

THE ACTION BIBLE

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GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

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THE ACTION BIBLE



THE ACTION BIBLE

GOD'S REDEMPTIVE STORY

*ILLUSTRATIONS BY SERGIO CARIELLO
GENERAL EDITOR DOUG MAUSS*

David C Cook
transforming lives together

THE ACTION BIBLE
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STEEL YOURSELF FOR ACTION...

People don't usually think of God like this, but God is the original action hero. Everyone is so impressed when Superman blows a car over with his breath, yet God created the whole universe with His breath. Superman may save the day with his strength, but Jesus saved the whole world with His death.

And then there are the humans God chose to fulfill His divine plan—they were pretty awesome (though imperfect) action heroes themselves. Read about Samson wading into an army of Philistines, killing them all with nothing more than a donkey's jawbone. Discover how Esther risked the wrath of a temperamental king to save God's people. Every few years there's another action movie about Robin Hood or King Arthur—but Hollywood always forgets about King David, a shepherd boy who lived as an outlaw before he became king. He was a part of history long before both of those legends.

But here's the thing: *The Action Bible* is more than just the exciting stories of the past. Here and now, today, it inspires us to be God's next generation of difference-makers. The heroes in the Bible were flawed and chosen; you and I are flawed and chosen. The action you read about in these 750 pages is nothing compared to the action that will occur once you put this book down.

How will you answer God's call to action?

Doug Mauss
General Editor

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing.

He will do even greater things than these ...

—Jesus Christ (John 14:12)

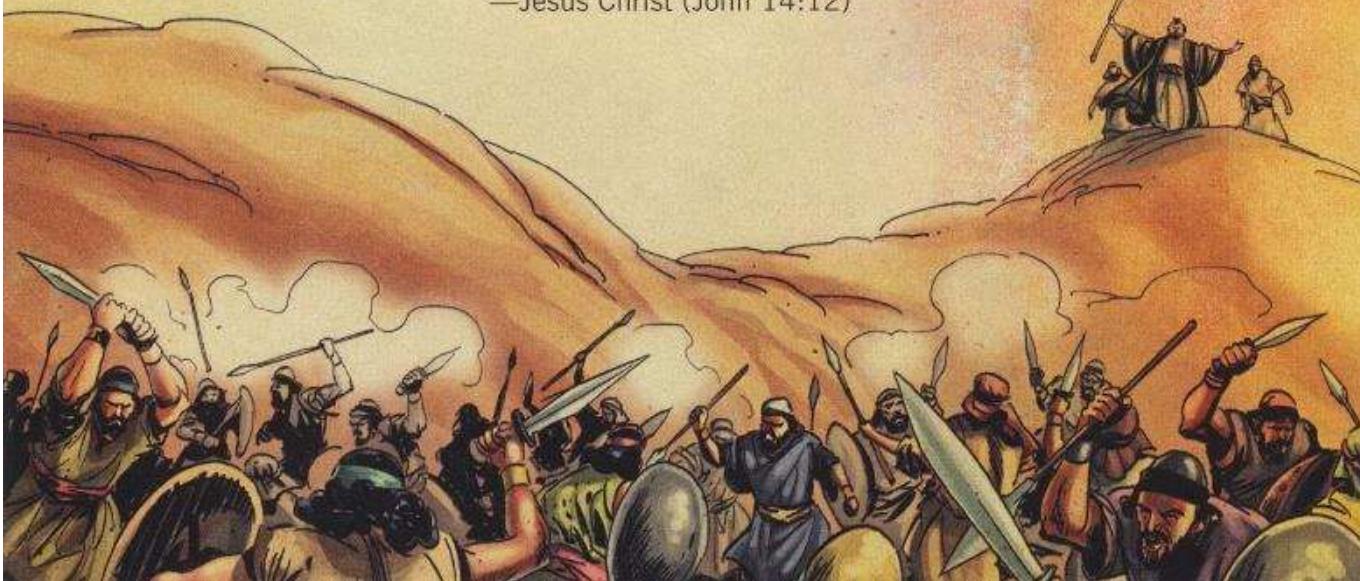


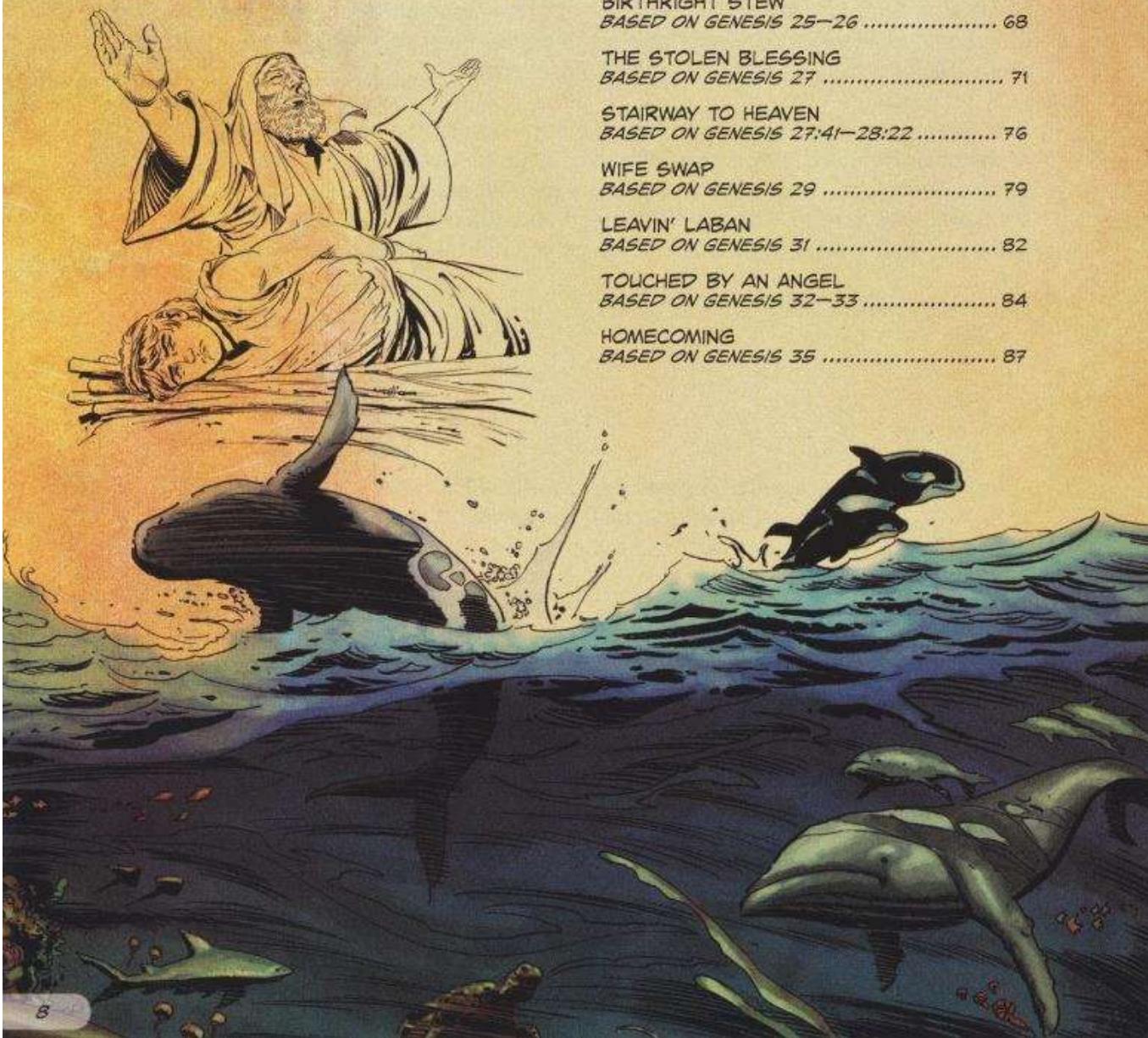
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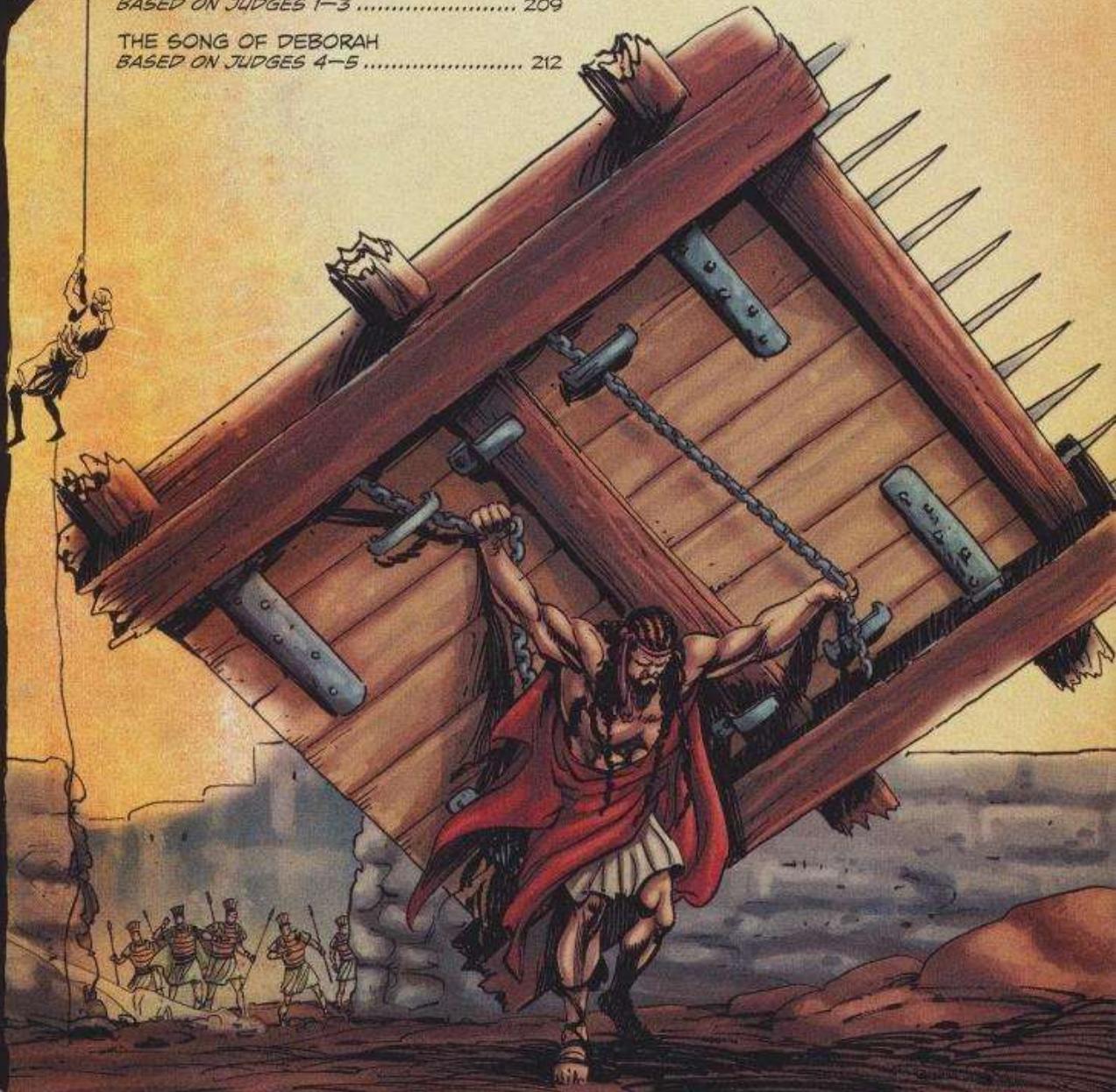
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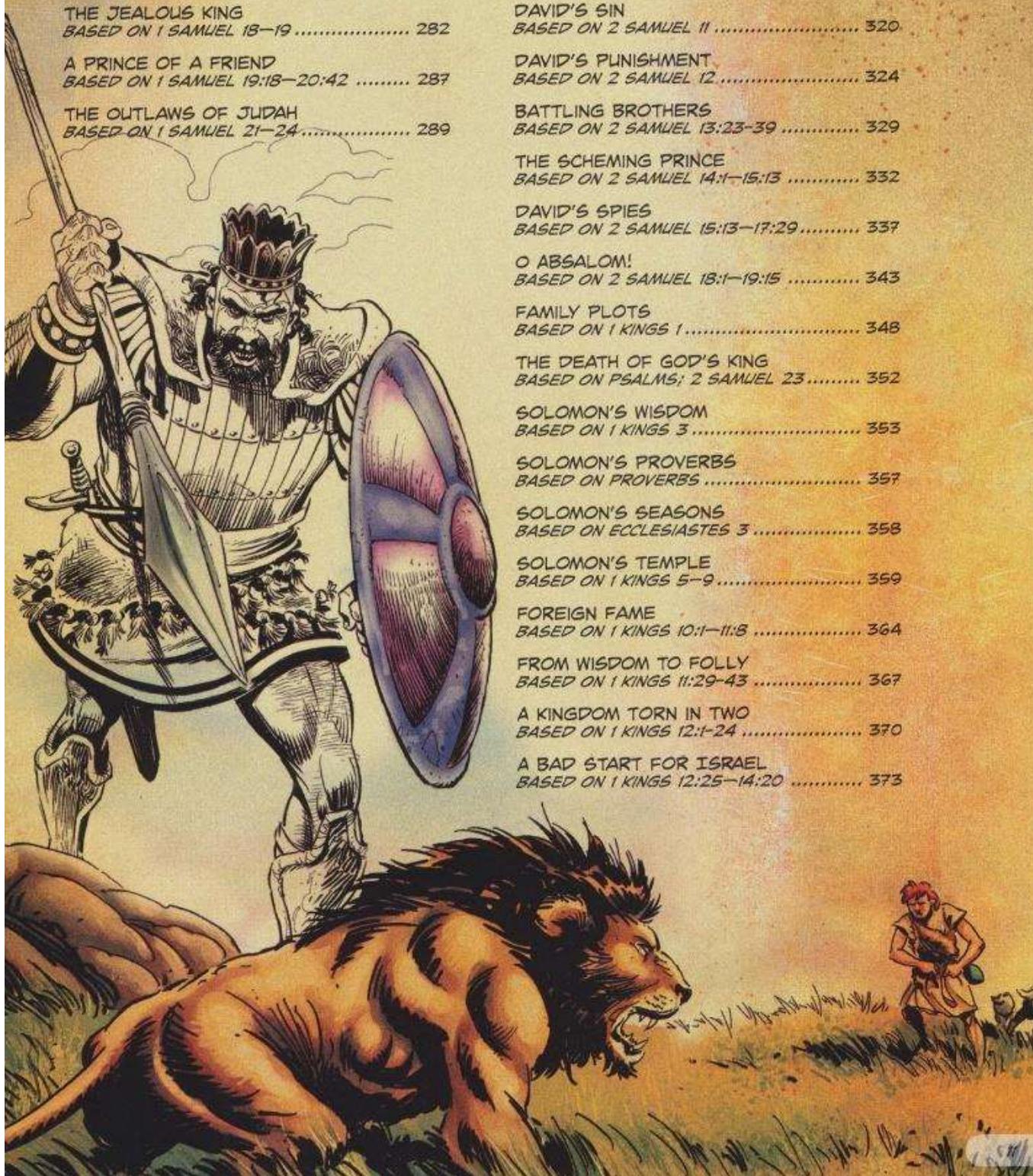
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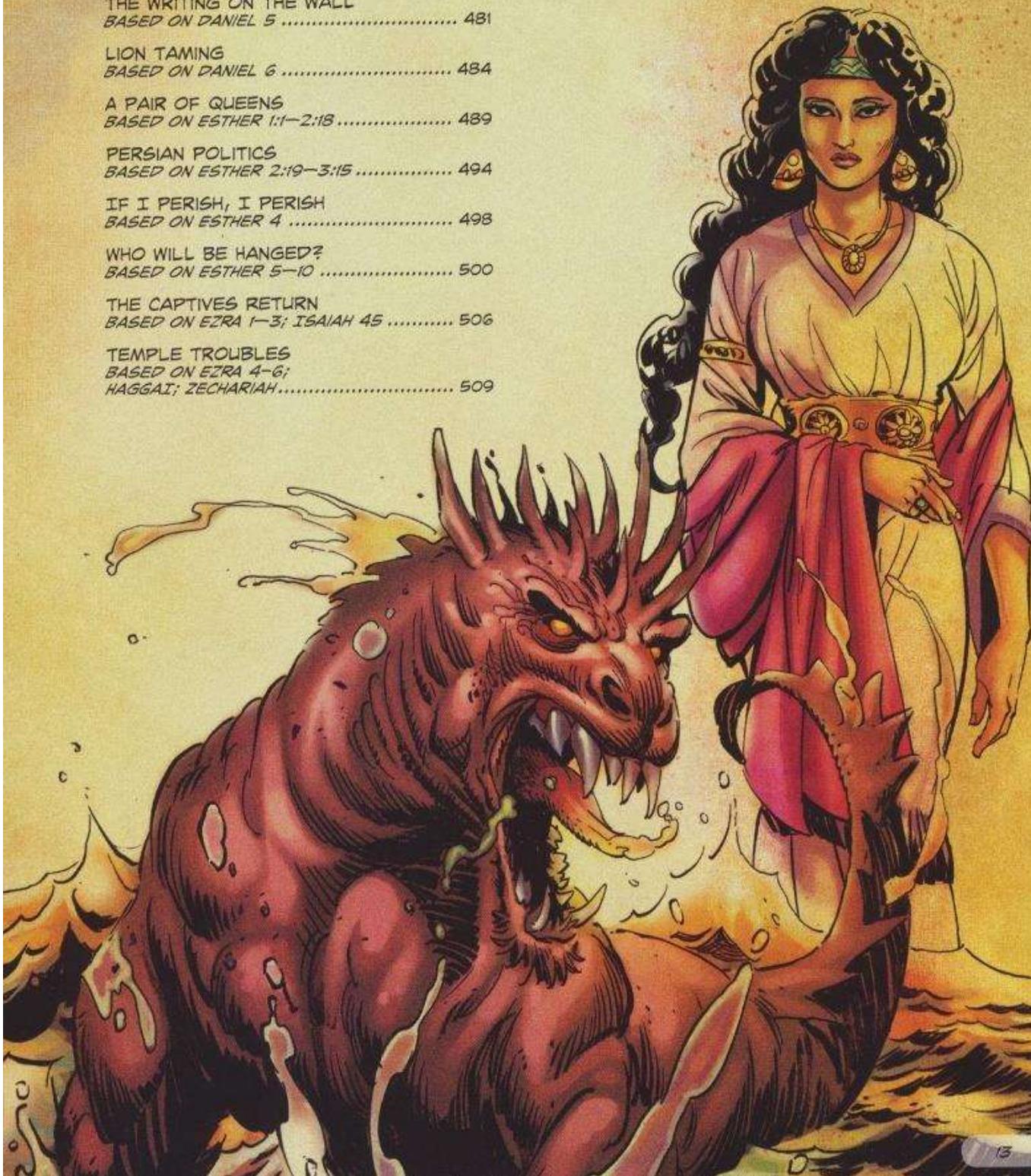
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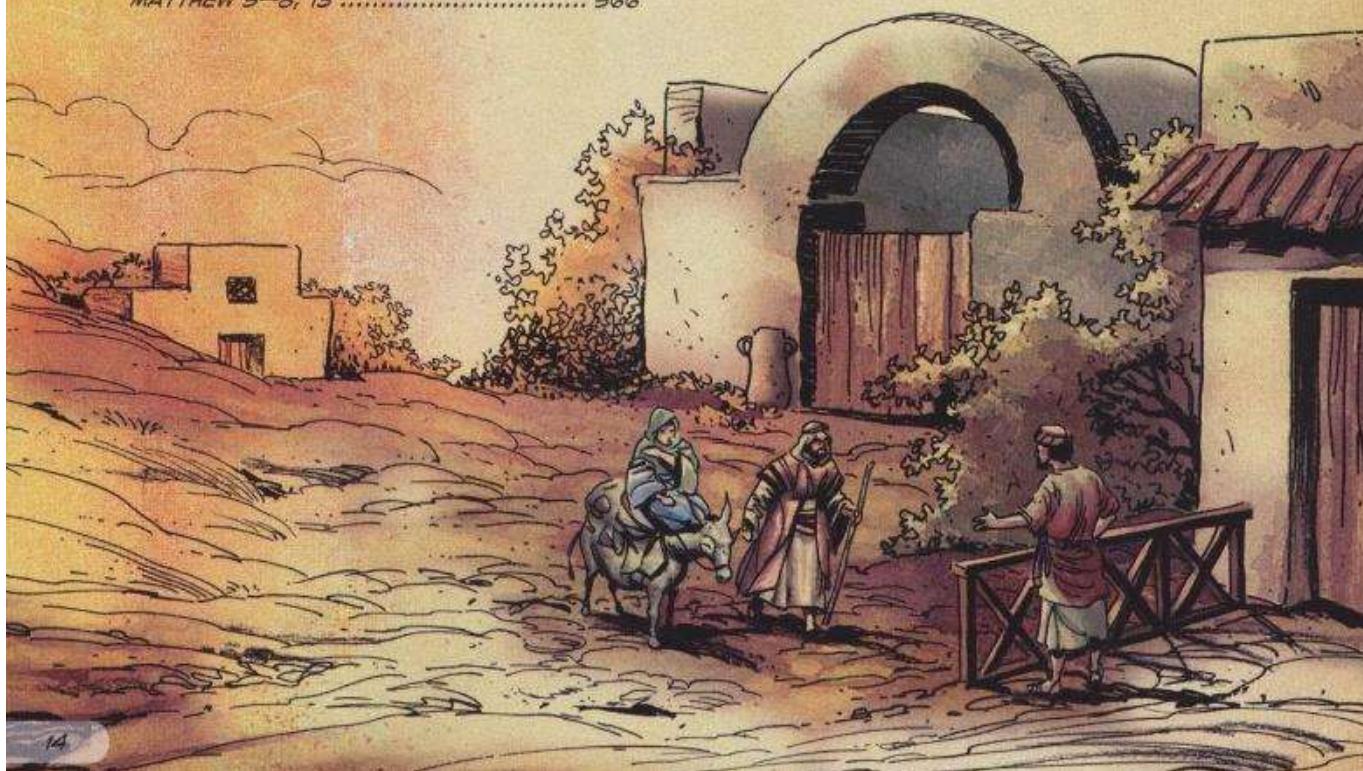
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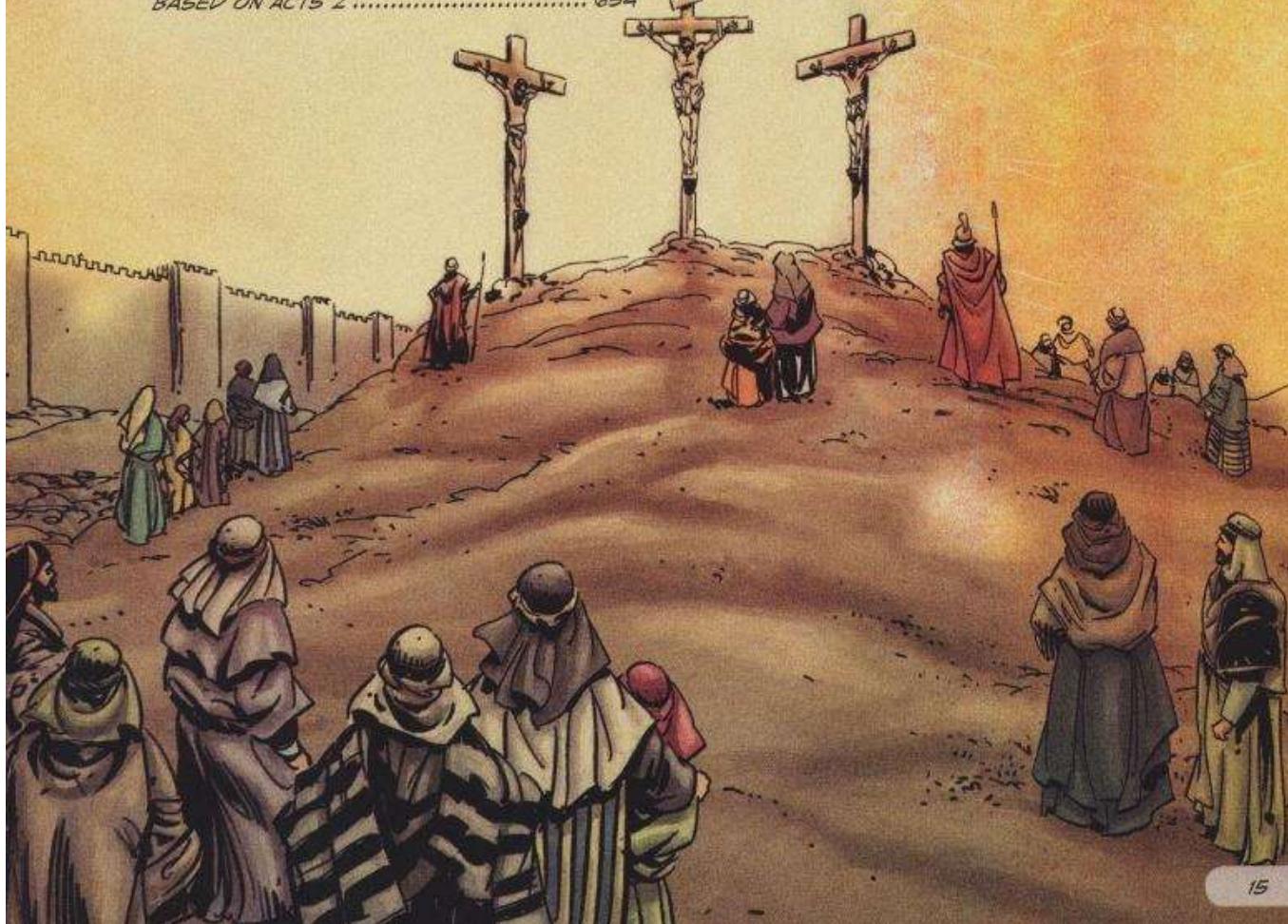
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In the Beginning ...

... THERE WAS NOTHING.

EXCEPT GOD.

Day 1

GOD'S SPIRIT MOVED THROUGH
THE VOID. THEN GOD SPOKE:

LET THERE
BE LIGHT!

Day 2

THEN GOD SEPARATED THE WATERS OF THE NOTHINGNESS INTO THE MOISTURE AND CLOUDS OF THE SKY ABOVE, AND THE DROPS AND WAVES OF THE OCEAN BELOW. GOD NAMED THE SKY "HEAVENS."

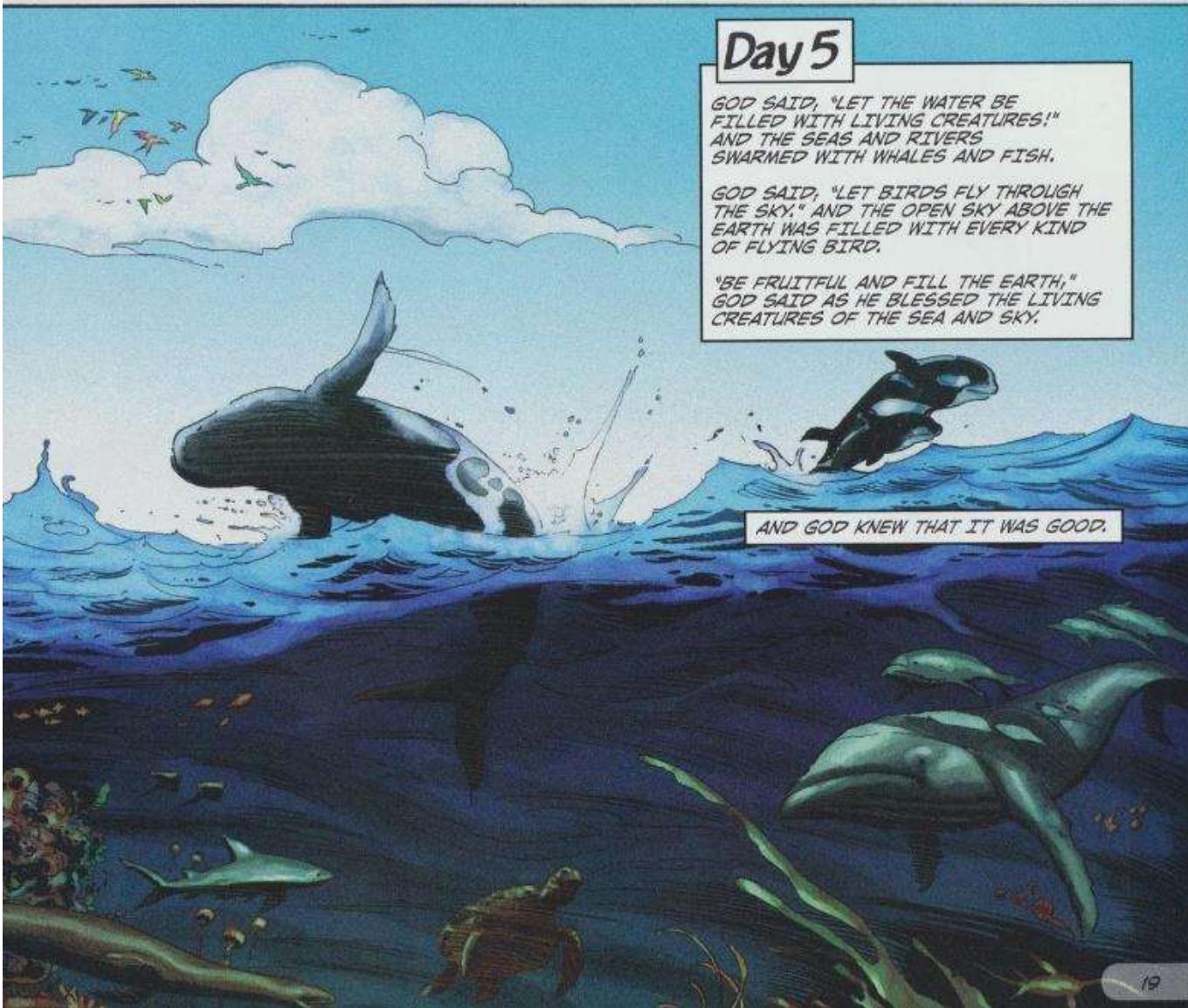
Day 3

GOD NAMED THE LOWER WATERS THE "SEA." HE GATHERED TOGETHER THE WATERS OF THE SEA, EXPOSING DRY GROUND. HE NAMED THE DRY LAND "EARTH." ON THIS LAND, HE MADE GRASS AND FLOWERS AND TREES. HE MADE THEM WITH SEEDS SO THEY COULD GROW MORE GRASS AND FLOWERS AND TREES. THE FRUITFUL EARTH WAS A PLACE OF BEAUTY.

AND GOD KNEW THAT IT WAS GOOD.

Day 4

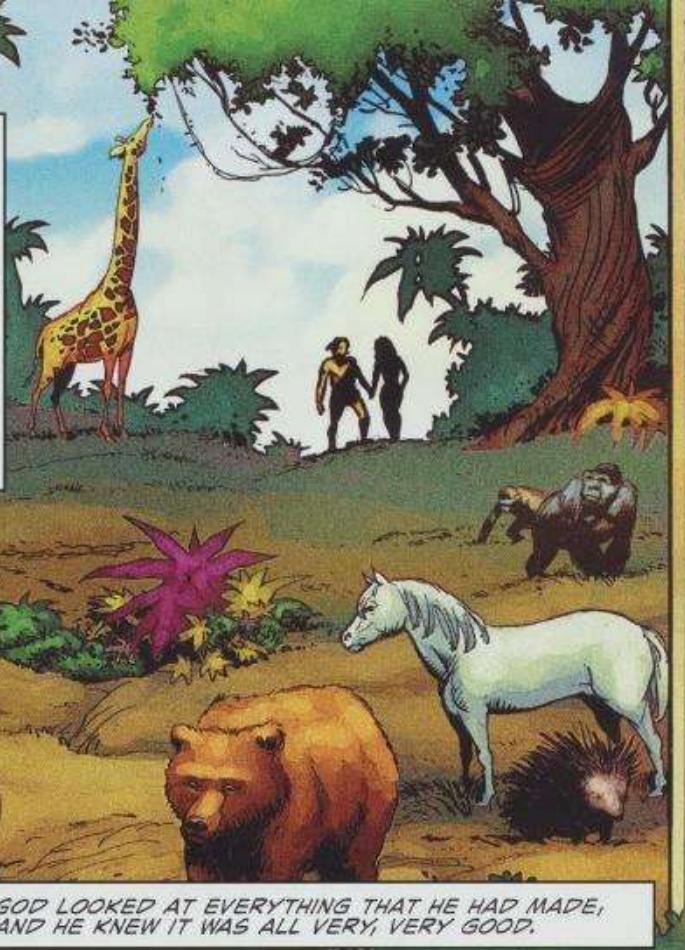
THEN GOD FASHIONED THE SUN, THE MOON, AND THE STARS TO LIGHT THE EARTH. AND HE SET THEM IN THE HEAVENS TO MARK THE DAYS, SEASONS, AND YEARS.



Day 6

THEN GOD SAID, "LET THE EARTH BRING FORTH LIVING CREATURES." AND GOD MADE ALL KINDS OF ANIMALS: WILD ONES, TAME ONES—EVEN THOSE THAT CRAWL ON THE GROUND.

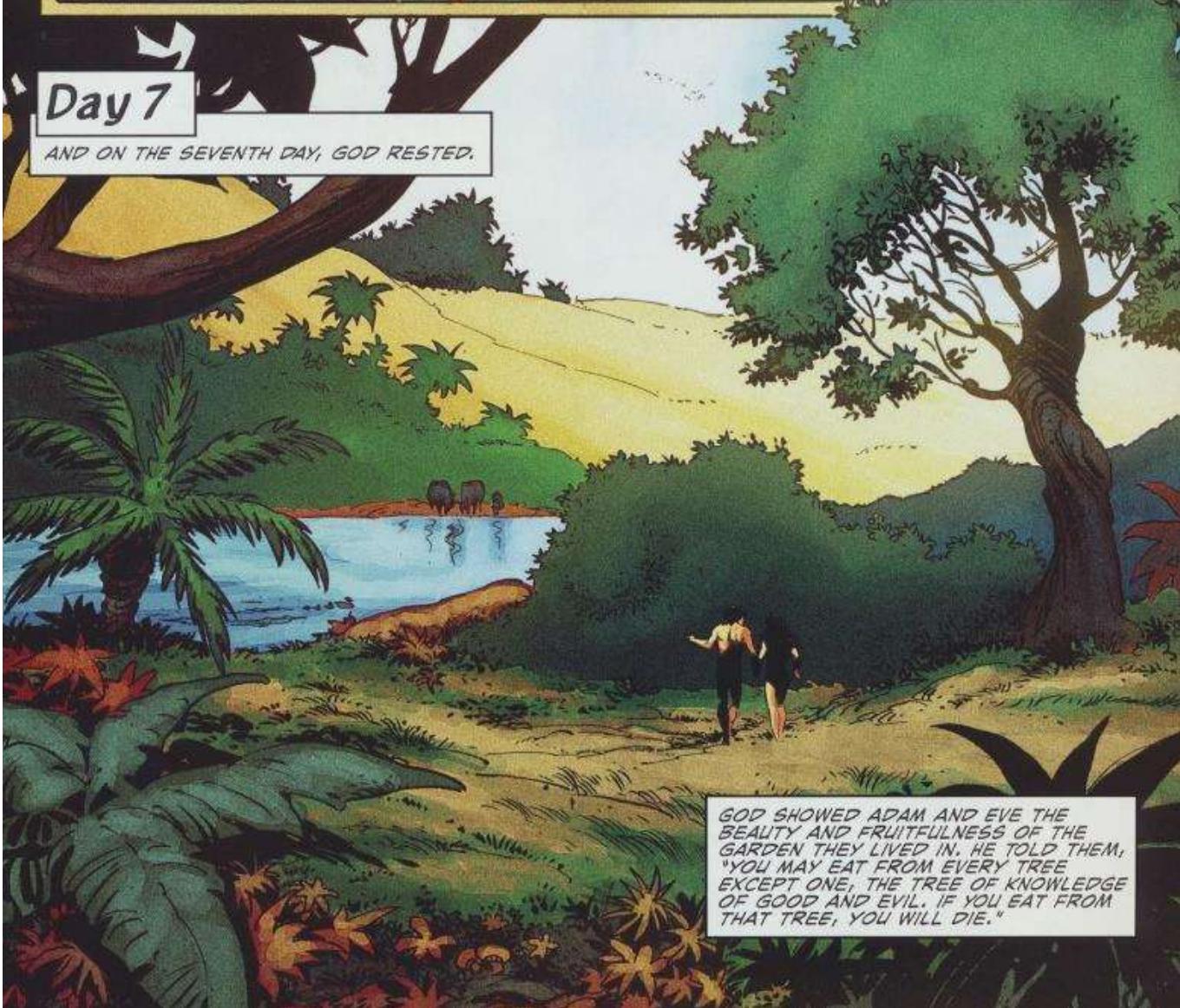
THEN GOD CREATED THE FIRST MAN, ADAM, AND THE FIRST WOMAN, EVE. THEY WERE THE GREATEST OF ALL GOD'S CREATIONS BECAUSE HE MADE THEM IN HIS OWN IMAGE, TO BE A REFLECTION OF WHAT HE IS LIKE. GOD MADE ADAM AND EVE WITH SOULS THAT WOULD LIVE FOREVER. AND HE PLANNED FOR PEOPLE TO RULE AND LIVE IN HARMONY WITH EVERY LIVING THING ON EARTH.



GOD LOOKED AT EVERYTHING THAT HE HAD MADE, AND HE KNEW IT WAS ALL VERY, VERY GOOD.

Day 7

AND ON THE SEVENTH DAY, GOD RESTED.



GOD SHOWED ADAM AND EVE THE BEAUTY AND FRUITFULNESS OF THE GARDEN THEY LIVED IN. HE TOLD THEM, "YOU MAY EAT FROM EVERY TREE EXCEPT ONE, THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL. IF YOU EAT FROM THAT TREE, YOU WILL DIE."

Tempted in the Garden

BASED ON GENESIS 3

LOOK, ADAM!
THE LITTLE BIRD
COMES WHEN
I CALL!

GOD IS
GOOD TO US.
HE HAS GIVEN US
EVERYTHING.

EVERYTHING
EXCEPT FRUIT
FROM THE TREE
OF KNOWLEDGE
OF GOOD
AND EVIL.

YES, THAT IS
FORBIDDEN!

BUT EVE WONDERS, AND
ONE DAY SHE GOES TO
THE TREE AND GAZES AT
THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT.

SATAN, IN THE FORM OF A SERPENT, TEMPTS EVE.

ARE YOU SURE GOD SAID NOT TO EAT THIS FRUIT?

OH, YOU WON'T DIE IF YOU TOUCH IT. SEE? AND IF YOU EAT IT, YOU WILL BE WISE—JUST LIKE GOD.

YOU'RE RIGHT! AND IF THIS FRUIT WILL MAKE ME WISE, SURELY THERE'S NO HARM IN TAKING JUST ONE BITE.

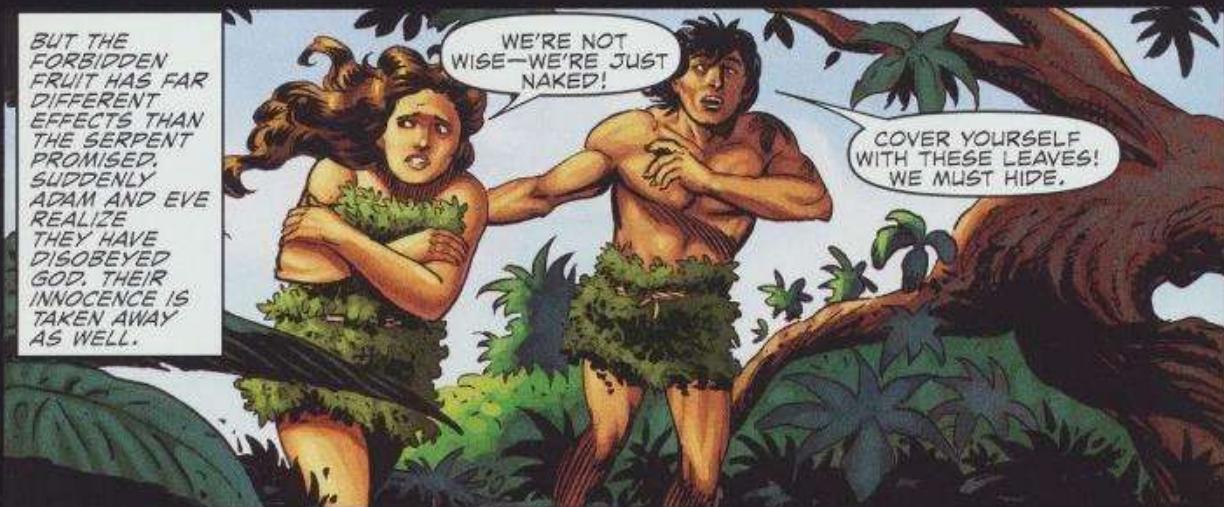
ADAM! IT TASTES DELICIOUS!

OH, YES. IF WE EVEN TOUCH IT, WE'LL DIE.

AND IT WILL MAKE YOU WISE.



BUT THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT HAS FAR DIFFERENT EFFECTS THAN THE SERPENT PROMISED. SUDDENLY ADAM AND EVE REALIZE THEY HAVE DISOBeyed GOD. THEIR INNOCENCE IS TAKEN AWAY AS WELL.



IN THE STILLNESS OF THE GARDEN, GOD COMES TO ADAM AND EVE.



BECAUSE YOU DISOBeyed ME, YOU MUST LEAVE THIS BEAUTIFUL GARDEN. FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK HARD TO SURVIVE.

GOD MAKES CLOTHES FOR ADAM AND EVE OUT OF ANIMAL SKINS AND SENDS THEM AWAY.



GOD'S PROMISE OF SALVATION

THE PERFECT UNITY BETWEEN GOD AND HIS BELOVED CREATION IS NOW BROKEN FOR ALL TIME. ADAM AND EVE ARE FORCED TO CREATE A NEW LIFE OUT OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND SHAME.

BUT ALREADY, GOD HAS A PLAN TO REDEEM HIS CREATION. GOD PROMISES THAT ONE DAY HE WILL SEND A SAVIOR FOR HIS PEOPLE.

Brother's Blood Cry

BASED ON GENESIS 4-5

OUTSIDE THE GARDEN OF EDEN, THE LAND IS BARREN, HOT, AND DRY. WEARY, ALONE, AND FRIGHTENED, ADAM AND EVE SEARCH UNTIL THEY FIND A PLACE TO MAKE A HOME.

REMEMBER HOW BEAUTIFUL EDEN WAS? IF ONLY ...

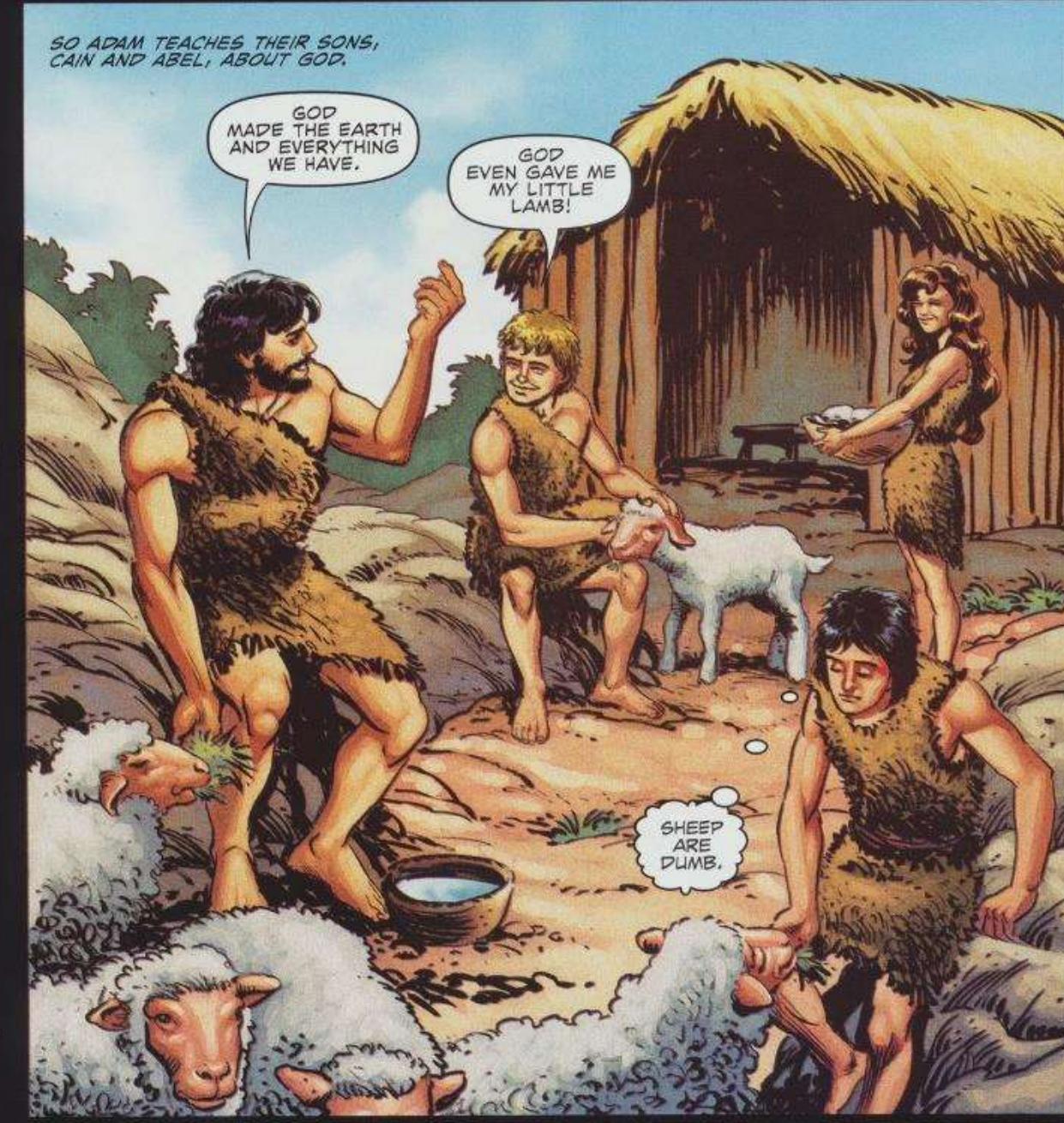
IT IS OUR OWN FAULT FOR DISOBEDIING GOD. BUT I WILL TEACH OUR CHILDREN TO OBEY AND LOVE GOD, IF I CAN HELP IT, THEY WON'T REPEAT OUR MISTAKE.

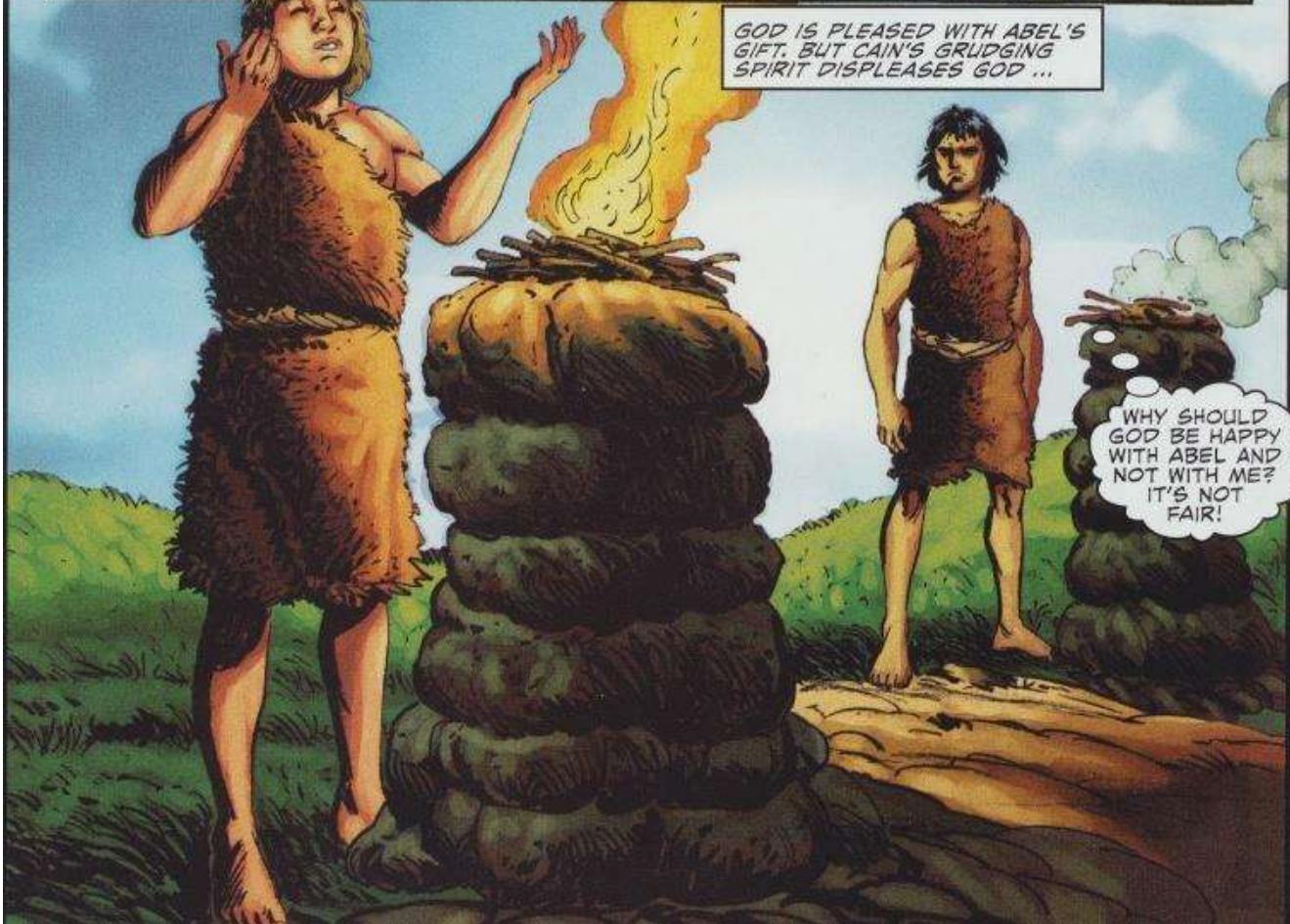
SO ADAM TEACHES THEIR SONS, CAIN AND ABEL, ABOUT GOD.

GOD MADE THE EARTH AND EVERYTHING WE HAVE.

GOD EVEN GAVE ME MY LITTLE LAMB!

SHEEP ARE DUMB.

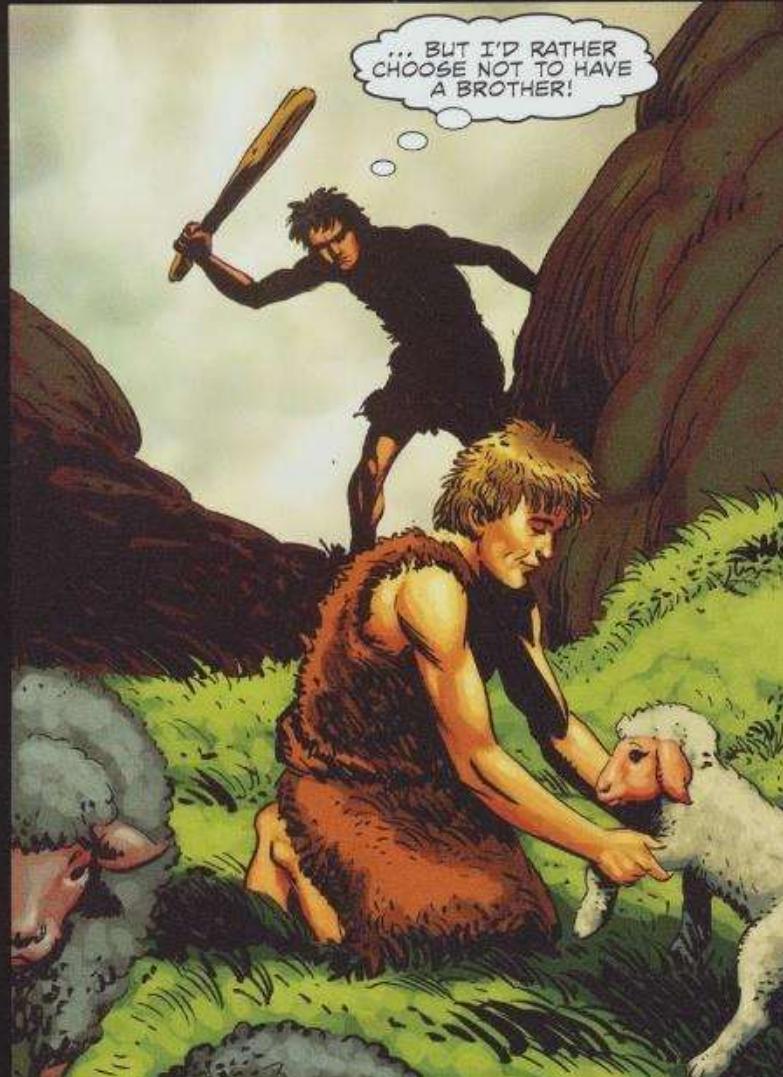






AS LONG
AS ABEL IS
AROUND, HE'LL
ALWAYS BE THE
FAVORITE.

GOD TOLD ME I
COULD CHOOSE TO HAVE
POWER OVER MY
SIN ...

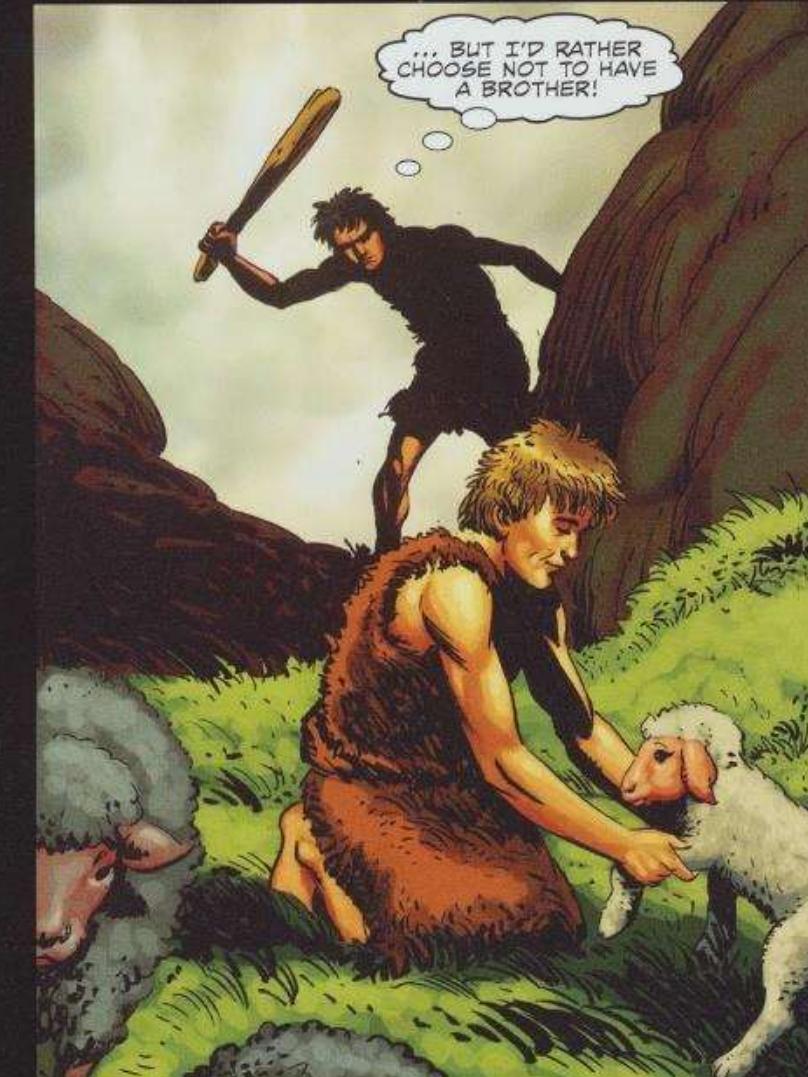


... BUT I'D RATHER
CHOOSE NOT TO HAVE
A BROTHER!

CAIN GIVES IN TO HIS JEALOUSY
AND KILLS HIS BROTHER.



NOW I
JUST NEED TO
PRETEND I DON'T
KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT ABEL'S
DEATH.



BUT GOD CALLS OUT TO CAIN.

CAIN!
WHERE IS YOUR
BROTHER?

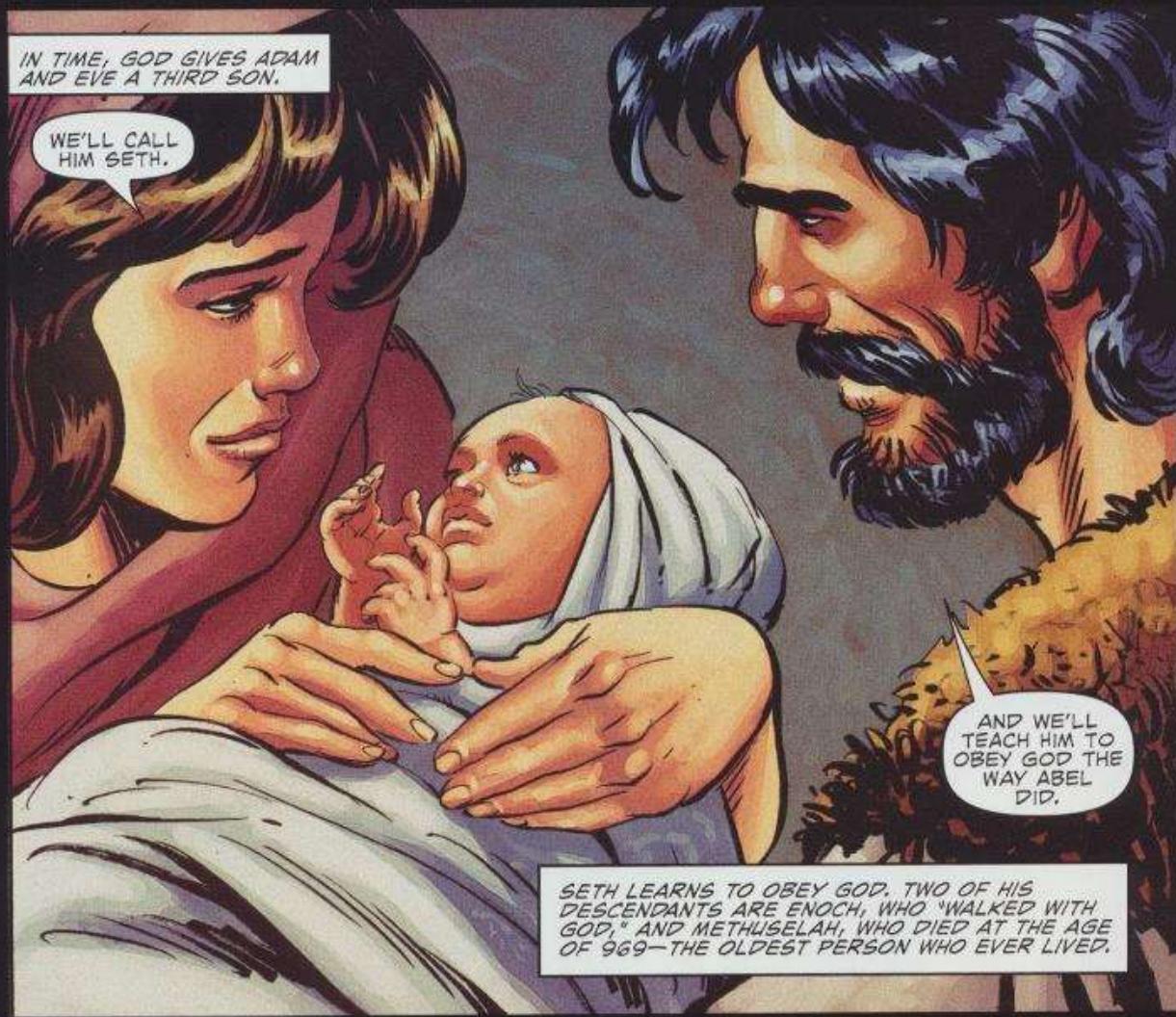
I ...
I DON'T KNOW.
AM I SUPPOSED
TO KEEP TRACK OF
MY BROTHER?

YOUR BROTHER'S BLOOD
CRIES OUT TO ME FROM THE GROUND.
FROM NOW ON, THE GROUND WILL YIELD
NO FRUIT FOR YOU, AND YOU WILL
WANDER THE EARTH UNTIL
YOUR DEATH.

HE
KNOWS!

PLEASE, GOD,
THIS PUNISHMENT
IS MORE THAN
I CAN TAKE!

GOD'S SENTENCE IS CARRIED OUT. CAIN FLEES TO A LAND CALLED NOD. EVENTUALLY HE WILL GET MARRIED, START A FAMILY, AND BUILD THE FIRST CITY, WHICH HE WILL NAME FOR HIS SON, ENOCH. BUT IN THE MEANTIME, ADAM AND EVE ARE HEARTBROKEN OVER LOSING BOTH OF THEIR SONS.

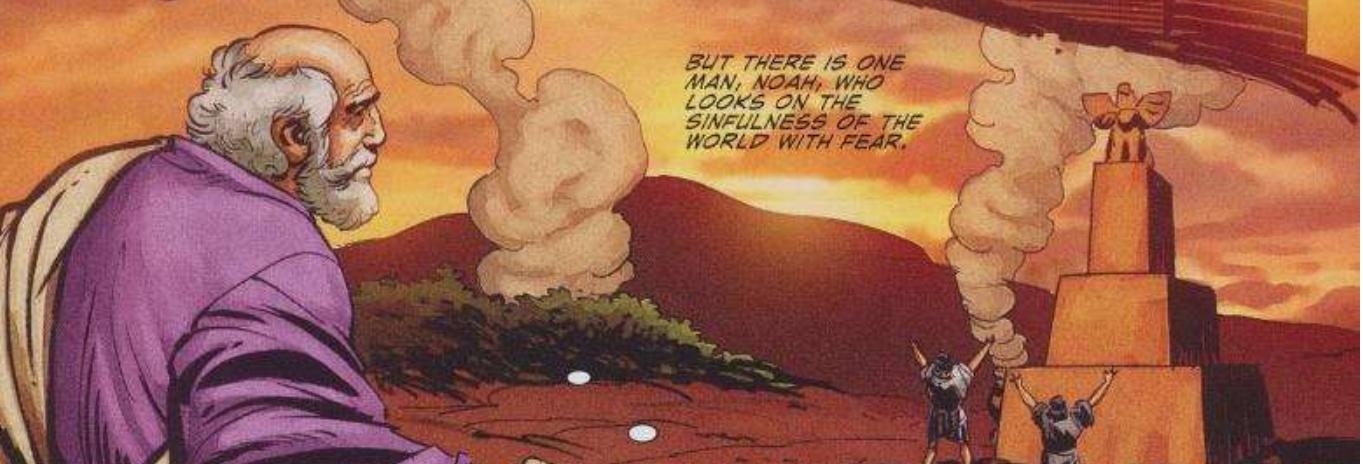




AS GENERATIONS
PASS, HOWEVER,
PEOPLE TURN AWAY
FROM GOD. THEY LIE,
CHEAT, AND MURDER.



THEY WORSHIP THE SUN AND THE
MOON AND THE STARS, AND THEY
BOW DOWN BEFORE IDOLS.



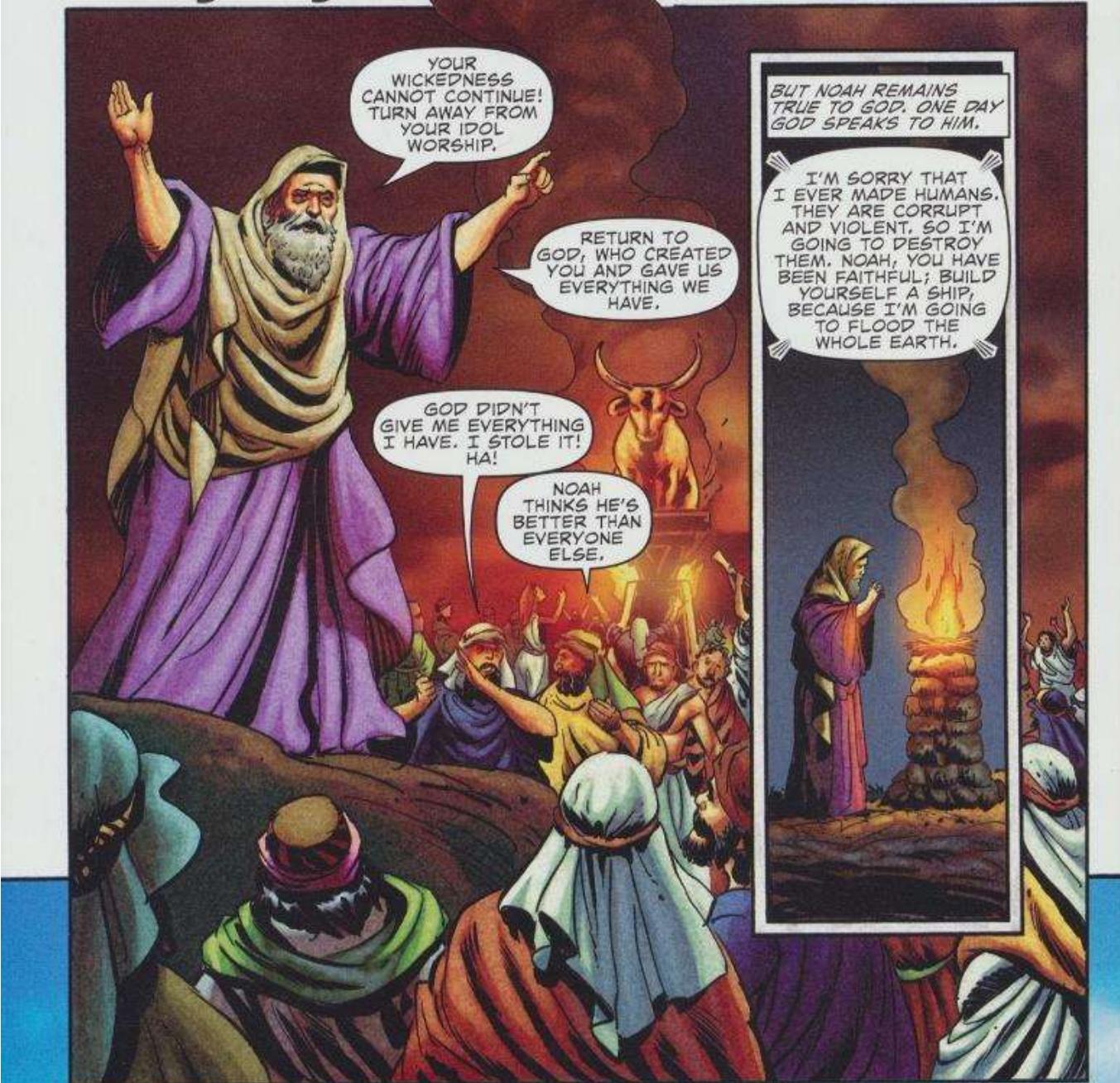
BUT THERE IS ONE
MAN, NOAH, WHO
LOOKS ON THE
SINFULNESS OF THE
WORLD WITH FEAR.



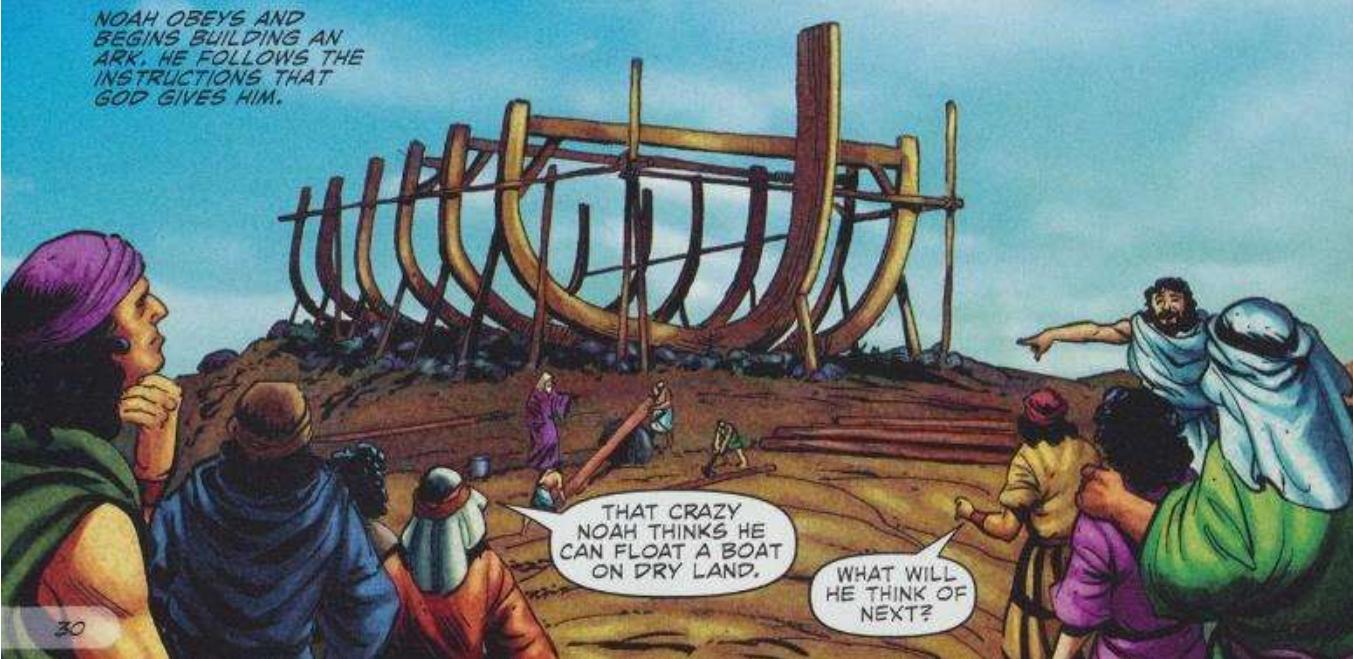
HOW
LONG WILL
GOD ALLOW THIS
WICKEDNESS TO
CONTINUE?

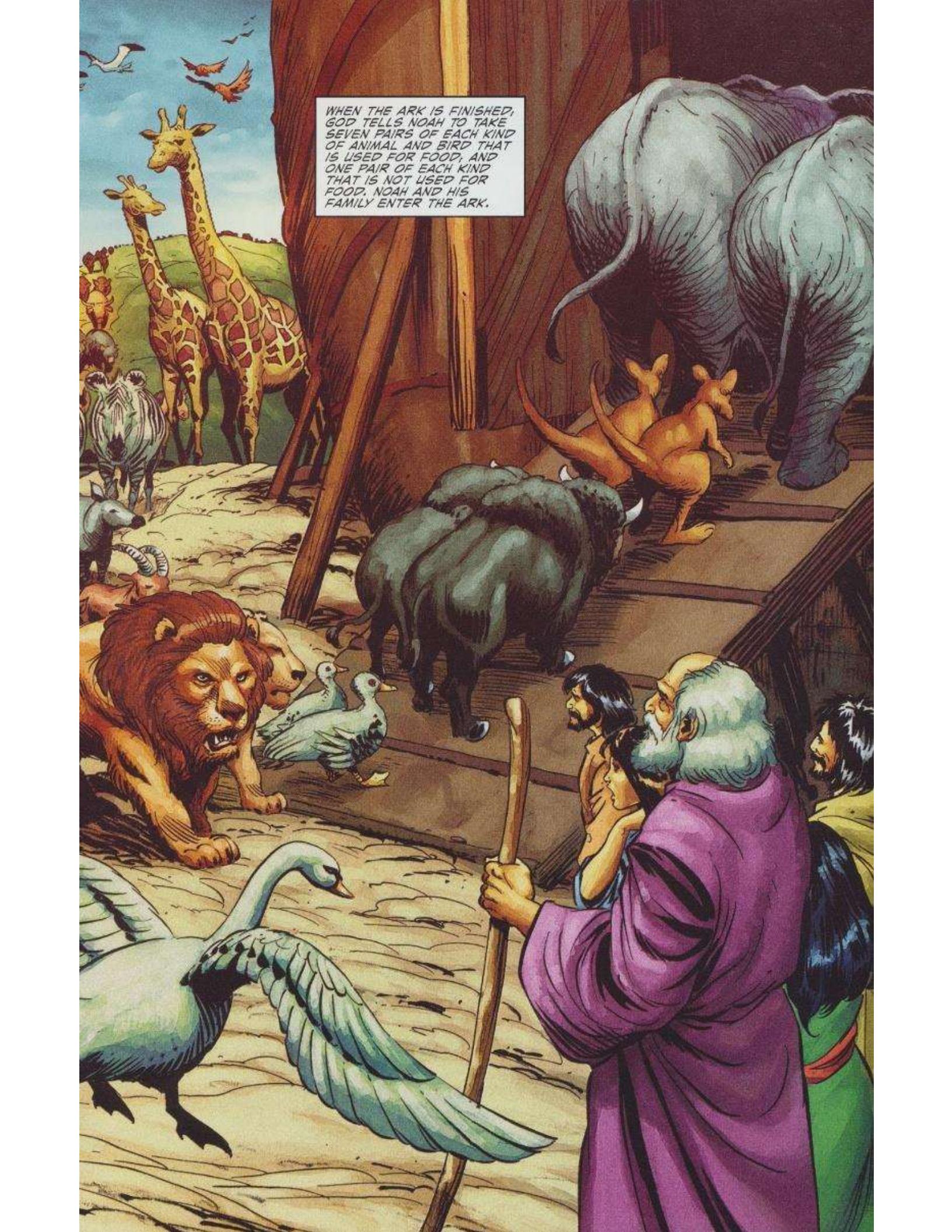
Rainy Days

BASED ON GENESIS 6-7



NOAH OBEYS AND BEGINS BUILDING AN ARK. HE FOLLOWS THE INSTRUCTIONS THAT GOD GIVES HIM.





WHEN THE ARK IS FINISHED,
GOD TELLS NOAH TO TAKE
SEVEN PAIRS OF EACH KIND
OF ANIMAL AND BIRD THAT
IS USED FOR FOOD, AND
ONE PAIR OF EACH KIND
THAT IS NOT USED FOR
FOOD. NOAH AND HIS
FAMILY ENTER THE ARK.



A FEW DAYS LATER, SUDDENLY LIGHTNING FLASHES. THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN OPEN AND THE RAINS POUR DOWN. FLOODWATERS RISE RAPIDLY.



MAYBE NOAH WAS RIGHT ABOUT HIS ARK!

DON'T WORRY. THERE'S NEVER BEEN ENOUGH WATER HERE TO FLOAT A BOAT BEFORE.

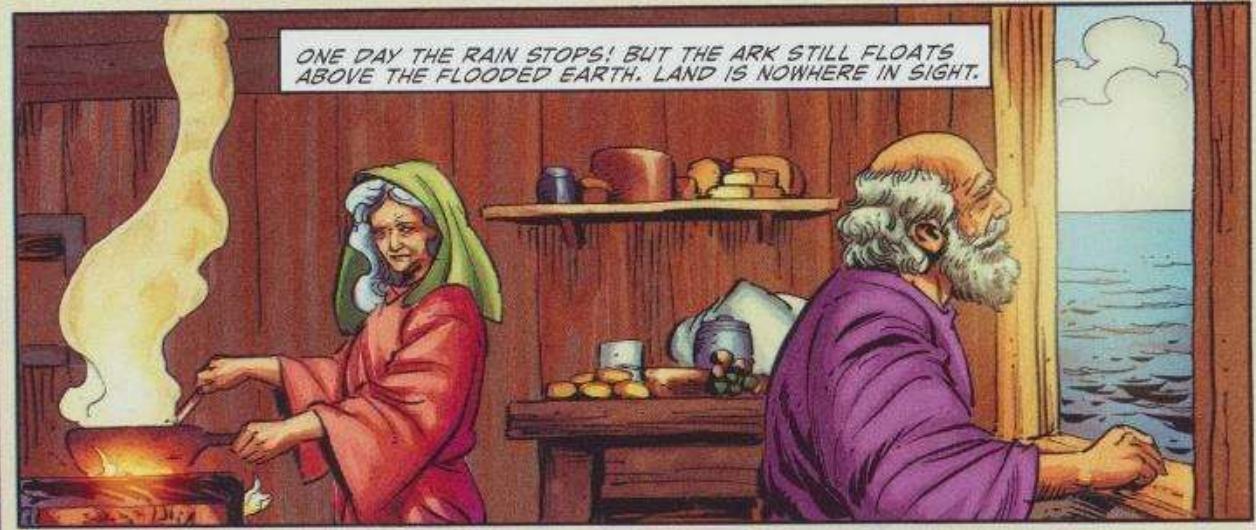
YES, BUT IT'S ALSO NEVER RAINED LIKE THIS BEFORE.



BUT IT IS TOO LATE. THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SPENT THEIR LIVES REJECTING GOD NOW SEE THAT GOD HAS FINALLY REJECTED THEM. AND THE RAINS POUR STEADILY FOR 40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS.

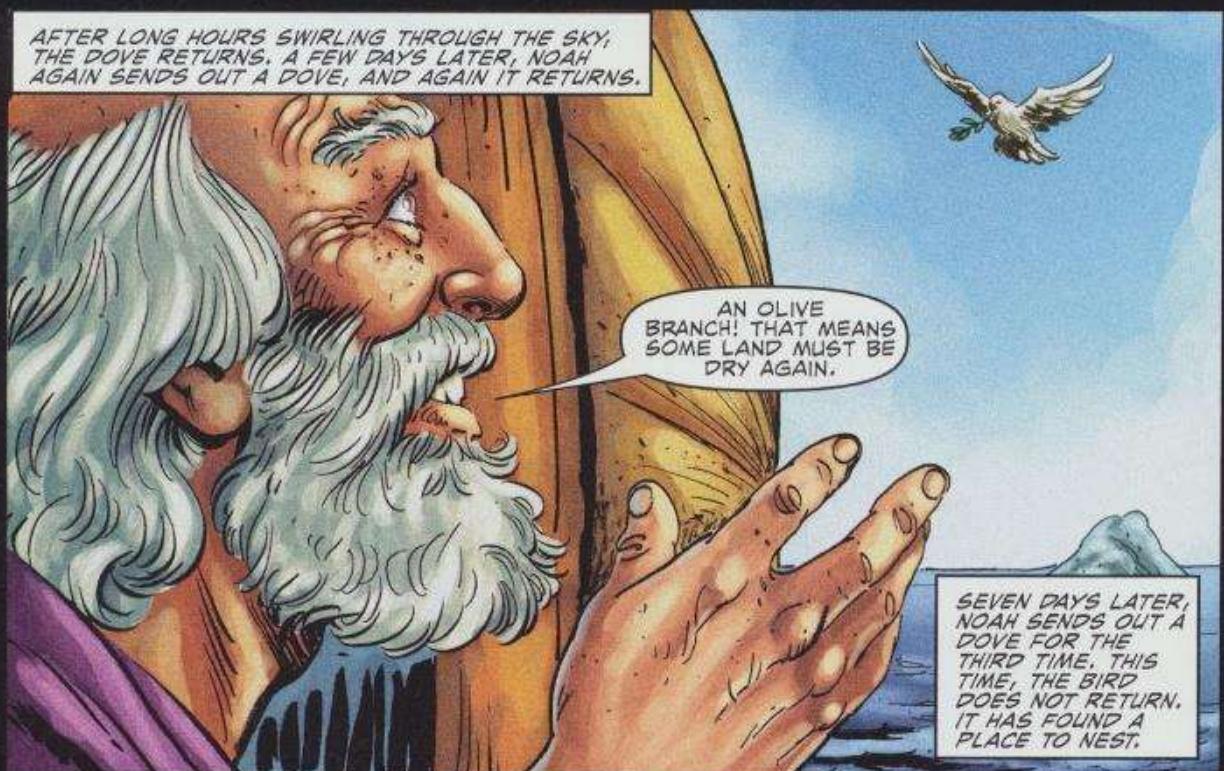


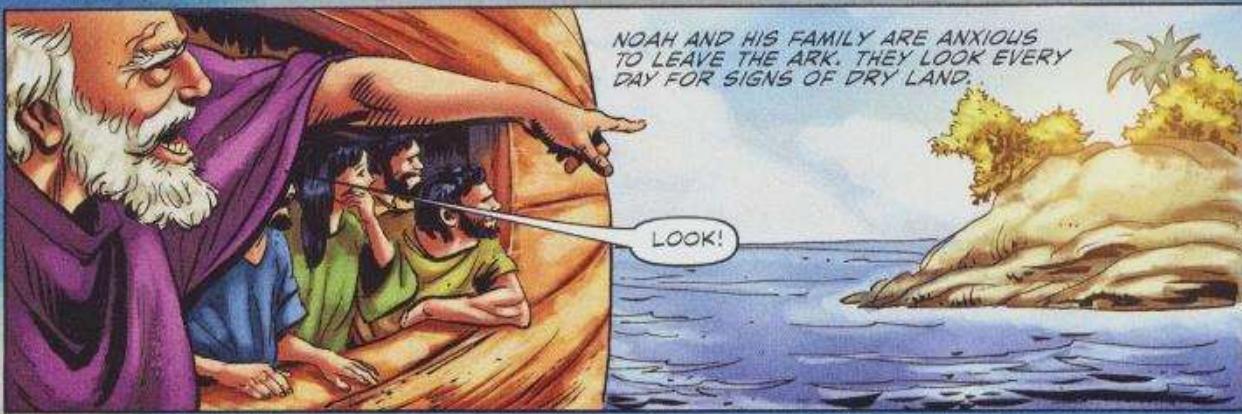
WATER FLOWS OVER THE LAND AND RISES ABOVE THE MOUNTAINTOPS. ALL THE EARTH IS COVERED. ONLY NOAH'S GREAT ARK SURVIVES. THE FLOOD DESTROYS EVERYTHING EVIL.



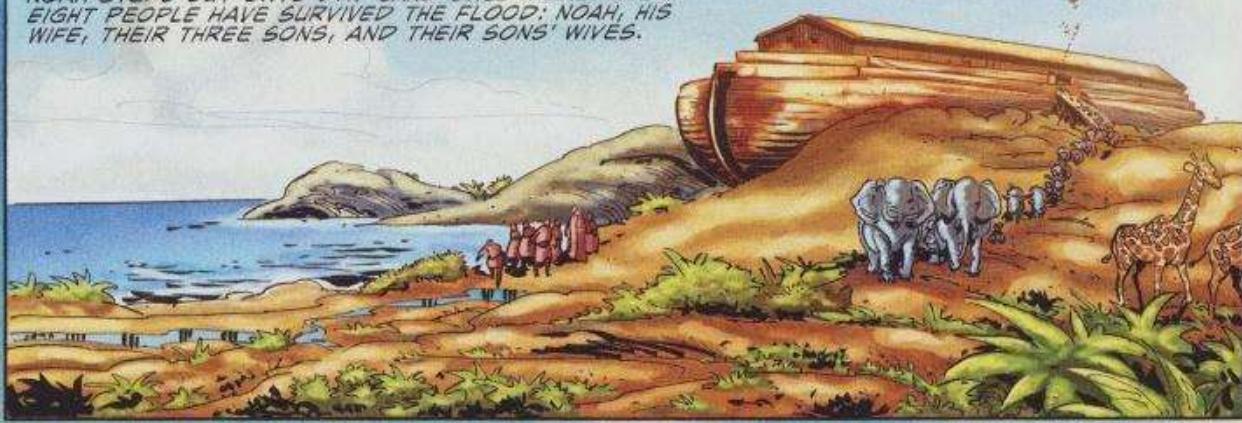
A Rainbow Promise

BASED ON GENESIS 8-10





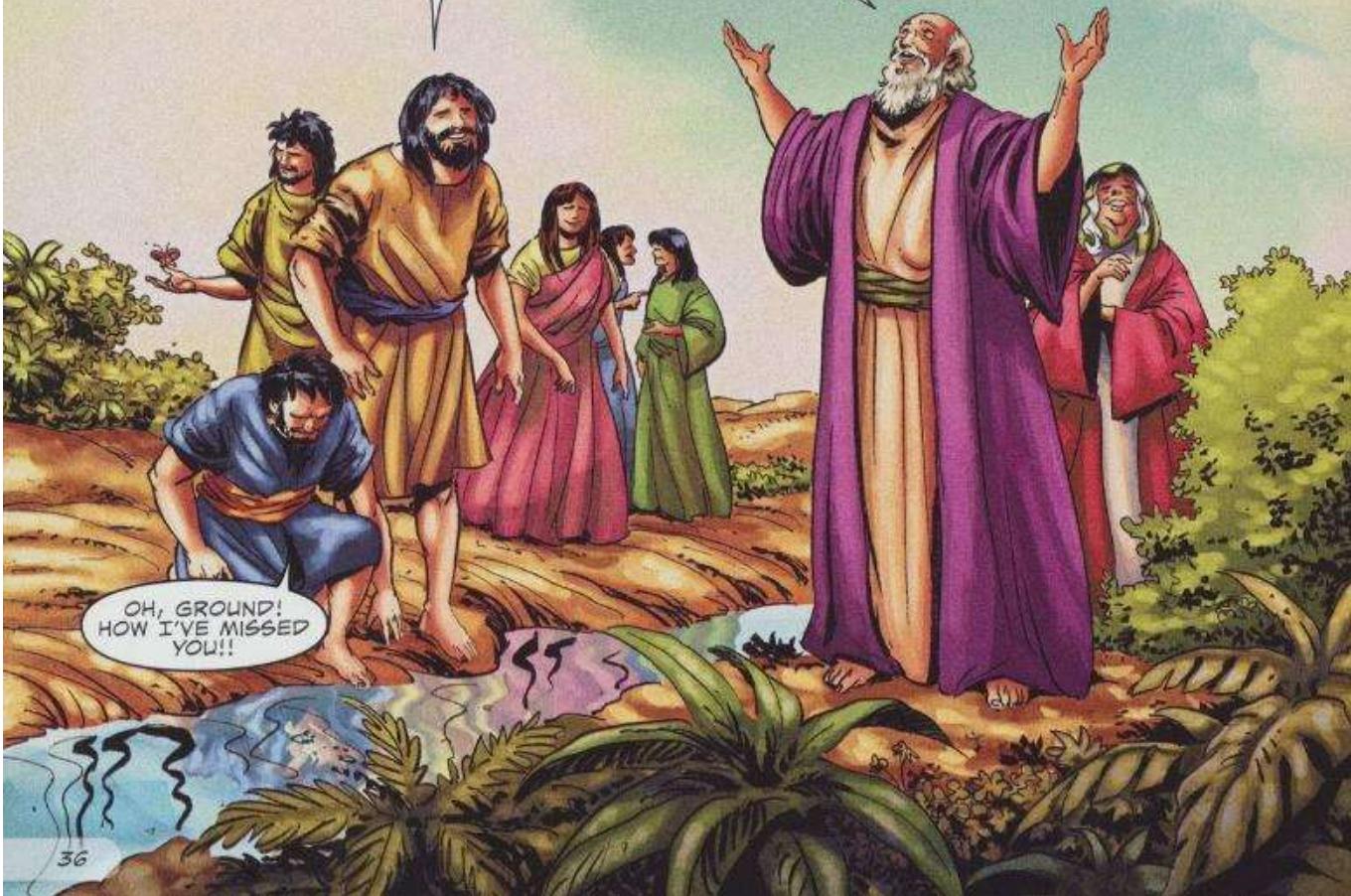
A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AFTER THE FLOOD STARTED, NOAH STEPS OUT ONTO DRY LAND ONCE MORE. ONLY EIGHT PEOPLE HAVE SURVIVED THE FLOOD: NOAH, HIS WIFE, THEIR THREE SONS, AND THEIR SONS' WIVES.



THE WARM SUN ON MY FACE, THE GRASS UNDER MY FEET—IT FEELS WONDERFUL!

EVERYTHING EVIL IS GONE. THROUGH US, GOD IS GIVING HUMAN BEINGS A NEW START. WE MUST OBEY GOD AND TEACH EVERYONE WHO FOLLOWS US TO OBEY.

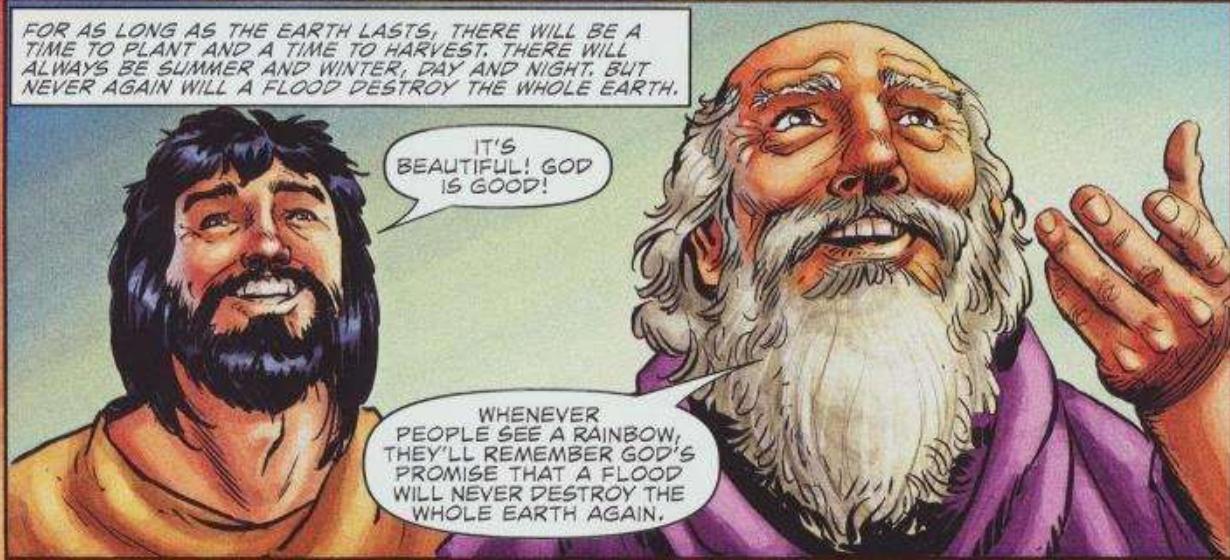
OH, GROUND! HOW I'VE MISSED YOU!!



THE FIRST THING NOAH DOES IS BUILD AN ALTAR. HE THANKS GOD FOR HIS CARE AND ASKS GOD'S GUIDANCE TO HELP THE FAMILY MAKE A NEW START. THEN GOD MAKES A NEW WONDER IN THE SKY ...



FOR AS LONG AS THE EARTH LASTS, THERE WILL BE A TIME TO PLANT AND A TIME TO HARVEST. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SUMMER AND WINTER, DAY AND NIGHT. BUT NEVER AGAIN WILL A FLOOD DESTROY THE WHOLE EARTH.



IN THE YEARS AFTER THE FLOOD, NOAH'S SONS—SHEM, HAM, AND JAPHETH—AND THEIR FAMILIES MOVE DOWN TO THE RIVER VALLEYS. THEIR FAMILIES GROW LARGER. IN TIME, THE MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS ARE DOTTED WITH THE TENTS OF SHEPHERD TRIBESMEN, AND THE RICH RIVER VALLEYS WITH GROWING CITIES.



A Babbling Tower

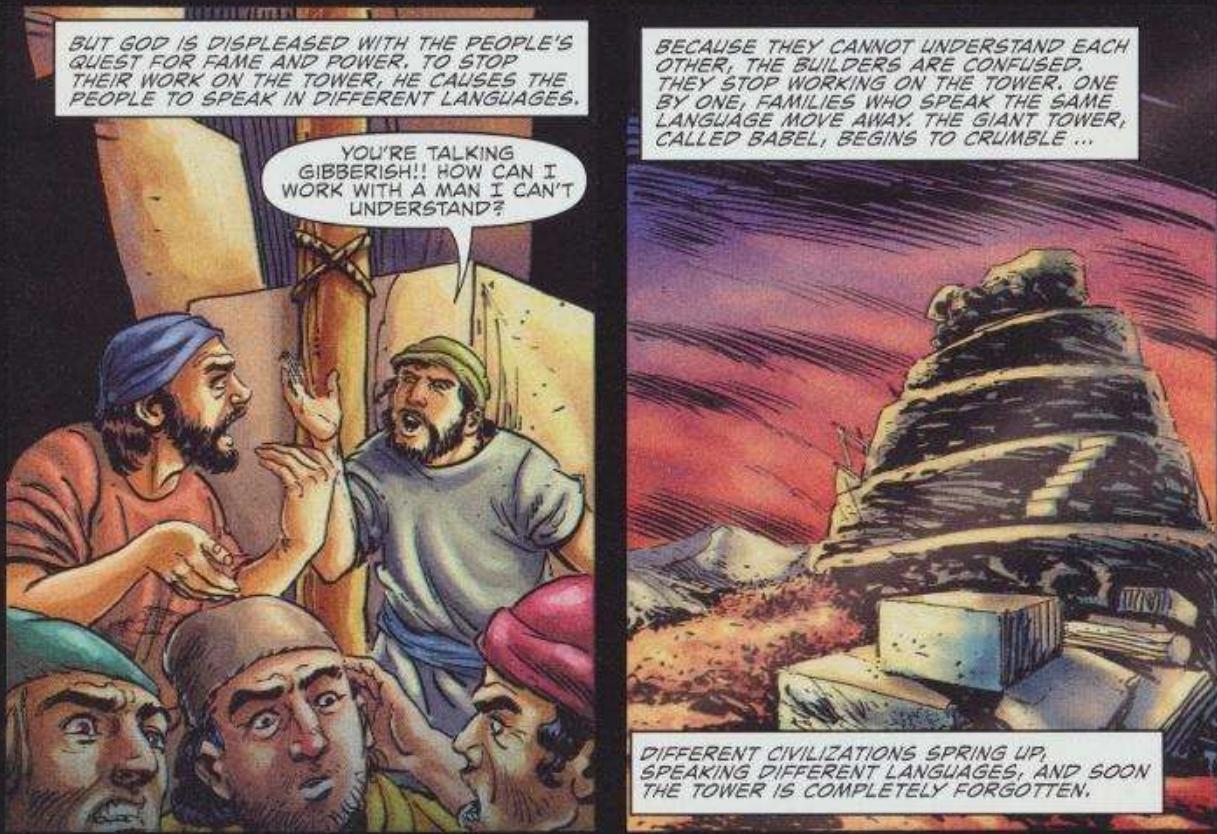
BASED ON GENESIS 11:1-9

AS PEOPLE FROM THE CITIES WORK TOGETHER, THEY
BECOME PROUD OF THE THINGS THEY CAN BUILD.
THEY EVEN DREAM OF BUILDING A GREAT TOWER ...

WE'LL
BUILD A TOWER HIGH
ENOUGH TO REACH
HEAVEN.

IT WILL MAKE
US FAMOUS AND
POWERFUL!





God's Wager

BASED ON JOB

IN A DISTANT LAND, JOB, A MAN WHO LOVES GOD, HAS EVERYTHING HE NEEDS. HE HAS 7,000 SHEEP, 3,000 CAMELS, 1,000 OXEN, 500 DONKEYS AND SERVANTS TO TAKE CARE OF ALL HIS NEEDS. HE ALSO HAS A WONDERFUL FAMILY—A WIFE, SEVEN SONS, AND THREE DAUGHTERS ...

THE LORD HAS
BLESSED ME TO
OVERFLOWING!

UP IN HEAVEN, GOD IS PROUD OF HIS RIGHTEOUS
SERVANT. BUT SATAN HATES TO SEE A HAPPY ENDING.

JOB ONLY
WORSHIPS YOU
BECAUSE YOU MAKE
SURE NOTHING BAD
EVER HAPPENS
TO HIM.

IF YOU
DIDN'T GIVE HIM
SUCH RICHES AND
BLESSINGS—

—HE WOULD
TURN FROM YOU
IN AN INSTANT
AND CURSE
YOUR NAME.

YOU THINK
SO? VERY WELL,
YOU MAY TEST HIM.
TAKE AWAY HIS
BLESSINGS, BUT DO
NOT HURT HIM.

SATAN WASTES NO TIME
IN STRIKING JOB WITH
CATASTROPHE. ONE DAY
A MESSENGER COMES
TO JOB ...

THE SABEANS
ATTACKED! THEY
STOLE THE OXEN
AND DONKEYS
AND KILLED THE
PEOPLE WORKING
IN YOUR FIELDS.
I'M THE ONLY
ONE WHO
ESCAPED.

THAT SAME MOMENT,
ANOTHER MESSENGER
ARRIVES ...

LIGHTNING STRUCK THE
SHEEP AND SHEPHERDS.
THEY'RE ALL DEAD.
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO
ESCAPED.

THEN A THIRD
MESSENGER COMES ...

CHALDEANS RAIDED
THE CAMELS AND
KILLED THE CAMEL
DRIVERS. I'M THE ONLY
ONE WHO ESCAPED.

YET ANOTHER
MESSENGER
ARRIVES WITH
BAD NEWS ...

YOUR OLDEST SON'S
HOUSE COLLAPSED,
KILLING ALL OF
YOUR CHILDREN. I'M
THE ONLY ONE WHO
ESCAPED.

JOB IS SADDENED BY THE LOSS OF HIS PROPERTY AND LIVESTOCK, BUT HE IS DEVASTATED AT THE DEATH OF HIS CHILDREN!

HE SHAVES OFF ALL HIS HAIR IN GRIEF, AND RIPS HIS CLOTHES TO TATTERS, BUT HE DOES NOT BLAME GOD FOR THIS MISFORTUNE.

I CAME INTO THIS WORLD WITH NOTHING, AND I WILL LEAVE IT WITH NOTHING. GOD GAVE, AND GOD TOOK AWAY. PRAISE BE TO GOD!

SEE, SATAN? HE IS A BETTER MAN THAN YOU THOUGHT.

WELL, SURE, SINCE I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO HIM OR HIS HEALTH, BUT NO ONE PRAISES GOD WHEN THEY'RE SICK.

SO YOU THINK. RUIN HIS HEALTH, IF YOU THINK THAT WILL HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THIS RIGHTEOUS MAN. BUT DO NOT KILL HIM.

SATAN IMMEDIATELY RETURNS TO EARTH AND STRIKES JOB WITH TERRIBLE OPEN SORES FROM HEAD TO FOOT. HE CURSES JOB WITH INSOMNIA AND—WHEN JOB DOES SLEEP—SATAN TERRIFIES HIM WITH NIGHTMARES. JOB CAN'T KEEP HIS FOOD DOWN AND LOSES SO MUCH WEIGHT, HE CAN HARDLY MOVE.

STILL, JOB DOES NOT COMPLAIN. BUT HIS WIFE ...

EVERYTHING WE OWNED AND EVERYONE WE LOVED IS GONE. SURELY THIS DISEASE WILL KILL YOU. YOU SHOULD JUST CURSE GOD AND DIE!

JOB LOOKS AT HIS WIFE OUT OF PAINFUL, BLEARED EYELIDS.

DON'T BE A FOOL. WE CANNOT ACCEPT THE GOOD THINGS FROM GOD WITHOUT ALSO ACCEPTING THE BAD.

WHEN JOB'S FRIENDS HEAR ABOUT HIS TROUBLES, THEY COME TO SIT WITH HIM IN THE GARBAGE DUMP AT THE EDGE OF TOWN. THE DISEASE HAS AFFECTED JOB SO STRONGLY, HIS FRIENDS ALMOST DON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE HIM. FOR SEVEN DAYS, NO ONE SPEAKS. THEY JUST SIT TOGETHER WITH THEIR FRIEND. FINALLY, AFTER A WEEK, JOB BREAKS OUT WITH A CRY OF GRIEF.

I HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG! WHY IS GOD LETTING ALL THESE TERRIBLE THINGS HAPPEN TO ME?

ELIPHAZ IS SHOCKED AT JOB'S HARSH QUESTION.

NOW, DON'T GET UPSET, JOB, BUT FROM EVERYTHING I'VE SEEN, GOD DOESN'T PUNISH INNOCENT PEOPLE. YOU MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING WRONG.

BUT I HAVEN'T SINNED! AND EVEN IF I HAVE, GOD KNOWS MY HEART AND WOULD FORGIVE ME.

BUT BILDAD IS NOT CONVINCED.

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE BLAMING GOD FOR BEING UNFAIR, JOB! I'M SORRY, BUT IF YOUR KIDS WERE KILLED, IT'S BECAUSE THEY MUST HAVE DESERVED IT. YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO CONFESS YOUR SINS—YOU SHOULD TAKE IT.

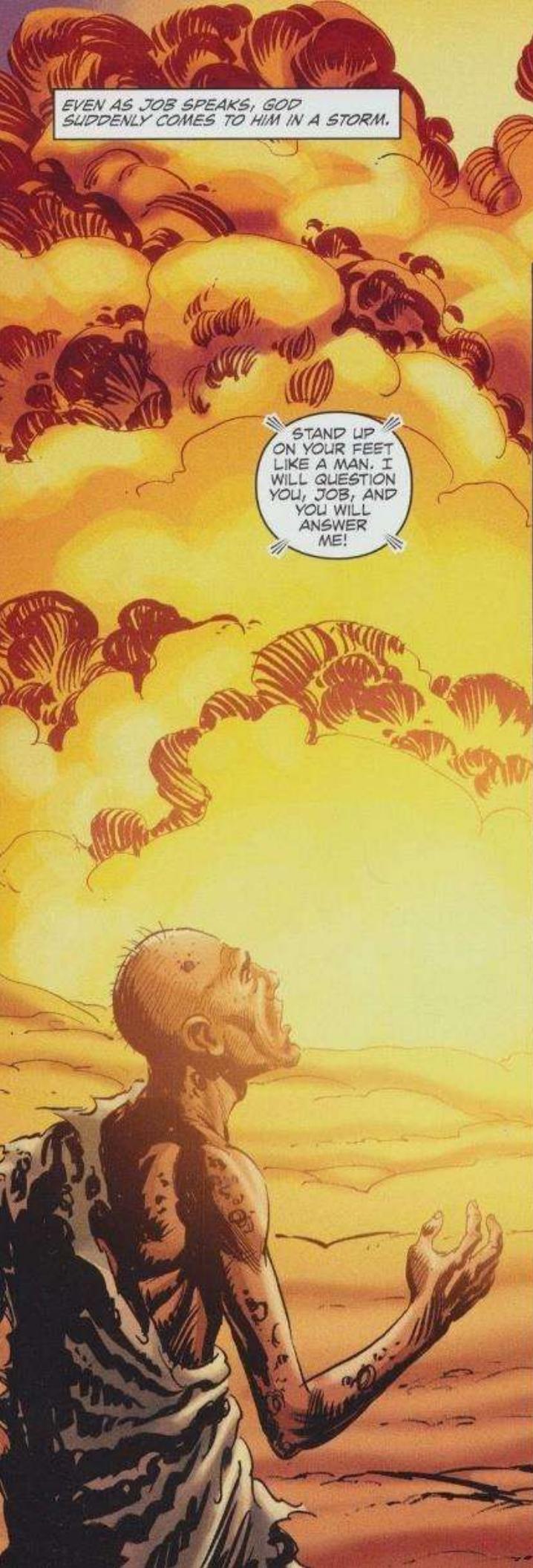
I WOULD CONFESS MY SINS, IF GOD WOULD COME AND TELL ME WHAT I HAD DONE WRONG.

JOB'S INSISTENCE THAT HE IS INNOCENT OFFENDS HIS THIRD FRIEND, ZOPHAR.

YOU WINDBAG! YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT GOD! YOU STUBBORNLY INSIST THAT YOU HAVE DONE NO WRONG, WHEN THE ONLY THING THAT CAN SAVE YOU IS TO APOLOGIZE TO GOD FOR YOUR SINS.

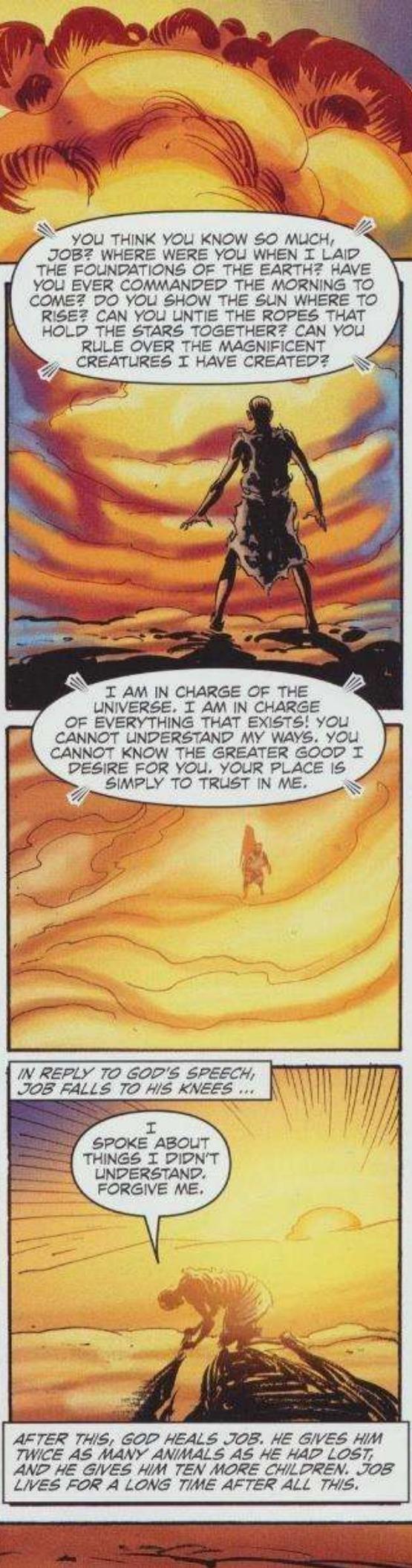
SOME FRIENDS YOU ARE!

YOU DO NOT COMFORT ME AT THE WORST TIME OF MY LIFE. YOU THINK YOU SPEAK FOR GOD? I ONLY WISH HE WOULD COME SPEAK FOR HIMSELF. EVEN IF HE KILLED ME, I WOULD TRUST IN HIM.

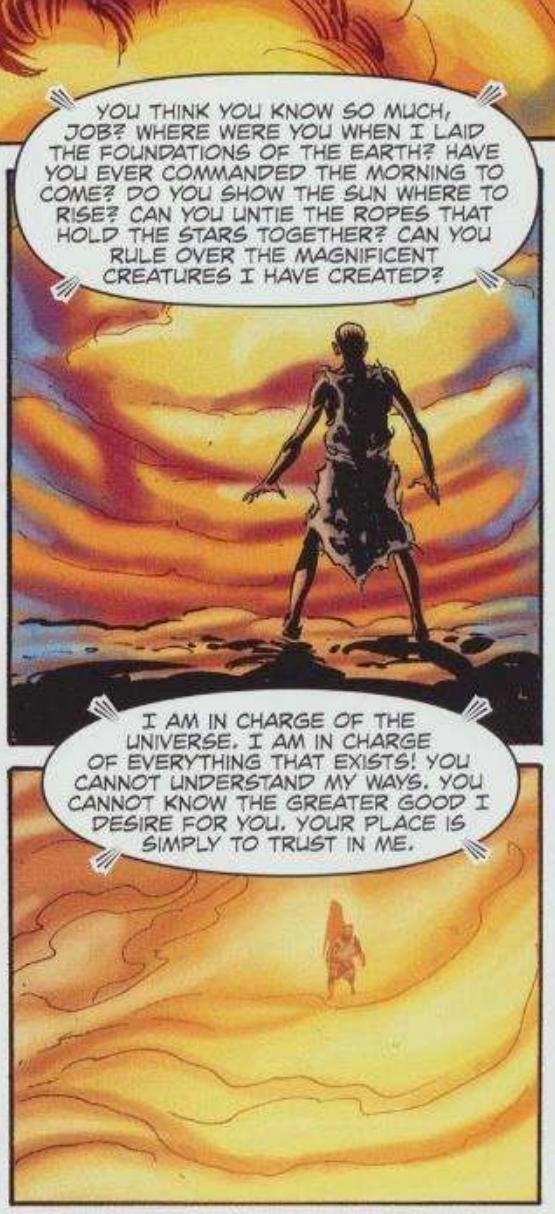


EVEN AS JOB SPEAKS, GOD SUDDENLY COMES TO HIM IN A STORM.

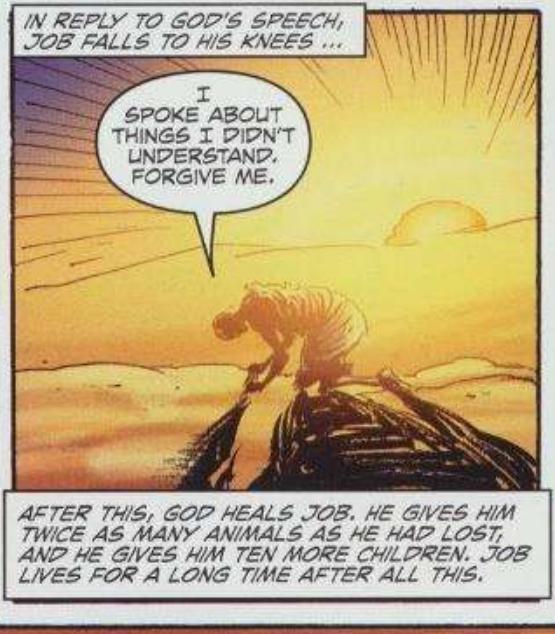
STAND UP ON YOUR FEET LIKE A MAN. I WILL QUESTION YOU, JOB, AND YOU WILL ANSWER ME!



YOU THINK YOU KNOW SO MUCH, JOB? WHERE WERE YOU WHEN I LAID THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH? HAVE YOU EVER COMMANDED THE MORNING TO COME? DO YOU SHOW THE SUN WHERE TO RISE? CAN YOU UNTIE THE ROPES THAT HOLD THE STARS TOGETHER? CAN YOU RULE OVER THE MAGNIFICENT CREATURES I HAVE CREATED?

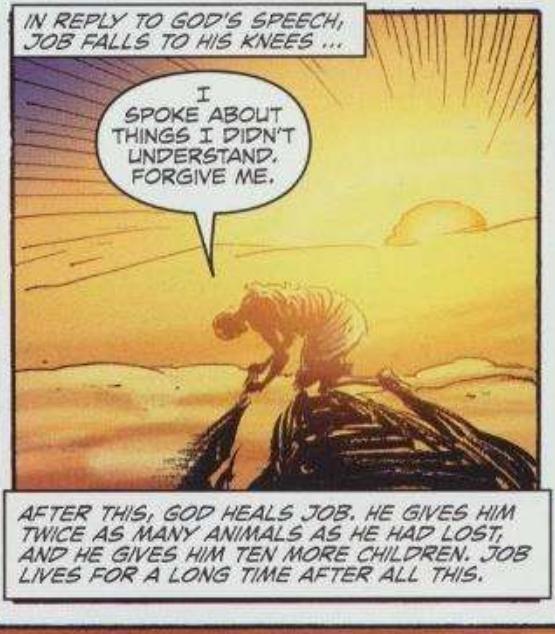


I AM IN CHARGE OF THE UNIVERSE. I AM IN CHARGE OF EVERYTHING THAT EXISTS! YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND MY WAYS. YOU CANNOT KNOW THE GREATER GOOD I DESIRE FOR YOU. YOUR PLACE IS SIMPLY TO TRUST IN ME.



IN REPLY TO GOD'S SPEECH, JOB FALLS TO HIS KNEES ...

I SPOKE ABOUT THINGS I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND, FORGIVE ME.



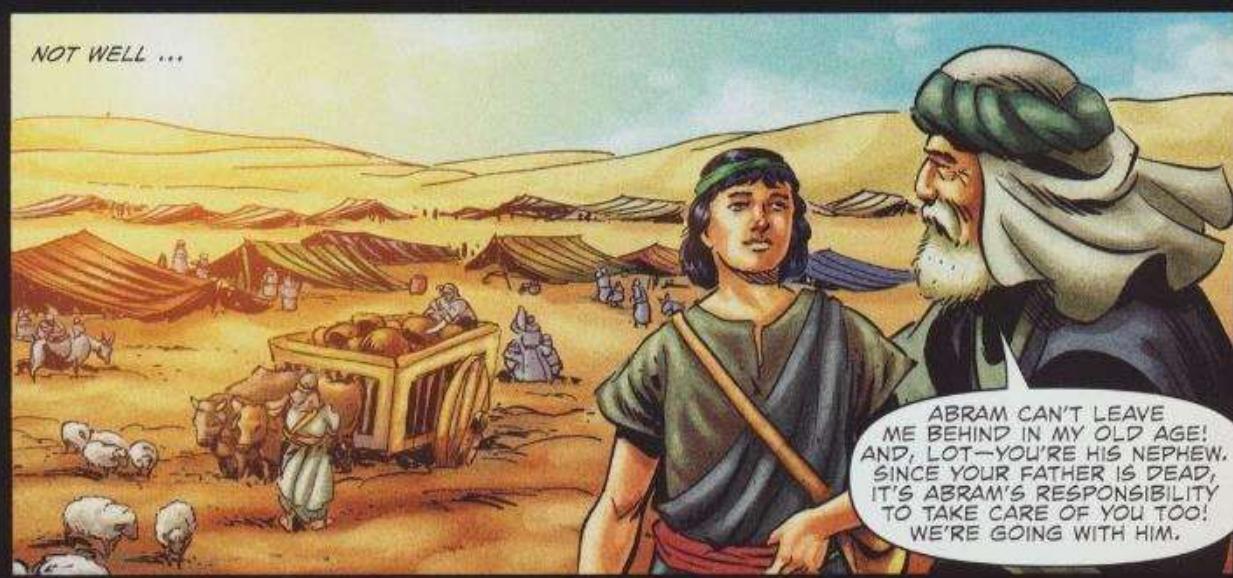
AFTER THIS, GOD HEALS JOB. HE GIVES HIM TWICE AS MANY ANIMALS AS HE HAD LOST, AND HE GIVES HIM TEN MORE CHILDREN. JOB LIVES FOR A LONG TIME AFTER ALL THIS.

God Calls Abram

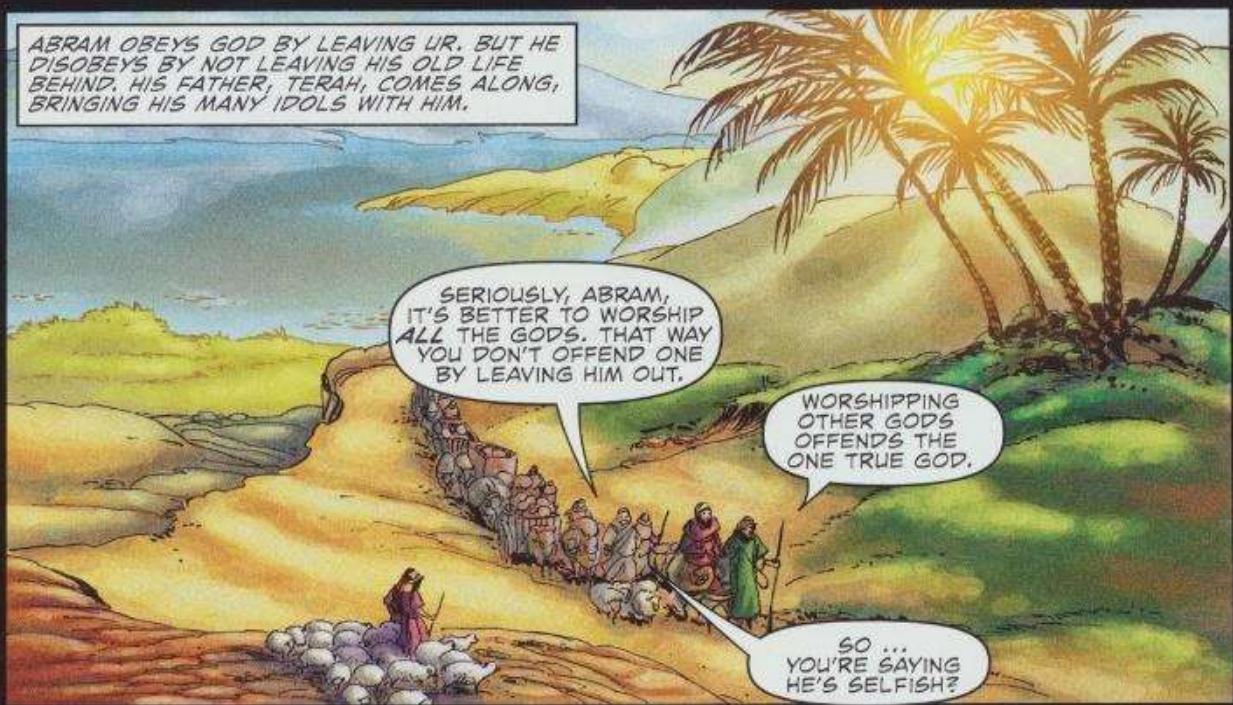
BASED ON GENESIS 11-12

MANY YEARS PASS. PEOPLE FORGET ABOUT THE GOD WHO CREATED THEM. THEY MOVE DOWN THE EUPHRATES RIVER AND BUILD THE GREAT TRADING CITY OF UR. UR IS A LAND OF PLENTY—WITH PLENTY OF DIFFERENT GODS. BUT THE ONE TRUE GOD SPEAKS TO A YOUNG MAN NAMED ABRAM.

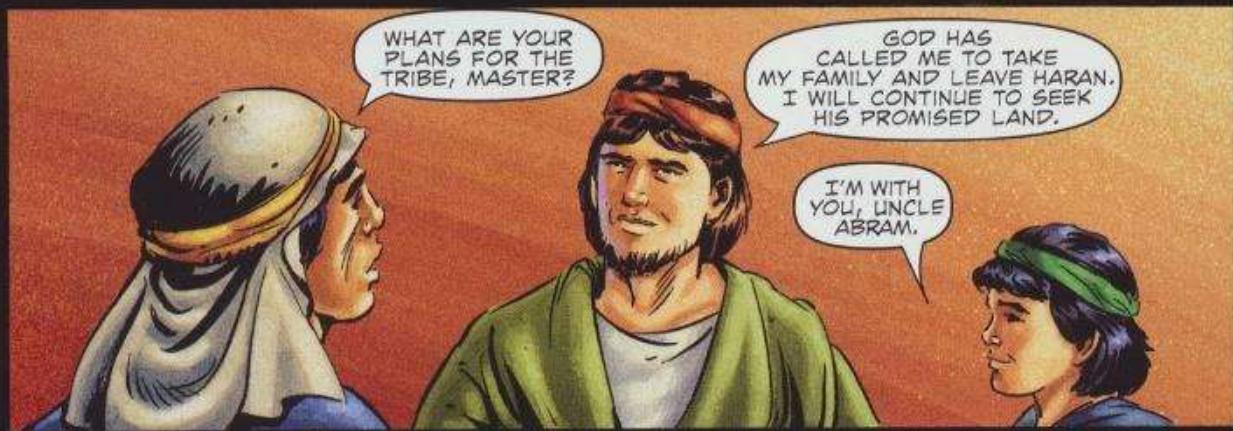
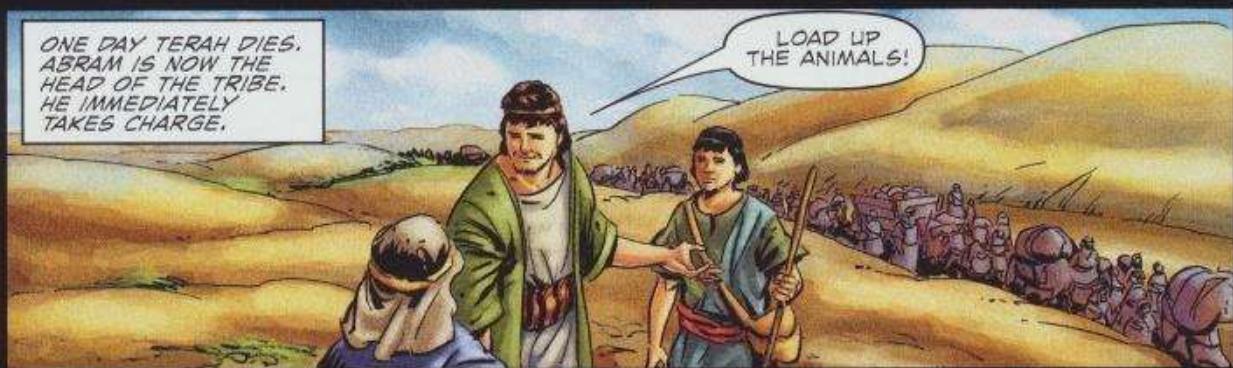
SARAI, GOD HAS SPOKEN TO ME. HE SAID TO LEAVE MY FATHER'S FAMILY, MY COUNTRY, AND THE FALSE GODS OF UR BEHIND ME. HE SAID TO TRAVEL TO A LAND THAT HE WILL SHOW ME. THERE HE WILL MAKE OUR FAMILY A GREAT NATION, AND ALL THE PEOPLE ON THE EARTH WILL BE BLESSED THROUGH ME.



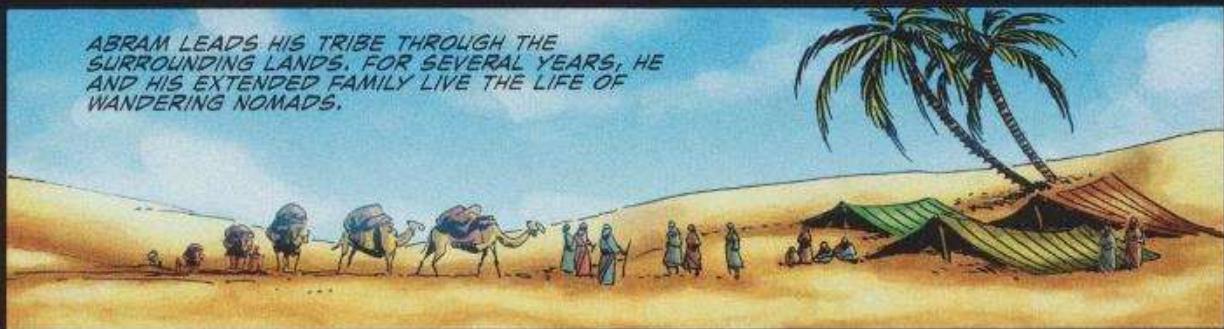
ABRAM OBEYS GOD BY LEAVING UR. BUT HE DISOBEDIES BY NOT LEAVING HIS OLD LIFE BEHIND. HIS FATHER, TERAH, COMES ALONG, BRINGING HIS MANY IDOLS WITH HIM.



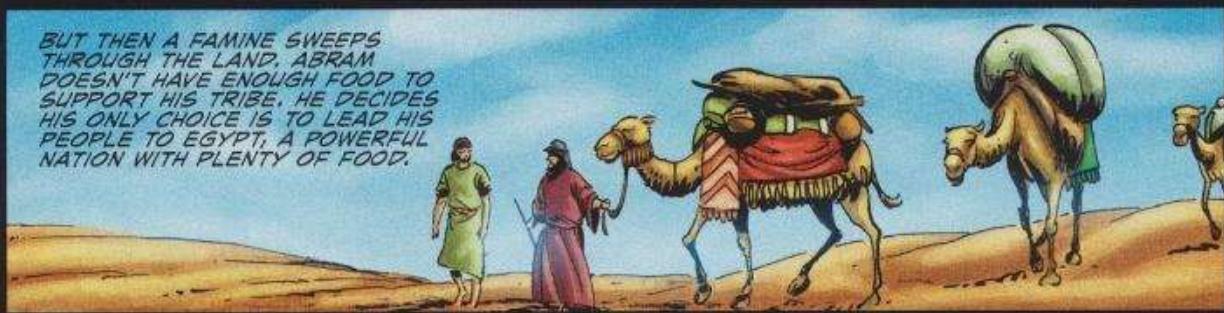
GOD LEADS TERAH, ABRAM, AND THE REST OF THEIR FAMILIES TO THE RICH LAND OF HARAN. EVEN THOUGH THE LAND IS BEAUTIFUL AND FERTILE, GOD DOES NOT WANT THEM TO SETTLE THERE. BUT TERAH LOVES THIS NEW LAND AND WANTS TO RETIRE THERE. OUT OF RESPECT FOR HIS FATHER, ABRAM STAYS IN HARAN, PUTTING OFF HIS PURSUIT OF GOD'S PROMISES.



ABRAM LEADS HIS TRIBE THROUGH THE SURROUNDING LANDS. FOR SEVERAL YEARS, HE AND HIS EXTENDED FAMILY LIVE THE LIFE OF WANDERING NOMADS.



BUT THEN A FAMINE SWEEPS THROUGH THE LAND. ABRAM DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH FOOD TO SUPPORT HIS TRIBE. HE DECIDES HIS ONLY CHOICE IS TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE TO EGYPT, A POWERFUL NATION WITH PLENTY OF FOOD.



BUT HE HAS SOME FEARS ABOUT HIS PLAN ...

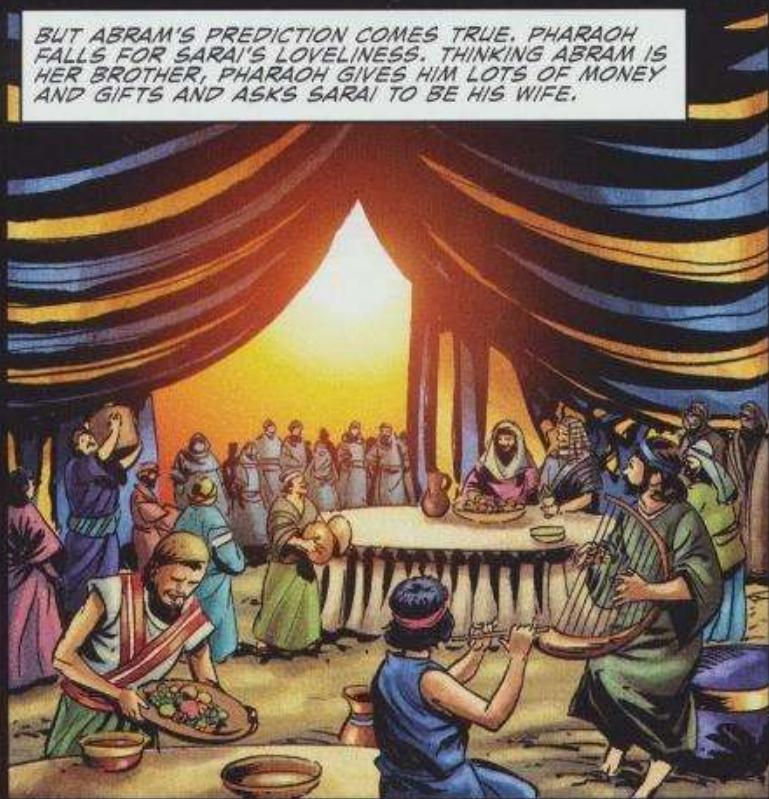
SARAI, YOU ARE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN I'VE EVER SEEN. I'M AFRAID THAT WHEN PHARAOH SEES YOU, HE WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU. SINCE I'M YOUR HUSBAND, HE'LL KILL ME SO THAT HE CAN MARRY YOU. WE MUST PRETEND TO BE BROTHER AND SISTER.

THAT SOUNDS VERY UNLIKELY ... BUT I'LL DO WHAT YOU ASK.

BUT ABRAM'S PREDICTION COMES TRUE. PHARAOH FALLS FOR SARAI'S LOVELINESS. THINKING ABRAM IS HER BROTHER, PHARAOH GIVES HIM LOTS OF MONEY AND GIFTS AND ASKS SARAI TO BE HIS WIFE.

BUT BEFORE PHARAOH CAN MARRY HER, GOD INTERVENES TO SAVE HIS CHOSEN FAMILY.

PLAGUES!



GOD STRIKES THE EGYPTIANS WITH DISEASE SO THEY WILL LET ABRAM AND SARAI GO IN PEACE. THEY GIVE ABRAM FOOD AND MONEY AND SEND HIM AND HIS FAMILY ON THEIR WAY.



THANKFUL FOR THEIR CLOSE ESCAPE, ABRAM AND SARAI REALIZE HOW FOOLISH THEIR PLAN WAS.

SARAI, FORGIVE ME. I DID NOT SEEK GOD'S HELP. I WAS A COWARD AND TRUSTED IN MY OWN PLOTS TO SAVE US.

I FORGIVE YOU, MY HUSBAND.

FROM NOW ON, I WILL TRUST GOD. I CAN ONLY PRAY THAT HE FORGIVES ME.

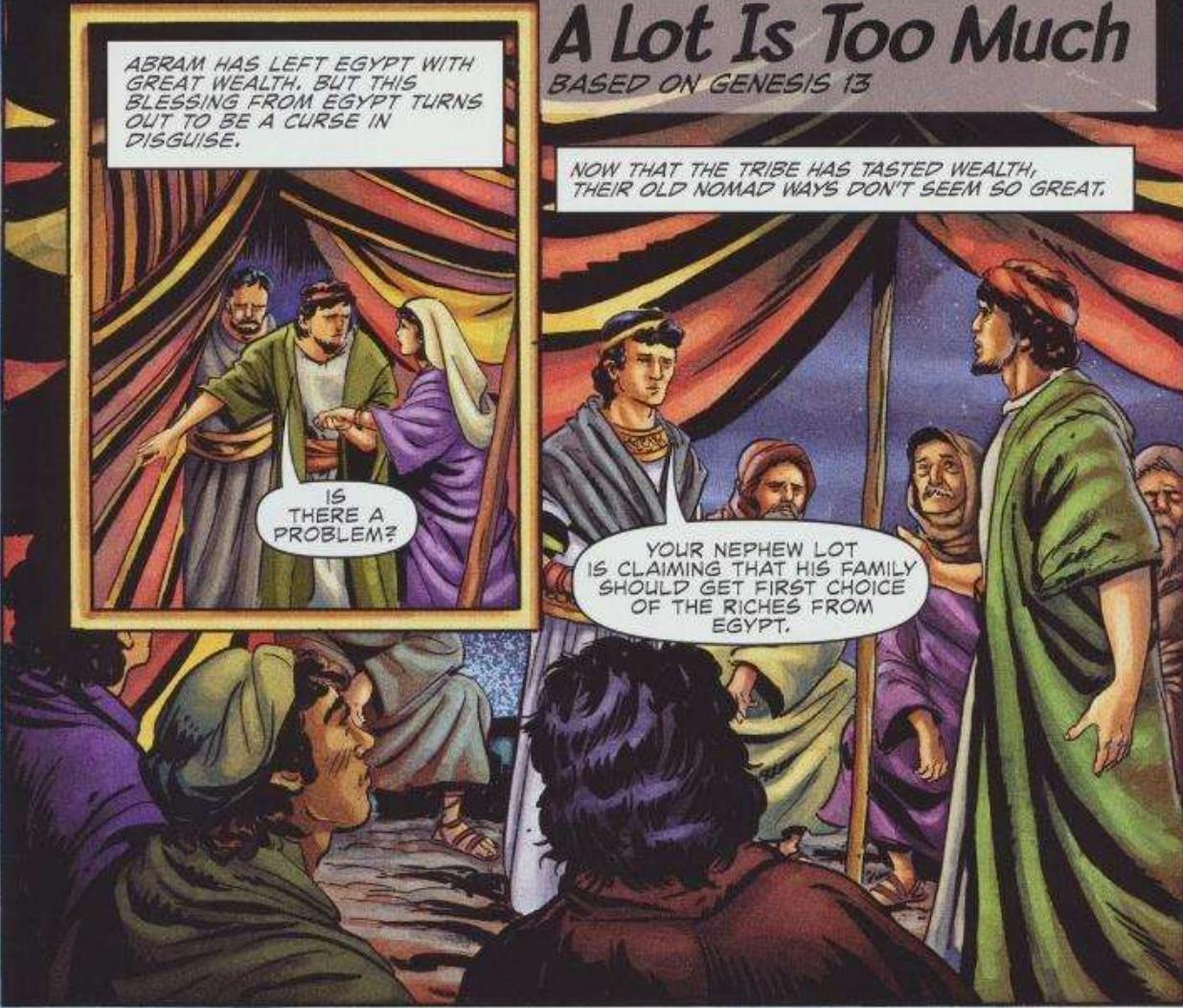
I'M SURE GOD FORGIVES YOU, ABRAM. AFTER ALL, HE PROTECTED US IN EGYPT, EVEN WHEN WE FORGOT TO TRUST HIM.

I'LL NEVER TRY TO OUTSMART GOD'S PLAN FOR US AGAIN!

I JUST HOPE THIS IS THE LAST TIME I HAVE TO PRETEND TO BE YOUR SISTER!

A Lot Is Too Much

BASED ON GENESIS 13



IN SPITE OF THIS, ABRAM AND LOT BOTH PROSPER, AND THEIR FLOCKS INCREASE. BUT SOON THE QUARRELING SPREADS TO THEIR WORKERS.



THE NEXT DAY ABRAM SEEKS OUT HIS NEPHEW.

WHEN ABRAM HEARS OF THE QUARRELS,
HE KNOWS HE MUST DO SOMETHING.

THIS TIME, SARAI,
I'LL HANDLE THIS THE WAY
I THINK GOD WOULD WANT
ME TO. I AM AFRAID THAT
WE MUST LET LOT GO
HIS OWN WAY.

IF YOU ARE TRUSTING
THE LORD, THEN YOUR
PLAN CANNOT
FAIL.

COME WITH
ME, LOT. I HAVE
A SOLUTION TO
OUR SHEEP
PROBLEM.

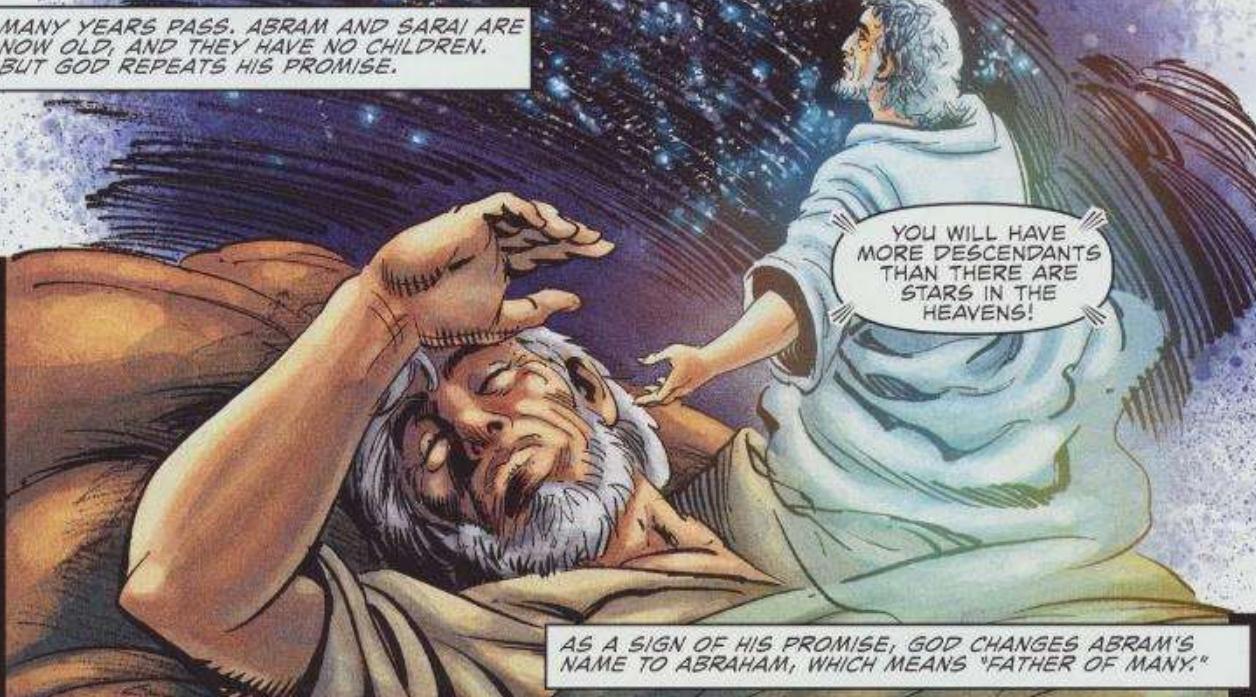
FAMILY SHOULD
NEVER QUARREL OVER
POSSESSIONS. LOOK, GOD'S
PROMISED LAND IS HUGE!
CHOOSE WHICH PART OF IT
YOU WOULD LIKE TO LIVE
IN, AND I WILL TAKE
WHAT IS LEFT.

THAT'S VERY
GENEROUS OF YOU,
UNCLE ABRAM. I'LL
TAKE THE VALLEY—
NEAR THE CITY OF
SODOM!

Insufficient Sons

BASED ON GENESIS 15-18

MANY YEARS PASS. ABRAM AND SARAI ARE NOW OLD, AND THEY HAVE NO CHILDREN. BUT GOD REPEATS HIS PROMISE.



YOU WILL HAVE MORE DESCENDANTS THAN THERE ARE STARS IN THE HEAVENS!

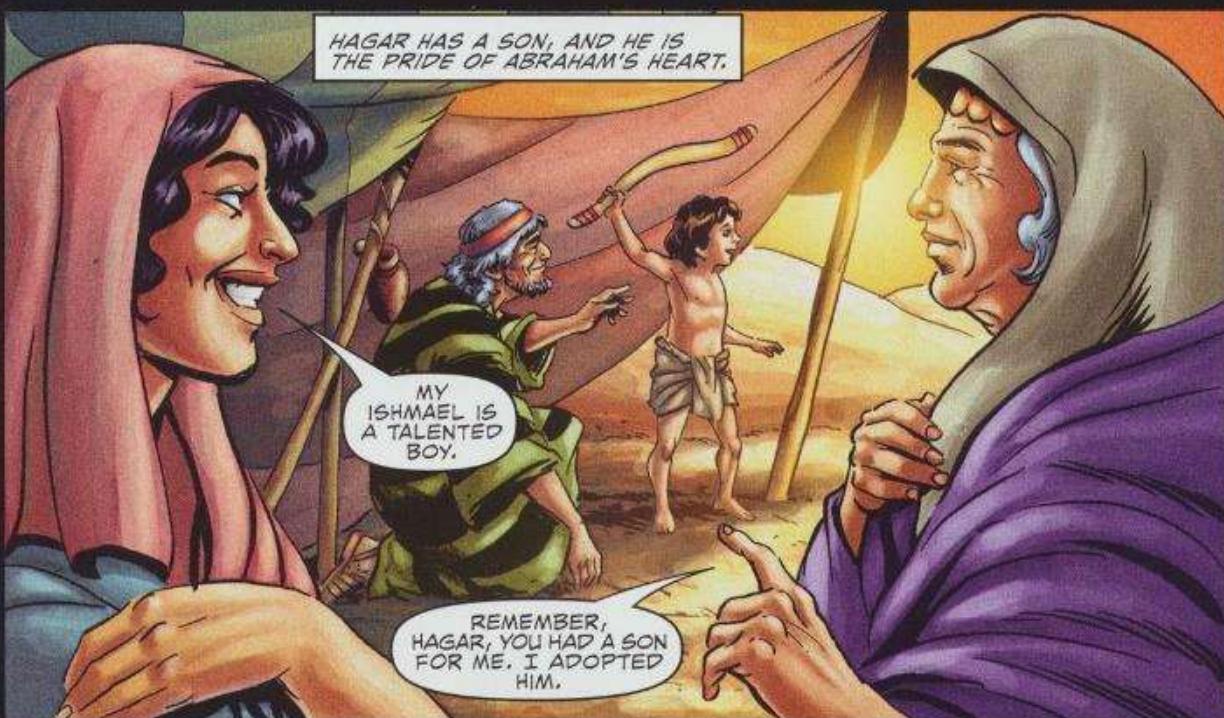
AS A SIGN OF HIS PROMISE, GOD CHANGES ABRAM'S NAME TO ABRAHAM, WHICH MEANS "FATHER OF MANY."



GOD ALSO CHANGES SARAI'S NAME TO SARAH—WHICH MEANS "PRINCESS"—BECAUSE SHE WOULD BE THE MOTHER OF NATIONS. BUT SARAH IS TOO OLD TO HAVE CHILDREN. WITHOUT ANY SONS, HOW COULD ABRAHAM'S DESCENDANTS BE AS NUMBERLESS AS THE STARS?

GOD HAS PROMISED ME AN HEIR. PERHAPS THIS IS THE WAY.

MAYBE GOD JUST MEANS YOU WILL HAVE CHILDREN, AND NOT ME. YOU SHOULD TAKE MY SERVANT, HAGAR, AS A WIFE. SHE MIGHT HAVE A SON FOR ME.



HAGAR HAS A SON, AND HE IS THE PRIDE OF ABRAHAM'S HEART.

MY ISHMAEL IS A TALENTED BOY.

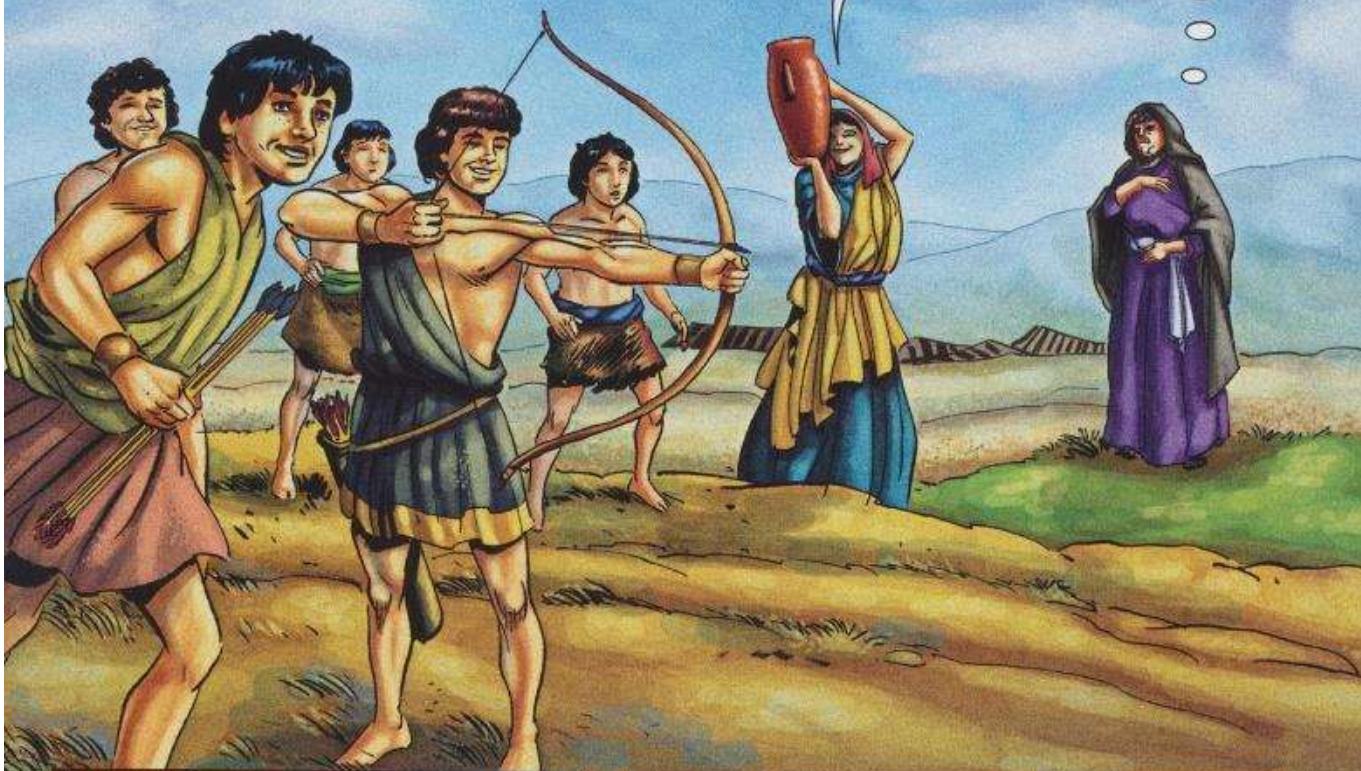
REMEMBER, HAGAR, YOU HAD A SON FOR ME. I ADOPTED HIM.

BUT IN HER HEART, SARAH KNOWS THAT ISHMAEL ISN'T REALLY HERS. AS ISHMAEL GROWS TO BOYHOOD, HE IS THE CENTER OF ATTENTION THROUGHOUT THE CAMP ...

... AND THE SOURCE OF TROUBLE BETWEEN HAGAR AND SARAH.

SOMEDAY MY SON WILL RULE THIS WHOLE TRIBE.

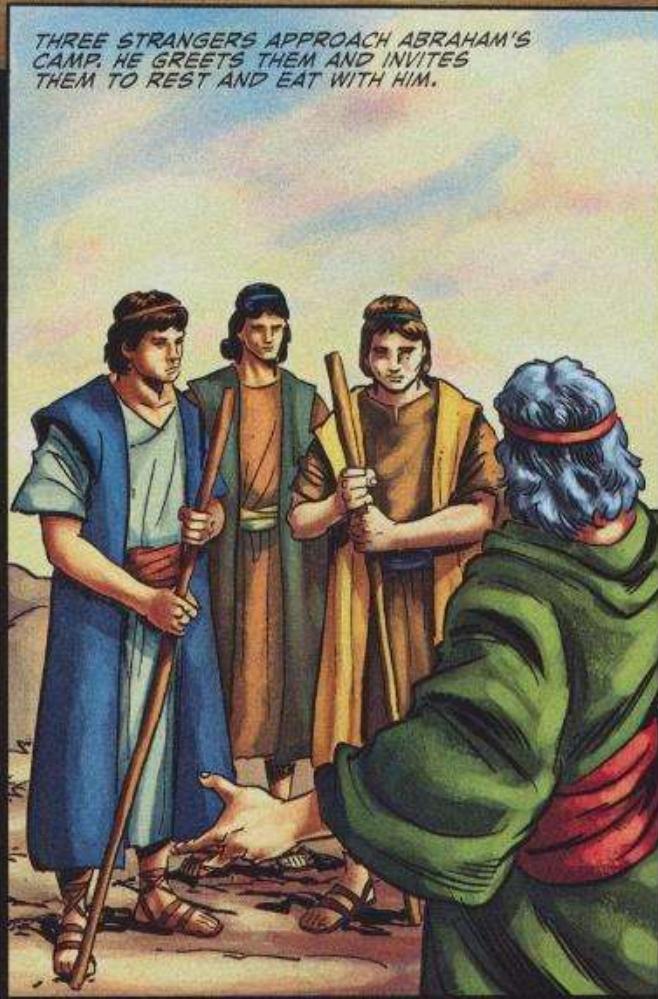
HAGAR GETS MORE SURE OF HERSELF EVERY DAY.



ABRAHAM WORRIES ABOUT THE TROUBLE IN HIS CAMP. ONE DAY WHILE HE IS RESTING AND THINKING ABOUT ISHMAEL, HAGAR, AND SARAH, HE LOOKS UP ...



THREE STRANGERS APPROACH ABRAHAM'S CAMP. HE GREETES THEM AND INVITES THEM TO REST AND EAT WITH HIM.



WHILE THEY ARE EATING, ONE OF THE STRANGERS GIVES ABRAHAM SURPRISING NEWS!

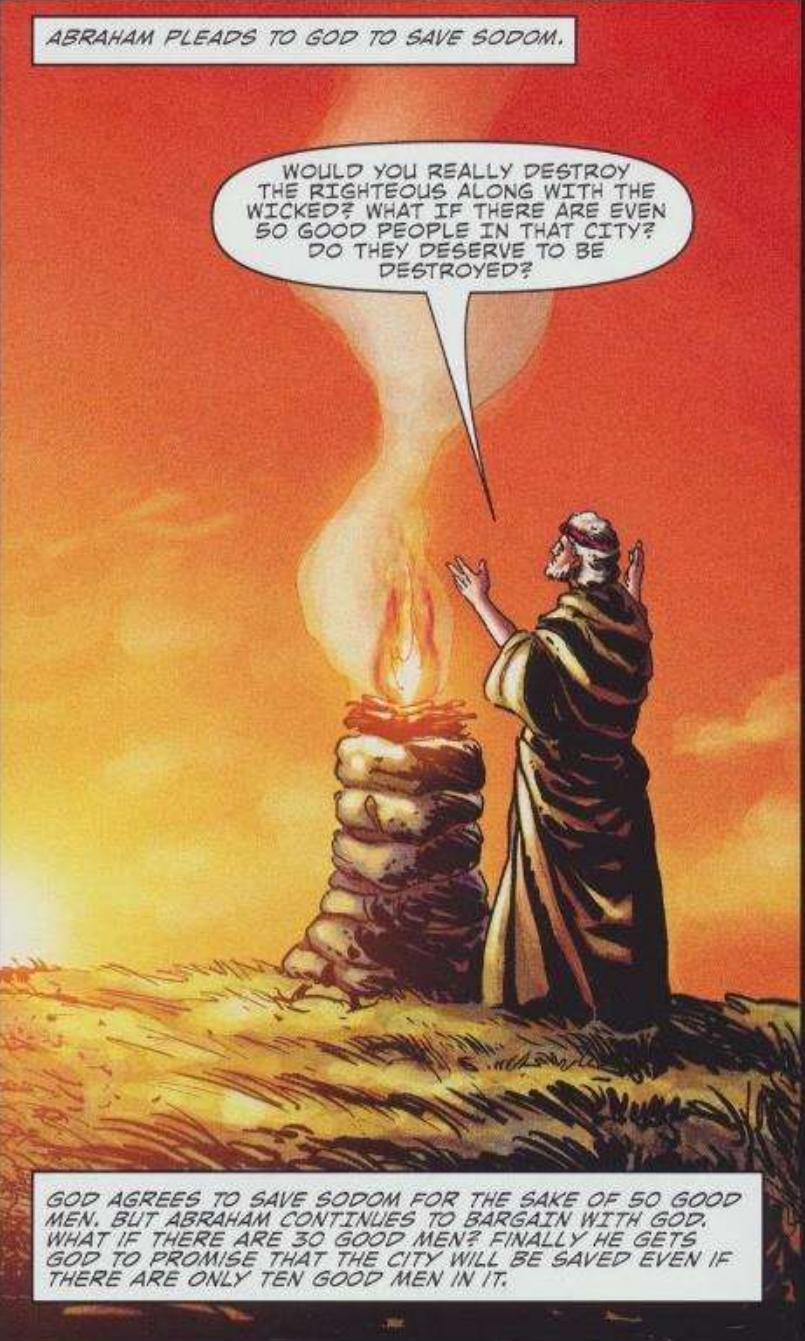


WHEN THE STRANGERS LEAVE, ABRAHAM WALKS WITH THEM FOR A WHILE.



ABRAHAM PLEADS TO GOD TO SAVE SODOM.

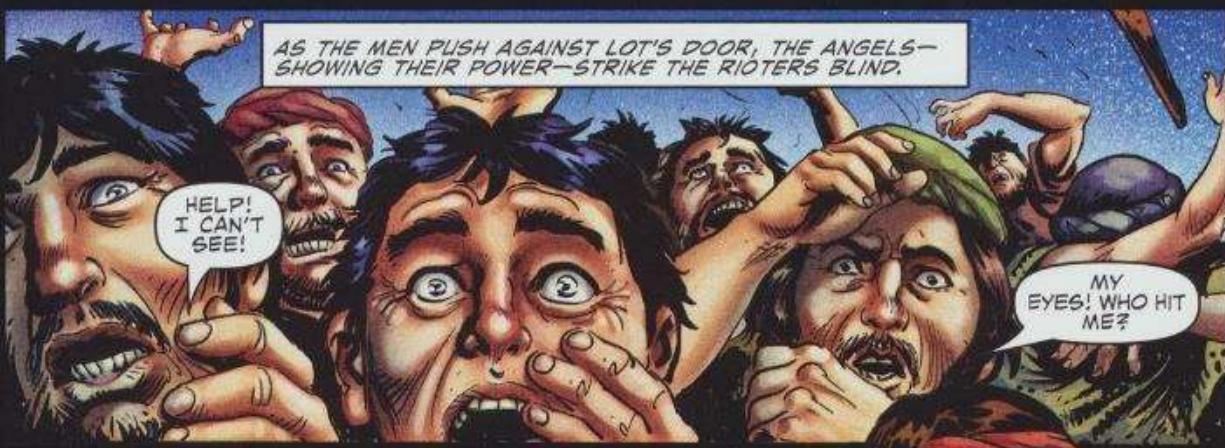
WOULD YOU REALLY DESTROY THE RIGHTEOUS ALONG WITH THE WICKED? WHAT IF THERE ARE EVEN 50 GOOD PEOPLE IN THAT CITY? DO THEY DESERVE TO BE DESTROYED?



A Lot Is Not Enough

BASED ON GENESIS 19





BUT LOT'S SONS-IN-LAW ONLY LAUGH WHEN HE TRIES TO WARN THEM. THEY REFUSE TO LEAVE THE DOOMED CITY. SO EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, THE TWO ANGELS LEAD LOT, HIS WIFE, AND THEIR TWO DAUGHTERS AWAY. SUDDENLY ALL SODOM BURSTS INTO FLAME.

DON'T LOOK BACK AT THE CITY, OR YOU WILL ALSO DIE!

BUT IT'S THE ONLY HOME I'VE EVER KNOWN!

LOT'S WIFE STOPS AND LOOKS BACK LONGLINGLY. INSTANTLY SHE IS TURNED INTO A PILLAR OF SALT. ONLY LOT AND HIS TWO DAUGHTERS ESCAPE GOD'S PUNISHMENT.

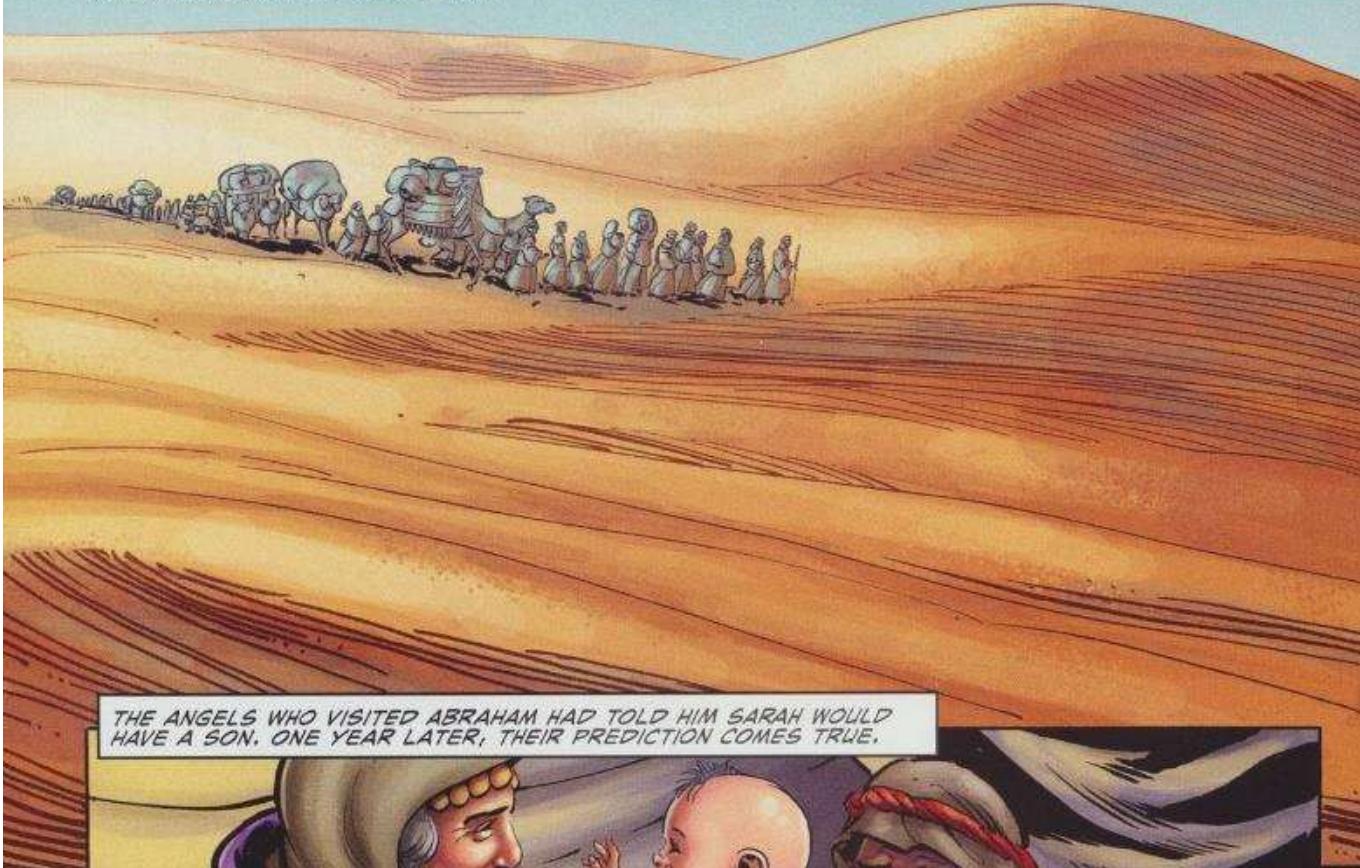
EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, ABRAHAM GOES TO THE HILLTOP TO WORSHIP—AND SEES THE THICK SMOKE RISING FROM THE RUINS OF THE WICKED CITY ...

AS SURELY AS NIGHT FOLLOWS DAY, DESTRUCTION FOLLOWS SIN. O GOD, HELP ME LEAD MY PEOPLE IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

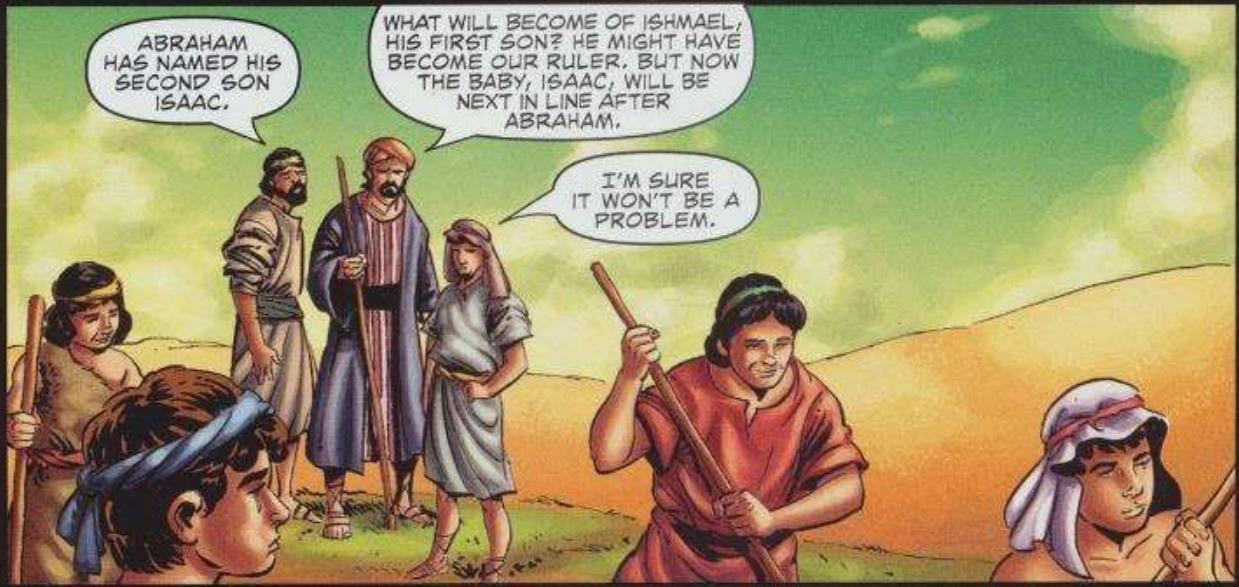
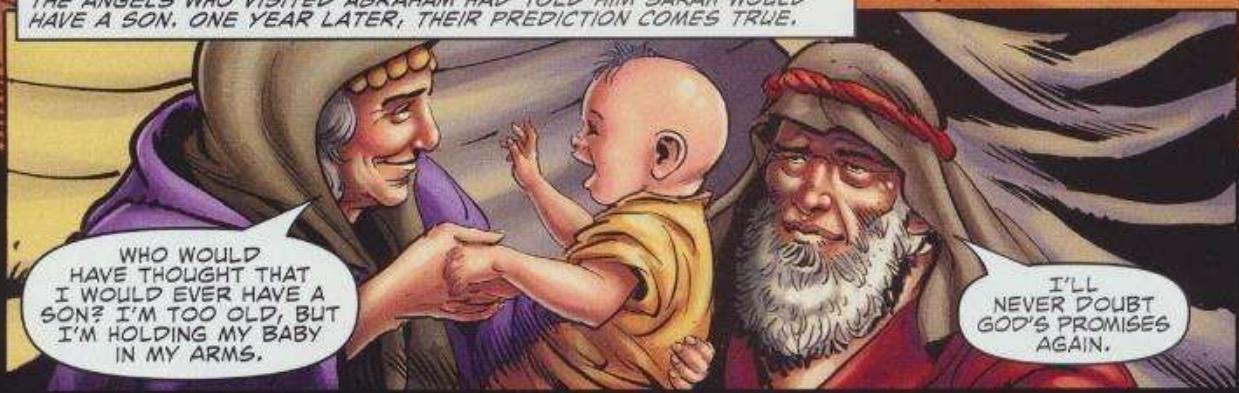
Too Many Sons

BASED ON GENESIS 21:1-21

AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM, ABRAHAM DECIDES TO MOVE TO A NEW PLACE. HE LEADS HIS GROWING CLAN TO THE NEGEV REGION, NEAR THE DESERT.



THE ANGELS WHO VISITED ABRAHAM HAD TOLD HIM SARAH WOULD HAVE A SON. ONE YEAR LATER, THEIR PREDICTION COMES TRUE.



TENSION GROWS BETWEEN SARAH AND HAGAR OVER THEIR SONS. AT BABY ISAAC'S FIRST FEAST ...



NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, ABRAHAM ASKS GOD HOW TO SOLVE THIS FAMILY PROBLEM. FINALLY, GOD ANSWERS HIM:

DO WHAT SARAH SAYS,
BECAUSE I WILL FULFILL
MY PROMISE THROUGH ISAAC.
BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT
YOUR FIRST SON, ISHMAEL.
I WILL TAKE CARE OF
HIM AND HIS MOTHER.



EARLY ONE MORNING ...

BECAUSE OF
SARAH'S JEALOUSY,
IT IS BETTER THAT YOU
AND ISHMAEL LEAVE.
DON'T BE AFRAID. GOD
WILL WATCH OVER
YOU.



DAY AFTER DAY, HAGAR AND ISHMAEL
WANDER THROUGH THE BURNING SAND.
ONE FEAR POUNDS IN HAGAR'S MIND.

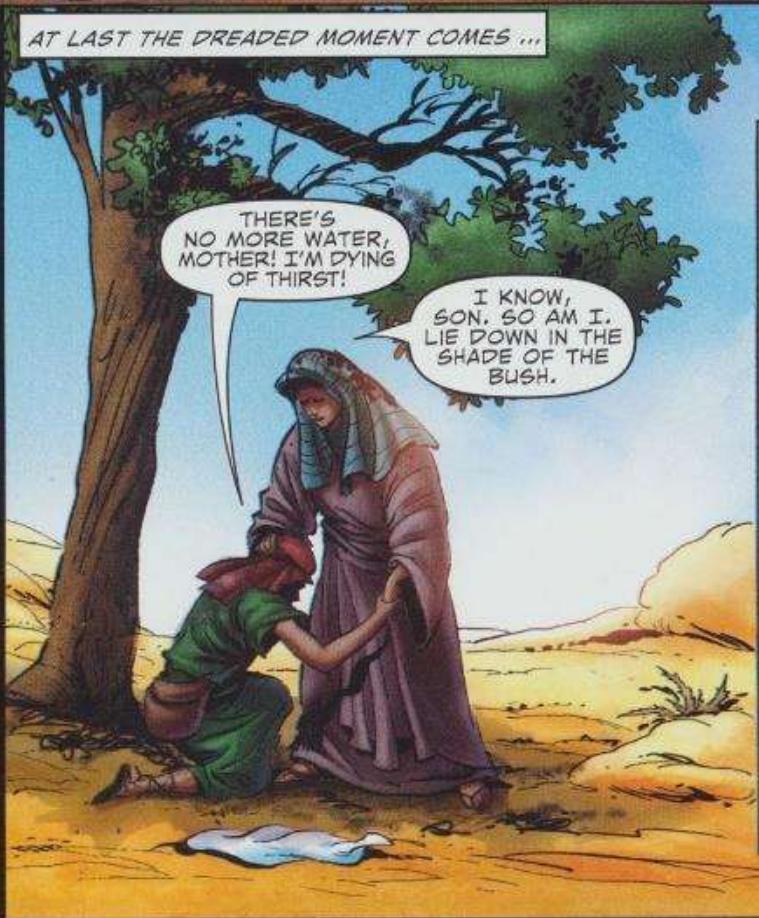
WILL WE
HAVE ENOUGH
WATER UNTIL
WE FIND AN
OASIS?



AT LAST THE DREADED MOMENT COMES ...

THERE'S
NO MORE WATER,
MOTHER! I'M DYING
OF THIRST!

I KNOW,
SON. SO AM I.
LIE DOWN IN THE
SHADE OF THE BUSH.



O GOD,
DON'T MAKE ME
WATCH MY CHILD
DIE!



DEAD TIRED AND CHOKING WITH THIRST, HAGAR TURNS HER BACK ON HER SON, ISHMAEL. SHE CANNOT STAND TO WATCH HIM DIE. SUDDENLY SHE HEARS A VOICE. THE ANGEL OF GOD SAYS, "LIFT THE BOY UP. I WILL MAKE HIM A GREAT NATION."



HAGAR STARTS TOWARD HER SON ...

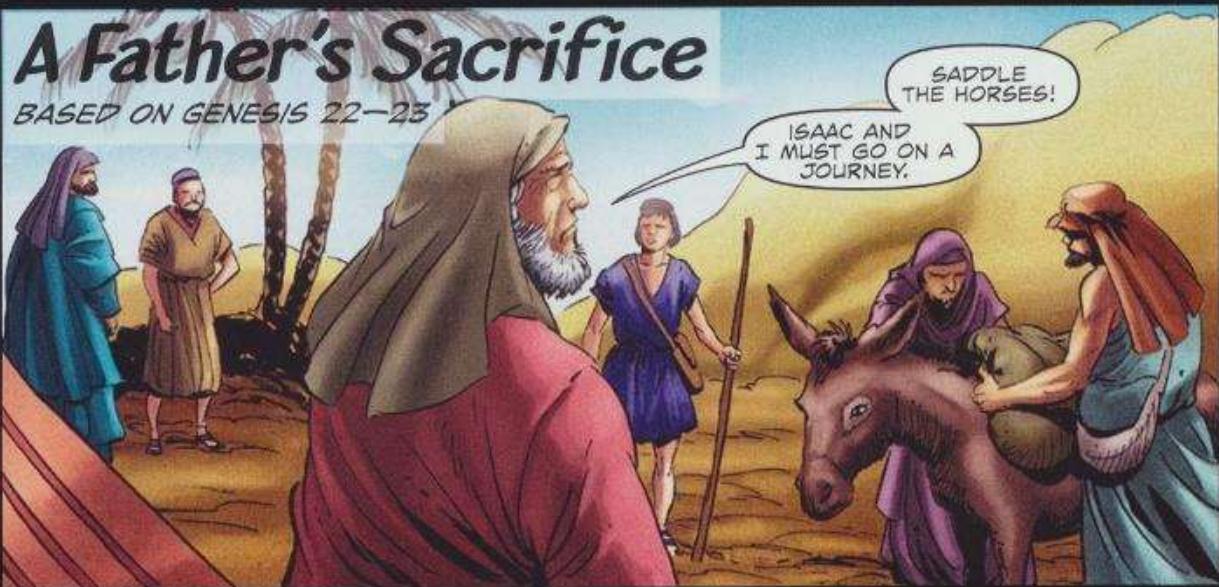
... AND SEES A SPRING OF WATER!

WATER!
WE WILL NOT DIE!
ISHMAEL, GOD HAS
SAVED US!

KNOWING GOD IS WITH THEM, HAGAR AND ISHMAEL CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY. THEY BUILD A HOME IN THE WILDERNESS. YEARS PASS, EVENTUALLY ISHMAEL MARRIES AN EGYPTIAN GIRL AND BECOMES THE HEAD OF A GREAT DESERT TRIBE.

A Father's Sacrifice

BASED ON GENESIS 22-23



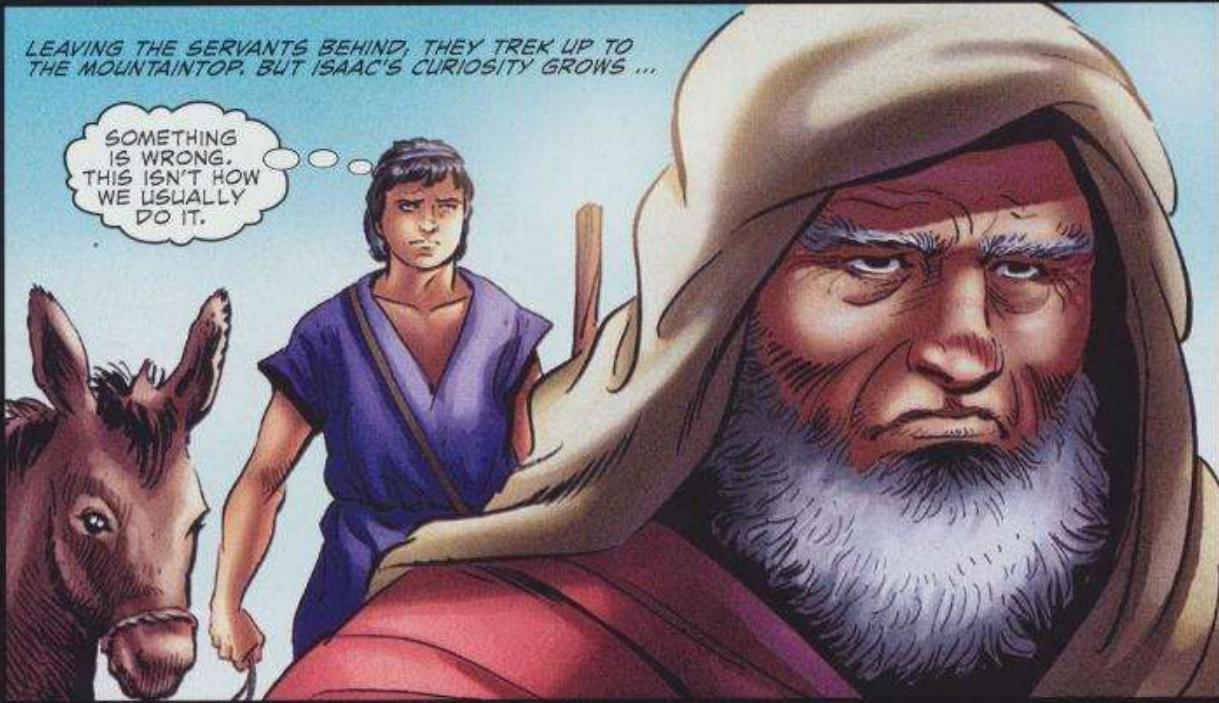
BUT THIS IS A JOURNEY LIKE NO OTHER. NO ONE KNOWS THAT—AS A TEST OF FAITH—GOD HAS TOLD ABRAHAM TO SACRIFICE HIS SON. OVER A LIFETIME OF FAITHFULNESS, ABRAHAM HAS LEARNED TO OBEY GOD, BUT HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THIS PERPLEXING COMMAND.

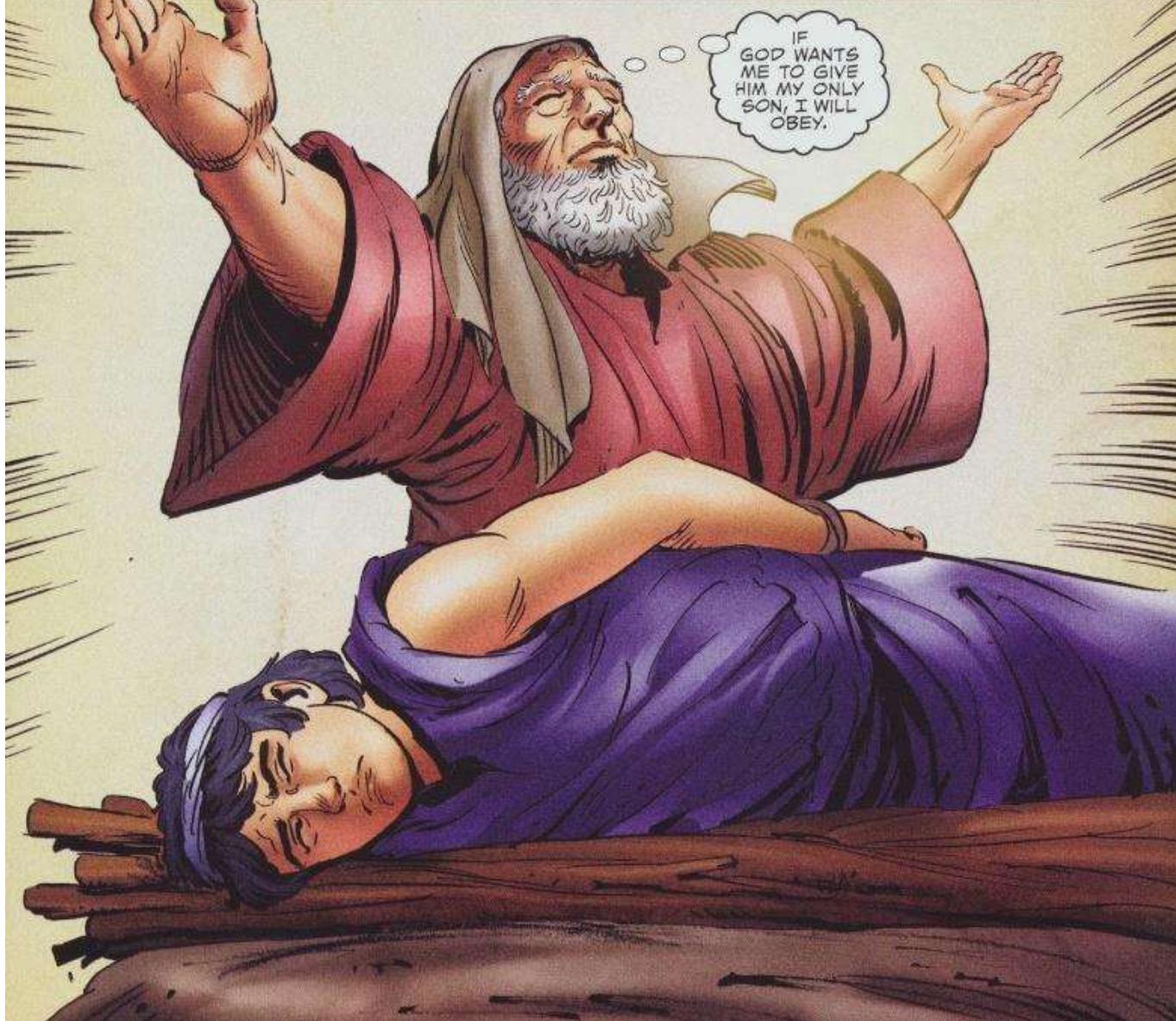
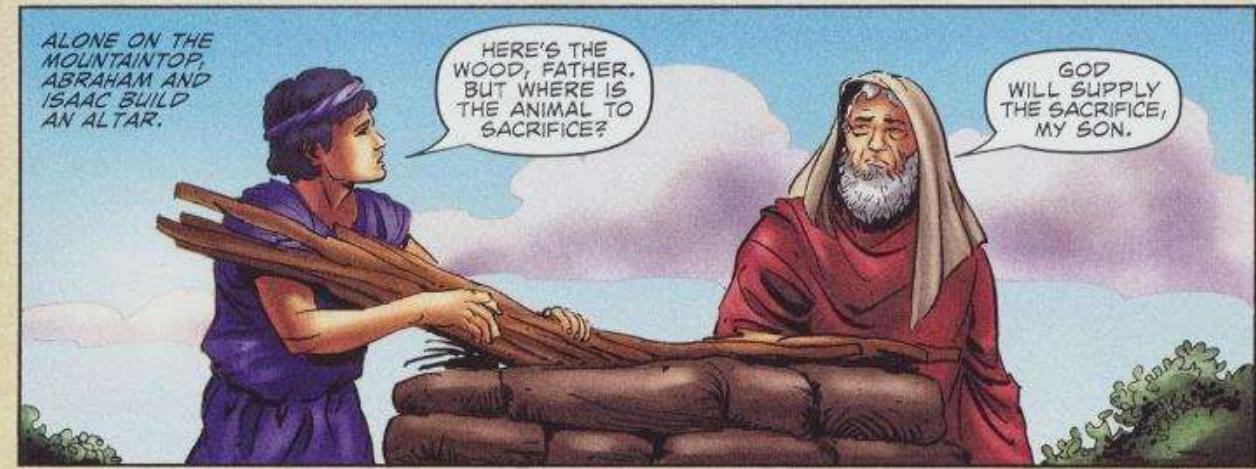
HOW COULD GOD ASK SUCH A THING? I KNOW IT'S ABSURD, BUT I MUST BELIEVE THAT EVEN IF I SACRIFICE ISAAC, GOD WILL GIVE HIM BACK TO ME SOMEHOW—EVEN IF IT MEANS RAISING HIM FROM THE DEAD.



LEAVING THE SERVANTS BEHIND, THEY TREK UP TO THE MOUNTAIN TOP. BUT ISAAC'S CURIOSITY GROWS ...

SOMETHING IS WRONG. THIS ISN'T HOW WE USUALLY DO IT.





SUDDENLY, ABRAHAM HEARS THE VOICE OF GOD.

DON'T LAY A HAND ON YOUR SON! I WOULD NEVER TRULY LET YOU DO SUCH A THING. BUT YOU HAVE PROVEN THAT YOU ARE FULLY DEVOTED TO ME. YOU DIDN'T HOLD BACK EVEN YOUR SON.

AS ABRAHAM BREATHES A HUGE SIGH OF RELIEF, HE SPOTS A RAM CAUGHT IN A NEARBY BUSH.

A RAM FOR THE SACRIFICE! THANK YOU, GOD!

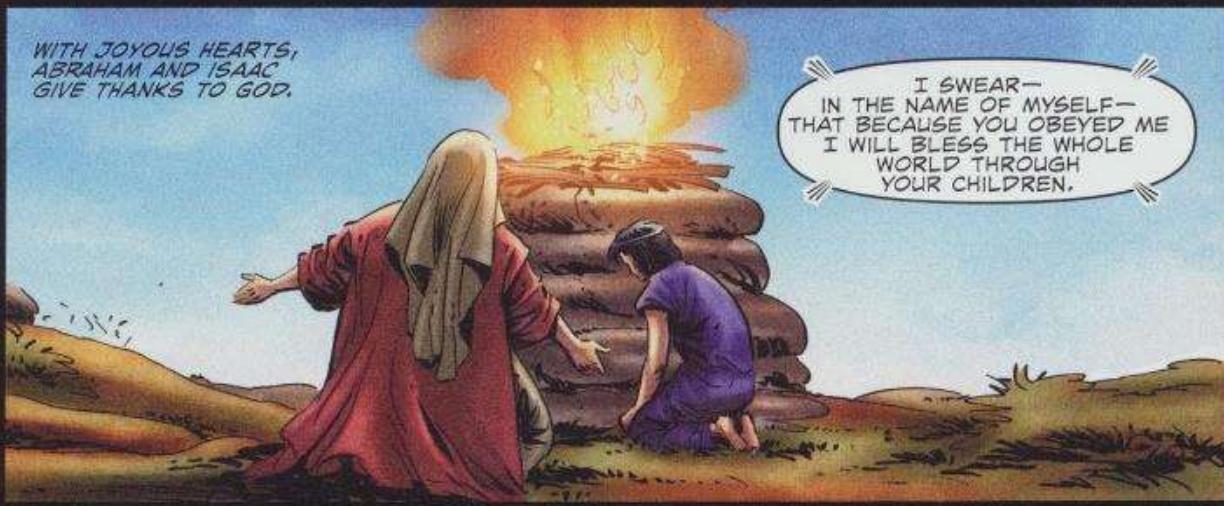
QUICKLY ABRAHAM RELEASES ISAAC AND PUTS THE RAM IN HIS PLACE ON THE ALTAR.

FATHER, YOU GAVE ME TO GOD—AND HE GAVE ME BACK TO YOU.

YES, MY SON. IT WAS A TEST OF FAITH.

ISAAC, NEVER DOUBT THE WISDOM AND LOVE OF GOD.

WITH JOYOUS HEARTS,
ABRAHAM AND ISAAC
GIVE THANKS TO GOD.



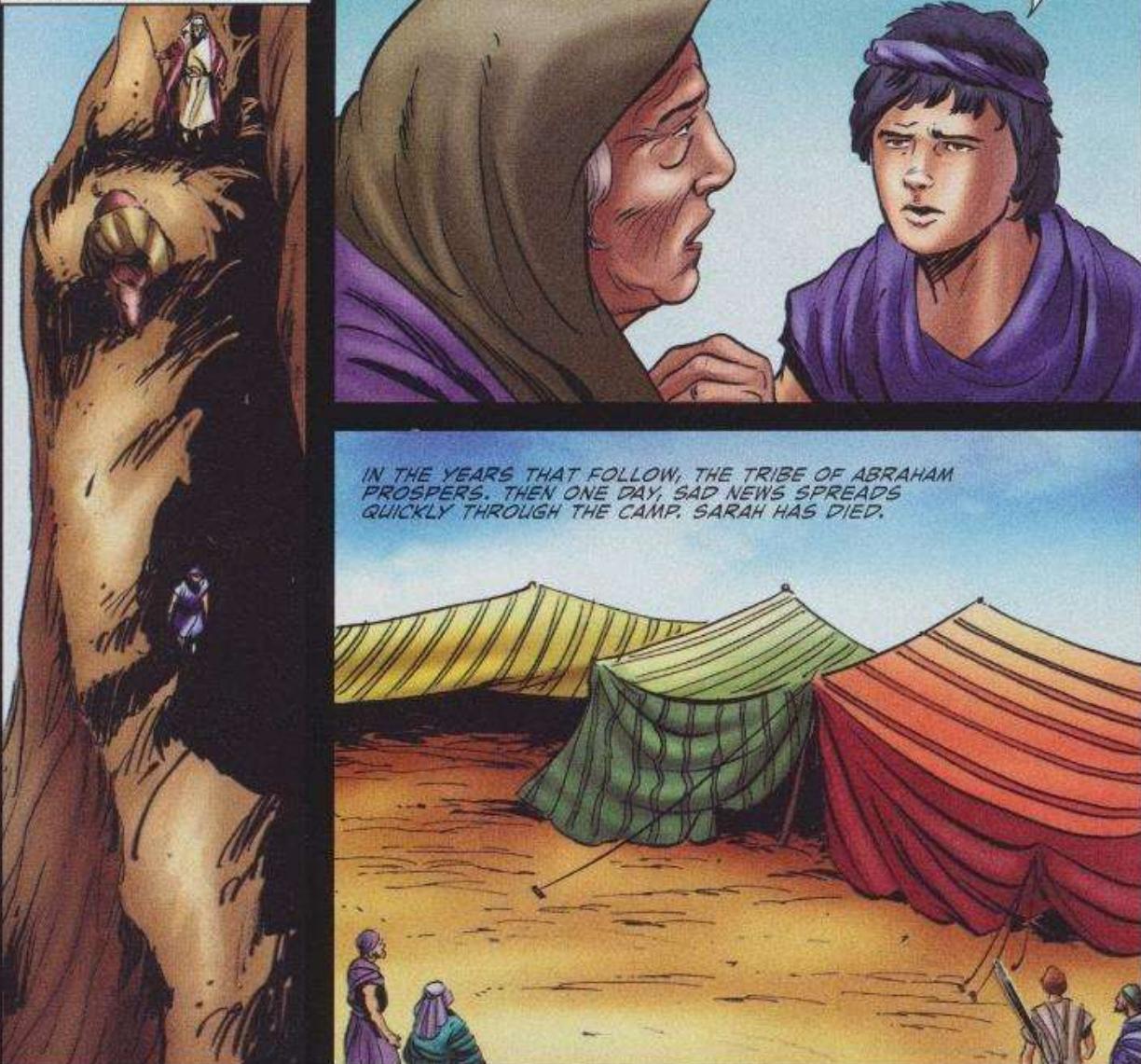
I SWEAR—
IN THE NAME OF MYSELF—
THAT BECAUSE YOU OBEYED ME
I WILL BLESS THE WHOLE
WORLD THROUGH
YOUR CHILDREN.

ON THE WAY HOME, ISAAC
WALKS AHEAD—AND
ALONE. THROUGH HIS
MIND FLASH SCENES OF
THE DAY. HE CAN STILL
FEEL THE ROPES THAT
TIED HIM ON THE
ALTAR ... SEE HIS
FATHER'S KNIFE ... FEEL
THE JOY OF KNOWING HE
WOULD NOT BE KILLED.

SARAH RUSHES OUT OF THE CAMP TO GREET THEM.

ISAAC, WHAT
HAPPENED? YOU LEFT HERE
A BOY, BUT YOU HAVE RETURNED
A MAN—LIKE YOUR FATHER,
STRONG AND WISE.

FROM MY
FATHER I LEARNED
THE COST OF FAITH—
AND FROM GOD I
LEARNED THE REWARD
OF FAITH.



IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOW, THE TRIBE OF ABRAHAM
PROSPERS. THEN ONE DAY, SAD NEWS SPREADS
QUICKLY THROUGH THE CAMP. SARAH HAS DIED.

A Wife for Isaac

BASED ON GENESIS 24

ABRAHAM IS NOW OLD AND HAS SEEN MANY, MANY YEARS. IN THE MIDST OF GRIEVING FOR HIS WIFE, HE PLANS FOR HIS FAMILY'S FUTURE.

GOD HAS PROMISED THAT MY DESCENDANTS WILL OUTNUMBER THE SAND IN THE DESERT.

WHICH MEANS ISAAC MUST START HIS FAMILY.

BUT ISAAC STILL GRIEVES FOR HIS MOTHER.

EVERY DAY HE GOES ALONE INTO THE WILDERNESS TO MOURN FOR HIS MOTHER.

IF ONLY HE HAD A WIFE TO COMFORT HIM.

ABRAHAM CALLS HIS MOST TRUSTED SERVANT.

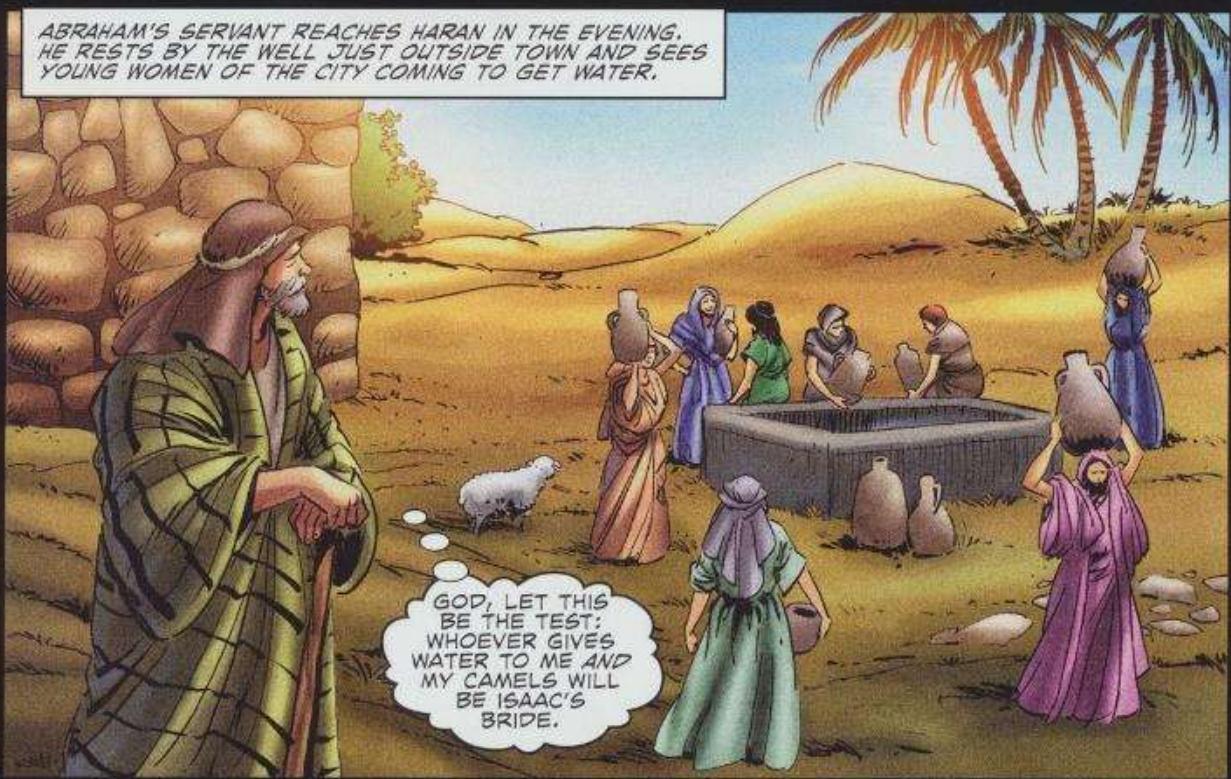
ELIEZAR, BEFORE I DIE, I WANT TO SEE ISAAC HAPPILY MARRIED. BUT HE MUST MARRY A WOMAN FROM MY OWN PEOPLE. GO TO HARAM AND BRING BACK A WIFE FOR ISAAC.

ABRAHAM'S SERVANT GATHERS A LONG CARAVAN. HE LEADS IT ACROSS THE DESERT AND FINALLY REACHES THE CITY OF HARAN, WHERE ABRAHAM'S RELATIVES LIVE.

WHAT A BIG CITY! HOW WILL I EVER FIND THE RIGHT WIFE FOR THE MAN WHO WILL BE CHIEF OF OUR TRIBE SOMEDAY?



ABRAHAM'S SERVANT REACHES HARAN IN THE EVENING. HE RESTS BY THE WELL JUST OUTSIDE TOWN AND SEES YOUNG WOMEN OF THE CITY COMING TO GET WATER.



WHEN THE GIRL FINISHES WATERING THE CAMELS, ELIEZAR GIVES HER A NOSE RING AND GOLD BRACELETS.

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
DO YOU THINK THERE IS ROOM FOR ME TO STAY IN YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE?

THESE ARE BEAUTIFUL! MY NAME IS REBEKAH. WE HAVE PLENTY OF ROOM FOR YOU AT OUR HOUSE. JUST A MINUTE ...

REBEKAH RUNS TO TELL HER FAMILY. WHEN SHE SHOWS THEM THE PRESENTS, HER BROTHER, LABAN, GOES OUT TO MEET ABRAHAM'S SERVANT.

COME WITH ME! MY FATHER HAS ROOM FOR YOU AND YOUR CARAVAN.

ABRAHAM'S SERVANT TELLS EVERYONE WHO HE IS AND EXPLAINS THAT GOD HAS CHOSEN REBEKAH TO BE THE BRIDE OF ISAAC, SON AND HEIR OF ABRAHAM, HER GREAT-UNCLE.

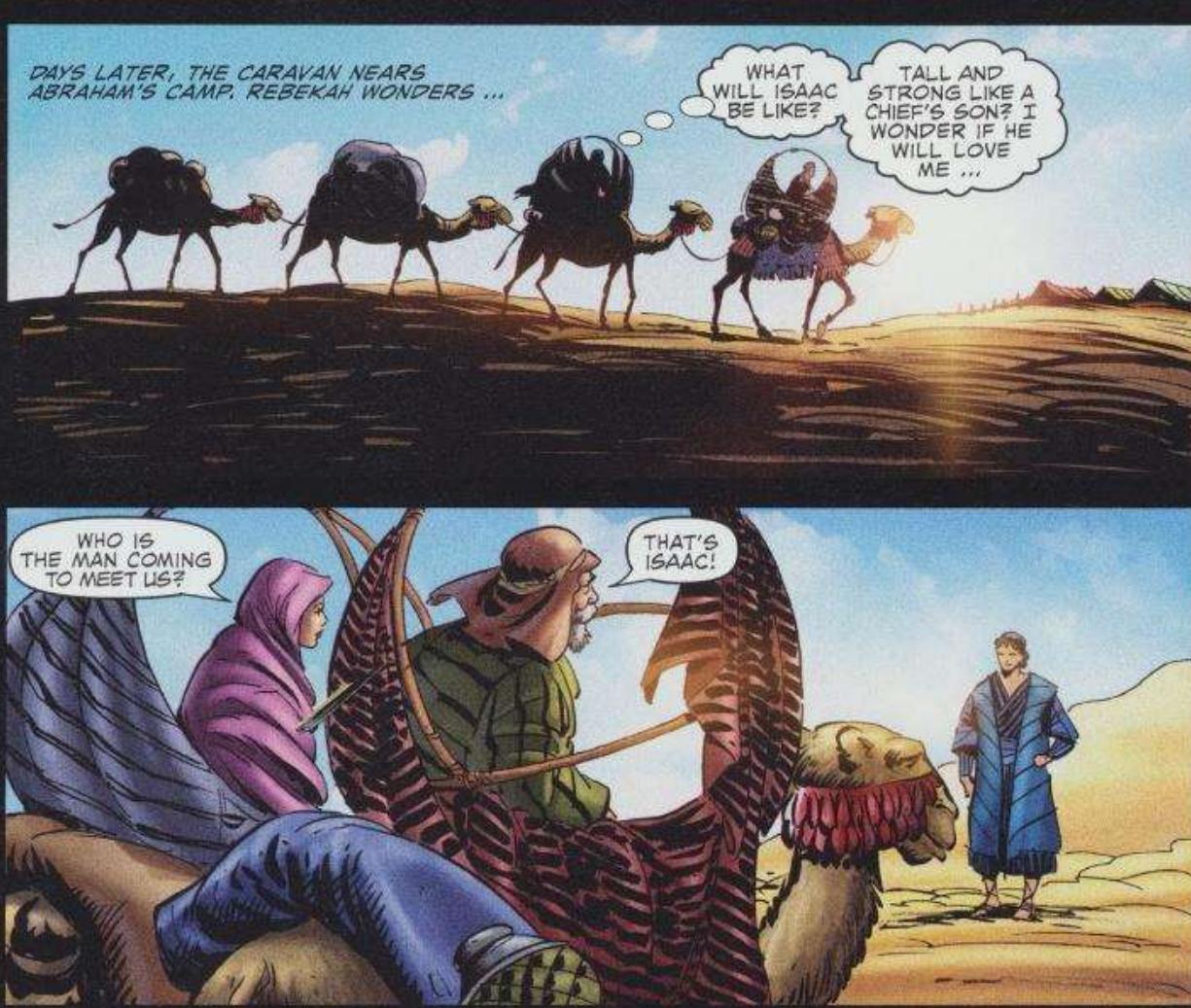
TAKE REBEKAH TO BE THE WIFE OF MY UNCLE'S SON. DO IT JUST THE WAY THE LORD HAS SAID.

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, THE CARAVAN GETS READY TO RETURN TO ABRAHAM'S CAMP. REBEKAH SAYS GOOD-BYE TO HER FAMILY, AND THE CARAVAN BEGINS ITS LONG JOURNEY.

DAY'S LATER, THE CARAVAN NEARS ABRAHAM'S CAMP. REBEKAH WONDERS ...

WHAT WILL ISAAC BE LIKE?

TALL AND STRONG LIKE A CHIEF'S SON? I WONDER IF HE WILL LOVE ME ...

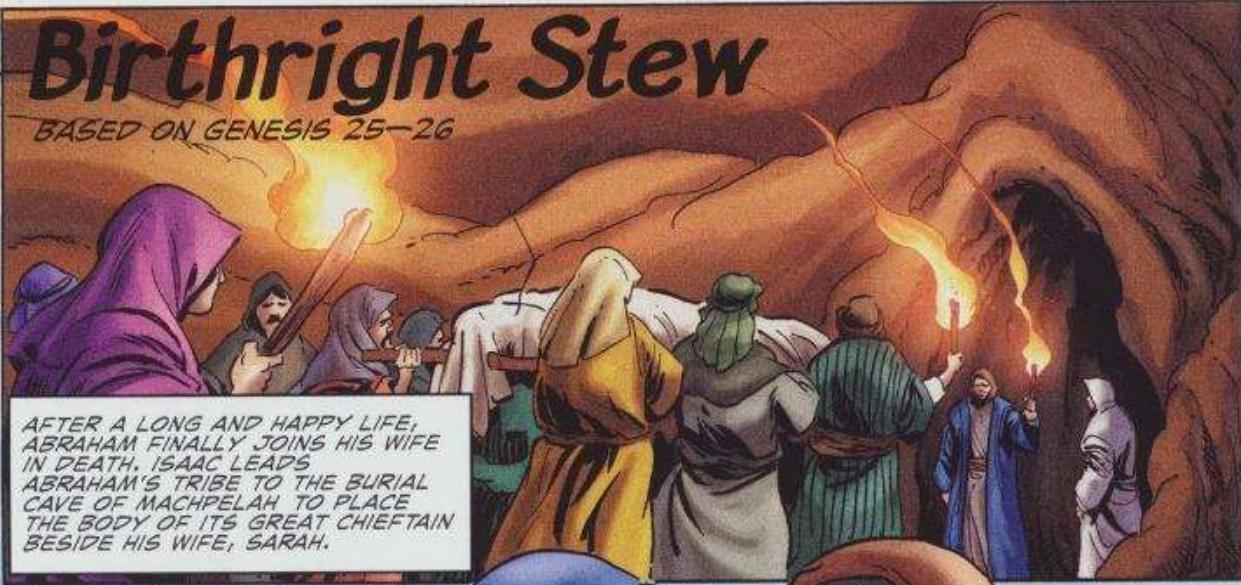


WHEN ISAAC SEES REBEKAH, HE FALLS IN LOVE WITH HER AT ONCE AND TAKES HER TO HIS FATHER FOR HIS BLESSING. THEY GET MARRIED IMMEDIATELY, AND THE WHOLE CAMP REJOICES THAT GOD CONTINUES TO WATCH OVER ABRAHAM'S FAMILY.



Birthright Stew

BASED ON GENESIS 25-26



AFTER A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE, ABRAHAM FINALLY JOINS HIS WIFE IN DEATH. ISAAC LEADS ABRAHAM'S TRIBE TO THE BURIAL CAVE OF MACHPELAH TO PLACE THE BODY OF ITS GREAT CHIEFTAIN BESIDE HIS WIFE, SARAH.



BUT ISAAC, LIKE HIS FATHER, HAS GONE A LONG TIME WITHOUT HAVING ANY CHILDREN.

REBEKAH IS BARREN. WE'VE TRIED EVERY REMEDY KNOWN TO MAN. NOTHING HAS WORKED. NOW I MUST PRAY TO GOD AND TRUST HIS PROMISE.

THE LORD ANSWERS ISAAC'S PRAYERS, AND REBEKAH BECOMES PREGNANT. BUT HER PREGNANCY SEEMS UNUSUAL. WHEN THEY INQUIRE OF THE LORD, HE TELLS REBEKAH THAT SHE IS PREGNANT WITH TWINS! "YOU WILL GIVE BIRTH TO TWO NATIONS. ONE WILL BE STRONGER THAN THE OTHER, AND THE YOUNGER WILL RULE THE OLDER."



WHEN REBEKAH GIVES BIRTH, HER FIRST SON IS REDDISH AND HAIRY. THEY NAME HIM ESAU, BUT CLUTCHING ESAU'S HEEL IS JACOB, WHO DOES NOT WANT TO BE LEFT BEHIND. AS THE BOYS GROW UP, ISAAC EARNS A REPUTATION AS A MAN WHO AVOIDS CONFLICT. BUT ISAAC FAILS TO SEE THE CONFLICT GROWING BETWEEN HIS OWN TWIN SONS.

WHICH ONE WILL BE OUR RULER AFTER ISAAC?

ESAU IS STRONGER— BUT JACOB IS MORE CLEVER. ESAU HAS THE BIRTHRIGHT BECAUSE HE IS THE OLDEST. BUT I'D BE SURPRISED IF JACOB DOESN'T DO SOMETHING TRICKY.

IF I WERE ISAAC, I'D PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE COMPETITION BETWEEN THOSE TWO BOYS.

ONE DAY, WHEN
ESAU RETURNS
WITH FRESH
FOOD FROM
HUNTING, ISAAC
PRAISES HIM.

ESAU
IS A MIGHTY
HUNTER!

YES, HE'S
STRONG AS
AN OX—AND
DUMB AS
ONE TOO.

JACOB BIDES HIS TIME. ONE MORNING, DURING A HOT SPELL, ESAU SETS OUT FOR A HUNTING TRIP. THIS IS THE CHANCE JACOB HAS BEEN WAITING FOR.

ESAU WILL
FIND GAME AT THE
WATER HOLE, MILES
AWAY FROM HERE.
WHEN HE GETS BACK
FROM THE LONG DAY'S
HUNT, HE'LL BE
TIRED AND HUNGRY.
I'LL BE READY
FOR HIM.

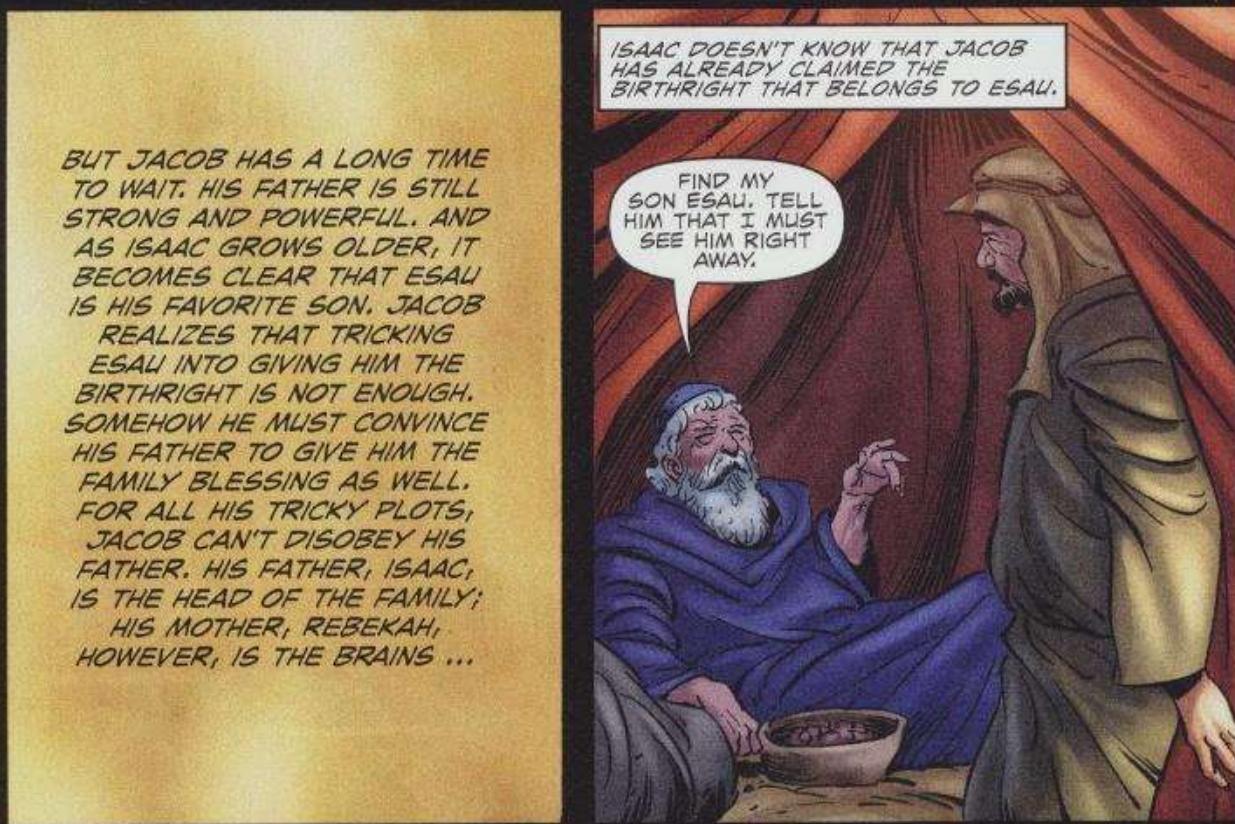
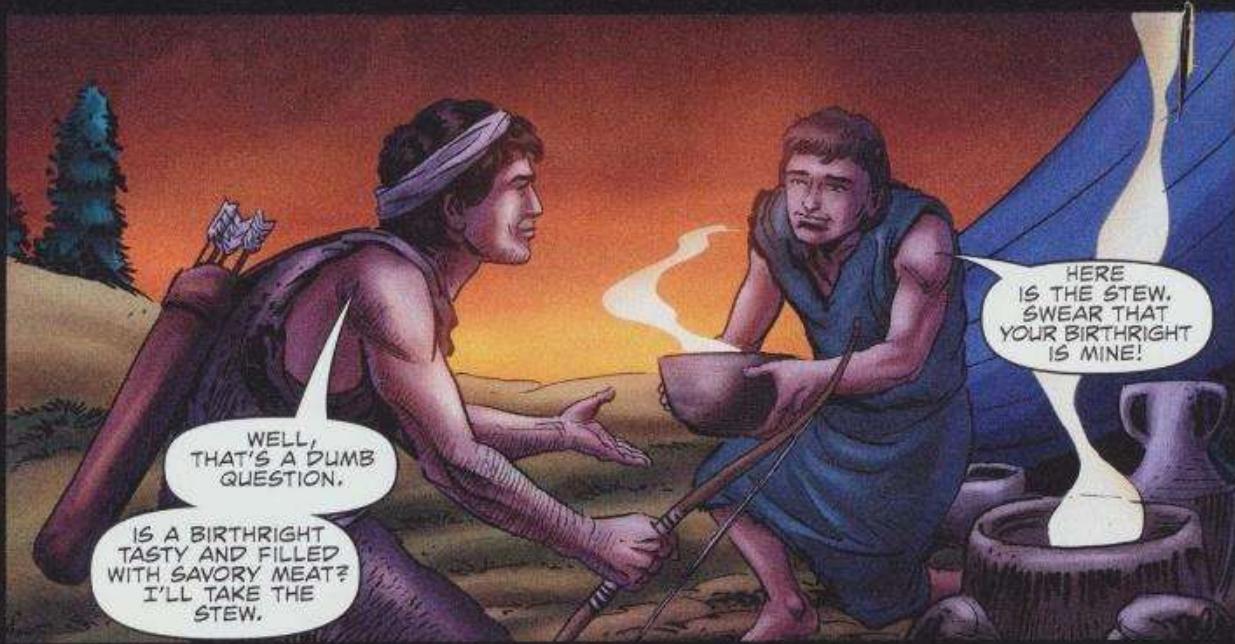
TOWARD SUNDOWN, JACOB WAITS
FOR HIS BROTHER OUTSIDE CAMP.

HERE
HE COMES—AND
WITHOUT ANY GAME,
DIDN'T HE CATCH
ANYTHING?

CAMP WITH ITS FOOD IS ONLY A
SHORT DISTANCE AWAY, BUT ESAU
IS SO HUNGRY, HE CAN'T WAIT ...

I'M
STARVING.
GIVE ME SOME
OF THE STEW
YOU'RE
MAKING.

WILL YOU
TRADE YOUR
BIRTHRIGHT
FOR IT?



The Stolen Blessing

BASED ON
GENESIS 27

ISAAC HAS GROWN OLD. HIS EYESIGHT IS FAILING. NOW HE DECIDES IT IS TIME TO GIVE HIS OLDER SON THE BLESSING THAT INCLUDES RULING THE TRIBE.

YOU CALLED ME, FATHER?

YES, ESAU. I AM OLD AND TIRED. I DON'T KNOW HOW SOON I'LL DIE. BRING ME SOME CHOICE VENISON, AND I WILL GIVE YOU THE BLESSING THAT SEALS YOUR BIRTHRIGHT.

REBEKAH OVERHEARS WHAT JACOB SAYS AND RUNS THROUGH THE CAMP.

FIND JACOB! TELL HIM TO COME TO MY TENT RIGHT AWAY! HURRY!

LISTEN, JACOB! YOUR FATHER IS GETTING READY TO GIVE ESAU THE BLESSING. YOU MUST GET THAT BLESSING, OR THE BIRTHRIGHT ESAU TRADED YOU MEANS NOTHING.

BUT WHAT CAN I DO?

GO TELL YOUR FATHER THAT YOU ARE ESAU. HE CAN'T SEE A THING ANYMORE, AND HE WILL BLESS YOU BY MISTAKE.

BUT MY SKIN IS SMOOTH, AND ESAU IS REALLY HAIRY. FATHER WILL TOUCH ME AND KNOW I AM NOT ESAU.

I'VE THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING. HERE, PUT ON ESAU'S FUR ROBE. THESE SKINS ON YOUR ARMS AND NECK WILL MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE ESAU.

BUT WHAT IF ...



IT'S STRANGE.
THE VOICE SOUNDS LIKE
JACOB, BUT THE HANDS
ARE ESAU'S. ARE YOU
REALLY ESAU?

YES,
I AM.

WILL
HE BELIEVE
ME?

HE DOES ...

GOD GIVE YOU
THE RICHNESS OF THE
EARTH, LET THE PEOPLE
SERVE YOU, AND NATIONS
BOW DOWN TO YOU. BE
MASTER OVER YOUR BROTHERS.
CURSED BE EVERYONE WHO
CURSES YOU, AND BLESSED
BE EVERYONE WHO
BLESSES YOU.

NO SOONER HAS ISAAC GIVEN THE BLESSING
THAN JACOB RUSHES OUT OF HIS FATHER'S TENT.

MOTHER!
THE BLESSING
IS MINE! BUT
WHAT WILL ESAU
DO?

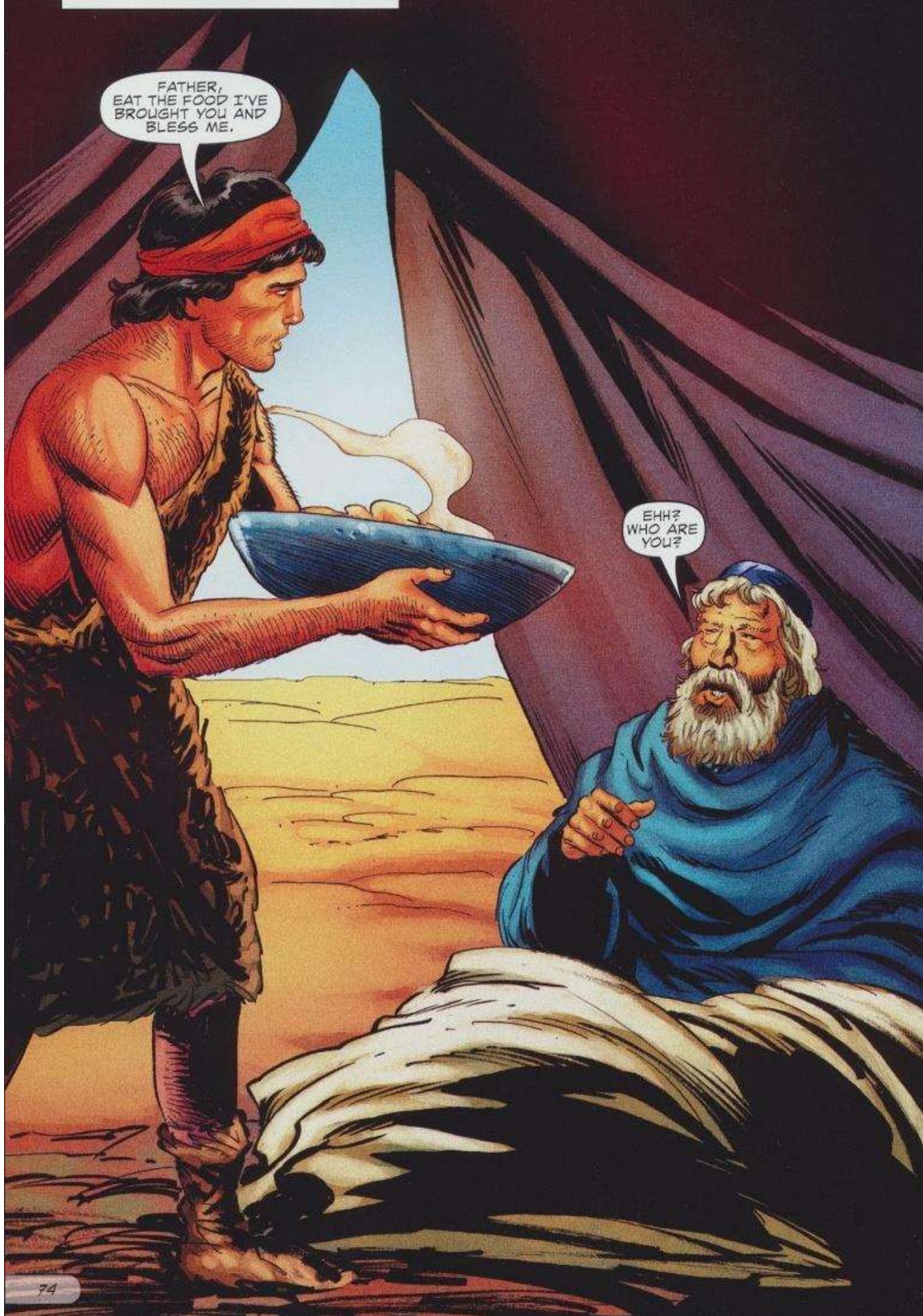
BUT WHILE JACOB AND HIS MOTHER
ARE REJOICING, ESAU RETURNS.

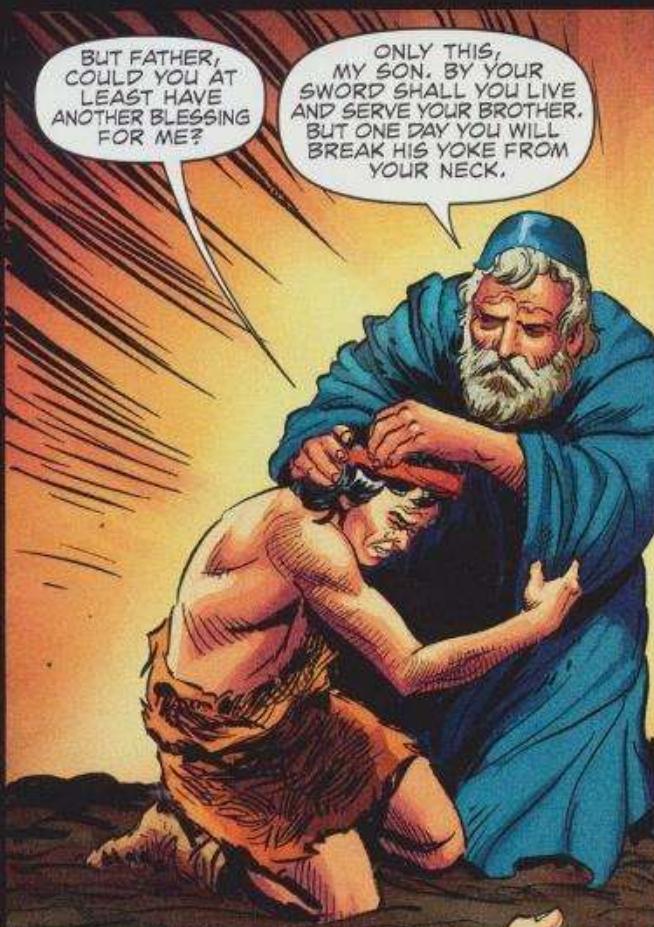
NO MATTER
WHAT ESAU DOES,
THE BLESSING IS
YOURS, NOT EVEN
YOUR FATHER CAN
TAKE IT BACK
NOW.

ESAU PREPARES THE MEAT AND TAKES A LARGE TRAY OF IT TO HIS FATHER.

FATHER,
EAT THE FOOD I'VE
BROUGHT YOU AND
BLESS ME.

EHH?
WHO ARE
YOU?





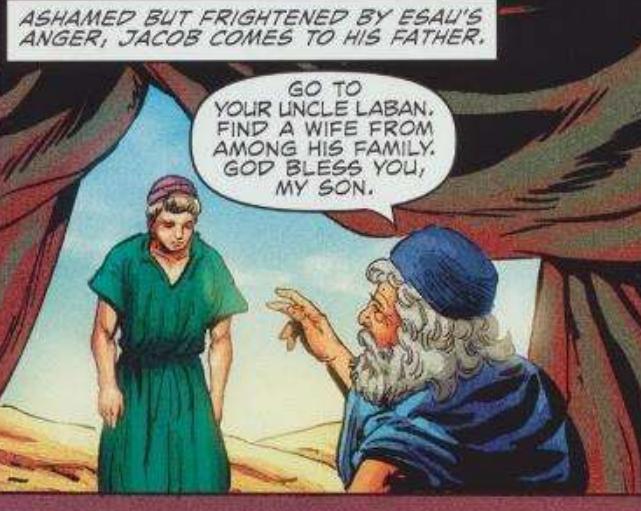
Stairway to Heaven

BASED ON GENESIS 27:41-28:22

JACOB HAS SUCCESSFULLY STOLEN HIS BROTHER'S BIRTHRIGHT FROM THEIR FATHER, ISAAC. WITH ESAU'S THREAT TO KILL JACOB RINGING IN HER EARS, A SERVANT GIRL RUNS TO REBEKAH'S TENT.



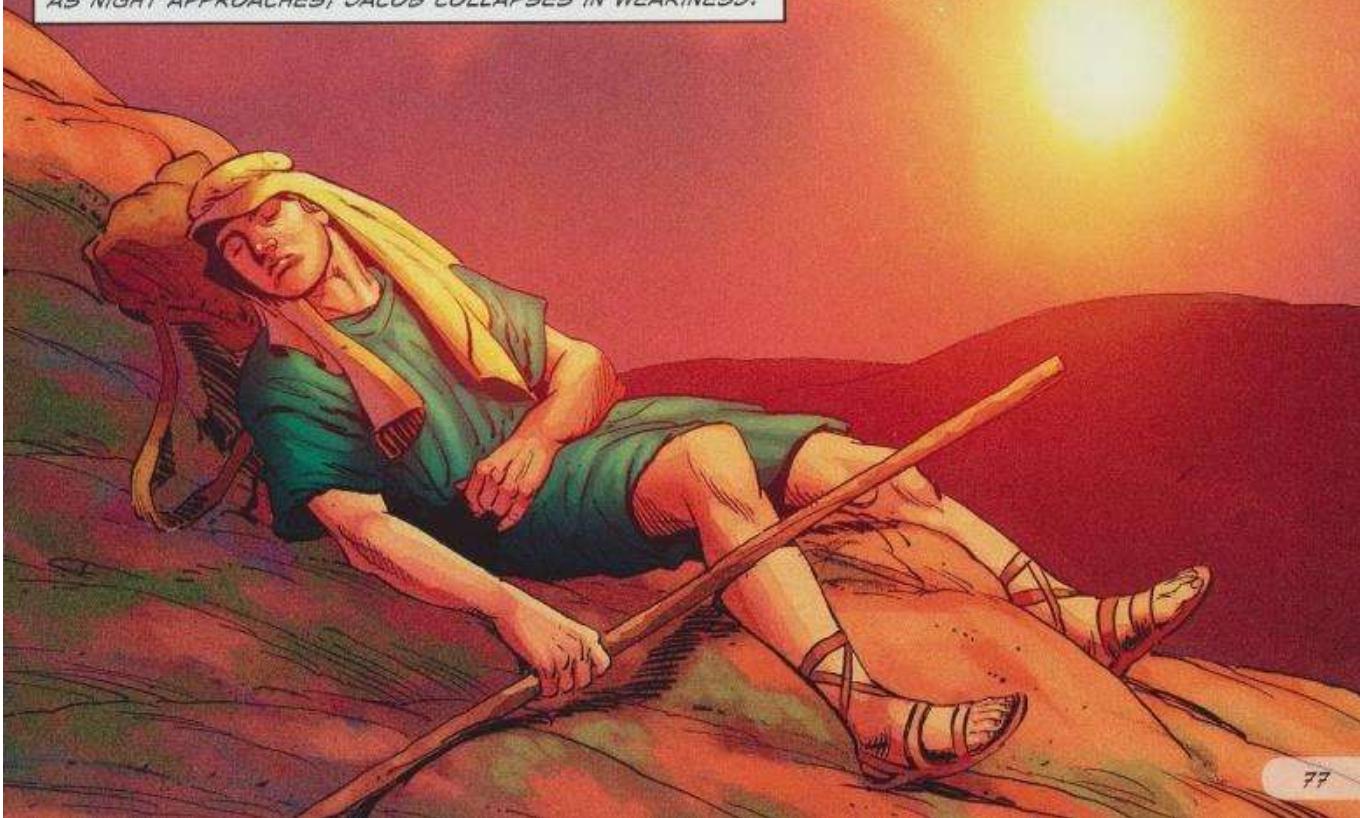
ISAAC'S THOUGHTS GO BACK OVER THE YEARS TO THE DAY HE FIRST SAW REBEKAH. HE ALSO KNOWS THERE WILL BE TROUBLE BETWEEN THE SONS. HE SENDS FOR JACOB.



A FEW HOURS LATER, AT THE EDGE OF THE CAMP ...



TRAVELING FARTHER AND FARTHER FROM HIS FAMILY, JACOB IS TORTURED BY LONELINESS. HE ESPECIALLY MISSES HIS MOTHER, WHO HAS ALWAYS PROTECTED AND ADVISED HIM. AS NIGHT APPROACHES, JACOB COLLAPSES IN WEARINESS.



THAT NIGHT, HE DREAMS OF A SHINING STAIRWAY REACHING UP TO HEAVEN. ON THE STAIRWAY, ANGELS GO UP AND DOWN AS IF BRINGING HELP FROM GOD. AND JACOB HEARS GOD SPEAK TO HIM, PROMISING TO TAKE CARE OF HIM AND BRING HIM SAFELY HOME AGAIN.

THE NEXT MORNING, JACOB WAKES UP, STILL AWED BY HIS DREAM.



JACOB REALIZES THE WRONG HE HAS DONE, BUT HE KNOWS THAT GOD WILL HELP HIM IF HE OBEYS HIM. QUICKLY, HE TURNS A STONE ON END FOR AN ALTAR AND WORSHIPS GOD. HE CALLS THE PLACE BETHEL, WHICH MEANS "THE HOUSE OF GOD."

IF GOD WILL GO WITH ME, I'LL BE GOD'S MAN.



JACOB GOES ON HIS WAY A STRONGER, NOBLER YOUNG MAN. HE IS EAGER TO PUT BEHIND HIM THE DISHONESTY OF HIS PAST AND TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE AND CARE.

Wife Swap

BASED ON GENESIS 29

JACOB CONTINUES HIS JOURNEY. AT LAST HE GETS CLOSE TO HARAN.

MAYBE THOSE SHEPHERDS AT THE WELL CAN HELP ME FIND MY UNCLE LABAN.

CAN YOU TELL ME HOW TO FIND THE CHIEFTAIN, LABAN?

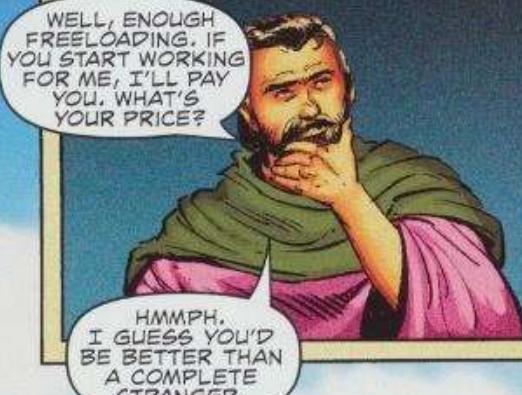
LABAN? SURE! THAT FLOCK OF SHEEP IS HIS. THAT'S HIS DAUGHTER RACHEL WITH THEM.

SHE'S GORGEOUS!

QUICKLY JACOB ROLLS THE STONE FROM THE WELL AND HELPS RACHEL WATER THE SHEEP. WHEN HE TELLS HER WHO HE IS, SHE RUNS TO FIND HER FATHER.

THAT NIGHT, LABAN HOLDS A FEAST FOR HIS NEPHEW JACOB. LEAH, THE OLDER DAUGHTER, SERVES THE FOOD, WHILE RACHEL, THE YOUNGER DAUGHTER, LISTENS TO JACOB TELL ABOUT HIS HOME AND THE LONG JOURNEY TO HARAN.

A MONTH LATER, LABAN MAKES A BARGAIN WITH JACOB.



FOR SEVEN YEARS, JACOB TAKES CARE OF LABAN'S FLOCKS. BECAUSE HE LOVES RACHEL, THE YEARS FLY BY IN WHAT SEEM LIKE JUST A FEW DAYS. FINALLY THE DAY COMES WHEN JACOB CAN CLAIM HIS BRIDE ...

I'VE WORKED FOR SEVEN YEARS. NOW GIVE ME RACHEL FOR MY WIFE.

YOU HAVE SERVED ME WELL, JACOB.

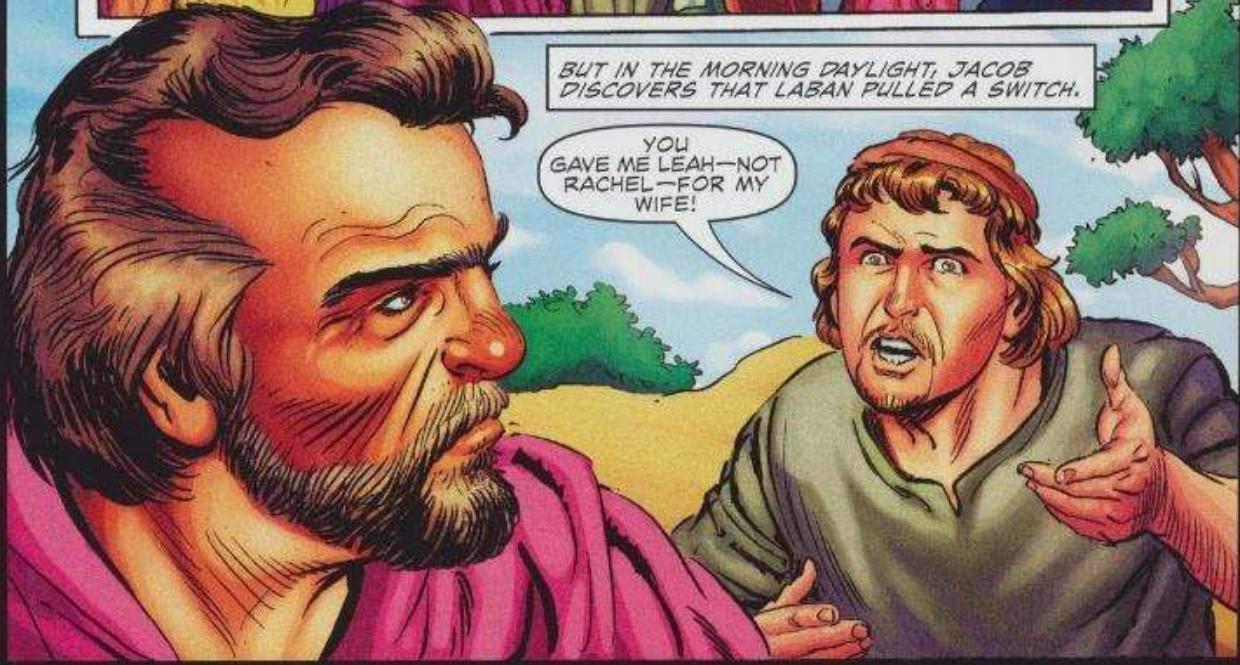
I'LL ARRANGE A WEDDING FEAST RIGHT AWAY.

AT THE END OF A JOYFUL WEDDING FEAST, LABAN BRINGS HIS DAUGHTER TO JACOB.



BUT IN THE MORNING DAYLIGHT, JACOB DISCOVERS THAT LABAN PULLED A SWITCH.

YOU GAVE ME LEAH—NOT RACHEL—FOR MY WIFE!



THE TRICKSTER HAS BEEN TRICKED HIMSELF! LABAN HAS CONNED JACOB THE SAME WAY. JACOB CONNED HIS FATHER AND ESAU.

I COULDN'T VERY WELL GIVE MY YOUNGER DAUGHTER AWAY BEFORE MY OLDER DAUGHTER WAS MARRIED.

YOU MAY HAVE CHEATED YOUR OLDER BROTHER OUT OF HIS BIRTHRIGHT, BUT THAT'S NOT HOW WE DO THINGS HERE.

BUT RACHEL IS THE ONE I LOVE! I WORKED SEVEN YEARS FOR HER.

TELL YOU WHAT— PROMISE TO WORK FOR ME FOR ANOTHER SEVEN YEARS AND YOU CAN MARRY RACHEL NEXT WEEK.

FOR RACHEL, I'LL DO IT!

LABAN TRICKED ME, RACHEL. I LOVE YOU, AND I'LL WORK SEVEN **MORE** YEARS SO I CAN MARRY YOU.

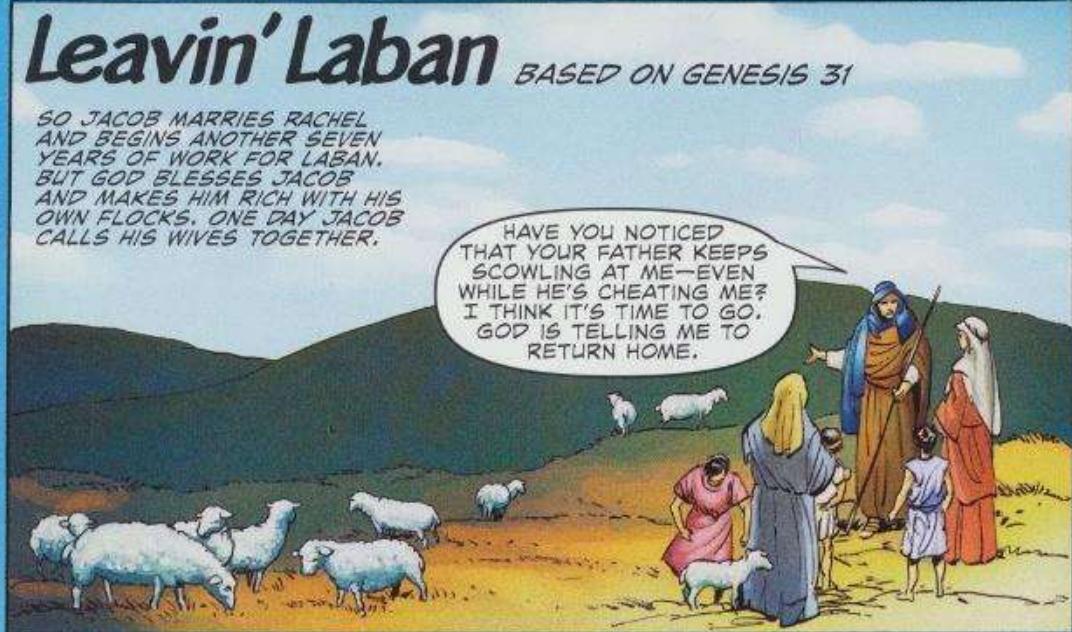
I DO LOVE YOU, JACOB. I WANT TO MARRY YOU, TOO.

Leavin' Laban

BASED ON GENESIS 31

SO JACOB MARRIES RACHEL AND BEGINS ANOTHER SEVEN YEARS OF WORK FOR LABAN. BUT GOD BLESSES JACOB AND MAKES HIM RICH WITH HIS OWN FLOCKS. ONE DAY JACOB CALLS HIS WIVES TOGETHER.

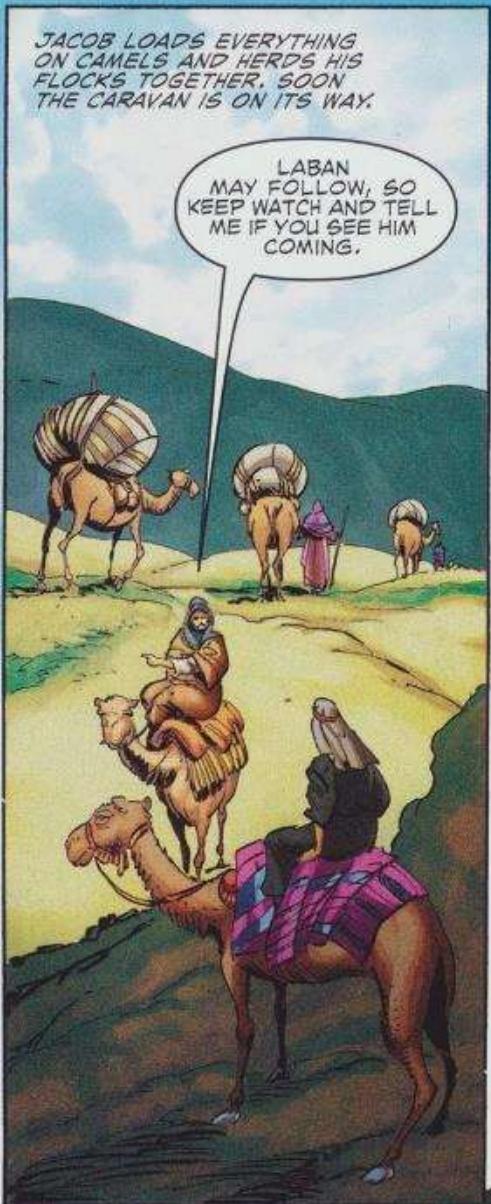
HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT YOUR FATHER KEEPS SCOWLING AT ME—EVEN WHILE HE'S CHEATING ME? I THINK IT'S TIME TO GO. GOD IS TELLING ME TO RETURN HOME.

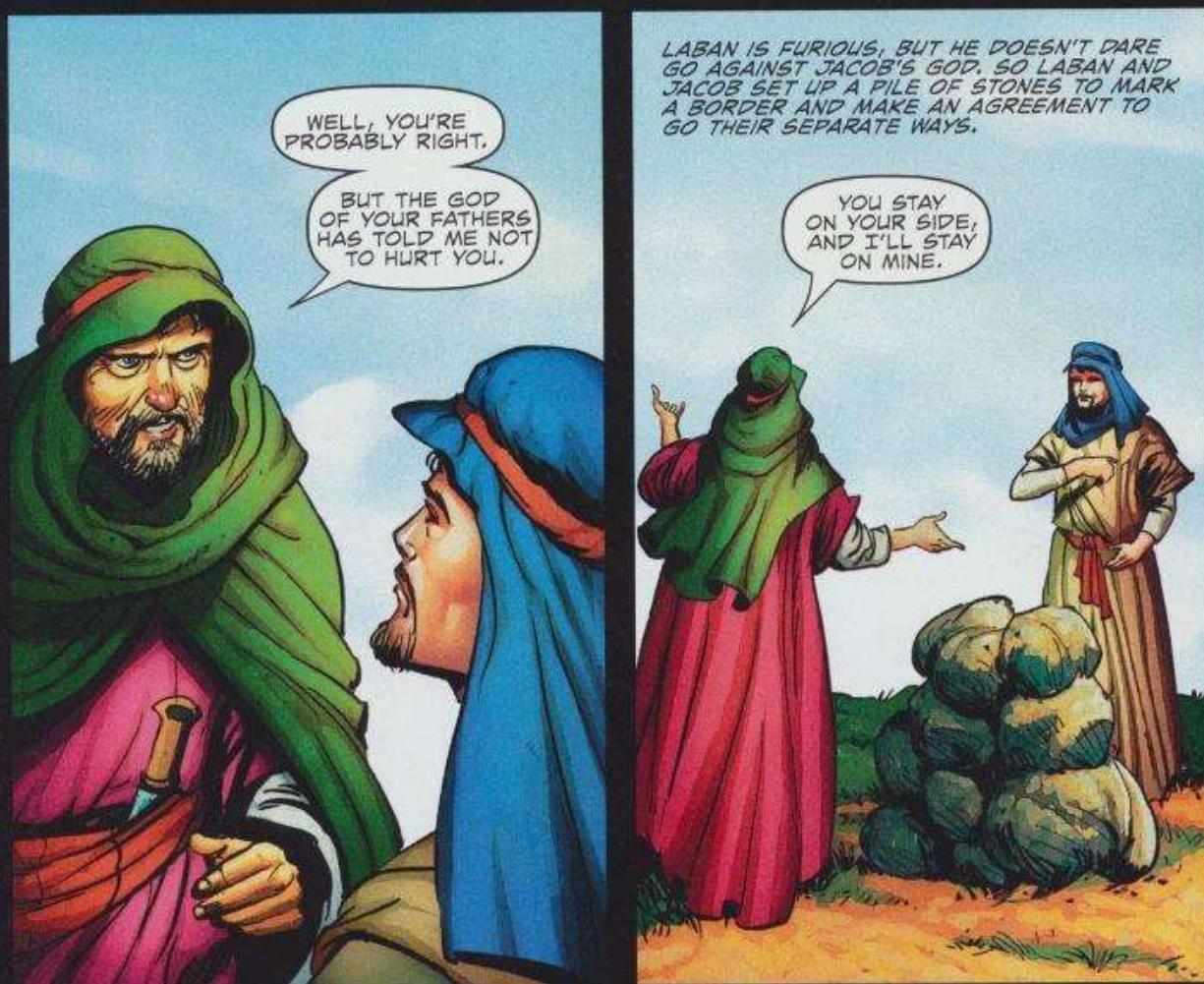


JACOB LOADS EVERYTHING ON CAMELS AND HERDS HIS FLOCKS TOGETHER. SOON THE CARAVAN IS ON ITS WAY.

AS THEY TRAVEL, JACOB GUARDS THE CAMEL CARRYING RACHEL AND HER ONLY SON, JOSEPH. JACOB'S OTHER TEN SONS WATCH WITH JEALOUS EYES. WITHOUT REALIZING IT, JACOB SOWS SEEDS OF TROUBLE FOR THE SON HE LOVES BEST.

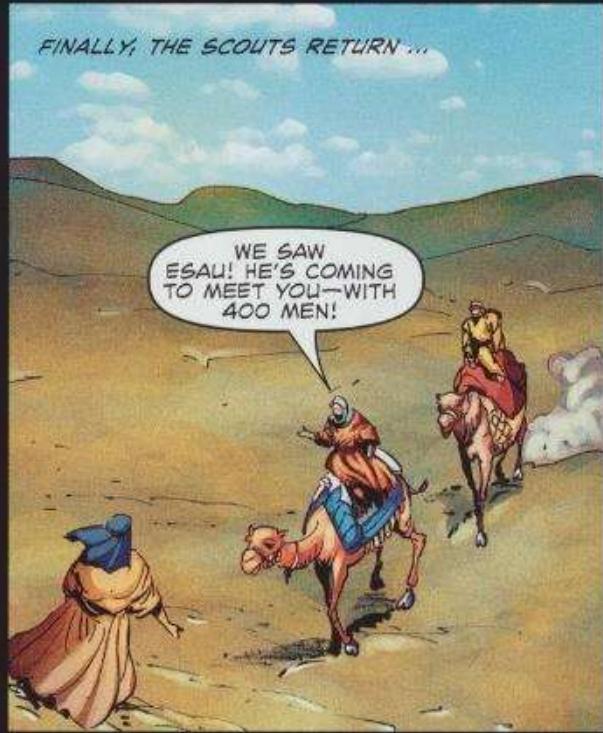
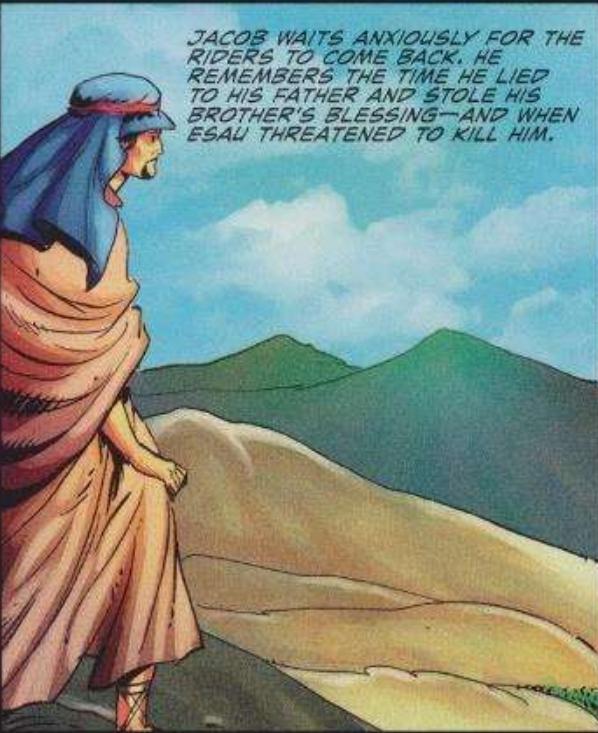
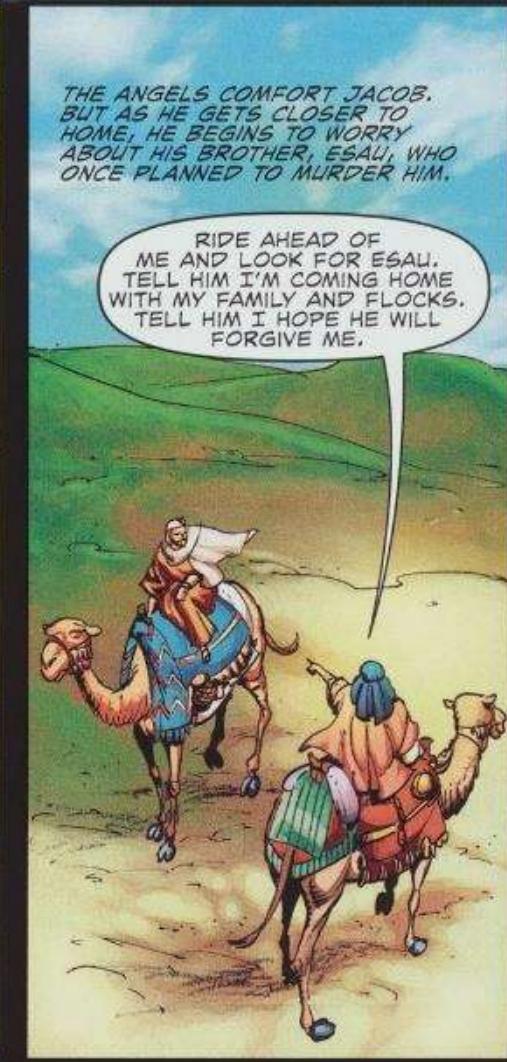
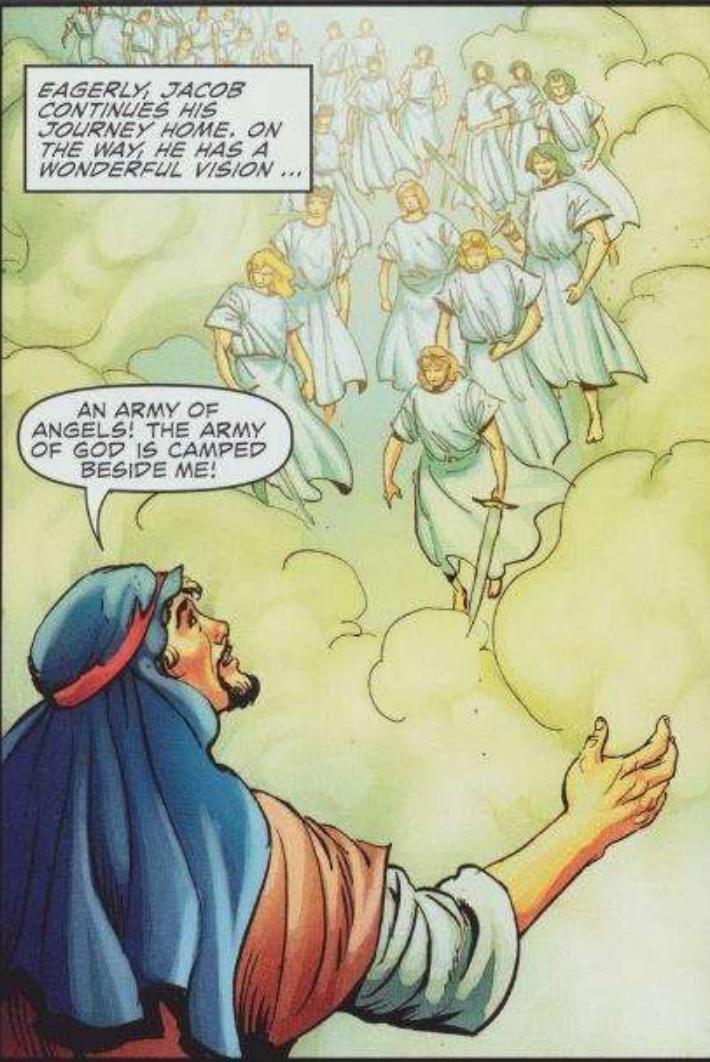
LABAN MAY FOLLOW, SO KEEP WATCH AND TELL ME IF YOU SEE HIM COMING.



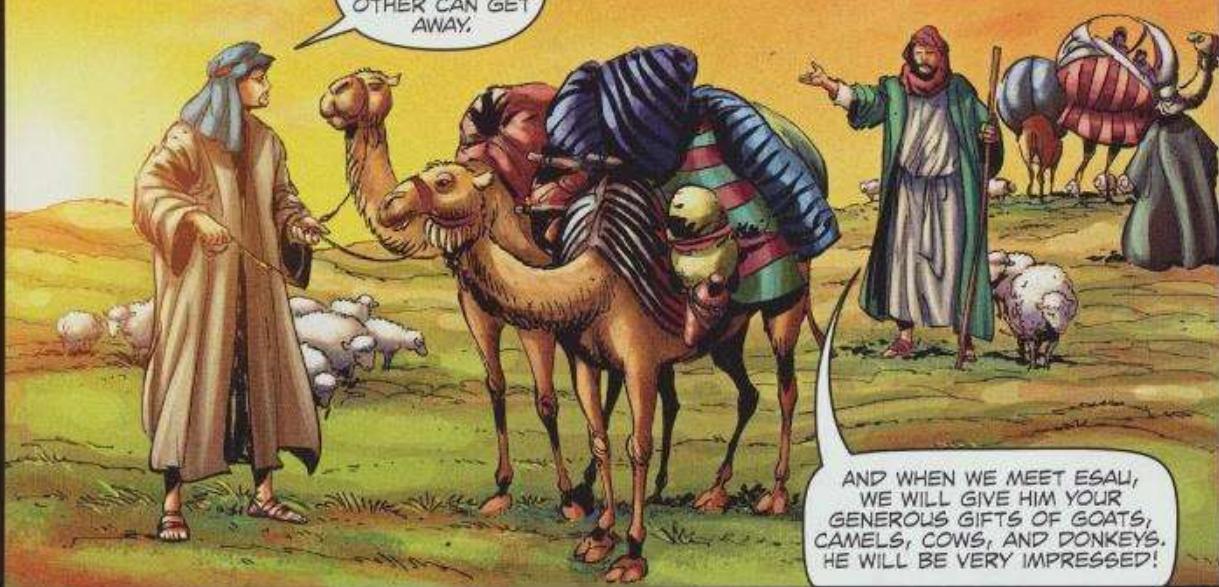


Touched by an Angel

BASED ON GENESIS 32-33



JACOB IS FRIGHTENED, BUT HE IS ALSO SHREWD. HE DIVIDES HIS CARAVAN INTO TWO PARTS. THEN HE SENDS SERVANTS AHEAD WITH PRESENTS FOR ESAU.



THAT NIGHT JACOB PRAYS, CONFESSING HIS SINS, ADMITTING HIS FEAR, AND ASKING FOR GOD'S HELP. BUT STILL HE CANNOT SLEEP.

SO IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, JACOB MOVES HIS FAMILY ...



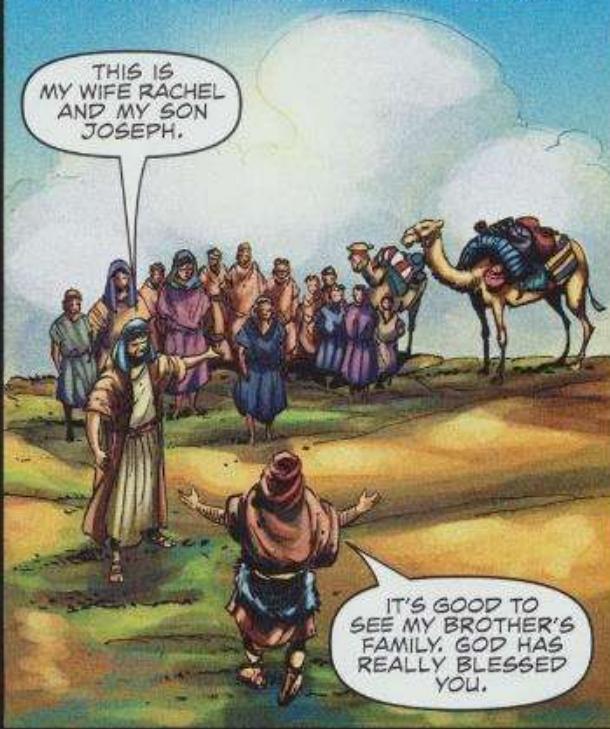
BUT JACOB NEEDS TO BE ALONE. LATER THAT NIGHT, AS HE PRAYS, HE FEELS HIMSELF WRESTLING WITH A MYSTERIOUS STRANGER. THE STRUGGLE IS FIERCE, BUT JACOB DOES NOT GIVE UP UNTIL THE STRANGER BLESSES HIM: 'YOUR NAME WILL NOT BE JACOB ANY LONGER. INSTEAD, YOU WILL BE ISRAEL, WHICH MEANS "GOD-WRESTLER."



THE NEXT MORNING, JACOB IS LIMPING BECAUSE HE HURT HIS HIP WRESTLING WITH THE ANGEL, BUT JACOB IS HAPPY BECAUSE HE KNOWS GOD HAS BLESSED HIM. JACOB GOES CONFIDENTLY TO MEET HIS BROTHER, ESAU.



PROUDLY JACOB PRESENTS HIS FAMILY—WELL, THE ONES HE LOVES MOST, ANYWAY ...



Homecoming

BASED ON GENESIS 35

AFTER FEASTING TOGETHER, THE BROTHERS SAY GOOD-BYE. JACOB HEADS TOWARD HIS FATHER'S HOME IN HEBRON.

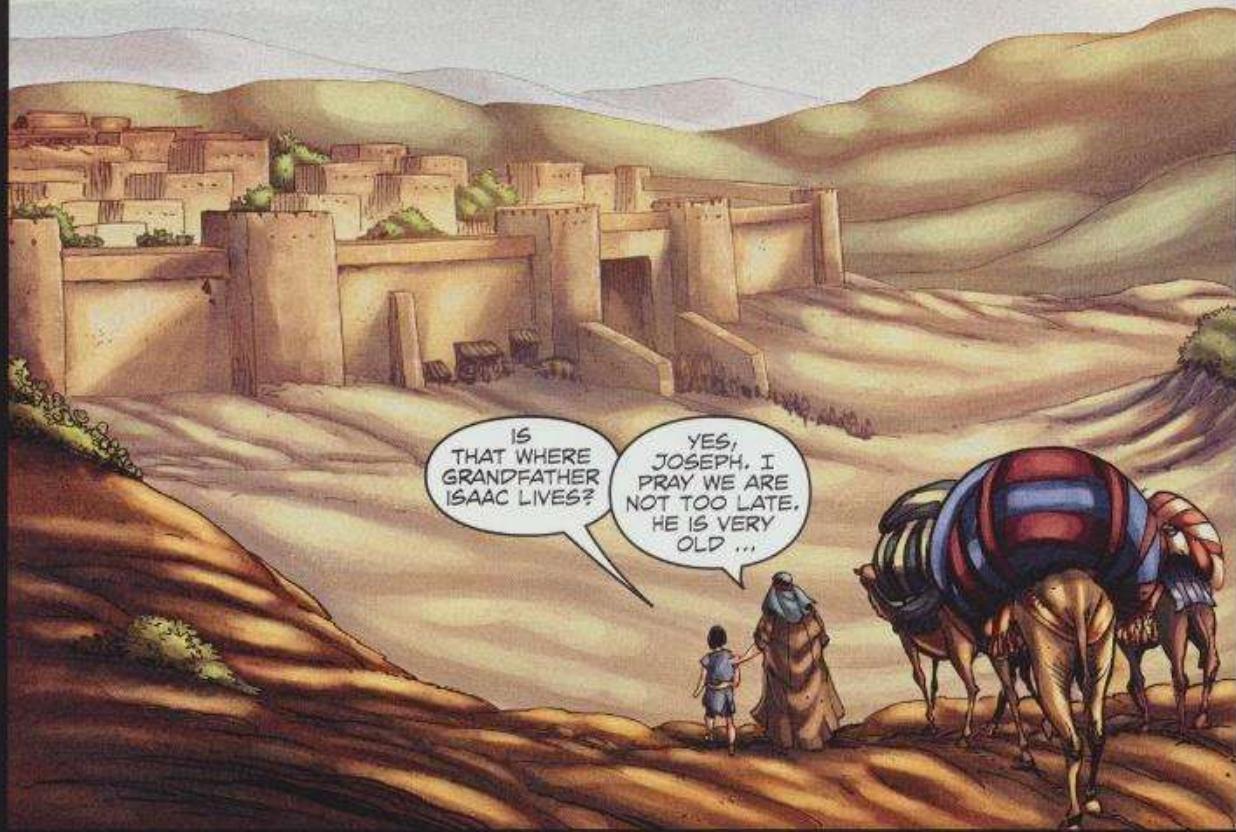


JACOB BURIES HIS BELOVED WIFE RACHEL, THEN HE AND HIS FAMILY CONTINUE SADLY ON THEIR JOURNEY, STOPPING NOW AND THEN TO REST AND FEED THE FLOCKS. AS THEY TRAVEL ON, JACOB WONDERS ...

RACHEL HAS DIED. MY PARENTS ARE OLD. WILL I EVEN GET TO MY FATHER WHILE HE IS STILL ALIVE?



JACOB'S HAND TREMbles AS HE SHADES HIS EYES AND LOOKS TOWARD THE DISTANT CITY OF HEBRON.



GOD ANSWERS JACOB'S PRAYERS. AT THE SIGHT OF HIS OLD AND BLIND FATHER, JACOB FALLS TO HIS KNEES.



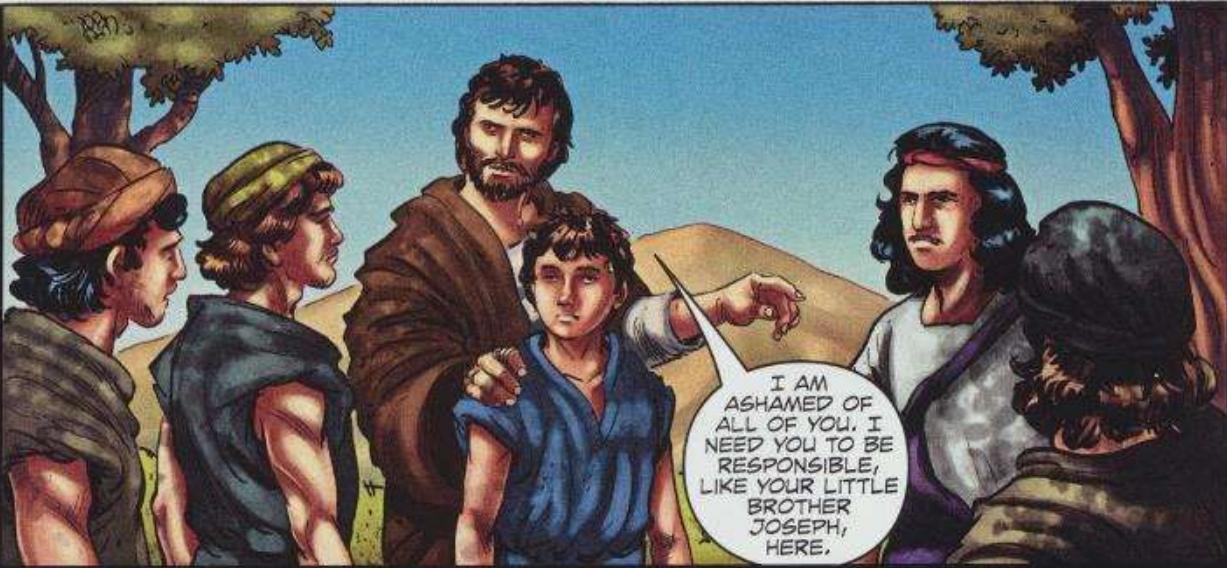
PROUDLY JACOB PRESENTS HIS 12 SONS TO THEIR GRANDFATHER ISAAC.



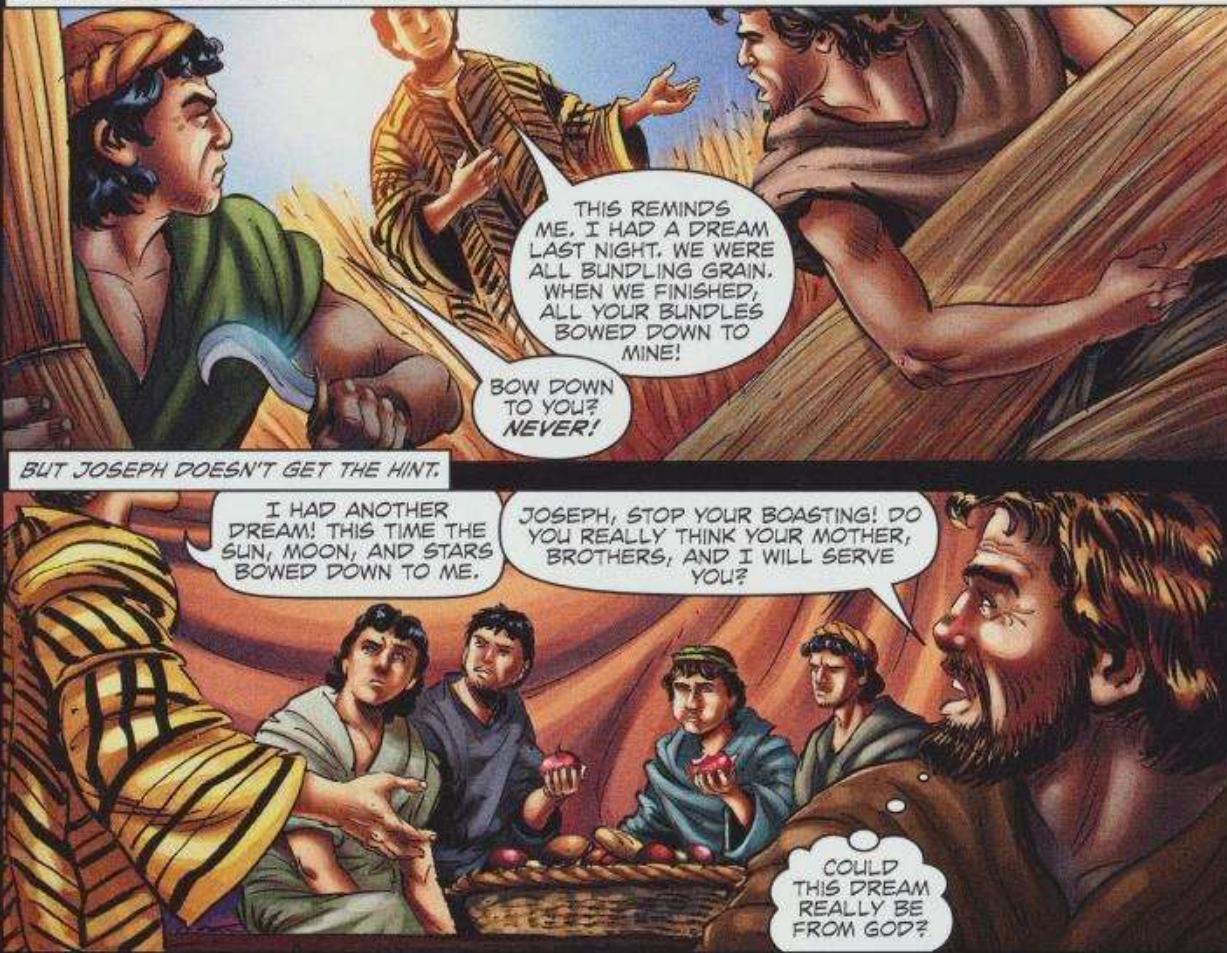
Big Dreams

BASED ON GENESIS 37:1-11

WHEN ISAAC DIES, JACOB TAKES OVER AS HEAD OF THE TRIBE. HE SETTLES HIS FAMILY IN HIS FATHER'S LAND OF CANAAN. HIS SONS TAKE CARE OF HIS FLOCKS OF SHEEP. BUT ONE DAY, JOSEPH TELLS HIS FATHER THAT HIS BROTHERS HAVE BEEN MISBEHAVING OUT IN THE FIELD ...



THE NEXT TIME JOSEPH GOES OUT TO THE FIELDS, HE SHOWS OFF HIS NEW COAT. HIS BROTHERS BECOME EVEN MORE JEALOUS. BUT THAT IS NOTHING COMPARED TO HOW THEY FEEL WHEN JOSEPH SAYS ...



JACOB SOON FORGETS HIS OWN ANGER TOWARD JOSEPH, BUT THE SECOND DREAM WHIPS THE OLDER BROTHERS' HATRED INTO A BURNING RAGE.



Dreamer for Sale

BASED ON GENESIS 37:12-36

JOSEPH'S DREAMS HAVE MADE HIS BROTHERS HATE HIM, BUT HIS FATHER IS BLIND TO THE DANGER. WHILE THE OLDER BROTHERS ARE TENDING SHEEP FAR AWAY IN THE LAND OF SHECHEM, JACOB SENDS JOSEPH TO FIND THEM.

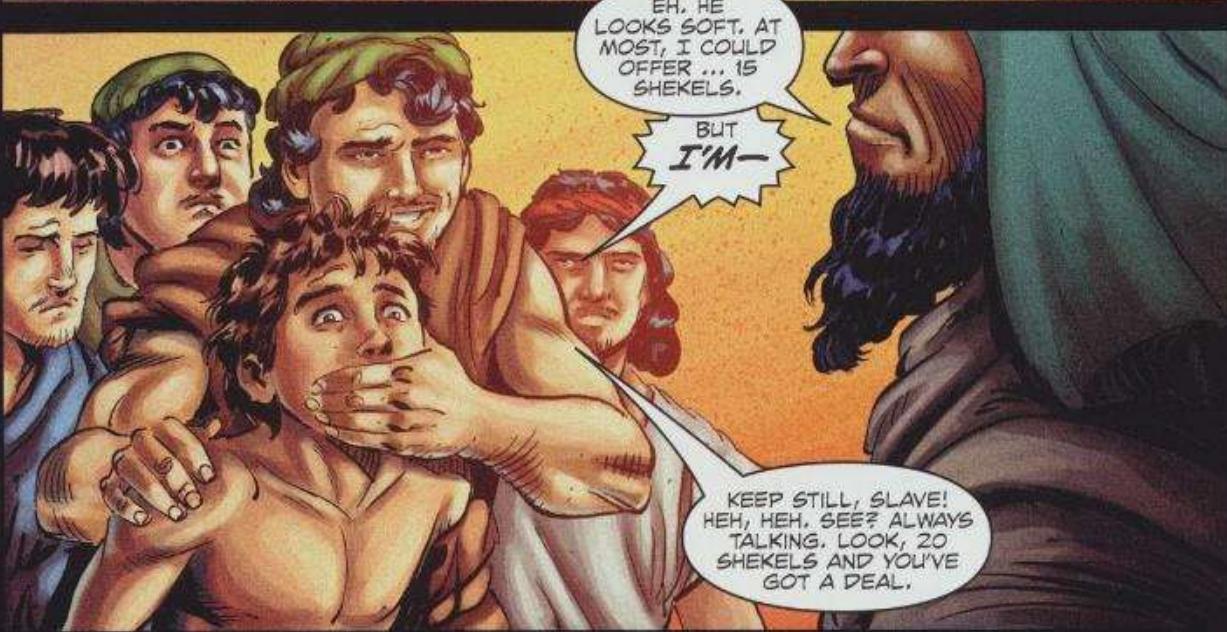
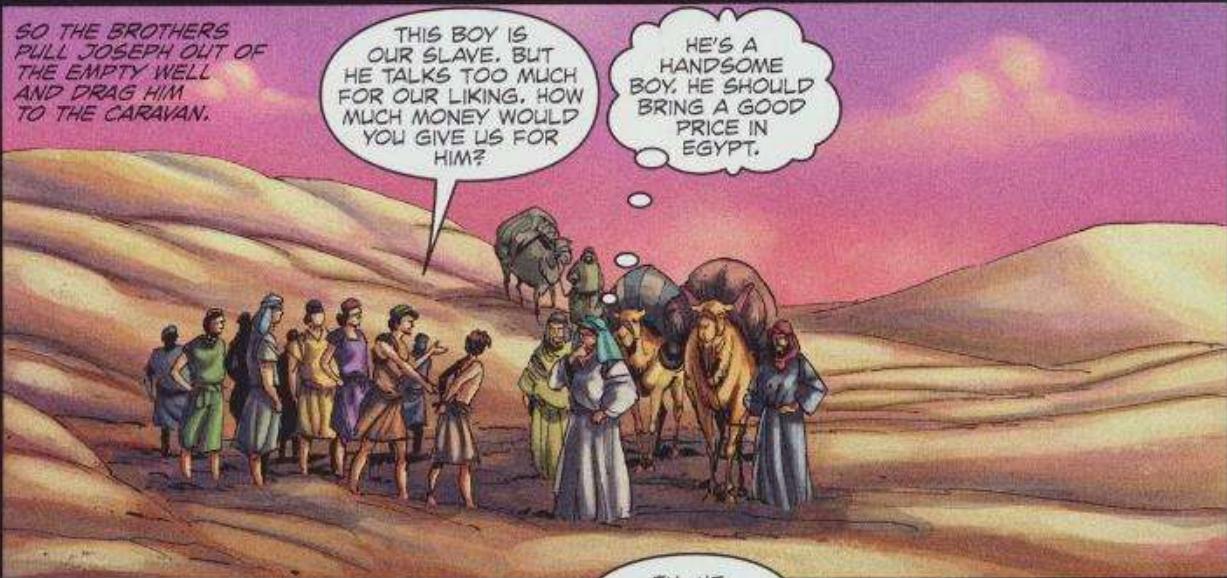
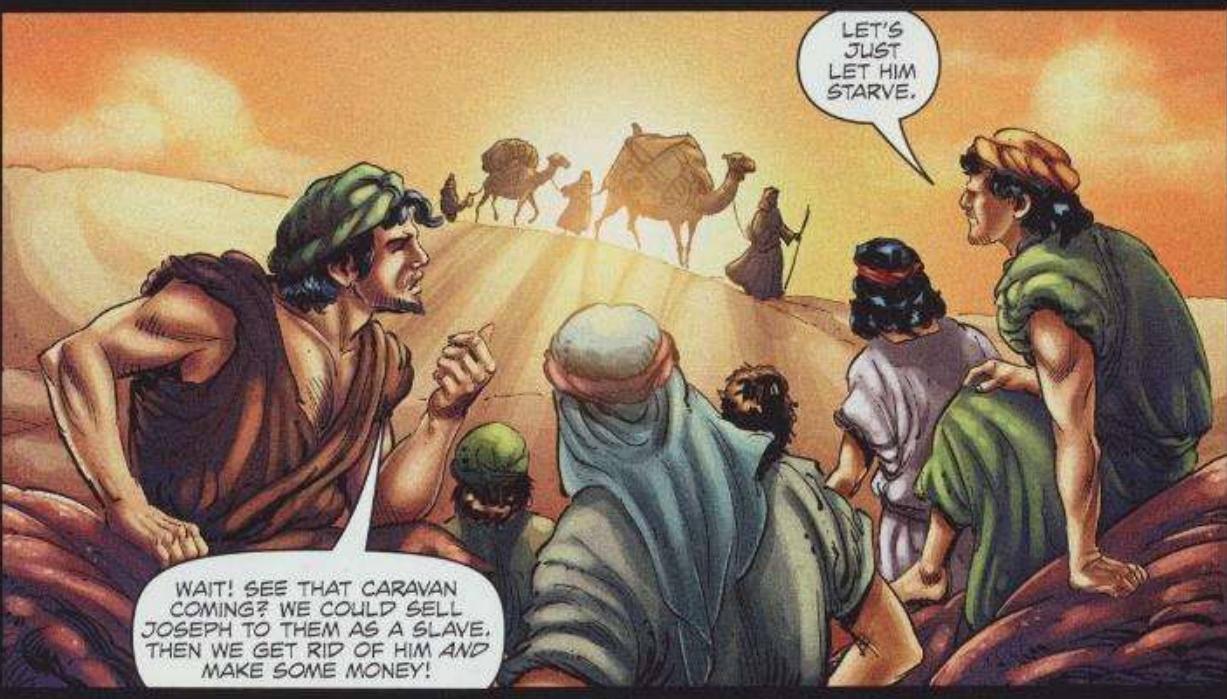
GO CHECK ON THE FLOCKS—AND YOUR BROTHERS—AND LET ME KNOW HOW THINGS ARE GOING.

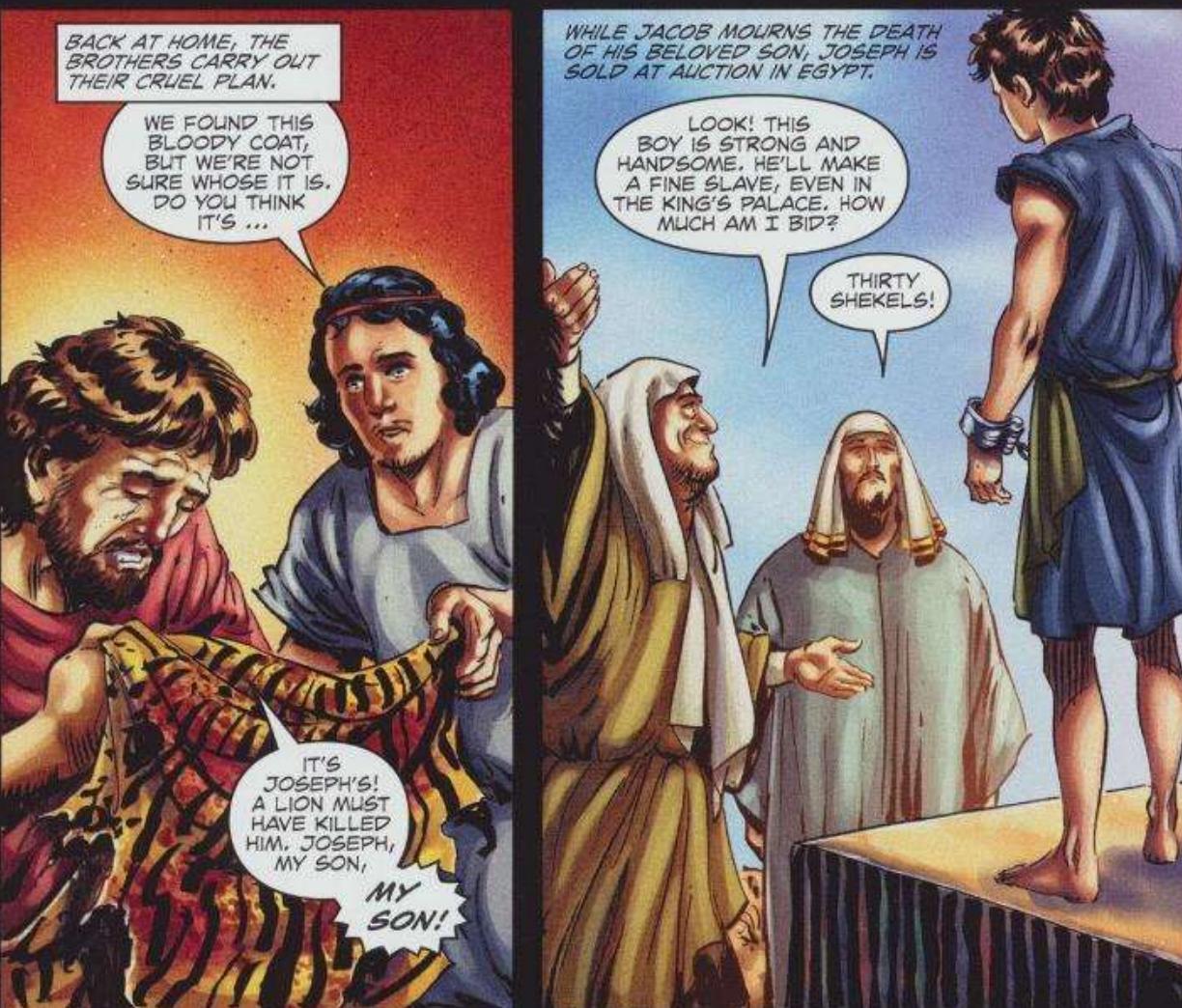
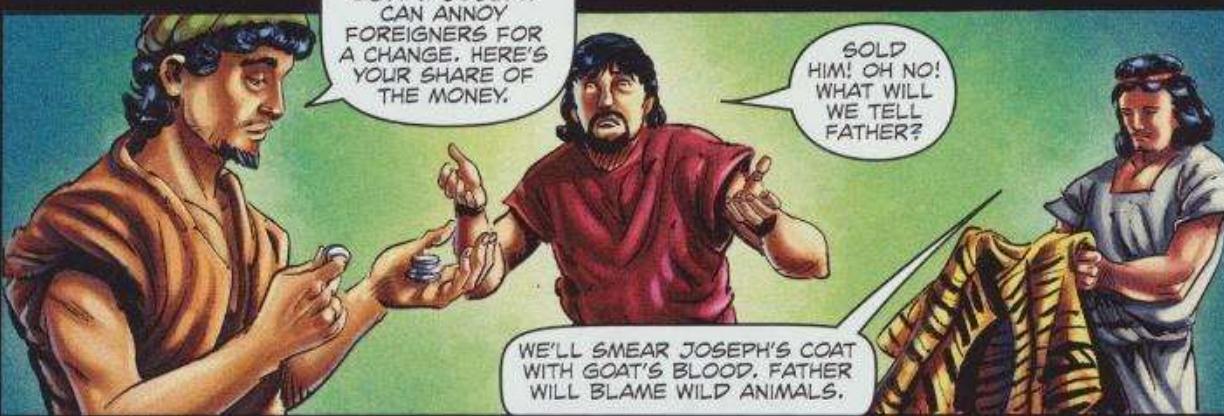
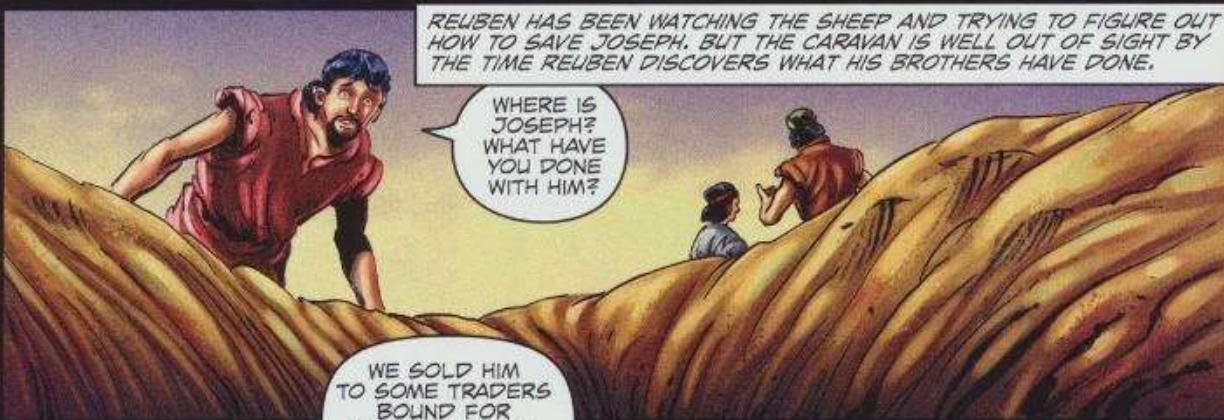
BUT WHEN THE BROTHERS SEE JOSEPH APPROACHING ...

HERE COMES THAT ARROGANT DREAMER.

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF HIS TALK. LET'S GET RID OF HIM.

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS POUNCE ON HIM, STRIP HIM OF HIS FINE COAT, AND THROW HIM DOWN AN EMPTY WELL. THEN THEY TALK ABOUT HOW TO GET RID OF HIM FOR GOOD ...



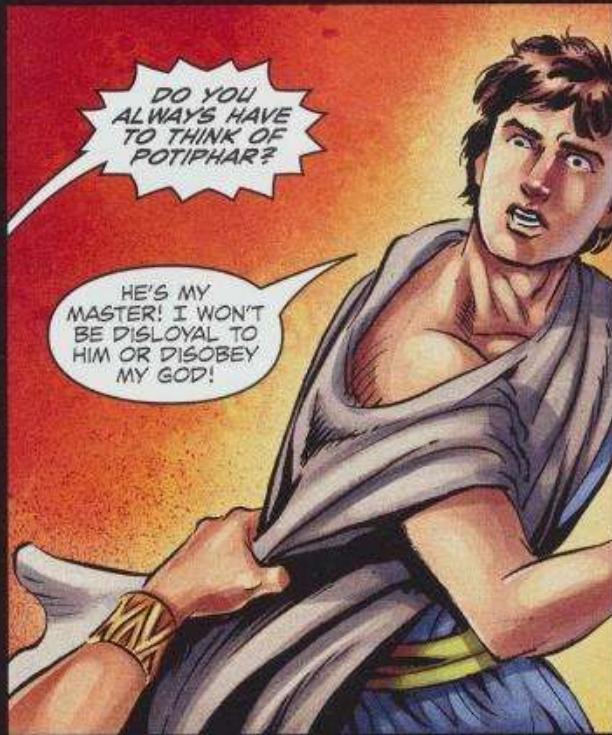
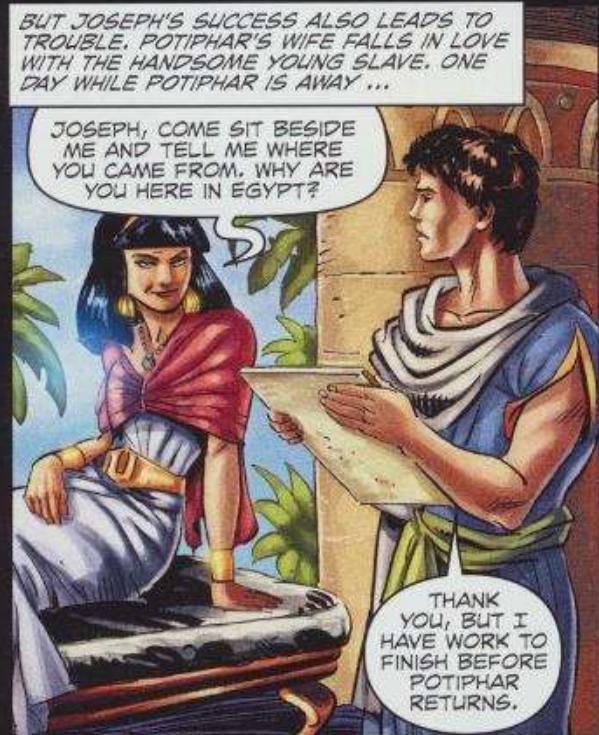


Management Crisis

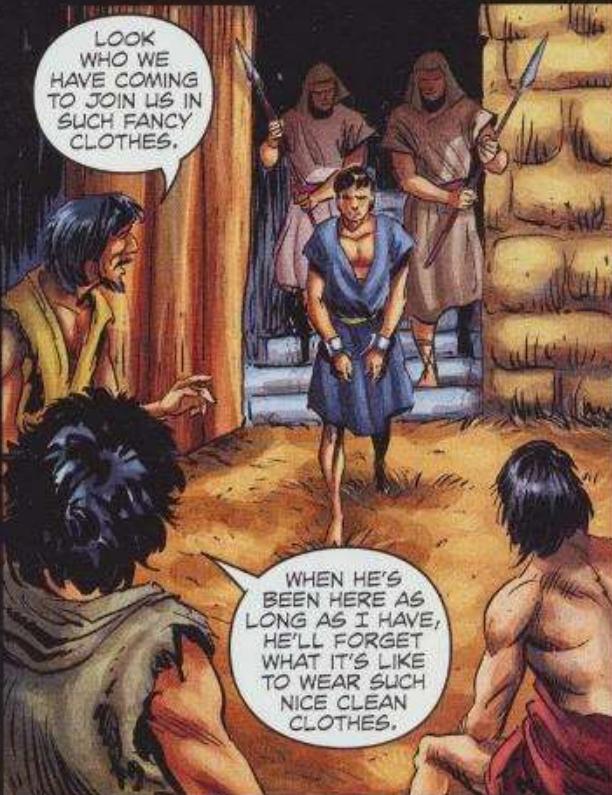
BASED ON GENESIS 39:1-20



BUT JOSEPH'S SUCCESS ALSO LEADS TO TROUBLE. POTIPHAR'S WIFE FALLS IN LOVE WITH THE HANDSOME YOUNG SLAVE. ONE DAY WHILE POTIPHAR IS AWAY ...

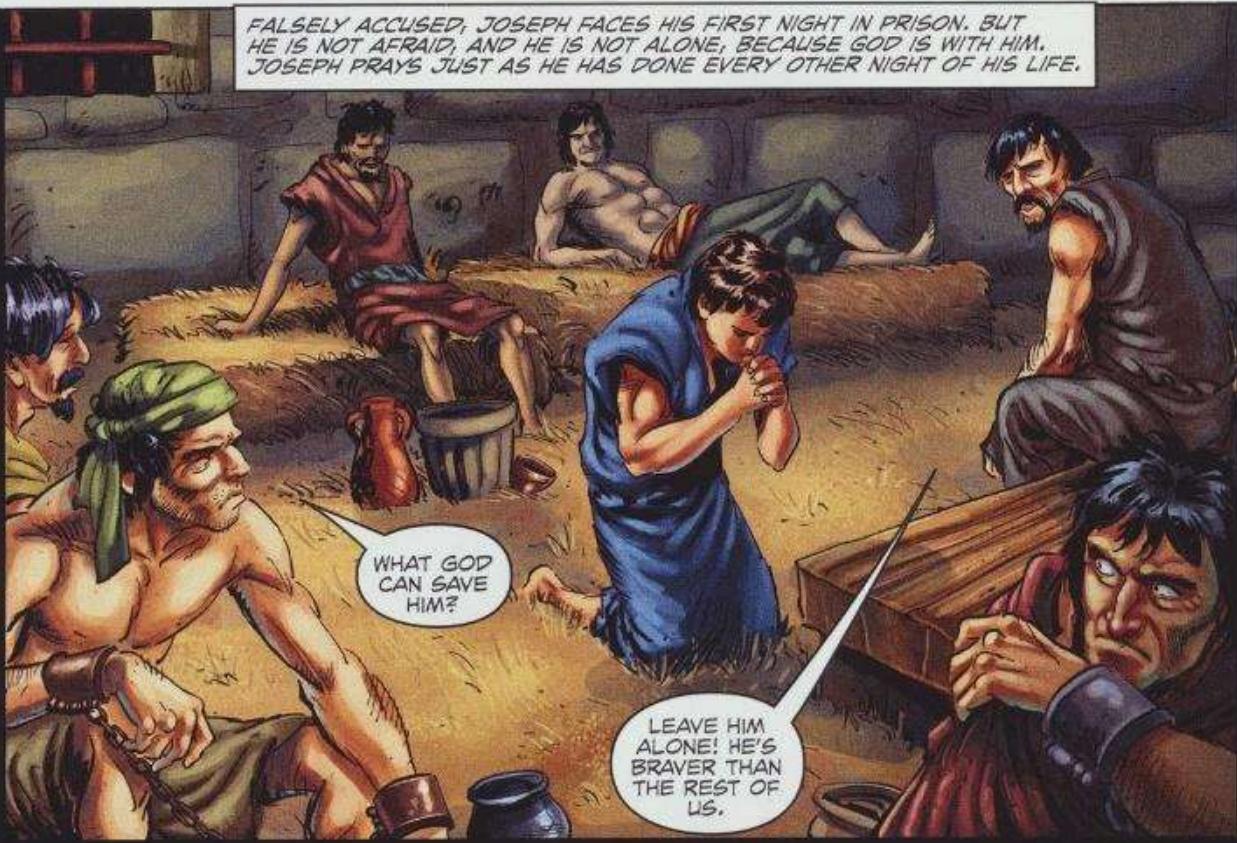


SHE WAITS WITH JOSEPH'S ROBE IN HER HANDS. WHEN POTIPHAR RETURNS, SHE GREETES HIM WITH TEARS IN HER EYES AND A LIE ON HER LIPS.



Jailhouse Shock

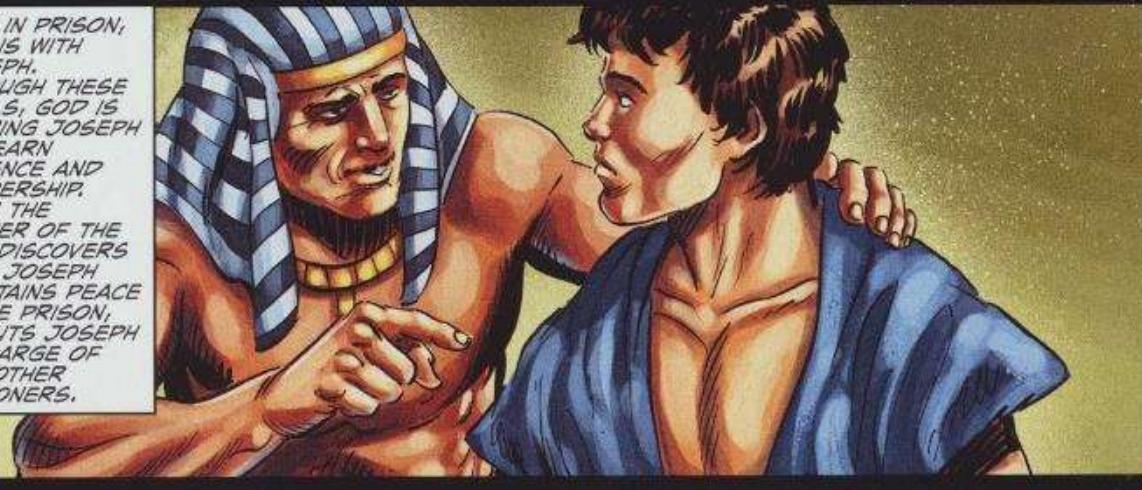
BASED ON GENESIS 39:20-41:43



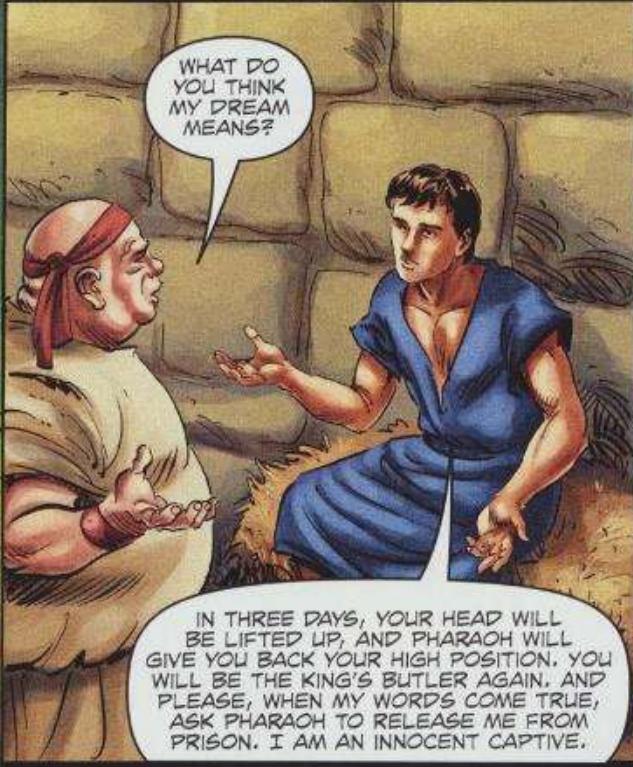
ONE LONG, HOT DAY FOLLOWS ANOTHER. THE PRISONERS QUARREL OVER FOOD, WATER, AND THE BEST PLACE TO SLEEP. ONE DAY A FIGHT BREAKS OUT ...

STOP IT!
FIGHTING WON'T MAKE LIFE ANY BETTER.

EVEN IN PRISON,
GOD IS WITH
JOSEPH.
THROUGH THESE
TRAILS, GOD IS
FORCING JOSEPH
TO LEARN
PATIENCE AND
LEADERSHIP.
WHEN THE
KEEPER OF THE
JAIL DISCOVERS
THAT JOSEPH
MAINTAINS PEACE
IN THE PRISON,
HE PUTS JOSEPH
IN CHARGE OF
THE OTHER
PRISONERS.



ONE DAY, THE KING'S BAKER AND BUTLER ARE THROWN INTO PRISON FOR OFFENDING THE KING. BOTH MEN HAVE DREAMS THAT DISTURB THEM AND COME TO JOSEPH FOR HELP.



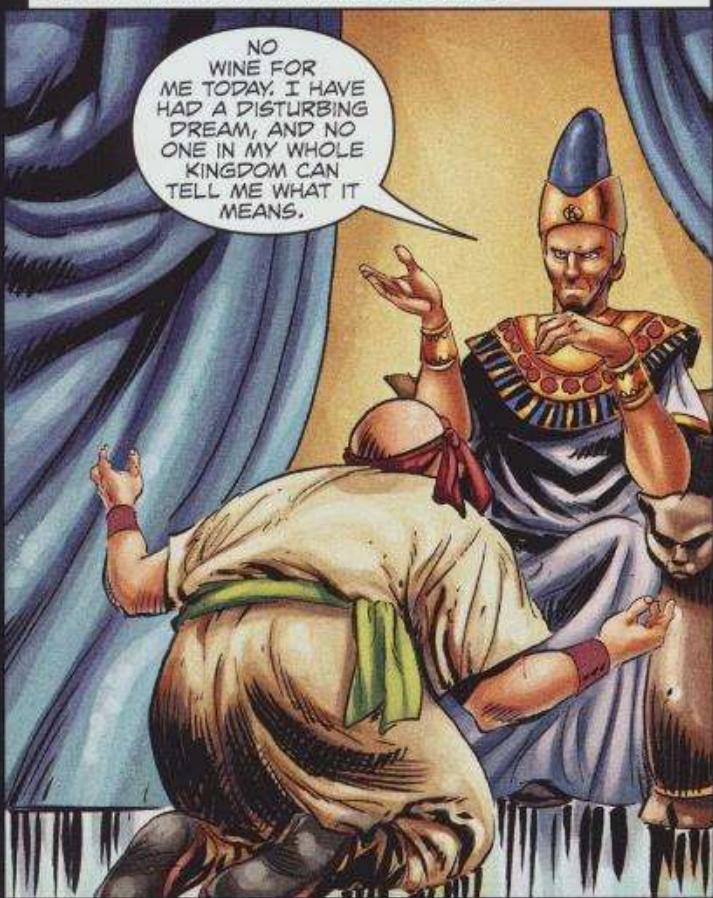
NOW TELL ME WHAT MY DREAM MEANS. LIKE HIS WOULD BE NICE!

I'M VERY SORRY. YOUR DREAM SHOWS THAT IN THREE DAYS YOUR HEAD WILL BE LIFTED OFF—YOU WILL BE HANGED UP HIGH BY PHARAOH.



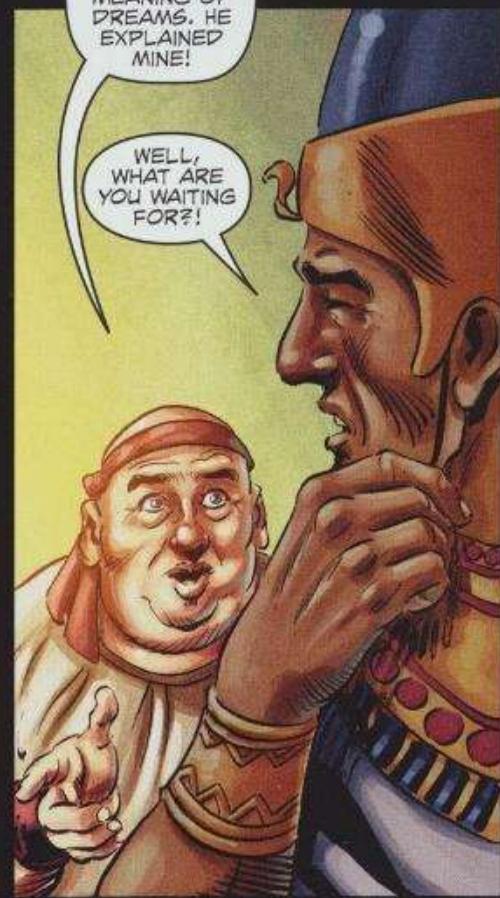
IN THREE DAYS, YOUR HEAD WILL BE LIFTED UP, AND PHARAOH WILL GIVE YOU BACK YOUR HIGH POSITION. YOU WILL BE THE KING'S BUTLER AGAIN. AND PLEASE, WHEN MY WORDS COME TRUE, ASK PHARAOH TO RELEASE ME FROM PRISON. I AM AN INNOCENT CAPTIVE.

JOSEPH'S WORDS COME TRUE. THREE DAYS LATER, ONE MAN IS EXECUTED AND THE OTHER RETURNS TO SERVE THE KING. BUT THE BUTLER FORGETS HIS PROMISE TO PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR JOSEPH. TWO YEARS GO BY. ONE DAY PHARAOH SUMMONS HIS BUTLER.



PHARAOH, I KNOW OF A HEBREW PRISONER WHO CAN TELL THE MEANING OF DREAMS. HE EXPLAINED MINE!

WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?



THE BUTLER WASTES NO TIME HAVING JOSEPH RELEASED FROM PRISON. JOSEPH STANDS BEFORE THE PHARAOH OF EGYPT.

IS IT TRUE YOU CAN TELL THE MEANING OF DREAMS?

I CAN'T, BUT MY GOD CAN, O PHARAOH. TELL ME YOUR DREAM.

I SAW SEVEN FAT COWS COME OUT OF THE NILE RIVER. THEN I SAW SEVEN SKINNY COWS COME AND EAT UP THE FAT ONES.

GOD IS WARNING YOU THAT THERE WILL BE SEVEN YEARS OF GOOD CROPS FOLLOWED BY SEVEN YEARS OF FAMINE.

YOU SHOULD APPOINT A WISE OFFICER TO STORE GRAIN DURING THE SEVEN GOOD YEARS. THEN THERE WILL BE FOOD FOR EVERYONE DURING THE SEVEN YEARS OF FAMINE.

WHO IS WISER THAN YOU, SINCE GOD IS WITH YOU?

PHARAOH QUICKLY CALLS THE OFFICERS OF HIS COURT. AS THEY WATCH, HE PUTS HIS OWN RING ON JOSEPH'S FINGER.

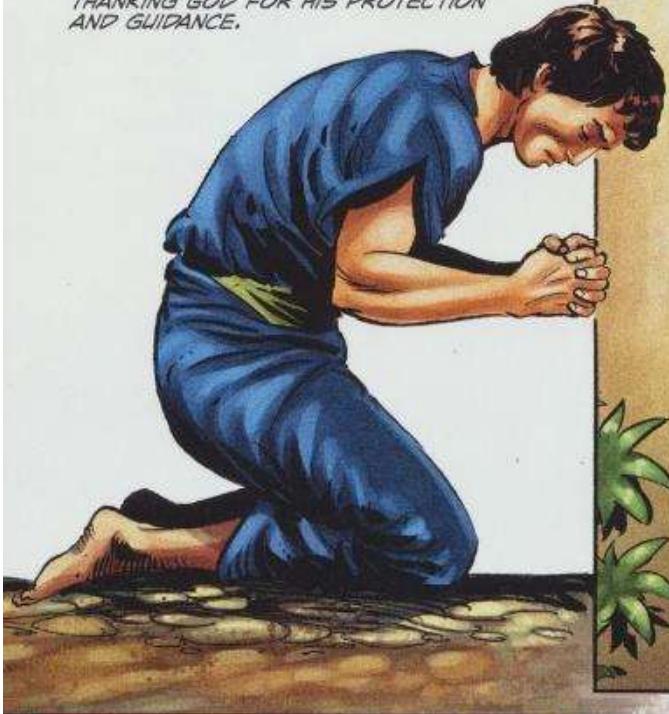
I HAVE PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF ALL OF EGYPT, AS MY GRAND VIZIER. ONLY I, PHARAOH, WILL BE GREATER THAN YOU.



Pharaoh's Man

BASED ON GENESIS 41:44-42:38

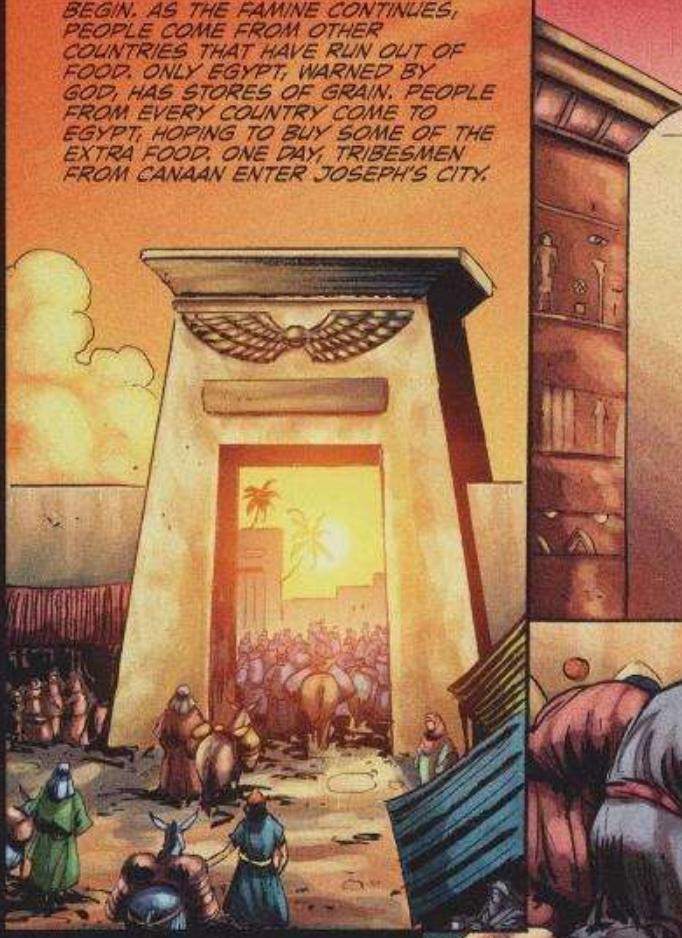
IN A SINGLE MOMENT, PHARAOH ELEVATES JOSEPH FROM PRISONER TO PRIME MINISTER. FROM THE THRONE ROOM, JOSEPH GOES OUTSIDE AND KNEELS IN PRAYER, THANKING GOD FOR HIS PROTECTION AND GUIDANCE.



JOSEPH ORDERS THE PEOPLE TO START PREPARING FOR THE FAMINE. HE BECOMES FAMOUS, AND EVERYONE REJOICES WHEN HE MARRIES THE BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER OF THE PRIEST OF ON.



ALL TOO SOON, THE BAD YEARS BEGIN. AS THE FAMINE CONTINUES, PEOPLE COME FROM OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE RUN OUT OF FOOD. ONLY EGYPT, WARNED BY GOD, HAS STORES OF GRAIN. PEOPLE FROM EVERY COUNTRY COME TO EGYPT, HOPING TO BUY SOME OF THE EXTRA FOOD. ONE DAY, TRIBESMEN FROM CANAAN ENTER JOSEPH'S CITY.



IN ORDER TO BUY GRAIN, THEY APPEAR BEFORE THE GOVERNOR OF EGYPT. THEN, JUST AS JOSEPH DREAMED MANY YEARS BEFORE, THEY BOW BEFORE HIM.

MY BROTHERS! THEY DO NOT RECOGNIZE ME AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.



SINCE HIS BROTHERS DON'T RECOGNIZE HIM, JOSEPH WANTS TO FIND OUT WHETHER THEY HAVE LEARNED TO BE KIND AND MERCIFUL IN THE YEARS SINCE HE'S SEEN THEM. HE DECIDES TO TEST THEM.

YOU ARE SPIES!

NO, MY LORD! WE ARE TEN SONS OF THE GREAT CHIEFTAIN JACOB. HE SENT US TO BUY GRAIN.

TEN SONS? HOW MANY MORE SONS DOES YOUR FATHER HAVE?

HE HAD 12 SONS. THE YOUNGEST, BENJAMIN, IS HOME WITH OUR FATHER. THE OTHER ONE DIED LONG AGO.

I STILL SAY YOU ARE SPIES. GUARDS! TAKE THEM TO PRISON!

