY THE CAPTIVES WILL RETURN—AND JUDAH WILL BECOME A NATION AGAIN.

BUT GOOD NEWS IS ALWAYS TEMPORARY FOR JEREMIAH. BEFORE THE GOVERNOR'S DREAM CAN COME TRUE, HE IS MURDERED. FEARFUL THAT BABYLON WILL BLAME ALL ISRAEL FOR THE MURDER, A GROUP OF PEOPLE GO TO SEE JEREMIAH ...

WE WANT TO GO TO EGYPT, WHERE THERE IS PEACE AND PLenty TO EAT. WILL YOU ASK OF THE LORD IF THAT'S OKAY?

THE LORD HAS WARNED ME THAT YOU WILL FIND NEITHER PEACE NOR FOOD IN EGYPT. STAY HERE. THE BABYLONIANS WILL NOT HURT YOU.



GOD HASN'T DONE SUCH A GOOD JOB KEEPING US SAFE IN JERUSALEM. WE'RE GOING TO EGYPT.

EVEN AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED, YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD'S WORD. YOU JUST HOPED I'D GIVE YOU PERMISSION FOR WHAT YOU'D ALREADY DECIDED TO DO.



BUT THE PEOPLE DO NOT CARE. THEY FLEE TO EGYPT, FORCING JEREMIAH TO GO WITH THEM. THEY THINK THEY WILL BE SAFE, BUT NEBUCHADNEZZAR CONQUERS EGYPT NEXT, KILLING EVERYONE WHO FLED FROM JERUSALEM. THE FUTURE HOPE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE NOW LIES WITH THE EXILES IN BABYLON ...

