

THE NEXT MORNING,
DAVID CALLS DOWN TO
SAUL'S CAMP.

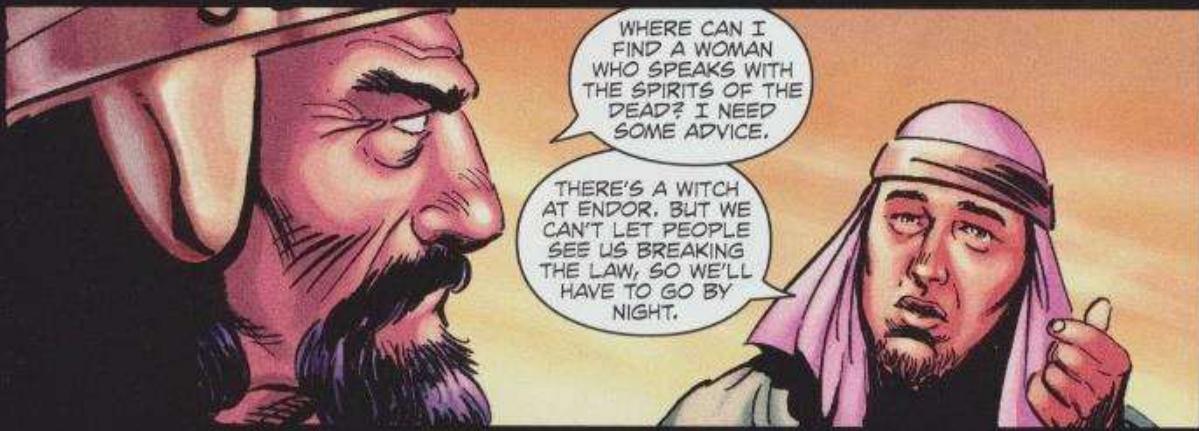
KING SAUL!
DO THESE
LOOK
FAMILIAR?

YOU TOOK THEM
WHILE I SLEPT!
AGAIN YOU COULD
HAVE KILLED ME—AND
YOU DIDN'T. I HAVE
BEEN A FOOL, I'LL
NEVER TRY TO HURT
YOU AGAIN.

LOOK! THEY'RE
LEAVING. YOU'RE
SAFE.

NO, SAUL
MADE THE SAME
PROMISE BEFORE.
I'LL NEVER BE
SAFE AS LONG
AS THE KING
LIVES.

BUT SAUL IS NOT SAFE EITHER. HIS ARMY IS
CONFRONTED BY THE UNIFIED PHILISTINE FORCES.
WHEN SAUL SEES THE POWERFUL PHILISTINE
ARMY, HE IS AFRAID. FRANTICALLY, HE CALLS
UPON GOD FOR HELP—BUT BECAUSE HE'D KILLED
GOD'S PRIESTS AND DISOBEDIED GOD'S
COMMANDS, GOD WOULD NO LONGER SPEAK TO
HIM. TERRIFIED, HE RESORTS TO A DARK POWER.



WHERE CAN I
FIND A WOMAN
WHO SPEAKS WITH
THE SPIRITS OF THE
DEAD? I NEED
SOME ADVICE.

THERE'S A WITCH
AT ENDOR, BUT WE
CAN'T LET PEOPLE
SEE US BREAKING
THE LAW, SO WE'LL
HAVE TO GO BY
NIGHT.

THAT NIGHT, SAUL AND TWO SERVANTS SNEAK ACROSS
THE HILLS TO THE VILLAGE OF ENDOR ...



... AND KNOCK ON A DOOR.

I'LL PAY
YOU WELL TO
CALL UP THE
SPIRIT OF
THE ONE I
NAME.

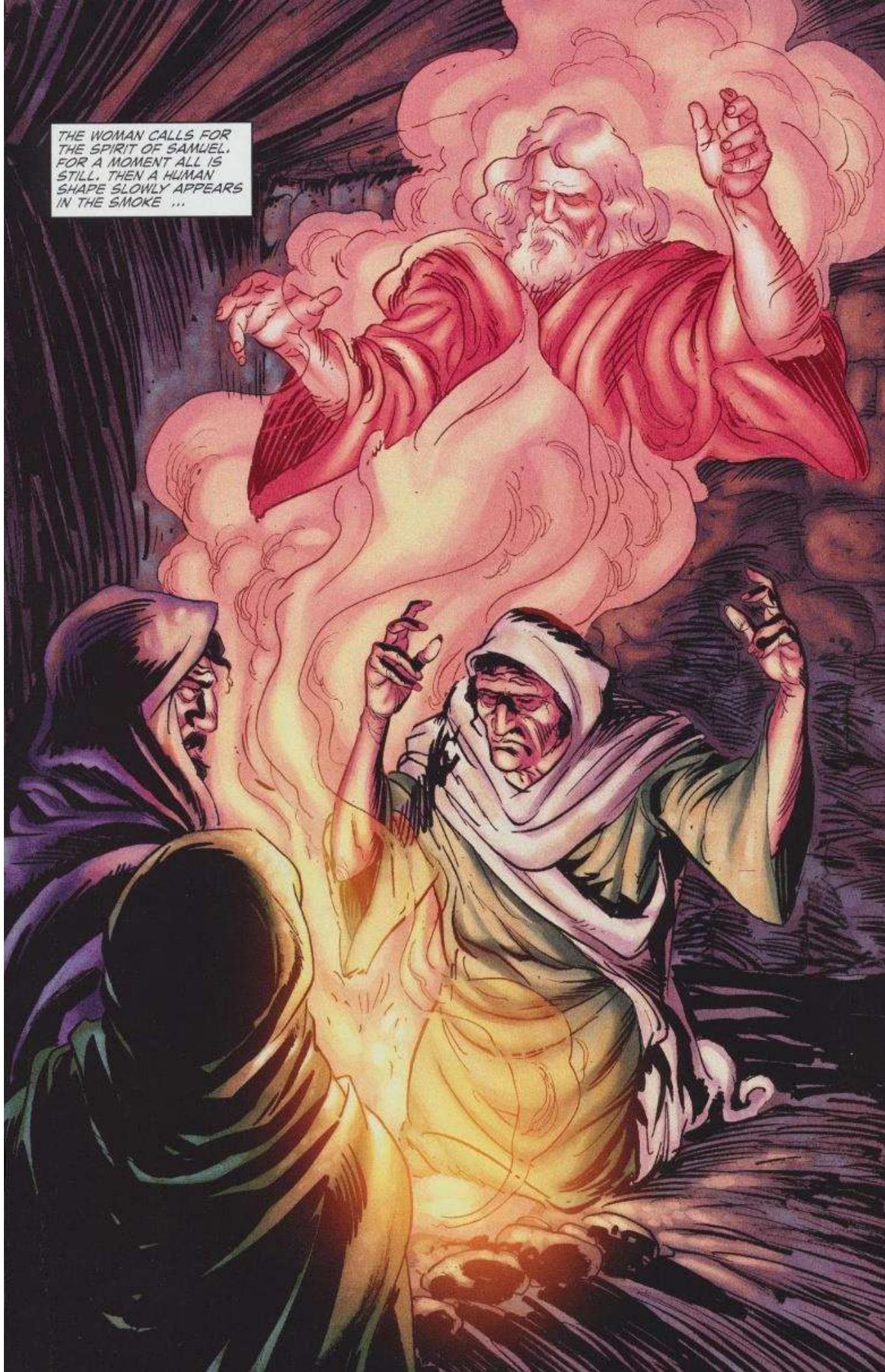
SURELY YOU
KNOW THAT
KING SAUL HAS
ORDERED ALL
WITCHES PUT TO
DEATH. ARE YOU
TRYING TO TRAP
A POOR OLD
WOMAN?

I SWEAR
TO THE LORD
THAT NOTHING
WILL HAPPEN
TO YOU IF YOU
DO WHAT I
ASK.

VERY WELL.
WHAT SPIRIT
CAN I CALL
UP TO SOOTHE
YOUR TROUBLED
SOUL?

CALL UP
THE SPIRIT OF
THE PROPHET
SAMUEL.

THE WOMAN CALLS FOR
THE SPIRIT OF SAMUEL.
FOR A MOMENT ALL IS
STILL. THEN A HUMAN
SHAPE SLOWLY APPEARS
IN THE SMOKE ...



SUDDENLY THE WITCH CRIES OUT IN TERROR.

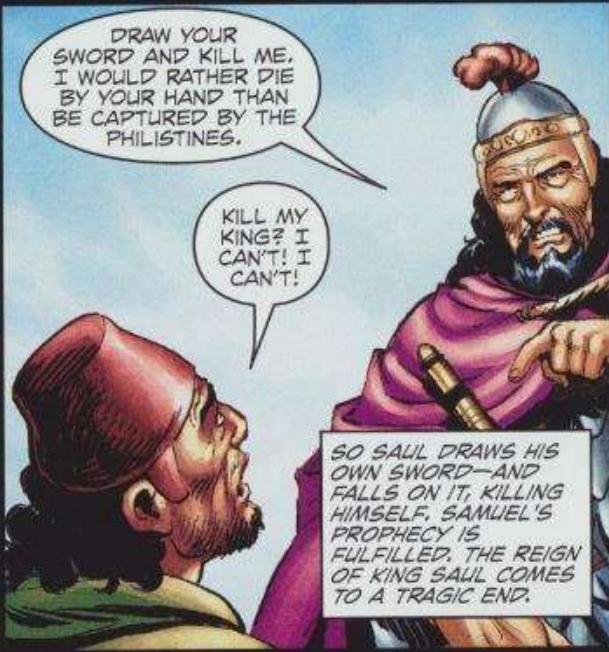
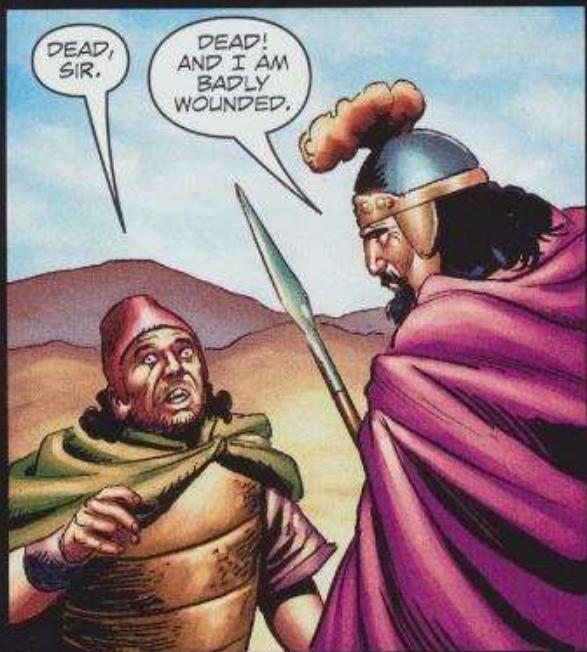
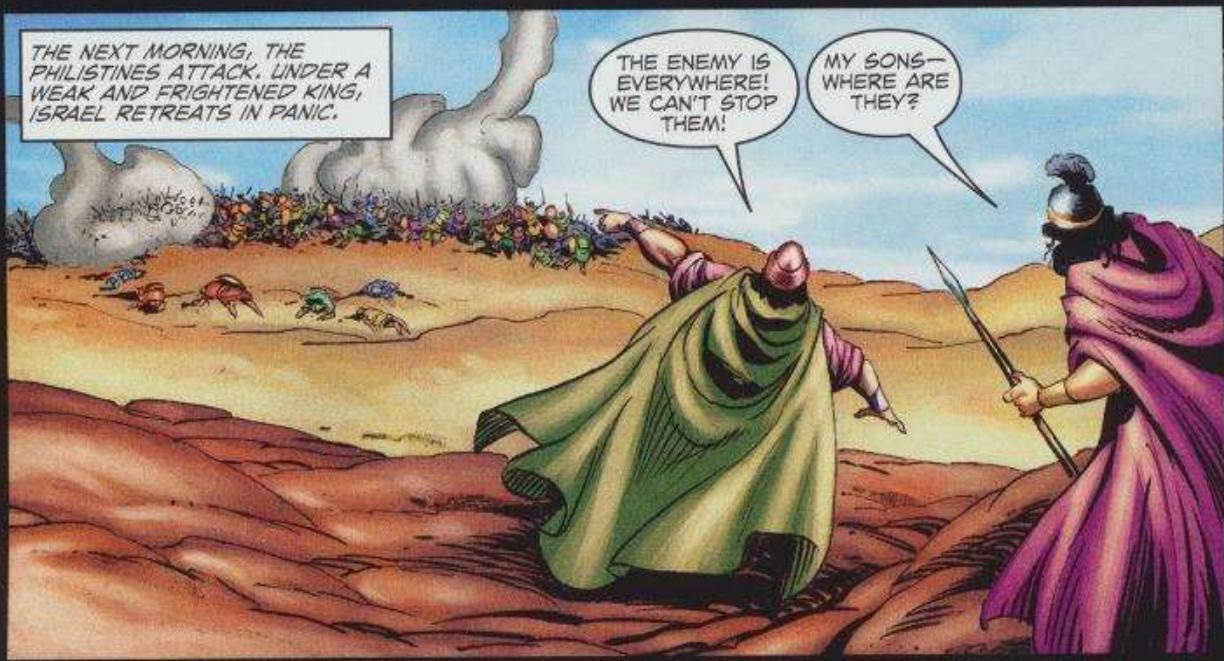
OH NO, IT REALLY IS SAMUEL! YOU MUST BE KING SAUL! PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!

WHY HAVE YOU ROUSED ME?

THE PHILISTINES ARE ATTACKING ME. GOD HAS REJECTED ME. I NEED YOU TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO.

IF THE LORD WOULDN'T HELP YOU, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I WILL? YOU REJECTED THE LORD'S COMMANDS, SO NOW HE'S REJECTED YOU. DAVID WILL BE THE NEXT KING. TOMORROW YOUR ARMY WILL BE DEFEATED, AND YOU AND YOUR SONS WILL BE DEAD.

IN DESPAIR AND WEAKNESS, SAUL FALLS FLAT ON THE GROUND, UNABLE TO GET UP.

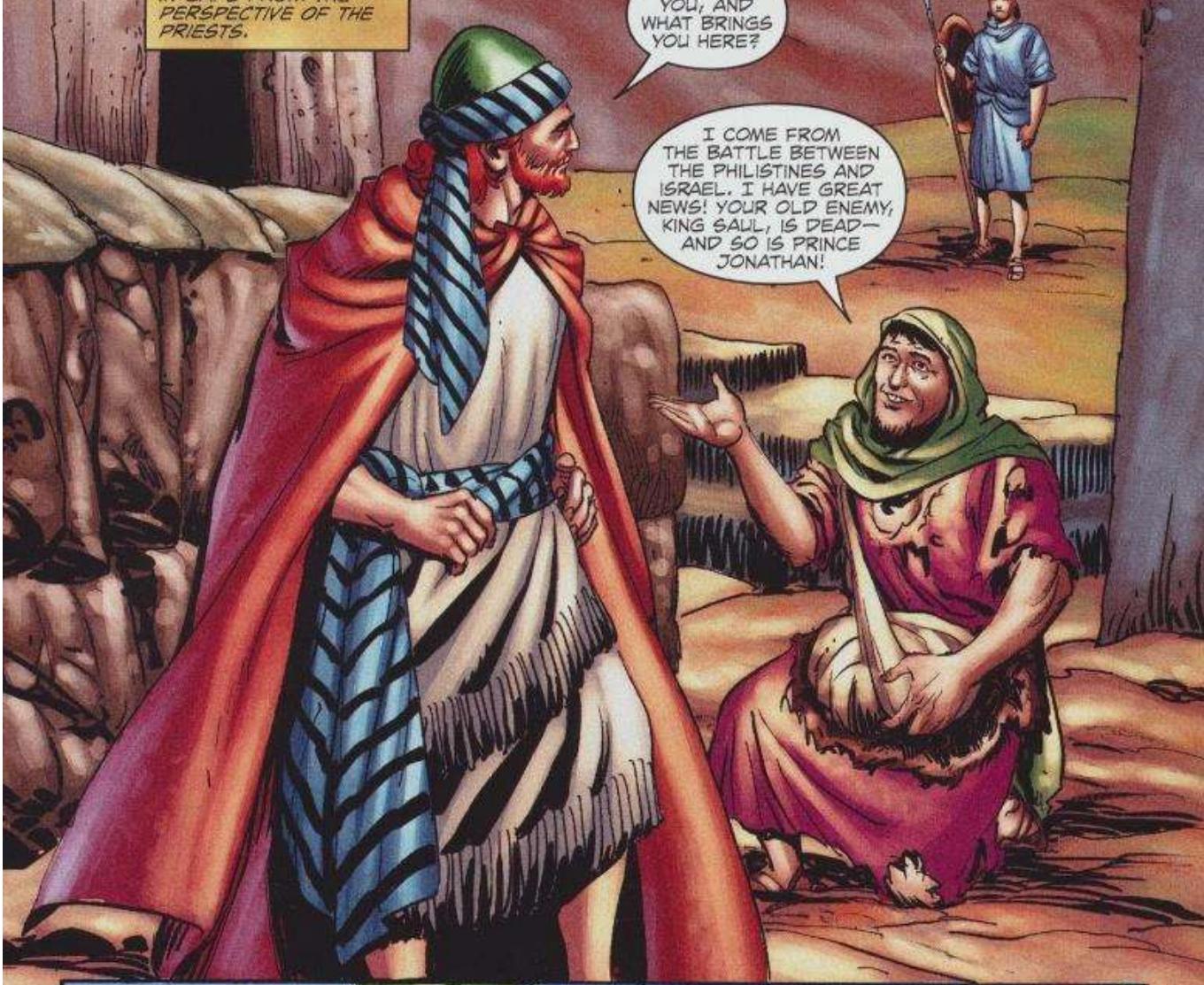


Just Rewards

BASED ON
2 SAMUEL 1:1-2:7

THE BOOKS OF 2 SAMUEL AND 1 CHRONICLES RECORD THE SAME PERIOD OF HISTORY—THE REIGN OF DAVID, ISRAEL'S GREATEST KING. 2 SAMUEL IS THE ORIGINAL HISTORY, AS WRITTEN DOWN BY THE PROPHETS, WHILE 1 CHRONICLES FILLS IN GAPS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE PRIESTS.

STILL IN EXILE, DAVID ALWAYS THINKS ABOUT SAUL AND JONATHAN. HE WONDERS HOW THEIR BATTLE WITH THE PHILISTINES TURNED OUT. A THIEF WHO HAD LOOTED THE BATTLEFIELD TRIES TO WIN DAVID'S FAVOR.



EVEN IF THE KING ASKED YOU TO KILL HIM, YOU HAD NO RIGHT TO TAKE THE LIFE OF THE MAN GOD CHOSE TO BE KING OF ISRAEL. FOR THIS CRIME YOU WILL PAY WITH YOUR OWN LIFE.

SO THE MAN WHO LIED TO GET A REWARD RECEIVED A DIFFERENT REWARD—THE ONE HE DESERVED.

EVEN THOUGH SAUL HAD TREATED HIM UNFAIRLY, DAVID MOURNS THE DEATHS OF HIS KING AND HIS BEST FRIEND. IN HIS GRIEF, DAVID WRITES A LAMENT, A MOURNFUL SONG PRAISING SAUL AND JONATHAN. HE TEACHES IT TO ALL HIS FOLLOWERS, AND THEY SING IT TOGETHER. IT'S CALLED THE SONG OF THE BOW.

THE GLORY OF ISRAEL LIES SLAIN IN THE HILLS.

DO NOT SPREAD THIS EVIL NEWS.

THE BOW OF JONATHAN DID NOT TURN BACK.

SAUL AND JONATHAN—LOVED IN LIFE, TOGETHER IN DEATH.

HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN!

DO NOT GIVE OUR ENEMIES A REASON TO REJOICE.

THE SWORD OF SAUL DID NOT RETREAT.

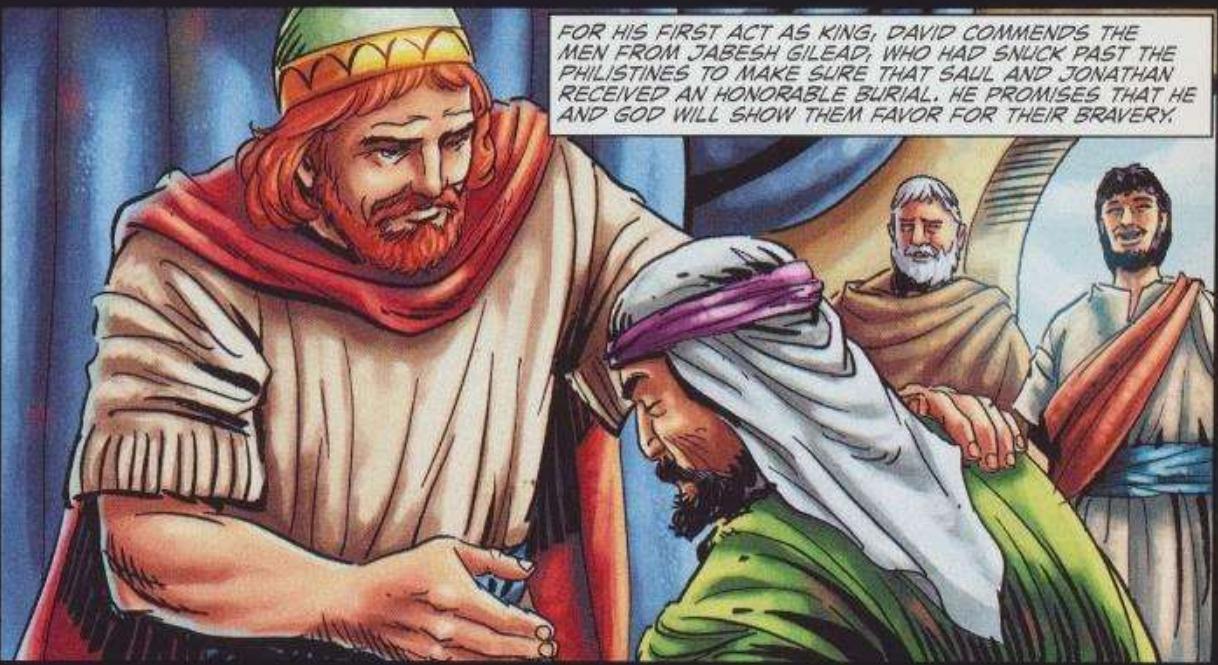
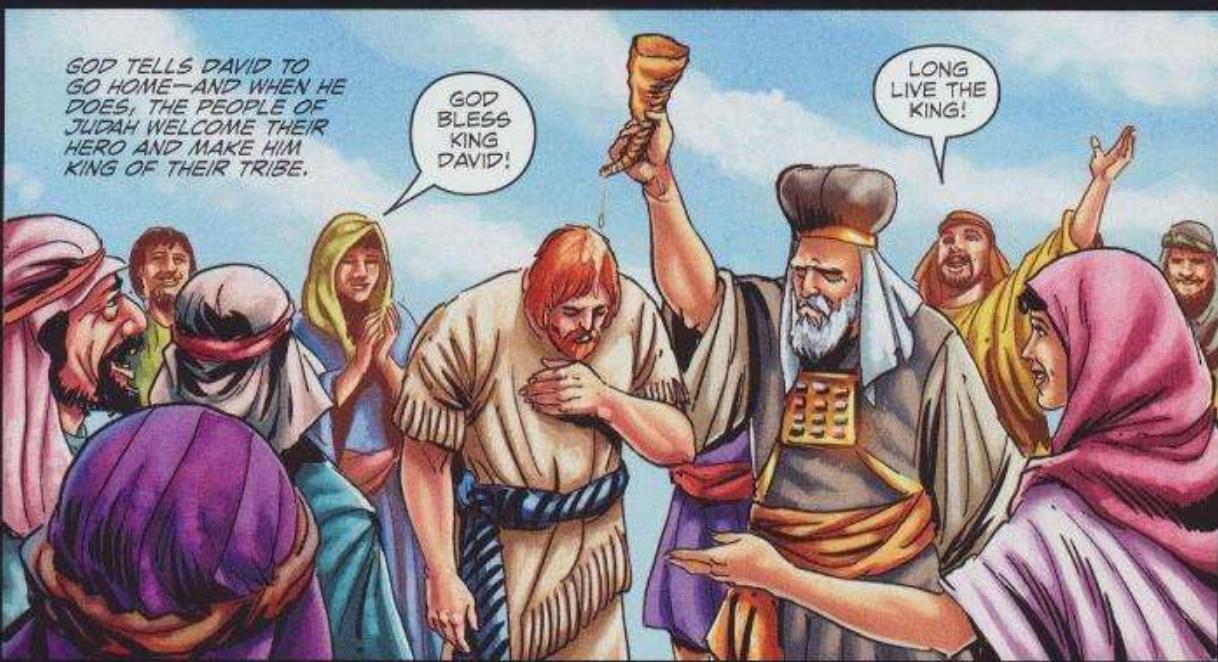
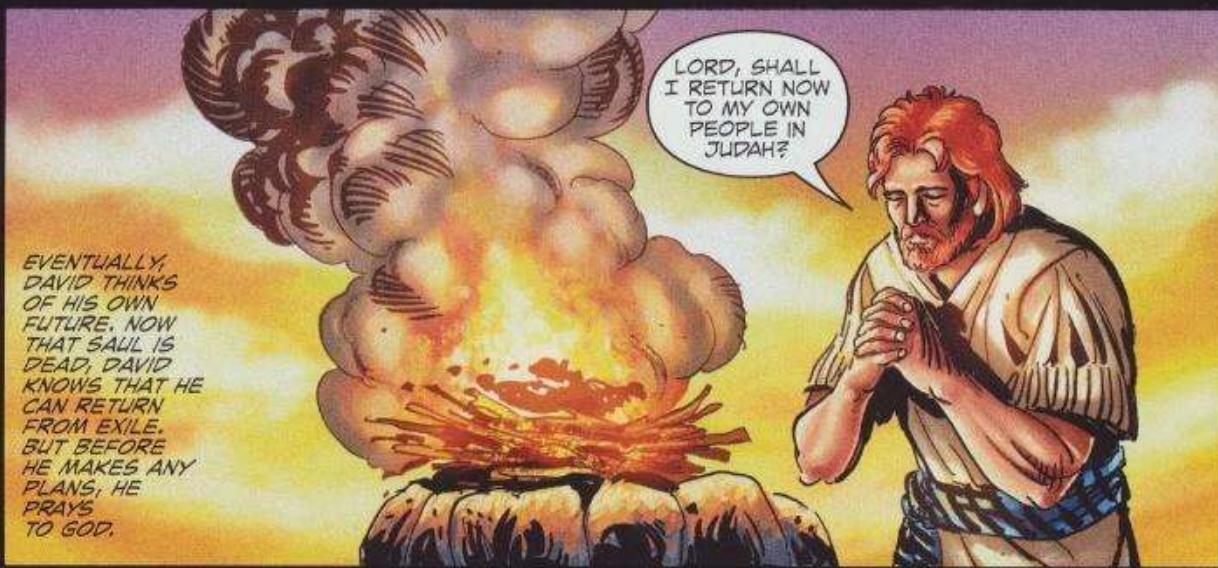
THEY WERE FASTER THAN EAGLES AND STRONGER THAN LIONS.

I Grieve because JONATHAN, my brother, is dead.

HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN!

WE WEEP BECAUSE SAUL, OUR FATHER, IS DEAD.

ISRAEL'S HEROES LIE SLAIN IN THE HILLS.



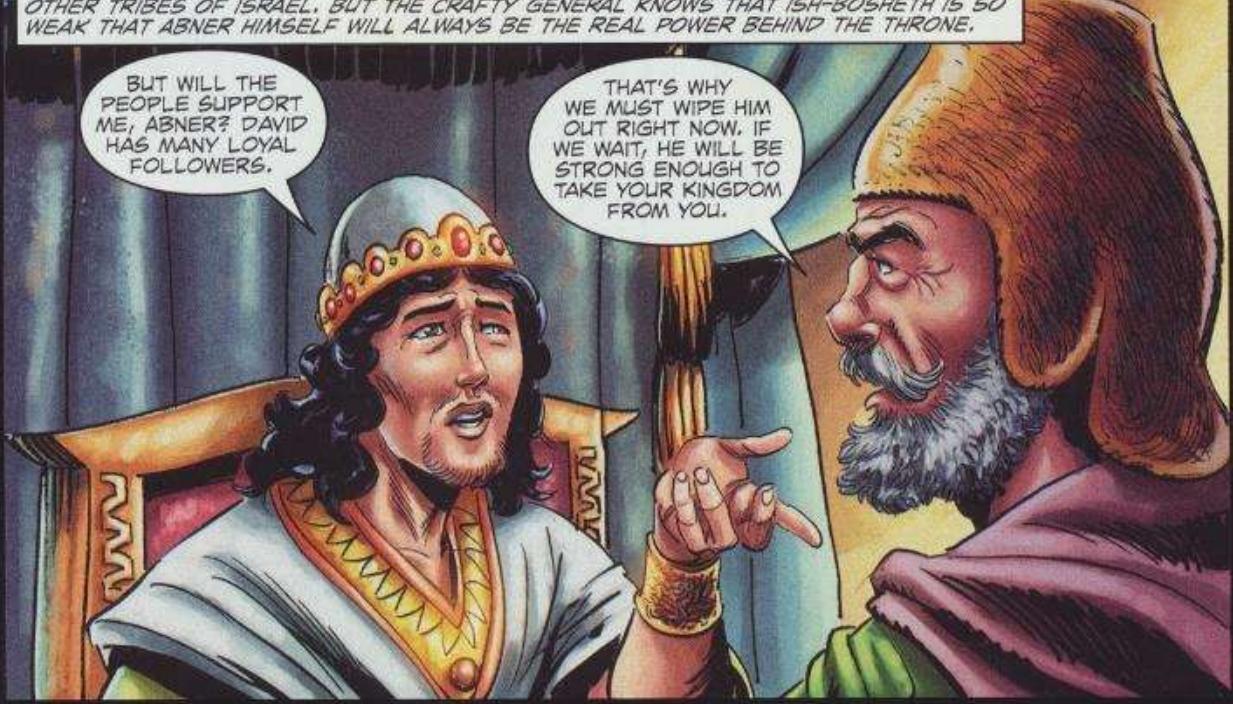
Royal Rivals

BASED ON 2 SAMUEL 2:8-3:21

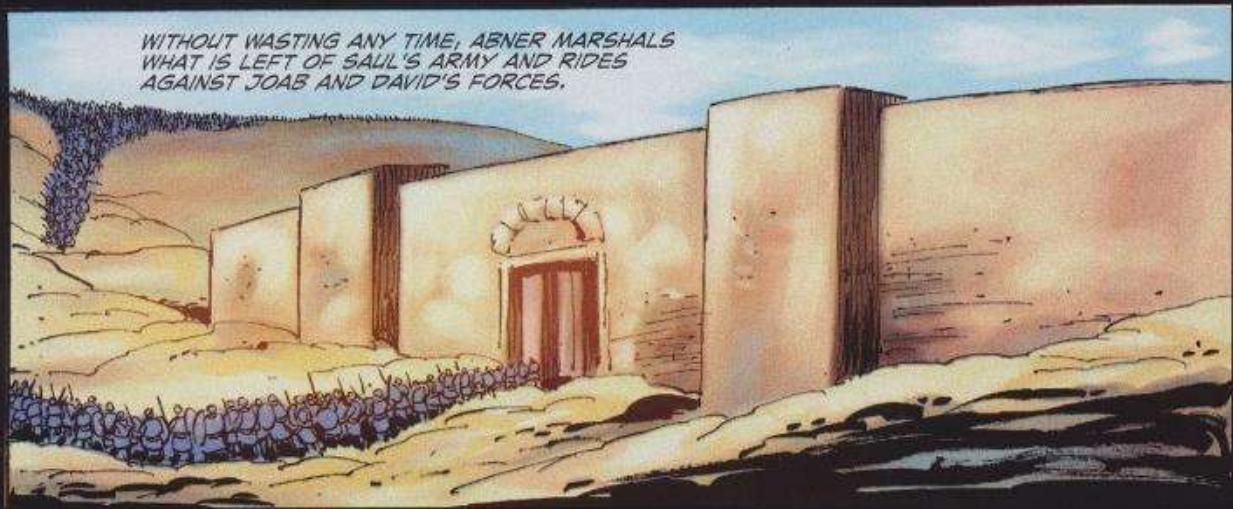
NOW THAT KING SAUL IS DEAD, DAVID IS MADE KING OF HIS OWN TRIBE OF JUDAH. BUT TROUBLE BREWS ACROSS THE JORDAN RIVER. SAUL'S MOST POWERFUL GENERAL, ABNER, DECLARES THAT SAUL'S YOUNGEST SON, ISH-BOSHETH, IS KING OVER ALL THE OTHER TRIBES OF ISRAEL. BUT THE CRAFTY GENERAL KNOWS THAT ISH-BOSHETH IS SO WEAK THAT ABNER HIMSELF WILL ALWAYS BE THE REAL POWER BEHIND THE THRONE.

BUT WILL THE PEOPLE SUPPORT ME, ABNER? DAVID HAS MANY LOYAL FOLLOWERS.

THAT'S WHY WE MUST WIPE HIM OUT RIGHT NOW. IF WE WAIT, HE WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH TO TAKE YOUR KINGDOM FROM YOU.



WITHOUT WASTING ANY TIME, ABNER MARSHALS WHAT IS LEFT OF SAUL'S ARMY AND RIDES AGAINST JOAB AND DAVID'S FORCES.



IN TURN, JOAB RALLIES DAVID'S MEN AND MEETS ABNER'S ARMY AT THE POOL OF GIBEON. FOR A MOMENT, THE TWO ARMIES FACE EACH OTHER, UNCERTAIN WHAT TO DO AGAINST THEIR OWN COUNTRYMEN. THE FIRST BLOW IN THIS BATTLE WILL MARK THE BEGINNING OF A CIVIL WAR.



WHEN HE SEES DAVID'S FORCES, ABNER KNOWS IT WILL BE A TOUGH FIGHT. SO HE TAKES A CUE FROM AN OLD ENEMY, GOLIATH, AND CHALLENGES JOAB TO SELECT CHAMPIONS FOR COMBAT.

COME, JOAB, WE BOTH WANT TO SPARE OUR MEN'S LIVES. AFTER ALL, WE'RE ALL SONS OF JACOB, RELATED BY BLOOD AND BY GOD. YOU CHOOSE 12 MEN, AND I'LL CHOOSE 12 MEN. LET THEM FIGHT, AND THE VICTOR CAN CLAIM THE VICTORY.

THE 24 CHAMPIONS FIGHT, BUT THEY ARE SO EVENLY MATCHED THAT THEY KILL EACH OTHER TO A MAN. IN THE FIERCE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWS, ABNER'S ARMY IS PUSHED BACK.

RUN!

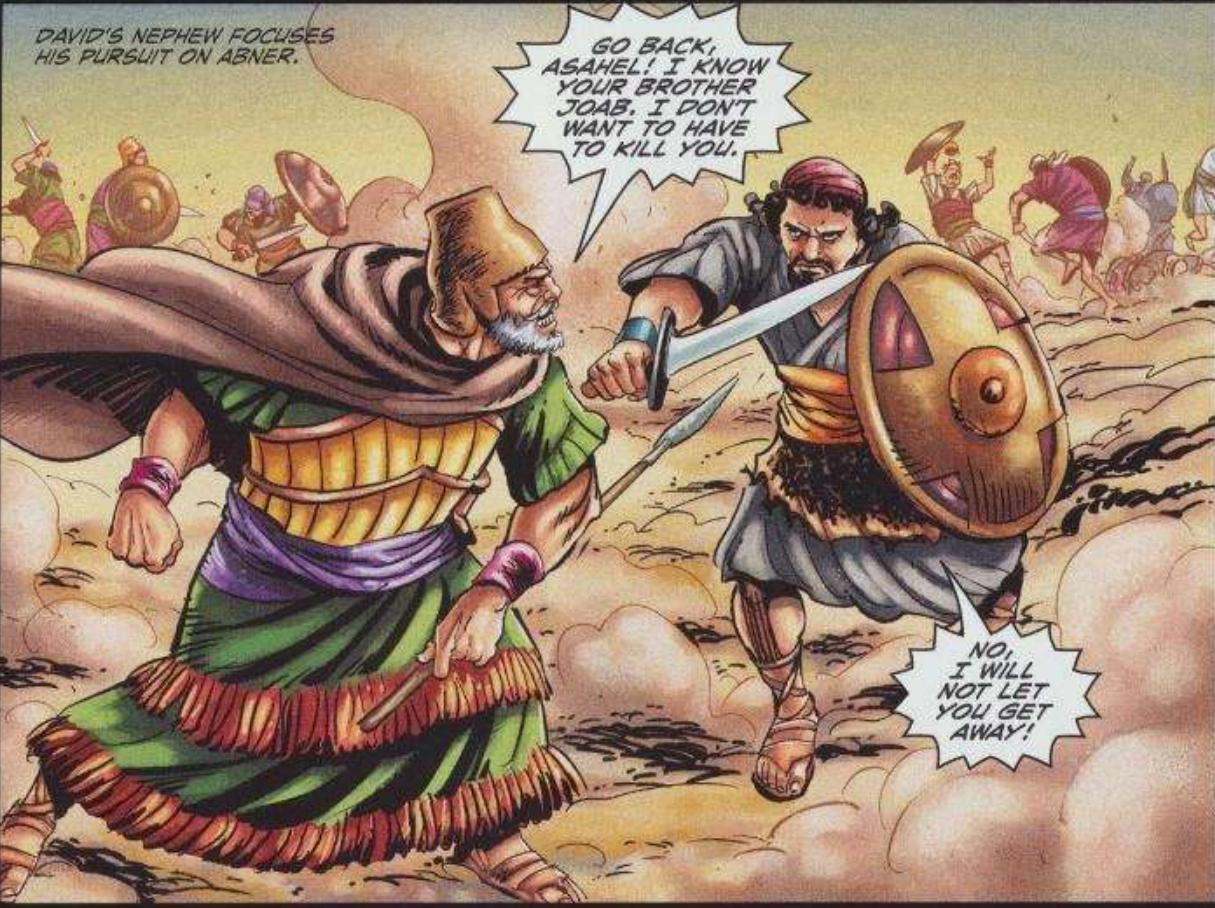
JOAB GRABS HIS BROTHER ASAHEL.

QUICKLY! IF WE CAN KILL ABNER, ALL RESISTANCE TO DAVID WILL DISAPPEAR.

DAVID'S NEPHEW FOCUSES HIS PURSUIT ON ABNER.

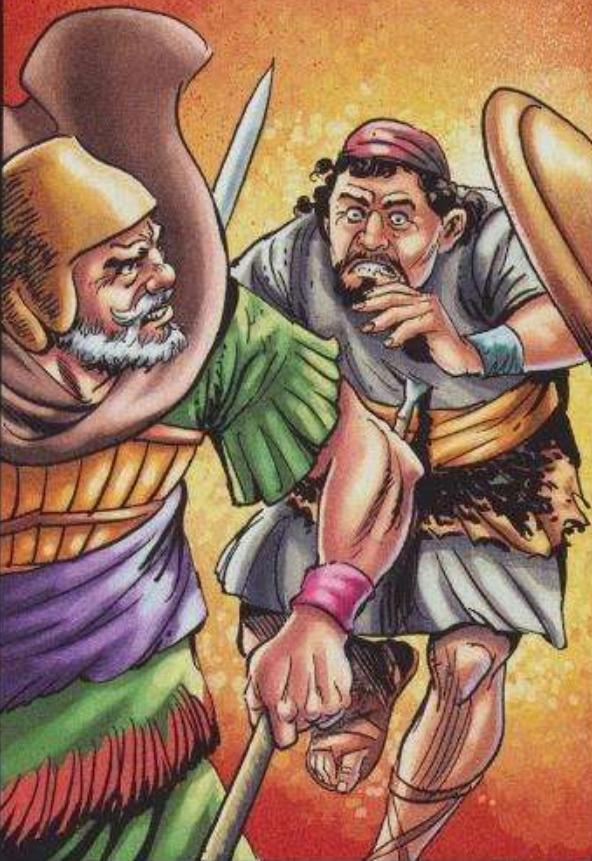
GO BACK,
ASAHEL! I KNOW
YOUR BROTHER
JOAB. I DON'T
WANT TO HAVE
TO KILL YOU.

NO,
I WILL
NOT LET
YOU GET
AWAY!

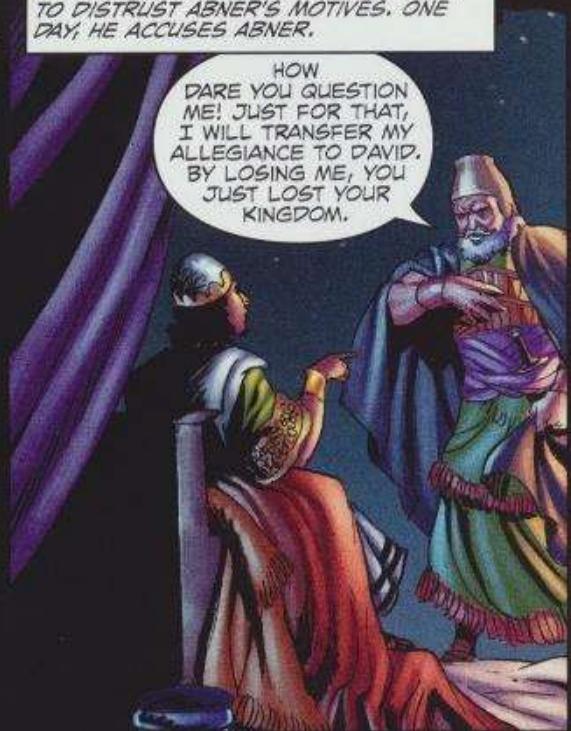


KNOWING HE CAN'T OUTRUN THE YOUNGER MAN, ABNER STOPS SUDDENLY AND PLANTS HIS SPEAR IN THE GROUND. ASAHEL IS RUNNING SO QUICKLY THAT HE CAN'T STOP IN TIME—AND IS KILLED.

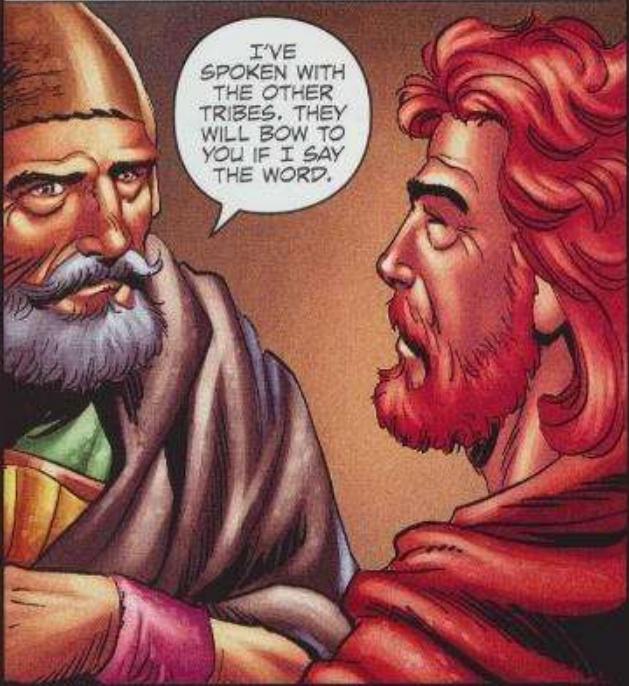
THE BATTLE IS A VICTORY FOR DAVID'S MEN. THEY KILL 360 OF ABNER'S FORCES AND LOSE ONLY 20 SOLDIERS THEMSELVES—INCLUDING ASAHEL. BUT WHEN JOAB LEARNS OF HIS BROTHER'S DEATH, HE IS FILLED WITH GRIEF AND THE NEED FOR REVENGE.



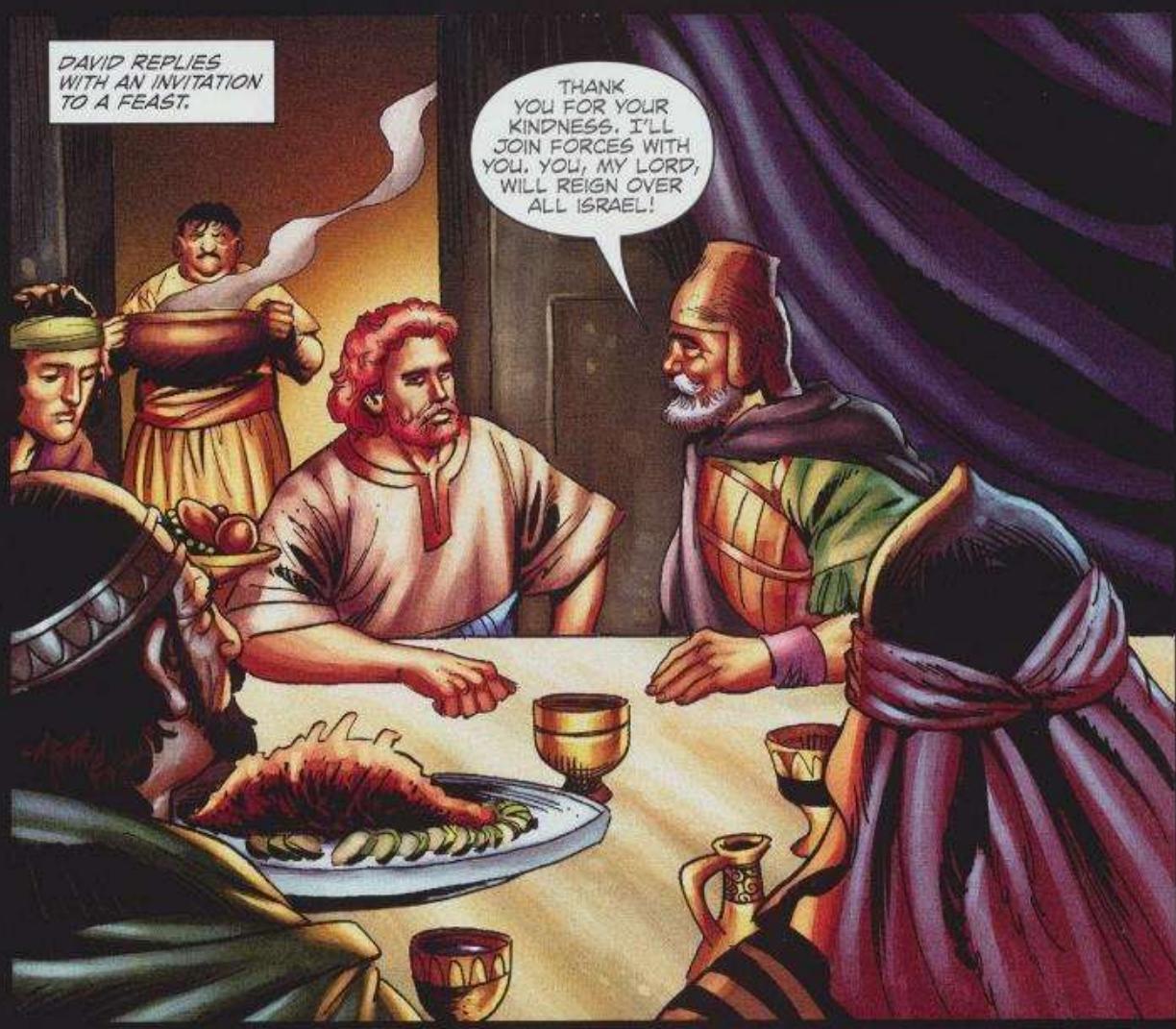
WITH EACH BATTLE, DAVID GROWS STRONGER. ISH-BOSHETH GROWS MORE FEARFUL BY THE DAY. NOT ONLY DOES HE FEAR DAVID, BUT HE ALSO STARTS TO DISTRUST ABNER'S MOTIVES. ONE DAY, HE ACCUSES ABNER.



ABNER HAD REALIZED THAT DAVID WOULD EVENTUALLY DEFEAT ISH-BOSHETH. HE WANTED TO SWITCH HIS LOYALTIES ANYWAY, AND THIS GIVES HIM JUST THE EXCUSE. ABNER CARRIES OUT HIS THREAT AND OFFERS TO HELP DAVID ADD THE REST OF ISRAEL TO HIS KINGDOM.



DAVID REPLIES WITH AN INVITATION TO A FEAST.



Assassinations

BASED ON
2 SAMUEL 3:22-5:5

AFTER GIVING HIS SUPPORT TO KING DAVID, ABNER GOES TO RALLY THE ELDER OF ISRAEL. BUT ABNER IS SCARCELY OUT OF THE CITY WHEN JOAB RETURNS ...

ANGRILY, JOAB RUSHES TO SEE DAVID ...

DON'T YOU KNOW THAT ABNER CAME HERE AS A SPY— TO FIND OUT YOUR STRENGTH? AND HE KILLED MY BROTHER, YOUR OWN NEPHEW!

DAVID REFUSES TO LISTEN—AND IN A RAGE JOAB STORMS OUT.

DAVID MAY HAVE MADE HIS PEACE WITH YOU, BUT I NEVER WILL.



FEARFUL THAT ABNER WILL TAKE HIS PLACE AS DAVID'S GENERAL, AND WANTING REVENGE FOR HIS BROTHER, JOAB SENDS A FAKE MESSAGE FROM DAVID, ASKING ABNER TO COME BACK TO HEBRON. WHEN ABNER ENTERS THE CITY ...

WELCOME, ABNER. DAVID HAD ONE LAST THING HE WANTED ME TO TELL YOU. WILL YOU STEP OVER HERE WHERE WE CAN TALK IN PRIVATE?

OF COURSE, JOAB.

JOAB LEADS ABNER TO A BACK STREET. AND THERE, BEFORE ABNER CAN SUSPECT WHAT IS GOING ON, JOAB STABS HIM.

DAVID IS ANGRY WHEN HE FINDS OUT THAT JOAB MURDERED ABNER. HE IS AFRAID THAT PEOPLE WILL THINK HE ORDERED THE MURDER. SO HE CALLS THE PEOPLE TOGETHER AND ACCUSES JOAB.

SHUK

I AM INNOCENT OF ABNER'S BLOOD. MAY GOD PUNISH JOAB AS HE SEES FIT!

DAVID WANTS TO SHOW HIS STRONG DISAPPROVAL FOR WHAT JOAB HAS DONE. HE FORCES JOAB TO MOURN IN ABNER'S FUNERAL PROCESSION. BUT EVEN AS KING, DAVID IS NOT SECURE ENOUGH IN HIS NEW KINGDOM TO PUNISH JOAB BECAUSE JOAB IS THE LEADER OF DAVID'S ARMY AND HIS NEPHEW.

DAVID MOURNS THE DEATH OF ABNER, BUT ABNER'S MASTER, KING ISH-BOSHETH, QUAKES WITH FRIGHT.

KING ISH-BOSHETH'S FEARS ARE WELL-GROUNDED, FOR EVEN AS HE RECEIVES THE NEWS OF ABNER'S DEATH, TWO OF HIS OWN ARMY OFFICERS ARE ASKING THE SAME QUESTION.

THE TWO MEN MURDER THEIR OWN KING, THEN REPORT TO DAVID, HOPING TO BE REWARDED.



WHAT HORRIBLE NEWS! WITHOUT ABNER, HOW CAN I HOLD THE THRONE?

NOW THAT ABNER IS DEAD, WHAT'S TO STOP DAVID FROM DEFEATING OUR ARMY AND KILLING ISH-BOSHETH?

YES, WE'RE FIGHTING FOR THE LOSING SIDE. BUT WHAT IF WE DO DAVID A FAVOR?

WILL PEOPLE NEVER LEARN? THE LORD DOES NOT REWARD THOSE WHO COMMIT MURDER! THERE'S NO ROOM IN MY KINGDOM FOR TRAITORS, GUARDS! TAKE THEM AWAY AND EXECUTE THEM!

THOUGH SADDENED BY ANOTHER ASSASSINATION, DAVID NOW HAS NO RIVALS FOR THE THRONE OF ISRAEL. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 12 TRIBES MEET TO ANOINT HIM. HE'S NOW BEEN ANOINTED BY BOTH GOD AND MAN. SO DAVID, AT AGE 30, IS FINALLY CROWNED KING OF ALL ISRAEL.

HAIL KING DAVID OF ISRAEL.

PRAISE GOD!



God's New Capital

BASED ON 2 SAMUEL 5:6-10;
1 CHRONICLES 11:4-9

AS KING OF ALL ISRAEL,
DAVID DECIDES TO SET UP A NEW
CAPITAL CITY IN JERUSALEM. THE
GOOD NEWS—JERUSALEM IS ON THE
BORDER BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JUDAH,
SO DAVID WON'T SHOW FAVORITISM
BY LIVING THERE. THE BAD NEWS—it's
ALREADY INHABITED ... BY ENEMIES
OF ISRAEL. AND NO ONE HAS EVER
BEEN ABLE TO CONQUER IT.

HA! EVEN IF WE
WERE LAME AND
BLIND, WE COULD
DEFEND THIS CITY
FROM THE LIKES
OF YOU.

WHOEVER
CAN CAPTURE THIS
CITY WILL BE THE
COMMANDER OF
ALL MY ARMIES.

DEAL!

THAT NIGHT JOAB AND SOME OF HIS MEN FIND THE WATERWAY THAT LEADS OUT OF THE BACK OF THE CITY.

YUCK! CRAWLING THROUGH THE SEWERS. WE'LL BE UNCLEAN FOR A MONTH AFTER THIS.

WE HAVE NO CHOICE. THE OUTSIDE DEFENSES ARE IMPREGNABLE—JERUSALEM MUST BE TAKEN FROM WITHIN.

SURPRISED BY THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF DAVID'S MEN, THE GUARDS ARE QUICKLY OVERCOME.

GIVE THE ORDER TO OPEN THE GATES—OR DIE!

THE TERRIFIED OFFICER SHOUTS THE ORDER. THE HUGE GATES SWING OPEN ...

... AND DAVID'S ARMY CHARGES THROUGH—JERUSALEM IS NOW HIS. AND ALMOST WITHOUT A FIGHT.

Temple Dreams

BASED ON 2 SAMUEL 6-7;
1 CHRONICLES 13; 15-17;
PSALMS 24; 96; 105; 106



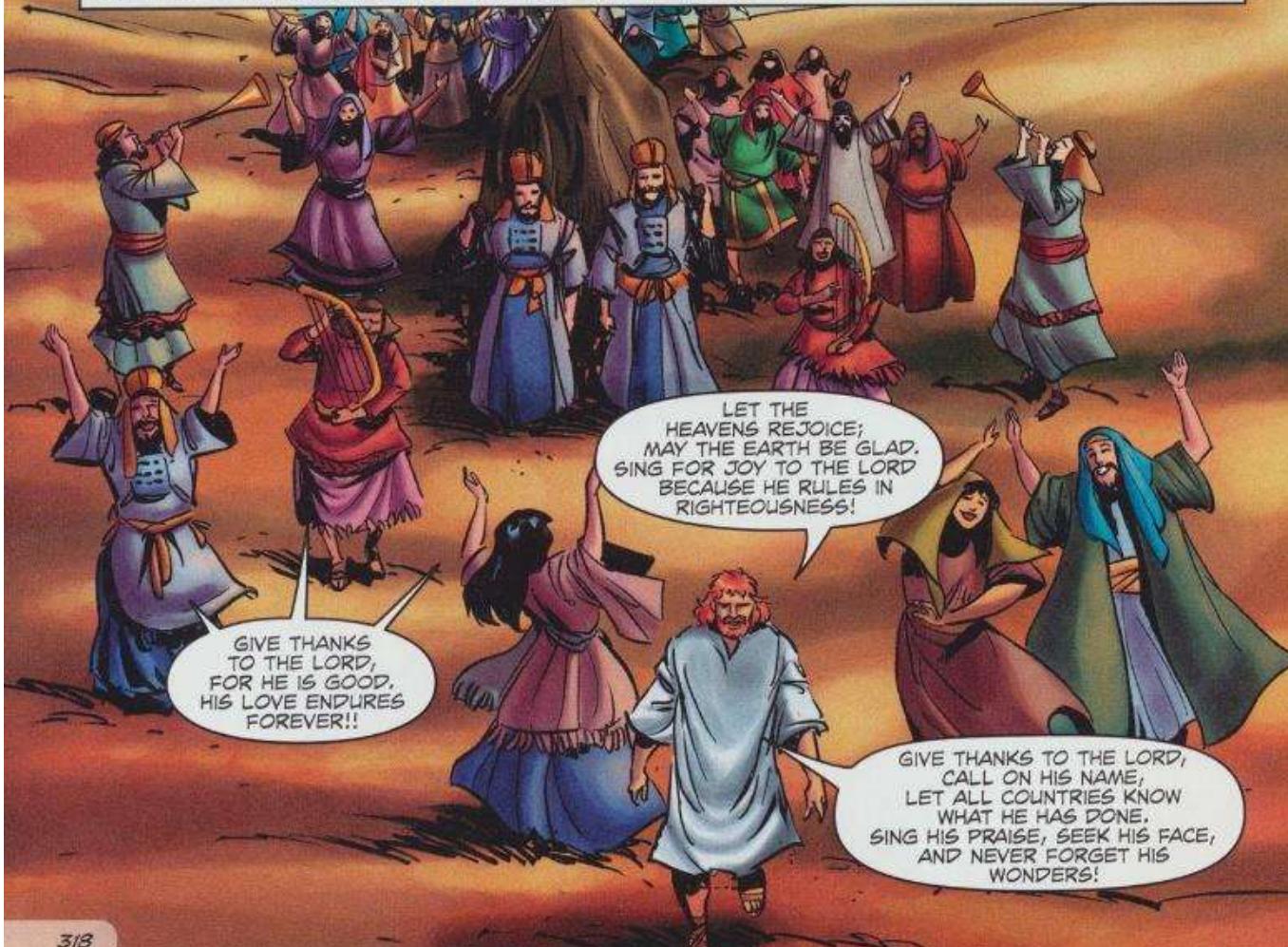
JERUSALEM IS NOW THE CAPITAL CITY OF ISRAEL, BUT DAVID WANTS A SPIRITUAL CAPITAL AS WELL. IT IS TIME TO GIVE THE ARK OF THE COVENANT A PERMANENT HOME. EVER SINCE THE PHILISTINES TRIED TO CAPTURE THE ARK, IT HAS BEEN KEPT IN KIRIATH JEARIM. DAVID WANTS IT BROUGHT TO JERUSALEM.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE ISRAELITES HAVE FORGOTTEN GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR MOVING THE ARK. AS THEY TRANSPORT IT IN AN OXCART, THE OXEN STUMBLE, ONE OF THE GUARDS REACHES OUT TO KEEP THE ARK FROM FALLING—AND TOUCHES IT.

HE IS KILLED INSTANTLY BECAUSE GOD'S LAW ALLOWS ONLY A LEVITE TO TOUCH THE ARK. DAVID LEAVES THE ARK NEARBY UNTIL GOD GIVES HIM PERMISSION TO BRING IT TO JERUSALEM.

AHHH!

WHEN DAVID TRIES AGAIN TO BRING THE ARK TO JERUSALEM, HE PAYS ATTENTION TO THE LORD'S INSTRUCTIONS. HE ASSEMBLES ALL THE PRIESTS OF ISRAEL, WITH INSTRUCTIONS THAT ONLY THE LEVITES MAY TOUCH THE ARK. THE PROCESSION IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE FINEST MUSICIANS IN THE LAND, WHO PLAY AND SING SONGS OF PRAISE TO THE LORD.



LET THE HEAVENS REJOICE;
MAY THE EARTH BE GLAD.
SING FOR JOY TO THE LORD
BECAUSE HE RULES IN
RIGHTEOUSNESS!

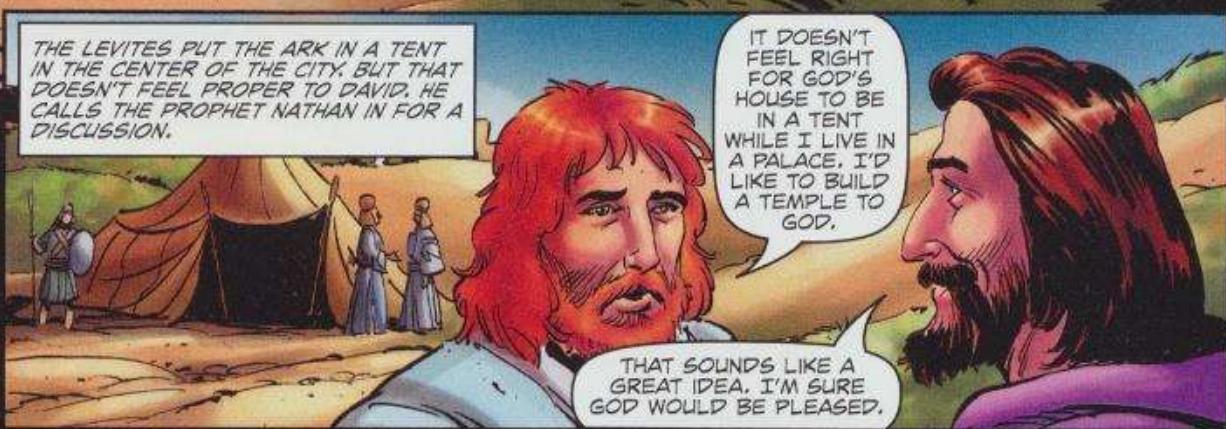
GIVE THANKS
TO THE LORD;
FOR HE IS GOOD,
HIS LOVE ENDURES
FOREVER!!

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD,
CALL ON HIS NAME,
LET ALL COUNTRIES KNOW
WHAT HE HAS DONE.
SING HIS PRAISE, SEEK HIS FACE,
AND NEVER FORGET HIS
WONDERS!

WHEN THEY REACH JERUSALEM, DAVID IS SO OVERJOYED THAT HE DANCES AND SINGS AT THE FRONT OF THE PARADE.



THE LEVITES PUT THE ARK IN A TENT IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY. BUT THAT DOESN'T FEEL PROPER TO DAVID. HE CALLS THE PROPHET NATHAN IN FOR A DISCUSSION.



DAVID, WAIT! GOD SPOKE TO ME LAST NIGHT. HE SAID THAT HIS TEMPLE MUST BE A HOUSE OF PEACE, AND YOU HAVE BEEN FORCED TO BE A MAN OF WAR. YOU CANNOT BUILD A NEW HOUSE FOR HIM. BUT DON'T WORRY. ONE OF YOUR SONS WILL BE A MAN OF PEACE, AND HE WILL BUILD A HOUSE FOR GOD SOMEDAY.

BUT THE NEXT DAY ...

GREAT IS THE SOVEREIGN LORD FOR GIVING ME SUCH A PROMISE. THANK YOU, O GOD. AND WITH YOUR BLESSING MY HOUSE WILL BE BLESSED FOREVER.



David's Sin

BASED ON 2 SAMUEL 11

UNDER DAVID'S LEADERSHIP, ISRAEL GROWS STRONGER EVERY DAY. AFTER MANY YEARS OF VICTORIES AGAINST THE PHILISTINES, RULERS OF THE COUNTRIES AROUND THEM DECIDE THAT ISRAEL MUST BE DEFEATED. BUT DAVID IS TIRED OF THE CONSTANT WARFARE.

WORD HAS COME THAT THE ARAMEANS AND AMMONITES ARE JOINING FORCES AGAINST US.

I DON'T FEEL LIKE LEAVING JERUSALEM RIGHT NOW, JOAB. YOU TAKE THE ARMY AND GO FIGHT THEM.

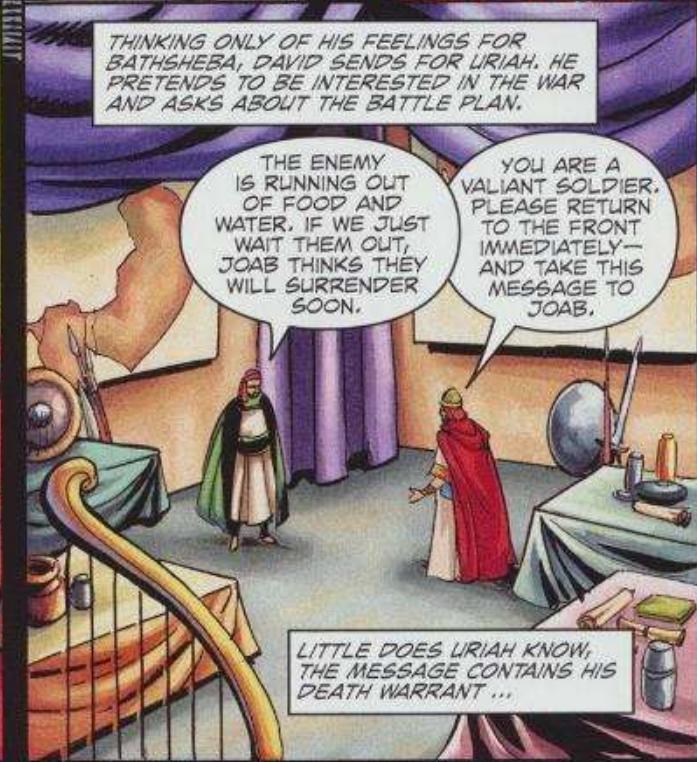
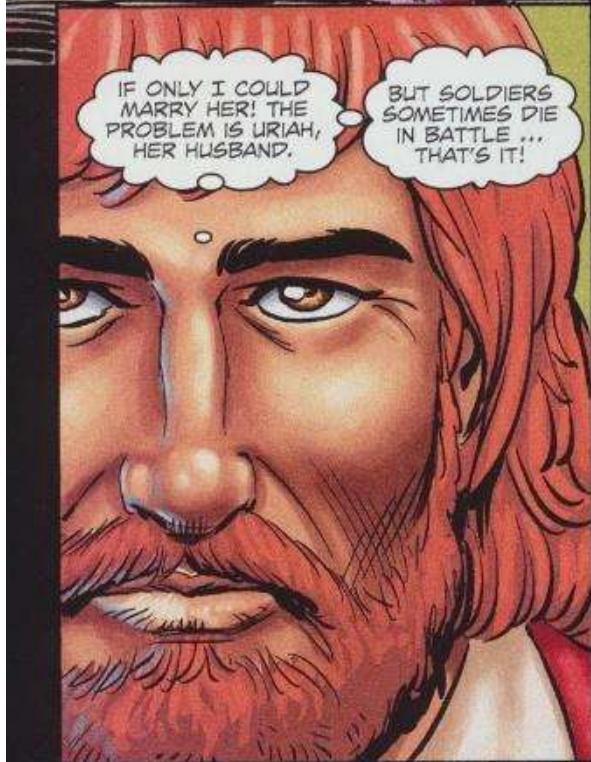
JOAB TAKES CHARGE OF THE WAR. AS THE FIGHTING DRAGS ON WITHOUT HIM, DAVID GETS BORED SITTING IN JERUSALEM. ONE EVENING, AS DAVID STROLLS ON THE ROOF OF HIS PALACE...

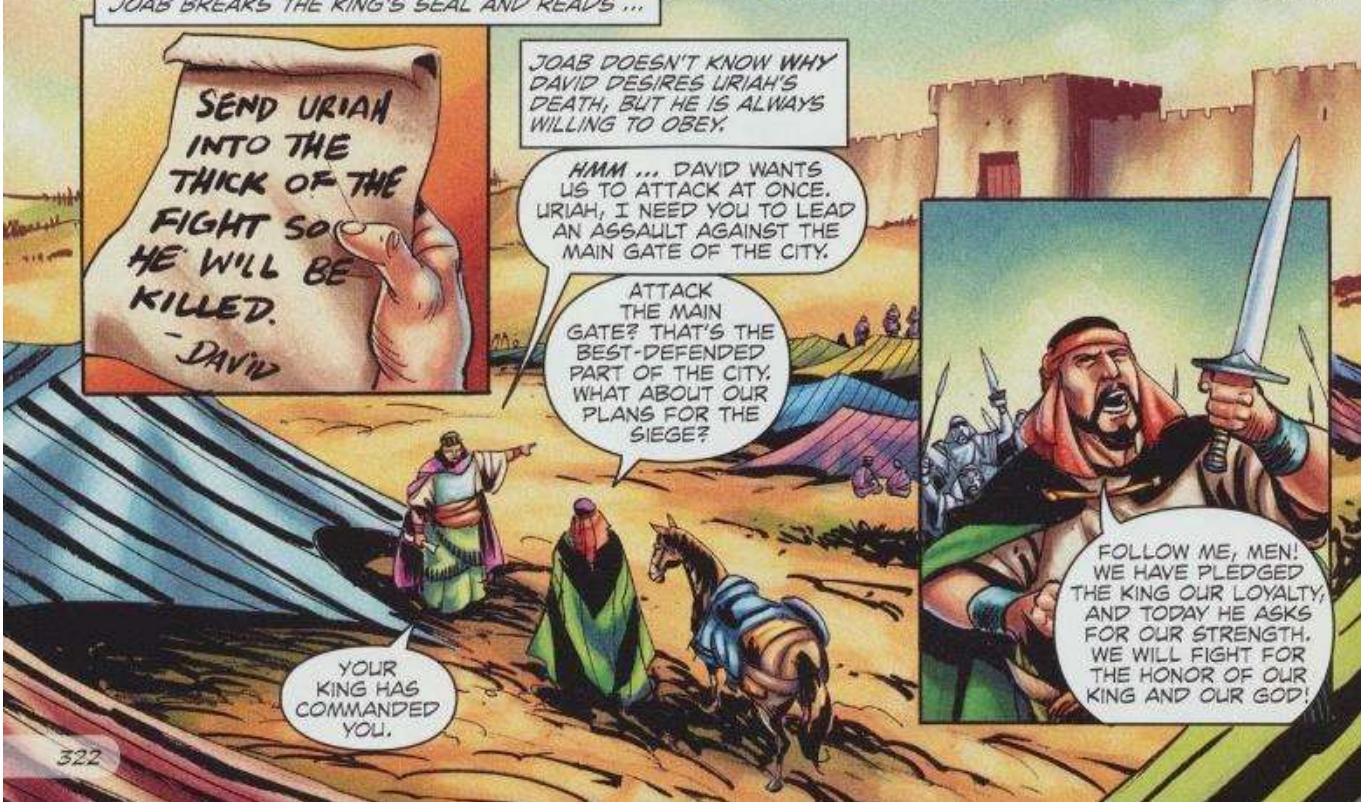
WHO IS THAT BEAUTIFUL WOMAN?

HER NAME IS BATHSHEBA. HER HUSBAND IS URIAH, A SOLDIER IN YOUR ARMY.



DAVID SENDS A MESSENGER TO
BRING BATHSHEBA TO HIS COURT.





URIAH BOLDLY ATTACKS THE GATE, BUT THE ARCHERS PROTECTING THE CITY WALL EASILY KILL HIM AND HIS MEN. THE REST OF THE ISRAELITES ARE FORCED TO FALL BACK.

AND SO, SEVERAL BRAVE SOLDIERS DIE TO COVER UP FOR DAVID'S SIN.

JOAB'S MESSENGER BRINGS THE NEWS TO DAVID, THINKING HE WILL BE UPSET AT THE DEATH OF HIS MEN.

WE FOUGHT BRAVELY, BUT THE ARCHERS ON THE CITY WALLS HAD THE ADVANTAGE. URIAH AND SEVERAL OTHERS WERE KILLED.

TELL JOAB NOT TO FEEL BAD. WAR ALWAYS TAKES SOME OF OUR BEST MEN. WAIT UNTIL THE DEFENDERS HAVE RUN OUT OF FOOD, AND THEN ATTACK AGAIN AND TAKE THE CITY.

WHEN BATHSHEBA'S TIME OF MOURNING IS OVER, DAVID CALLS HER TO THE PALACE, AND THEY GET MARRIED.

LONG LIVE THE KING! LONG LIVE THE QUEEN!

THE PEOPLE ARE HAPPY, BUT GOD IS NOT. INSTEAD OF BEING A SHEPHERD WHO PROTECTS GOD'S PEOPLE, DAVID HAS COMMITTED MURDER AND STOLEN A MAN'S WIFE. GOD CANNOT LET DAVID'S SECRET SIN GO UNPUNISHED.

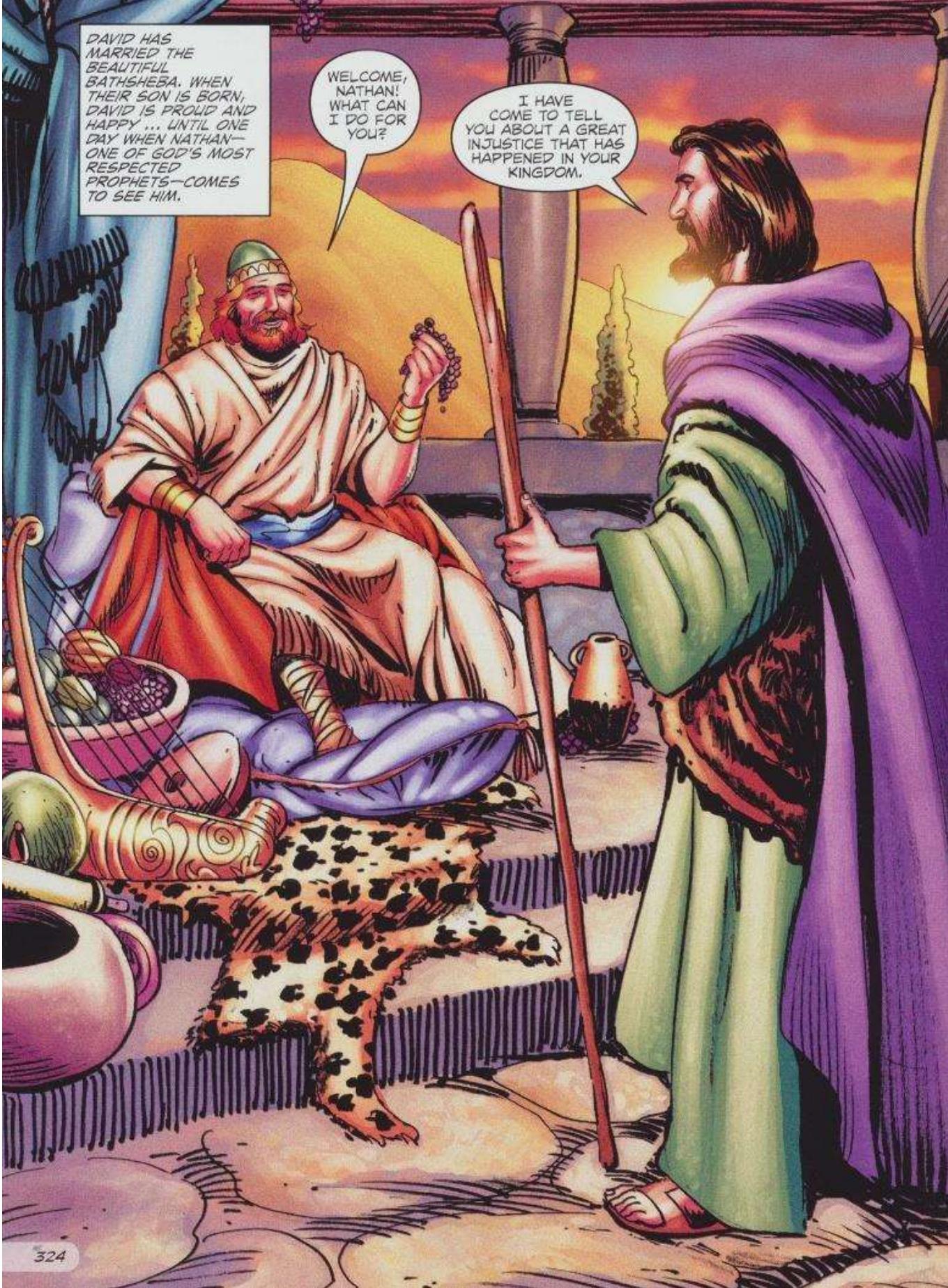
David's Punishment

BASED ON 2 SAMUEL 12

DAVID HAS MARRIED THE BEAUTIFUL BATHSHEBA. WHEN THEIR SON IS BORN, DAVID IS PROUD AND HAPPY ... UNTIL ONE DAY WHEN NATHAN—ONE OF GOD'S MOST RESPECTED PROPHETS—COMES TO SEE HIM.

WELCOME, NATHAN! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

I HAVE COME TO TELL YOU ABOUT A GREAT INJUSTICE THAT HAS HAPPENED IN YOUR KINGDOM.





AS HE
LISTENS
TO THE
STORY,
DAVID'S
ANGER
BOILS ...

A MAN WHO
WOULD DO SUCH
AN AWFUL THING
SHOULD BE PUT
TO DEATH!



WHEN NATHAN LEAVES,
DAVID IS ALONE IN HIS
SHAME. HE IS TRULY
SORRY FOR THE CRIME
HE HAS COMMITTED
AND TURNS TO GOD IN
PRAYER ...

CREATE IN
ME A CLEAN
HEART, O GOD.
GIVE ME A NEW
SPIRIT, FAITHFUL
TO YOU.

FOR DAYS,
DAVID
NEITHER
DRINKS
NOR EATS.
HE FASTS
AND CRIES
OUT TO
THE LORD,
ASKING
GOD TO
SPARE HIS
CHILD.

HE HASN'T
SPOKEN
FOR DAYS.

EXCEPT
TO
GOD.

BUT HIS EFFORTS ARE
IN VAIN. AFTER SEVEN
DAYS, HIS BABY DIES.

IF HE WAS THAT SAD WHILE THE CHILD
WAS STILL ALIVE, WHAT WILL HE DO
WHEN WE TELL HIM IT'S DEAD?

I HOPE
HE WON'T
DO ANYTHING
DESPERATE.

BUT WHEN HE HEARS THE
NEWS, DAVID INSTANTLY GETS
UP, TAKES A BATH, AND PUTS
ON NEW CLOTHES. THEN HE
ASKS FOR HIS FIRST
FOOD IN A WEEK.

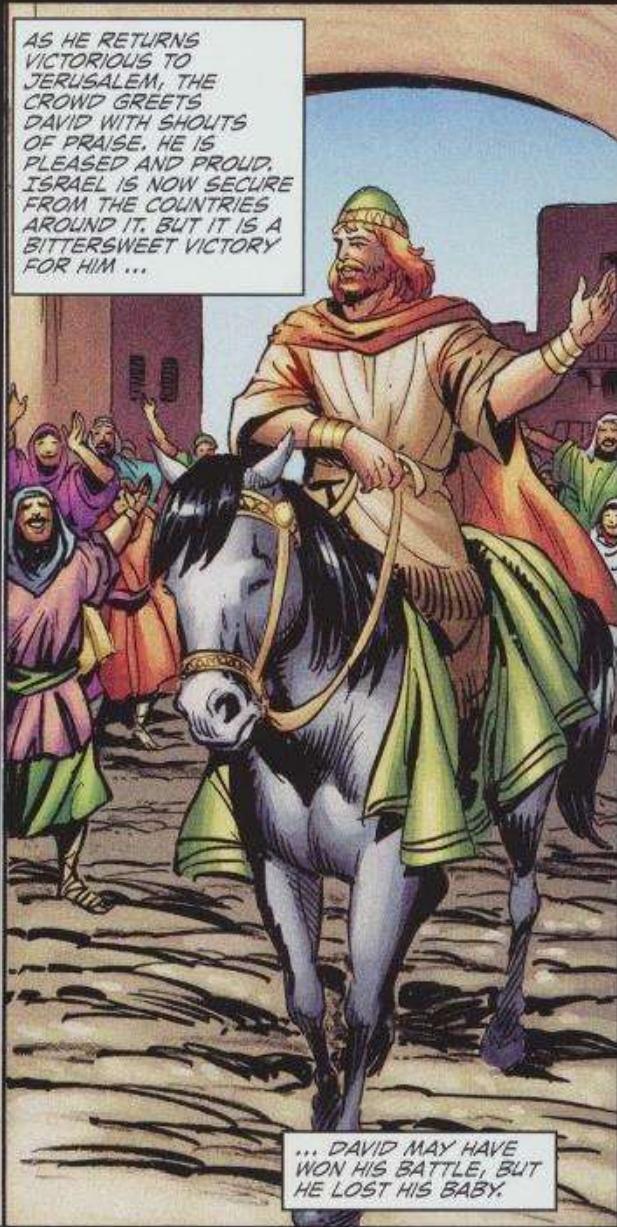
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING? WHEN
THE CHILD WAS ALIVE,
YOU FASTED AND
WEPT. BUT NOW THAT
HE'S DEAD, YOU EAT?
WHY AREN'T
YOU SAD?

WHILE THE BABY
WAS ALIVE, I THOUGHT
THE LORD MIGHT ANSWER
MY PRAYERS. BUT NOW THAT
HE IS DEAD, NO AMOUNT OF
GRIEVING WILL BRING HIM
BACK. I WILL SEE MY
BABY AGAIN ONE
DAY.

IN THE MEANTIME, DAVID'S GENERAL, JOAB, CONTINUES THE SIEGE AGAINST THE CITY OF RABBATH. WHEN THE CITY IS READY TO GIVE UP, HE SENDS WORD FOR THE KING TO COME AND MAKE THE FINAL ATTACK. DAVID LEADS THE CHARGE—AND THE CITY SURRENDERS.



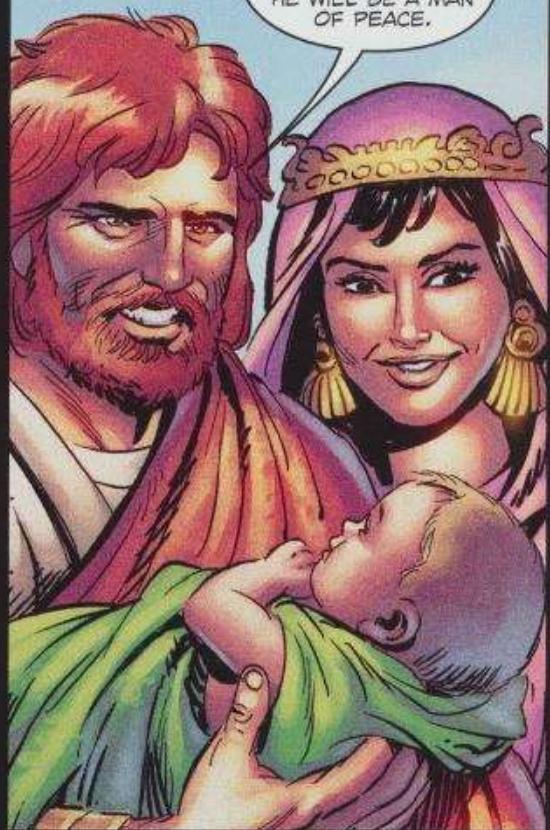
AS HE RETURNS VICTORIOUS TO JERUSALEM, THE CROWD GREETS DAVID WITH SHOUTS OF PRAISE. HE IS PLEASED AND PROUD. ISRAEL IS NOW SECURE FROM THE COUNTRIES AROUND IT. BUT IT IS A BITTERSWEET VICTORY FOR HIM ...



... DAVID MAY HAVE WON HIS BATTLE, BUT HE LOST HIS BABY.

BUT SOON GOD SHOWS HIS FORGIVENESS IN ANOTHER WAY. DAVID AND BATHSHEBA HAVE A LITTLE BOY.

WE SHALL NAME HIM SOLOMON BECAUSE WE HAVE HAD WAR FOR TOO LONG, AND HE WILL BE A MAN OF PEACE.

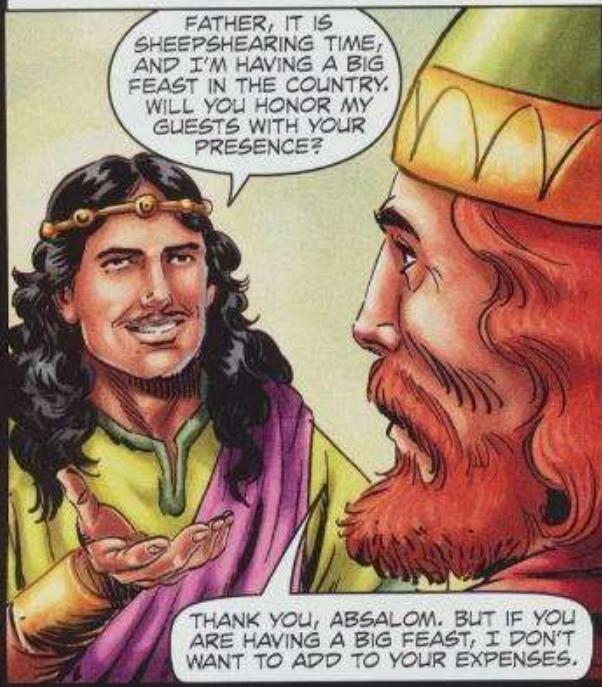


MORE GOOD NEWS COMES. NATHAN, WHO HAS ALSO FORGIVEN DAVID, BRINGS NEWS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN THEIR NEW BABY A SPECIAL NAME: JEDIDIAH. THE NAME MEANS "LOVED BY GOD" AND SHOWS THAT GOD HAS SPECIAL PLANS FOR DAVID AND BATHSHEBA'S SON.

Battling Brothers

BASED ON 2 SAMUEL 13:23-39

FOR MANY YEARS, DAVID REIGNS OVER ISRAEL. UNFORTUNATELY, SIN AND VIOLENCE REIGN WITHIN HIS OWN FAMILY. HIS OLDEST SON, AMNON, IS THE HEIR TO HIS THRONE. BUT ANOTHER SON, ABSALOM, HATES AMNON AND WANTS THE CROWN FOR HIMSELF. KNOWING THAT HIS FATHER DOESN'T LIKE TO LEAVE JERUSALEM, HE ASKS A QUESTION ...



THANK YOU, ABSALOM. BUT IF YOU ARE HAVING A BIG FEAST, I DON'T WANT TO ADD TO YOUR EXPENSES.



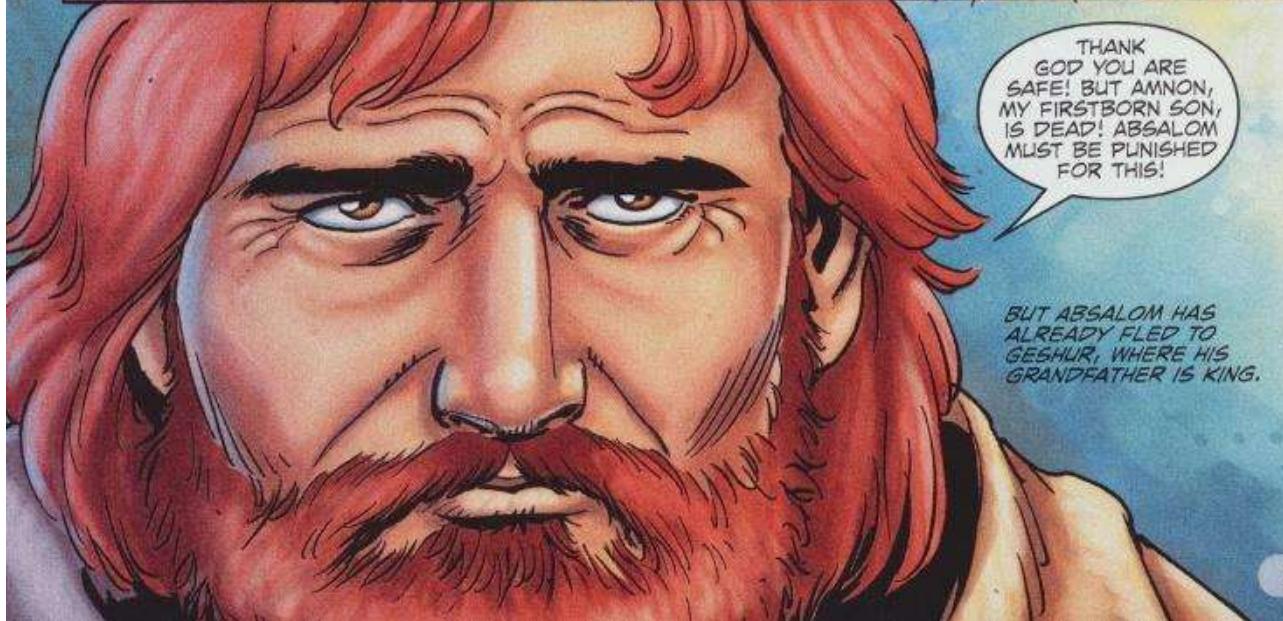
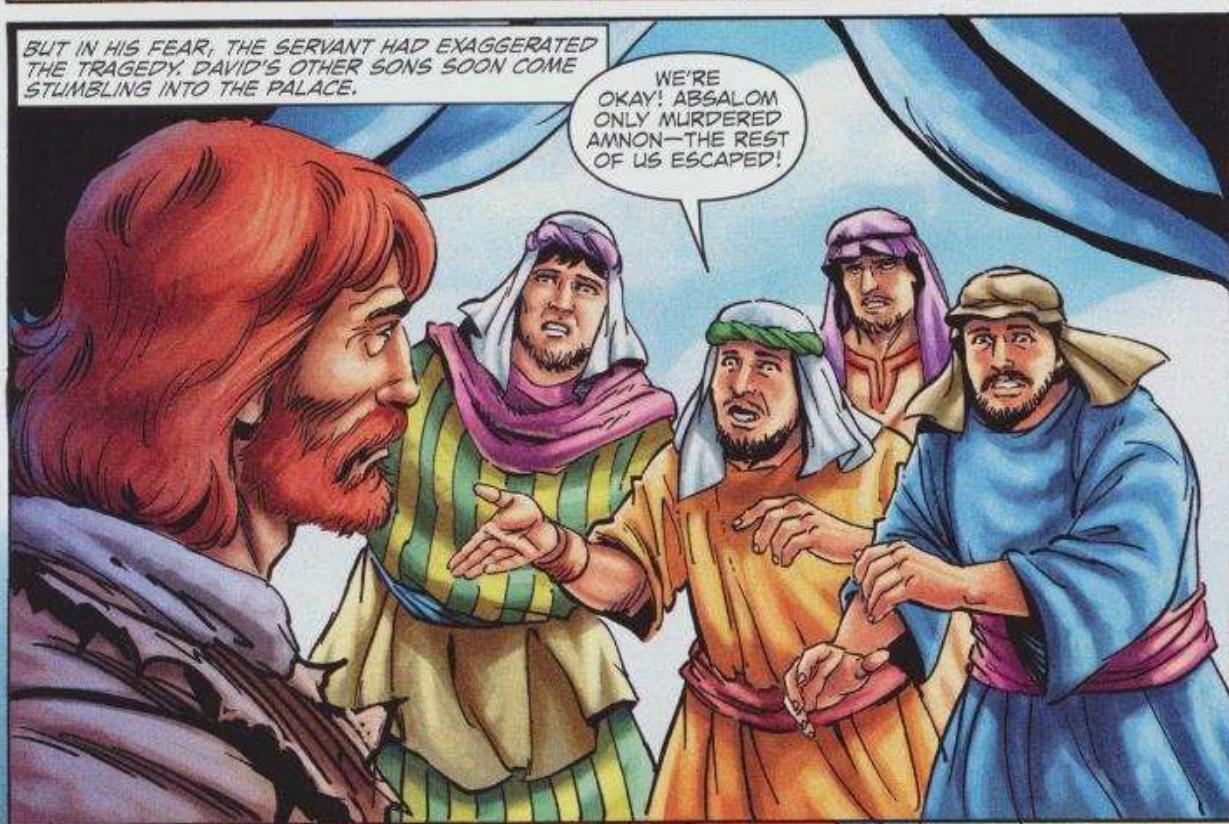
BUT ABSALOM HAS PLOTTED FOR TWO YEARS TO KILL HIS OLDER BROTHER. NOTHING WILL STOP HIM.

ALL MY BROTHERS WILL BE HERE, BUT IT WILL MAKE NO DIFFERENCE. BY THE END OF THE FEAST THEY WILL BE TOO DRUNK TO REACT. WHEN I GIVE THE WORD, KILL AMNON!

ABSAJOM THROWS A MERRY FEAST, WITH PLENTY OF FOOD AND WINE. BEFORE LONG, HIS BROTHERS ARE IN HIGH SPIRITS, ENJOYING THEMSELVES WITHOUT ANY WORRIES. ABSALOM SIGNALS HIS SERVANTS.

ABSAJOM'S SERVANTS COME FORWARD TO DO THEIR DIRTY WORK. THE OTHER BROTHERS AND THEIR SERVANTS FLEE IN TERROR.

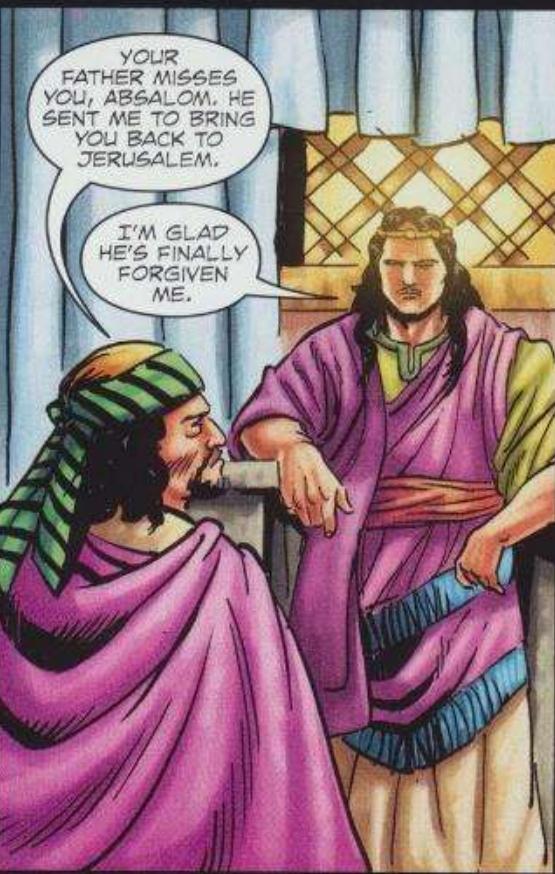




The Scheming Prince

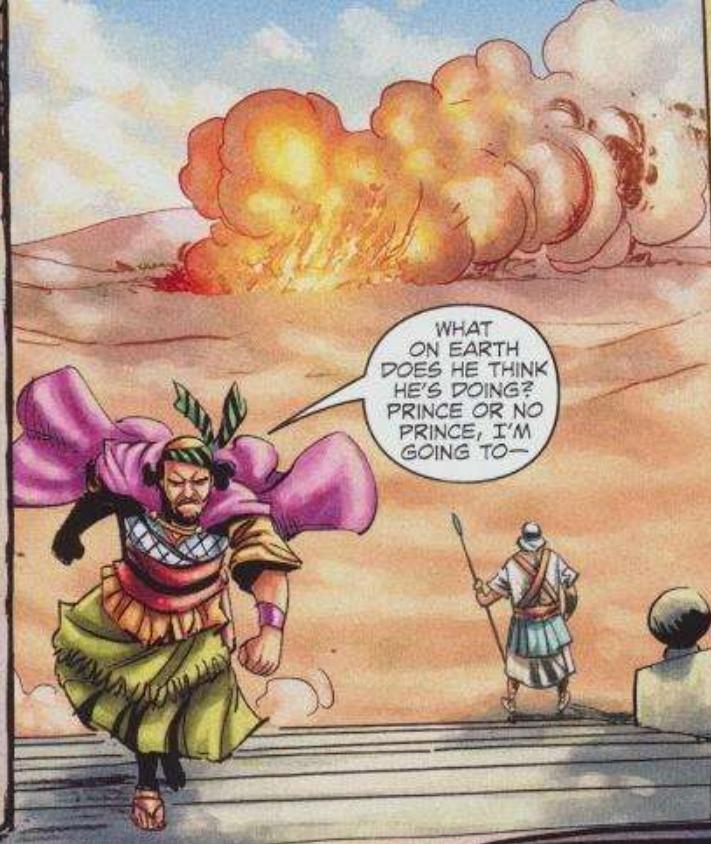
BASED ON 2 SAMUEL 14:1-15:13

FOR THREE YEARS, DAVID GRIEVES FOR HIS SONS—THE ONE WHO IS DEAD AND THE ONE WHO RAN AWAY, BUT HE DOES NOTHING. FINALLY, JOAB CONFRONTS HIM.



FOR TWO YEARS, ABSALOM LIVES IN JERUSALEM WITHOUT SEEING HIS FATHER. HE RESENTS THIS TREATMENT, AND HIS ANGER GROWS UNTIL AT LAST HE CAN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER. HE SENDS FOR JOAB, BUT JOAB REFUSES TO COME.





ABSSALOM
LOSES NO TIME
IN LETTING THE
PEOPLE OF
JERUSALEM
KNOW THAT HIS
FATHER HAS
FORGIVEN HIM.

ABSSALOM
IS THE MOST
HANDSOME OF ALL
THE PRINCES OF
ISRAEL.

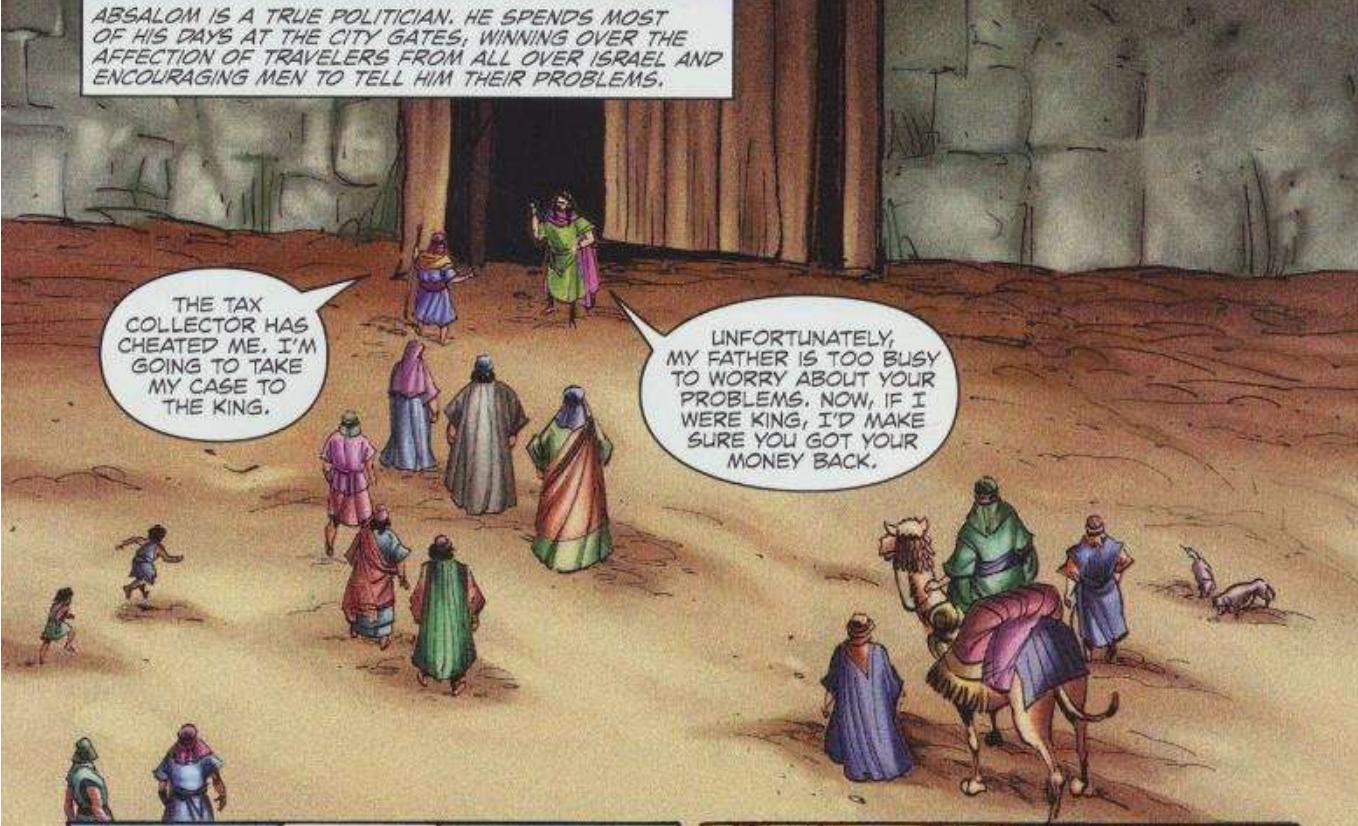
HIS CHARIOT
AND HORSES ARE
AS FINE AS THE
KING'S.



ABSSALOM IS A TRUE POLITICIAN. HE SPENDS MOST OF HIS DAYS AT THE CITY GATES, WINNING OVER THE AFFECTION OF TRAVELERS FROM ALL OVER ISRAEL AND ENCOURAGING MEN TO TELL HIM THEIR PROBLEMS.

THE TAX
COLLECTOR HAS
CHEATED ME. I'M
GOING TO TAKE
MY CASE TO
THE KING.

UNFORTUNATELY,
MY FATHER IS TOO BUSY
TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR
PROBLEMS. NOW, IF I
WERE KING, I'D MAKE
SURE YOU GOT YOUR
MONEY BACK.



BUT I'M NOT
KING. AND UNTIL
I AM, I CAN'T
DO ANYTHING
FOR YOU.

I WISH
YOU WERE
KING!

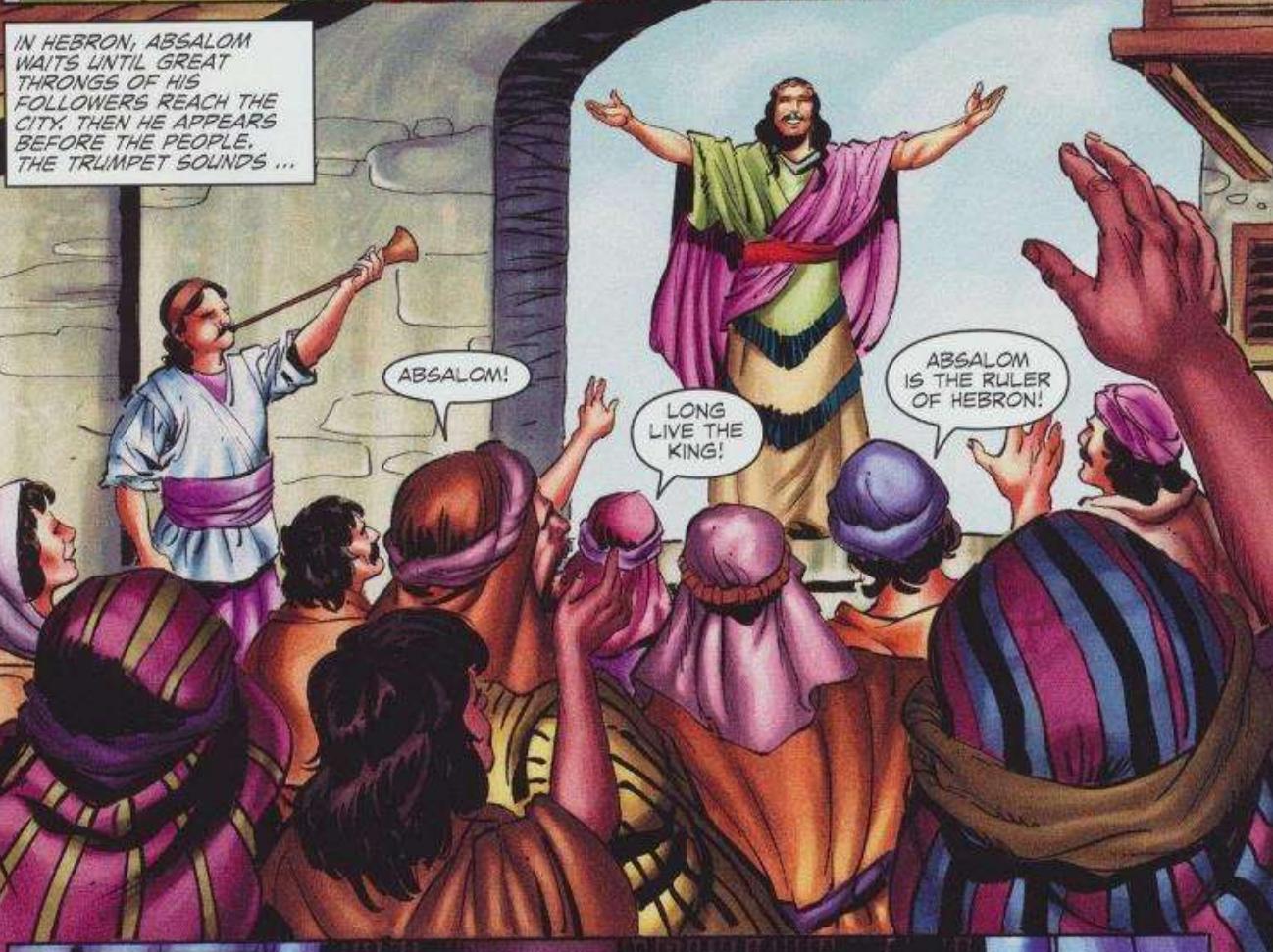


AFTER SEVERAL YEARS SPENT WINNING THE AFFECTION OF THE PEOPLE, ABSALOM DECIDES HE HAS ENOUGH POPULAR SUPPORT TO TAKE THE THRONE FROM HIS FATHER. HE GOES TO HEBRON, HIS BIRTH-PLACE AND THE OLD CAPITAL OF ISRAEL, TO LAUNCH HIS REBELLION. HE INVITES SEVERAL IMPORTANT ISRAELITE LEADERS TO MEET HIM THERE AND GIVES INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS LOYAL MESSENGER.

SPREAD OUT THROUGH ALL THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL. WHENEVER YOU COME TO A NEW TOWN, BLOW YOUR TRUMPETS AND SHOUT, "ABSALOM IS THE NEW KING IN HEBRON!"



IN HEBRON, ABSALOM WAITS UNTIL GREAT THRONGS OF HIS FOLLOWERS REACH THE CITY. THEN HE APPEARS BEFORE THE PEOPLE. THE TRUMPET SOUNDS ...



ONE OF THE LEADERS CHEERING FOR ABSALOM IS AHITHOPHEL, HIS FATHER'S CHIEF ADVISER. AHITHOPHEL IS BATHSHEBA'S GRANDFATHER, AND HE HAS LONG HELD A SECRET GRUDGE AGAINST DAVID FOR KILLING BATHSHEBA'S FIRST HUSBAND.

WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

WE MARCH ON JERUSALEM. DAVID HASN'T HAD TIME TO RALLY HIS ARMY. IF HE TRIES TO FIGHT BACK, HE WON'T HAVE A CHANCE—NOW THAT YOU HAVE ME TO ADVISE YOU!





David's Spies

BASED ON 2 SAMUEL 15:13-17:29

I DON'T HAVE THE ARMY READY, BUT I WILL NOT LET MY PEOPLE IN JERUSALEM BE SLAUGHTERED BY ABSALOM'S FORCES.

THE NEWS THAT HIS OWN SON ABSALOM HAS STARTED A REVOLT SPURS DAVID INTO ACTION.

GATHER THOSE WHO WOULD REMAIN LOYAL TO ME—MY FAMILY, SERVANTS, AND SOLDIERS. WE MUST LEAVE JERUSALEM IMMEDIATELY. ABSALOM AND HIS SUPPORTERS WILL BE HERE SHORTLY. LET THEM TAKE THE CITY UNOPPOSED.

JUST BEFORE DAWN, DAVID LEADS HIS PEOPLE OUT OF THE CITY. AT THE LAST HOUSE, HE STOPS TO WATCH HIS FOLLOWERS PASS BY.

BETTER THAT ABSALOM TAKES THE THRONE THAN THESE INNOCENT PEOPLE BE KILLED DEFENDING ME.

THE LEVITES, LED BY TWO HIGH PRIESTS—ZADOK AND DAVID'S OLD FRIEND ASIATHAR—BRING GOD'S HOLY ARK AS THEY FOLLOW DAVID OUT OF THE CITY.

ABSALOM MAY TRY TO STEAL YOUR THRONE, BUT HE WILL NOT STEAL THE THRONE OF GOD!

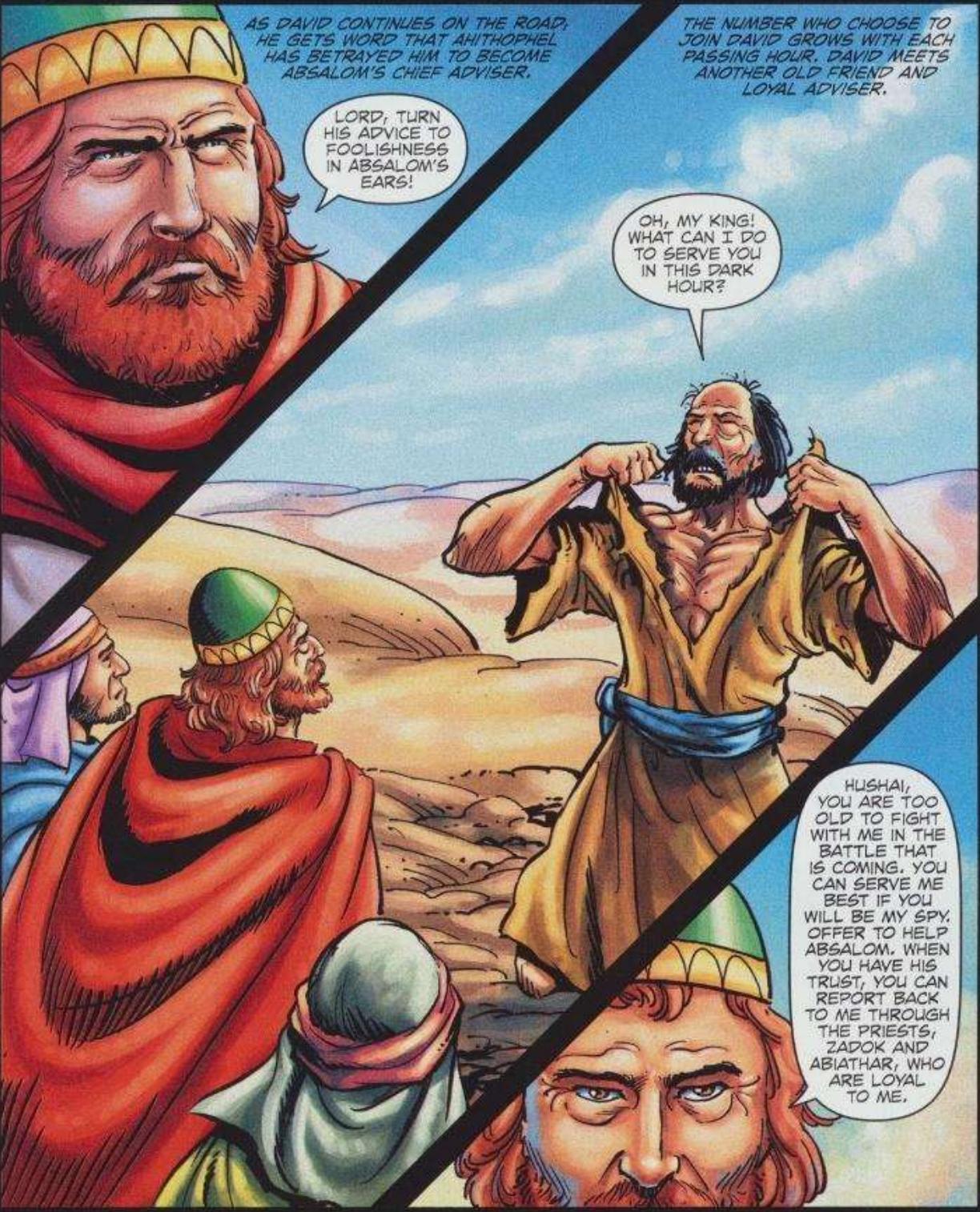


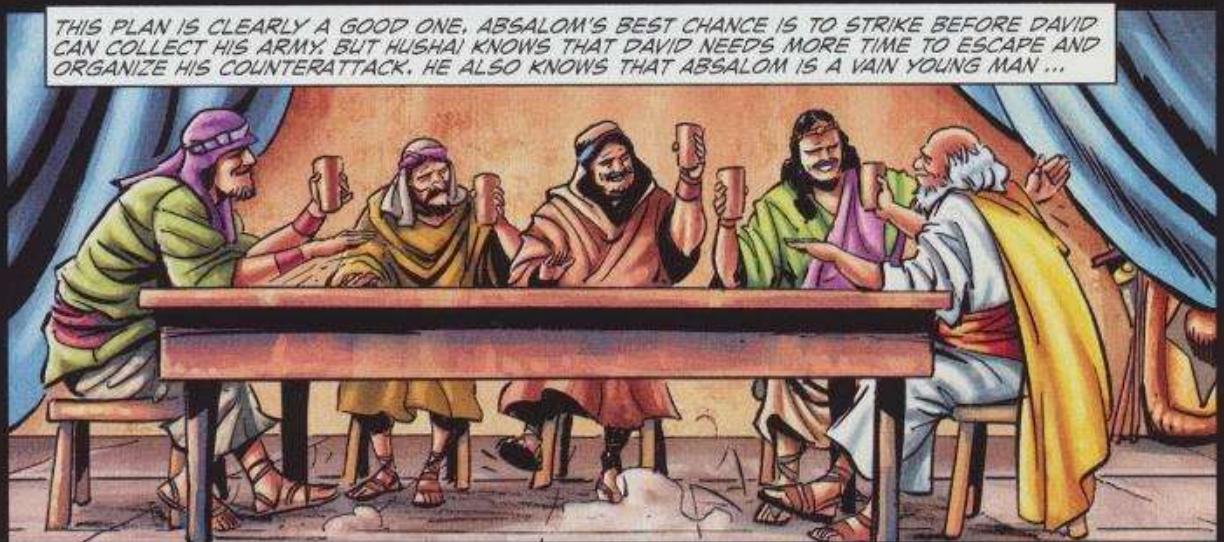
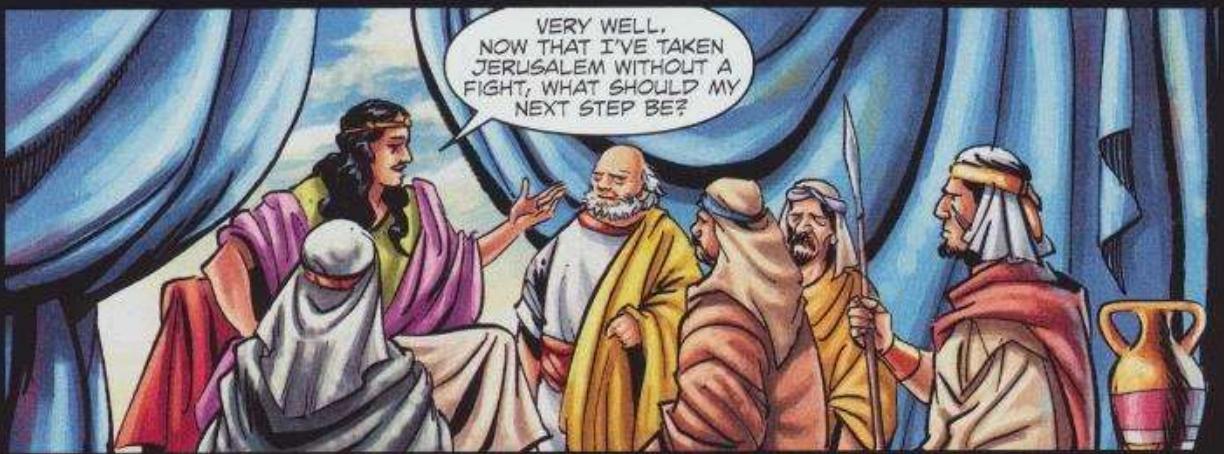
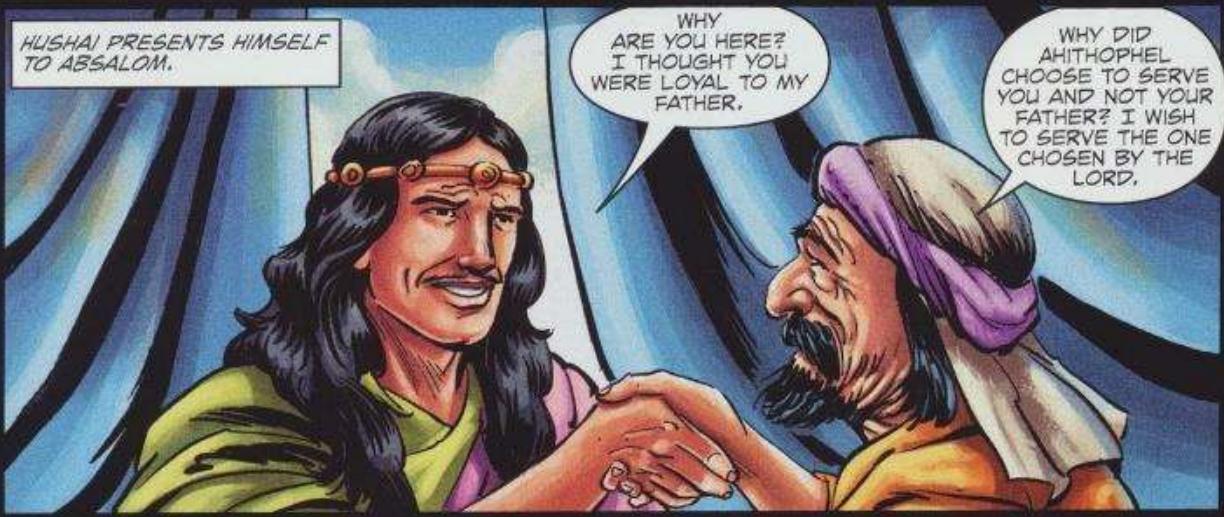
THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS, BUT NO. TAKE IT BACK TO THE CITY. I AM FORCED TO FLEE, BUT GOD'S HOUSE WILL REMAIN IN JERUSALEM. IF GOD SEEES FIT, I WILL RETURN TO THE CITY AND WORSHIP AGAIN BEFORE HIS ARK.



BUT YOU CAN SERVE ME IN THIS WAY: BE MY EYES AND EARS IN JERUSALEM. BECAUSE YOU ARE PRIESTS, ABSALOM WILL NOT HARM YOU. USE YOUR SONS TO SEND ME ANY MESSAGES.









AHITHOPHEL'S ADVICE IS GOOD—FOR AHITHOPHEL. OF COURSE HE WANTS TO TRY TO CAPTURE DAVID HIMSELF. IT'S HIS BEST CHANCE FOR GLORY. BUT HE FORGETS ONE THING: DAVID AND HIS MEN ARE ISRAEL'S BEST FIGHTERS. RIGHT NOW THEY ARE ANGRY AS BEARS WHO HAVE BEEN ROBBED OF THEIR CUBS. IF YOU ATTACK AND SUFFER ANY DEFEAT, THE PEOPLE WILL SAY THAT YOU ARE WEAK AND WILL TURN AGAINST YOU.



INSTEAD, O KING, YOU SHOULD WAIT UNTIL YOU CAN CALL ON THOUSANDS OF MEN FROM THE SURROUNDING TRIBES. THEN IF YOU, AS THEIR HEROIC LEADER, GO FORTH BEFORE YOUR ARMY, DAVID WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST YOU.

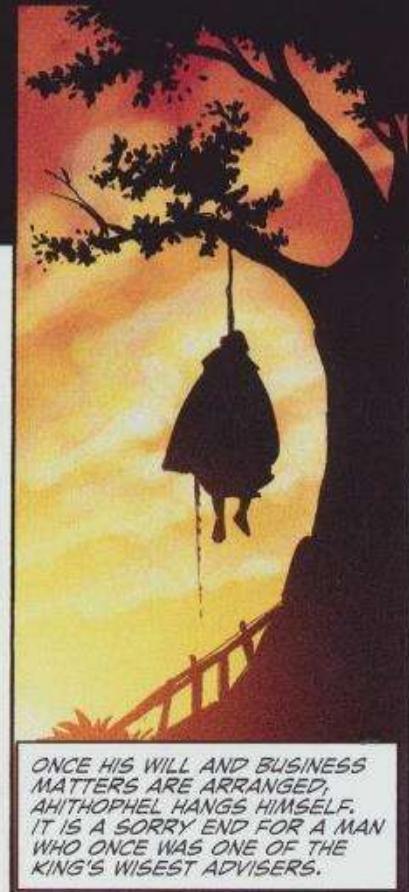
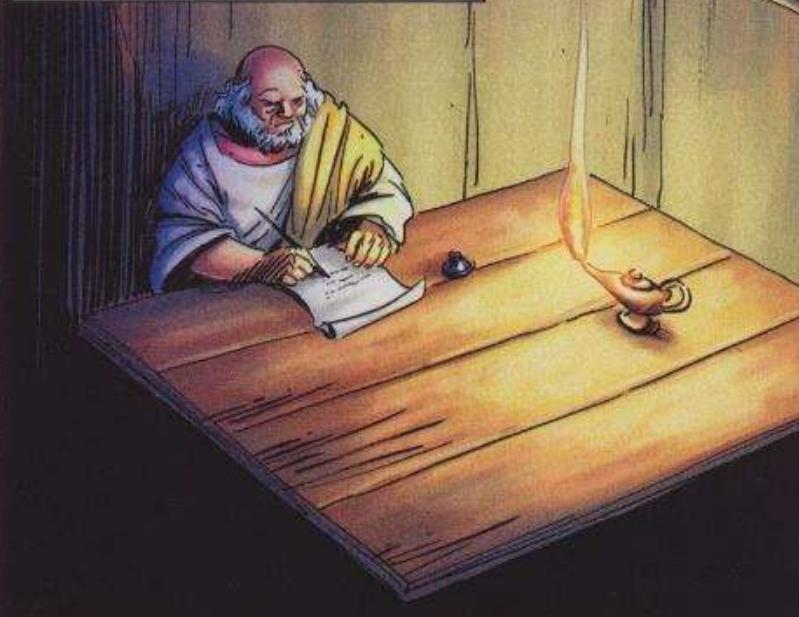


YES, HUSHAI'S PLAN MAKES SURE THAT I GET ALL THE GLORY.

I HAVE CHOSEN THE WRONG MAN TO SUPPORT AS KING—A CONCEITED FOOL!

IF ABSALOM LISTENS TO ME, DAVID WILL HAVE TIME TO ESCAPE.

DAVID'S PRAYER HAS BEEN ANSWERED. ABSALOM FOOLISHLY REJECTS AHITHOPHEL'S ADVICE. BUT AHITHOPHEL KNOWS THAT HUSHAI'S ADVICE WILL HELP DAVID MORE THAN ABSALOM. MOREOVER, HE KNOWS THAT ABSALOM'S DEFEAT WILL MEAN HIS DEATH FOR SUPPORTING A TRAITOR AGAINST KING DAVID. SOLEMNLY, HE RIDES BACK HOME AND GETS HIS AFFAIRS IN ORDER.



ONCE HIS WILL AND BUSINESS MATTERS ARE ARRANGED, AHITHOPHEL HANGS HIMSELF. IT IS A SORRY END FOR A MAN WHO ONCE WAS ONE OF THE KING'S WISEST ADVISERS.

HUSHAI'S MESSENGERS BRING DAVID A WARNING.
HE MUSTN'T REST UNTIL AFTER HE GETS HIS GROUP
ACROSS THE JORDAN AND INTO FRIENDLY TERRITORY.



THAT NIGHT, DAVID AND HIS FOLLOWERS FORD THE JORDAN RIVER. ON THE OTHER SIDE,
THEY SEEK REFUGE IN THE CITY OF MAHANAIM, WHOSE LEADERS ARE LOYAL TO DAVID.



HERE'S SOME FOOD AND BEDDING
MY MASTER HAS SENT FOR KING
DAVID AND HIS FRIENDS.

GOD BLESS
YOU. TELL
YOUR MASTER
I WILL NOT
FORGET HIS
KINDNESS.



THIS WILL BE A
GOOD PLACE TO
MUSTER THE ROYAL
ARMY AND WAIT
FOR ABSALOM.

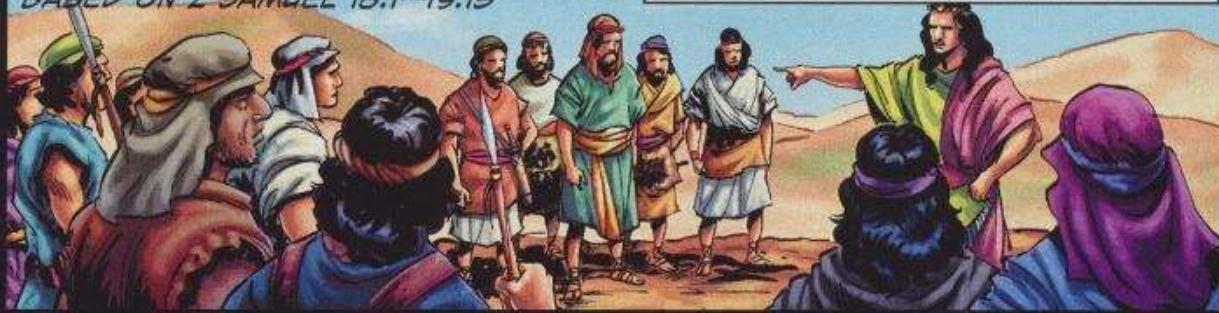
YES, WE
WILL BATTLE
AGAINST MY SON
HERE. BUT NO
MATTER WHICH
SIDE WINS, I
WILL LOSE.



O Absalom!

BASED ON 2 SAMUEL 18:1-19:15

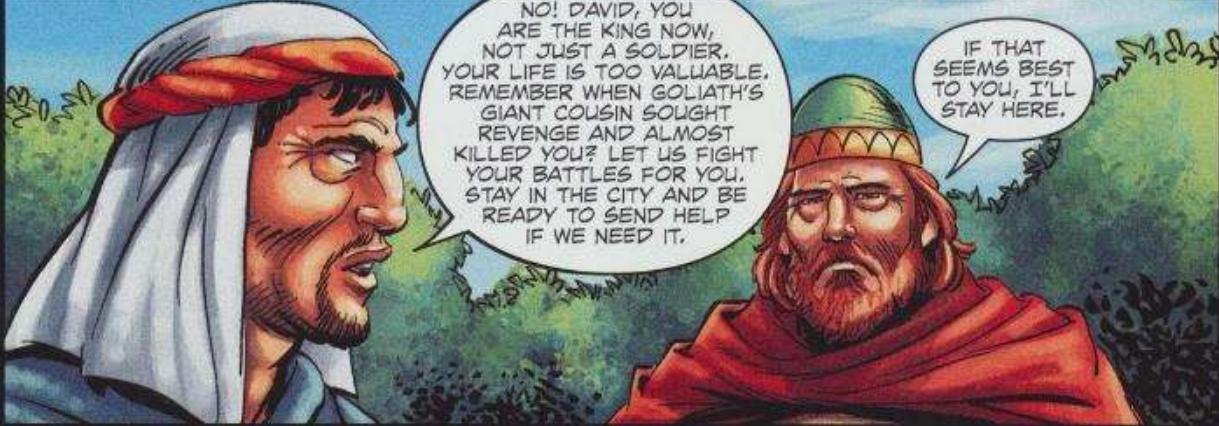
ABDALOM HAS SENT HIS MESSENGERS OUT AND GATHERED AN ARMY FROM ALL THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL. HE LEADS THEM ACROSS THE JORDAN RIVER TO ATTACK HIS FATHER, KING DAVID.



MEANWHILE,
JOAB AND
DAVID HAVE
GATHERED
THE ROYAL
ARMY
TO THEIR
REFUGE AT
MAHANAIM.

ABDALOM
MADE A MISTAKE BY
NOT MAKING SURE YOUR
ARMY SUPPORTED HIS
REBELLION. WE HAVE THE
BEST FIGHTING FORCE
AROUND. OUR SKILLS WERE
HONED DEFEATING THE
PHILISTINES; NOW THAT WE
ARE ALL IN ONE PLACE, HIS
RAGTAG SUPPORTERS
WON'T STAND A
CHANCE.

RIGHT,
JOAB. GIVE
THE ORDERS TO
MARCH. I'LL GO
WITH YOU.



NO! DAVID, YOU
ARE THE KING NOW,
NOT JUST A SOLDIER.
YOUR LIFE IS TOO VALUABLE.
REMEMBER WHEN GOLIATH'S
GIANT COUSIN SOUGHT
REVENGE AND ALMOST
KILLED YOU? LET US FIGHT
YOUR BATTLES FOR YOU.
STAY IN THE CITY AND BE
READY TO SEND HELP
IF WE NEED IT.

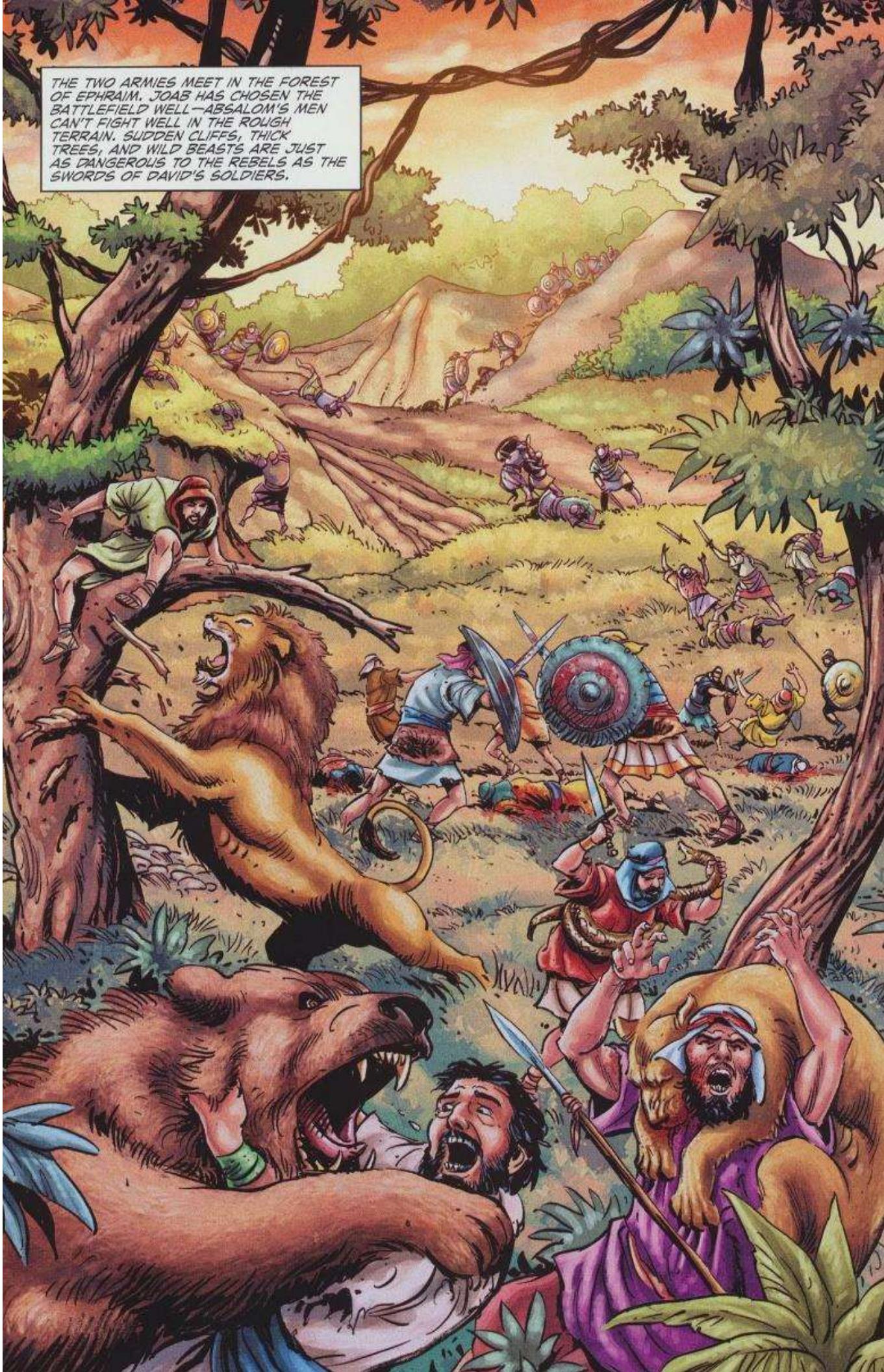
IF THAT
SEEMS BEST
TO YOU, I'LL
STAY HERE.



AT THE
GATE ...

FOR MY SAKE, MAKE
SURE TO SPARE ABSALOM'S
LIFE. HE'S STILL MY SON. IN
SPITE OF EVERYTHING HE'S
DONE, I LOVE HIM.

THE TWO ARMIES MEET IN THE FOREST OF EPHRAIM. JOAB HAS CHOSEN THE BATTLEFIELD WELL—ABSAJOM'S MEN CAN'T FIGHT WELL IN THE ROUGH TERRAIN. SUDDEN CLIFFS, THICK TREES, AND WILD BEASTS ARE JUST AS DANGEROUS TO THE REBELS AS THE SWORDS OF DAVID'S SOLDIERS.

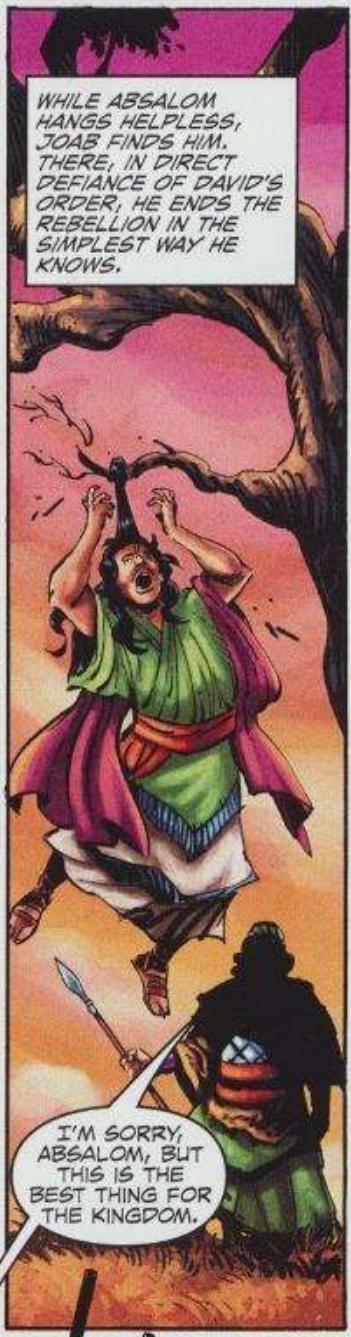
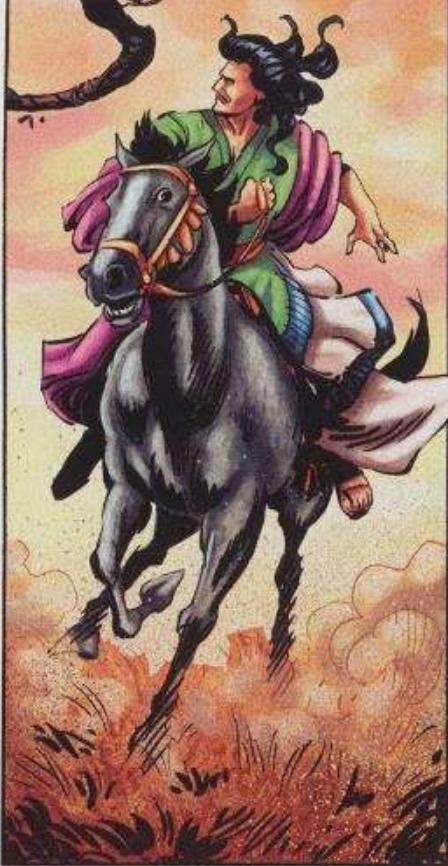


ABSAJOM TRIES TO RETREAT ON HIS HORSE.

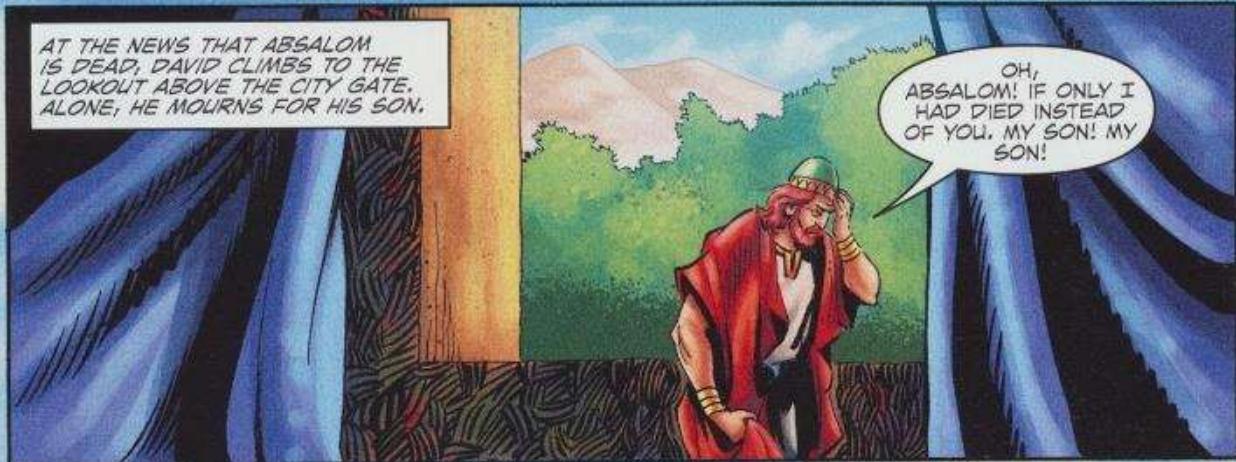
BUT AS HE TAKES FLIGHT ...

... HIS HEAD GETS CAUGHT IN THE LOW-HANGING BRANCHES OF AN OAK TREE!

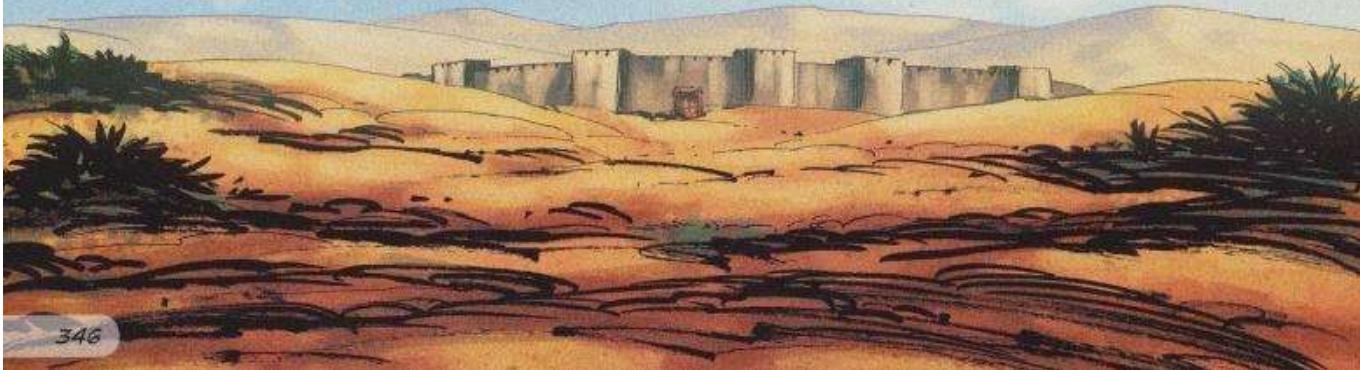
WHILE ABSALOM HANGS HELPLESS, JOAB FINDS HIM. THERE, IN DIRECT DEFiance OF DAVID'S ORDER, HE ENDS THE REBELLION IN THE SIMPLEST WAY HE KNOWS.



SOUND THE TRUMPET. WE HAVE THE VICTORY.



DAVID SEES THE TRUTH OF JOAB'S
WORDS. HE MAKES PEACE WITH THE
TRIBES THAT SIDED WITH ABSALOM
AND GOES BACK TO JERUSALEM.



BUT WHEN DAVID FINDS OUT THAT JOAB HAD DELIBERATELY KILLED ABSALOM, RAGE CONSUMES HIM. HE RELIEVES JOAB FROM COMMAND OF THE ARMY.

HOWEVER, LIKE ALWAYS, DAVID IS UNABLE TO PUNISH HIS OWN RELATIVES. HE EVENTUALLY LETS JOAB TAKE CHARGE OF THE ARMY AGAIN.

BUT I DID IT ALL FOR YOU.

IN THE MEANTIME, YOUNG SOLOMON—THE PRINCE WHOSE NAME MEANS "PEACE"—IS GROWING UP AND LEARNING FROM THE WISE MEN AROUND HIM.

LORD, YOU WOULD NOT HAVE SHOWN HIM SPECIAL FAVOR UNLESS YOU HAD BIG PLANS FOR HIM. MAY THEY COME TO PASS.

HIS MOTHER NEVER FORGETS THE LORD'S SPECIAL BLESSING ON SOLOMON, AND HOPES HE WILL ONE DAY BE KING.

YEARS PASS, AND DAVID GROWS OLD. FINALLY WORD SPREADS THROUGHOUT JERUSALEM THAT THE KING'S HEALTH IS FAILING FAST. THE PEOPLE KNOW THAT DAVID HAS CHOSEN SOLOMON TO BE KING AND TO BUILD THE TEMPLE OF GOD. BUT THERE ARE RUMORS ...

Family Plots

BASED ON 1 KINGS 1

THE BOOKS OF 1 AND 2 KINGS AND 2 CHRONICLES RECORD THE HISTORY OF THE HEBREW EMPIRE THROUGH THE YEARS OF SOLOMON'S REIGN, THE DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM INTO TWO SEPARATE NATIONS—JUDAH AND ISRAEL—AND THE FALL OF BOTH.

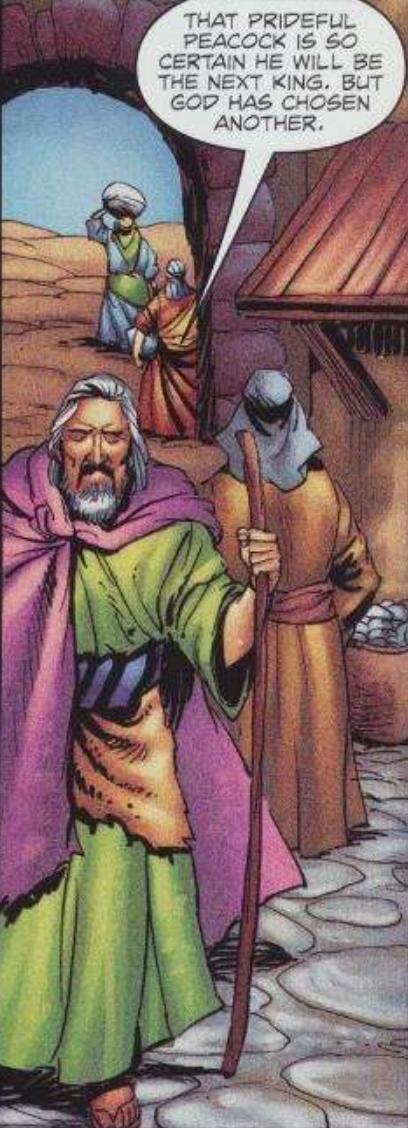
WITH HIS OLDER BROTHERS DEAD, ADONIJAH BELIEVES THAT FATE HAS LEFT HIM IN THE PERFECT POSITION.

MY FATHER IS GROWING WEAKER BY THE DAY. AS THE ELDEST REMAINING SON, I WILL SURELY BE NAMED KING IN HIS PLACE. BRING ALL THE KING'S SONS—EXCEPT MY HALF BROTHER SOLOMON—AND MEET ME AT THE SERPENT'S STONE.

EAT AND BE MERRY! ANY DAY NOW, MY FATHER WILL NAME ME THE NEXT KING OF ISRAEL. AND YOU, MY FRIENDS, WILL HAVE POSITIONS OF HIGH HONOR IN MY COURT.

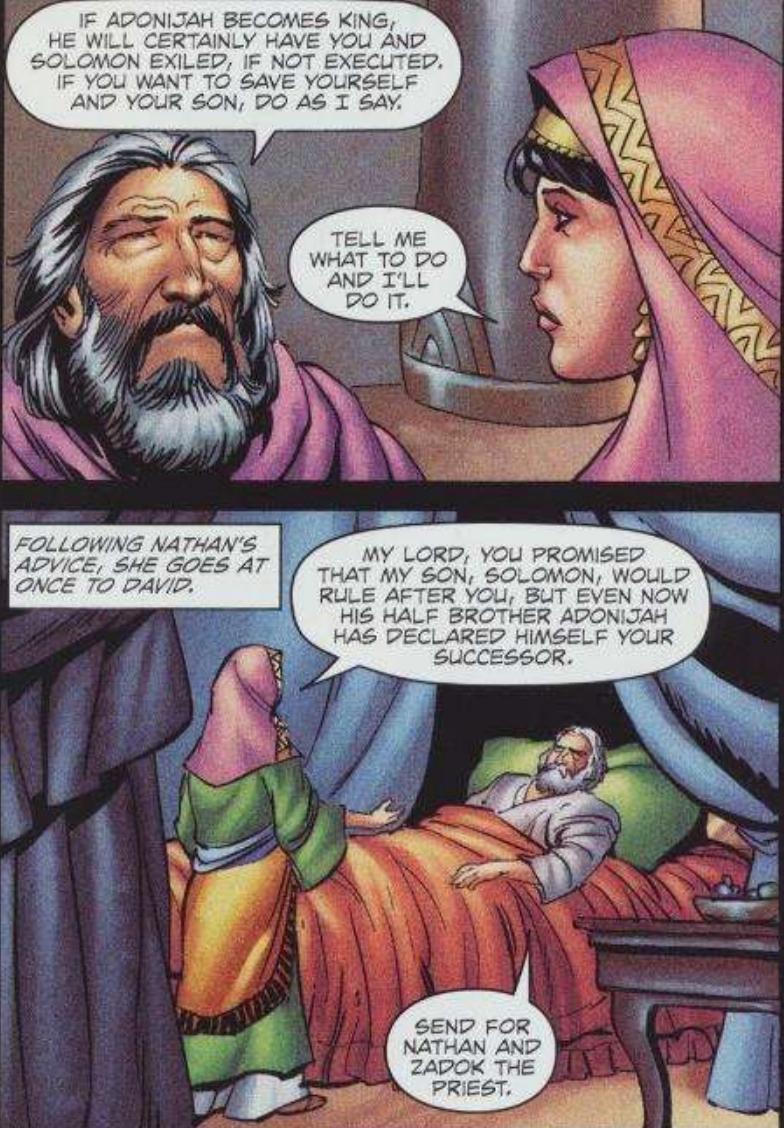
ADONIJAH THINKS HE HAS ALL THE SUPPORT HE NEEDS WITH JOAB, THE HEAD OF THE ARMY, AND ABIAHAR, ONE OF THE TWO HIGH PRIESTS. BUT NOT ONLY HAS ADONIJAH LEFT SOLOMON OUT OF HIS PLANS, HE'S ALSO FORGOTTEN NATHAN, GOD'S PROPHET, AND BENAIAH, THE HEAD OF DAVID'S PERSONAL GUARD.

AND UNFORTUNATELY FOR ADONIJAH, NATHAN ALREADY KNOWS GOD'S WILL.



THAT PRIDEFUL PEACOCK IS SO CERTAIN HE WILL BE THE NEXT KING. BUT GOD HAS CHOSEN ANOTHER.

WHILE ADONIJAH IS FEASTING, NATHAN IS TALKING WITH QUEEN BATHSHEBA.



FOLLOWING NATHAN'S ADVICE, SHE GOES AT ONCE TO DAVID.

IF ADONIJAH BECOMES KING, HE WILL CERTAINLY HAVE YOU AND SOLOMON EXILED, IF NOT EXECUTED. IF YOU WANT TO SAVE YOURSELF AND YOUR SON, DO AS I SAY.

TELL ME WHAT TO DO AND I'LL DO IT.

MY LORD, YOU PROMISED THAT MY SON, SOLOMON, WOULD RULE AFTER YOU, BUT EVEN NOW HIS HALF BROTHER ADONIJAH HAS DECLARED HIMSELF YOUR SUCCESSOR.

SEND FOR NATHAN AND ZADOK THE PRIEST.

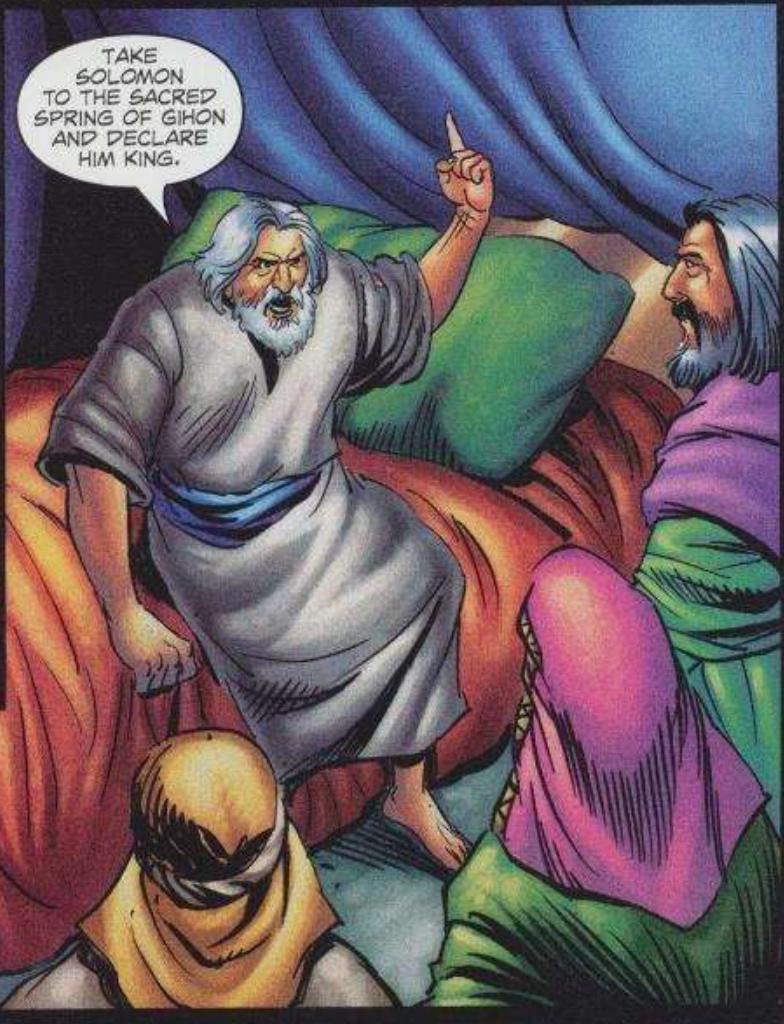
NATHAN CHOOSES THIS MOMENT TO ENTER.



IT IS TRUE WHAT SHE SAYS. ADONIJAH IS TRYING TO TAKE THE CHOICE OF THE NEXT KING AWAY FROM YOU.



I HAVE HAD ONE TOO MANY SONS DISPUTE MY AUTHORITY!



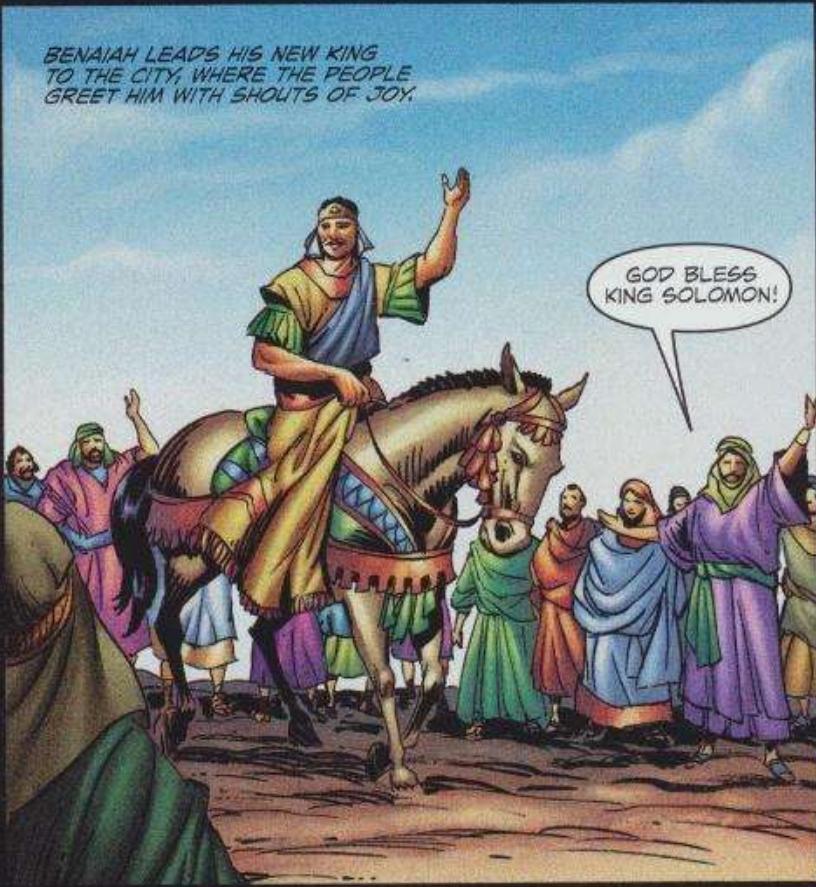
TAKE SOLOMON TO THE SACRED SPRING OF GHON AND DECLARE HIM KING.



ZADOK AND NATHAN ACT IMMEDIATELY. SOLOMON RIDES HIS FATHER'S MULE TO THE SPRING OF GHON AND THERE SOLOMON IS ANOINTED KING OF ISRAEL. THE TRUMPET SOUNDS ...



LONG LIFE TO KING SOLOMON!

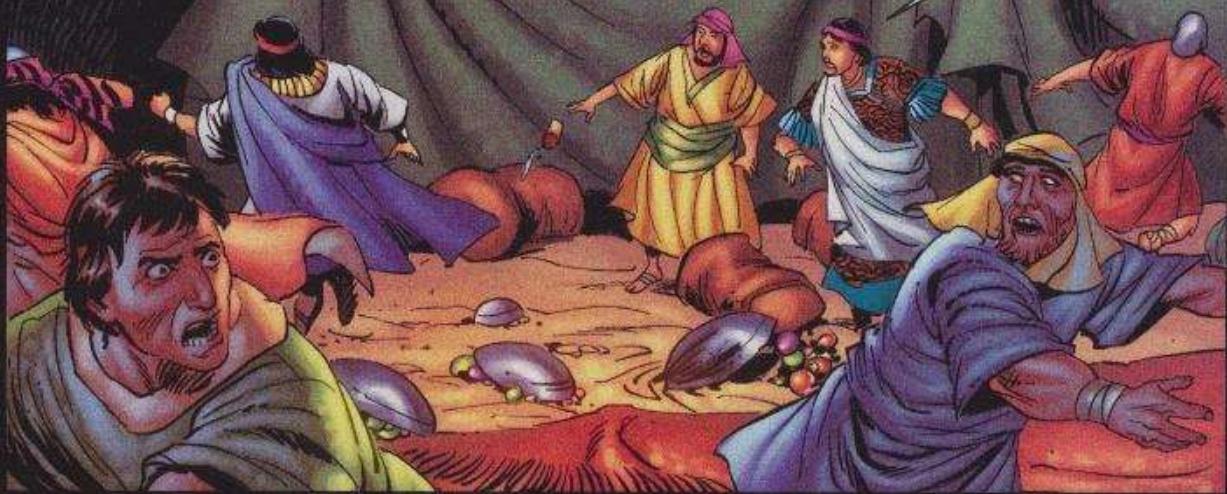


BENAIAH LEADS HIS NEW KING TO THE CITY, WHERE THE PEOPLE GREET HIM WITH SHOUTS OF JOY.

GOD BLESS KING SOLOMON!

THE NOISE OF THE CELEBRATION IS SO LOUD THAT IT REACHES ADONIJAH'S FEAST. A MESSENGER INTERRUPTS THEIR FEAST WITH THE NEWS THAT DAVID HAS JUST MADE SOLOMON THE KING. KNOWING THAT THEY MAY BE BRANDED AS TRAITORS, ADONIJAH'S GUESTS FLEE IN TERROR.

THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE TO SAVE MY LIFE!



PRINCE ADONIJAH FLEES TO THE TABERNACLE WHERE THE PEOPLE WORSHIP GOD. HE GRABS HOLD OF THE HORNS OF THE ALTAR OF SACRIFICE.

I CANNOT BE HARMED AT GOD'S ALTAR! I WON'T LET GO UNLESS SOLOMON PROMISES NOT TO KILL ME.



WHEN SOLOMON FINDS HIS BROTHER AT THE TABERNACLE, HE AGREES TO SPARE ADONIJAH'S LIFE—IF HE PROVES HIMSELF WORTHY OF THE NEW KING'S TRUST. THE COWARDLY ADONIJAH PROMISES ANYTHING THAT HE THINKS WILL SPARE HIM.



BUT LATER, SOLOMON IS FORCED TO EXECUTE BOTH ADONIJAH AND GENERAL JOAB WHEN THEY COMMIT SUSPECTED ACTS OF TREASON.

AS A SHEPHERD:

THE LORD IS
MY LIGHT AND
MY SALVATION—
WHO SHOULD
I FEAR?

WHEN EVIL MEN
ATTACK ME,
THEY WILL
STUMBLE
AND FALL.

WHEN A WARRIOR IN EXILE:

GOD IS MY HIDEOUT AND MY STRENGTH.
THOUGH THE EARTH FALL APART,
THE MOUNTAINS CRUMBLE,
AND THE SEAS RISE UP,
THE LORD IS MIGHTY TO SAVE:
"BE STILL,
AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD."

The Death of God's King

BASED ON
PSALMS 27; 46; 84;
2 SAMUEL 23

AS A KING:

AFTER RULING ISRAEL FOR
40 YEARS, KING DAVID DIES.
HE IS BURIED IN A TOMB
UNDERNEATH JERUSALEM.
ALL ISRAEL MOURNS THE
DEATH OF THE SHEPHERD
BOY WHO BUILT ISRAEL
INTO A MIGHTY EMPIRE. NO
MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCES
IN HIS LIFE, HE ALWAYS GAVE
HONOR TO GOD ...

AND AT HIS DEATH:

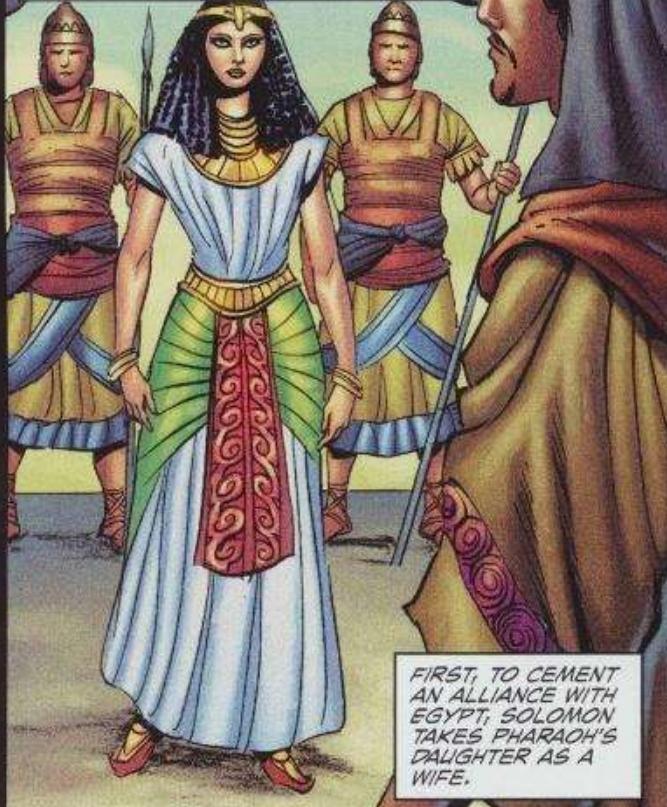
WHEN ONE RULES OVER MEN
IN RIGHTEOUSNESS,
WHEN HE RULES
IN THE FEAR OF GOD,
HE IS LIKE THE DAWNING LIGHT
AT SUNRISE
ON A CLOUDLESS MORNING,
LIKE THE BRIGHTNESS AFTER RAIN
THAT BRINGS THE GRASS
FROM THE EARTH.

HOW BEAUTIFUL IS YOUR
HEAVENLY KINGDOM, O LORD.
BETTER IS ONE DAY IN YOUR COURTS
THAN A THOUSAND DAYS
SPENT ANYWHERE ELSE.

Solomon's Wisdom

BASED ON 1 KINGS 3

SOLOMON, THE FIRST OF DAVID'S SONS TO HONOR HIS FATHER AND THE LORD, IS NOW THE HOLY ANOINTED KING OF ISRAEL. HE TAKES THREE IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO SOLIDIFY THE STATUS OF HIS KINGDOM. THESE THREE STEPS WILL MARK THE REST OF HIS RULE.



THEN, SINCE HIS FATHER, DAVID, HAD NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO BUILD A TEMPLE FOR GOD, SOLOMON MAKES PLANS FOR A TEMPLE THAT WILL BE A FITTING HOUSE FOR THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE.



FINALLY, HE GOES TO THE ALTAR AT GIBEON TO MAKE SACRIFICES AND SEEK GOD'S BLESSING. THERE HE PRAYS TO GOD AT THE ALTAR ALL NIGHT LONG.



THAT NIGHT
SOLomon HAS A
DREAM ...



WHAT
WOULD YOU
ASK OF ME, SON
OF MY SERVANT
DAVID?

DIVINE
KING, I WOULD ONLY
ASK FOR A WISE HEART
TO HELP ME GOVERN YOUR
PEOPLE AND TO DISTINGUISH
BETWEEN RIGHT AND
WRONG.

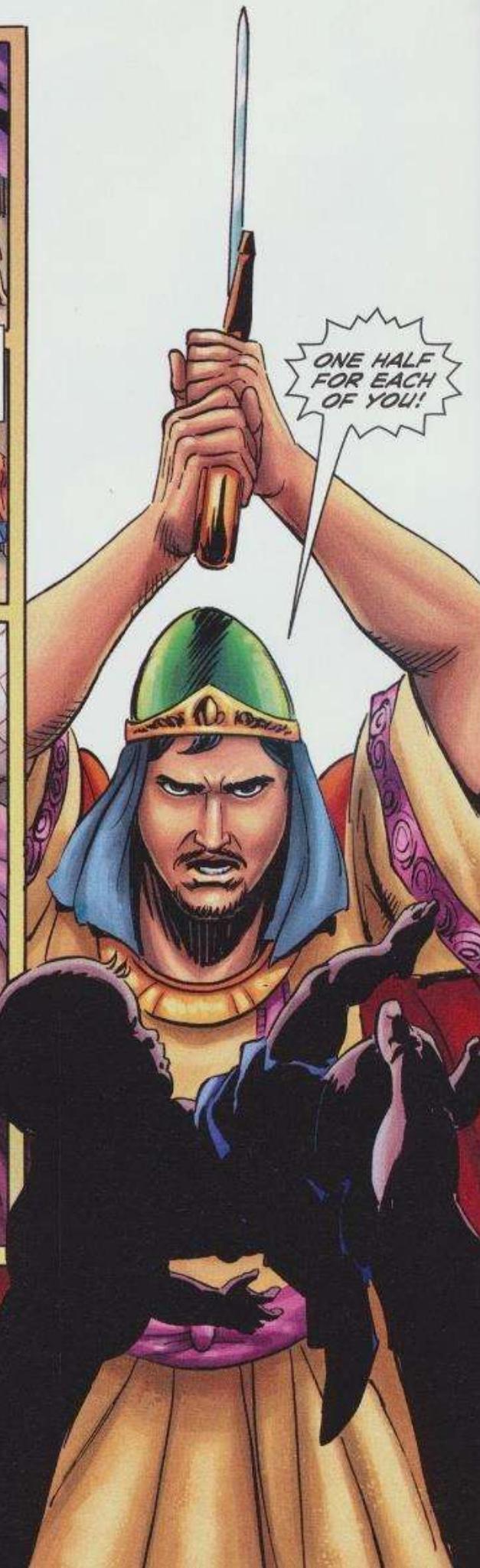
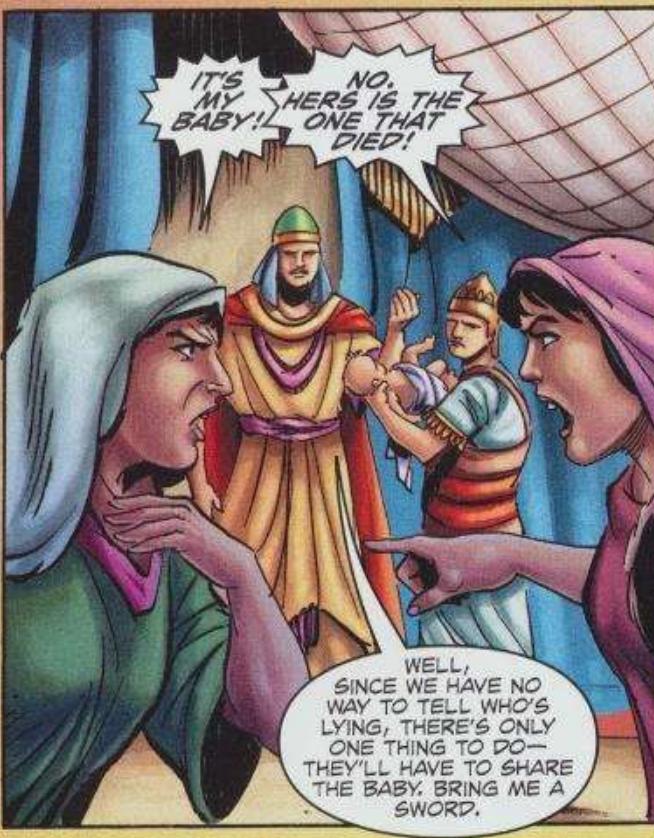


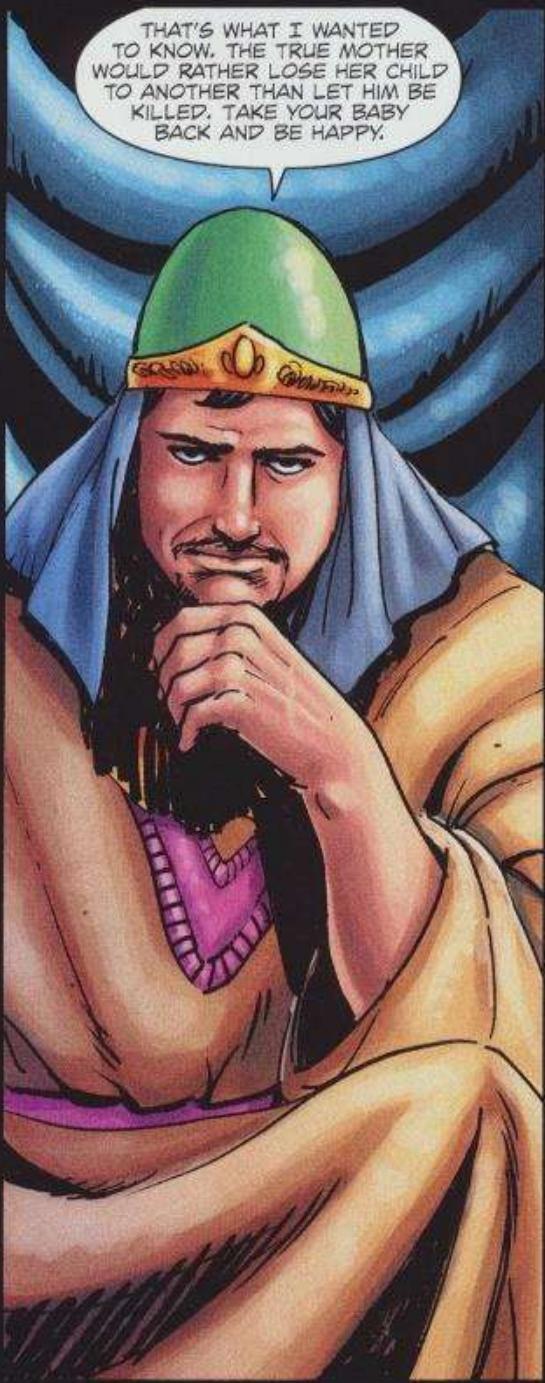
YOU
COULD HAVE ASKED
FOR RICHES, LONG LIFE, OR
THE DEATHS OF YOUR ENEMIES.
INSTEAD, YOU ASKED FOR WISDOM.
SO I WILL GIVE YOU WHAT YOU ASK
FOR. YOU WILL HAVE WISDOM LIKE
NO MAN BEFORE YOU. BUT I WILL
ALSO GIVE YOU WHAT YOU DID NOT
ASK FOR. YOU WILL HAVE RICHES
AND HONOR LIKE NO KING BEFORE
YOU. AND IF YOU FOLLOW MY
COMMANDS, I WILL GRANT
YOU LONG LIFE.

WHEN SOLOMON WAKES UP AT THE ALTAR THE NEXT MORNING, HE PRAISES THE LORD FOR PROMISING HIM SUCH GREAT BLESSINGS. HE PRAYS THAT GOD WILL HELP HIM USE HIS WISDOM TO HELP HIS PEOPLE.



SOON AFTERWARD, GOD GIVES HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO TEST HIS WISDOM. TWO POOR WOMEN EACH HAD A BABY AT THE SAME TIME. ONE MOTHER'S BABY HAD DIED, AND SHE NOW CLAIMS THE OTHER BABY AS HER OWN. BUT NOBODY KNOWS WHO THE REAL MOTHER IS!





דווגלאש מאום

TRUST IN THE LORD,
NOT YOUR OWN ABILITIES.
FOLLOW HIM, AND HE WILL
MAKE YOUR PATH STRAIGHT.

שרגיו קאריעללו

THE MORE YOU ARE
CORRECTED, THE MORE YOU
LEARN; ONLY FOOLISH PEOPLE
THINK THEY'RE PERFECT.

קביין מולליינס

A SOFT ANSWER TURNS AWAY WRATH,
BUT A HARSH WORD STIRS UP ANGER.

Solomon's Proverbs

BASED ON PROVERBS

WITH HIS GOD-GIVEN
WISDOM, SOLOMON
WROTE MANY SIMPLE
SAYINGS TO TEACH
PEOPLE HOW TO LIVE.

יפפרי בארכנס

A GOOD ATTITUDE
IS GOOD MEDICINE,
BUT A BROKEN SPIRIT
DRIES UP YOUR BONES.

יבא הותה

A TRUE FRIEND IS
ONE WHO STICKS BY
YOU, ESPECIALLY WHEN
TIMES ARE HARD.

אנדרע לע בלאנק

A GOOD REPUTATION IS
BETTER THAN GREAT RICHES;
TO BE RESPECTED IS BETTER
THAN SILVER OR GOLD.

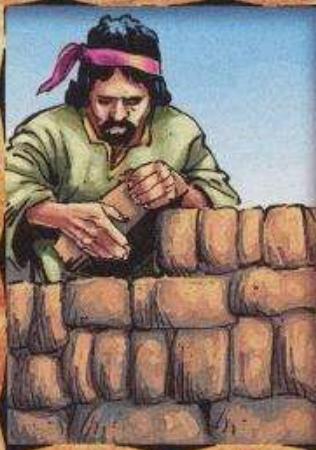
Solomon's Seasons

BASED ON
ECCLESIASTES 3

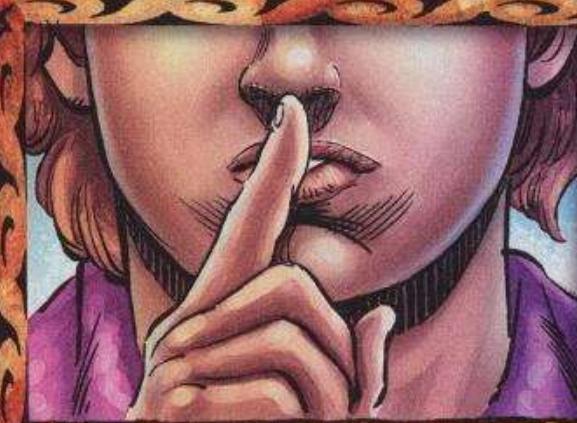


THERE IS A TIME FOR EVERYTHING,
AND A SEASON FOR EVERY
ACTIVITY UNDER HEAVEN:

A TIME TO BE BORN
AND A TIME TO DIE,
A TIME TO PLANT
AND A TIME TO UPROOT,
A TIME TO KILL
AND A TIME TO HEAL,
A TIME TO TEAR DOWN
AND A TIME TO BUILD,
A TIME TO WEEP
AND A TIME TO LAUGH,
A TIME TO MOURN
AND A TIME TO DANCE,
A TIME TO SCATTER STONES
AND A TIME TO GATHER THEM,
A TIME TO EMBRACE
AND A TIME TO REFRAIN,
A TIME TO SEARCH
AND A TIME TO GIVE UP,
A TIME TO KEEP
AND A TIME TO THROW AWAY,
A TIME TO TEAR
AND A TIME TO MEND,
A TIME TO BE SILENT
AND A TIME TO SPEAK,
A TIME TO LOVE
AND A TIME TO HATE,
A TIME FOR WAR
AND A TIME FOR PEACE.



HE HAS MADE EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL
IN ITS TIME ... EVERYTHING GOD DOES
WILL ENDURE FOREVER.



Solomon's Temple

BASED ON 1 KINGS 5-9; 2 CHRONICLES 2-8

THE PEOPLE ARE HAPPY. ISRAEL IS AT PEACE. SOLOMON HAS ESTABLISHED GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH MANY NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. RULERS OF THE COUNTRIES DAVID HAD CONQUERED PAY TRIBUTE MONEY TO SOLOMON'S TREASURY. SO BEGINS THE GOLDEN AGE OF ISRAEL.

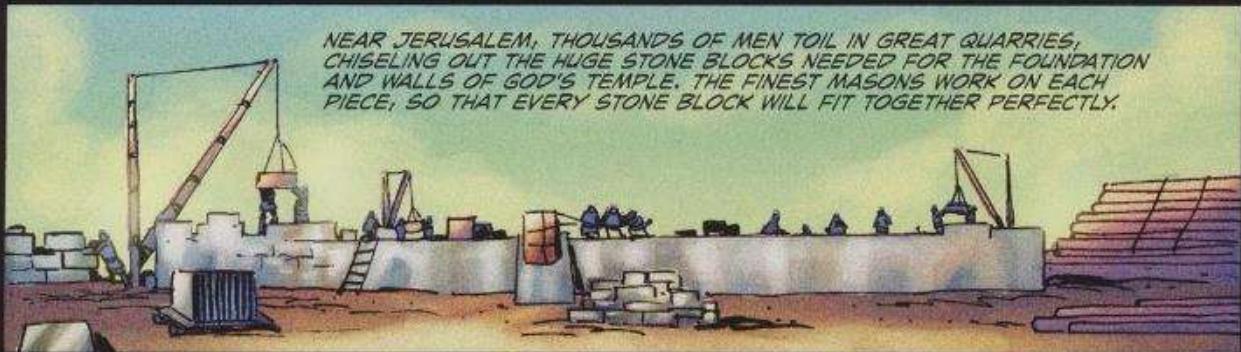
TO LAUNCH HIS FIRST GREAT BUILDING PROJECT, SOLOMON SENDS A MESSENGER TO HIS FATHER'S OLD FRIEND, KING HIRAM OF TYRE.

KING SOLOMON SENDS HIS GREETINGS AND ASKS IF YOU WILL SEND HIM YOUR REKNOWNED CEDAR AND CYPRESS TREES FOR LUMBER SO THAT HE CAN BUILD A TEMPLE TO GOD IN JERUSALEM.

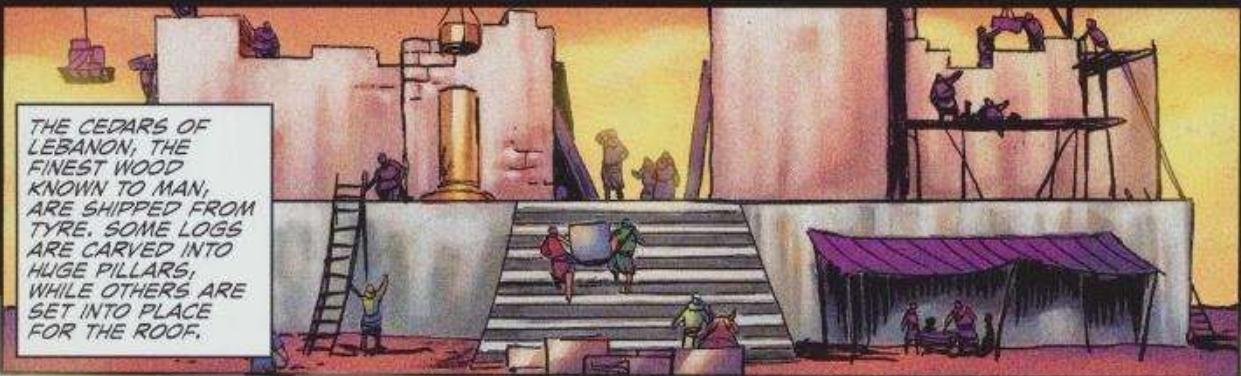
BLESSED BE THE LORD FOR GIVING MY FRIEND DAVID SUCH A WISE SON. TELL YOUR KING I WILL GIVE HIM WHAT HE ASKS FOR IN EXCHANGE FOR WHEAT AND OIL, WHICH OUR COUNTRY NEEDS.

THE TWO KINGS MAKE A DEAL. SOON MEN BY THE THOUSANDS ARE WORKING IN THE FORESTS OF LEBANON, CUTTING CEDAR TREES FOR SOLOMON'S TEMPLE.

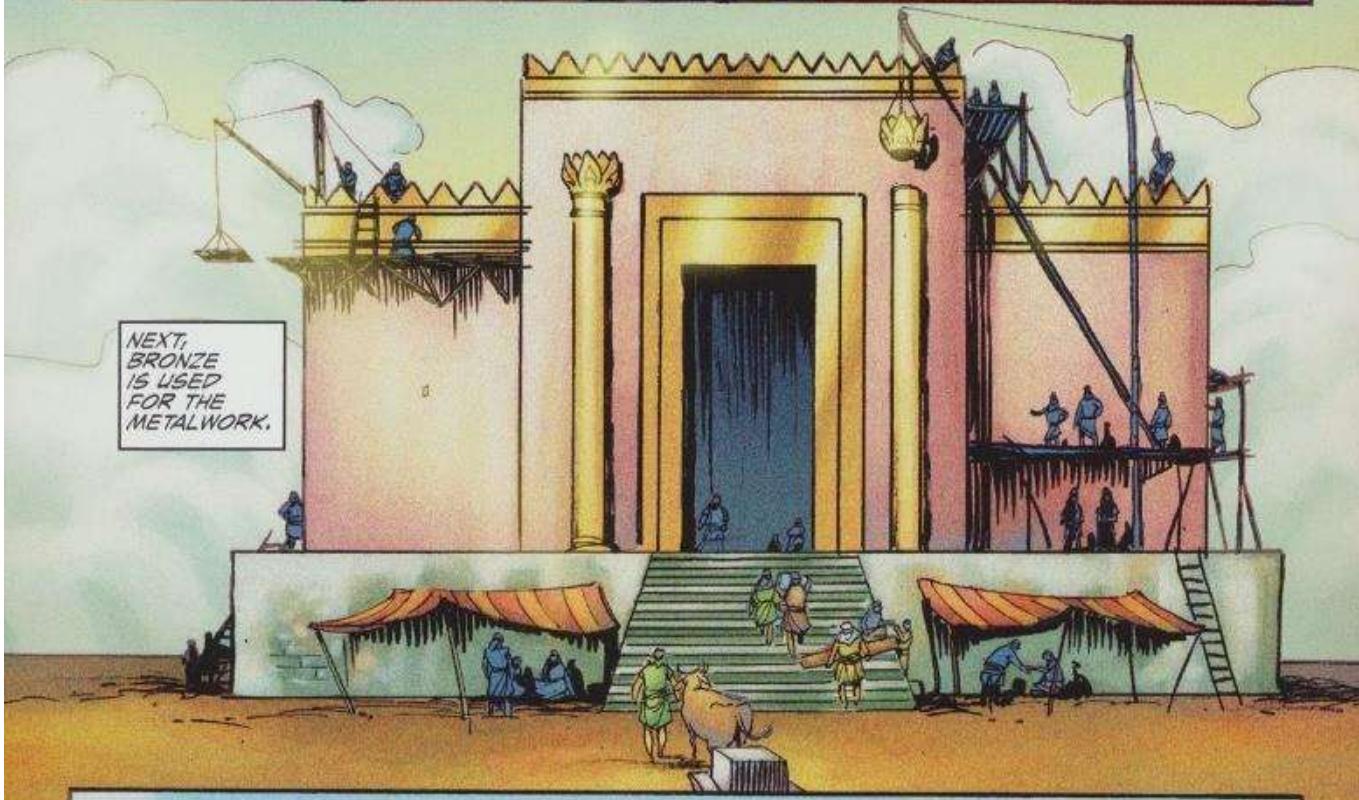
NEAR JERUSALEM, THOUSANDS OF MEN TOIL IN GREAT QUARRIES, CHISELING OUT THE HUGE STONE BLOCKS NEEDED FOR THE FOUNDATION AND WALLS OF GOD'S TEMPLE. THE FINEST MASON WORK ON EACH PIECE, SO THAT EVERY STONE BLOCK WILL FIT TOGETHER PERFECTLY.



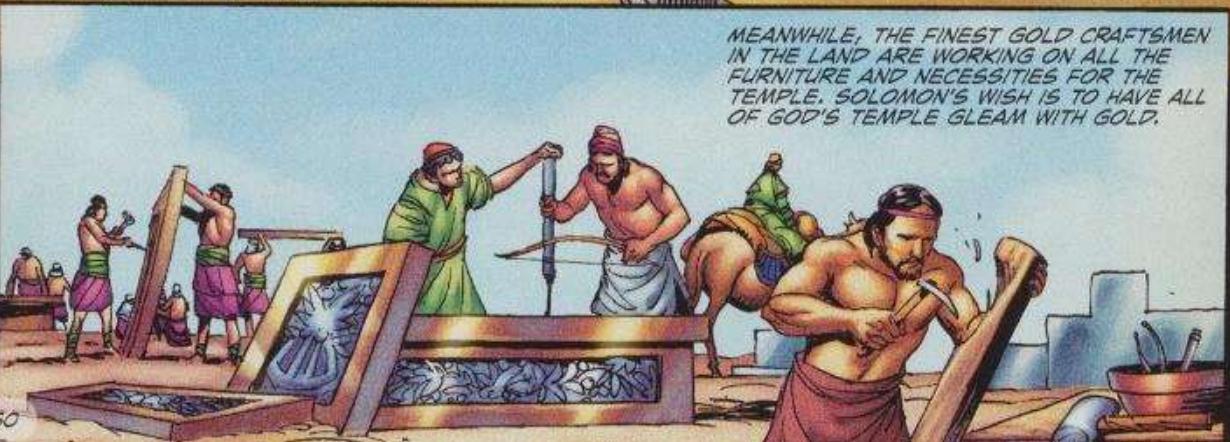
THE CEDARS OF LEBANON, THE FINEST WOOD KNOWN TO MAN, ARE SHIPPED FROM TYRE. SOME LOGS ARE CARVED INTO HUGE PILLARS, WHILE OTHERS ARE SET INTO PLACE FOR THE ROOF.



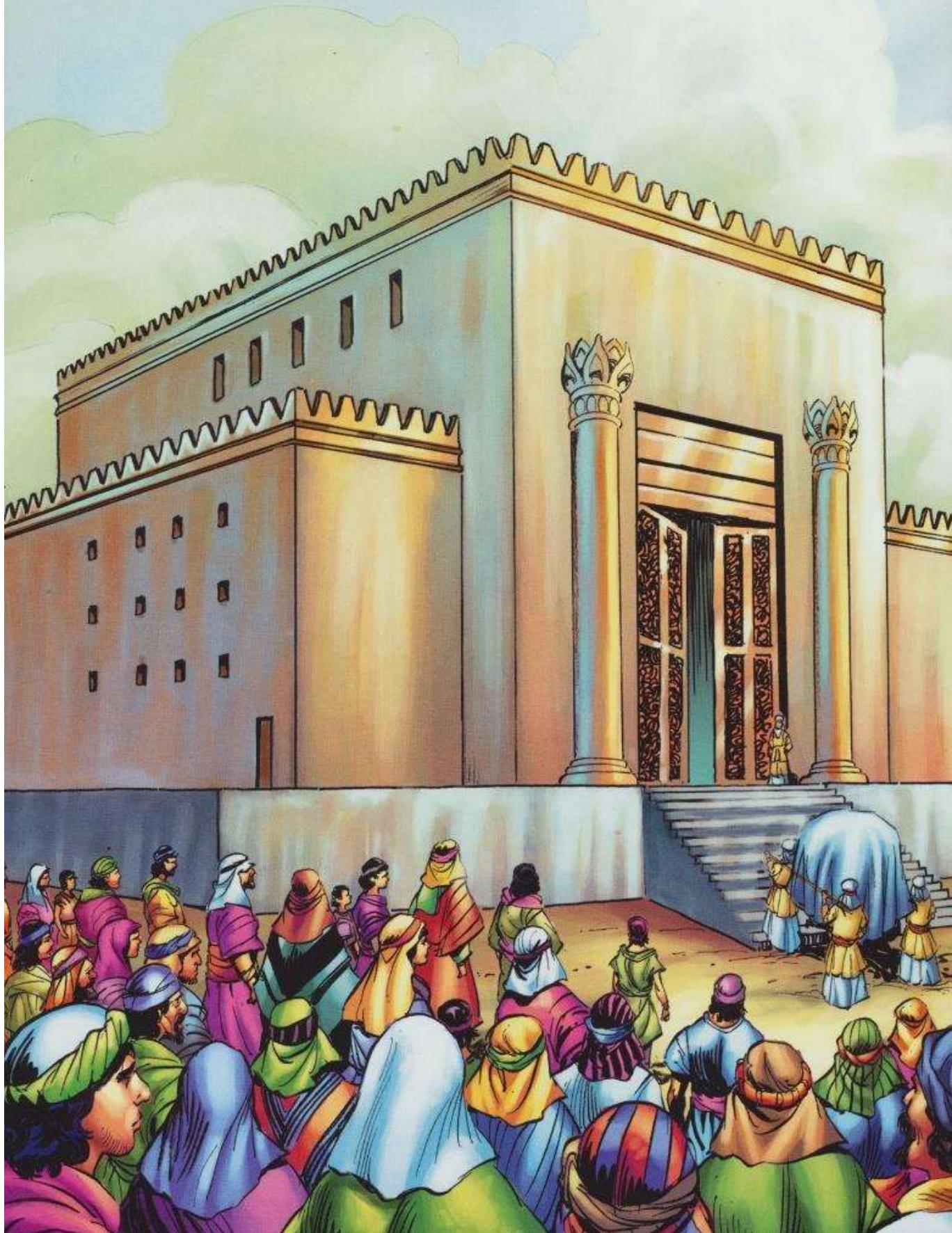
NEXT, BRONZE IS USED FOR THE METALWORK.



MEANWHILE, THE FINEST GOLD CRAFTSMEN IN THE LAND ARE WORKING ON ALL THE FURNITURE AND NECESSITIES FOR THE TEMPLE. SOLOMON'S WISH IS TO HAVE ALL OF GOD'S TEMPLE GLEAM WITH GOLD.

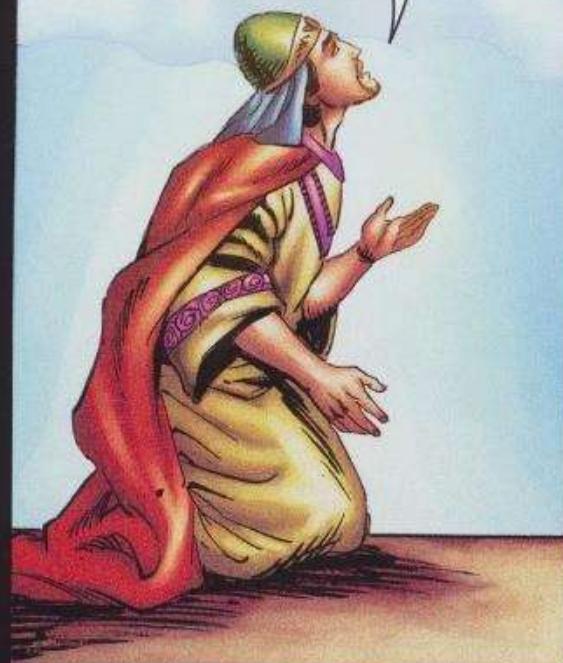


AFTER SEVEN LONG YEARS OF HARD WORK, THE MAGNIFICENT TEMPLE OF GOD IS COMPLETED. MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN FROM ALL CORNERS OF ISRAEL CROWD INTO JERUSALEM TO WATCH THE PRIESTS CARRY THE SACRED ARK INTO THE TEMPLE. INSIDE, IN THE HOLY OF HOLIES—A DARK, WINDOWLESS, HEAVILY CURTAINED ROOM—THE ARK IS CAREFULLY PLACED BENEATH THE PROTECTING WINGS OF TWO 15-FOOT CHERUBIM.



THEN, BEFORE ALL THE PEOPLE IN ISRAEL, SOLOMON KNEELS IN PRAYER ...

LORD, THERE IS NO GOD LIKE YOU!
FORGIVE AND GUIDE YOUR PEOPLE THE WAY YOU GUIDED MOSES, WHO BROUGHT US OUT OF SLAVERY IN EGYPT.



BUT SOLOMON'S BUILDING PROGRAM DOES NOT END WITH THE TEMPLE. SOON A LARGE PALACE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

I MEAN TO MAKE JERUSALEM THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CITY IN THE WORLD.

SOLOMON, IT WILL BE BEAUTIFUL—CEDAR AND BRONZE AND GOLD!



AND RICHES KEEP POURING IN FROM MANY COUNTRIES. SHIPS FROM ARABIA AND AFRICA BRING RARE AND PRECIOUS GIFTS.

PEACOCKS AND IVORY! WHAT ARE THEY GOOD FOR?

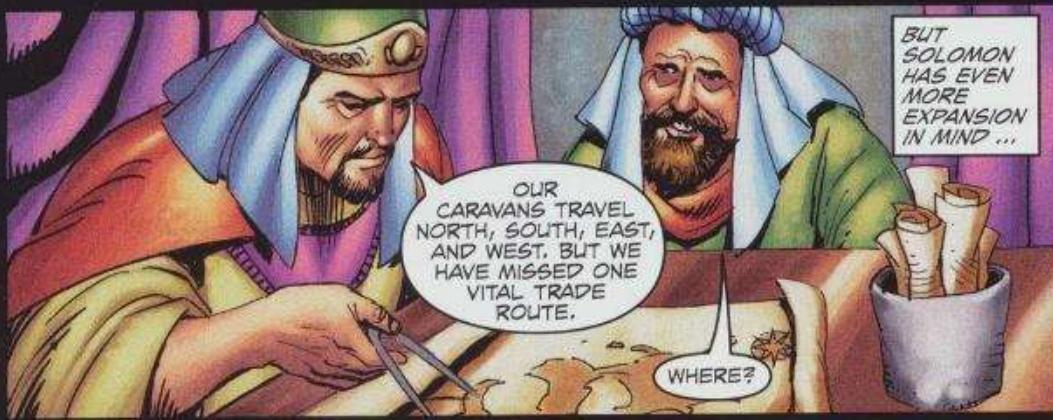
WHEN YOU'RE AS RICH AS SOLOMON, THINGS DON'T HAVE TO BE USEFUL.



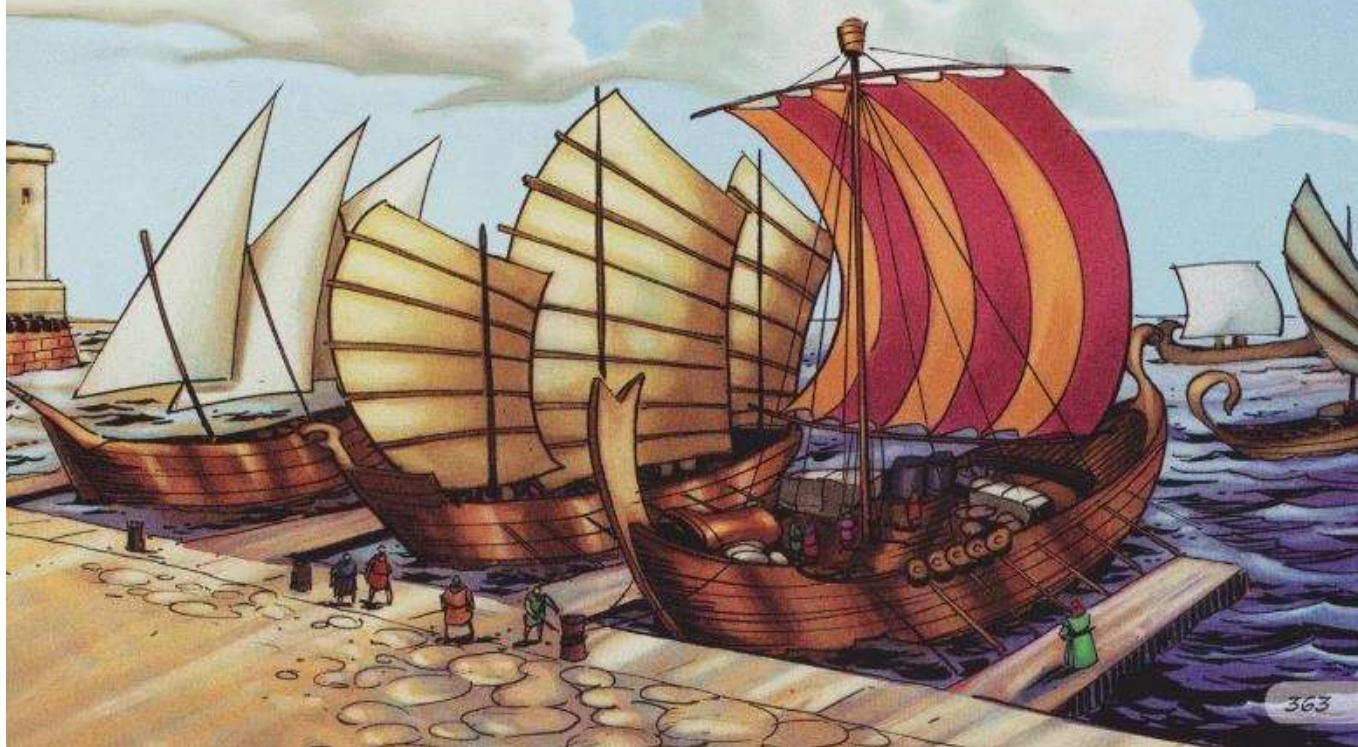
BUT NOT EVERYONE IN ISRAEL IS RICH. OUTSIDE THE CITY OF JERUSALEM, PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO COMPLAIN ...

THERE! THAT'S MY SHARE OF GRAIN FOR KING SOLOMON'S HORSES.





THE FLEET IS BUILT. ITS SHIPS BRING TREASURES INTO JERUSALEM AND CARRY AWAY WITH THEM STORIES OF THE CITY'S BEAUTY AND THE RULER'S WISDOM. THE STORIES REACH FAR AND WIDE—EVEN TO DISTANT LANDS IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA.



Foreign Fame

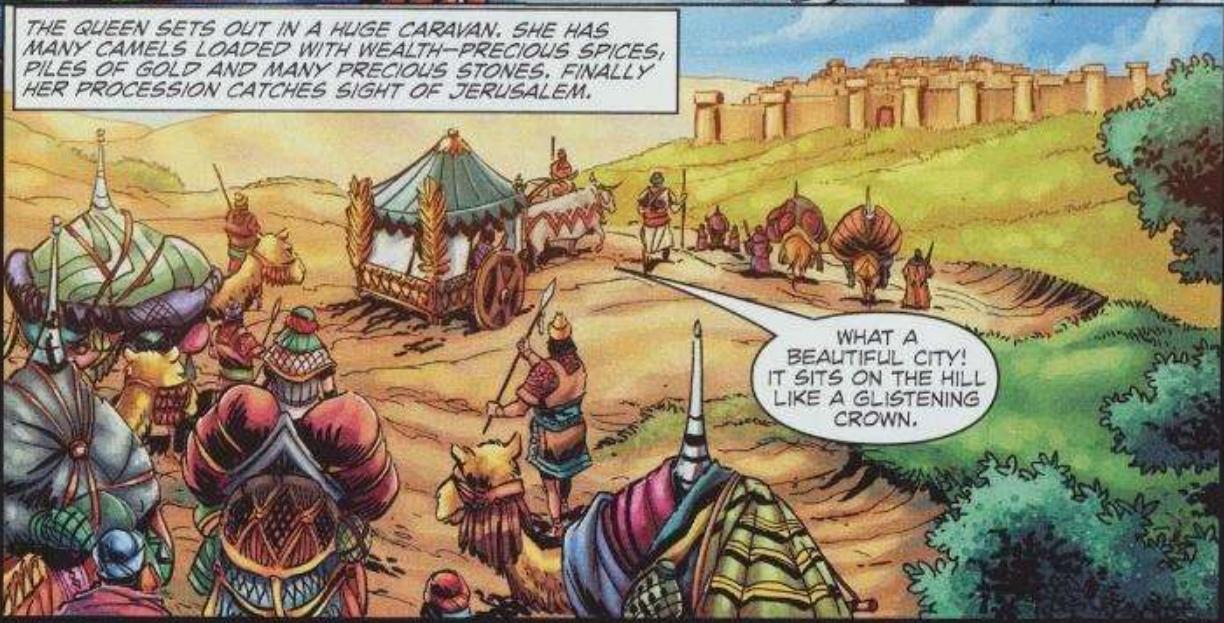
BASED ON 1 KINGS 10:1-11:8

SOLOMON'S FAME SPREADS FAR AND WIDE; EVEN TO THE QUEEN OF SHEBA ...

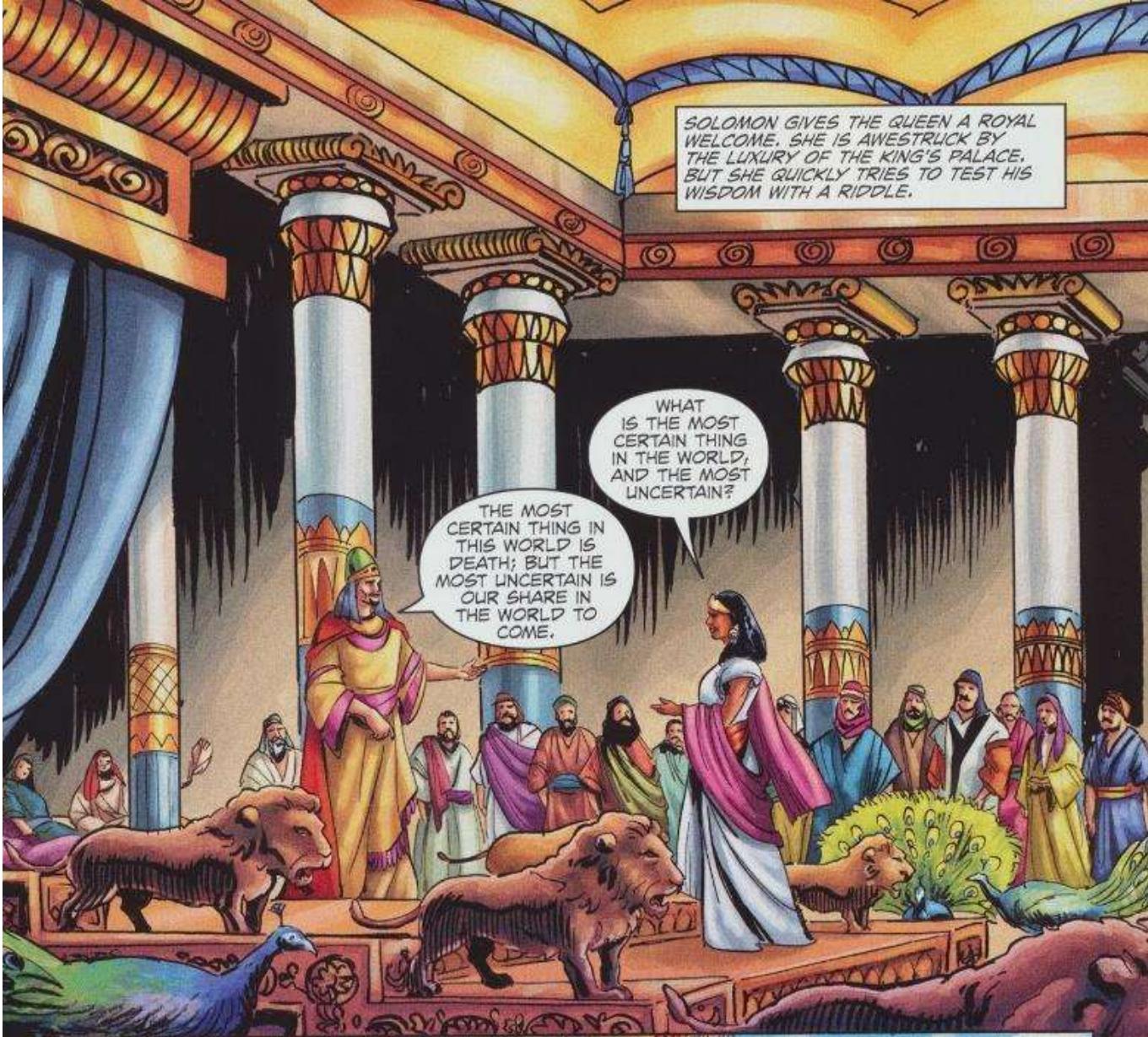


SOLOMON!
SOLOMON! ALL I HEAR
ARE TALES OF HIS WEALTH
AND WISDOM. I'M GOING TO
JERUSALEM TO FIND OUT
FOR MYSELF WHETHER
THE STORIES ARE
TRUE.

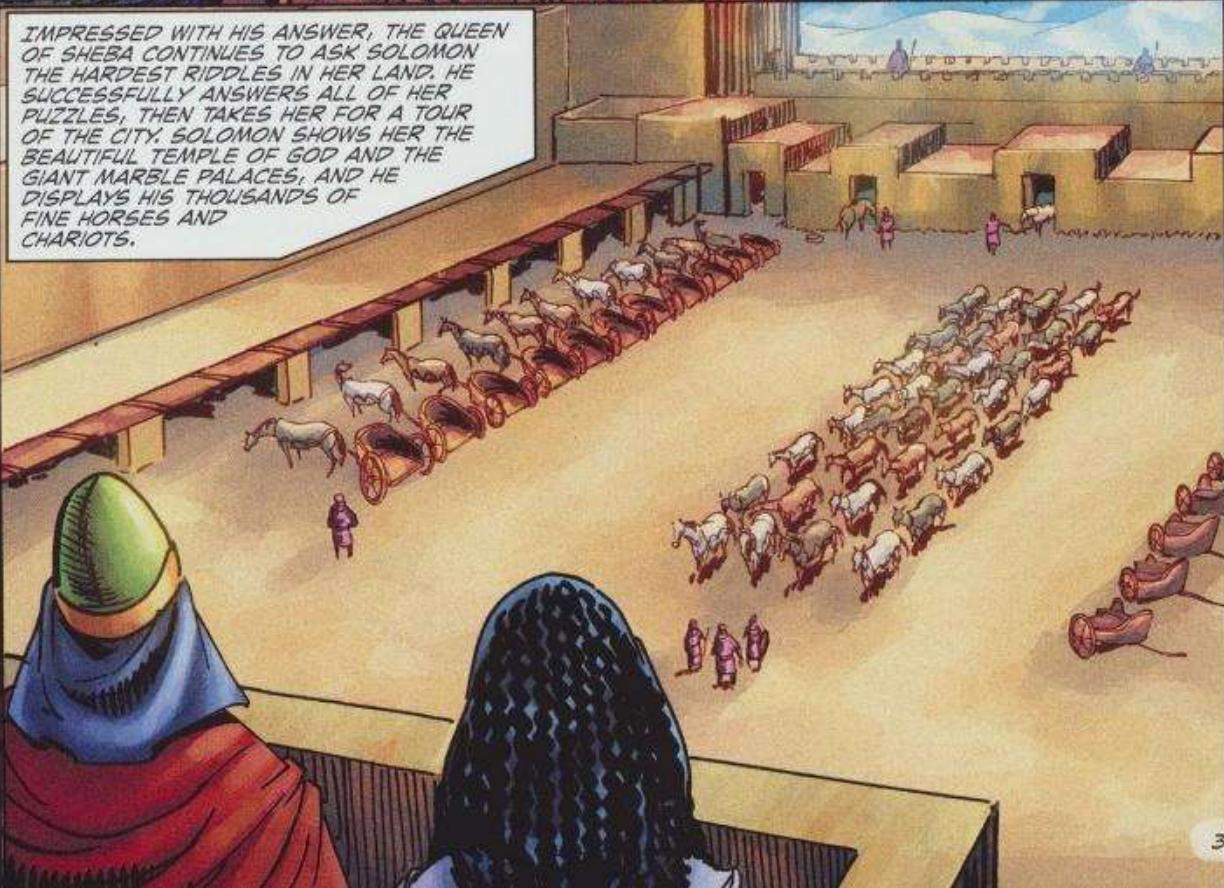
THE QUEEN SETS OUT IN A HUGE CARAVAN. SHE HAS
MANY CAMELS LOADED WITH WEALTH—PRECIOUS SPICES,
PILE OF GOLD AND MANY PRECIOUS STONES. FINALLY
HER PROCESSION CATCHES SIGHT OF JERUSALEM.

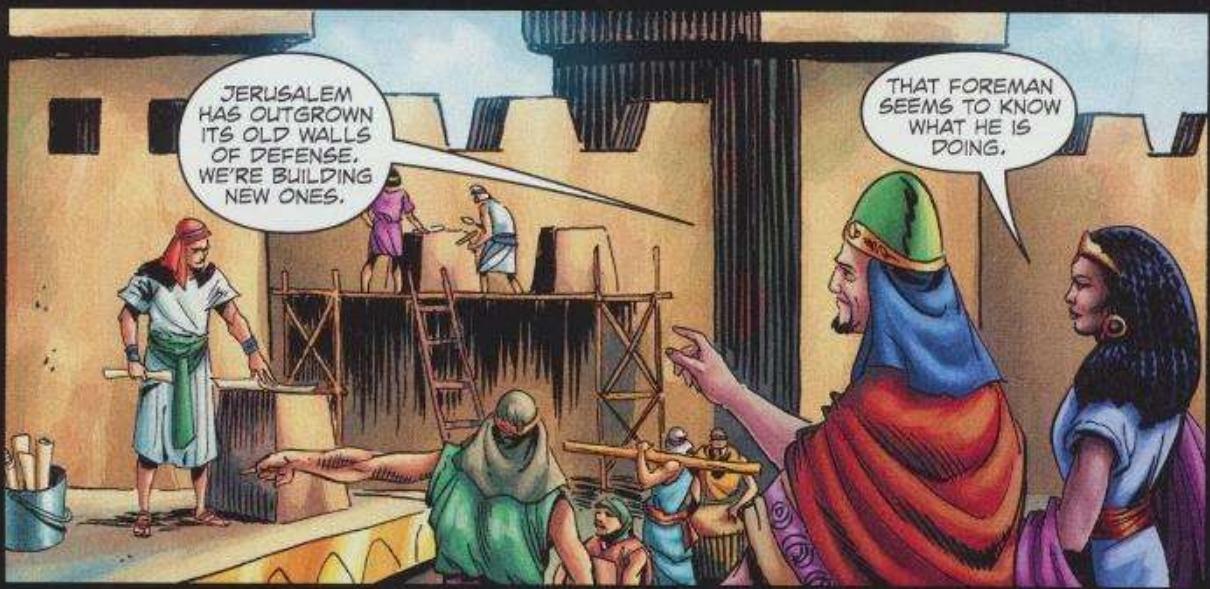


SOLOMON GIVES THE QUEEN A ROYAL WELCOME. SHE IS AWESTRUCK BY THE LUXURY OF THE KING'S PALACE. BUT SHE QUICKLY TRIES TO TEST HIS WISDOM WITH A RIDDLE.



IMPRESSED WITH HIS ANSWER, THE QUEEN OF SHEBA CONTINUES TO ASK SOLOMON THE HARDEST RIDDLES IN HER LAND. HE SUCCESSFULLY ANSWERS ALL OF HER PUZZLES, THEN TAKES HER FOR A TOUR OF THE CITY. SOLOMON SHOWS HER THE BEAUTIFUL TEMPLE OF GOD AND THE GIANT MARBLE PALACES, AND HE DISPLAYS HIS THOUSANDS OF FINE HORSES AND CHARIOTS.





WHEN HER CURIOSITY IS SATISFIED, THE QUEEN OF SHEBA PRESENTS SOLOMON WITH GIFTS OF GOLD, RARE SPICES, AND PRECIOUS STONES. THEN SHE LEAVES FOR HOME, IMPRESSED WITH HIS WISDOM AND WEALTH. BUT WHEREAS SOLOMON HAD ONCE USED HIS WISDOM TO HELP GOD'S PEOPLE, NOW HE USES IT TO IMPRESS FOREIGN LEADERS AND GAIN EVEN MORE HONOR AND FAME.

From Wisdom to Folly

BASED ON 1 KINGS 11:29-43

TROUBLE IS BREWING IN ISRAEL. HIGH TAXES ANGER THE PEOPLE. SOME EVEN TALK OF REVOLT. BUT KING SOLOMON REFUSES TO PAY ATTENTION TO ANY WARNING SIGNS. ONE DAY, AS THE KING'S LABOR FOREMAN, JEROBOAM, LEAVES JERUSALEM ...

JEROBOAM!
STOP! I HAVE A
MESSAGE FROM
GOD FOR YOU.

AHIJAH!

A MESSAGE
FROM GOD?
WHAT IS IT?
AND WHY ARE YOU
TEARING YOUR
ROBE?

THIS IS
HOW SOLOMON'S
KINGDOM WILL BE TORN
APART—BECAUSE HE
HAS TURNED AWAY
FROM GOD.

AHIJAH TEARS THE ROBE INTO 12 STRIPS.

HERE, TAKE THESE TEN PIECES. THEY REPRESENT THE TEN TRIBES OF ISRAEL THAT YOU'LL RULE OVER WHEN SOLOMON DIES. THE OTHER TWO TRIBES WILL BE GIVEN TO SOLOMON'S SON SO THAT GOD'S PROMISE TO DAVID WILL STILL BE FULFILLED.

SOLOMON FLIES INTO A RAGE WHEN HE HEARS ABOUT AHIJAH'S PROPHECY.

I MADE JEROBOAM A LEADER—AND NOW HE IS USING HIS POSITION TO TURN PEOPLE AGAINST ME. FIND HIM AND KILL HIM!

BUT FRIENDS WARN JEROBOAM, AND HE ESCAPES INTO EGYPT.

I'LL STAY HERE UNTIL SOLOMON DIES. THEN WE'LL SEE IF AHIJAH SPOKE THE TRUTH ABOUT MY RULING THE NORTHERN TRIBES OF ISRAEL.

REPORTS OF YOUR PEOPLE'S COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN REACHING US FOR SOME TIME.

BUT SOLOMON CONTINUES TO LIVE IN LUXURY—AND SO FAR REMOVED FROM HIS PEOPLE THAT THEIR COMPLAINTS DO NOT REACH HIM. HE EVEN IGNORES AHIJAH'S PROPHECY AND GOD'S WARNING THAT THE KINGDOM WILL BE DIVIDED BECAUSE HE WORSHIPS FALSE GODS.

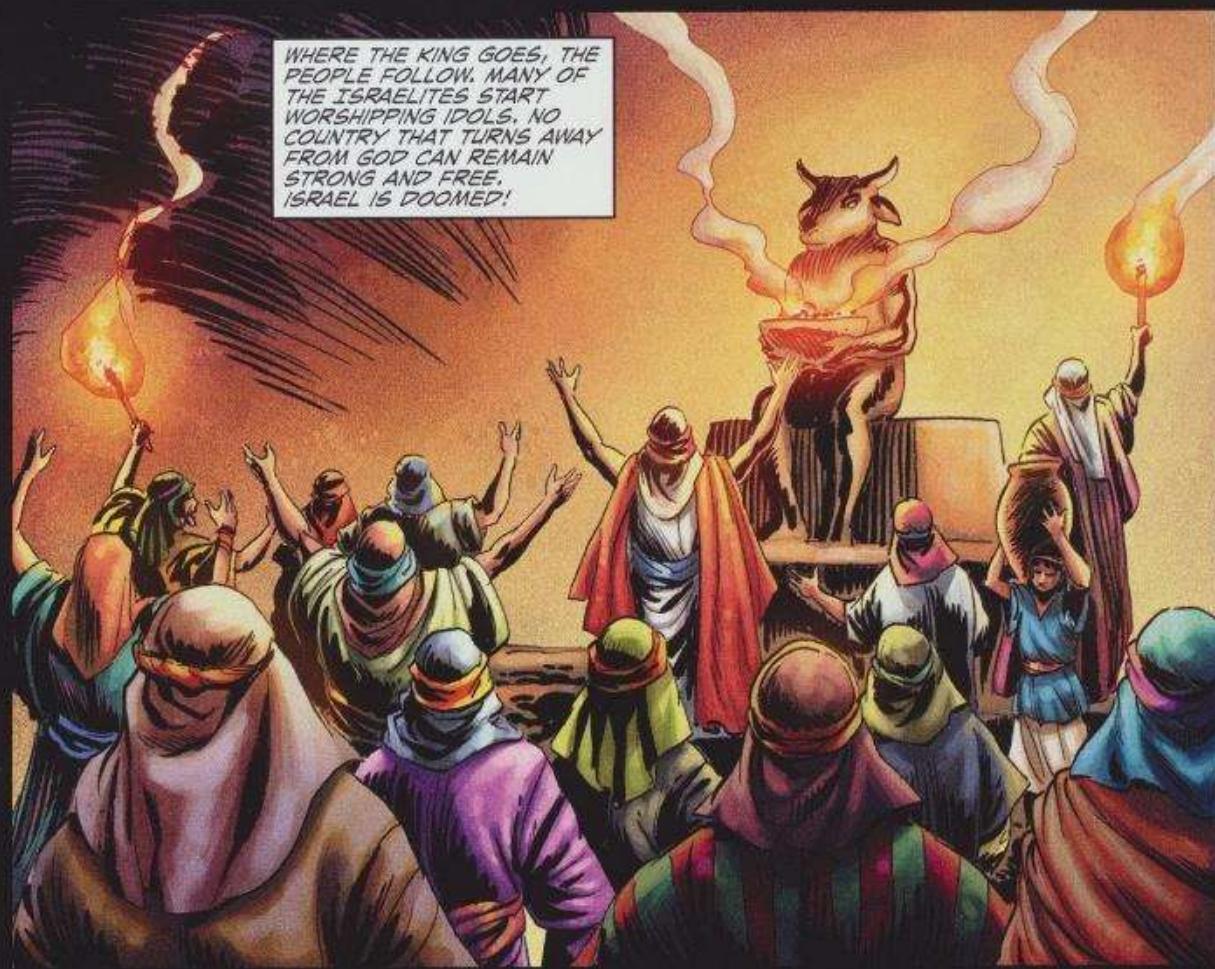
AT LAST, SOLOMON EVEN JOINS HIS FOREIGN WIVES IN THEIR WORSHIP OF HEATHEN IDOLS.

PLEASE PRAY TO MY GOD WITH ME, SOLOMON. IT WOULD PLEASE ME SO MUCH!

IT CAN'T HURT ANYTHING. I STILL PRAY EVERY DAY TO THE GOD OF ISRAEL.



WHERE THE KING GOES, THE PEOPLE FOLLOW. MANY OF THE ISRAELITES START WORSHIPPING IDOLS. NO COUNTRY THAT TURNS AWAY FROM GOD CAN REMAIN STRONG AND FREE. ISRAEL IS DOOMED!



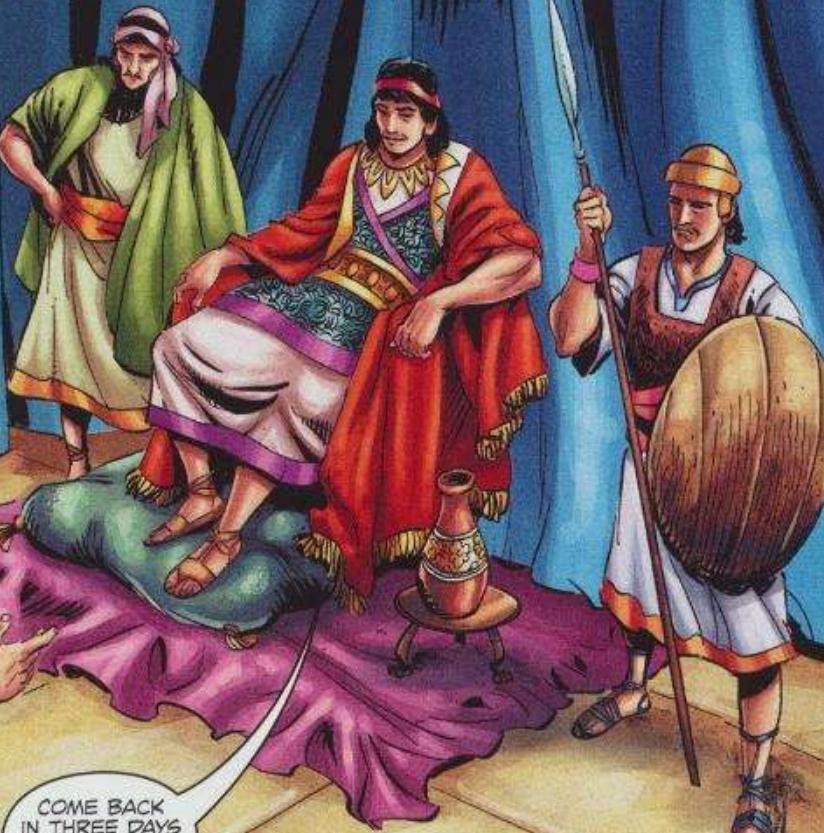
EVENTUALLY SOLOMON DIES. WITH GOD'S HELP, HE HAD BUILT ISRAEL INTO A STRONG NATION. BUT IN HIS GREED FOR MORE WEALTH AND POWER, HE TURNED AWAY FROM GOD—AND DAVID'S ONCE-MIGHTY KINGDOM WILL NOW CRUMBLE ...

A Kingdom Torn in Two

BASED ON 1 KINGS 12:1-27

NOW THAT KING SOLOMON HAS DIED, HIS SON REHOBOAM HAS GONE TO SHECHEM TO BE CROWNED KING OF ALL ISRAEL. THE NORTHERN TRIBES OF ISRAEL HAVE BROUGHT THEIR LEADER, JEROBOAM, BACK FROM HIS EXILE IN EGYPT TO PLEAD THEIR CASE BEFORE THE NEW KING.

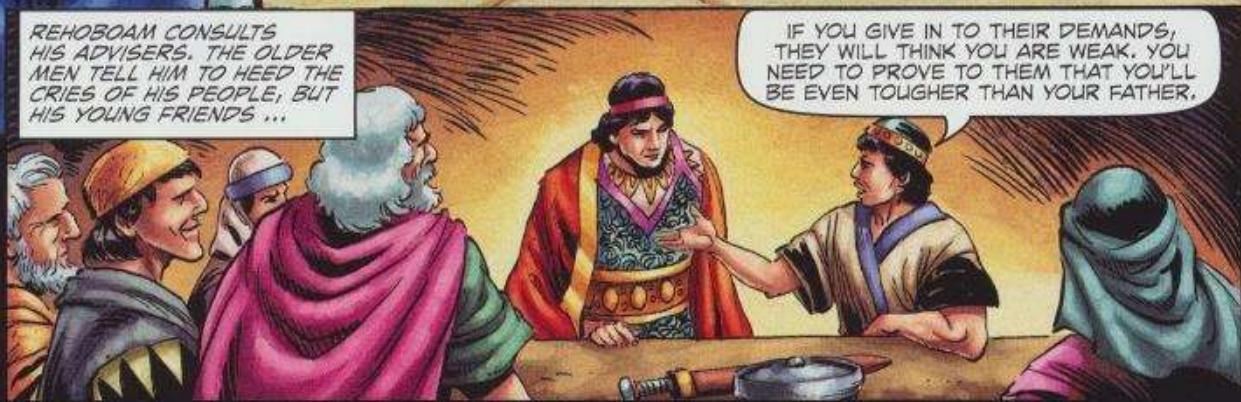
YOUR FATHER FORCED US TO PAY HEAVY TAXES AND WORK HARD ON HIS BUILDING PROJECTS. WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO CARRY SUCH BURDENS! LIGHTEN OUR LOAD AND WE WILL SERVE YOU FAITHFULLY, BUT ...



COME BACK IN THREE DAYS AND I WILL GIVE YOU MY ANSWER.

REHOBOAM CONSULTS HIS ADVISERS. THE OLDER MEN TELL HIM TO HEED THE CRIES OF HIS PEOPLE, BUT HIS YOUNG FRIENDS ...

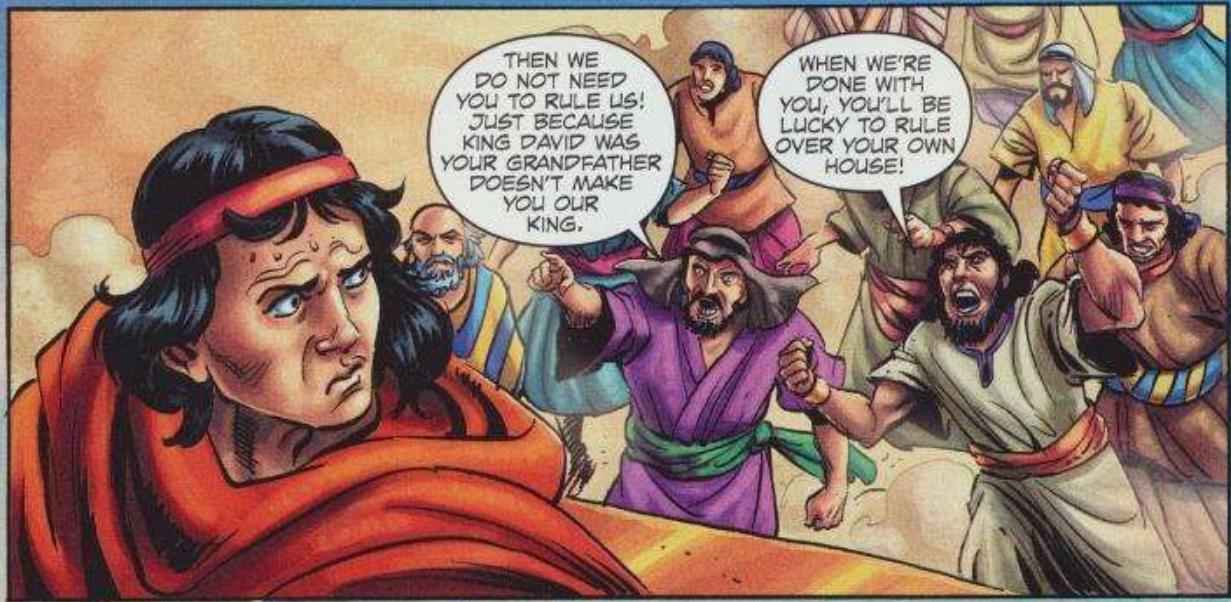
IF YOU GIVE IN TO THEIR DEMANDS, THEY WILL THINK YOU ARE WEAK. YOU NEED TO PROVE TO THEM THAT YOU'LL BE EVEN TOUGHER THAN YOUR FATHER.



THREE DAYS LATER, THE PEOPLE RETURN FOR THE KING'S ANSWER. BUT THEY ARE DISAPPOINTED.

MY FATHER MADE YOUR YOKE HEAVY? I'LL MAKE IT HEAVIER! MY FATHER WHIPPED YOU? I'LL WHIP YOU WITH SCORPIONS!

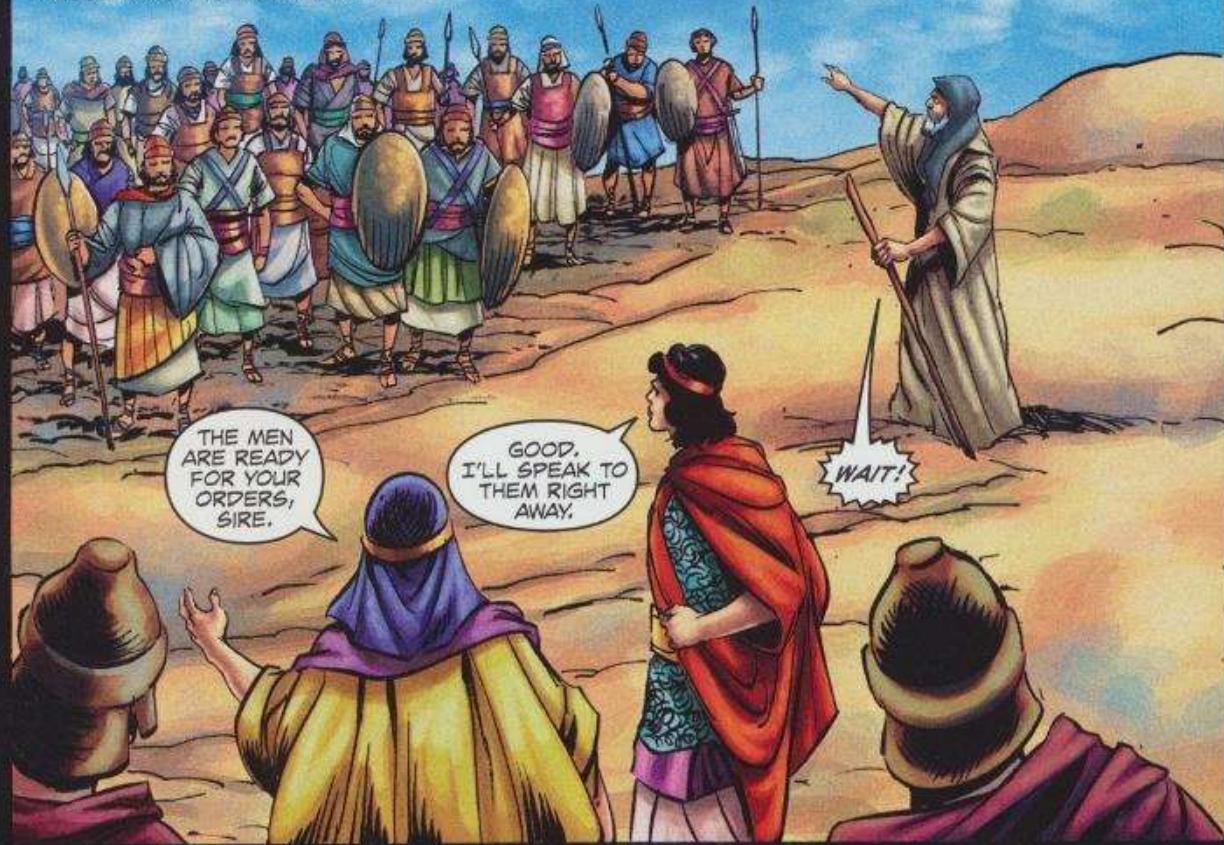


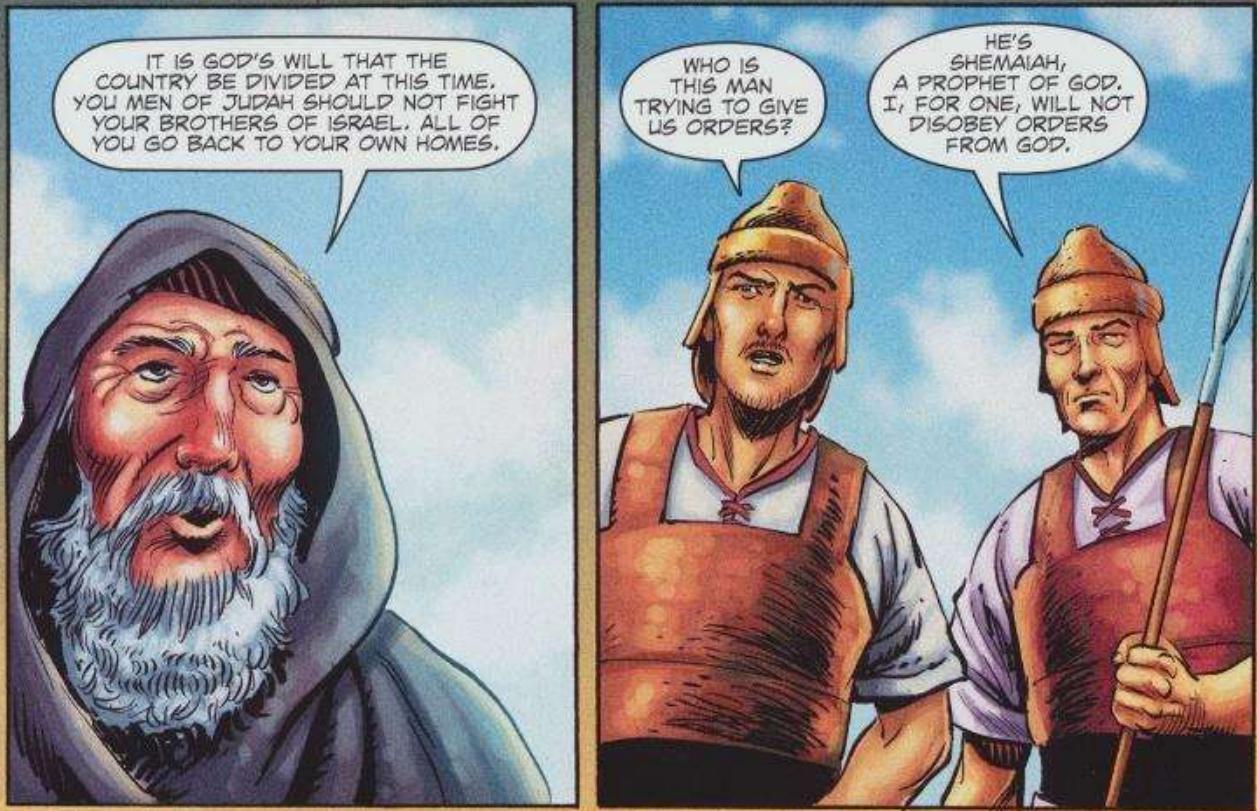


REHOBOAM'S ARROGANT WORDS SPARK THE REBELLION GOD PROMISED. JUST AS THE PROPHET AHIJAH HAD SAID, TEN TRIBES OF ISRAEL BREAK FROM THE KINGDOM AND MAKE JEROBOAM THEIR KING. IN FEAR FOR HIS LIFE, REHOBOAM RACES BACK TO JERUSALEM AND THE TRIBE OF JUDAH THAT REMAINS LOYAL TO HIM.



IN JERUSALEM, REHOBOAM CALLS UP HIS ARMY TO FIGHT AGAINST THE NORTHERN TRIBES THAT HAVE REVOLTED.





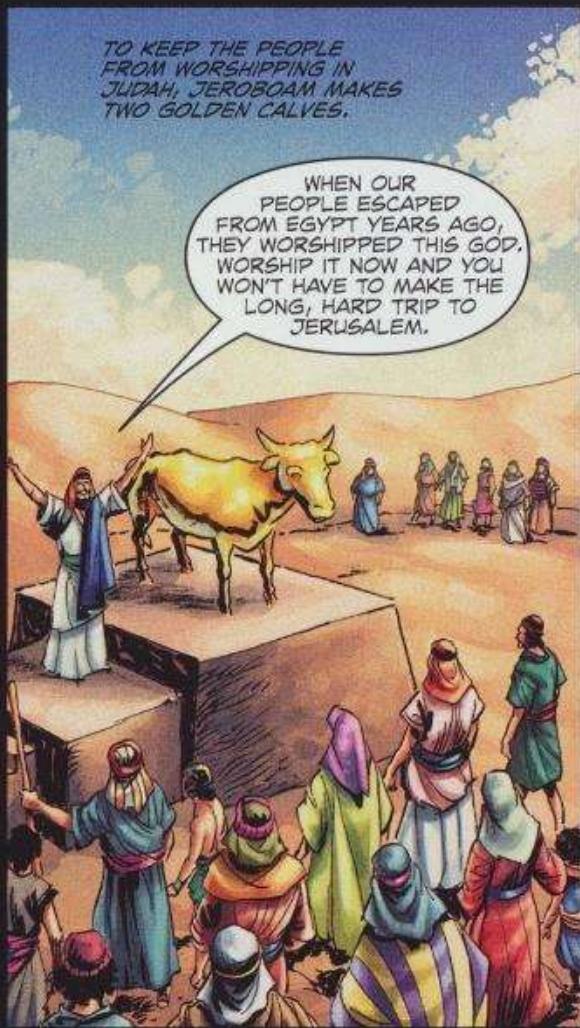
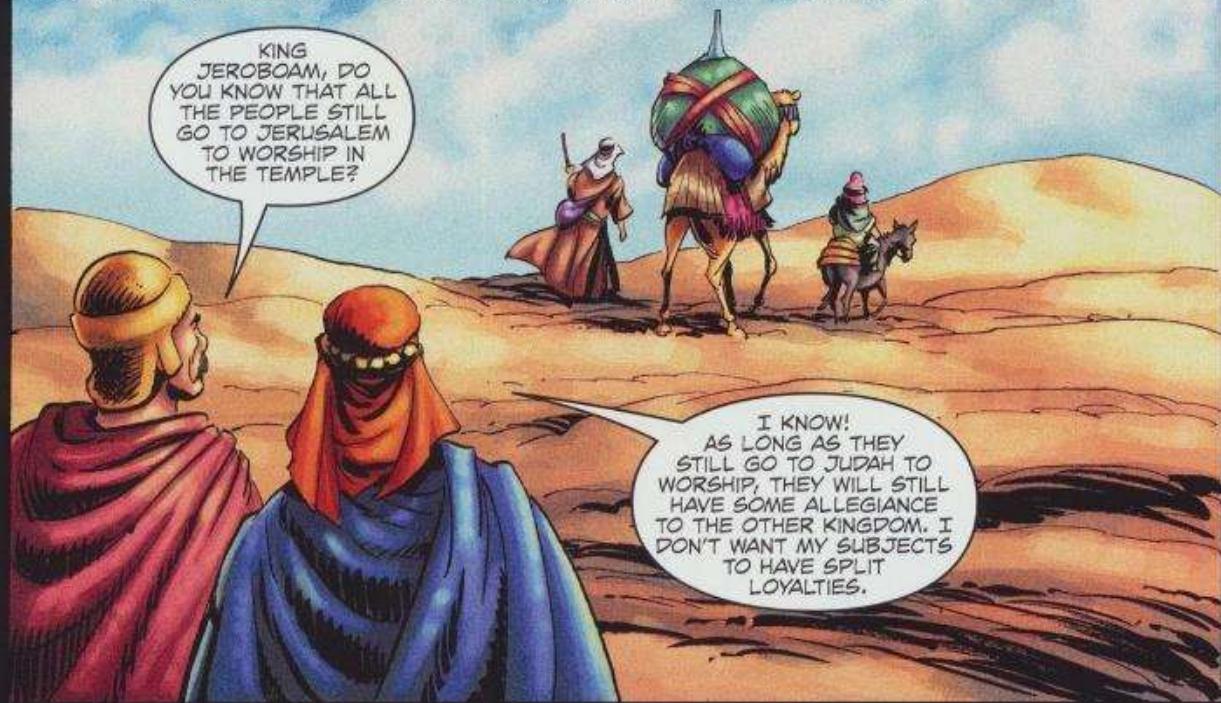
THE ARMY BREAKS UP AND GOES HOME. THE 12 TRIBES—WHICH HAD BEEN UNITED UNDER THE KINGSHIPS OF SAUL, DAVID, AND SOLOMON—are now split between the Northern Tribes of Israel and the Southern Tribe of Judah.



A Bad Start for Israel

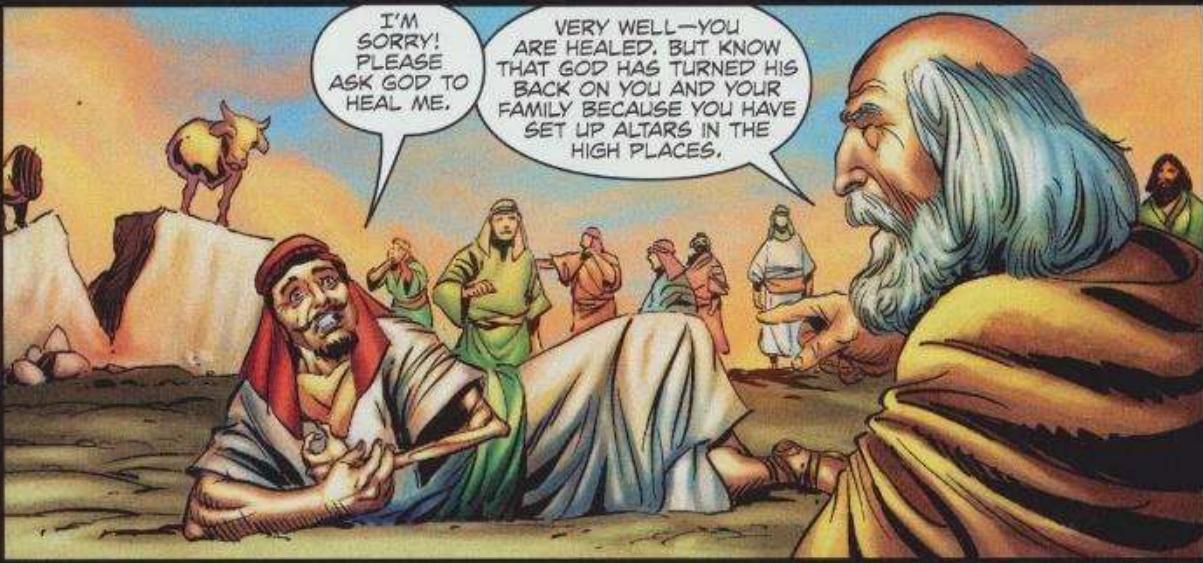
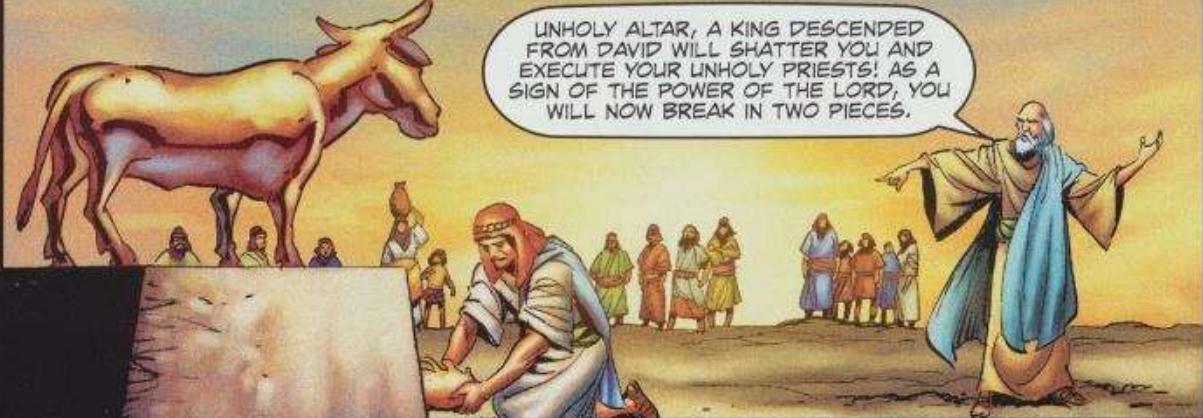
BASED ON 1 KINGS 12:25-14:20

JEROBOAM HAS BEEN MADE KING OVER THE NORTHERN TRIBES KNOWN AS ISRAEL, AND KING REHOBOAM RULES THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM OF JUDAH. UNFORTUNATELY FOR JEROBOAM, THE HOLY TEMPLE OF HIS PEOPLE IS NOT IN ISRAEL—IT'S IN JUDAH.



ALTHOUGH JEROBOAM WAS CHOSEN BY GOD, HIS IDOL WORSHIP WASN'T. A MAN OF GOD FROM JUDAH COMES TO BETHEL TO PROPHESY AGAINST JEROBOAM. AS AN INSULT TO THE KING, HE GIVES HIS PROPHECY DIRECTLY TO THE SYMBOL OF THE KING'S BLASPHEMY.

UNHOLY ALTAR, A KING DESCENDED FROM DAVID WILL SHATTER YOU AND EXECUTE YOUR UNHOLY PRIESTS! AS A SIGN OF THE POWER OF THE LORD, YOU WILL NOW BREAK IN TWO PIECES.



AFTER BEING HEALED, JEROBOAM RULES FOR MANY YEARS, LINETVENTFULLY, HE HOPES THAT MAYBE GOD'S ANGER HAS ABATED, BUT THEN ONE DAY ...

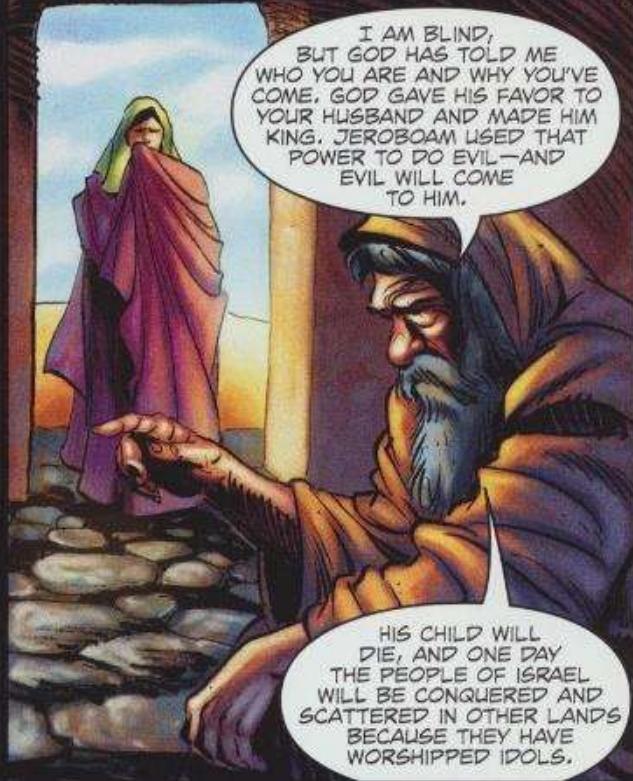
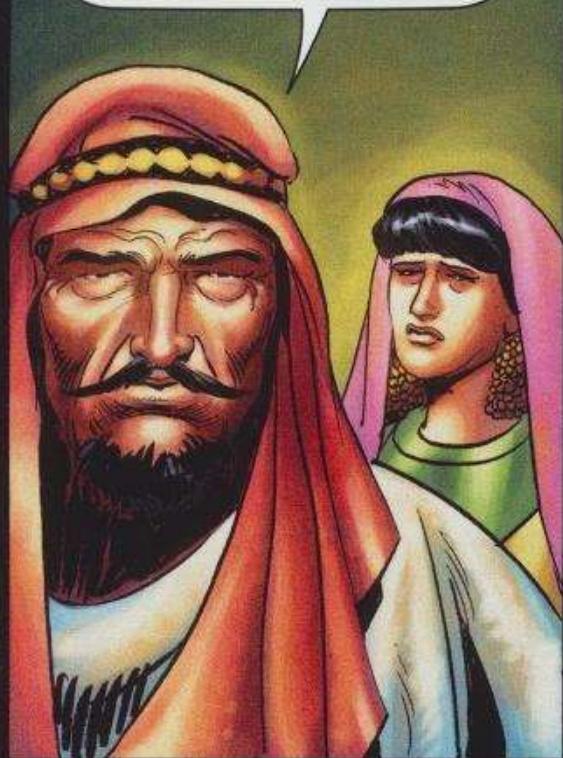
OUR SON IS VERY ILL, JEROBOAM. I'M WORRIED.

SO AM I. IF ONLY I KNEW ... BUT NONE OF GOD'S PROPHETS WILL SPEAK TO ME ANYMORE.



AHIJAH THE PROPHET! HE TOLD ME I WOULD BE KING. HE KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN. DISGUISE YOURSELF SO THAT HE WON'T RECOGNIZE YOU AND SEE IF YOU CAN GET HIM TO PROPHESY ABOUT OUR SON.

IMMEDIATELY THE QUEEN DISGUISES HERSELF AND SETS OUT FOR AHIJAH'S HOUSE, BUT AS SHE STEPS THROUGH THE DOOR ...



HIS CHILD WILL DIE, AND ONE DAY THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WILL BE CONQUERED AND SCATTERED IN OTHER LANDS BECAUSE THEY HAVE WORSHIPPED IDOLS.

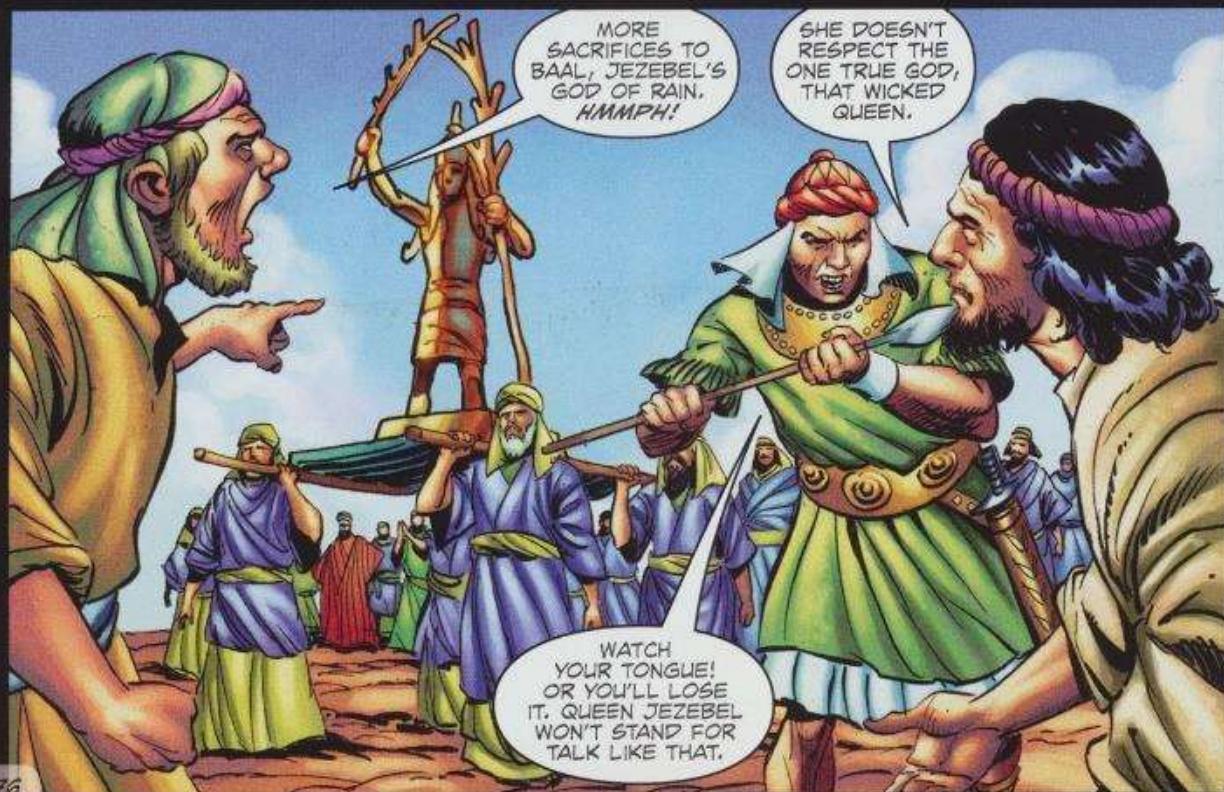
THE FIRST PART OF AHIJAH'S PROPHECY COMES TRUE RIGHT AWAY. WHEN THE QUEEN GETS HOME, SHE FINDS HER SON DEAD! BUT JEROBOAM IS NOT WISE ENOUGH TO HEED THIS WARNING. HE CONTINUES TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE IN IDOL WORSHIP, AND ISRAEL NEVER RETURNS TO A PURE WORSHIP OF THE LORD. AS A RESULT, THE KINGS OF ISRAEL ARE PLAGUED BY WAR, BLOODSHED, AND ASSASSINATION. FOR 40 YEARS, EACH KING IS MORE EVIL THAN THE ONE BEFORE HIM. THEN KING AHAB COMES TO THE THRONE, AND HE IS EVEN WORSE ...

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.



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.

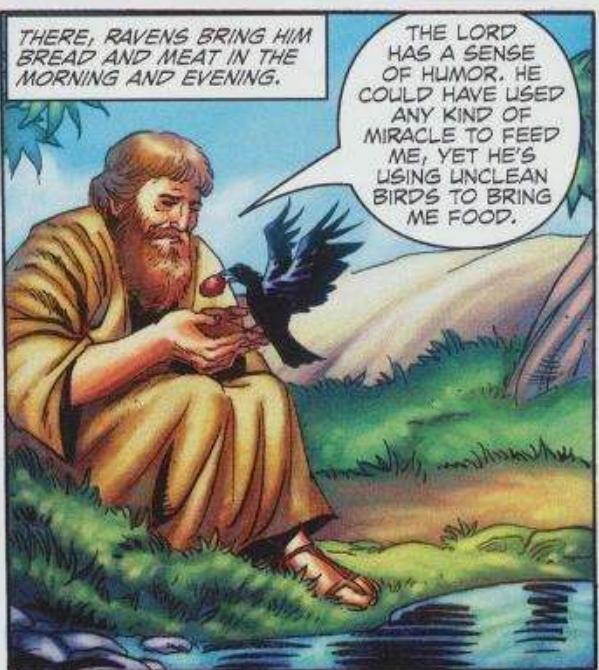
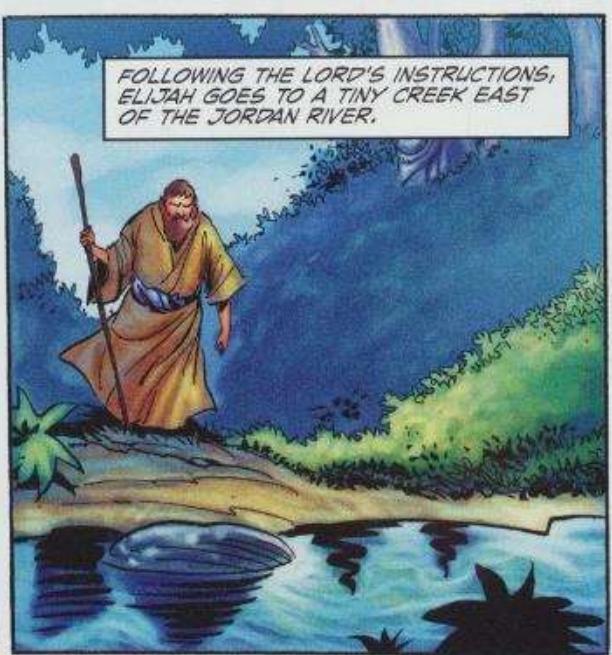
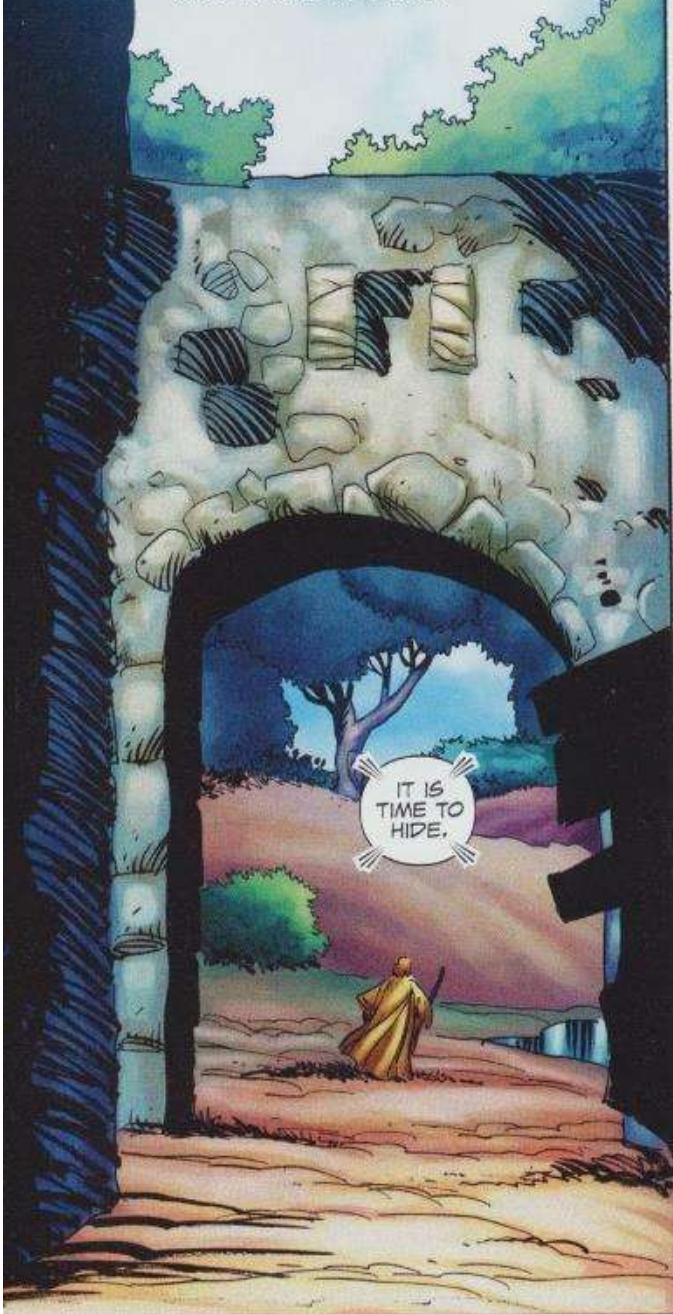
EVEN AS SHE GIVES HER ORDERS, A STRANGER IN TRAVEL-WORN CLOTHES APPEARS BEFORE THE THRONE.

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.



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.



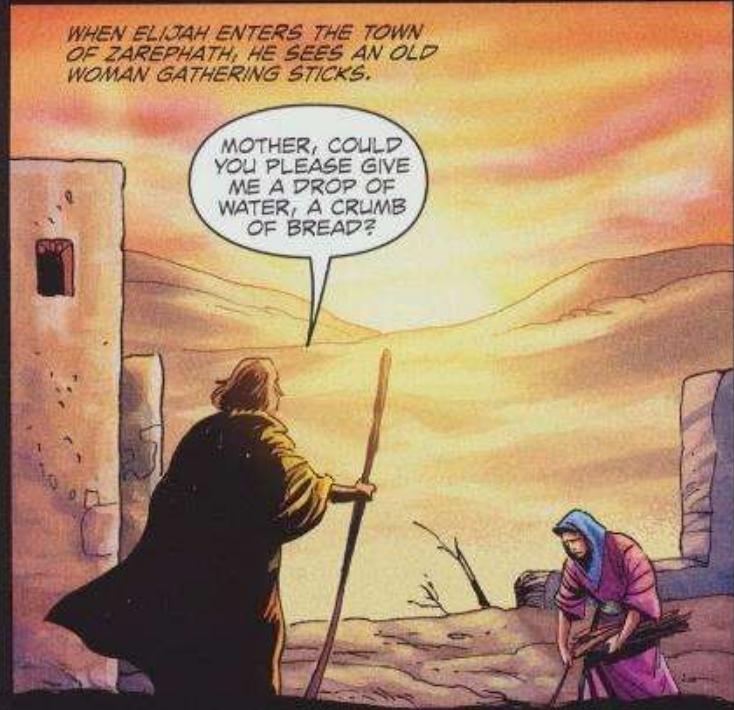
GO HIDE IN JEZEBEL'S HOMELAND. I HAVE CHOSEN A WIDOW WHO WILL PROVIDE FOR YOU.

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?

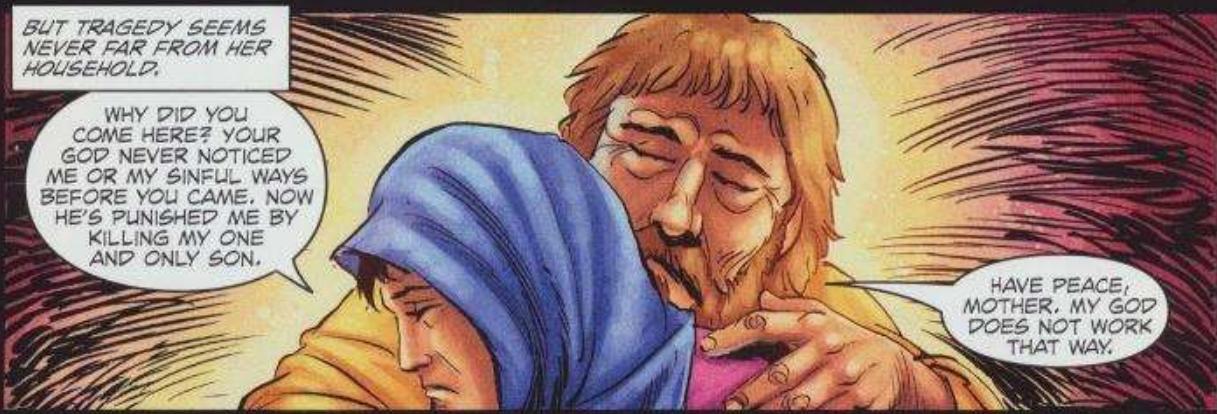
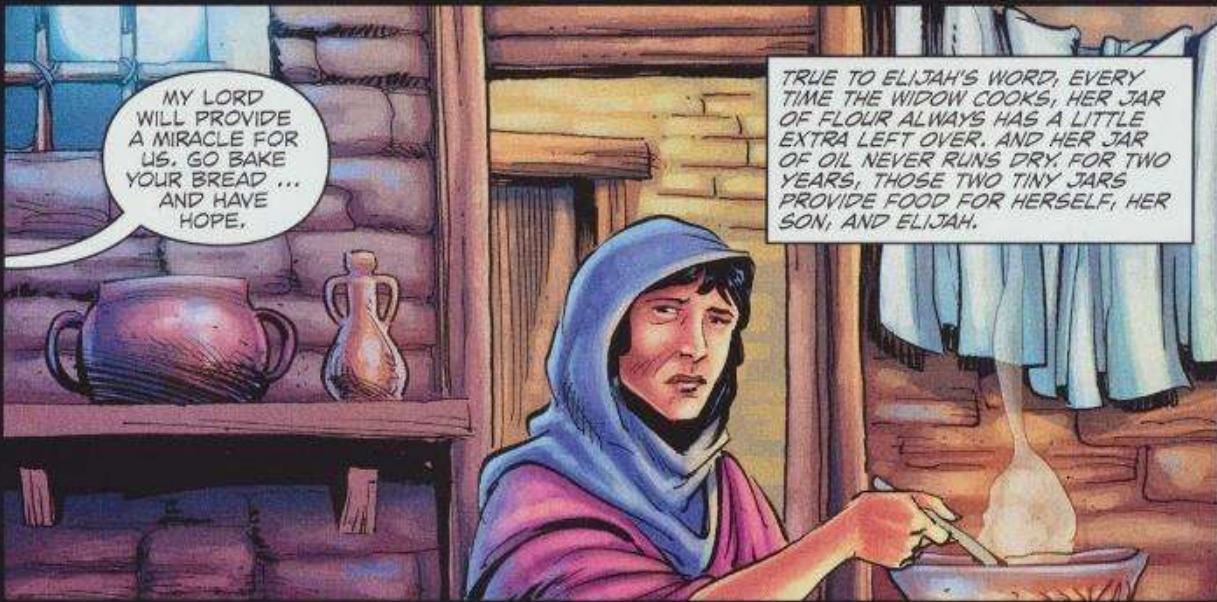


IN DESPAIR, THE WOMAN ANSWERS HIM BLUNTLY.

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.



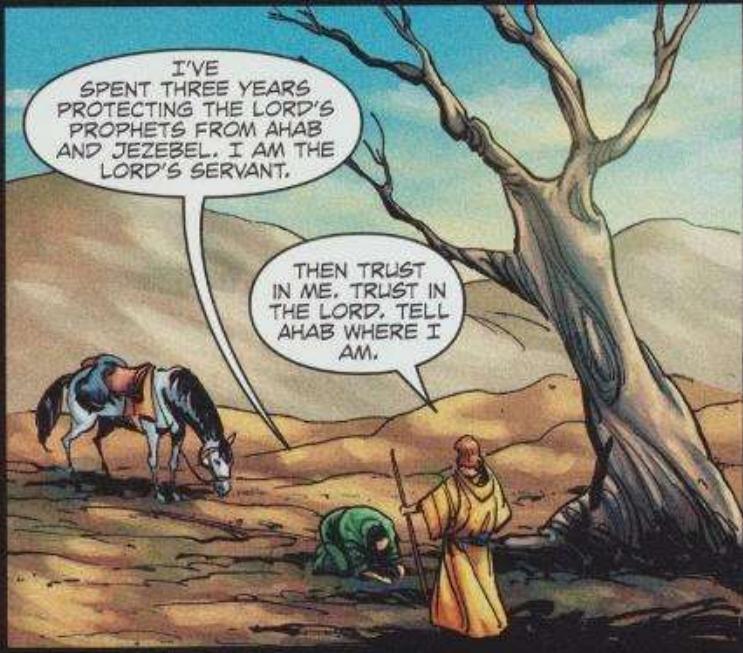
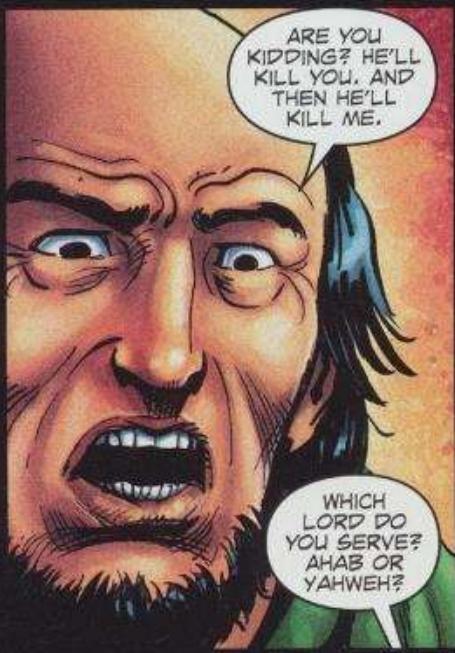
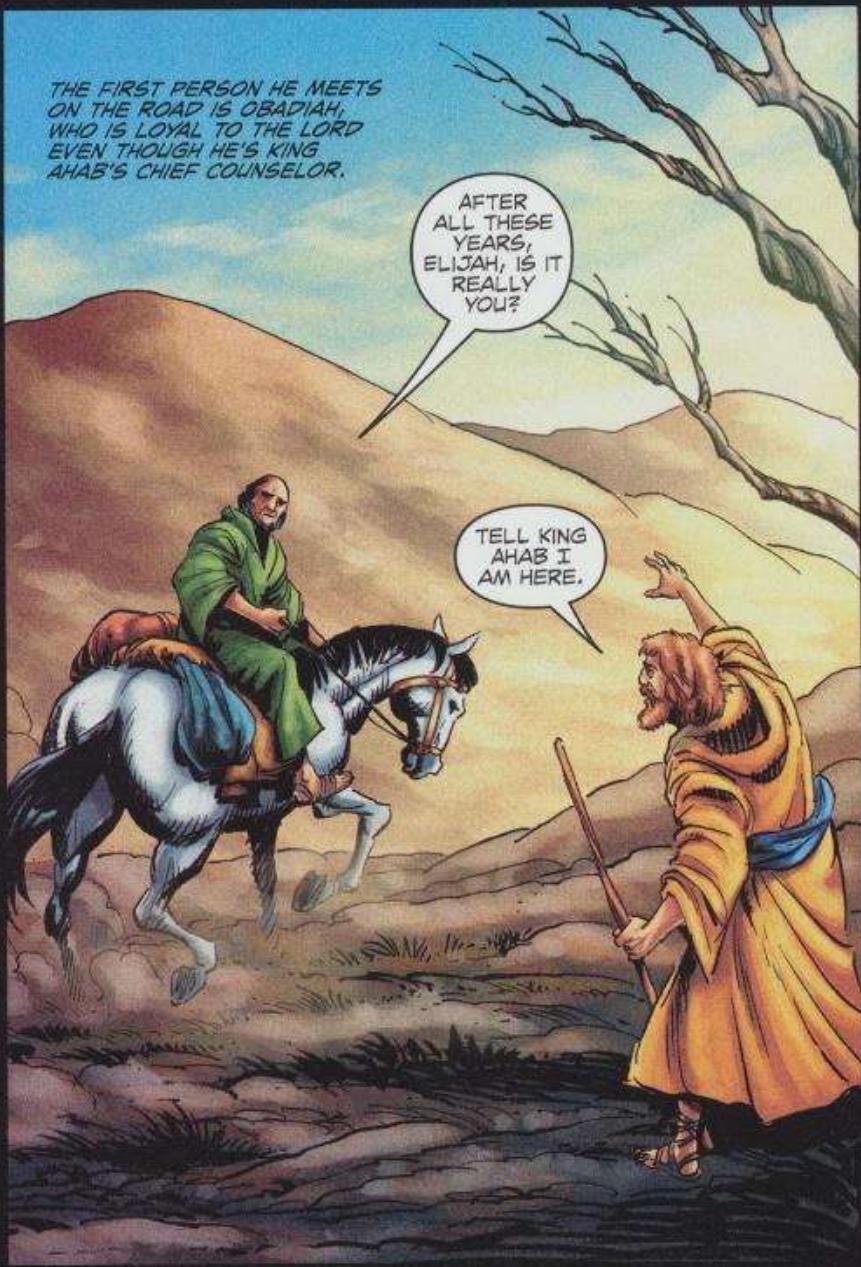
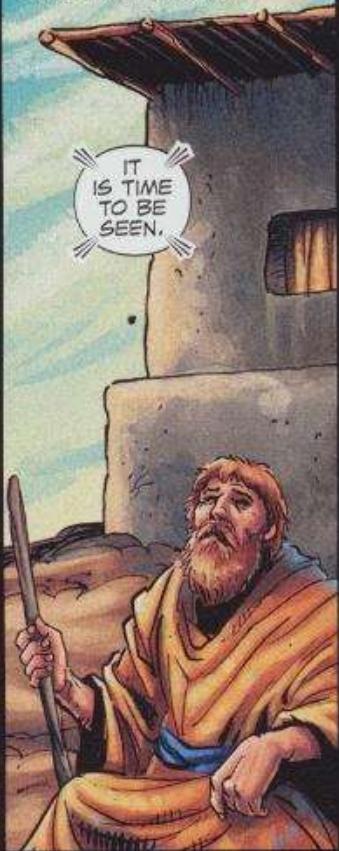


Battle of the Gods

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.

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.



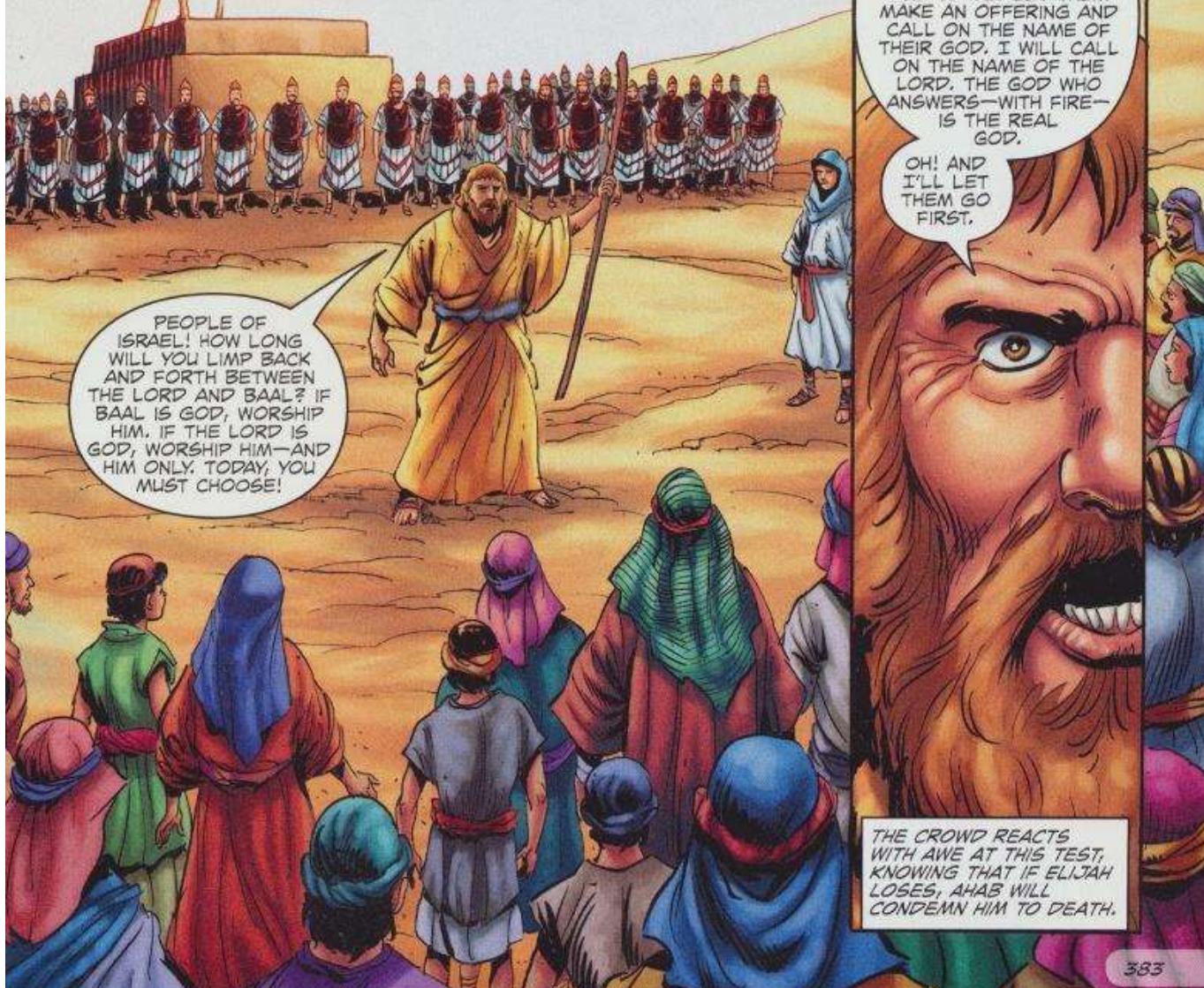
WHEN OBADIAH REPORTS BACK TO AHAB, THE KING WASTES NO TIME IN GALLOPING OFF TO CONFRONT ELIJAH.

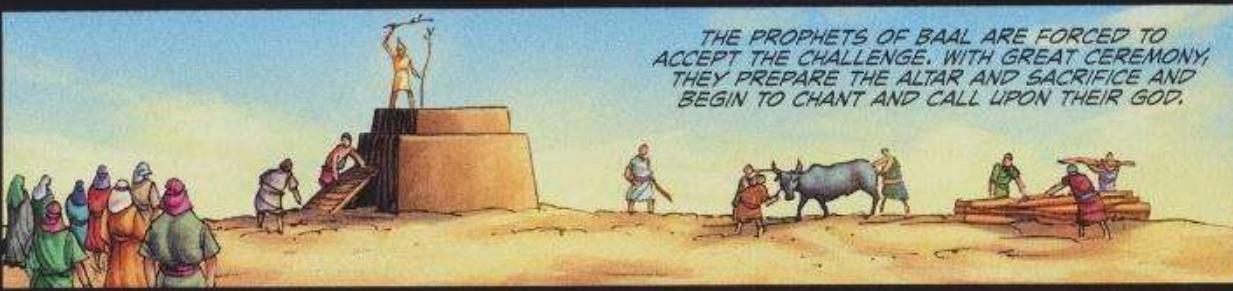
TROUBLEMAKER!

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.

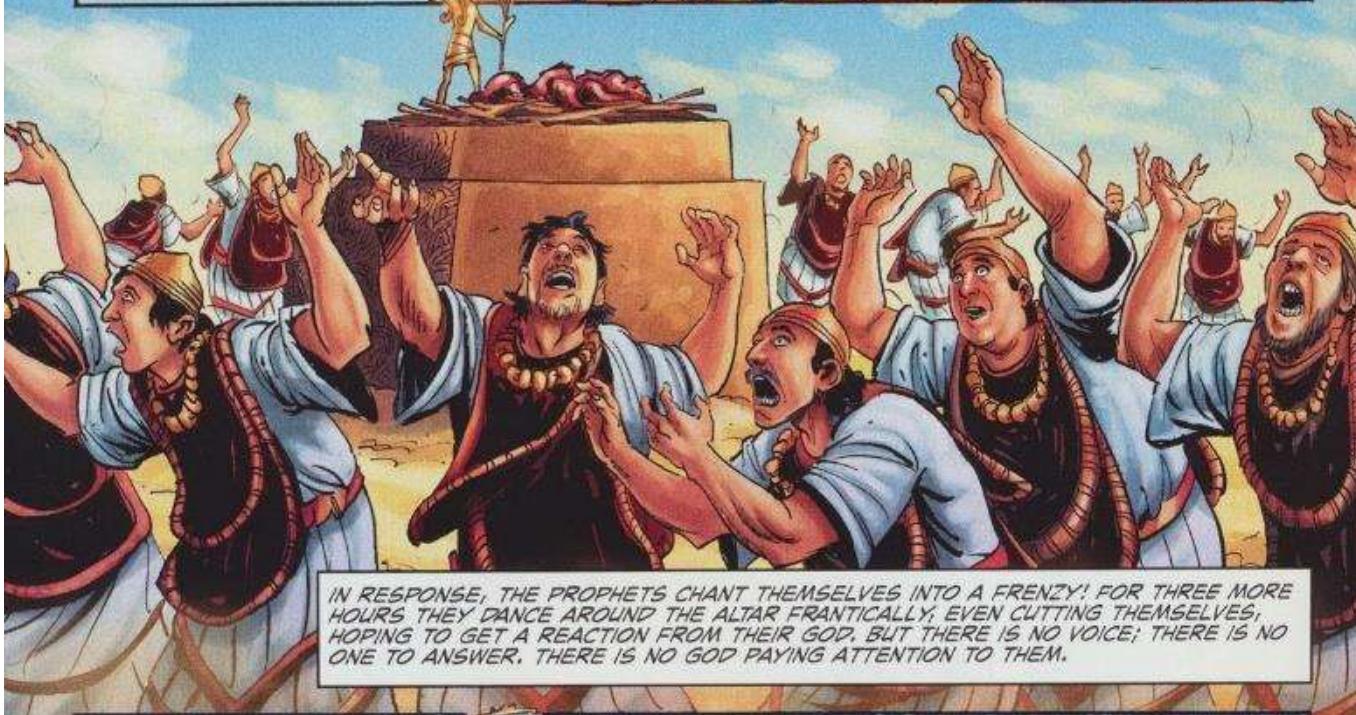


AHAB IS HAPPY WITH THIS PROPOSITION, SINCE MOUNT CARMEL IS CONSIDERED THE SACRED DWELLING OF BAAL. HE BRINGS ALL THE PROPHETS OF BAAL—450 OF THEM—to meet Elijah, and thousands of Israelites follow them to see what will happen. The morning dawns on a great crowd gathered on the mountain by the sea.

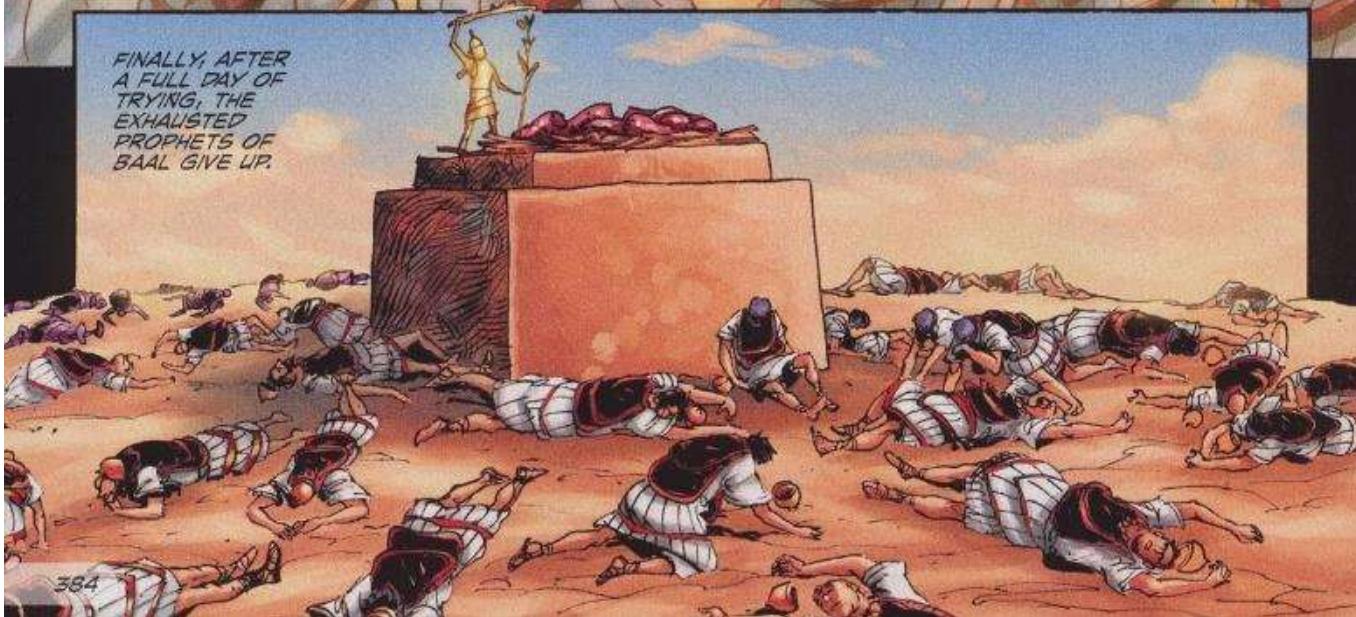




THE PROPHETS OF BAAL ARE FORCED TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE. WITH GREAT CEREMONY, THEY PREPARE THE ALTAR AND SACRIFICE AND BEGIN TO CHANT AND CALL UPON THEIR GOD.



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.

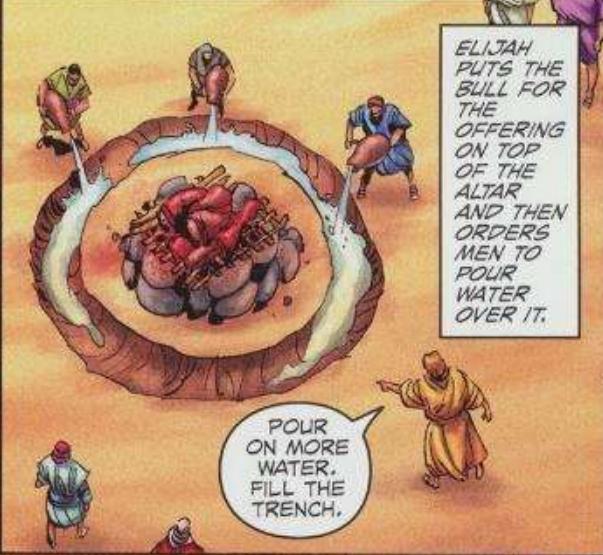
NOW IT IS ELIJAH'S TURN. AS THE DAYLIGHT DWINDLES, HE CALLS THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL TO COME NEAR. THEN HE TAKES 12 STONES, ONE FOR EACH TRIBE OF ISRAEL, AND USES THEM TO REBUILD AN ALTAR TO GOD.



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-
KROOM

THE
LORD IS
GOD!!

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



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 OUTFRUN 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.



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.

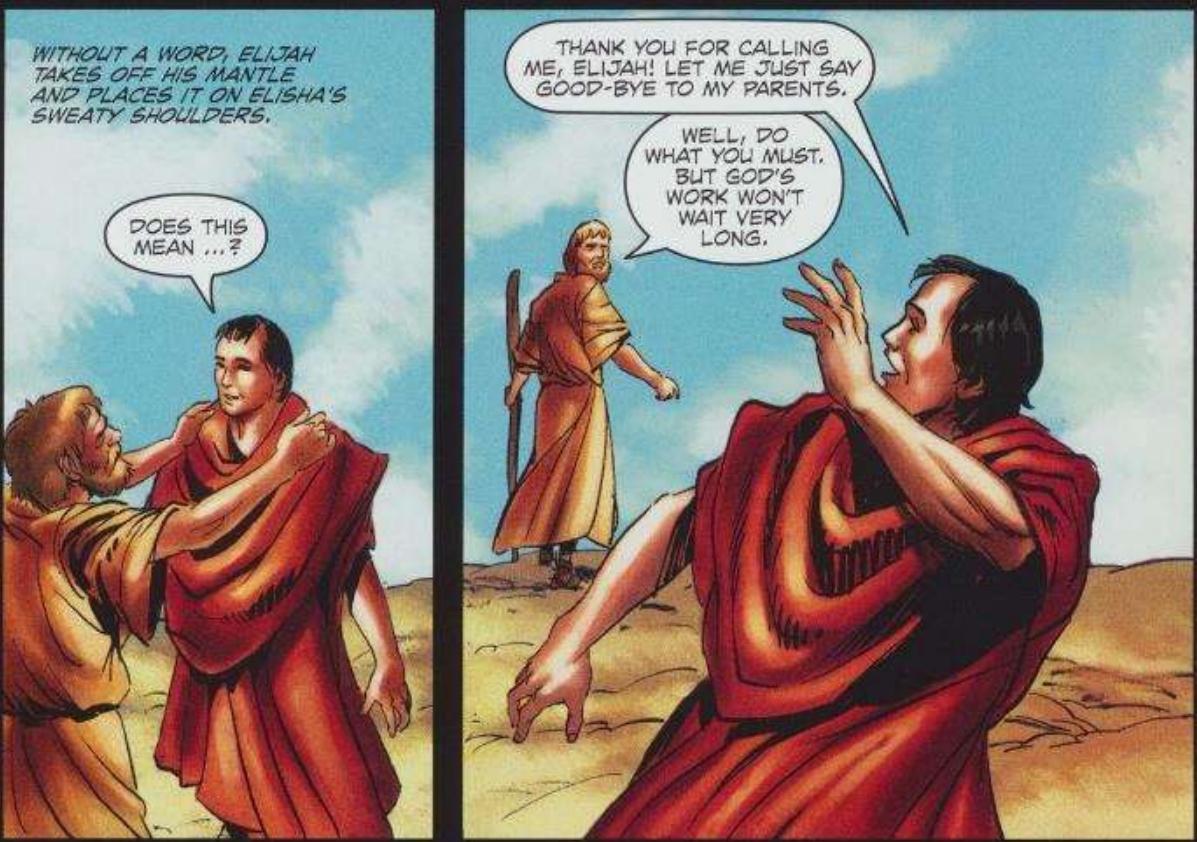
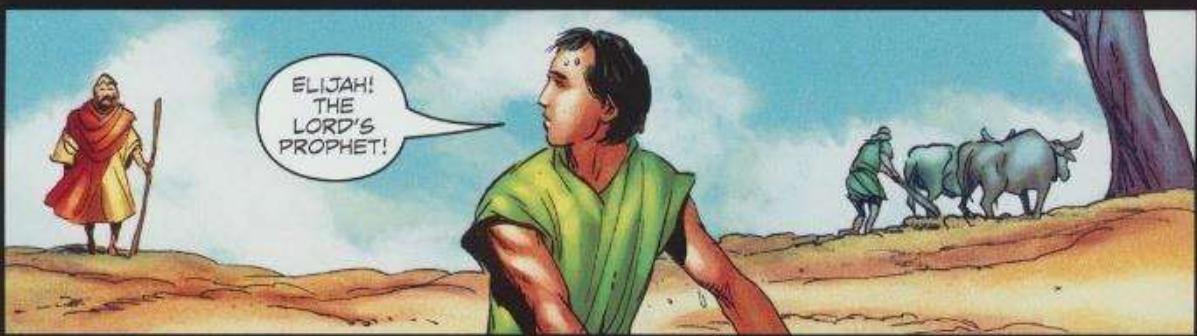
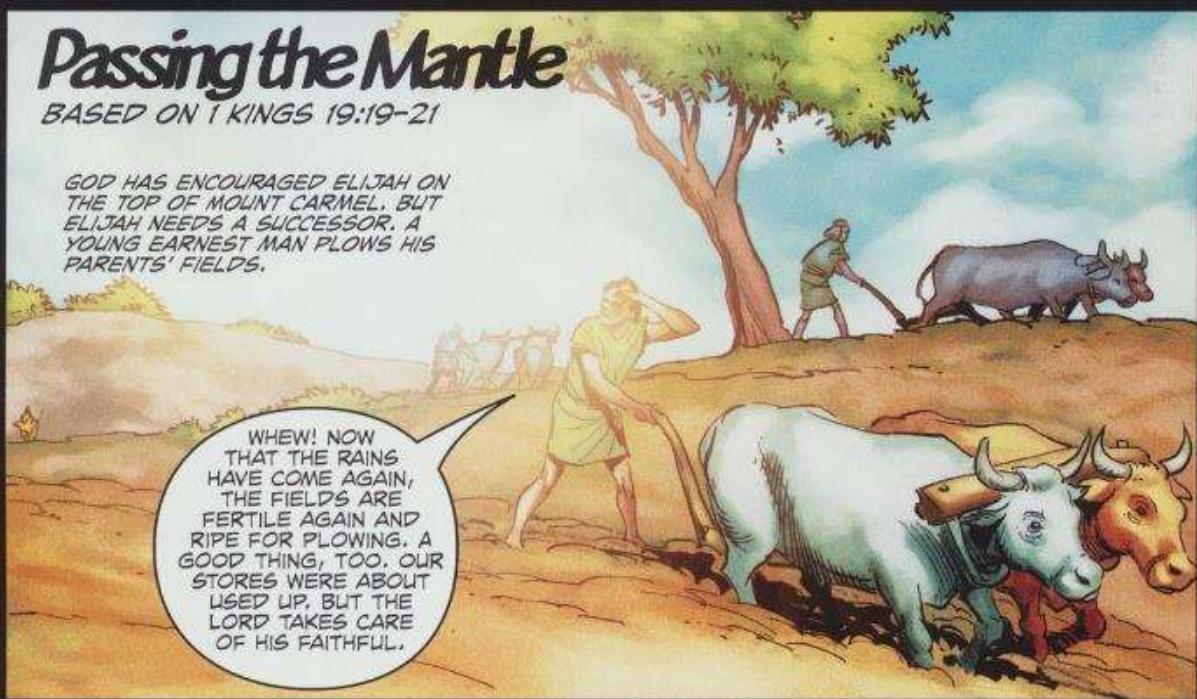
YOU ARE NOT
ALONE. I HAVE KEPT
A REMNANT IN ISRAEL,
SEVERAL THOUSAND
STRONG, WHO HAVE NEVER
BOWED TO BAAL. AND I
WILL BRING FORTH THOSE
WHO WILL HELP FORWARD
MY PLAN, TO EASE YOUR
BURDEN. GO TO THE
FOREIGN COUNTRY OF ARAM
AND ANOINT HAZAEL TO BE
THEIR NEXT KING. THEN GO
FIND JEHU, A CAPTAIN IN
ISRAEL'S 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.



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.

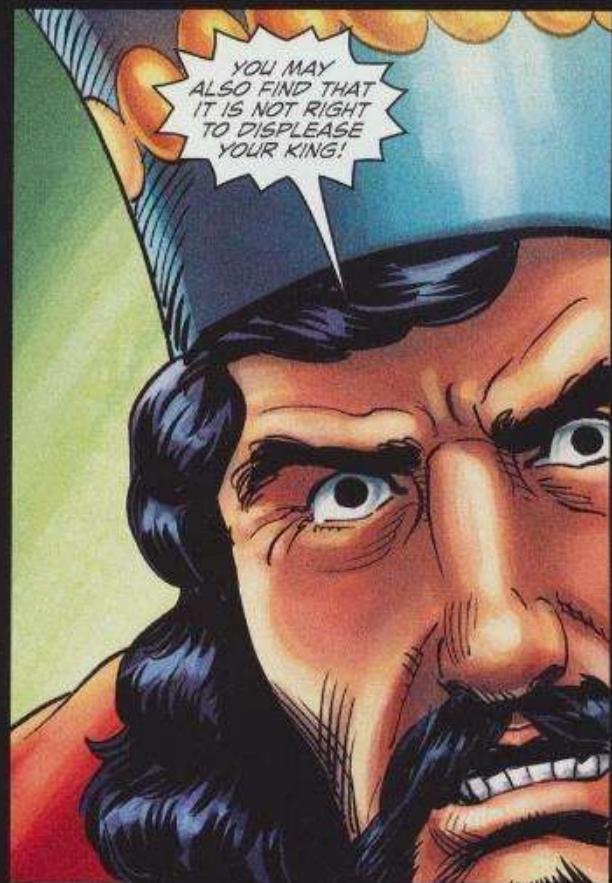
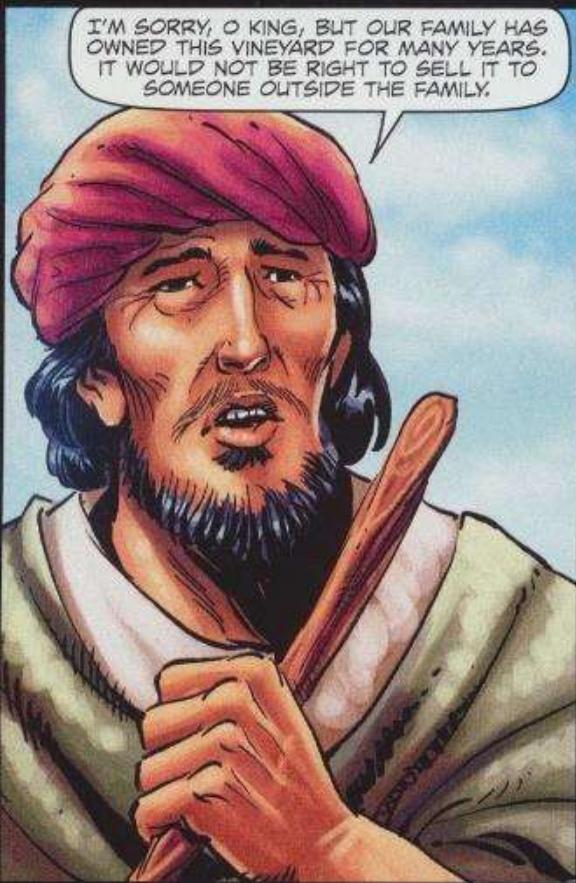
WHEN HE HAS MADE HIS FAREWELLS, ELISHA SETS OUT TO FOLLOW ELIJAH.

The Grapes of Envy

BASED ON 1 KINGS 21

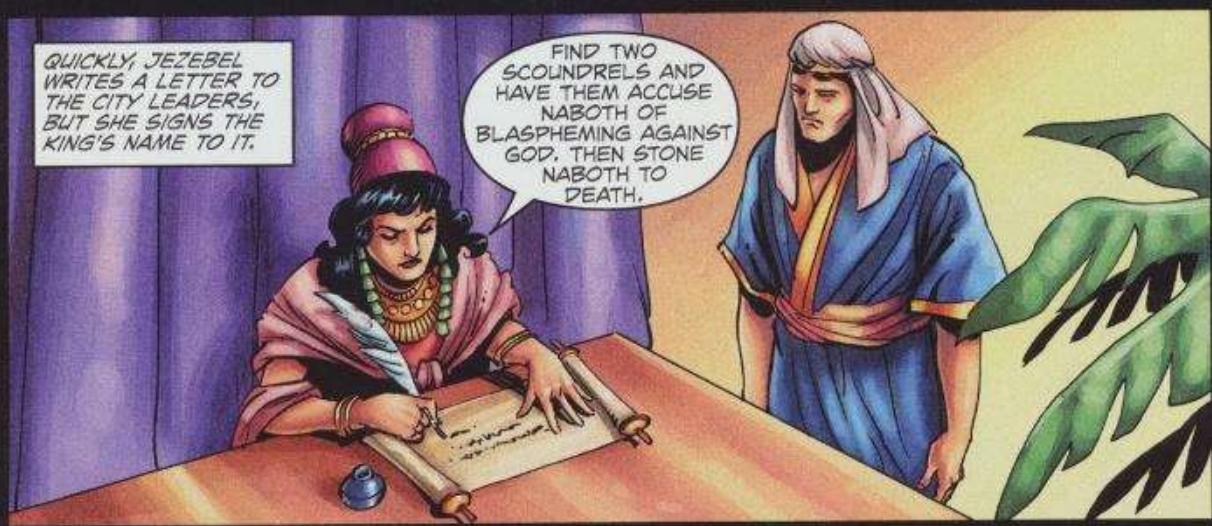
WHILE ELIJAH AND ELISHA DO GOD'S WORK IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, KING AHAB MAKES A SURPRISE VISIT TO ONE OF HIS SUBJECTS.

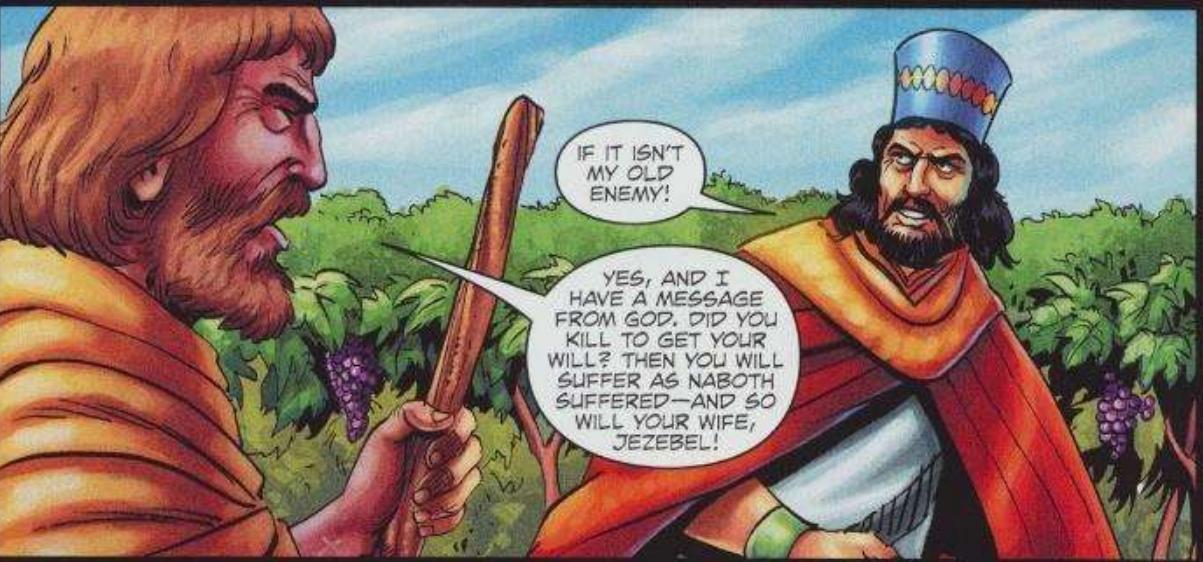
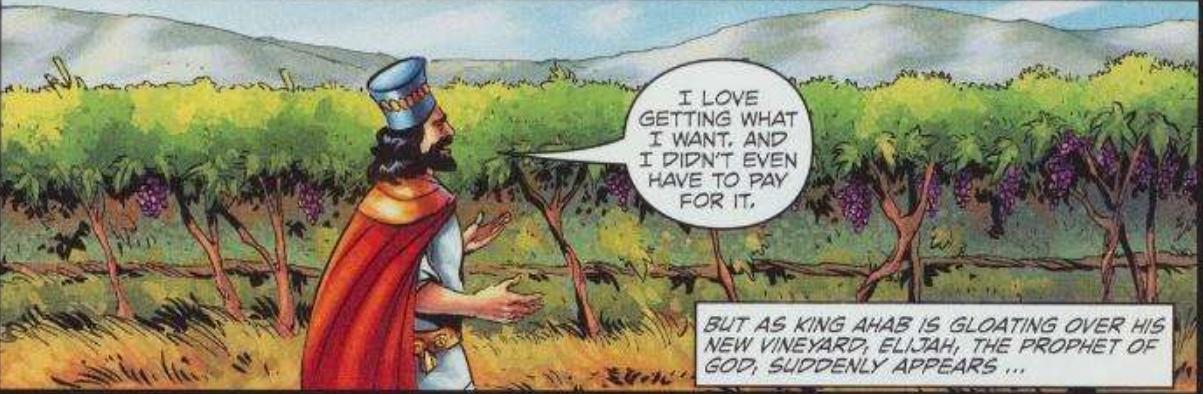
NABOTH, I WANT TO BUY THIS VINEYARD. OR, IF YOU LIKE, I'LL GIVE YOU ANOTHER ONE IN EXCHANGE FOR IT.



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







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.

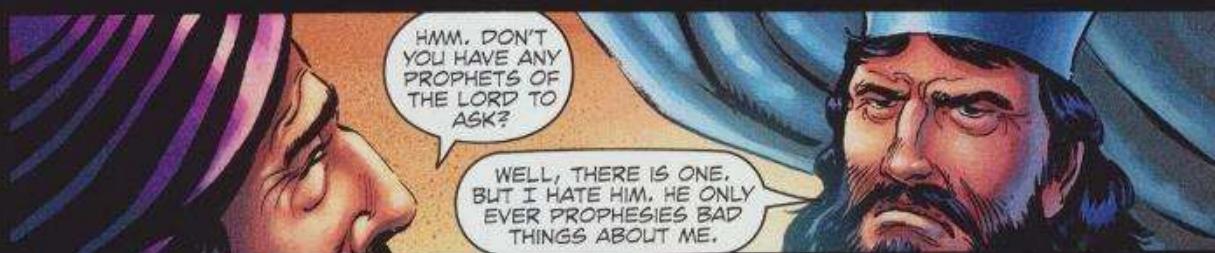
ATTACK AND BE VICTORIOUS!

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



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

WELL, THERE IS ONE. BUT I HATE HIM. HE ONLY EVER PROPHESIES 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!

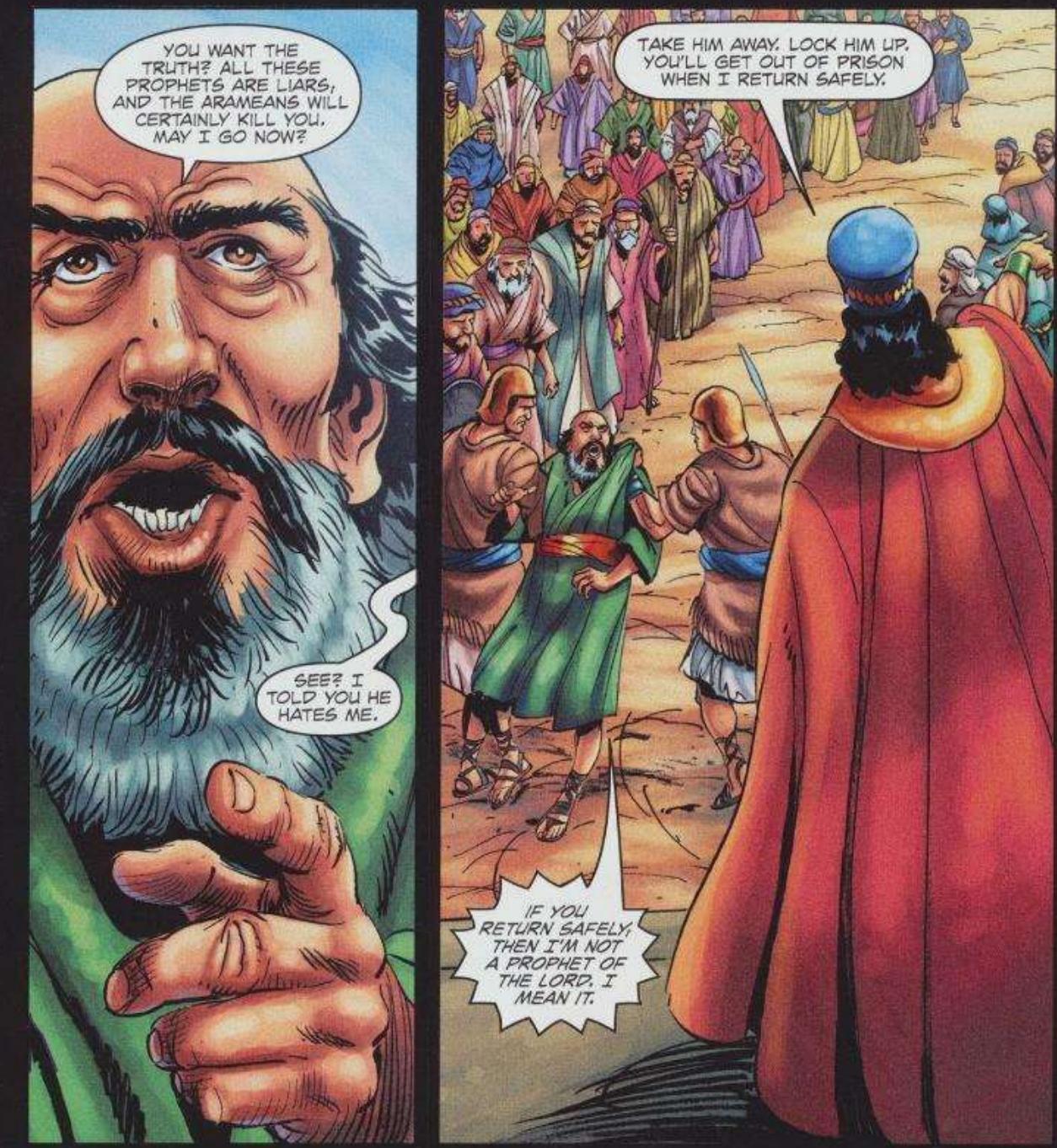
DON'T BE
SARCASTIC.
TELL THE
THE TRUTH!

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 JEHOSHAPHAT, 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.

THE LORD HAS TOLD ME TO GO TO THE JORDAN. STAY HERE, ELISHA.

NO, AS LONG AS YOU LIVE, I WILL FOLLOW YOU, ELIJAH.

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.

