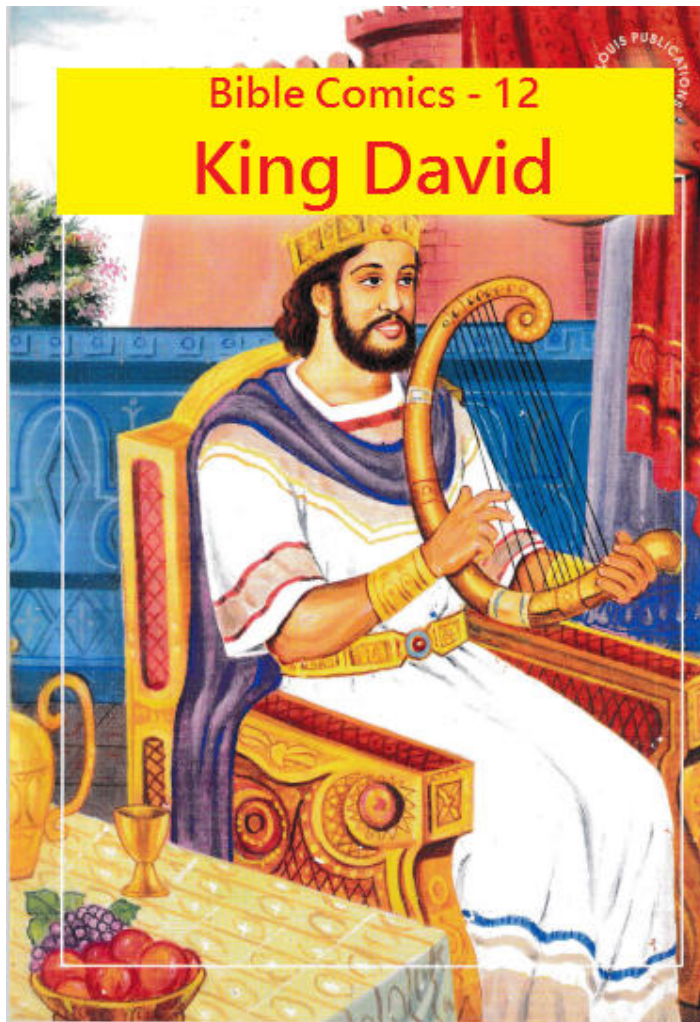


Bible Comics - 12
King David



Bible Comics - 12

King David

Script

Rev. Dr. Michale Karimmattam

Illustration

Devassy

KING DAVID

When David was enthroned in Hebron, Israel was in the midst of a crisis. The Philistines were preparing to wipe out the name of Israel from the face of the earth. Other surrounding nations tried to capture at least a portion of her land. Internal crisis was no less serious. Only the tribe of Judah had acclaimed David king. All the other tribes had rallied behind Ishbosheth, a son of Saul.

It was David who saved Israel from the verge of a total collapse and built her up into a mighty empire. His first priority was the unification of all the tribes. With the support of the whole nation he defeated the enemies one by one. He could not only withstand the Philistine attacks but even conquer their territories and reduce them into vassalage. He ruled Israel for forty years (B.C. 1010-970).

David himself captured Jerusalem, the Jebusite fortress, and made it his capital. Since it

belonged to no one of the tribes, all the tribes had equal rights there. As the Ark of the Covenant was brought in, it became the religious and cultic centre of Israel. In the course of time, Jerusalem came to be known as the City of God, the Holy City, and Mother Zion.

David was a man of deep faith and trust. It was he who instituted regular worship in the tent of the Ark with priests and Levites to attend to the rituals. He himself wrote many hymns and composed music for the worship. David has

played an important role in establishing and spreading Yahweh-worship in Israel. He attributed all his success and achievements to Yahweh.

In many respects David was an ideal king. He was specially chosen and loved by Yahweh to be the leader of the nation. The promise that his kingdom will last forever is in fact the most important Messianic prophecy. This promise was kept alive in Israel even in the midst of national crisis, giving them hope of a future restoration.

Jesus of Nazareth, “Son of David” is the fulfillment of this promise.

In spite of his political wisdom and devotion to Yahweh, David had his weakness and failures. In a weak moment he was attracted by the beauty of another man’s wife and this marked the beginning of his fall. It led him to adultery and even to murder. Though monogamy was not the rule of the day, the fact that David had many wives is in no way edifying to the present day

reader. Rivalries among the prince & born of his various wives was a major source of his grief.

His political organization of the empire had much more grave consequences for the whole nation. The conquered lands were not annexed to Israel, but were directly subjected to the crown. This paved the way for excessive centralization of power and to the unhealthy cult of the person of the king. He introduced new laws in the conquered countries, laws that were often contrary to those of the Covenant. Later on

these royal laws were enforced also in Israel. Gradually there emerged in Israel a new class of rich and powerful men around the king, reducing all the others into utter powerlessness, abject poverty and virtual slavery. Thus, even though David is considered an ideal king, the monarchic and imperial tradition he started contained in itself the germs of oppression that eventually caused its own down fall.

Nevertheless, David was a God-fearing man. Confronted with the gravity of his sins through

the words of Prophet Nathan, he readily repented and was prepared to accept any punishment. Even in the midst of calamities he did not lose heart. He firmly believed in the mercy of God. Thus, King David is a model of repentance, of firm belief in Yahweh and of humble submission to His will.

After the death of Saul, David returned to Hebron. Of the twelve tribes of Israel, only Judah supported him. The rest rallying behind Abner, acclaimed Ishbosheth, son of Saul as their king. David speaking to his captain Joab.

Send out messengers to all the tribes of Israel. By all means we must avoid a war with our brethren.

Abner is rousing all the people against us. What if they don't want peace.

We won't attack, but if they do, we will resist.



At the same time Abner, with his army moved against Hebron. David's army under Joab faced them.



In the war, David won but Abner killed Joab's brother at dusk.



Let us go back. They
won't attack us again.



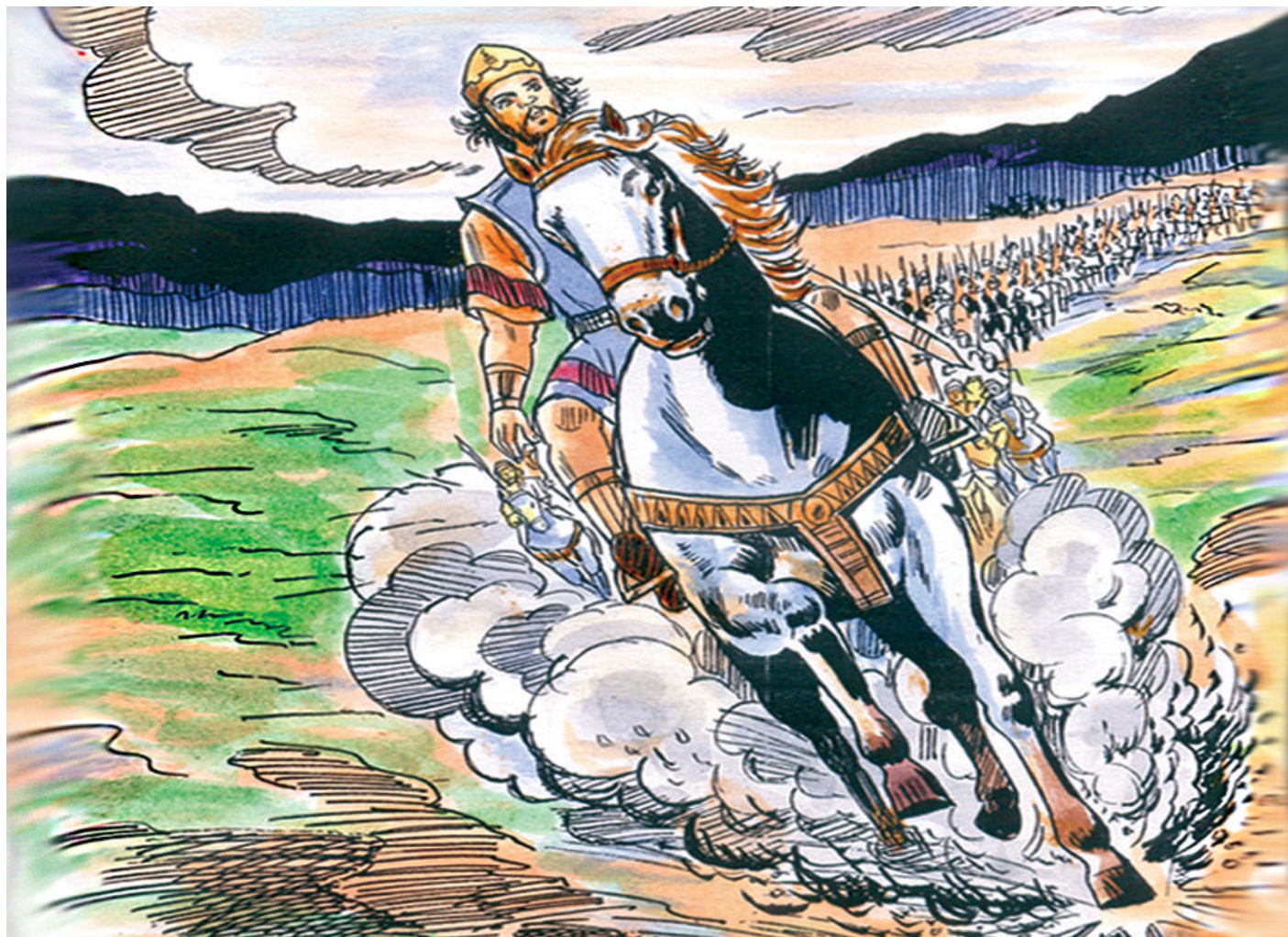
On all the sides enemies are closing in on us. In the south Edom, east Ammonites and Moabites and in the north the Philistines.

The Philistines will be busy fighting the Israelites. Moabites are my people so we will take care of the Ammonites and Edomites first.



Joab, you move against
the Edam with half of the
army. I'll face the
Ammonites.





Within two weeks, David won both wars. Abner broke with Ishbosheth and came to see David.

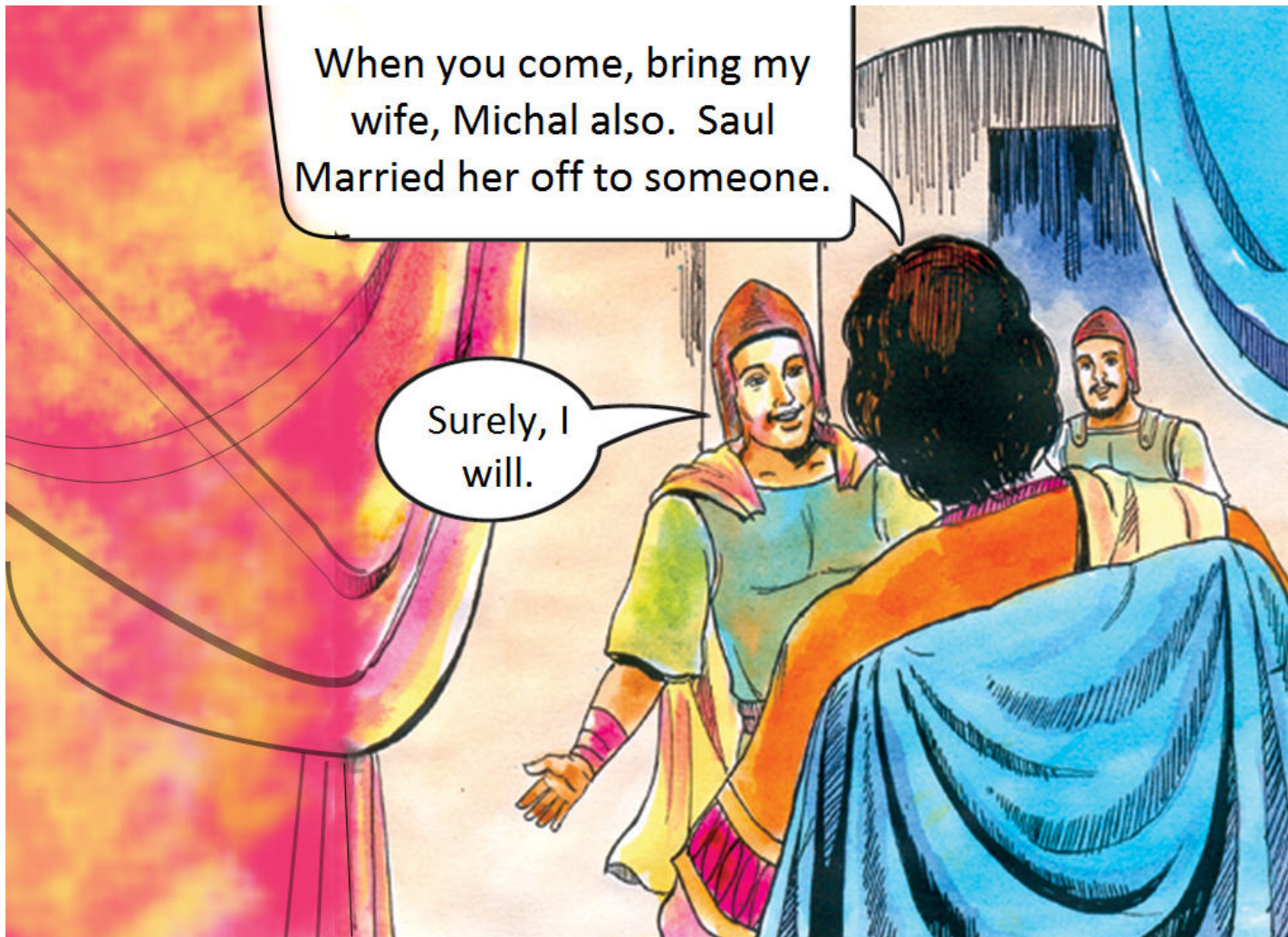
Forty days from today, the elders of all the eleven tribes will come to acclaim you as king.

Israelites are my brothers. If you accept me as king, we'll stand united.



When you come, bring my wife, Michal also. Saul Married her off to someone.

Surely, I will.



Praise Yahweh who has
united the people of
Israel again.



Joab meeting Abner who was returning from David avenged his brother's death.



Hearing this David lamented.

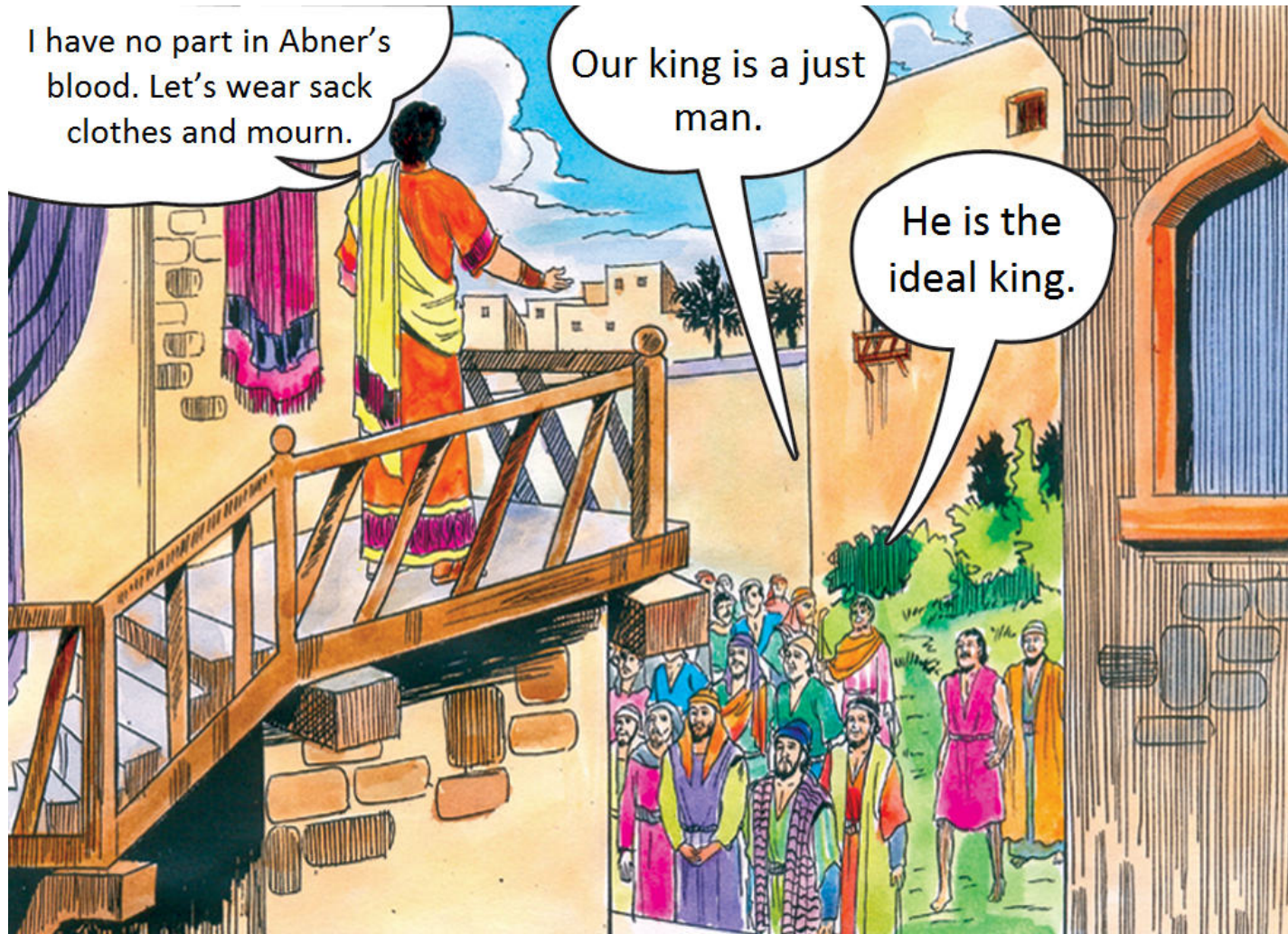
Oh, Abner what a
treachery.



I have no part in Abner's blood. Let's wear sack clothes and mourn.

Our king is a just man.

He is the ideal king.



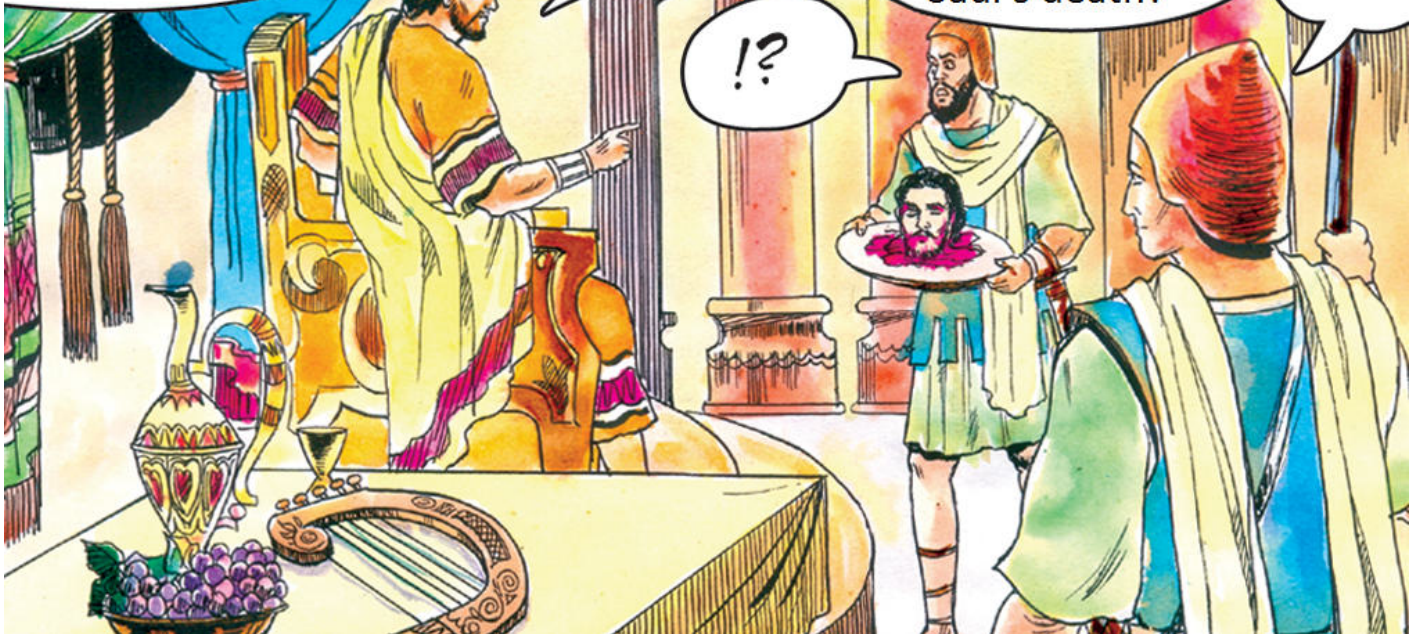
Hearing that Abner was killed, Ishbosheth fled. A soldier cut off his head and brought to David.

Your majesty, Yahweh will eliminate all your enemies like this.

What? This is the son of my Master Saul. Don't you know what I did to the man who brought the news of Saul's death?

!?

!



What reward I shall give to you for killing a man in his sleep? Guard, behead him and hang his head at the city gate and give his body to the birds.

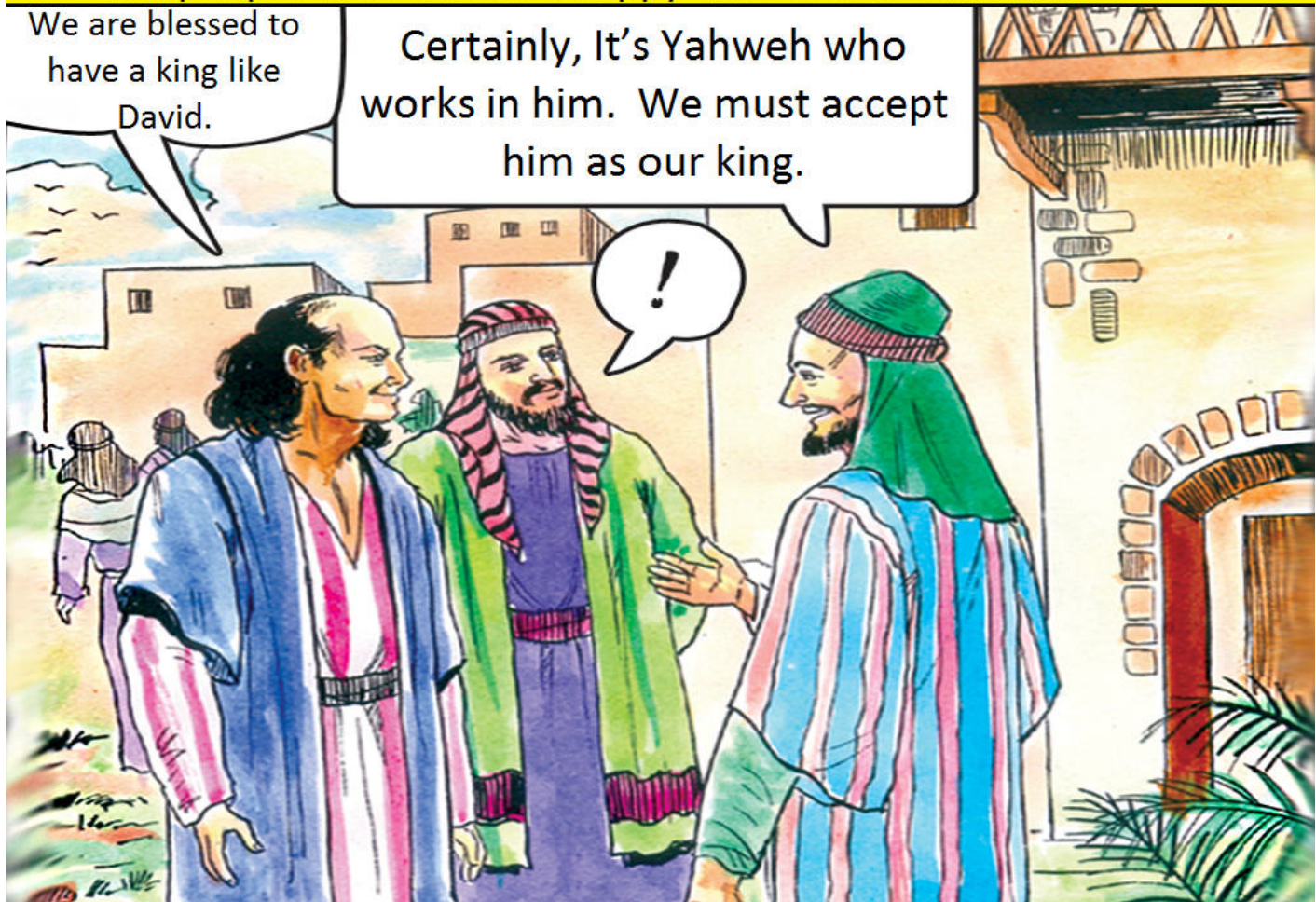


The people of Israel were happy with what David did.

We are blessed to have a king like David.

Certainly, It's Yahweh who works in him. We must accept him as our king.

!



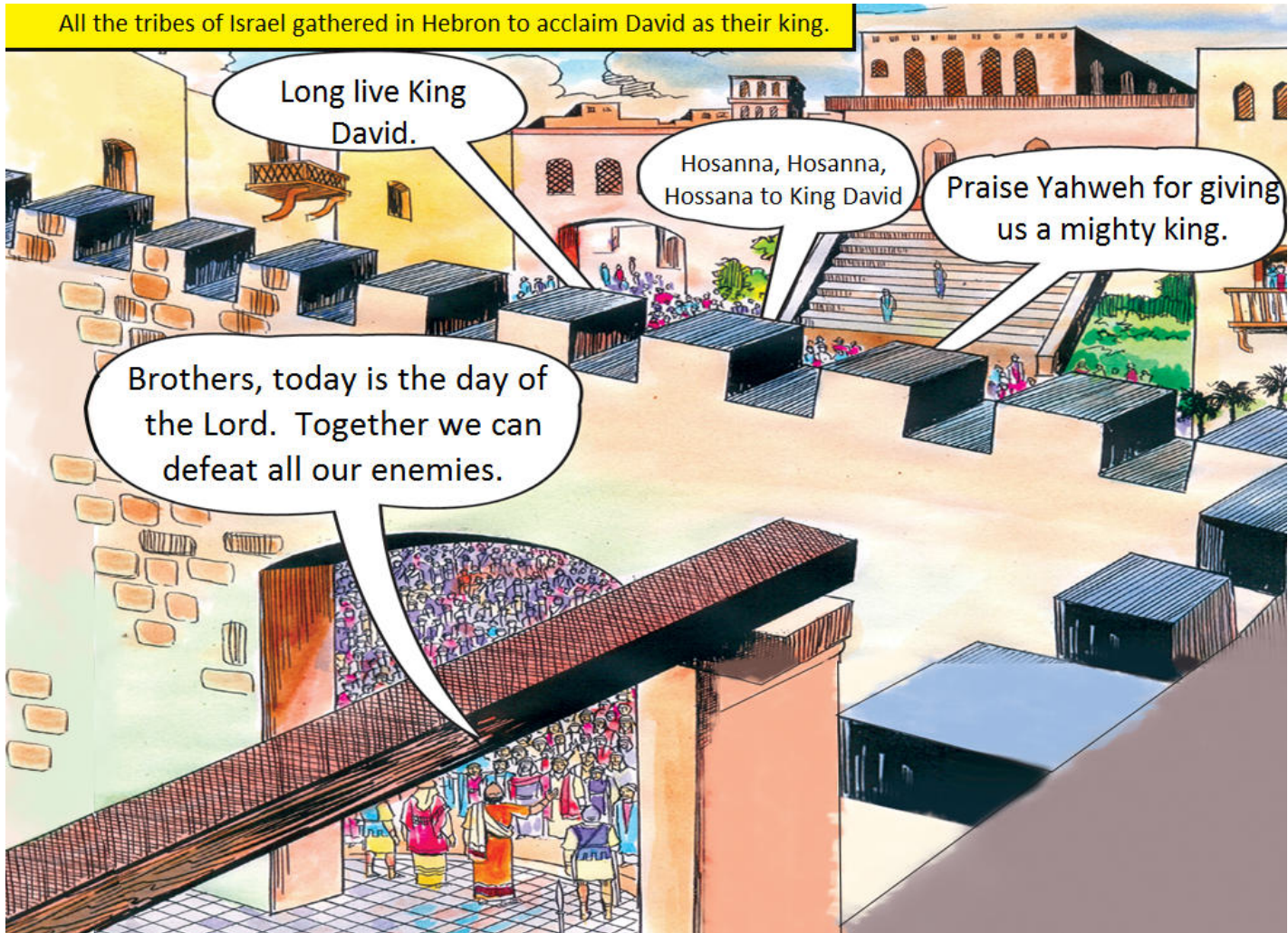
All the tribes of Israel gathered in Hebron to acclaim David as their king.

Long live King David.

Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hossana to King David

Praise Yahweh for giving
us a mighty king.

Brothers, today is the day of
the Lord. Together we can
defeat all our enemies.



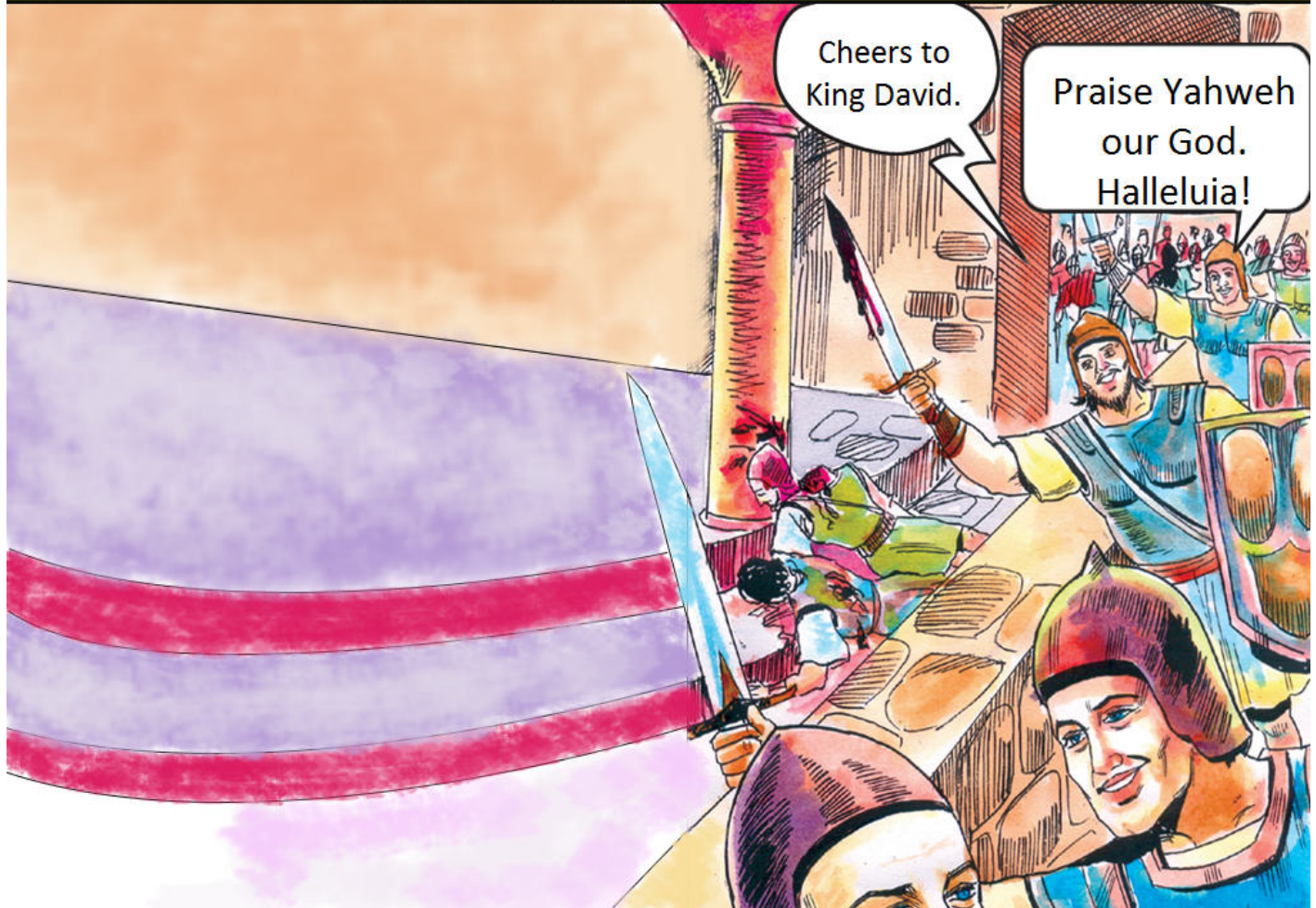
Praise Yahweh, Praise Him. He is steadfast in His promises.

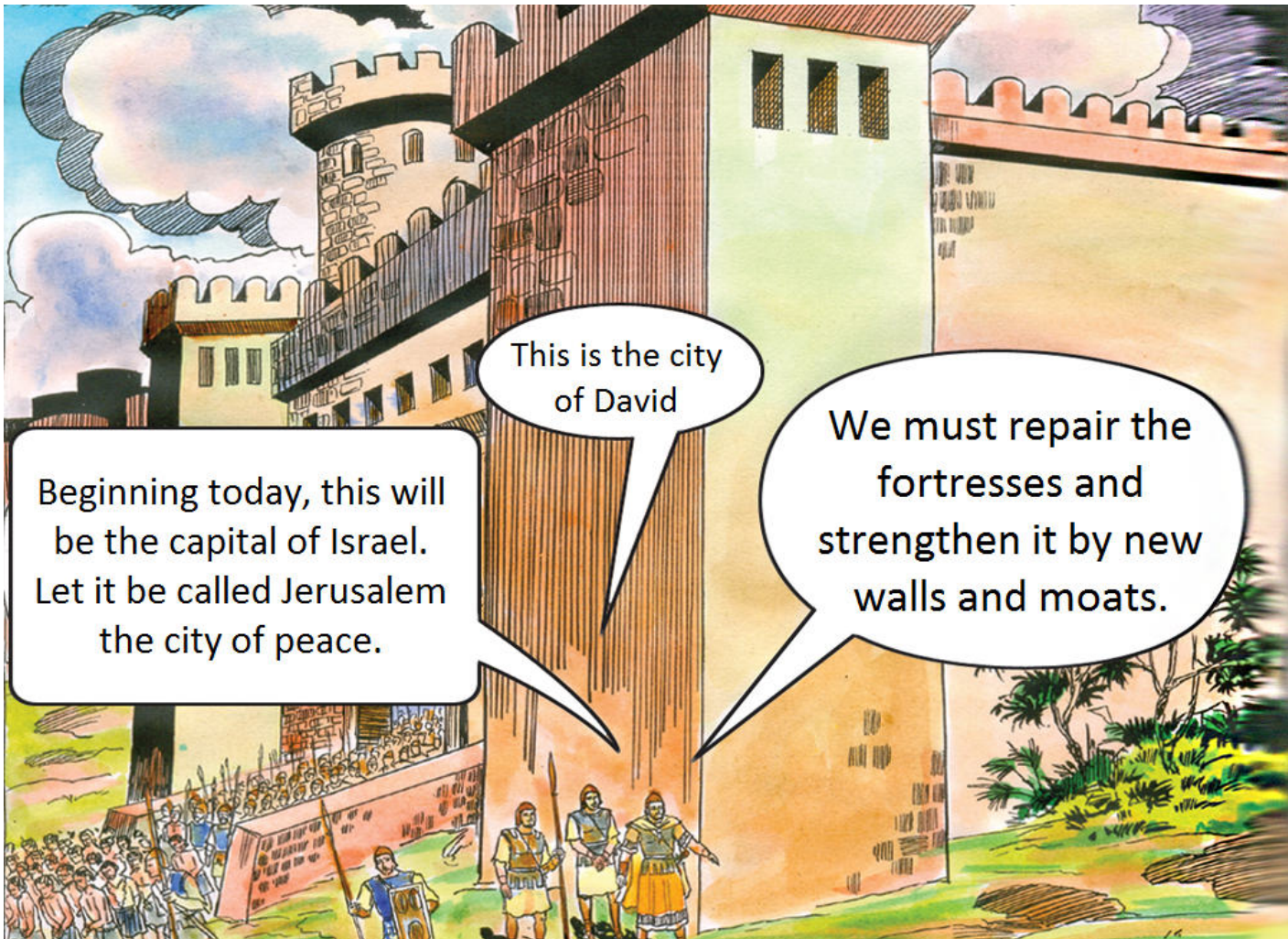


David attacked Jerusalem, the fortress of the Jebusites.



David's men captured Jerusalem.



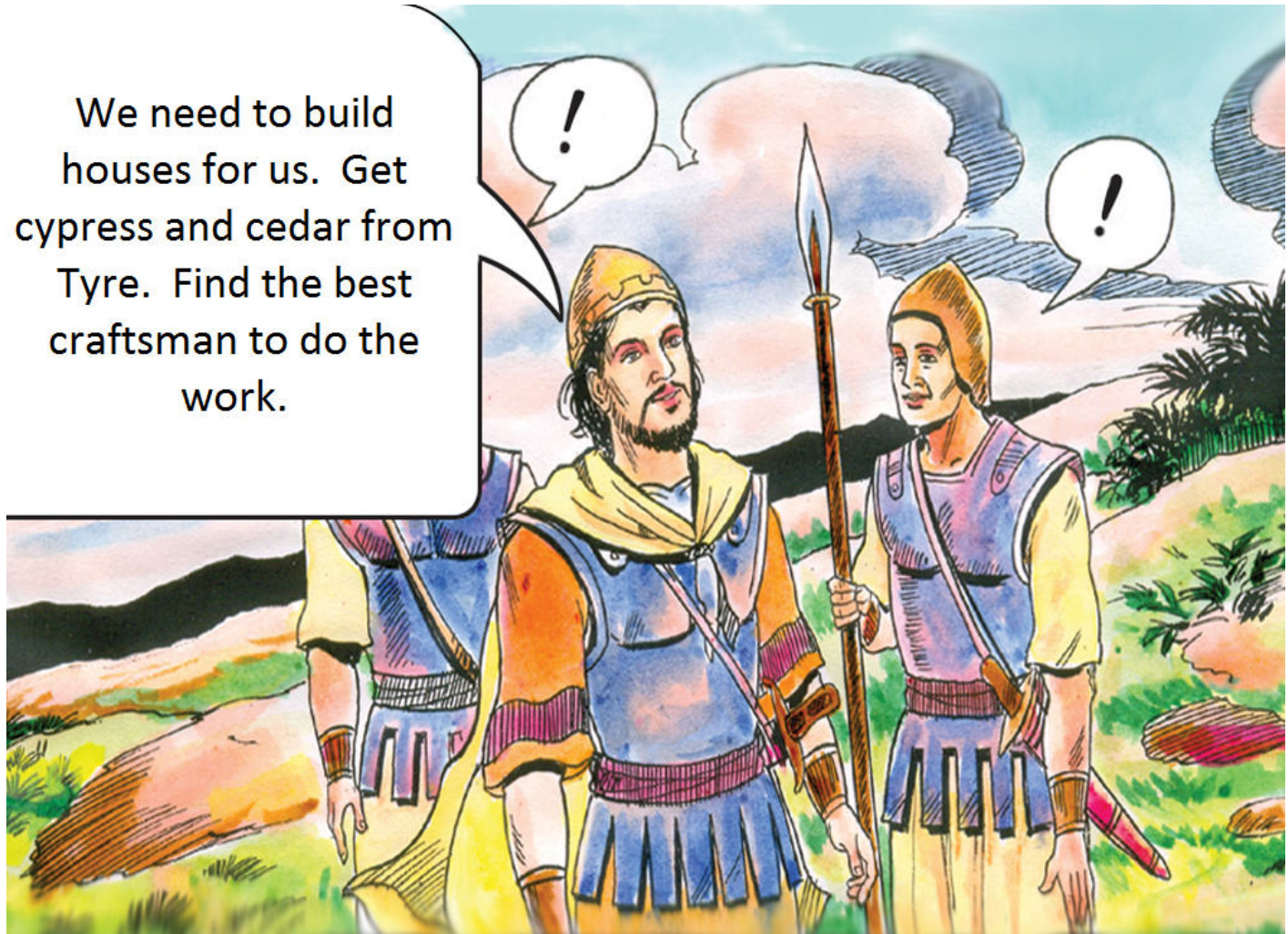


Beginning today, this will be the capital of Israel. Let it be called Jerusalem the city of peace.

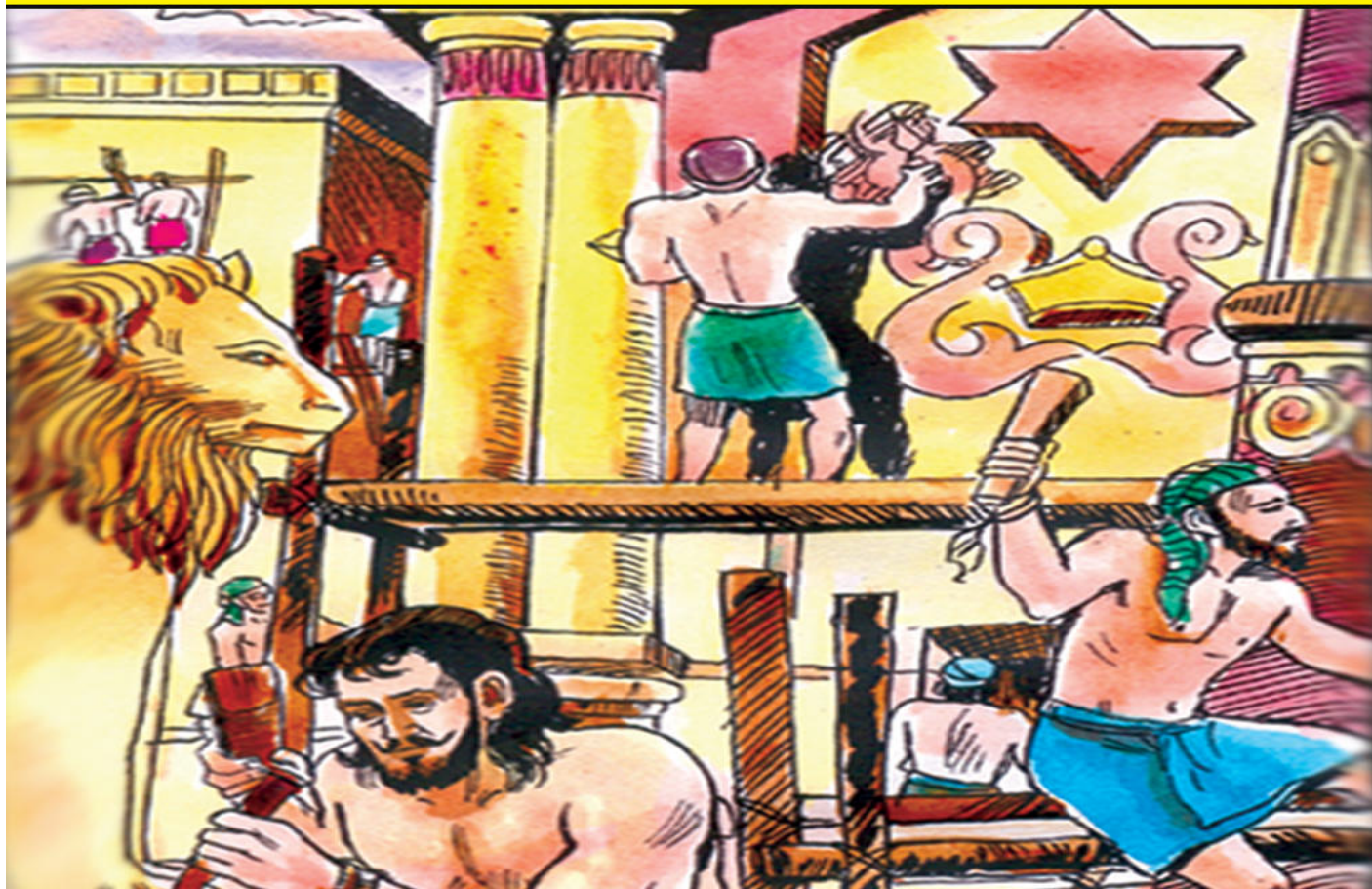
This is the city of David

We must repair the fortresses and strengthen it by new walls and moats.

We need to build houses for us. Get cypress and cedar from Tyre. Find the best craftsman to do the work.



Expert craftsmen built beautiful palaces with marble.



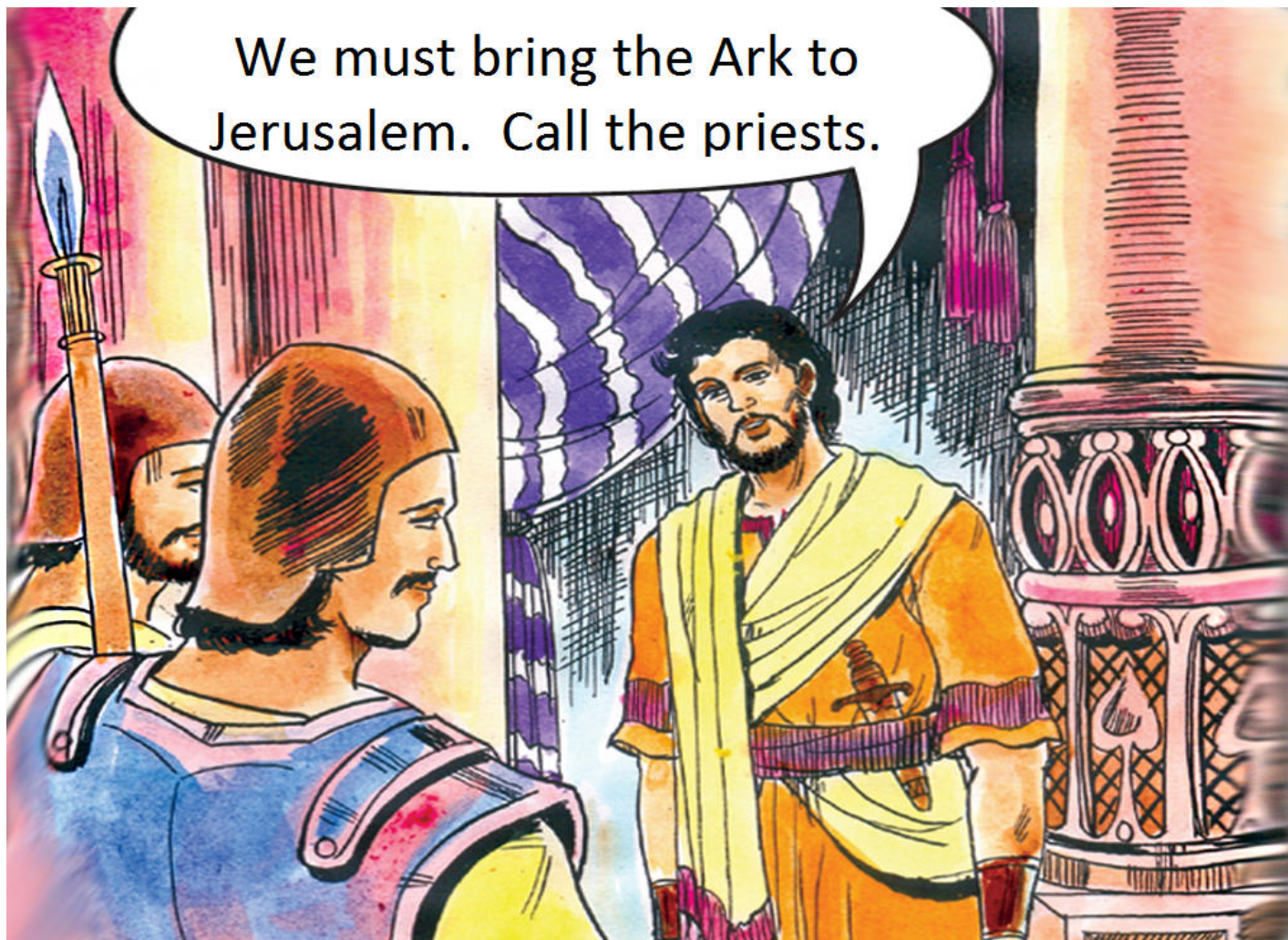
The fortresses were made secure with moats and ramparts.



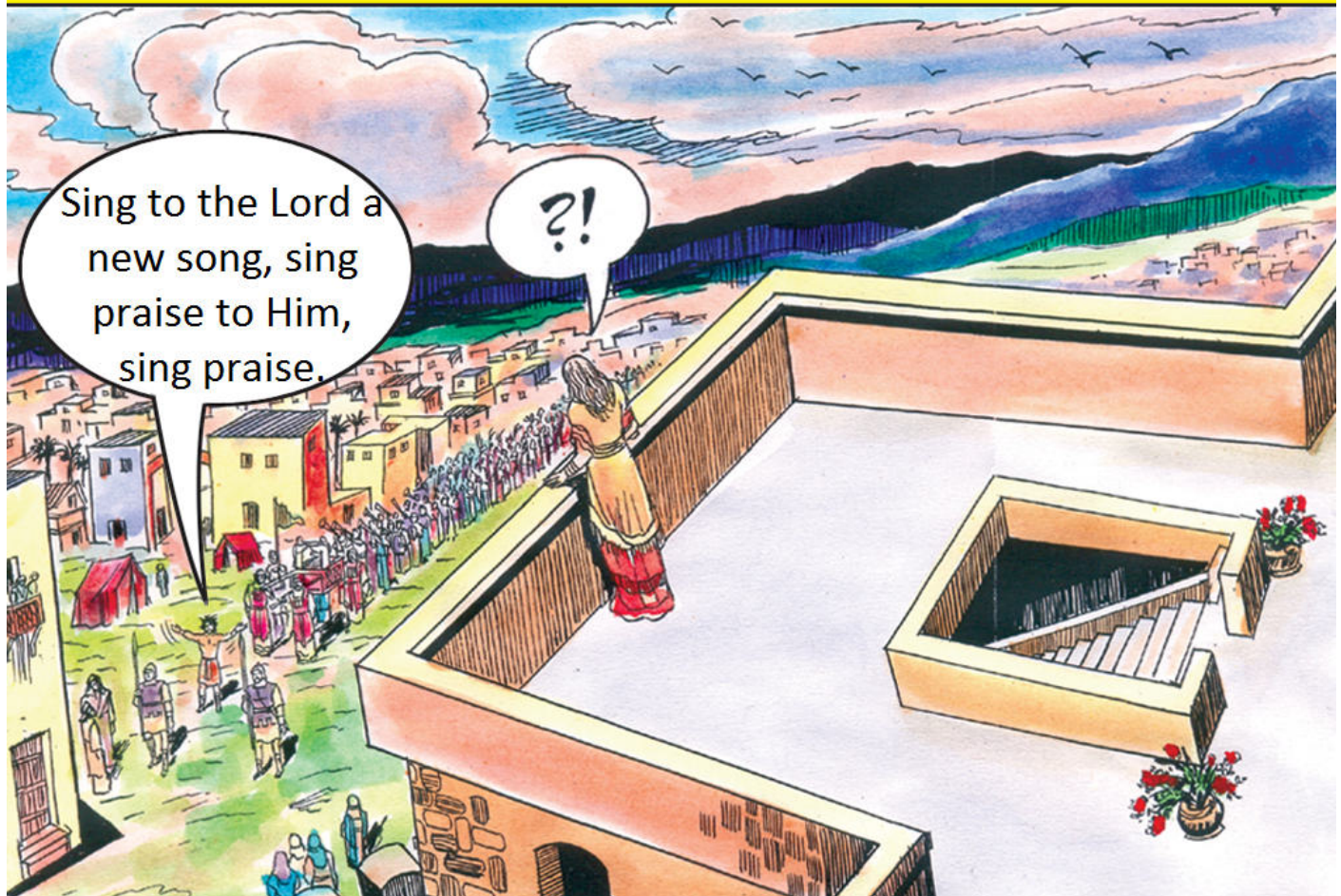
I am living in
majestic palace. But
the Ark is still in
Hebron.



We must bring the Ark to Jerusalem. Call the priests.



With the consent of the priests the Ark was brought to Jerusalem.



That night David with his wife Michal.

Oh! Great dancer!
Shame on you for
dancing like that.

Why? It was to
Yahweh that I sang
praises.

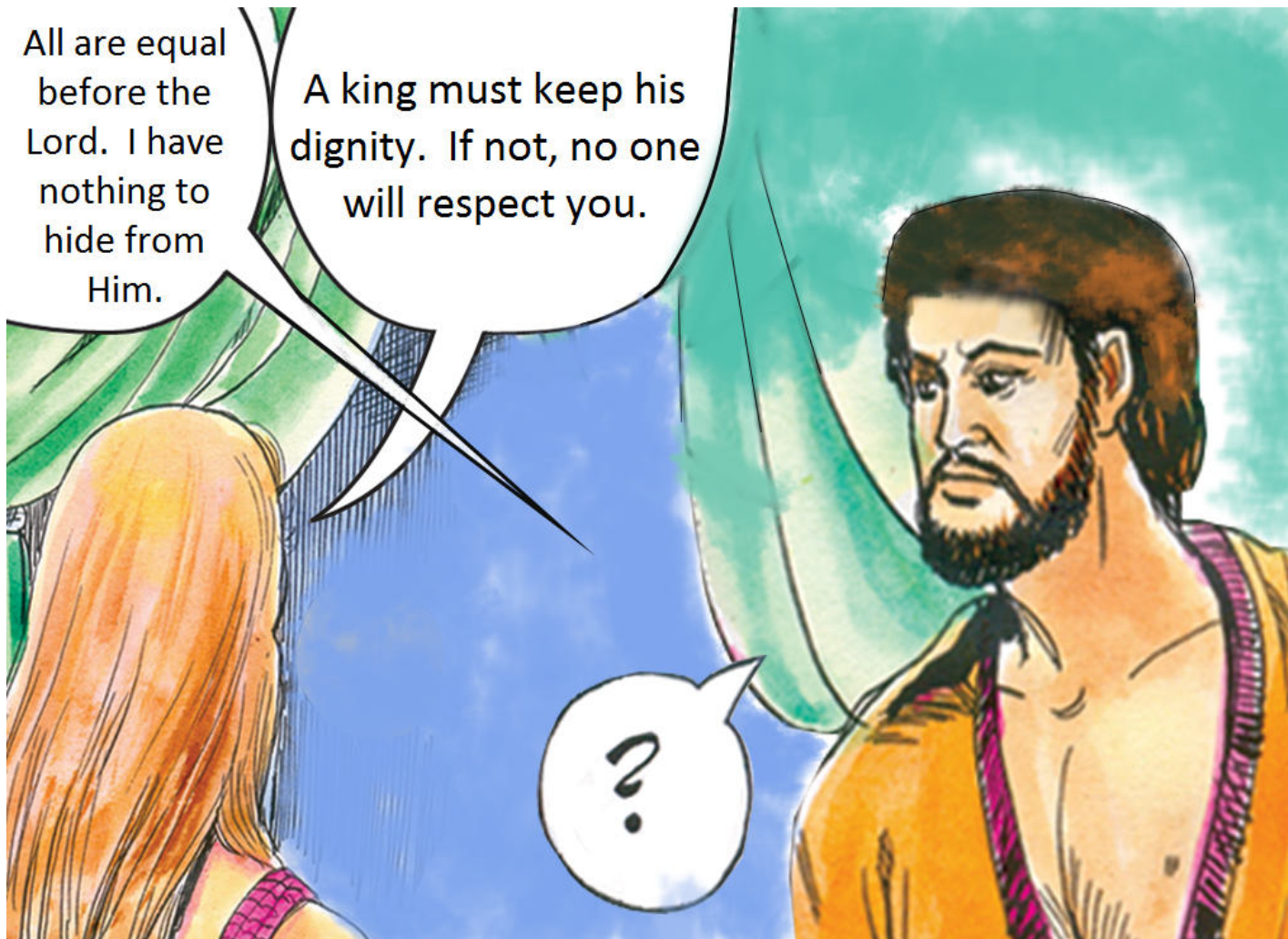
Still there was no need
to expose yourself like
that before the maids.



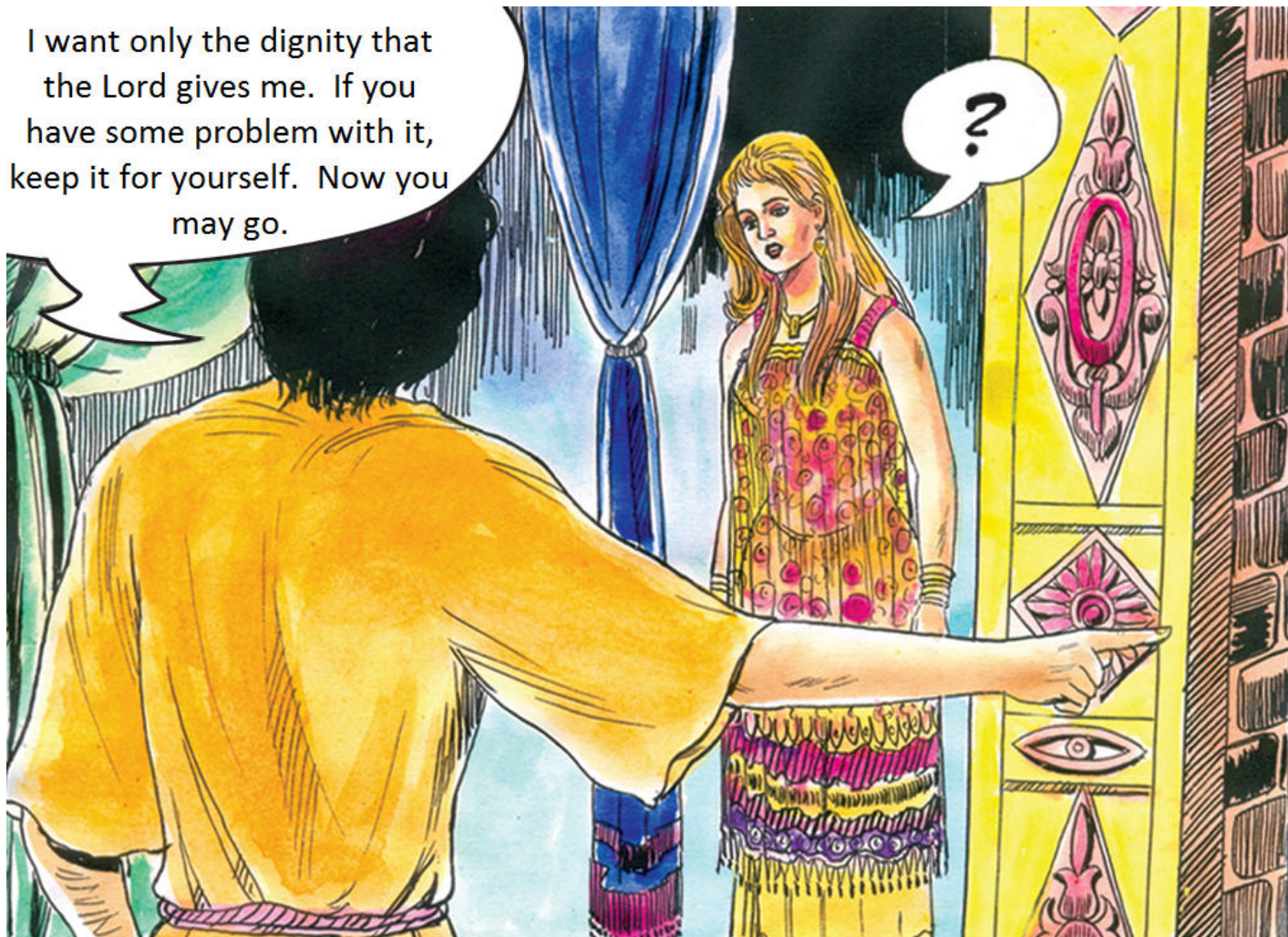
All are equal
before the
Lord. I have
nothing to
hide from
Him.

A king must keep his
dignity. If not, no one
will respect you.

?



I want only the dignity that the Lord gives me. If you have some problem with it, keep it for yourself. Now you may go.



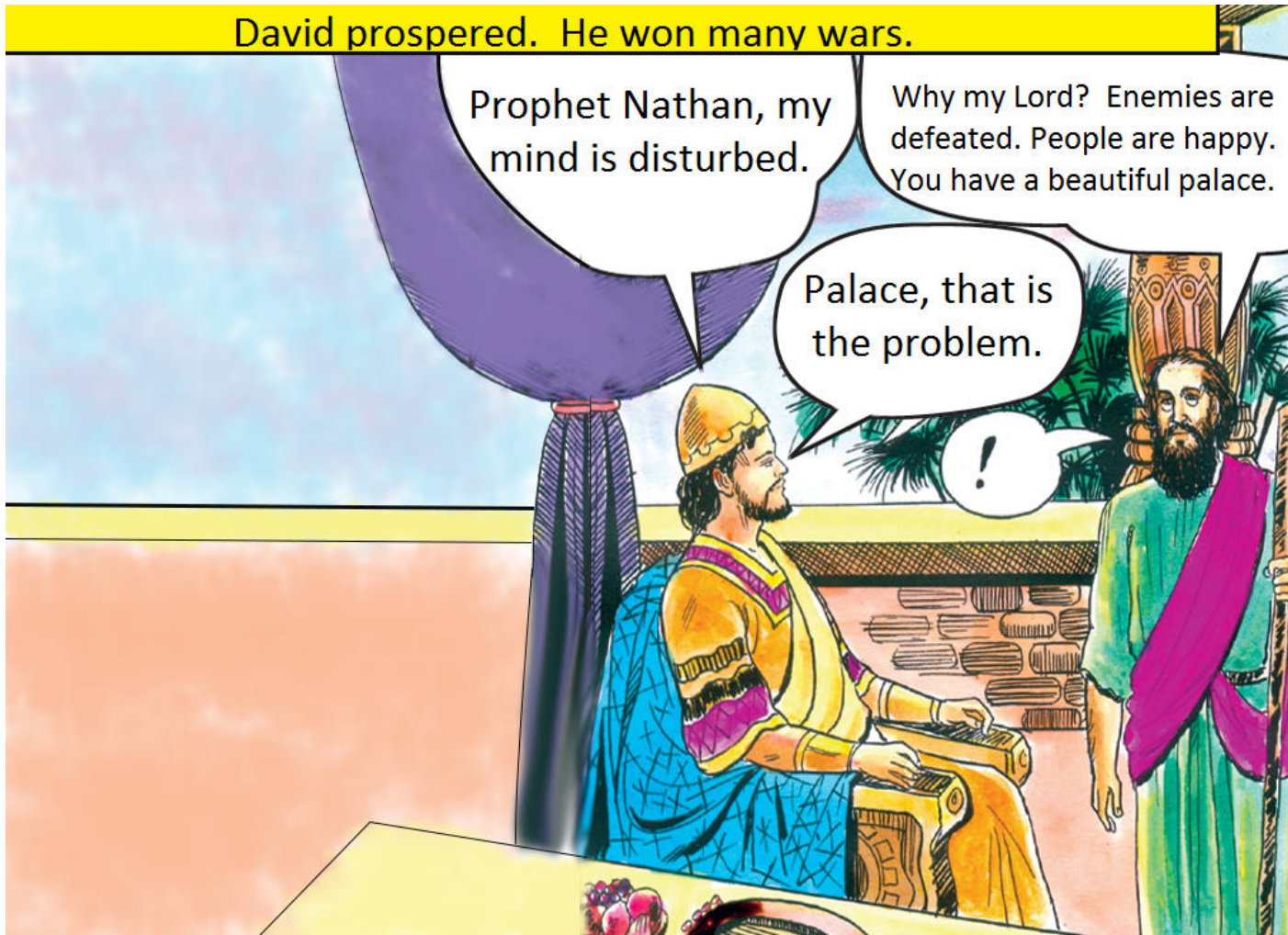
David prospered. He won many wars.

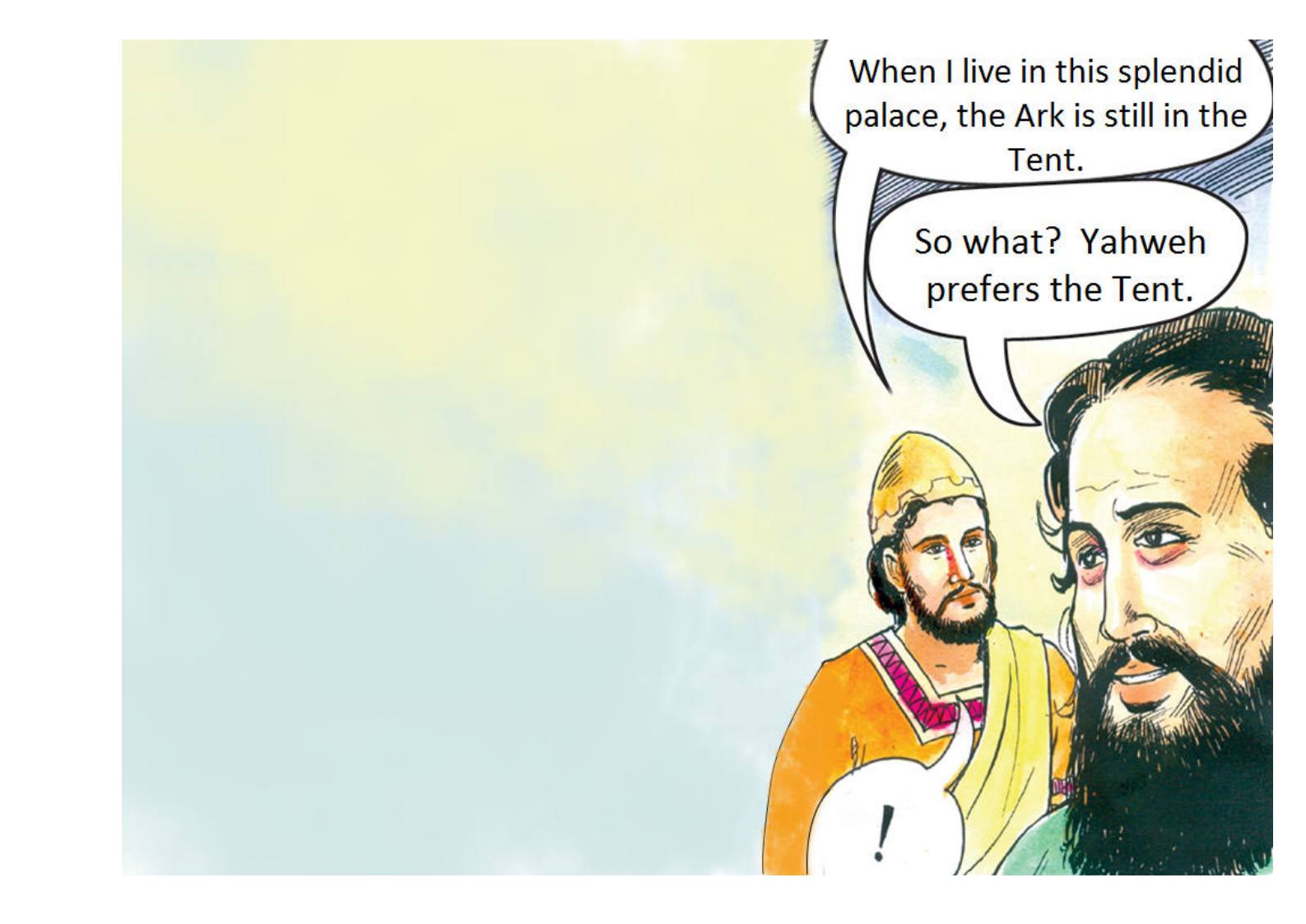
Prophet Nathan, my mind is disturbed.

Why my Lord? Enemies are defeated. People are happy. You have a beautiful palace.

Palace, that is the problem.

!

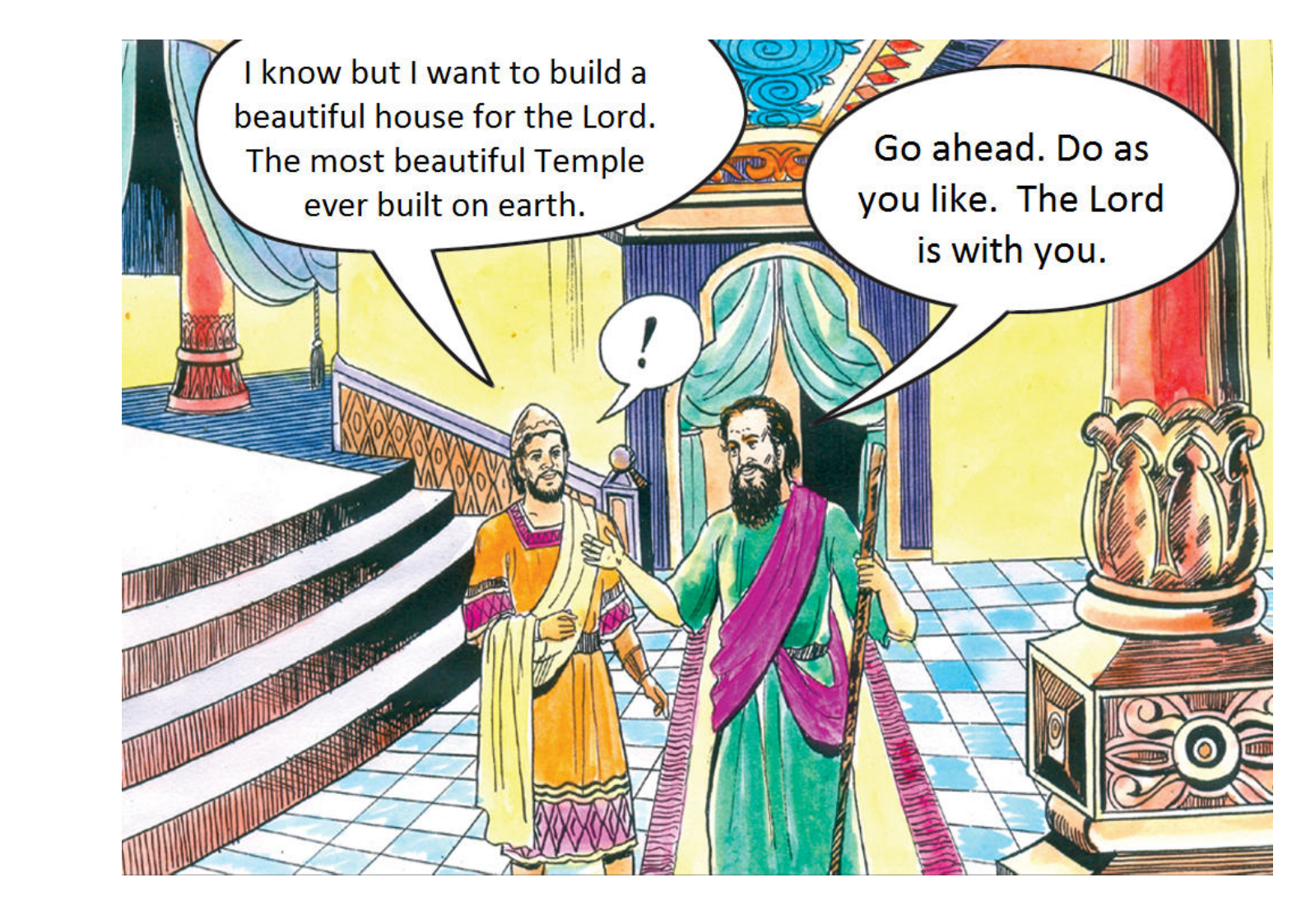




When I live in this splendid palace, the Ark is still in the Tent.

So what? Yahweh prefers the Tent.

!

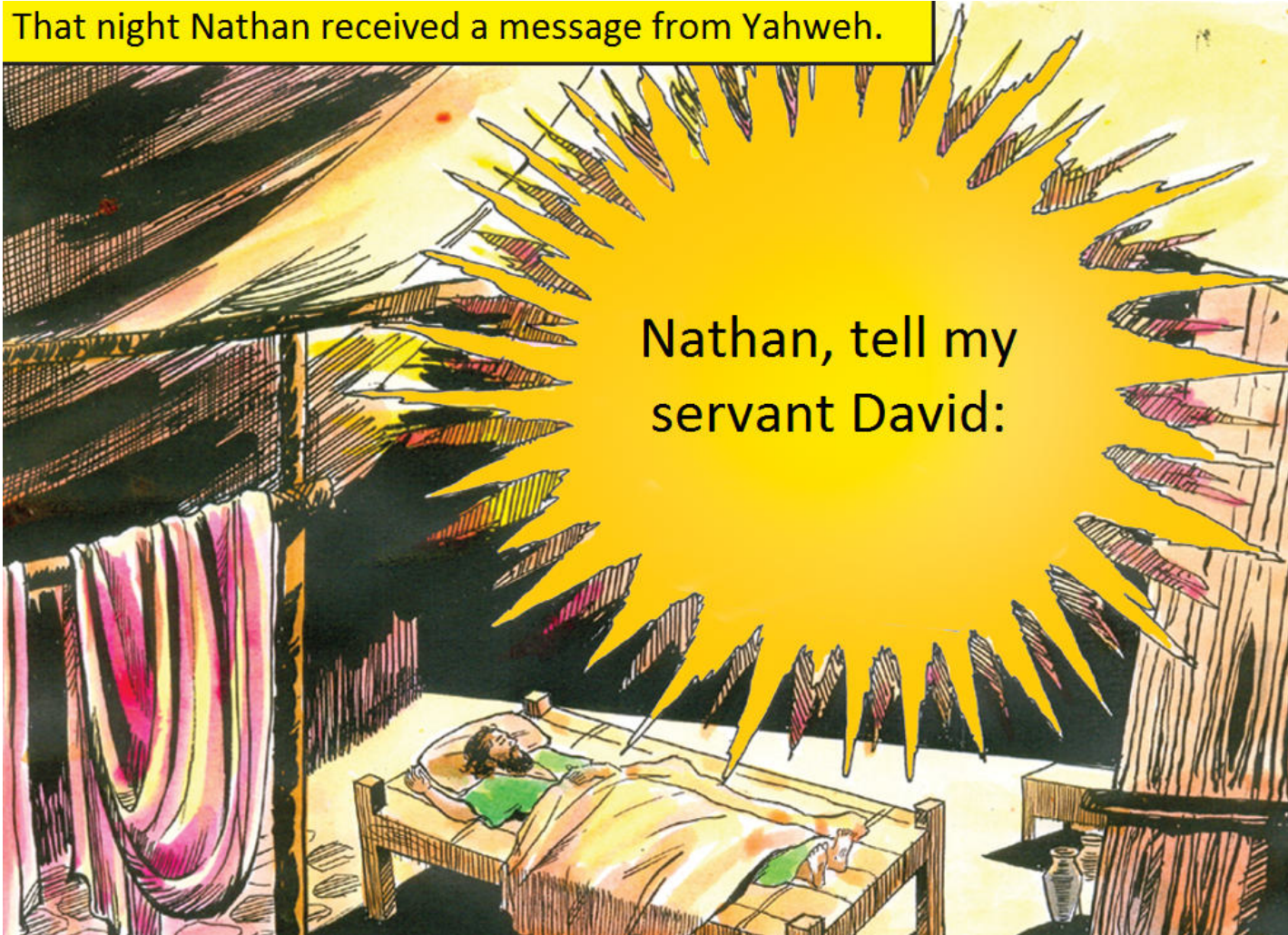


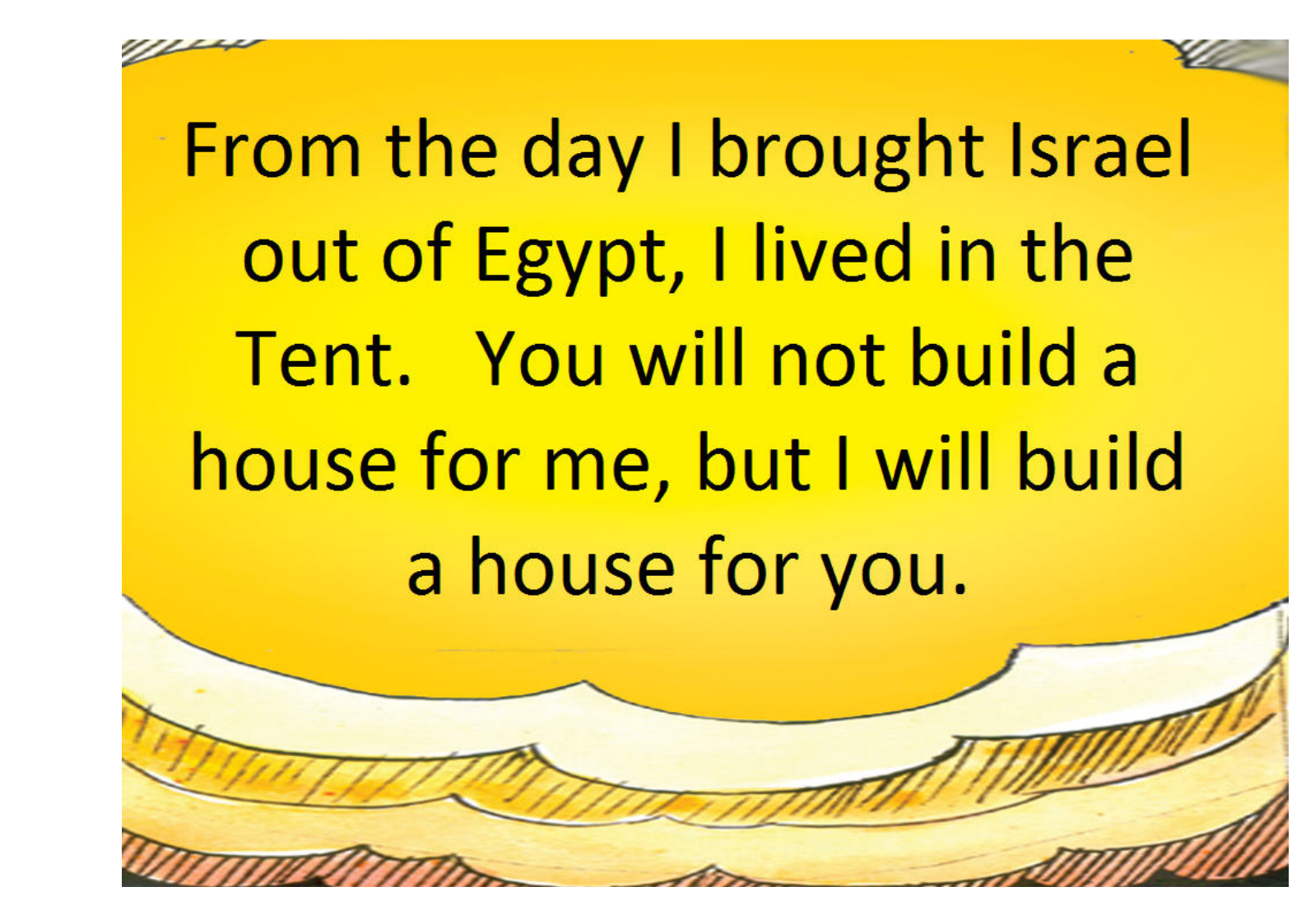
I know but I want to build a beautiful house for the Lord. The most beautiful Temple ever built on earth.

Go ahead. Do as you like. The Lord is with you.

That night Nathan received a message from Yahweh.

Nathan, tell my
servant David:

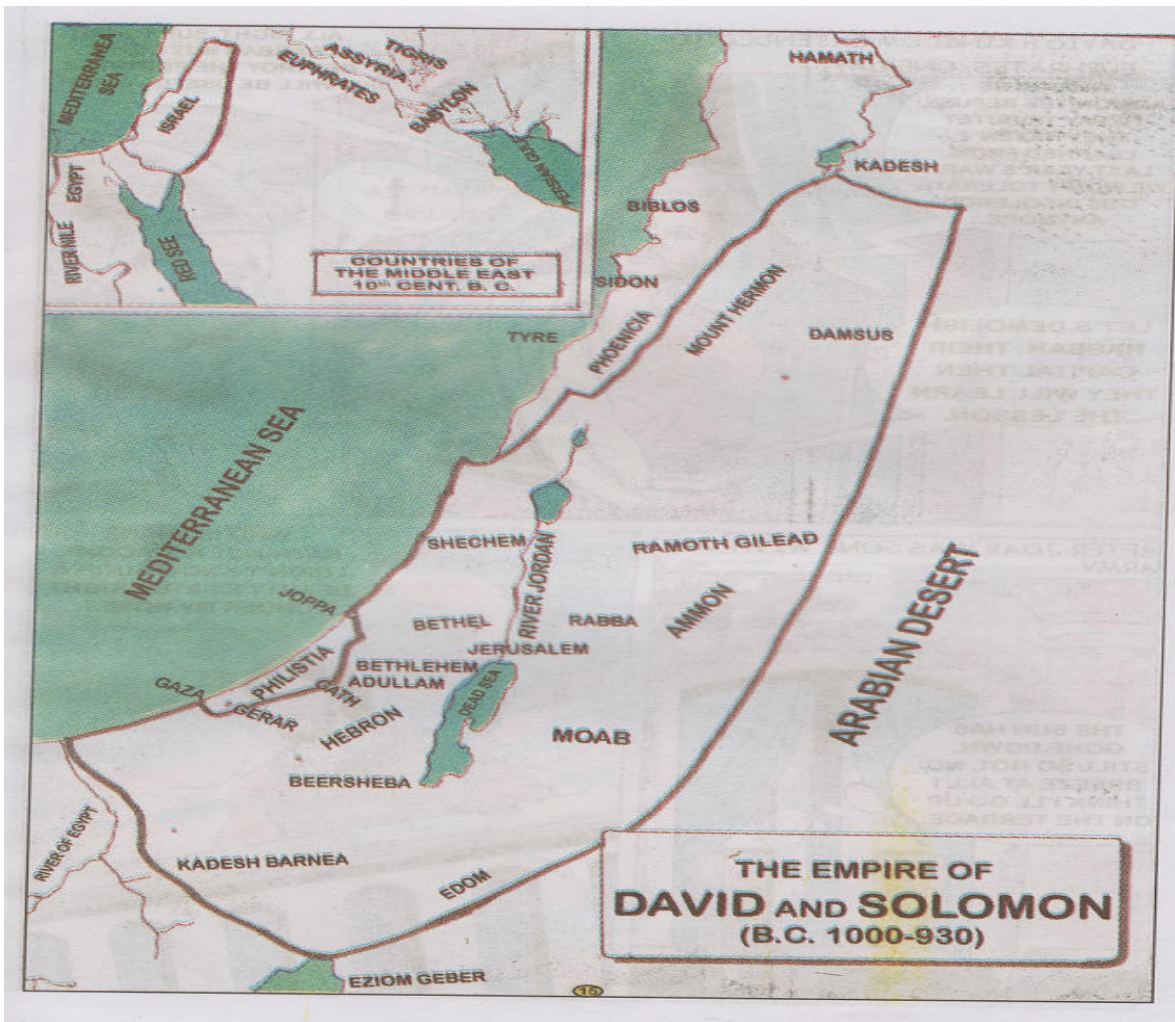




From the day I brought Israel
out of Egypt, I lived in the
Tent. You will not build a
house for me, but I will build
a house for you.

It is I who took you
from the pasture and
made you a king. I will
secure your throne
forever and rule Israel
through your son.





COUNTRIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST 10th CENT. B. C.

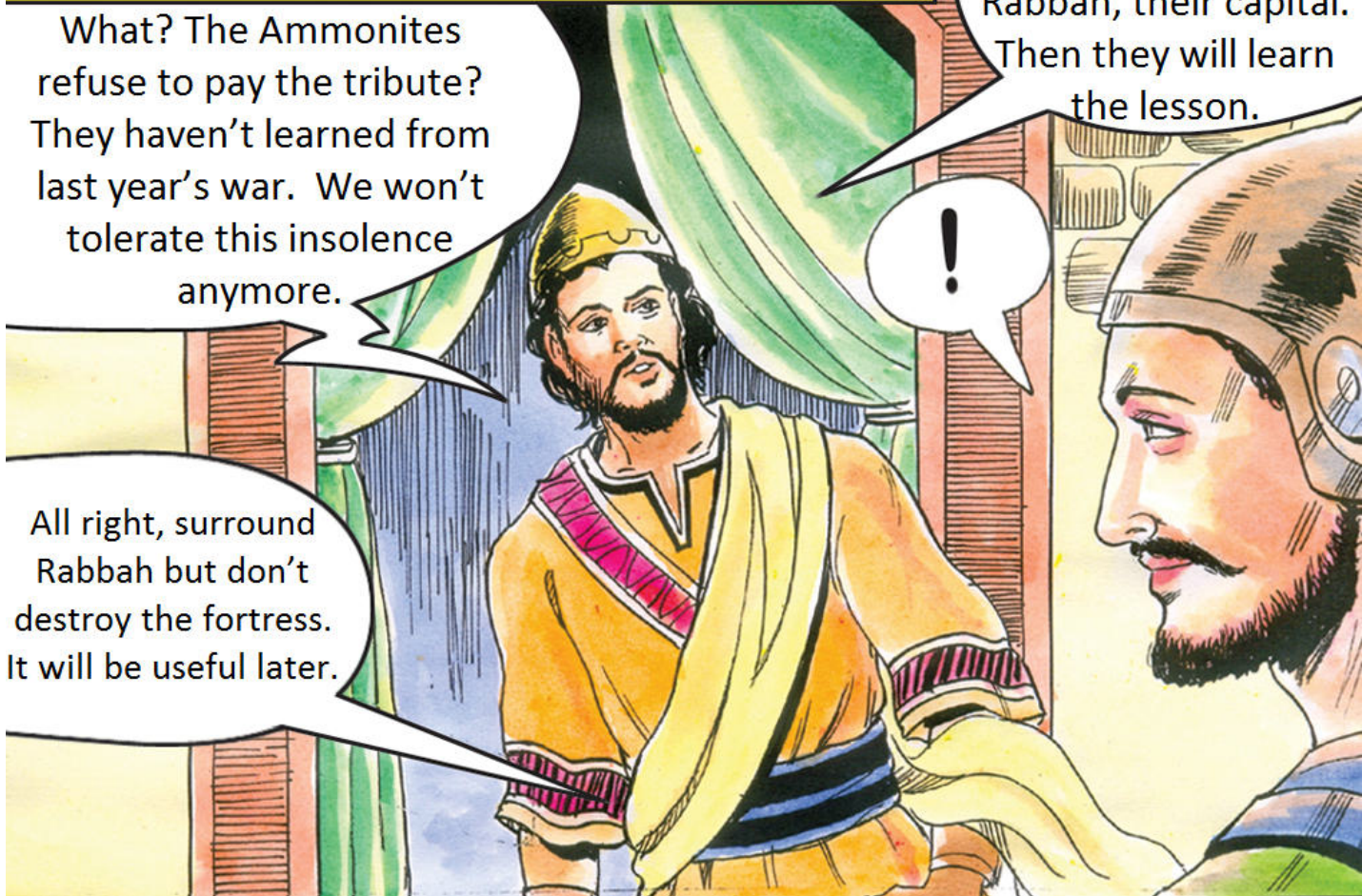
THE EMPIRE OF DAVID AND SOLOMON (B.C. 1000-930)

David's kingdom extended to Euphrates. One Day.

What? The Ammonites refuse to pay the tribute? They haven't learned from last year's war. We won't tolerate this insolence anymore.

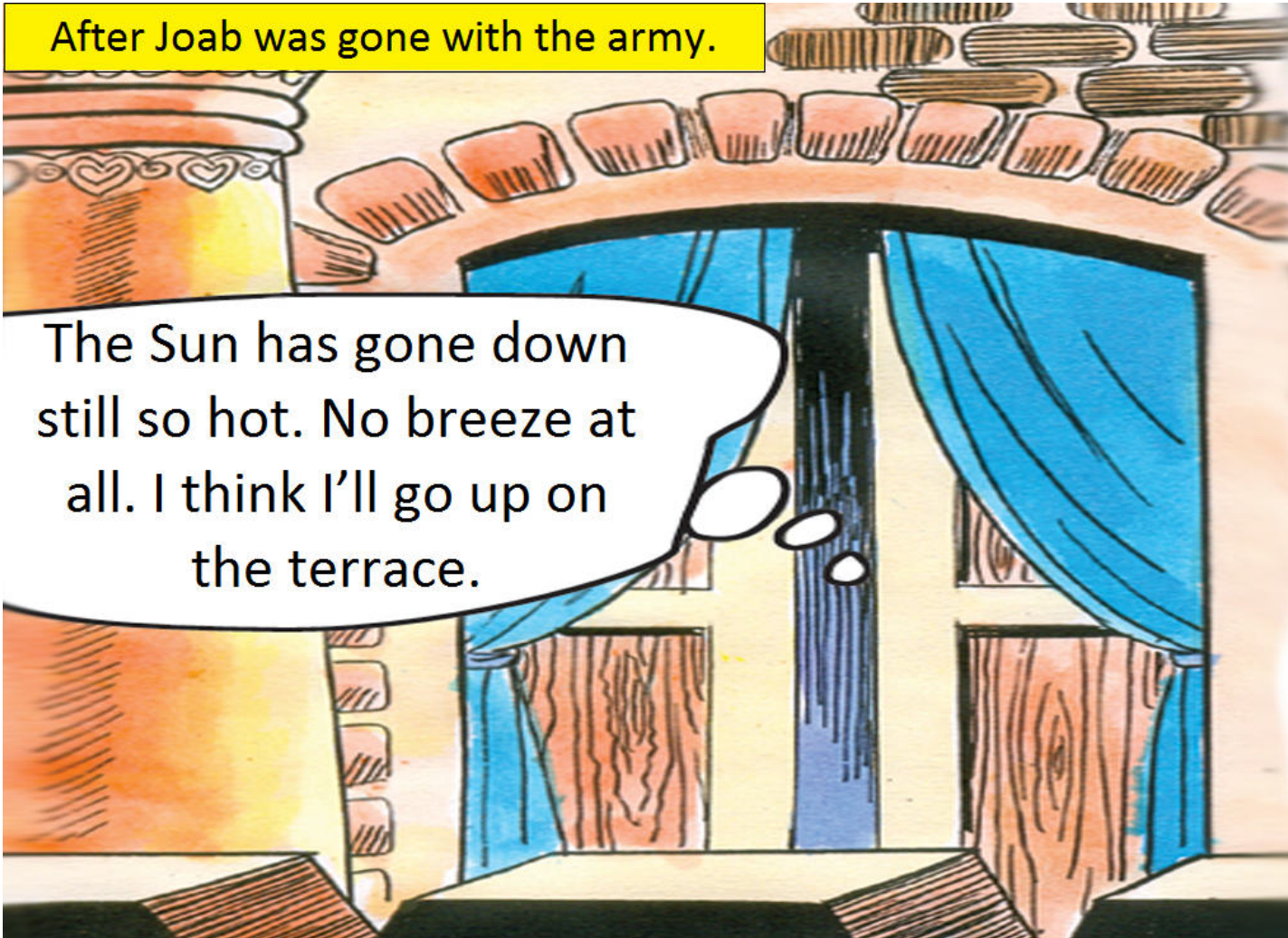
All right, surround Rabbah but don't destroy the fortress. It will be useful later.

Let us demolish Rabbah, their capital. Then they will learn the lesson.

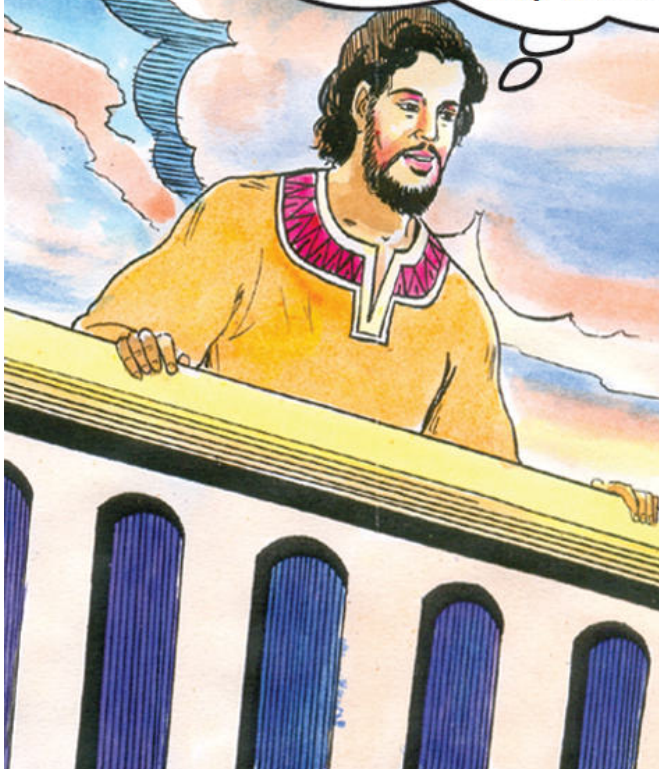


After Joab was gone with the army.

The Sun has gone down
still so hot. No breeze at
all. I think I'll go up on
the terrace.



Who is there bathing. I
didn't know such a
beauty existed right
under my nose!

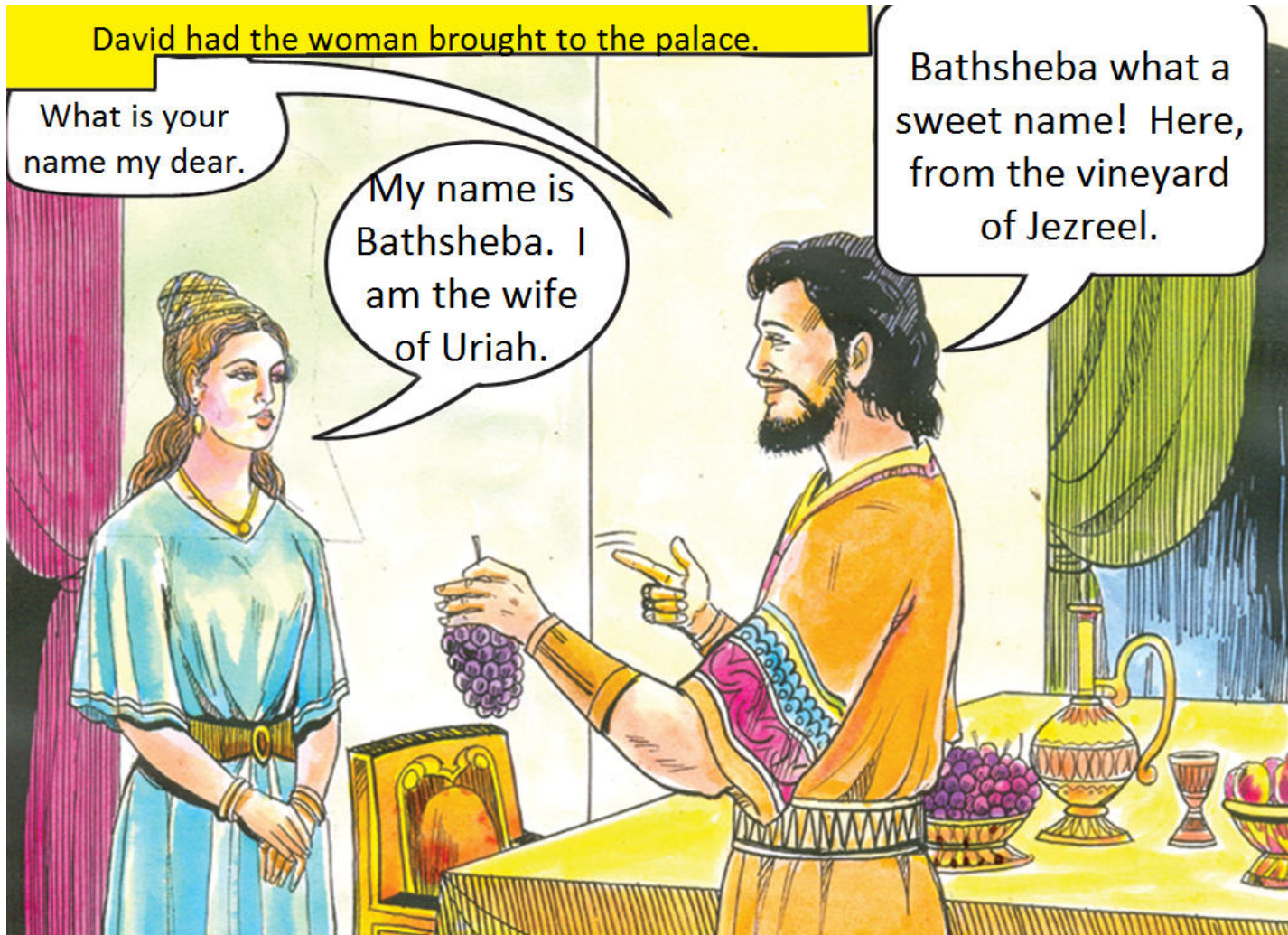


David had the woman brought to the palace.

What is your name my dear.

My name is Bathsheba. I am the wife of Uriah.


Bathsheba what a sweet name! Here, from the vineyard of Jezreel.



I wish you to stay
here for a day. I
feel so lonely.

Oh, no my Lord.
I...



A man with a beard and long hair, wearing a yellow robe, stands in a doorway. He is looking towards a large, ornate golden lamp. The lamp has a flame and is emitting a bright, wavy light that illuminates the scene. The background is dark, suggesting a night scene. A speech bubble from the man says "Don't be afraid". Another speech bubble below the lamp contains "!?".

Don't be afraid

!?

Compelled by the king, she spent the night at the palace. Two months later Bathsheba sent word that she was pregnant.




I made a big mistake. What can I do? I will send Uriah to his wife.



How is the war Uriah? The Ammonites won't surrender, right?

They are inside the fortress. We haven't attacked yet.





They will come out when they begin to starve.

Have another drink.

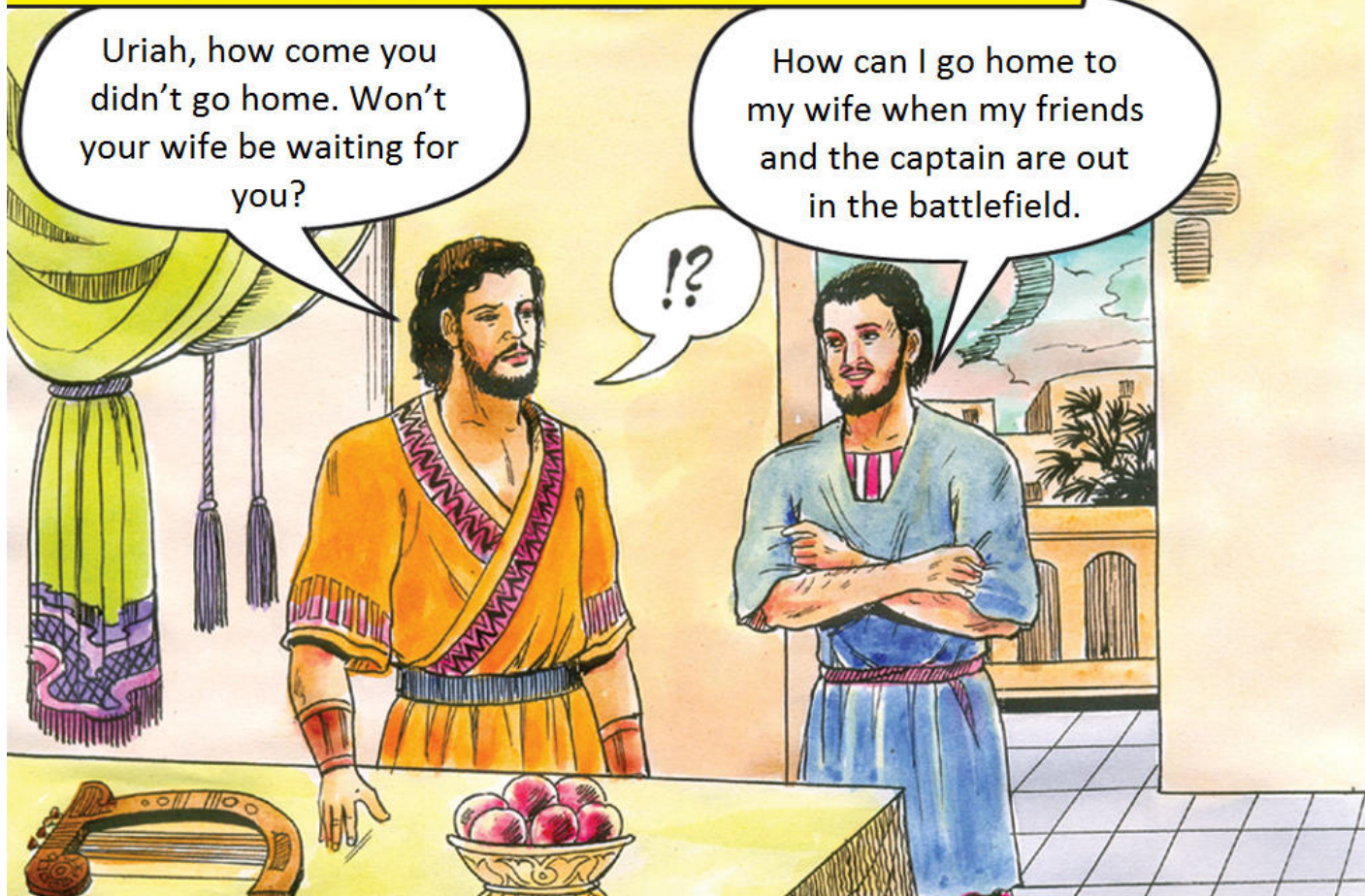
!

When Uriah was drunk David sent him home. But he stayed back.

Uriah, how come you didn't go home. Won't your wife be waiting for you?

How can I go home to my wife when my friends and the captain are out in the battlefield.

!?



Again the next day David tried in vain to send Uriah home. So the next morning.

Give this letter to Joab. We have waited long enough. It is time to attack.

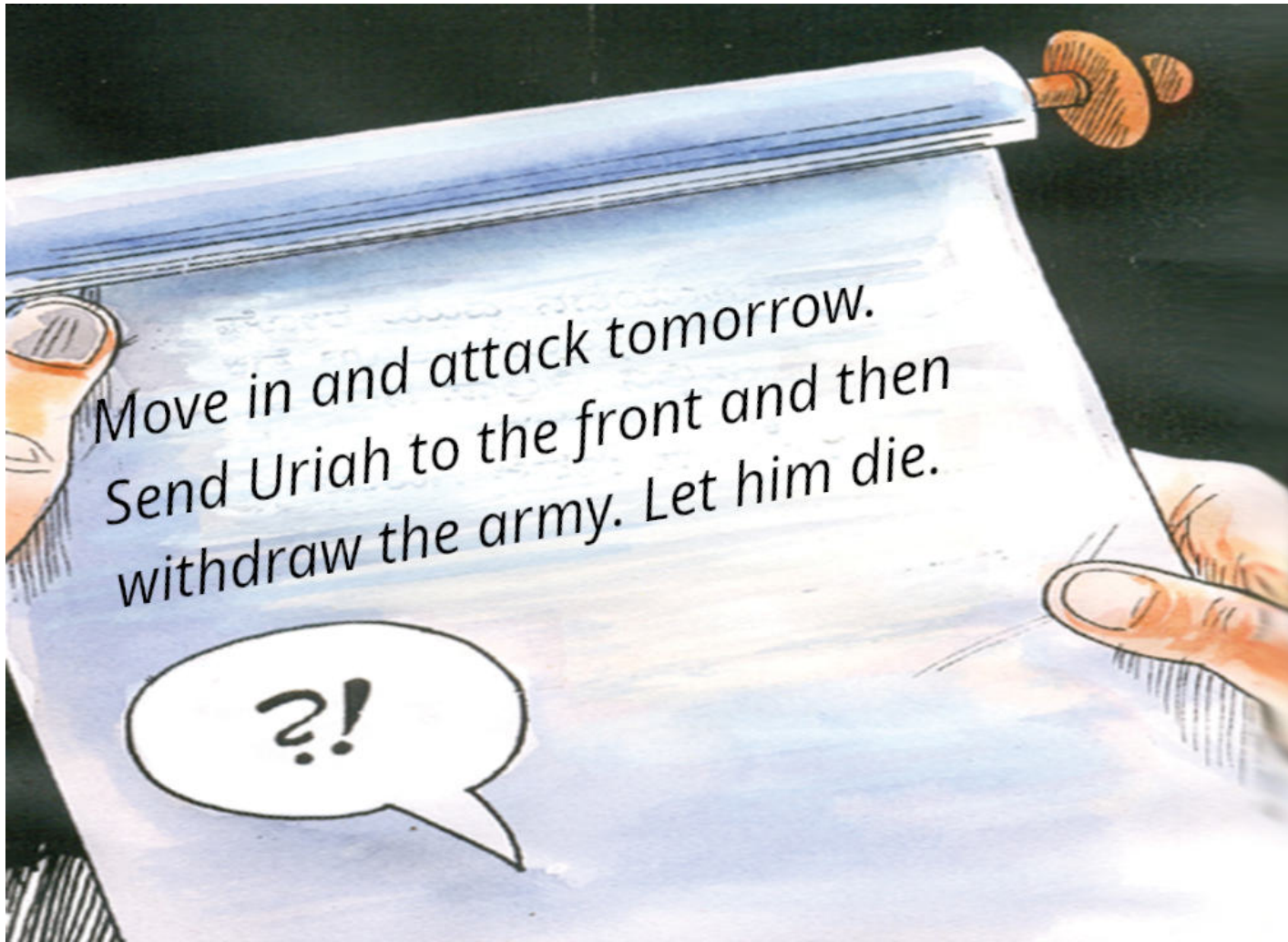


A colorful illustration of a camp. In the foreground, there are several tents with blue, pink, and purple roofs. Two figures are standing near a blue tent. In the background, there is a city with orange walls and a large cylindrical tower. A large tree is on the left side. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Sir, a letter from the king.

Thank you. You go and rest.
You have travelled a long way.

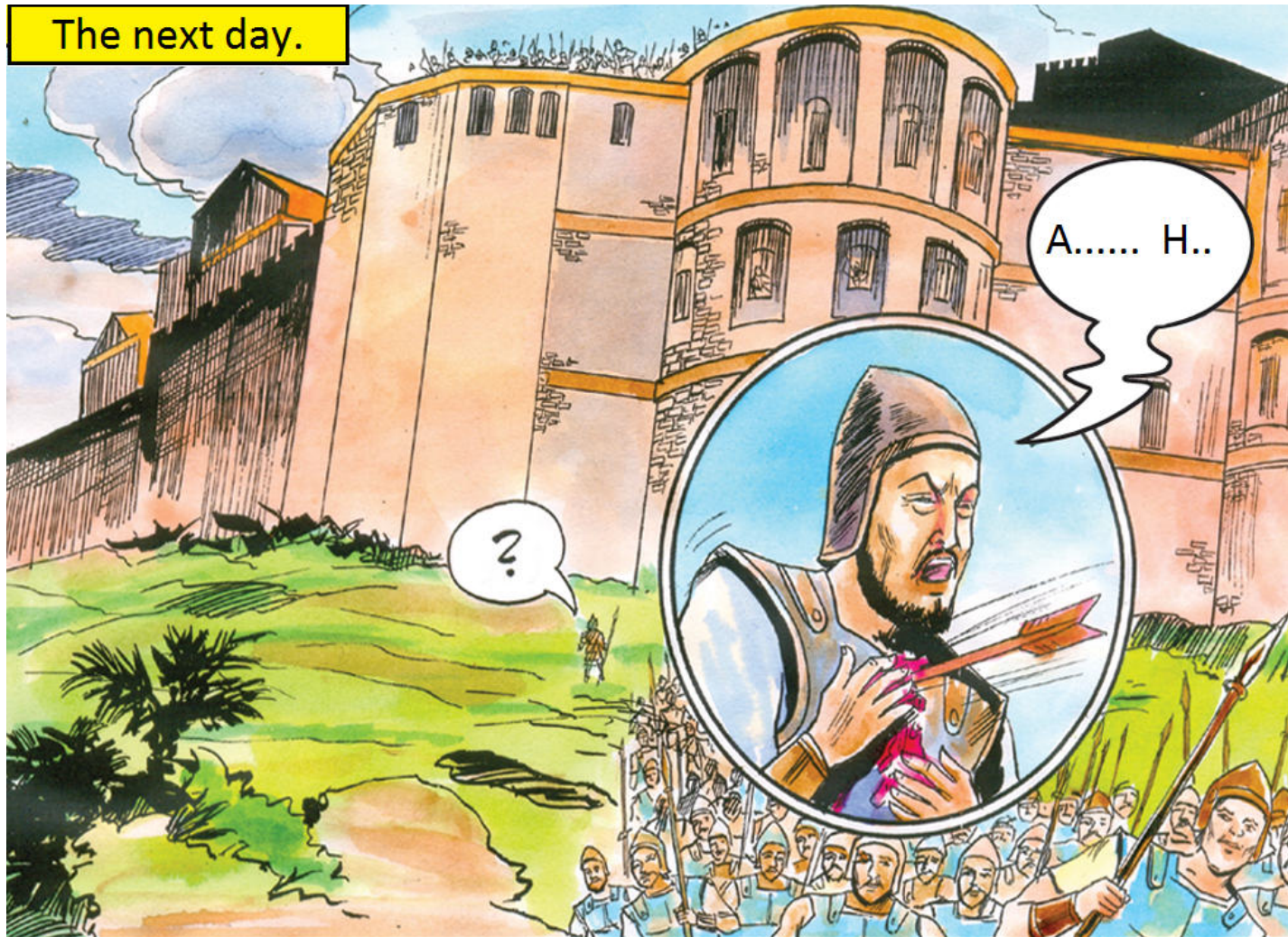
Uriah returned to the camp.



Move in and attack tomorrow.
Send Uriah to the front and then
withdraw the army. Let him die.

?!

The next day.



After the death of Uriah, David himself went and captured Rabbah. Upon his return he married Bathsheba.

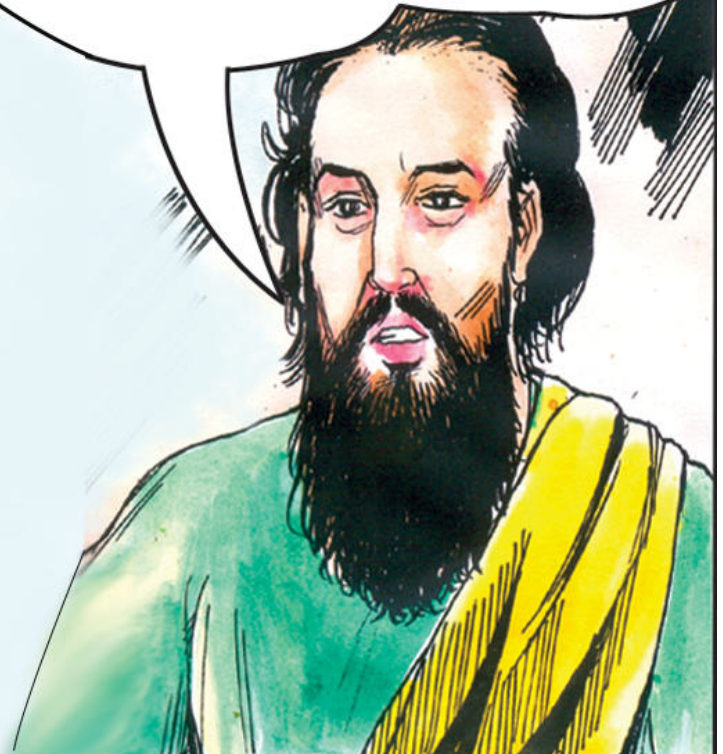
Prophet Nathan,
good to see you.

Your Majesty, a grave
crime has been
committed in your
country.

Tell me.



In the same town were two men. One rich, the other poor. The rich man had flocks and herds. The other had nothing but a ewe lamb.





The Lamb ate his bread, drank from his cup
and slept on his breast. She was like a
daughter to him.

When a guest came to the rich man's house, he took the poor man's lamb and prepared the dinner.

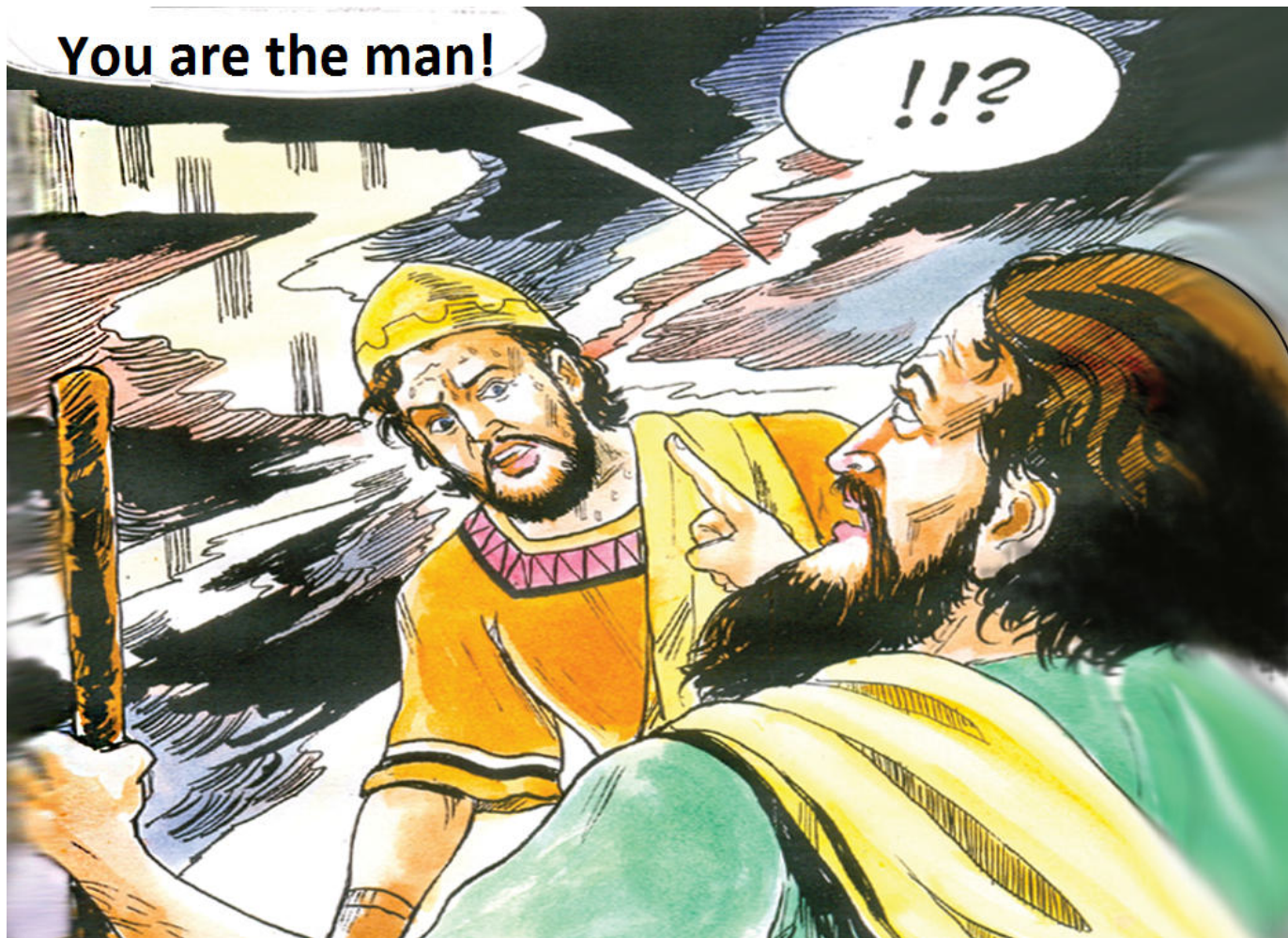


As Yahweh lives, the man who did this must die. I won't tolerate such a crime in my country.

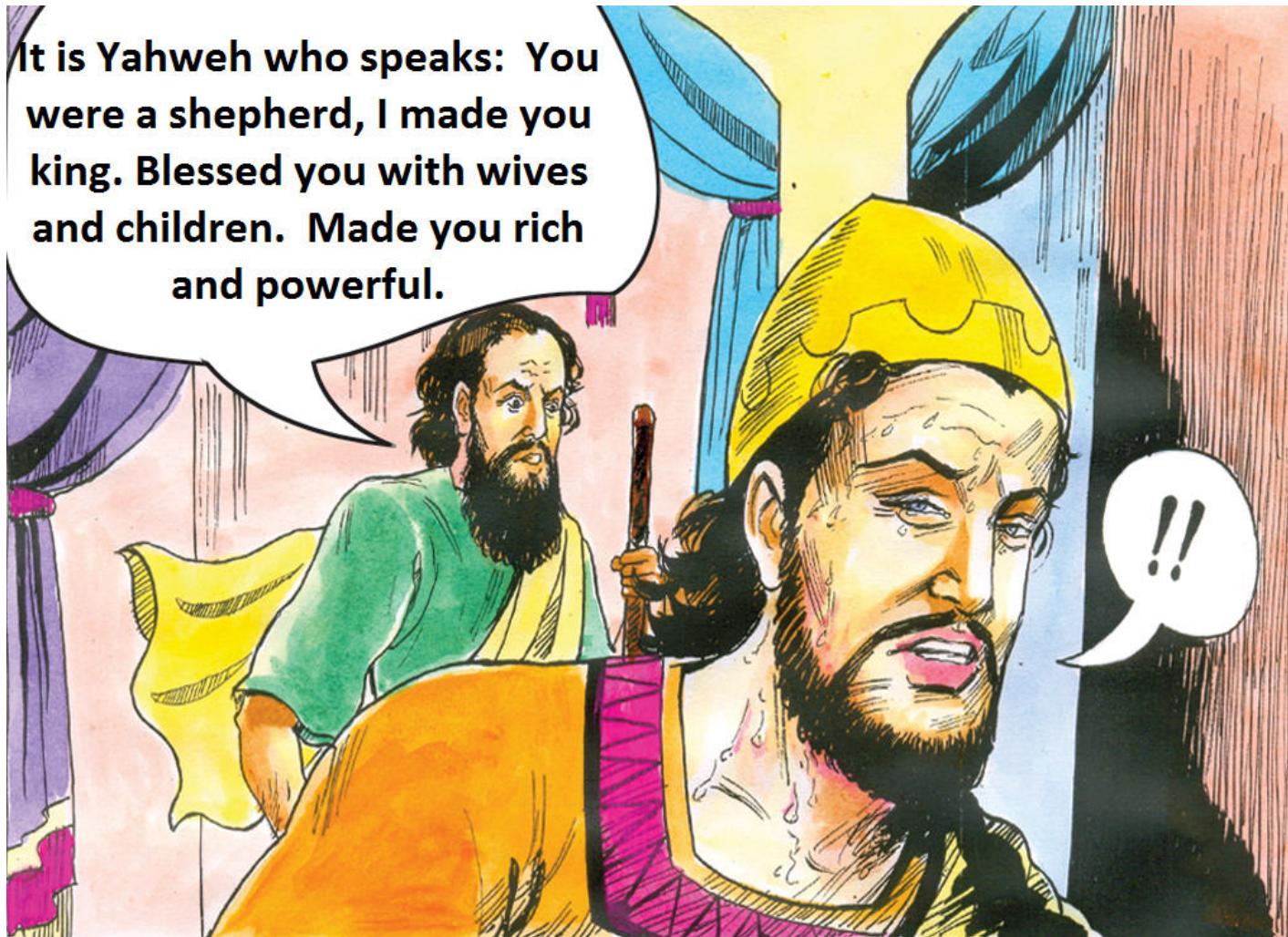


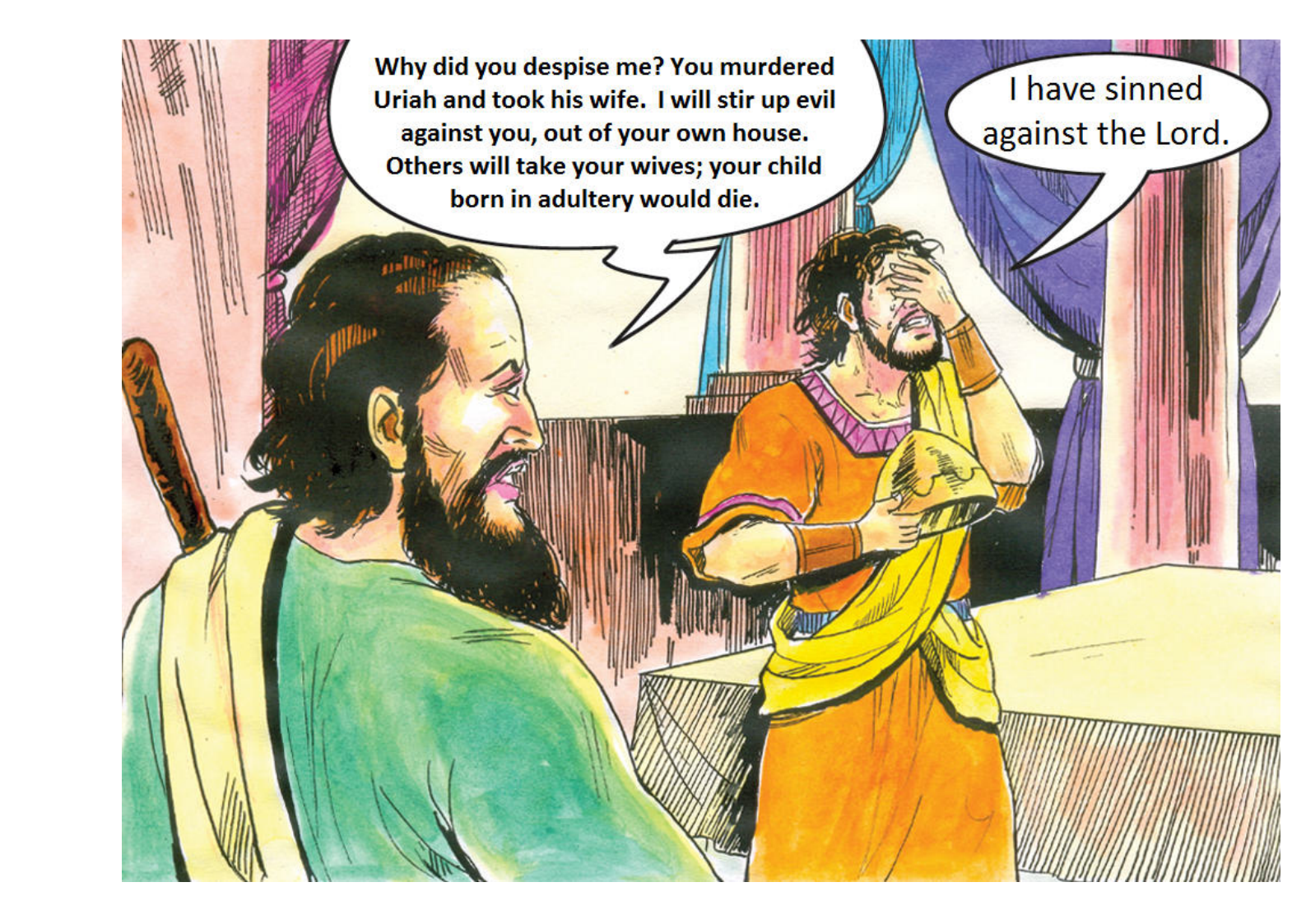
You are the man!

!!?




It is Yahweh who speaks: You were a shepherd, I made you king. Blessed you with wives and children. Made you rich and powerful.





Why did you despise me? You murdered
Uriah and took his wife. I will stir up evil
against you, out of your own house.
Others will take your wives; your child
born in adultery would die.

I have sinned
against the Lord.



Have mercy on me,
Oh! God. In your
great tenderness
wipe away my sins.

With a broken and contrite heart, he cried for mercy. Yet the child died



Lord, God, you are just when you punish me. If you don't overlook sins who can survive!



Bethsheba gave birth to another child. They called him Solomon.

Yahweh has forgiven my sins. After me, this son will be the king of Israel.

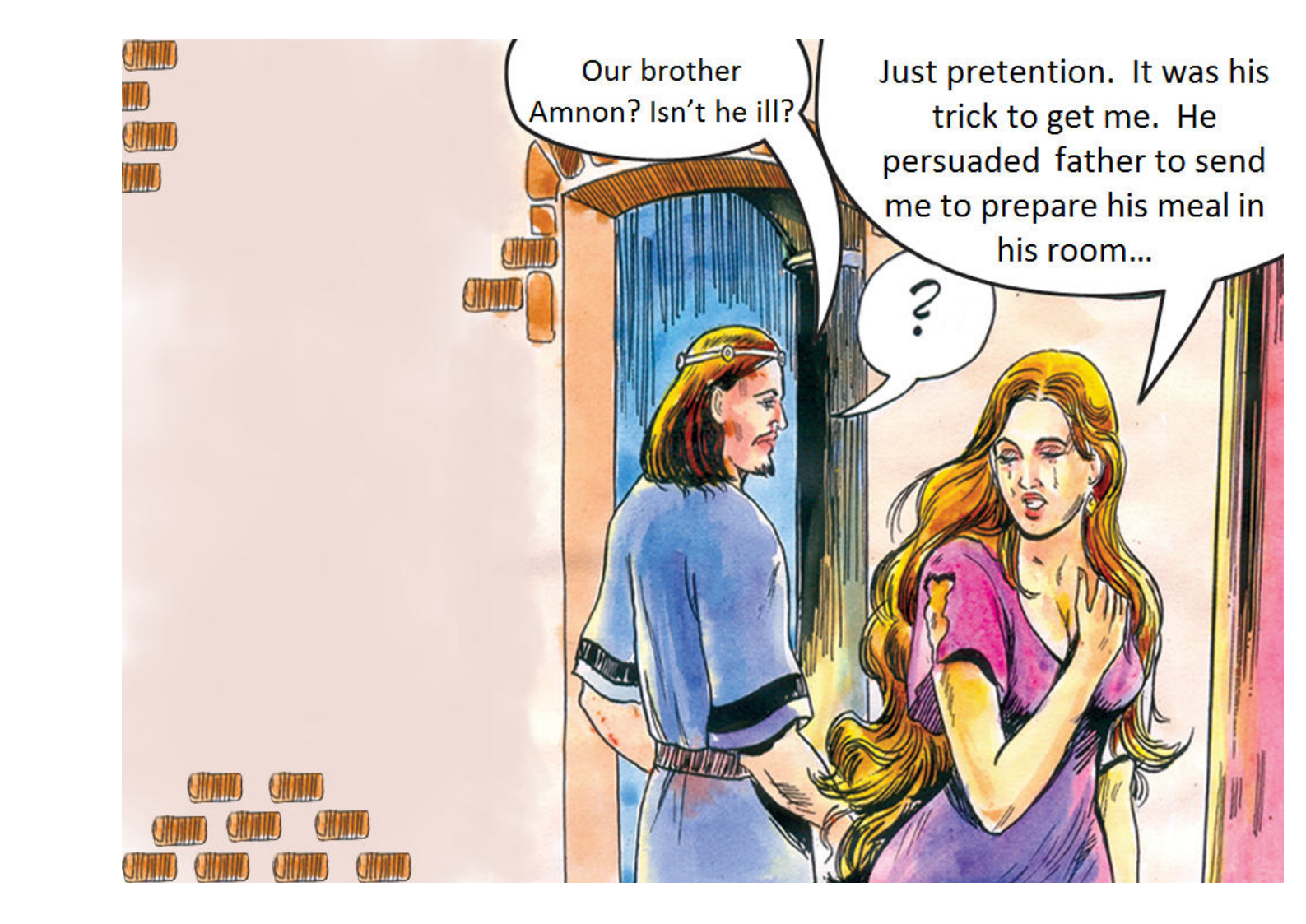


But David's trouble did not end here. Conflict broke out among the children born of his many wives. David's son Absalom, speaking to his sister.

Thamar, what happened to you!

Oh, Absalom, Amnon ruined me.





Our brother Amnon? Isn't he ill?

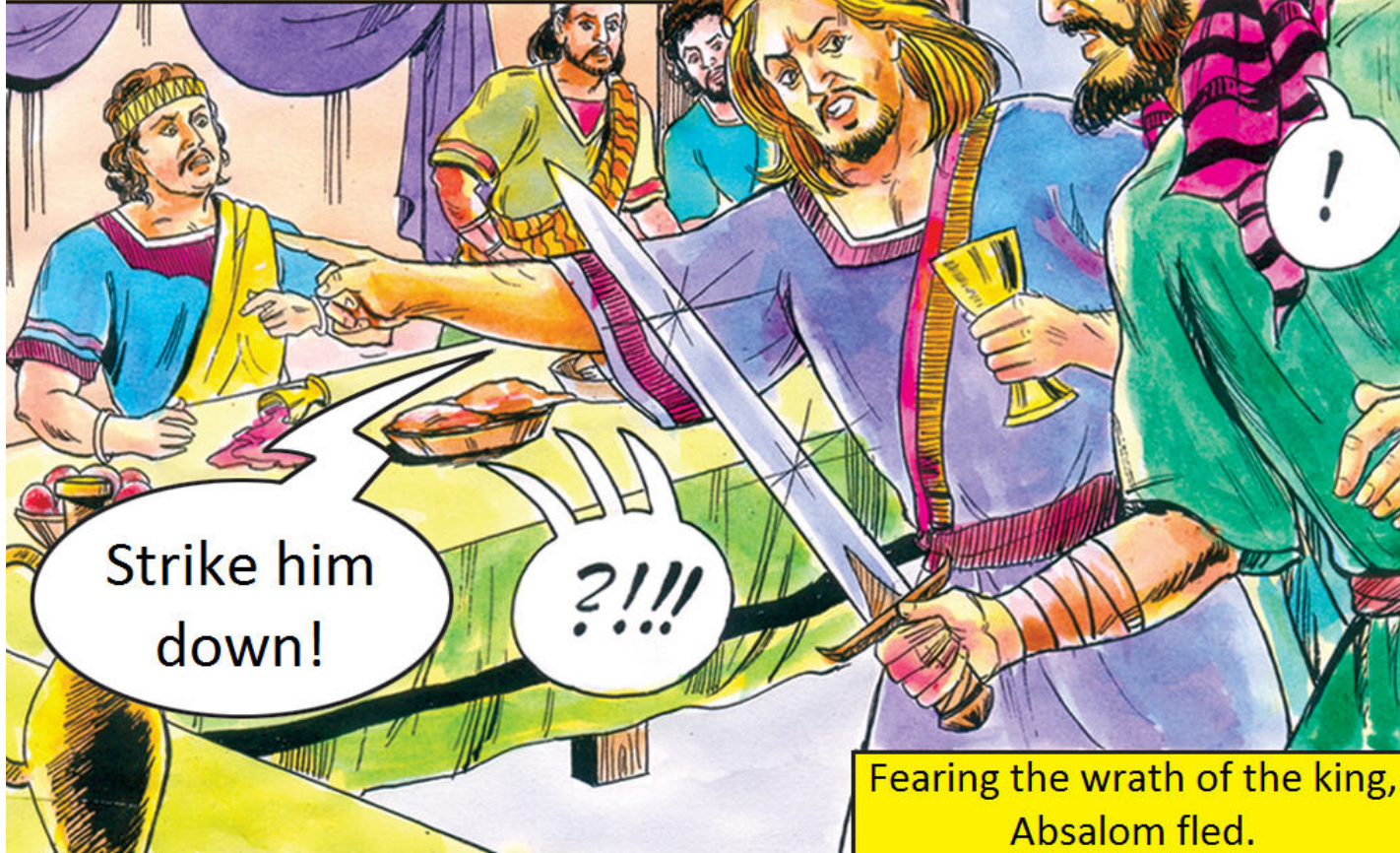
Just pretention. It was his trick to get me. He persuaded father to send me to prepare his meal in his room...

?

Amnon, you will
pay for this.



Absalom kept this in mind. Months later he prepared a dinner for the princes.



Fearing the wrath of the king, Absalom fled.

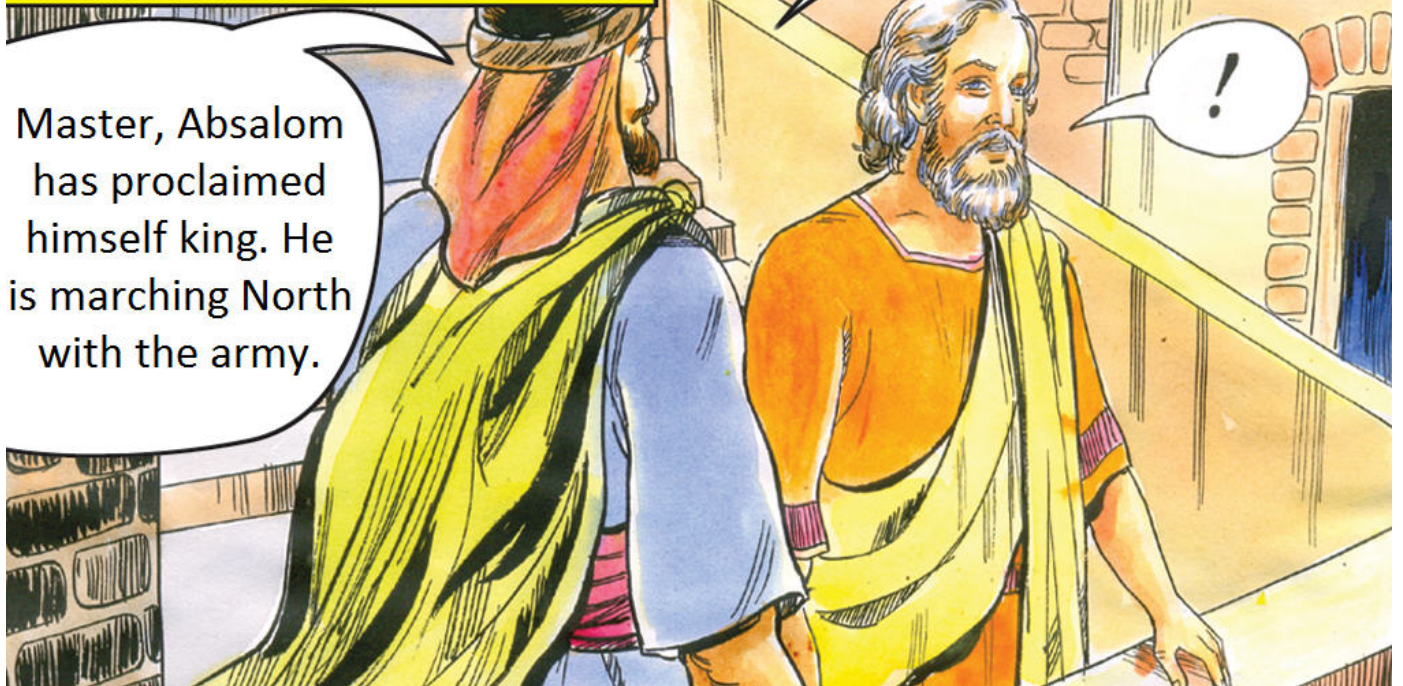
Years later, with the permission of David, Absalom settled down in Hebron. A large number of people dissatisfied with David's rule and enchanted by Absalom's empty promises joined him. One day in Jerusalem...

We must escape immediately.

Though most of the army is on his side, we can still defend this city.

Master, Absalom has proclaimed himself king. He is marching North with the army.

!



It won't be wise to resist
him now. Let us
withdraw into the
wilderness, beyond
Jordan.



Fearing his son Absalom, David fled with his people.



Looking at Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, David wept.

Hushai, you must go back and join Absalom. Be a spy for me in the palace. You can trust the priests, they are with us.

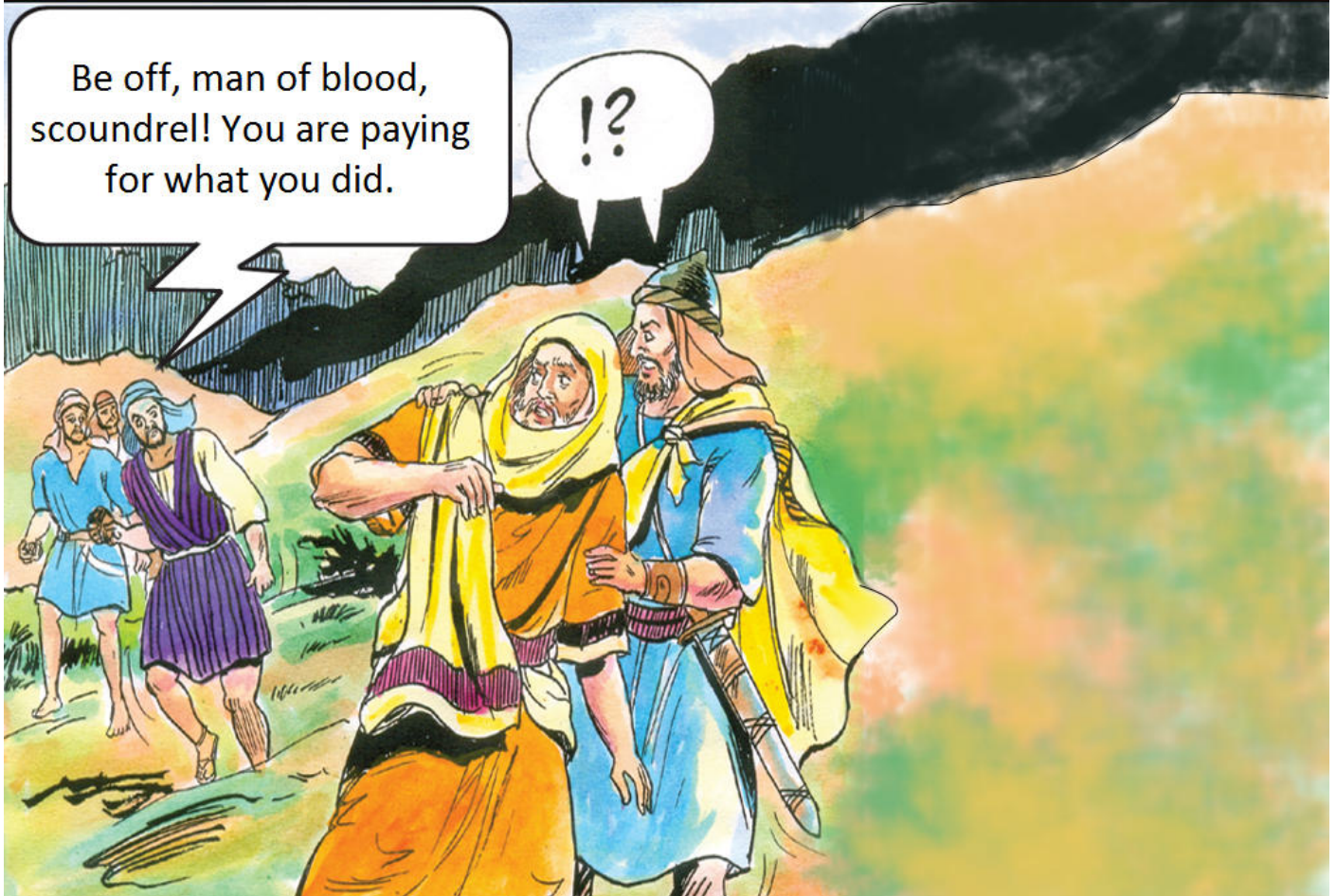
I'll do anything for you M'Lord.




Some of the villages cursed David as he passed.

Be off, man of blood,
scoundrel! You are paying
for what you did.

!?



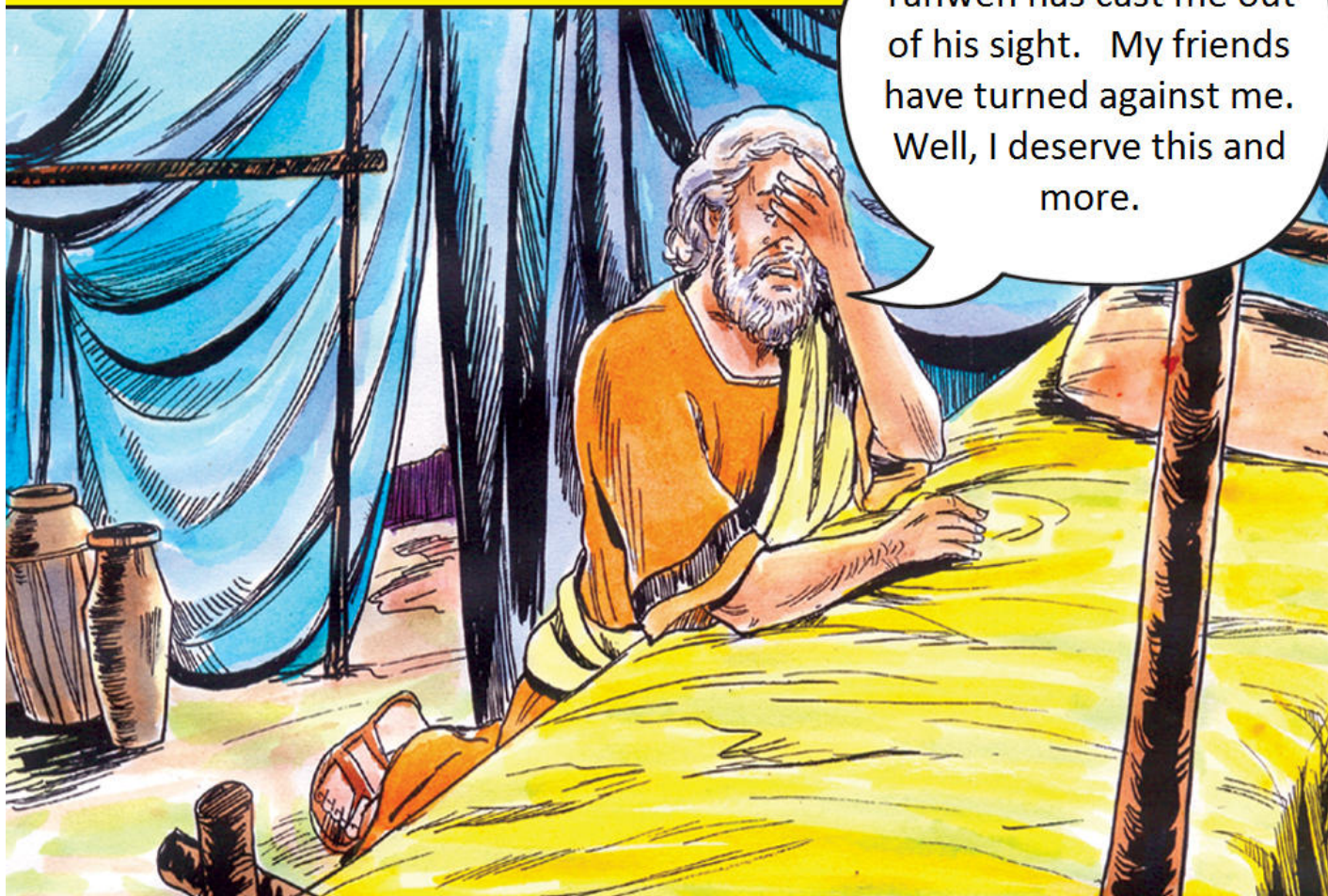



Shall I silence this Dog?

No, it is the Lord
who sent him to
curse me.

Overwhelmed by grief, David wept bitterly.

Yahweh has cast me out of his sight. My friends have turned against me. Well, I deserve this and more.





My soul thirsts for thee. My
body pines for thee, like a
parched land thirsts for
water.

Lord, hear my
prayer. Forgive my
sins.

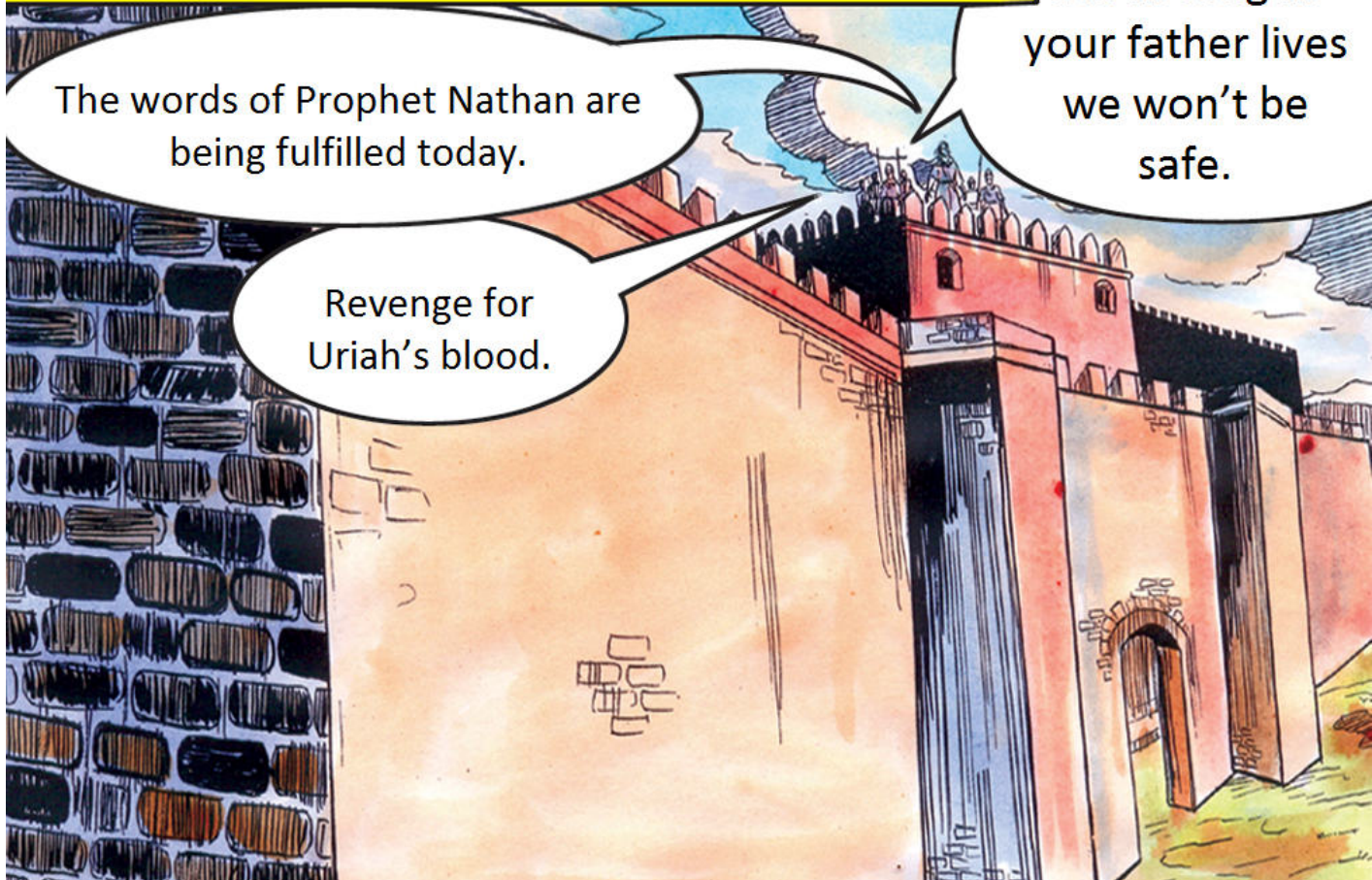


Absolom with his army marched into Jerusalem. There was no one to resist.

But as long as your father lives we won't be safe.

The words of Prophet Nathan are being fulfilled today.

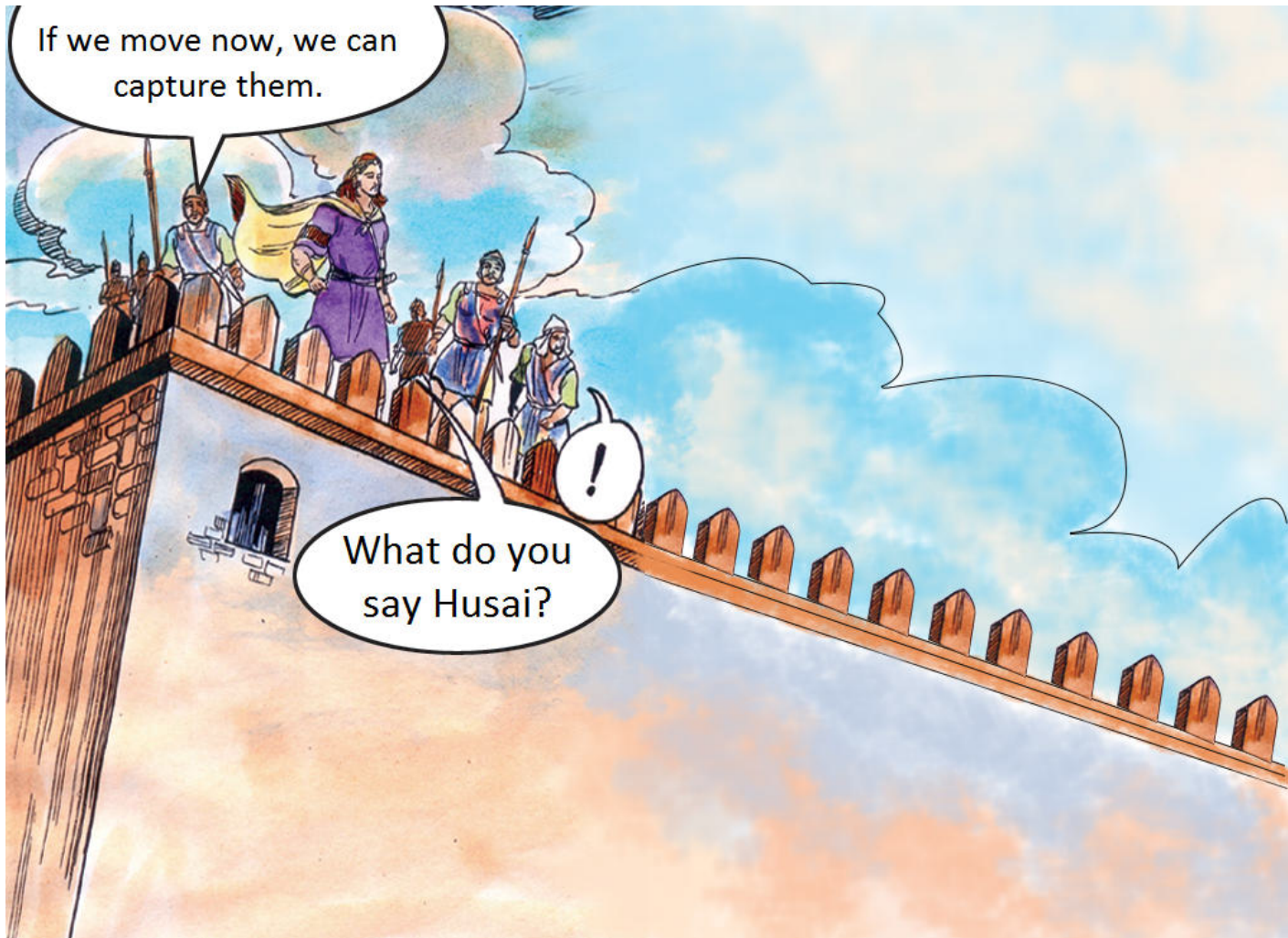
Revenge for Uriah's blood.



If we move now, we can capture them.

What do you say Husai?

!



Attacking now will be dangerous. Let us gather more force and then encounter them in a full battle.

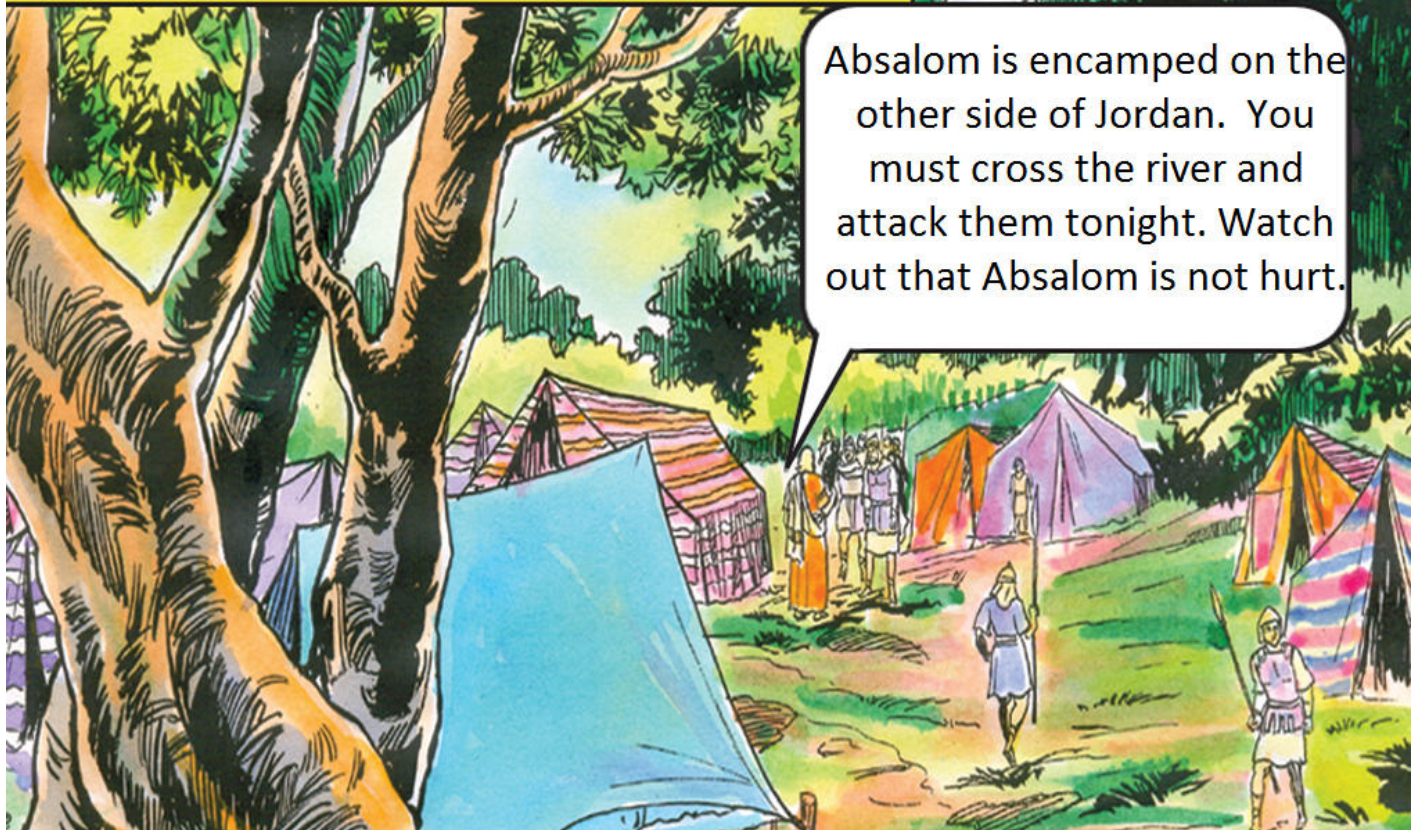
That's better.

!!



After a few days Absalom marched against David. At the same time David to his followers:

Absalom is encamped on the other side of Jordan. You must cross the river and attack them tonight. Watch out that Absalom is not hurt.



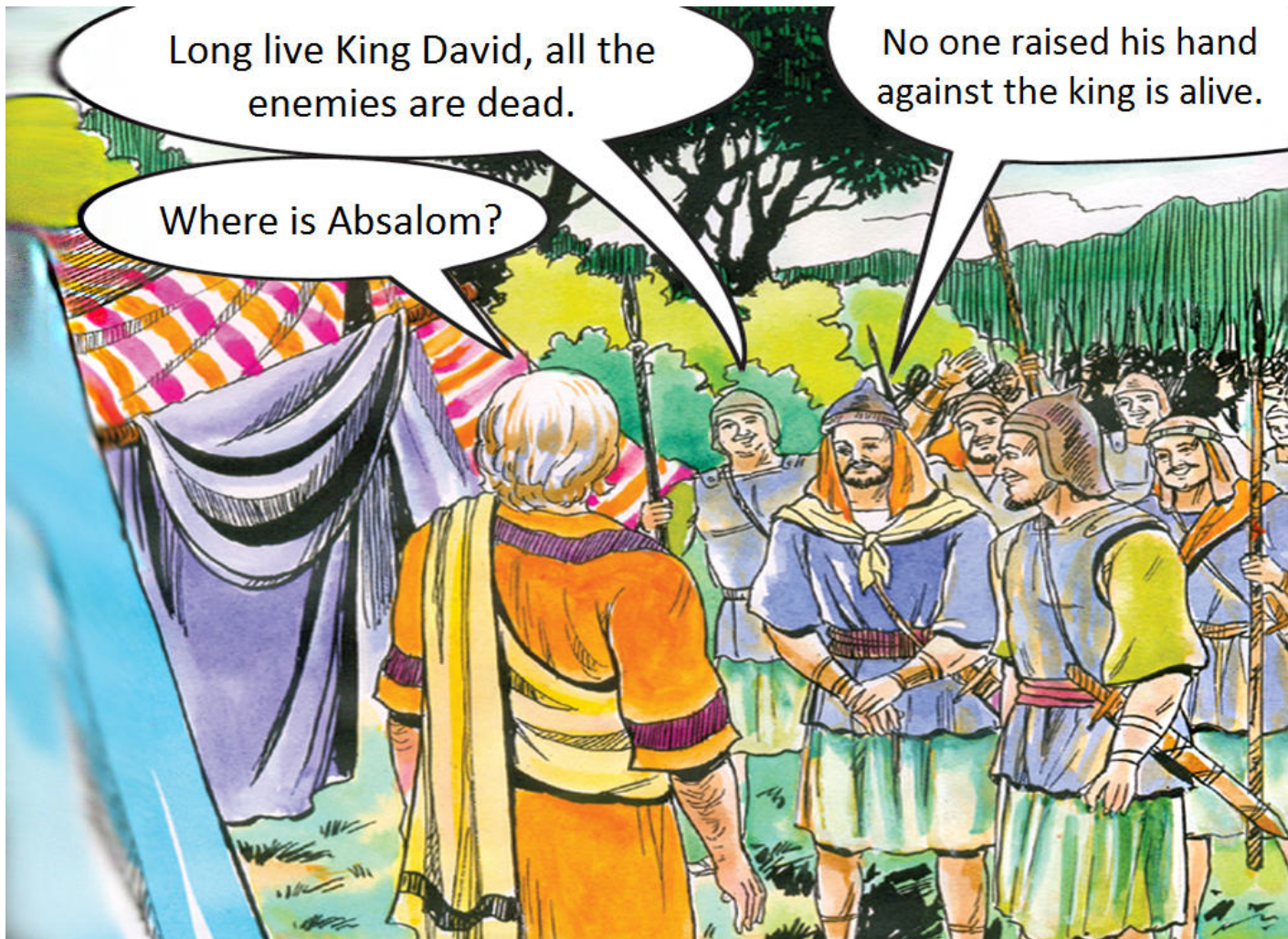
At dawn both armies met. Absalom was defeated as he fled Joab pinned him down with his Spear.



Long live King David, all the
enemies are dead.

No one raised his hand
against the king is alive.

Where is Absalom?





Absalom, my son, Absalom.

David mourned over the death of his son. Revolutions plagued the land. Though he was able to suppress all oppositions. David's last years were sad. Conflicts and rivalries among the princes. Conspiracy in the Royal household. Crowning of the wise prince.

Next Story



Solomon

QUESTIONS

After reading this story, and its source, 2 Samuel, answer the following questions.

1. Israel was facing a crisis when David became king. Explain.
2. How did David unify all the tribes of Israel under his leadership?
3. Name the two captains of David.
4. What does the name “Jerusalem” means?
5. Who were the two high priests David appointed?
6. What was the promise Yahweh made to David?
7. State the causes of David’s fall.
8. Nathan told David a story. What was it?
9. Why did King David run away from his palace?
10. David is the model of repentance. Explain.

THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN COMICS

1. Cain and Abel
2. Abraham
3. Jacob
4. Joseph
5. Moses
6. Joshua
7. Samson
8. Ruth
9. 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 Awaiting
32. Light of the world
33. The Herald
34. The Prophet
35. The Liberator

36. The One to come
37. The Lord of the Universe
38. Son of God
39. The 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. Libation
50. Come, Lord Jesus
51. Woman