

Bible Comics - 5

MOSES



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Script

Rev. Dr. Michael Karimattam

Illustration

Devassy

MOSES

Moses was the leader chosen by God to bring the Israelites out of their slavery in Egypt. This liberation called Exodus is the most important event in the history of Israel. Though brought up in the king's palace as a prince, Moses became aware of the sad plight of his people. The desire to liberate them from their misery became the sole driving force of his life. For this end, he gave up the comfort

and luxury and became one with his enslaved brethren.

Moses' initial attempt to defend the Israelites against the Egyptians ended in utter failure. Rejected by his own people and hunted by the Pharaoh, Moses escaped to Midian. Yet, he was constantly haunted by the thought of the misery of his people in Egypt. He felt crushed by his helplessness to do anything about it. But an encounter with God

in the desert brought a radical change in Moses' life. He learned that what was impossible for man was possible for God. His fear and despair turned into courage and hope. Two things stand out in this God-experience of Moses: 1) God is holy and consequently the one who approaches Him has to be holy. 2) The Holy God hears the cry of the oppressed; Yahweh is his name. By this encounter Moses was awakened to a deeper realization of the greatness of God against his own lowliness.

He realized that the liberation of Israel would be God's own work while he himself was to be an instrument in His hands.

Moses was a man of God, a man of deep faith and prayer. He believed that Yahweh who called him would always be with him. From this conviction Moses gained courage to confront the Pharaoh who sought to kill him, patience to accept the people who rejected

him and strength to lead a rebellious and crushed people to freedom.

Moses was an ideal leader. He was one with his people. Though they were selfish, petty, and ignorant he loved them more than himself. He led them through the wilderness, never losing sight of his goal. He risked his life for them and interceded for them before God, being ready even to take upon himself the punishment for their crime.

It was Moses who helped Israel, an enslaved and insignificant people, to become a nation. It was he who led them from slavery to freedom, from a foreign land to the Promised Land, and from idol worship to the worship of Yahweh. It was he who mediated the covenant and taught the laws of God. Thus Israel became a chosen people and a priestly nation. The Bible presents Moses as the greatest prophet Israel ever saw. He is also depicted as the liberator and law giver. The people of

Israel waited for a new Moses who would mediate a new covenant, definitively reveal the will of God and lead them to salvation. This hope was realized in Jesus of Nazareth, the last envoy of God.

This story is based on events narrated in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. We have been forced to leave out several episodes due to the limitation of space.

The Hebrews who reached Egypt enjoyed freedom and prosperity until the middle of the 16th century. But they were forced into slavery with the emergence of a new dynasty. In order to prevent them from becoming a threat, the Pharaoh ordered all the male children born to the Hebrews to be thrown in the river. However, one of the Hebrew women dared to keep her son for three months. She then put him in a basket and walked to the river Nile.

Pharaoh's daughter came to the river bank



This is a Hebrew child.
Throw him into the river.

I'll bring him up
as my son. Moses
will be his name
because I got him
from the water.

What a
handsome baby!
How can we kill
him?

!!

Moses grew up in Pharaoh's palace like a prince.

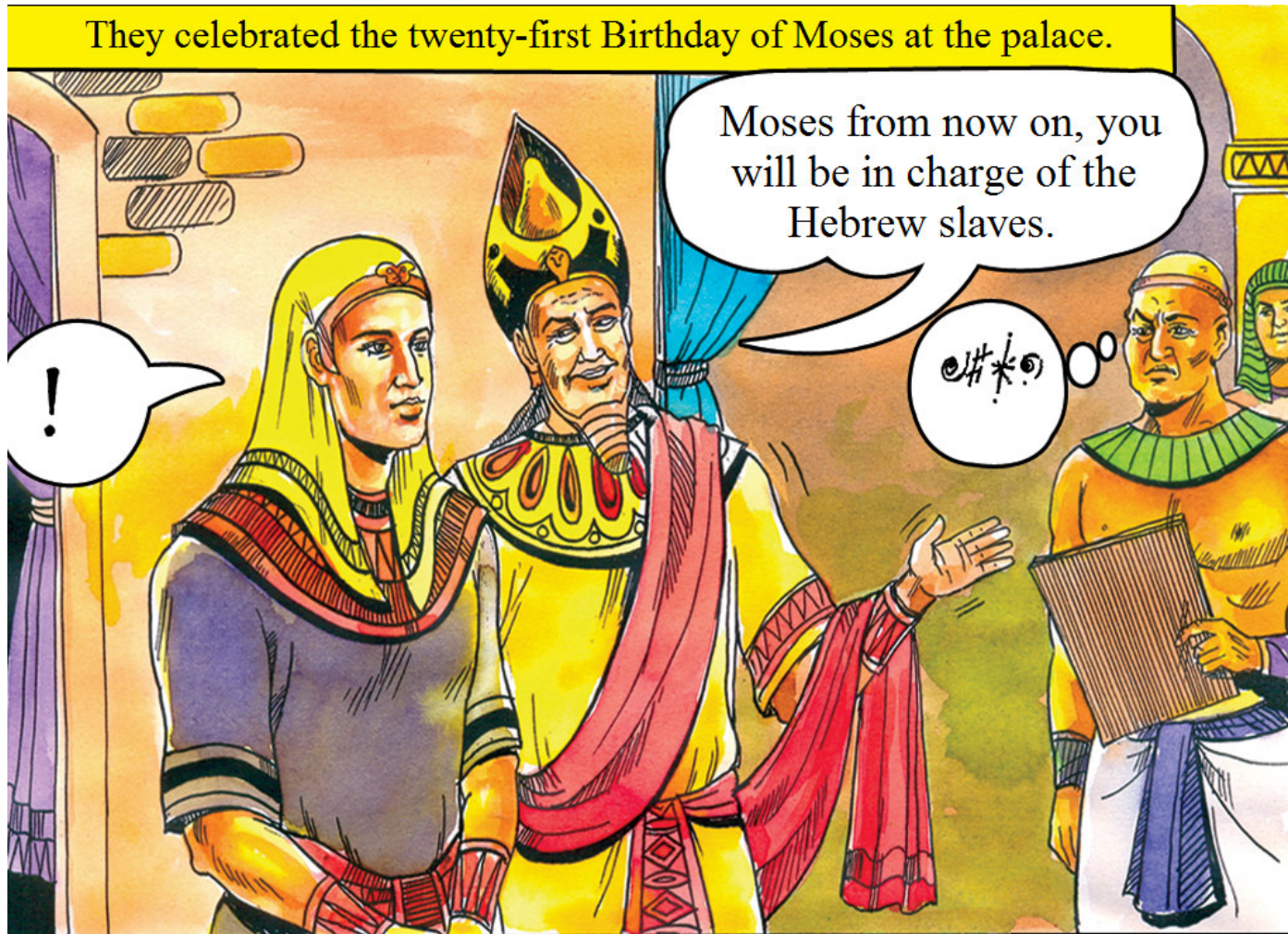


They celebrated the twenty-first Birthday of Moses at the palace.

Moses from now on, you will be in charge of the Hebrew slaves.

!

⊕
#*
⊙



Moses visited the slaves.

Please don't kill me...

omg! # *

?





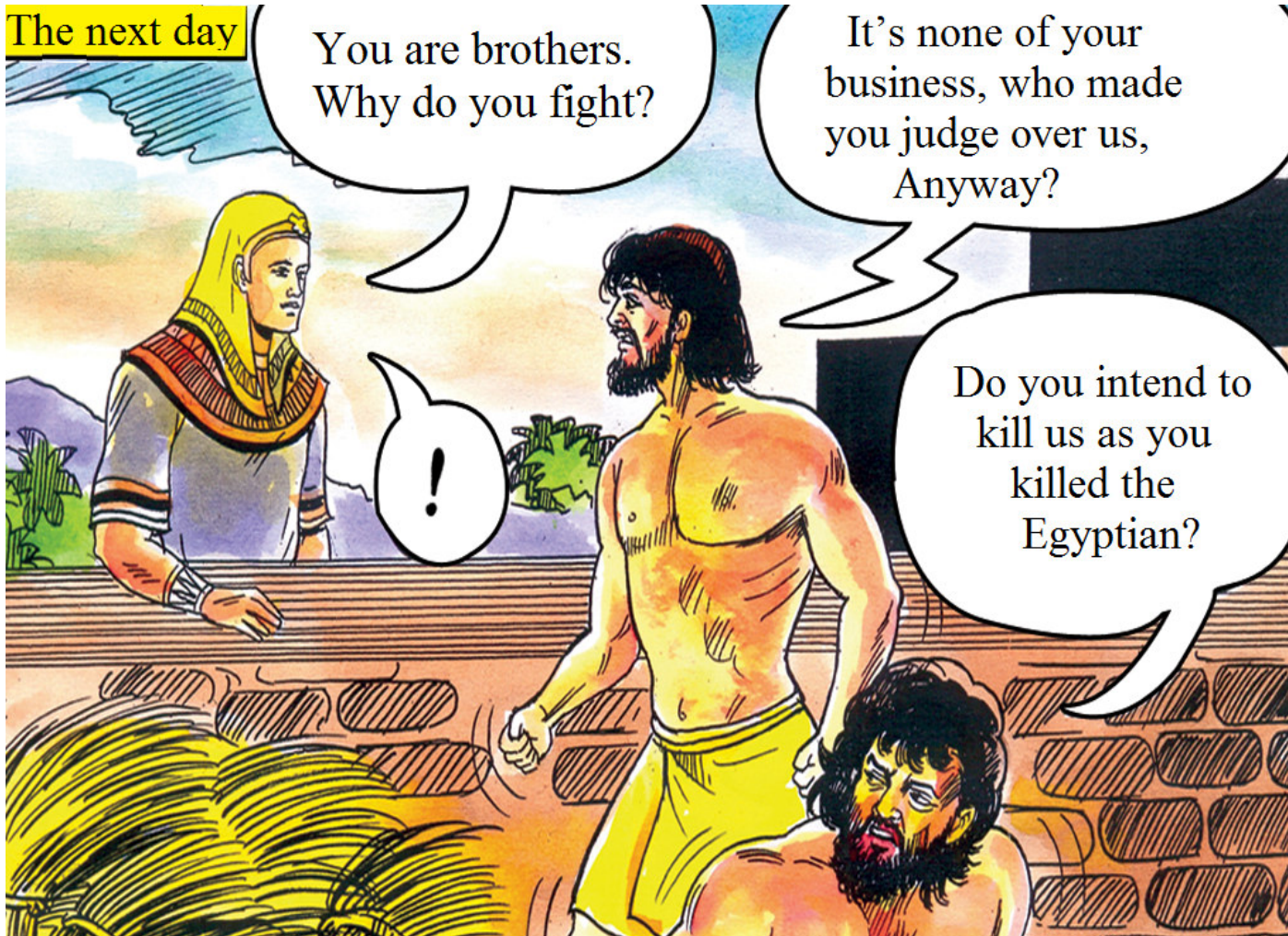
The next day

You are brothers.
Why do you fight?

It's none of your
business, who made
you judge over us,
Anyway?

Do you intend to
kill us as you
killed the
Egyptian?

!



Moses realized that the murder has become public. He was afraid of Pharaoh and escaped to Midian where he defended the daughters of Jethro, the priest of the land.



Years passed. Moses married Jethro's daughter Zipporah and they had two sons.

One day.

Why are you so sad?

How can I be happy when my people are so miserable in Egypt?


Are you still thinking about those traitors.

!



Zipporah, they are so crushed that they cannot think straight. My own people, I can't forget them.






How long am I going to
hide in this wilderness?
When shall my people be
free?


That bush
is blazing
but not
burning!





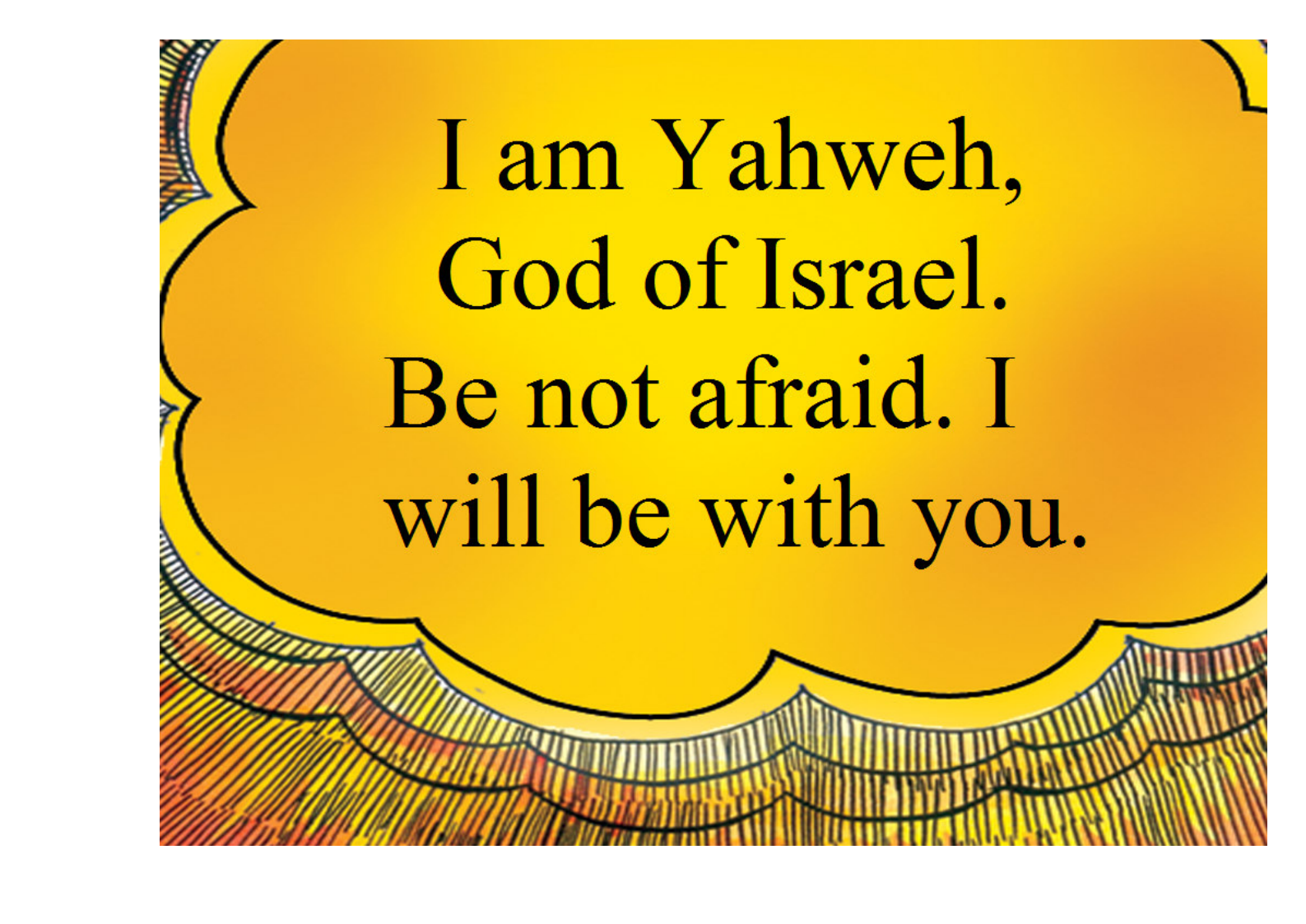
Moses, take off your shoes for the place on which you stand is a holy ground.

!!



I have seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them to the land that was promised to their fathers. I send you to Pharaoh to order him to let my people go to worship me.

Who art thou?



I am Yahweh,
God of Israel.
Be not afraid. I
will be with you.

According to Yahweh's command Moses returned to Egypt with his family. Aaron brother of Moses came to meet him.

Moses so glad to meet you.

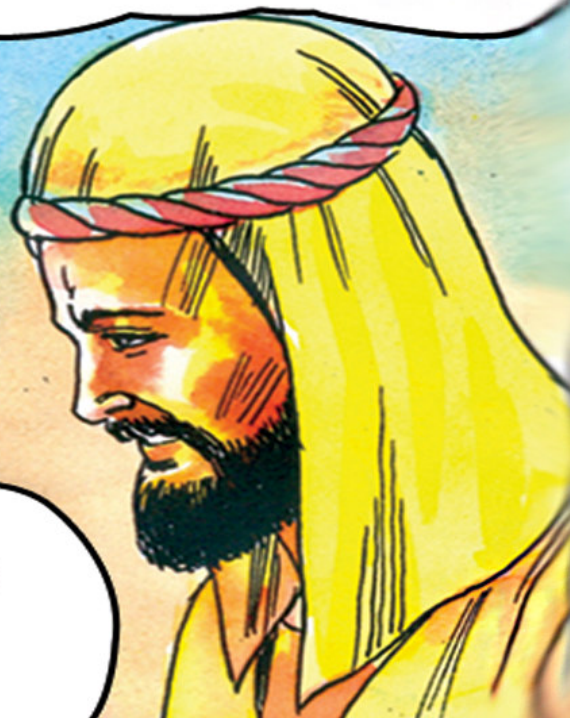
Oh! Aaron!



Tell me
what's new?

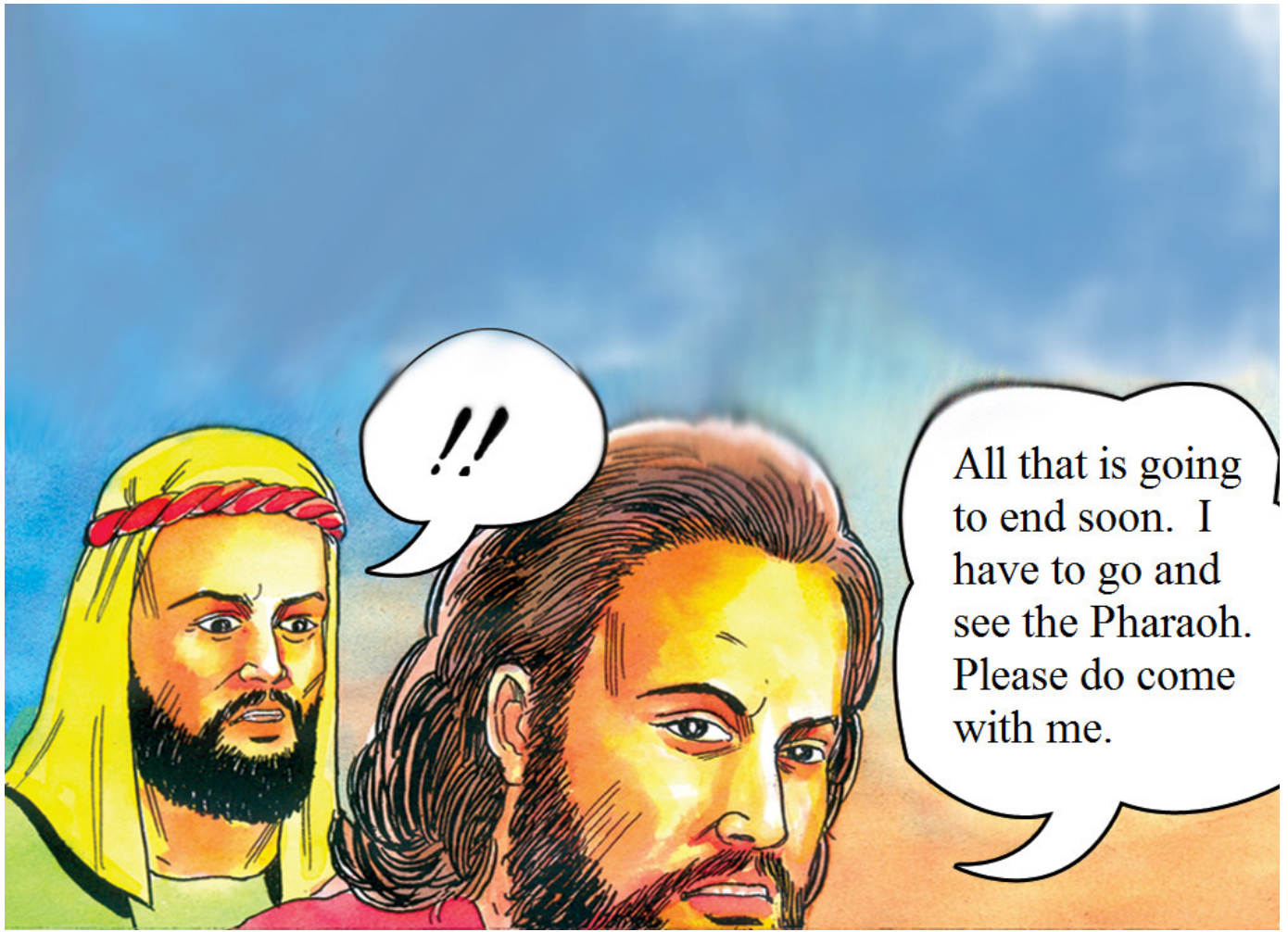
When they could not find you,
they got furious and hundreds
of our people were hanged.

!?



Last year the old king died and now his son Ramesus II is ruling. Our suffering has doubled.

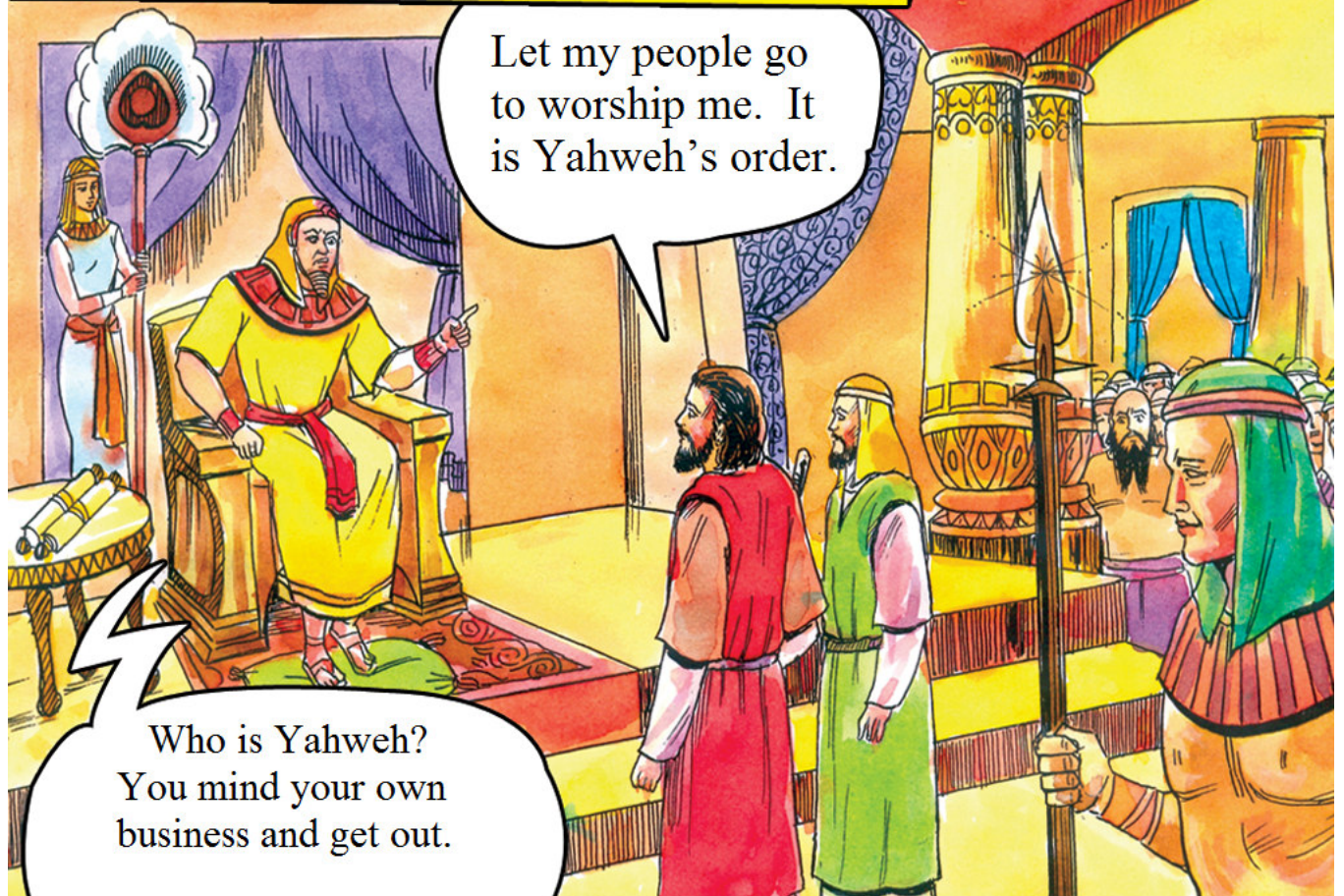




!!

All that is going to end soon. I have to go and see the Pharaoh. Please do come with me.

Moses and Aaron at Pharaoh's palace

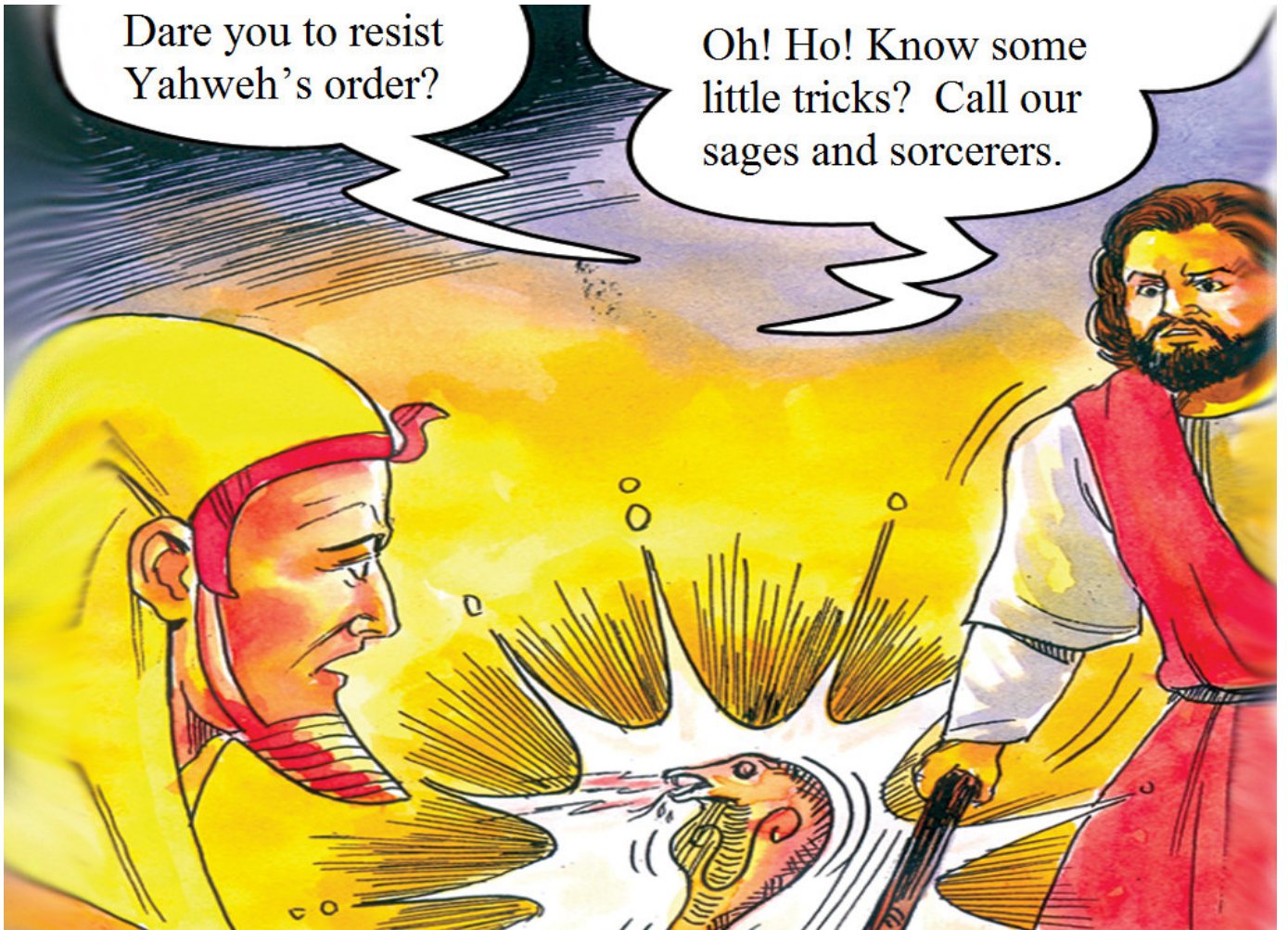


Let my people go to worship me. It is Yahweh's order.

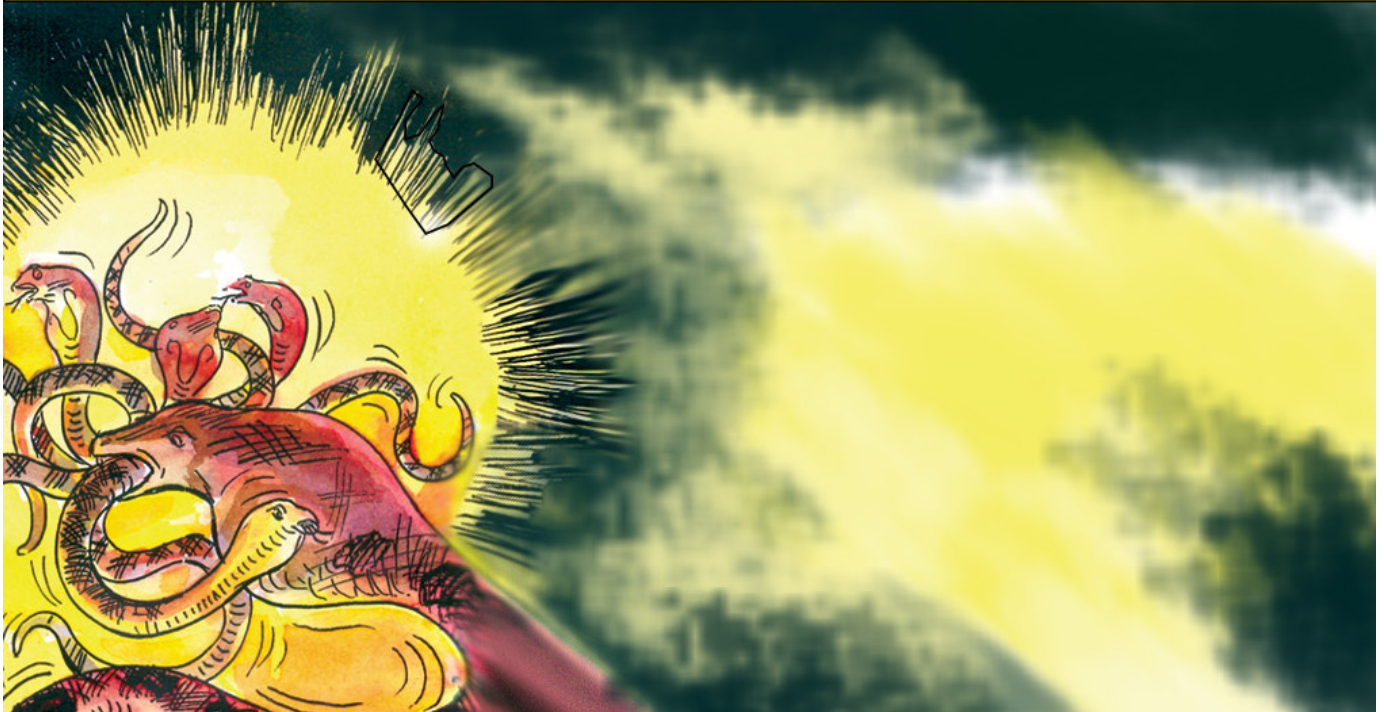
Who is Yahweh? You mind your own business and get out.

Dare you to resist
Yahweh's order?

Oh! Ho! Know some
little tricks? Call our
sages and sorcerers.



The magicians' staff also turned in to snakes. But Moses' staff swallowed them. Yet Pharaoh refused to let the people go.

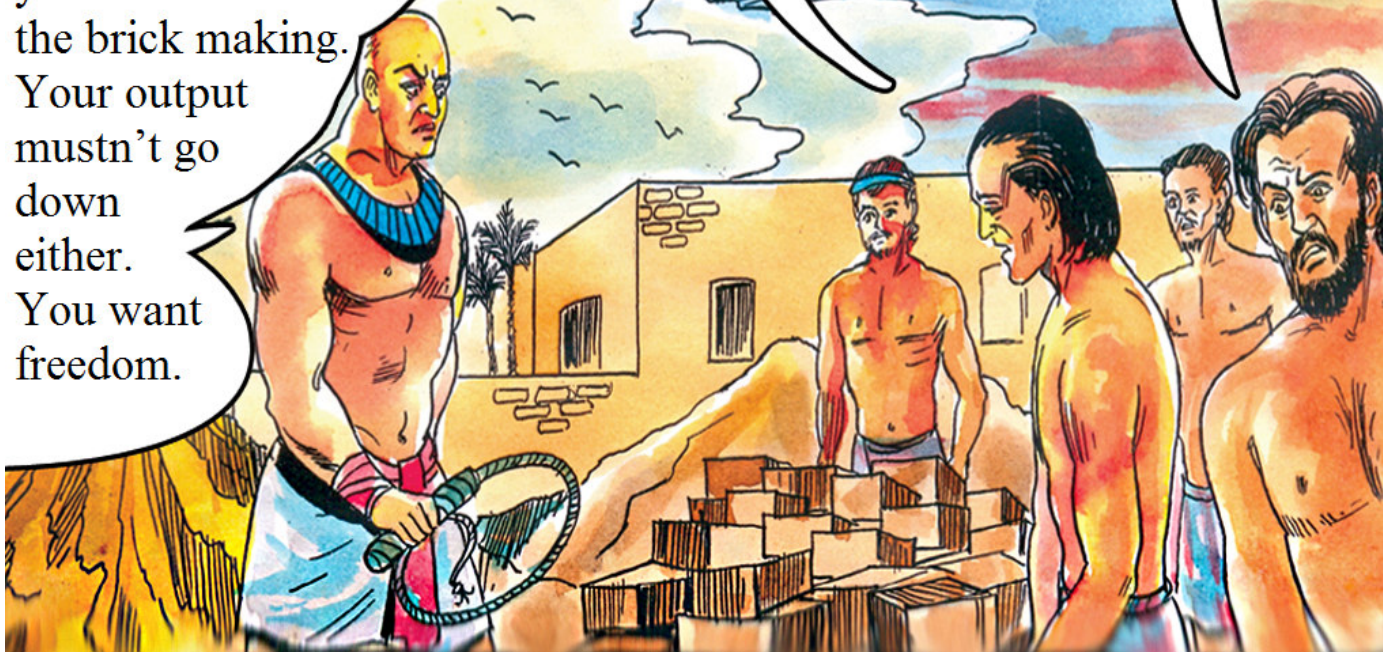


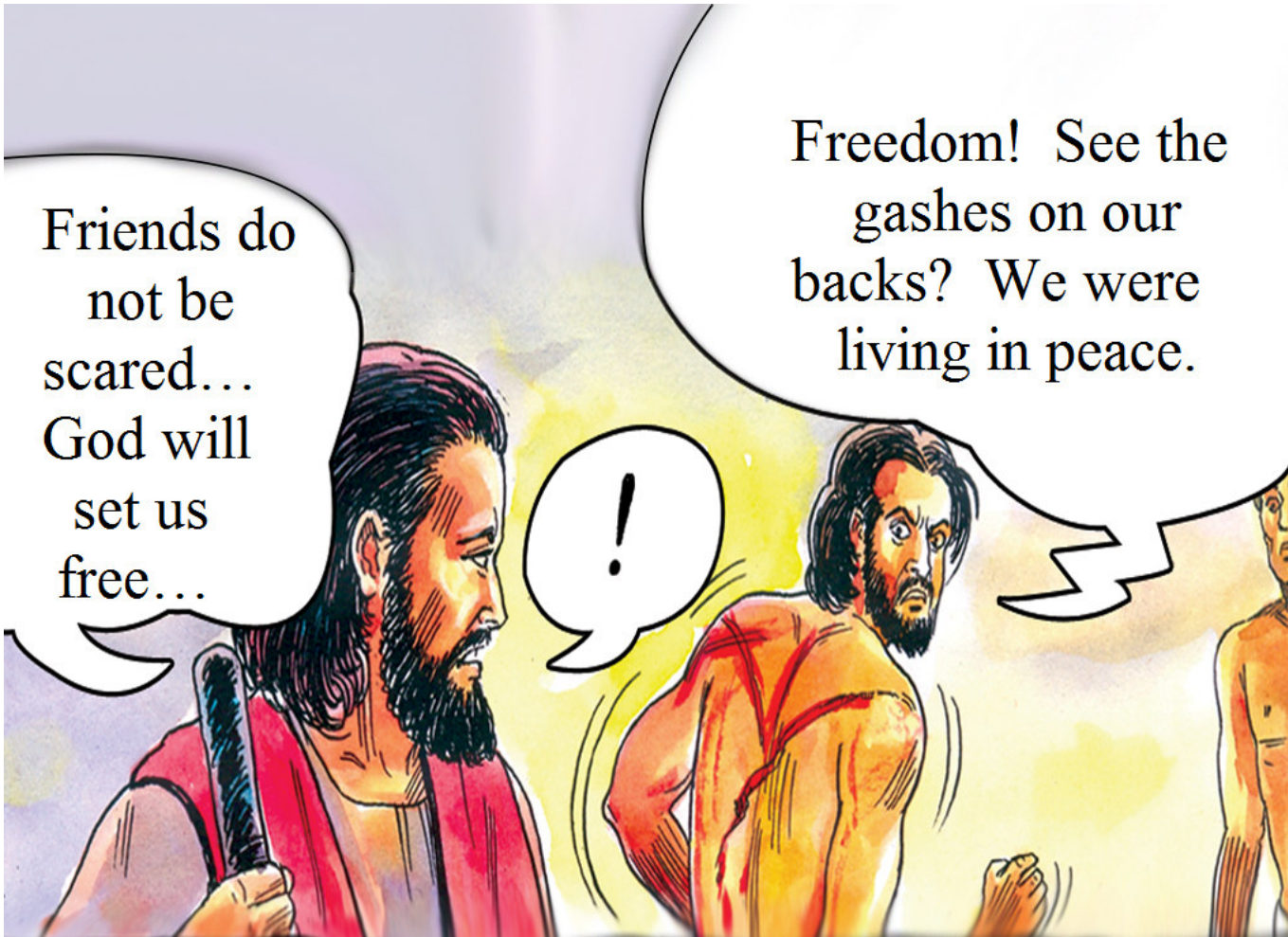
The next day
in the field.

From now on you
go out and collect
your own straw for
the brick making.
Your output
mustn't go
down
either.
You want
freedom.

How is it
possible?

All these
because of
Moses.

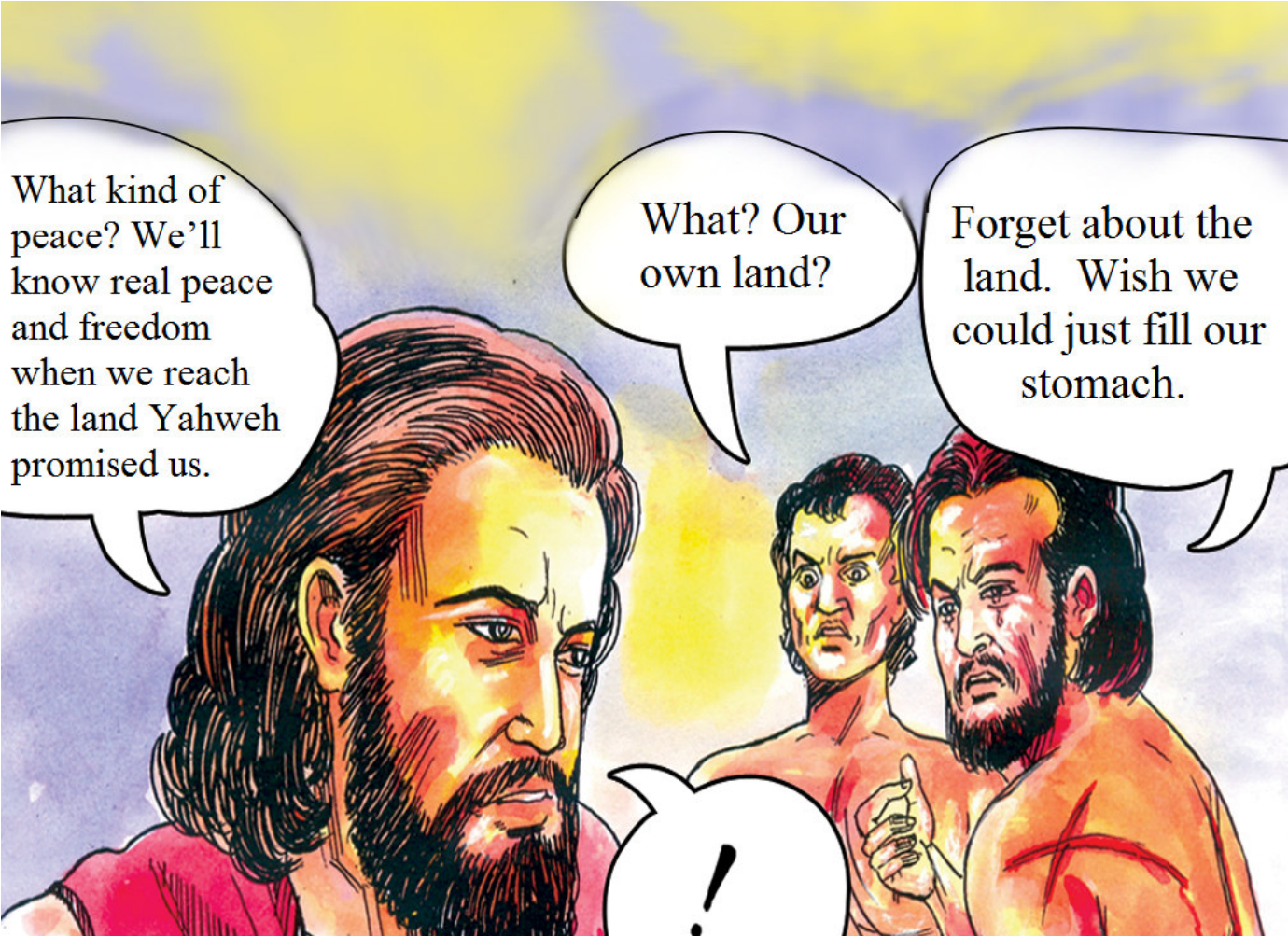




Friends do
not be
scared...
God will
set us
free...

Freedom! See the
gashes on our
backs? We were
living in peace.

!



What kind of peace? We'll know real peace and freedom when we reach the land Yahweh promised us.

What? Our own land?

Forget about the land. Wish we could just fill our stomach.

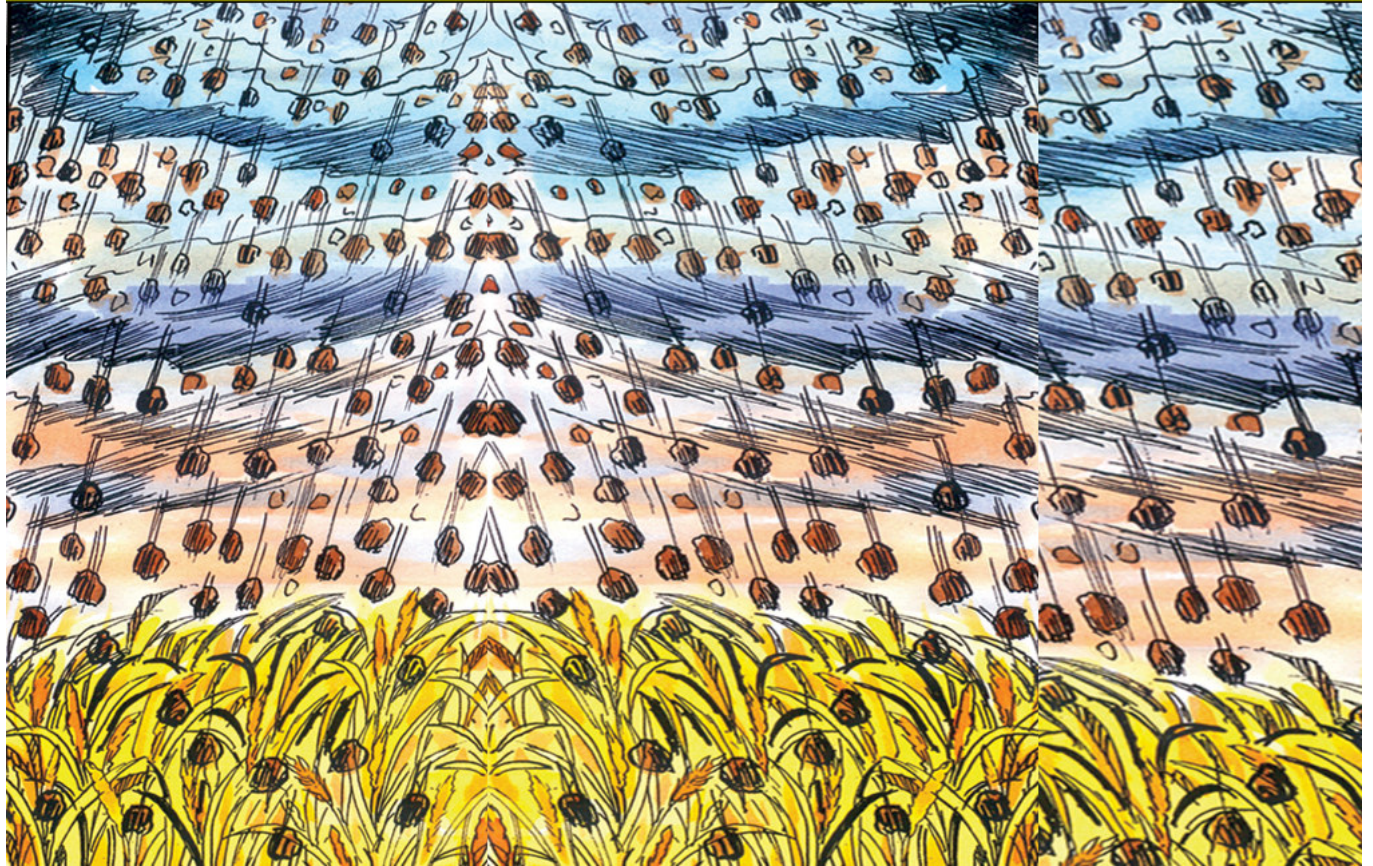
!

Moses met with Pharaoh many times, plagues one after another ravished the land of Egypt. But Pharaoh's heart was hardened; he refused to free the Israelites.



Frogs covered the land

A deadly plague killed off the live stock. A hail storm destroyed the crops.



Boils broke out into sores and covered men and beast alike. Locusts covered the earth and devoured all the that was left green in the land.



Several times when the plagues threatened to ruin Egypt Pharaoh agreed to let the people go. But when the plagues subsided due to Moses prayer, he changed his mind.

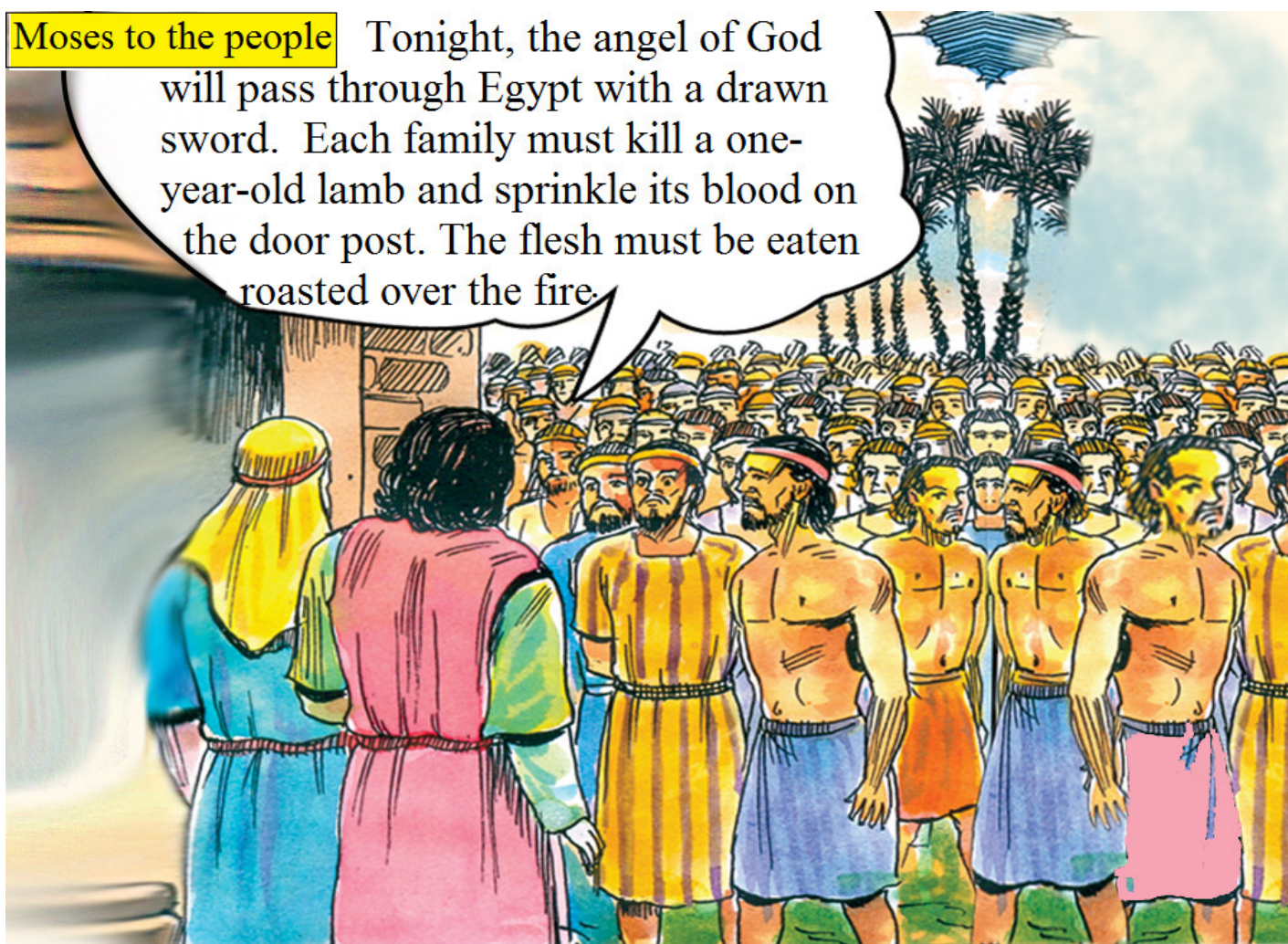
This is the tenth time that you change your word. The God of Israel says "Israel is my first born, if you do not let him go, I will strike down your first born"

Get out, never show your face again. If you dare that'll be your end.

!!



Moses to the people Tonight, the angel of God will pass through Egypt with a drawn sword. Each family must kill a one-year-old lamb and sprinkle its blood on the door post. The flesh must be eaten roasted over the fire.



That night

This is the Lord's
Passover.

Hurry we'll
be free soon.




At the same time in
Pharaoh's palace.

See our only son!

There is a great cry
in all over Egypt.
All our first-borns
are dead.

??






Throw the
Hebrews out.

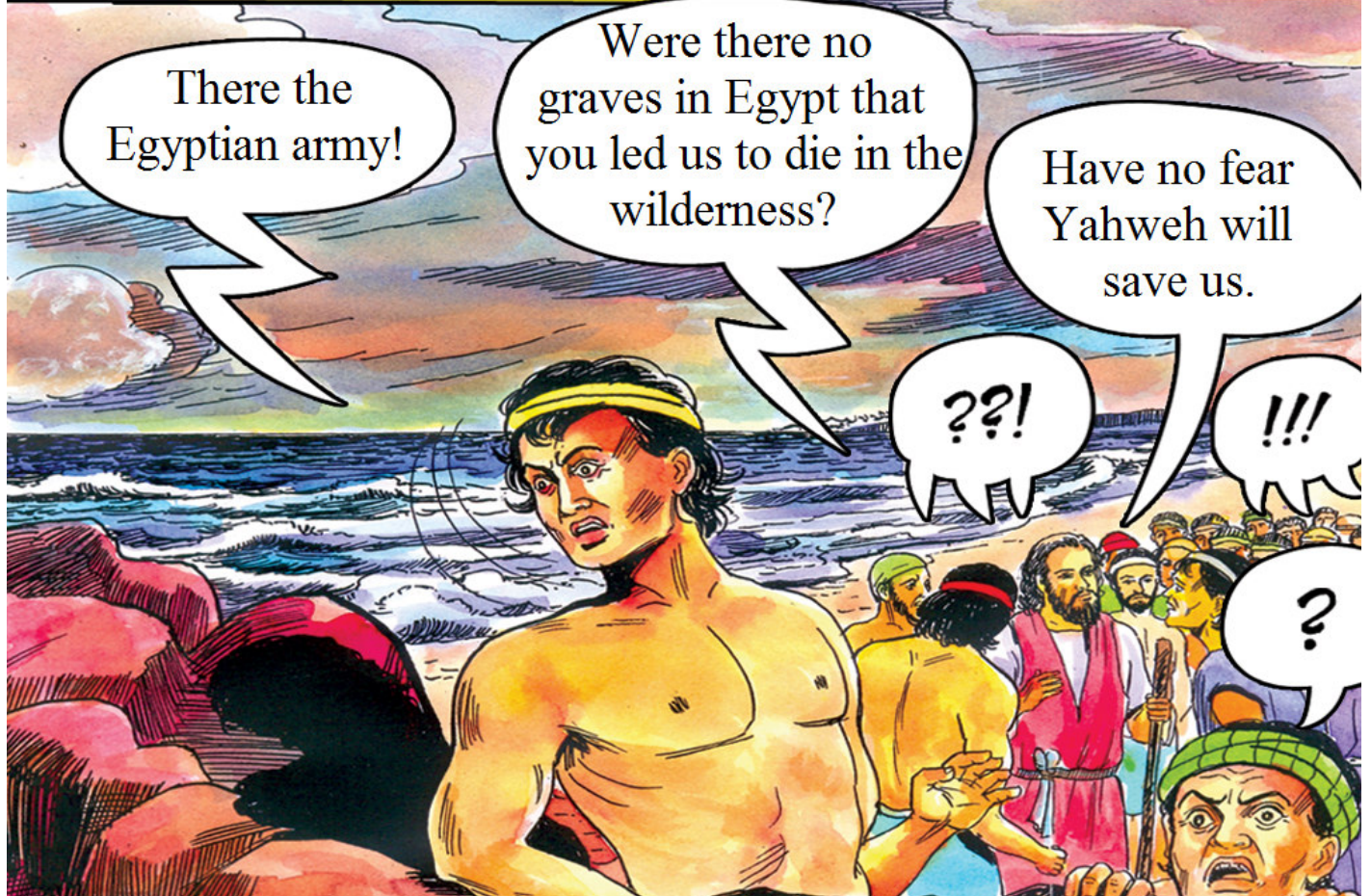
Israel left the same night

When the Hebrews were gone,
Pharaoh changed his mind.



We can't let the
slaves go! Quick
catch them.

Among the Israelites encamped beside the Red Sea



As Yahweh ordered Moses stretched out his staff over the sea.



The Egyptians marched right into the sea, chasing the Israelites. But the waters returned and drowned them.



Liberated from slavery Israel praised Yahweh. Miriam, sister of Moses led in songs.

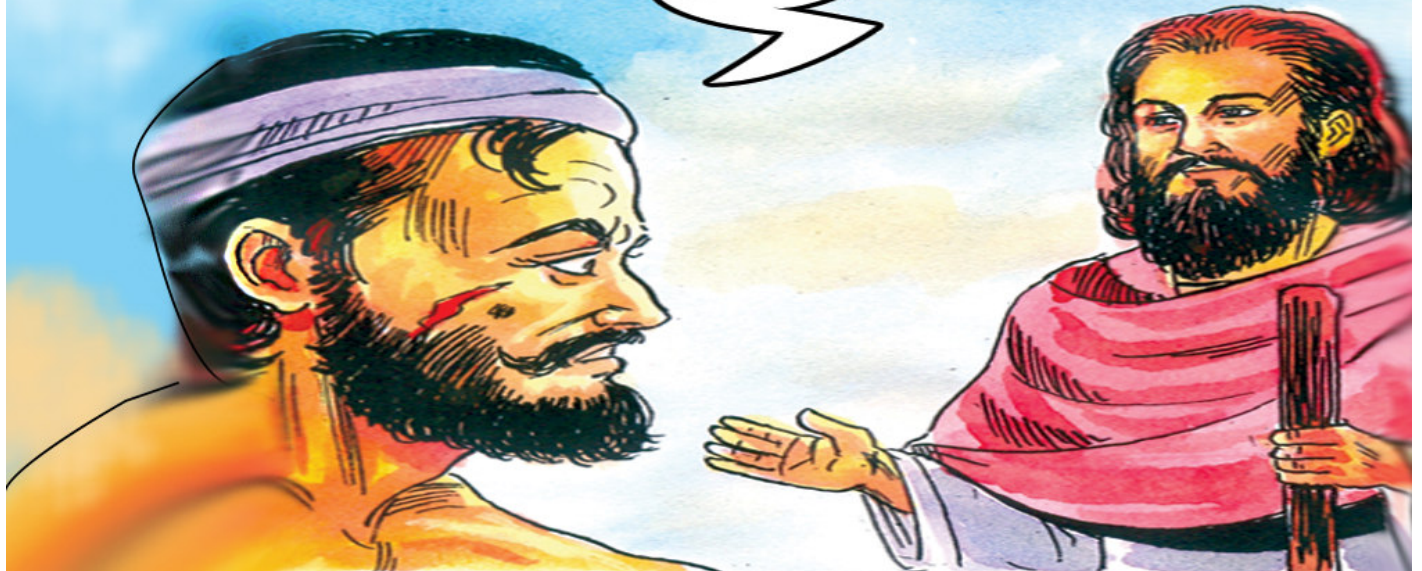
Sing to Yahweh our God, He is our King forever and ever.



In the wilderness Israelites wandered without food and drink. They grumbled against Moses. Korah led the uprising.

We are starving, give us food. What are we to drink? You brought us into the wilderness to kill us.

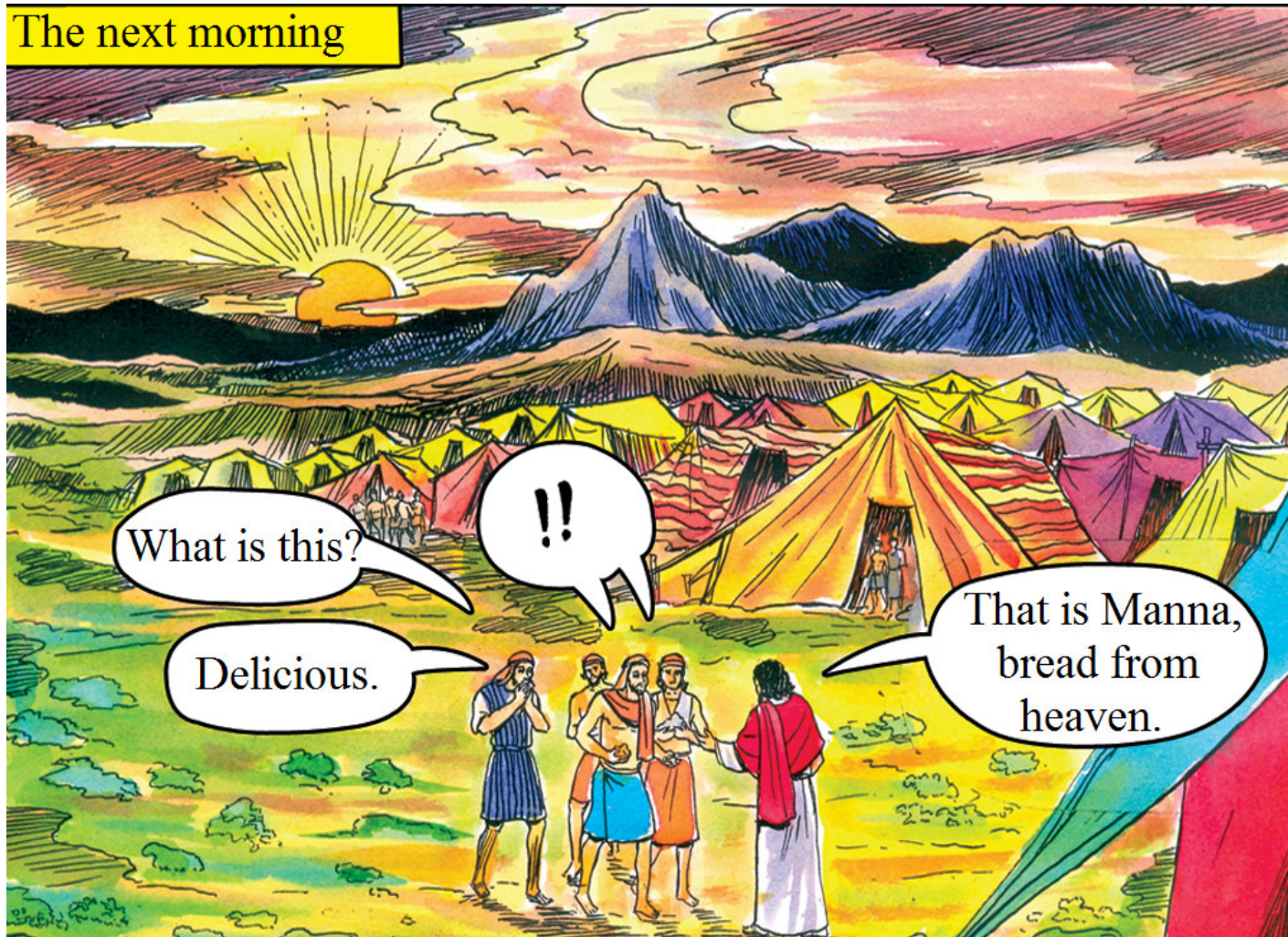
Yahweh will give us food and drink.



As Yahweh ordered Moses struck the rock and the water gushed out.



The next morning



What is this?

!!

Delicious.

That is Manna,
bread from
heaven.

Days later

We are fed up with
this manna.

We want meat.

I crave for all those
Egyptian delicacies,
fleshpots...



Yahweh will give you
meat, you will eat it
until you are sick of it.

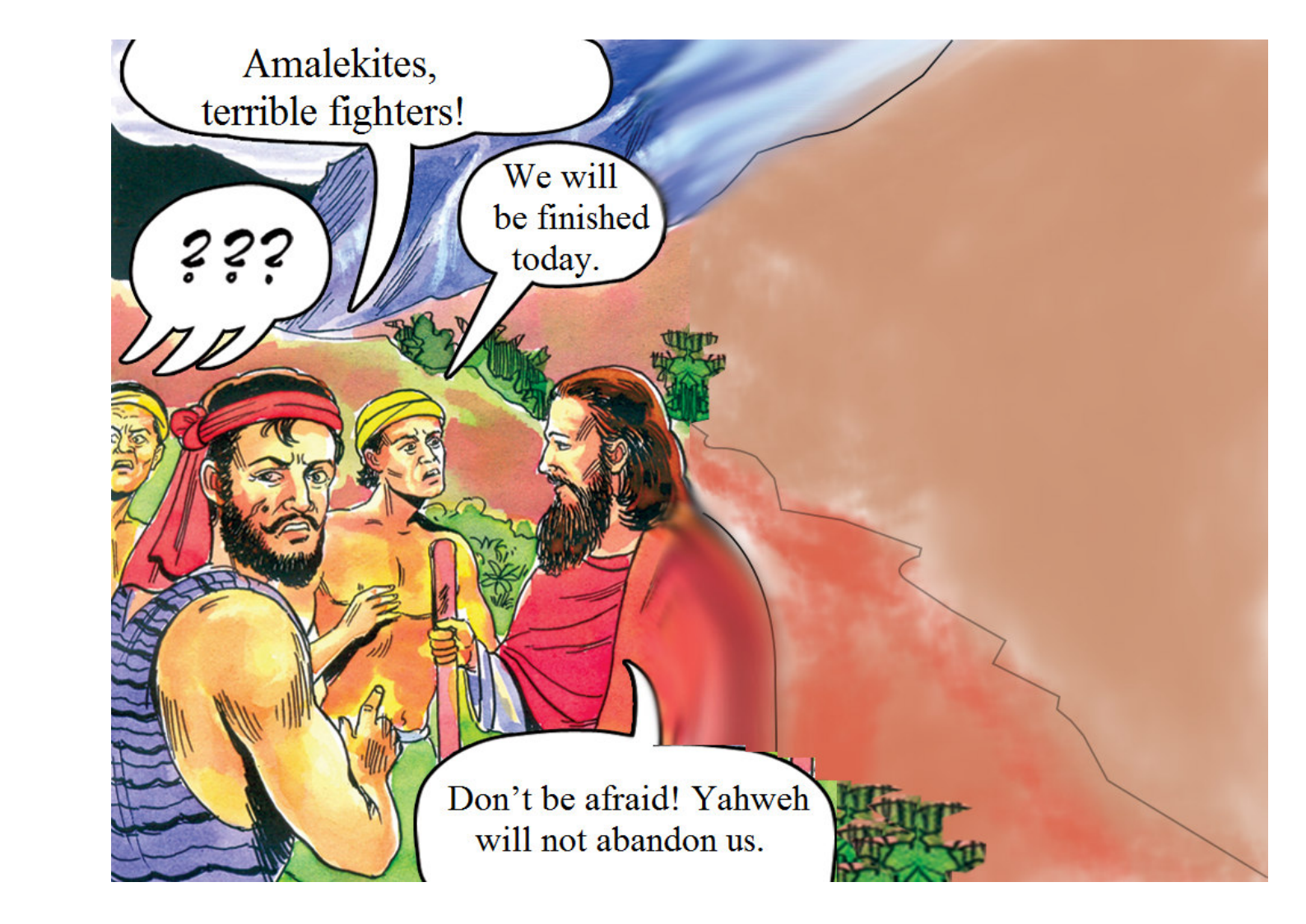


The wind came from Yahweh and it drove quails in from the sea and brought them down on the camp.

There comes an army!

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Amalekites,
terrible fighters!

???

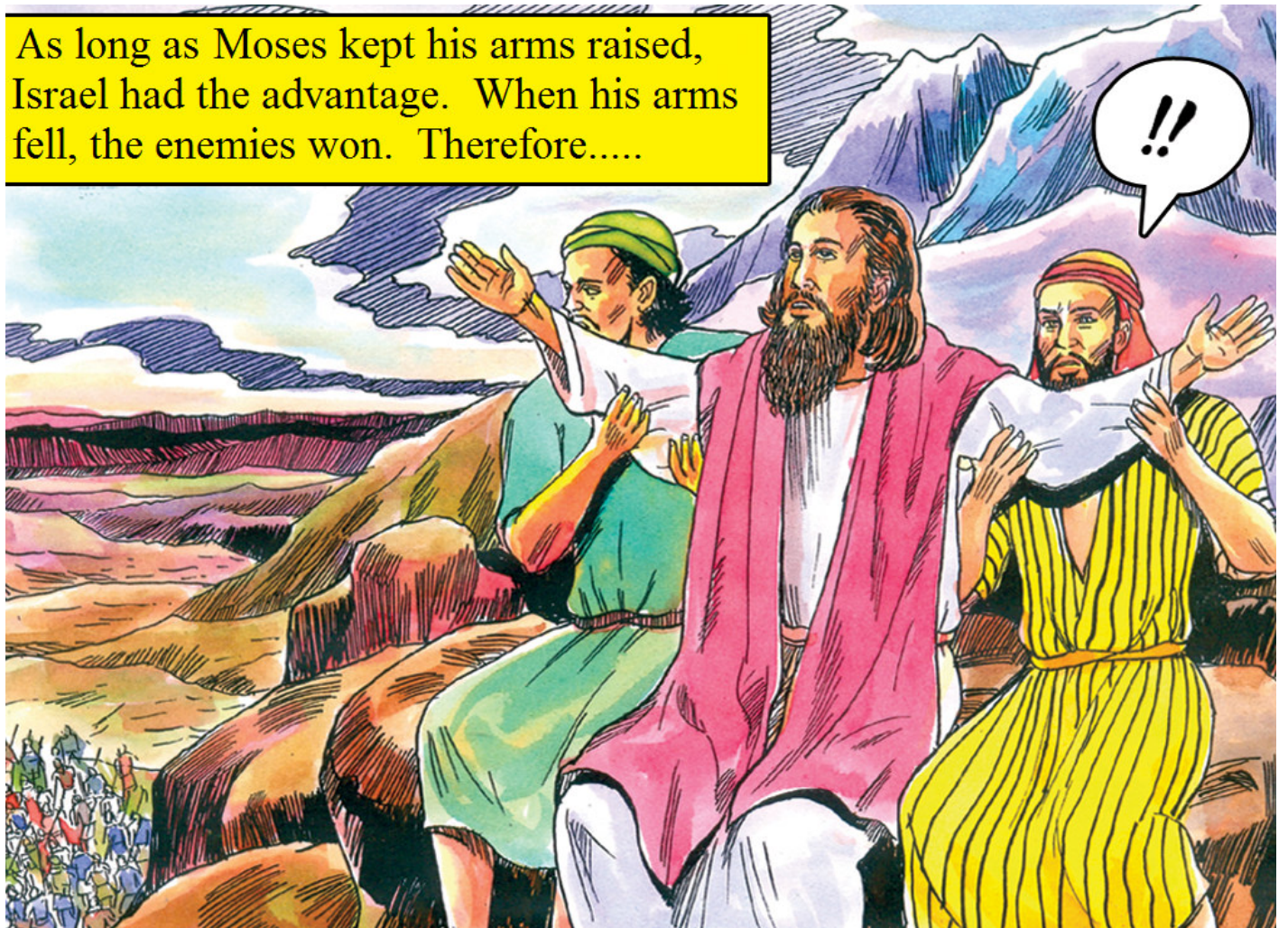
We will
be finished
today.

Don't be afraid! Yahweh
will not abandon us.

Joshua, ask the people to get ready to fight with whatever weapons we have. I am going up the mountain to pray.



As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage. When his arms fell, the enemies won. Therefore.....



Before sunset Israel won the battle.
They offered sacrifice in gratitude.

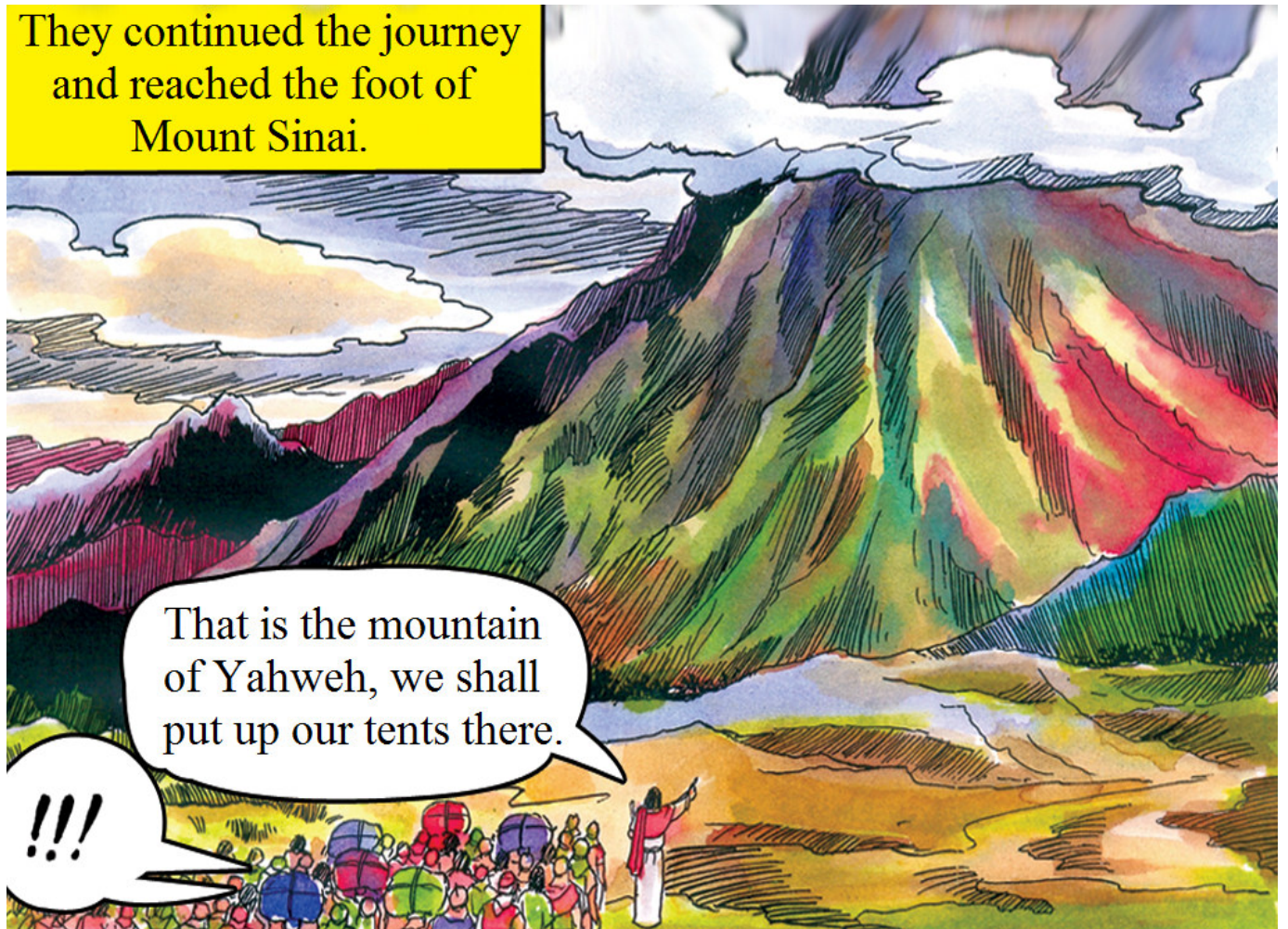
Lord God of Israel who
delivered us from slavery
and saved us from the
hands of the Amalekites,
we praise you and give you
thanks.



They continued the journey
and reached the foot of
Mount Sinai.

That is the mountain
of Yahweh, we shall
put up our tents there.

!!!



Aaron, Joshua
and I are going to
pray. Please look
after the people
in case we are a
little late.

You know the
nature of these
people!



What
next?

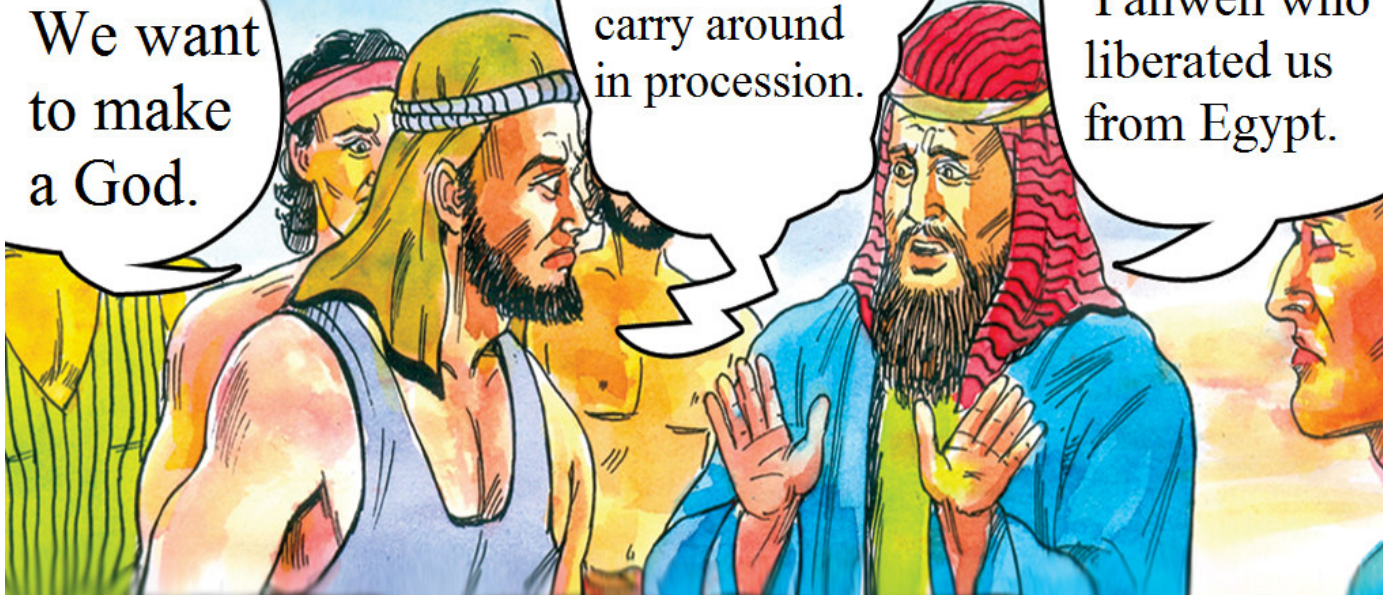


Days after

We want
to make
a God.

A God we
can see and
carry around
in procession.

We must
have no other
God but
Yahweh who
liberated us
from Egypt.



What we want is a god
we can see.

Wait until Moses
gets back.





Haven't seen him for a month. You better do what we say, if not....



O.K. Bring all the gold
you have.



Go on this is
to make a god.
We'll make a
god we can
see.

A beautiful
golden god.

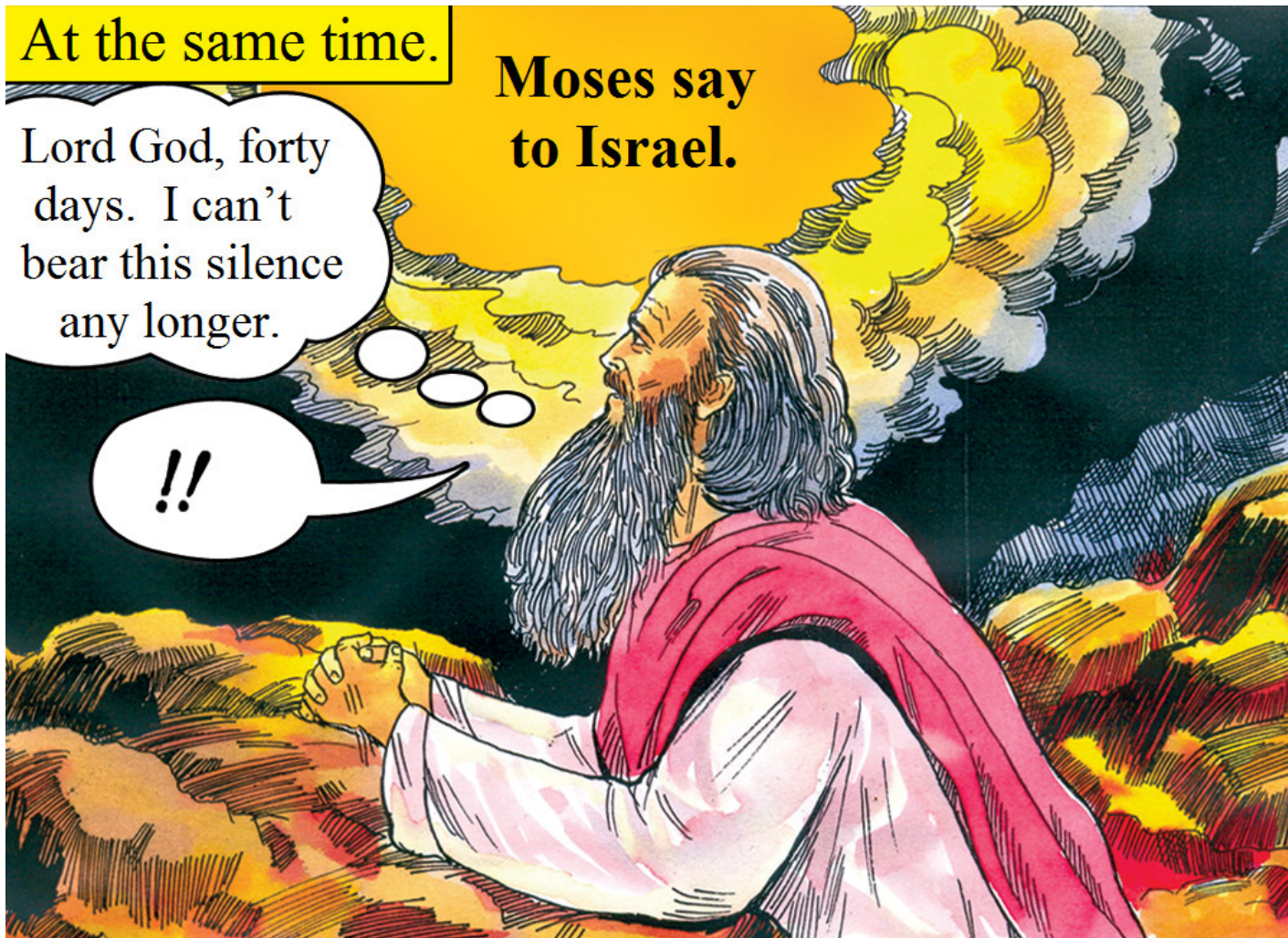


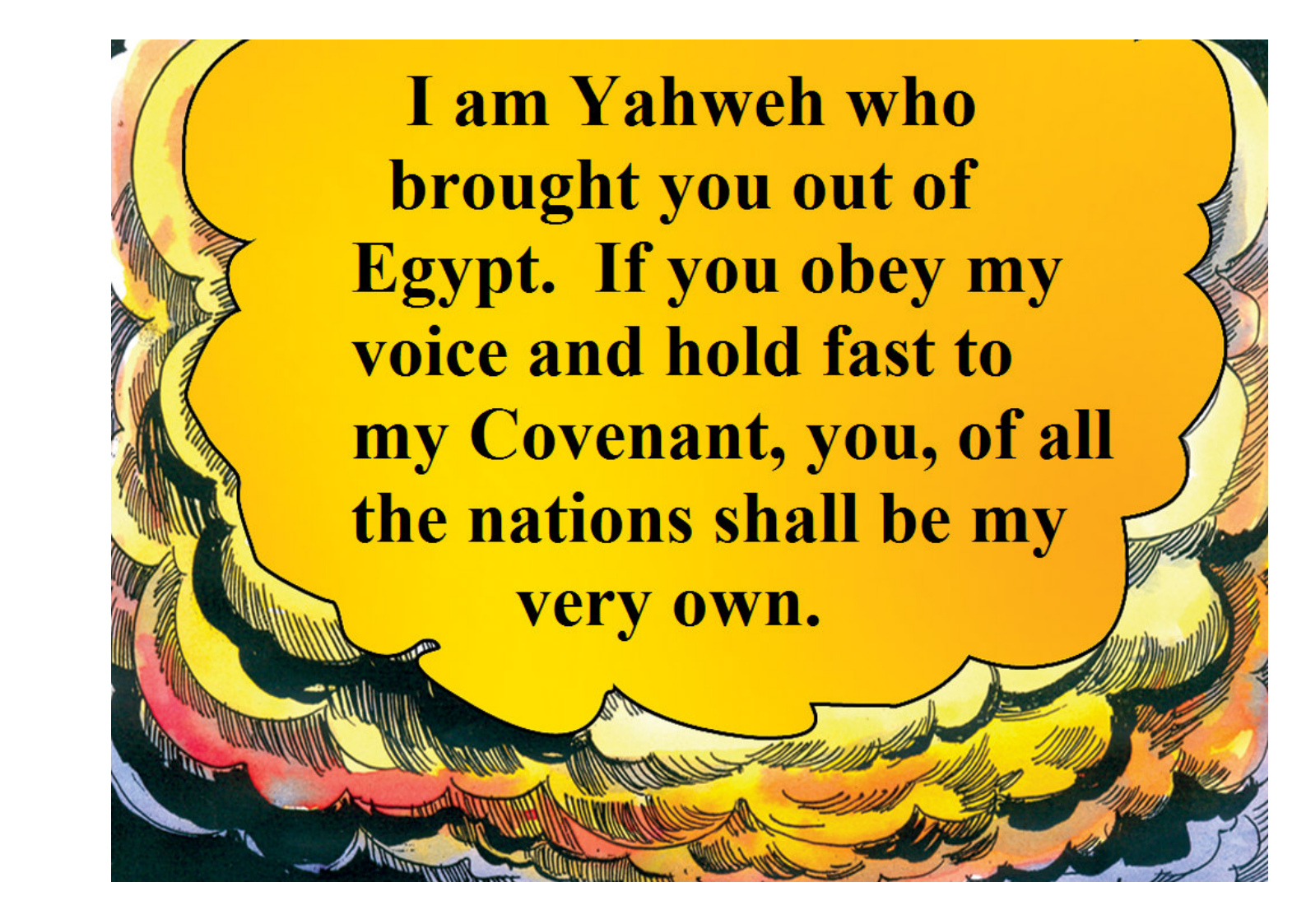
At the same time.

**Moses say
to Israel.**

Lord God, forty
days. I can't
bear this silence
any longer.

!!





**I am Yahweh who
brought you out of
Egypt. If you obey my
voice and hold fast to
my Covenant, you, of all
the nations shall be my
very own.**

Moses returned with the tablets of the law.

Yahweh, you chose Israel, the smallest of all the people as your own and blessed them.

There is the sound of the battle in the camp.



No, it is no battle cry. It is
the sound of chanting
that I hear.



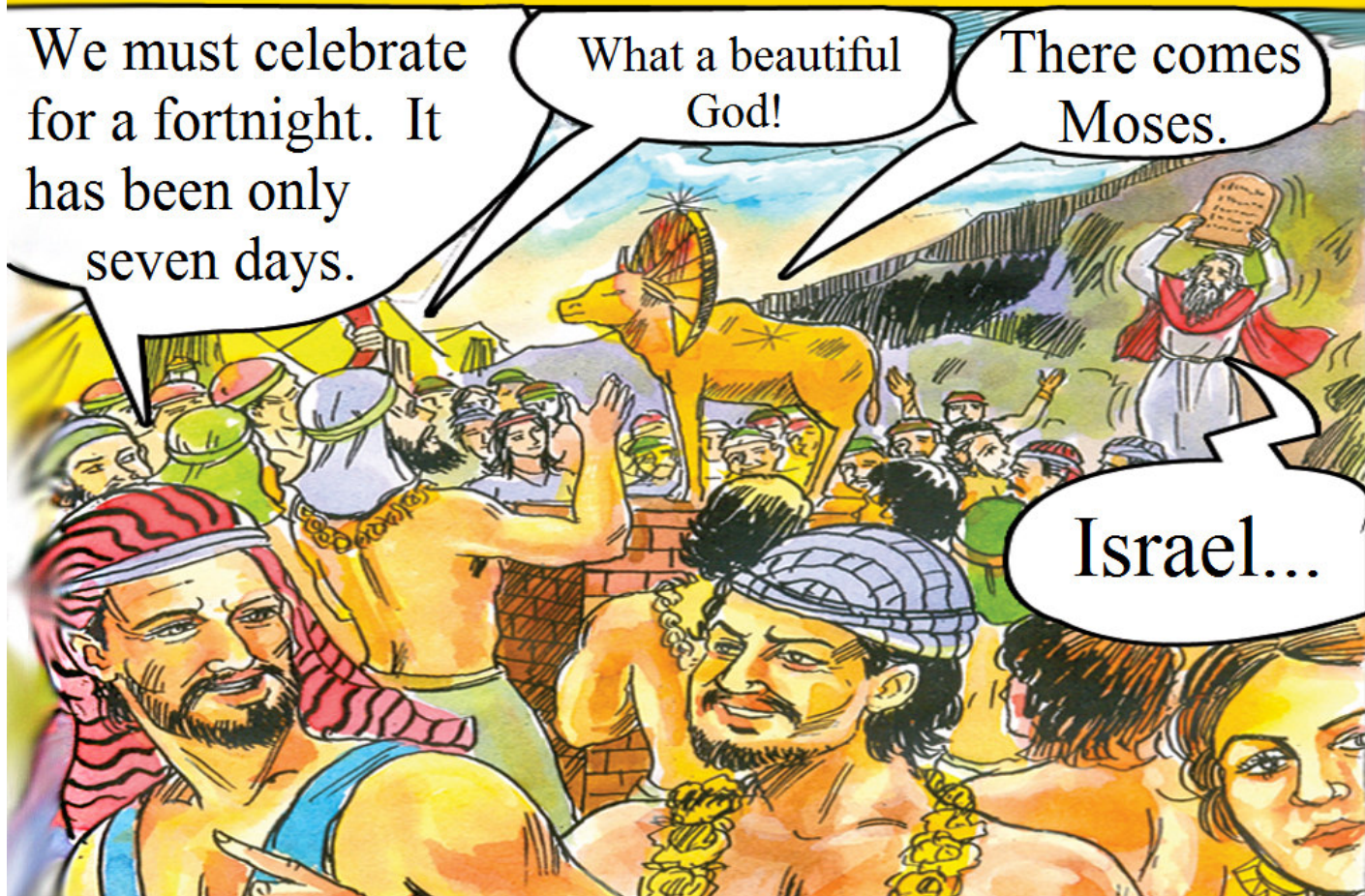
In the camp the people offered Holocausts and sacrifices to the golden calf.

We must celebrate
for a fortnight. It
has been only
seven days.

What a beautiful
God!

There comes
Moses.

Israel...



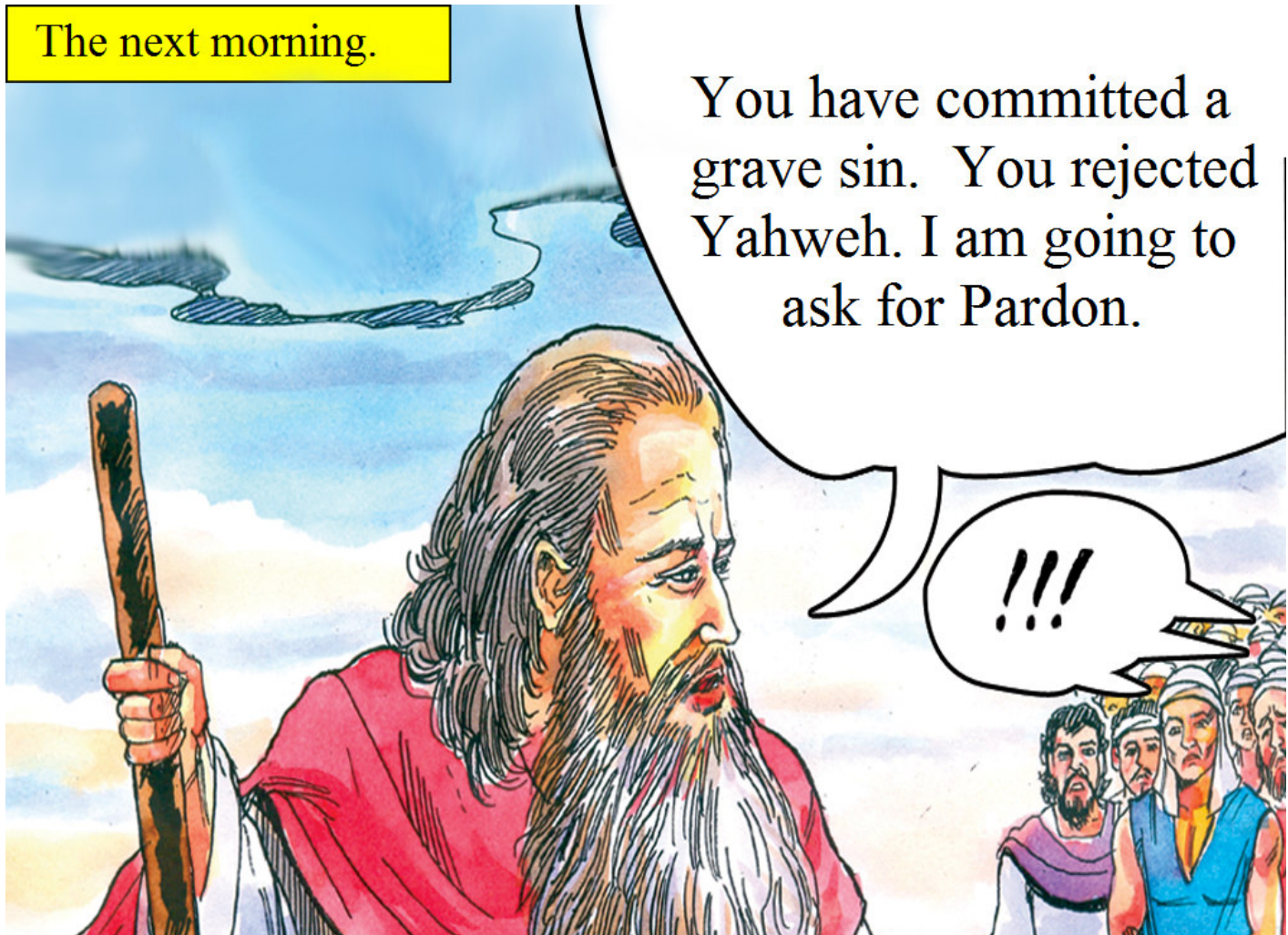
Moses threw down the tablets. Yahweh punished those who committed Idolatry.

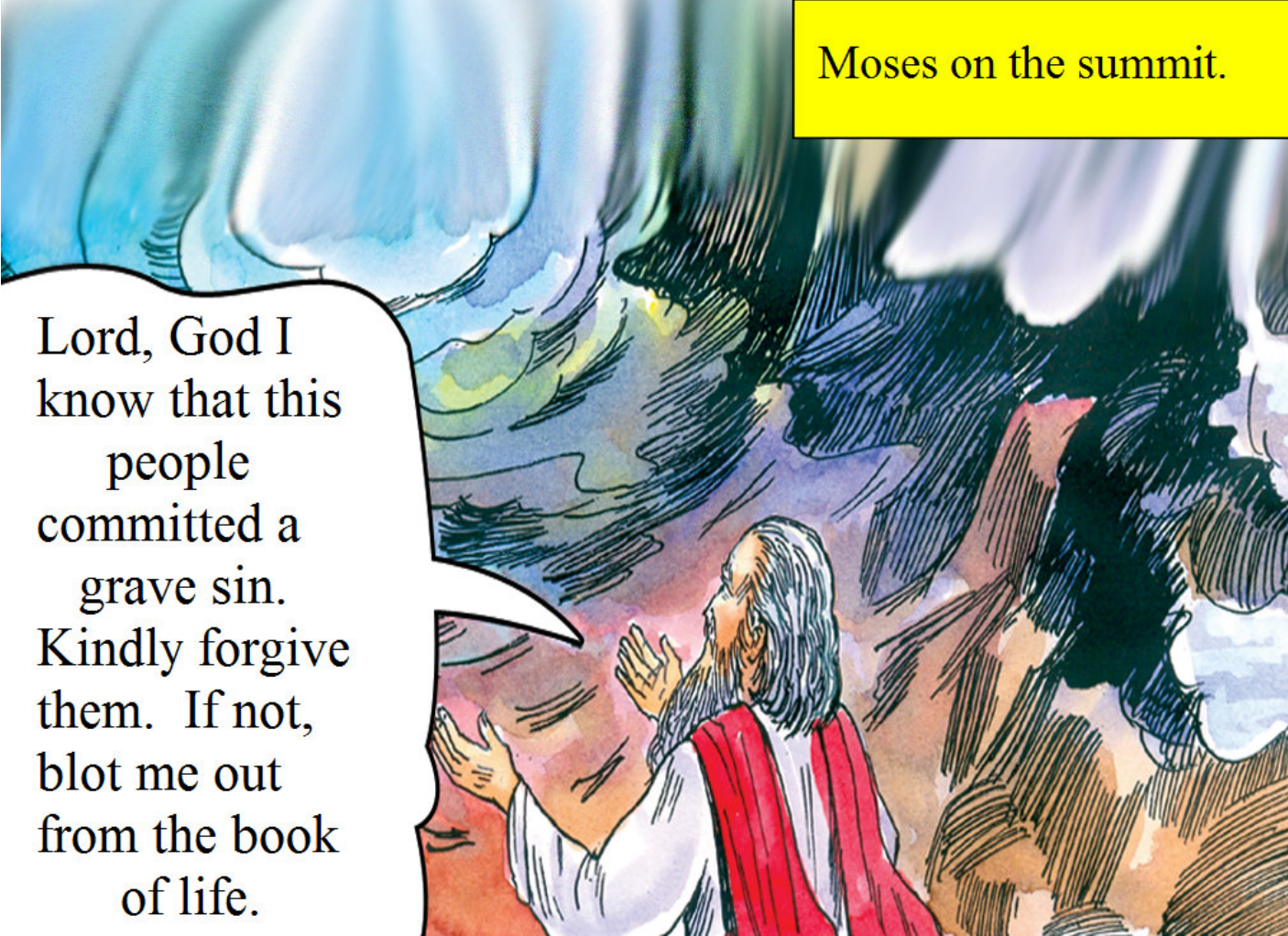


The next morning.

You have committed a grave sin. You rejected Yahweh. I am going to ask for Pardon.

!!!



An illustration of Moses on a mountain summit. He is shown from the back, with his hands raised in prayer. He has a long white beard and is wearing a white tunic with a red sash. The background features a dramatic sky with blue and white clouds, and dark, rocky terrain. The overall style is that of a religious illustration or comic book panel.

Moses on the summit.

Lord, God I
know that this
people
committed a
grave sin.
Kindly forgive
them. If not,
blot me out
from the book
of life.

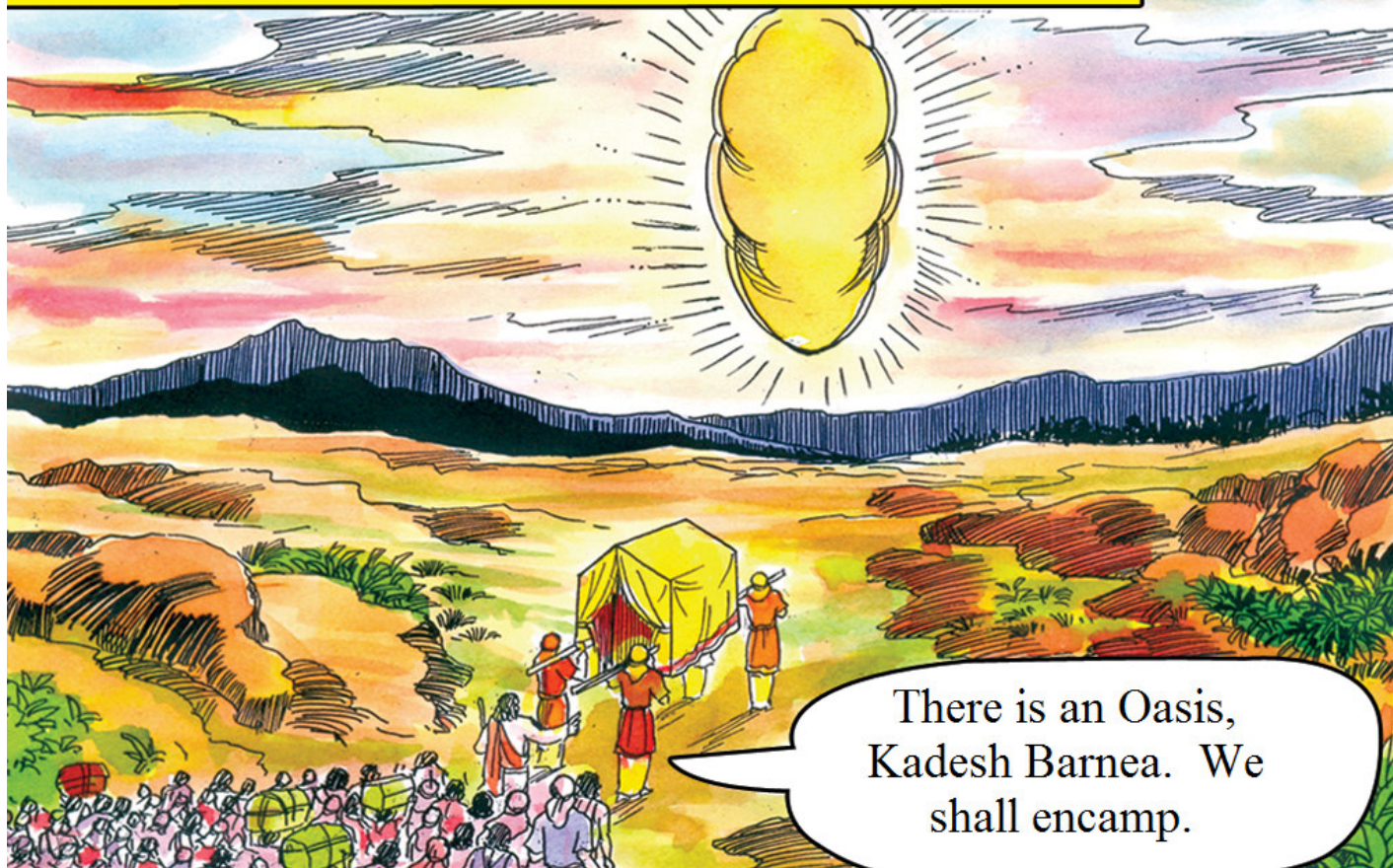
Yahweh forgave them. Moses returned with the tablets of the law, again.

This is the blood of the Covenant Yahweh makes with you. If you ever break it your blood will be shed.

We will always be faithful.

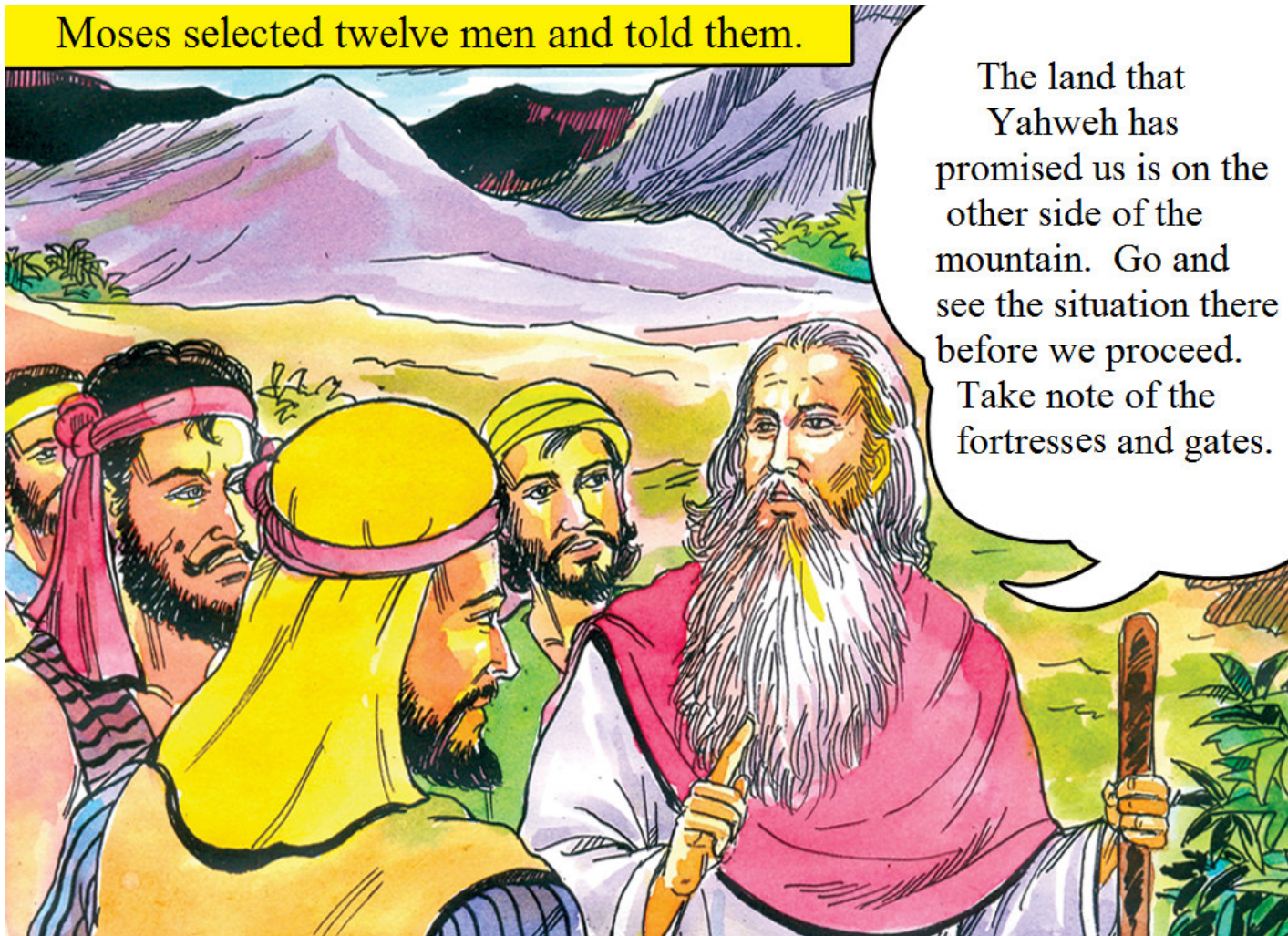


They placed the tablets in an Ark and carried it with them. God went in front of them in a pillar of clouds.



Moses selected twelve men and told them.

The land that
Yahweh has
promised us is on the
other side of the
mountain. Go and
see the situation there
before we proceed.
Take note of the
fortresses and gates.

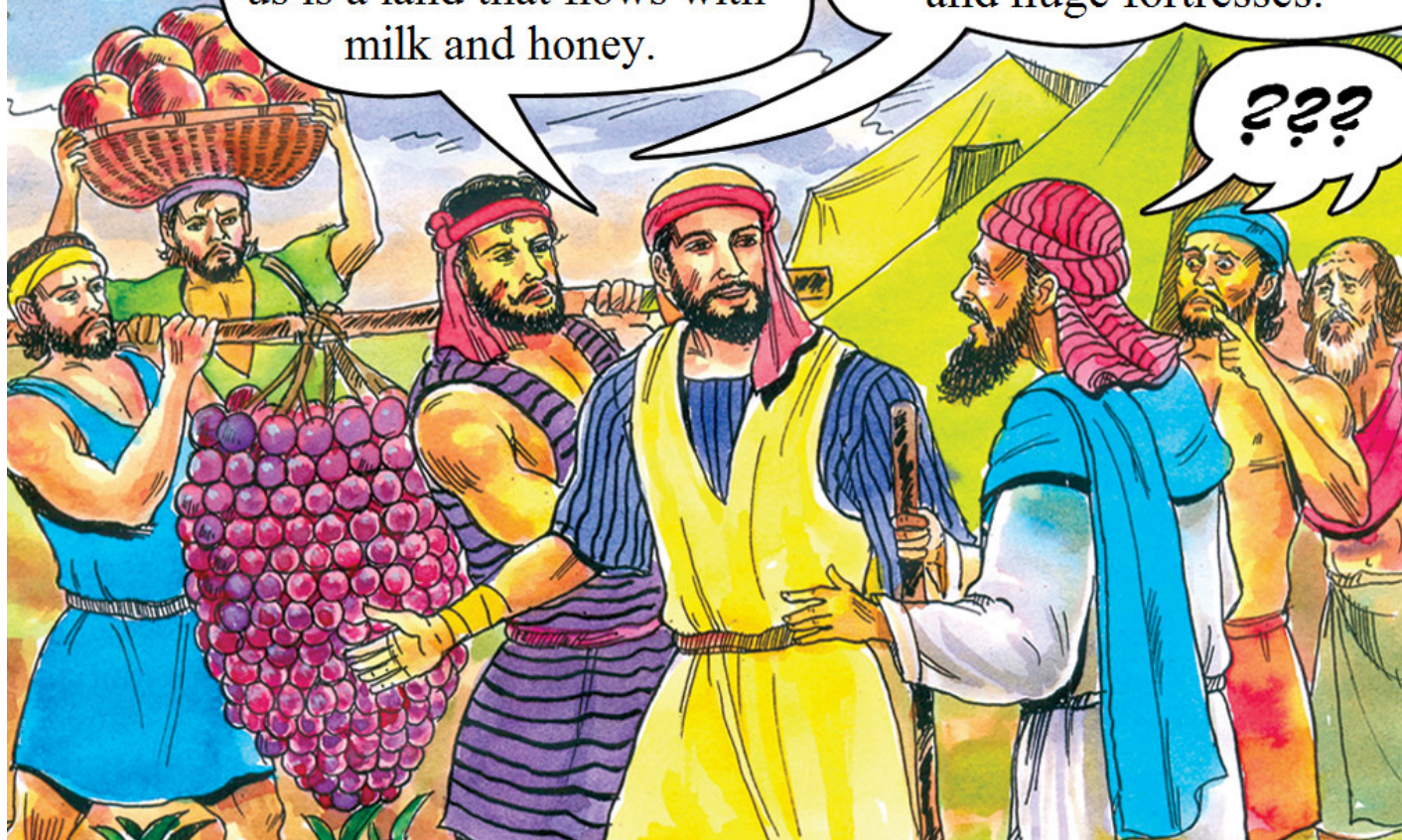


Days later the spies returned

The land the Lord is giving us is a land that flows with milk and honey.

But, that is inhabited by big giants. Big cities and huge fortresses.

???



But, I think we
can conquer
them.

They are
cannibals.

We'll be
doomed!



Don't be scared.
God will be with us.

Put an end to
this endless
wandering. Let
us return to
Egypt.

No way! Better we
go back to Egypt.

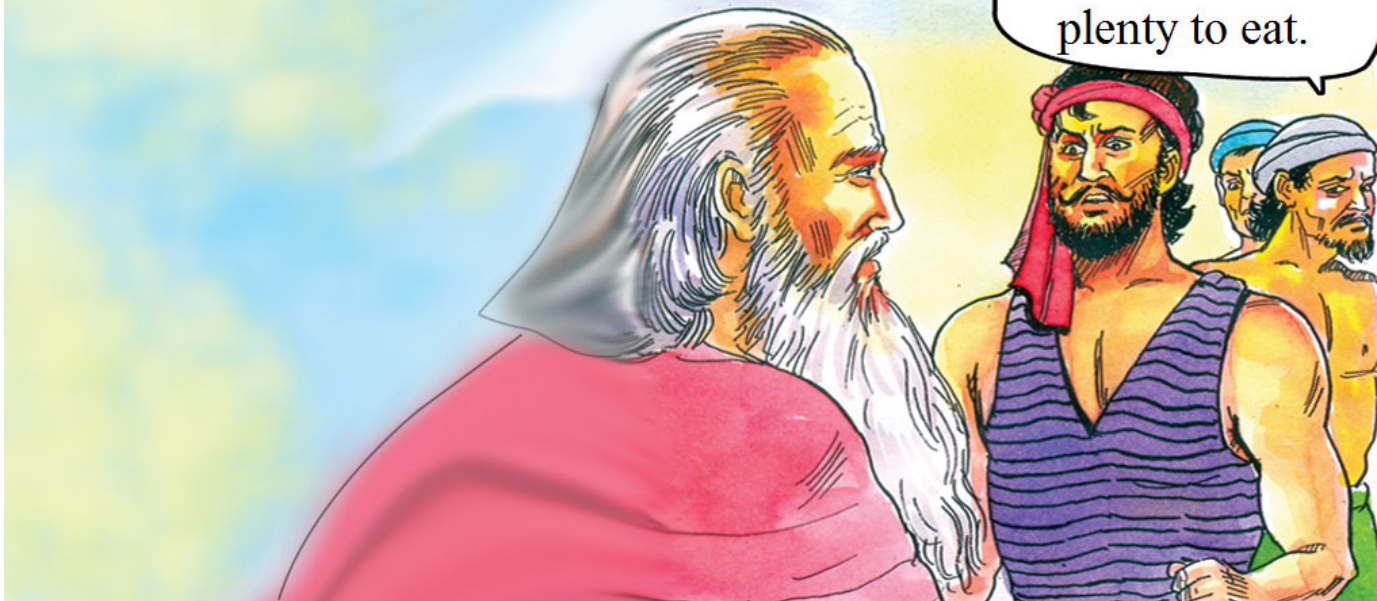
!?



What? Return to slavery? Lose the freedom again?

Eating rubbish and wandering, if this is freedom who wants it?

Life in Egypt was far better. At least we had plenty to eat.



This is outrageous and
outright rebellion against
God!

If you can't lead
the people back to
Egypt, we'll find
someone else.

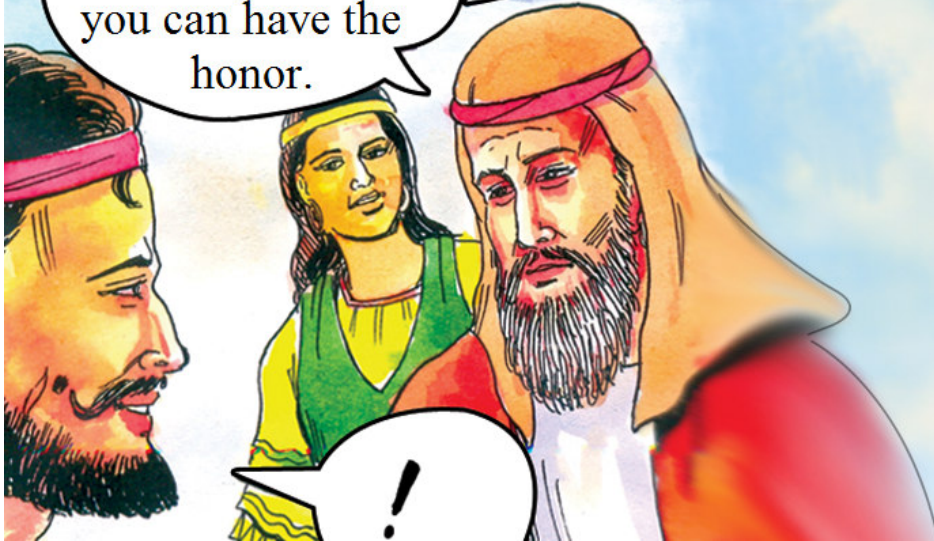


The people as one rose up against Moses.

Aaron you be our leader.

No way I can be your leader. Korah you can have the honor.

What Moses did was outrageous, destroying all our gold.

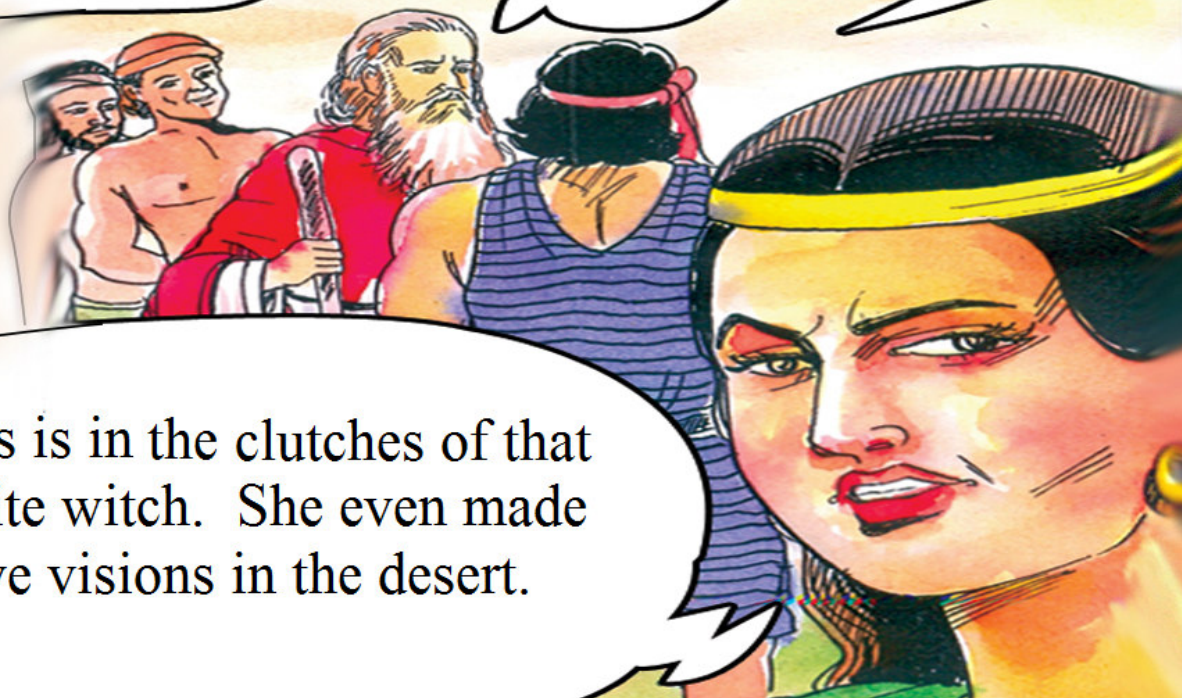


Don't forget that the freedom we want can be attained only in the "Promised Land".

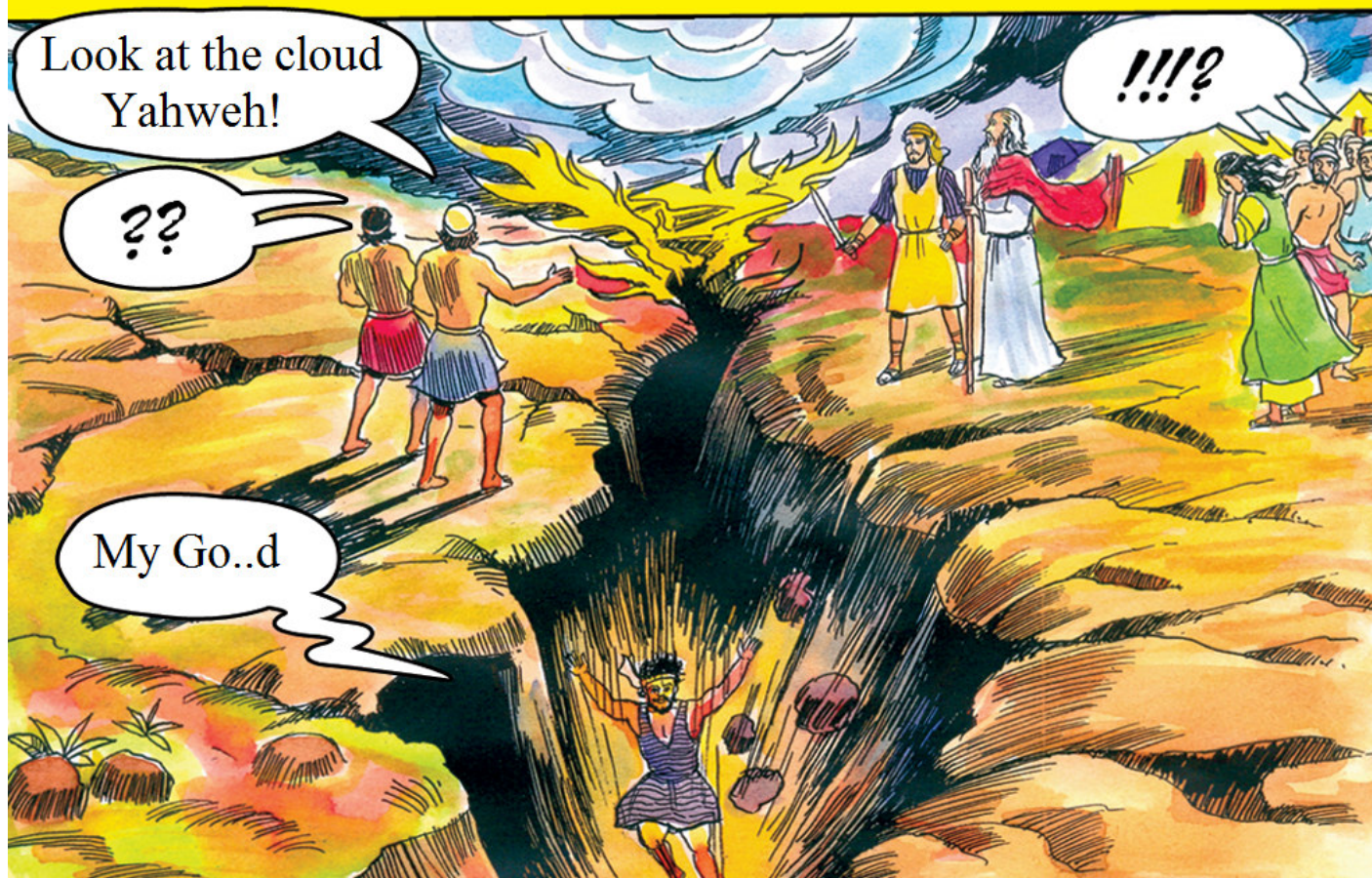
Do you think that you can go on fooling us forever?

?

Moses is in the clutches of that Midianite witch. She even made him have visions in the desert.

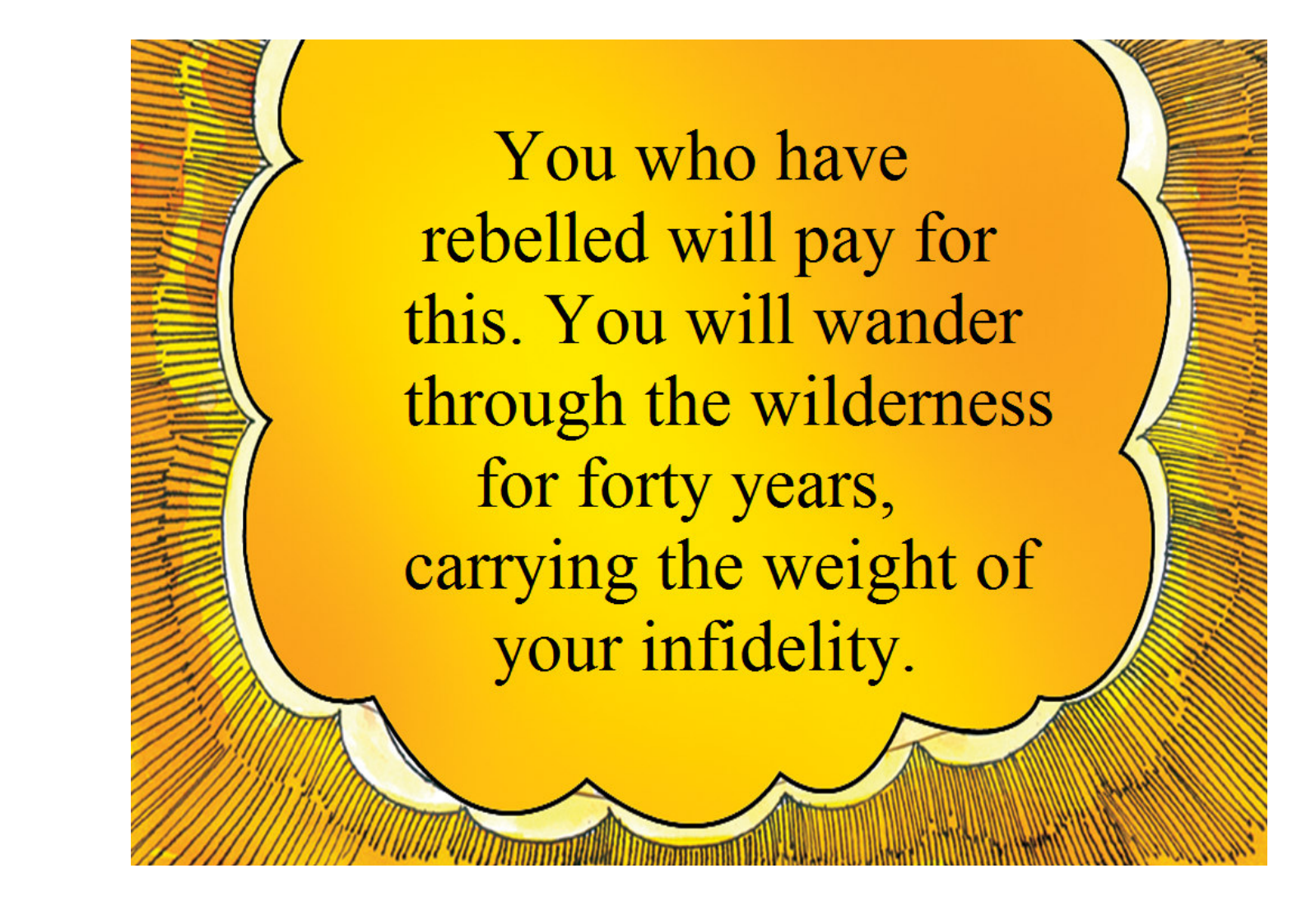


The people rallying behind Korah, decided to return to Egypt. The earth swallowed Korah, Miriam was struck with Leprosy.



Lord God, forgive this people,
ignorant though rebellious.
Remember it is your own people
whom you saved from slavery.

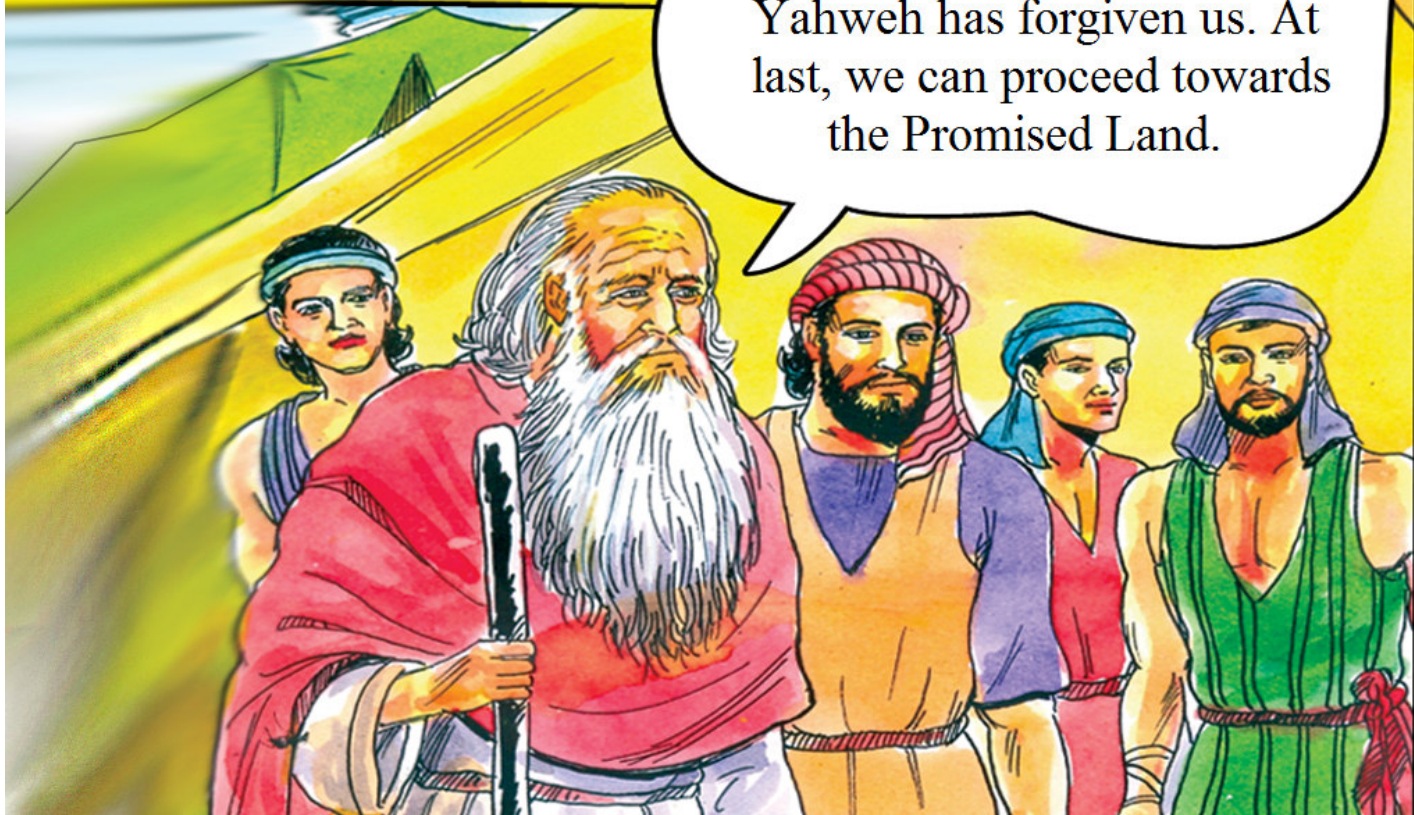




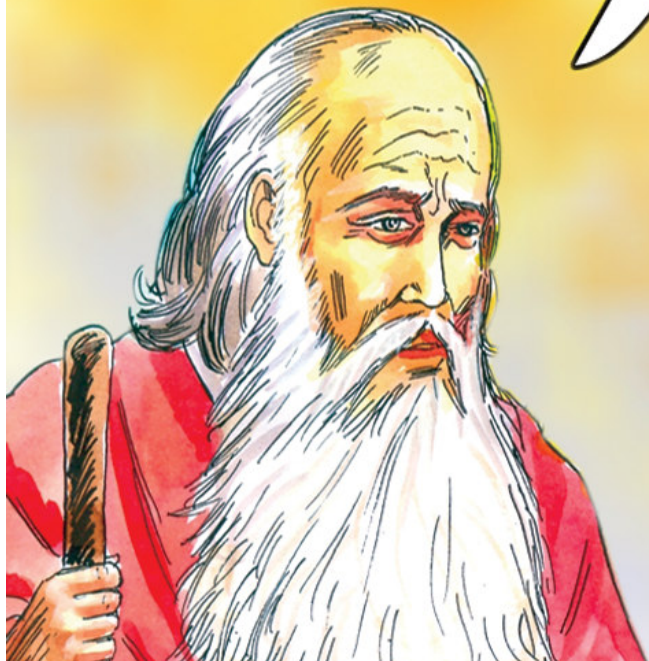
You who have rebelled will pay for this. You will wander through the wilderness for forty years, carrying the weight of your infidelity.

The people who refused to fight for the “Promised Land” wandered and died in the wilderness.
A new generation emerged.

Our nomadic life is over.
Yahweh has forgiven us. At
last, we can proceed towards
the Promised Land.



We have to pass through
the Land of the Amorites.
You may ask the kings to
allow us to pass through
their lands.

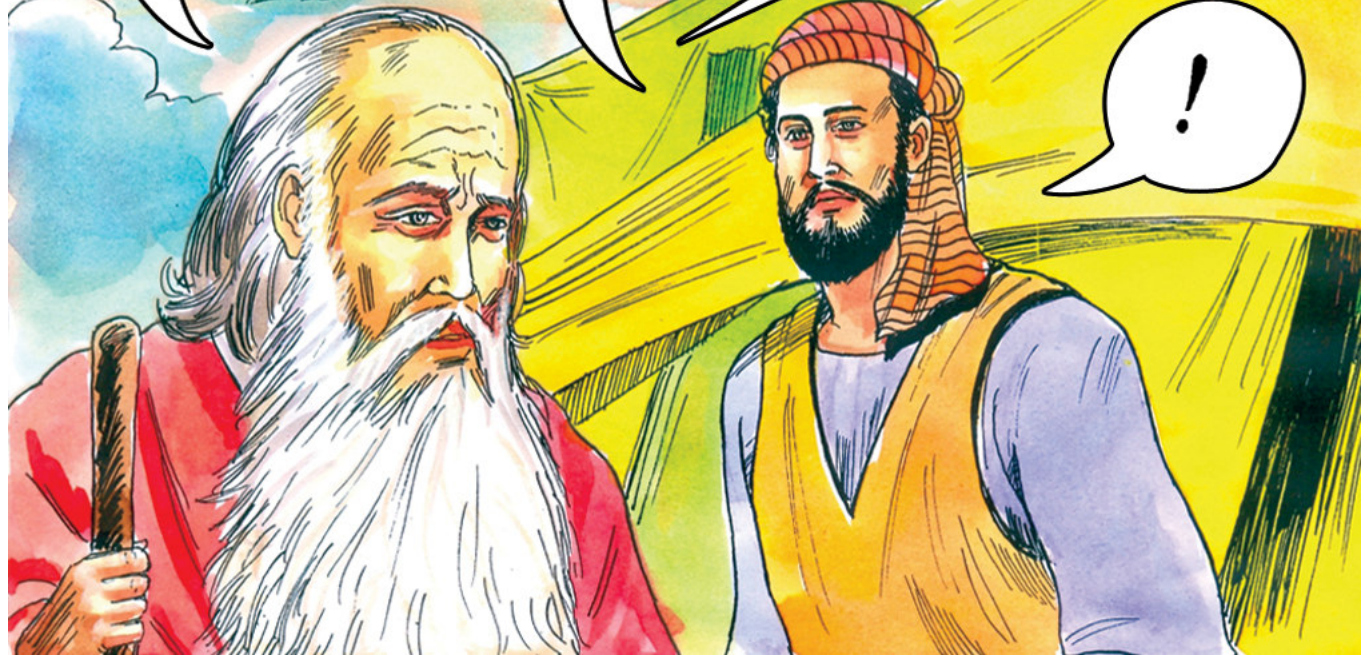


Our goal is the Promised Land, we have no intention of waging war with anyone.

Will they let us pass through or declare war with us like Edom?

No more detours. If forced we'll fight.

!



The Amorites refused the passage; they marched out into the desert to attack Israel.

Don't be afraid of that huge army. Yahweh will deliver them into our hands. Joshua, get ready to fight.

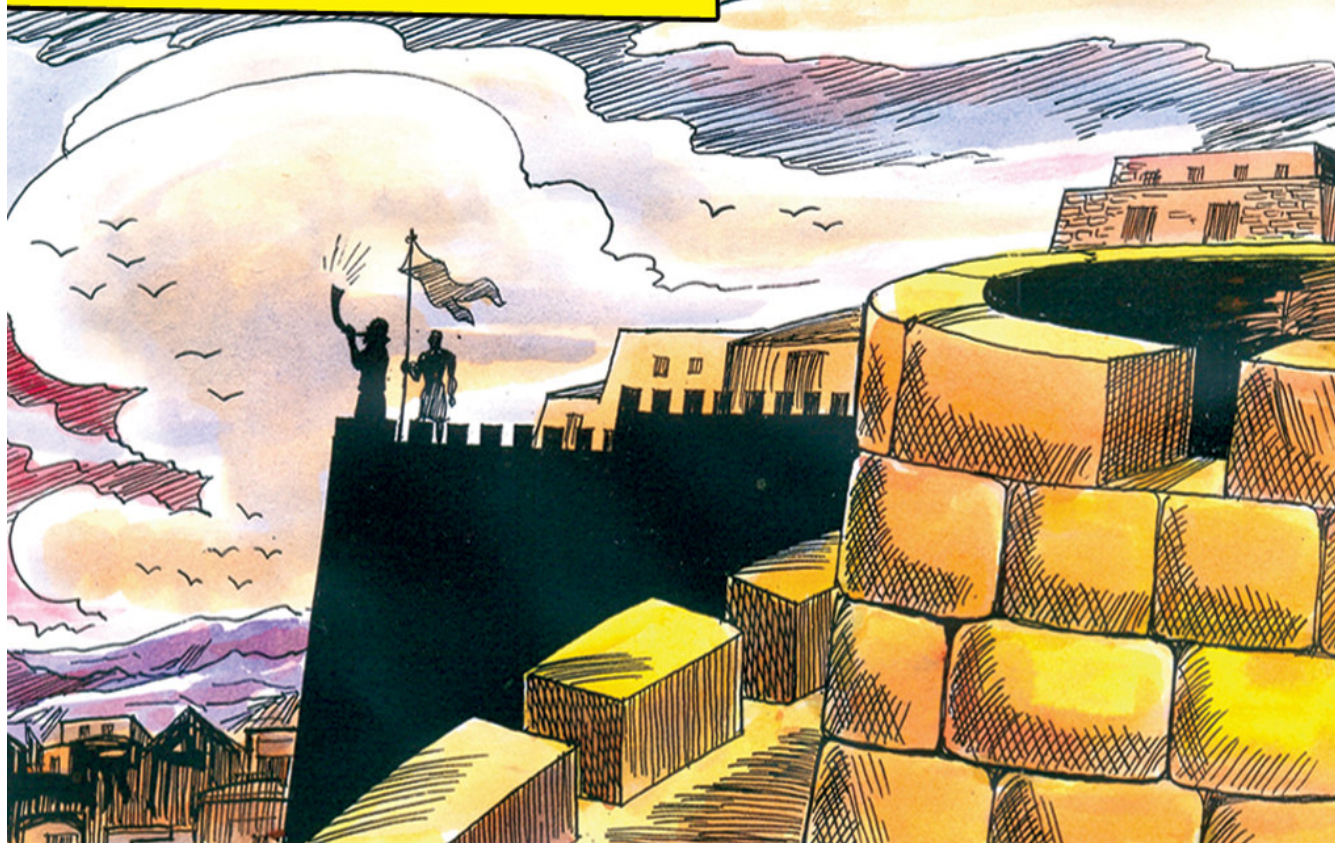


They joined in a battle.

Get them!



Israel captured all the towns of the Amorites.



Children, my time is up. The Lord hasn't allowed me to enter the "Promised Land". It will be Joshua who will lead you there.



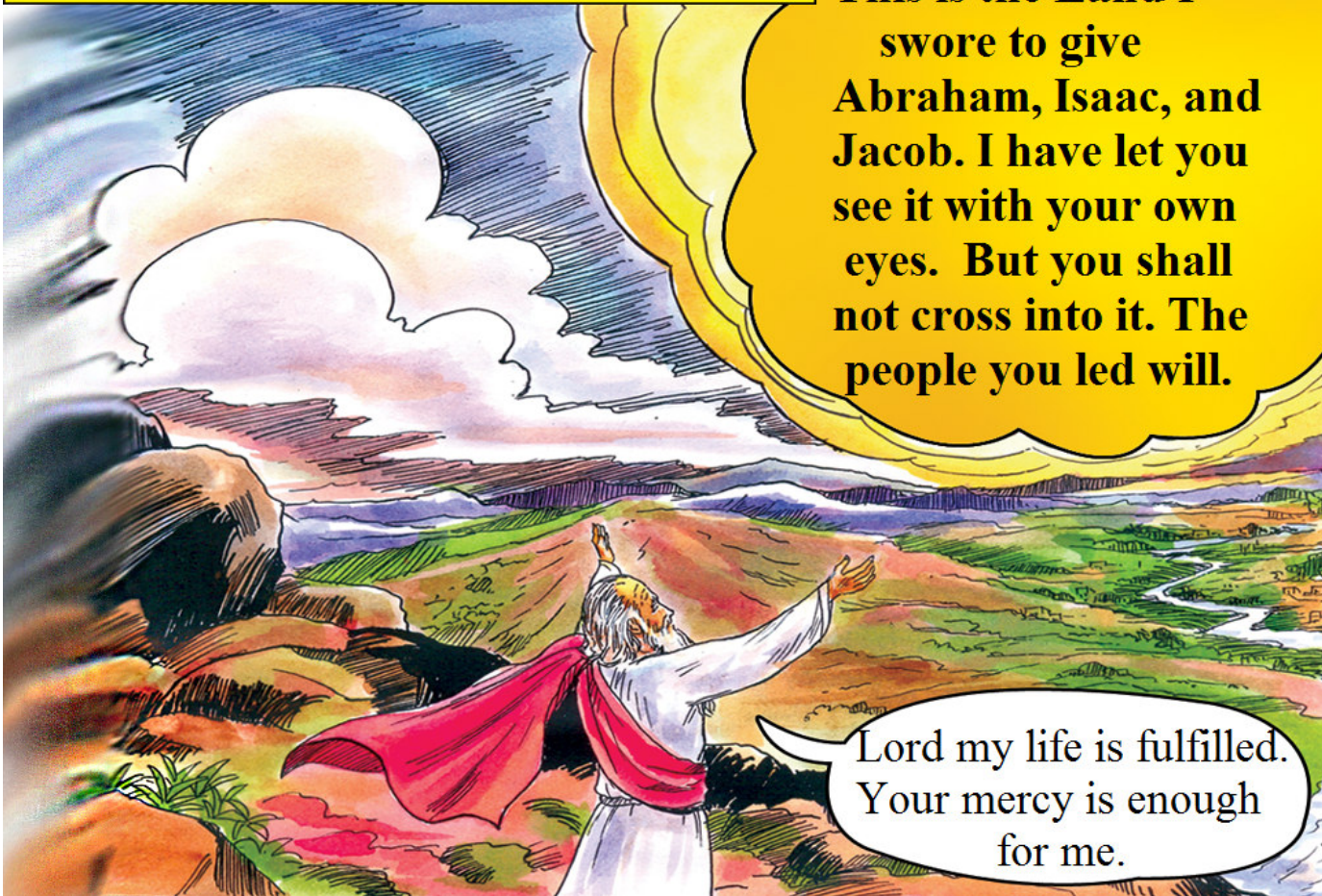
Do not forget it is Yahweh
who gives you the
“Promised Land”. Hold fast
to His Covenant.



Moses went up the Mount Nebo as commanded by Yahweh.

**This is the Land I
swore to give
Abraham, Isaac, and
Jacob. I have let you
see it with your own
eyes. But you shall
not cross into it. The
people you led will.**

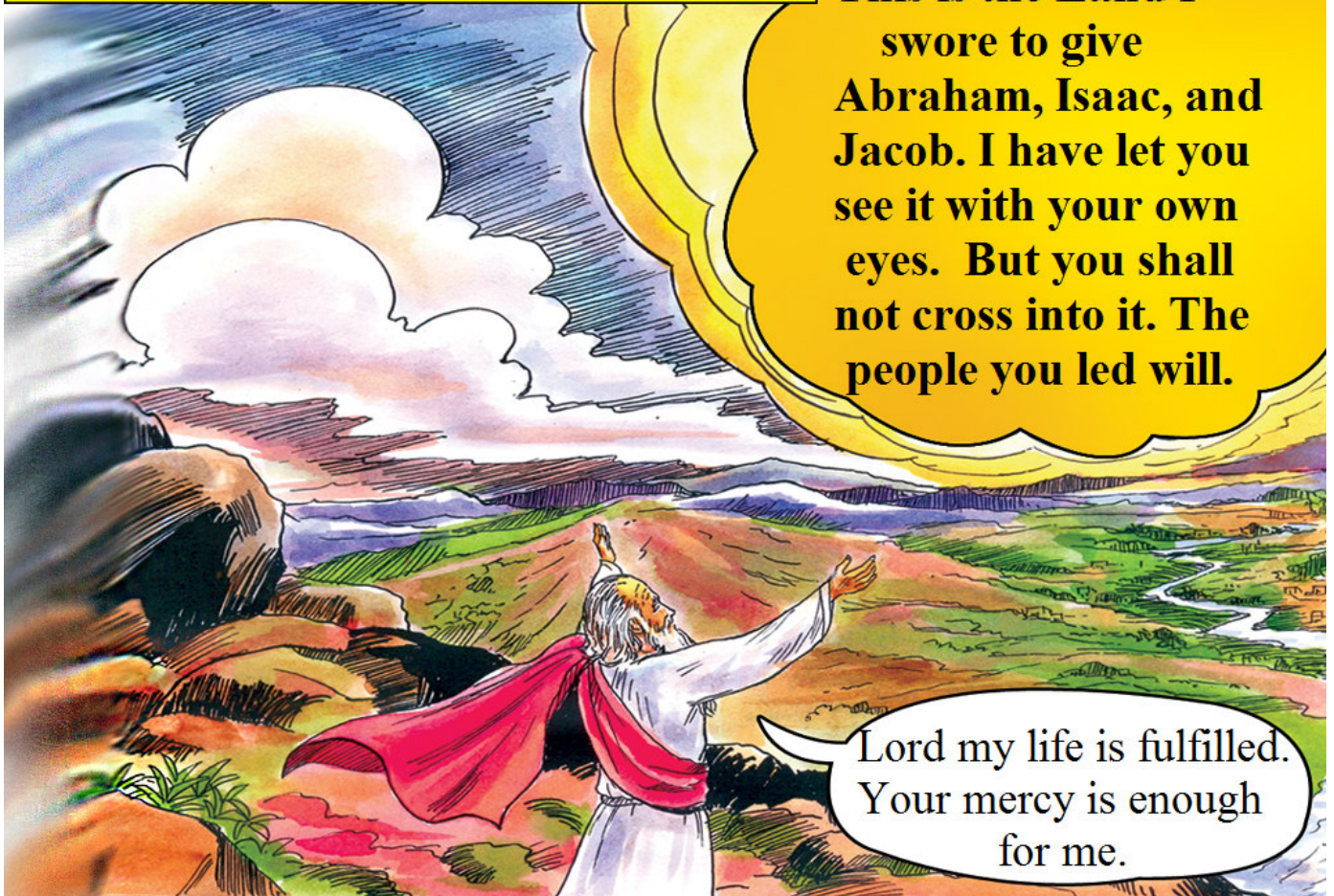
Lord my life is fulfilled.
Your mercy is enough
for me.



Moses went up the Mount Nebo as commanded by Yahweh.

This is the Land I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I have let you see it with your own eyes. But you shall not cross into it. The people you led will.

Lord my life is fulfilled.
Your mercy is enough
for me.



Moses died on Mount Nebo.
The fight for the promised land continues.



NEXT STORY
JOSHUA

Questions

1. Why did Moses escape to Midian?
2. Who was Moses' wife?
3. What did God who appeared in the burning bush say to Moses?
4. What are plagues God sent to Egypt?
5. What did Israel commemorate by the Passover?
6. What did Israel have to do to remain as the people of God?
7. Explain with an example that Moses loved his people more than himself.
8. Why did Israel wander through the wilderness for forty years?
9. What was the great sin Israel committed against God?
10. Compare and contrast Moses with Jesus.

