

The Greek Divide

BASED ON ACTS 14:20-15:1

THE NEXT DAY, PAUL AND BARNABAS LEAVE FOR DERBE, WHERE MANY PEOPLE BECOME CHRISTIANS. BUT PAUL'S EYES TURN BACK TOWARD ANTIOPH AND THE CHURCH THAT SENT THEM OUT ...

THE SHORTEST WAY HOME IS THROUGH TARSUS.

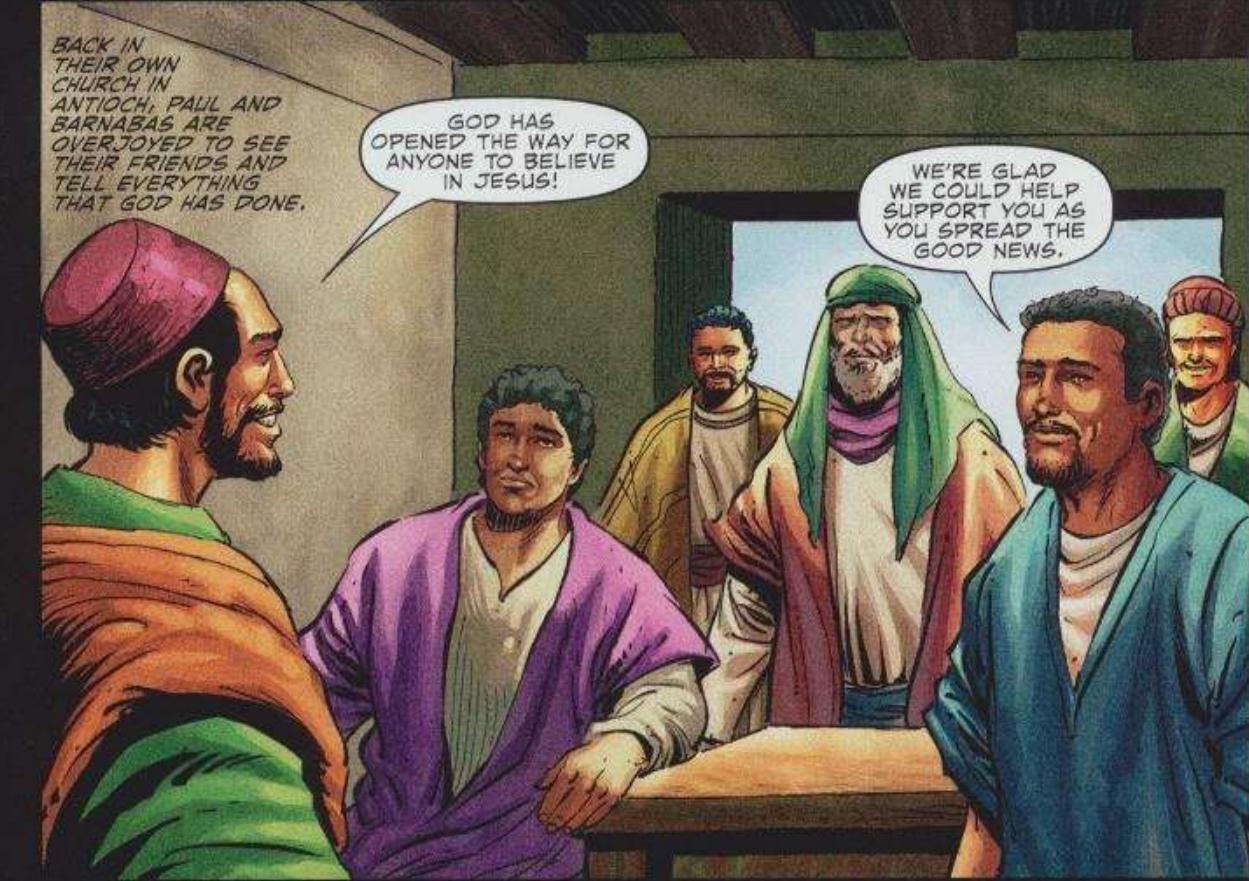
NO, WE MUST GO BACK THE WAY WE CAME SO WE CAN CHECK ON THE BELIEVERS AND SEE HOW THEIR CHURCHES ARE DOING.



BACK IN THEIR OWN CHURCH IN ANTIOPH, PAUL AND BARNABAS ARE OVERJOYED TO SEE THEIR FRIENDS AND TELL EVERYTHING THAT GOD HAS DONE.

GOD HAS OPENED THE WAY FOR ANYONE TO BELIEVE IN JESUS!

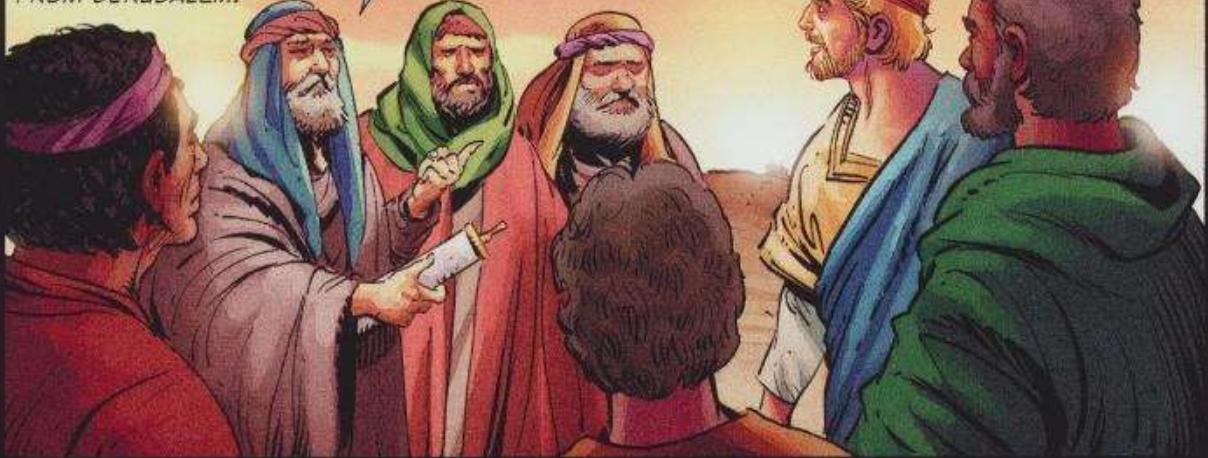
WE'RE GLAD WE COULD HELP SUPPORT YOU AS YOU SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS.



WITH PAUL AND BARNABAS AS LEADERS, THE CHURCH IN ANTIOTH GROWS IN SIZE AND INFLUENCE. BUT ONE DAY A GROUP OF CHRISTIANS ARRIVES FROM JERUSALEM.

YOU GENTILES CANNOT BECOME CHRISTIANS UNLESS YOU ALSO OBEY OUR JEWISH LAWS.

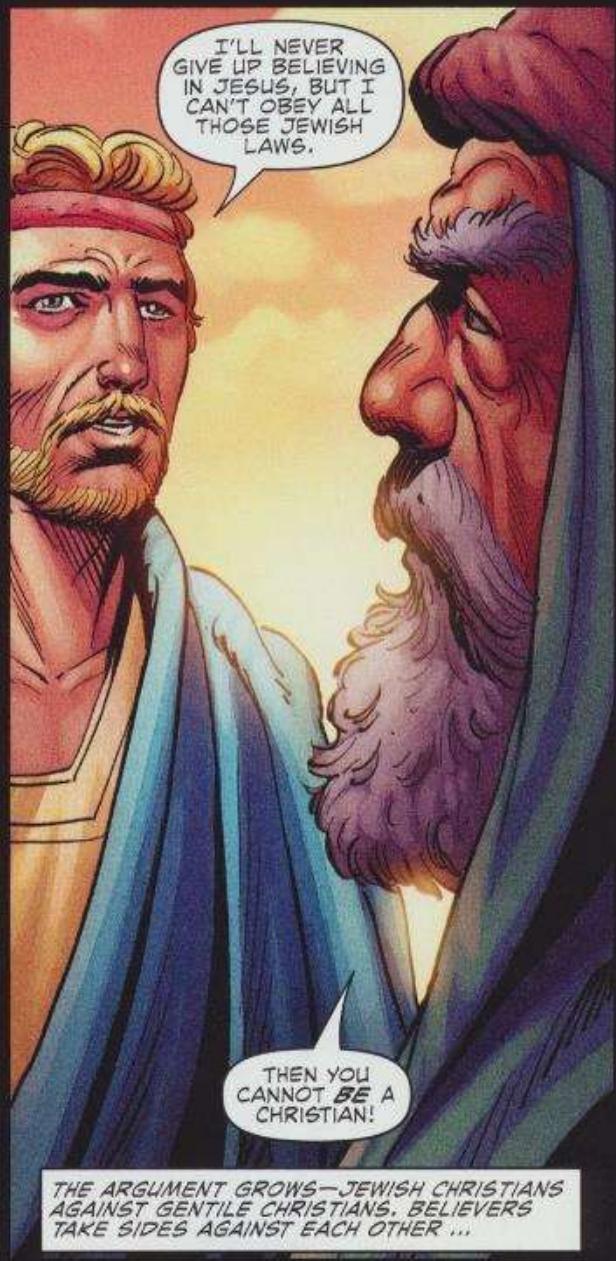
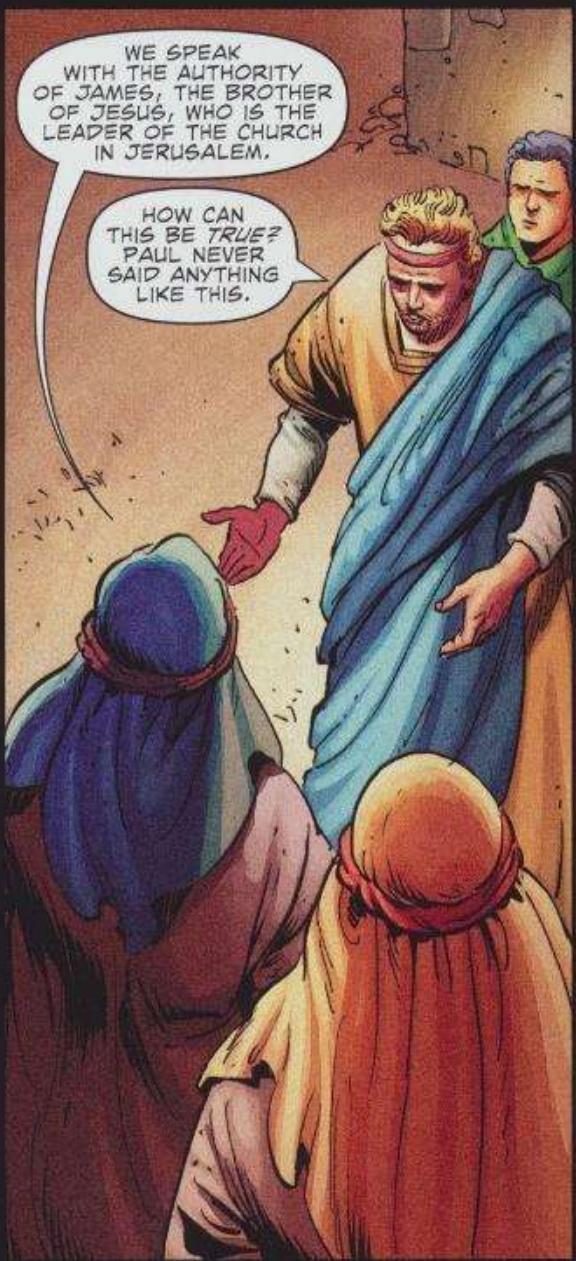
WHAT? WHO MADE THAT RULE?



WE SPEAK WITH THE AUTHORITY OF JAMES, THE BROTHER OF JESUS, WHO IS THE LEADER OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM.

HOW CAN THIS BE TRUE? PAUL NEVER SAID ANYTHING LIKE THIS.

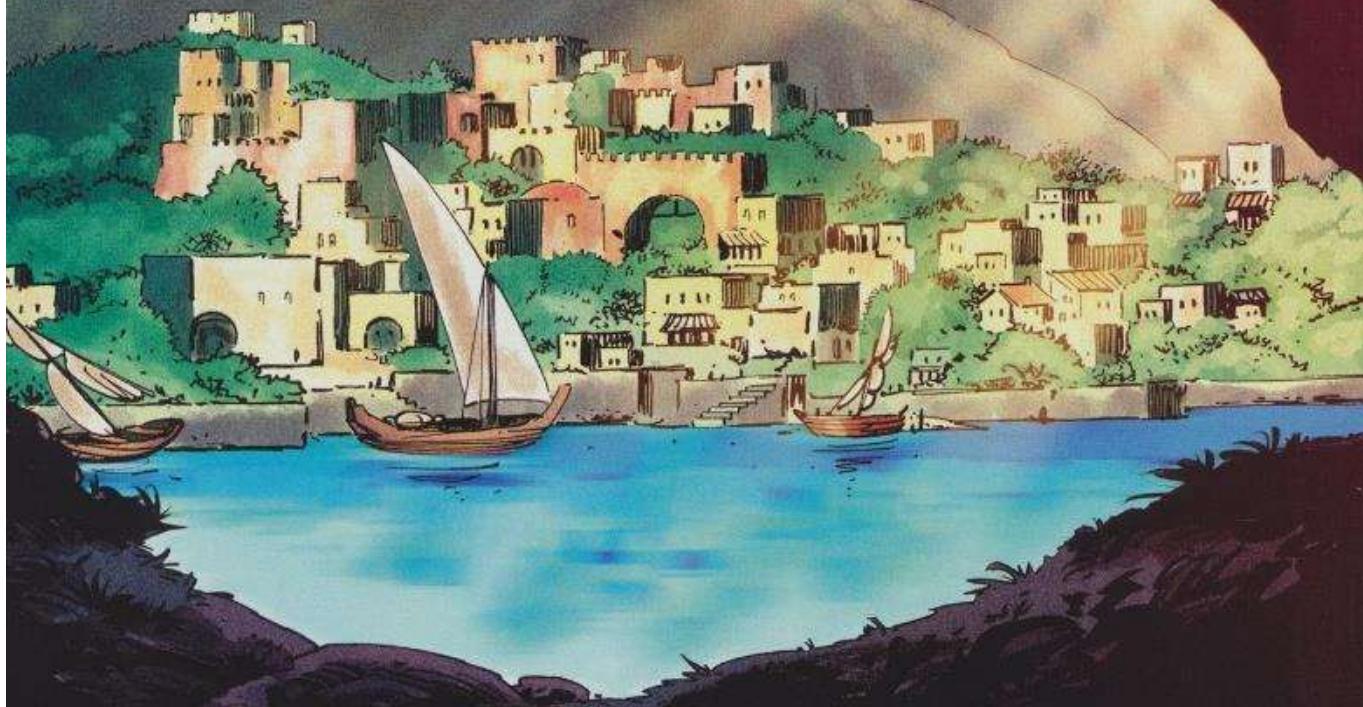
I'LL NEVER GIVE UP BELIEVING IN JESUS, BUT I CAN'T OBEY ALL THOSE JEWISH LAWS.



Jerusalem Council

BASED ON ACTS 15:1-35; GALATIANS

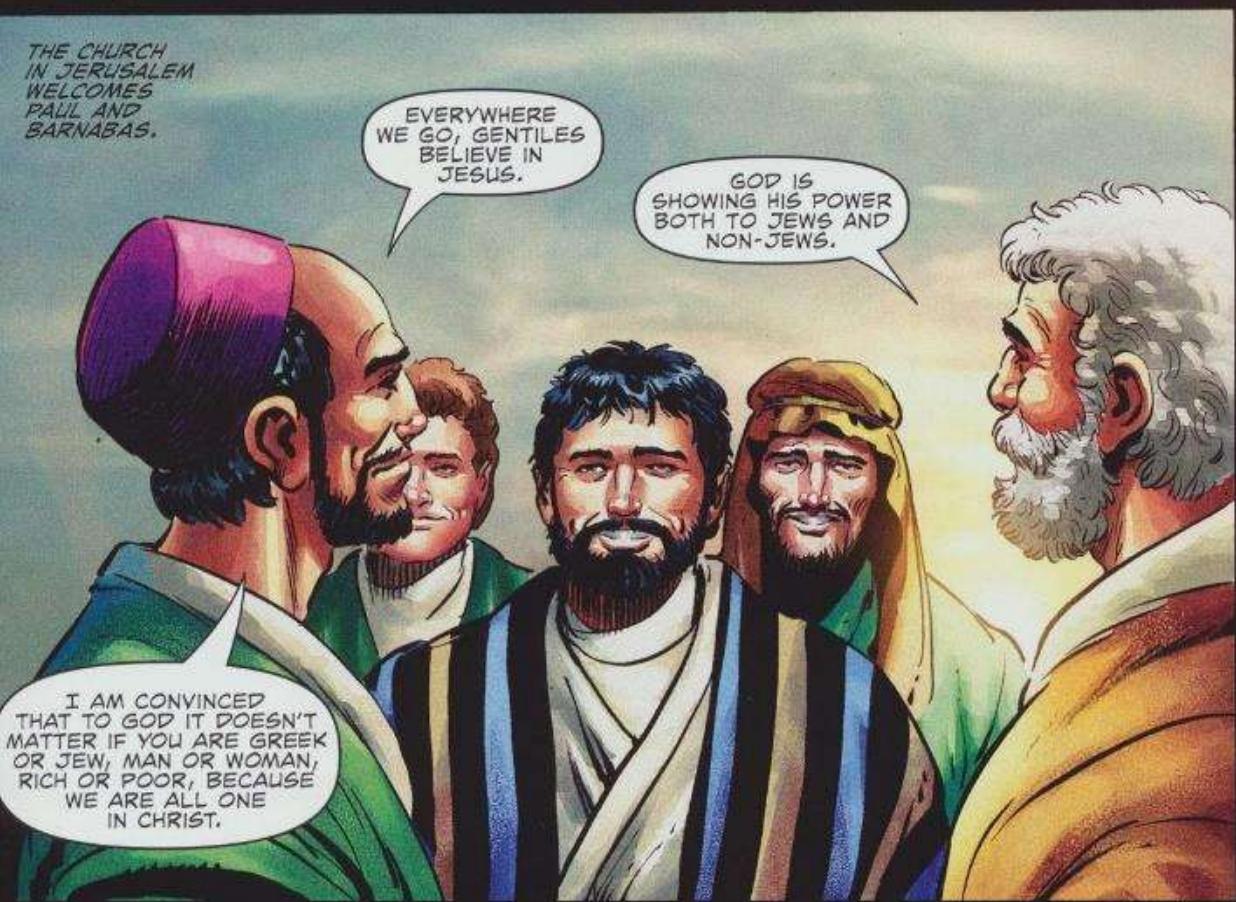
LIKE A VIOLENT WIND, THE ARGUMENT BETWEEN JEWISH AND GENTILE CHRISTIANS RIPS THROUGH THE CHURCH. PAUL AND BARNABAS AND OTHERS FROM ANTIOPH TRAVEL TO JERUSALEM TO SPEAK WITH THE CHURCH LEADERS THERE.



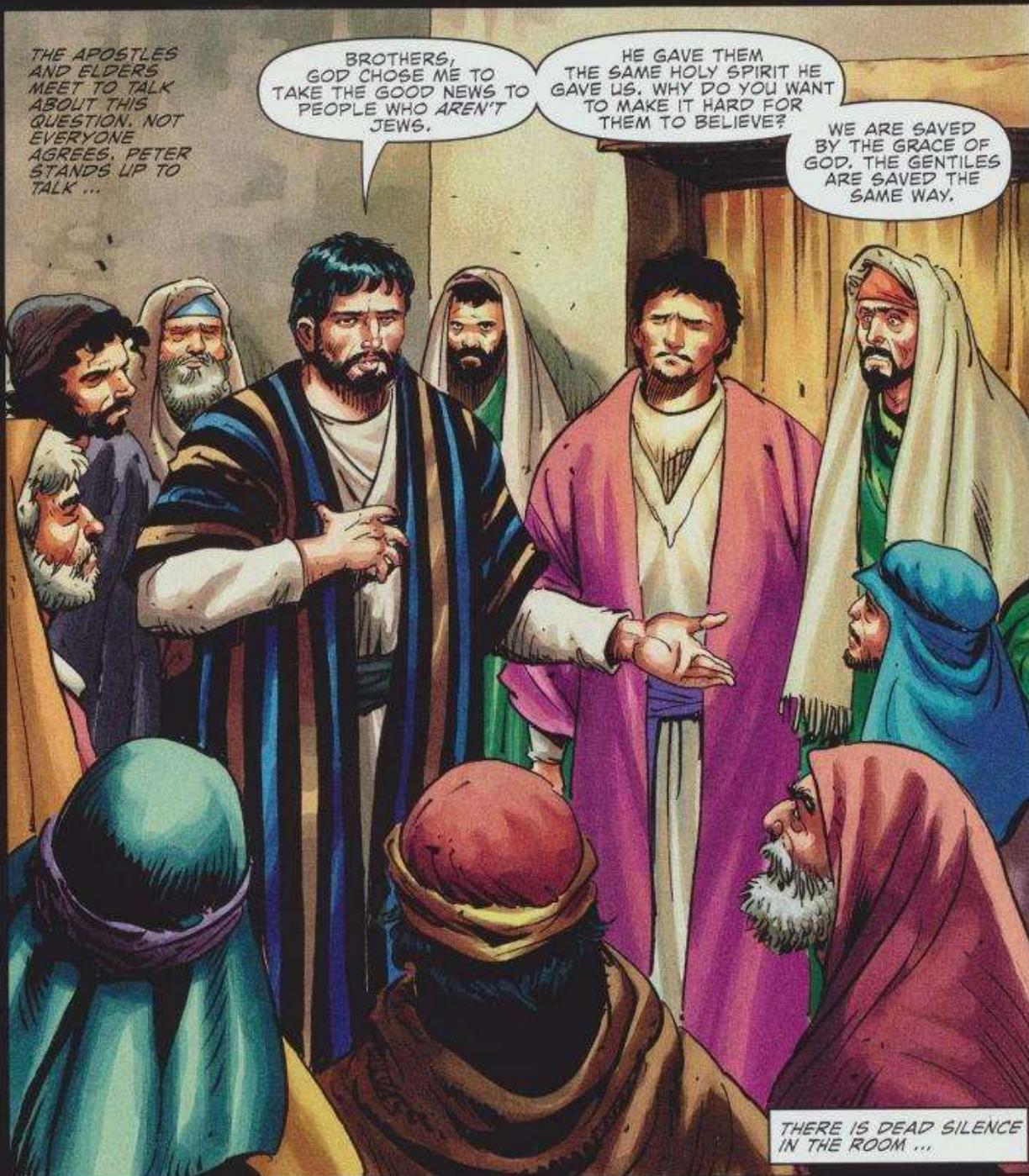
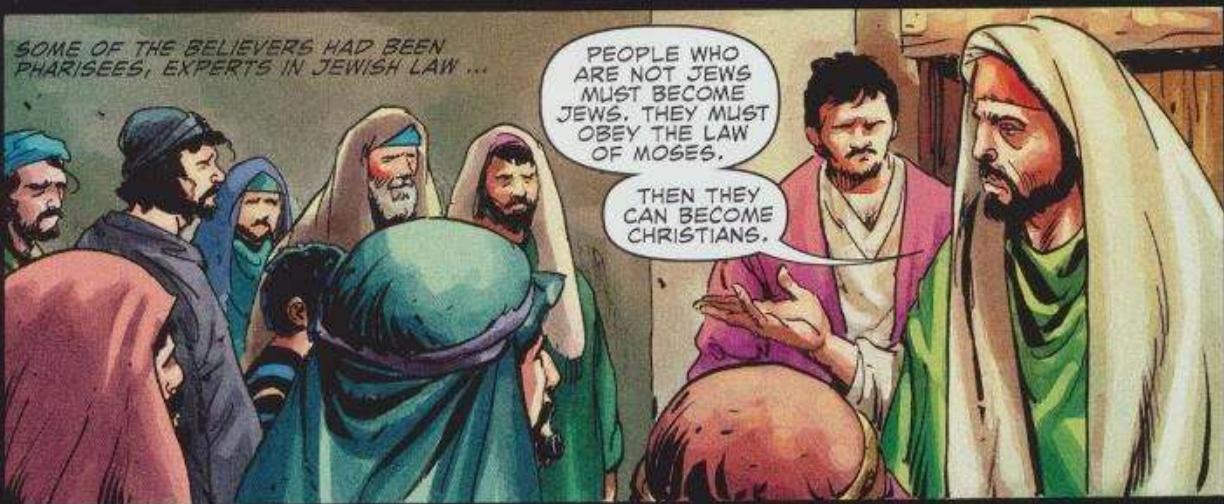
THE CHURCH
IN JERUSALEM
WELCOMES
PAUL AND
BARNABAS.

EVERWHERE
WE GO, GENTILES
BELIEVE IN
JESUS.

GOD IS
SHOWING HIS POWER
BOTH TO JEWS AND
NON-JEWS.



I AM CONVINCED
THAT TO GOD IT DOESN'T
MATTER IF YOU ARE GREEK
OR JEW, MAN OR WOMAN,
RICH OR POOR, BECAUSE
WE ARE ALL ONE
IN CHRIST.



THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL FACES A QUESTION: DO GENTILES FIRST HAVE TO BECOME JEWS AND OBEY JEWISH LAWS BEFORE THEY CAN BELIEVE IN JESUS? AFTER ARGUMENTS FROM BOTH SIDES, JAMES, THE HEAD OF THE COUNCIL, STANDS UP TO SPEAK ...

WE'VE HEARD WHAT PAUL AND BARNABAS HAVE SAID.

WE'VE HEARD PETER TELL US THAT GOD LOVES PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT JEWS.

LET'S NOT MAKE IT HARD FOR NON-JEWS TO TURN TO GOD.

THE COUNCIL AGREES TO A FEW IMPORTANT RULES. CHRISTIANS, BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES, MUST AVOID EATING FOOD THAT WAS SACRIFICED TO FALSE GODS, AND THEY MUST LEAD PURE LIVES.

The Next Journey

BASED ON ACTS 15:36-16:19

WITH THIS QUESTION SETTLED, PAUL AND BARNABAS CAN GO BACK TO TRAVELING AND PREACHING ABOUT JESUS.

LET'S MAKE A TRIP TO VISIT THE CHURCHES WE STARTED.

GOOD IDEA. I WANT TO ASK MARK TO GO WITH US AGAIN.

NO, MARK LEFT US THE LAST TIME.

I KNOW, BUT WE SHOULD GIVE HIM A SECOND CHANCE.

PAUL DISAGREES. SO BARNABAS AND PAUL GO THEIR SEPARATE WAYS. BARNABAS TAKES MARK AND SAILS TO CYPRUS. PAUL TAKES SILAS TO VISIT THE CHURCHES HE STARTED.

PAUL RETURNS TO LYSTRA, THE CITY WHERE HE WAS STONED. THE CHURCH HAS BEEN GROWING, AND PAUL MEETS A YOUNG MAN NAMED TIMOTHY.

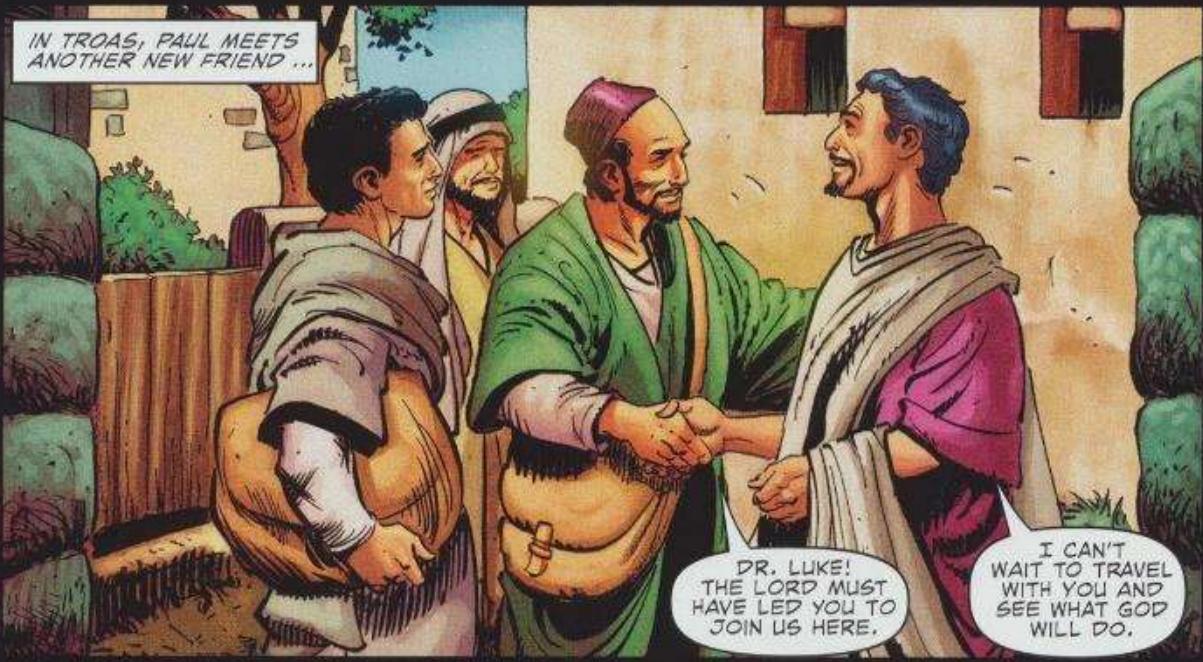
PAUL, I WANT YOU TO MEET TIMOTHY. HE'S BECOME ONE OF OUR BEST YOUNG LEADERS.

TIMOTHY, NEVER LET ANYONE LOOK DOWN ON YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE YOUNG. YOU CAN SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR OTHER BELIEVERS.

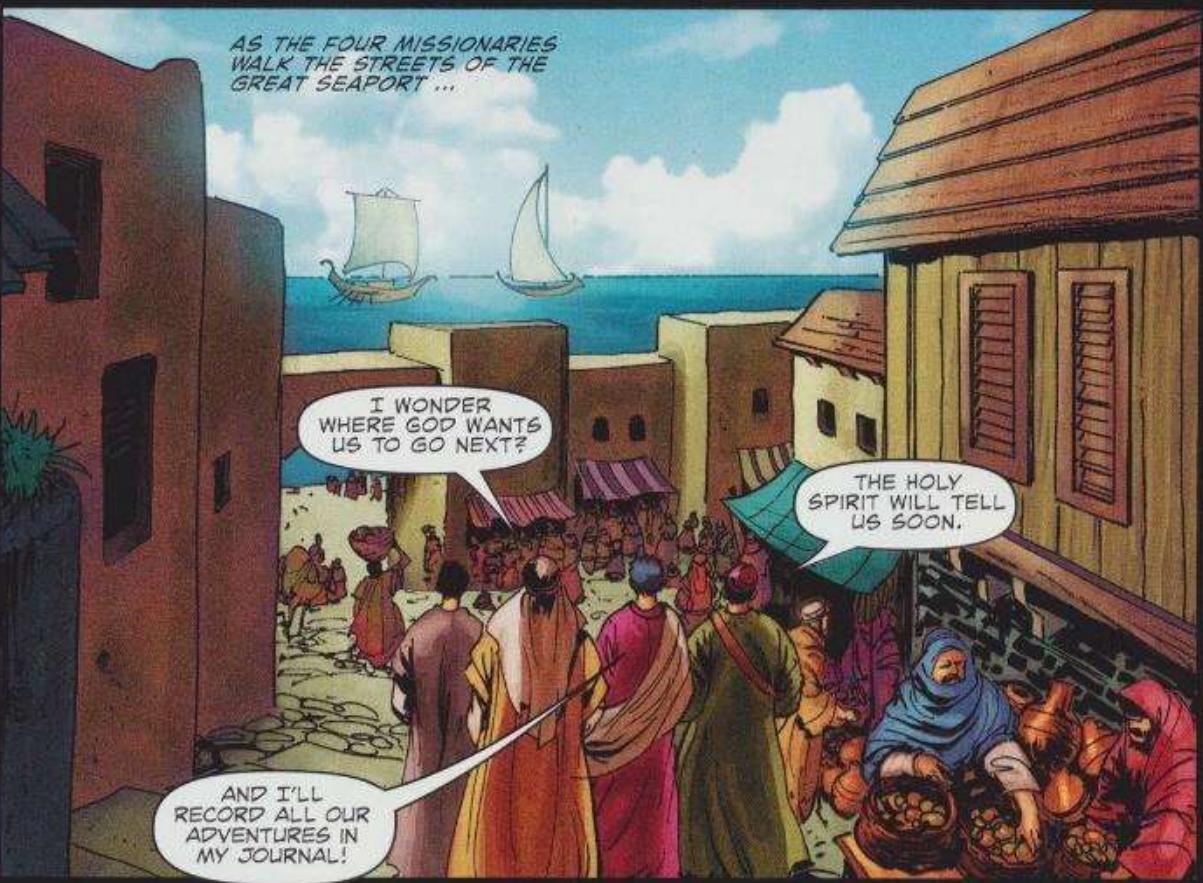
TIMOTHY EAGERLY JOINS PAUL ON HIS JOURNEY. SOON THE THREE TRAVELERS ARE ON THEIR WAY. GOD TELLS THEM NOT TO FOLLOW THE ROAD TO EPHESUS. INSTEAD THEY GO NORTH AND WEST UNTIL THEY REACH TROAS ON THE AEGEAN SEA.



IN TROAS, PAUL MEETS ANOTHER NEW FRIEND ...



AS THE FOUR MISSIONARIES WALK THE STREETS OF THE GREAT SEAPORT ...



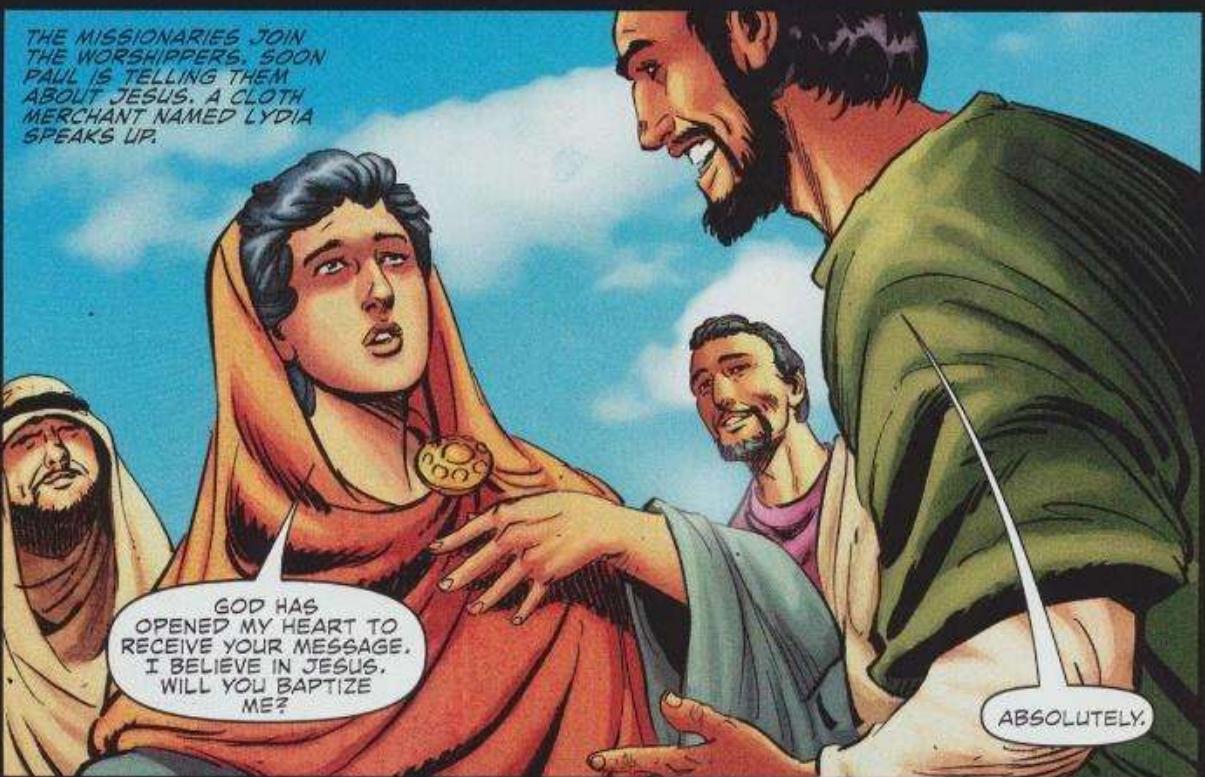
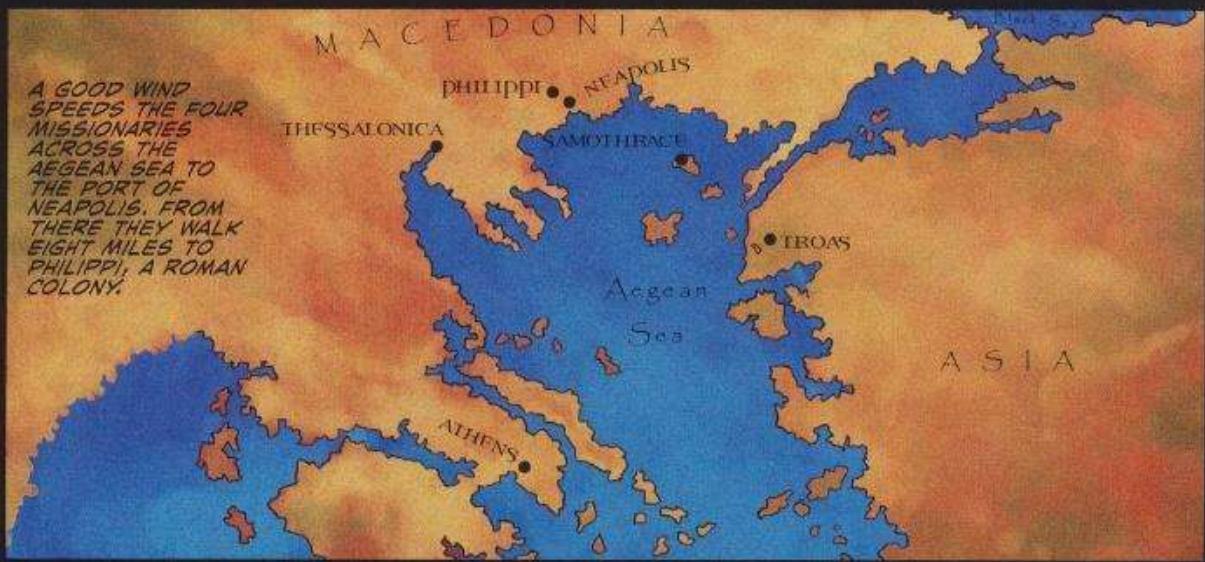
SILAS, TIMOTHY, LUKE, AND PAUL WAIT IN TROAS FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GIVE THEM NEW DIRECTIONS. THERE, PAUL HAS A VISION DURING THE NIGHT ...



COME OVER TO MACEDONIA AND HELP US!

IN THE MORNING ...

GOD IS TELLING US TO TAKE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS TO THE PEOPLE IN MACEDONIA. WE NEED TO BE ON THE NEXT BOAT SAILING NORTHWEST.



SOON ALL THE MEMBERS OF LYDIA'S HOUSEHOLD ARE BAPTIZED. LYDIA INVITES THE MISSIONARIES TO MAKE HER HOME THEIR HEADQUARTERS WHILE THEY ARE IN PHILIPPI.

THE ROMANS LOVE PURPLE. I SELL MOST OF MY CLOTH TO THEM.

AS YOU SELL TO THEM, TELL THEM ABOUT JESUS.



EVERY DAY AS PAUL AND SILAS WALK THROUGH THE STREETS OF PHILIPPI, THEY SEE A SAD SIGHT ...

THE POOR GIRL IS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF AN EVIL SPIRIT. HER MASTERS EARN LOTS OF MONEY USING HER AS A FORTUNE-TELLER.

FINALLY, ONE DAY ...

YOU SERVE THE MOST HIGH GOD!

IN CHRIST'S NAME, COME OUT OF HER!



LOOK! SHE CAN'T TELL FORTUNES ANYMORE. OUR BUSINESS IS RUINED.

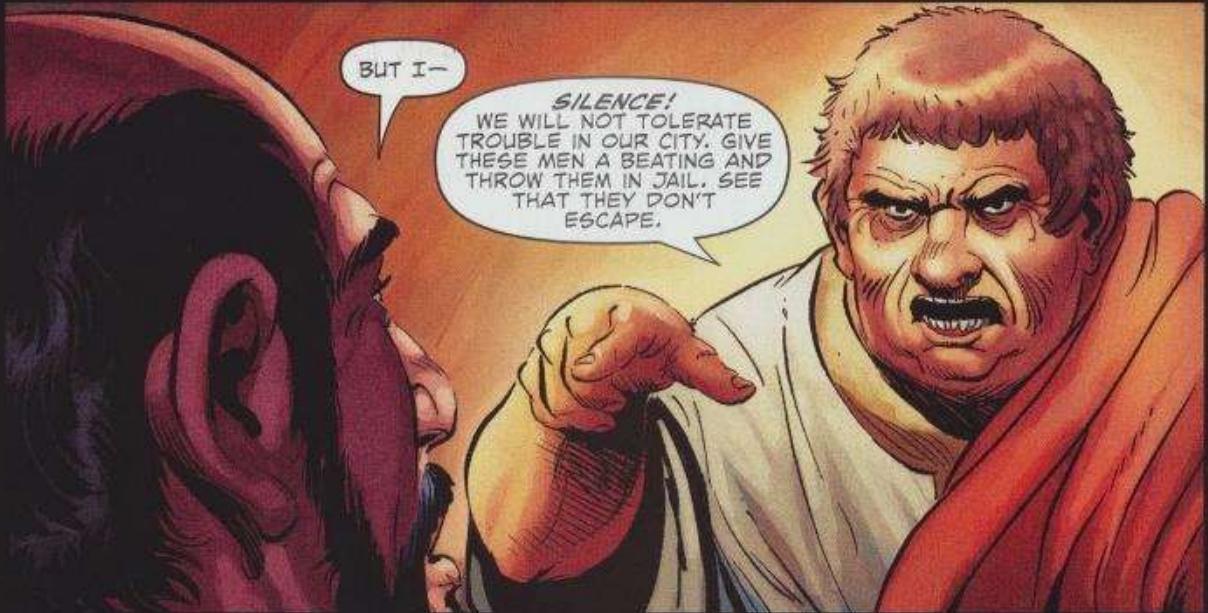
WHOEVER THAT MAN IS, HE'LL PAY FOR THIS. HE HAD NO RIGHT TO MEDIATE WITH OUR AFFAIRS.



Earthquake!

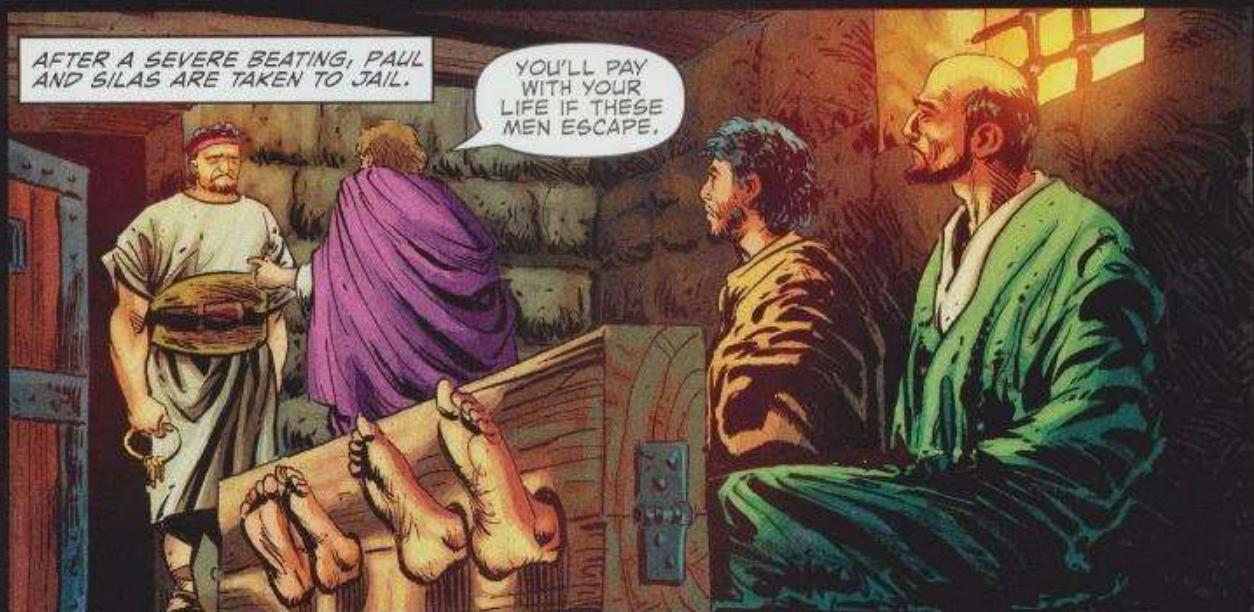
BASED ON ACTS 16:19-39

WHEN PAUL REMOVES AN EVIL SPIRIT FROM A SLAVE GIRL, HER OWNERS ARE LIVID. BECAUSE THE GIRL CAN NO LONGER TELL FORTUNES, THEIR BUSINESS IS RUINED. THE OWNERS DRAG PAUL AND SILAS BEFORE THE JUDGES IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE. A CROWD GATHERS ...

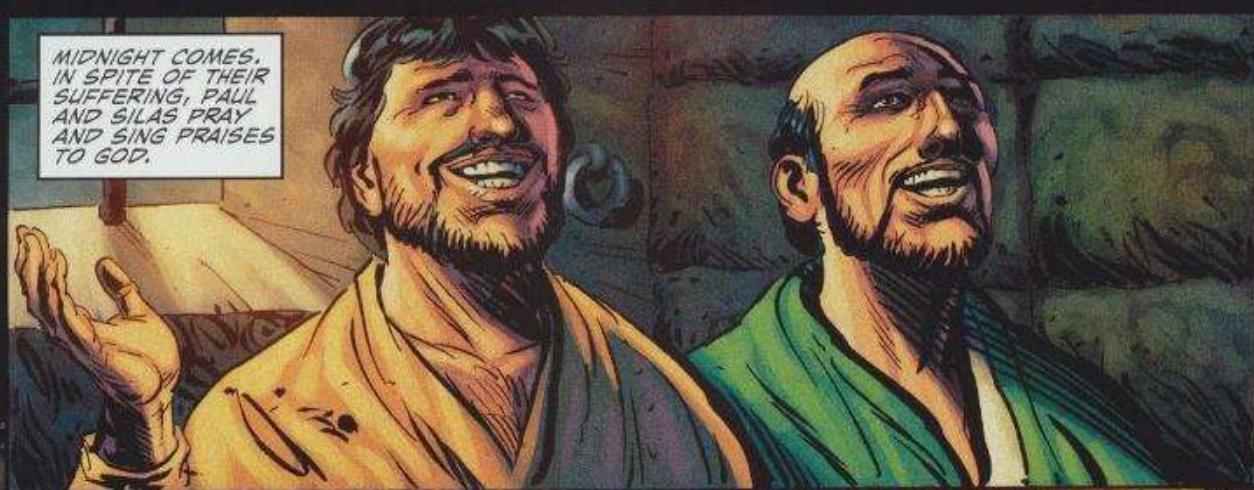


AFTER A SEVERE BEATING, PAUL AND SILAS ARE TAKEN TO JAIL.

YOU'LL PAY WITH YOUR LIFE IF THESE MEN ESCAPE.



MIDNIGHT COMES. IN SPITE OF THEIR SUFFERING, PAUL AND SILAS PRAY AND SING PRAISES TO GOD.



SUDDENLY THE PRISON FOUNDATION SHUDDERS. THE WALLS TWIST AND CRACK, SNAPPING CHAINS AND HINGES FROM THE HEAVY DOORS.

EARTHQUAKE!



THE JAILER RUSHES DOWN INTO THE DUNGEON, SURE THAT HIS PRISONERS HAVE ESCAPED.

THEY'RE GONE! I MIGHT AS WELL KILL MYSELF.

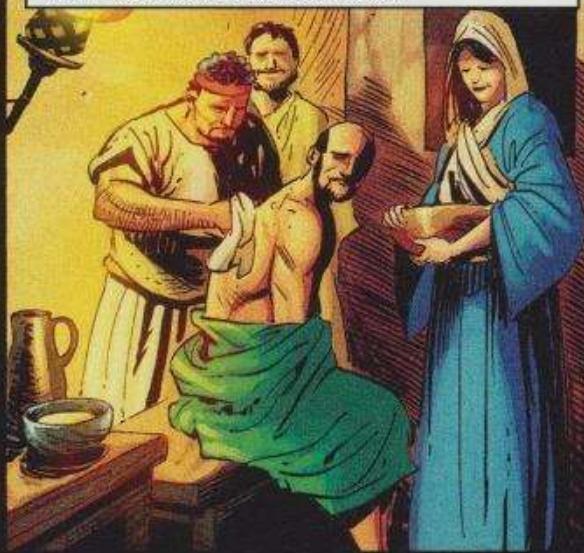
NO! NO!
WE'RE ALL HERE!
DON'T HURT YOURSELF.

BELIEVING PAUL AND SILAS CAUSED THE EARTHQUAKE, THE JAILER FALLS DOWN IN FRONT OF THEM.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

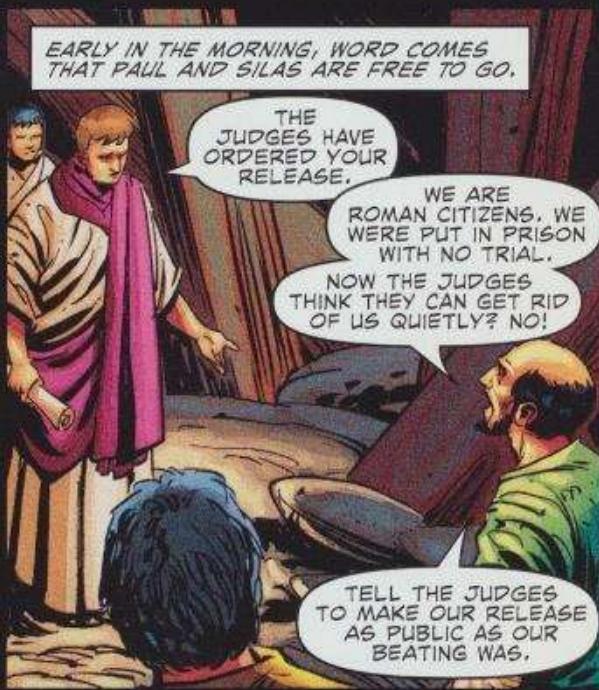
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, THE JAILER TAKES PAUL AND SILAS TO HIS HOUSE AND CARES FOR THEM. HE AND HIS FAMILY LISTEN AS PAUL TELLS THEM ABOUT JESUS. THEN THEY ARE ALL BAPTIZED!



EARLY IN THE MORNING, WORD COMES THAT PAUL AND SILAS ARE FREE TO GO.

THE JUDGES HAVE ORDERED YOUR RELEASE.

WE ARE ROMAN CITIZENS, WE WERE PUT IN PRISON WITH NO TRIAL.
NOW THE JUDGES THINK THEY CAN GET RID OF US QUIETLY? NO!

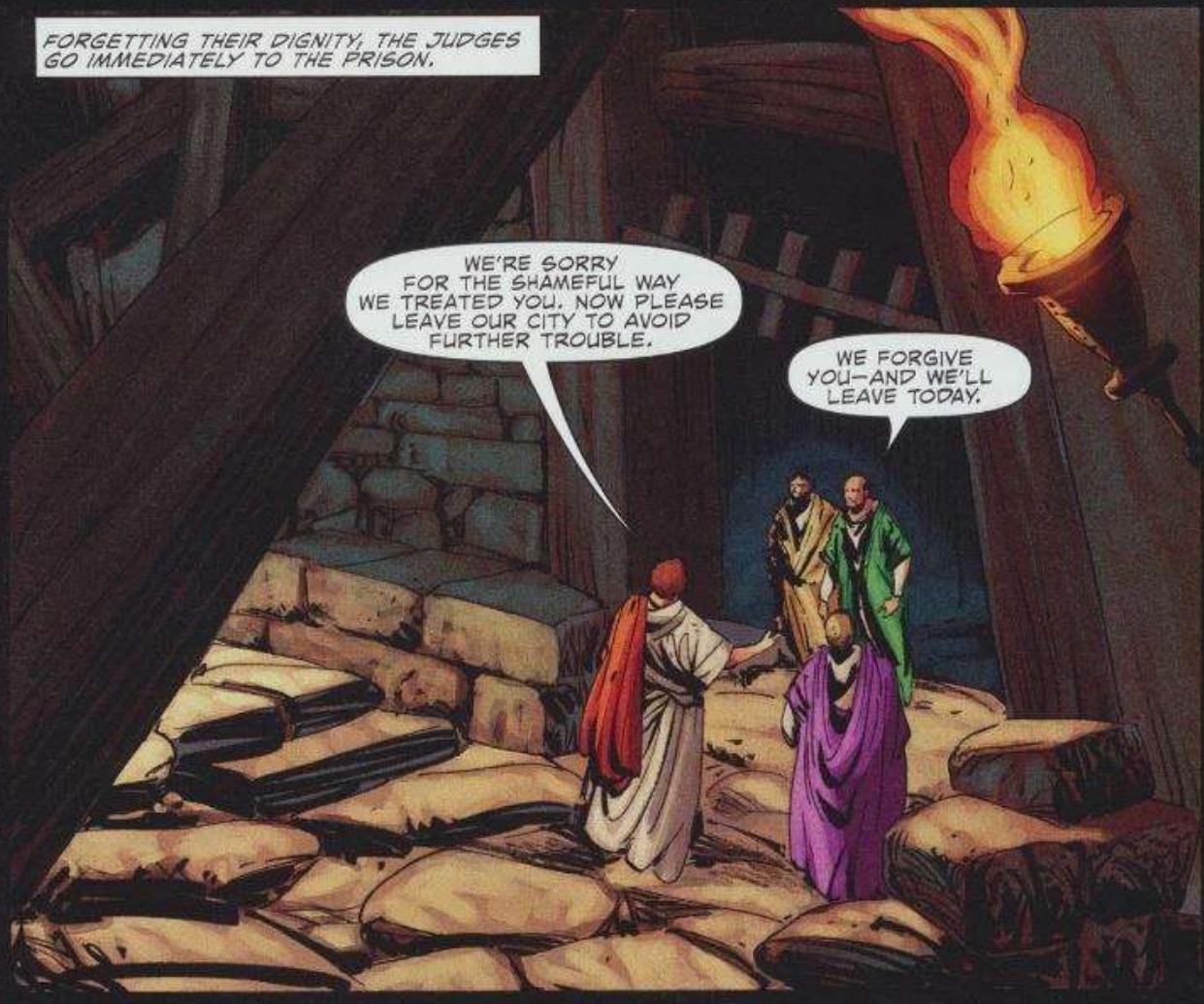


TELL THE JUDGES TO MAKE OUR RELEASE AS PUBLIC AS OUR BEATING WAS.

THE ROMAN JUDGES, WHO ORDERED PAUL AND SILAS RELEASED FROM PRISON, ARE SURPRISED WHEN THE OFFICER RETURNS WITH A MESSAGE FROM THE PRISONERS.



FORGETTING THEIR DIGNITY, THE JUDGES GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE PRISON.



Trouble in Thessalonica

BASED ON ACTS 16:40-18:11; 1 AND 2 THESSALONIANS

THANK YOU
FOR LEAVING
DR. LUKE HERE
TO HELP OUR
CHURCH.

AT LYDIA'S HOUSE,
PAUL, SILAS, AND
TIMOTHY SAY
GOOD-BYE TO THEIR
FRIENDS.

BE BRAVE,
WE WILL RETURN
SOMEDAY. HOLD ON
TO YOUR FAITH
IN JESUS.

TRAVELING ON ABOUT 90 MILES, THE
MISSIONARIES REACH THESSALONICA ON THE
AEGEAN SEA. AS HE USUALLY DOES IN A NEW
CITY, PAUL GOES TO THE SYNAGOGUE TO PREACH.

THE SCRIPTURES
PROMISED A SAVIOR
WOULD COME. JESUS, WHO
DIED ON THE CROSS AND
ROSE FROM THE DEAD,
IS THAT SAVIOR.

MANY PEOPLE LISTEN AND BELIEVE, BUT—AS
ALWAYS—SOME JEWISH LEADERS DO NOT ...

WE'VE GOT
TO GET RID OF
PAUL BEFORE HE
HAS THE WHOLE CITY
BELIEVING WHAT
HE SAYS.

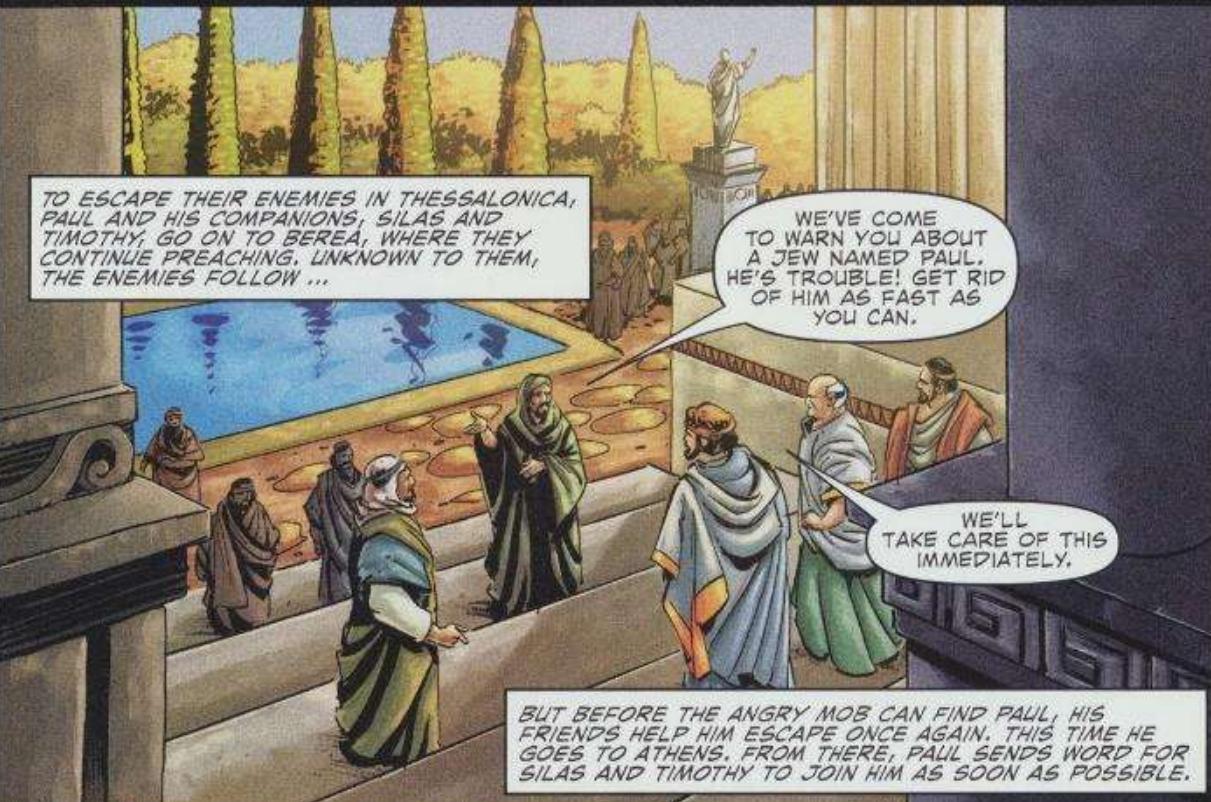
HE'S STAYING
AT JASON'S HOUSE.
LET'S GET HIM!

THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS GATHER A
MOB AND GO TO JASON'S HOUSE.

GIVE US
PAUL. WE KNOW
YOU'RE HIDING
HIM!

PAUL ISN'T
HERE! YOU CAN
LOOK FOR
YOURSELF.

THAT NIGHT, PAUL'S FRIENDS
HELP HIM ESCAPE ...

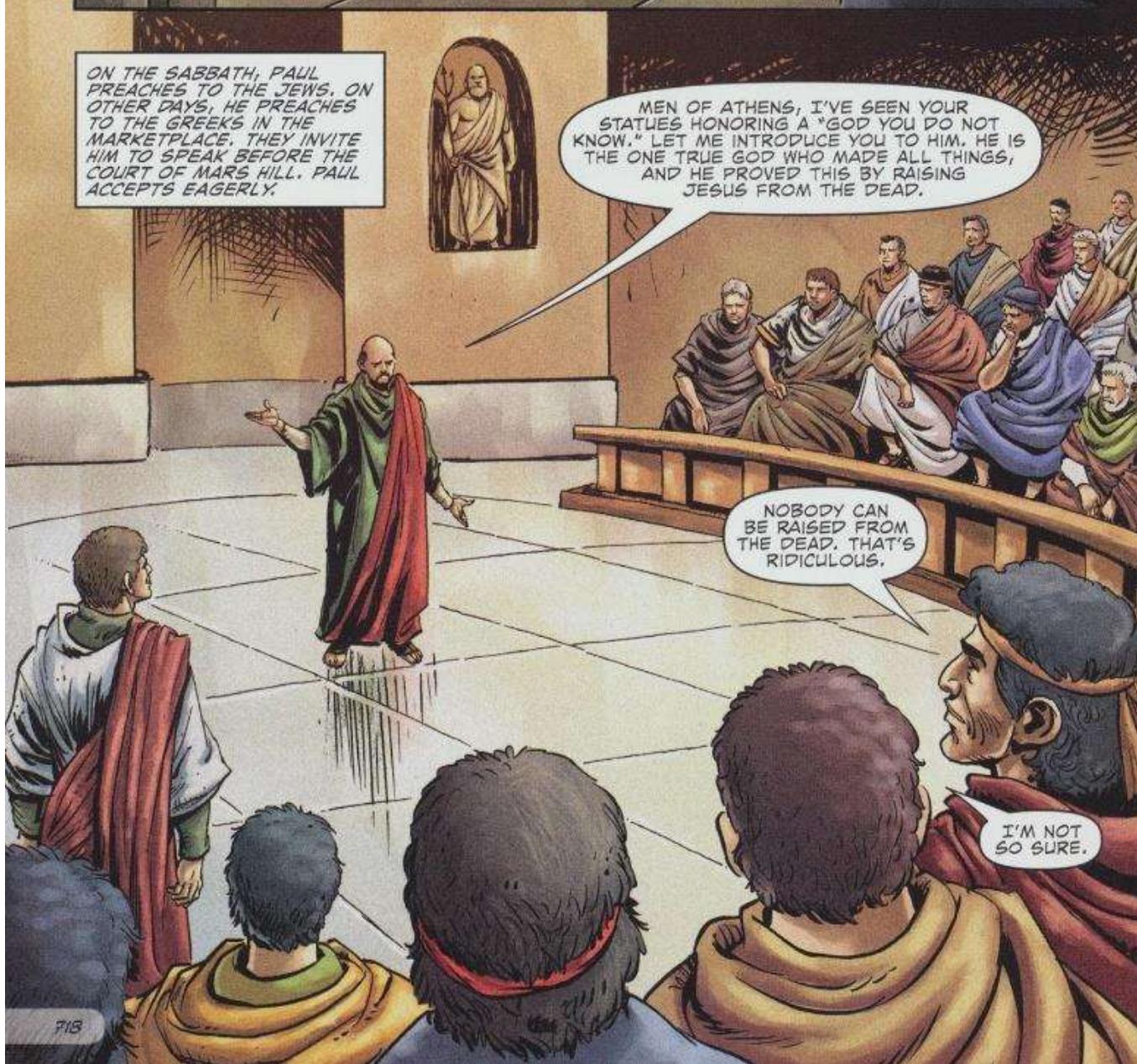


TO ESCAPE THEIR ENEMIES IN THESSALONICA, PAUL AND HIS COMPANIONS, SILAS AND TIMOTHY, GO ON TO BEREA, WHERE THEY CONTINUE PREACHING. UNKNOWN TO THEM, THE ENEMIES FOLLOW ...

WE'VE COME TO WARN YOU ABOUT A JEW NAMED PAUL. HE'S TROUBLE! GET RID OF HIM AS FAST AS YOU CAN.

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS IMMEDIATELY.

BUT BEFORE THE ANGRY MOB CAN FIND PAUL, HIS FRIENDS HELP HIM ESCAPE ONCE AGAIN. THIS TIME HE GOES TO ATHENS. FROM THERE, PAUL SENDS WORD FOR SILAS AND TIMOTHY TO JOIN HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

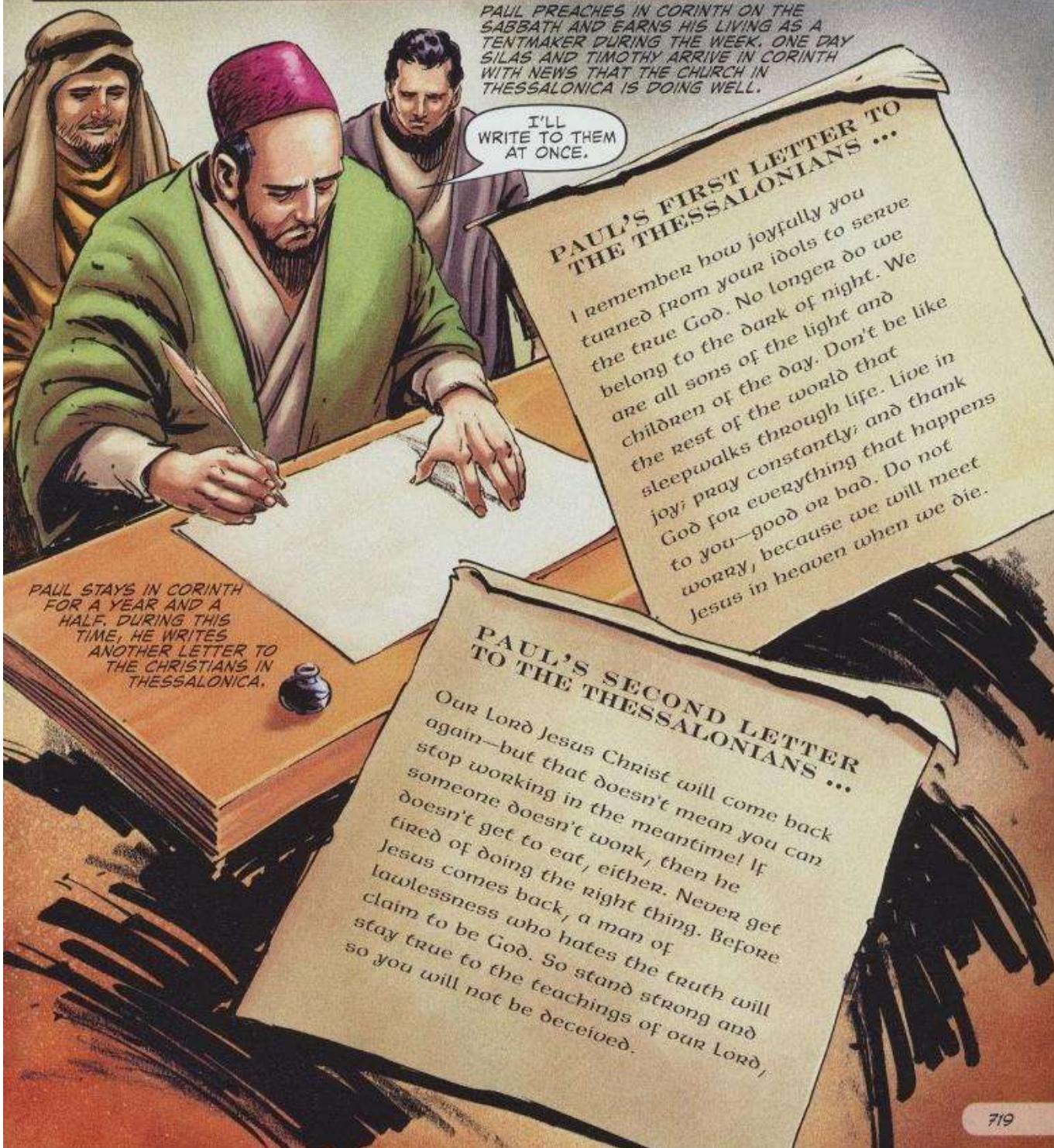


ON THE SABBATH, PAUL PREACHES TO THE JEWS. ON OTHER DAYS, HE PREACHES TO THE GREEKS IN THE MARKETPLACE. THEY INVITE HIM TO SPEAK BEFORE THE COURT OF MARS HILL. PAUL ACCEPTS EAGERLY.

MEN OF ATHENS, I'VE SEEN YOUR STATUES HONORING A "GOD YOU DO NOT KNOW." LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO HIM. HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD WHO MADE ALL THINGS, AND HE PROVED THIS BY RAISING JESUS FROM THE DEAD.

NOBODY CAN BE RAISED FROM THE DEAD. THAT'S RIDICULOUS.

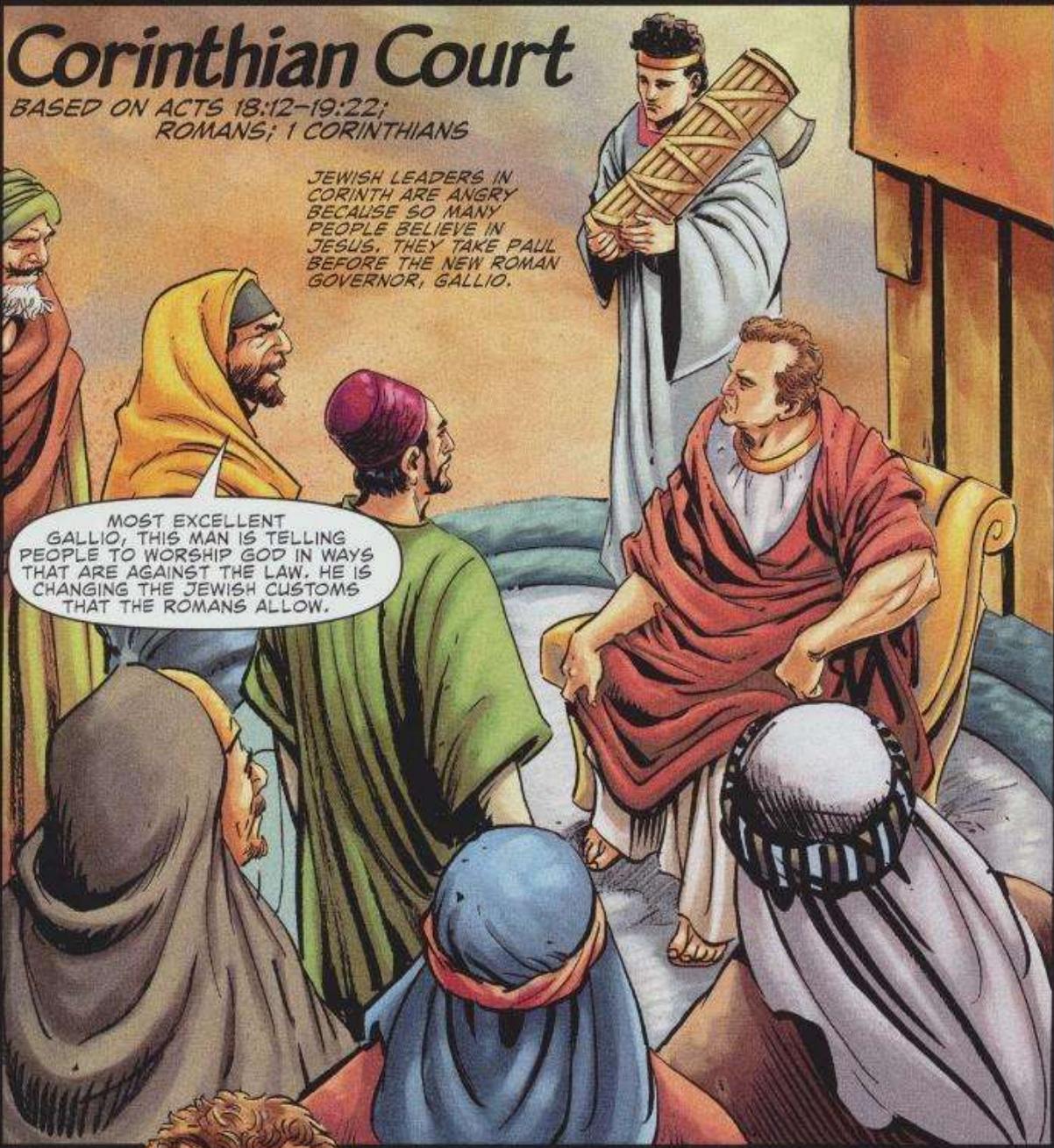
I'M NOT SO SURE.



Corinthian Court

BASED ON ACTS 18:12-19:22;
ROMANS; 1 CORINTHIANS

JEWISH LEADERS IN CORINTH ARE ANGRY BECAUSE SO MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE IN JESUS. THEY TAKE PAUL BEFORE THE NEW ROMAN GOVERNOR, GALLIO.

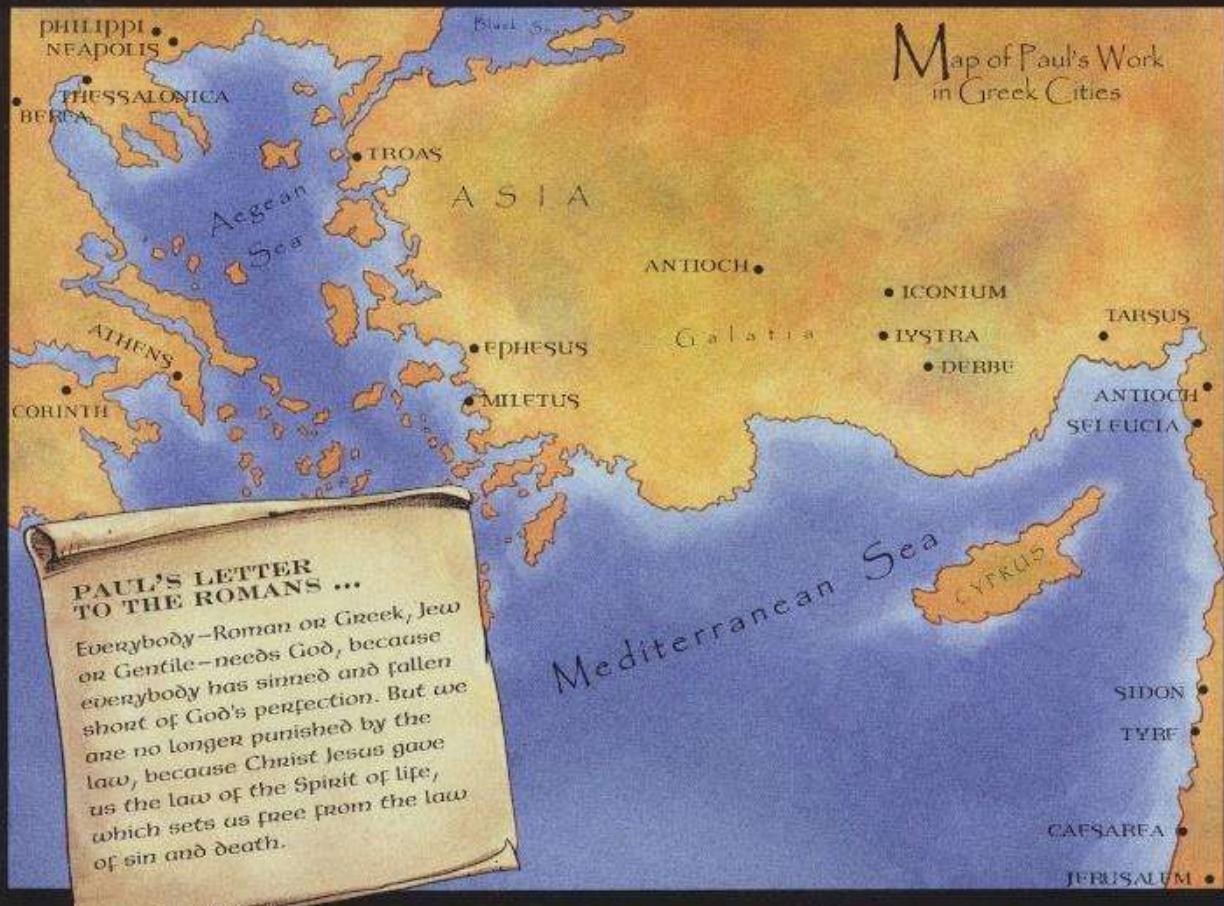


PAUL PREPARES TO DEFEND HIMSELF, BUT TO EVERYONE'S SURPRISE, GALLIO TURNS ON PAUL'S ENEMIES.

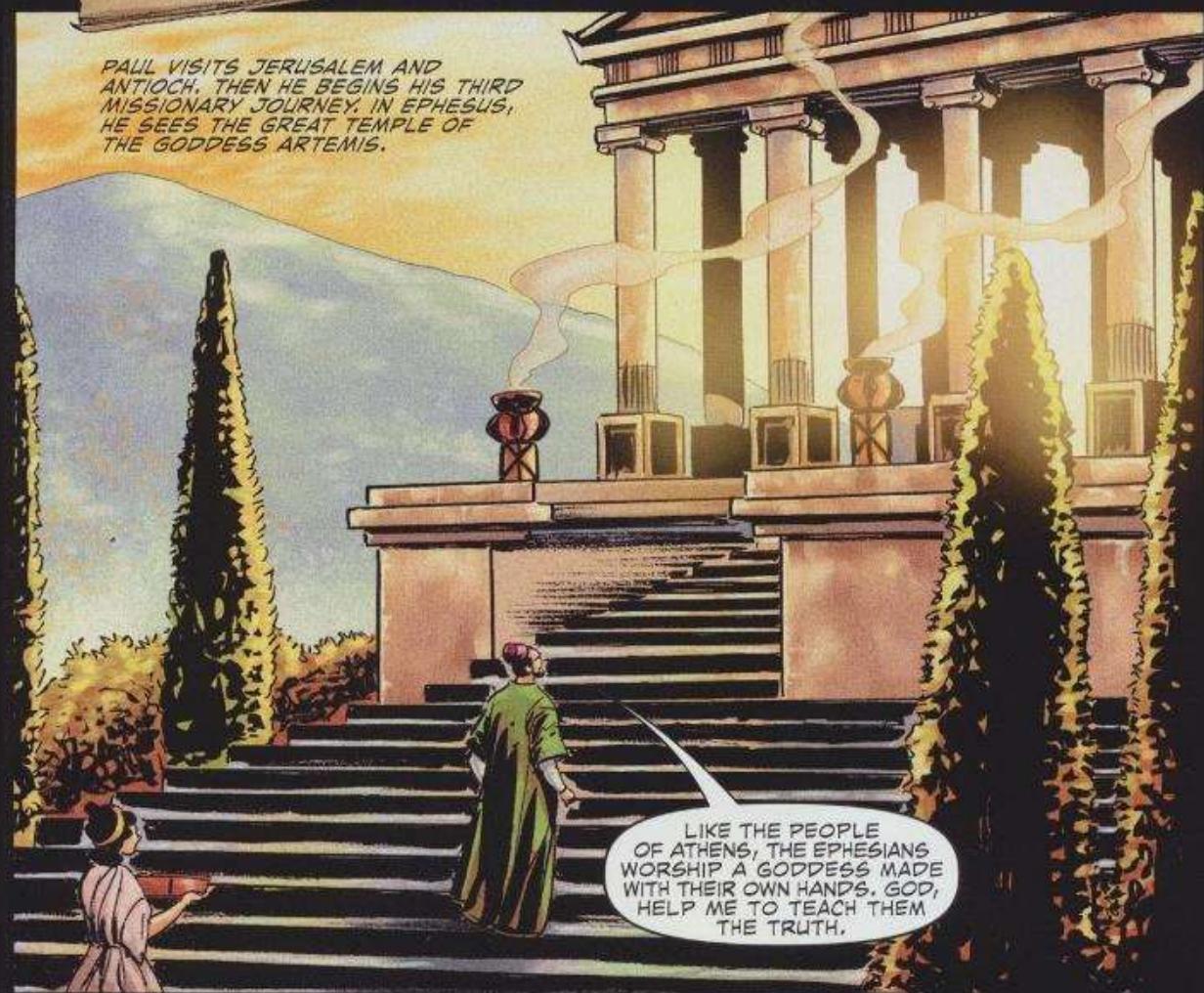
I AM NOT GOING TO GET INVOLVED IN YOUR QUARRELS ABOUT THE JEWISH LAW. THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ROMAN LAW. GET OUT OF MY COURT.

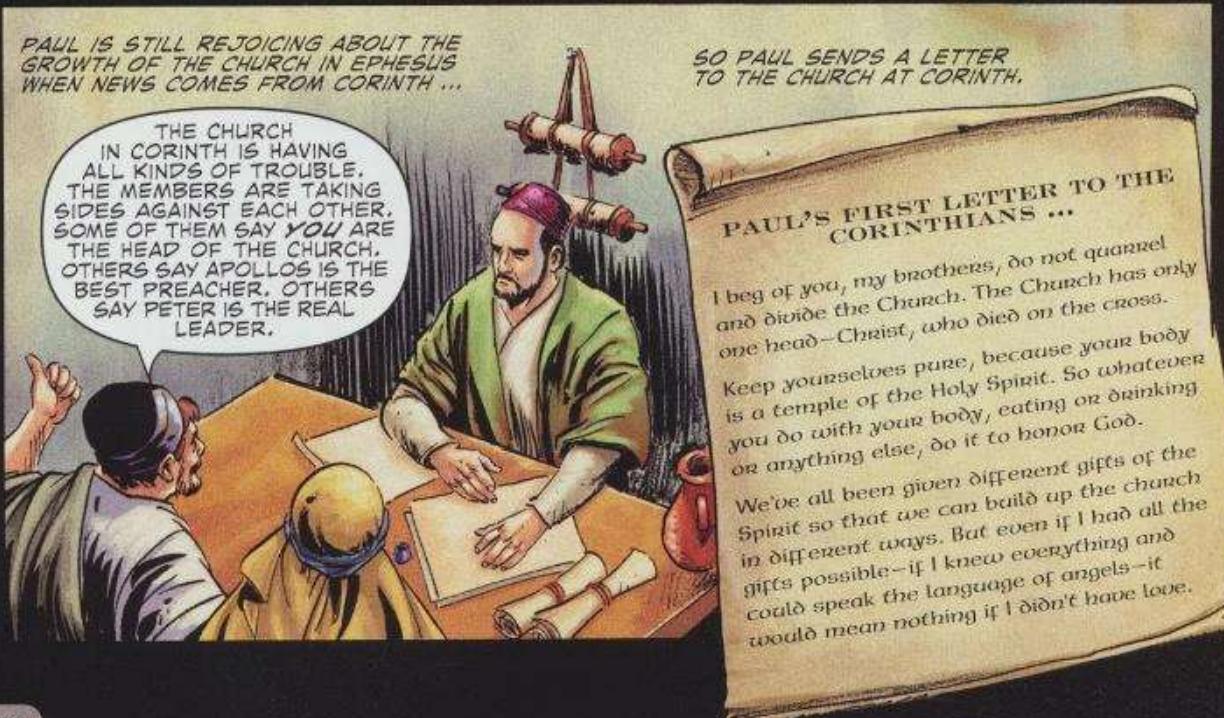
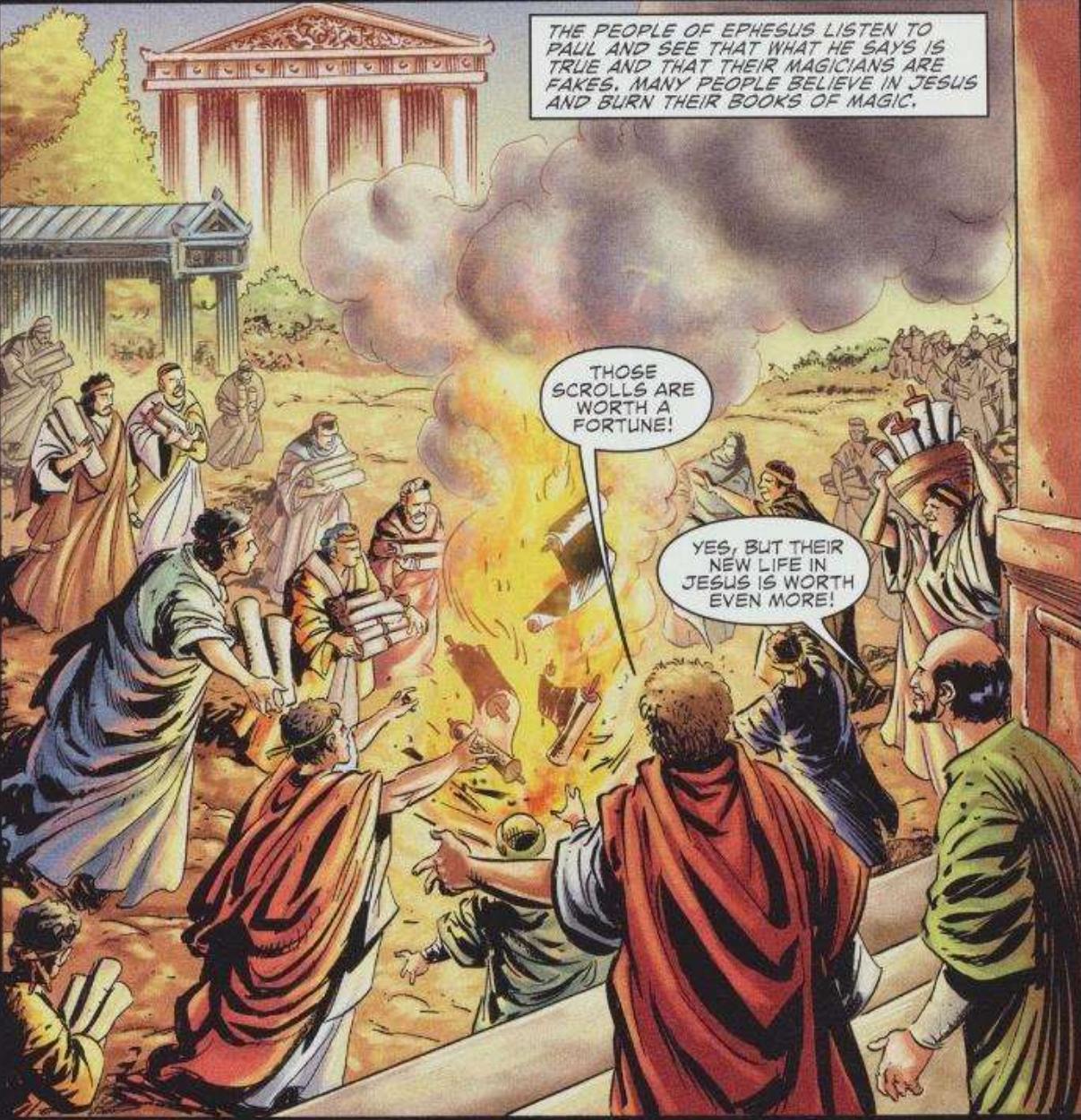
AFTER THIS ORDER BY THE GOVERNOR, PAUL PREACHES IN CORINTH WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE, AND THE CHURCH GROWS. PAUL WRITES ANOTHER LETTER, THIS TIME TO THE ROMANS.

Map of Paul's Work in Greek Cities



PAUL VISITS JERUSALEM AND ANTIOPH, THEN HE BEGINS HIS THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY. IN EPHESUS, HE SEES THE GREAT TEMPLE OF THE GODDESS ARTEMIS.





Ephesian Mob

BASED ON ACTS 19:23-20:5; 2 CORINTHIANS

THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS GROWS—ALMOST AS RAPIDLY AS THE BLAZE THAT DESTROYED THE BOOKS OF MAGIC. BUT THE PEOPLE WHO EARN MONEY BY SELLING THINGS TO WORSHIP THE FALSE GODS ARE NOT HAPPY ...

BUSINESS IS NO GOOD. PEOPLE AREN'T BUYING SILVER SHRINES OF ARTEMIS.

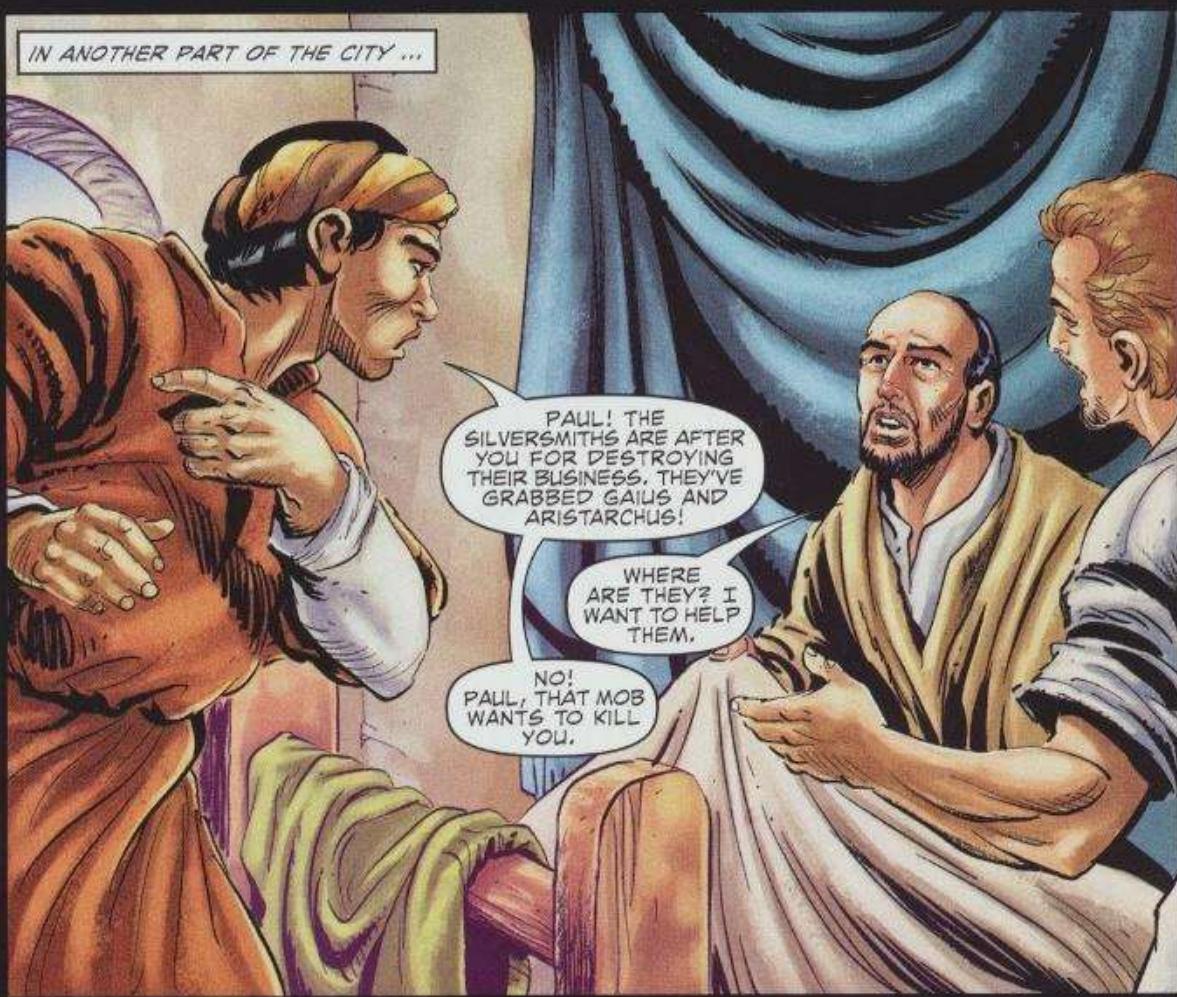
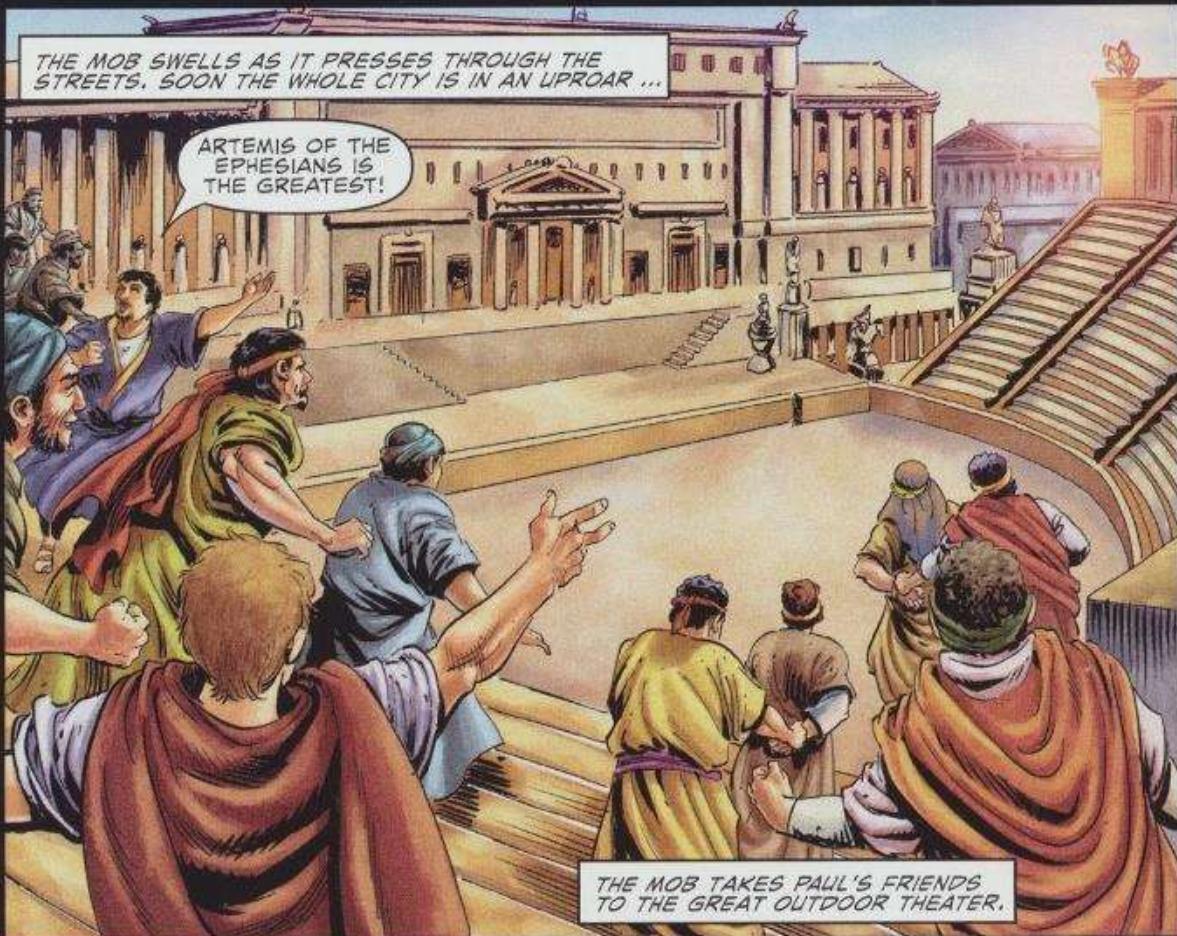
IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT CHRISTIAN PREACHER, PAUL. HE'S TELLING PEOPLE TO BELIEVE IN JESUS, SO THEY DON'T WANT THE THINGS WE MAKE.

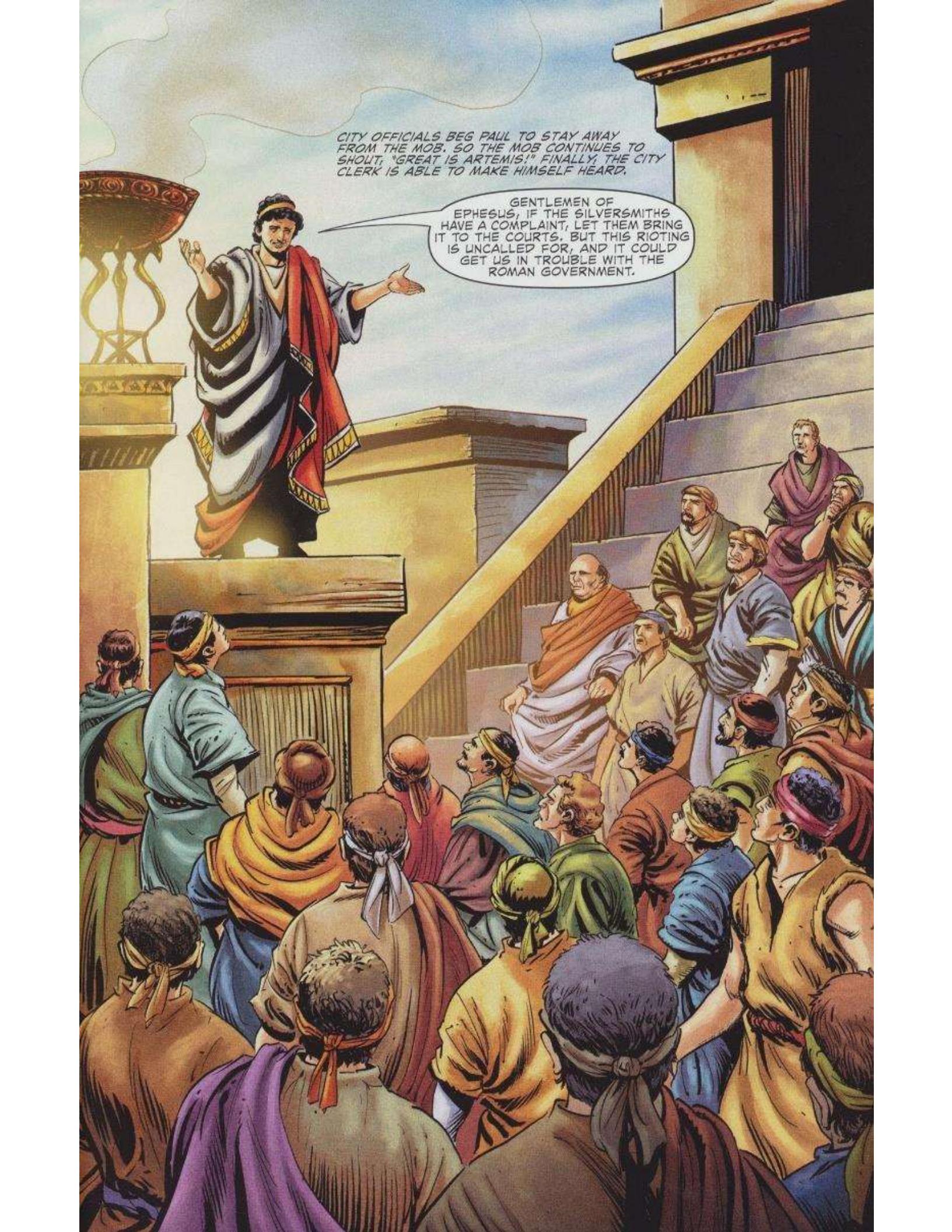
PAUL TELLS PEOPLE ARTEMIS IS NOT REALLY A GODDESS, THAT IT DOES NO GOOD TO WORSHIP HER.

THE ANGRY MERCHANTS RUSH INTO THE STREET AND GRAB SOME OF PAUL'S FRIENDS.

WHERE IS PAUL? TELL US!

NEVER!





CITY OFFICIALS BEG PAUL TO STAY AWAY FROM THE MOB. SO THE MOB CONTINUES TO SHOUT, 'GREAT IS ARTEMIS!' FINALLY, THE CITY CLERK IS ABLE TO MAKE HIMSELF HEARD.

GENTLEMEN OF EPHESUS, IF THE SILVERSMITHS HAVE A COMPLAINT, LET THEM BRING IT TO THE COURTS. BUT THIS RIOTING IS UNCALLED FOR, AND IT COULD GET US IN TROUBLE WITH THE ROMAN GOVERNMENT.

THREATENED WITH
ROMAN ACTION, THE
RIOT BREAKS UP.
PAUL SENDS FOR
HIS FRIENDS.

THE MOB WAS
REALLY AFTER ME. I DON'T
WANT ALL OF YOU TO BE IN
DANGER, SO I'LL GO TO
PHILIPPI.

OUR
PRAYERS GO
WITH YOU.

SOON AFTER PAUL
REACHES PHILIPPI,
TITUS JOINS HIM WITH
NEWS FROM CORINTH.

YOUR LETTER TO
THE CHRISTIANS AT CORINTH
MADE THEM GET BACK ON
THE RIGHT PATH.

BUT NOW
SOME PEOPLE CLAIM
THAT YOU ARE NOT A
TRUE APOSTLE OF
JESUS.

ONCE AGAIN PAUL WRITES TO THE CHURCH IN CORINTH ...

PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS ...

I can see that my first letter upset you, but I am glad I sent it. I don't want to hurt you, but to help you grow in your faith. I know that many of you are suffering, but take comfort: though we share Christ's pain, He also floods us with his comfort.

So don't lose heart! Our troubles only last for a moment, but they earn us eternal life. And life in heaven will quickly make us forget our earthly hardships. So don't focus on the things you can see—those things are temporary. It is the unseen things that are eternal.

For those who question my authority, remember this: I have been imprisoned and beaten; I have faced down death; I've been stoned and shipwrecked. And I've endured all that to carry out the work of Christ.

WHILE TITUS TAKES
THE LETTER TO
CORINTH, PAUL
CONTINUES VISITING
CHURCHES IN
MACEDONIA. HE
COLLECTS MONEY
FOR THE POOR IN
JERUSALEM.
MONTHS LATER HE
REACHES CORINTH,
WHERE FRIENDS
GREET HIM EAGERLY.

THIS
MONEY WILL SHOW
THE CHRISTIANS IN
JERUSALEM THAT
YOU'RE CONCERNED
FOR THEM.

"Falling" Asleep

BASED
ON ACTS
20:6-21:16

PAUL'S ENEMIES CONTINUE TO PLOT AGAINST HIM, SO HE CHANGES HIS TRAVEL PLANS TO AVOID THEM. HE AND HIS COMPANIONS TRAVEL THROUGH MACEDONIA AND ON TO TROAS. DR. LUKE JOINS THE BAND OF MISSIONARIES ONCE AGAIN.

AFTER WEEKS OF TRAVELING AND VISITING CHURCHES, PAUL HAS SO MUCH TO TELL THE PEOPLE IN TROAS THAT HE TALKS LATE INTO THE NIGHT. UNTIL ...

LOOK OUT!

EUTYCHUS
FELL ASLEEP
SITTING IN THE
WINDOW!

PAUL RUSHES
OUTSIDE ...

HE
FELL FROM A
THIRD-STORY
WINDOW. HE'S
DEAD!

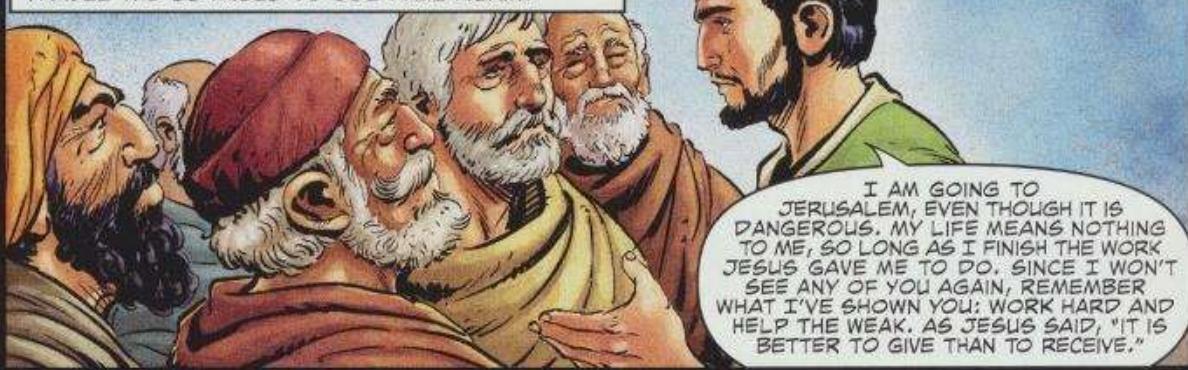
DON'T BE
ALARMED. HE'S
ALIVE.

THANK
GOD!

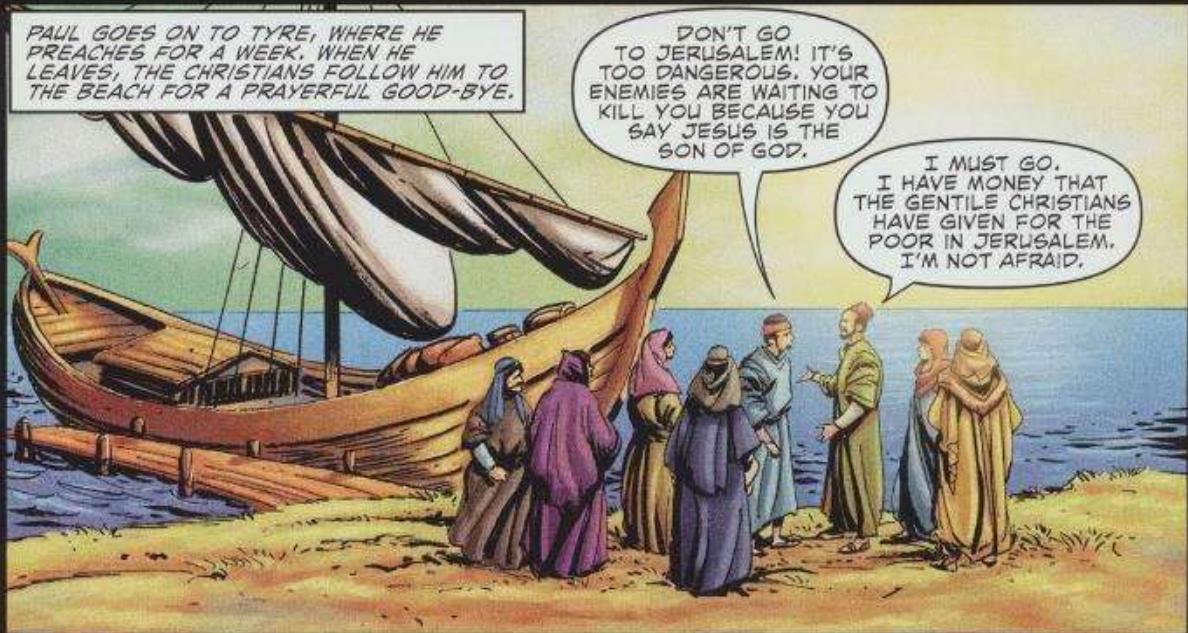
I'M SURE
HE WAS DEAD!
GOD HAS GIVEN
PAUL AMAZING
POWER!

PAUL TALKS UNTIL DAYBREAK, THEN
SAYS GOOD-BYE TO HIS FRIENDS
AND CONTINUES HIS JOURNEY.

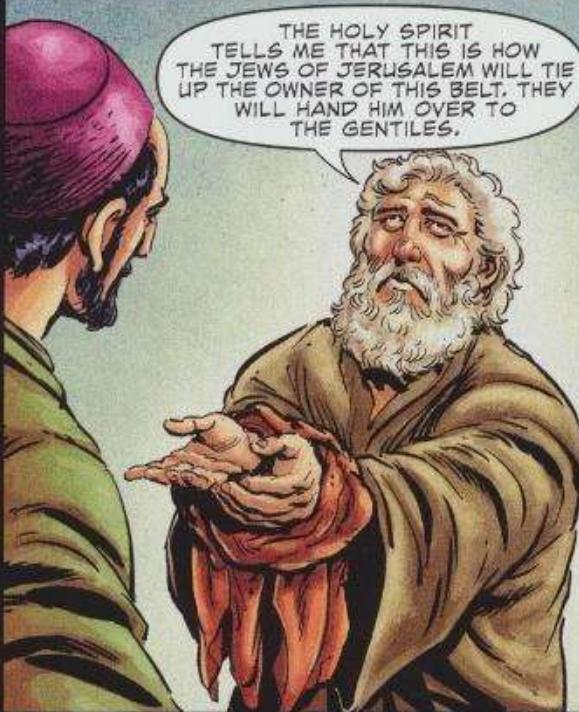
AT MILETUS, PAUL SENDS WORD FOR THE ELDERS OF EPHESUS TO MEET WITH HIM. EAGERLY, THEY TRAVEL THE 35 MILES TO SEE PAUL AGAIN.



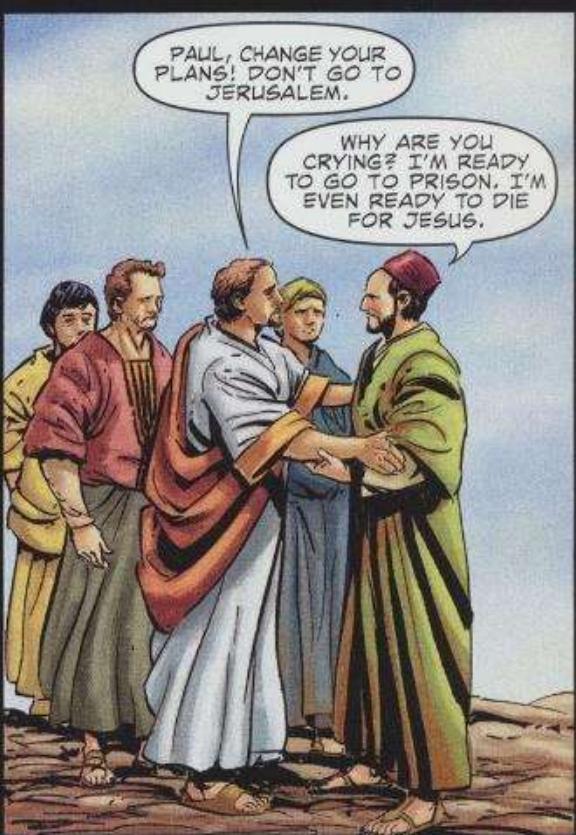
PAUL GOES ON TO TYRE, WHERE HE PREACHES FOR A WEEK. WHEN HE LEAVES, THE CHRISTIANS FOLLOW HIM TO THE BEACH FOR A PRAYERFUL GOOD-BYE.



PAUL GOES DOWN THE COAST TO CAESAREA AND VISITS WITH PHILIP. THE PROPHET AGABUS JOINS THEM. SUDDENLY HE TAKES PAUL'S BELT AND USES IT TO BIND HIS OWN HANDS AND FEET.



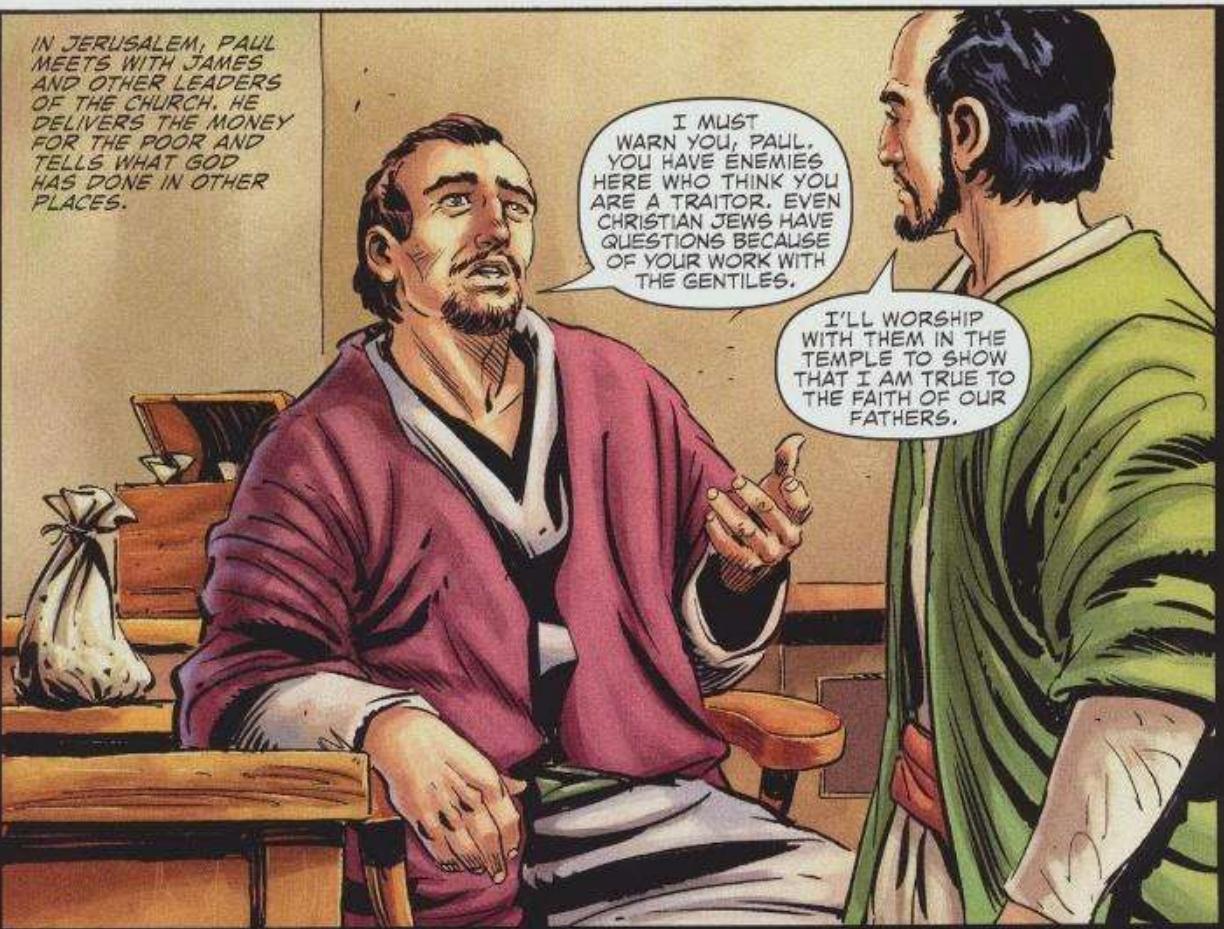
PAUL, CHANGE YOUR PLANS! DON'T GO TO JERUSALEM.



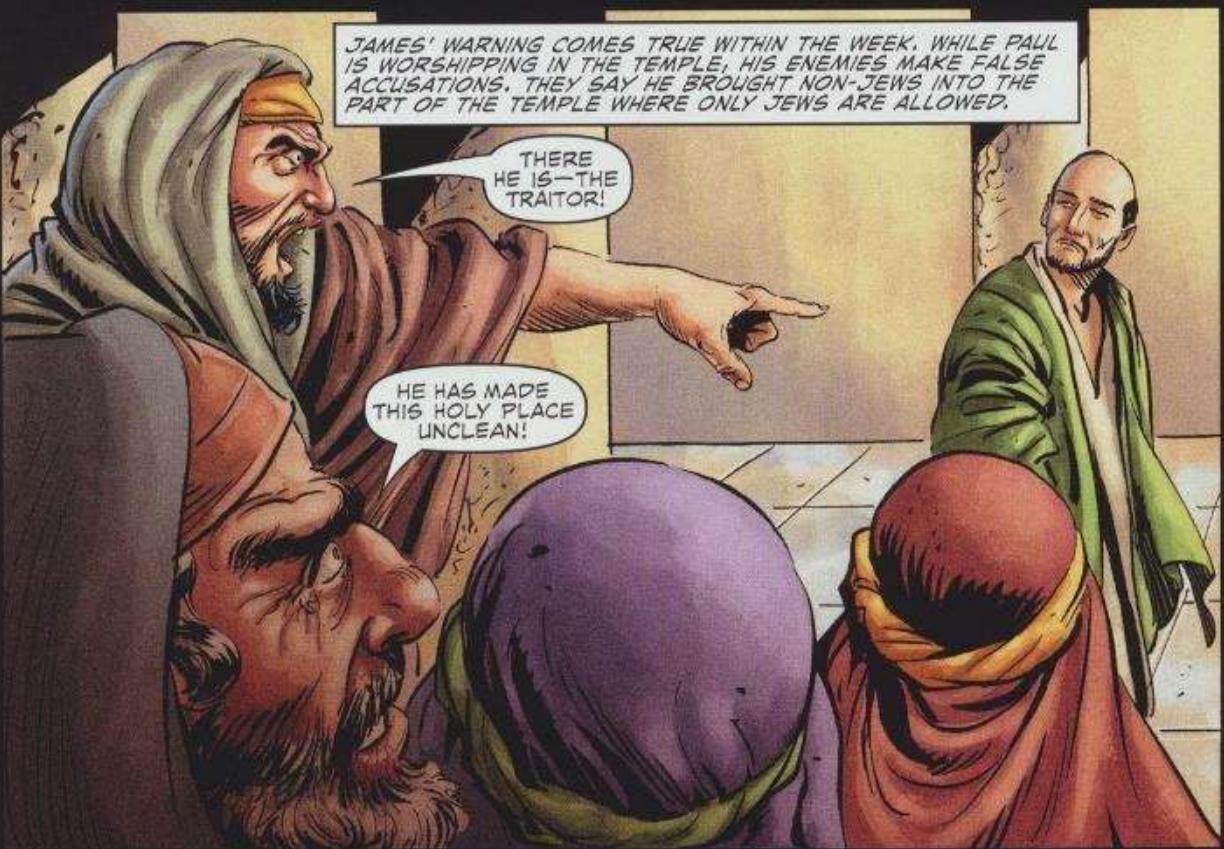
Under Arrest

BASED ON ACTS 21:15-23:22

IN JERUSALEM, PAUL MEETS WITH JAMES AND OTHER LEADERS OF THE CHURCH. HE DELIVERS THE MONEY FOR THE POOR AND TELLS WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN OTHER PLACES.



JAMES' WARNING COMES TRUE WITHIN THE WEEK. WHILE PAUL IS WORSHIPPING IN THE TEMPLE, HIS ENEMIES MAKE FALSE ACCUSATIONS. THEY SAY HE BROUGHT NON-JEWS INTO THE PART OF THE TEMPLE WHERE ONLY JEWS ARE ALLOWED.



THE PEOPLE ANGRILY TURN AGAINST PAUL. A MOB DRAGS HIM FROM THE TEMPLE AND STARTS TO BEAT HIM.

LOOK OUT!
ROMAN SOLDIERS ARE COMING!

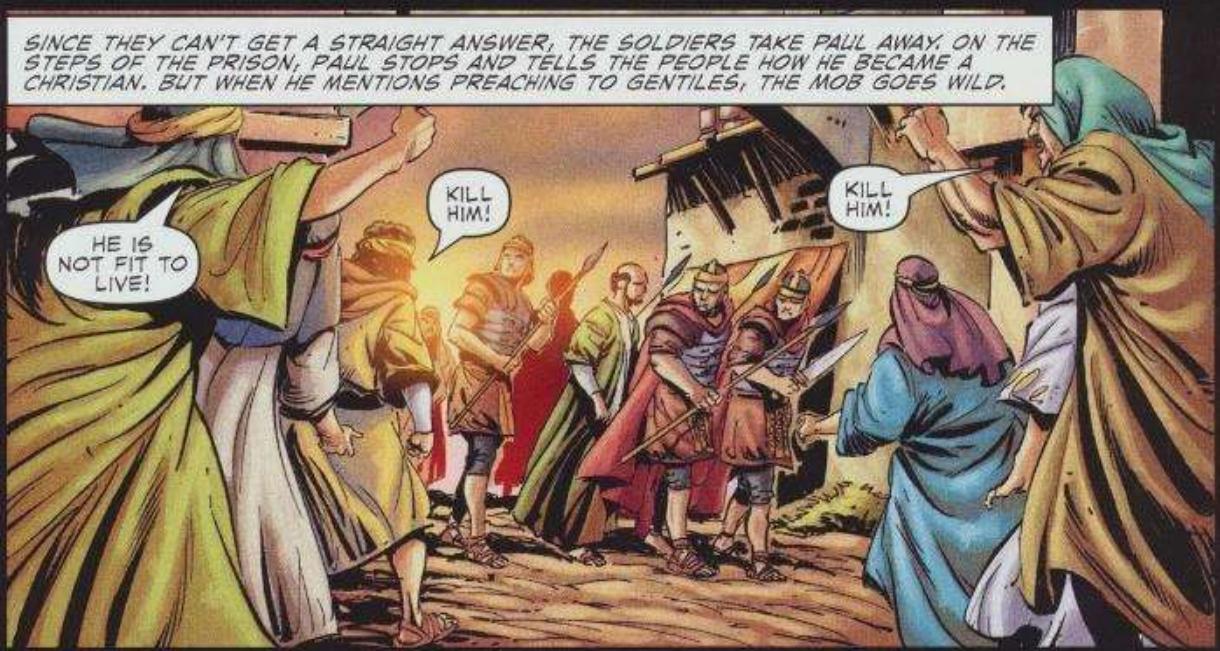


NOW
TELL US WHAT
THIS MAN HAS
DONE.

TAKE HIM
AWAY! KILL
HIM!



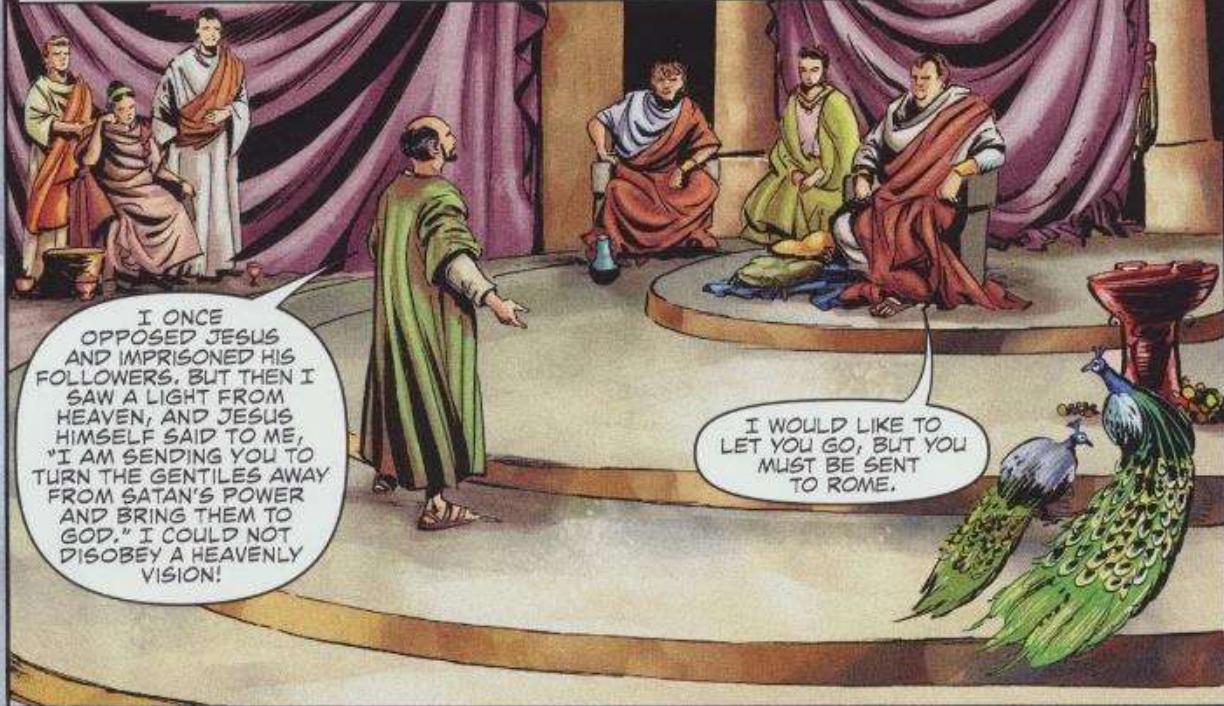
SINCE THEY CAN'T GET A STRAIGHT ANSWER, THE SOLDIERS TAKE PAUL AWAY. ON THE STEPS OF THE PRISON, PAUL STOPS AND TELLS THE PEOPLE HOW HE BECAME A CHRISTIAN. BUT WHEN HE MENTIONS PREACHING TO GENTILES, THE MOB GOES WILD.



Bound for Rome

BASED ON ACTS 23:23-28:16

TO KEEP PAUL SAFE, THE ROMAN COMMANDER AT JERUSALEM SENDS HIM TO CAESAREA, WHERE PAUL STAYS IN PRISON FOR TWO YEARS. THEN PAUL APPEARS BEFORE FESTUS, THE ROMAN GOVERNOR, AND DEMANDS HIS RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY THE EMPEROR, NERO, IN ROME. BUT FIRST FESTUS TAKES PAUL BEFORE A NEIGHBORING RULER, KING AGrippa, WHO IS VISITING THE CITY.



UNDER ROMAN GUARD, PAUL BOARDS A SHIP BOUND FOR ROME FOR HIS TRIAL. DR. LUKE GOES WITH HIM. THE SHIP SETS SAIL, ONLY TO BE STRUCK BY A VIOLENT TEMPEST.

THE STORM RAGES DAY AFTER DAY. AFTER TWO WEEKS, THE SAILORS TRY TO DESERT THE SHIP.

STAY WITH THE SHIP! GOD PROMISED HE WOULD SAVE US. BE COURAGEOUS!



IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM, PAUL THANKS GOD FOR THEIR FOOD. HE PROMISES THAT EVERYONE WILL SURVIVE, BUT THE SHIP WILL SINK. AT DAYBREAK ...

LAND
AHEAD!



HEADING TOWARD A BAY, THE SHIP HITS A SANDBAR. THE FRONT OF THE SHIP IS STUCK, AND THE POUNDING WAVES BREAK THE BACK OF THE SHIP TO PIECES.

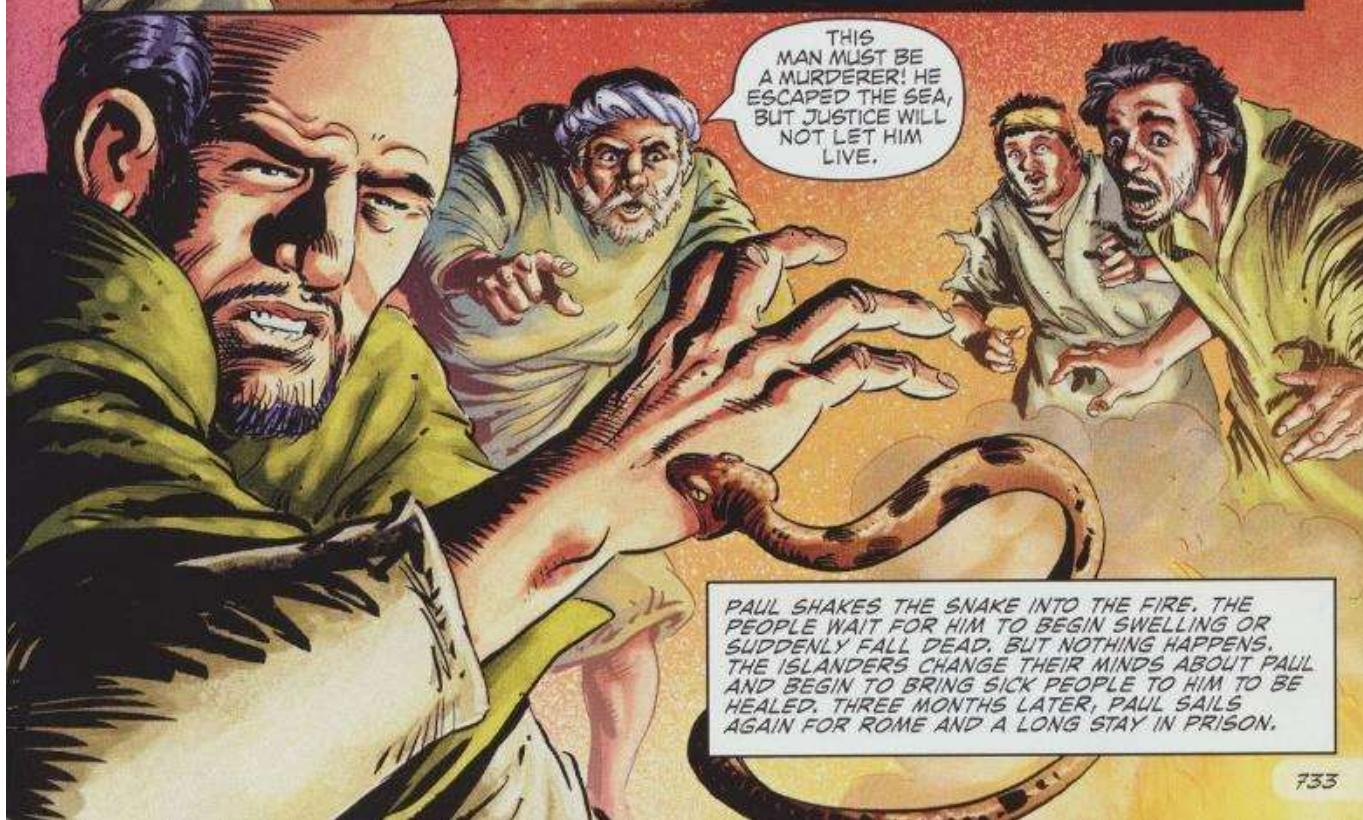
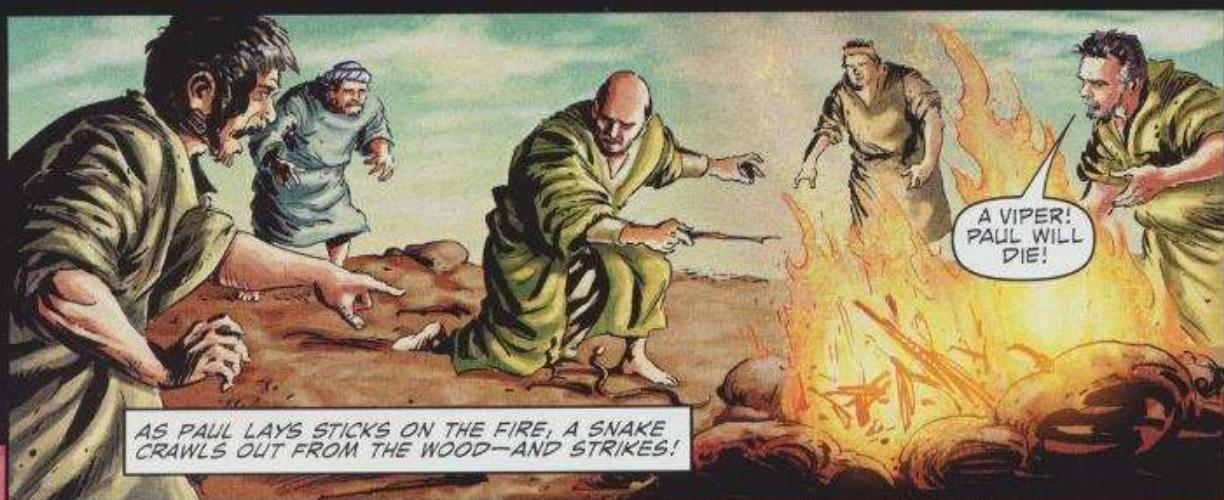
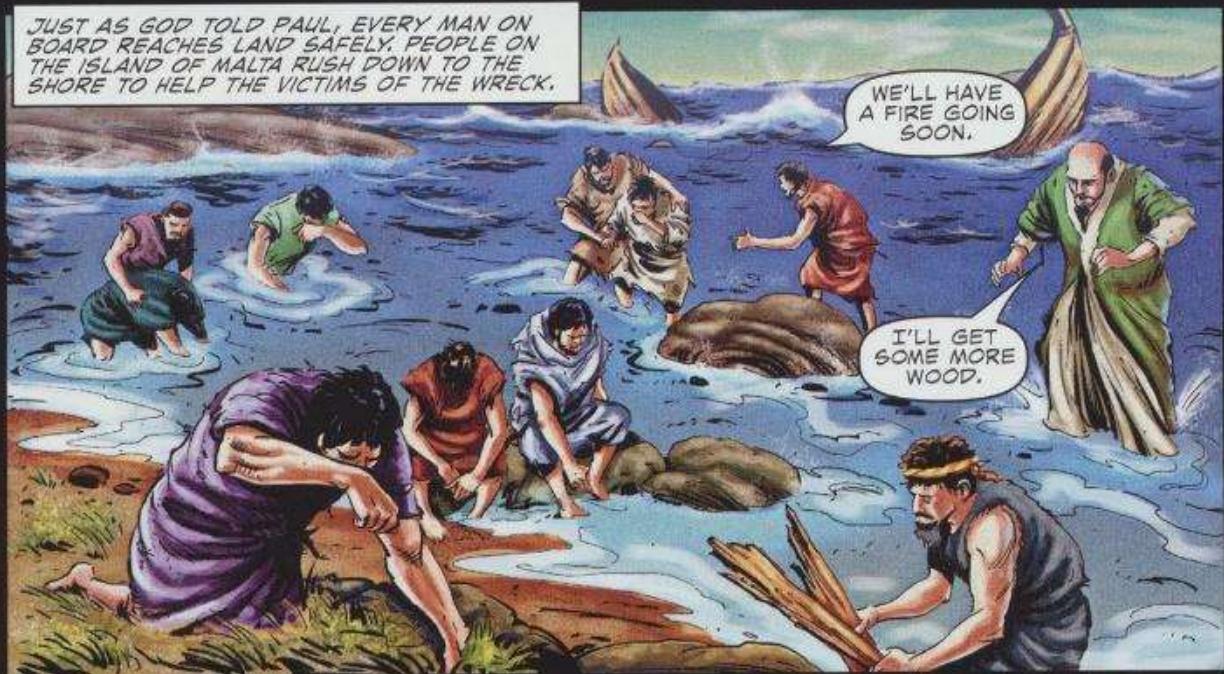
ABANDON
SHIP!

KILL
THE PRISONERS!
IF THEY REACH SHORE, THEY'LL ESCAPE.



BECAUSE OF HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH PAUL, THE ROMAN OFFICER SPARES THE LIVES OF THE PRISONERS. SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AND PRISONERS STRUGGLE FOR THEIR LIVES IN THE WILD SEA.

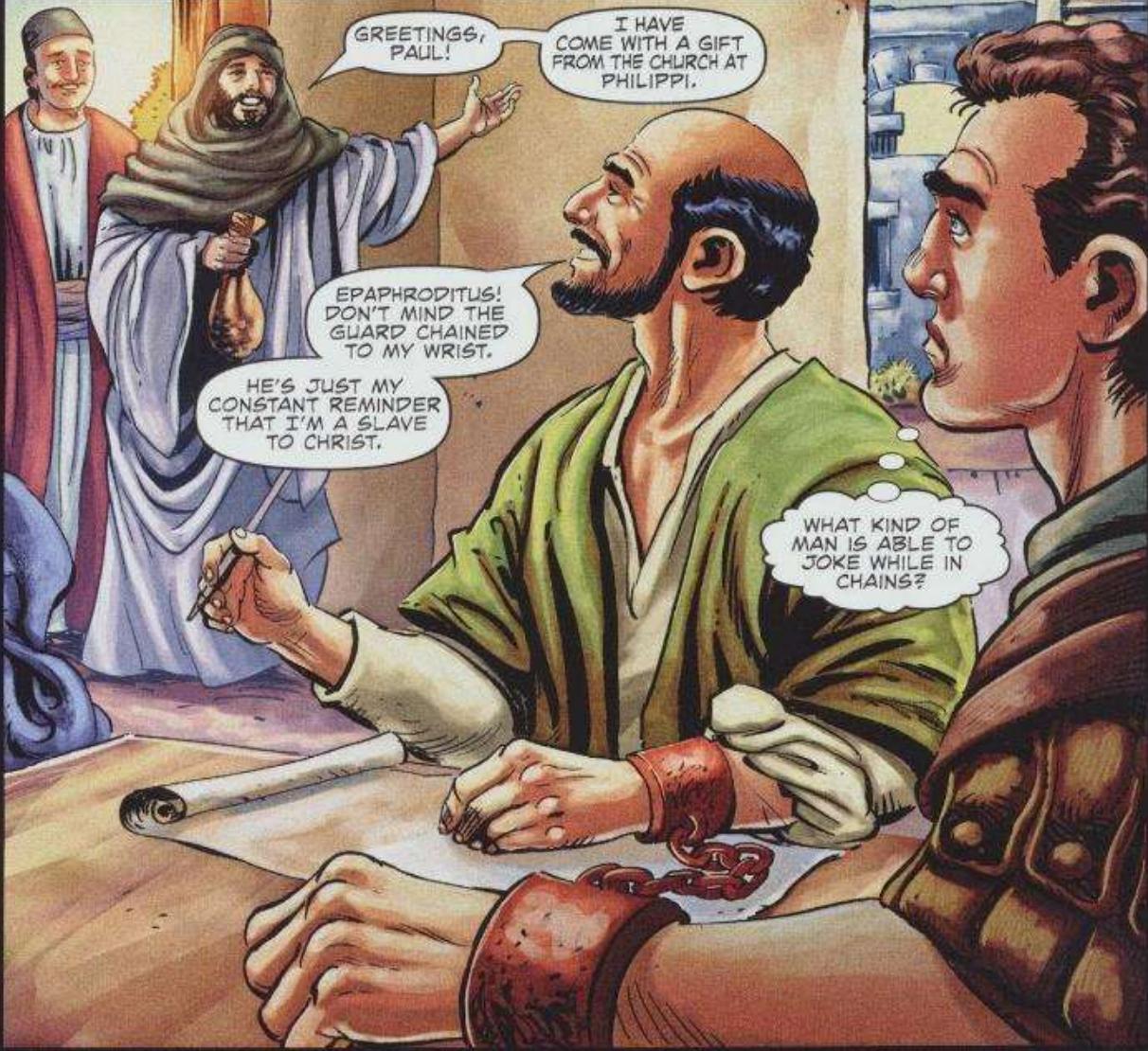
JUST AS GOD TOLD PAUL, EVERY MAN ON BOARD REACHES LAND SAFELY. PEOPLE ON THE ISLAND OF MALTA RUSH DOWN TO THE SHORE TO HELP THE VICTIMS OF THE WRECK.



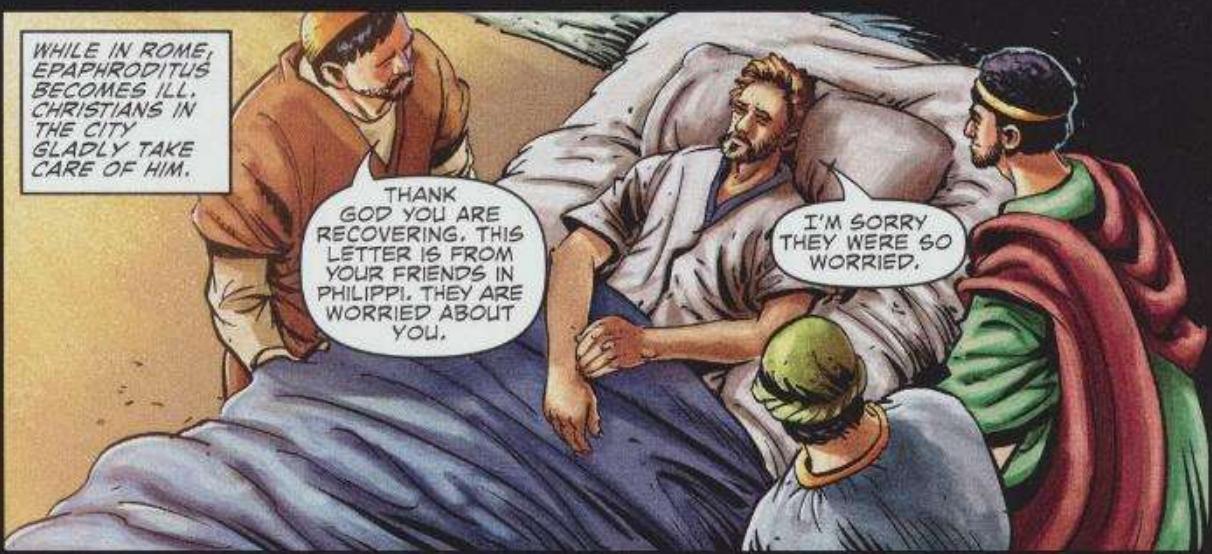
Prison Pen Pals

BASED ON EPHESIANS; PHILIPPIANS; COLOSSIANS; PHILEMON

FOR MONTHS PAUL IS UNDER HOUSE ARREST AS HE WAITS FOR HIS TRIAL BEFORE THE EMPEROR IN ROME. HIS CHRISTIAN FRIENDS IN ALL THE CHURCHES PRAY FOR HIM CONSTANTLY. ONE DAY ...



WHILE IN ROME, EPAPHRODITUS BECOMES ILL. CHRISTIANS IN THE CITY GLADLY TAKE CARE OF HIM.



AS SOON AS HE IS WELL,
EPAPHRODITUS GOES TO
SEE PAUL.

EPAPHRODITUS,
I'M SO THANKFUL
YOU'VE RECOVERED.
ON YOUR WAY HOME TO
COLOSSE, WILL YOU
TAKE SOME LETTERS
WITH YOU?

ALSO, HAVE
TYCHICUS CHECK IN
TO SEE IF PHILEMON
AND ONESIMUS
HAVE MADE
PEACE.

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS ...

Don't be selfish or prideful. Be like Christ—even though He was God, He humbled Himself and became human. He even died on the cross for us. We can do everything God asks, because Jesus gives us strength.

... AND TO THE COLOSSIANS ...

But Christ wasn't just a man. He was truly God—just in human form. Jesus is all we need.

... AND TO THE EPHESIANS ...

It is His grace that saves you through your faith. There is nothing you can do yourself to be saved, so don't bother boasting. Just do the good things God created you to do on this earth.

TWO YEARS GO BY, AND FINALLY PAUL'S CASE IS BROUGHT TO COURT. PAUL DEFENDS HIMSELF BEFORE NERO, THE MOST POWERFUL RULER IN THE WORLD.

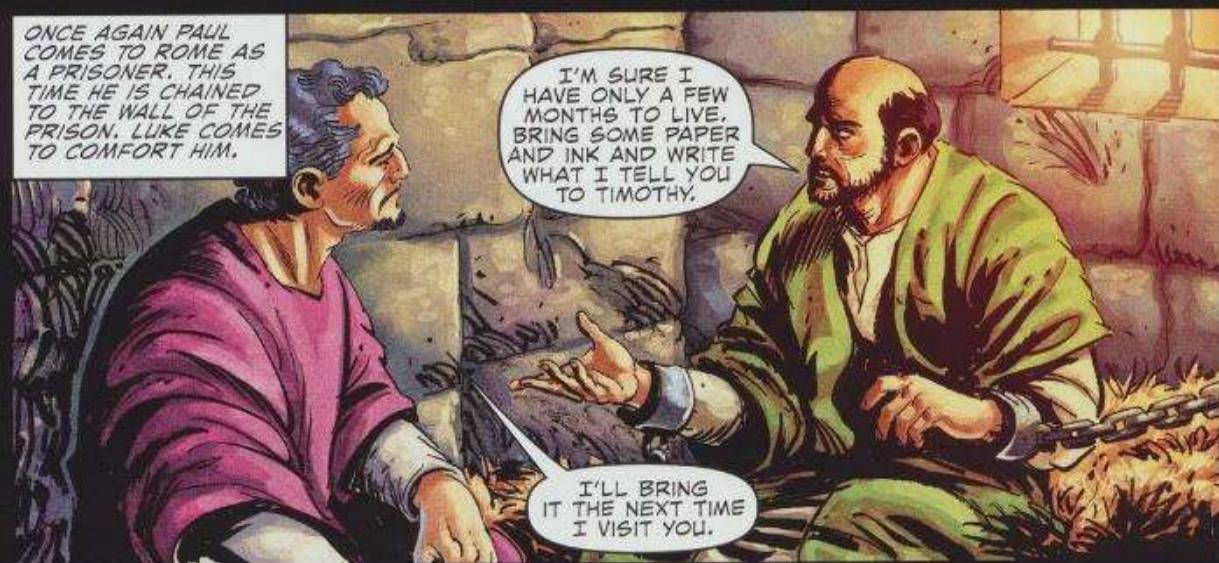
PAUL!
THE COURT
HAS SET YOU
FREE!

THANK GOD!
NOW I CAN CARRY
OUT MY DREAM TO TAKE
THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT
JESUS TO THE FARTHEST
CORNERS OF THE
EMPIRE.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ...

IN THE YEAR 64, NERO, THE CRUEL EMPEROR OF ROME, HAS MANY ENEMIES AMONG HIS OWN PEOPLE. RUMORS SPREAD ABOUT PLOTS ON HIS LIFE. SUDDENLY A FIRE SWEEPS ACROSS THE CITY AND RAGES FOR NINE DAYS. GREAT SECTIONS OF THE CITY BURN TO THE GROUND, DRIVING THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FROM THEIR HOMES.





FROM ROME,
PAUL WRITES
HIS FINAL
LETTERS ...

Fight the Good Fight

BASED ON TITUS; 2 TIMOTHY

PAUL'S LETTER TO TITUS ...

We followers of Christ must be good examples to the world. Be honest and serious, careful about what you say. That way, your enemies will be embarrassed, because no one will believe anything bad about you.

PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY ...

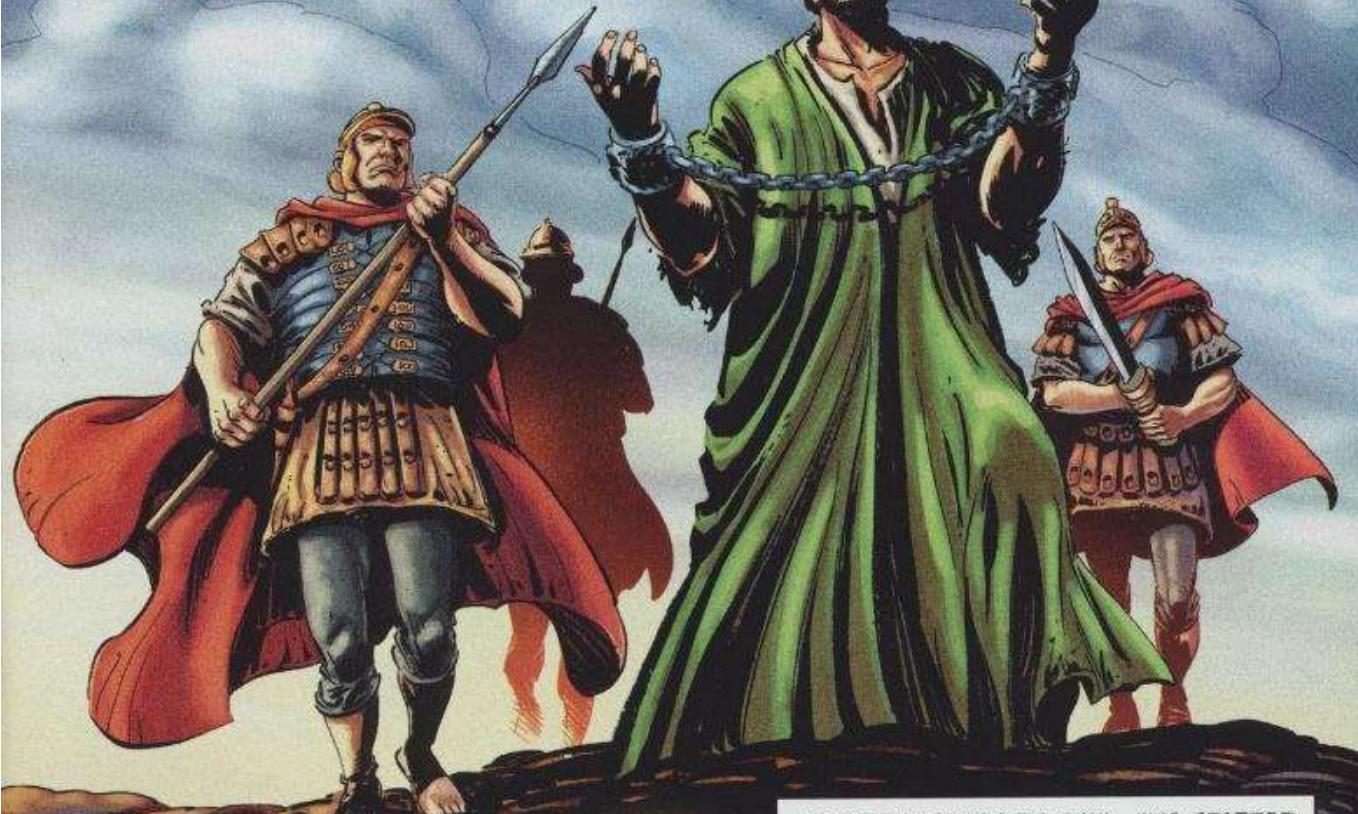
Be strong, like a soldier for Christ. Remember the truth you learned from me and the Scriptures. Keep preaching it, even though the time will come when people don't want to hear the truth. Follow Scripture, because it is all inspired by God, and it equips us to do good.

PAUL'S CASE COMES TO TRIAL. GUARDS
MARCH HIM INTO THE COURT OF NERO ...



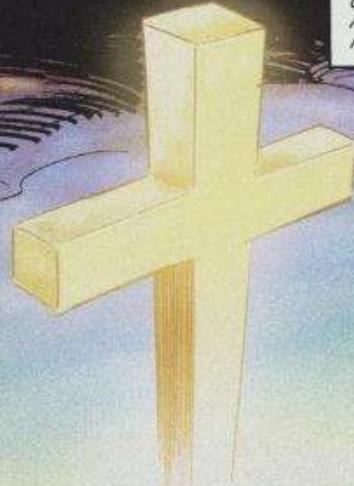
NERO CONDEMNED PAUL TO DEATH. GUARDS TAKE HIM OUTSIDE THE CITY TO BEHEAD HIM.

I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT. I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE. I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH.



SO DEATH COMES TO PAUL, WHO STARTED CHRISTIAN CHURCHES ON TWO CONTINENTS. MANY OF PAUL'S LETTERS BECAME BOOKS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.*

BUT PAUL'S DEATH DOES NOT MEAN THE END OF SPREADING THE GOSPEL. THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS MARCHES ON THROUGHOUT THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND ACROSS THE WORLD.



*ALTHOUGH THE BIBLE DOES NOT TELL US ABOUT PAUL'S TRIAL AND EXECUTION, EARLY CHRISTIAN TRADITION TELLS US HE WAS BEHEADED DURING NERO'S PERSECUTION.

The Final Letters

BASED ON HEBREWS—JUDE

THE LAST EIGHT LETTERS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, HEBREWS THROUGH JUDE, ARE MESSAGES THAT JESUS' DISCIPLES WROTE TO GIVE ADVICE, COURAGE, AND COMFORT TO THE EARLY CHRISTIANS.



THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS WAS WRITTEN WHEN JEWISH CHRISTIANS WERE BEING PRESSURED TO GIVE UP THEIR FAITH IN JESUS AND RETURN TO THEIR JEWISH TRADITIONS. THEY ASKED THEMSELVES, WHICH IS RIGHT: FAITH IN JESUS OR FAITH IN THE RELIGION OF ABRAHAM, MOSES, AND DAVID?

In the past, God spoke to our people through the prophets. But in these last days, He has spoken to us through His Son. All the faith heroes of the past looked forward to Jesus, even though He didn't come during their lifetime. Now that Jesus has come, throw away your sin and run the good race, because Jesus is waiting for us at the finish line. While you're running, remember what God said to us: "I will never leave you."

THE BOOK OF JAMES

THE LEADER OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM, JAMES, THE BROTHER OF JESUS, WROTE A LETTER TO ENCOURAGE CHRISTIANS TO LIVE IN WAYS THAT SHOW THEIR FAITH.

Faith is meaningless unless you do something with it. Take care of the helpless. Ask God for wisdom, and keep your lives pure from the muck that surrounds you. Then your prayers will be powerful and change the world.

THE BOOK OF 1 PETER

PETER WROTE TO ENCOURAGE THE CHRISTIANS WHO WERE BEING PERSECUTED. LIKE PAUL, HE WAS ALSO EXECUTED BY THE ROMANS.

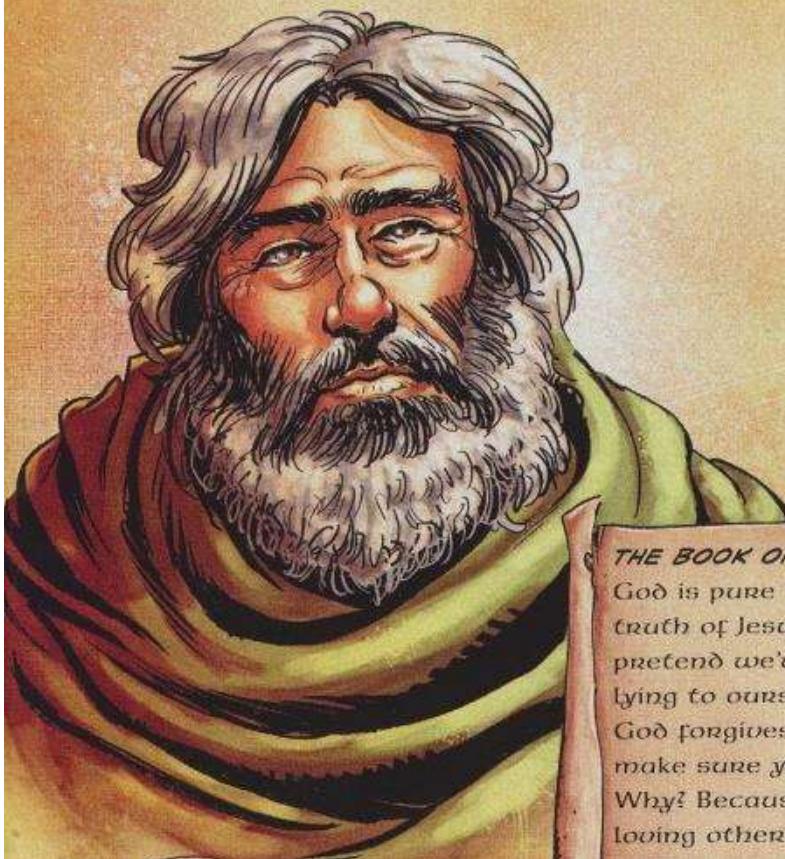
Face your hardships bravely. God chose you to be His royal priesthood and His holy nation. Even though the devil prowls like a lion to destroy you, stand firm.

THE BOOK OF 2 PETER

Don't be deceived by those who spread lies to mislead you. They'll get what they deserve when Christ returns. Don't be impatient waiting for Christ; God is taking His time so that people have a chance to repent.



JOHN, THE APOSTLE JESUS LOVED, WAS THE ONLY DISCIPLE WHO WAS NOT EXECUTED FOR HIS FAITH. HE LIVED TO AN OLD AGE, EXILED TO A GREEK ISLAND IN THE AEGEAN SEA. HE WROTE THREE LETTERS ABOUT GOD'S NATURE AND HOW CHRISTIANS SHOULD TREAT EACH OTHER.

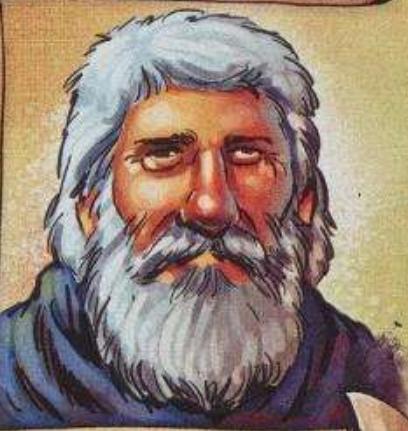


THE BOOK OF 1 JOHN

God is pure light. Anyone who denies the truth of Jesus walks in darkness. If we pretend we've never sinned, then we're only lying to ourselves. But if we admit our sins, God forgives us and cleans us. My friends, make sure you show love to each other. Why? Because love comes from God, and by loving others we know God even better.

THE BOOK OF 2 JOHN

I am glad to hear that you are obeying God's commands and loving one another. Beware of enemies of the truth. These people say that Christ was just a man. Don't let them hang around you and do not invite them home! I have much to say, but not with pen and ink—I cannot wait to talk with all of you face-to-face.



THE BOOK OF 3 JOHN

You are doing right by receiving Christians into your home, especially traveling preachers. Your kindness helps in their work. Don't copy evil. Imitate what is good. Never let anyone stop you from doing good things. Peace to you.

JUDE WAS ANOTHER BROTHER OF JESUS WHO WROTE TO DEFEND TRUTH AGAINST FALSE TEACHERS.

THE BOOK OF JUDE

Dear friends, you must defend our Christian truth. Build up your faith, and pray with the help of the Holy Spirit. Have mercy for those who doubt, so you can save them from the fire of fear.

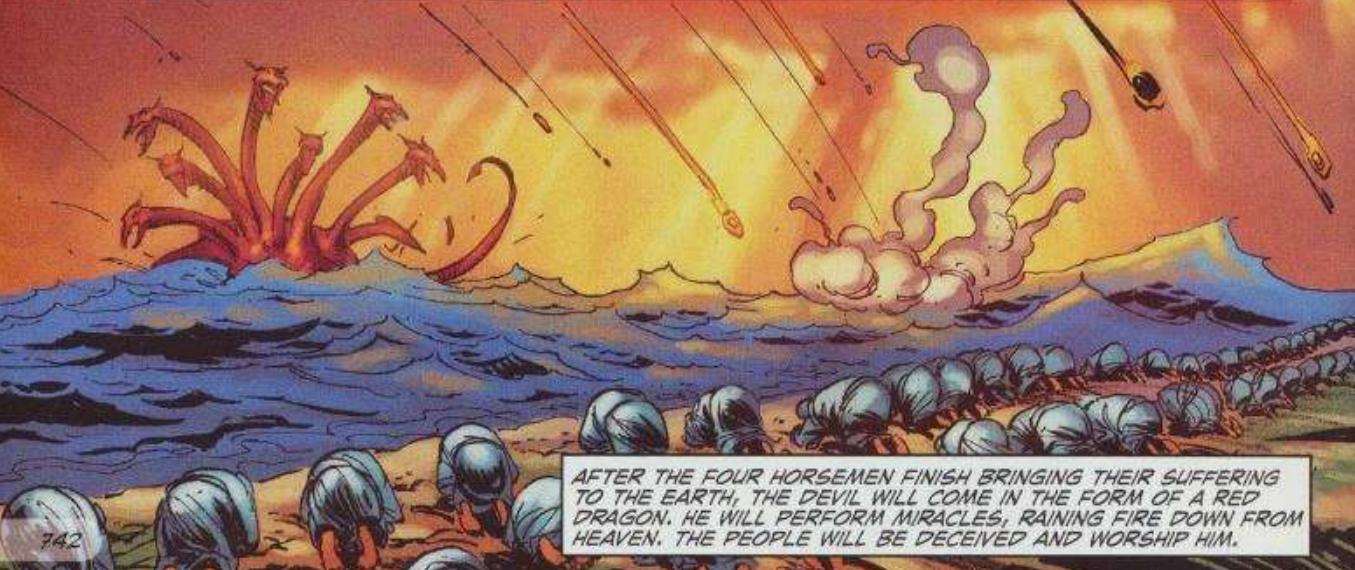
The Final Days

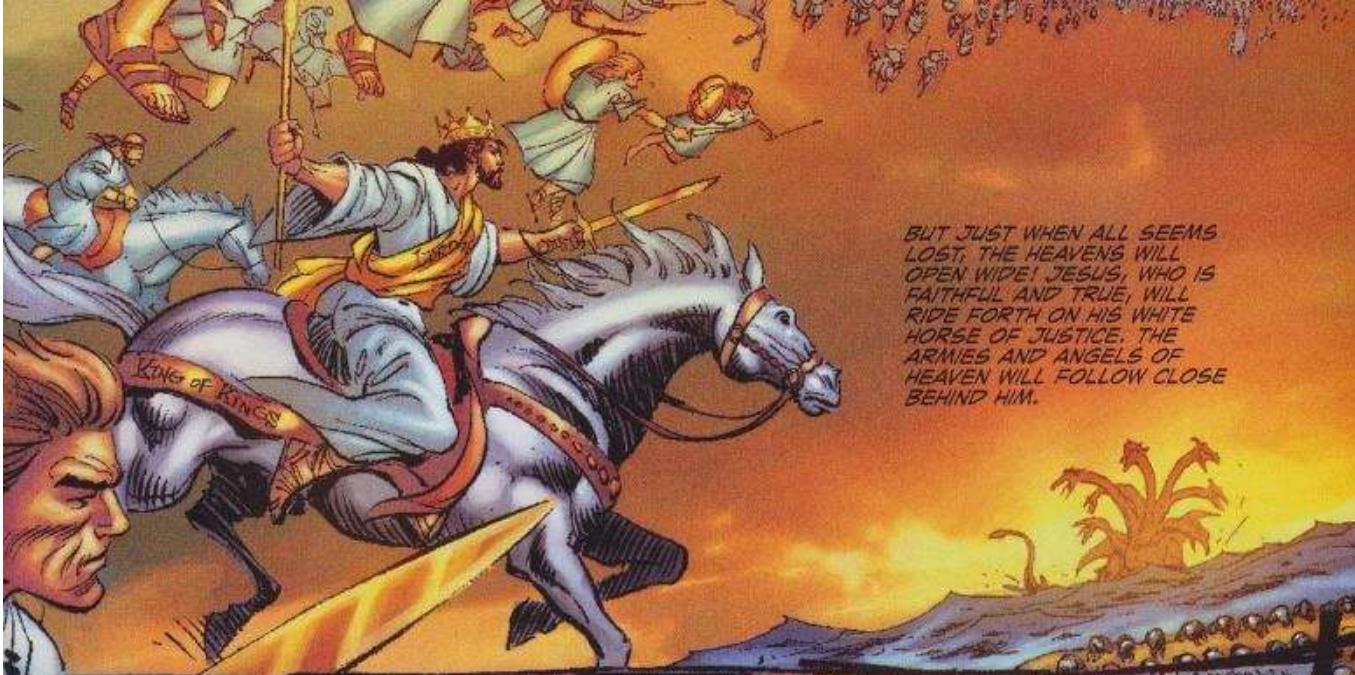
BASED ON REVELATION

MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE JESUS CAME BACK TO LIFE AND ROSE UP TO HEAVEN. PAUL AND PETER HAVE DIED DOING THE WORK OF THE LORD. JOHN—JESUS' BELOVED DISCIPLE AND FRIEND—IS THE LAST APOSTLE LEFT. JESUS VISITS HIM IN ONE FINAL VISION, WHERE HE REVEALS WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE END OF TIME.

IN THE END DAYS, FOUR HORSEMEN WILL RIDE FORTH. FIRST A CONQUEROR, ON A WHITE HORSE. THEN WAR, RIDING ON A RED HORSE. THIRD WILL COME FAMINE, ON A BLACK HORSE. AND FINALLY, DEATH WILL COME FORTH ON A PALE HORSE, WITH HELL FOLLOWING CLOSE BEHIND HIM.

DO NOT BE AFRAID. I AM THE FIRST AND THE LAST, WHO LIVES FOREVER AND EVER. I HOLD THE KEYS TO DEATH AND HELL.

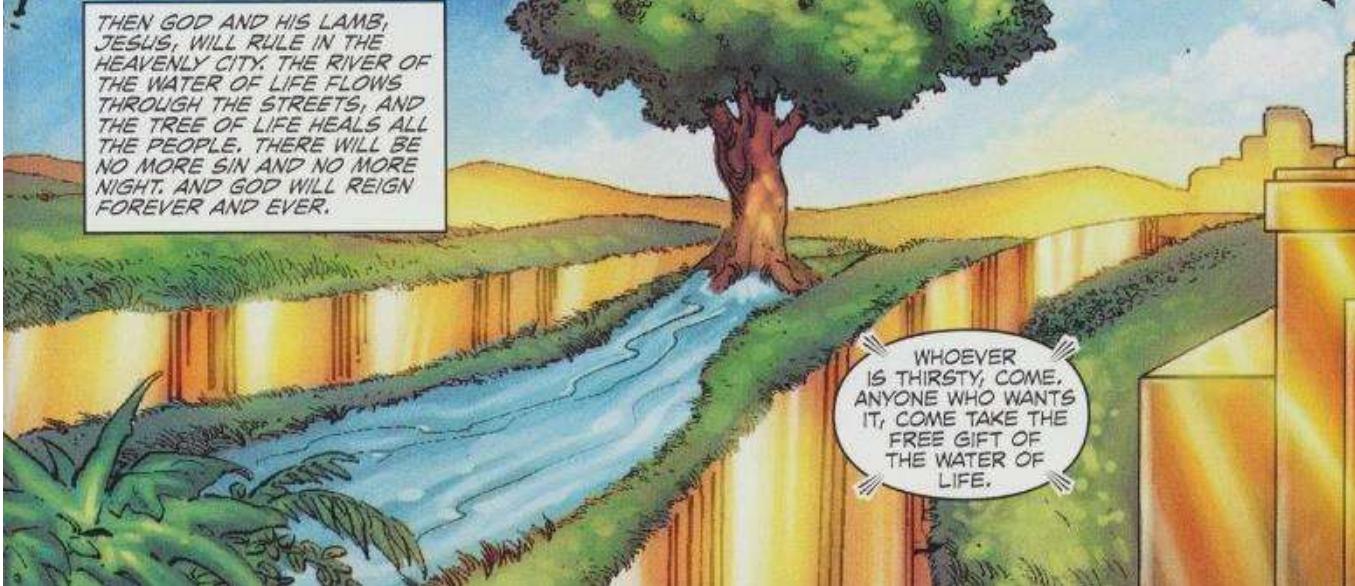




BUT JUST WHEN ALL SEEMS LOST, THE HEAVENS WILL OPEN WIDE! JESUS, WHO IS FAITHFUL AND TRUE, WILL RIDE FORTH ON HIS WHITE HORSE OF JUSTICE. THE ARMIES AND ANGELS OF HEAVEN WILL FOLLOW CLOSE BEHIND HIM.



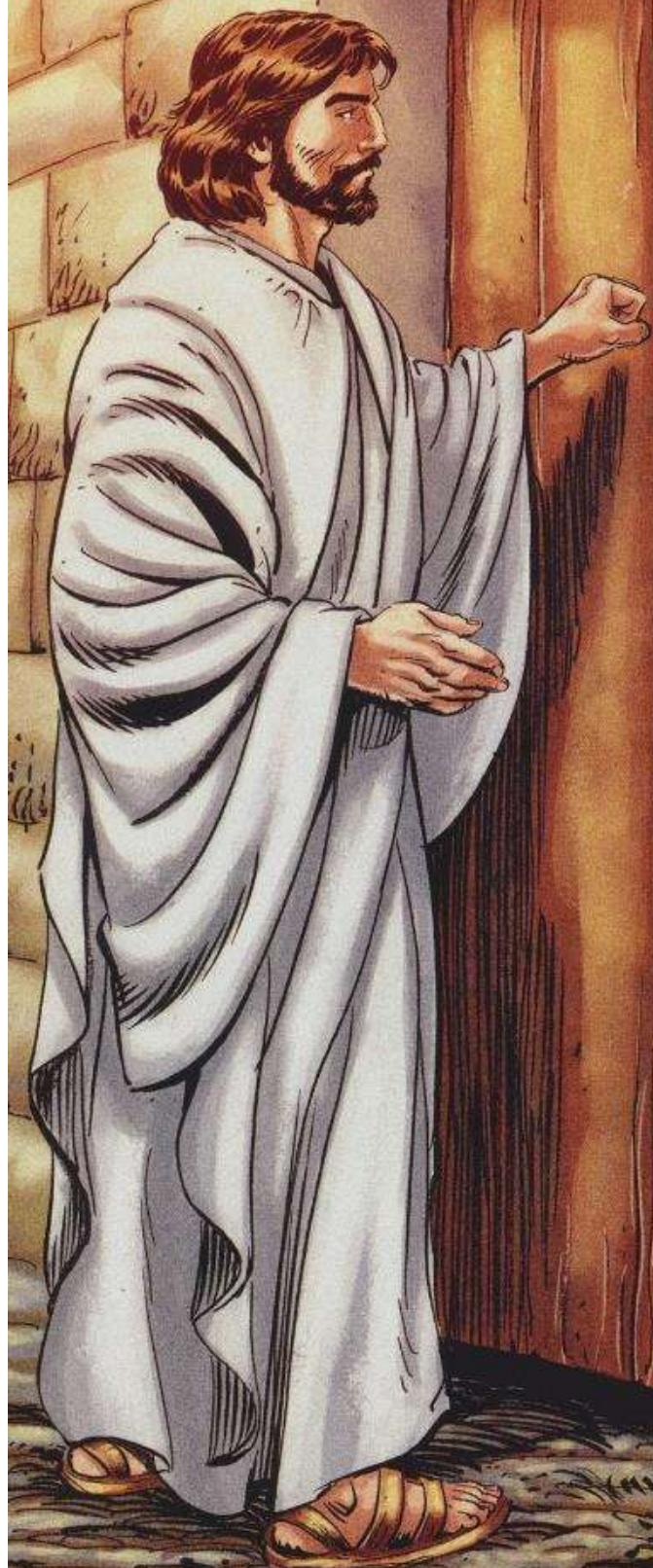
JESUS WILL SEIZE THAT ANCIENT DRAGON, THE DEVIL, AND LOCK HIM IN THE PIT OF FIRE FOR A THOUSAND YEARS.



THEN GOD AND HIS LAMB, JESUS, WILL RULE IN THE HEAVENLY CITY. THE RIVER OF THE WATER OF LIFE FLOWS THROUGH THE STREETS, AND THE TREE OF LIFE HEALS ALL THE PEOPLE. THERE WILL BE NO MORE SIN AND NO MORE NIGHT. AND GOD WILL REIGN FOREVER AND EVER.

WHOEVER IS THIRSTY, COME. ANYONE WHO WANTS IT, COME TAKE THE FREE GIFT OF THE WATER OF LIFE.

THROUGH THE PROPHECY IN REVELATION, JESUS GIVES JOHN A MESSAGE FOR THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN ASIA. SOME PEOPLE AT THOSE CHURCHES HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS. SOME HAVE TURNED AWAY FROM JESUS BECAUSE IT WAS TOO HARD TO FOLLOW HIM. AND SOME JUST WANT THINGS TO BE EASY. JESUS' WORDS TO THESE CHURCHES ARE STILL RELEVANT TO US TODAY.



"I KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING, AND IT'S NEITHER HOT NOR COLD. I WISH YOU'D BE ONE OR THE OTHER.

BECAUSE YOU ARE LUKEWARM—NEITHER COLD NOR HOT—I WILL SPIT YOU OUT OF MY MOUTH.

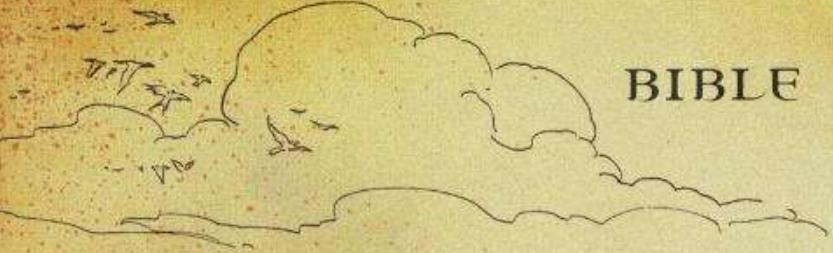
YOU THINK YOU ARE RICH, BUT YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW POOR, BLIND, AND NAKED YOU ARE.

TAKE THE WEALTH I GIVE YOU, AND YOU WILL TRULY BE RICH. MY WHITE CLOTHES WILL COVER YOUR SINFUL NAKEDNESS. THE SALVE I GIVE YOU WILL LET YOU SEE!"

"HERE I AM! I'M STANDING AT THE DOOR AND KNOCKING. ANYONE WHO HEARS MY VOICE AND OPENS THE DOOR WILL SHARE MY FOOD AND MY THRONE IN HEAVEN!"

JOHN'S VISION ENDS THE BIBLE, THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD.

JESUS STANDS AT THE DOOR AND KNOCKS. WILL YOU LET HIM IN?



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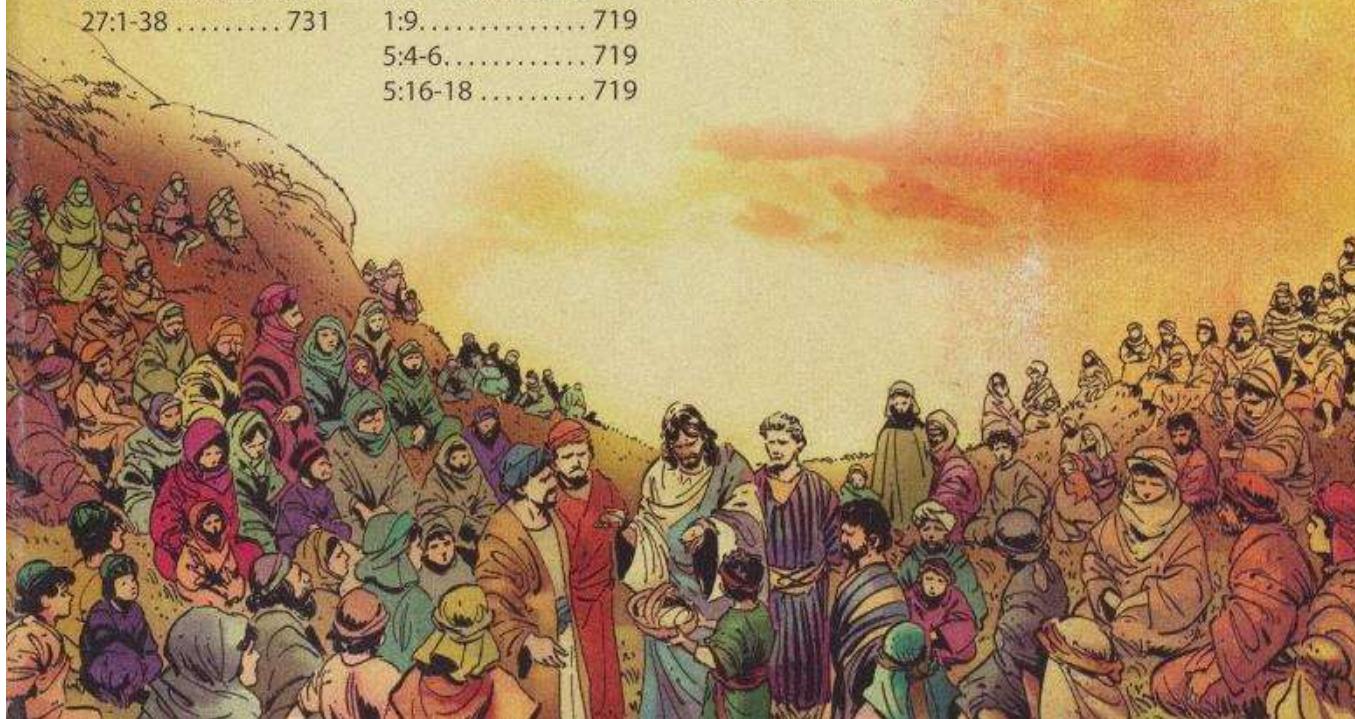
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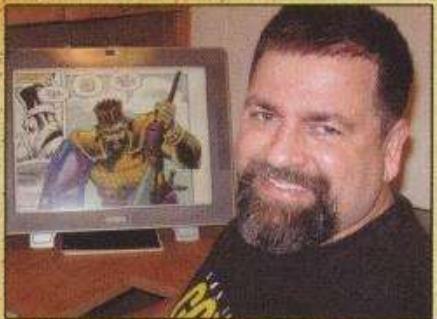
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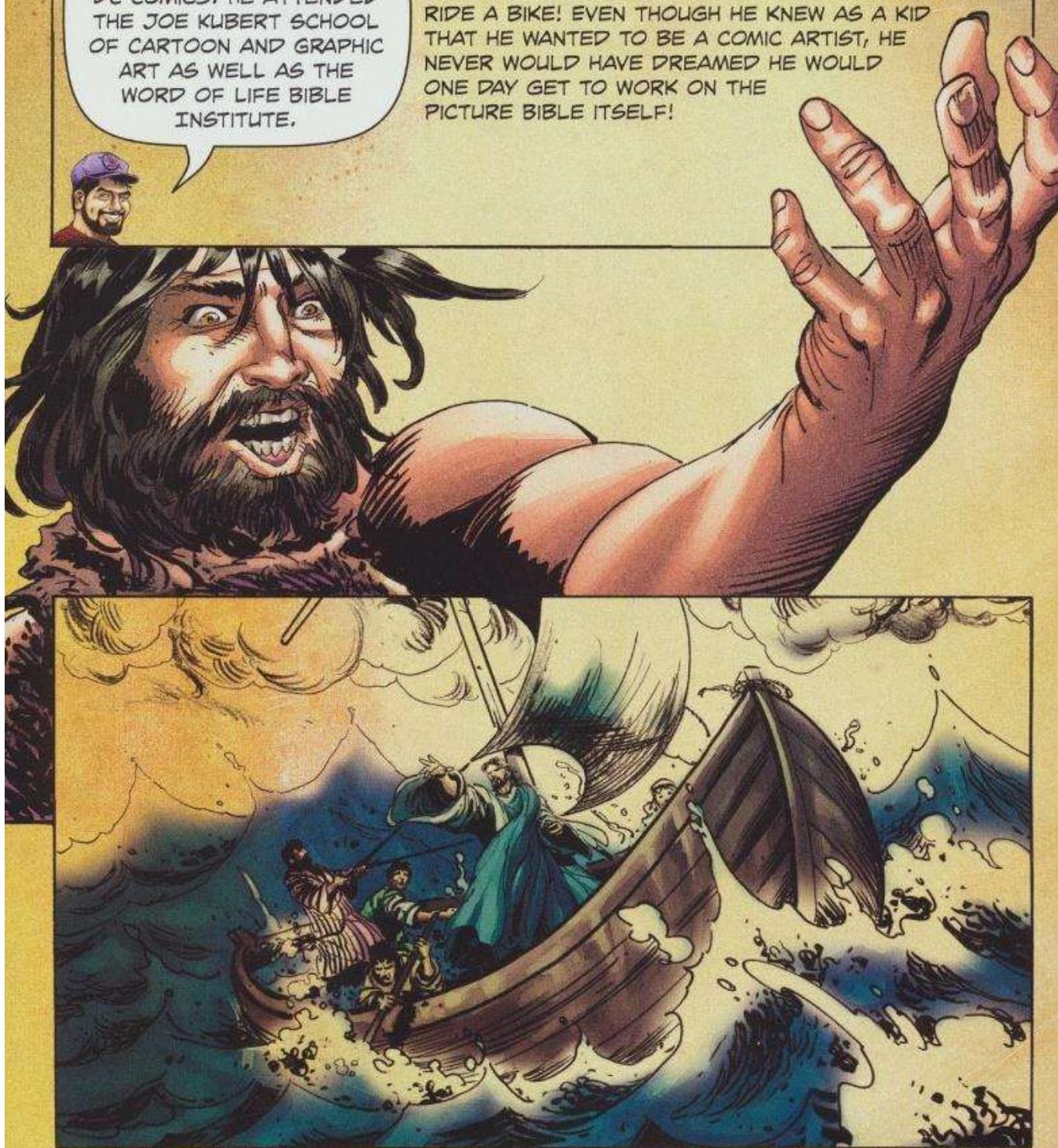


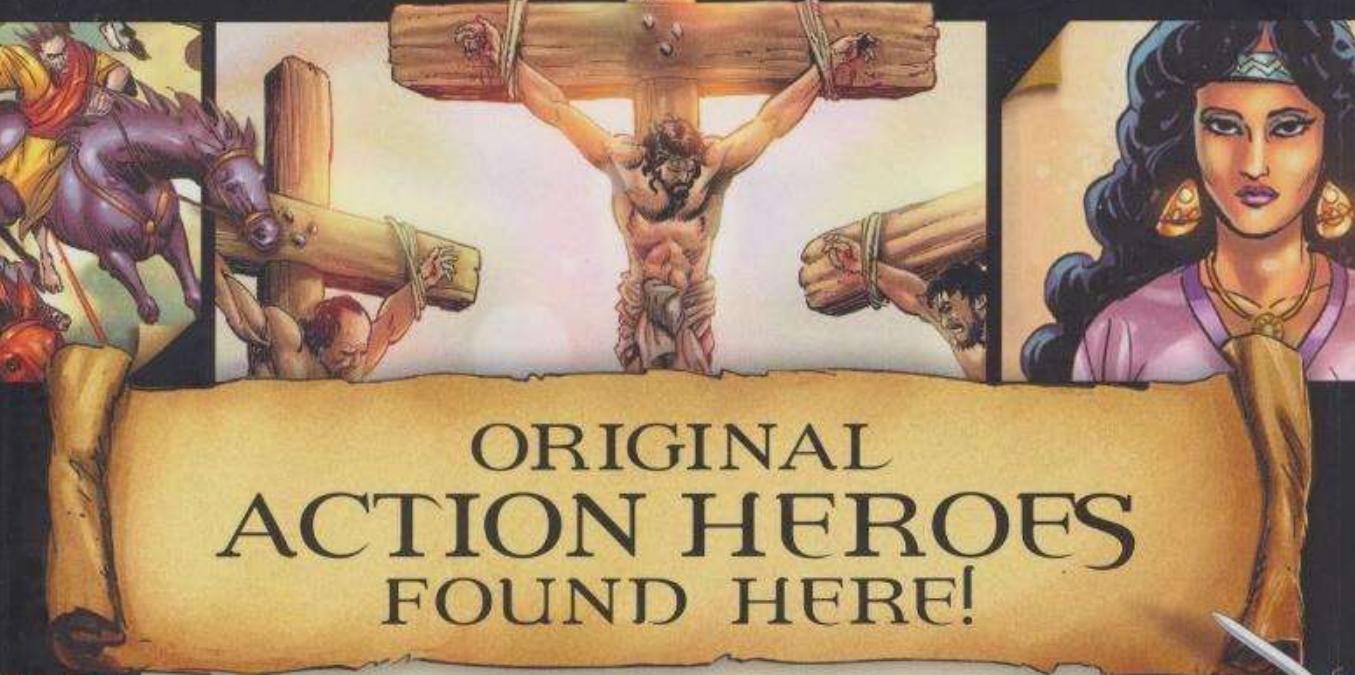


SERGIO CARIELLO WAS BORN IN BRAZIL, IN 1964 AND STARTED DRAWING AS SOON AS HE COULD HOLD A PENCIL. AT THE AGE OF 5, HE ALREADY KNEW THAT HE WANTED TO BE A CARTOONIST. AND SO DID EVERYONE ELSE-HE DREW ON CHURCH BULLETINS, NAPKINS AND EVERY SURFACE WITHIN HIS REACH.

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Sergio Cariello has been an accomplished artist since childhood, drawing a regular comic strip for his city's newspaper by age eleven. He later worked for Marvel and DC Comics. He attended the Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art as well as the Word of Life Bible Institute. He currently resides in Florida with his wife, Luzia.

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