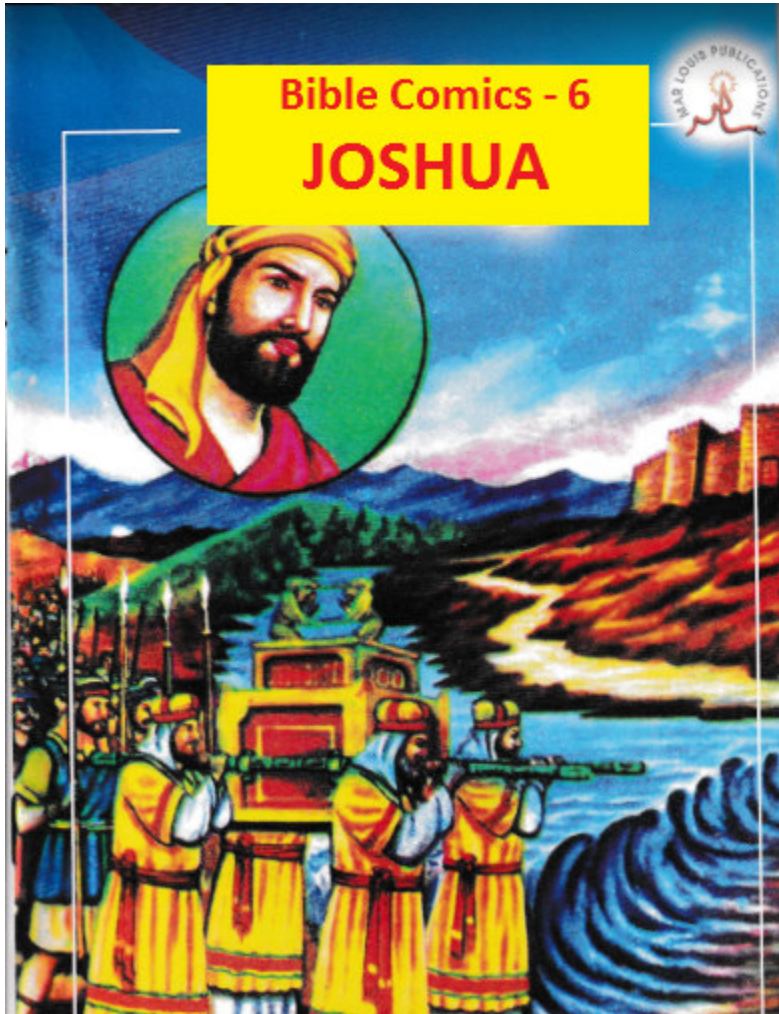


Bible Comics - 6

JOSHUA



Bible Comics – 6

JOSHUA

Script

Dr. Michael Karimattam

Illustration

Devassy

JOSHUA

Joshua is the hero who led the people of Israel in the conquest of Canaan. Though many had set out from Egypt under Moses only two of them, Joshua and Caleb, who remained faithful to Yahweh all through the journey, could enter the Promised Land.

In the life of Joshua three events stand out: the conquest of the land, the division of the land among the twelve tribes and the covenant at Shechem. The events narrated here took place in the second half of the thirteenth Century B.C. The present story is based on the Book of Joshua, a book of the Bible, written

sometime in the sixth century B.C. At that time the people of Israel was in the Babylonian captivity.

The Book of Joshua depicts a very dramatic picture of the conquest. It gives the impression of an unending series of victories. But, one should not forget the fact that these narratives took shape six centuries after the actual events. The Bible sees the battles of Joshua as the battle of Yahweh who was decided to give an oppressed and landless people a land of their own.

Joshua could not capture the whole of Canaan, as the book itself admits (Jos 13,1). Only after two centuries, under King David, could Israel conquer the

whole land. The sacred author writing after centuries attributed much of David's victories to Joshua. The God who liberated them once would lead them again from captivity to the Promised Land. It was to instill this hope in the people that the Book of Joshua was written. Besides, he wanted to teach them that the misery they were subjected to was due to their own infidelity to Yahweh.

The violent destruction of towns as well as the brutal massacre of people raises many questions, especially because they are said to be ordered by Yahweh. If God is the God of all, then why is it that he shows partiality to one particular people? Here we have

to distinguish between historical facts and their biblical interpretation. The Israelites who settled down in Canaan mingled with the people of the land, adopting their customs and accepting their religious practices. Thus, gradually they turned away from Yahweh, becoming unfaithful. This should not have taken place, argued the sacred writer. This belief is reflected in the command to exterminate the Canaanites, a command that probably was neither given nor executed.

Joshua divided the land among the twelve tribes. No tribe was considered inferior or superior to another one. All the families of Israel had equal rights in the Promised Land. Only the tribe of Levi, dedicated to

priestly service, had no claim on the land. They were to be supported by the other tribes.

The recently discovered “El-Amarna letters” give important insights into the history of Joshua’s conquests. Some of these letters were written by the Canaanite kings to their sovereign, the Pharaoh, requesting his help against the farmers in revolt. It seems that when Joshua entered Canaan the whole land was rocked by revolutionary wars. It is quite probable that the peasants of the land, rejecting the rule and religion of the kings, joined the Israelites and accepted Yahweh, the God of the oppressed, as their

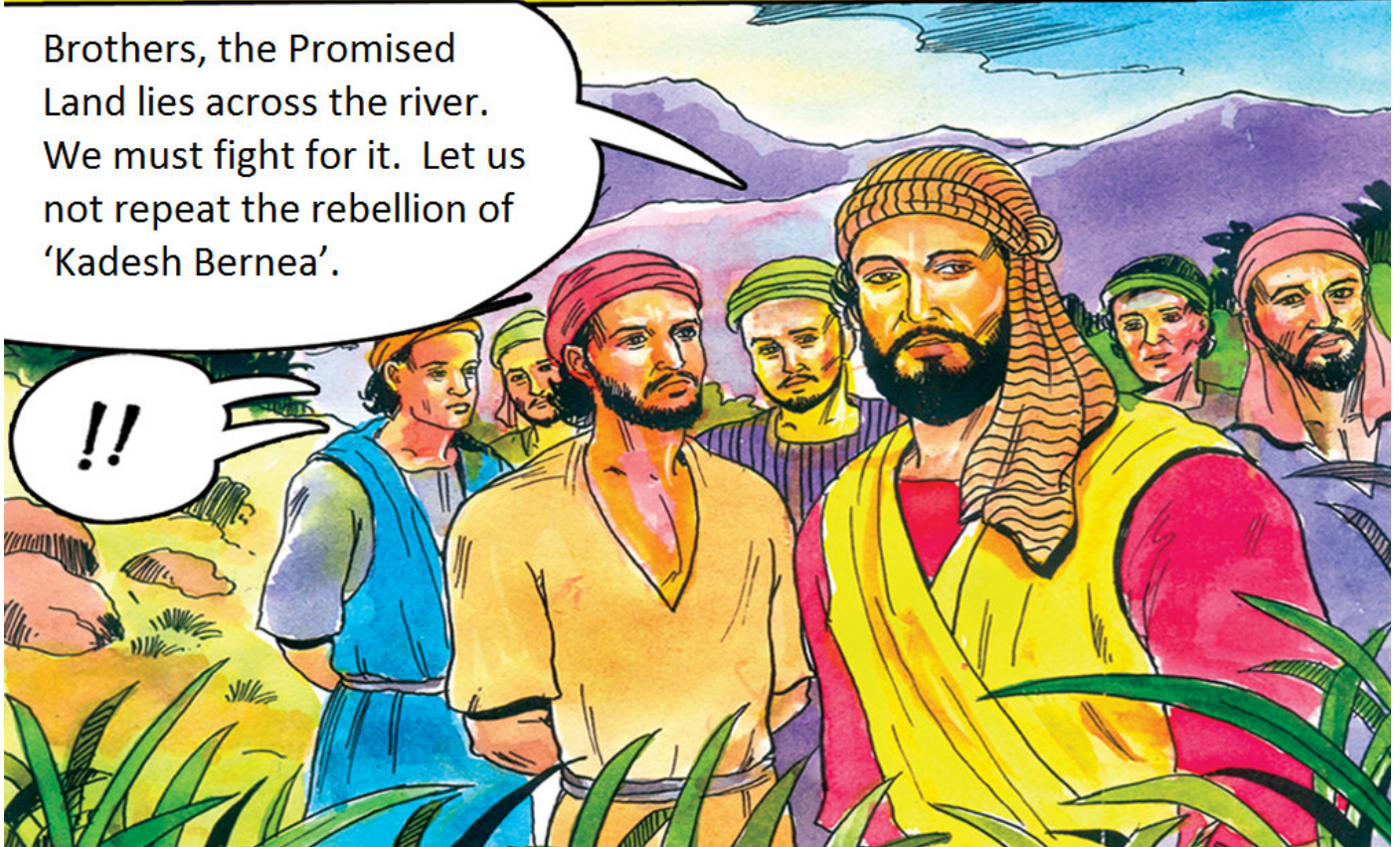
God. The covenant at Shechem established the communion of this new people.

The name Joshua means, “Yahweh saves”. “Jesus” is the Greek form of his Hebrew name. Joshua who led the Israelites into Canaan is the prototype of Jesus who leads the whole humanity into the Kingdom of God, the true Promised Land.

Moses died on the threshold of the Promised Land. The task of leading the people to Canaan was entrusted to Joshua who was always faithful to Yahweh. The Israelite army was encamped in Shithim, on the west bank of Jordan, Joshua speaking to the people...

Brothers, the Promised Land lies across the river. We must fight for it. Let us not repeat the rebellion of 'Kadesh Bernea'.

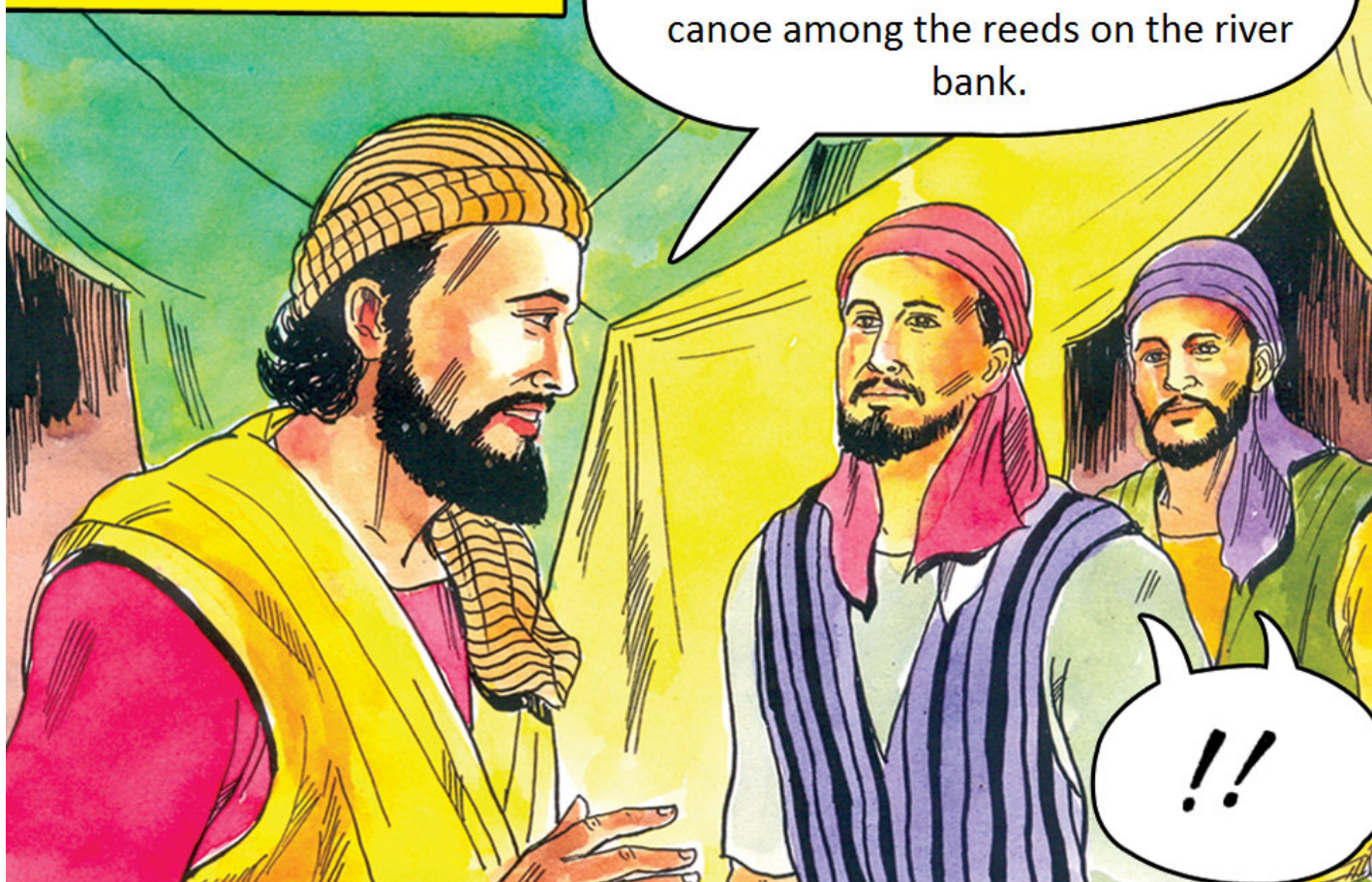
!!



Joshua sent two of his men to study the lay of the land.

Go to Jericho. Bring back news about the situation there. You will find a canoe among the reeds on the river bank.

!!



The men crossed the Jordan at night.

What a strong current. How will our people ever cross this river?

Yahweh will take care of that. Watch out that whirlpool!




The spies walked towards Jericho.

My God! Who can ever climb over these?

Shh... Be Quiet. If they ever find out that we are spies....





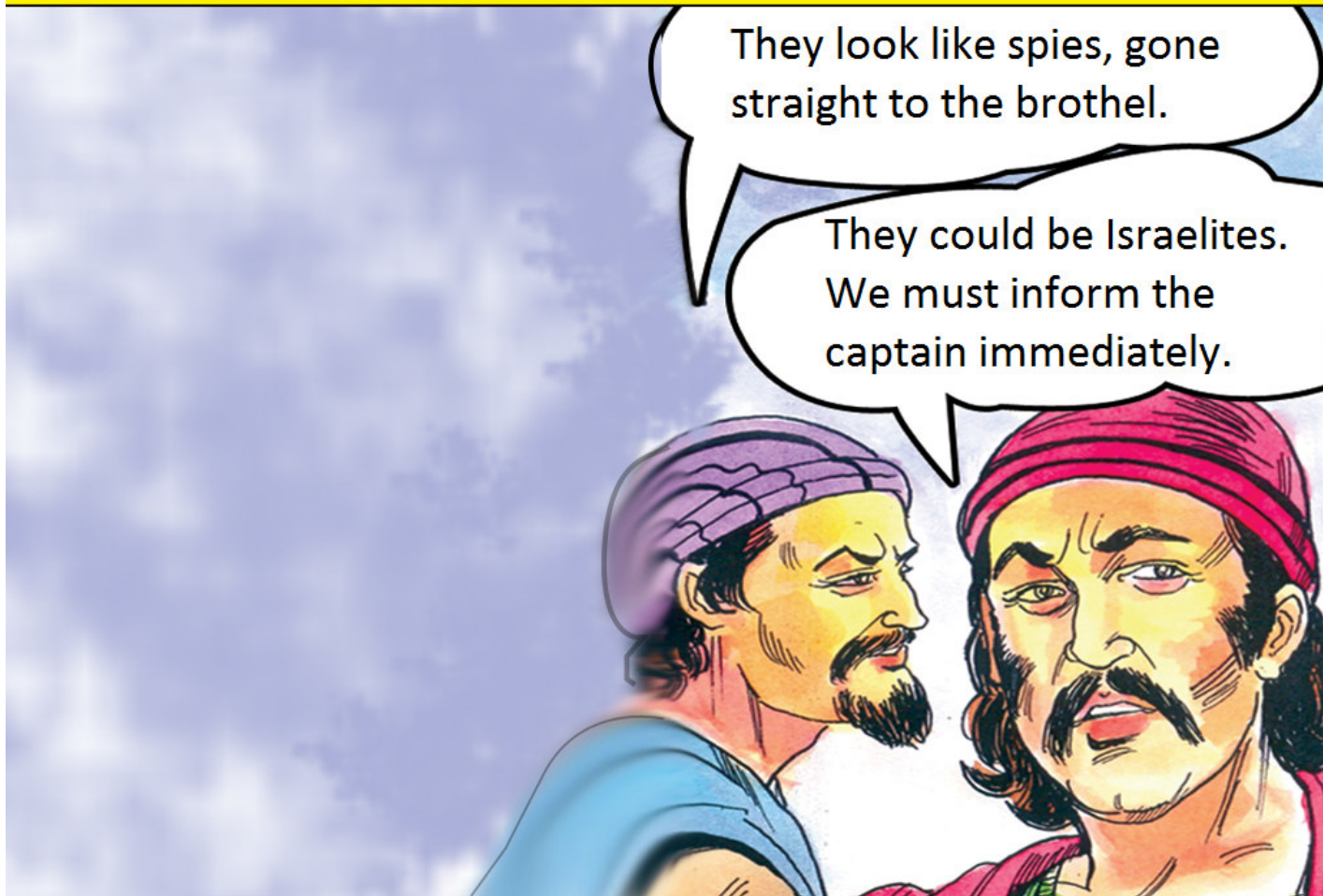
It's getting dark. We won't be able to get back today.

Let us see if we can stay in that house.

When the spies had gone.

They look like spies, gone straight to the brothel.

They could be Israelites. We must inform the captain immediately.

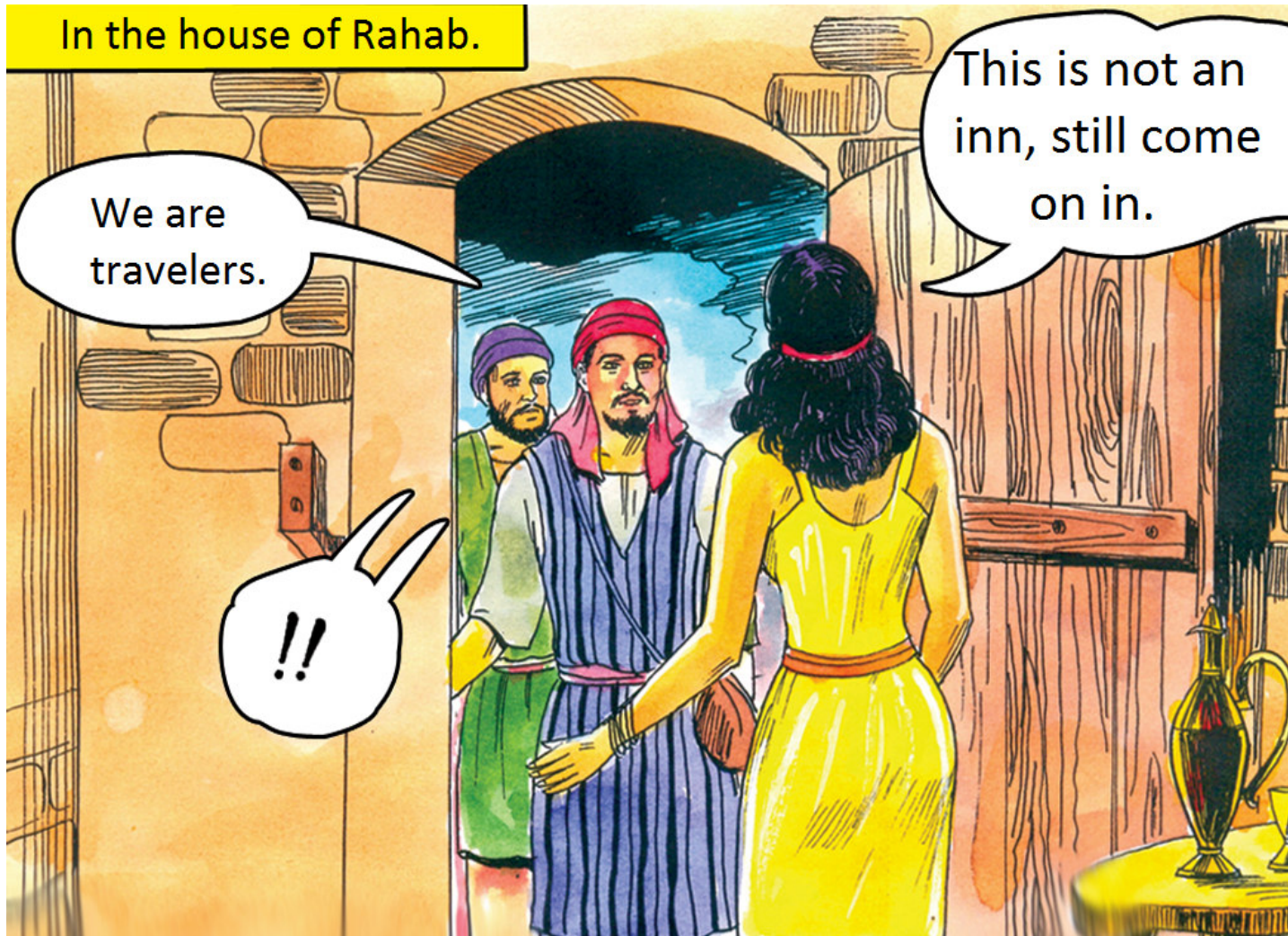


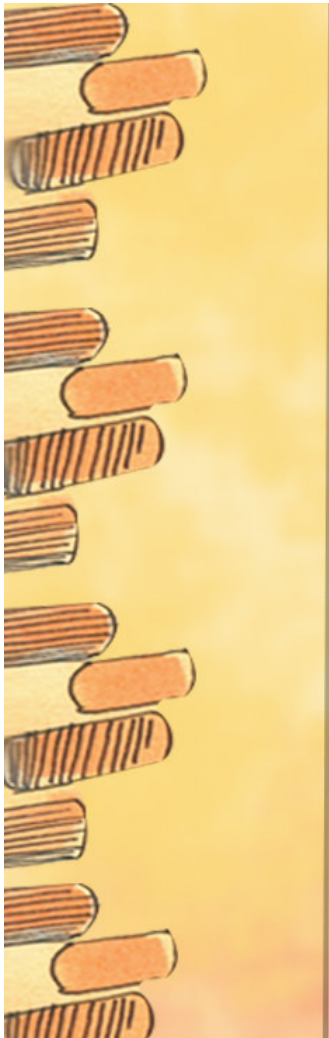
In the house of Rahab.

We are
travelers.

!!

This is not an
inn, still come
on in.

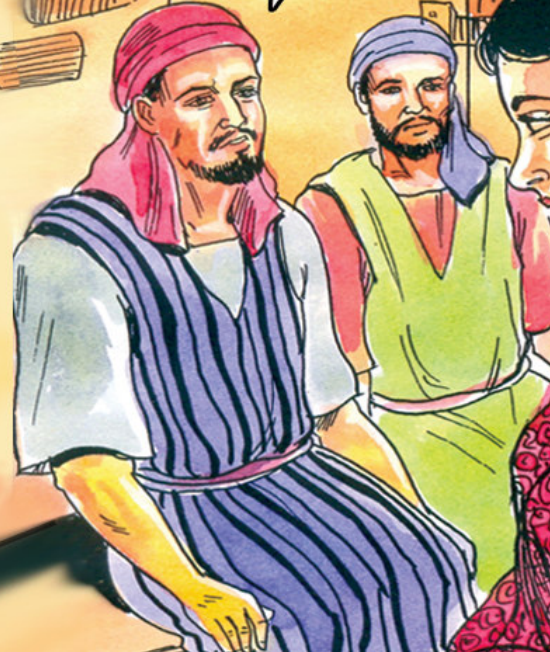




What's new
around here?

Don't you know
that it's utter
chaos all over?

?



What do you mean?

Everywhere the farmers and slaves are up in arms against the masters.

!?



Farmers in revolt.

We work and you take the fruits. This can't go on.

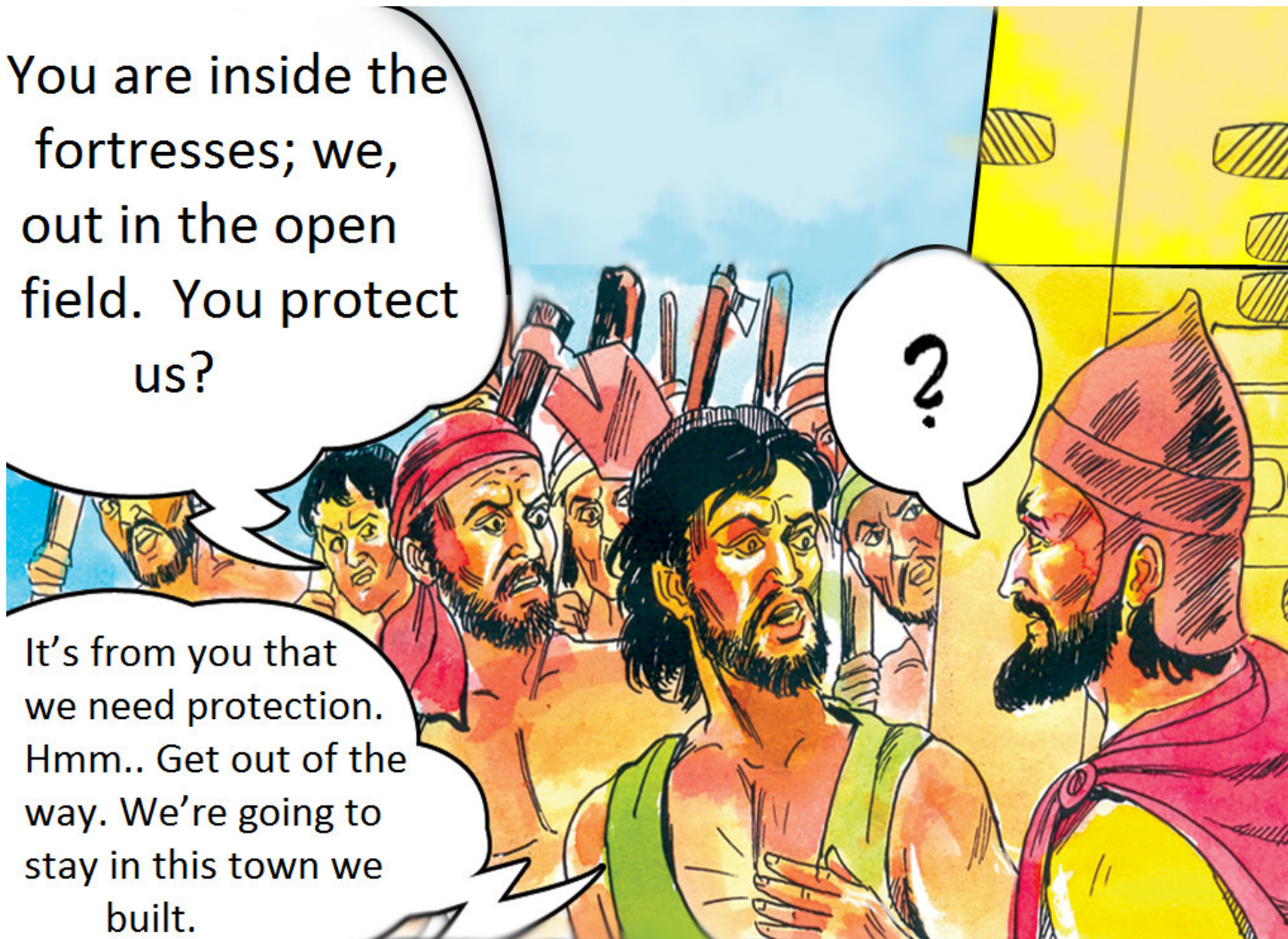
This land is ours. No more taxes. No rights to you.


It's we who protect you from the enemies.



You are inside the fortresses; we, out in the open field. You protect us?

It's from you that we need protection. Hmm.. Get out of the way. We're going to stay in this town we built.



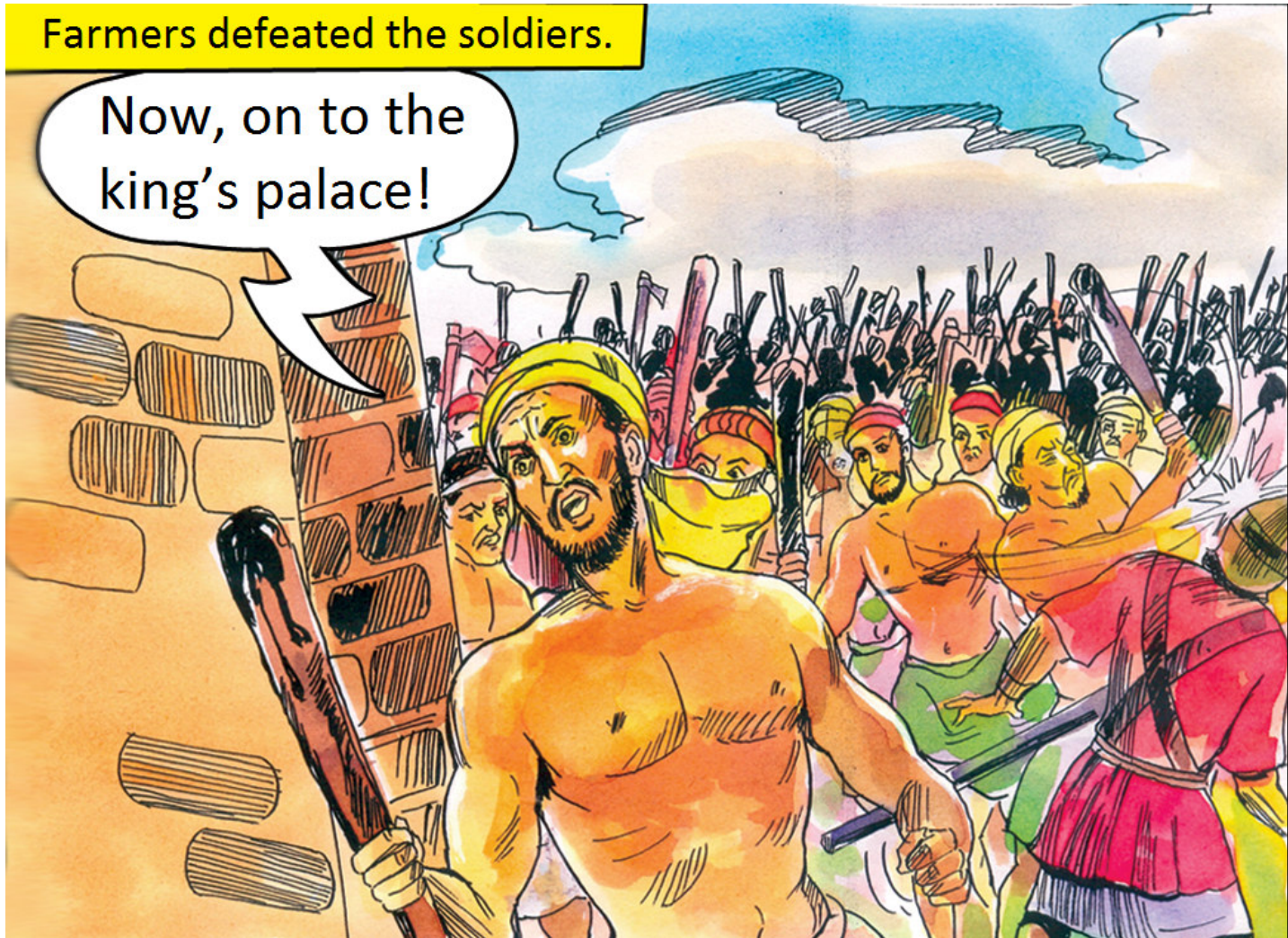


Don't you dare
to take
another step!

This axe
will cut your
throat just
as well as
the wood.

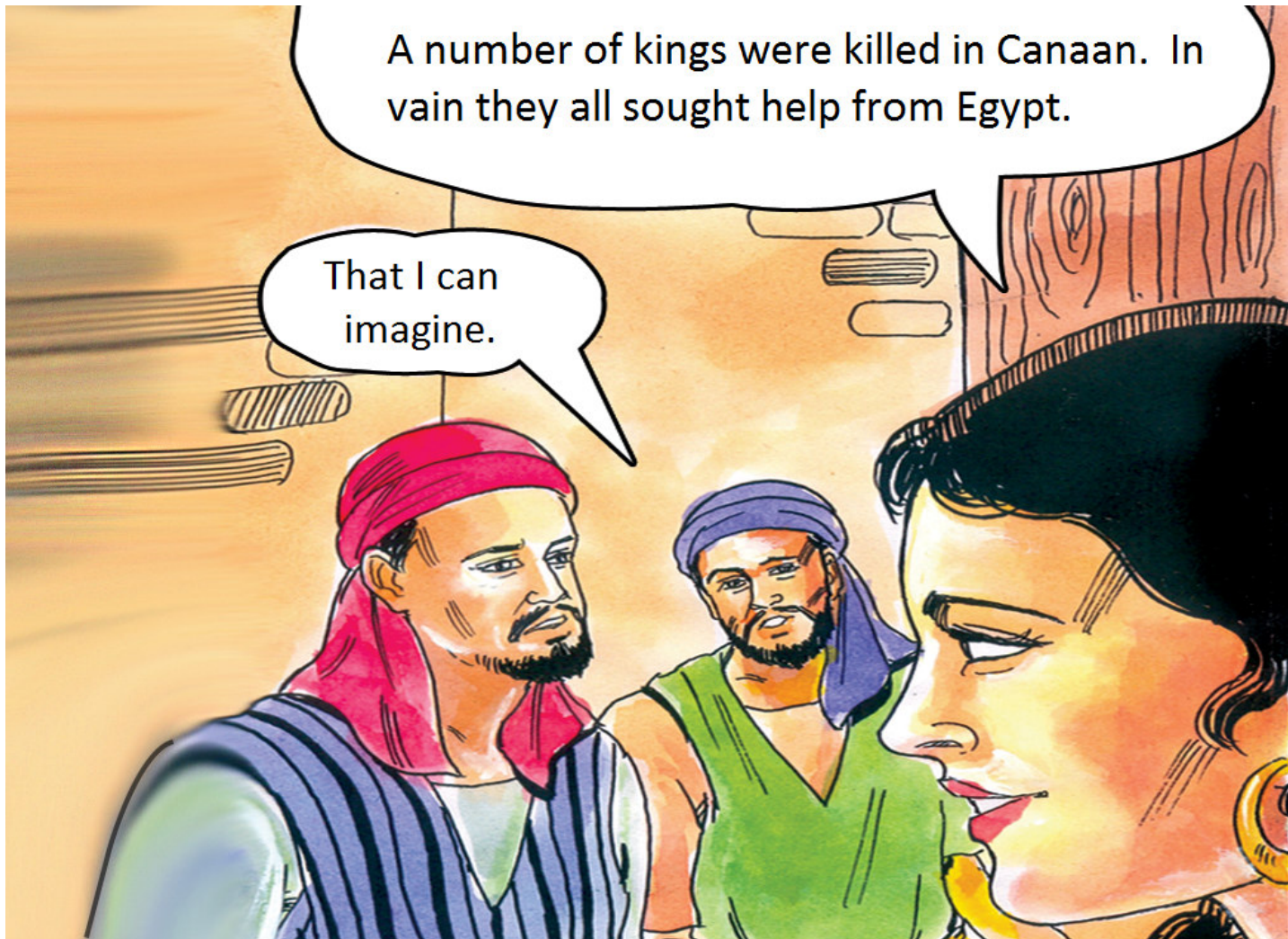
Farmers defeated the soldiers.

Now, on to the king's palace!



A number of kings were killed in Canaan. In vain they all sought help from Egypt.

That I can imagine.



We heard a rumour that the Israelites are going to attack Canaan. If so, the farmers will be delighted.



The farmers in a village in Canaan.

Friends, did you hear that the Israelites have reached the Jordan?

Hey seem to be heading this way.

They are great warriors. No king has been able to stop them.


!!



I heard that they were slaves in Egypt. A God liberated them it seems.

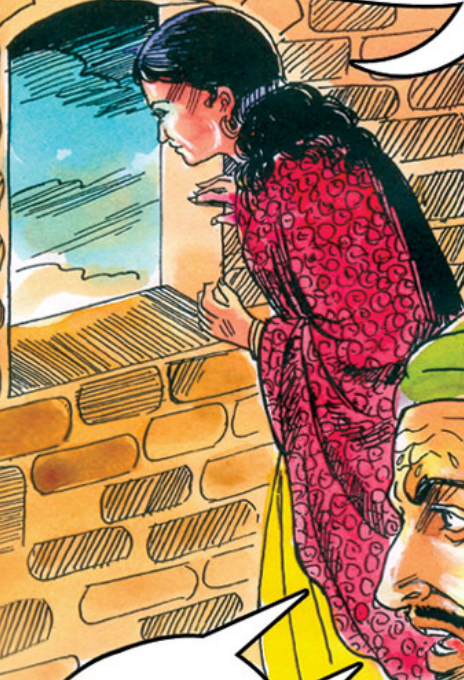
A God of the oppressed?






Away with the kings and
masters. Down with their
Gods.

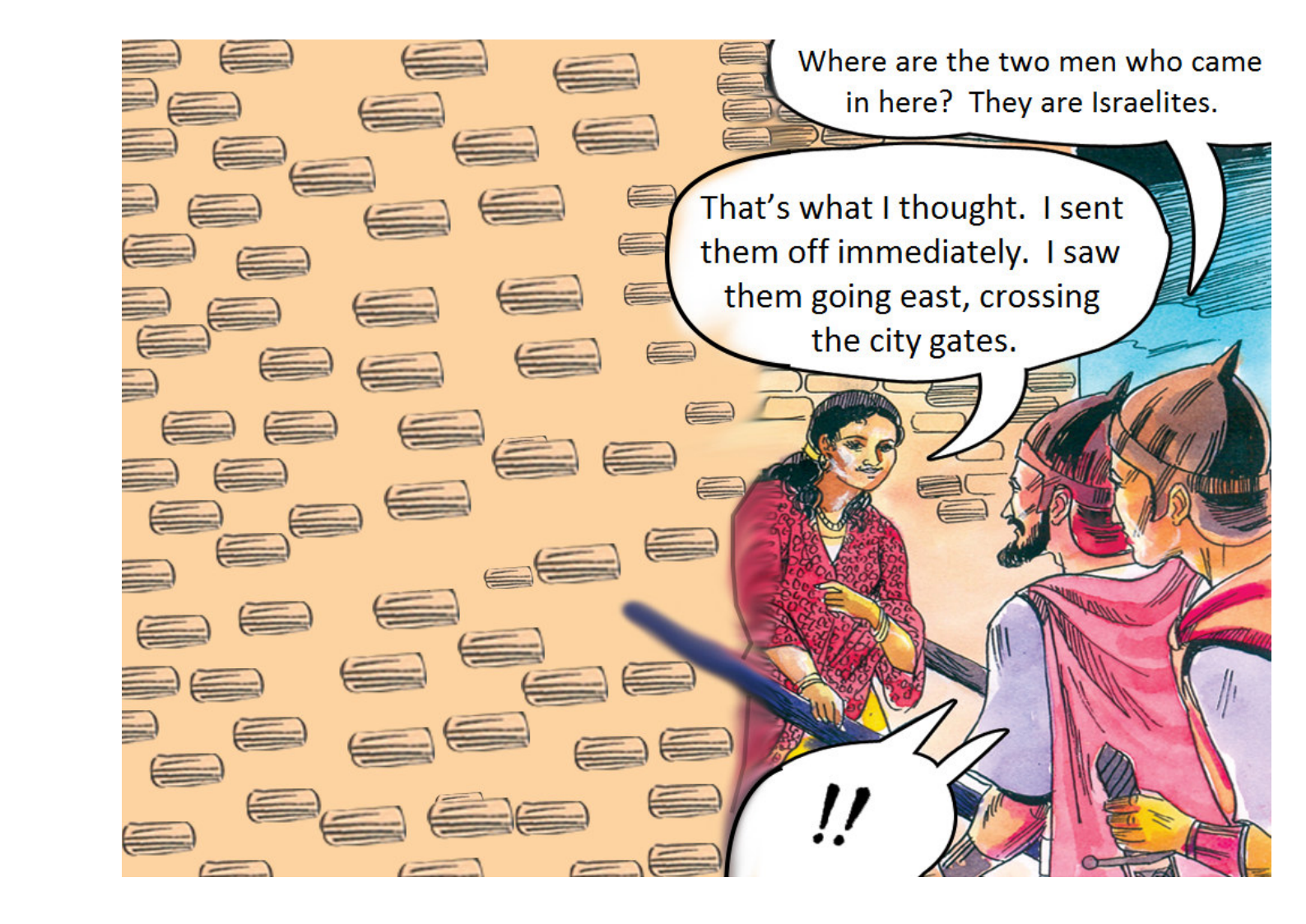
Those blood
sucking Leeches.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a red headscarf with a circular pattern and a yellow garment, is leaning out of a window in a brick wall. She is looking out towards a blue sky. The wall is made of orange-brown bricks with black outlines. To the left of the window, there is a large section of the wall with a grid of dark, hatched rectangular patterns.

Soldiers again! I'm sick and tired of them.

A man with a beard and a green head covering is looking towards the woman. He has a surprised expression. A speech bubble with two question marks is next to him.

??



Where are the two men who came in here? They are Israelites.

That's what I thought. I sent them off immediately. I saw them going east, crossing the city gates.

!!



So, you are Israelites?

!?

Better not to tell anyone.

The soldiers have gone east
looking for you. Just hide in
the attic. You can
leave later.

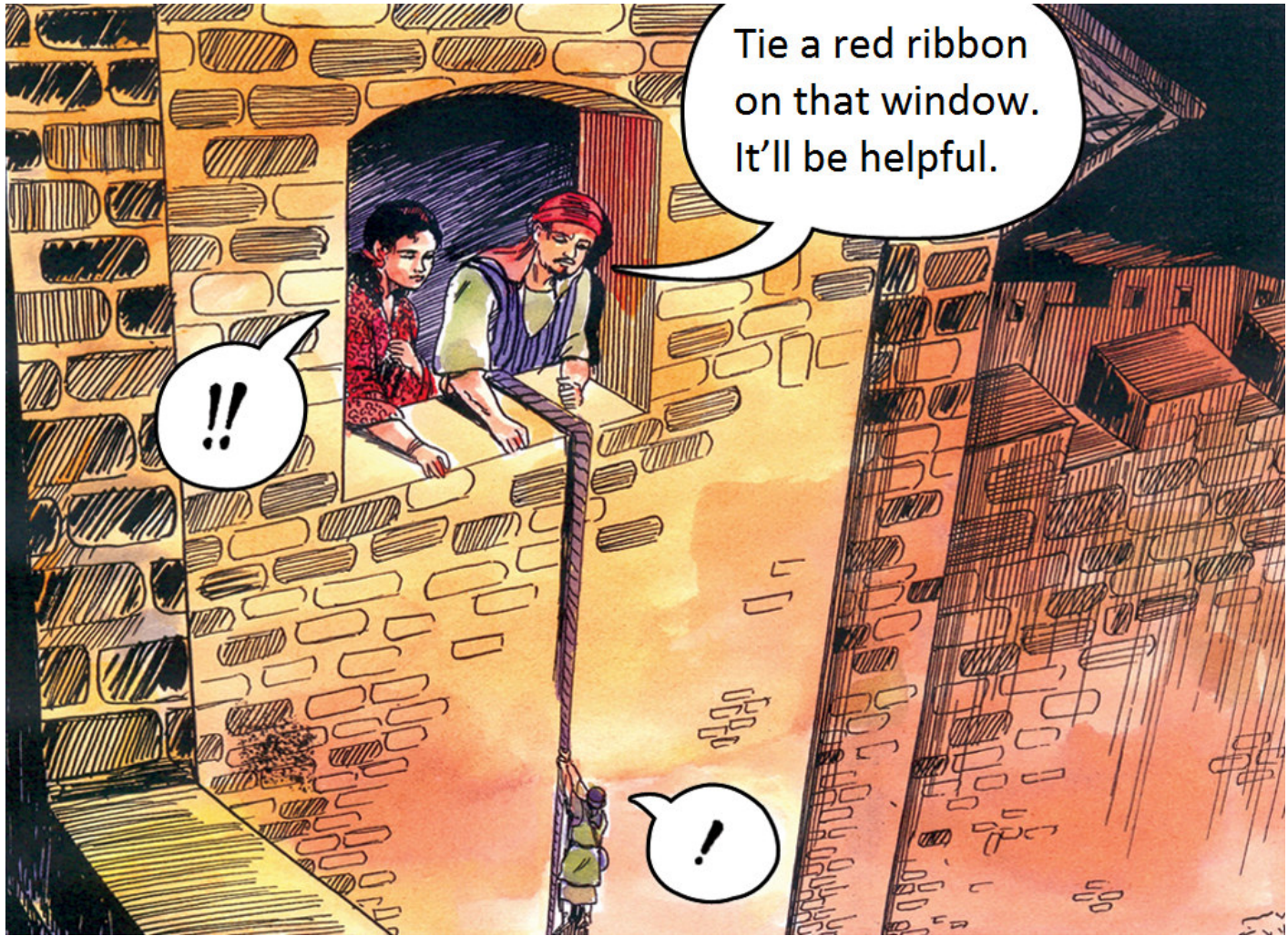




!

We will never forget this.

!



Tie a red ribbon on that window. It'll be helpful.

!!

!

The spies returned to Joshua.

Jericho is a big town surrounded by two huge walls, with a moat in between.

But, it's all made of clay.

!





The town folk are all
frightened.

Canaan is just
waiting for us.

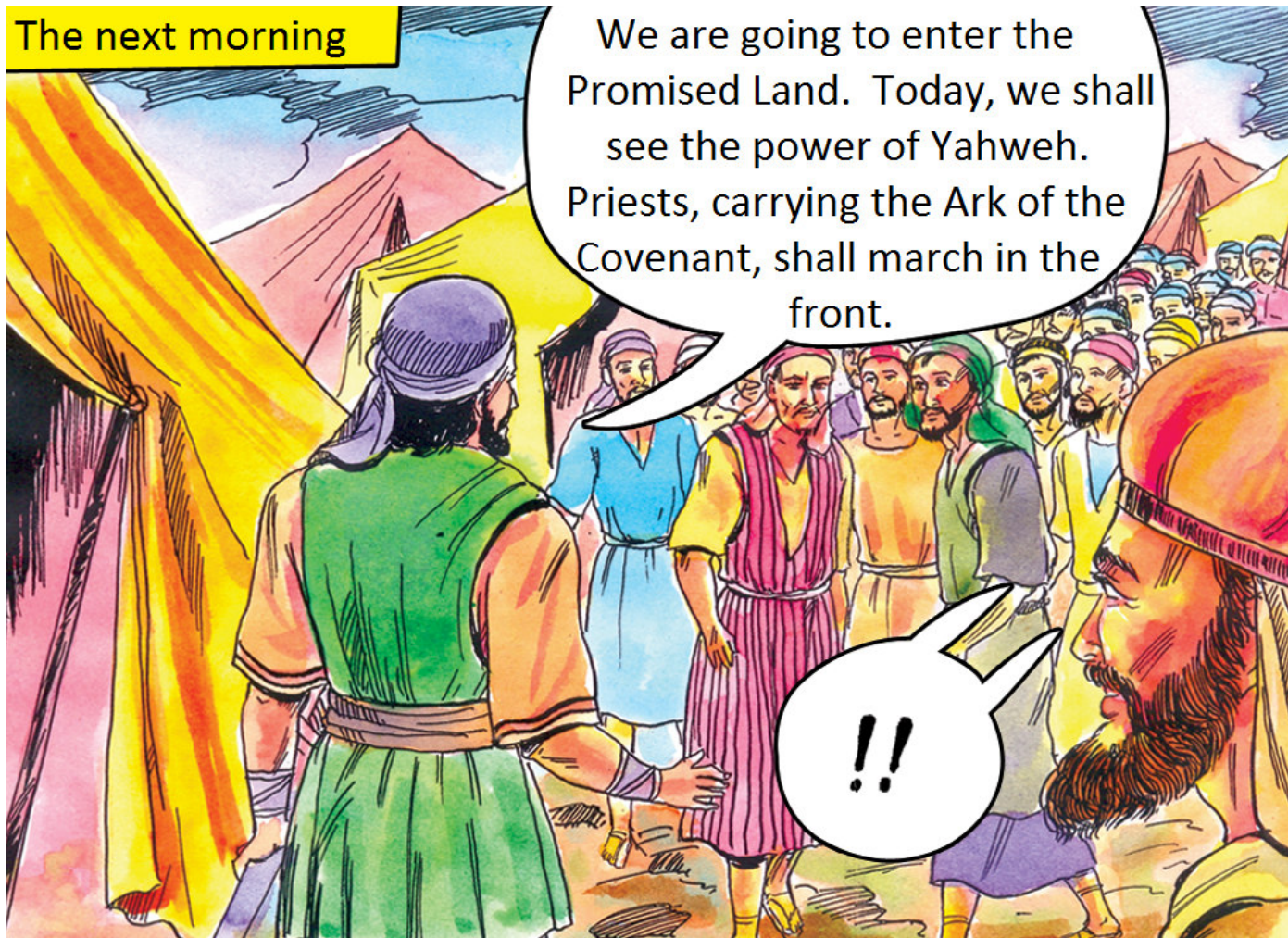
Praise and
honor to
Yahweh who
deigned to
give us a
land.



The next morning

We are going to enter the Promised Land. Today, we shall see the power of Yahweh. Priests, carrying the Ark of the Covenant, shall march in the front.

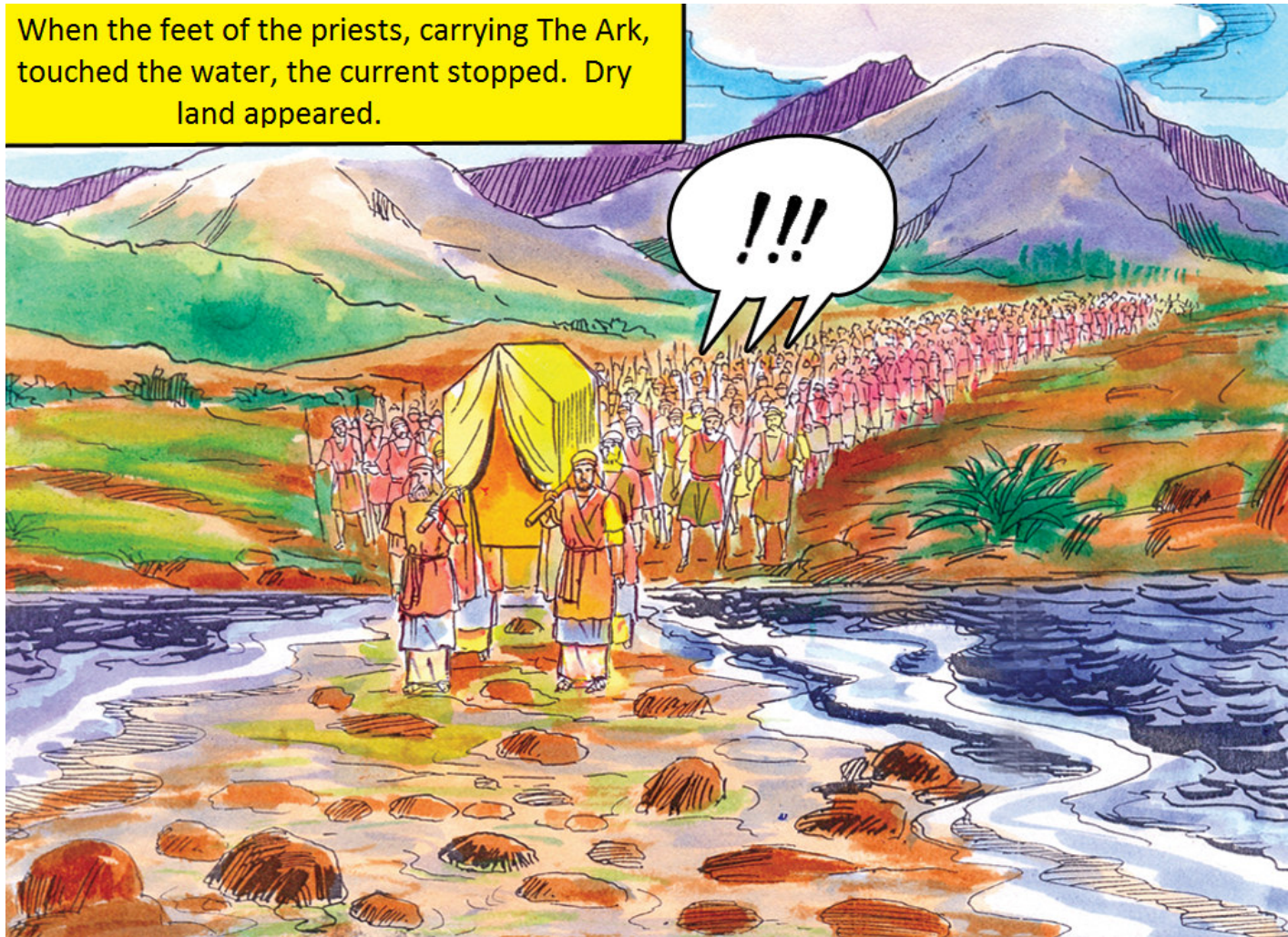
!!



They moved into Jordan.



When the feet of the priests, carrying The Ark, touched the water, the current stopped. Dry land appeared.



They picked up twelve stones from Jordan to build a monument.

This is to commemorate the path Yahweh formed for us in the river.

!!

!



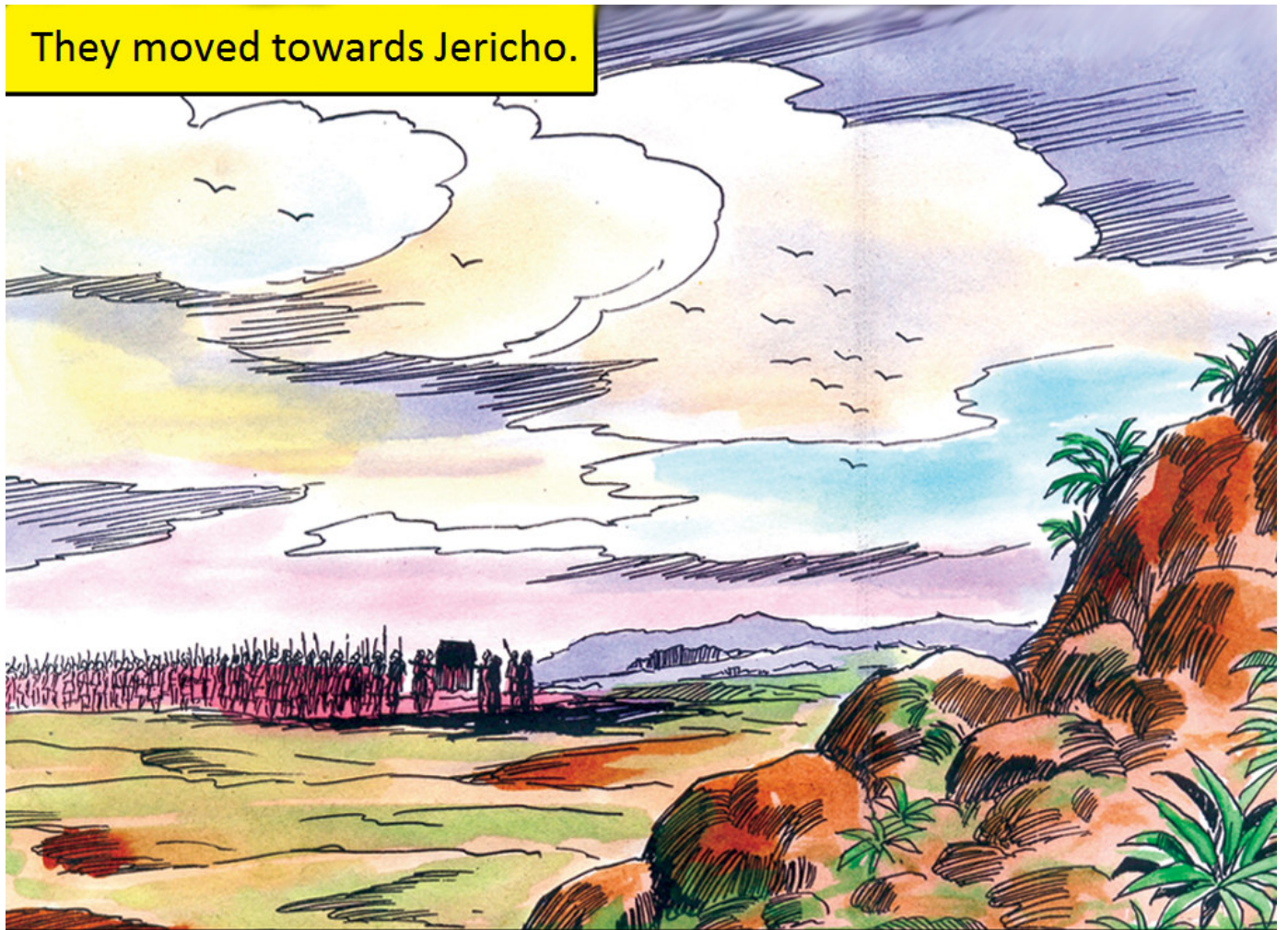
The next day, they encamped in Gilgal. All the men were circumcised.

This is the sign, in flesh, of the covenant Yahweh made with our fathers. By this, we proclaim our fidelity to the Lord, our God.

!!



They moved towards Jericho.



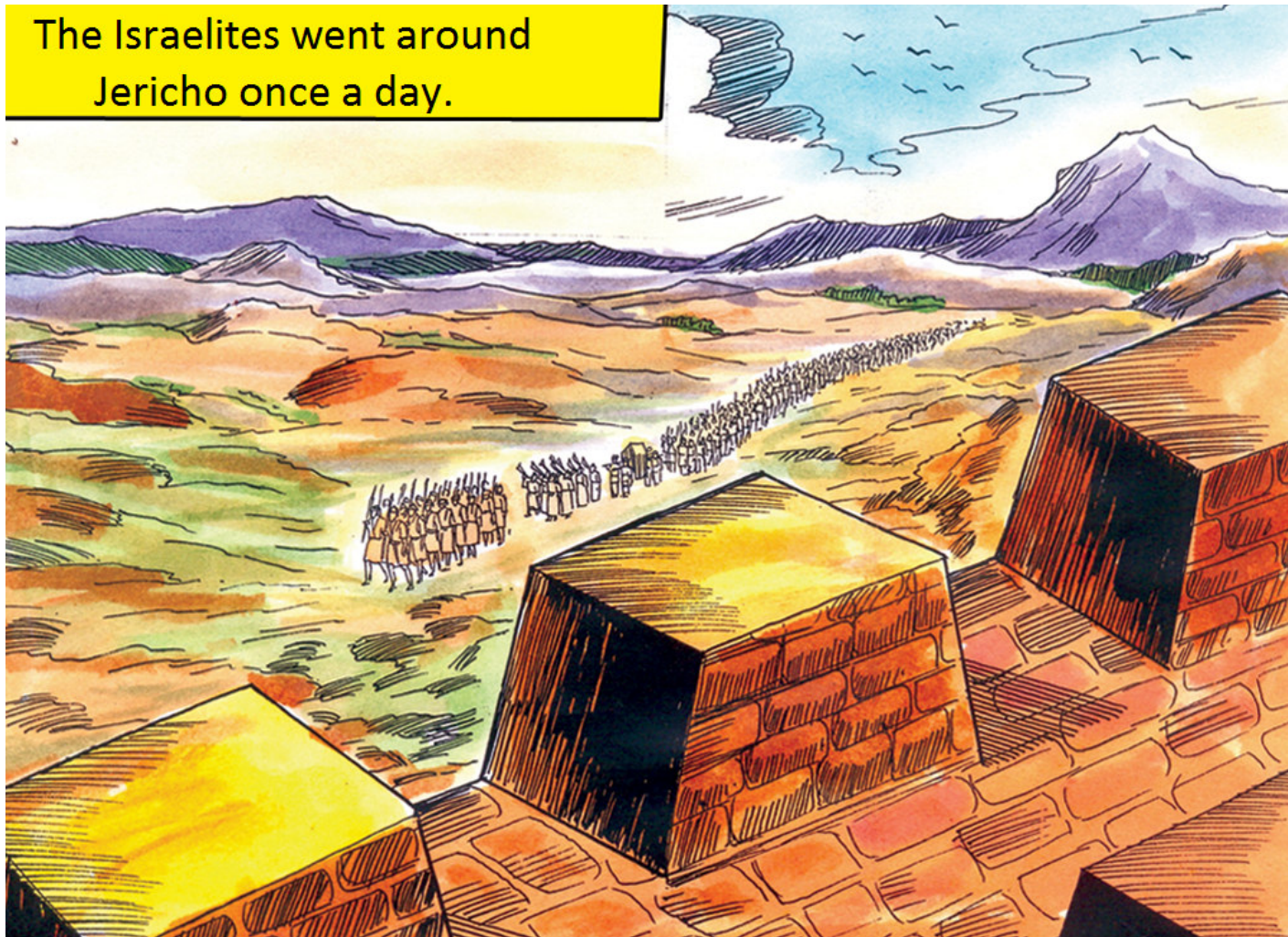


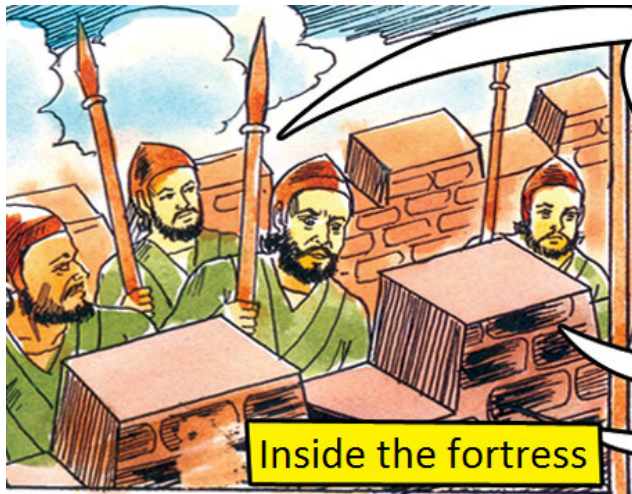
Who are you?

I am the captain of the army of Yahweh. I am sent to deliver Jericho into your hands.

!!

The Israelites went around
Jericho once a day.





Inside the fortress

What in the world is they doing, going round'n round the city?

May be looking for an opening.

Or, trying some Magic!



On the seventh day, they made seven rounds. When the priests blew the trumpets the walls came tumbling down.

Rush in, spare the house with the red ribbon on the window.

!!!!




At Rahab's house

Hurry!

We must get out immediately.

?

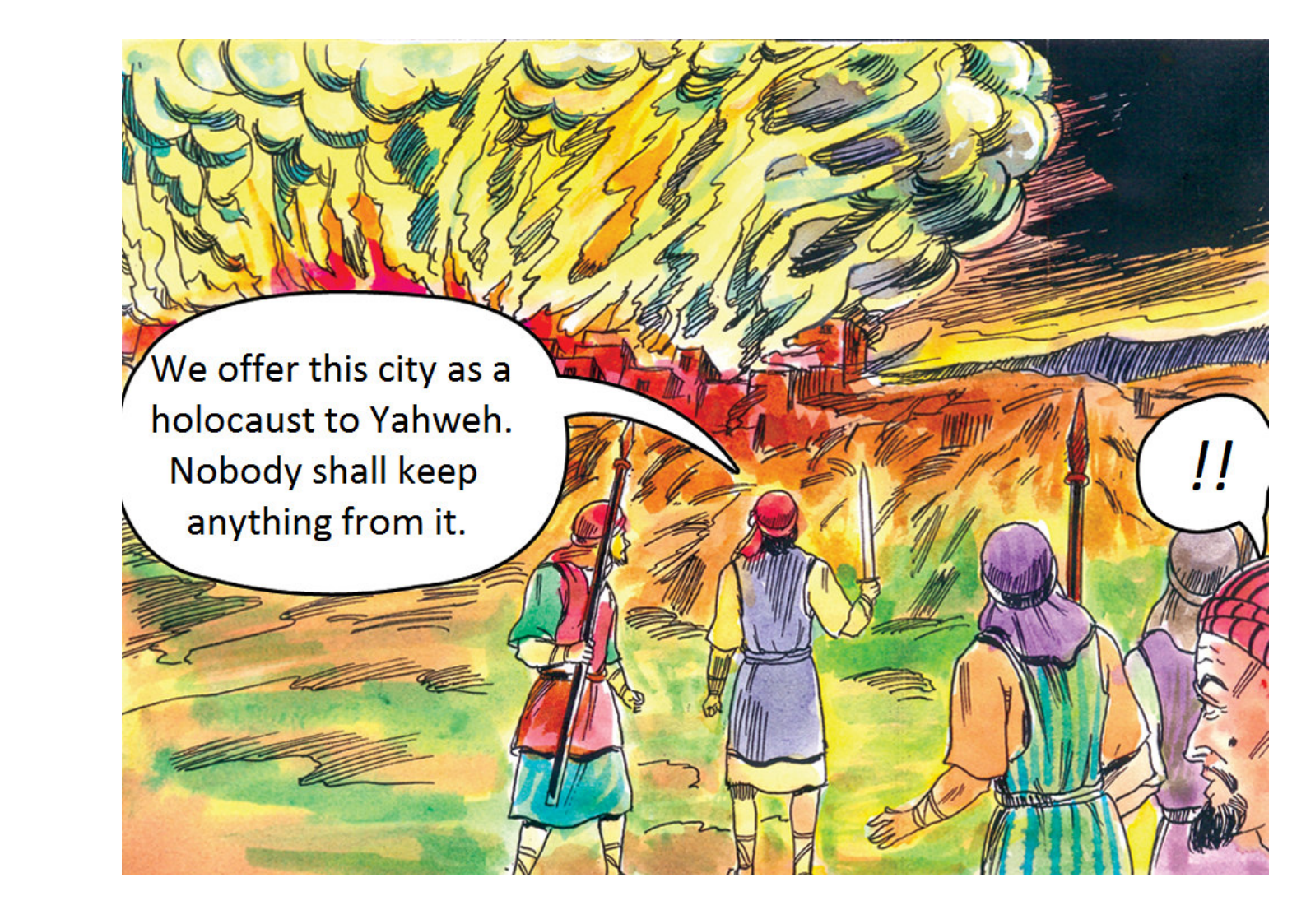




Look, we've kept
our word.

You will be counted
as one of our people.

Your God will
be my God too.

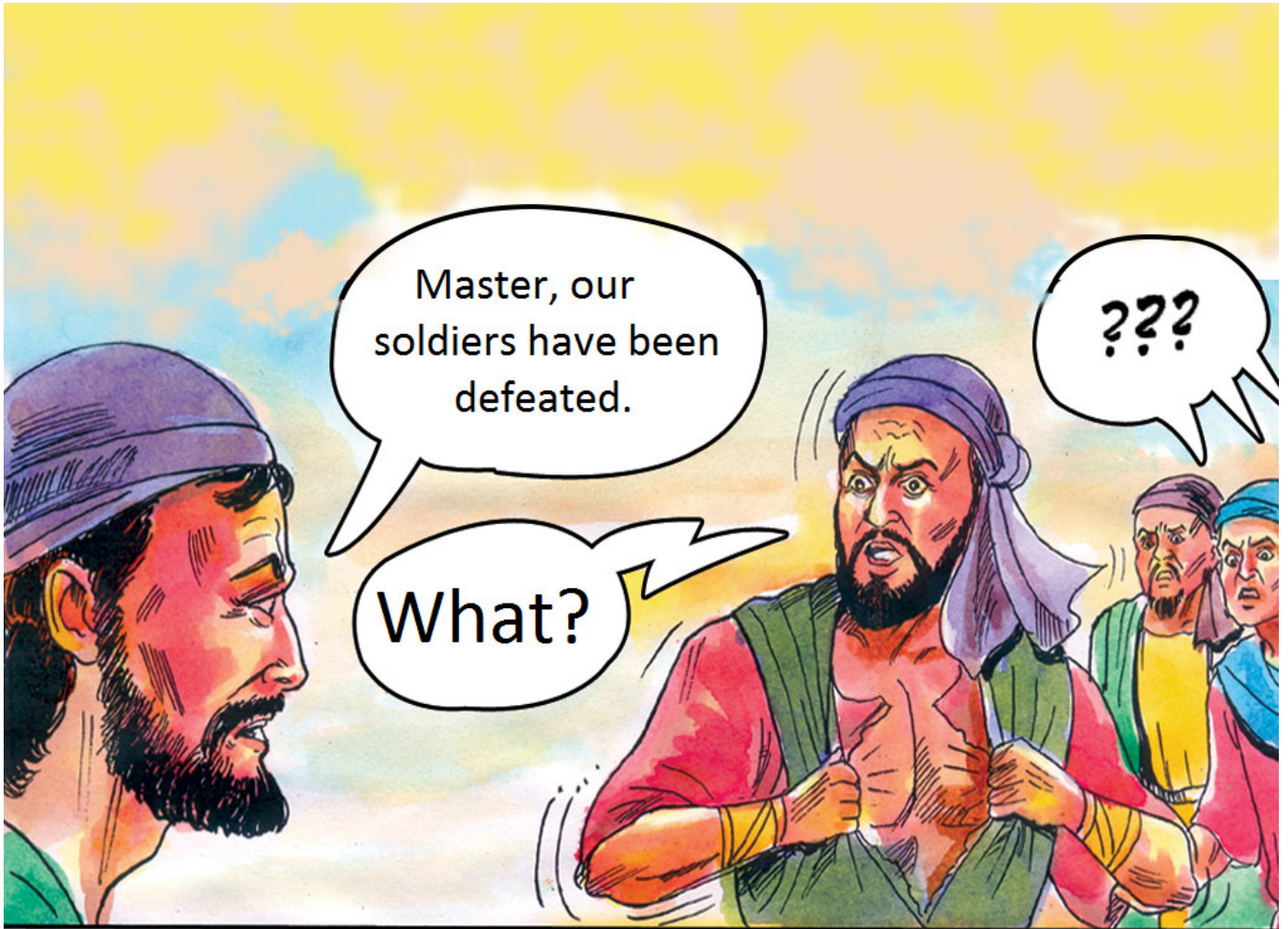


We offer this city as a
holocaust to Yahweh.
Nobody shall keep
anything from it.

!!

The next day Joshua sent three thousand soldiers to capture the neighboring town, Ai.





Master, our soldiers have been defeated.

What?

???

JOSHUA!

Lord, our God, you promised to wage the war for us. Why is it now that we are being defeated?

!



Among the Israelites

Did you hear, we lost the battle at Ai?

Three thousand men, too few to capture a town.

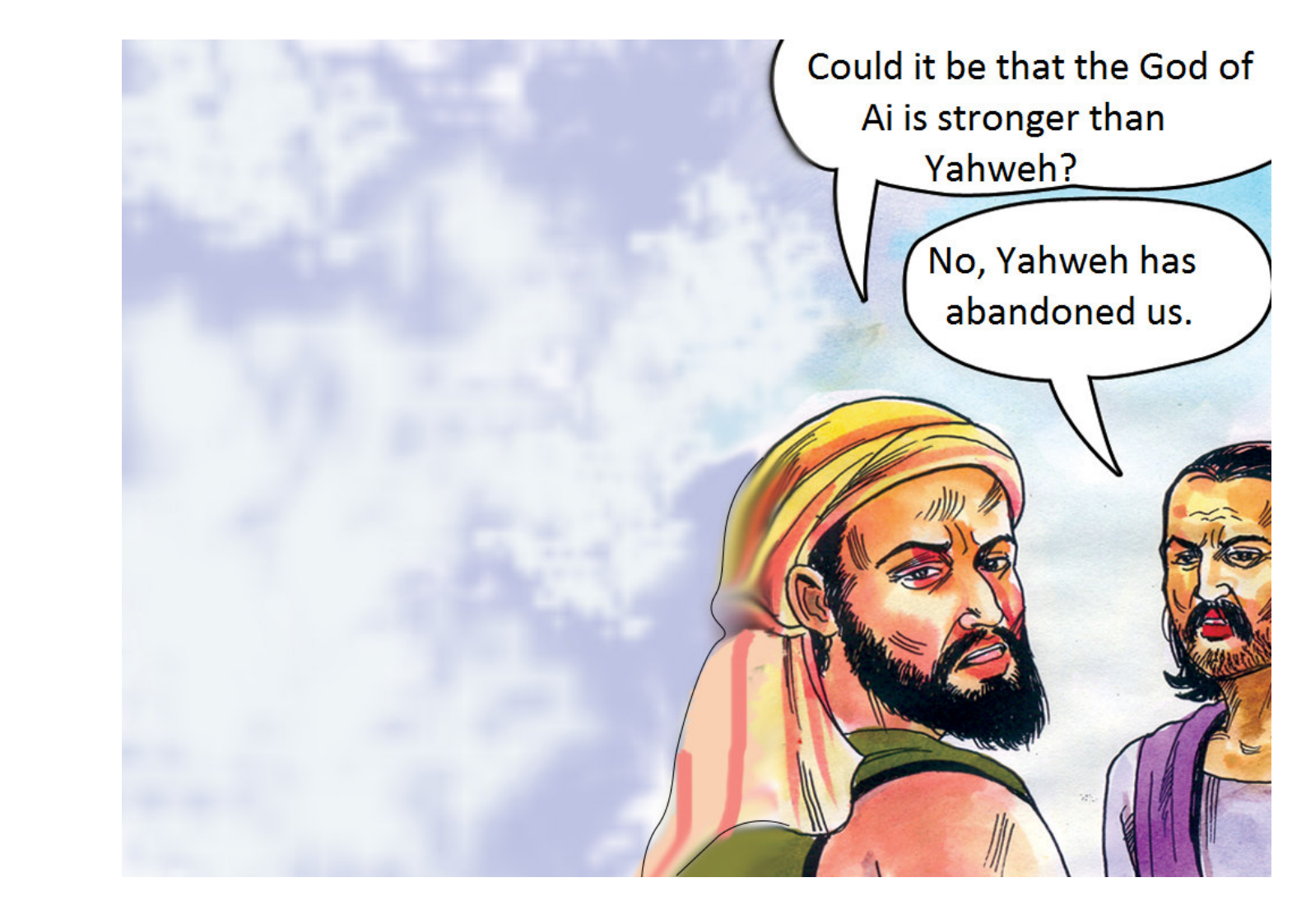


If we're defeated at
that small town.

Now, all will get
together and wipe
us out.

!?





Could it be that the God of
Ai is stronger than
Yahweh?

No, Yahweh has
abandoned us.

I bet, someone has sinned against Yahweh. We must find the culprit.

How can we, when we can't even know what the crime is?

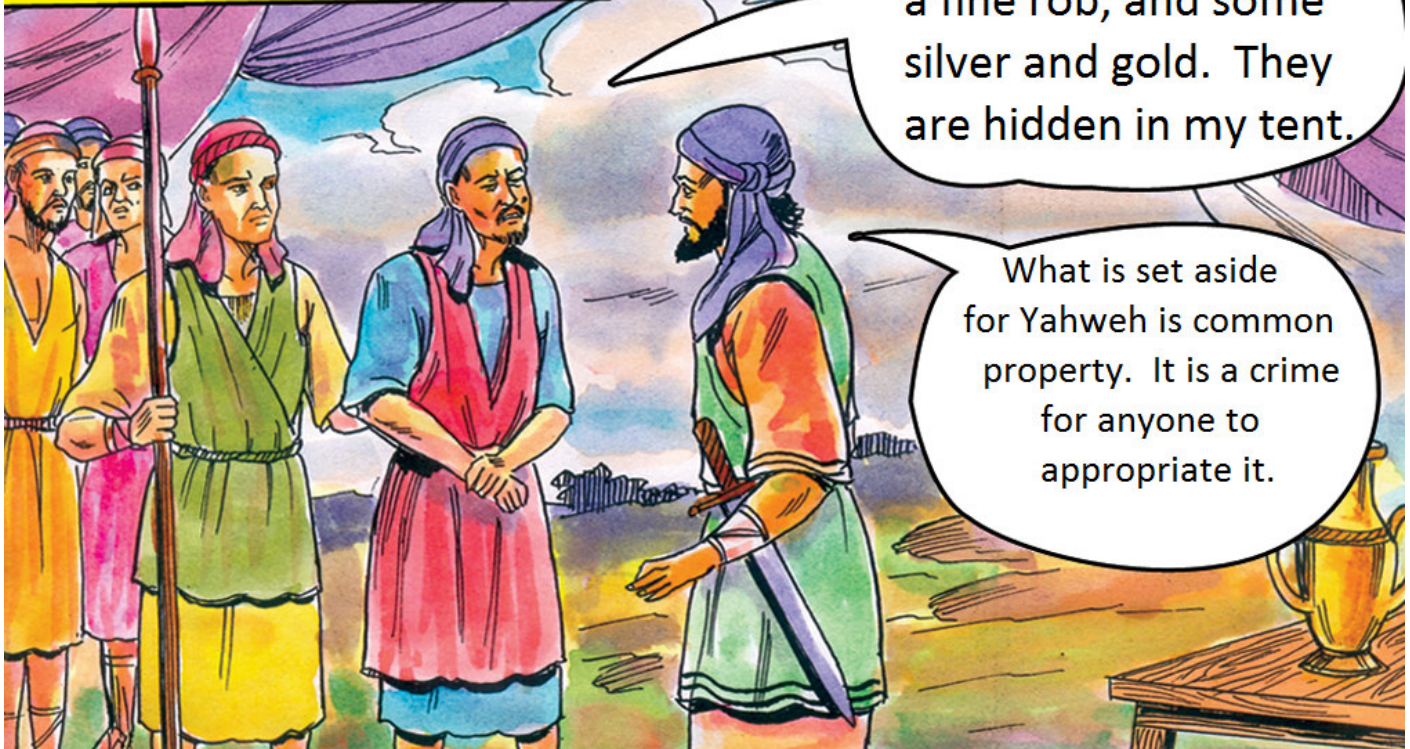


As commanded by Yahweh, Joshua gathered the people. The lot fell on Achan.

Achan, tell me, what have you done? Hold nothing back.

I took from the spoils a fine robe, and some silver and gold. They are hidden in my tent.

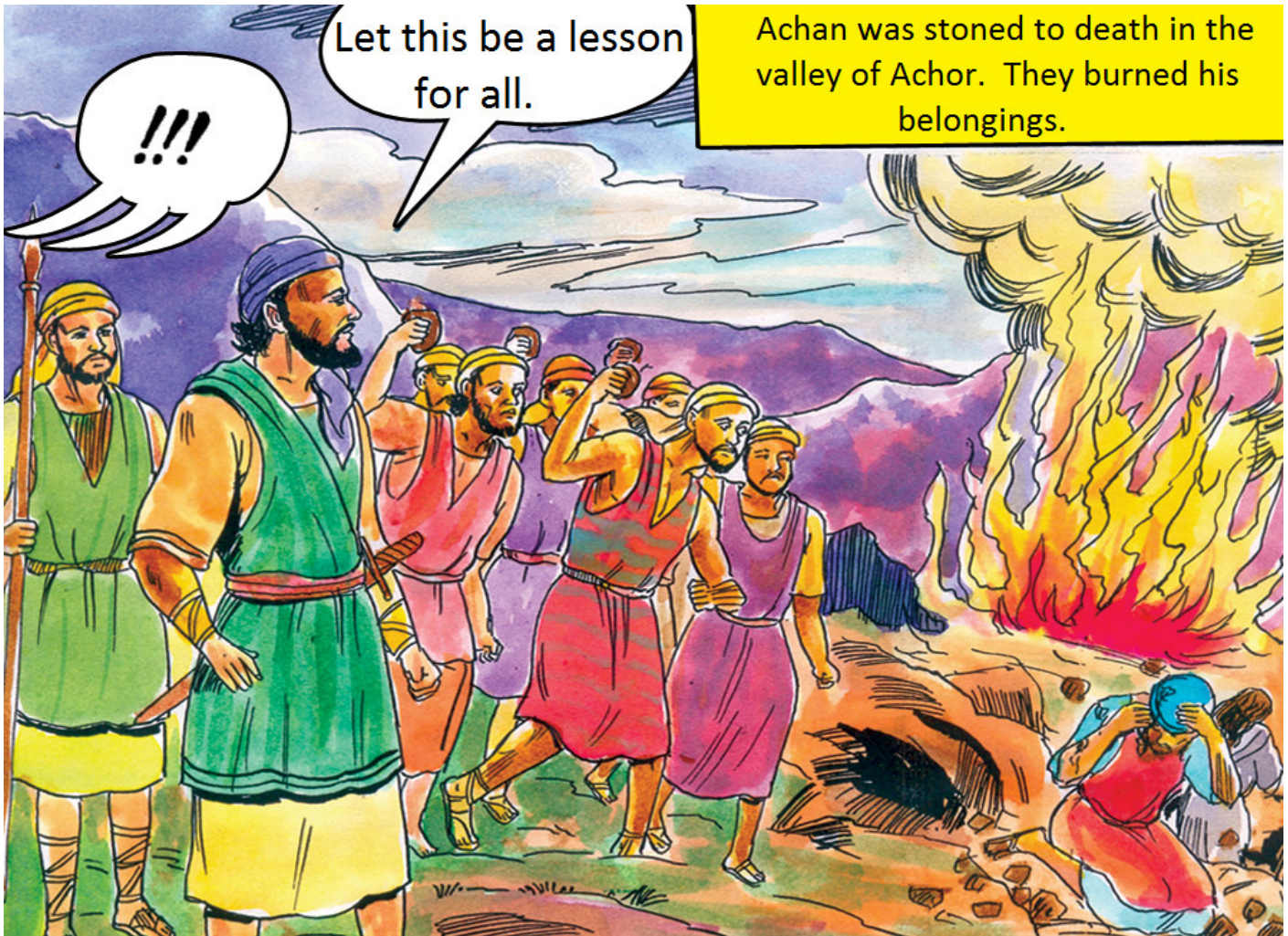
What is set aside for Yahweh is common property. It is a crime for anyone to appropriate it.



Let this be a lesson
for all.

Achan was stoned to death in the
valley of Achor. They burned his
belongings.

!!!



The next day Joshua set out against Ai with the whole army.



This time Yahweh will deliver the town into our hands. Just do what I tell you.

!!!

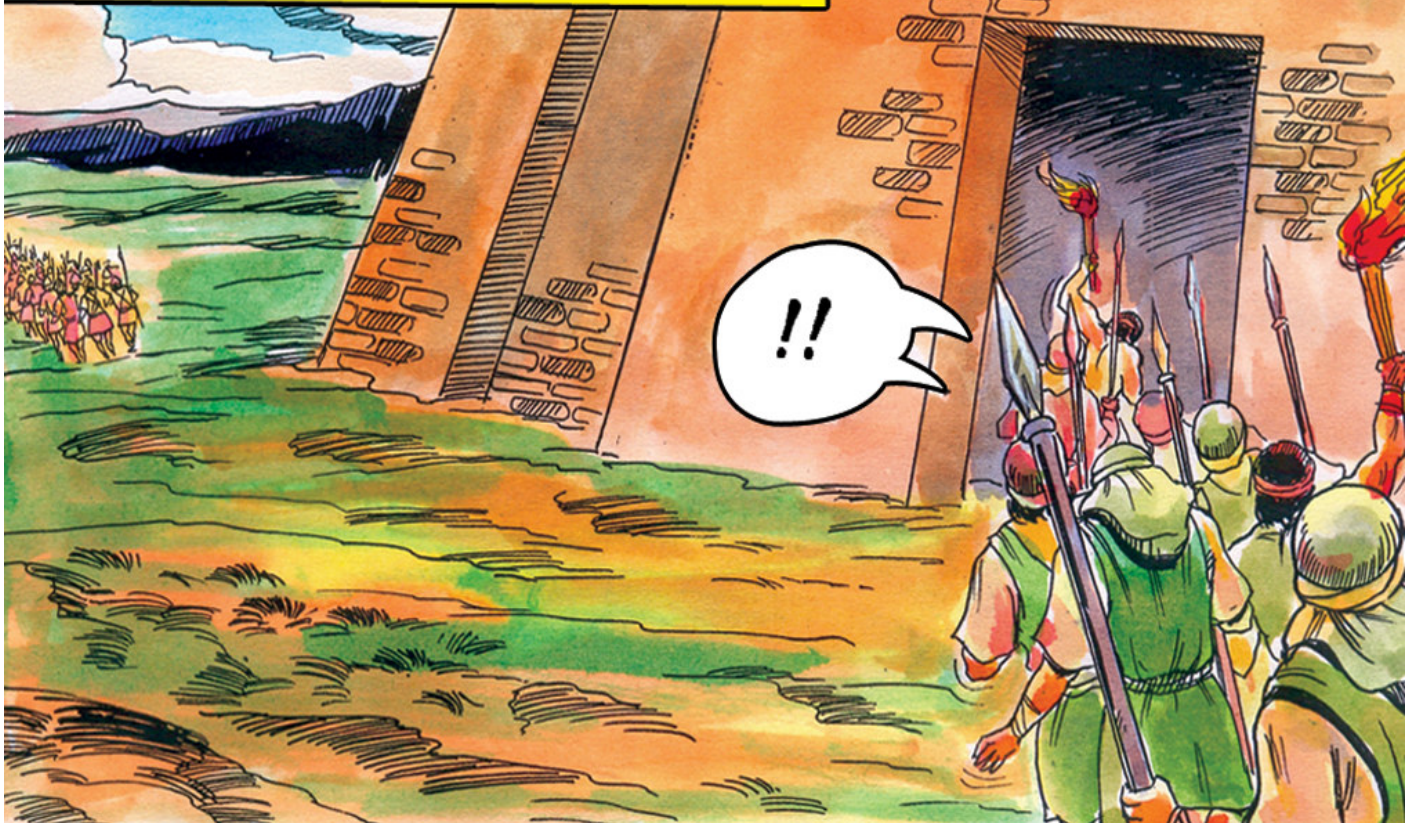
Joshua marched toward the city.

Turn back, run to
Jericho.

Chase them!
Destroy them!



When Ai soldiers followed the Israelites, leaving the city unguarded, the soldiers, Joshua had hidden behind, entered the city.



Then Joshua turned back.

???

We are finished!



Word spread about the conquests of the Israelites. The kings panicked. At the king's palace in Gibeon.

Will they agree?

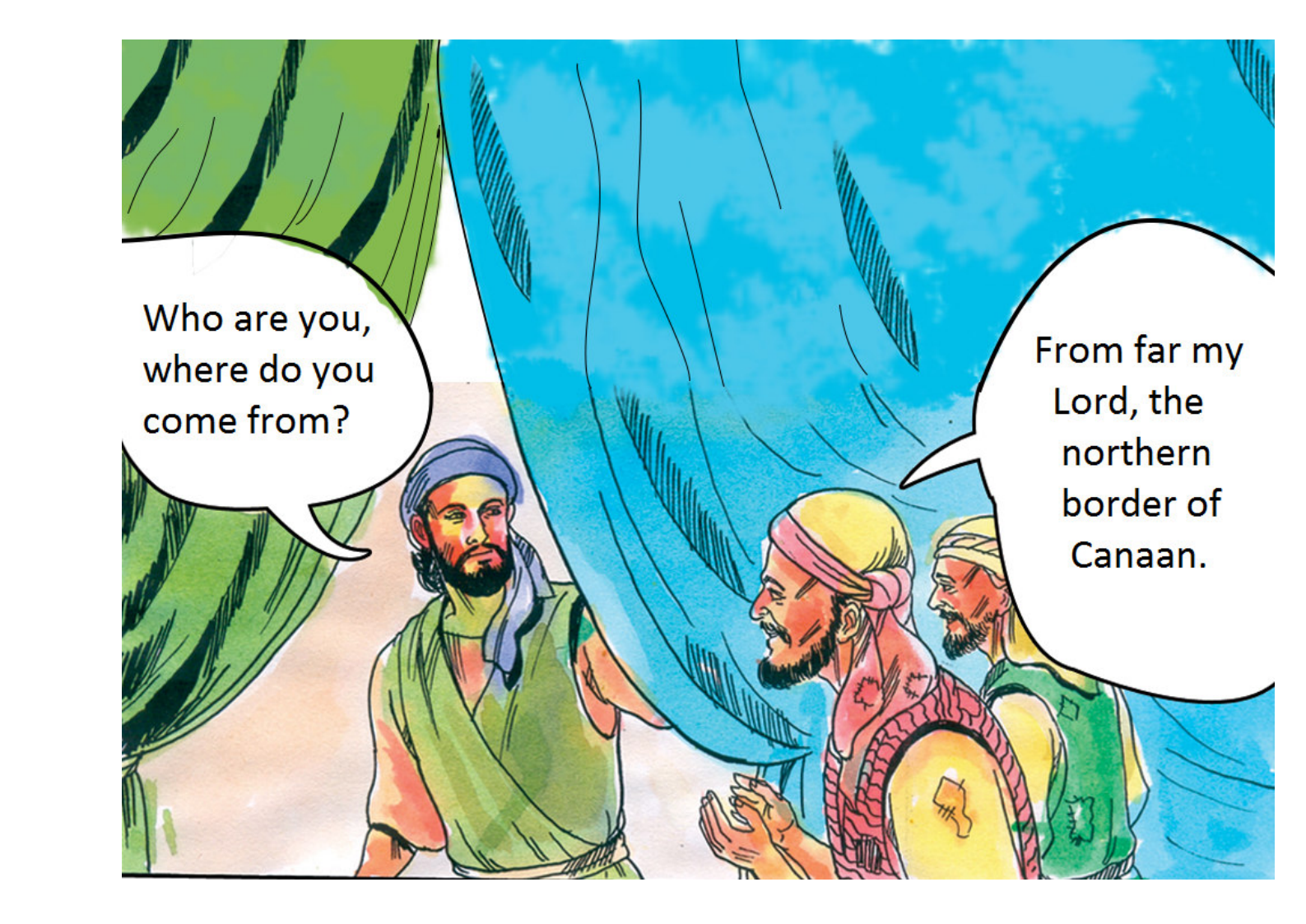
I have an idea!

I feel, we will be the next.

Let us make a treaty with the Israelites.


!





Who are you,
where do you
come from?

From far my
Lord, the
northern
border of
Canaan.

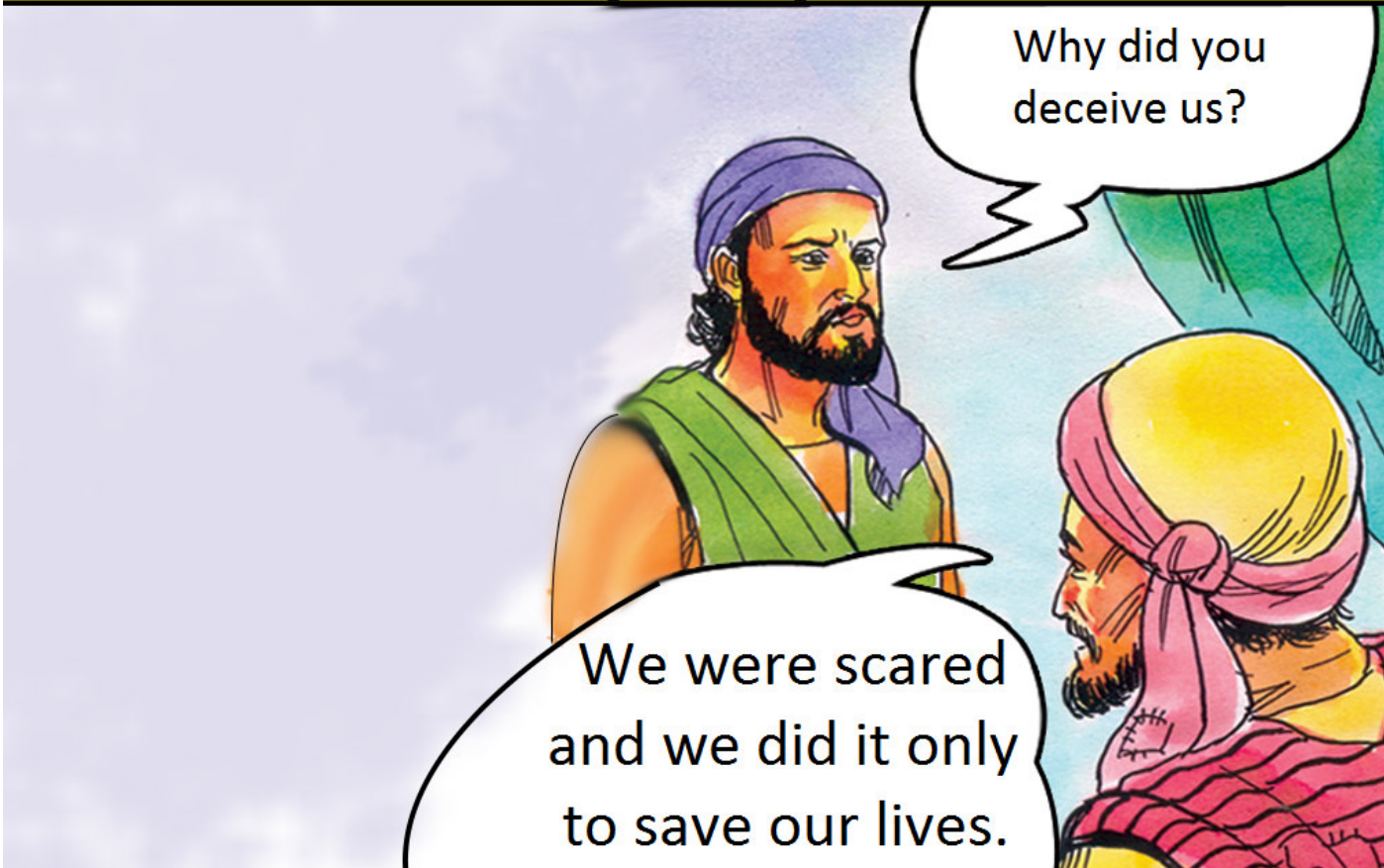


Will you make a treaty with us? We shall abide by the conditions you set.

All right, we will be friends.


!!

On the third day of the treaty, Joshua learned that they were from the neighboring town.



Why did you deceive us?

We were scared and we did it only to save our lives.



We shall keep our promise.
But, you will be our slaves
because you lied to us.

??

Hearing about this, the five kings in the neighboring regions got together.

If we let Israel go on like this...

If we fight alone, we'll be doomed.

Even our own people are joining them.

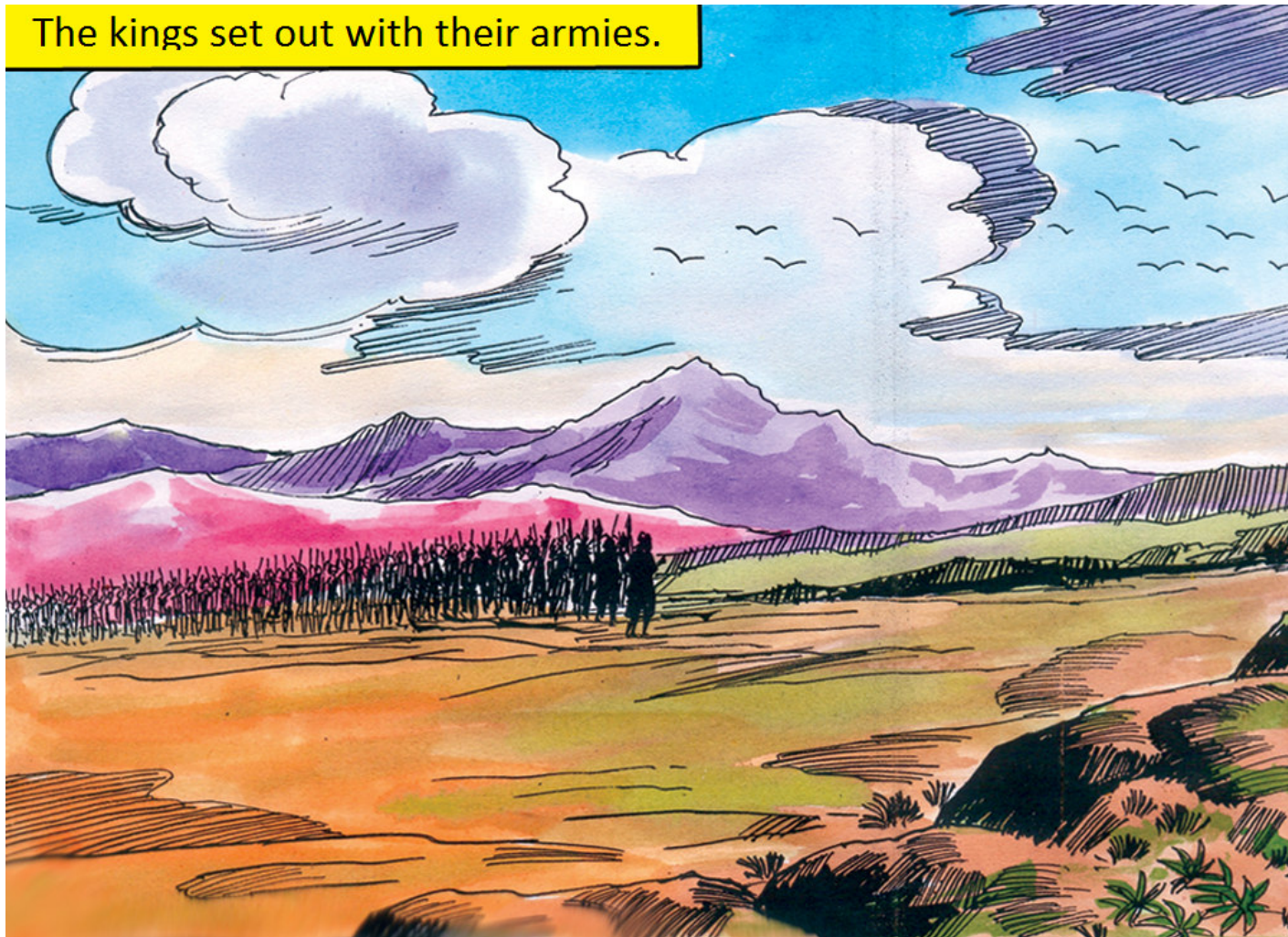
We must join forces and face the Israelites.

A direct confrontation will be fatal.

Let us attack and destroy Gibeon, Israelites must be isolated.



The kings set out with their armies.





Lord, save us.

Five kings are
moving against us.

Do not be afraid.
Yahweh will save
you.

!!

Joshua set out with the army. They marched all night and attacked the enemy before the daybreak.



Sir, the five kings are
hiding in a cave at
Makkedah.

Close the mouth
of the save with
huge rock.



Lord God, Do not let
the sun set before we
win the war.

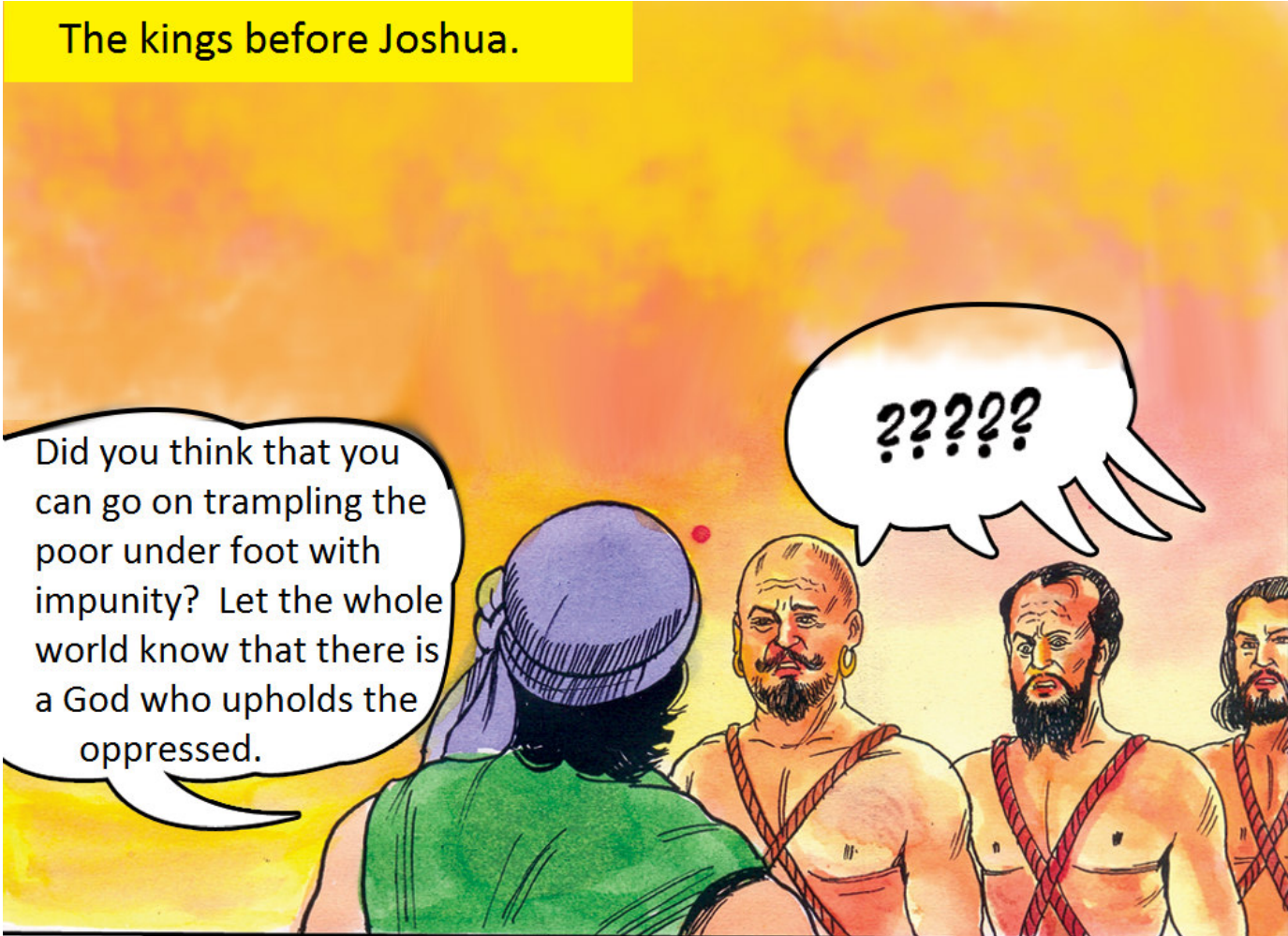


Yahweh heard
Joshua's plea.
Before sunset Israel
won the battle.

Bring out the
kings.



The kings before Joshua.



Did you think that you can go on trampling the poor under foot with impunity? Let the whole world know that there is a God who upholds the oppressed.

?????



Faced with the threat of Israel, all the kings north of the Red Sea and south of Mount Hermon, held an emergency meeting.

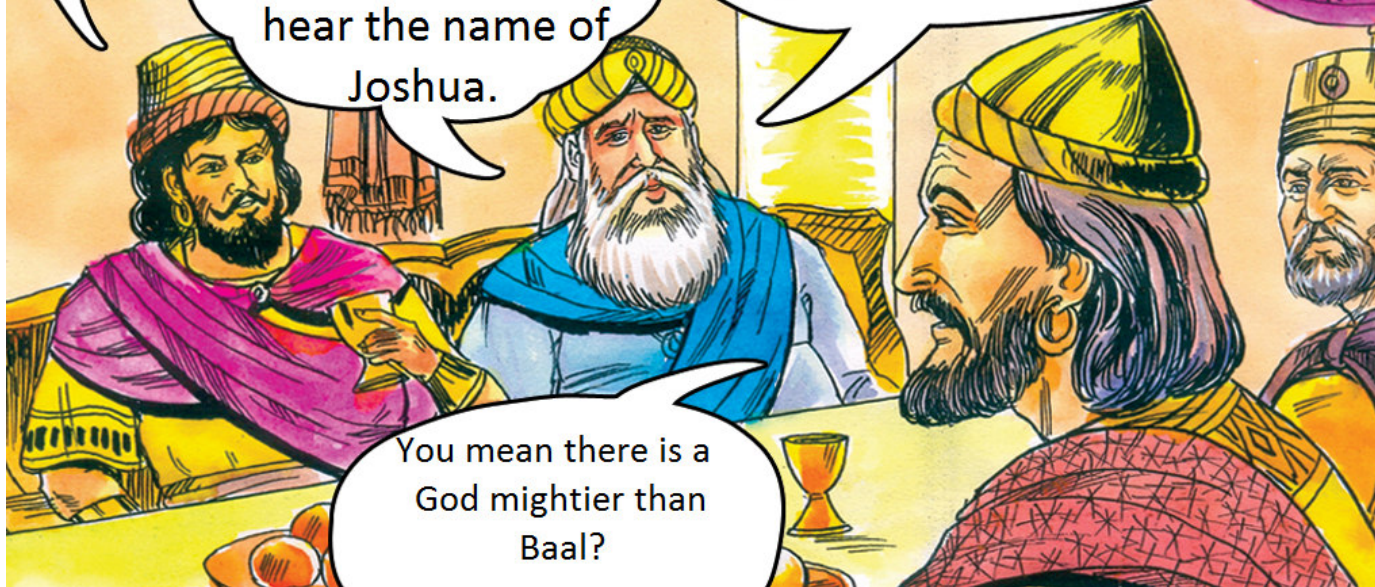
If Israel keeps this up, we all will perish.

Soldiers seem to freeze when they hear the name of Joshua.

They say it is a God called Yahweh who is fighting for them. They claim that it is the God of the poor and the slaves.

You mean there is a God mightier than Baal?

They destroy everything on the way.

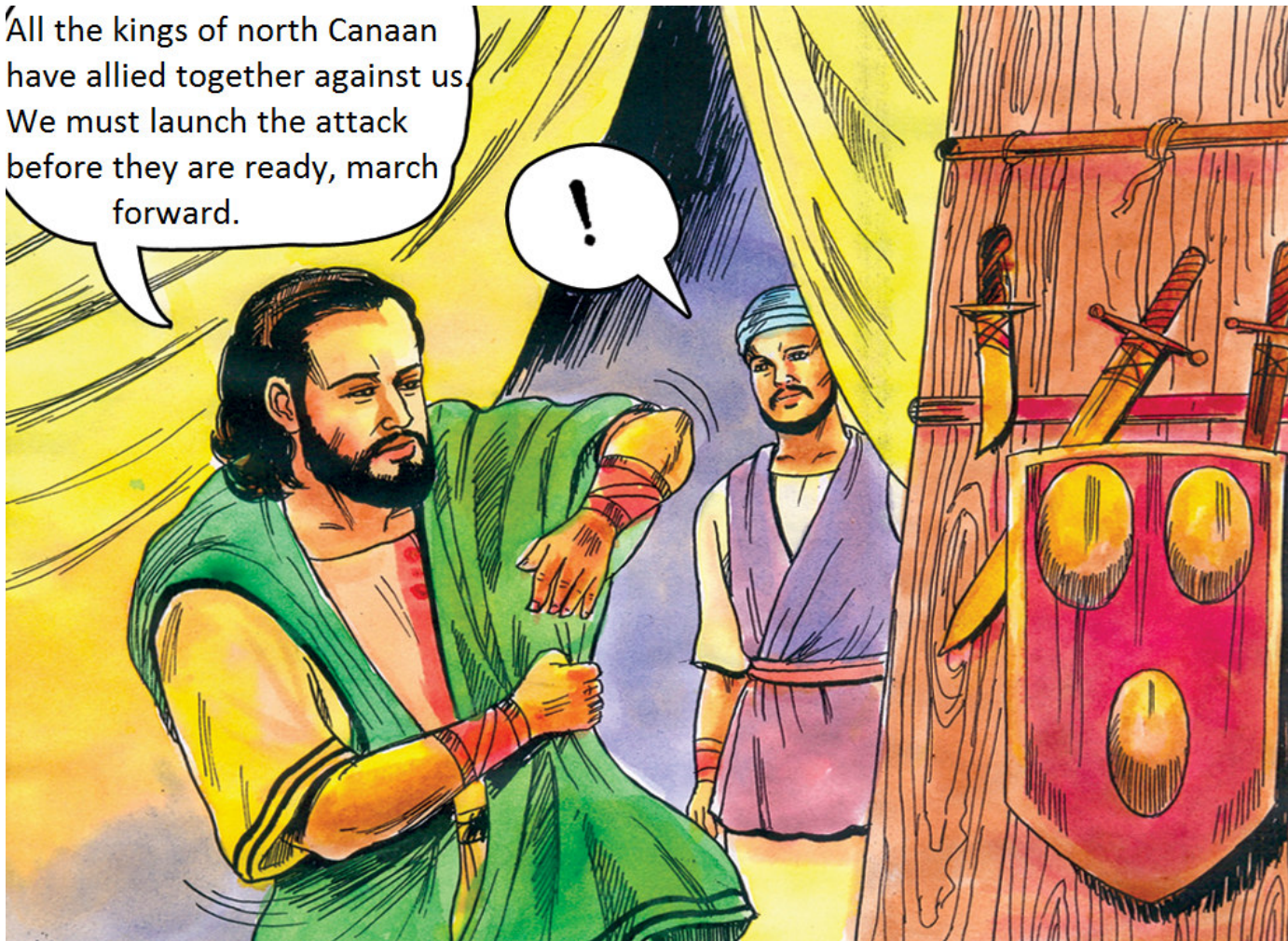


All the Baal worshippers must get together against them. We'll show them the might of the god of the kings.

Let us join forces against Joshua.



All the kings of north Canaan
have allied together against us.
We must launch the attack
before they are ready, march
forward.

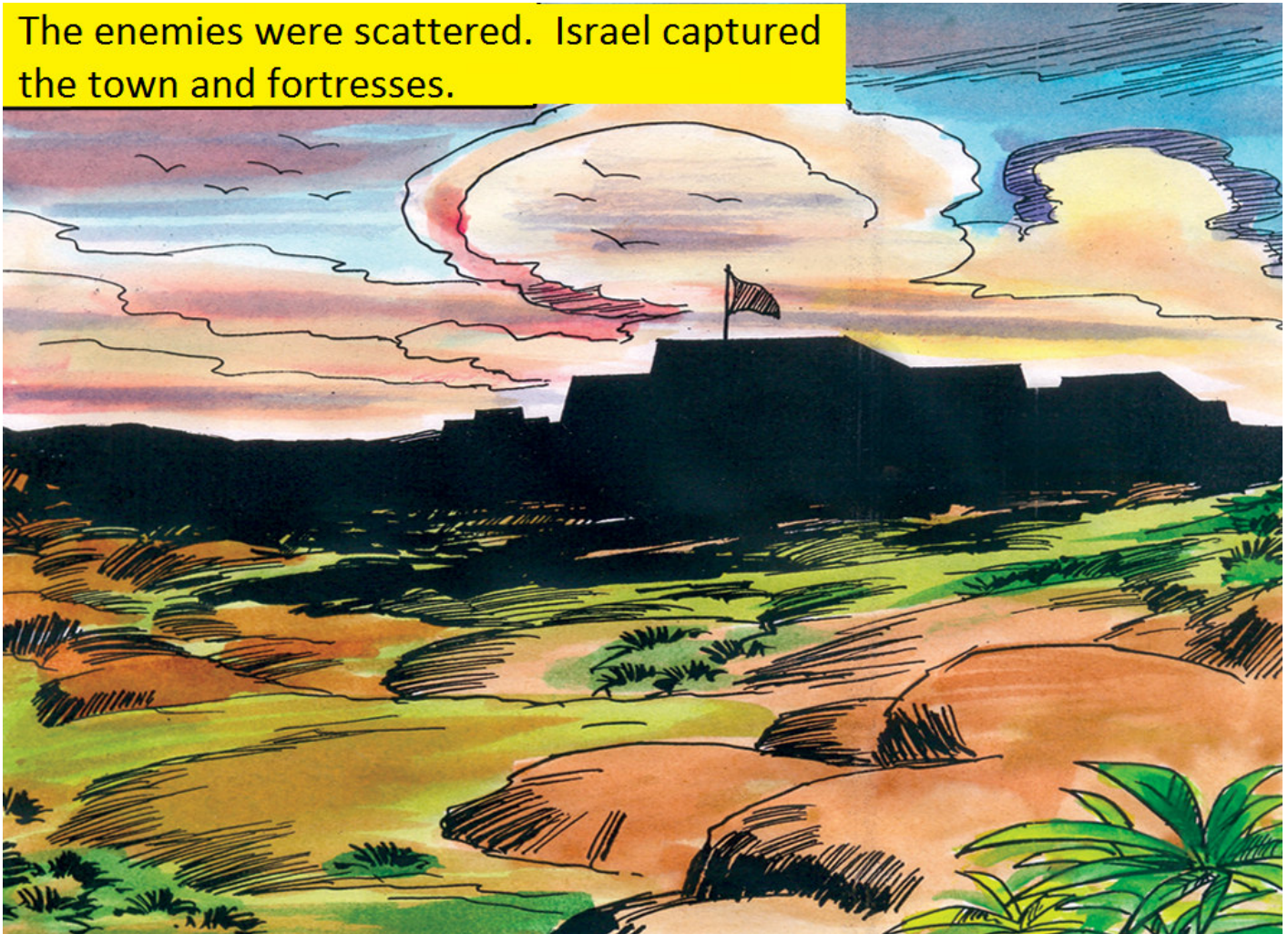




There, you see the
enemies encamped.
Attack!



The enemies were scattered. Israel captured the town and fortresses.

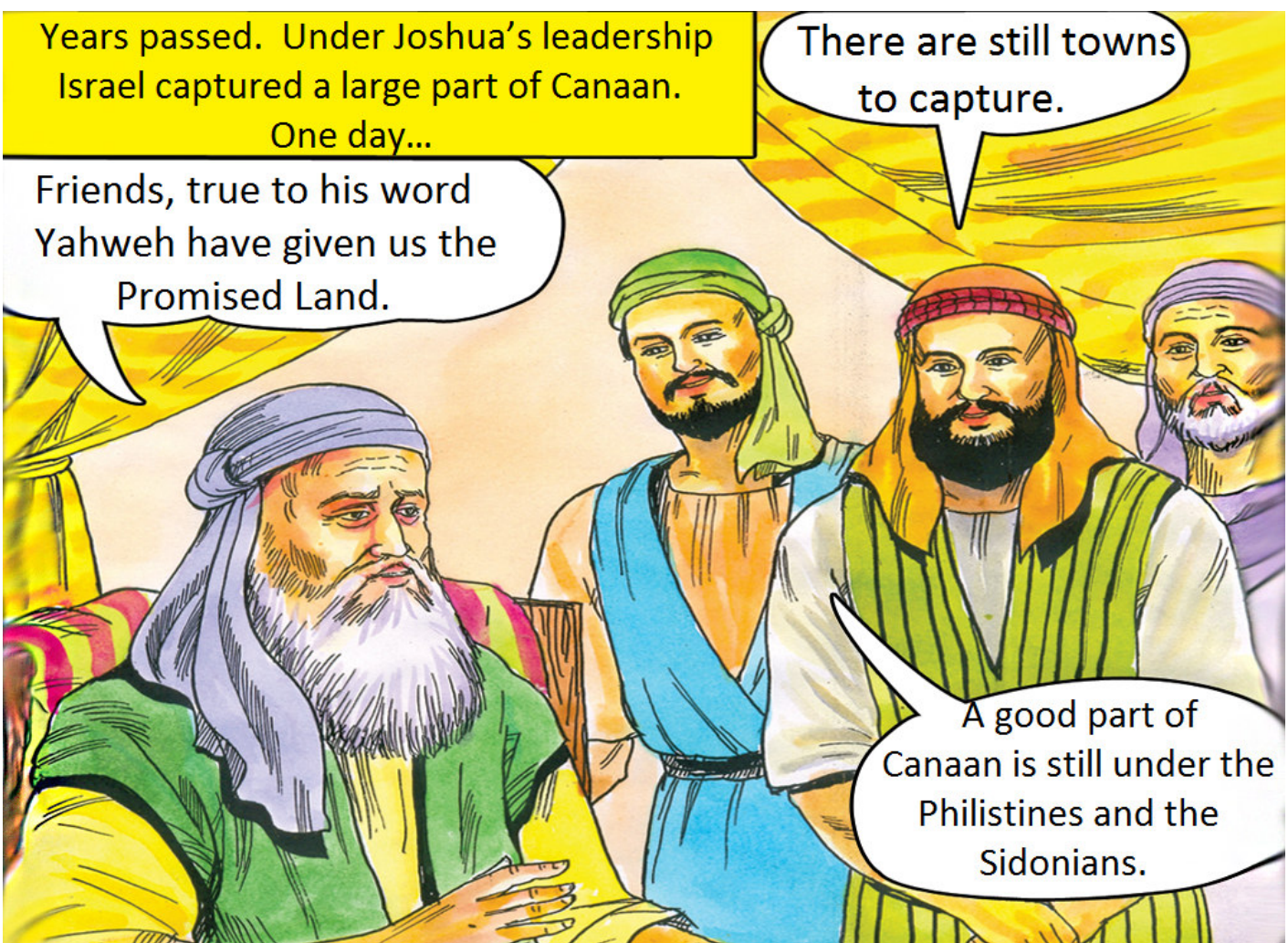


Years passed. Under Joshua's leadership
Israel captured a large part of Canaan.
One day...

Friends, true to his word
Yahweh have given us the
Promised Land.

There are still towns
to capture.

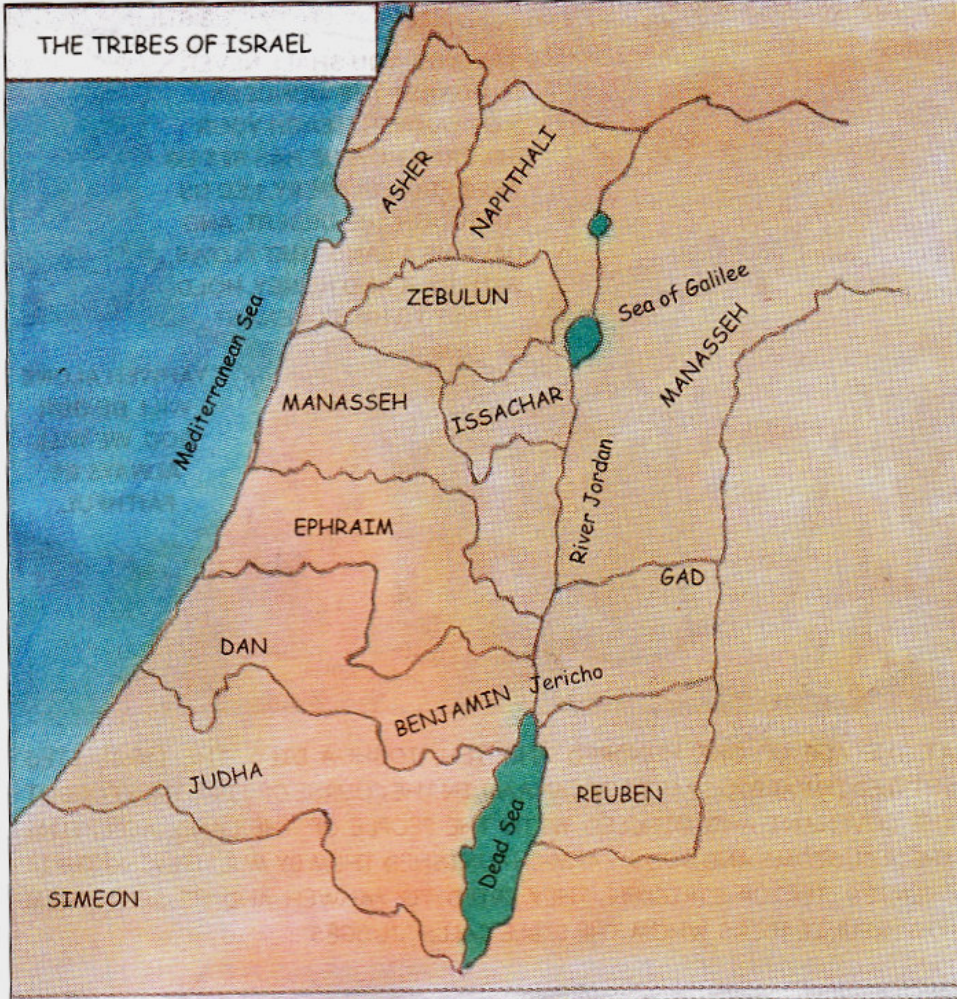
A good part of
Canaan is still under the
Philistines and the
Sidonians.



Eventually Yahweh will
hand them over to us.
For now, the land we
conquered shall be
divided among the
twelve tribes of Israel.



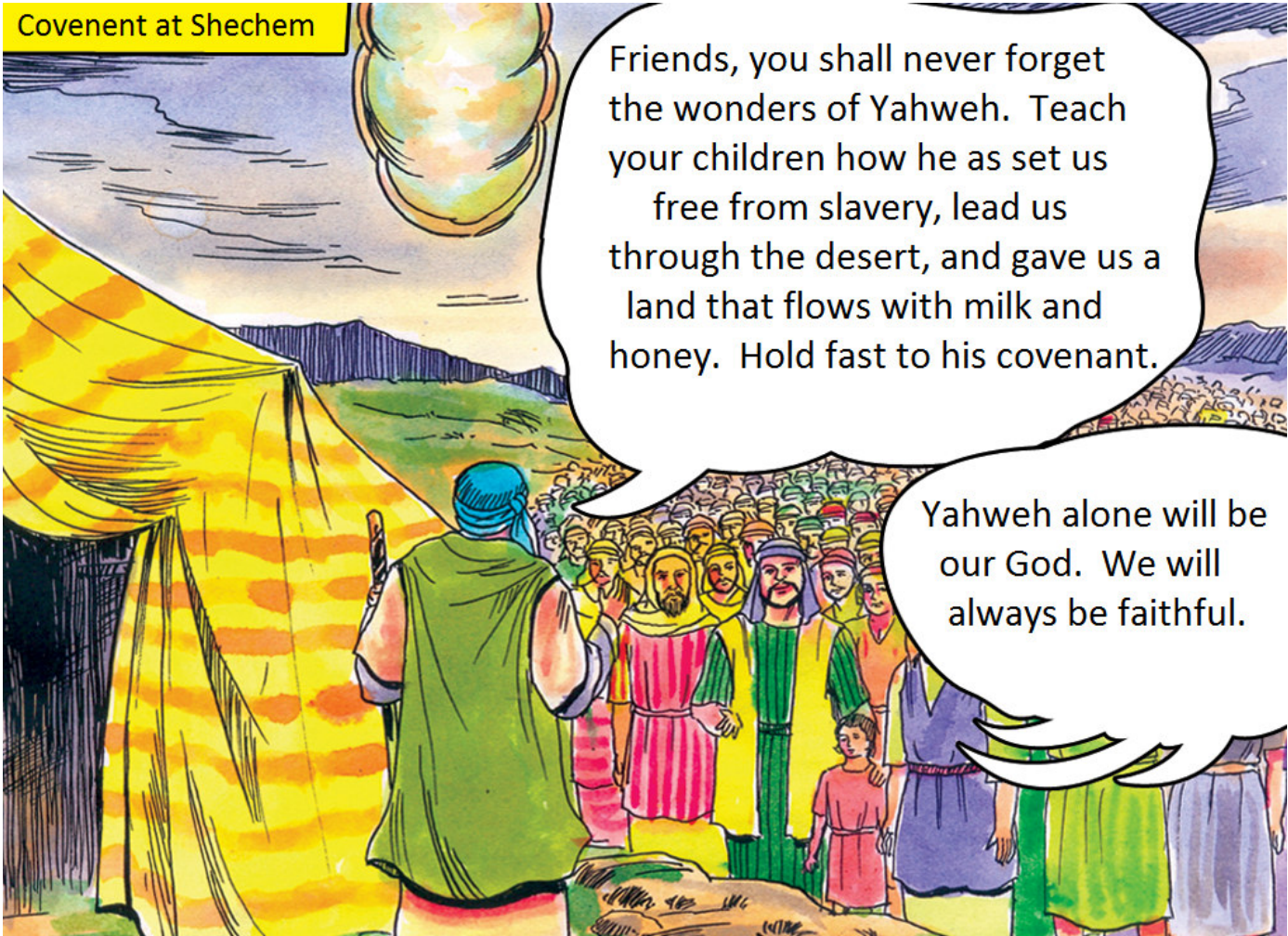
THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL





My time is up. Yahweh will continue to show you the way. Let us gather at Shechem and renew the covenant.

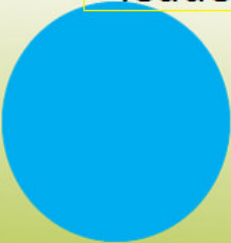
Covenant at Shechem



Friends, you shall never forget the wonders of Yahweh. Teach your children how he has set us free from slavery, lead us through the desert, and gave us a land that flows with milk and honey. Hold fast to his covenant.

Yahweh alone will be our God. We will always be faithful.

At the age of hundred and ten, Joshua died. The Israelites settled in various parts of Canaan. In the course of time they forgot the covenant and mingled with the people of the land, accepting their customs and gods. Yahweh punished them by multiplying their enemies. Terror-stricken, they cried to Yahweh and he sent them powerful leaders whom the Bible calls "Judges".



Next Story

SAMSON



QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the name Joshua?
2. Not all of those who set out from Egypt entered Canaan. Why?
3. Give the name of the woman who protected the Israelite spies.
4. What was the sin of Achan?
5. What message did Joshua want to convey by hanging the five kings?
6. Why was Joshua ordered to exterminate the Canaanites?
7. Which are the twelve tribes to whom Joshua gave the land?
8. Why was the tribe of Levi given no inheritance in the land?
9. It was Yahweh who brought victory to Israel, illustrate with an example.
10. Joshua is the prototype of Jesus. Explain

THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN COMICS

01. CAIN AND ABEL

02. ABRAHAM

03. JACOB

04. JOSEPH

05. MOSES

06. JOSHUA

07. SAMSON

08. RUTH

09. SAMUEL

10. SAUL

11. DAVID

12. KING DAVID

13. SOLOMON

14. ELIJAH

15. AMOS

16. HOSEA

17. MICAH

18. ISAIAH

19. JEREMIAH

20. EZEKIEL

21. ZECHARIAH

22. JONAH

23. JOB

24. TOBIT

25. DANIEL

26. SUSANNA

27. ESTHER

28. JUDITH

29. MACCABEUS

30. THE MACCABEES

31. A WORLD A WAITING

32. THE LIGHT OF
THE WORLD

33. HERALD

34. THE PROPHET

35. THE LIBERATOR

36. THE ONE TO COME

37. THE LORD OF
THE UNIVERSE

38. SON OF GOD

39. SON OF MAN

40. IN THE SHADOW
OF THE CROSS

41. THE WAY

42. SON OF DAVID

43. BREAD OF LIFE

44. THE REDEEMER

45. WITH US FOREVER

46. TONGUES OF FIRE

47. BAPTISM IN BLOOD

48. THE CHOSEN
VESSEL

49. THE LIBATION

50. COME LORD
JESUS!

51. THE WOMEN