

Bible Comics – 14

Elijah

MAR LOUIS PUBLICATIONS
INC.





BIBLE COMICS-14

ELIJAH

Script :

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Illustration :

DEVASY

A whirlwind from the wilderness

ELIJAH

The people of Israel, who settled in Canaan in the 13th century B.C., were ruled by tribal leaders for almost two centuries. These leaders helped the people remain faithful to Yahweh and His covenant. They had no other king but Yahweh who liberated them from the slavery in Egypt.

Towards the middle of the 11th century B.C., threatened by powerful enemies, the people demanded a king. Samuel, giving way to their pressure, anointed Saul as the first king of Israel. At the same time he warned them that eventually the monarchy would cause their ruin. This threat began to be materialized during the reign of Solomon whose pagan wives introduced idolatry into Israel.

In the course of time, Yahweh and His covenant, with its strong ethical demands, fell into oblivion. Consequently authority became corrupt; the poor and the weak were subjected to severe oppression. It is in this context that prophets appeared on the scene, as the spokesmen of Yahweh and defenders of the Covenant. Elijah, the hero of this story, is the first of such prophets. He lived in the 9th Century B.C. in the Northern Kingdom, Israel. The Bible passages, 1 Kings 18-21; 2

Kings 1-2; Sirach 48, 1-11; and Malachi 4, 1-6 narrate various episodes from his life.

The name “Elijah” means “my God is Yahweh”. True to his name Elijah was a man burning with the zeal for Yahweh. At a time when confessing the faith in Yahweh was considered a crime deserving capital punishment, Elijah confronted the king and the whole nation in the name of Yahweh. The Mount Carmel episode illustrates how he kept alive Israel’s faith in Yahweh.

Elijah was a man of prayer. In every adversity he turned to Yahweh for help. It was from these encounters that he drew strength and courage to carry out his difficult mission. From the wilderness into which he retired for prayer, he burst out with the force of a whirlwind against idolatry and injustice. The God experience on Mount Horeb and the struggle for justice in Naboth's vineyard illustrate two dimensions of Elijah's prophetic life. Another element that marked his life was

the working of miracles through which he manifested God's merciful love for the poor and the weak. This led to the popular belief that Elijah would come to help those in difficulties, especially in danger of death.

The Jews believed that this world would come to an end with a universal judgment in which God would punish the sinners and reward the just. The legend of Elijah's ascension gave rise to the hope that he would return just before this judgment in order to

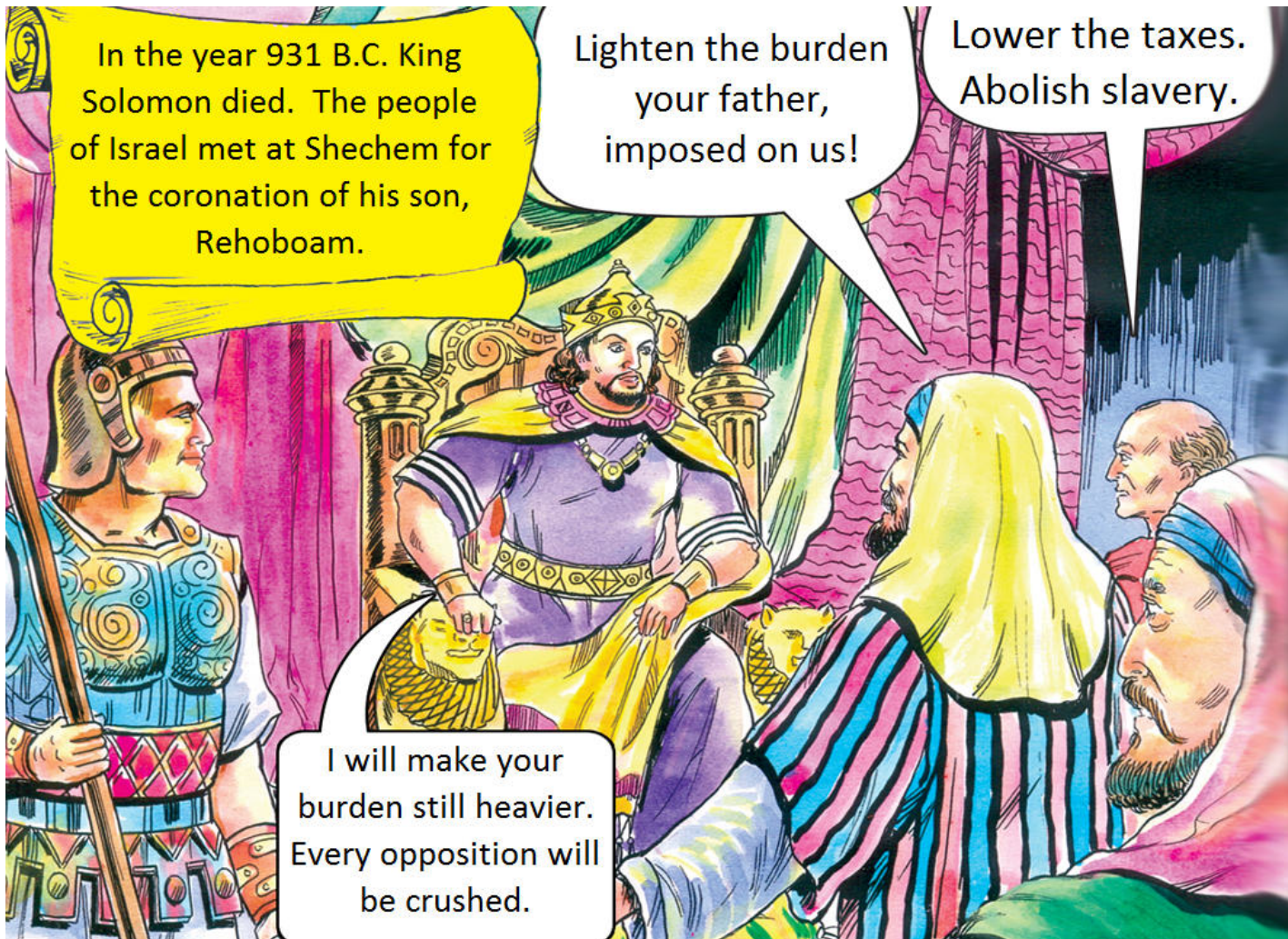
call the people to conversion. According to the gospels this hope was fulfilled in John Baptist who came preaching repentance and so preparing the way for Jesus, the Messiah. Thus, in a broad sense, Elijah is the forerunner of Jesus.

In the year 931 B.C. King Solomon died. The people of Israel met at Shechem for the coronation of his son, Rehoboam.

Lighten the burden
your father,
imposed on us!

Lower the taxes.
Abolish slavery.

I will make your
burden still heavier.
Every opposition will
be crushed.



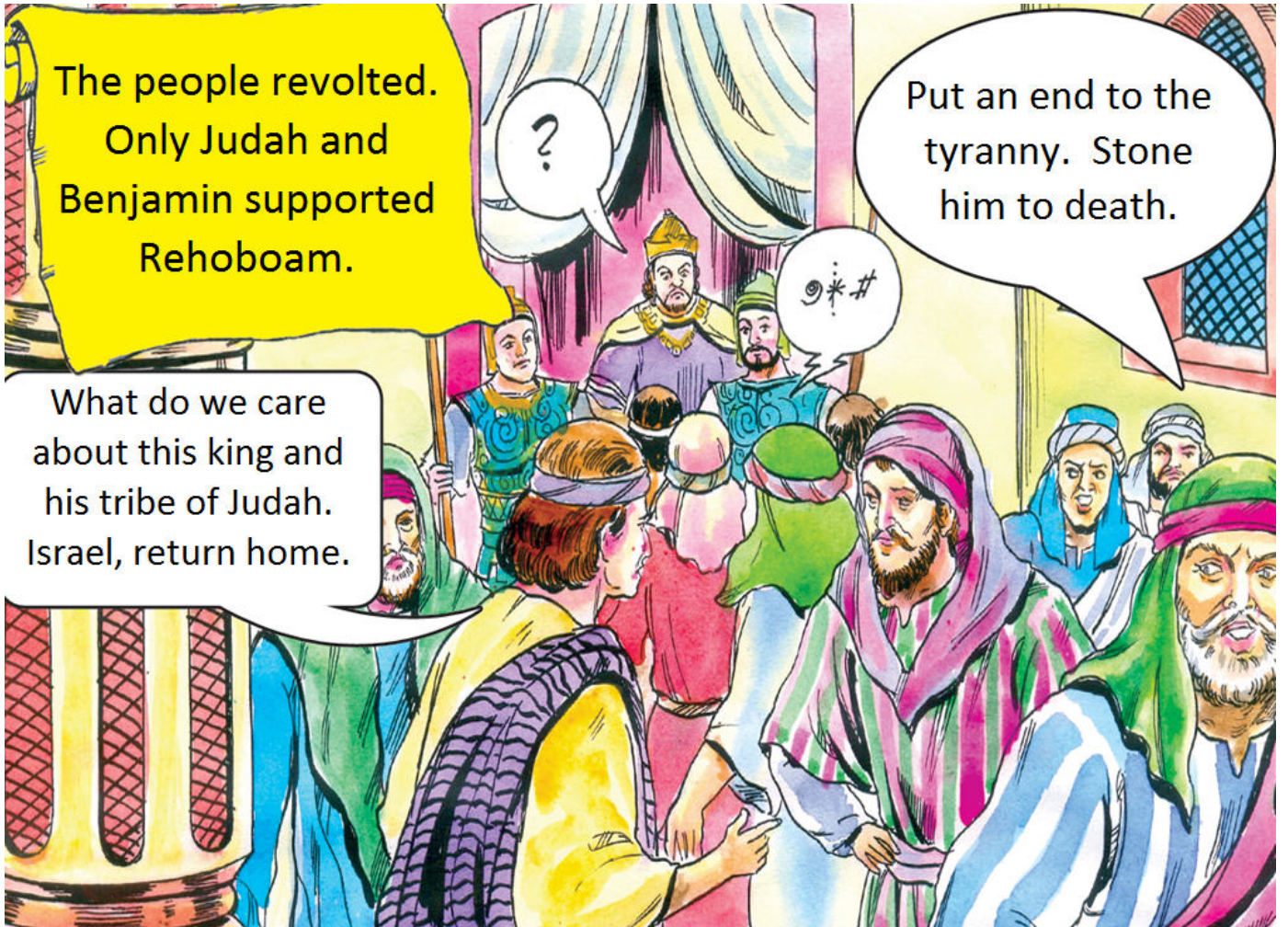
The people revolted.
Only Judah and
Benjamin supported
Rehoboam.

What do we care
about this king and
his tribe of Judah.
Israel, return home.

?

☪ #

Put an end to the
tyranny. Stone
him to death.



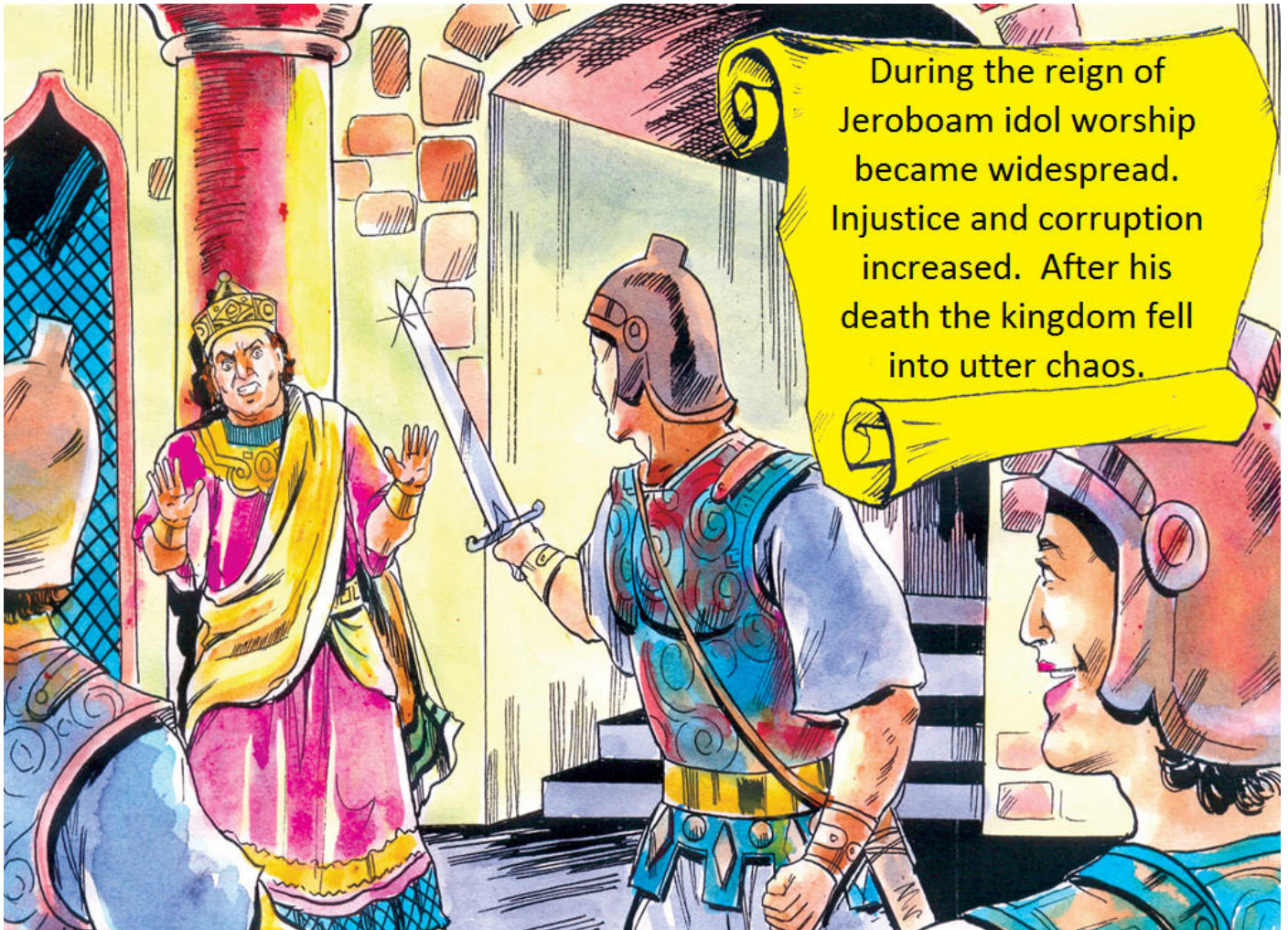
Rehoboam withdrew to Jerusalem. The ten tribes in revolt formed a kingdom, Israel and made Jeroboam their king. In order to secure popular support, he built Temples. At the Temple in Bethel.

You won't have to go to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices. Israel, this is your God.

What a handsome God!

What a beautiful Temple.





During the reign of Jeroboam idol worship became widespread. Injustice and corruption increased. After his death the kingdom fell into utter chaos.

One after another four kings were killed. In 885 B.C. Omri became king through military action.

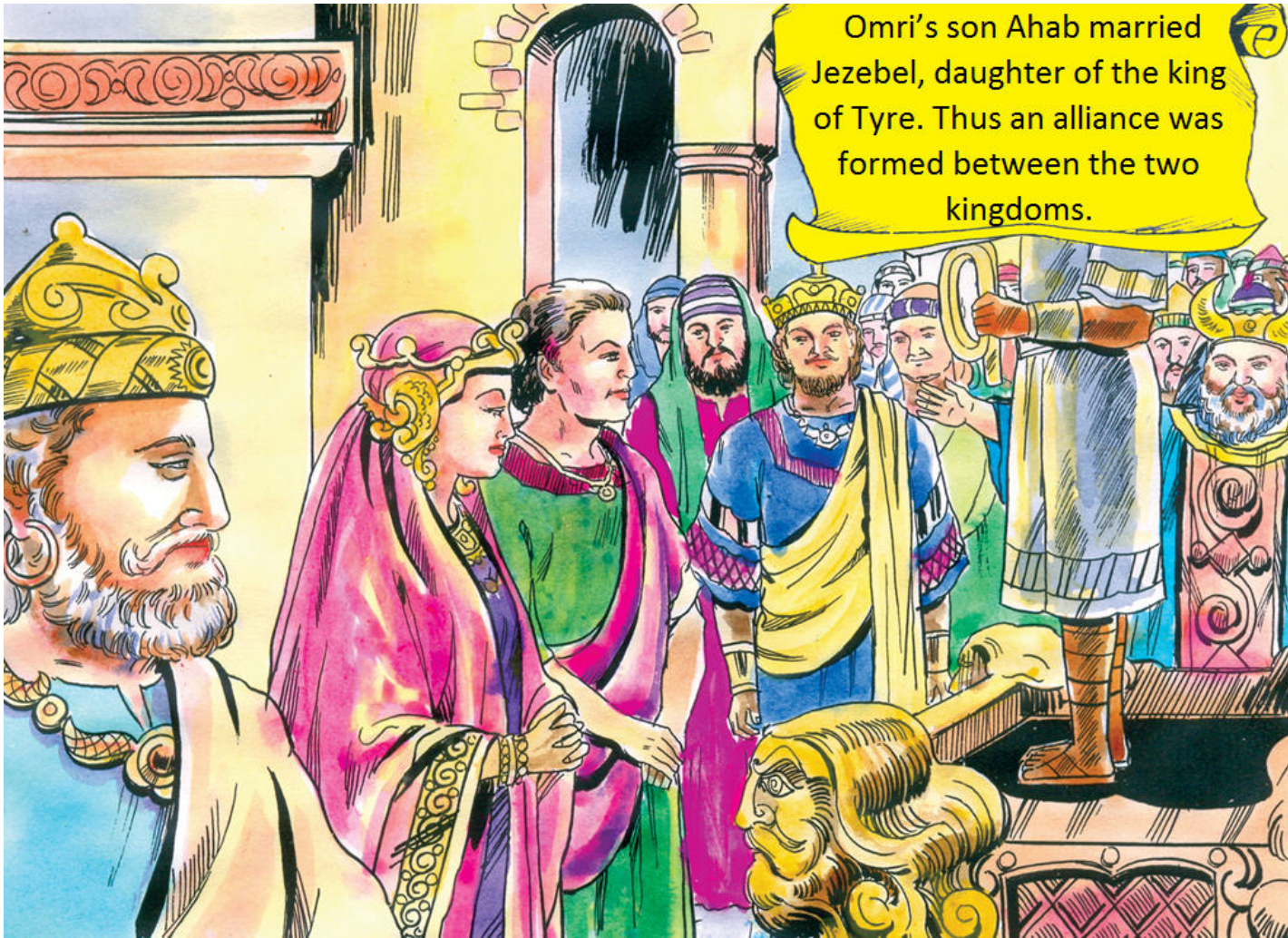
Brethren, we must not destroy ourselves fighting with each other. Let us stand together and regain the land we lost.



Omri expanded his kingdom by capturing the small countries and secured his power by making peace treaties with the strong neighbors. City of Samaria.



Omri's son Ahab married Jezebel, daughter of the king of Tyre. Thus an alliance was formed between the two kingdoms.

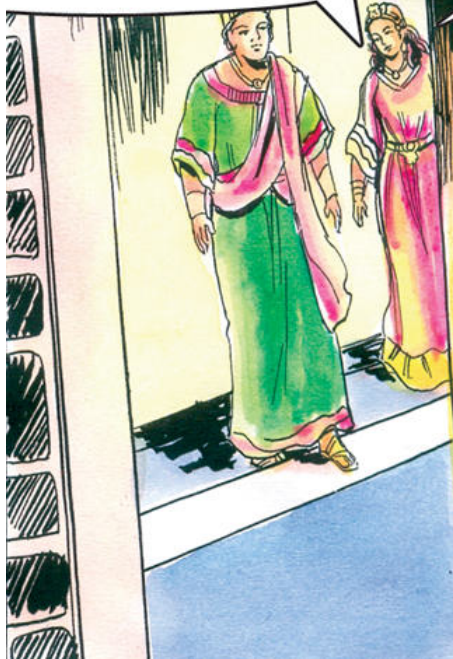


Shortly after Ahab's marriage, Omri died. There was a rumor that Jezebel had a hand in his sudden death.



Pardon me for saying this, but he could not handle the enemies within his own kingdom.

What do you mean?



You know those prophets of Yahweh, they are the trouble makers and our worst enemies.

You kidding? They are just harmless preachers. They safeguard the faith in Yahweh who liberated Israel from slavery.

Don't be a fool. You are the king. Yahweh is the god of slaves. Not of kings.



That is not true. It is
Yahweh who
anointed David and
Jeroboam kings.

A God who
demands to free the
slaves will always be
a threat to us.

What are you
suggesting then?



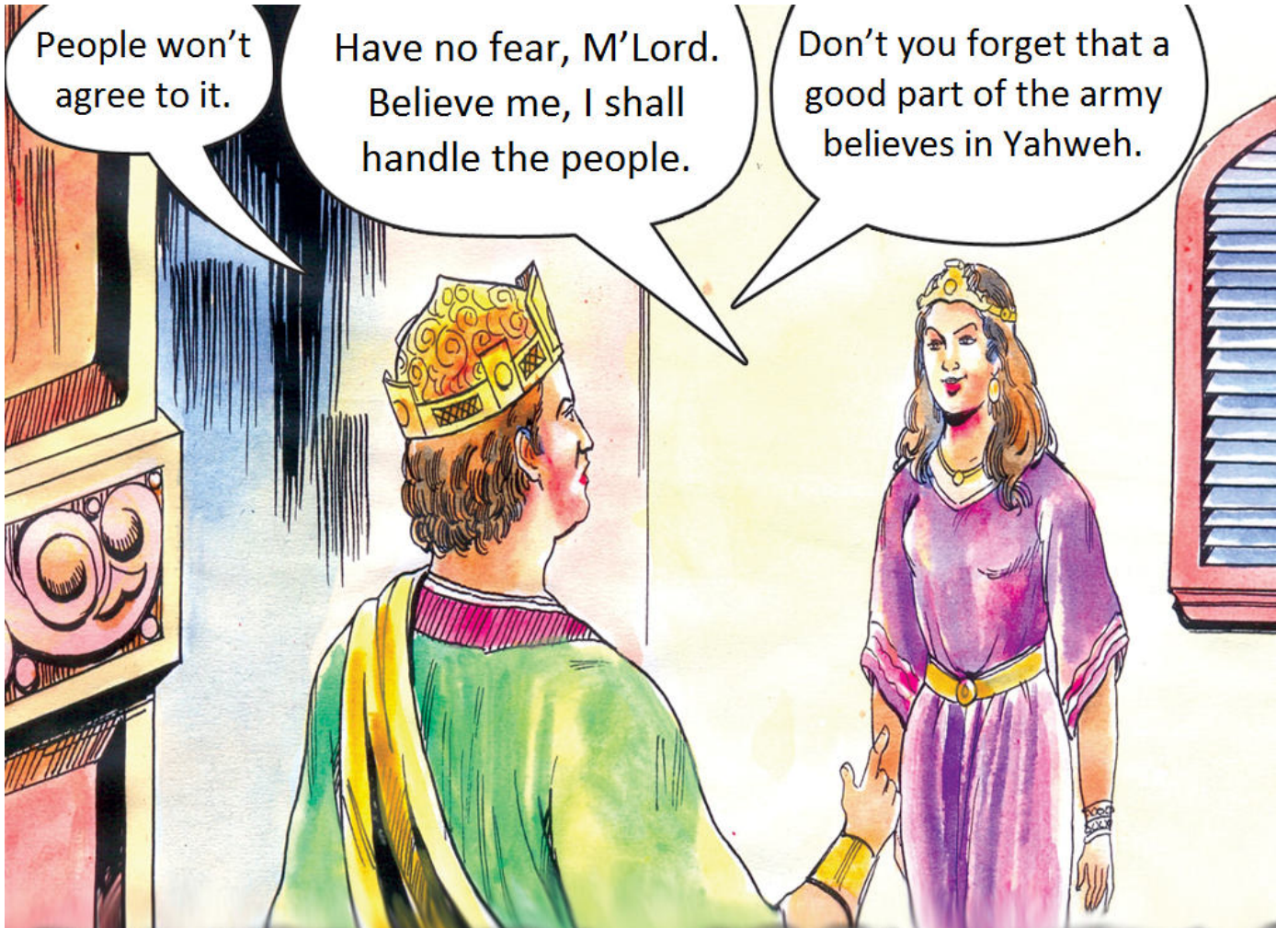
The faith in Yahweh must disappear. The worship of Baal, god of kings, must become popular.



People won't agree to it.

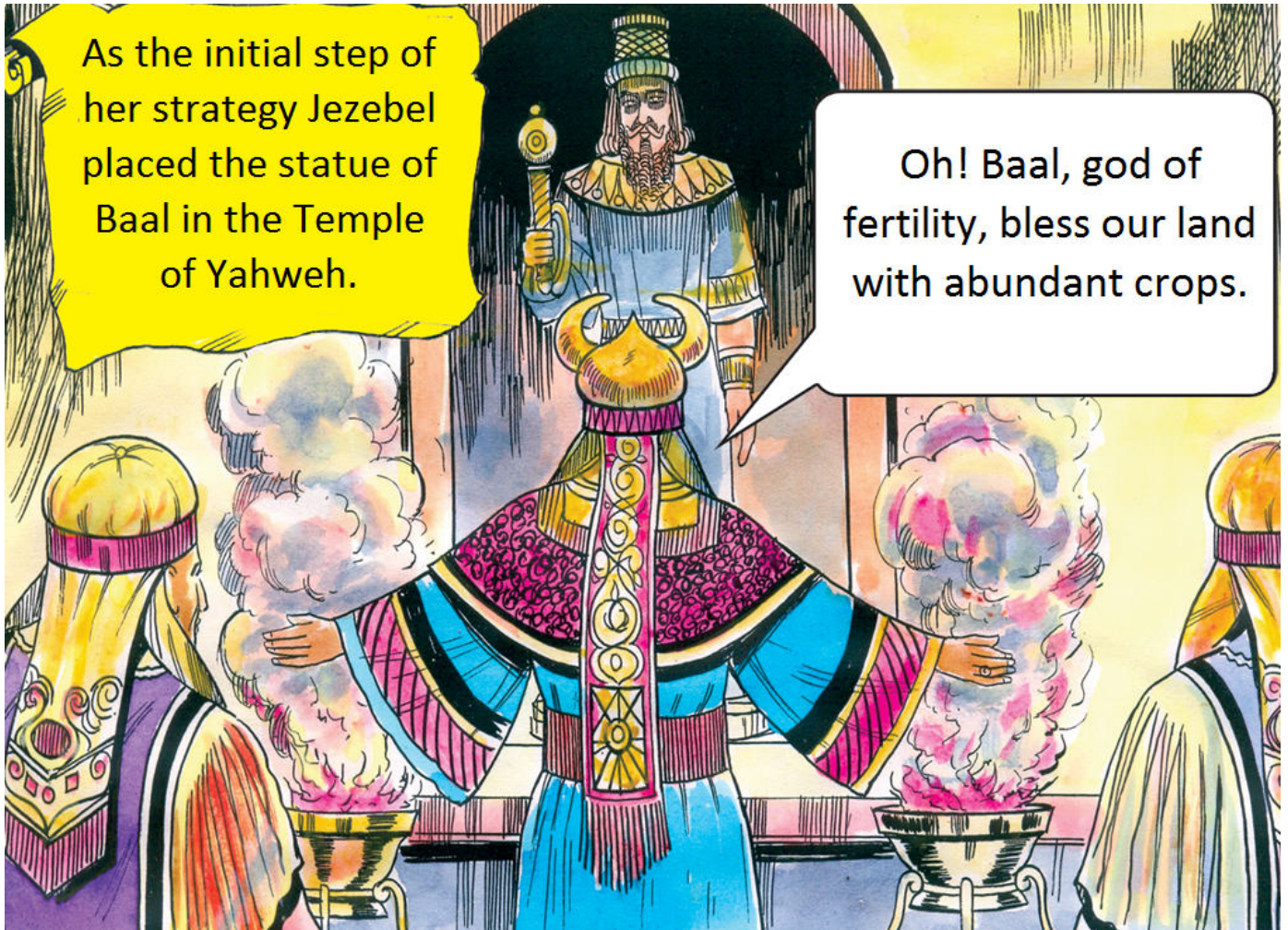
Have no fear, M'Lord. Believe me, I shall handle the people.

Don't you forget that a good part of the army believes in Yahweh.



As the initial step of her strategy Jezebel placed the statue of Baal in the Temple of Yahweh.

Oh! Baal, god of fertility, bless our land with abundant crops.



Oh! Baal, fertility god! Bless
this barren couple with many
children.



Keep this statue at home
and pray to it daily, you will
be blessed with children
and abundant wealth.

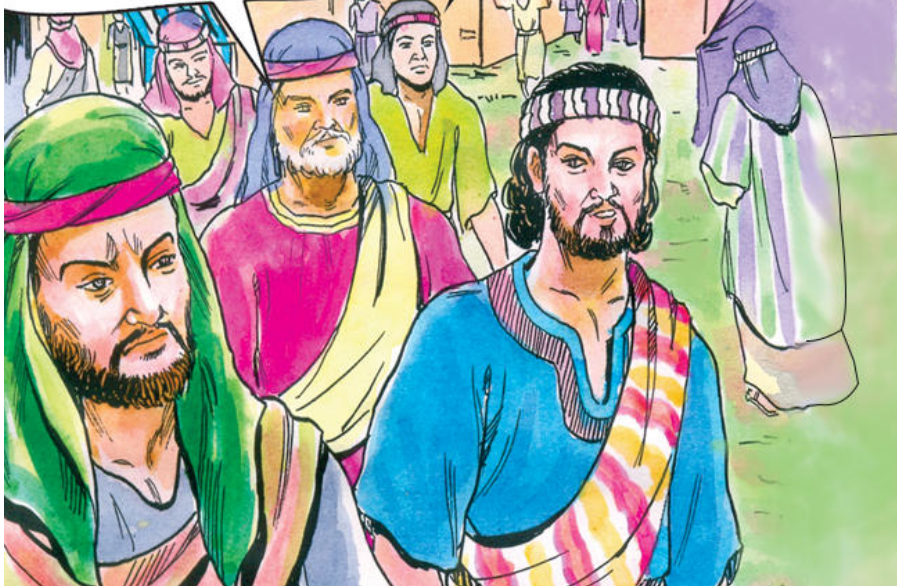


The weather was favorable. The land produced abundant fruits. A conversation among the farmers.

Don't be silly. Good weather gives good crops.

I don't remember having such a good harvest. Blessing of Baal, for sure.

Could it be possible that Baal is the real God?



Do you know Adoniah, the one
who lives on the Southend?

Don't I know
him? The barren
fellow!



Barrenness is all gone now. He changed his name to Ishbaal. Offered sacrifice to Baal, and there comes the triplet!

May be, we also better begin to worship Baal.



Through clever moves, Jezebel turned more and more people to Baal worship. The priests of Baal, drawing royal salary, spread rumors of miracle done by Baal.

King Ahab and Queen Jezebel order: people of Israel, listen carefully.



Beginning today Baal will be the god of Israel. The king will build Temples in all the cities. All the villagers must build their own Temples and offer daily sacrifices to Baal.



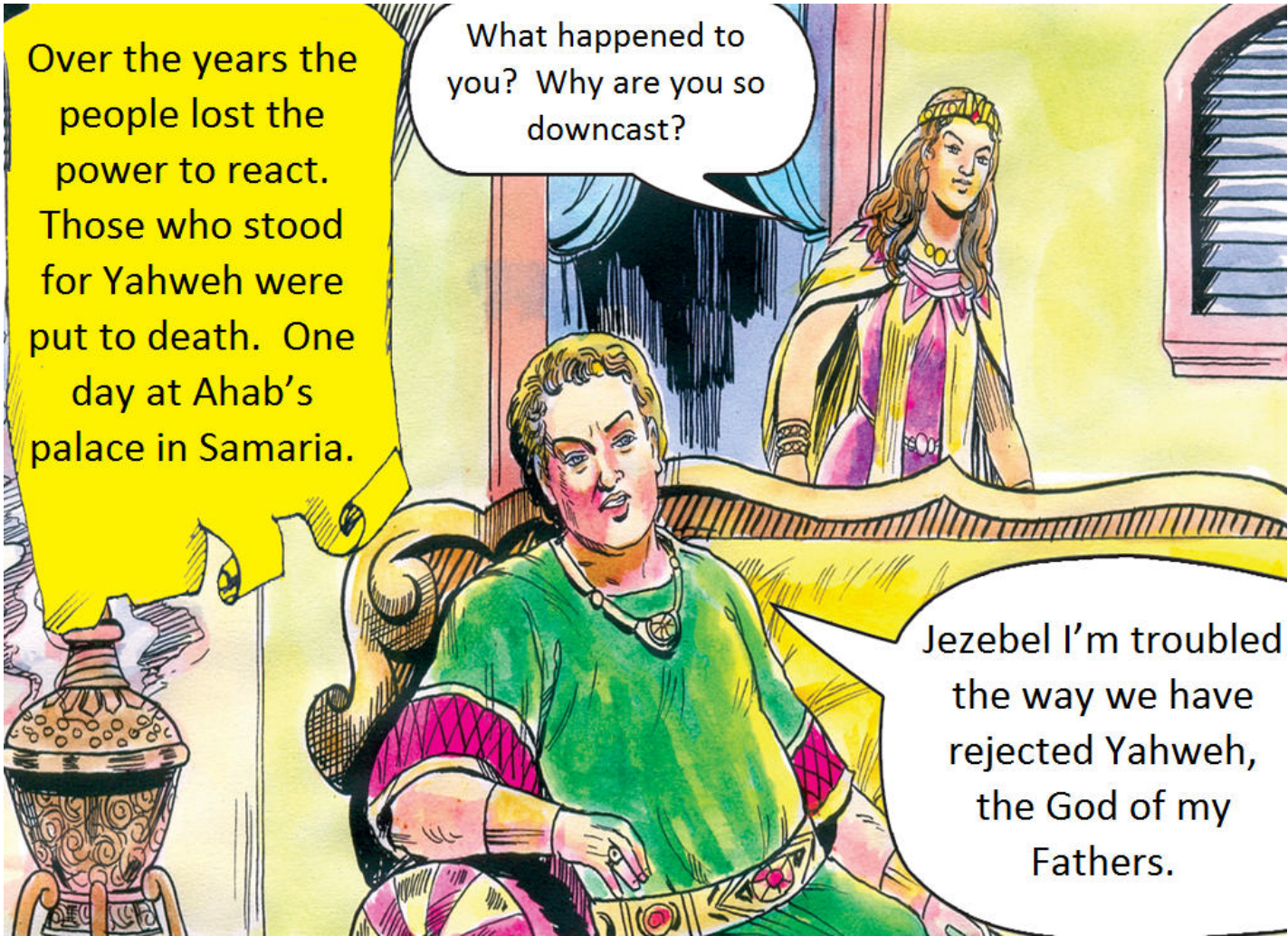
No more sacrifices to Yahweh. His name is not to be uttered in public. All the houses must have the statues of Baal. Those who wish to become priests of Baal should give their names in a week. The priests will be paid 100 pieces of silver a month.

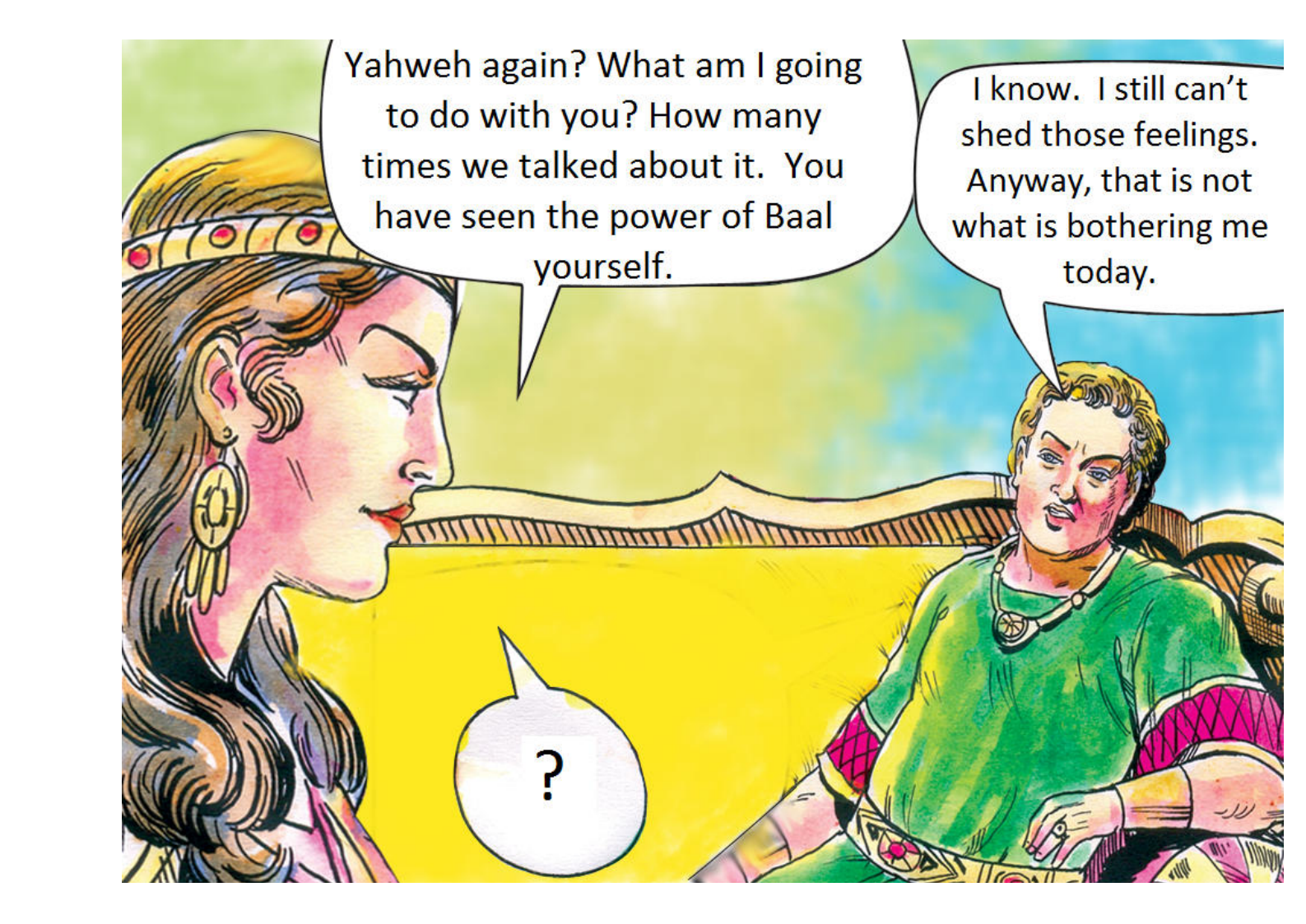


Over the years the people lost the power to react. Those who stood for Yahweh were put to death. One day at Ahab's palace in Samaria.

What happened to you? Why are you so downcast?

Jezebel I'm troubled the way we have rejected Yahweh, the God of my Fathers.





Yahweh again? What am I going to do with you? How many times we talked about it. You have seen the power of Baal yourself.

I know. I still can't shed those feelings. Anyway, that is not what is bothering me today.

?

Tell me. What is it? The king can
have no problem that can't be
solved.

Have you seen that
beautiful vineyard near
our summer palace in
Jezreel?



You mean Naboth's vineyard? How well he takes care of it! I even thought of making him the minister of agriculture.

I see. But I was thinking of buying it. We could make a beautiful garden there.

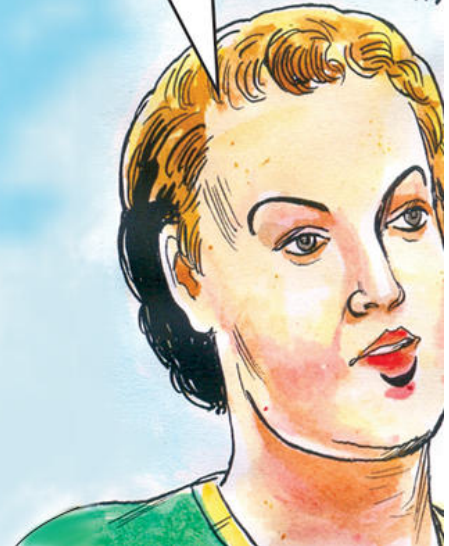
Then, what's the problem?
No money in the treasury?

!





He won't sell the property. I even offered double the amount of Land elsewhere. He says that is against Yahweh's law to sell the inherited land.

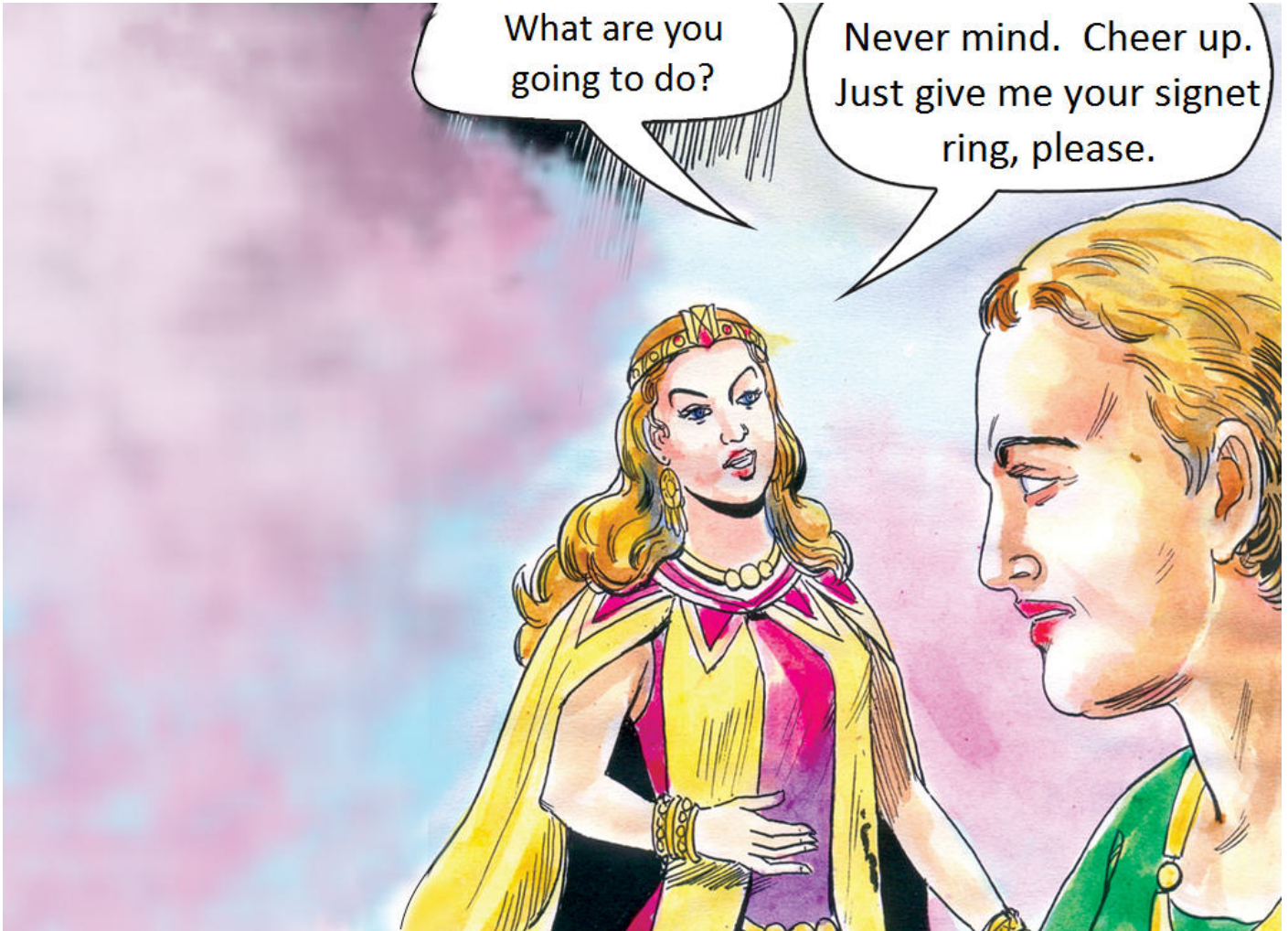




How daring! Well, don't worry. Within three days the vineyard will be yours.

What are you going to do?

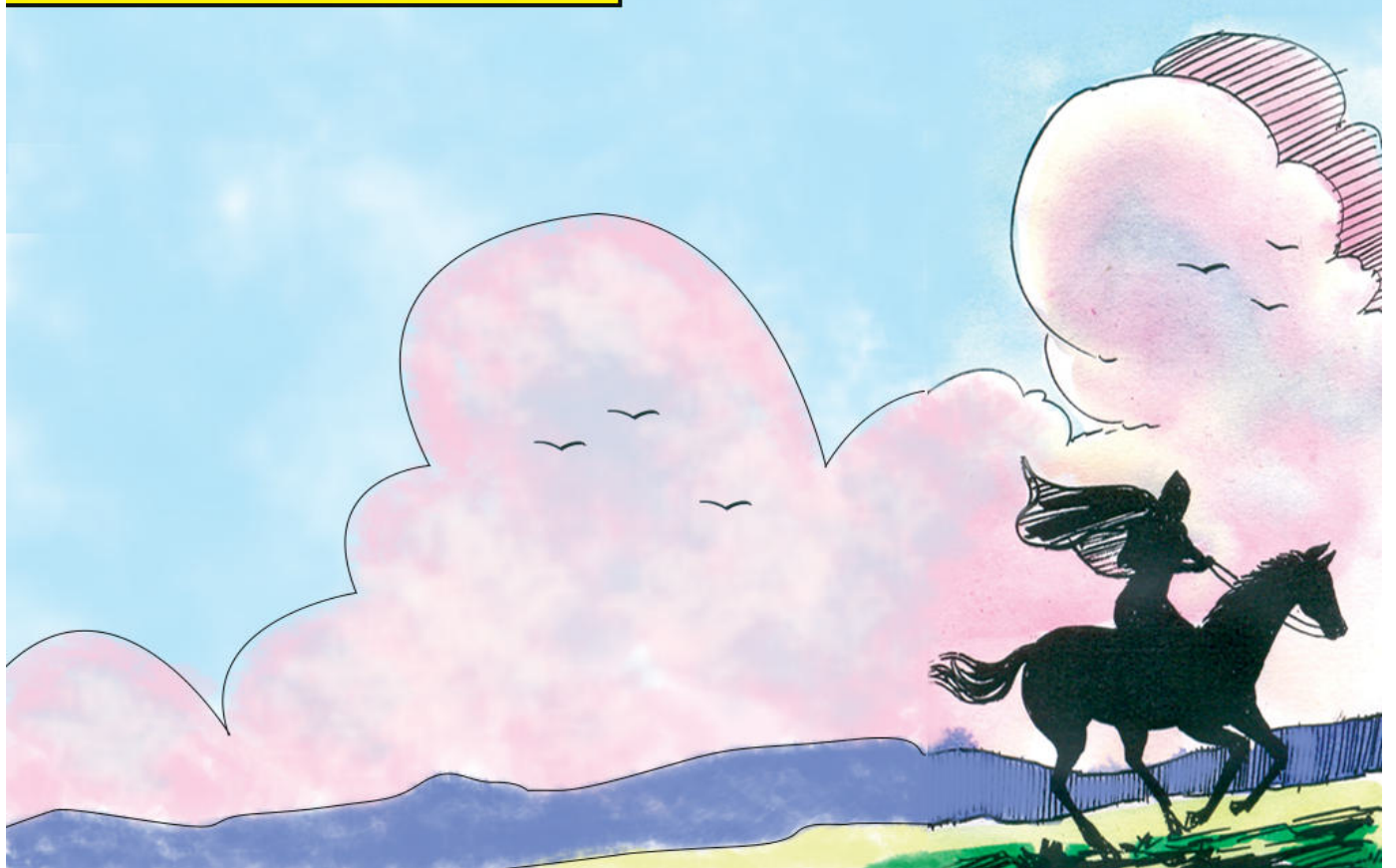
Never mind. Cheer up. Just give me your signet ring, please.



On the same day Jezebel sent an order to the elders of Jezreel.

Greetings to the elders of Jezreel.
Proclaim a fast and hold an
assembly in the evening. Put
Naboth in the forefront of the
people. Confront him with a couple
of scoundrels who would accuse
him of cursing God and then the
king. Then take him outside and
stone him to death.

The messenger rushed to
Jezreel



The meeting at Jezreel

He doesn't offer sacrifice to Baal. He says Yahweh alone is God.

He dissuades people from paying taxes. He is an instigating rebellion.

Oh! My God I...

Treason!

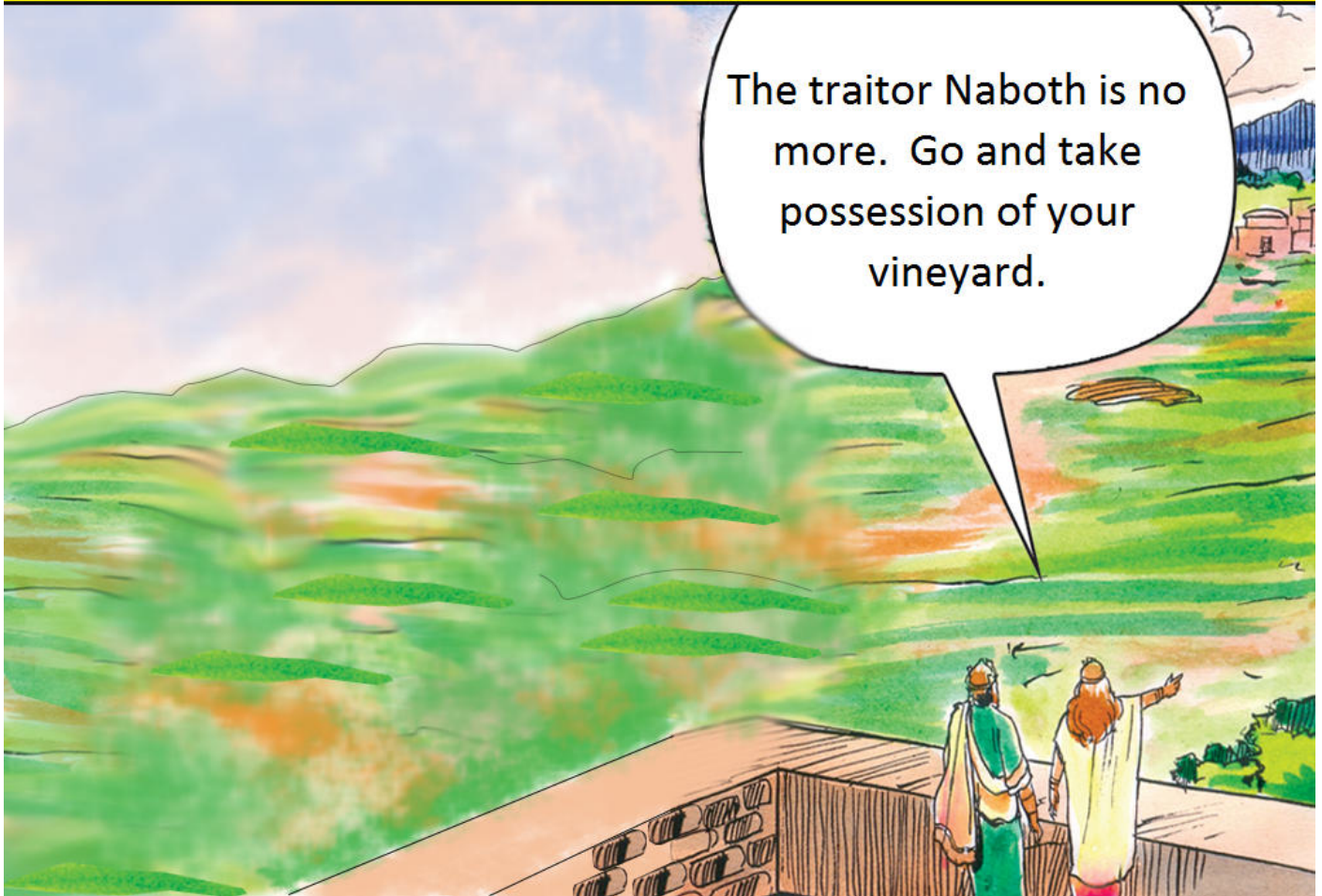


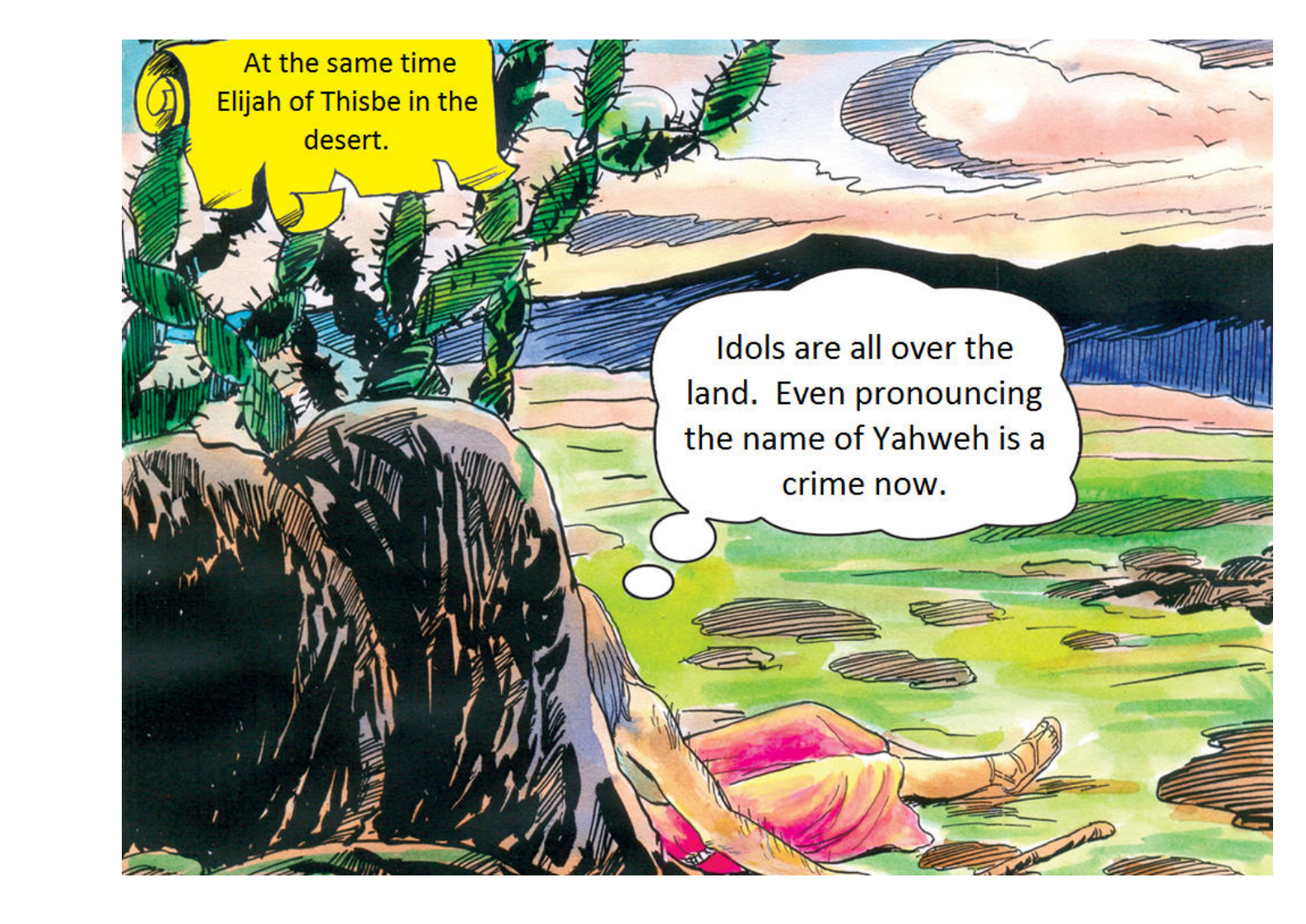
Lord, my God look upon this innocent blood.



Hearing that Naboth was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab.

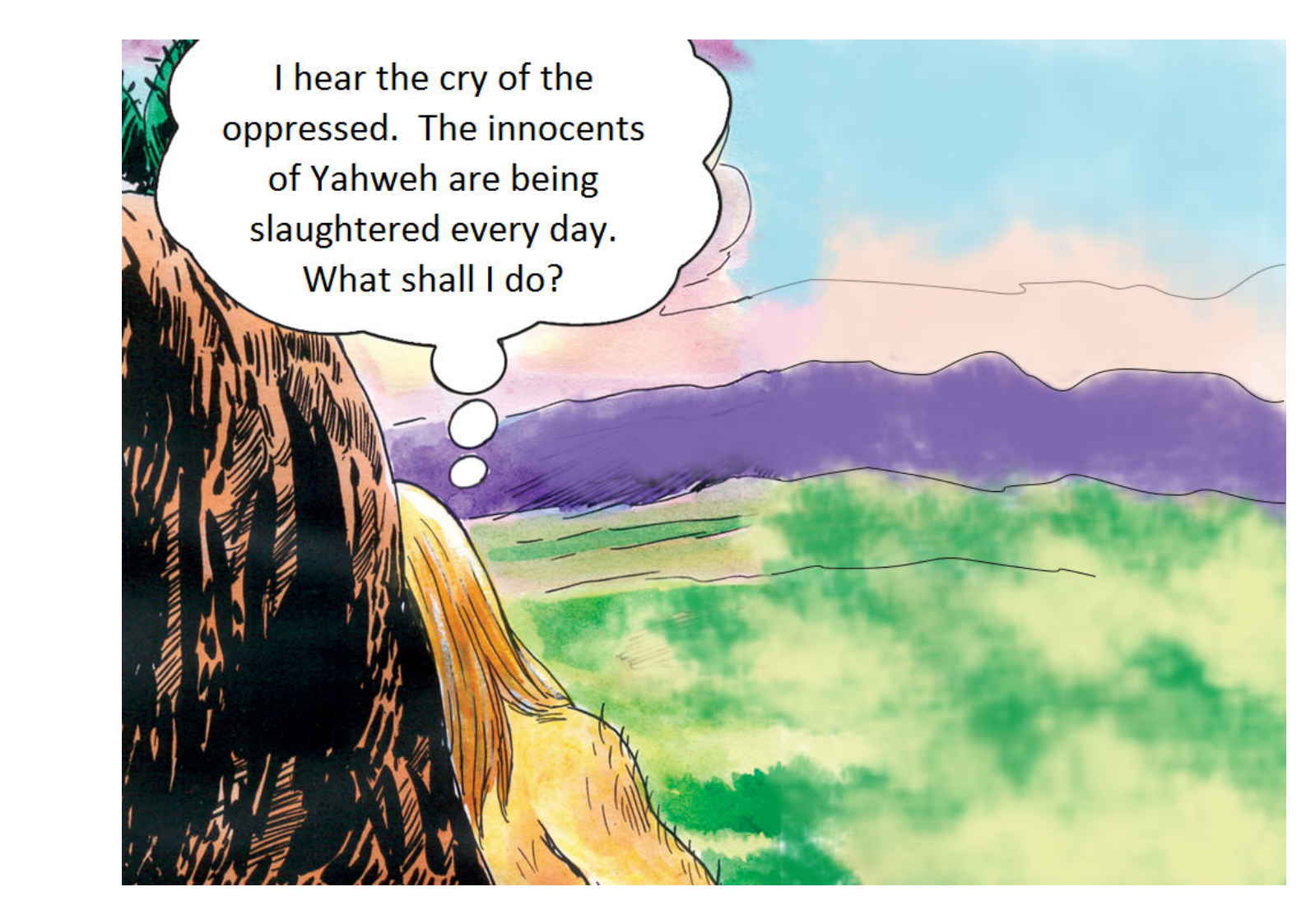
The traitor Naboth is no more. Go and take possession of your vineyard.





At the same time
Elijah of Thisbe in the
desert.

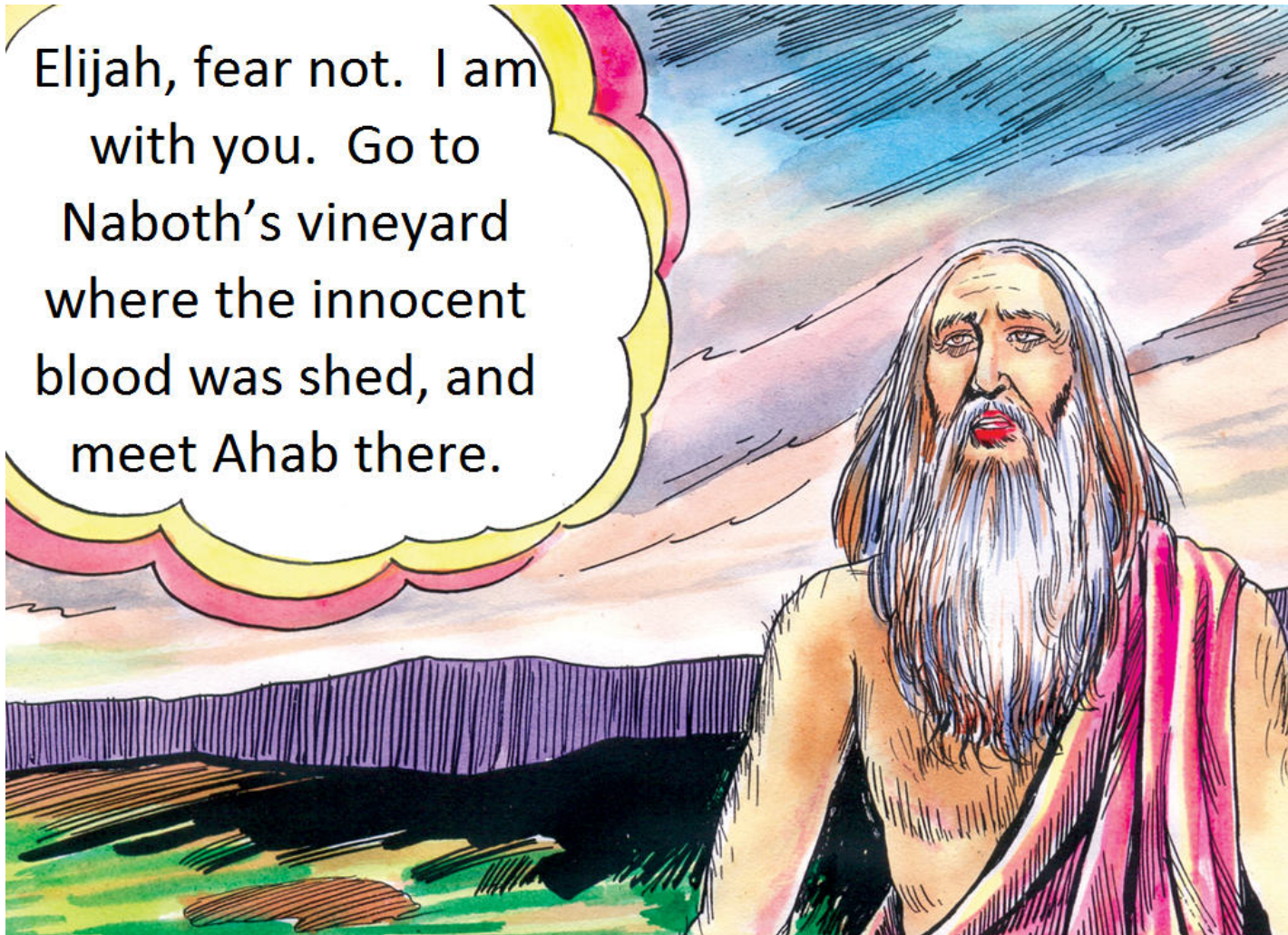
Idols are all over the
land. Even pronouncing
the name of Yahweh is a
crime now.

A colorful landscape illustration. In the foreground, a brown, textured rock formation or cliffside is visible on the left. The middle ground features rolling green hills and a purple mountain range in the distance. The sky is a mix of light blue, pink, and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. A large white thought bubble with a black outline is positioned in the upper left, containing text. The thought bubble is connected to the rock formation by a small white circle and two larger white circles.

I hear the cry of the
oppressed. The innocents
of Yahweh are being
slaughtered every day.
What shall I do?

What can I do? I am old
and weak. Yahweh, why
are you being silent?

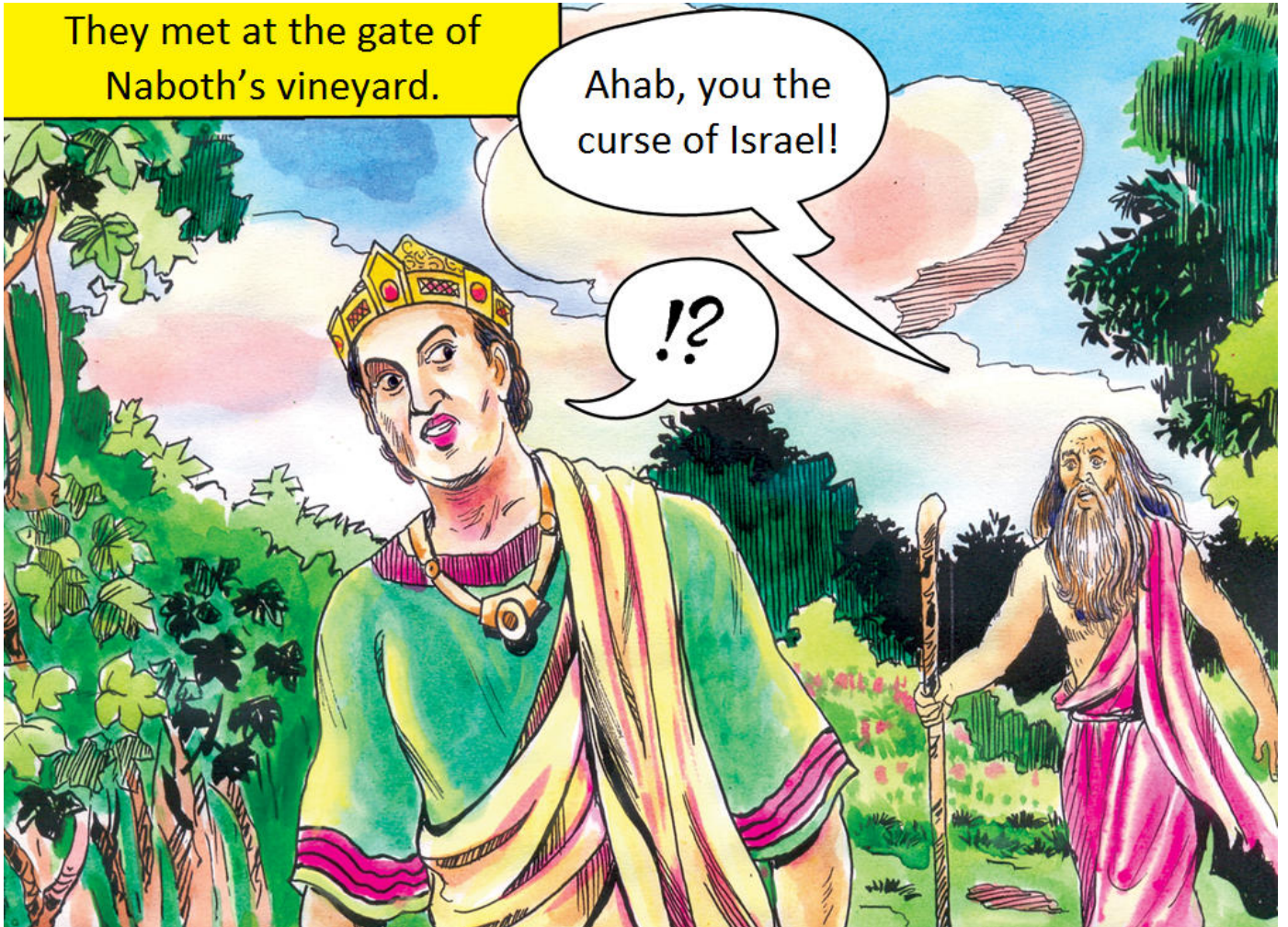
Elijah, fear not. I am
with you. Go to
Naboth's vineyard
where the innocent
blood was shed, and
meet Ahab there.



They met at the gate of
Naboth's vineyard.

Ahab, you the
curse of Israel!

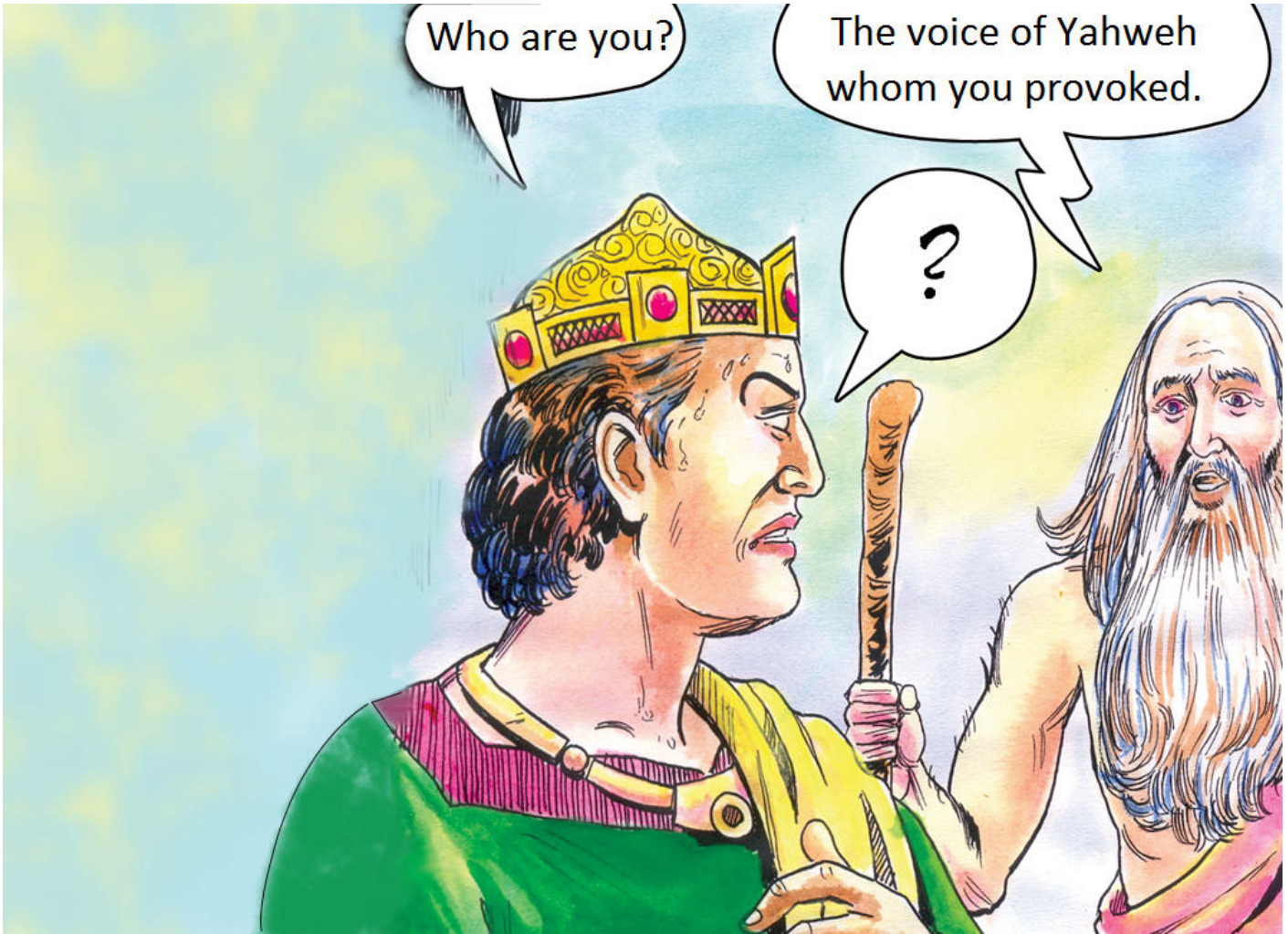
!?



Who are you?

The voice of Yahweh
whom you provoked.

?





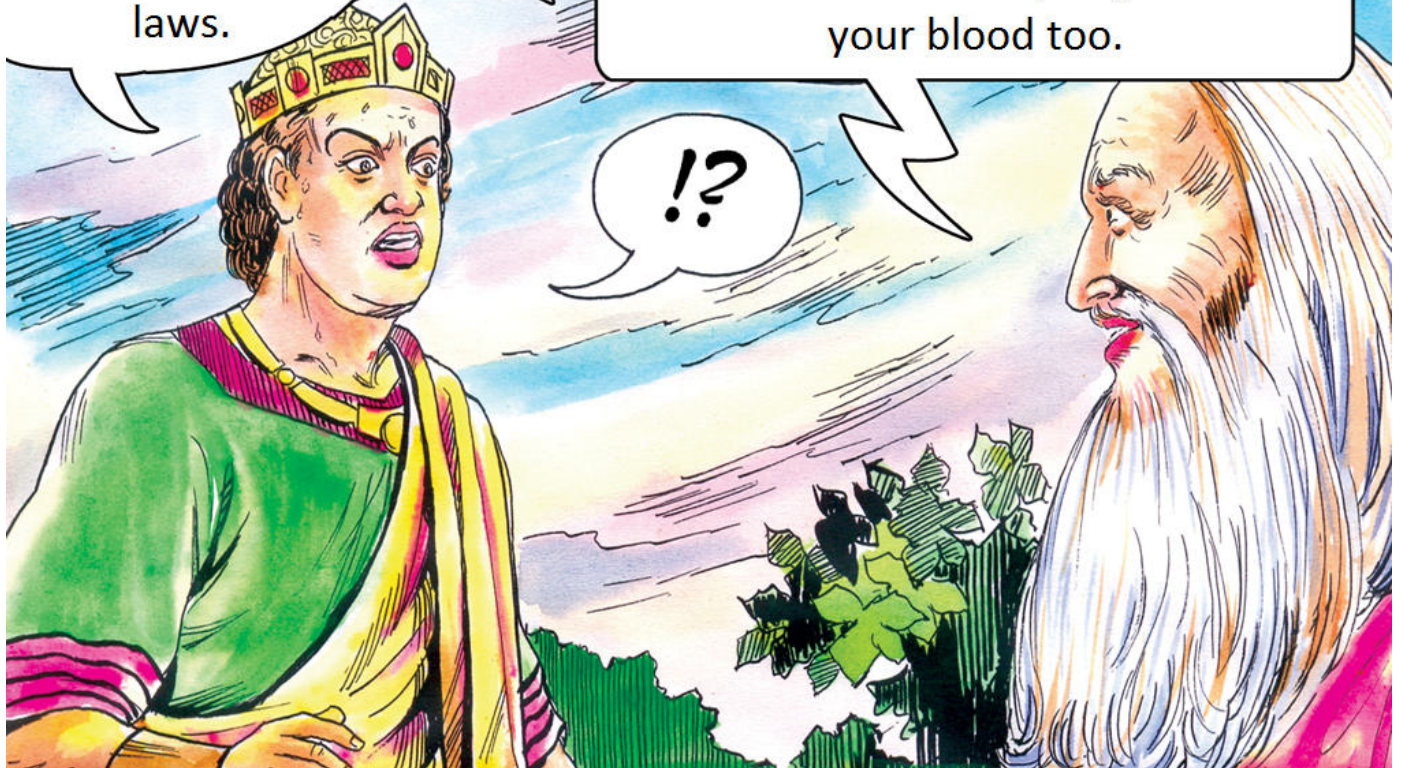
You have done what is displeasing to me. You filled the land with idols and led Israel into sin.

You denied justice to the poor.

I followed the laws.

You have committed murder. Now you are taking his property as well. In the place where the dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs will lick your blood too.

!?



I will bring disaster on your family. Your children will be devoured by the vultures. Dogs will eat Jezebel.


I have sinned. Please pray that the Lord may forgive me.



No, you have no forgiveness. You defiled the land with idols. No rain will fall on this land until I say. Let your Baal give a good crop.



After announcing the judgment, Elijah went into the wilderness and hid himself near a stream. Ahab returned to Palace and told everything to Jezebel.



Don't be such a fool. You know that it is Baal who sends the rain and produces good crops. We will offer special sacrifice to Baal starting tomorrow.

The prophet's words frighten me.

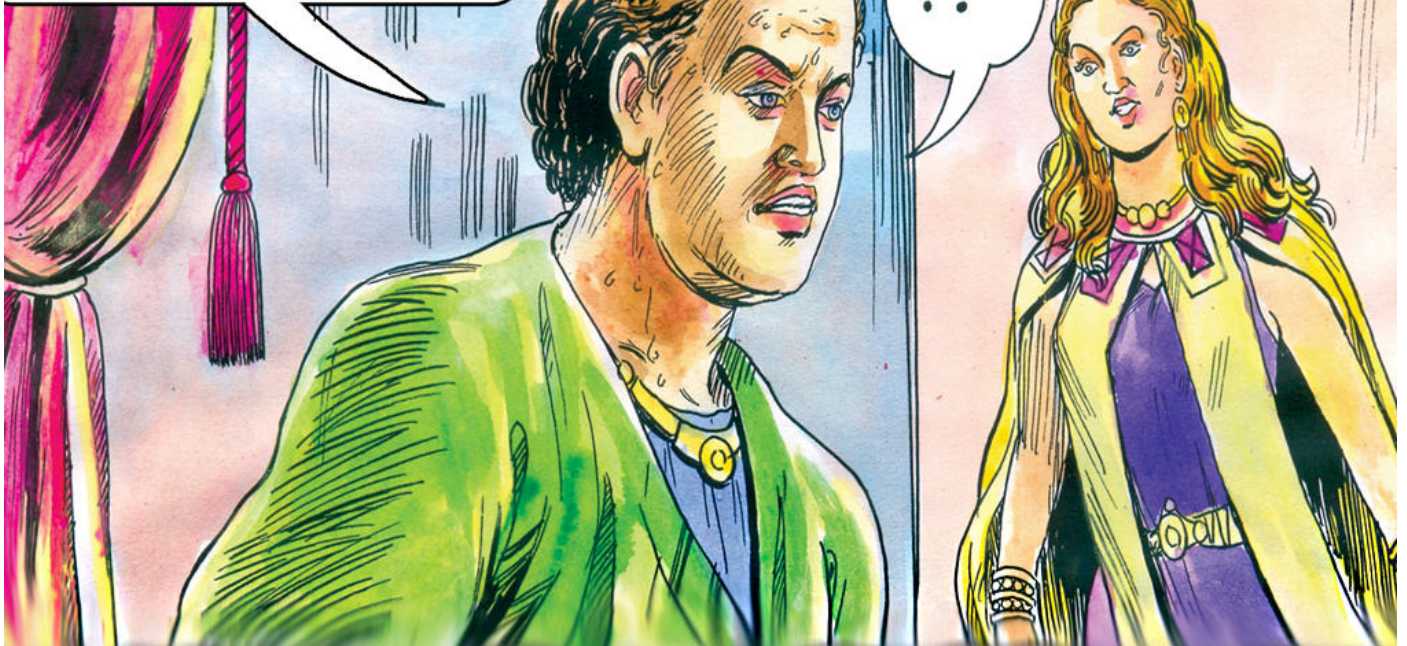
I have dispatched
soldiers to catch that
old fool. Let the
people watch him
being sacrificed to
Baal.



Nobody knows when he comes and where he goes. We better repent and turn to Yahweh.

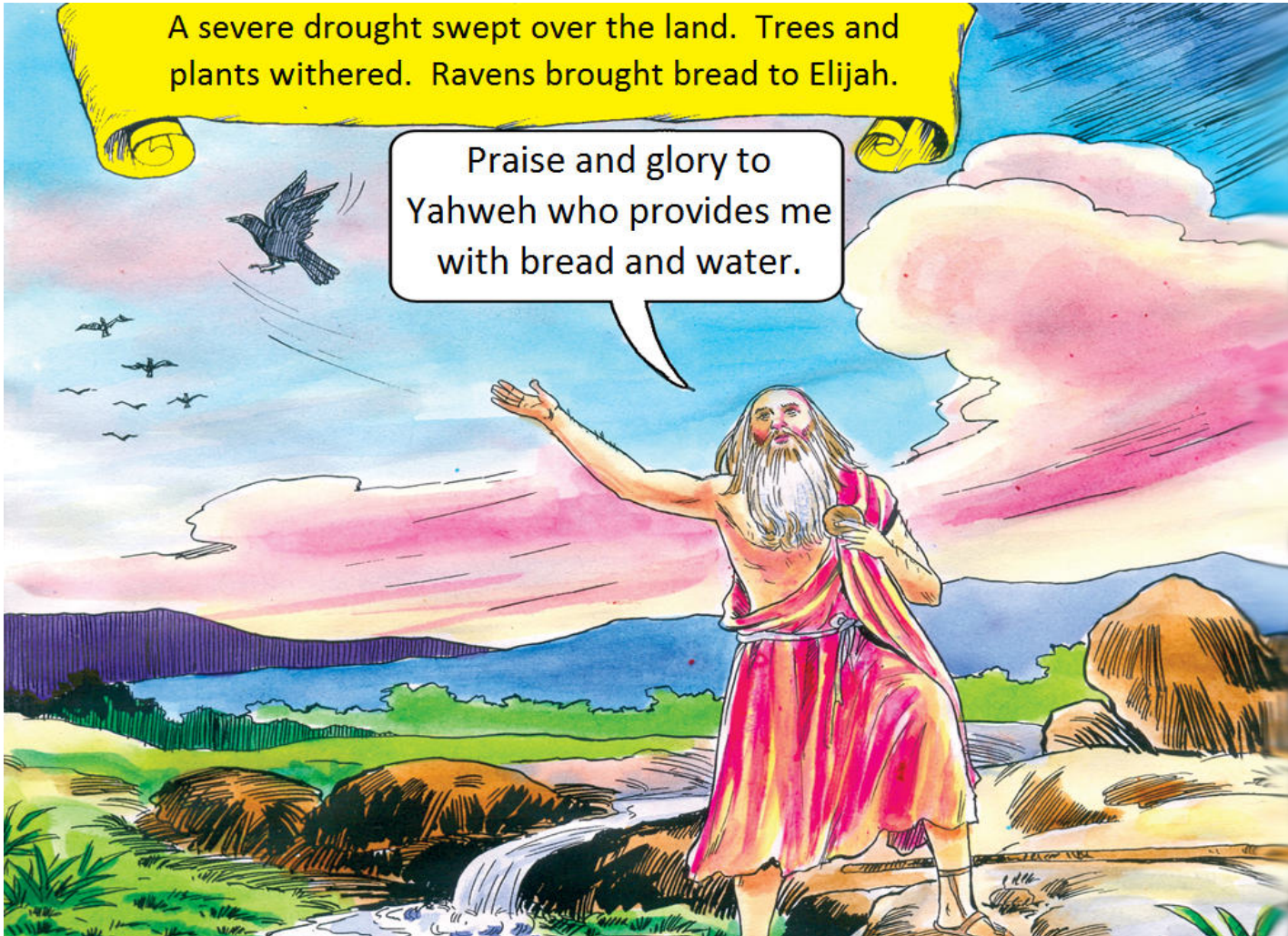
Never, there will be no god but Baal. Even if that man hides under the earth, I will find him.

!?

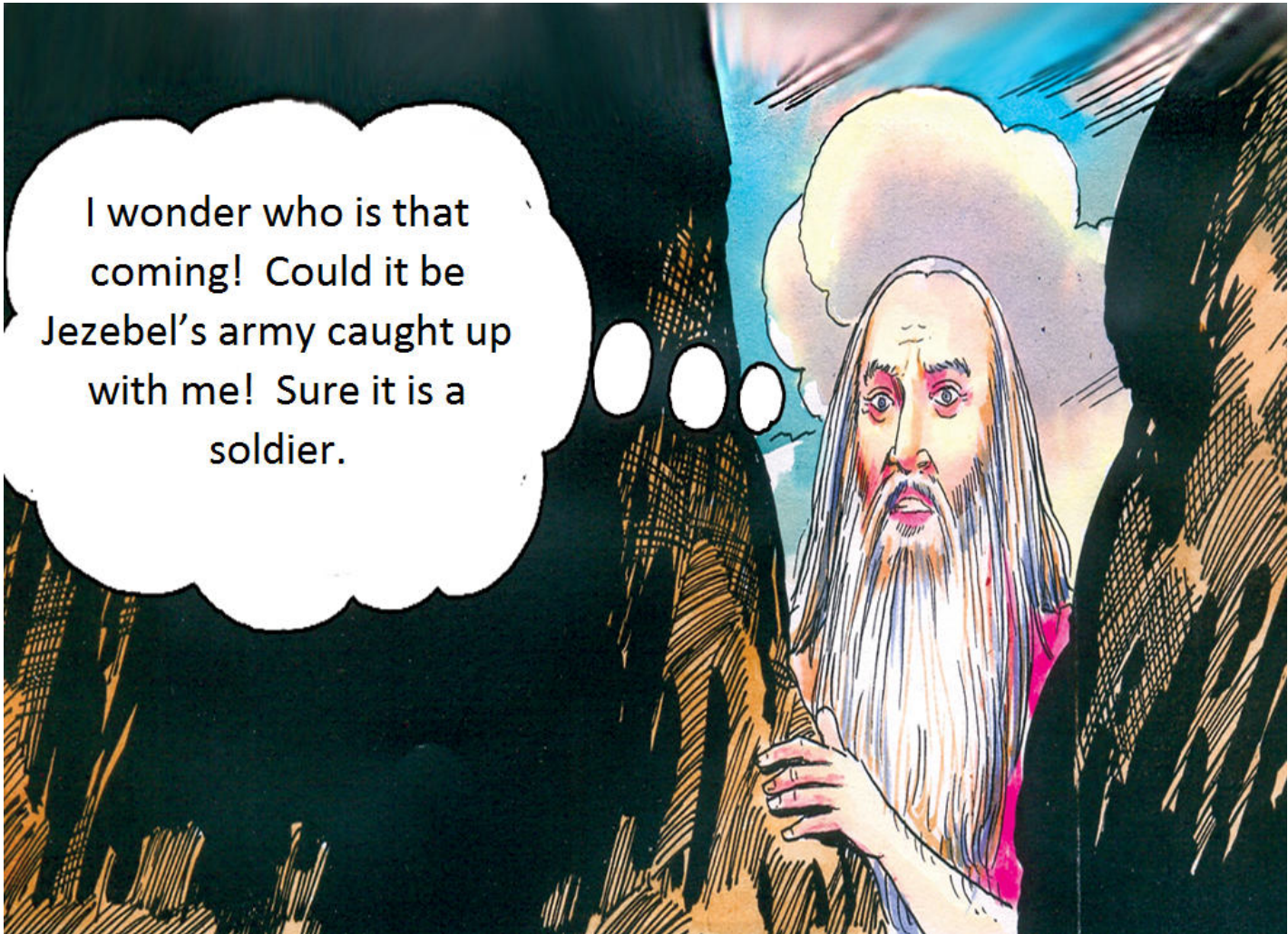


A severe drought swept over the land. Trees and plants withered. Ravens brought bread to Elijah.

Praise and glory to
Yahweh who provides me
with bread and water.



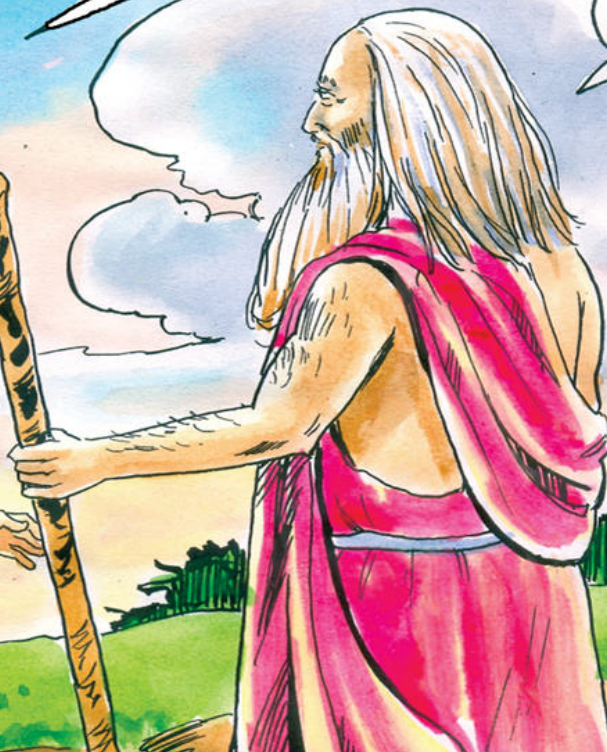
I wonder who is that coming! Could it be Jezebel's army caught up with me! Sure it is a soldier.



Look who's here. Obadiah,
what is new my son?

The whole land is dried up. Fire
broke out in many places. No
water anywhere.

?!

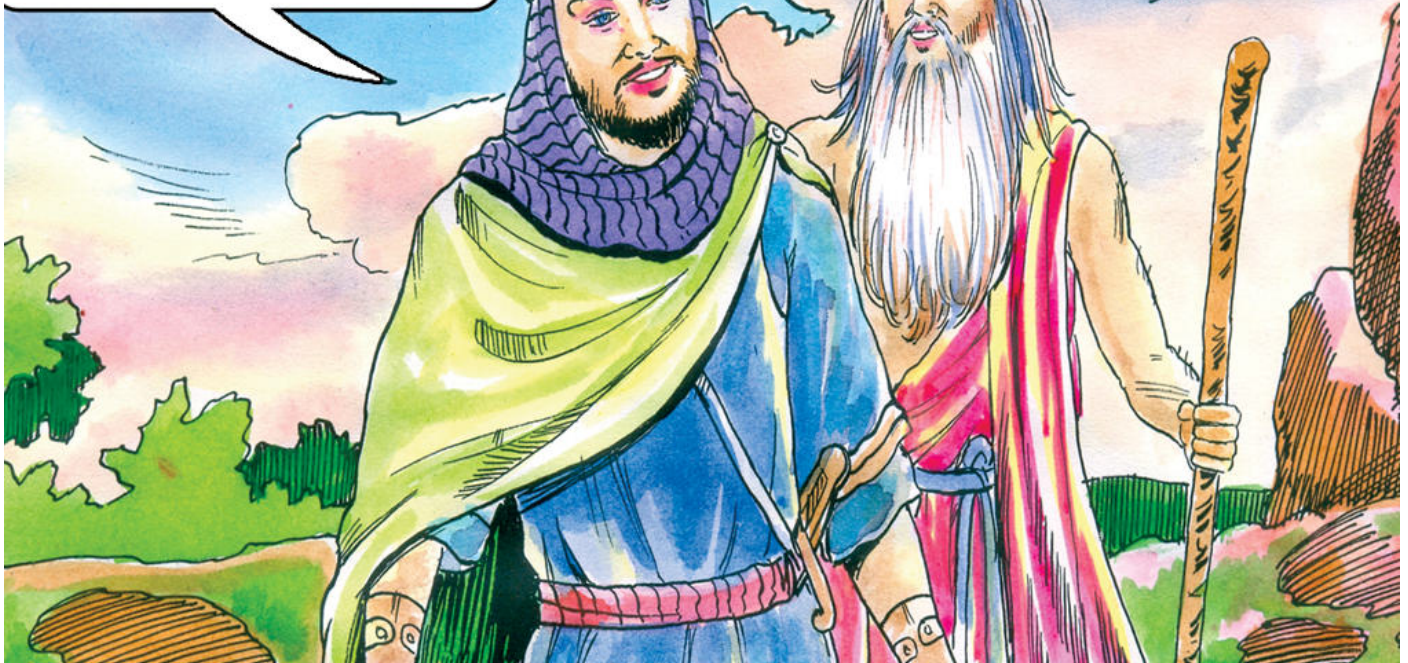


Now every week human sacrifice is
being offered. They search out
worshippers of Yahweh as victims.
I've helped many to escape.



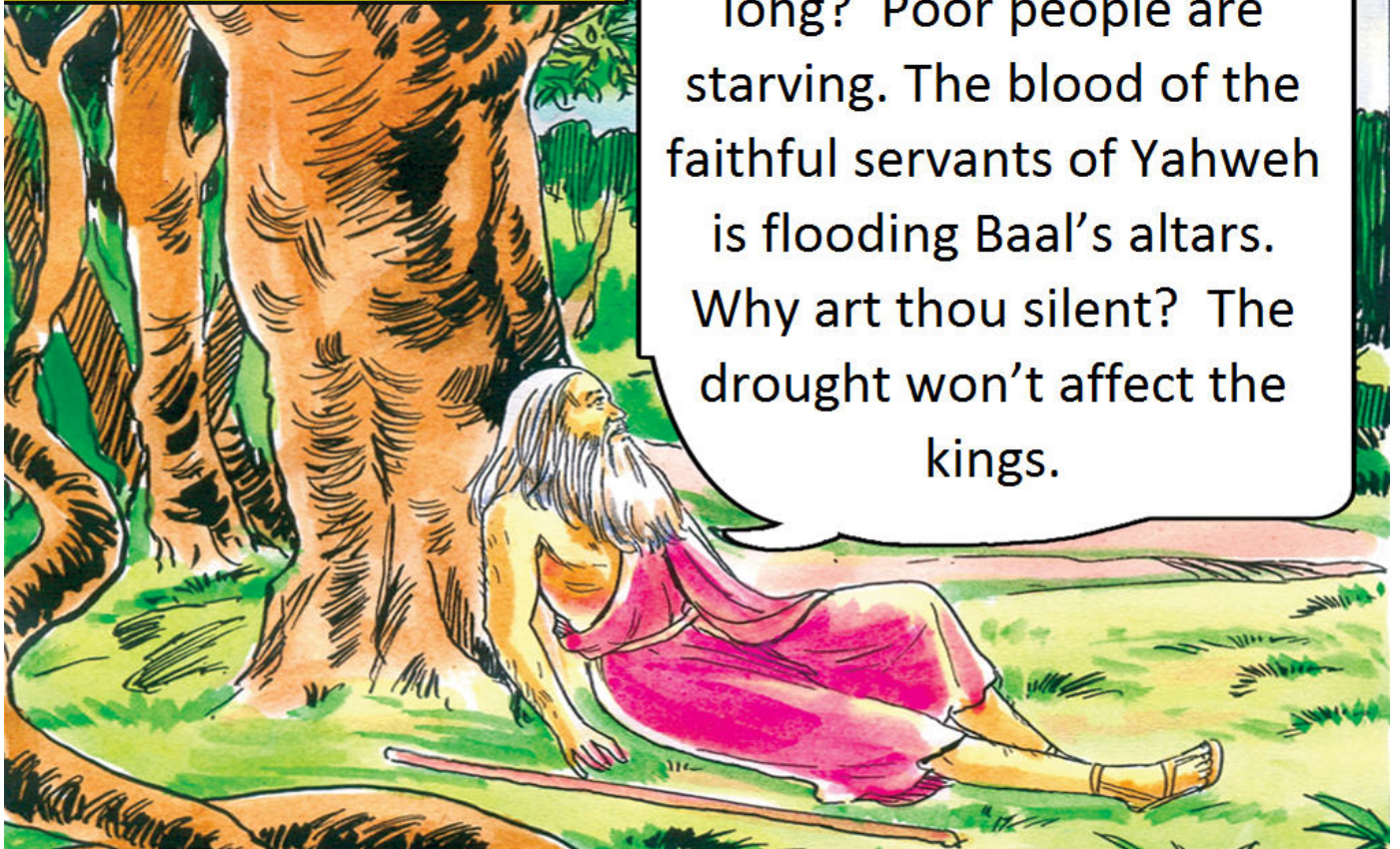
If I don't hand you over to the queen, I will be hanged next week. But I'm not afraid to die.

Be brave, the Lord will protect you.



When Obadiah was gone.

How long my Lord, how long? Poor people are starving. The blood of the faithful servants of Yahweh is flooding Baal's altars. Why art thou silent? The drought won't affect the kings.



Until the ones who rejected
me repent. You go to Serepta
in Sidon. There a widow will
give you food. This stream is
going to dry up.

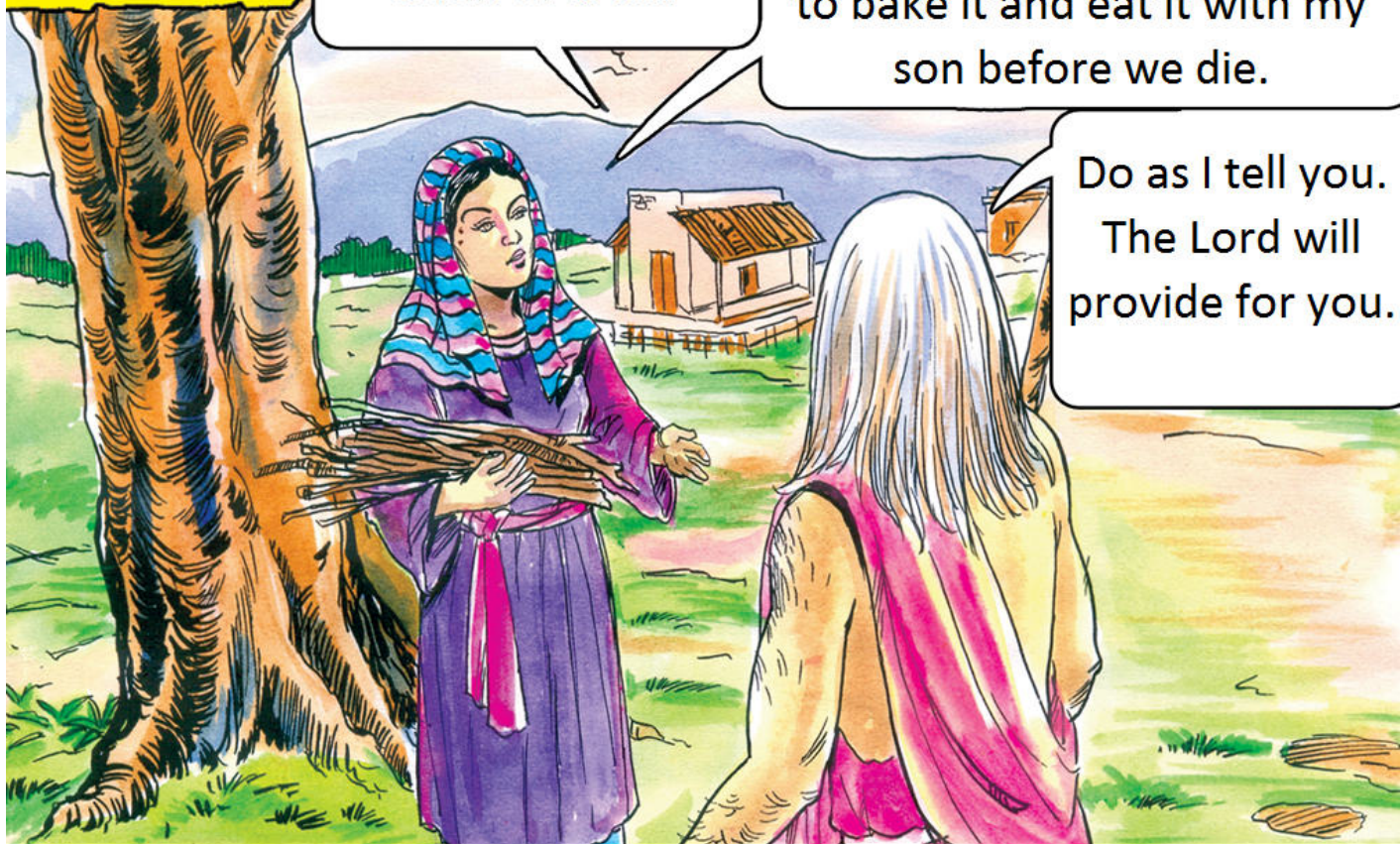


Elijah reached
Sarepta.

Give me a morsel of
bread and some
water to drink.

I have flour left for one piece
of bread only. I was going
to bake it and eat it with my
son before we die.

Do as I tell you.
The Lord will
provide for you.



Elijah lived with them as long as the drought lasted. The widow had oil and flour. One day her son fell ill and died.

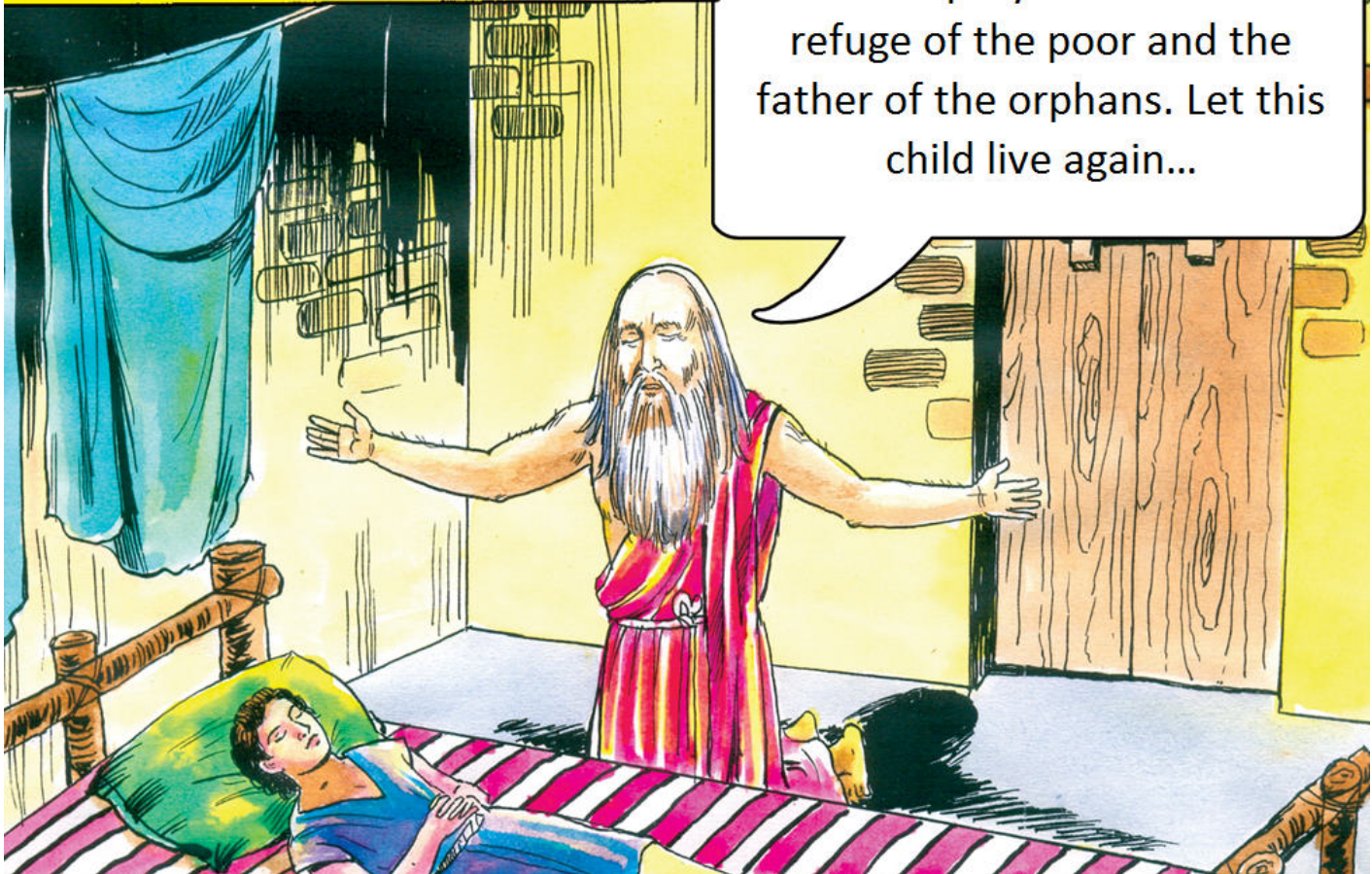
Do not worry
your son will live.

What did I do to
deserve this?
Was it to kill my
son you came
here?



Elijah took the boy to his room and
prayed to the Lord.

Lord, my God hear thy
servant's prayer. You are the
refuge of the poor and the
father of the orphans. Let this
child live again...



Yahweh heard Elijah's prayer.
The boy came back to life.

Yahweh is the true
God and you are His
prophet.

!



After three and a half years of drought Yahweh ordered Elijah to return to Israel. Ahab met him at the city gate.

You, the curse of Israel!
Your hoary head hasn't
reached the underworld
yet?

The curse is upon your head.
Hasn't your Baal given you
rain yet?

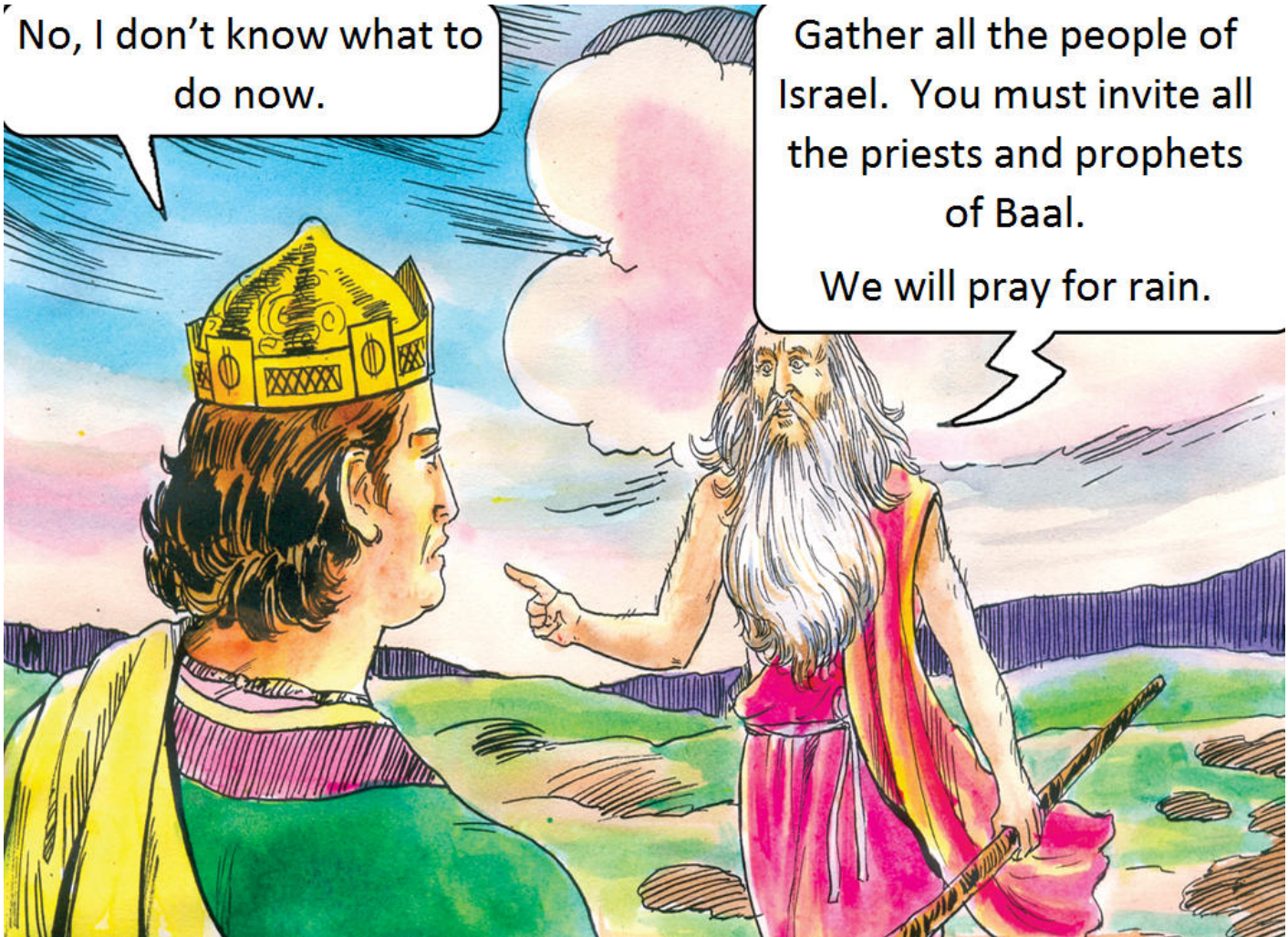
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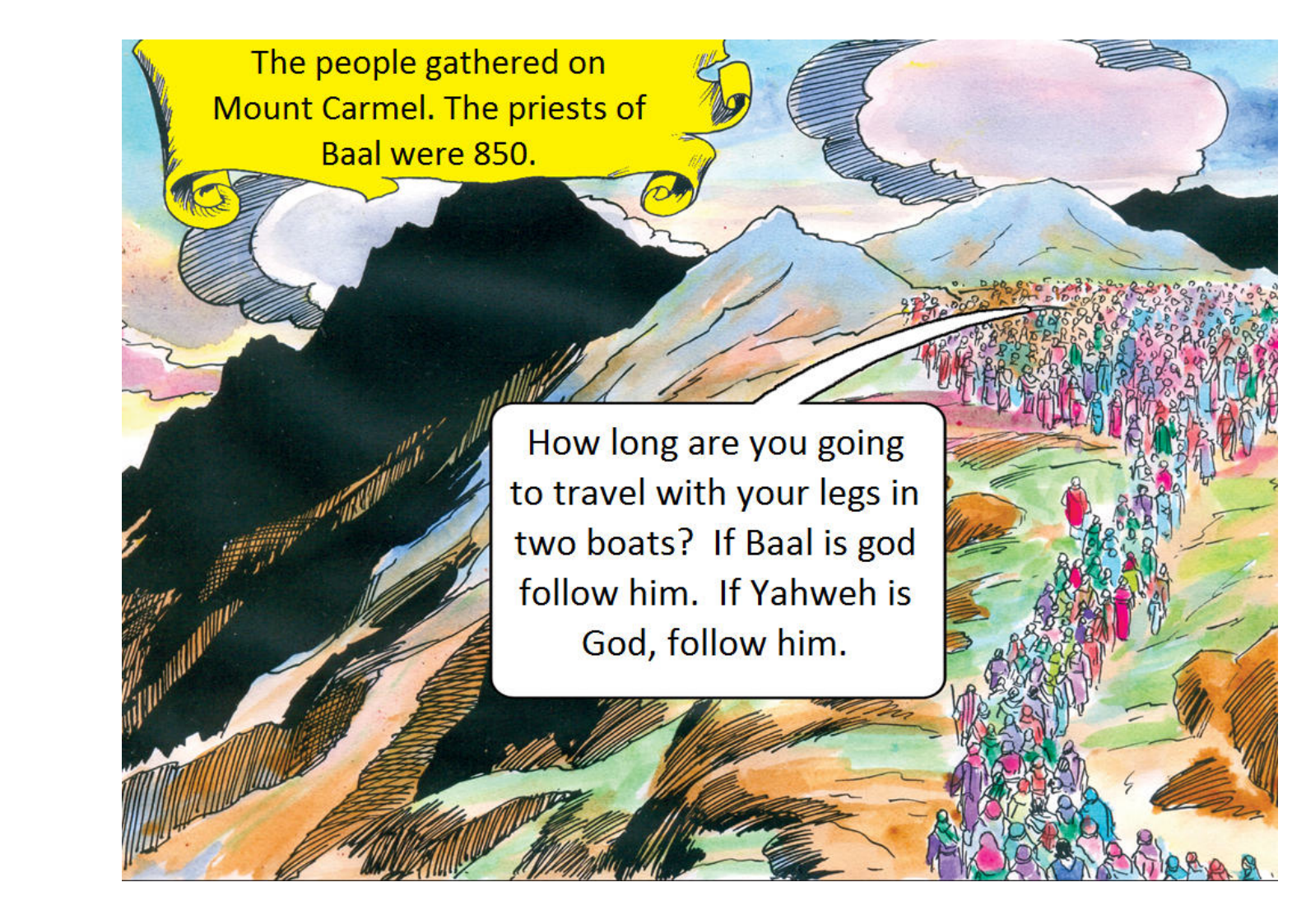


No, I don't know what to do now.

Gather all the people of Israel. You must invite all the priests and prophets of Baal.

We will pray for rain.

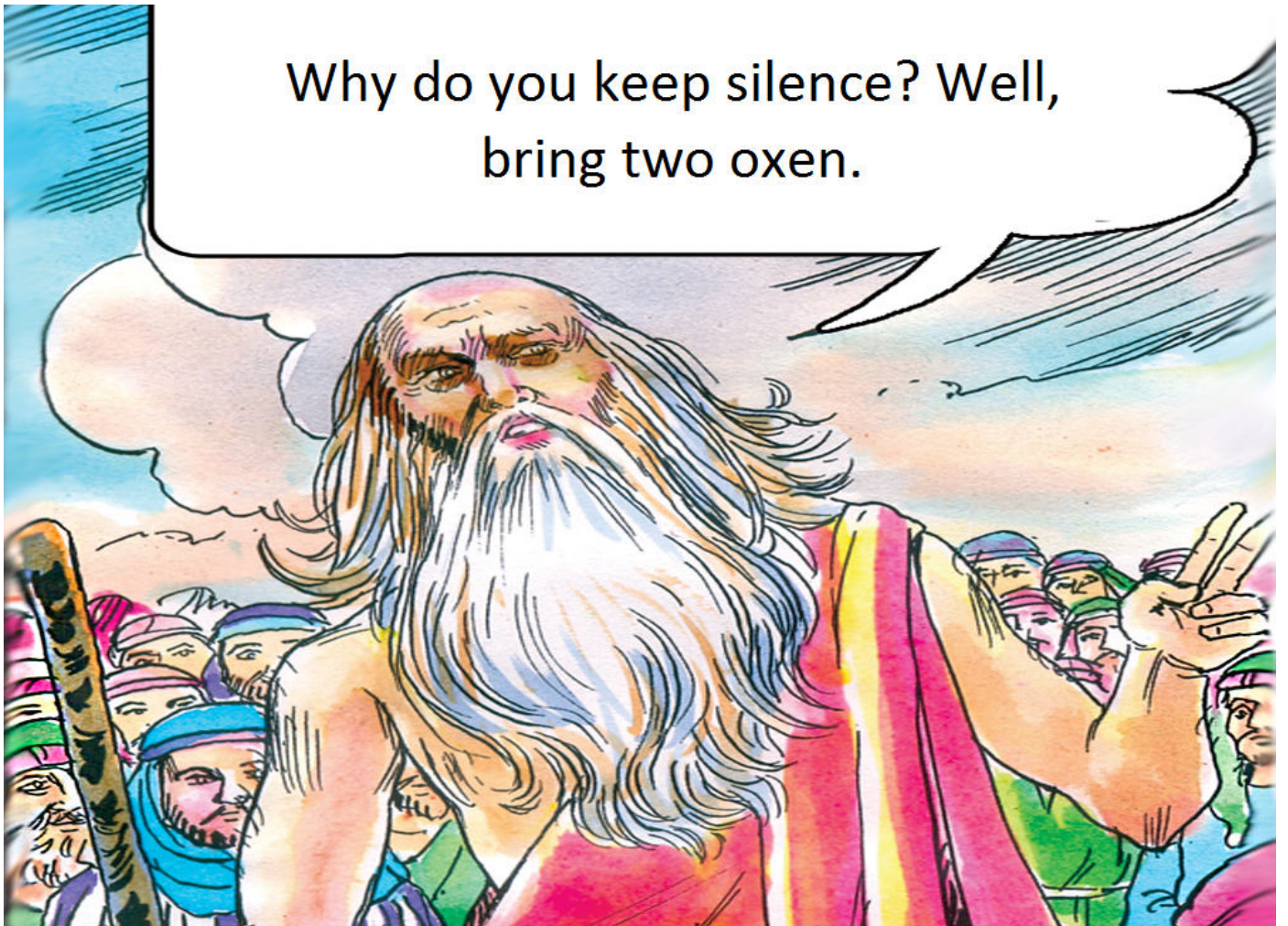




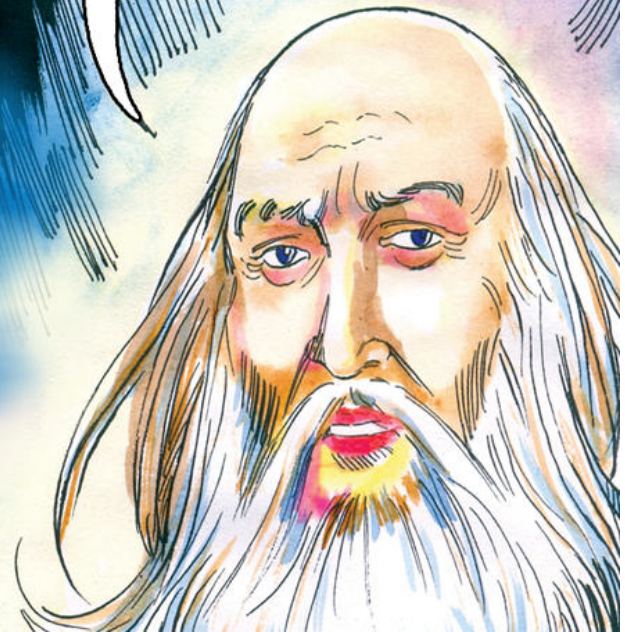
The people gathered on
Mount Carmel. The priests of
Baal were 850.

How long are you going
to travel with your legs in
two boats? If Baal is god
follow him. If Yahweh is
God, follow him.

Why do you keep silence? Well,
bring two oxen.



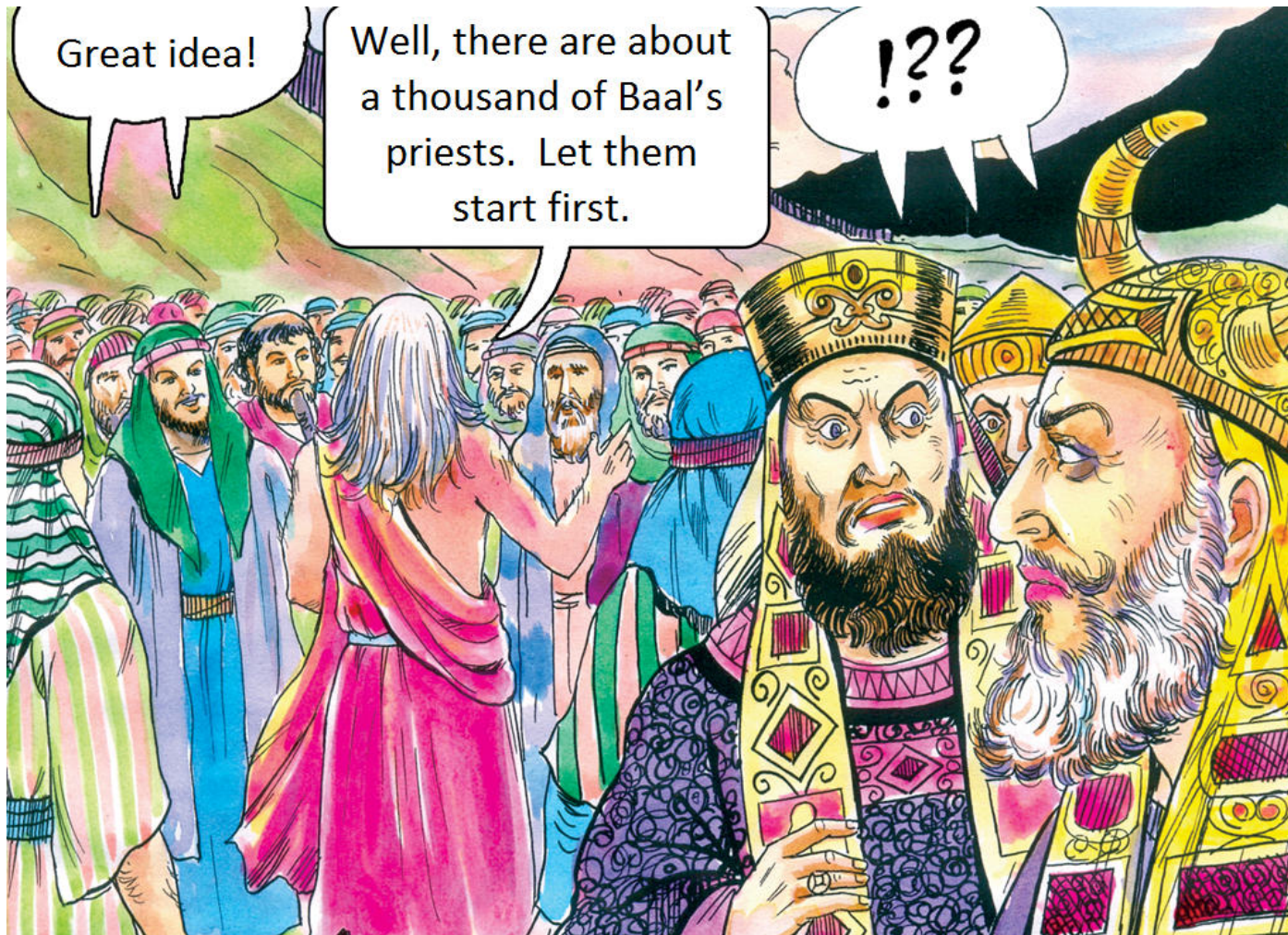
Let Baal's priests place one ox
on their alter. I'll place the other
on an alter too. No fire.
Whoever sends fire to consume
the sacrifice will be the true God.



Great idea!

Well, there are about a thousand of Baal's priests. Let them start first.

!??



Baal's priests prepared the altar. Laid the wood. Cut up the ox and placed it on the Altar. Then they called out to Baal.

Call louder, he may be sleeping or gone for a walk.

Shout louder!

Lord Baal send down the fire, fire, god Baal...

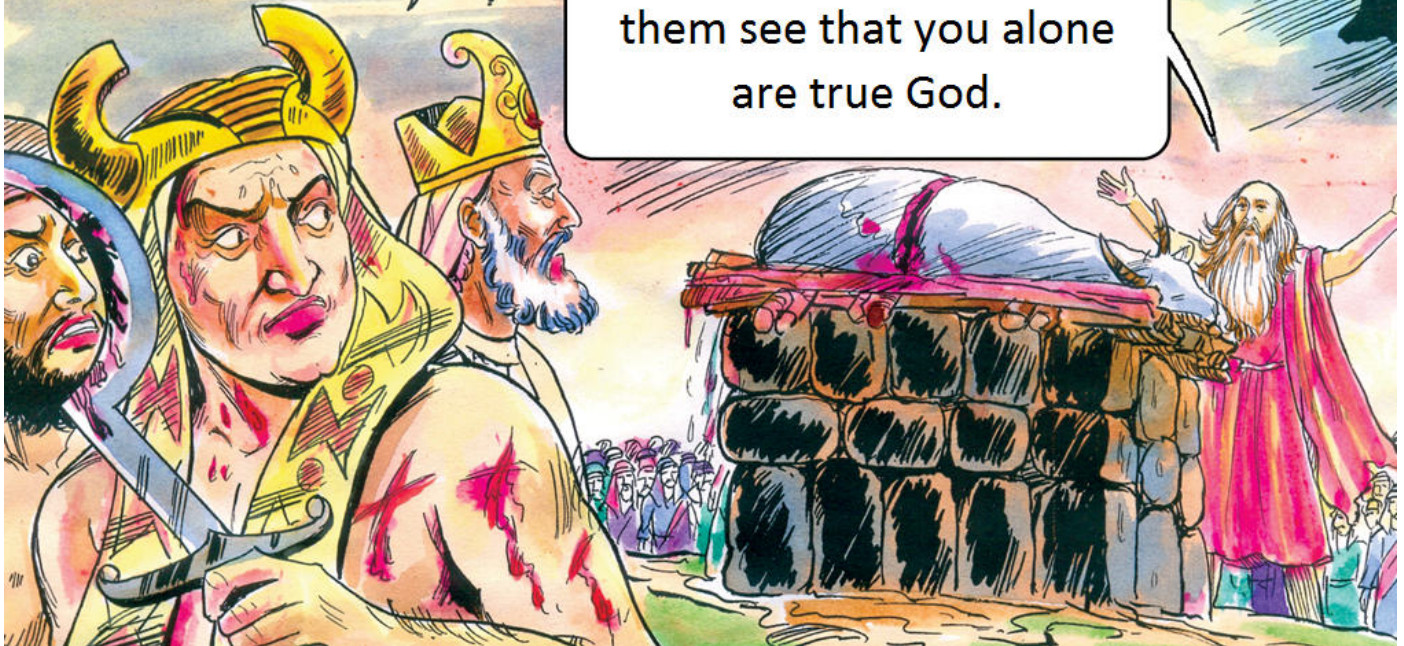
!?



No fire came down till late in the afternoon. Then Elijah prepared Yahweh's altar and placed the ox on it and asked to pour four jars of water three times over the animal. Everything was soaked in water.

!!?

Yahweh, my Lord and God,
show thy power to these
wavering people. Let
them see that you alone
are true God.



Before Elijah finished his prayer fire came down from heaven and consumed the offering.

Yahweh alone is God.
We have no other God
but Yahweh.

Catch the priests of
Baal. Let no one
escape.

!!!

⊙*Ⓜ#



After killing all the priests and false prophets, Elijah told Ahab.

Harness your chariot, hurry home, I hear thunder.

?!



Soaked in the rain, Ahab reached home. Hearing that the priests of Baal were killed, Jezebel became furious.

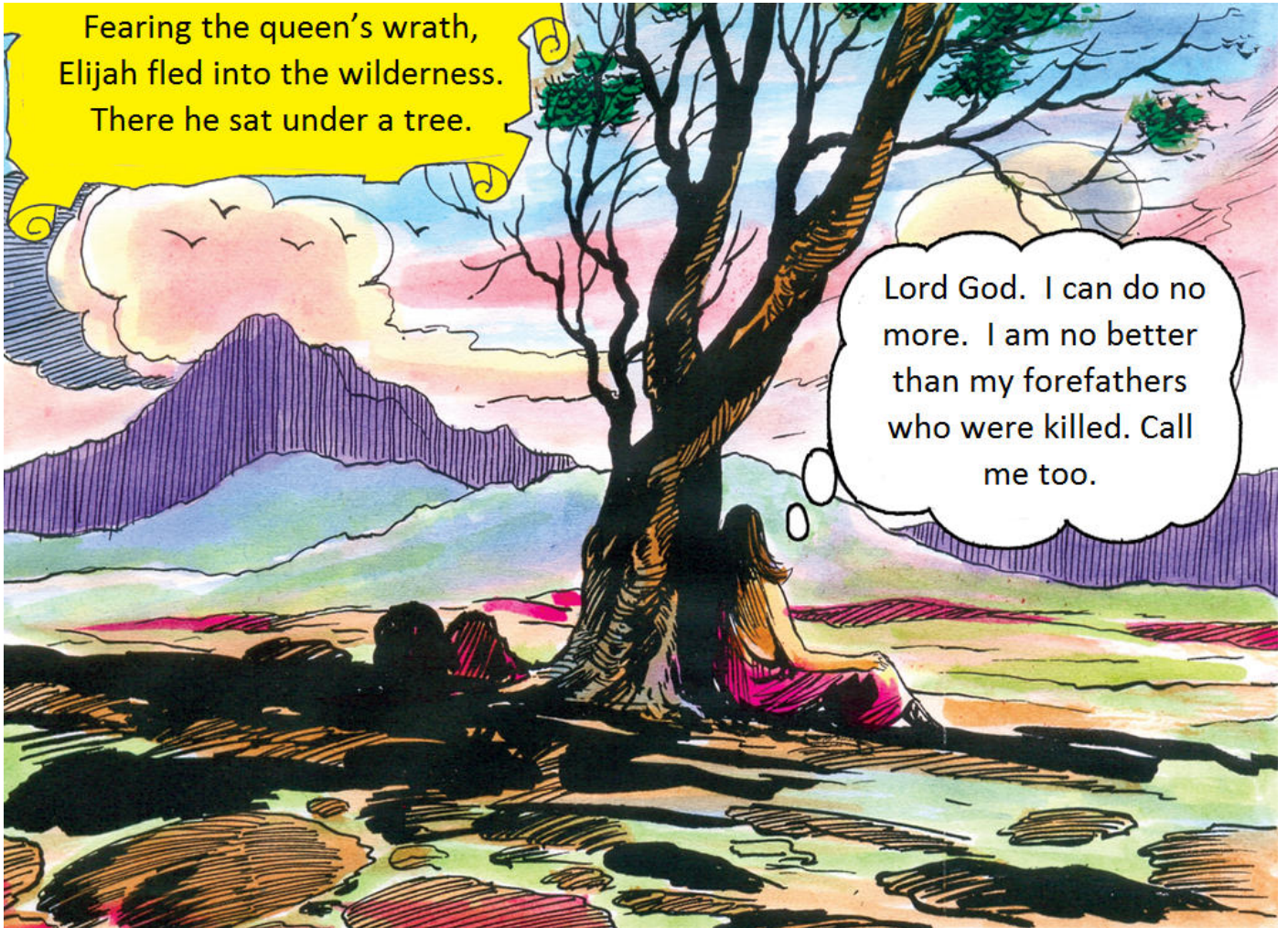
I swear by Baal, whom I worship, by this time tomorrow I'll give that old man's body to the birds.

?



Fearing the queen's wrath,
Elijah fled into the wilderness.
There he sat under a tree.

Lord God. I can do no
more. I am no better
than my forefathers
who were killed. Call
me too.

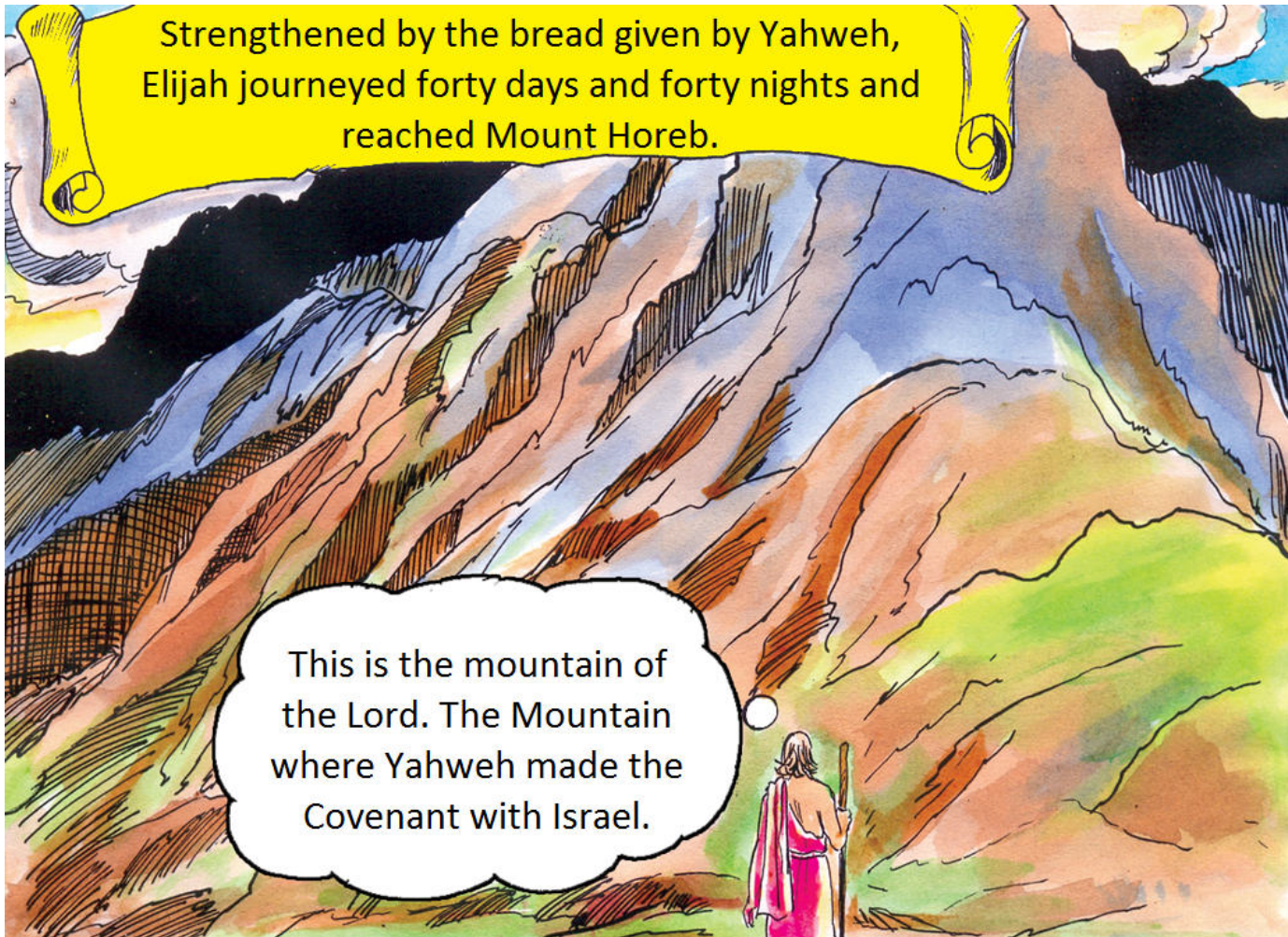


Elijah, wishing to die, fell asleep. An angel of the Lord woke him up.



Strengthened by the bread given by Yahweh,
Elijah journeyed forty days and forty nights and
reached Mount Horeb.

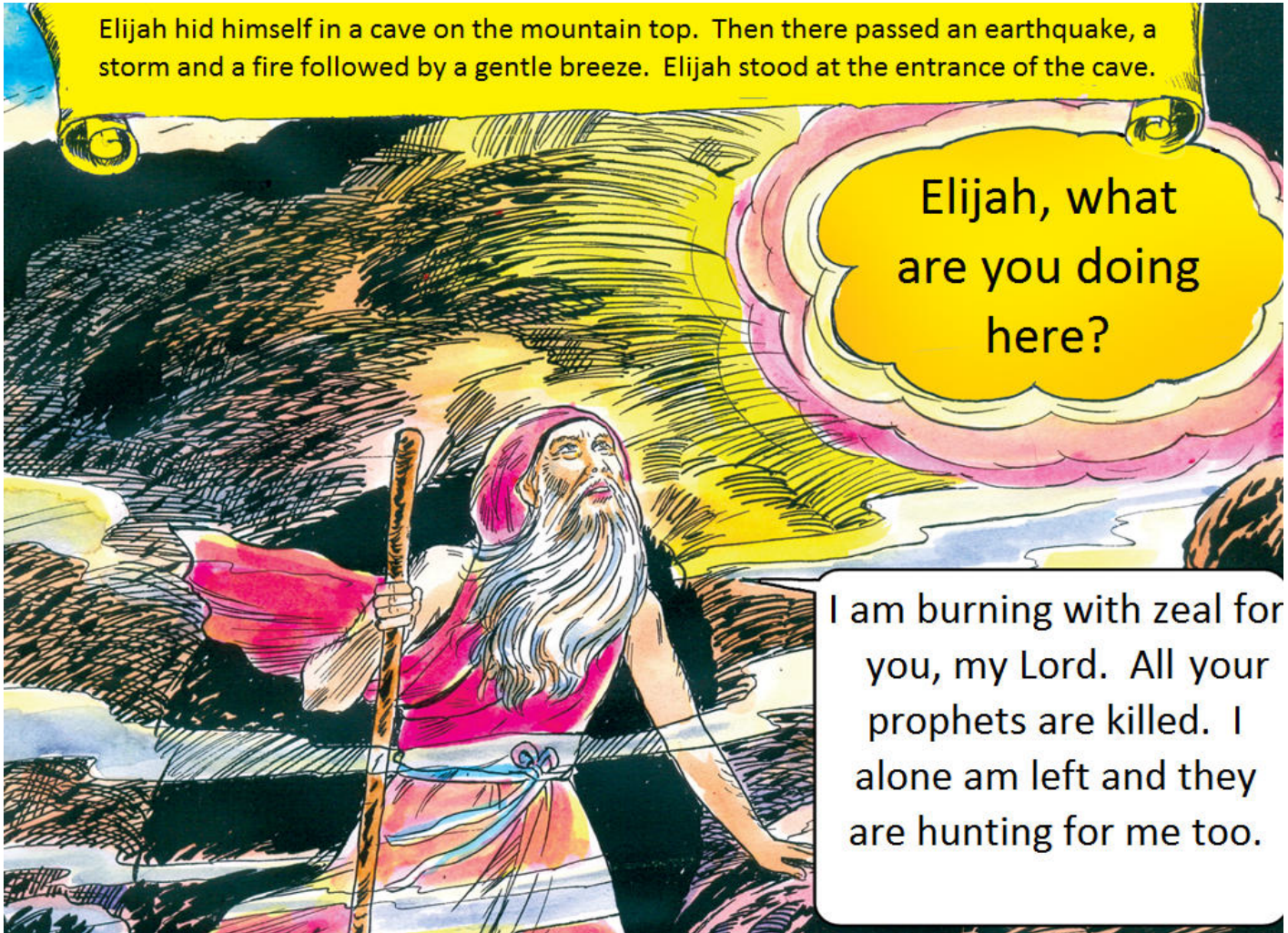
This is the mountain of
the Lord. The Mountain
where Yahweh made the
Covenant with Israel.

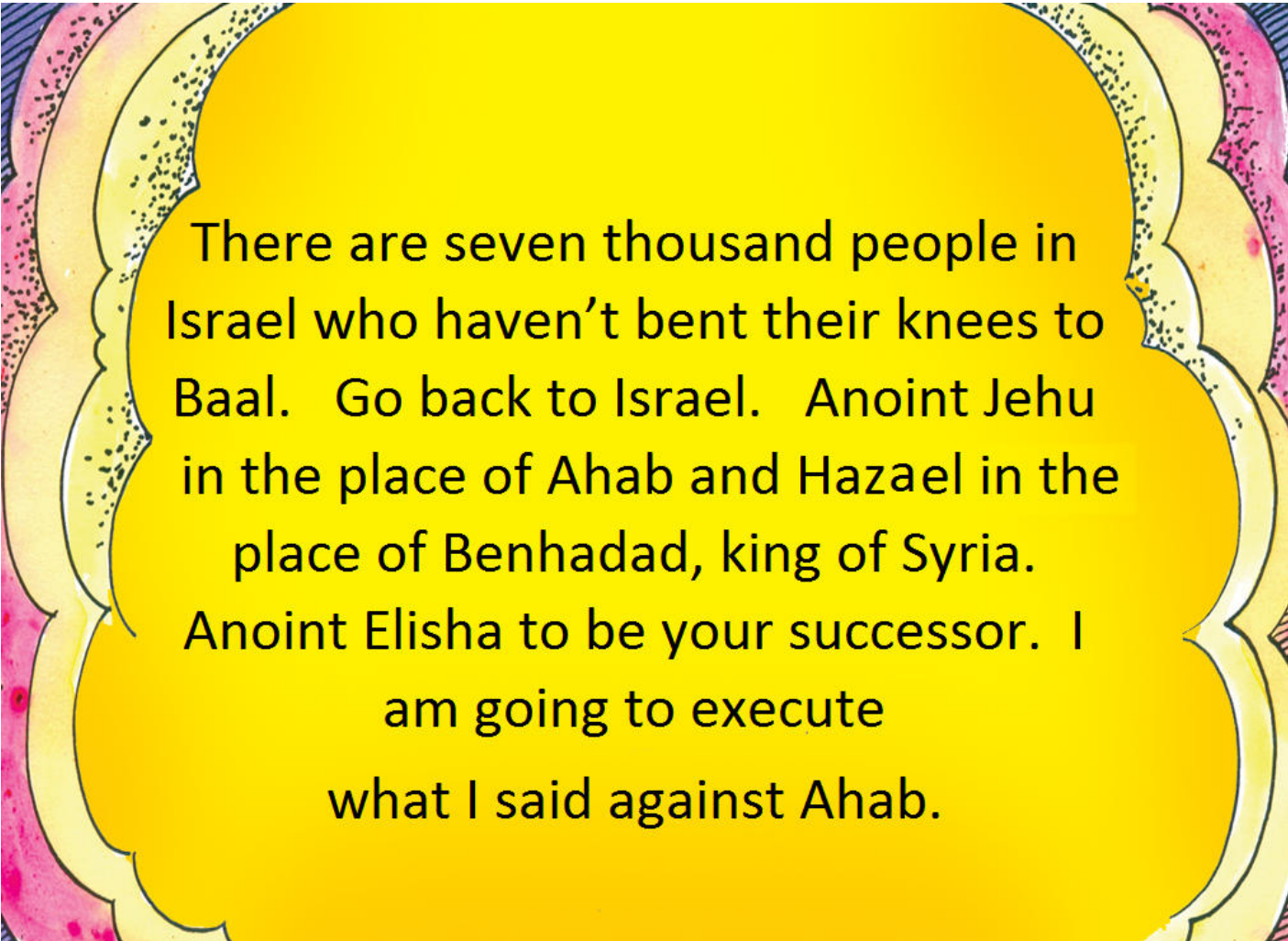


Elijah hid himself in a cave on the mountain top. Then there passed an earthquake, a storm and a fire followed by a gentle breeze. Elijah stood at the entrance of the cave.

Elijah, what
are you doing
here?

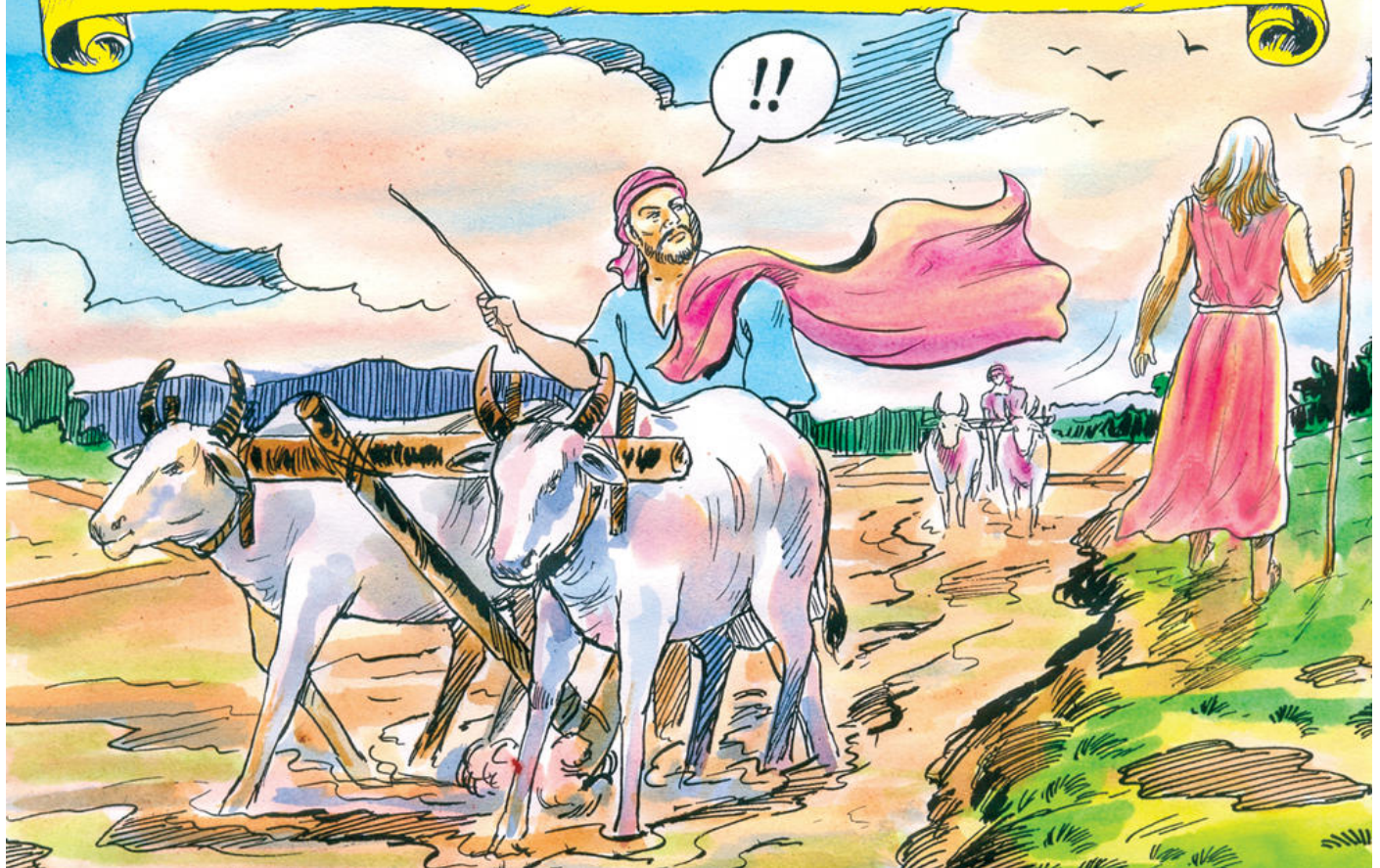
I am burning with zeal for
you, my Lord. All your
prophets are killed. I
alone am left and they
are hunting for me too.





There are seven thousand people in Israel who haven't bent their knees to Baal. Go back to Israel. Anoint Jehu in the place of Ahab and Hazael in the place of Benhadad, king of Syria. Anoint Elisha to be your successor. I am going to execute what I said against Ahab.

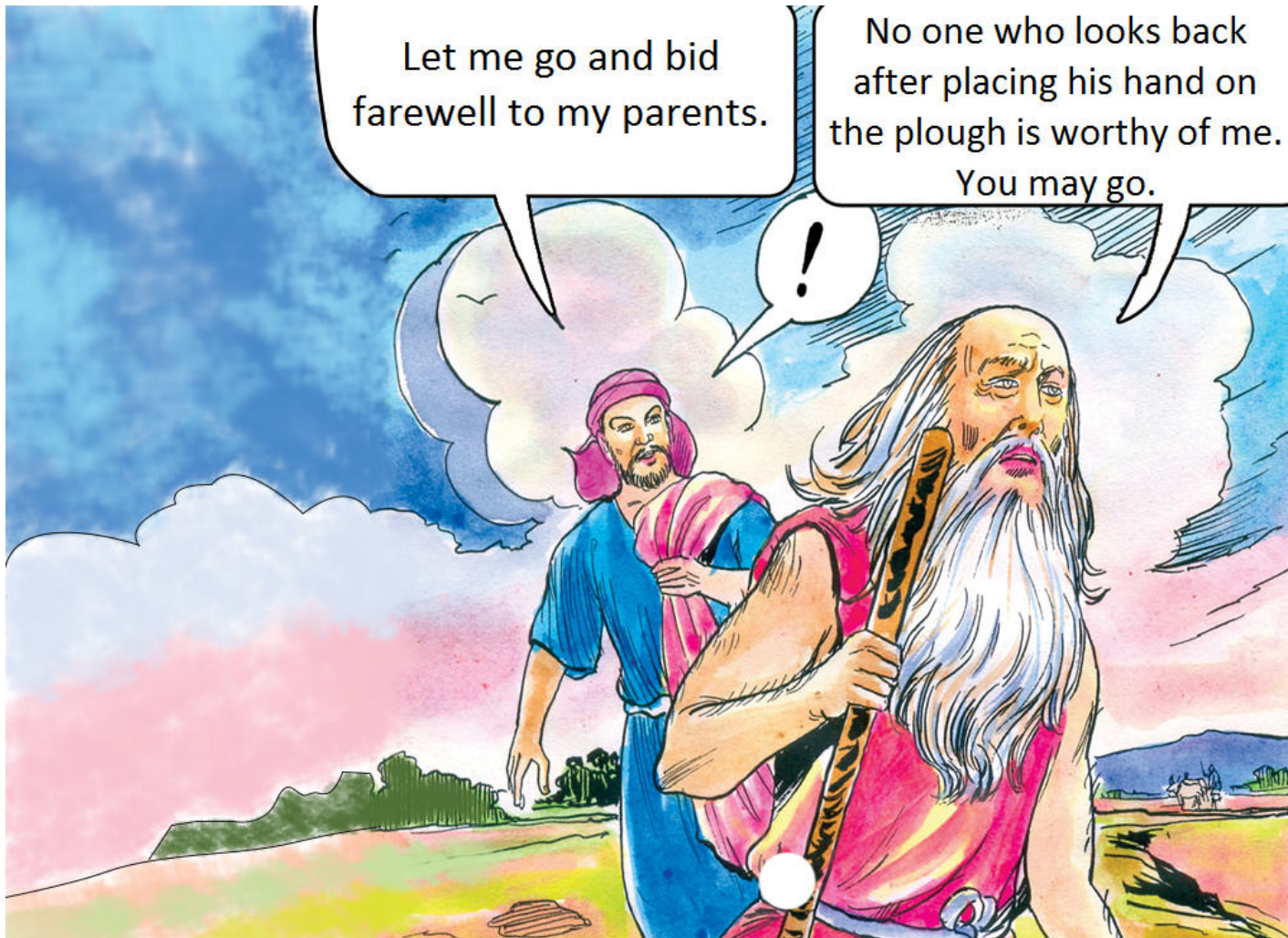
Elijah returning with this revolutionary mission met Elisha who was ploughing the field. As a sign of calling him to discipleship, Elijah dropped his mantle on him.



Let me go and bid
farewell to my parents.

No one who looks back
after placing his hand on
the plough is worthy of me.
You may go.

!



No, I won't go home. I am coming with you.

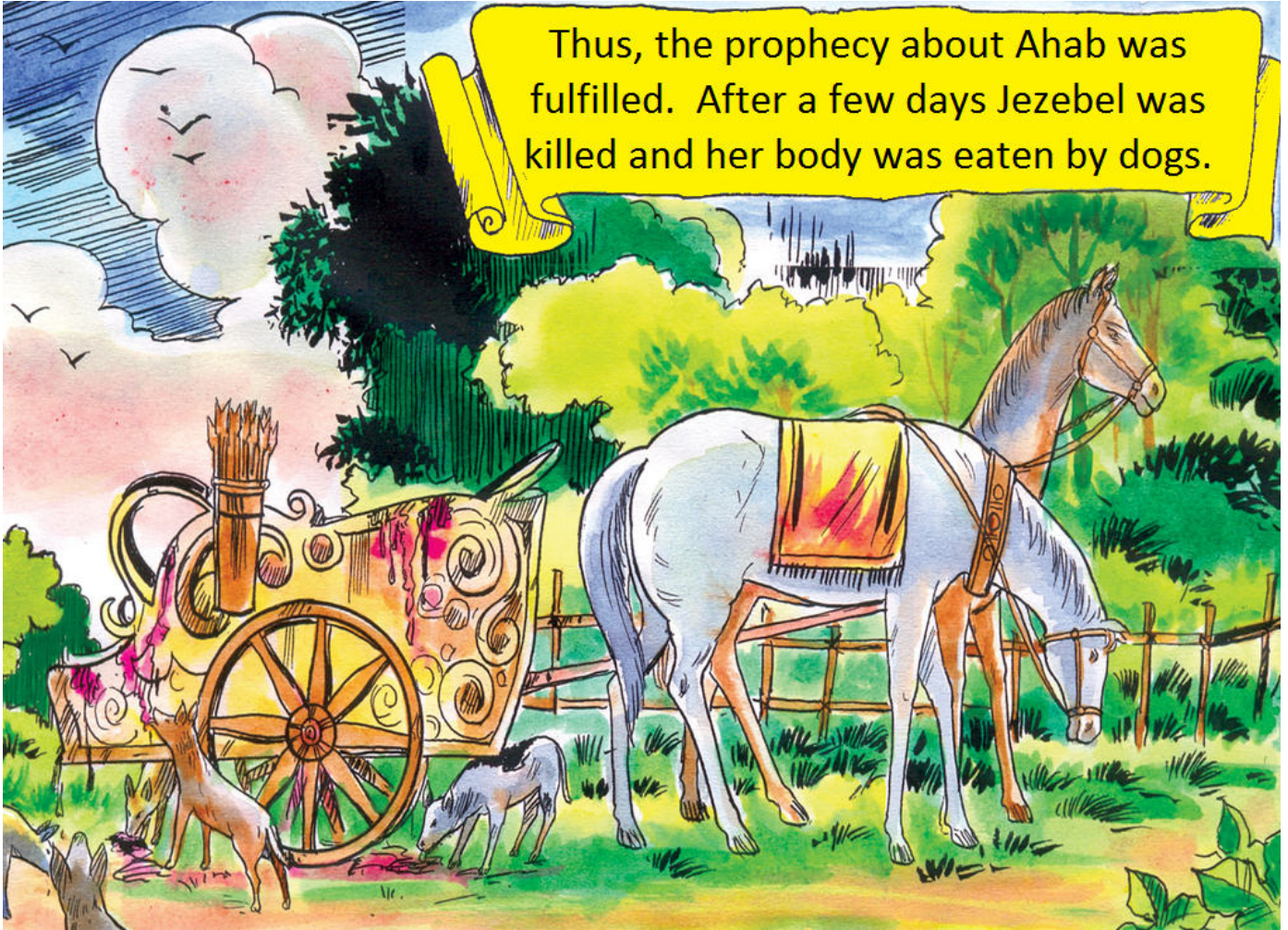


Ahab, king of Israel and Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, joined forces to fight against Benhadad, king of Syria. In the war Ahab was mortally wounded.

Turn the chariot to Samaria.



Thus, the prophecy about Ahab was fulfilled. After a few days Jezebel was killed and her body was eaten by dogs.



Elijah completed his mission.

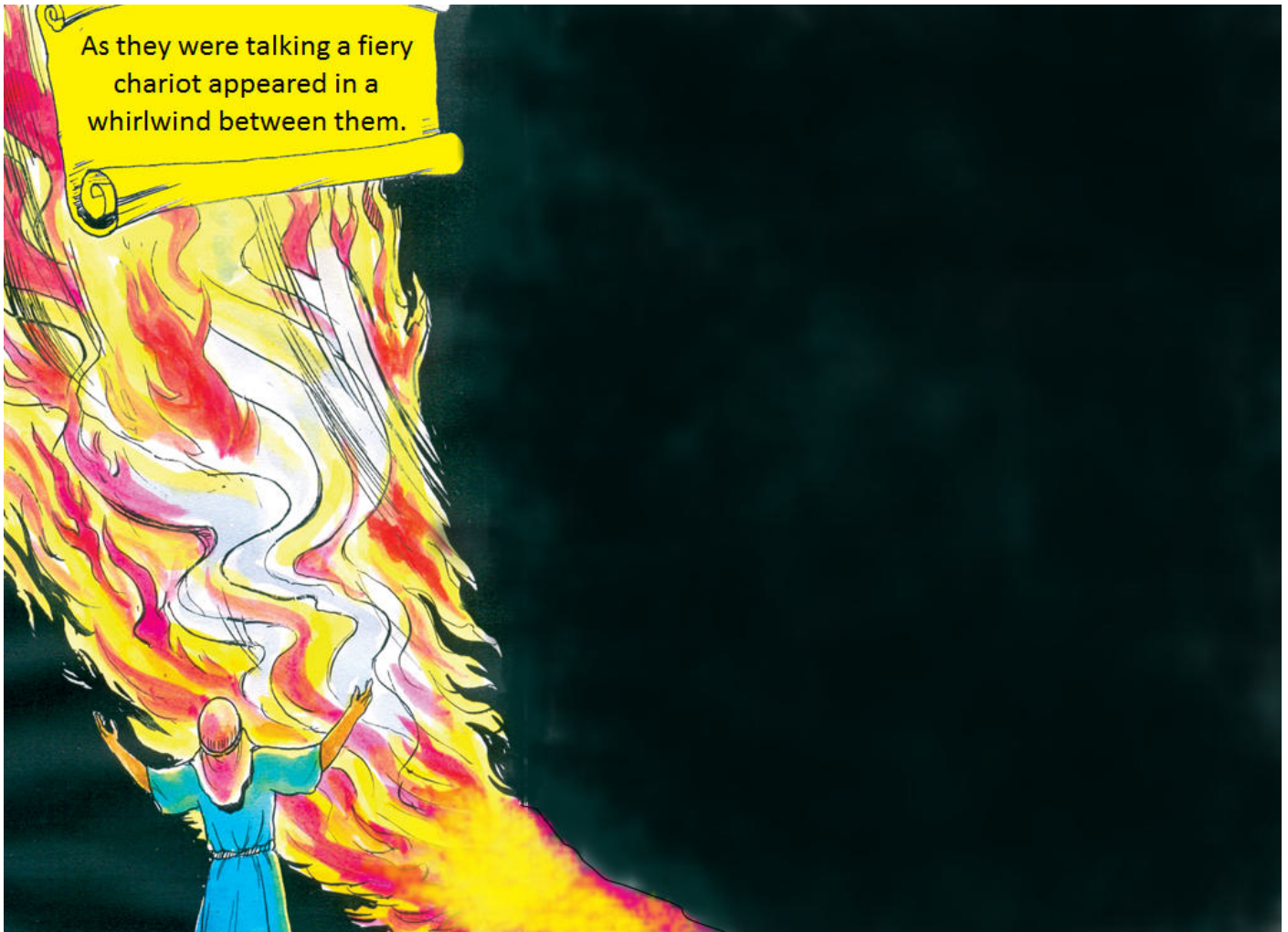
Elisha, we are about to part company. Ask whatever you want.

I want a double portion of the spirit that is working in you.

If you see me when I am taken away, you'll get it.



As they were talking a fiery
chariot appeared in a
whirlwind between them.



It is believed that Elijah was taken up into heaven in a chariot of fire. Elijah returned to Yahweh who sent him. His life was like a devouring fire against idolatry and injustice. The voice of Yahweh continued to come down to Israel through the successors of that great Prophet.

NEXT STORY



AMOS

Questions

1. Explain the circumstances under which God sent Prophets to Israel.
2. What does the name “Elijah” means?
3. Elija was a man of prayer. Explain.
4. “The dogs will lick your blood”. Who said it, to whom, and why?
5. Narrate the Mount Carmel episode.
6. Elijah longed to die. Why?
7. What was mission entrusted to Elijah on Mount Horeb?
8. What message can we draw from the miracle in Elijah’s life?
9. Explain the Jewish expectations concerning the return of Elijah.
10. Elijah was the forerunner of the Messiah. Explain.

THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN COMICS

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|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Cain and Abel | 18. Isaiah | 36. The One to come |
| 2. Abraham | 19. Jeremiah | 37. The Lord of the Universe |
| 3. Jacob | 20. Ezekiel | 38. Son of God |
| 4. Joseph | 21. Zechariah | 39. The Son of Man |
| 5. Moses | 22. Jonah | 40. In the shadow of the cross |
| 6. Joshua | 23. Job | 41. The Way |
| 7. Samson | 24. Tobit | 42. Son of David |
| 8. Ruth | 25. Daniel | 43. Bread of Life |
| 9. Samuel | 26. Susanna | 44. The Redeemer |
| 10. Saul | 27. Esther | 45. With us forever |
| 11. David | 28. Judith | 46. Tongues of fire |
| 12. King David | 29. Maccabeus | 47. Baptism in blood |
| 13. Solomon | 30. The Maccabees | 48. The chosen vessel |
| 14. Elijah | 31. A World Awaiting | 49. Libation |
| 15. Amos | 32. Light of the world | 50. Come, Lord Jesus |
| 16. Hosea | 33. The Herald | 51. Woman |
| 17. Micah | 34. The Prophet | |
| | 35. The Liberator | |