



CHAPTER 8

THE NEW TESTAMENT

6 B.C.

O GOD OF ABRAHAM,
ISAAC, AND JACOB, I HAVE
WAITED FOR THE SAVIOR,
BUT I WILL NOT LIVE
MUCH LONGER.

INDEED YOU
WILL NOT LIVE MUCH
LONGER, BUT YOU WILL
SEE THE PROMISED ONE
BEFORE YOU DIE.

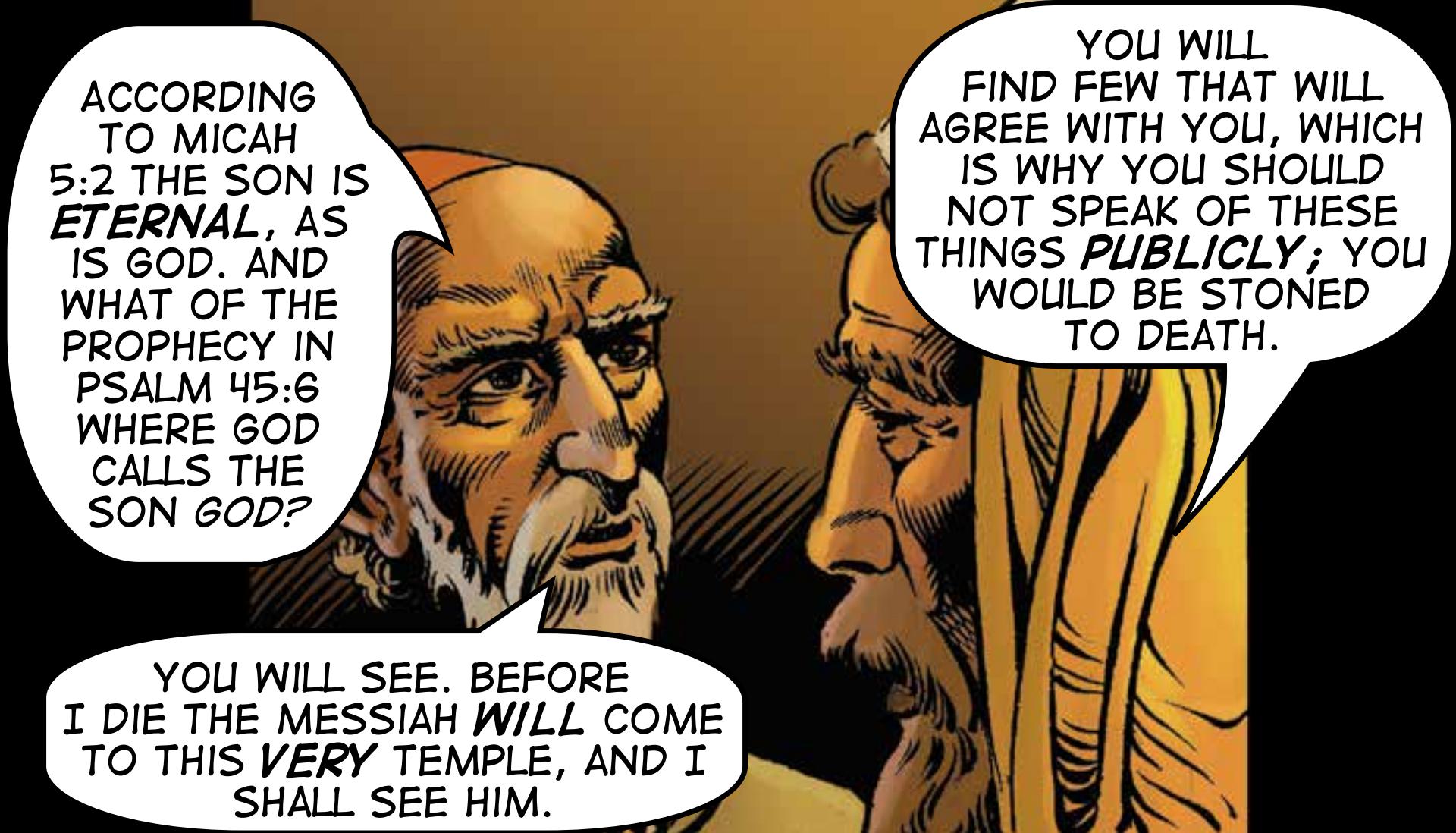


SIMEON, YOU COME HERE EVERY DAY. I WISH ALL THE PRIESTS WERE AS **DEVOUT** AS YOU.

SIMEON SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES AND FOUND MANY PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE CHRIST.

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS PROPHECY IN ISAIAH CONCERNING CHRIST? IT SAYS A **VIRGIN** WILL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A MALE CHILD. THIS MUST BE THE SEED OF THE **WOMAN**, AS SPOKEN TO EVE.

YES, AND ISAIAH ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD BE CALLED **THE MIGHTY GOD**. BUT THE PROPHECIES ARE HARD TO UNDERSTAND.



ACCORDING
TO MICAH
5:2 THE SON IS
ETERNAL, AS
IS GOD. AND
WHAT OF THE
PROPHECY IN
PSALM 45:6
WHERE GOD
CALLS THE
SON GOD?

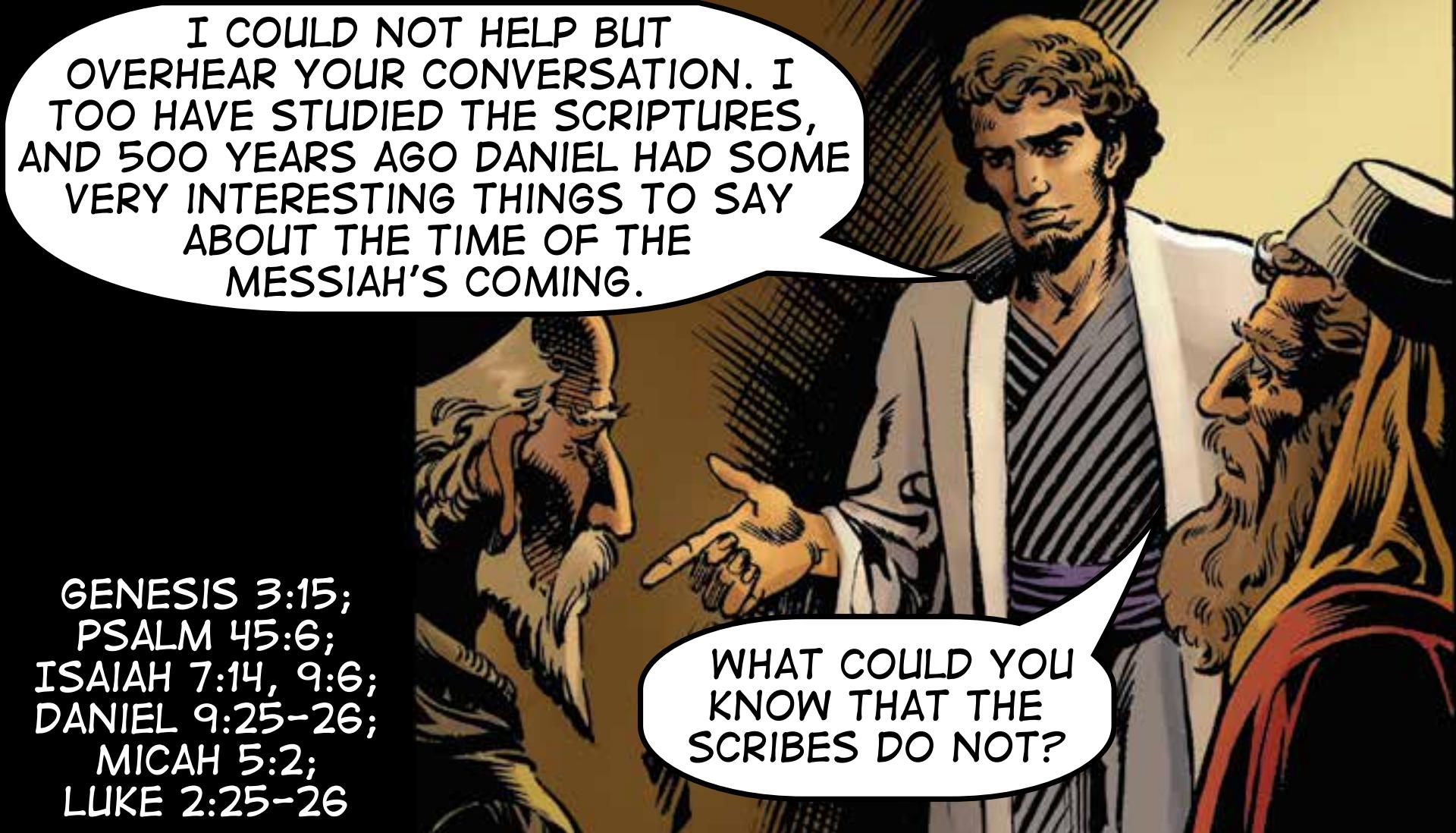
YOU WILL
FIND FEW THAT WILL
AGREE WITH YOU, WHICH
IS WHY YOU SHOULD
NOT SPEAK OF THESE
THINGS **PUBLICLY**; YOU
WOULD BE STONED
TO DEATH.

YOU WILL SEE. BEFORE
I DIE THE MESSIAH **WILL** COME
TO THIS **VERY** TEMPLE, AND I
SHALL SEE HIM.



HE COULD
BE **RIGHT**, YOU
KNOW.

AND WHO ARE
YOU? WHAT DO YOU
KNOW OF THESE
THINGS?



I COULD NOT HELP BUT
OVERHEAR YOUR CONVERSATION. I
TOO HAVE STUDIED THE SCRIPTURES,
AND 500 YEARS AGO DANIEL HAD SOME
VERY INTERESTING THINGS TO SAY
ABOUT THE TIME OF THE
MESSIAH'S COMING.

GENESIS 3:15;
PSALM 45:6;
ISAIAH 7:14, 9:6;
DANIEL 9:25-26;
MICAH 5:2;
LUKE 2:25-26

WHAT COULD YOU
KNOW THAT THE
SCRIBES DO NOT?



MY FATHER IS A SCRIBE AND HE HAS SHOWN ME THE PROPHECIES. GOD TOLD DANIEL THAT FROM THE TIME THE COMMANDMENT WENT FORTH TO REBUILD JERUSALEM UNTIL THE MESSIAH WAS CUT OFF WOULD BE 483 YEARS.

IT HAS NOW BEEN 449 YEARS SINCE THAT DECREE WAS MADE. THAT LEAVES JUST 34 YEARS, WHICH MEANS THE MESSIAH COULD BE WALKING THE STREETS EVEN NOW.



NO, NOT YET. THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALED TO ME THAT BEFORE I DIE I SHALL SEE THE INFANT MESSIAH RIGHT HERE IN THIS TEMPLE.

HOW COULD YOU KNOW SUCH THINGS?

YOU WILL SEE.

AS SIMEON GREW OLDER AND WAITED AT THE TEMPLE, LOOKING FOR THE PROMISED CHRIST, A PRIEST BY THE NAME OF ZACHARIAS WENT INTO THE TEMPLE TO PRAY. HE AND HIS WIFE WERE OLD, BUT THEY HAD NEVER HAD ANY CHILDREN.

SUDDENLY AN ANGEL
APPEARED ON THE RIGHT
SIDE OF THE ALTAR!



DO NOT BE AFRAID.
YOUR PRAYER HAS
BEEN HEARD AND YOUR
WIFE ELIZABETH WILL
BEAR A SON, AND YOU
WILL NAME
HIM JOHN.

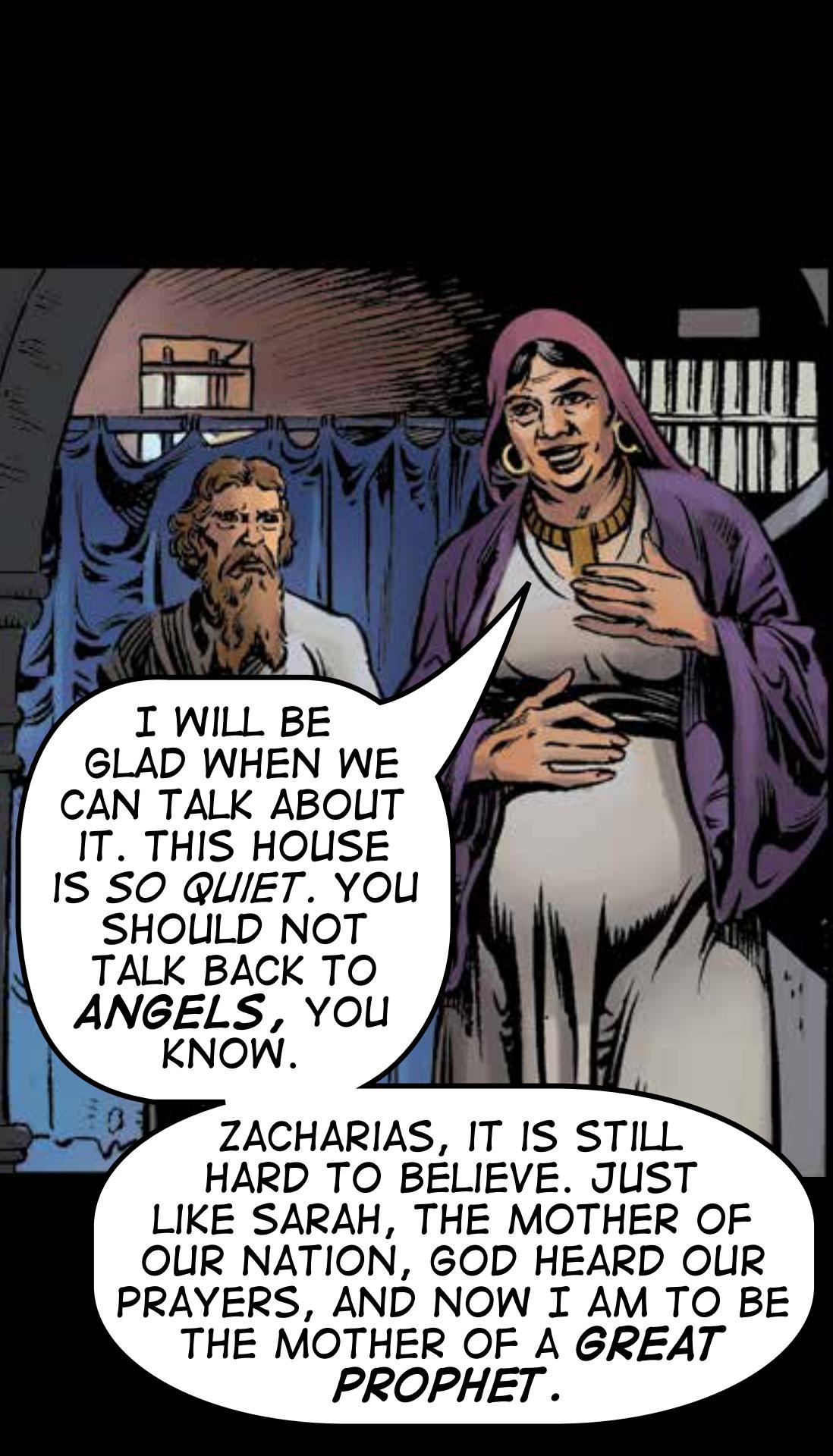


MANY WILL REJOICE
WHEN HE IS BORN, BECAUSE
HE IS THE ONE THAT WILL
PREPARE THE PEOPLE FOR THE
COMING OF THE MESSIAH. HE
WILL NOT DRINK WINE OR STRONG
DRINK AND HE WILL RECEIVE
THE SPIRIT AND POWER OF
ELIJAH.



HOW CAN I KNOW THAT
WHAT YOU SAY IS **TRUE**?
MY WIFE AND I ARE BOTH TOO
OLD TO PRODUCE CHILDREN,
AND SHE HAS BEEN BARREN
ALL HER LIFE.

I AM **GABRIEL**,
WHO STANDS IN THE VERY
PRESENCE OF GOD, AND I
WAS SENT TO TELL YOU THESE
THINGS. YOU WANT A SIGN? YOU
WILL NOT **SPEAK** AGAIN UNTIL
YOU HAVE SEEN THESE THINGS
COME TO PASS.



I WILL BE GLAD WHEN WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT. THIS HOUSE IS SO QUIET. YOU SHOULD NOT TALK BACK TO ANGELS, YOU KNOW.

ZACHARIAS, IT IS STILL HARD TO BELIEVE. JUST LIKE SARAH, THE MOTHER OF OUR NATION, GOD HEARD OUR PRAYERS, AND NOW I AM TO BE THE MOTHER OF A GREAT PROPHET.

FOR 4,000 YEARS, THE PROPHETS FORETOLD THE COMING OF MESSIAH. 700 YEARS EARLIER, THE PROPHET ISAIAH SAID: "BEHOLD, A VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE, AND BEAR A SON, AND HE SHALL BE CALLED EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US."

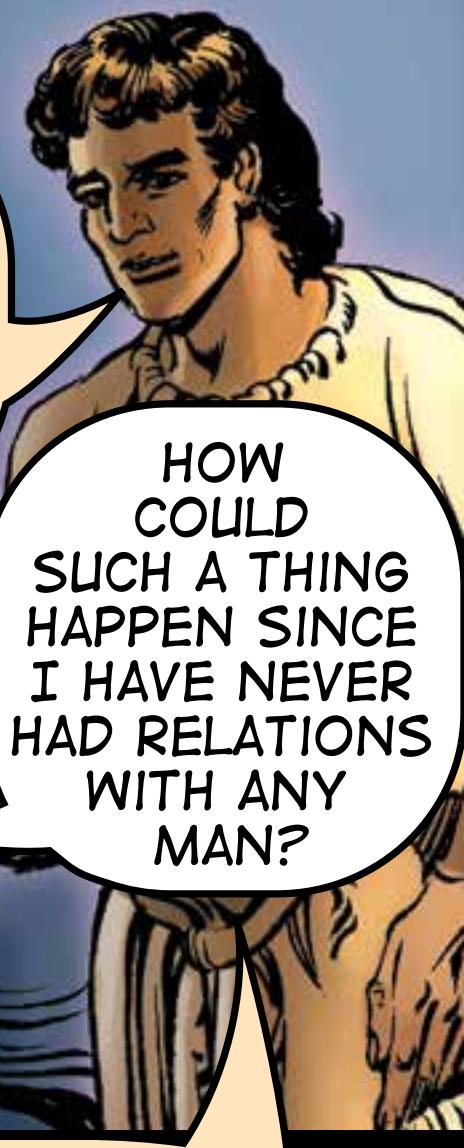


MARY WAS ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED TO JOSEPH. SHE HAD NEVER HAD INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS WITH ANYONE. SHE WAS OBEDIENT TO ALL THE LAWS OF MOSES.

SUDDENLY, AN ANGEL APPEARED UNTO MARY!



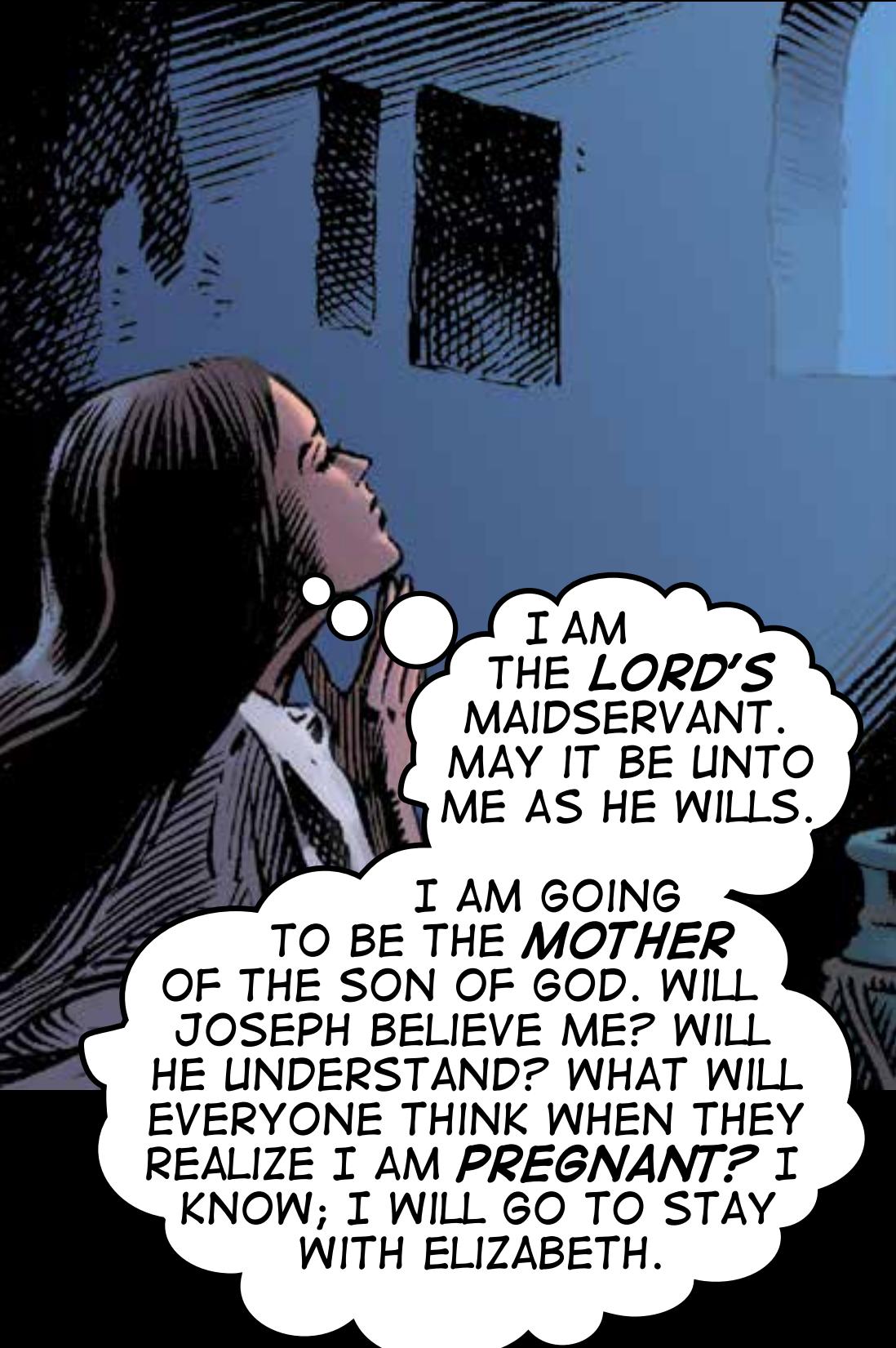
MARY, YOU HAVE FOUND **GREAT FAVOR** IN THE SIGHT OF GOD. YOU WILL CONCEIVE IN YOUR WOMB AND BRING FORTH THE SON OF GOD.



HOW COULD SUCH A THING HAPPEN SINCE I HAVE NEVER HAD RELATIONS WITH ANY MAN?

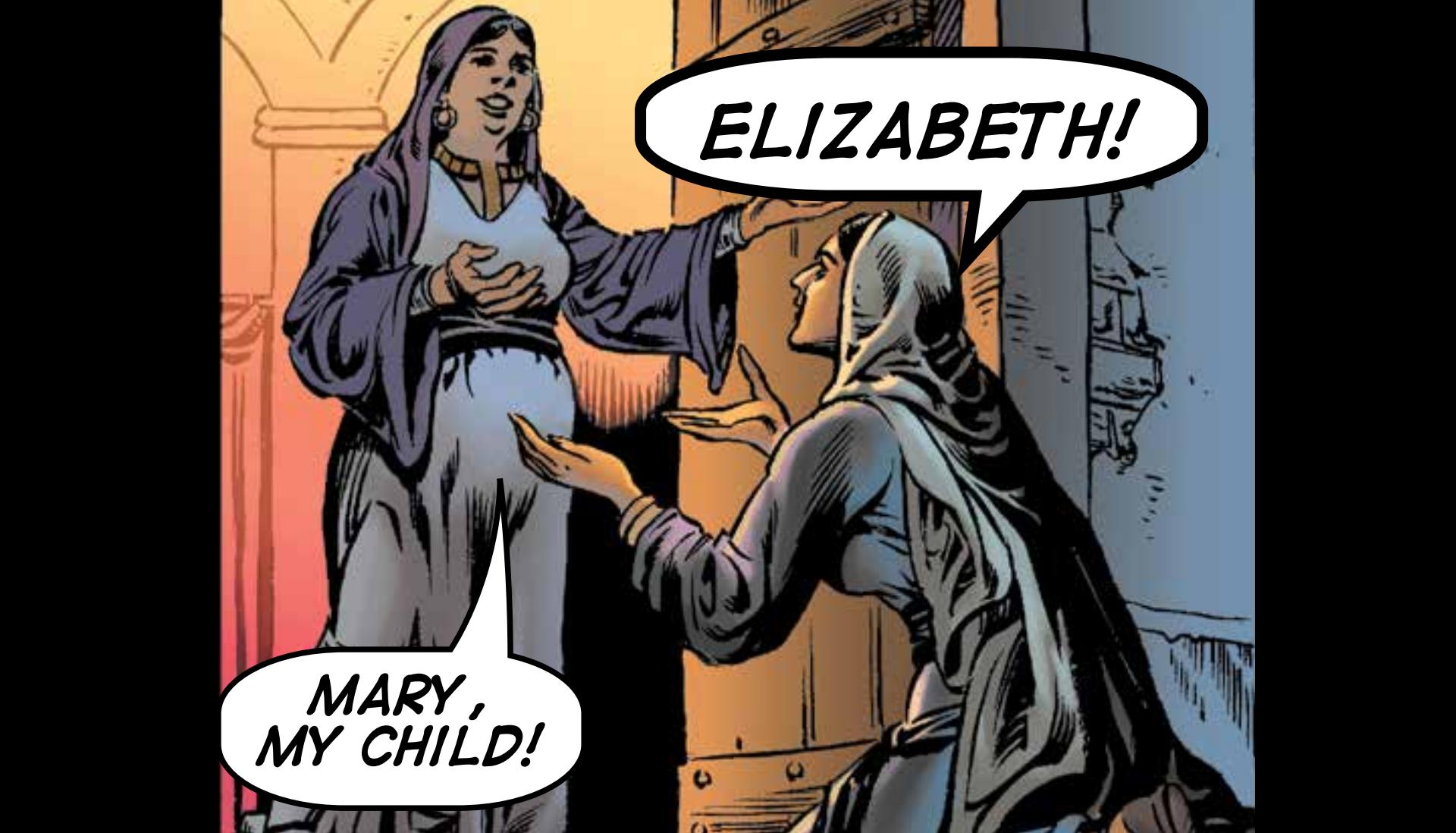
THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD WILL COVER YOU. THE HOLY FETUS THAT WILL BE CONCEIVED IN YOUR WOMB WILL BE THE SON OF GOD. YOUR COUSIN ELIZABETH, WHO WAS CALLED BARREN, IS NOW WITH CHILD. THIS IS HER SIXTH MONTH.

ISAIAH 7:14; LUKE 1:5-20, 26-40



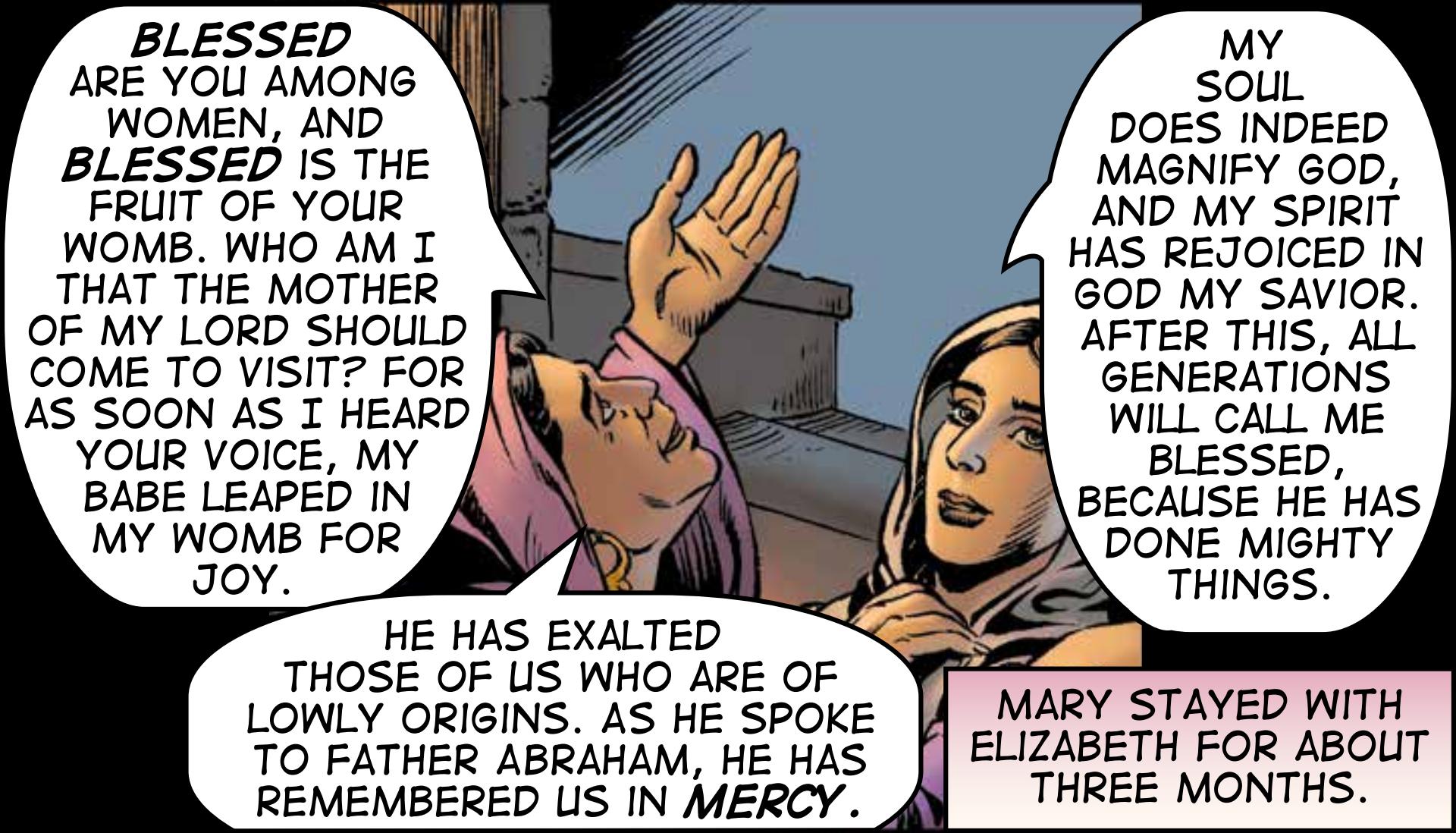
I AM
THE LORD'S
MAIDSERVANT.
MAY IT BE UNTO
ME AS HE WILLS.

I AM GOING
TO BE THE MOTHER
OF THE SON OF GOD. WILL
JOSEPH BELIEVE ME? WILL
HE UNDERSTAND? WHAT WILL
EVERYONE THINK WHEN THEY
REALIZE I AM PREGNANT? I
KNOW; I WILL GO TO STAY
WITH ELIZABETH.



ELIZABETH!

**MARY,
MY CHILD!**

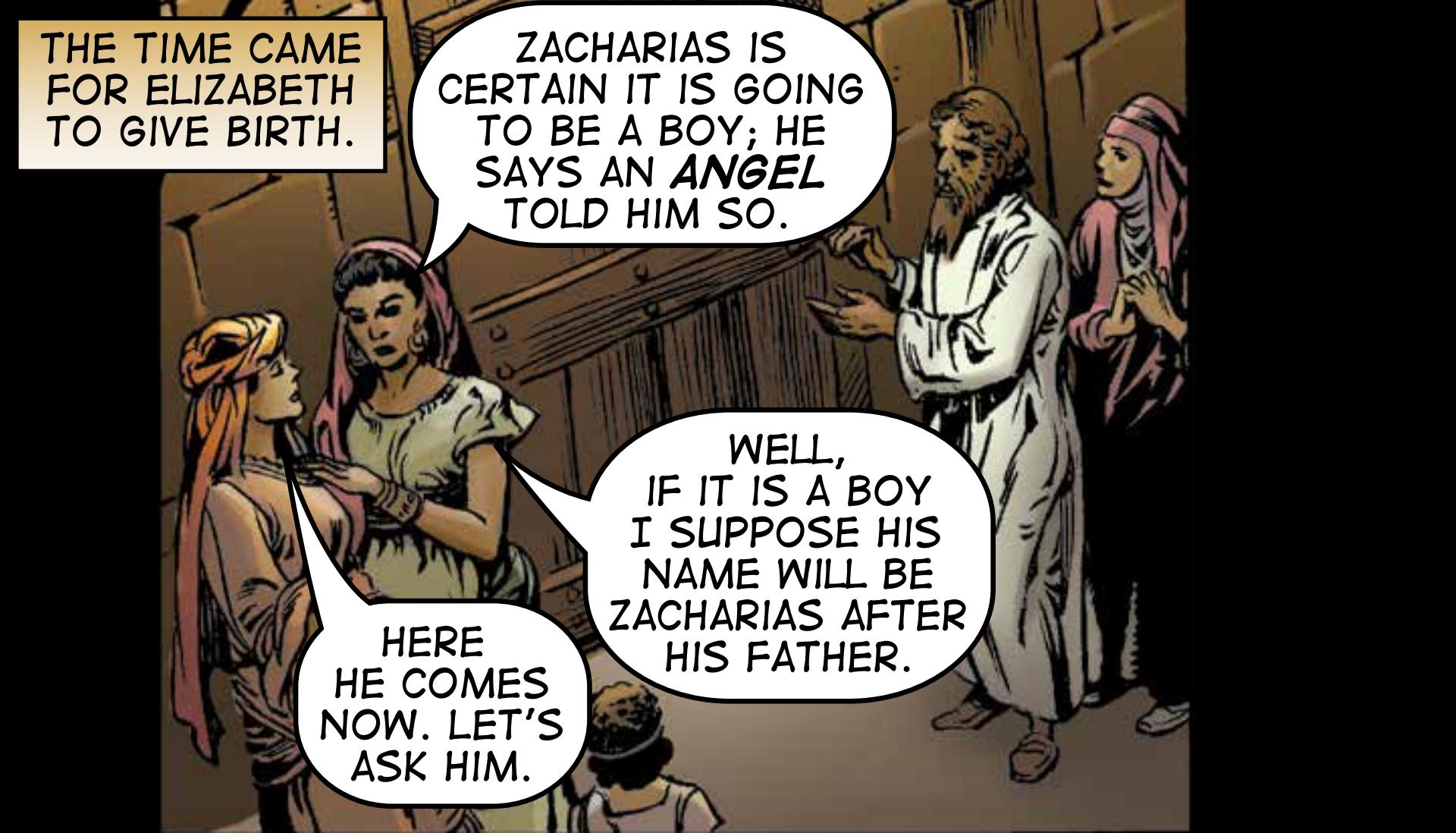


BLESSED
ARE YOU AMONG
WOMEN, AND
BLESSED IS THE
FRUIT OF YOUR
WOMB. WHO AM I
THAT THE MOTHER
OF MY LORD SHOULD
COME TO VISIT? FOR
AS SOON AS I HEARD
YOUR VOICE, MY
BABE LEAPED IN
MY WOMB FOR
JOY.

MY
Soul
DOES INDEED
MAGNIFY GOD,
AND MY SPIRIT
HAS REJOICED IN
GOD MY SAVIOR.
AFTER THIS, ALL
GENERATIONS
WILL CALL ME
BLESSED,
BECAUSE HE HAS
DONE MIGHTY
THINGS.

HE HAS EXALTED
THOSE OF US WHO ARE OF
LOWLY ORIGINS. AS HE SPOKE
TO FATHER ABRAHAM, HE HAS
REMEMBERED US IN **MERCY**.

MARY STAYED WITH
ELIZABETH FOR ABOUT
THREE MONTHS.



THE TIME CAME
FOR ELIZABETH
TO GIVE BIRTH.

ZACHARIAS IS
CERTAIN IT IS GOING
TO BE A BOY; HE
SAYS AN **ANGEL**
TOLD HIM SO.

HERE
HE COMES
NOW. LET'S
ASK HIM.

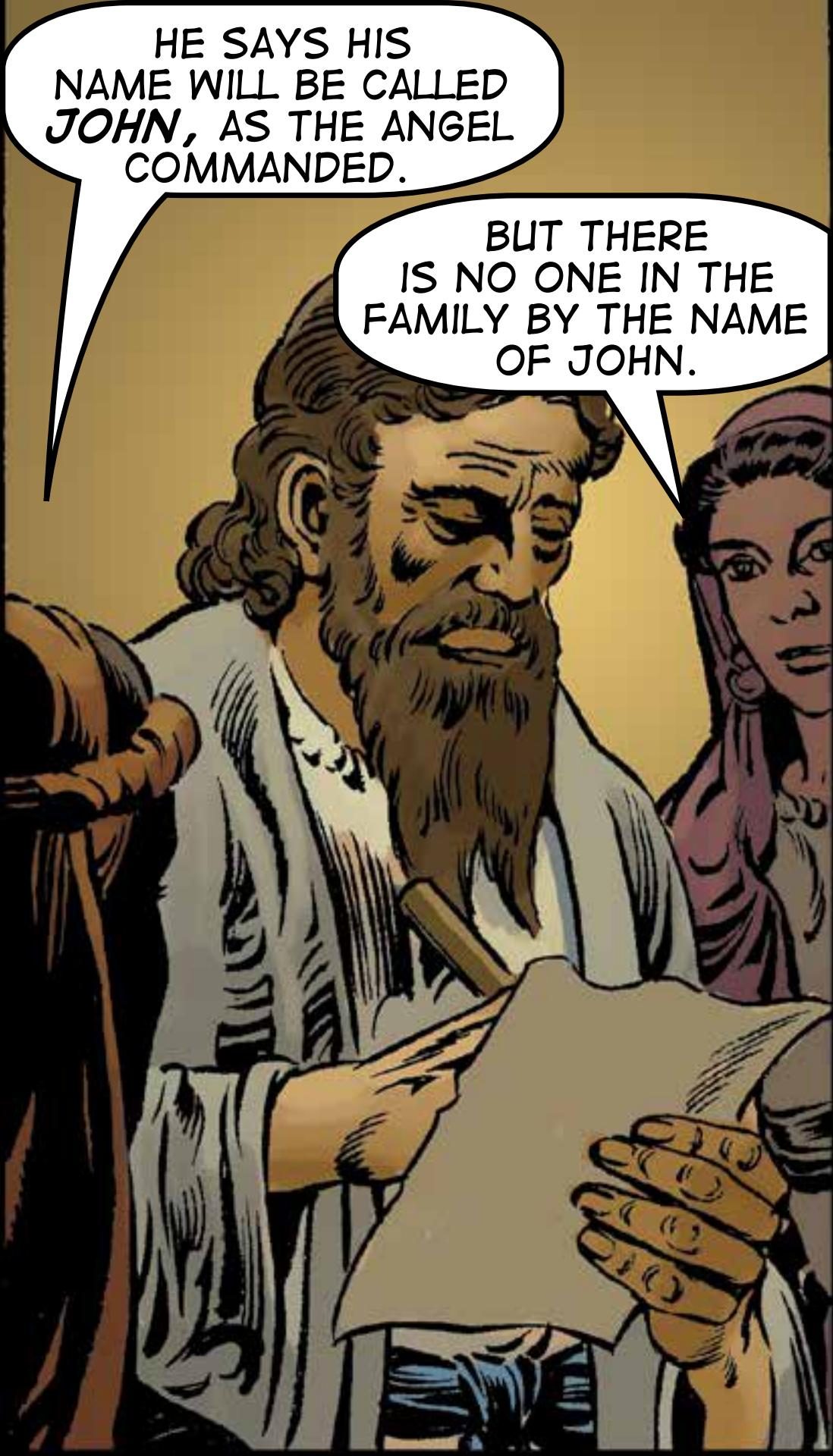
WELL,
IF IT IS A BOY
I SUPPOSE HIS
NAME WILL BE
ZACHARIAS AFTER
HIS FATHER.



HE SAID THAT
THE ANGEL MADE
HIM DUMB BECAUSE
HE DIDN'T
BELIEVE.

WHAT ARE
YOU GOING TO
NAME THE
CHILD?

HE
WANTS A
WRITING
TABLET.

A detailed comic book illustration of a man with a long, curly brown beard and hair, wearing a white robe with a gold sash. He is looking down at a scroll he is holding. In the background, a woman in a pink headscarf and purple dress looks on. The scene is set against a yellow background.

HE SAYS HIS
NAME WILL BE CALLED
JOHN, AS THE ANGEL
COMMANDED.

BUT THERE
IS NO ONE IN THE
FAMILY BY THE NAME
OF JOHN.



IT IS
INDEED A BOY,
A VERY HAIRY
BOY.



HIS NAME IS
JOHN, ACCORDING TO
THE WORD OF THE LORD.
HE SHALL INTRODUCE
THE **MESSIAH** TO OUR
PEOPLE ISRAEL.

HE SPEAKS!
AFTER ALL
THESE MONTHS,
HE SPEAKS!

COULD IT
BE THAT THIS
IS INDEED THE
ELIJAH OF
PROPHECY?

MEANWHILE, JOSEPH
DISCOVERED THAT MARY WAS
PREGNANT, AND HE KNEW
IT WAS NOT HIS BABY.



MOTHER, I STILL
CANNOT *BELIEVE* IT.
THERE HAVE BEEN NO MEN
AROUND HER. SHE HAS BEEN IN
HER FAMILY'S PRESENCE EVERY
MINUTE, AND EVERYONE KNOWS
WHAT A PIOUS GIRL MARY IS.
*I CERTAINLY DID NOT DO
IT!* BUT THE FACTS ARE THERE.
SHE IS PREGNANT.



OH,
JOSEPH,
WHAT ARE
YOU GOING
TO DO?

I CANNOT MARRY
HER NOW, BUT I DO NOT
WANT TO MAKE A PUBLIC ISSUE
OF IT. SHE COULD BE STONED
FOR ADULTERY. MAYBE WE
COULD JUST QUIETLY BREAK
OFF THE ENGAGEMENT.



WHOM DID
SHE SAY WAS THE
FATHER?

SHE SAYS
THE FATHER OF
THE CHILD IS GOD,
IMPLANTED IN HER
WOMB BY THE HOLY
SPIRIT WITHOUT
ANY PHYSICAL
CONTACT.



**OH! HAS
SHE LOST HER
MIND?**

**SHE SAYS
THE CHILD IS
TO BE THE
SAVIOR OF
THE WORLD,
THE *SON*
OF GOD.**

**THAT IS A
BLASPHEMOUS THING
FOR A WOMAN LIKE THAT
TO SAY. I MUST PUT
HER AWAY AS *QUICKLY*
AND AS *QUIETLY* AS
POSSIBLE.**

THAT EVENING AS JOSEPH
WAS SLEEPING, AN ANGEL
APPEARED UNTO HIM.



JOSEPH, THOU
SON OF DAVID, DO NOT
FEAR TO TAKE MARY AS
YOUR WIFE, FOR THE CHILD
THAT IS CONCEIVED IN HER
IS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. SHE
WILL GIVE BIRTH TO A SON
AND YOU WILL CALL HIS NAME
JESUS, FOR HE WILL SAVE
HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR
SINS.



THIS IS THE FULFILLMENT
OF THE PROPHECY OF
ISAIAH: "A **VIRGIN** WILL BE
WITH CHILD AND BRING FORTH
A SON WHO WILL BE CALLED
EMMANUEL, WHICH BEING
INTERPRETED IS 'GOD
WITH US.'"



MARY, HOW
WILL YOU EVER
FORGIVE ME FOR
DOUBTING YOU?

I KNOW, IT IS
ALL SO FANTASTIC.
OF ALL THE WOMEN OF
ISRAEL AND OF ALL THE
CENTURIES, THAT GOD
SHOULD CHOOSE ME TO
BRING THE MESSIAH
INTO THE WORLD!



WHAT WILL THE BABY BE
LIKE? SINCE HE IS GOING TO
BE **GOD IN THE FLESH**, WILL HE
BE TALKING WHEN HE IS BORN?
WILL HE ALREADY KNOW
HOW TO **READ**?

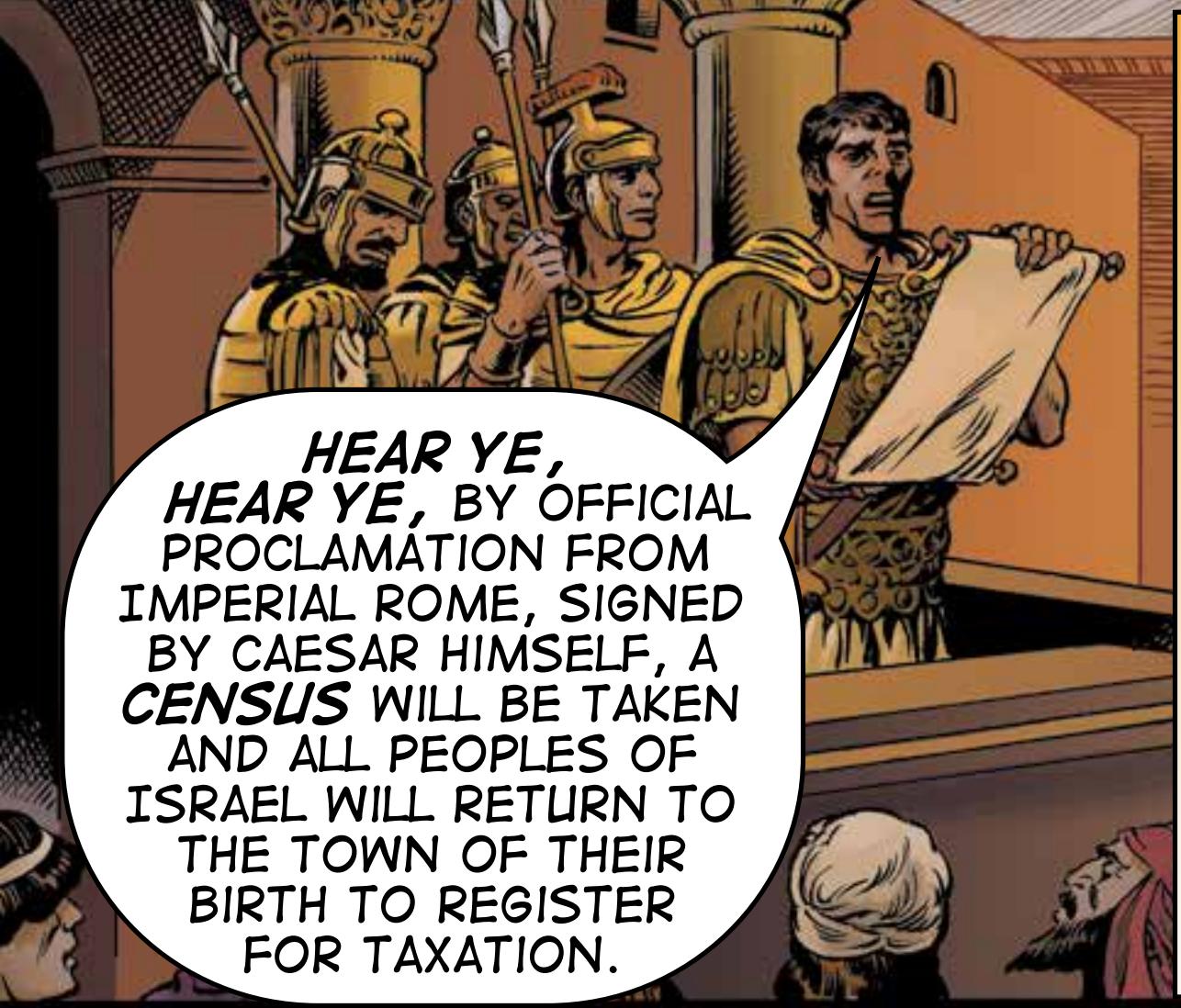
OH, JOSEPH, I
DON'T KNOW, BUT GOD
KNOWS. WE WILL JUST
HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE.



GENESIS 3:15;
ISAIAH 7:14, 9:7;
MATTHEW 1:18-23;
LUKE 1:32-33

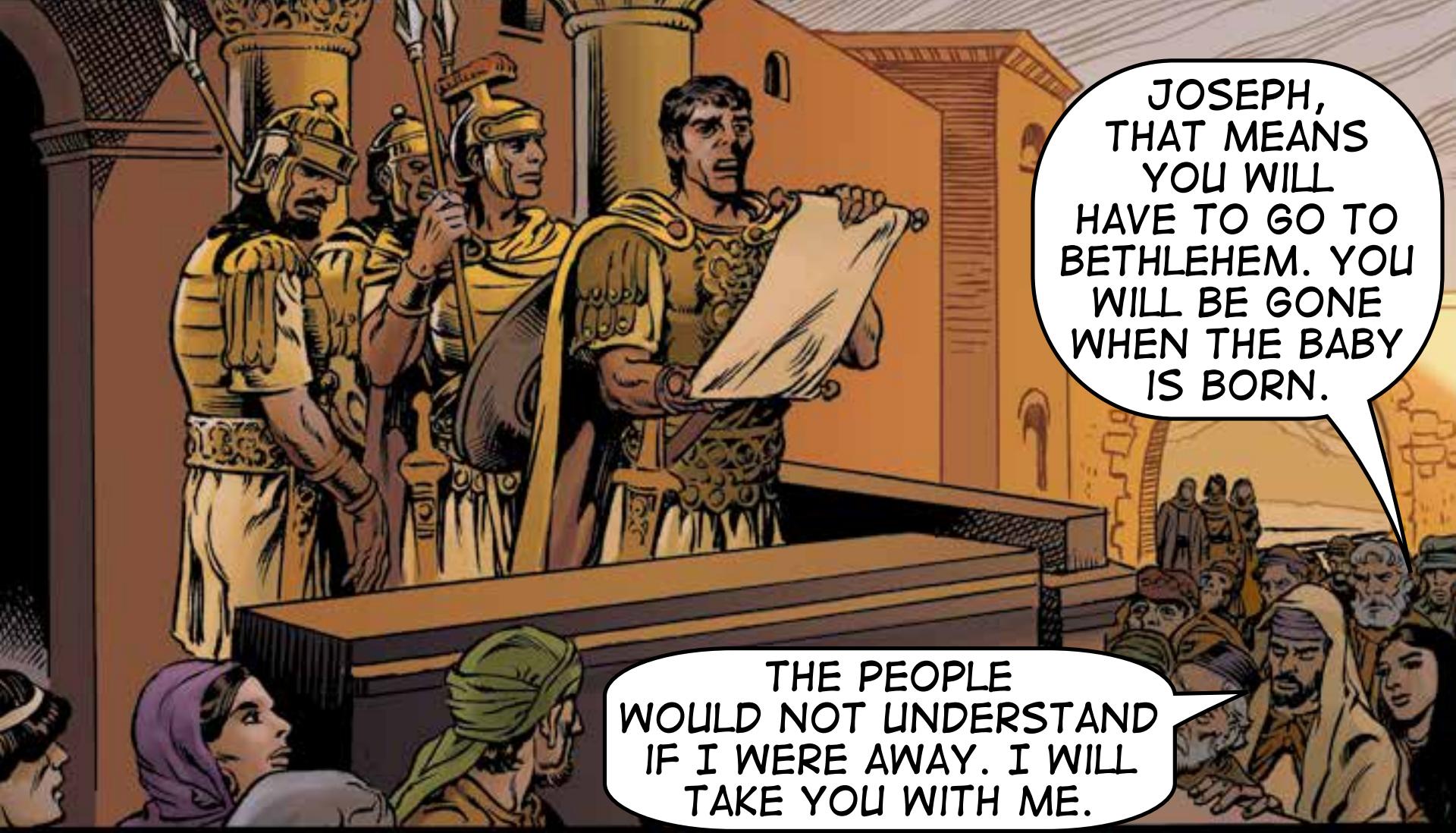
WE ARE BOTH
OF THE LINEAGE
OF DAVID, AND
THE PROPHETS
DID SAY THAT THE
MESSIAH WOULD
BE OF DAVID'S
SEED.

I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING ELSE. IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN, GOD PROMISED THAT THE SEED OF THE WOMAN WOULD BRUISE THE HEAD OF THE SEED OF THE SERPENT. I **SEE NOW!** THIS CHILD WILL NOT BE THE SEED OF MAN, JUST THE SEED OF THE WOMAN. **WOW!** GOD HAS HAD THIS PLANNED SINCE THE BEGINNING.



**HEAR YE,
HEAR YE,** BY OFFICIAL
PROCLAMATION FROM
IMPERIAL ROME, SIGNED
BY CAESAR HIMSELF, A
CENSUS WILL BE TAKEN
AND ALL PEOPLES OF
ISRAEL WILL RETURN TO
THE TOWN OF THEIR
BIRTH TO REGISTER
FOR TAXATION.

JOSEPH AND MARY
LIVED IN NAZARETH
OF GALILEE, BUT
THERE WAS AN OLD
PROPHECY THAT
SAID THE MESSIAH
WOULD BE BORN
IN BETHLEHEM
OF JUDEA (MICAH
5:2). VERY SOON,
MARY WOULD BE
DELIVERING HER
CHILD IN THE WRONG
TOWN. THEY WERE
IGNORANT OF THE
PROPHECY, AND
HAD NO REASON TO
MAKE THE LONG TRIP
TO BETHLEHEM.



JOSEPH,
THAT MEANS
YOU WILL
HAVE TO GO TO
BETHLEHEM. YOU
WILL BE GONE
WHEN THE BABY
IS BORN.

THE PEOPLE
WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND
IF I WERE AWAY. I WILL
TAKE YOU WITH ME.



MARY, I
SHOULDN'T HAVE
BROUGHT YOU ON
THIS JOURNEY.
MAYBE WE SHOULD
TURN BACK.

NO, I MUST BE WITH
YOU WHEN THE BABY
IS BORN. NO ONE ELSE
UNDERSTANDS.



WE
MUST HURRY
IF YOU CAN.
I THINK IT IS
TIME.

IT TOOK MORE
THAN A WEEK
TO MAKE THE
NEARLY 100-
MILE JOURNEY.

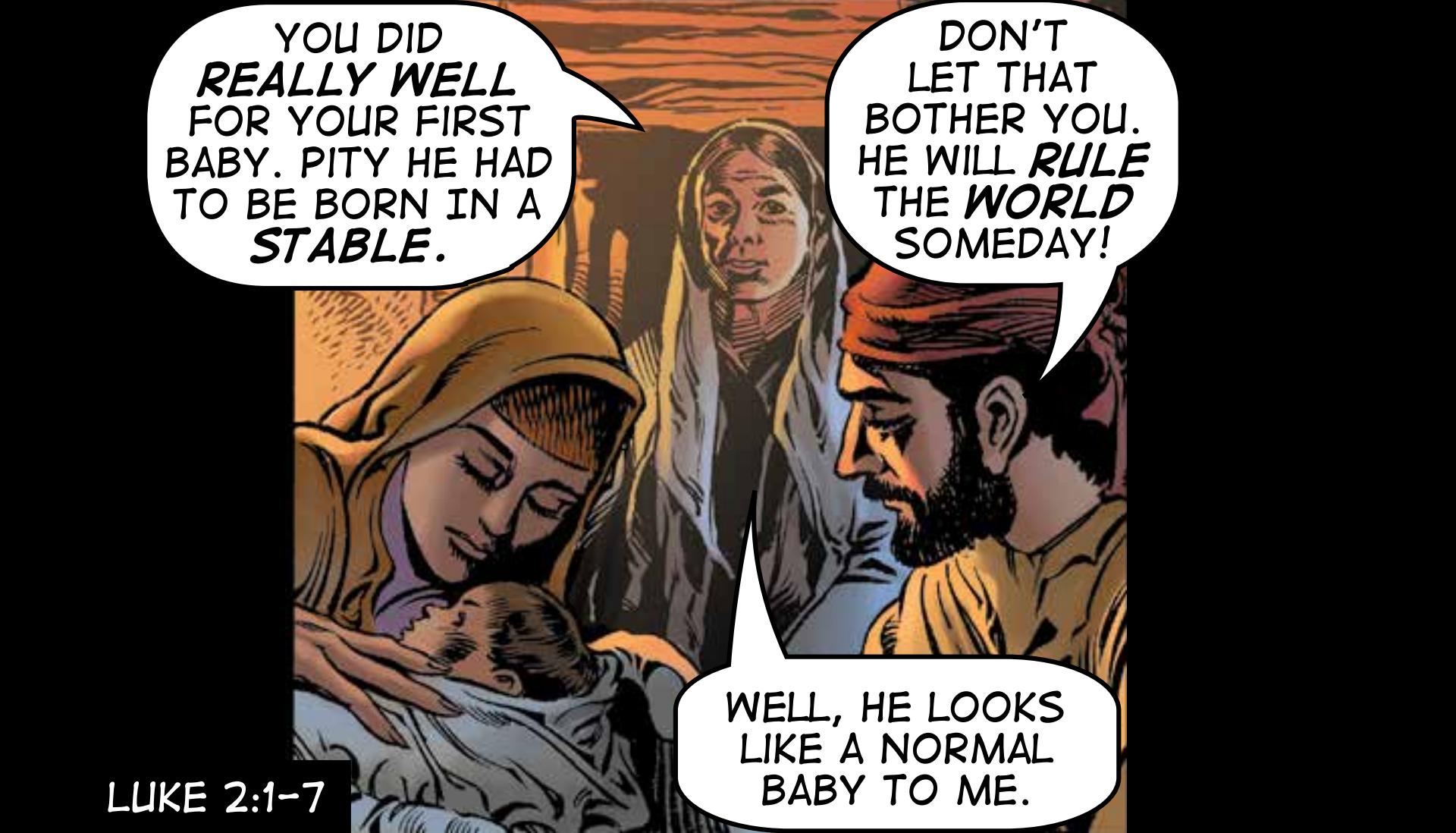
I WILL SEE
IF WE CAN GET A
ROOM IN THE INN.



MARY, I
FOUND A MID-
WIFE WHO WILL
HELP US.

WAS
THERE NO
ROOM IN
THE INN?

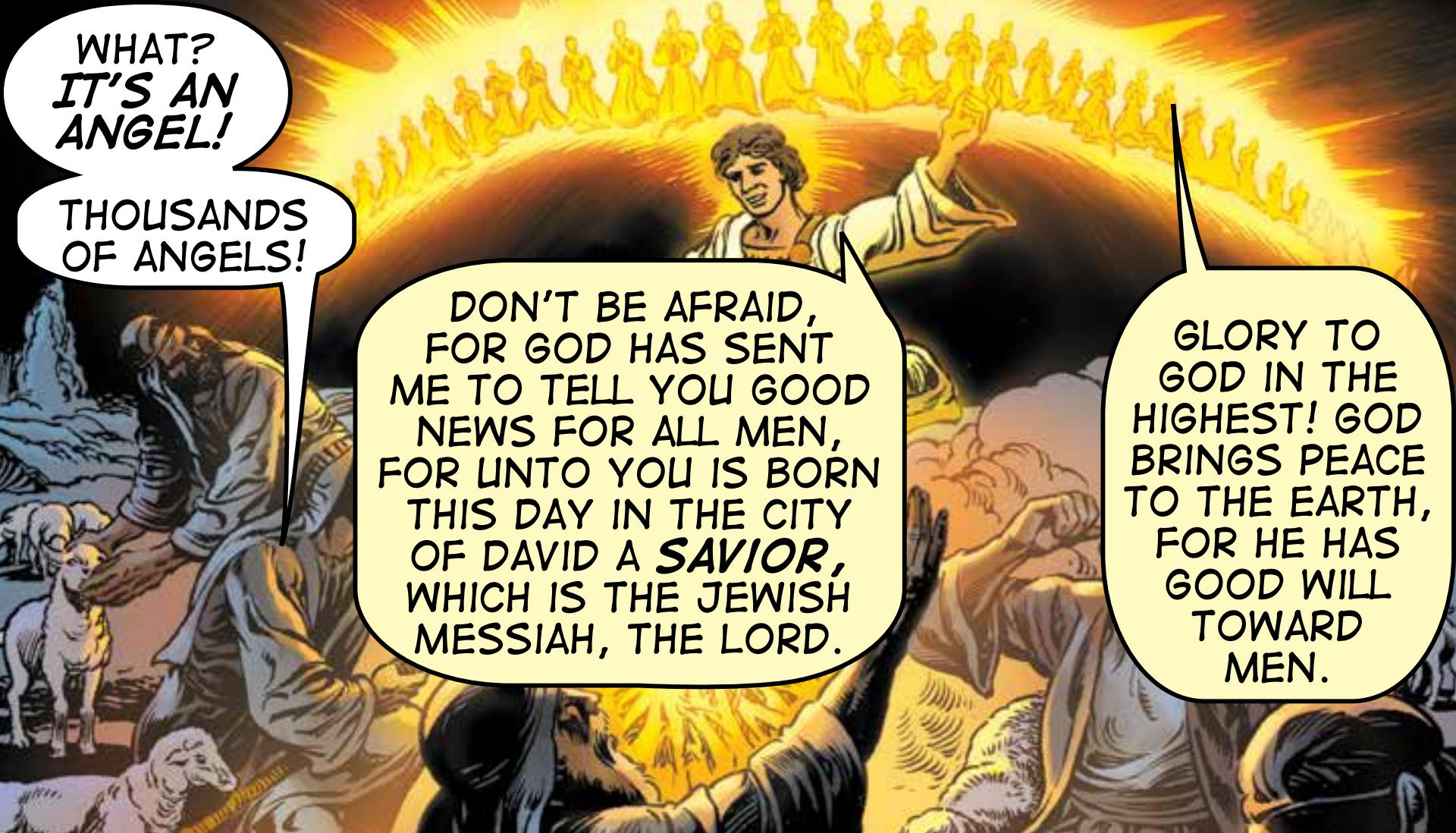
NO,
IT WAS
FULL.



YOU DID
REALLY WELL
FOR YOUR FIRST
BABY. PITY HE HAD
TO BE BORN IN A
STABLE.

DON'T
LET THAT
BOther YOU.
HE WILL **RULE**
THE **WORLD**
SOMEDAY!

WELL, HE LOOKS
LIKE A NORMAL
BABY TO ME.

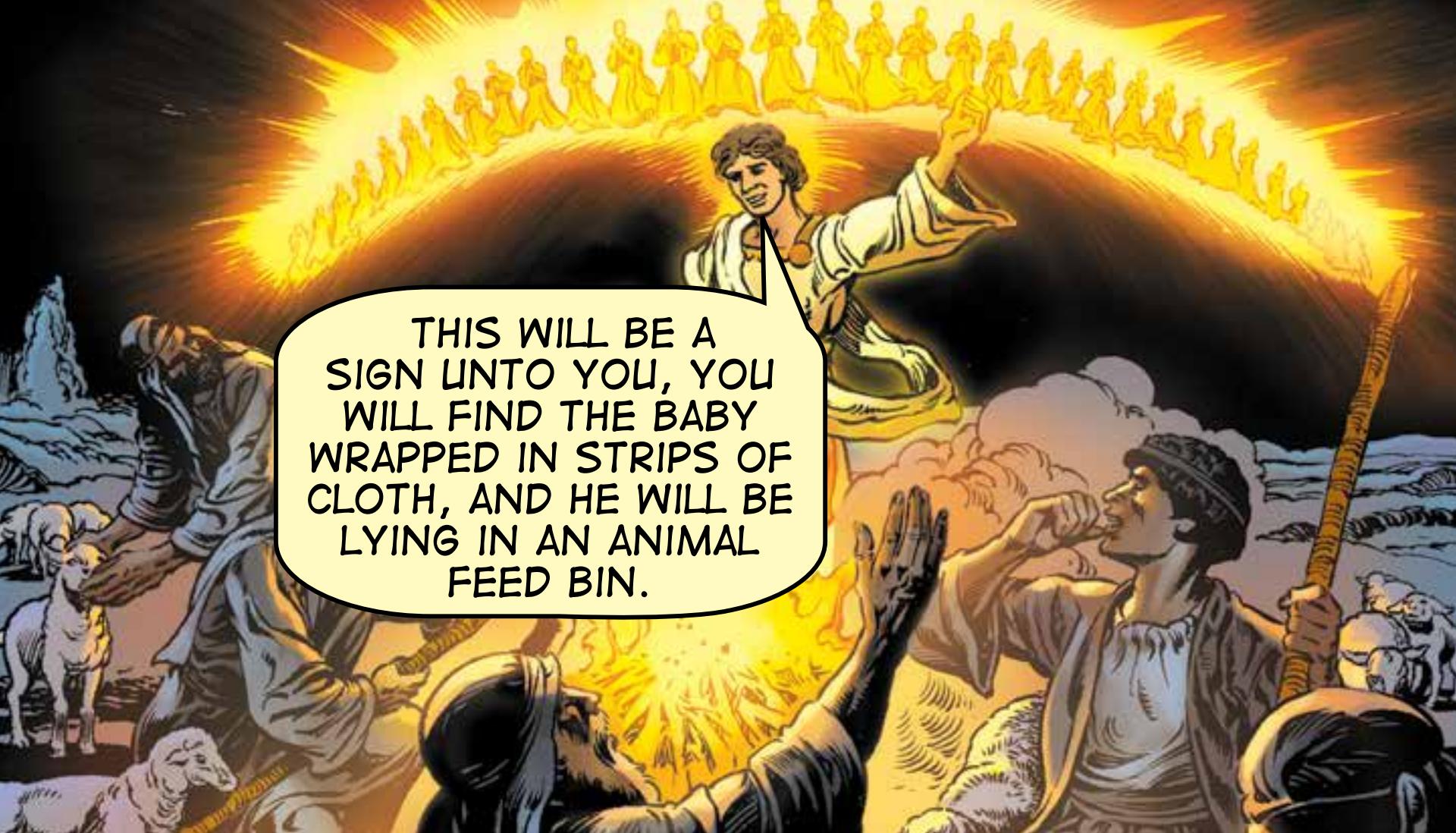


WHAT?
IT'S AN
ANGEL!

THOUSANDS
OF ANGELS!

DON'T BE AFRAID,
FOR GOD HAS SENT
ME TO TELL YOU GOOD
NEWS FOR ALL MEN,
FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN
THIS DAY IN THE CITY
OF DAVID A **SAVIOR**,
WHICH IS THE JEWISH
MESSIAH, THE LORD.

GLORY TO
GOD IN THE
HIGHEST! GOD
BRINGS PEACE
TO THE EARTH,
FOR HE HAS
GOOD WILL
TOWARD
MEN.



THIS WILL BE A
SIGN UNTO YOU, YOU
WILL FIND THE BABY
WRAPPED IN STRIPS OF
CLOTH, AND HE WILL BE
LYING IN AN ANIMAL
FEED BIN.



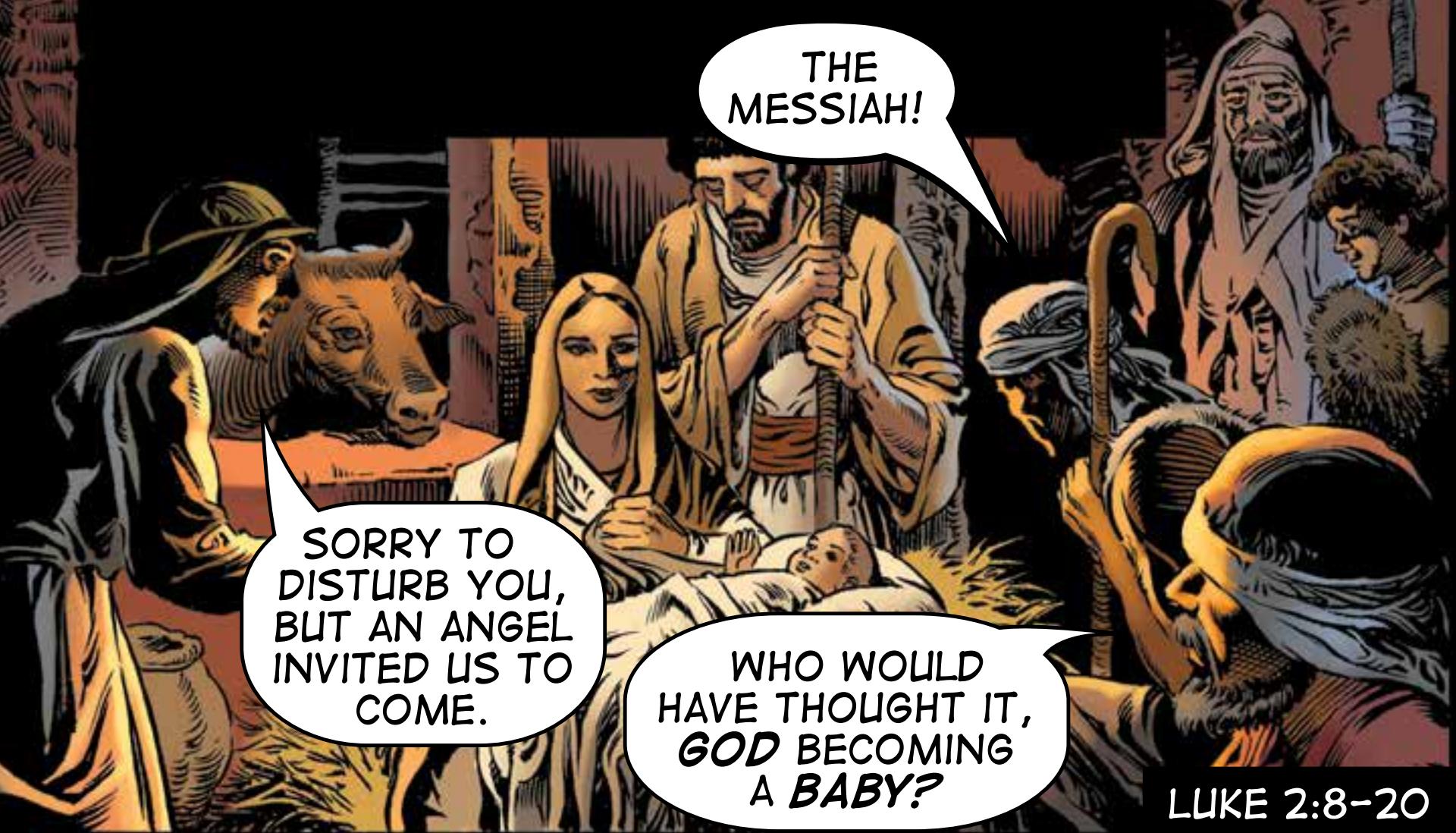
CAN YOU BELIEVE
IT? ANGELS
APPEARING UNTO US!

WAIT
UNTIL I TELL
MY WIFE!

DID YOU
HEAR WHAT
HE SAID? THE
MESSIAH IS
BORN
IN ISRAEL.

I WANT TO
GO SEE.

A SAVIOR!
PEACE TOWARD MEN!
A BABY? LET'S GO SEE
HIM!



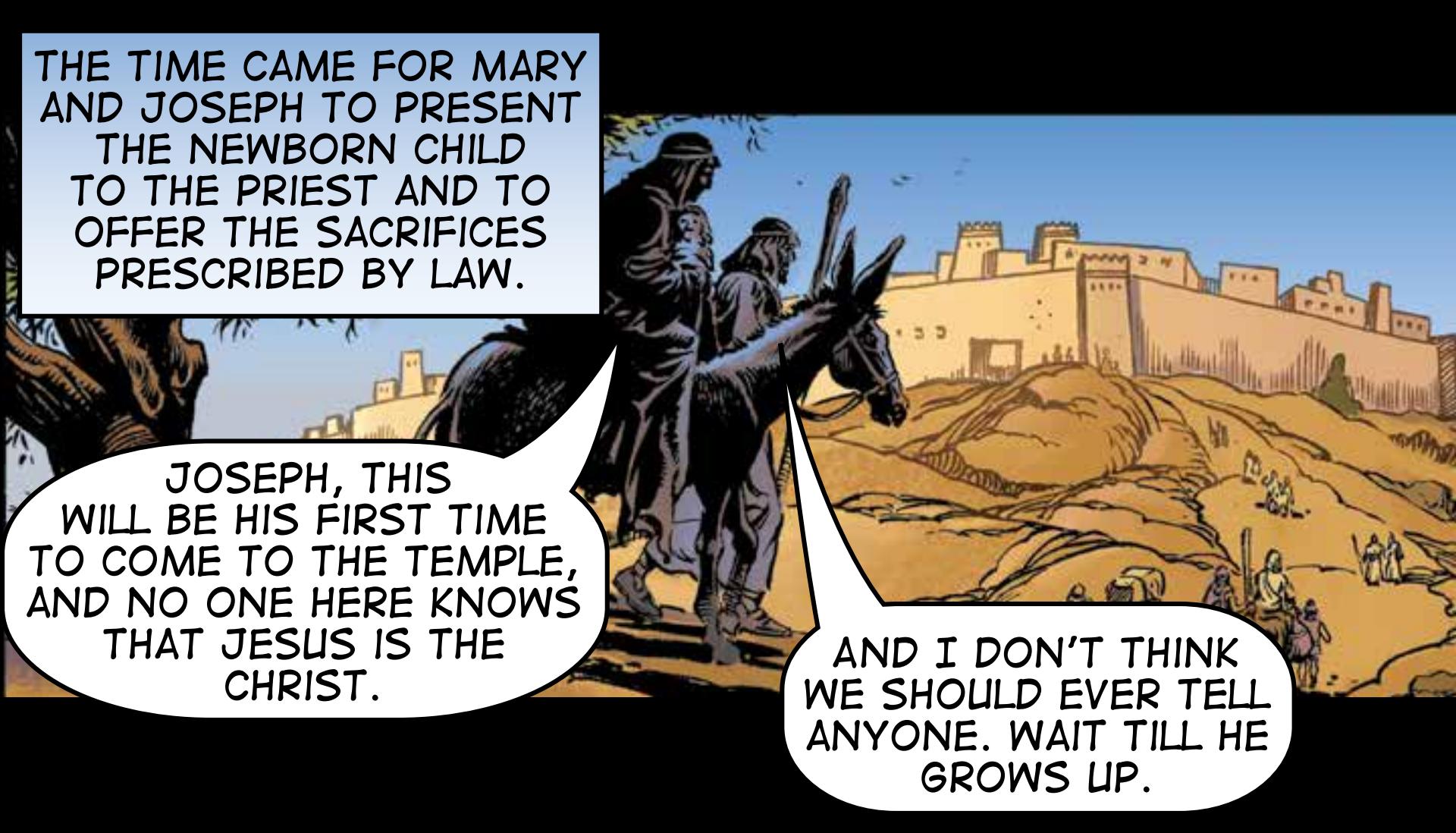
THE
MESSIAH!

SORRY TO
DISTURB YOU,
BUT AN ANGEL
INVITED US TO
COME.

WHO WOULD
HAVE THOUGHT IT,
GOD BECOMING
A **BABY?**

LUKE 2:8-20

THE TIME CAME FOR MARY
AND JOSEPH TO PRESENT
THE NEWBORN CHILD
TO THE PRIEST AND TO
OFFER THE SACRIFICES
PRESCRIBED BY LAW.



JOSEPH, THIS
WILL BE HIS FIRST TIME
TO COME TO THE TEMPLE,
AND NO ONE HERE KNOWS
THAT JESUS IS THE
CHRIST.

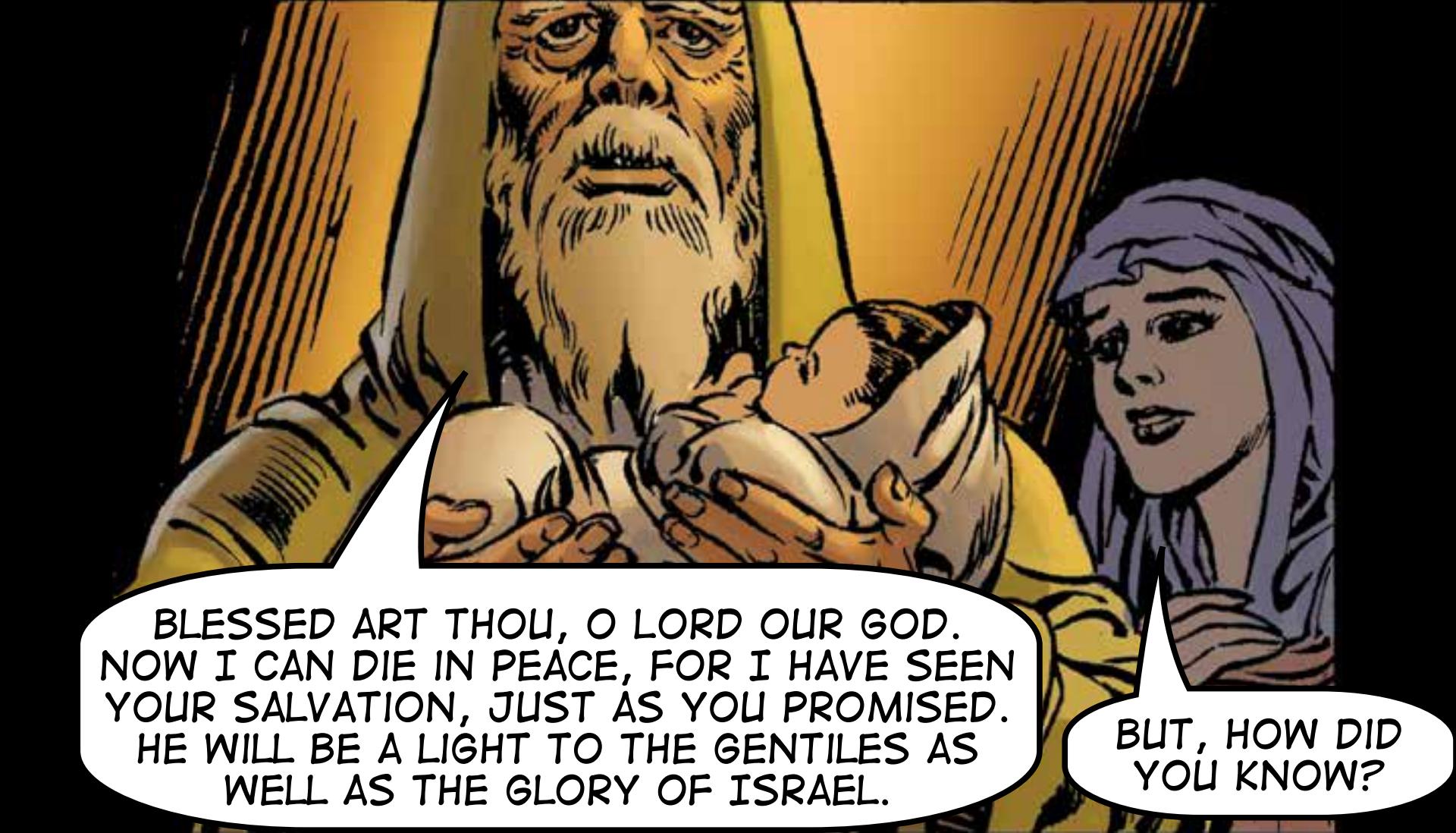
AND I DON'T THINK
WE SHOULD EVER TELL
ANYONE. WAIT TILL HE
GROWS UP.

SIMEON WAS IN
THE TEMPLE.

THERE HE
IS! WE HAVE
WAITED SO
LONG.

WHO IS
IT, MARY?

I DON'T
KNOW. NO
ONE KNOWS
US HERE.



BLESSED ART THOU, O LORD OUR GOD.
NOW I CAN DIE IN PEACE, FOR I HAVE SEEN
YOUR SALVATION, JUST AS YOU PROMISED.
HE WILL BE A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES AS
WELL AS THE GLORY OF ISRAEL.

BUT, HOW DID
YOU KNOW?



HEAR
ME, THIS CHILD
WILL CAUSE MANY
IN ISRAEL TO *RISE*
AND SOME TO *FALL*,
AND HE SHALL BE
SPOKEN AGAINST.



YES, AND
YOUR OWN HEART
WILL BE BROKEN
AT WHAT YOU SEE
HAPPENING TO
HIM.



LOOK! THE
MESSIAH. HE HAS
COME TO HIS TEMPLE.
THIS IS HE OF WHOM
THE PROPHETS
SPOKE.

THAT IS ANNA.
SHE HAS SPENT HER
LIFE WAITING FOR
THE MESSIAH.



YOUNG MAN, THIS CHILD IS THE **CHRIST**, THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD. HE WILL SAVE ISRAEL FROM THEIR SINS.

FROM THAT POINT ON, ANNA SPOKE OF HIM TO ALL THAT LOOKED FOR REDEMPTION.

LUKE 2:27-38

IN THE COUNTRIES TO THE EAST OF ISRAEL THERE WERE WISE MEN WHO STUDIED ANCIENT WRITINGS AND SOUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT GOD. THEY KNEW OF THE PROPHECY OF A COMING MESSIAH. IN DREAMS AND VISIONS, GOD REVEALED TO THEM THAT THE PROMISED ONE WAS BORN. THEN THEY DISCOVERED AN UNUSUAL STAR THAT POINTED TO THE NATION OF ISRAEL.





KING HEROD, THERE ARE THREE VERY **WEALTHY** LOOKING MEN FROM THE FAR EAST. THEY SAY THEY ARE LOOKING FOR THE **NEW KING OF ISRAEL**, A BABY.



A BABY? A KING? I AM THE KING. SHOW THEM IN AND BRING THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND SCRIBES TO ME.

ISRAEL HAD NO KING AT THE TIME BECAUSE ROME RULED THEM, BUT THE ROMAN-APPOINTED KING OF THE JEWS, HEROD, REIGNED IN JERUSALEM. THE WISE MEN SOUGHT HEROD TO ASK HIM ABOUT THE NEWBORN KING.

YOU SAY
YOU HAVE
COME TO
SEE A BABY
KING? HOW
DO YOU KNOW
OF SUCH
THINGS?

WE
HAVE SEEN
HIS STAR IN
THE EAST AND
HAVE COME TO
WORSHIP HIM.

WHERE
IS HE?

WE DO
NOT KNOW
EXACTLY.
THAT IS WHY
WE CAME
TO YOU.

I HAVE SUMMONED
THE SCHOLARS. WE WILL
SEE WHAT THEY KNOW OF
THIS. COME WITH ME TO
A PRIVATE ROOM.

A color illustration of a man with a beard and a striped shawl speaking to a Roman soldier in armor. In the background, another man and a woman are visible.

THEY SAY THEY HAVE COME TO WORSHIP THE KING OF THE JEWS, ONE WHO WAS PROPHESIED TO COME AND SAVE THE PEOPLE. DO YOUR WRITINGS SAY ANYTHING ABOUT A KING?

YES, MANY PROPHETS TOLD OF HIS COMING, BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SUCH PROPHECIES ARE TO BE TAKEN LITERALLY.

I CARE NOTHING FOR YOUR LEARNED OPINIONS. EXACTLY WHAT DOES THE PROPHECY SAY?

WELL, THE PROPHET MICAH SAID THAT THE MESSIAH WOULD BE BORN IN **BETHLEHEM** FROM THE TRIBE OF **JUDAH**.

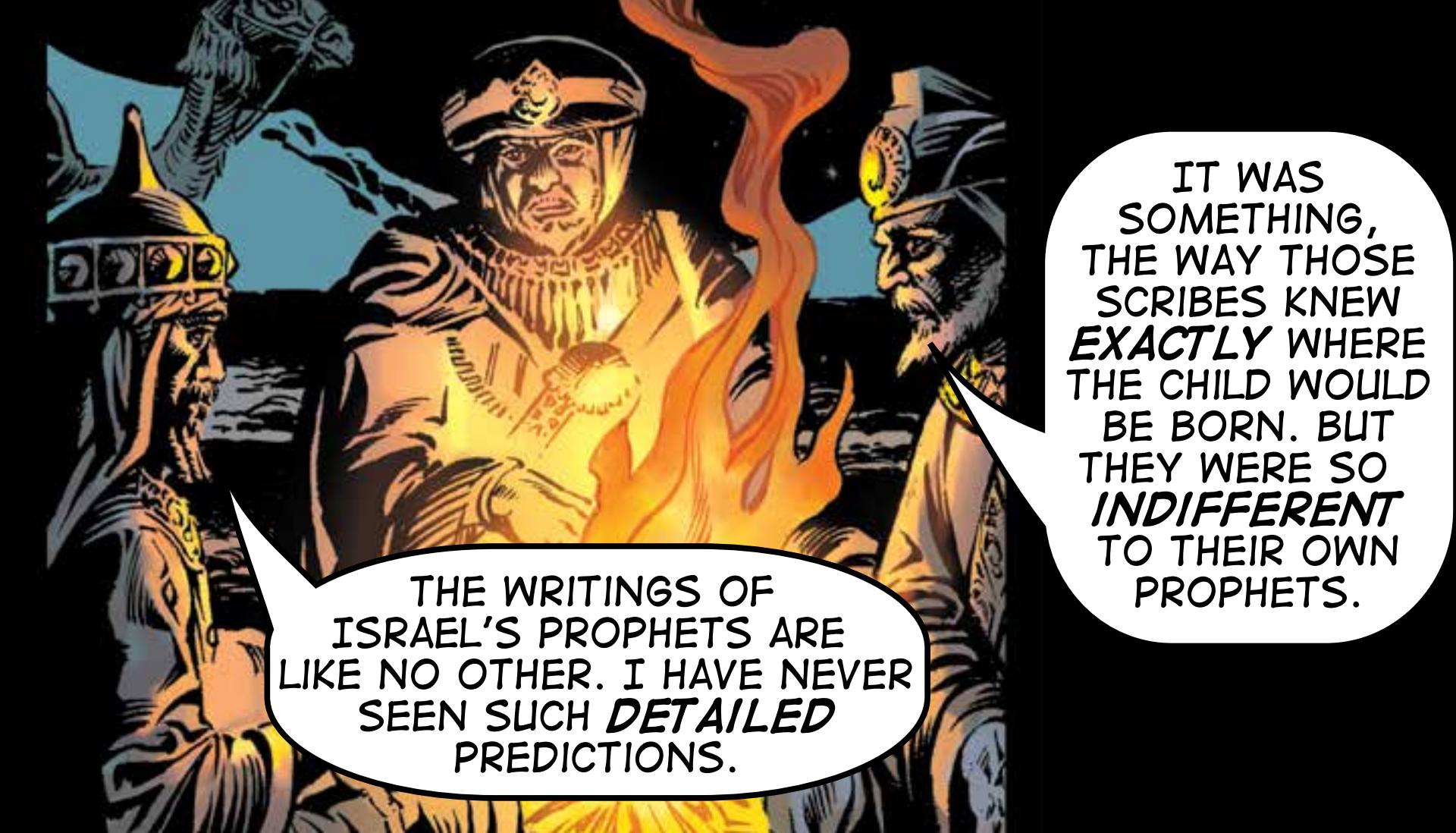
MATTHEW 2:1-8; MICAH 5:2



LISTEN, I WOULD WORSHIP THE KING **MYSELF**. SO WHEN YOU FIND HIM, BRING WORD TO ME OF HIS WHEREABOUTS.

OF COURSE. AS SOON AS WE FIND HIM, WE WILL SEND WORD.

HEROD WAS FEARFUL OF A KING BEING BORN, SO HE WANTED TO KILL THE YOUNG CHILD WHEN HE FOUND OUT WHERE HE WAS.



THE WRITINGS OF
ISRAEL'S PROPHETS ARE
LIKE NO OTHER. I HAVE NEVER
SEEN SUCH **DETAILED**
PREDICTIONS.

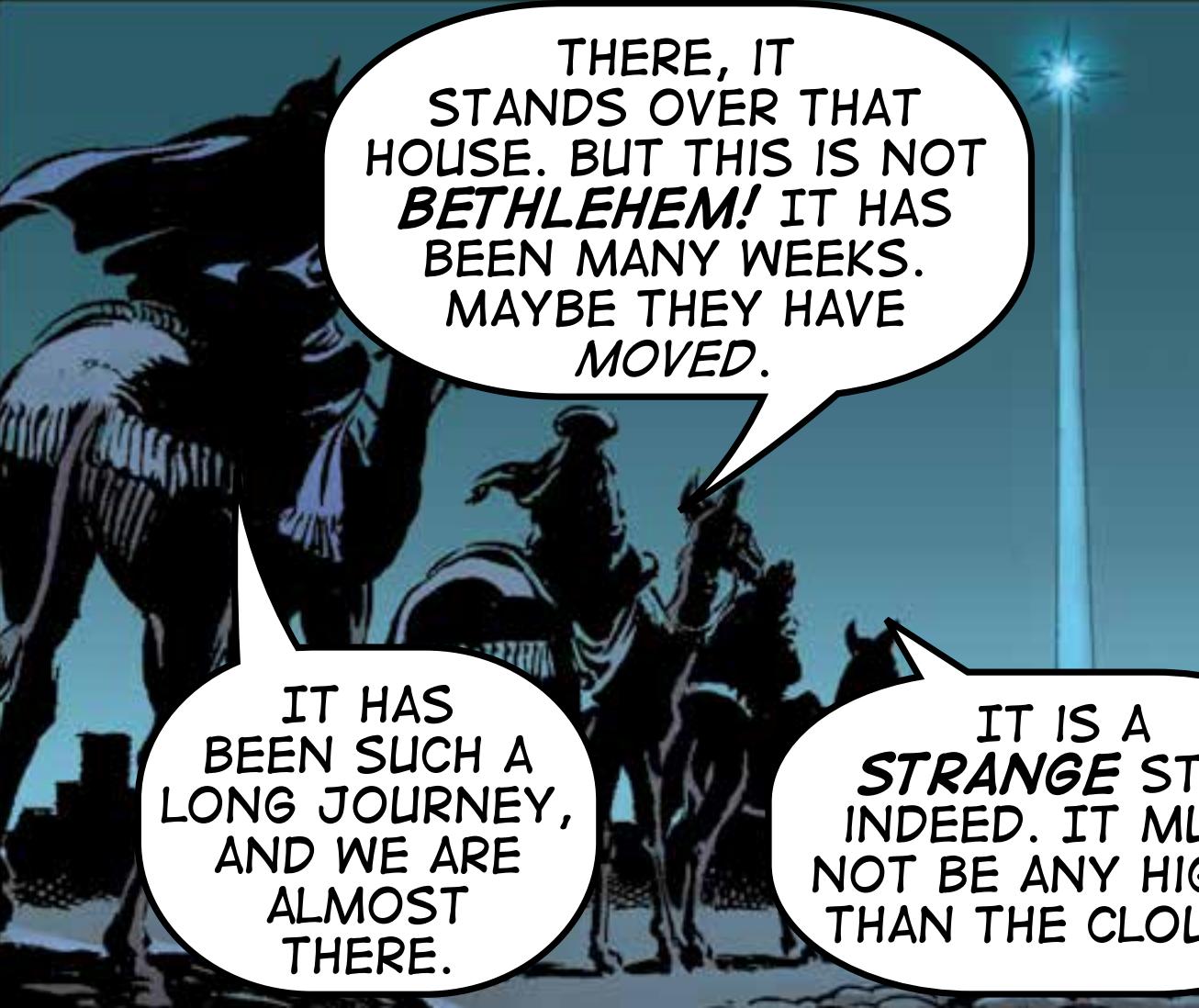
IT WAS
SOMETHING,
THE WAY THOSE
SCRIBES KNEW
EXACTLY WHERE
THE CHILD WOULD
BE BORN. BUT
THEY WERE SO
INDIFFERENT
TO THEIR OWN
PROPHETS.



**LOOK! THE
SAME STAR WE
SAW IN THE
EAST!**

AND YET IT
IS NOT LIKE
ANY STAR WE
EVER SAW.
IT DOES NOT
MOVE WITH
THE REST OF
THE STARS,
AND IT IS SO
MUCH
BRIGHTER.

MARK ITS
POSITION, AND
TOMORROW WE
WILL FOLLOW IT.



THERE, IT STANDS OVER THAT HOUSE. BUT THIS IS NOT **BETHLEHEM!** IT HAS BEEN MANY WEEKS. MAYBE THEY HAVE MOVED.

IT HAS BEEN SUCH A LONG JOURNEY, AND WE ARE ALMOST THERE.

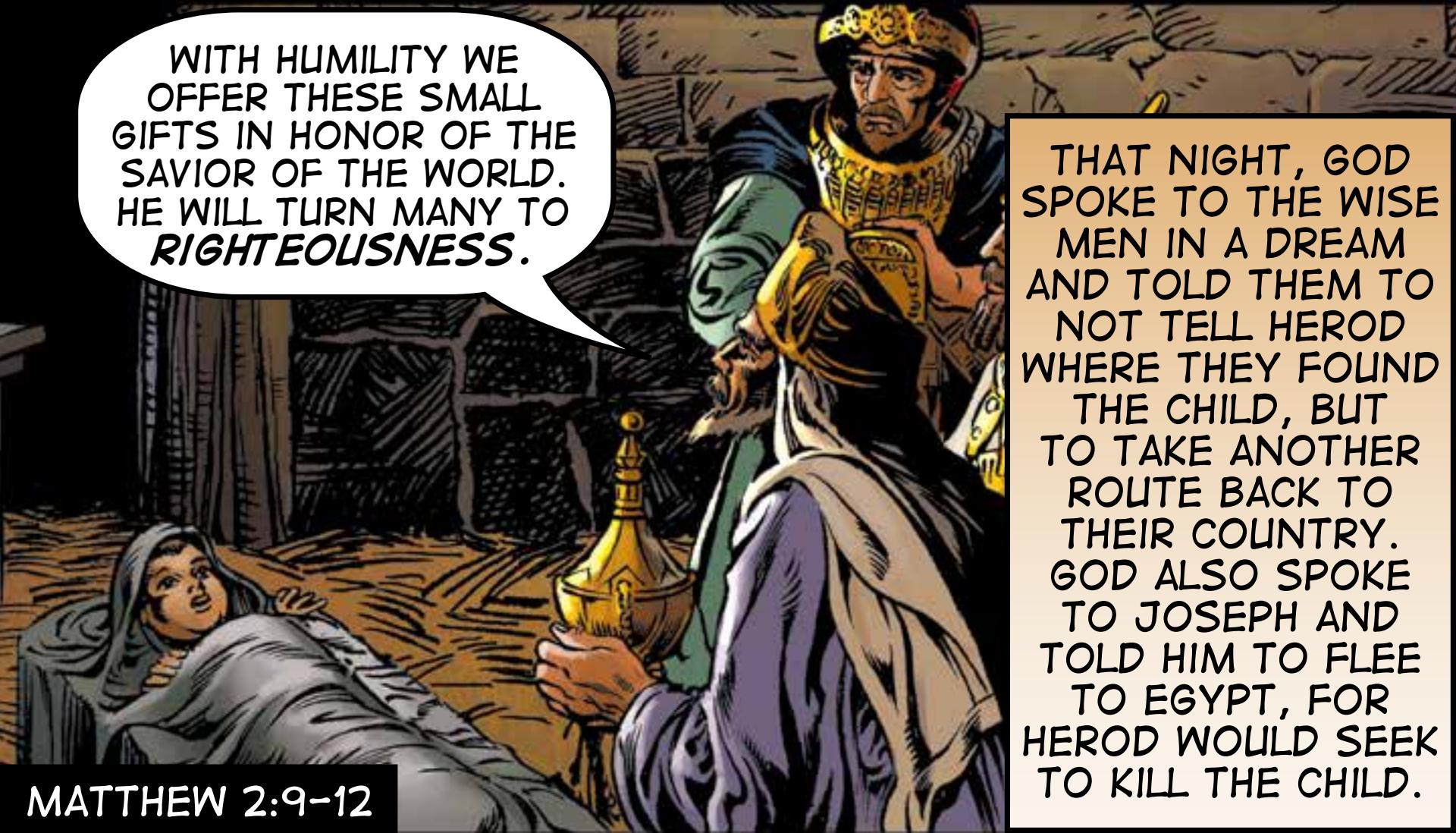
IT IS A **STRANGE** STAR INDEED. IT MUST NOT BE ANY HIGHER THAN THE CLOUDS.



WE DO NOT WISH
TO DISTURB YOU, BUT
WE HAVE TRAVELED
MANY WEEKS TO SEE
AND WORSHIP THE
NEWBORN KING.

HOW
DID YOU
KNOW?

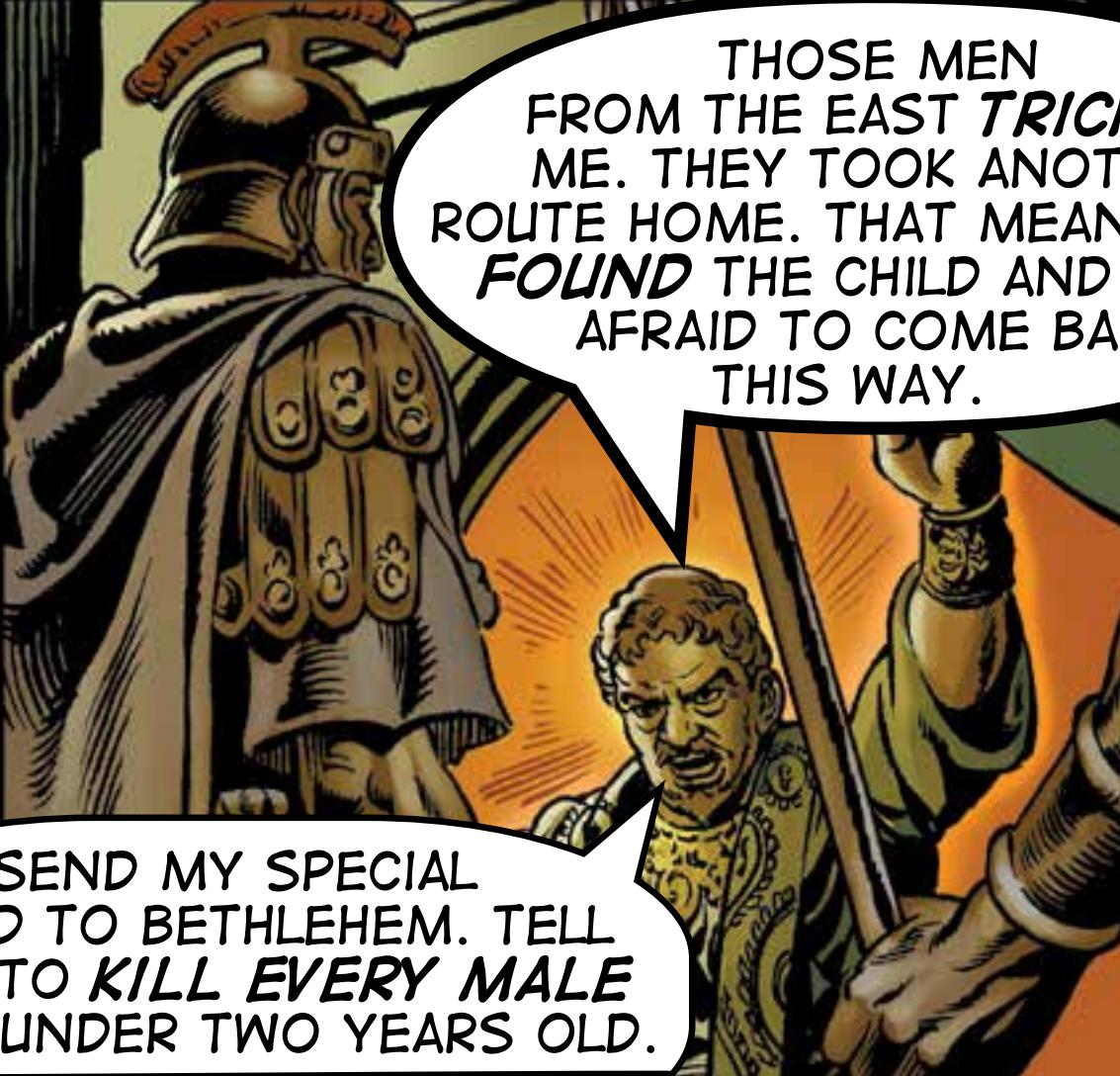
WE READ THE HOLY WRITINGS
OF ALL PEOPLE. YOUR PROPHETS
HAVE PREDICTED HIS COMING, AND
THEN A **STAR** APPEARED TO GUIDE
US HERE. IT STANDS OVER YOUR
HOUSE EVEN NOW.



WITH HUMILITY WE
OFFER THESE SMALL
GIFTS IN HONOR OF THE
SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.
HE WILL TURN MANY TO
RIGHTEOUSNESS.

THAT NIGHT, GOD
SPOKE TO THE WISE
MEN IN A DREAM
AND TOLD THEM TO
NOT TELL HEROD
WHERE THEY FOUND
THE CHILD, BUT
TO TAKE ANOTHER
ROUTE BACK TO
THEIR COUNTRY.
GOD ALSO SPOKE
TO JOSEPH AND
TOLD HIM TO FLEE
TO EGYPT, FOR
HEROD WOULD SEEK
TO KILL THE CHILD.

MATTHEW 2:9-12

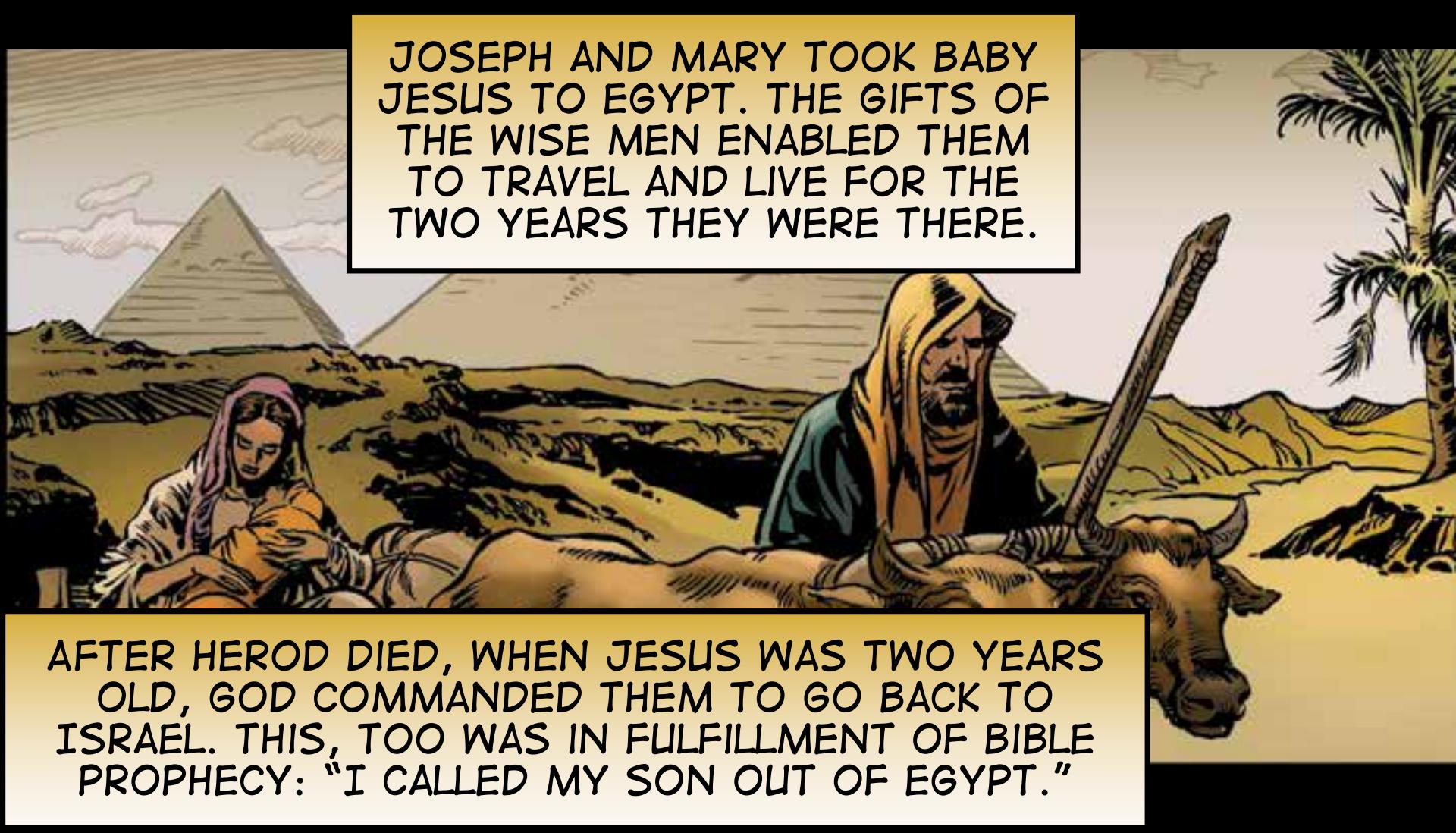


THOSE MEN FROM THE EAST **TRICKED** ME. THEY TOOK ANOTHER ROUTE HOME. THAT MEANS THEY **FOUND** THE CHILD AND WERE AFRAID TO COME BACK THIS WAY.

SEND MY SPECIAL SQUAD TO BETHLEHEM. TELL THEM TO **KILL EVERY MALE CHILD** UNDER TWO YEARS OLD.



MANY YEARS BEFORE,
THE PROPHETS HAD
PREDICTED THIS VERY
SORROWFUL EVENT TO
OCCUR IN BETHLEHEM.



JOSEPH AND MARY TOOK BABY JESUS TO EGYPT. THE GIFTS OF THE WISE MEN ENABLED THEM TO TRAVEL AND LIVE FOR THE TWO YEARS THEY WERE THERE.

AFTER HEROD DIED, WHEN JESUS WAS TWO YEARS OLD, GOD COMMANDED THEM TO GO BACK TO ISRAEL. THIS, TOO WAS IN FULFILLMENT OF BIBLE PROPHECY: "I CALLED MY SON OUT OF EGYPT."



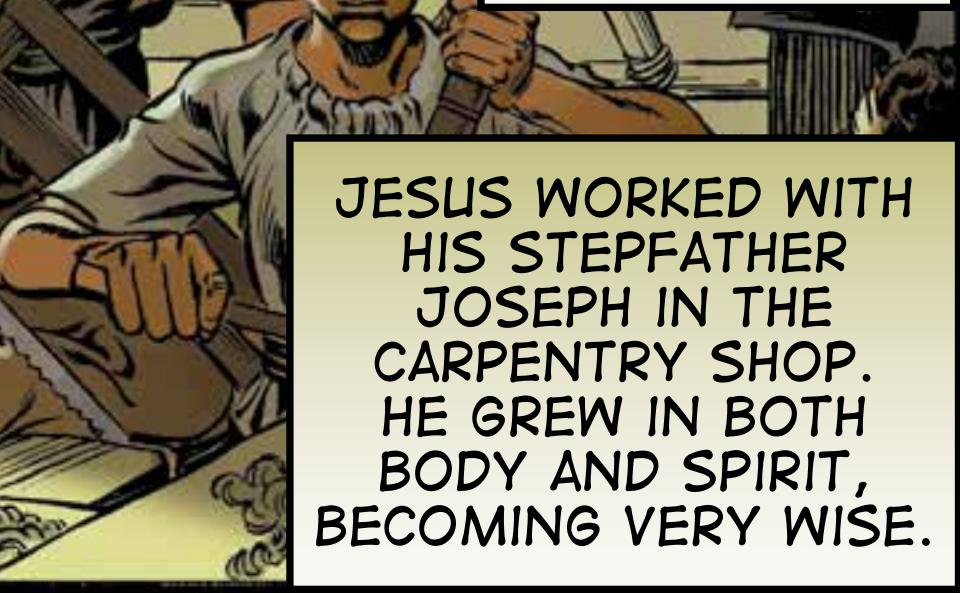
WHEN THEY RETURNED FROM EGYPT, AN ANGEL TOLD JOSEPH TO MOVE INTO THE LITTLE TOWN OF NAZARETH.



THIS, TOO, WAS A FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY, WHICH SAID THAT HE WOULD BE CALLED A NAZARENE.

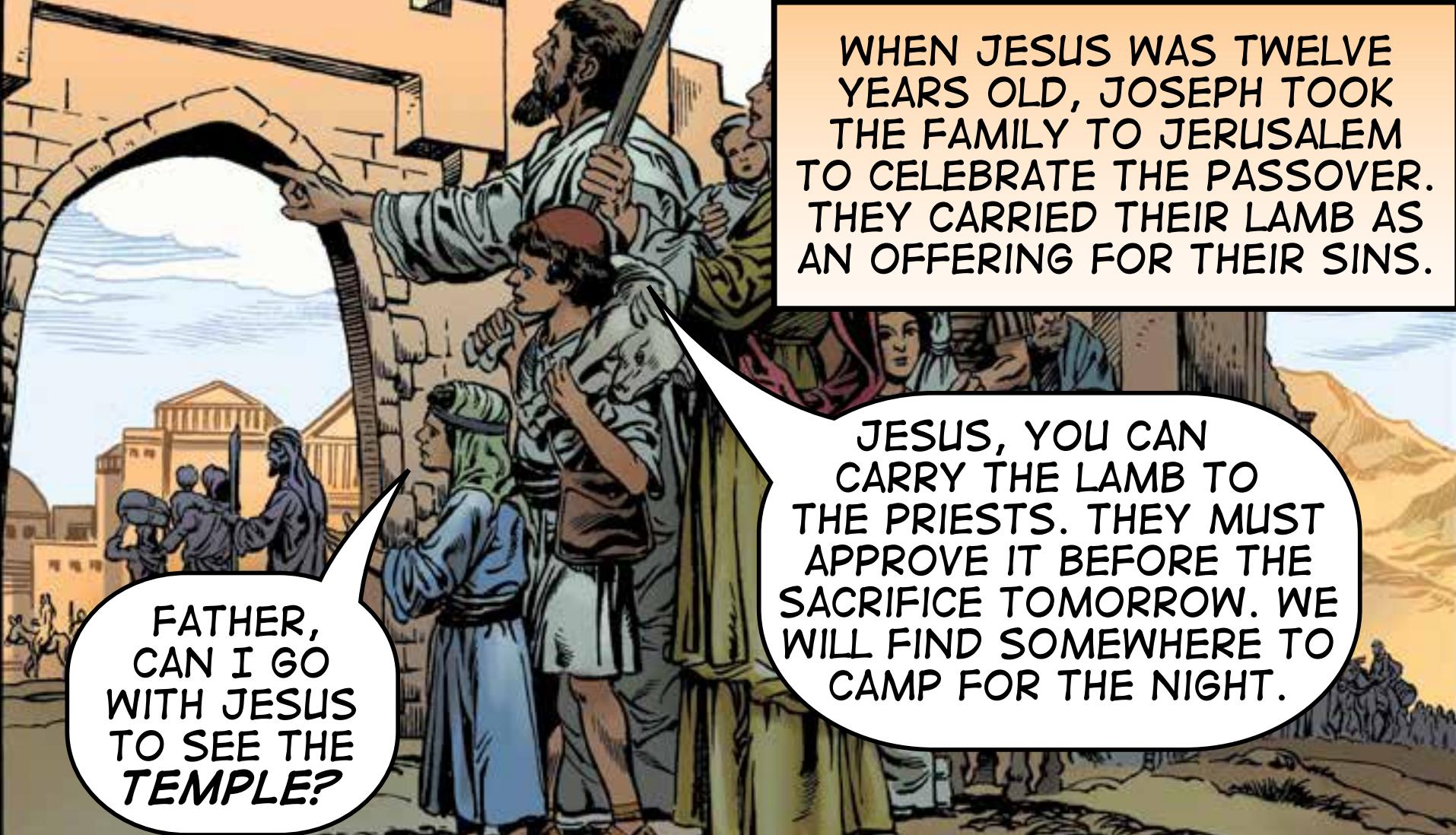


ARE MY FIVE MEN GOING TO WORK ALL DAY? COME AND EAT.



JESUS WORKED WITH HIS STEPFATHER JOSEPH IN THE CARPENTRY SHOP. HE GREW IN BOTH BODY AND SPIRIT, BECOMING VERY WISE.

JEREMIAH 31:15; HOSEA 11:1;
MATTHEW 2:13-23

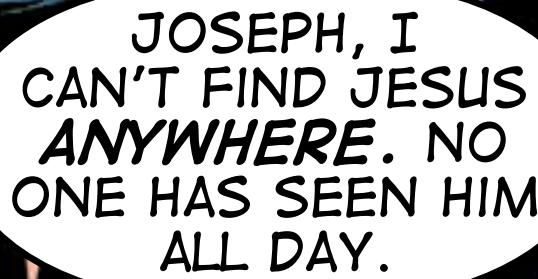


WHEN JESUS WAS TWELVE YEARS OLD, JOSEPH TOOK THE FAMILY TO JERUSALEM TO CELEBRATE THE PASSOVER. THEY CARRIED THEIR LAMB AS AN OFFERING FOR THEIR SINS.

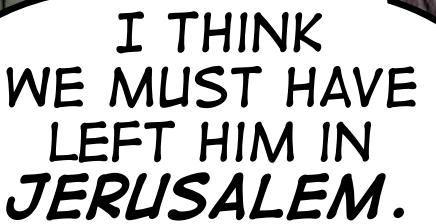
JESUS, YOU CAN CARRY THE LAMB TO THE PRIESTS. THEY MUST APPROVE IT BEFORE THE SACRIFICE TOMORROW. WE WILL FIND SOMEWHERE TO CAMP FOR THE NIGHT.

FATHER,
CAN I GO
WITH JESUS
TO SEE THE
TEMPLE?

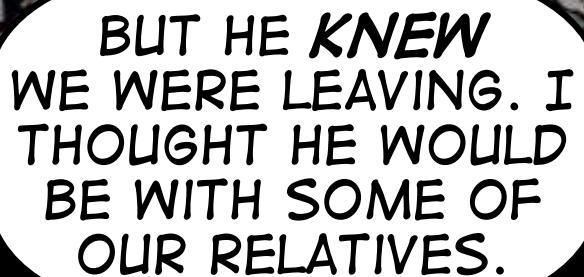
SEVERAL DAYS LATER,
AFTER THE SACRIFICE...



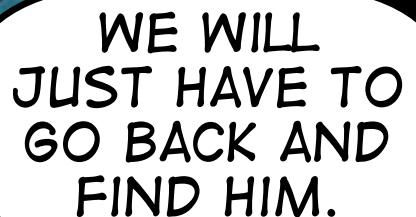
JOSEPH, I
CAN'T FIND JESUS
ANYWHERE. NO
ONE HAS SEEN HIM
ALL DAY.



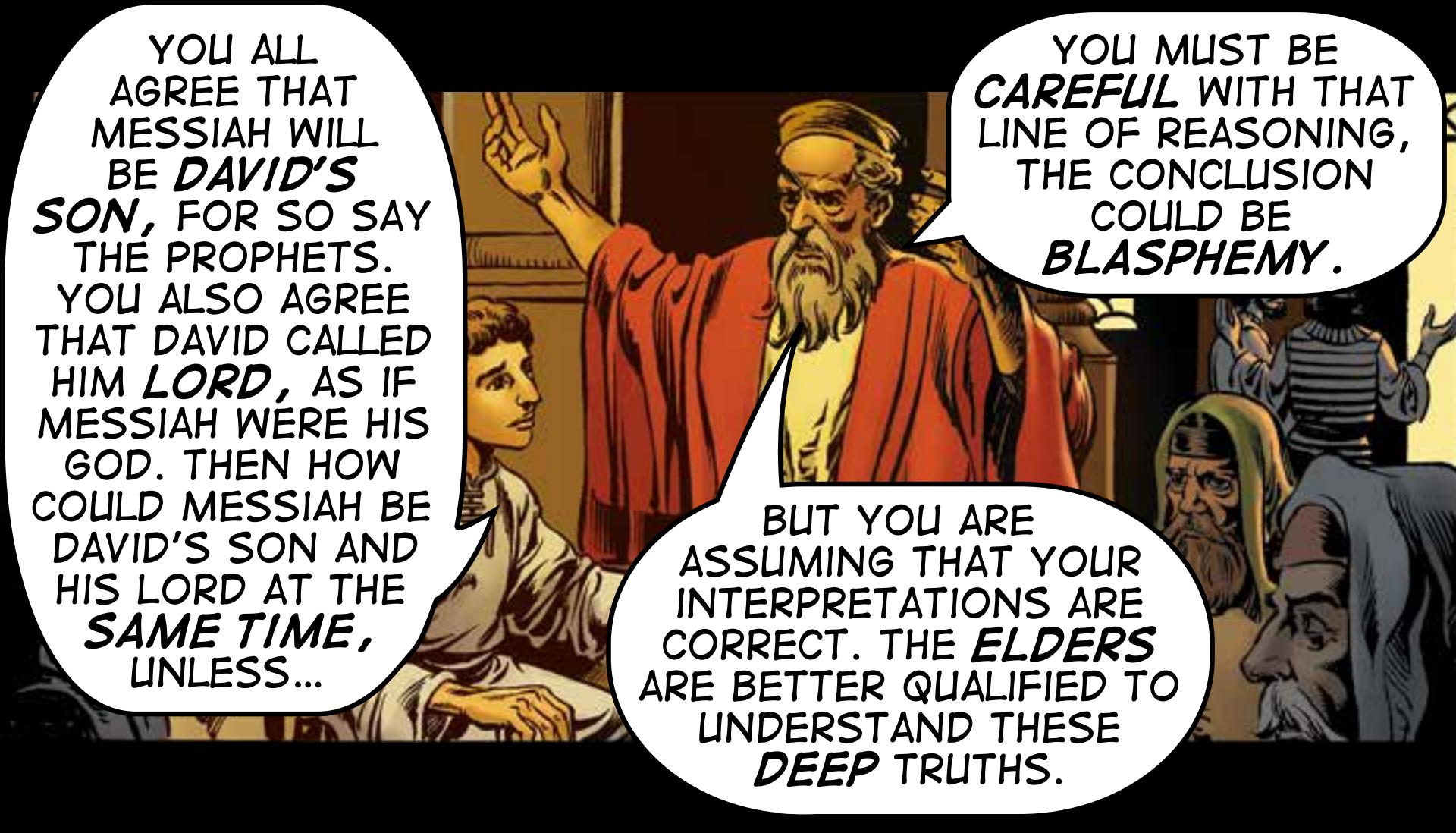
I THINK
WE MUST HAVE
LEFT HIM IN
JERUSALEM.



BUT HE **KNEW**
WE WERE LEAVING. I
THOUGHT HE WOULD
BE WITH SOME OF
OUR RELATIVES.



WE WILL
JUST HAVE TO
GO BACK AND
FIND HIM.



YOU ALL AGREE THAT MESSIAH WILL BE **DAVID'S SON**, FOR SO SAY THE PROPHETS. YOU ALSO AGREE THAT DAVID CALLED HIM **LORD**, AS IF MESSIAH WERE HIS GOD. THEN HOW COULD MESSIAH BE DAVID'S SON AND HIS LORD AT THE **SAME TIME**, UNLESS...

YOU MUST BE **CAREFUL** WITH THAT LINE OF REASONING, THE CONCLUSION COULD BE **BLASPHEMY**.

BUT YOU ARE ASSUMING THAT YOUR INTERPRETATIONS ARE CORRECT. THE **ELDERS** ARE BETTER QUALIFIED TO UNDERSTAND THESE **DEEP** TRUTHS.

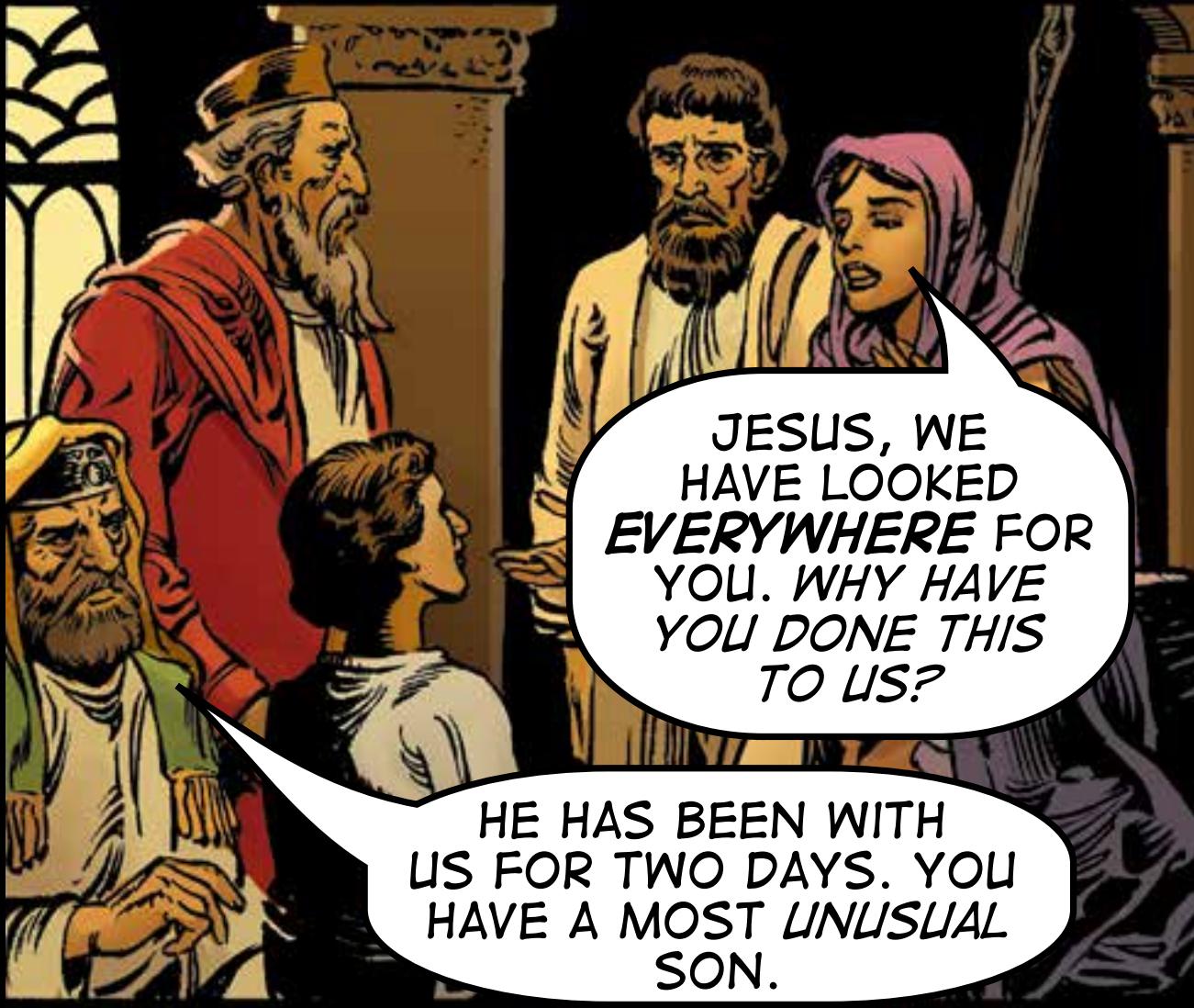
ISAIAH 9:7; LUKE 2:42-46;
2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

EITHER THE
SCRIPTURES
ARE **TRUE** OR
THEY ARE **NOT**.
DO WE BELIEVE
ONLY THAT
WHICH FITS OUR
TRADITIONS?

IS TRUTH
EVER DEEP?
WAS NOT THE
SCRIPTURE GIVEN
FOR OUR UNDER-
STANDING?

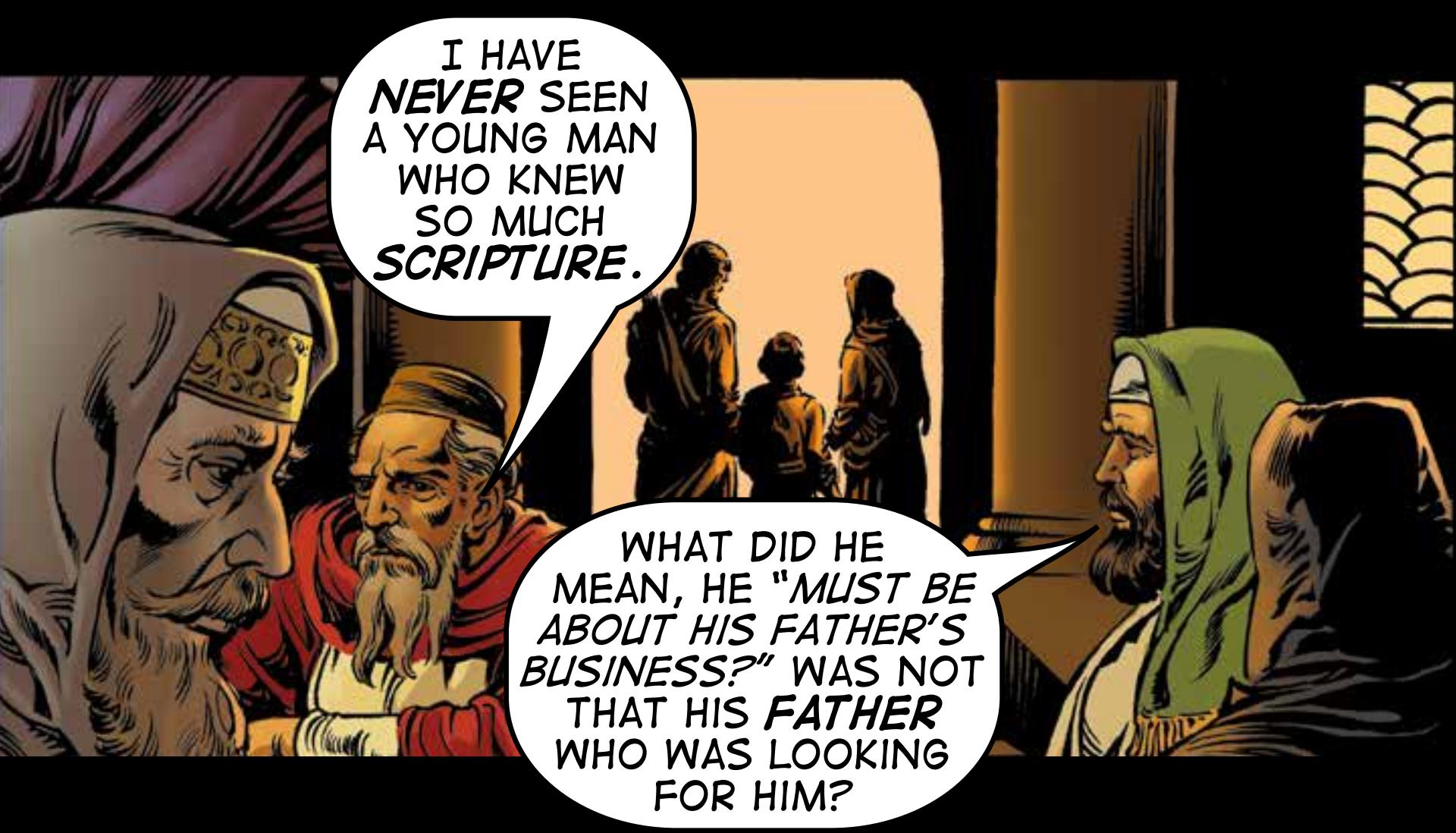
BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE
EVERYTHING **LITERALLY**.
OUR RABBIS SAY ...

**THERE
HE IS.**





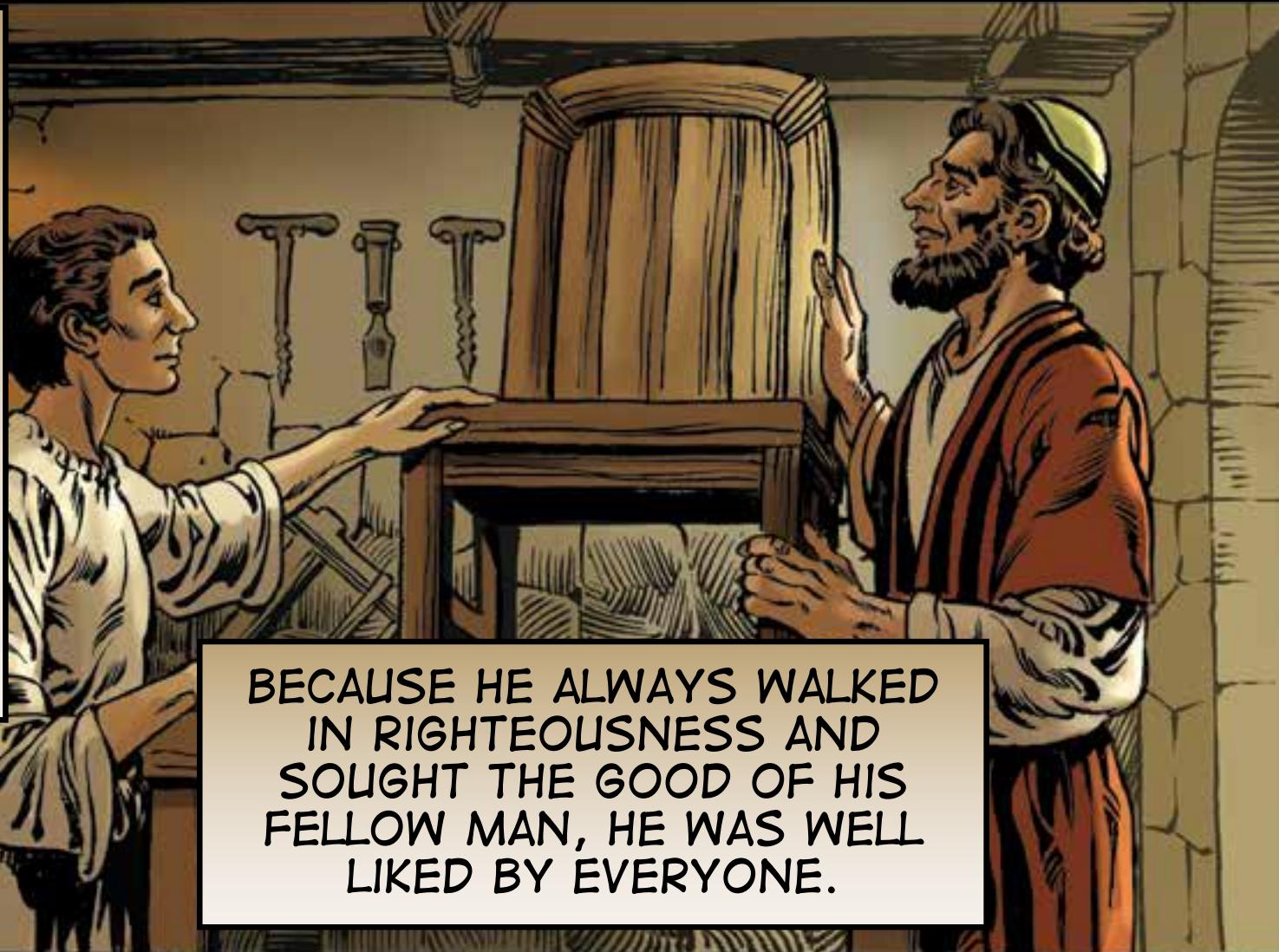
WHY DID
YOU LOOK
EVERYWHERE? DID
YOU NOT KNOW THAT
I MUST BE DOING
MY FATHER'S
BUSINESS?



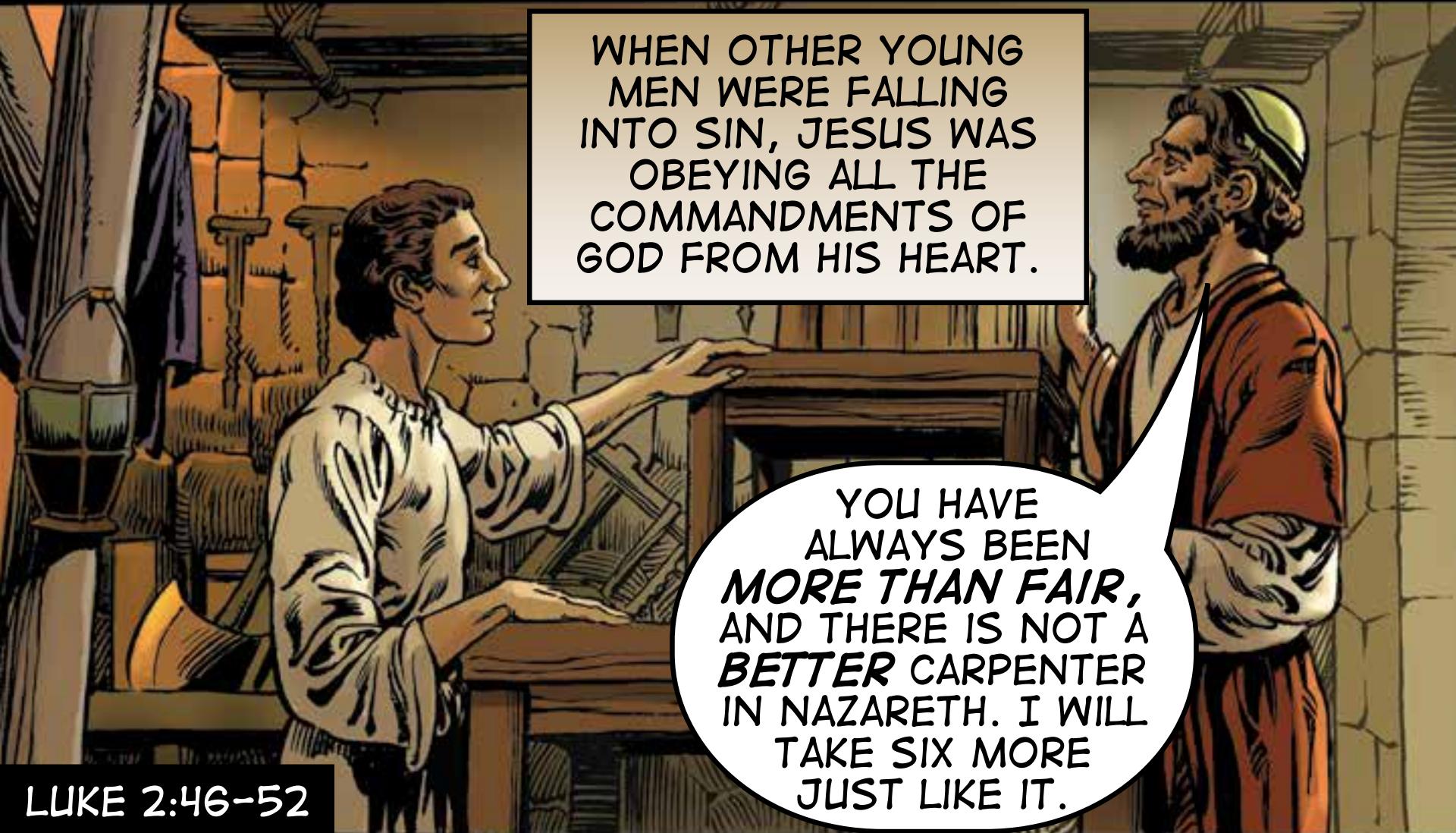
I HAVE
NEVER SEEN
A YOUNG MAN
WHO KNEW
SO MUCH
SCRIPTURE.

WHAT DID HE
MEAN, HE "**MUST BE**
ABOUT HIS FATHER'S
BUSINESS?" WAS NOT
THAT HIS **FATHER**
WHO WAS LOOKING
FOR HIM?

JESUS
RETURNED
WITH HIS
PARENTS AND
WAS SUBJECT
UNTO THEM.
HE CONTINUED
TO WORK
IN THE
CARPENTRY
SHOP AND
TO GROW IN
WISDOM AND
STATURE.



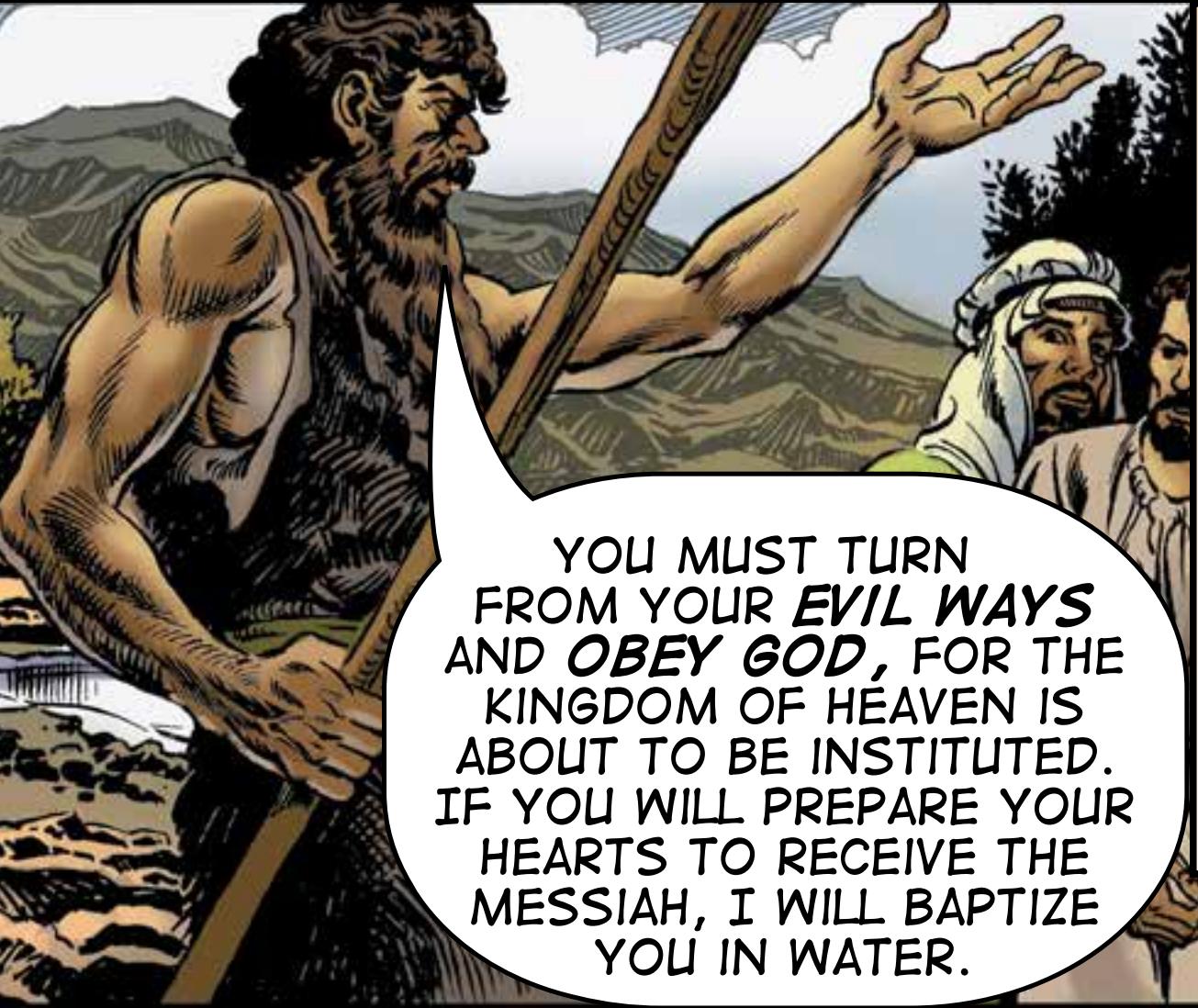
BECAUSE HE ALWAYS WALKED
IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND
SOUGHT THE GOOD OF HIS
FELLOW MAN, HE WAS WELL
LIKED BY EVERYONE.

A man with dark hair and a white tunic is working at a workbench in a workshop filled with tools and wooden structures.

WHEN OTHER YOUNG
MEN WERE FALLING
INTO SIN, JESUS WAS
OBEYING ALL THE
COMMANDMENTS OF
GOD FROM HIS HEART.

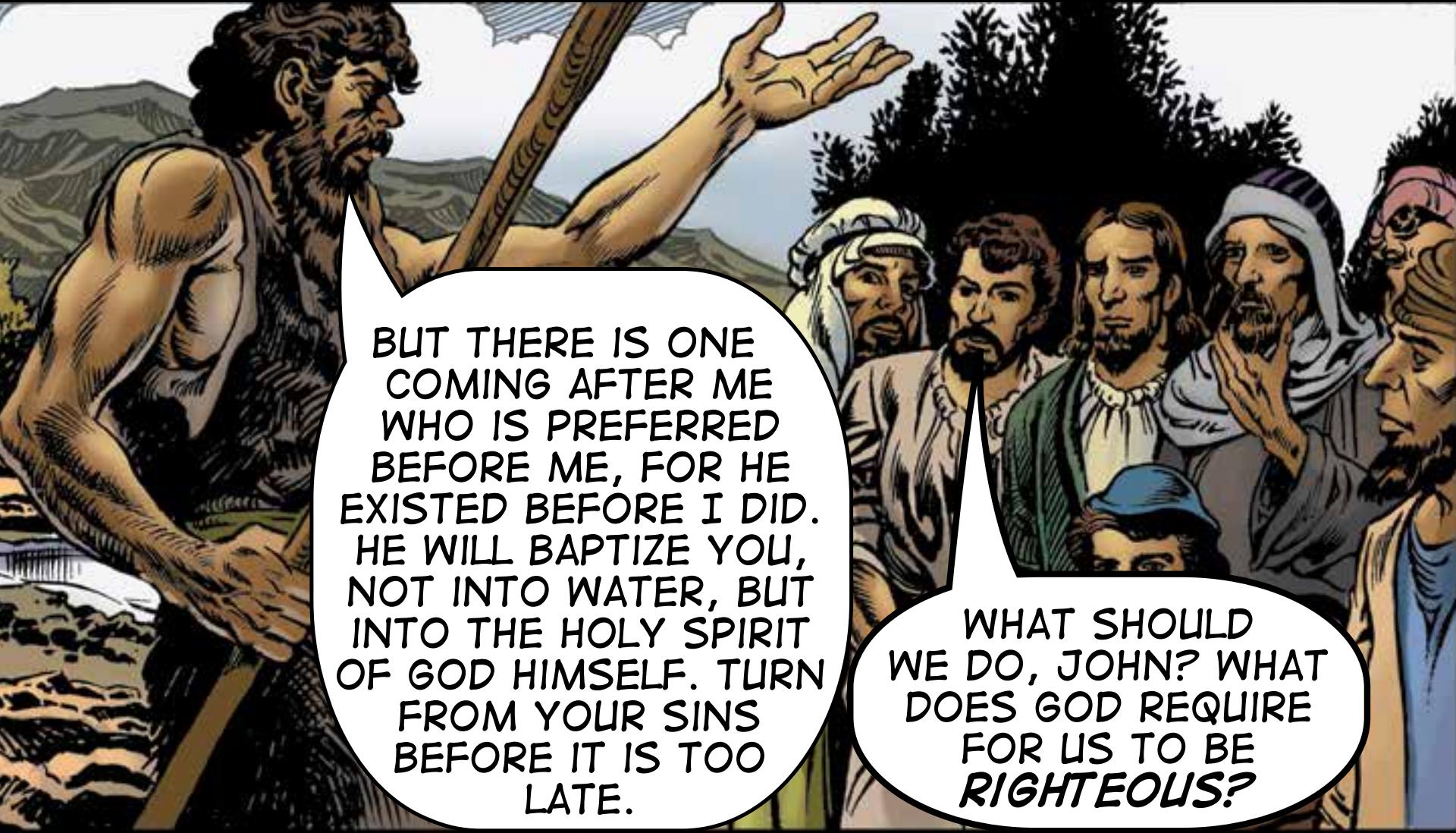
A man with a long beard and a yellow turban is standing and talking.

YOU HAVE
ALWAYS BEEN
MORE THAN FAIR,
AND THERE IS NOT A
BETTER CARPENTER
IN NAZARETH. I WILL
TAKE SIX MORE
JUST LIKE IT.



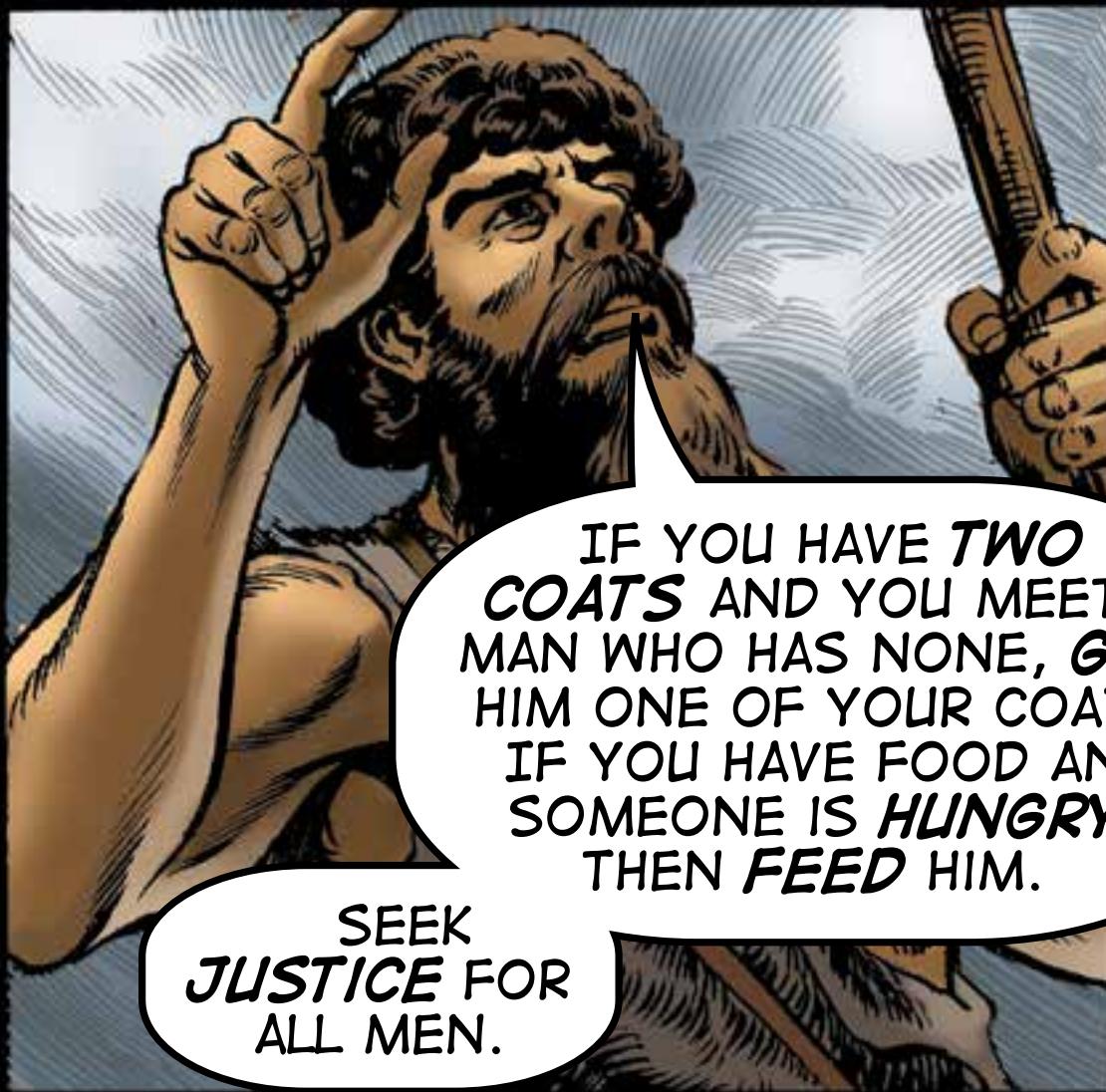
YOU MUST TURN
FROM YOUR **EVIL WAYS**
AND **OBEY GOD**, FOR THE
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS
ABOUT TO BE INSTITUTED.
IF YOU WILL PREPARE YOUR
HEARTS TO RECEIVE THE
MESSIAH, I WILL BAPTIZE
YOU IN WATER.

REMEMBER THAT ELIZABETH HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO A SON SIX MONTHS BEFORE MARY. THE ANGEL TOLD ZACHARIAS TO NAME HIM JOHN, AND THAT HE WOULD PREPARE THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE FOR THE COMING OF MESSIAH. THIS WAS ALSO PREDICTED FIVE HUNDRED YEARS EARLIER BY SEVERAL OF THE PROPHETS.



BUT THERE IS ONE COMING AFTER ME WHO IS PREFERRED BEFORE ME, FOR HE EXISTED BEFORE I DID. HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU, NOT INTO WATER, BUT INTO THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD HIMSELF. TURN FROM YOUR SINS BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

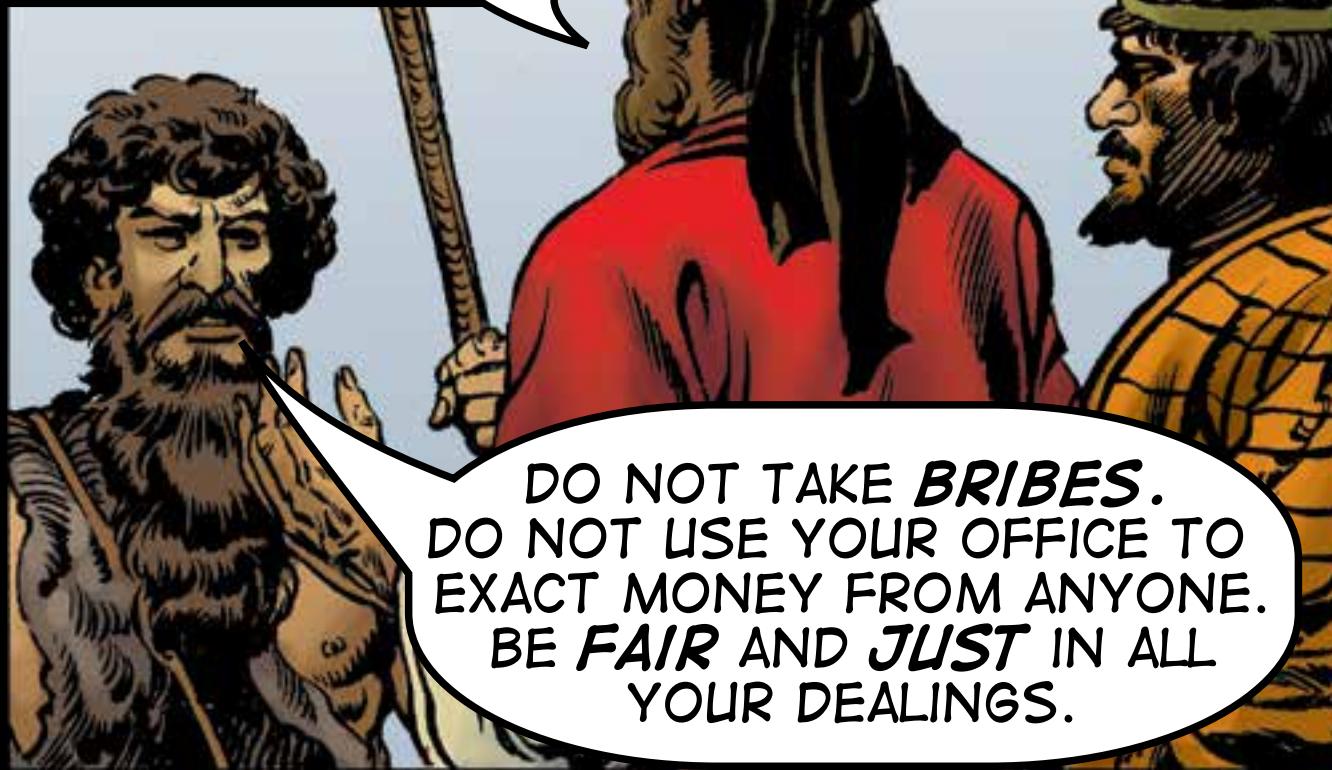
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, JOHN? WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE FOR US TO BE RIGHTEOUS?



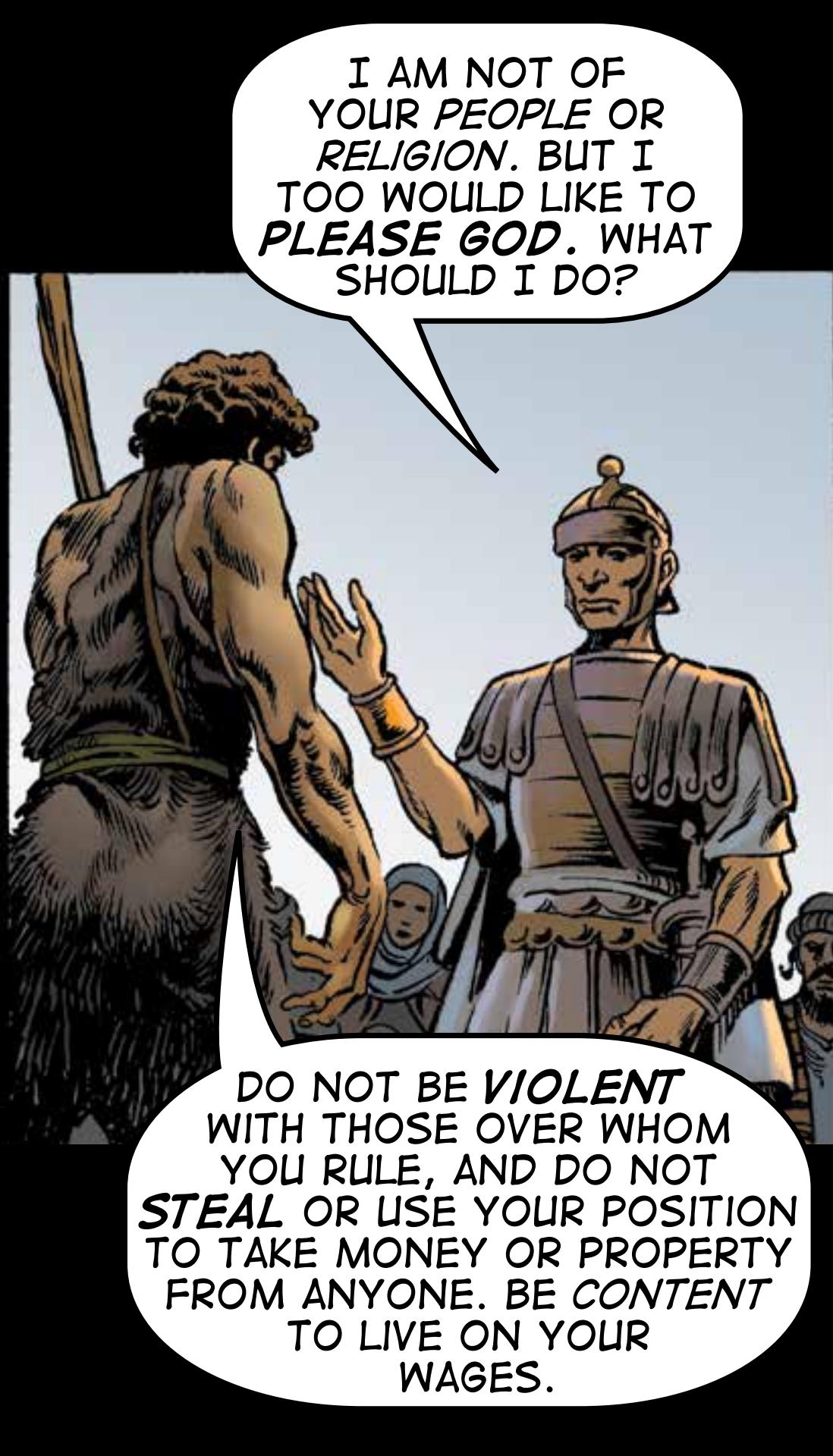
IF YOU HAVE **TWO COATS** AND YOU MEET A MAN WHO HAS NONE, **GIVE HIM ONE OF YOUR COATS.**
IF YOU HAVE FOOD AND SOMEONE IS **HUNGRY**, THEN **FEED HIM.**

SEEK
JUSTICE FOR ALL MEN.

JOHN, WHAT MUST WE WHO WORK IN THE GOVERNMENT DO TO PLEASE GOD? I AM A TAX COLLECTOR AND NABAL HERE IS A CUSTOMS WORKER.

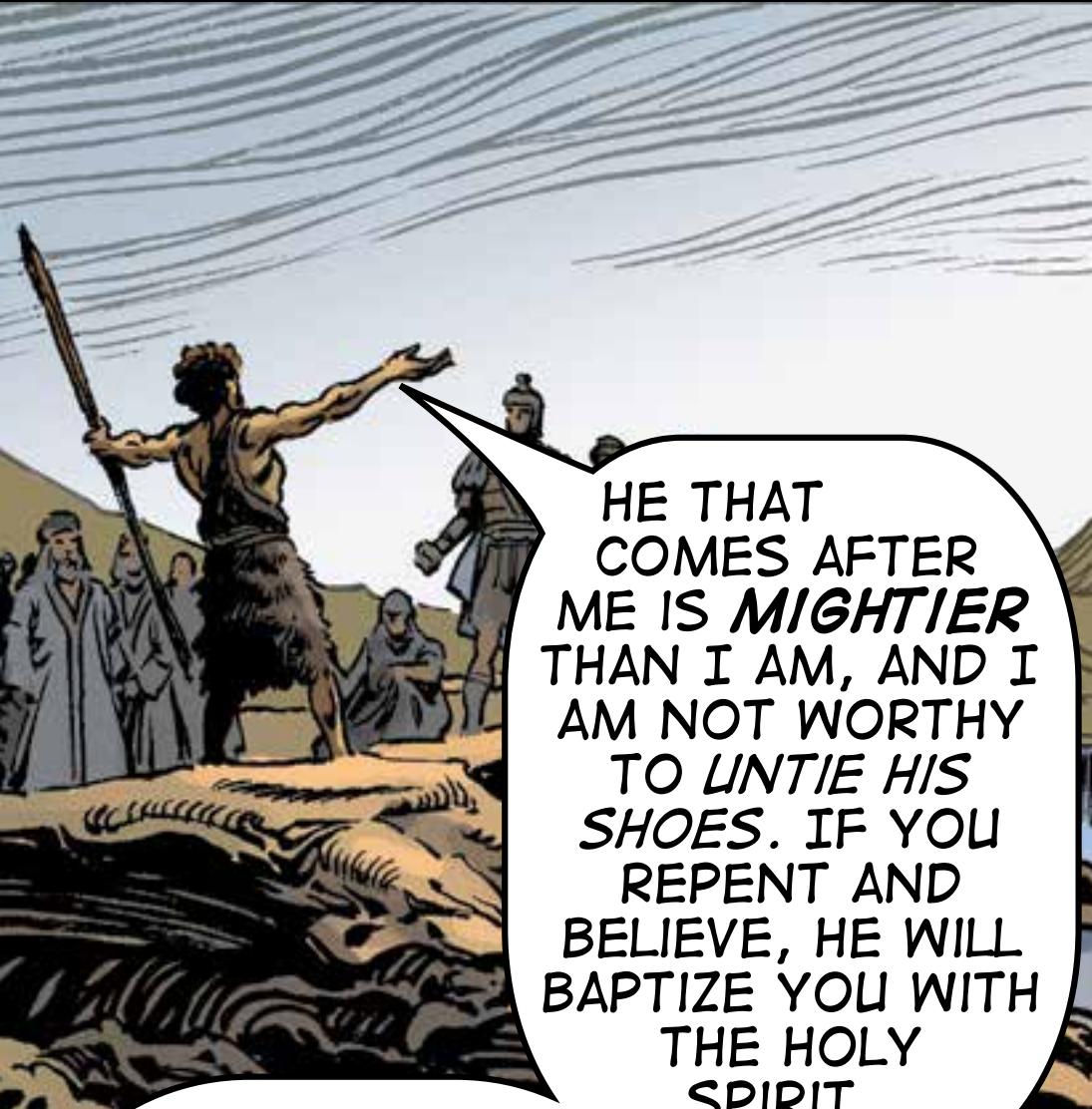


DO NOT TAKE *BRIBES*.
DO NOT USE YOUR OFFICE TO EXACT MONEY FROM ANYONE.
BE *FAIR* AND *JUST* IN ALL YOUR DEALINGS.



I AM NOT OF
YOUR PEOPLE OR
RELIGION. BUT I
TOO WOULD LIKE TO
PLEASE GOD. WHAT
SHOULD I DO?

DO NOT BE **VIOLENT**
WITH THOSE OVER WHOM
YOU RULE, AND DO NOT
STEAL OR USE YOUR POSITION
TO TAKE MONEY OR PROPERTY
FROM ANYONE. BE CONTENT
TO LIVE ON YOUR
WAGES.



HE THAT COMES AFTER ME IS **MIGHTIER** THAN I AM, AND I AM NOT WORTHY TO UNTIE HIS SHOES. IF YOU REPENT AND BELIEVE, HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

IF YOU **REJECT** HIM AND CONTINUE IN YOUR SIN, HE WILL PLUNGE YOU INTO THE FIRES OF ETERNAL DAMNATION. STOP YOUR SINNING NOW.

MALACHI 3:1; LUKE 3:2-18, 7:24, 27



I AM NOT
THE MESSIAH.

WHO ARE
YOU, THAT YOU COME
PROCLAIMING THE
MESSIAH? WHAT DO YOU
SAY OF YOURSELF?

NO, AS THE
PROPHET ISAIAH
SAID, "*I AM* THE VOICE
OF ONE CRYING IN THE
WILDERNESS, PREPARE
THE WAY FOR
THE MESSIAH."

ARE YOU THE
PROPHET OF WHOM
MOSES SPOKE, THE ONE
WHO WAS TO COME AND
LEAD THE PEOPLE BACK
TO GOD?



THEN WHAT
RIGHT HAVE YOU GOT TO
GO AROUND OUR RELIGIOUS
AUTHORITY AND **BAPTIZE**
THESE PEOPLE?

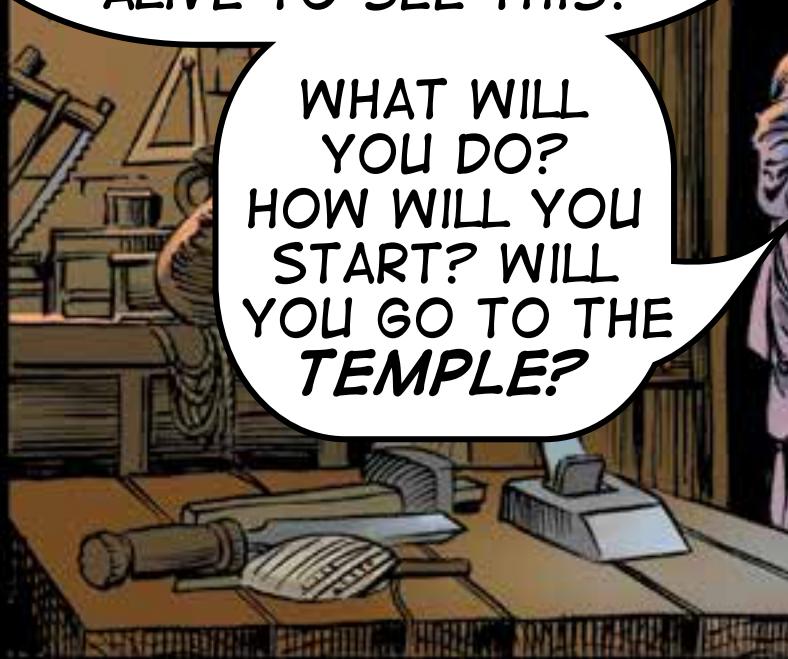
YOU NEED TO
PUT AWAY YOUR SINS
OF PRIDE AND **ARROGANCE**.
THE AX IS LAID TO THE ROOT
OF THE TREES, AND YOU WILL
BE CUT DOWN AND CAST INTO
THE FIRES OF DAMNATION
IF YOU DO NOT CHANGE
YOUR HEARTS.

I AM ONLY
A MESSENGER,
PREPARING THE WAY
FOR MESSIAH, BUT YOU
ARE SONS OF SNAKES.
YOU THINK THAT JUST
BECAUSE YOU ARE
JEW'S AND CHILDREN
OF **ABRAHAM** THAT
YOU ARE CHILDREN OF
GOD.



JOHN, YOU SAY
THE MESSIAH IS
COMING SOON. HOW
WILL YOU KNOW HIM
WHEN HE COMES?

THE ANGEL OF GOD
TOLD ME THAT ON WHOM
I SEE THE SPIRIT OF GOD
**DESCENDING LIKE A
DOVE**, HE IS THE MESSIAH
OF ISRAEL, THE SAVIOR
OF THE WORLD.



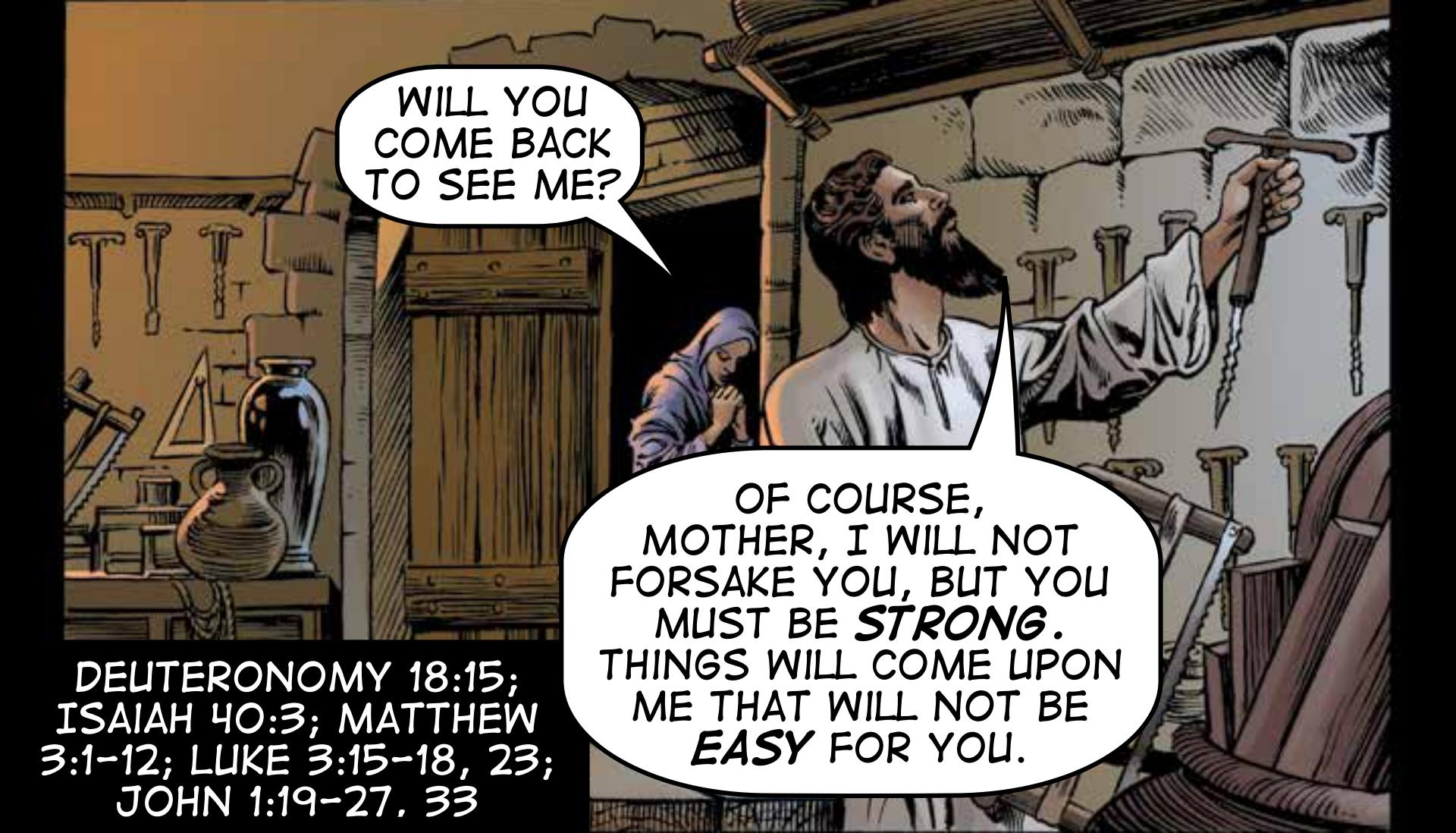
I KNEW THIS TIME WOULD COME. THE ANGEL **GABRIEL** TOLD ME THAT I WOULD EXPERIENCE GREAT SORROW. I WISH YOUR FATHER, I MEAN YOUR STEPFATHER, WERE STILL ALIVE TO SEE THIS.

JOHN HAD BEEN PREACHING SIX MONTHS AND JESUS WAS THIRTY YEARS OLD.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?
HOW WILL YOU START? WILL YOU GO TO THE **TEMPLE**?



I DO NOT KNOW.
MY FATHER WILL SHOW ME.
FIRST I MUST GO SEE **JOHN** AND BE **BAPTIZED** OF HIM. HE HAS PREPARED MANY FOR THE DAY OF REGENERATION.



WILL YOU
COME BACK
TO SEE ME?

OF COURSE,
MOTHER, I WILL NOT
FORSAKE YOU, BUT YOU
MUST BE **STRONG**.
THINGS WILL COME UPON
ME THAT WILL NOT BE
EASY FOR YOU.

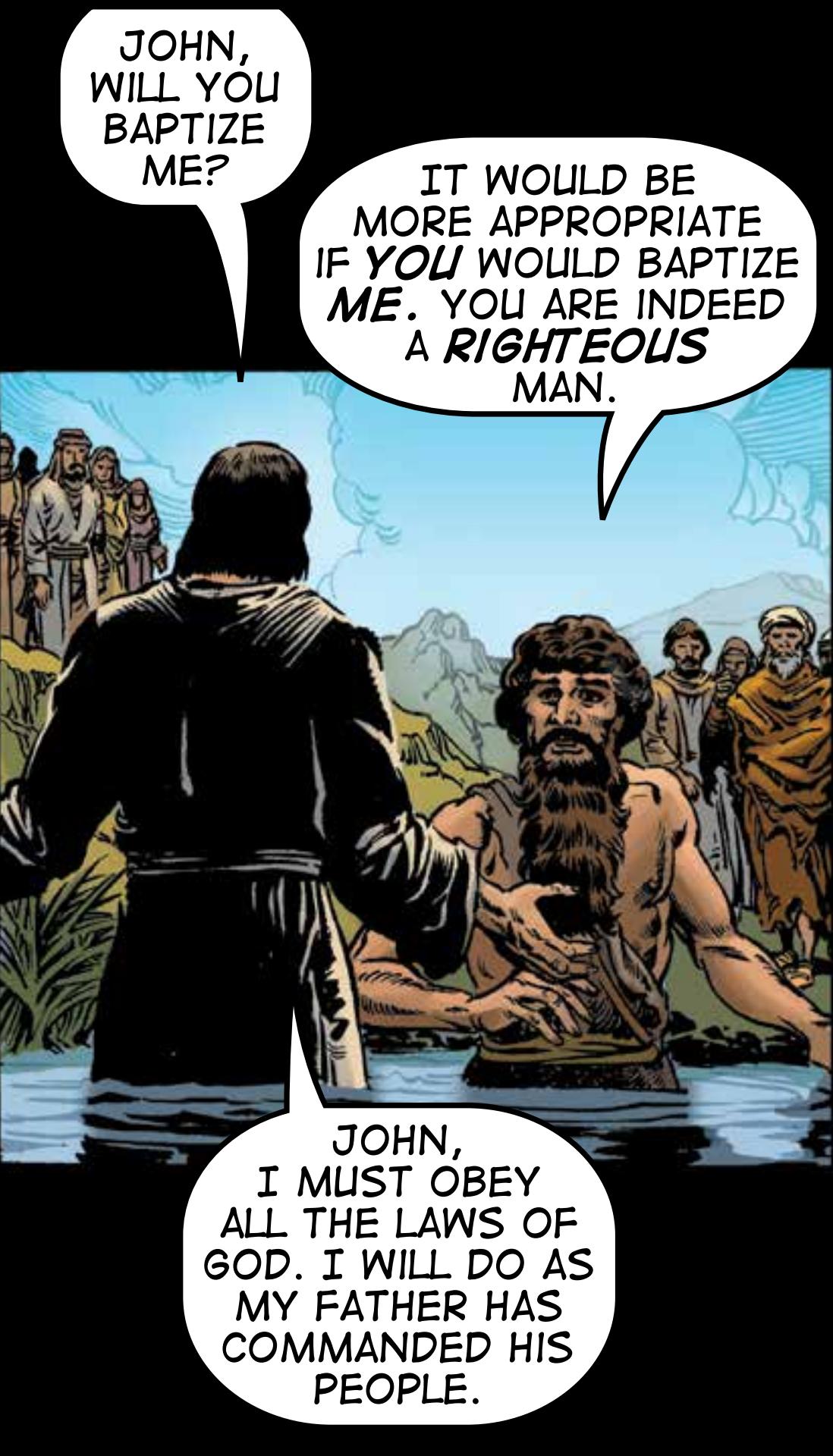
DEUTERONOMY 18:15;
ISAIAH 40:3; MATTHEW
3:1-12; LUKE 3:15-18, 23;
JOHN 1:19-27. 33

PREPARE FOR THE COMING OF THE **MESSIAH**.

YOU FATHERS MUST TURN YOUR HEARTS TO YOUR **CHILDREN**. YOU MUST BECOME **WISE** AND DEDICATE YOUR TIME AND ENERGIES TO TEACHING THEM THE LAWS OF GOD. IF YOUR DISOBEDIENT CHILDREN SEE YOUR SINCERITY, IT WILL TURN THEIR HEARTS TO THEIR FATHERS AND YOUR FAMILIES **WILL BE HEALED**.



IF THIS IS YOUR HEART, AND YOU ARE WILLING TO FOLLOW THE MESSIAH WHEN HE COMES, THEN COME DOWN INTO THE WATER AND I WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE, AND WHEN MESSIAH COMES HE WILL **FORGIVE YOUR SINS**.



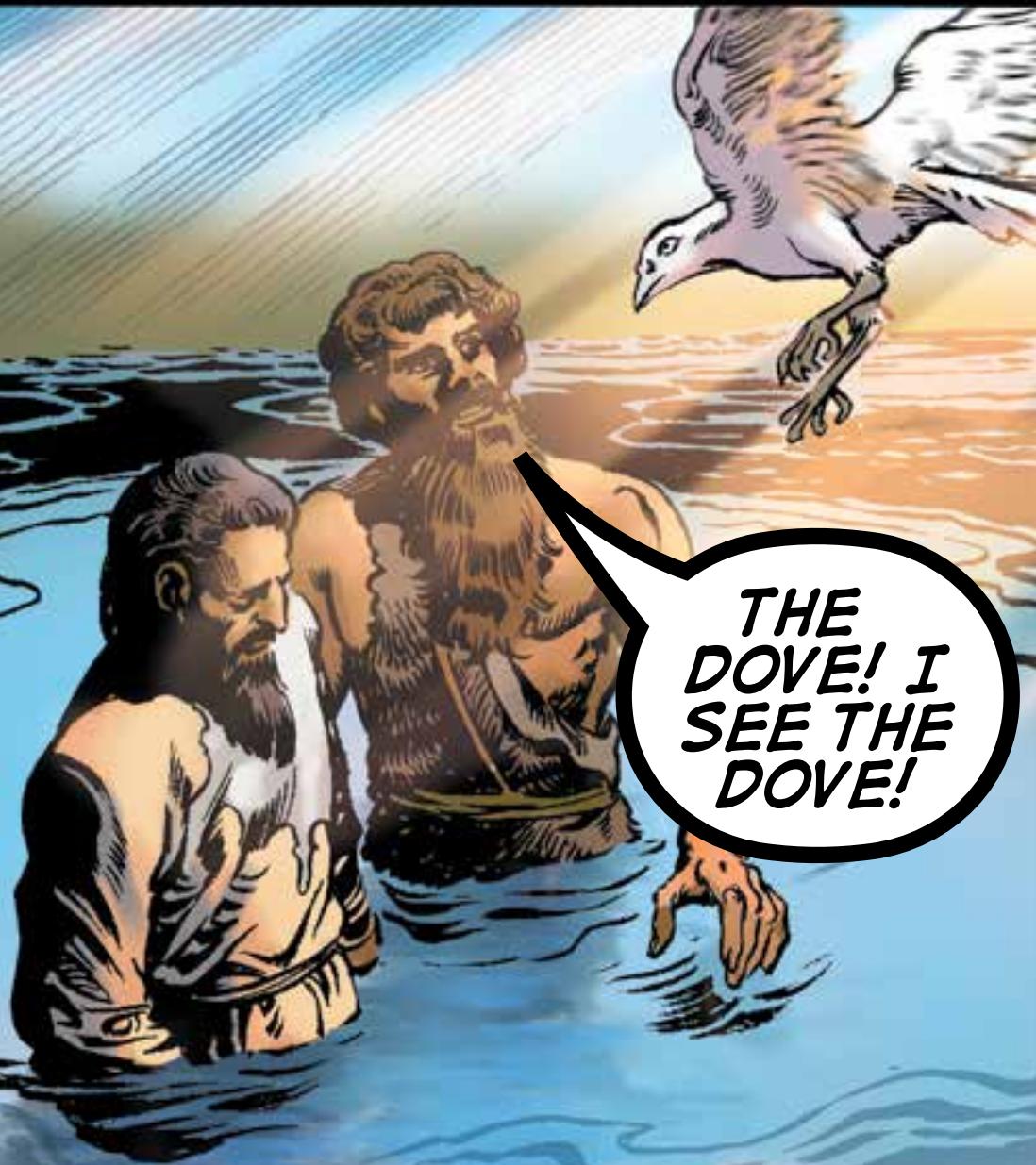
JOHN,
WILL YOU
BAPTIZE
ME?

IT WOULD BE
MORE APPROPRIATE
IF YOU WOULD BAPTIZE
ME. YOU ARE INDEED
A **RIGHTEOUS**
MAN.

JOHN,
I MUST OBEY
ALL THE LAWS OF
GOD. I WILL DO AS
MY FATHER HAS
COMMANDED HIS
PEOPLE.



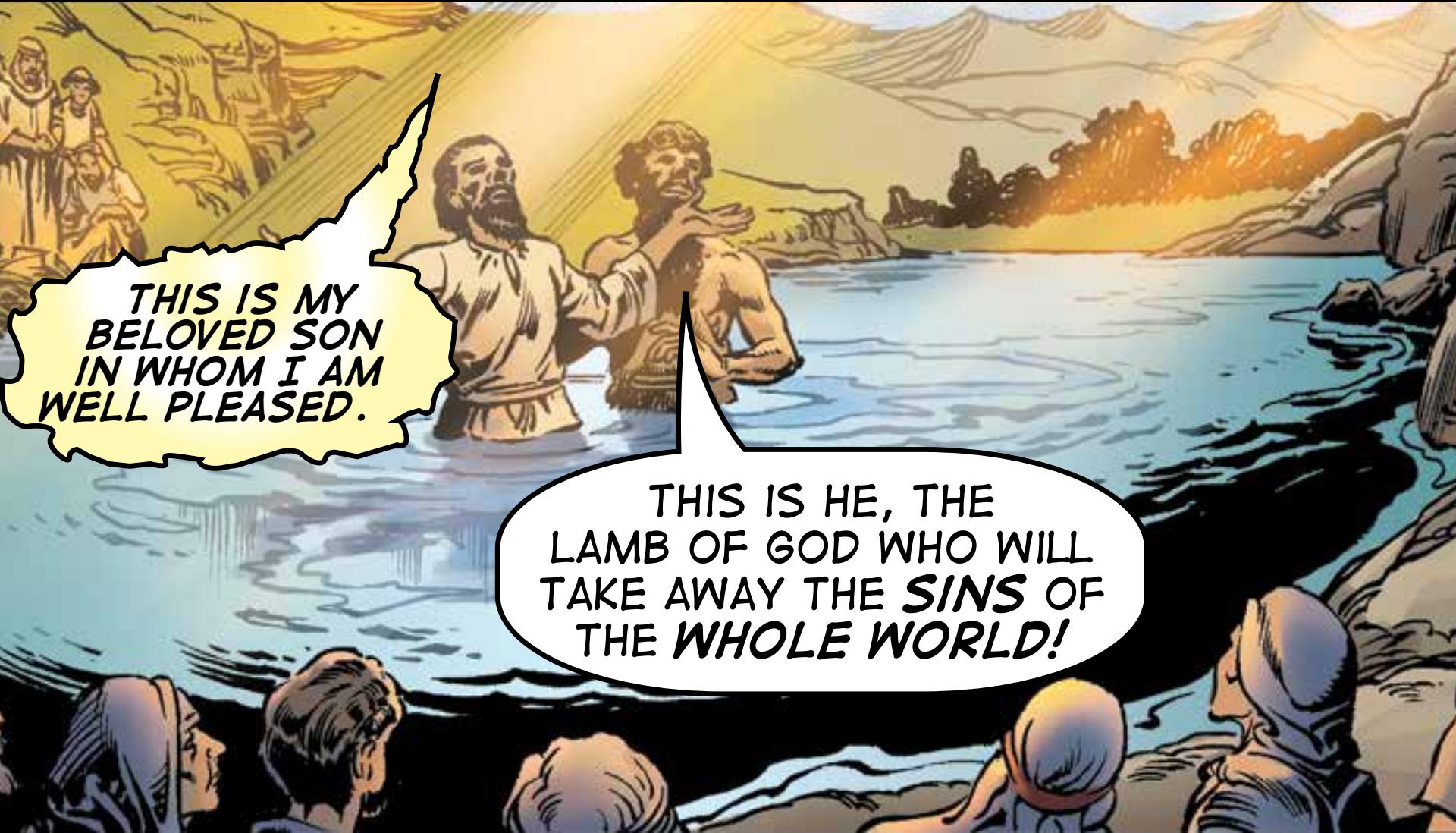




MATTHEW 3:13-17; LUKE 3:21-22



**YOU ARE
THE MESSIAH!
I SHOULD HAVE
KNOWN.**

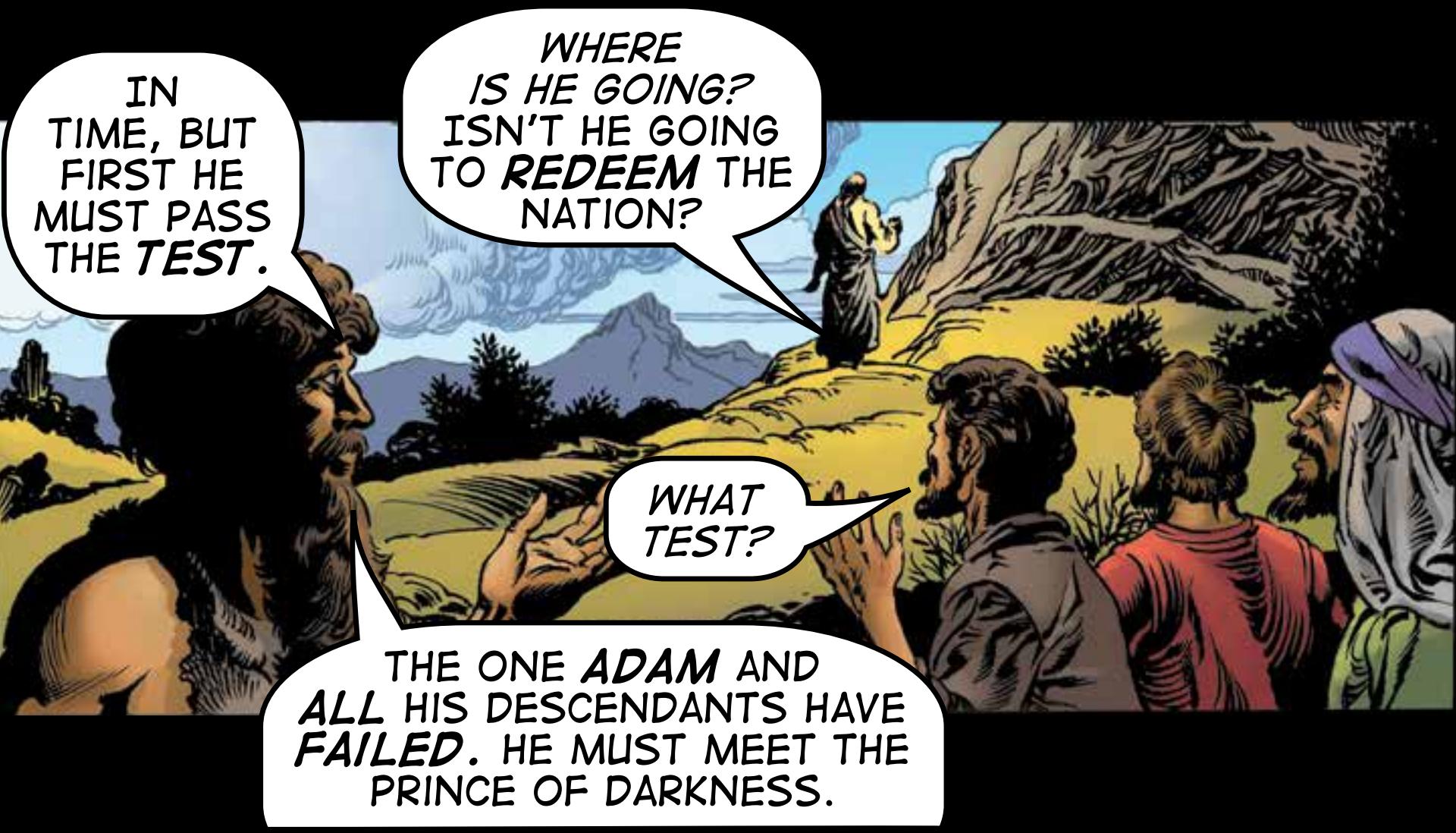


THIS IS MY
BELOVED SON
IN WHOM I AM
WELL PLEASED.

THIS IS HE, THE
LAMB OF GOD WHO WILL
TAKE AWAY THE **SINS** OF
THE **WHOLE WORLD!**



LUKE 3:22; JOHN 1:29-34; 1 JOHN 2:1-2



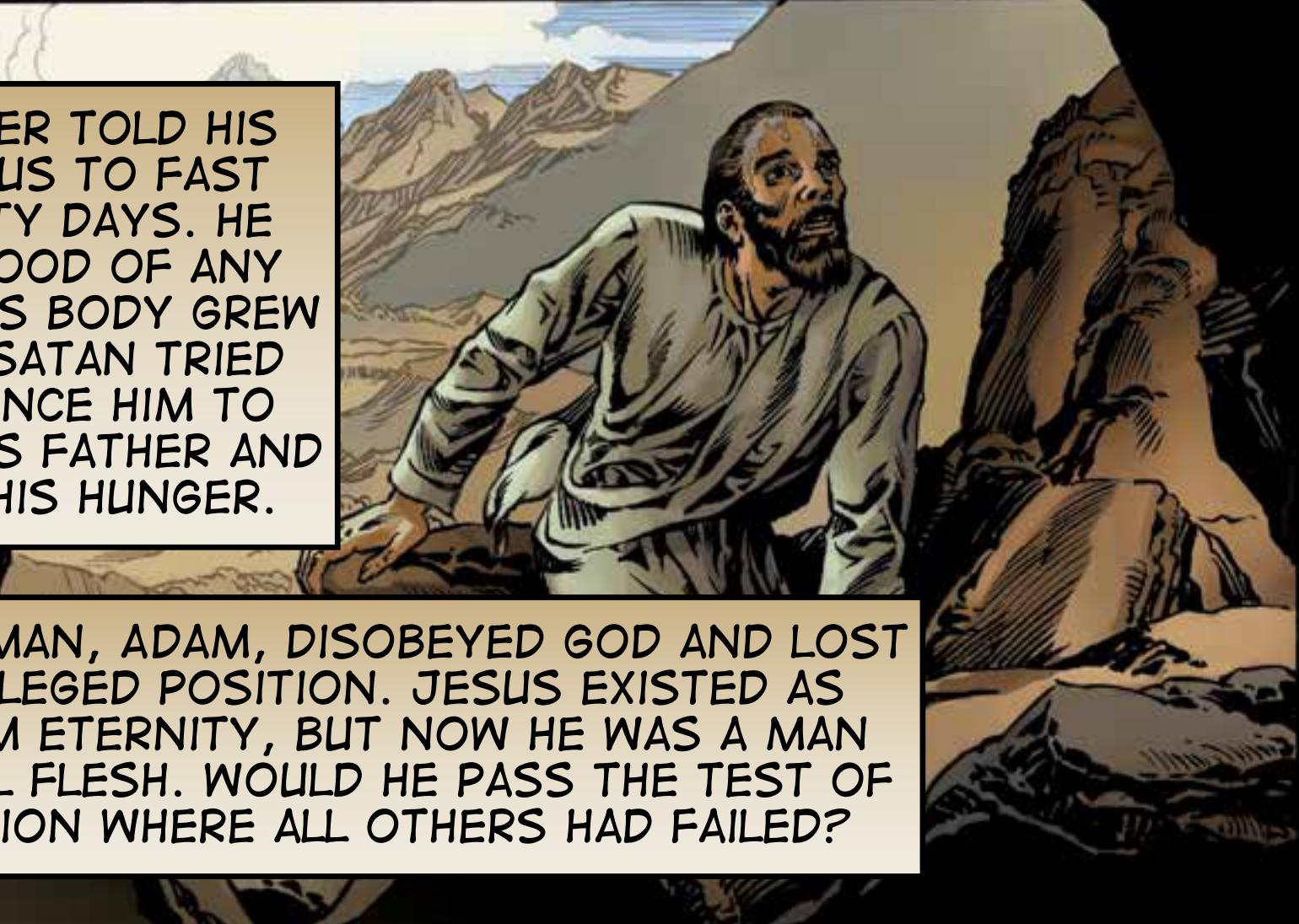
IN
TIME, BUT
FIRST HE
MUST PASS
THE TEST.

WHERE
IS HE GOING?
ISN'T HE GOING
TO REDEEM THE
NATION?

WHAT
TEST?

THE ONE ADAM AND
ALL HIS DESCENDANTS HAVE
FAILED. HE MUST MEET THE
PRINCE OF DARKNESS.

THE FATHER TOLD HIS SON JESUS TO FAST FOR FORTY DAYS. HE ATE NO FOOD OF ANY KIND. AS HIS BODY GREW WEAKER, SATAN TRIED TO CONVINCE HIM TO DISOBEY HIS FATHER AND SATISFY HIS HUNGER.



THE FIRST MAN, ADAM, DISOBEYED GOD AND LOST HIS PRIVILEGED POSITION. JESUS EXISTED AS GOD FROM ETERNITY, BUT NOW HE WAS A MAN OF MORTAL FLESH. WOULD HE PASS THE TEST OF TEMPTATION WHERE ALL OTHERS HAD FAILED?

AT THE END OF FORTY DAYS OF FASTING, JESUS WAS HUNGRY AND WEAK. HE NOW UNDERSTOOD WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE IN POVERTY, TO BE HUNGRY UNTIL YOUR BODY BEGAN TO EAT ITSELF. HE NOW UNDERSTOOD WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE ALONE, FORSAKEN, SICK, AND WEAK.

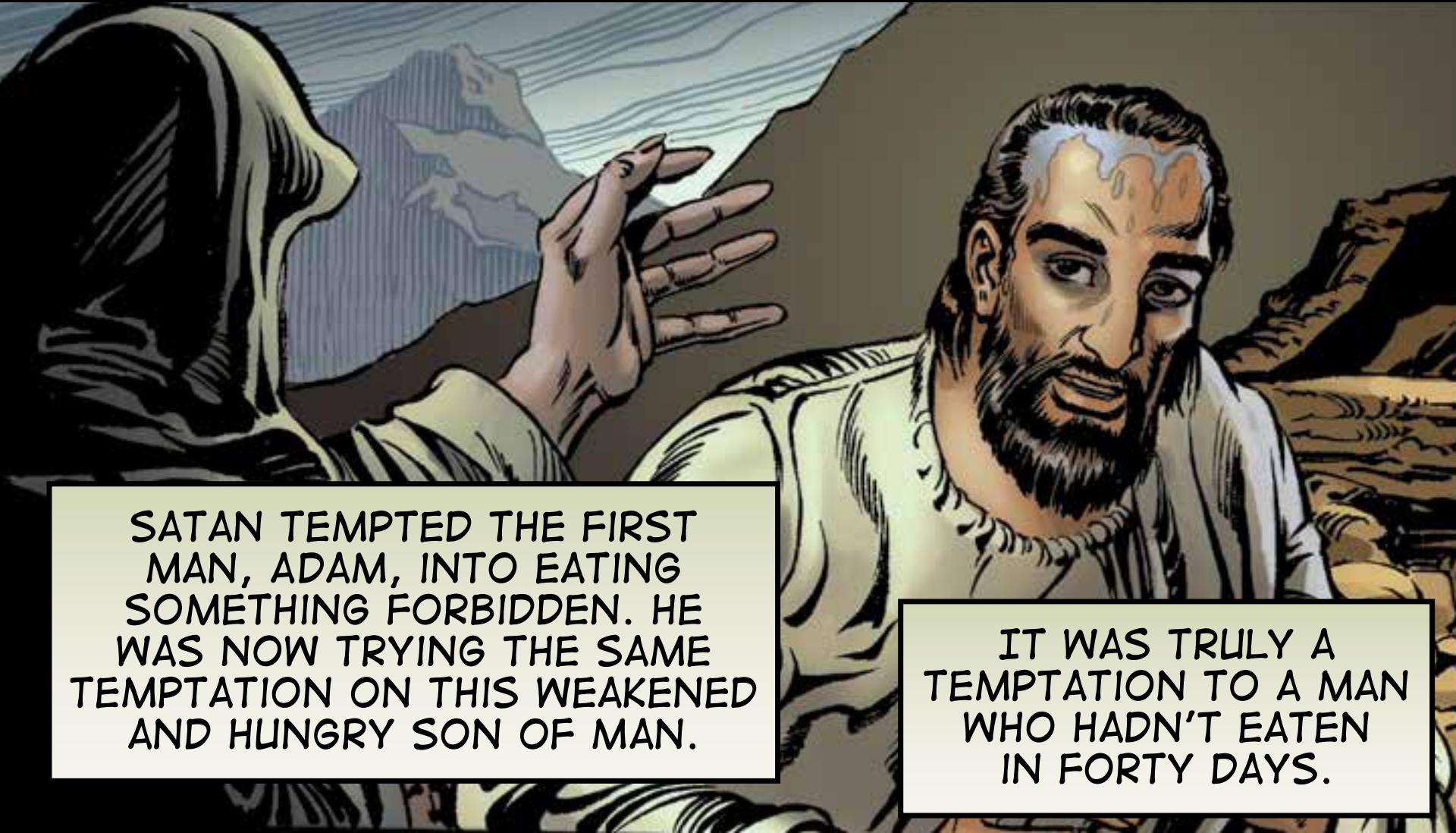


FOR MANY DAYS, SATAN ATTACKED JESUS' MIND WITH THOUGHTS OF DOUBT AND FEAR. KNOWING THE TEMPTATION WAS NEARLY OVER, AND THAT JESUS WAS AT HIS WEAKEST POINT, SATAN DID SOMETHING HE RARELY DOES; HE MADE AN APPEARANCE BEFORE JESUS.



SINCE YOU
ARE THE SON
OF GOD, YOU
HAVE A RIGHT
TO EAT.

MATTHEW 4:1-3; LUKE 4:1-3;
ROMANS 3:23, 5:12-21;
HEBREWS 4:15

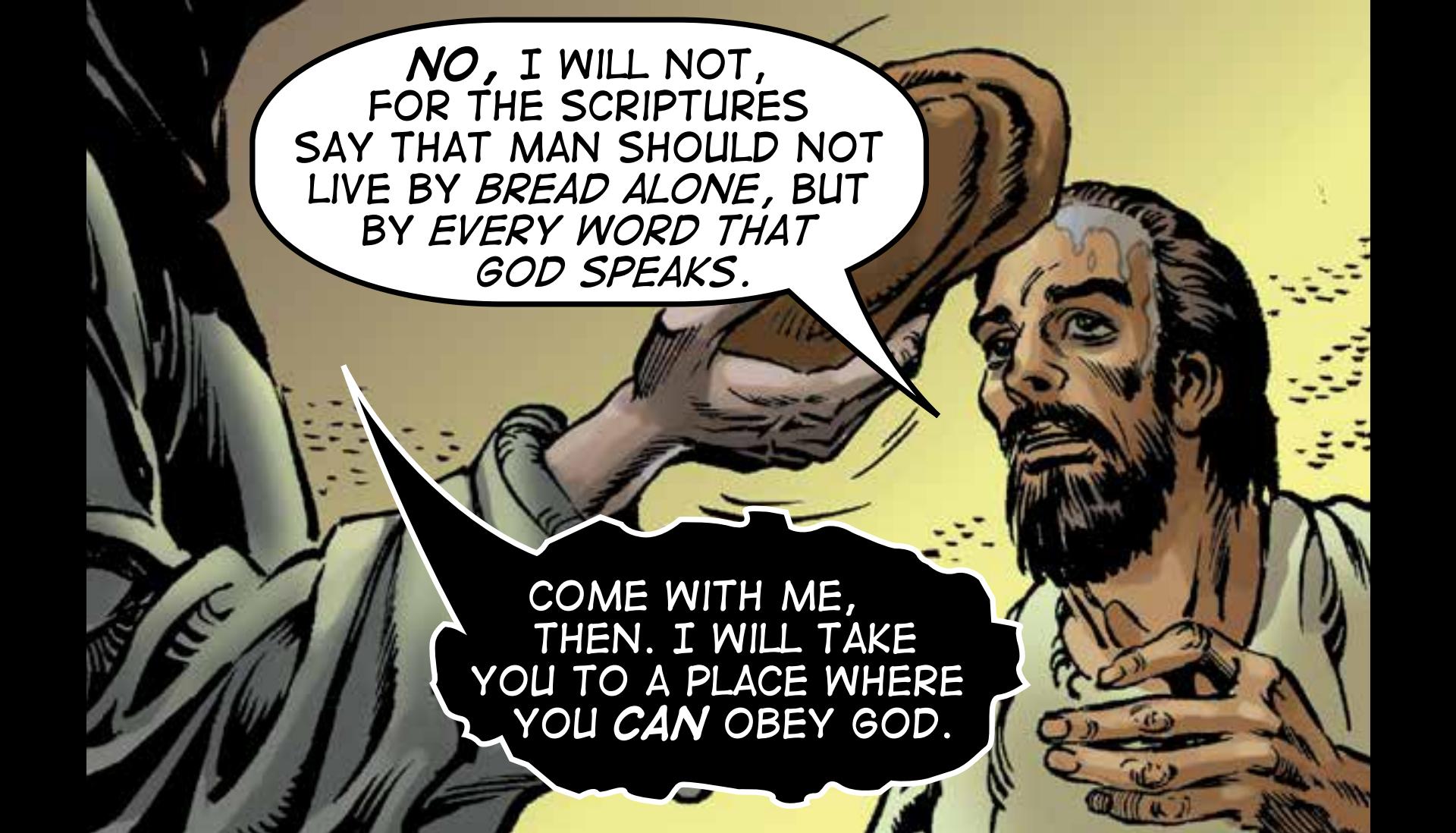


SATAN TEMPTED THE FIRST MAN, ADAM, INTO EATING SOMETHING FORBIDDEN. HE WAS NOW TRYING THE SAME TEMPTATION ON THIS WEAKENED AND HUNGRY SON OF MAN.

IT WAS TRULY A TEMPTATION TO A MAN WHO HADN'T EATEN IN FORTY DAYS.

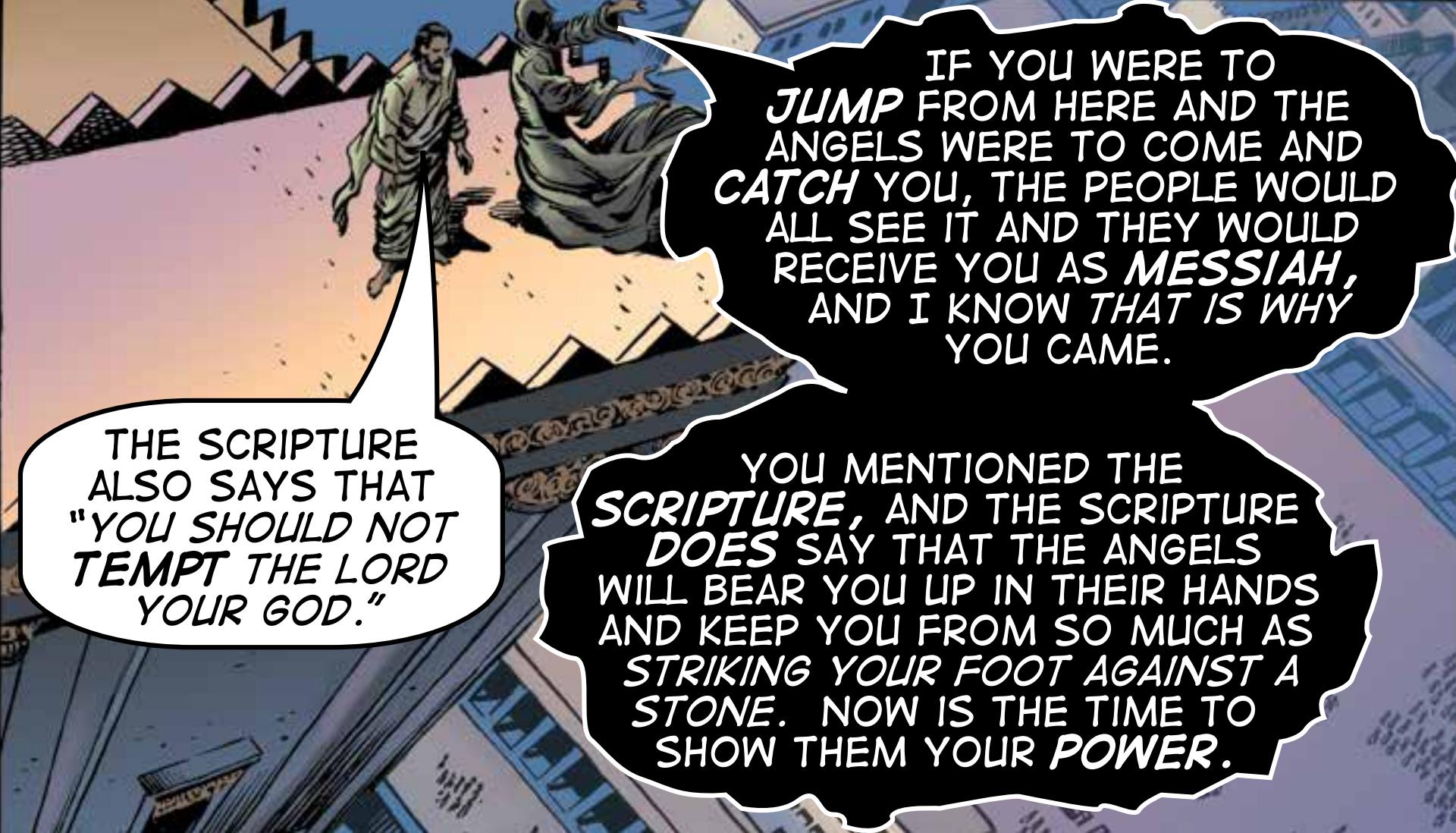


HERE, YOU
CAN TURN THIS
STONE INTO A
LOAF OF **BREAD**
AND SATISFY
YOUR **HUNGER**.

A comic book illustration. On the left, a woman with dark hair tied back in a headscarf looks down at a man. The man has a full, dark beard and mustache, and is wearing a light-colored, possibly white, tunic. He is looking towards the right. A large speech bubble originates from his mouth.

NO, I WILL NOT,
FOR THE SCRIPTURES
SAY THAT MAN SHOULD NOT
LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT
BY EVERY WORD THAT
GOD SPEAKS.

COME WITH ME,
THEN. I WILL TAKE
YOU TO A PLACE WHERE
YOU CAN OBEY GOD.



IF YOU WERE TO JUMP FROM HERE AND THE ANGELS WERE TO COME AND CATCH YOU, THE PEOPLE WOULD ALL SEE IT AND THEY WOULD RECEIVE YOU AS *MESSIAH*, AND I KNOW THAT IS WHY YOU CAME.

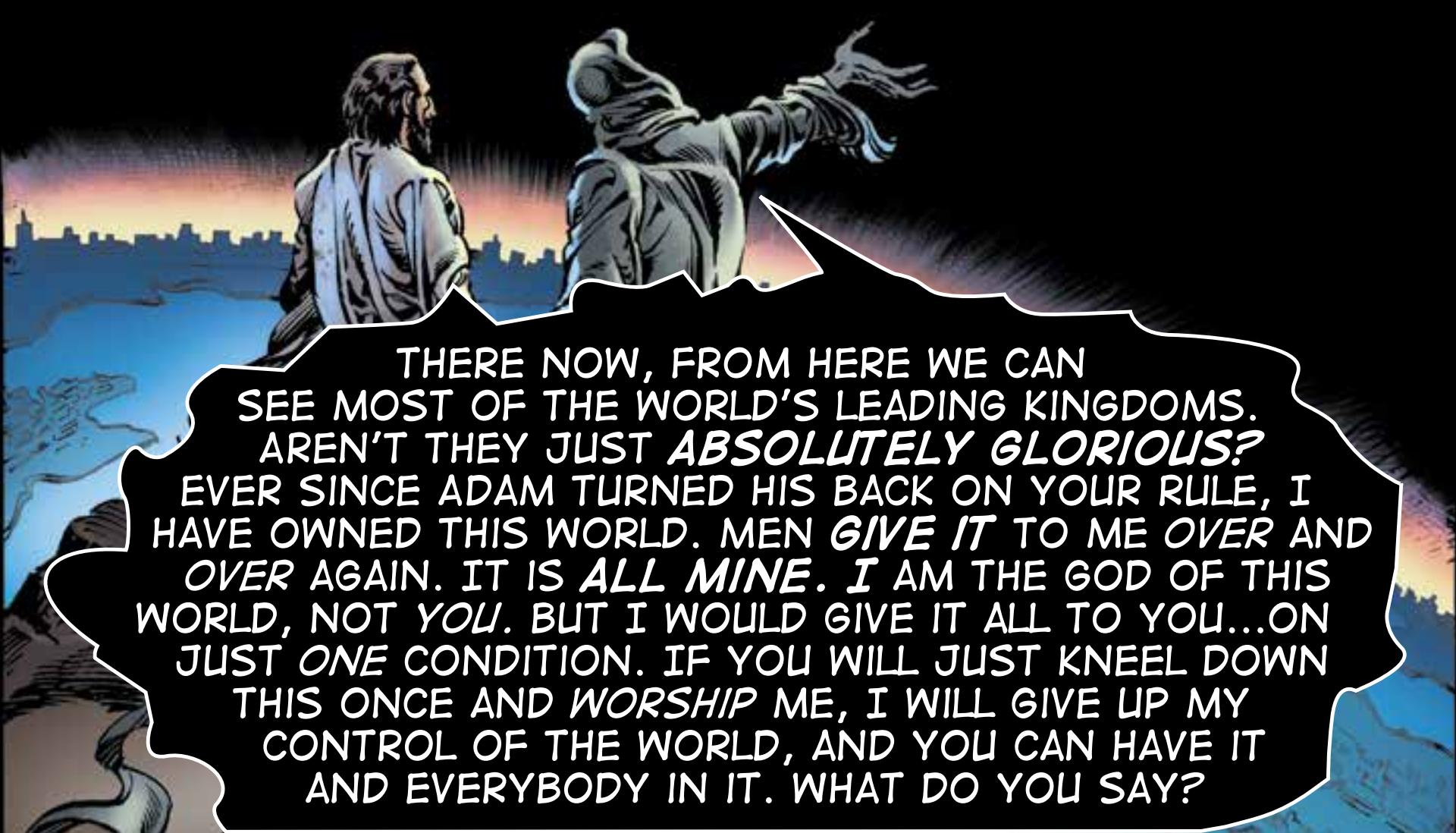
THE SCRIPTURE ALSO SAYS THAT "YOU SHOULD NOT TEMPT THE LORD YOUR GOD."

YOU MENTIONED THE *SCRIPTURE*, AND THE *SCRIPTURE* DOES SAY THAT THE ANGELS WILL BEAR YOU UP IN THEIR HANDS AND KEEP YOU FROM SO MUCH AS STRIKING YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE. NOW IS THE TIME TO SHOW THEM YOUR *POWER*.



I KNOW YOU *LOVE* THE
WORLD AND CAME TO *SAVE*
IT, SO I WILL SHOW YOU
SOMETHING I THINK YOU
WILL LIKE.

MATTHEW 4:3-7



THERE NOW, FROM HERE WE CAN
SEE MOST OF THE WORLD'S LEADING KINGDOMS.
AREN'T THEY JUST **ABSOLUTELY GLORIOUS?**

EVER SINCE ADAM TURNED HIS BACK ON YOUR RULE, I
HAVE OWNED THIS WORLD. MEN **GIVE IT** TO ME OVER AND
OVER AGAIN. IT IS **ALL MINE**. I AM THE GOD OF THIS
WORLD, NOT YOU. BUT I WOULD GIVE IT ALL TO YOU...ON
JUST ONE CONDITION. IF YOU WILL JUST KNEEL DOWN
THIS ONCE AND **WORSHIP** ME, I WILL GIVE UP MY
CONTROL OF THE WORLD, AND YOU CAN HAVE IT
AND EVERYBODY IN IT. **WHAT DO YOU SAY?**



THE
SCRIPTURE
SAYS, "YOU ARE
TO WORSHIP ONLY
JEHOVAH GOD
AND SERVE NO ONE
BUT HIM." YOU HAVE
FAILED; NOW
GET OUT
OF HERE.

SATAN FLED FROM CHRIST'S PRESENCE.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HUMAN HISTORY,
SATAN CONFRONTED A MAN WHOM HE COULD
NOT DECEIVE. JESUS PASSED THE TEST.
THE EARTH NOW HAD ONE HUMAN BEING
THAT WAS IN TOTAL SUBMISSION TO GOD.

THE FORTY-DAY
TRIAL WAS OVER,
BUT JESUS WAS TOO
WEAK TO GO ON.



ANGELS CAME WITH FOOD
AND WATER AND MINISTERED
UNTO HIM. WHEN HIS BODY
WAS STRENGTHENED,
HE RETURNED TO WHERE
JOHN WAS PREACHING.



MATTHEW 4:8-11; LUKE 4:14



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