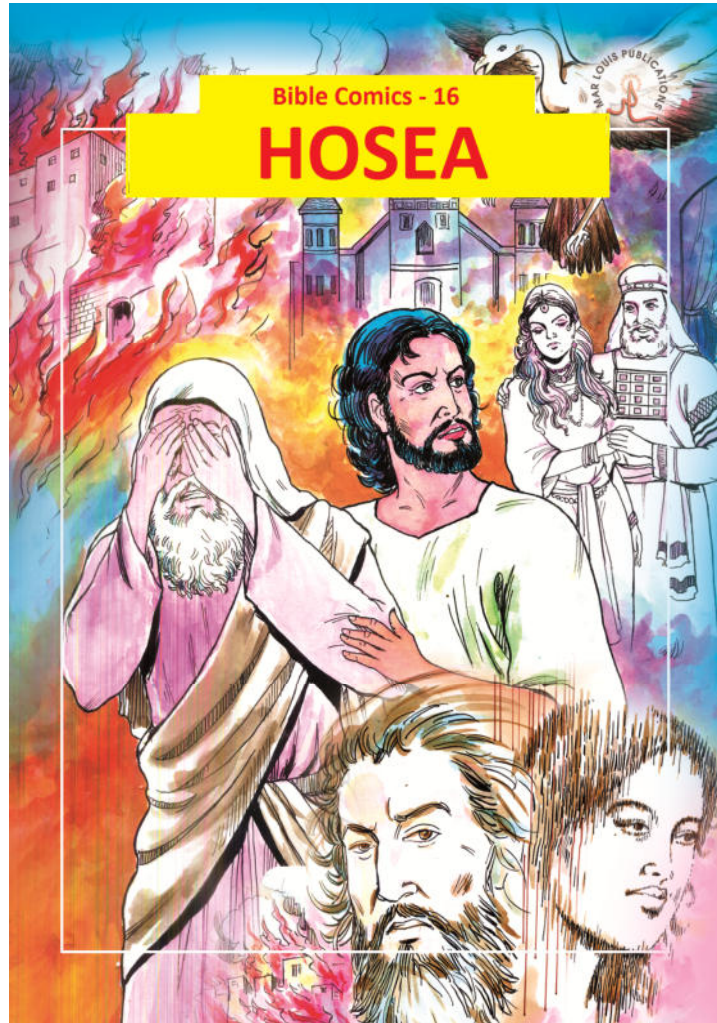


Bible Comics - 16

# HOSEA



# HOSEA

Hosea was the last prophet sent to the northern kingdom of Israel. He lived during the second half of the eighth century B.C., at a time when the country was thrown into utter chaos with political upheavals and constant change of powers. The destruction of Israel foretold by Amos was becoming a reality.

With the death of king Jeroboam II (B.C. 783-743) peace and prosperity came to an end in

Israel. The following twenty years witnessed a rapid succession of six kings (Zechariah 743; Shallum 743; Menahem 743-739; Pekahiah 738-737; Pekah 737-732 and Hosea 732-724). When Israel was rocked by constant revolutions and political murders, Assyria was becoming a mighty empire under the able leadership of powerful kings such as Tiglath Pileser III (75-757), Shalmanesser V (726-722) and Sargon II (721-724). King of Israel repeatedly changed allegiance with Assyria and the other great power,

Egypt. This waywardness caused the ruin of Israel.

The fall of Israel was further hastened by many other factors. While Israel was plunged into virtual anarchy, all the evils that Amos had denounced became still more pronounced and widespread. Murder and robbery became the order of the day. Luxury of the rich, oppression of the poor and venality of the Judges made life intolerable for the ordinary people. Priests and prophets, instead of teaching the laws of the covenant and upholding moral values, became

greedy for profit and encouraged corruption. Religious practices degenerated into a bargain with God for receiving favours. Yahweh and Baal were worshipped on the same altar. Thus, Israel's political, social and religious systems were corrupt to the core. It was under these circumstances that Hosea was sent to Israel as the prophet of love.

Hosea was a man who experienced the depth of love and the bitterness of betrayal. He married Gomer, knowing that she was a temple prostitute, and loved her tenderly. But Gomer, instead of

reciprocating this love, left him and went after other lovers and ended up in slavery. Hosea was torn by anger and sorrow, love and hatred. Finally love proved to be stronger. Hosea searched for Gomer and redeemed her by paying her ransom.

Hosea realized that his life was a symbol of God's love and Israel's infidelity. He interpreted the Sinai Covenant as a marriage between Yahweh and His people, Israel. If he could love Gomer, his unfaithful wife, so tenderly, how much more does God love Israel! If the infidelity of Gomer wounded him so deeply, how greater

would be God's pain at the sins of Israel. What God wants of Israel is that she should repent and return to Him with the whole heart and remain faithful to the covenant.

Gomer and Israel are symbols of mankind. Man by nature is inclined to evil. Only the infinite love of God can redeem him from the captivity of sin. This saving love is the motive force behind the whole history of salvation which is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. The depth of God's love is manifested in that He sent His only Son and let him die on the cross to save us.

Bible Comics – 16

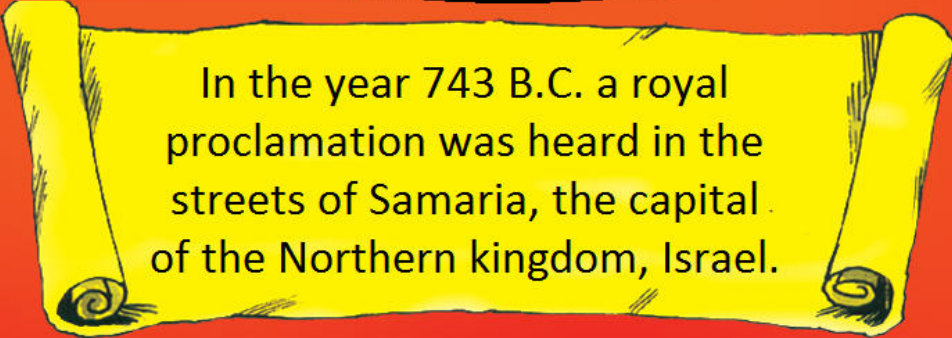
# Hosea

Script

Rev. Dr. Micheal Karimattam

Illustration

Devassy



In the year 743 B.C. a royal proclamation was heard in the streets of Samaria, the capital of the Northern kingdom, Israel.



King Jeroboam II has died. In eight days, Prince Zechariah will be enthroned as king.  
On that day special sacrifices must be offered to Baal in every Temple.

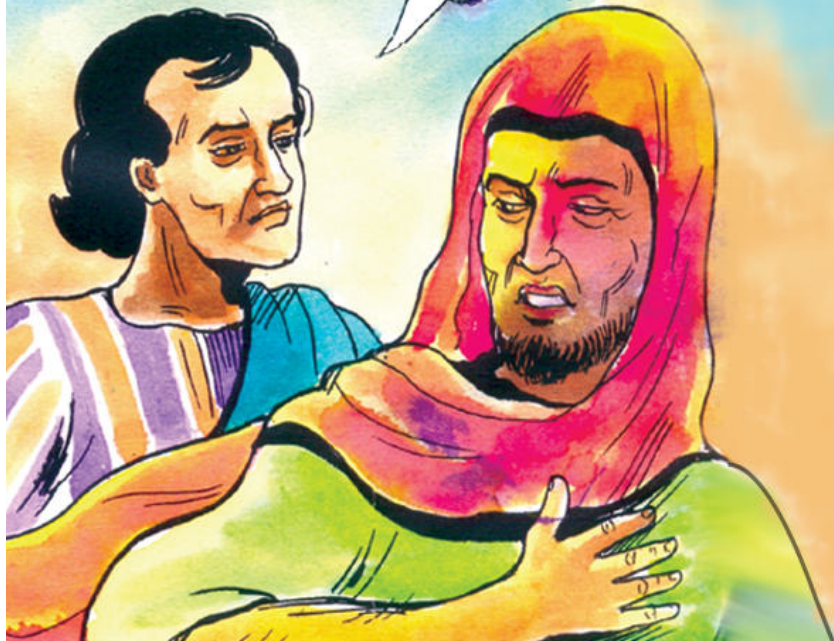


## Conversation among the Israelites.

Good now at last  
we can breathe  
freely.

Don't be so  
sure. Let us  
wait and see.

!



Coronation of Prince Zechariah.

Prophet Diblaim,  
you have nothing to  
say against the  
cruelty.

Oh Lord Baal, god of  
fertility, accept our  
offerings and bless us.



Hosea, I  
am heart  
broken.

Baal almighty, anoint the crown  
with the blood of this child. Grant  
a long life to the king and  
prosperity to the country.



Baal says "You are my son. Today I've anointed you the king of Israel"



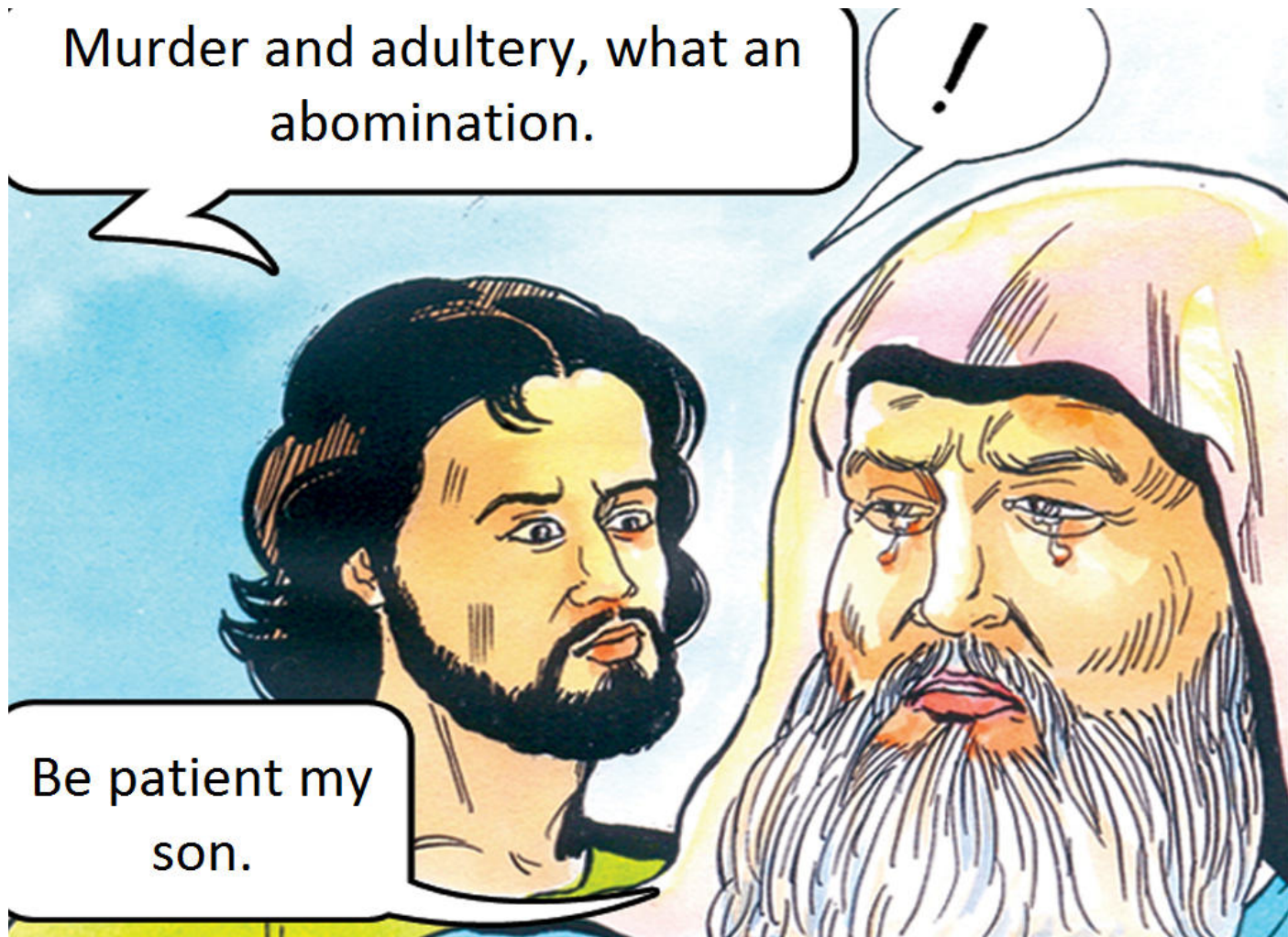
Next part of the ceremony,  
priests of Baal approach  
the dancing girls.



Murder and adultery, what an abomination.

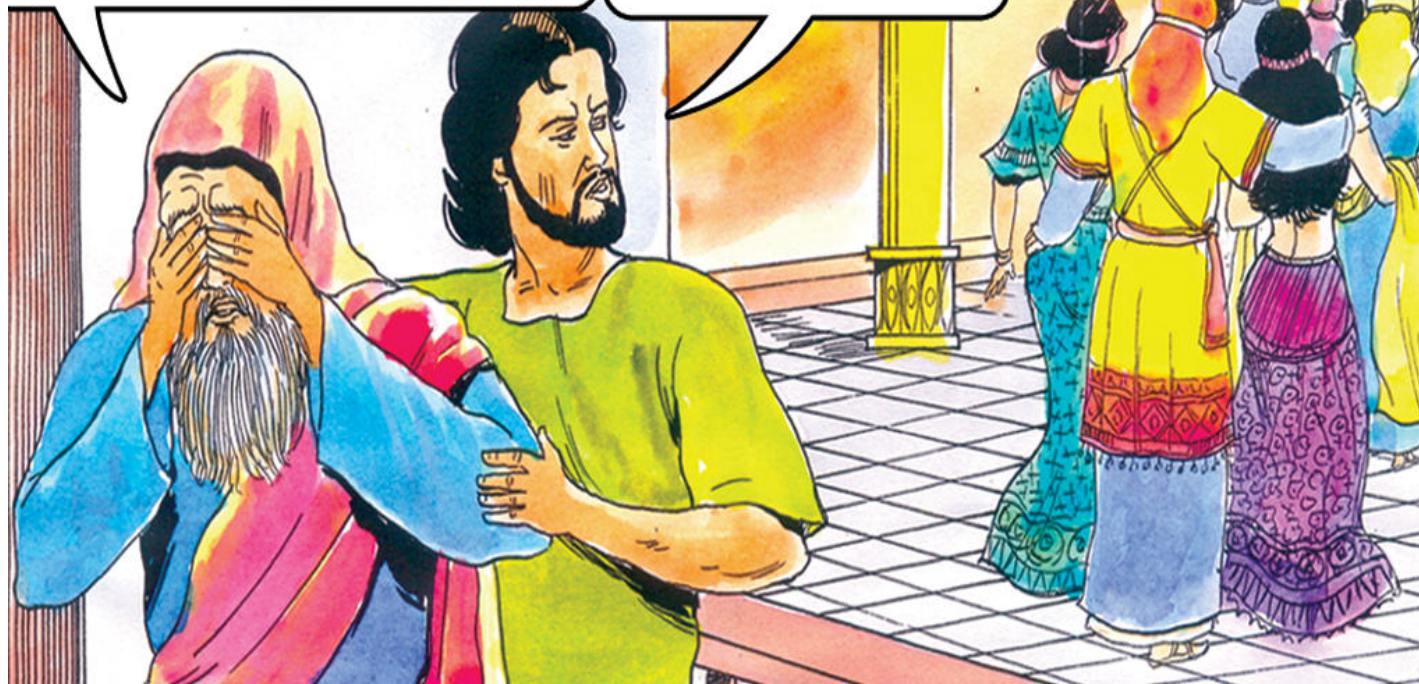
!

Be patient my son.



That's my daughter,  
Gomer, save her if you  
will.

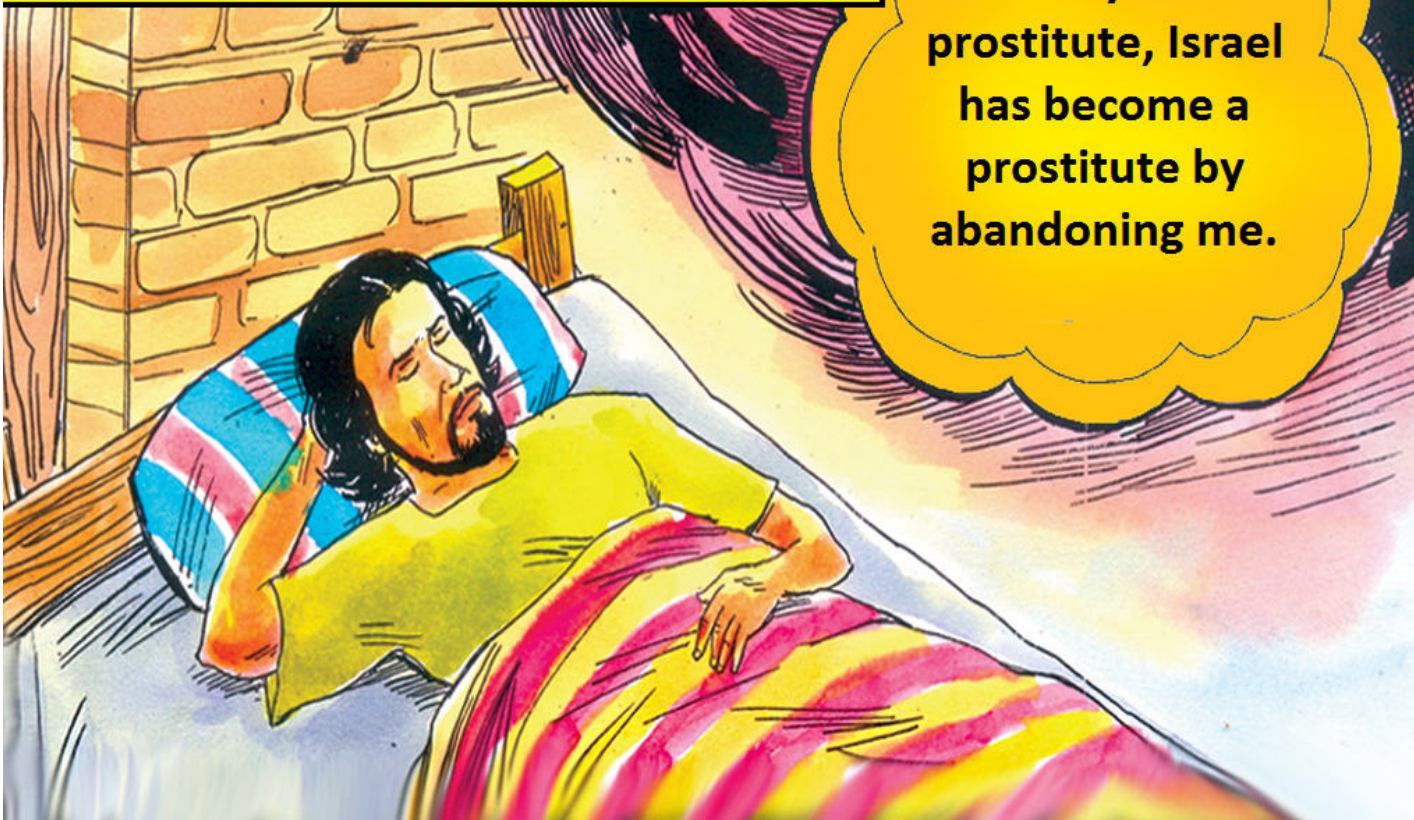
Her, a prostitute?





That night Hosea received  
His call.

Hosea, go and  
marry the  
prostitute, Israel  
has become a  
prostitute by  
abandoning me.



The next day at the Temple of Baal.



What are you  
staring at?

Come, I want to  
speak with you.

!



I have only half an hour.

How long since you came here?



You, a priest of Samaria, don't know?



No, I am neither a priest of Baal, nor from Samaria.

Then who are you? Why are you here?

I am Hosea from Jezreel.

!!



Gomer, I love you.  
Will you come  
with me?

What are you saying? I am  
Temple dancer. No one  
should love me.



I know, Gomer, I know also who made you like this. Yahweh sees everything.

I have no life of my own.

Gomer.





Let us get out of here. We'll go to Jezreel.

Let me go, they will look for me.



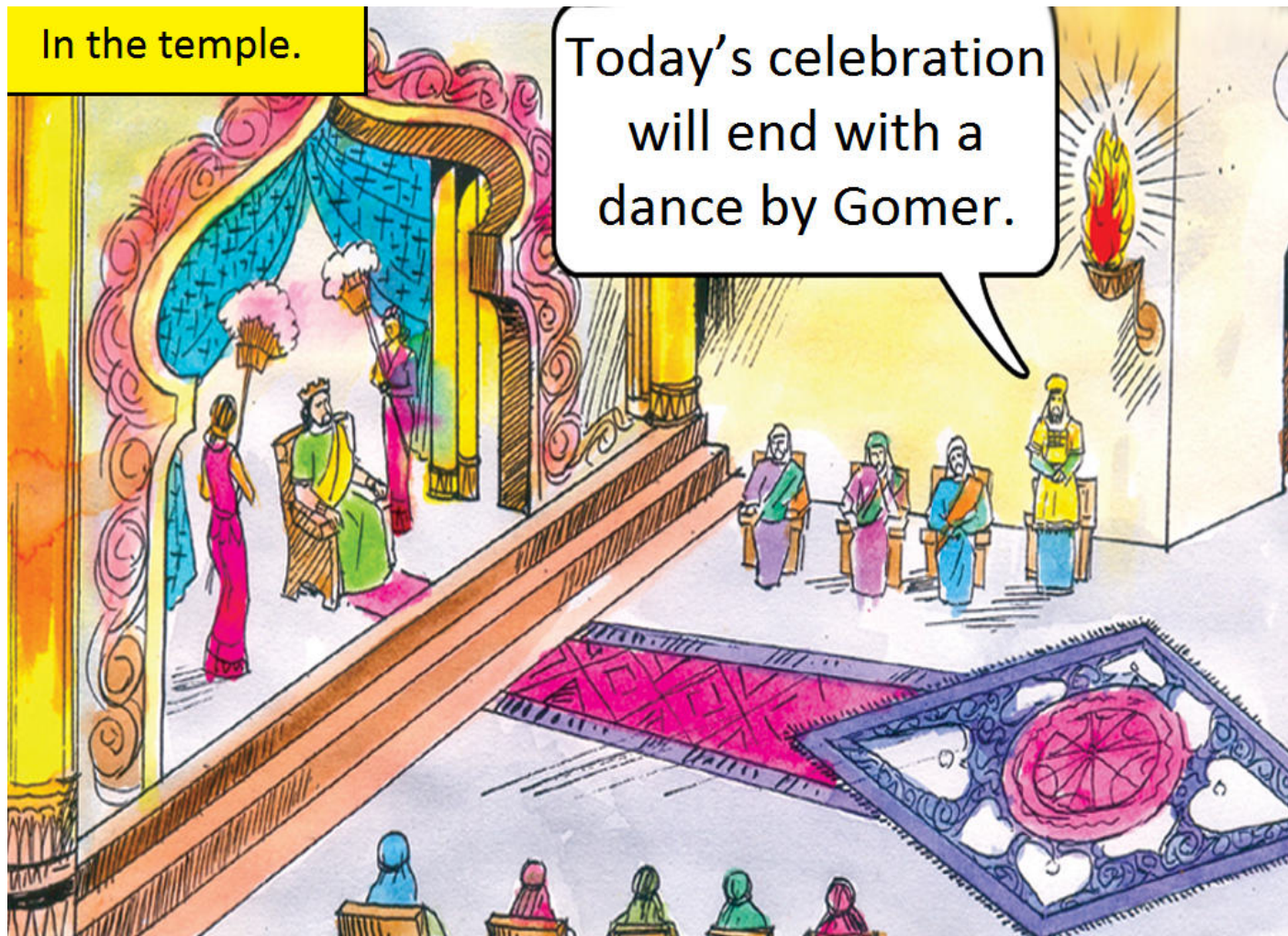
Before that we'll be gone.

I am scared.



In the temple.

Today's celebration  
will end with a  
dance by Gomer.



Hurry, I've a horse ready.



Let me say a word to  
my Father.

No, I've told him.

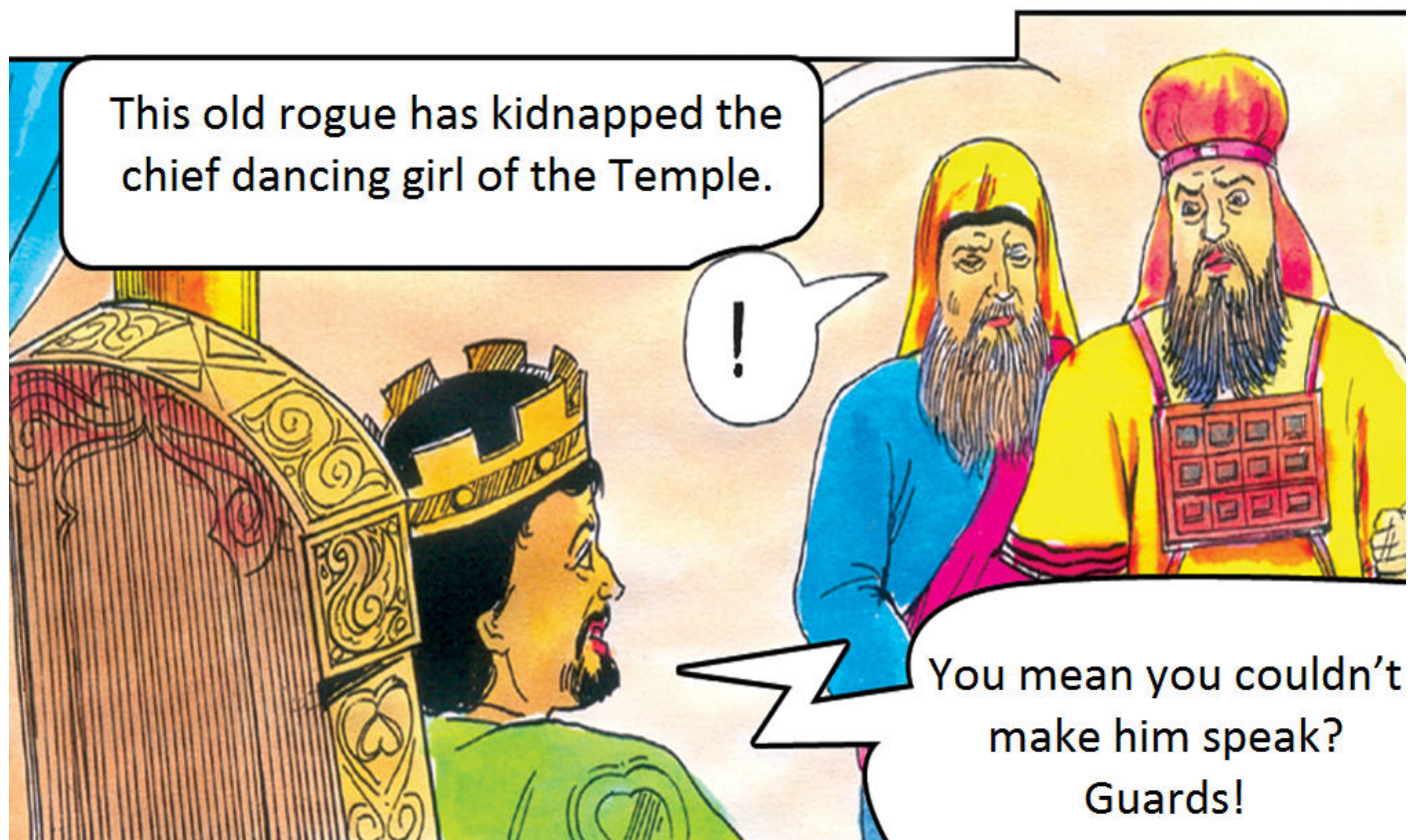
Why do you take such a risk  
for me?



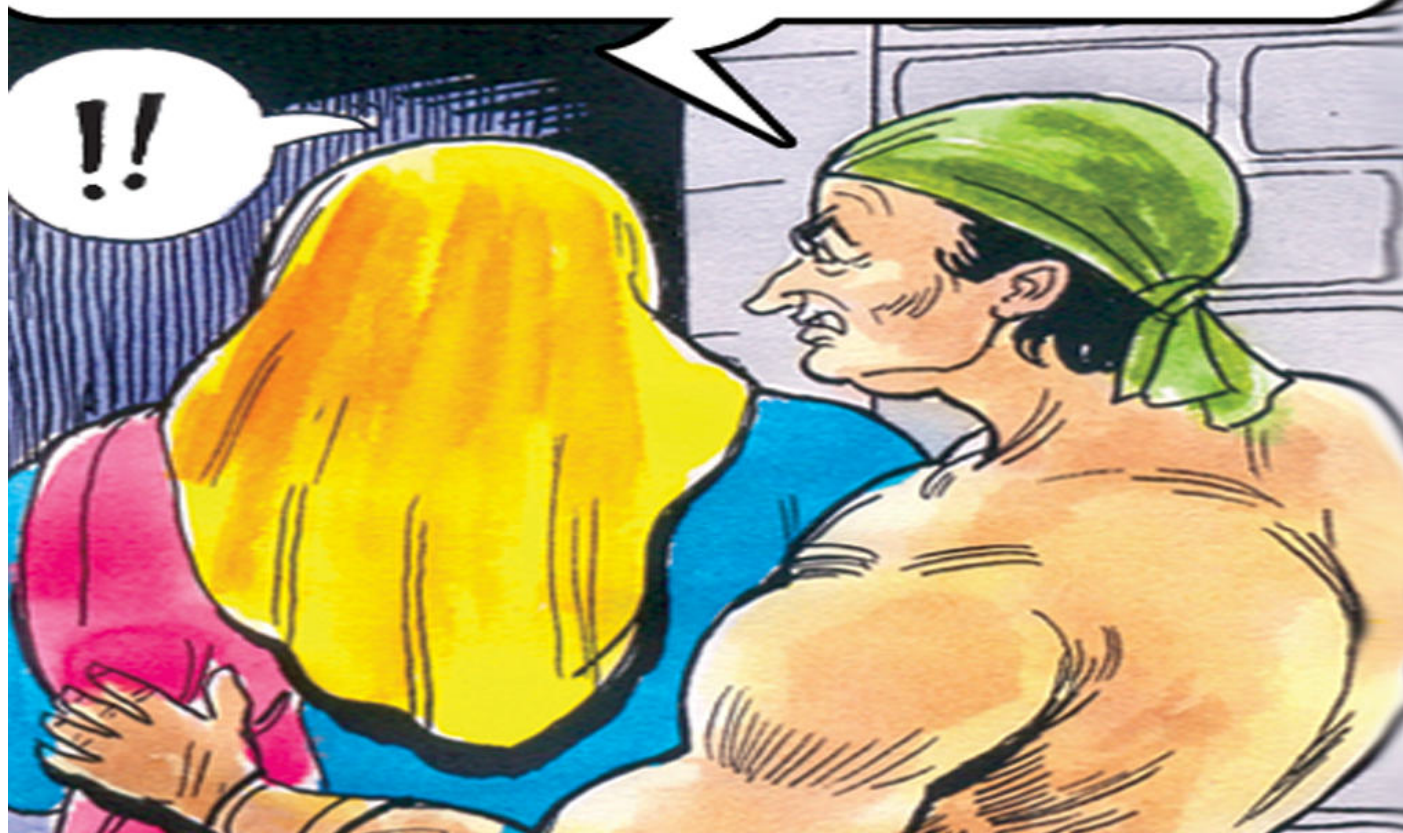
That night they fled to Jezreel.



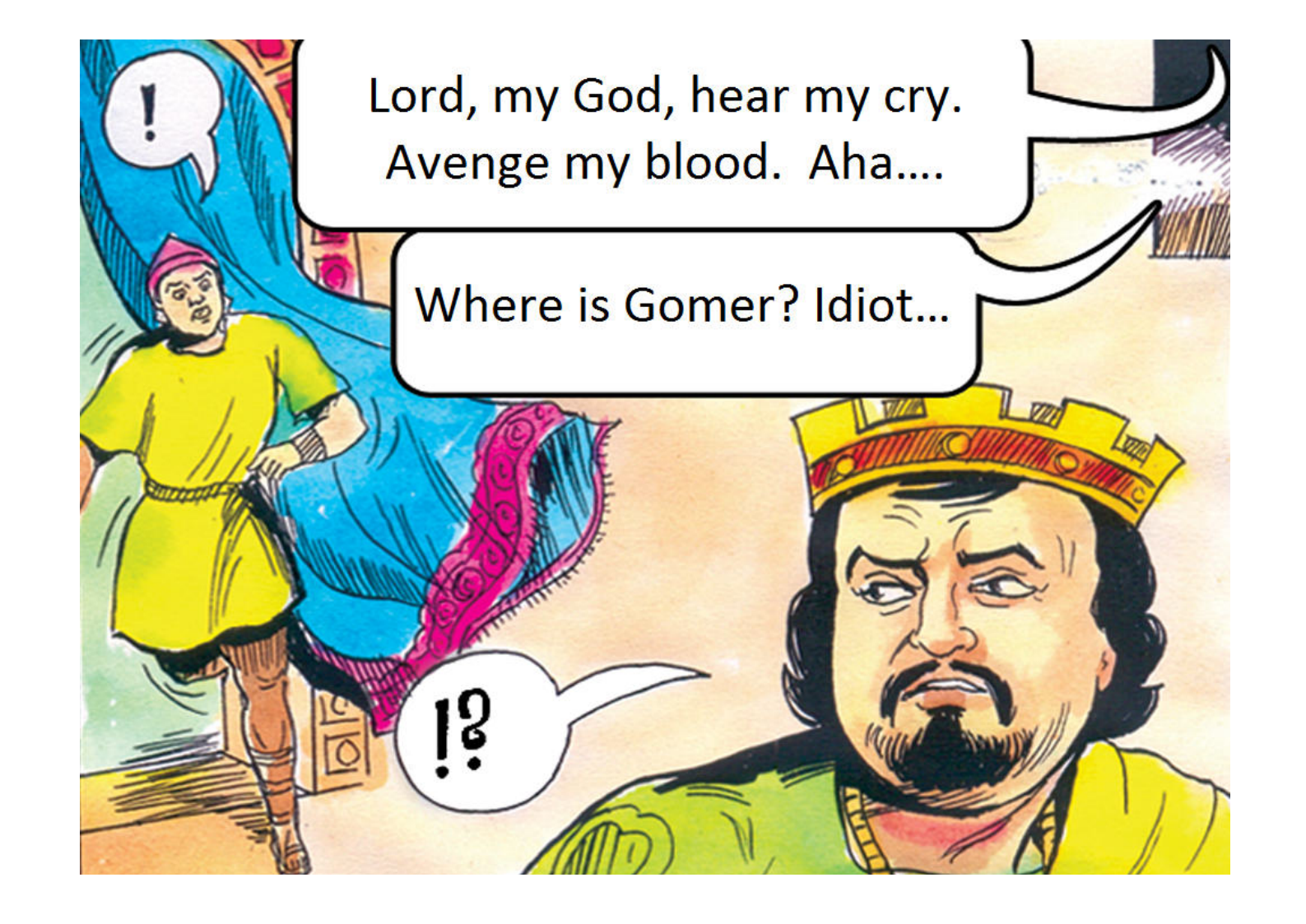
Enraged by the sudden disappearance of Gomer, the High Priest dragged Diablaim before the king.



I'll see if he has tongue in his mouth!







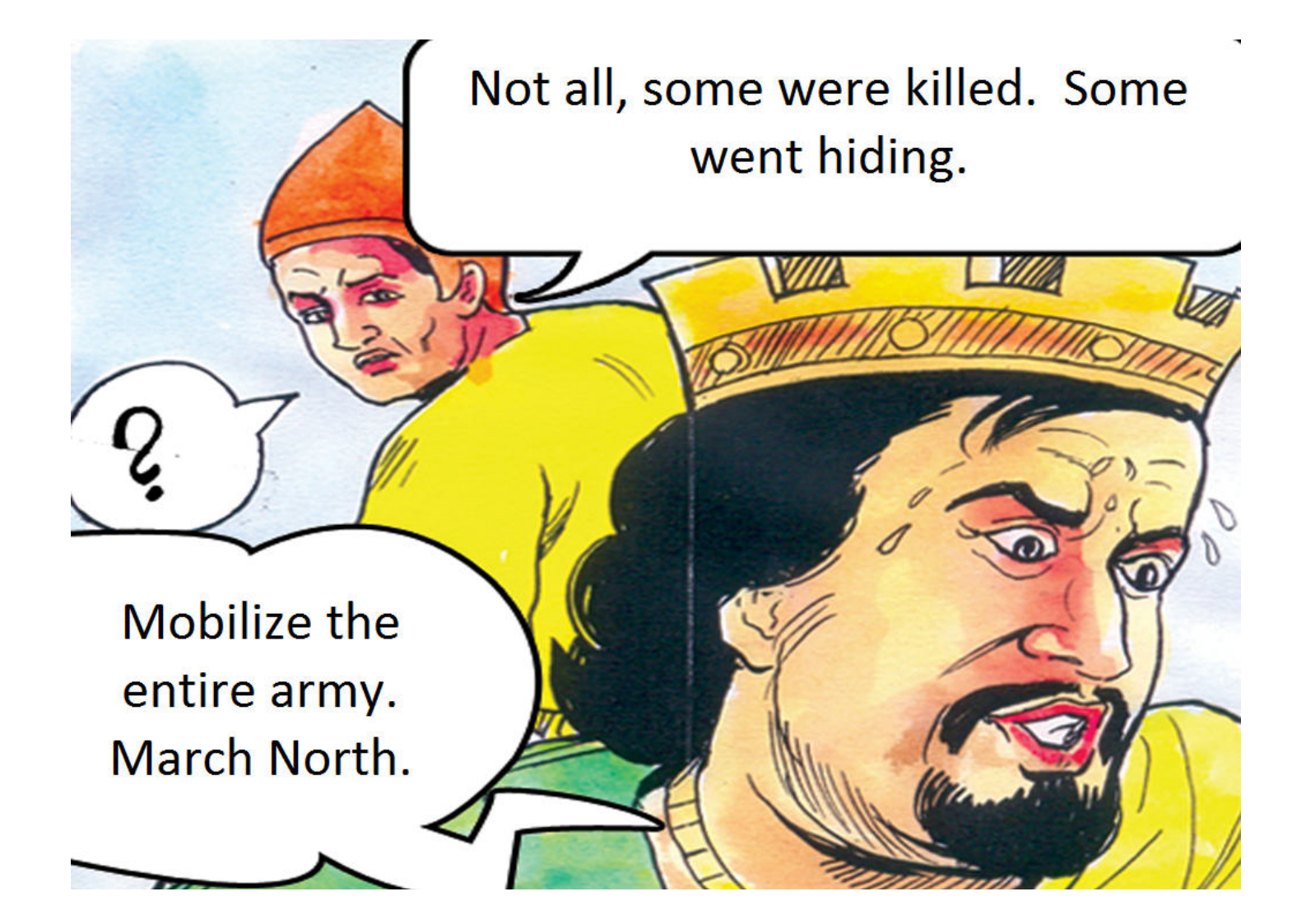
Lord, my God, hear my cry.  
Avenge my blood. Aha....

Where is Gomer? Idiot...

!?

The soldiers in the Northern border revolted. They made Shallum king.

What? Has the whole nation against us?



Not all, some were killed. Some went hiding.

?

Mobilize the entire army. March North.

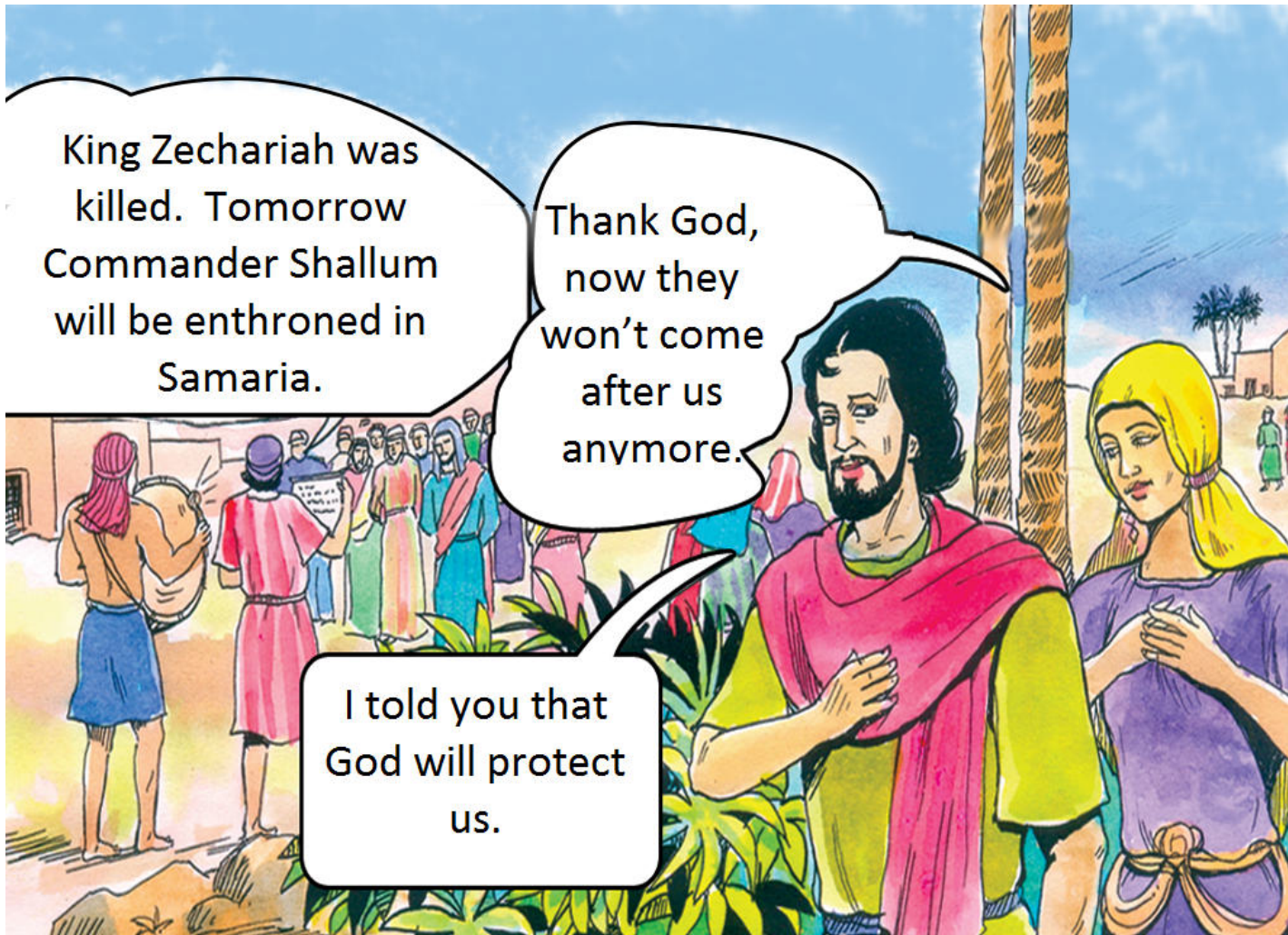
On the way King Zechariah was killed by rebel in ambush.



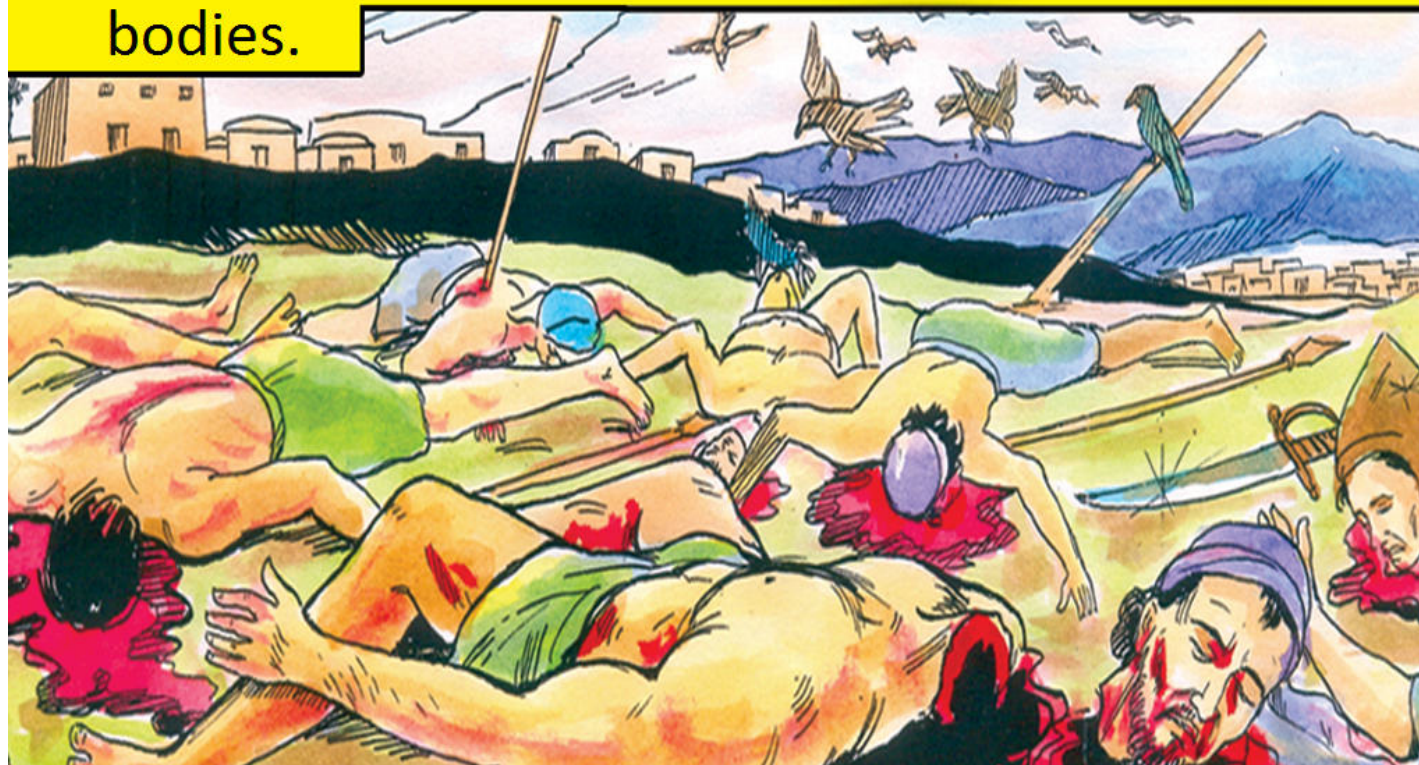
King Zechariah was killed. Tomorrow Commander Shallum will be enthroned in Samaria.

Thank God, now they won't come after us anymore.

I told you that God will protect us.



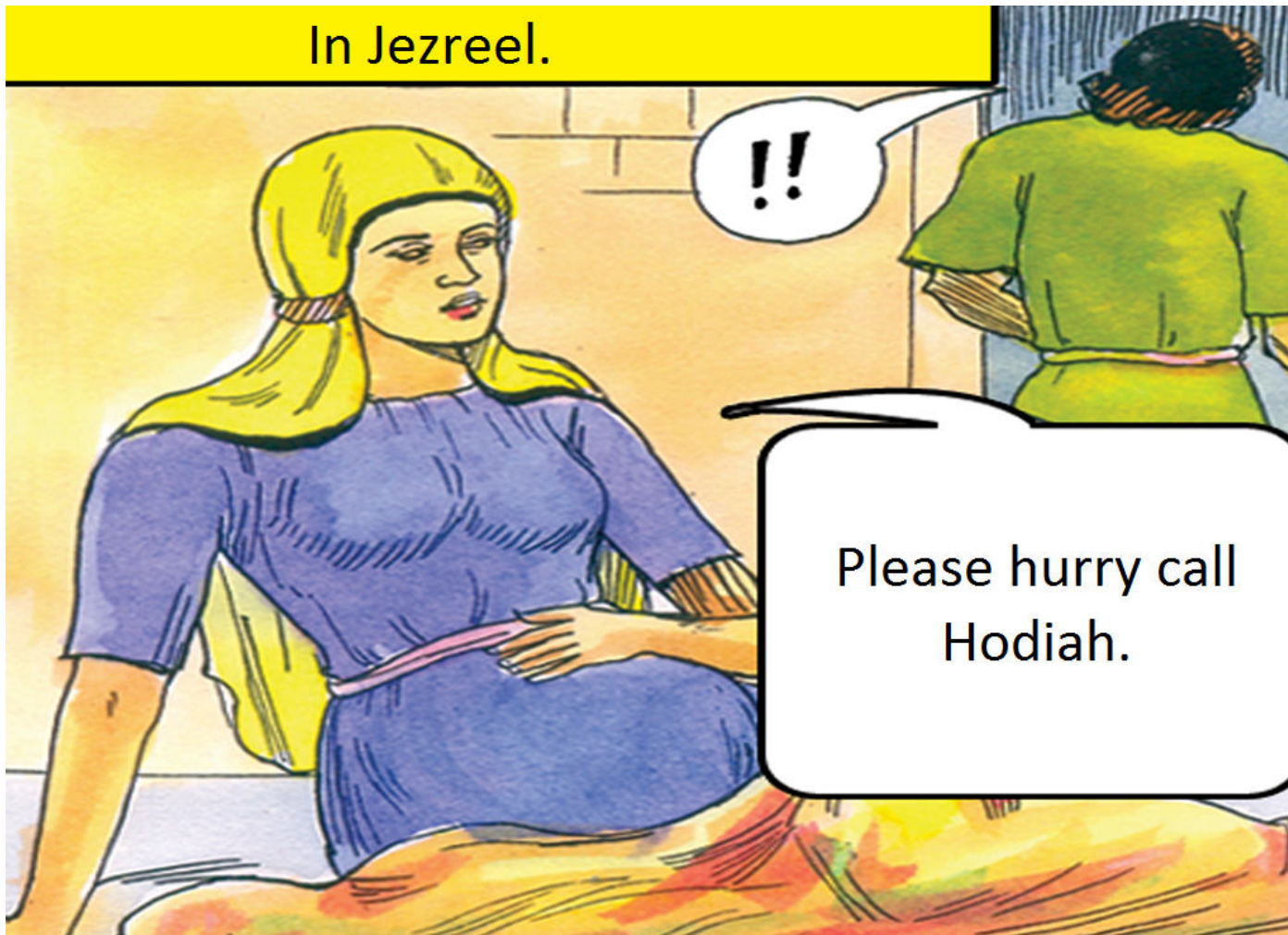
Months and years passed. Frequent revolutions and rapid succession kings threw the country into utter Chaos. Streets were flooded with dead bodies.



In Jezreel.

!!

Please hurry call  
Hodiah.



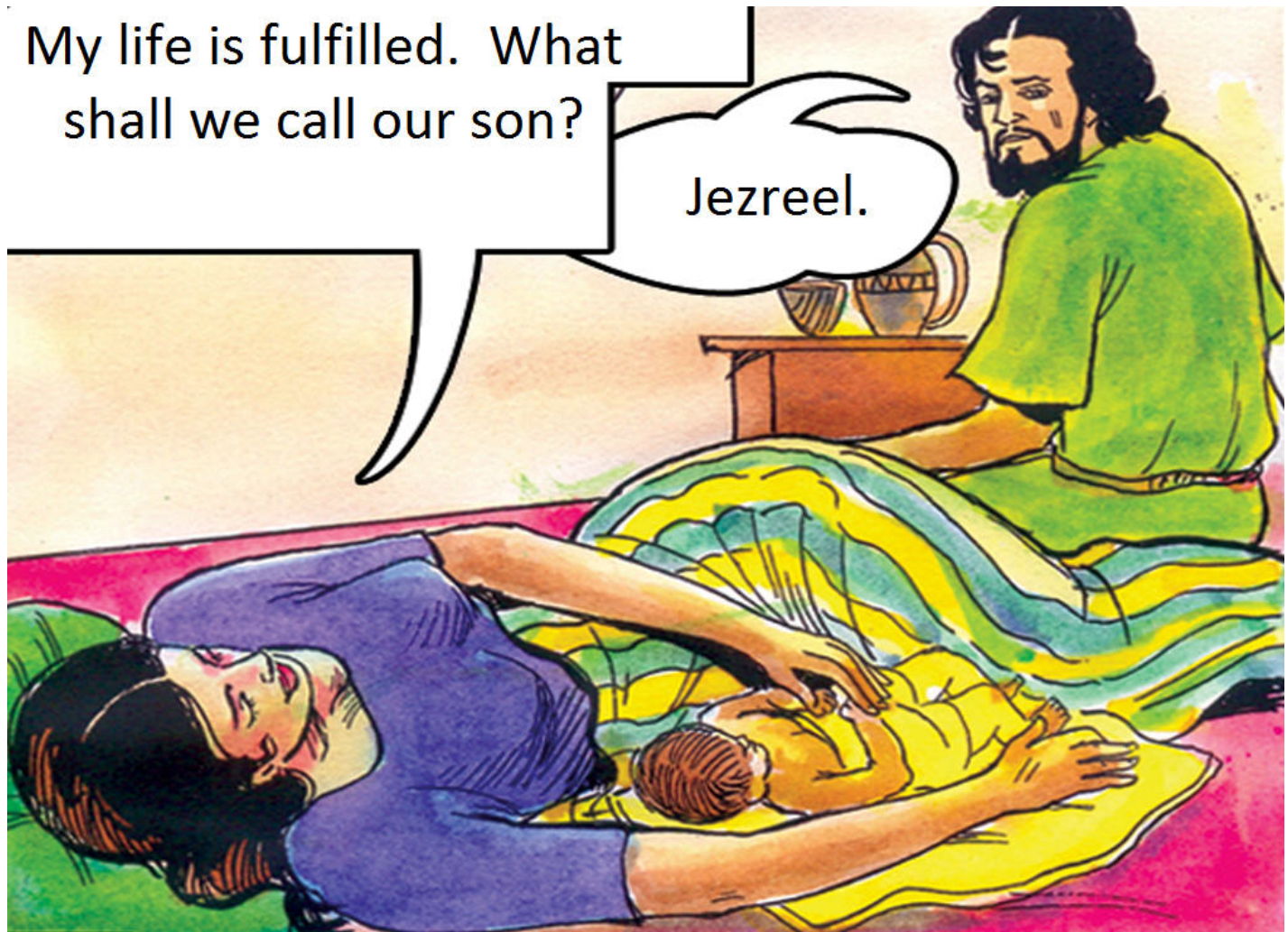
What a beautiful child!





My life is fulfilled. What shall we call our son?

Jezreel.





What? Jezreel?

Yes.

!!

Monarchy is coming to an end in Israel. Yahweh will avenge the innocent blood poured in Jezereel.

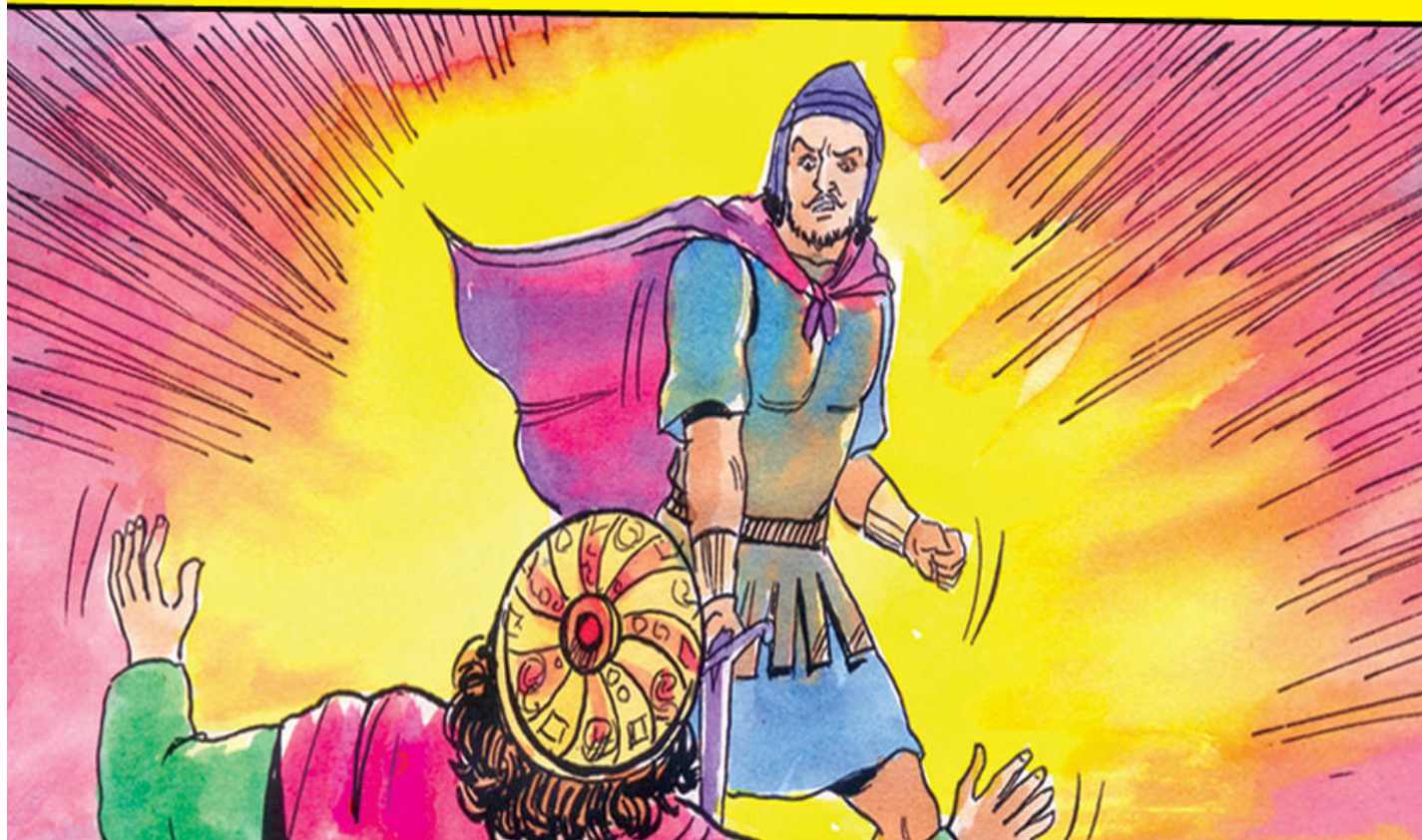




Why this curse  
on our son?

It is Yahweh's  
command.

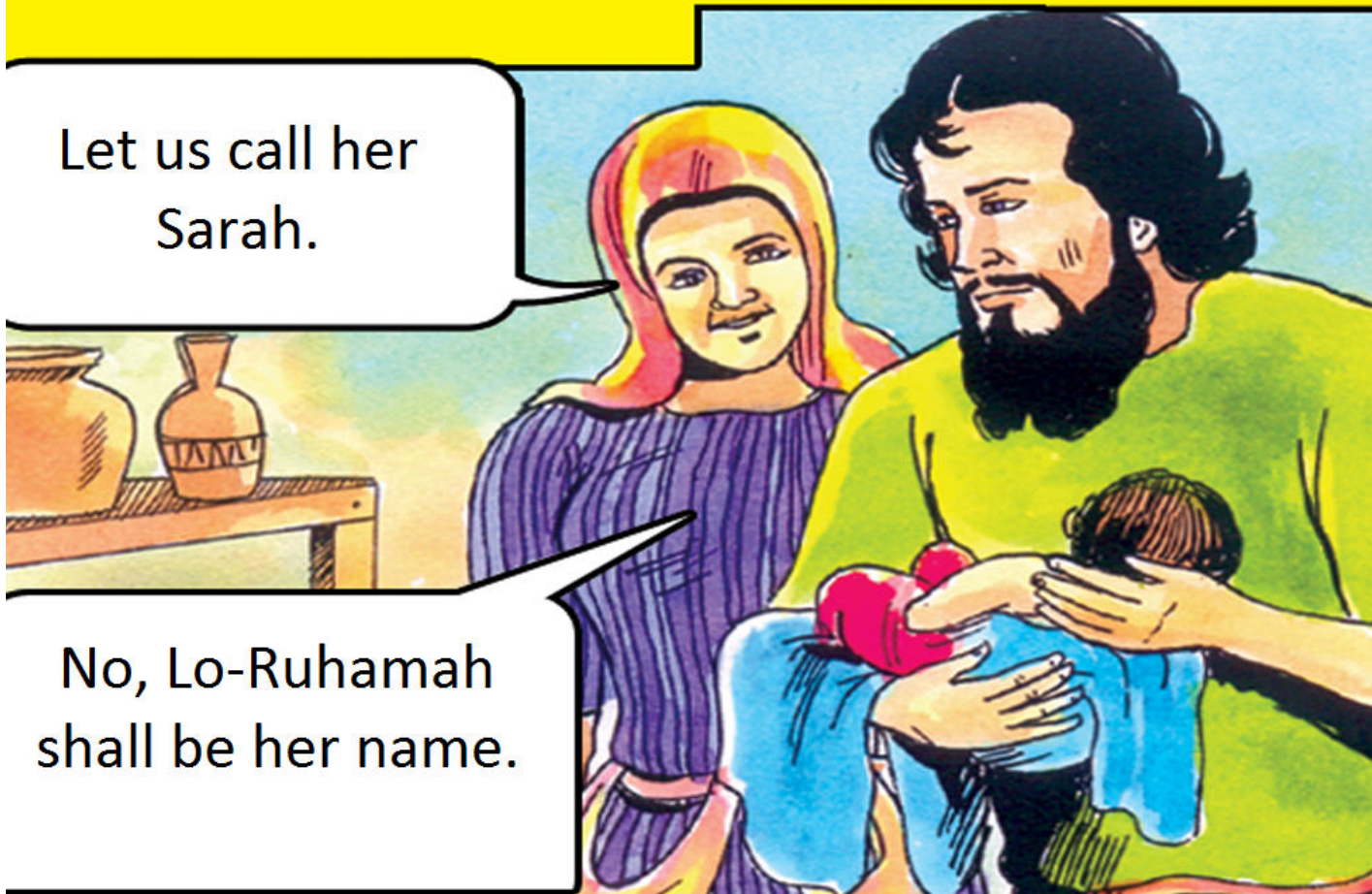
A military commander, Menahem killed Shallum and made himself king in Samaria.

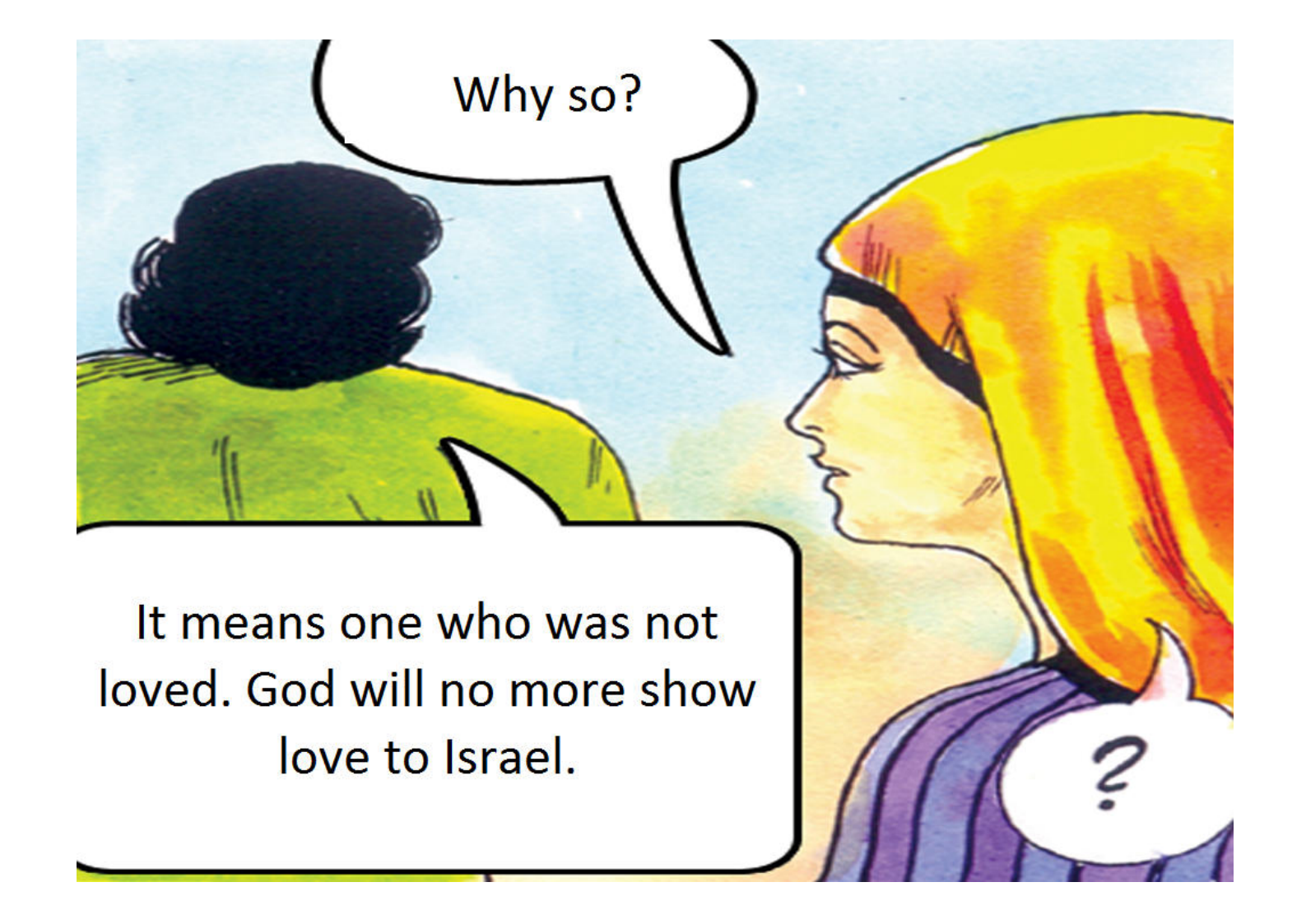


Two years later Gomer gave birth to a girl.

Let us call her Sarah.

No, Lo-Ruhamah shall be her name.





Why so?

It means one who was not loved. God will no more show love to Israel.

?




This is our daughter, not Israel.

She is the symbol of  
the curse that is going  
to befall on Israel.

!?



What is this? What happened to you?

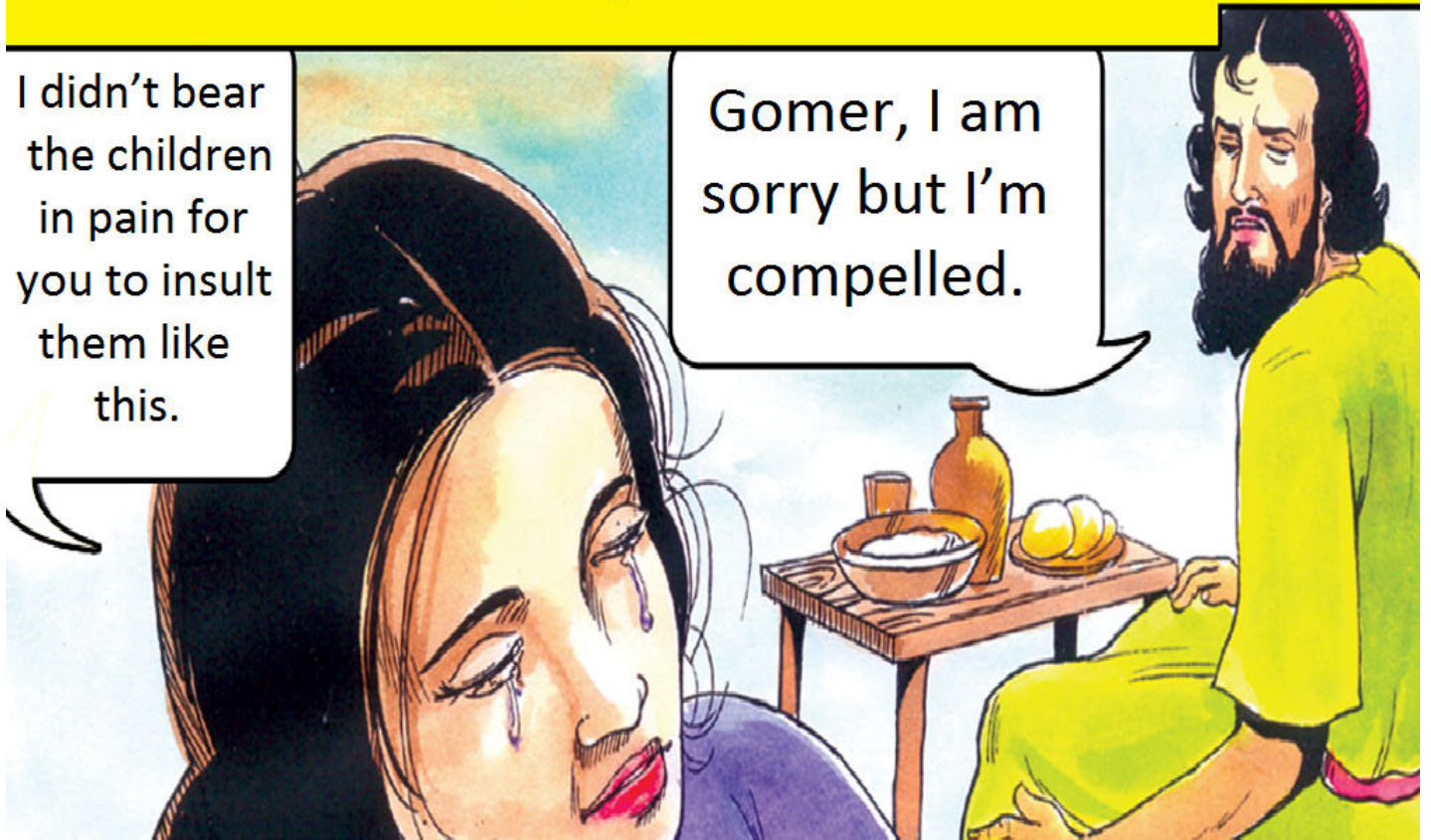


I don't know that's all I can say.

Hosea named his child "Lo-Ammi". Meaning no people of mine.

I didn't bear the children in pain for you to insult them like this.

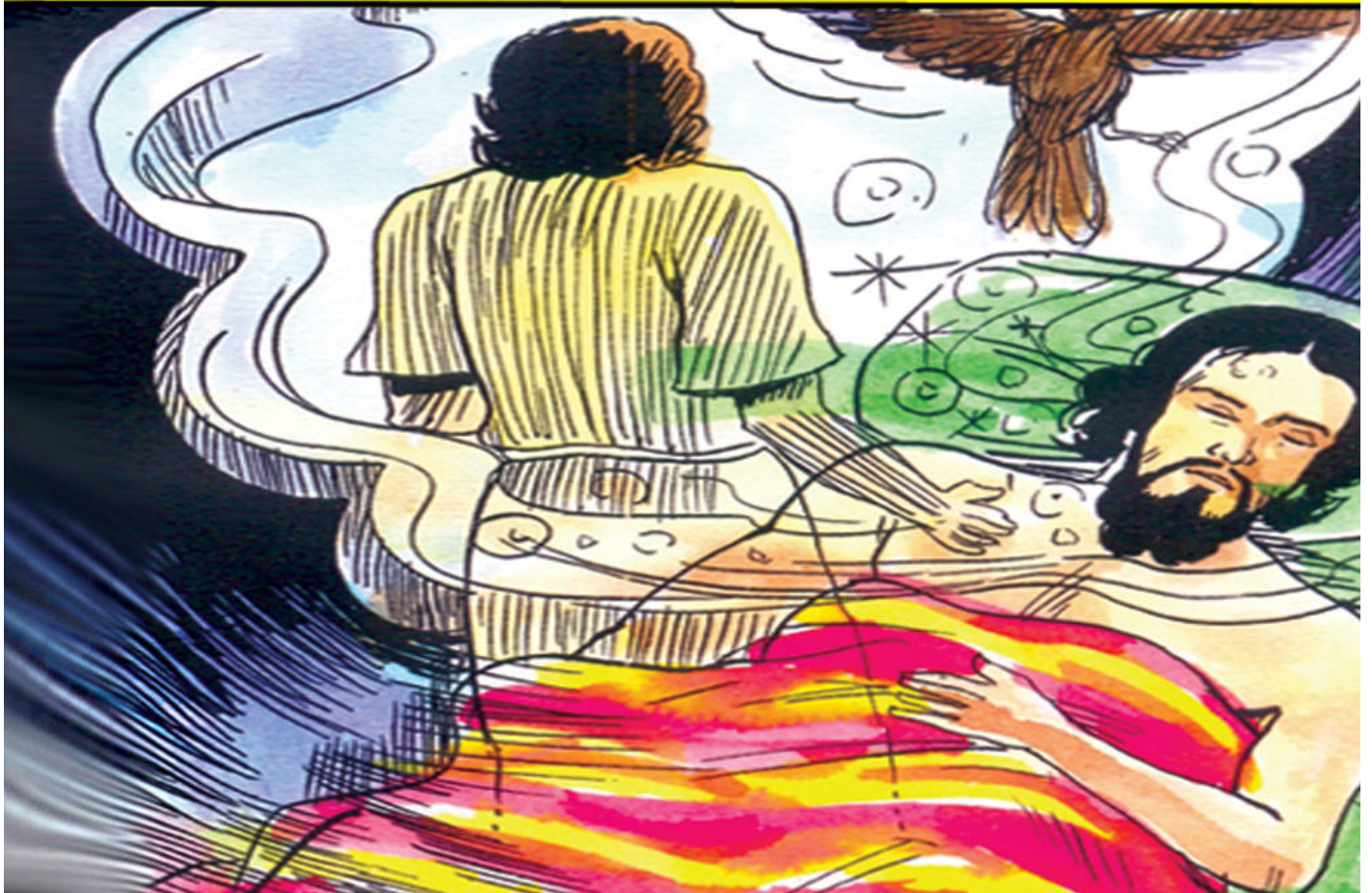
Gomer, I am sorry but I'm compelled.



A vulture appeared to Hosea in a dream.

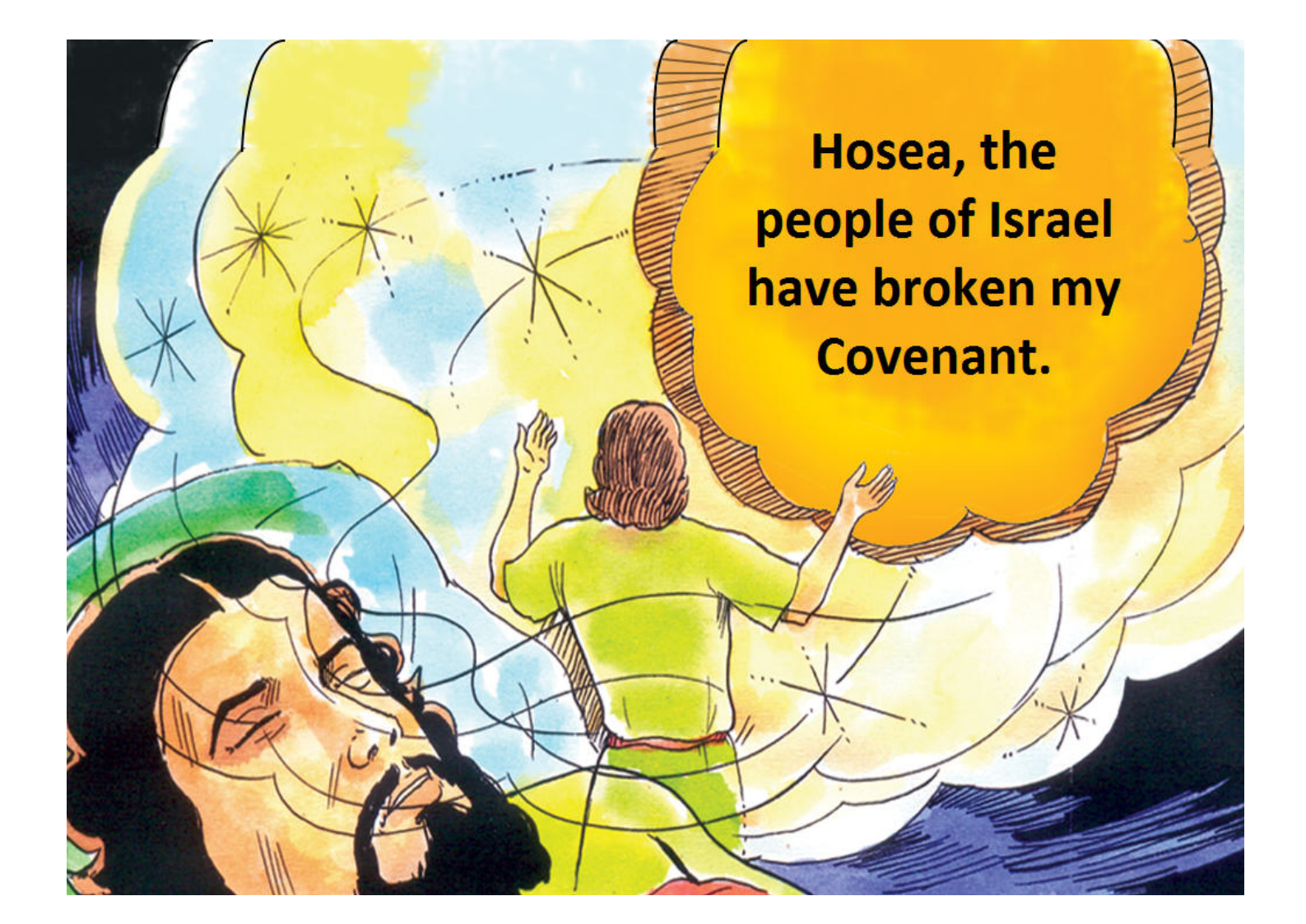


Hosea followed it.




A vulture over the  
House of the Lord.  
What does it mean?





**Hosea, the  
people of Israel  
have broken my  
Covenant.**



**I am going to punish them according to the Covenant. I will start with the priests who defiled my Temple. You go to Samaria immediately.**

The next morning

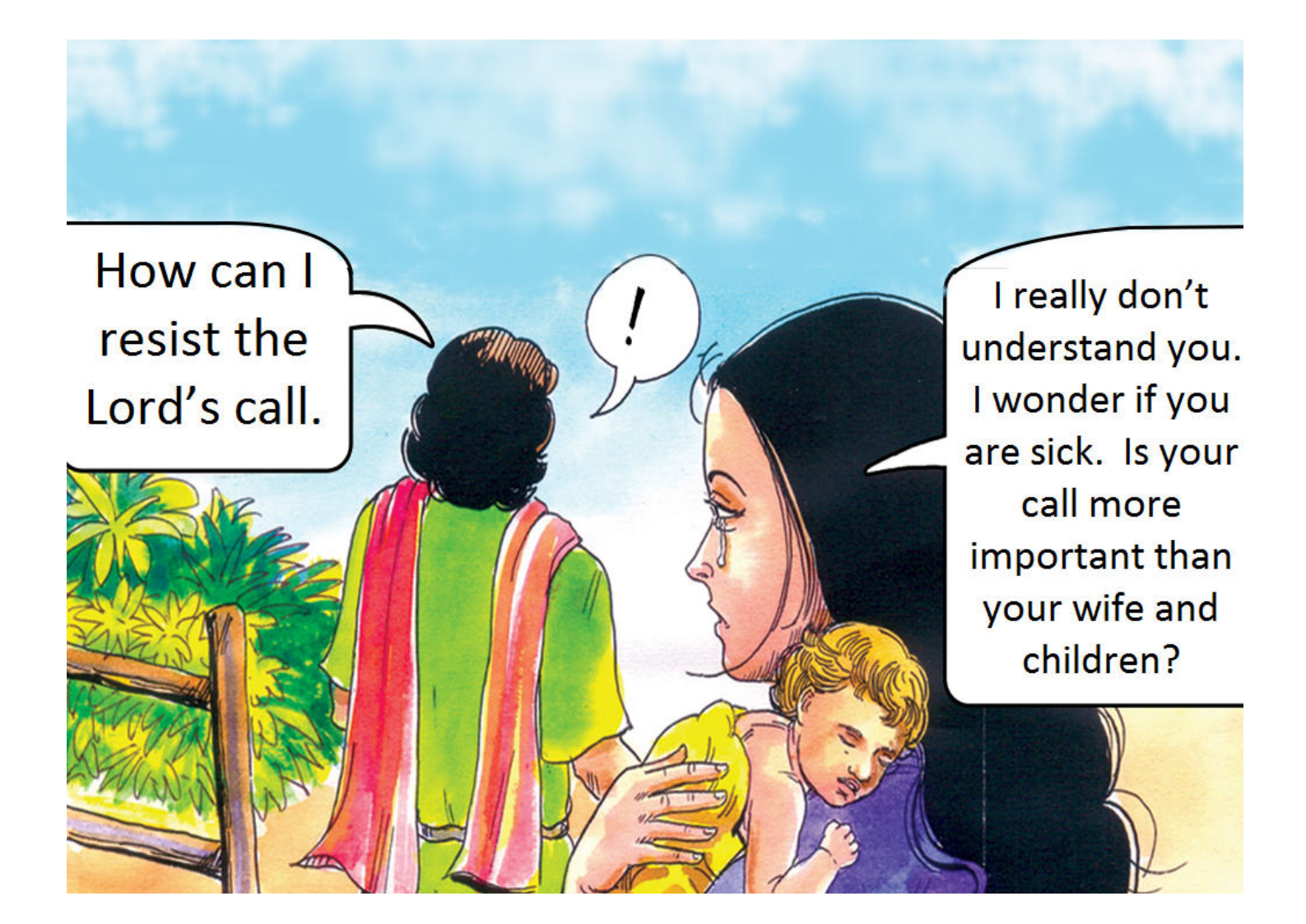
Gomer, I have to go to Samaria. It is Yahweh's order.

What am I going to do with these three little Kids?

Daddy!







How can I resist the Lord's call.

!

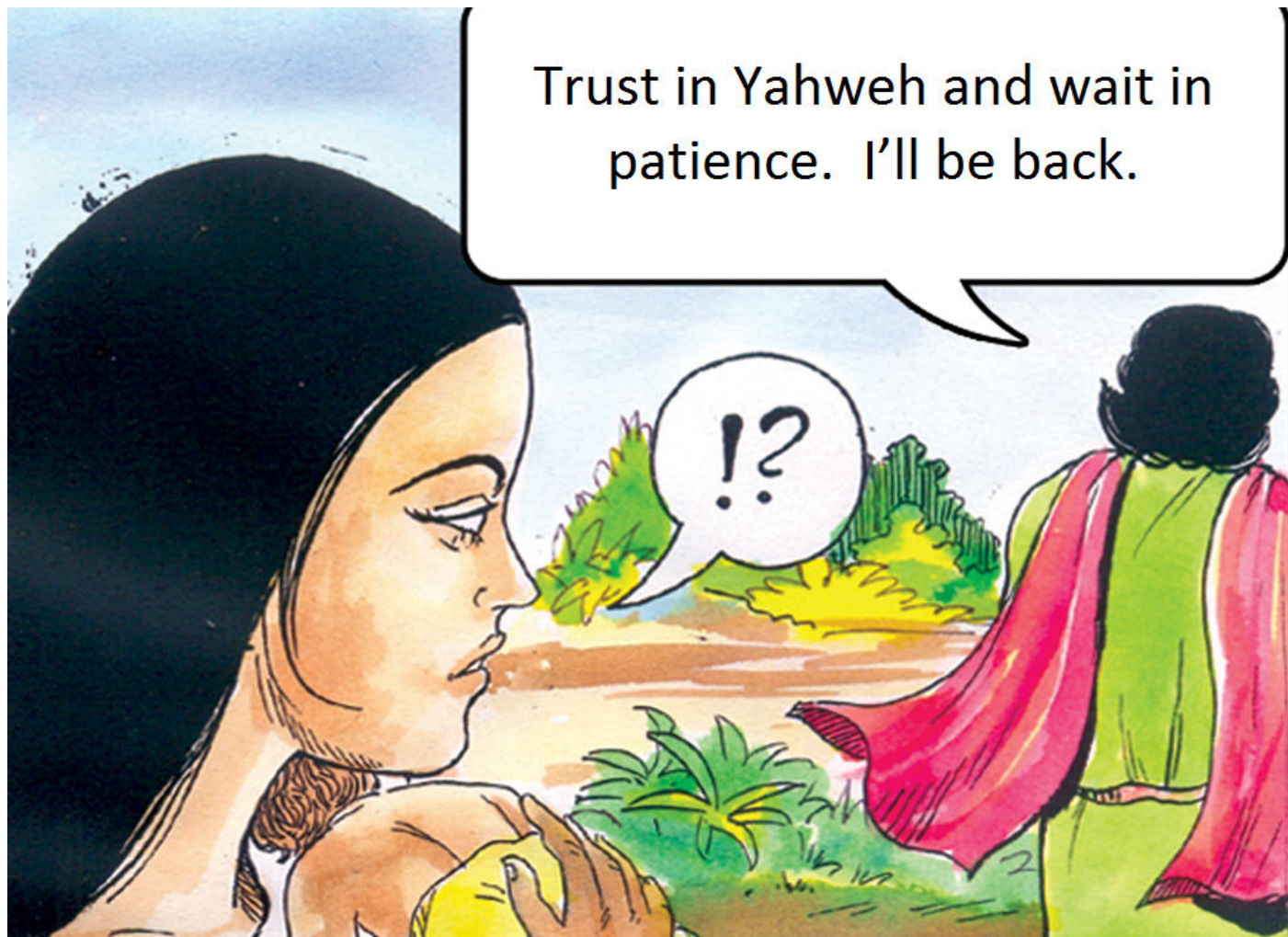
I really don't understand you. I wonder if you are sick. Is your call more important than your wife and children?

We've enough to live on.  
The servants and  
neighbors are good.



Trust in Yahweh and wait in  
patience. I'll be back.

!?



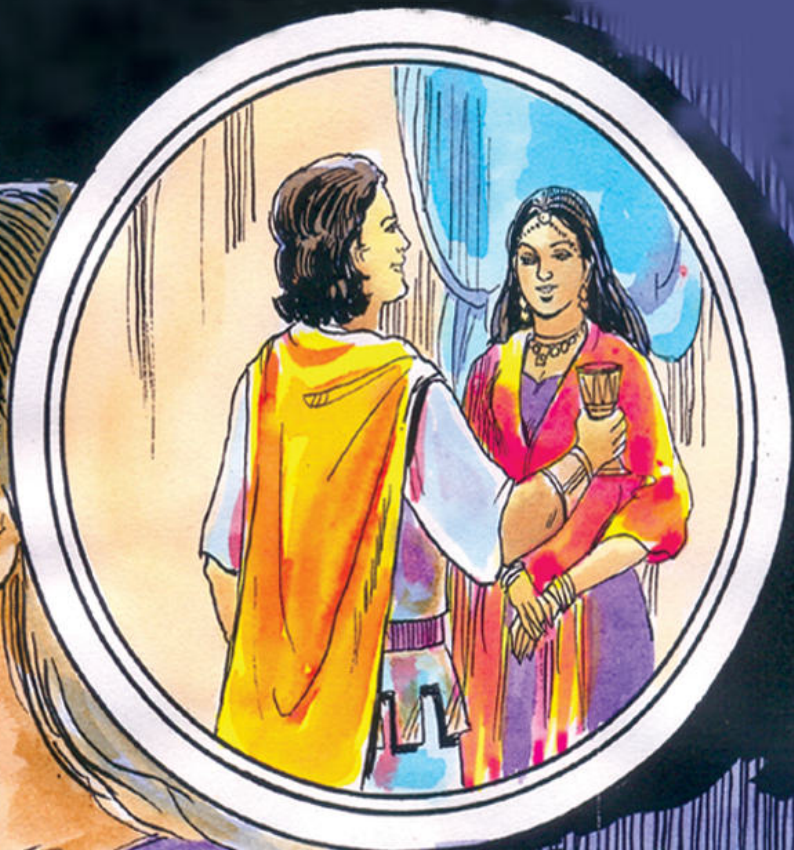
In a way, I'm glad he left. Who can put up with his queer ways?



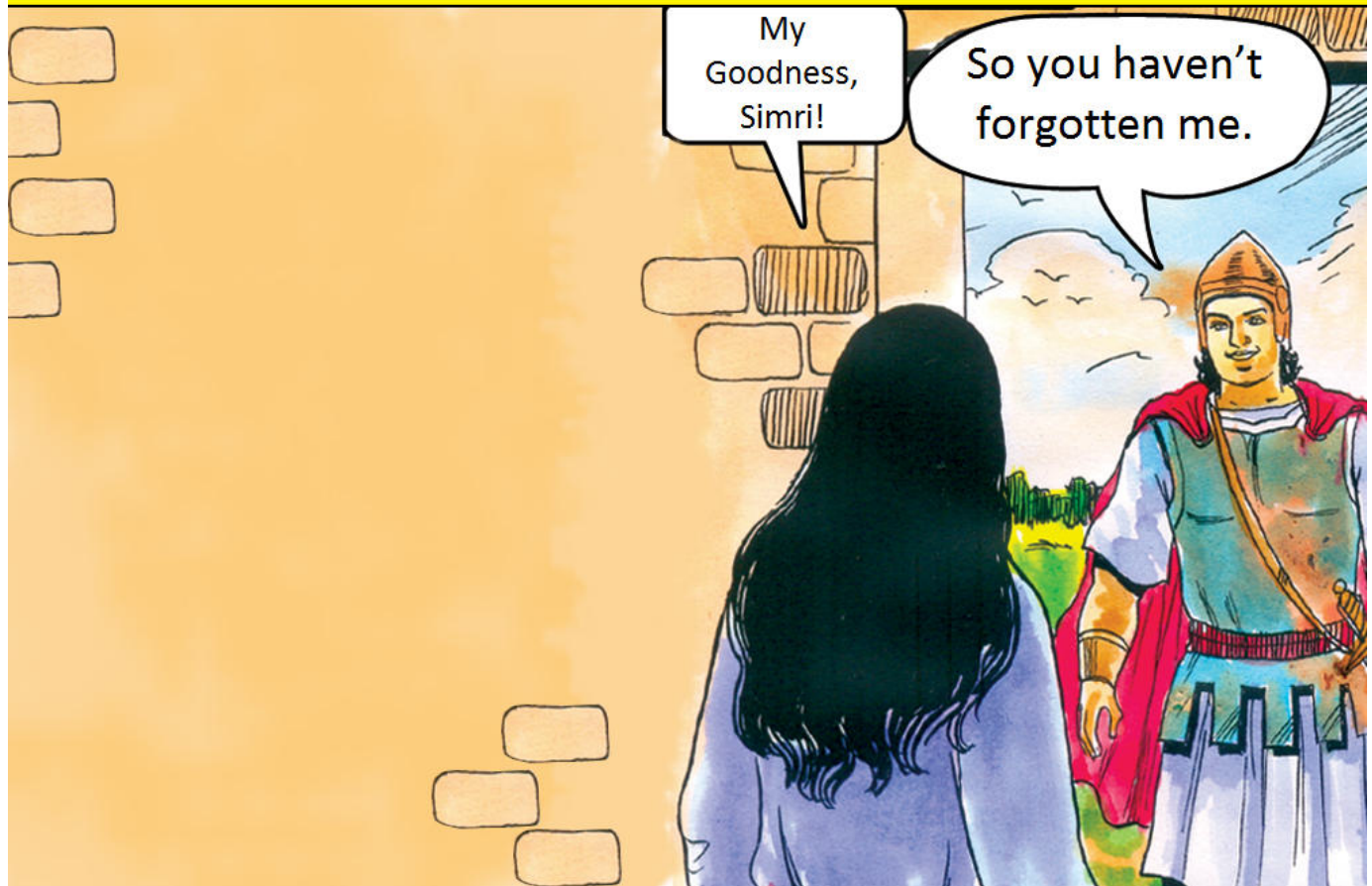
I am fed up with this life.

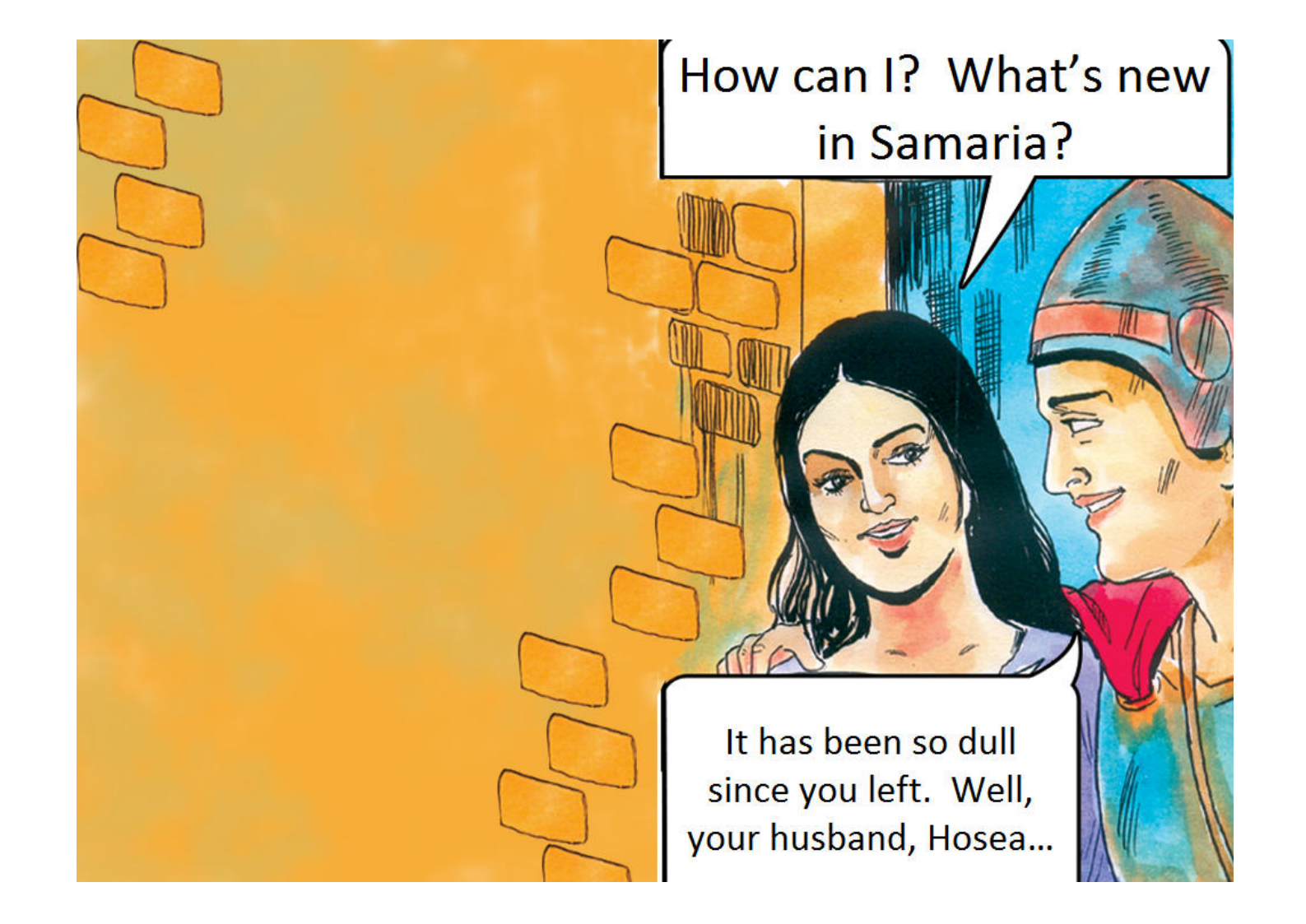


What a  
fantastic time I  
used to have.



After a few days, a soldier came to Hosea's house.






How can I? What's new  
in Samaria?

It has been so dull  
since you left. Well,  
your husband, Hosea...

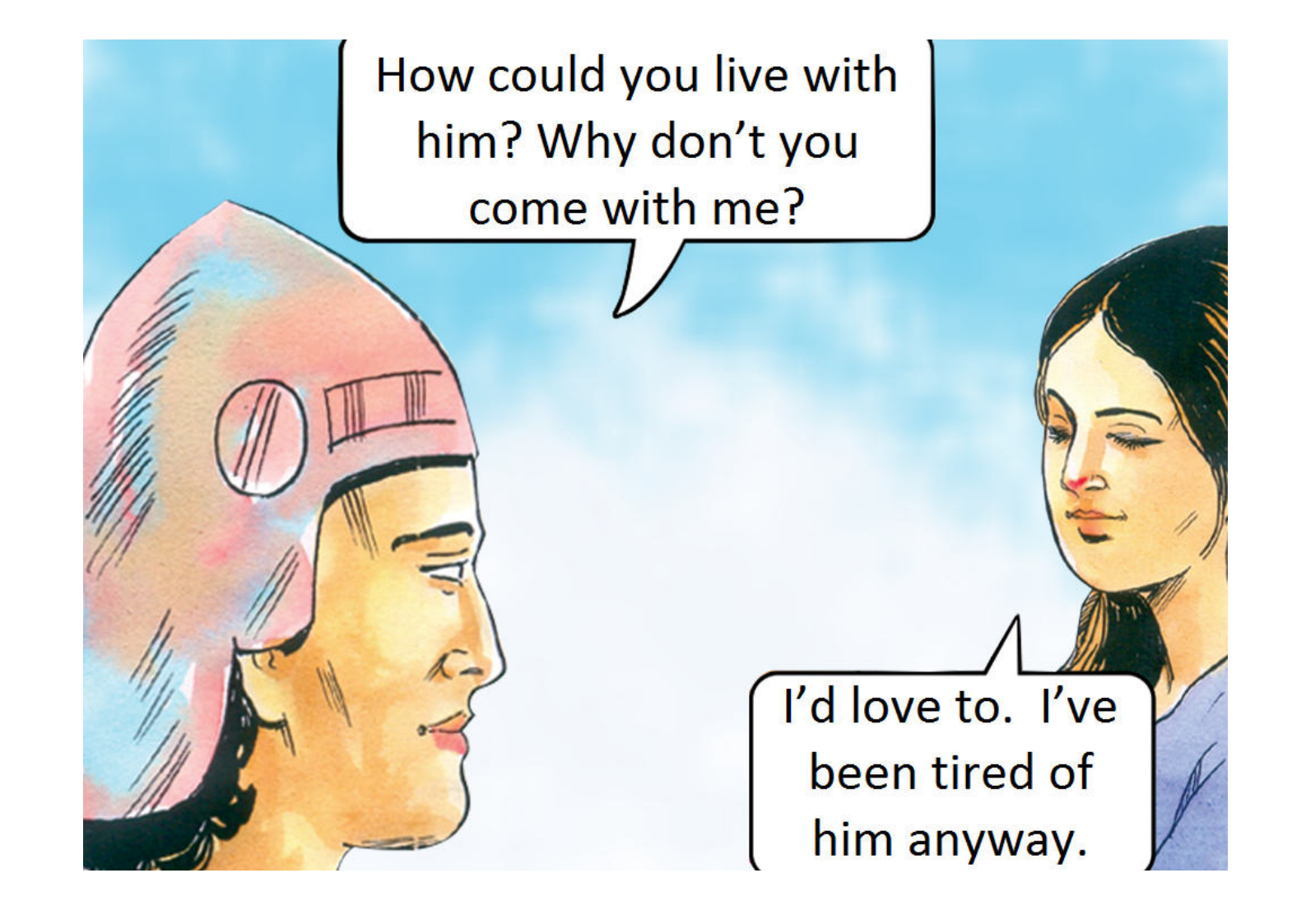




What about him?

Really crazy,  
going around  
cursing everyone.

!



How could you live with him? Why don't you come with me?

I'd love to. I've been tired of him anyway.

In B.C. 730 Menahem died. His son Pekahiam ruled Israel for two years. Then Pekah, an army chief, killed him and became king. He made a treaty with Syria. The allied forces of Israel and Syria marched against Judah.

Within a fortnight we will capture Jerusalem. Most of the people of Judah are on our side.

Certainly, they hate their king, Ahaz.

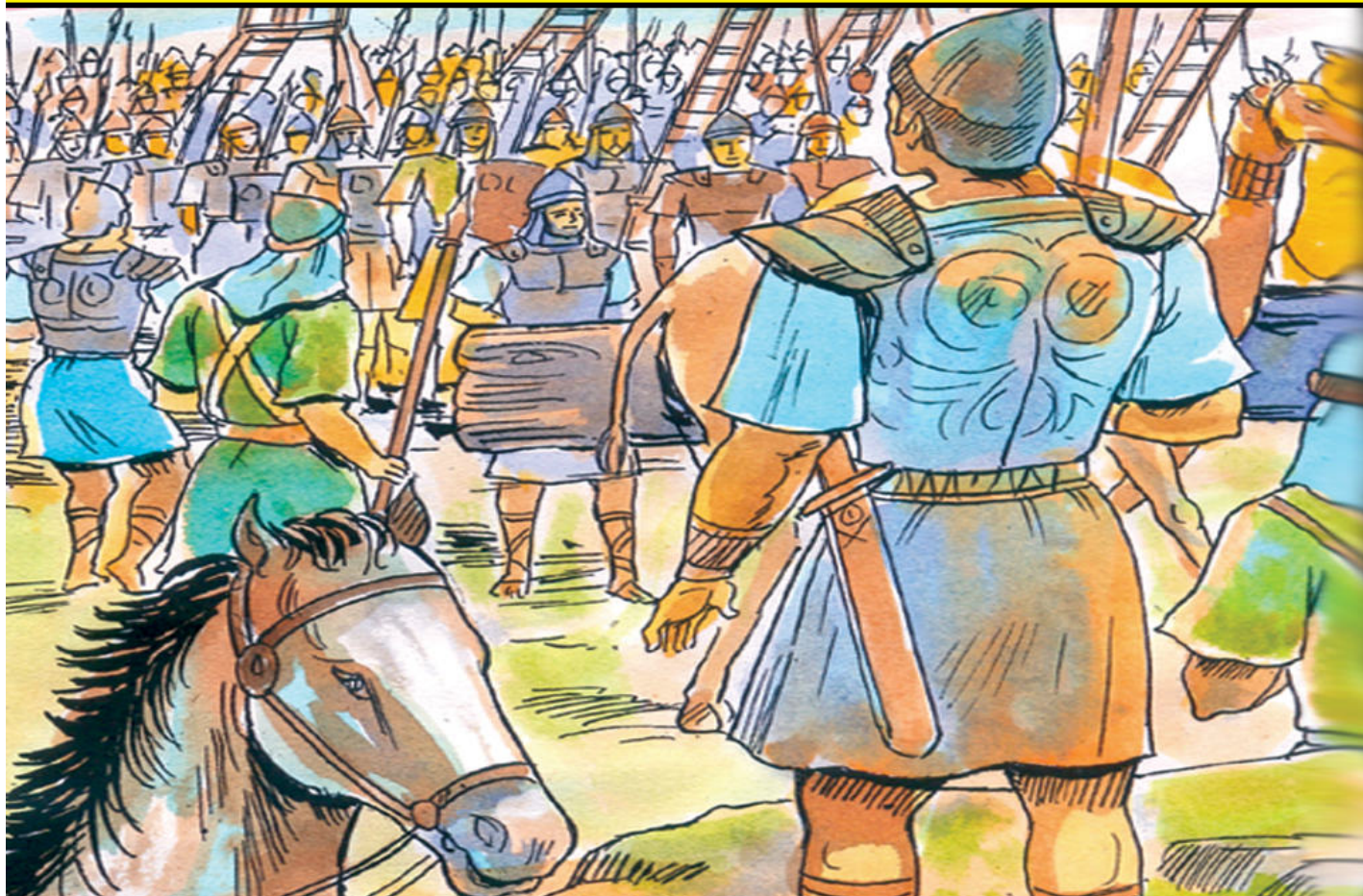


Shall we  
encamp here?

Next week  
we shall start  
the attack.



The allied forces prepare to capture Jerusalem.

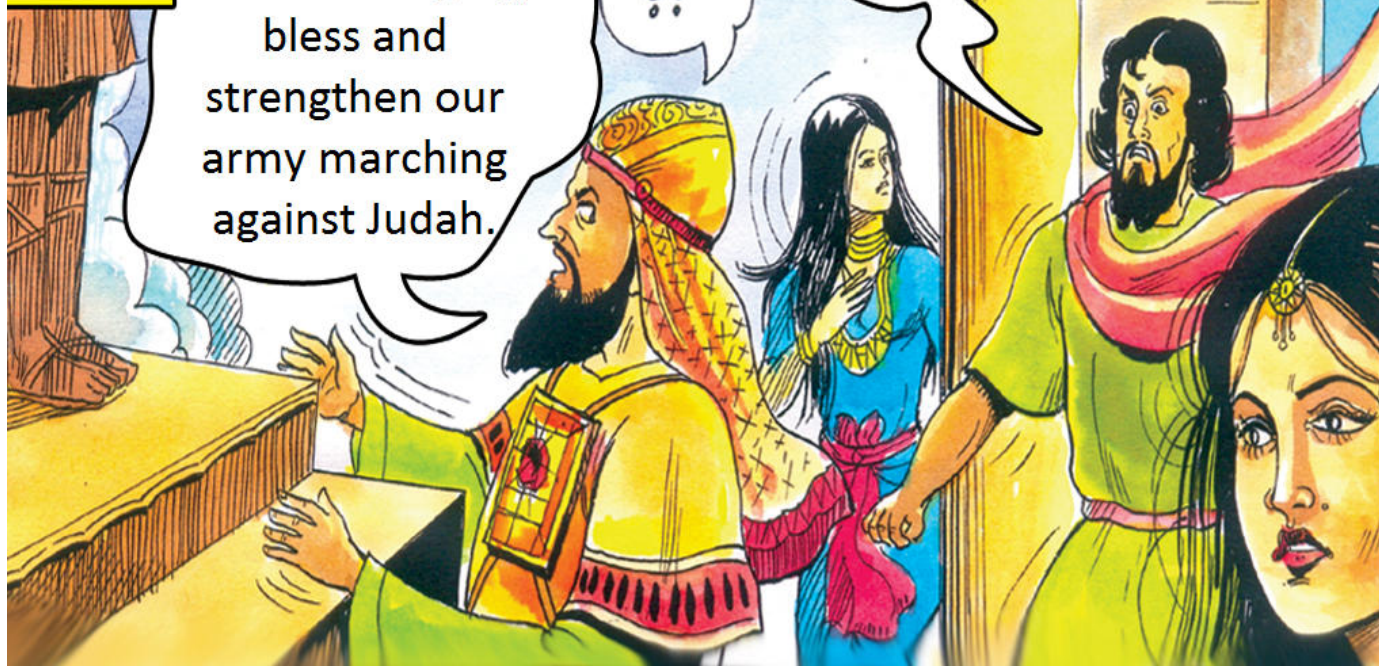



## In the Temple in Samaria

Oh God Almighty,  
bless and  
strengthen our  
army marching  
against Judah.

?!

Stop it.

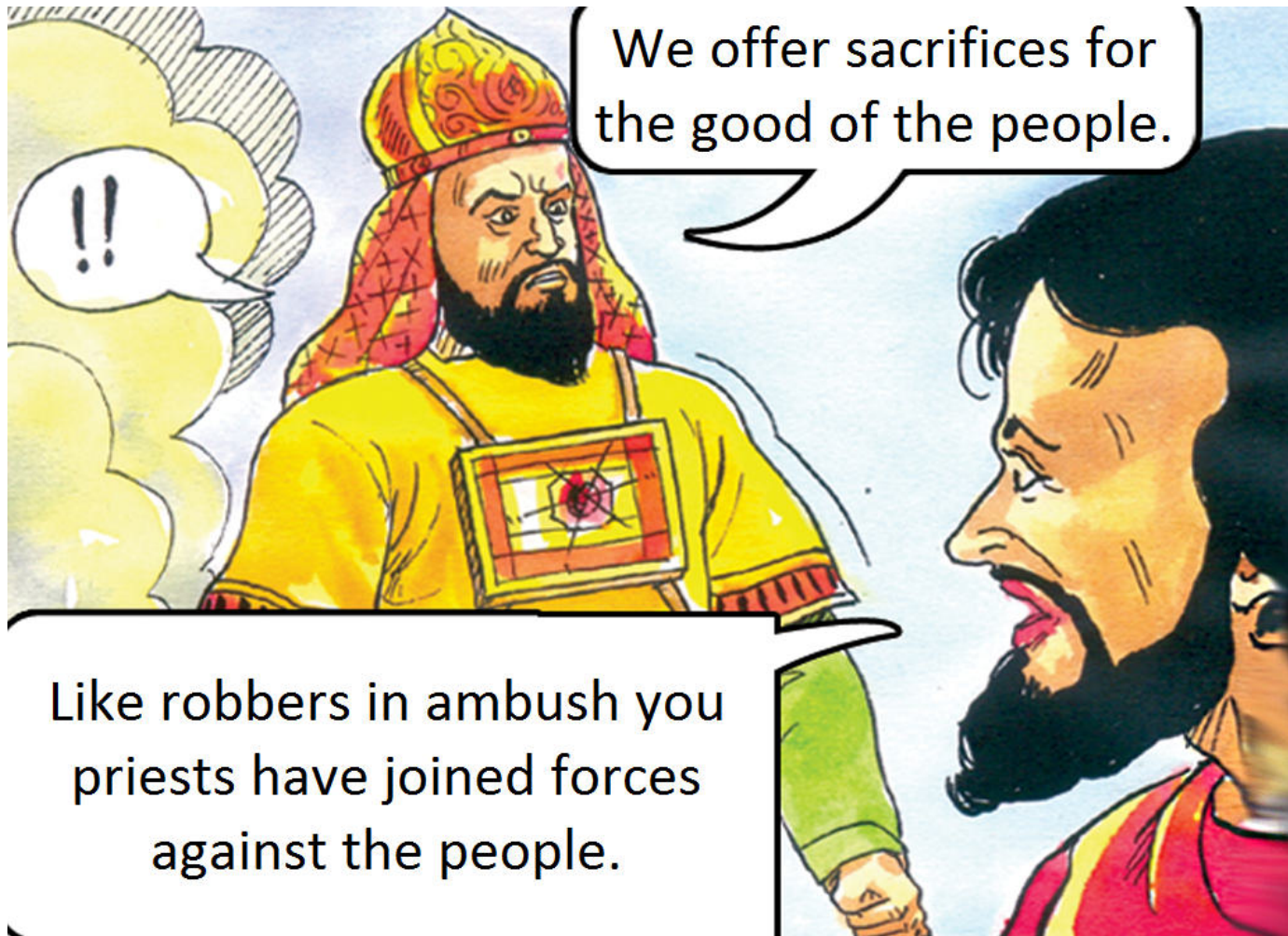




Judah is our brother begging for peace, and you offer sacrifices to destroy our own people?

It is the king's order.

You trample justice under foot. God will not accept your sacrifice.



We offer sacrifices for the good of the people.

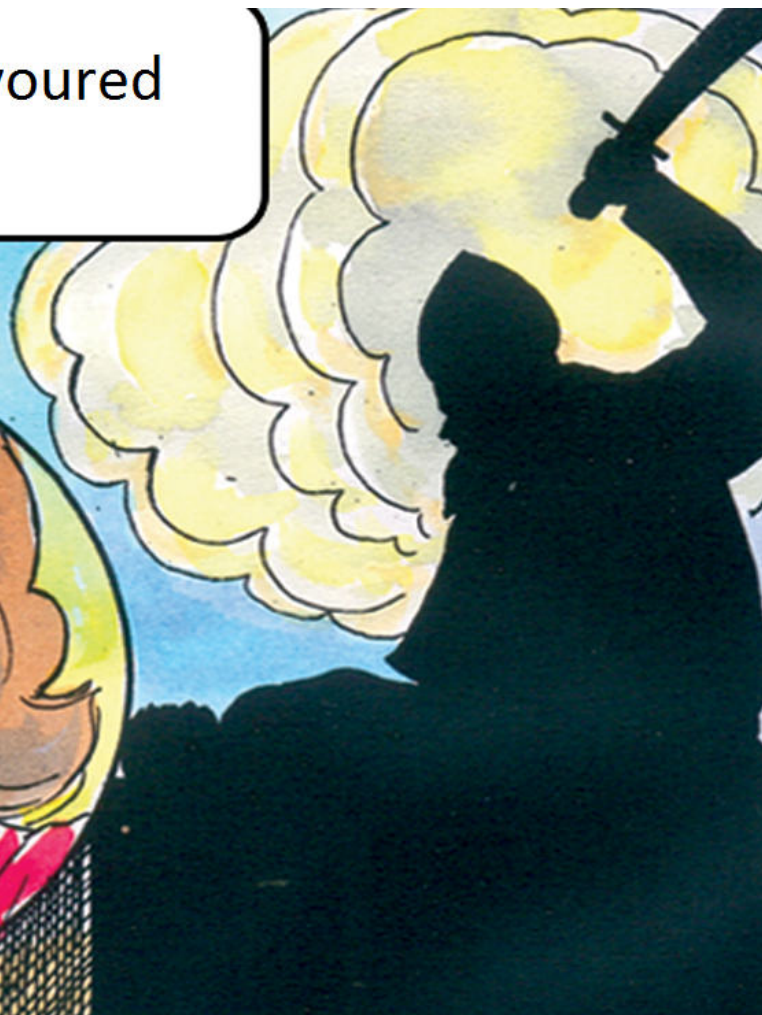
Like robbers in ambush you priests have joined forces against the people.



The towns of Israel are  
full of your bloody  
footprints.




Your own sword devoured  
your children.




You offer sacrifices to a piece of wood.





You feed on the sin of my  
people, it is their ruin  
that you desire.

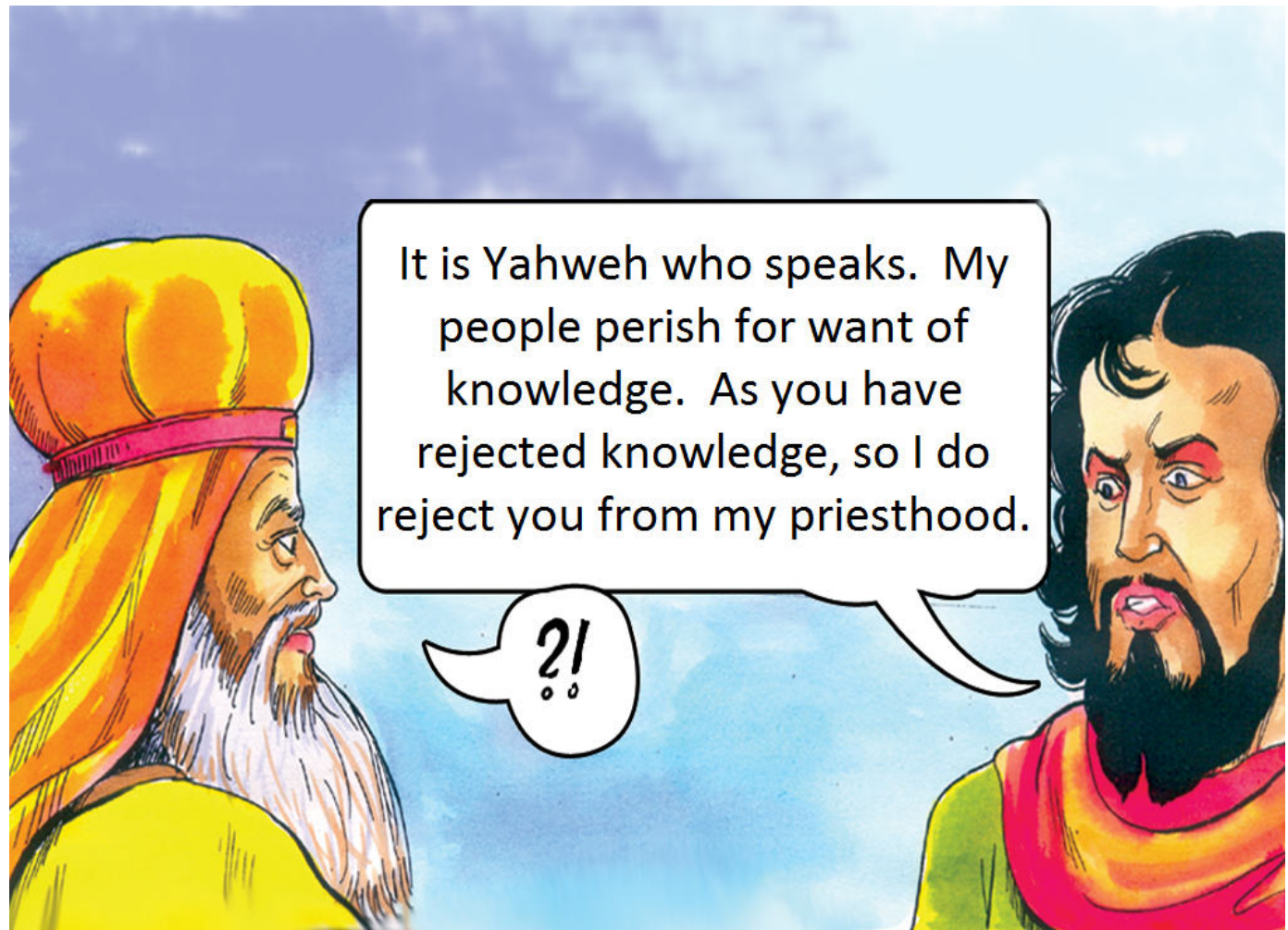
## High Priest Amaziah



We take only what people give willingly. Why call it a sin?

?

Instead of teaching the law of Yahweh, you accept what is robbed from the poor.



It is Yahweh who speaks. My people perish for want of knowledge. As you have rejected knowledge, so I do reject you from my priesthood.

?!  
oo

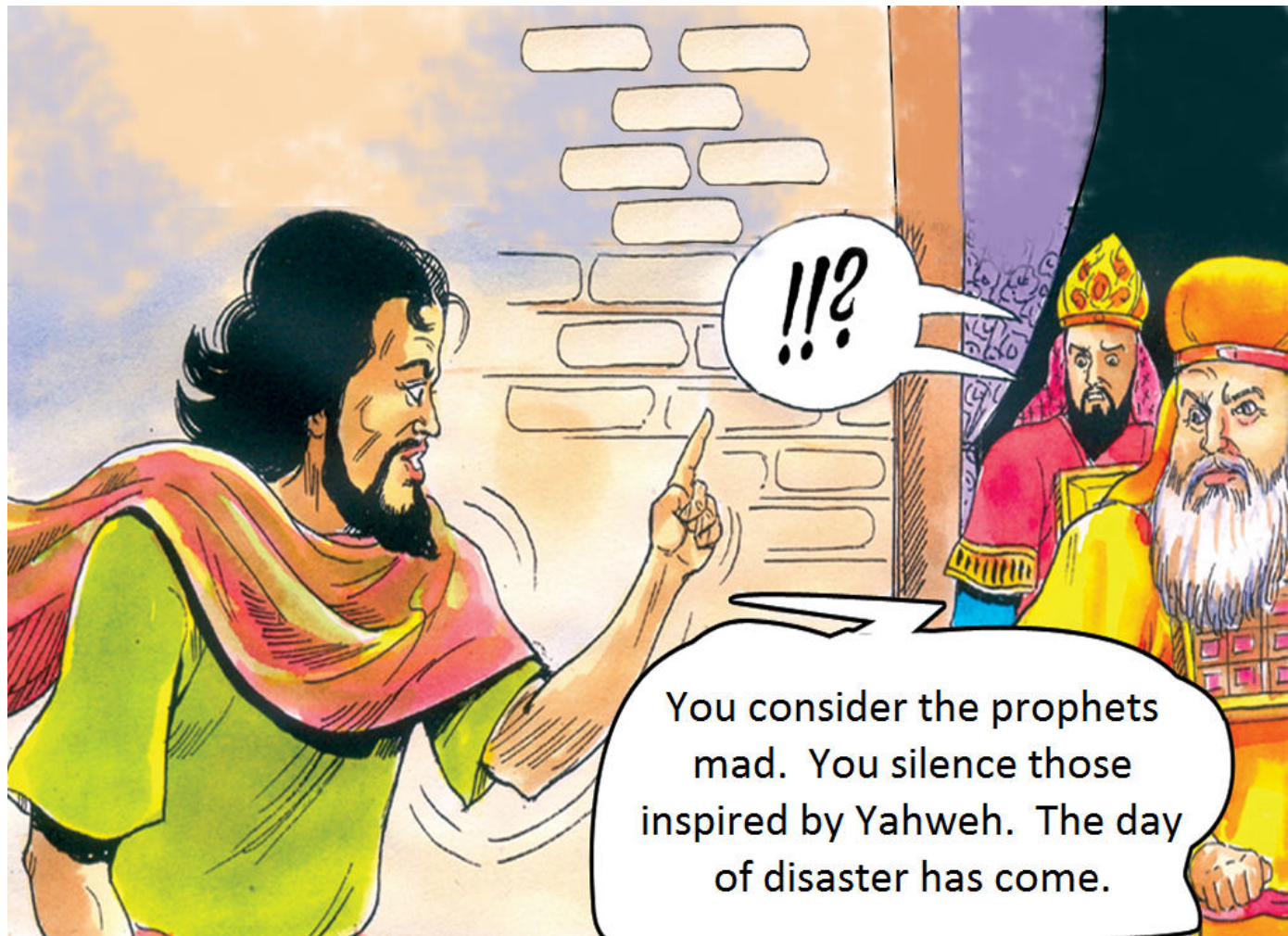
Excommunicating  
the High Priest?  
May be, you don't  
know what  
happened to Amos.

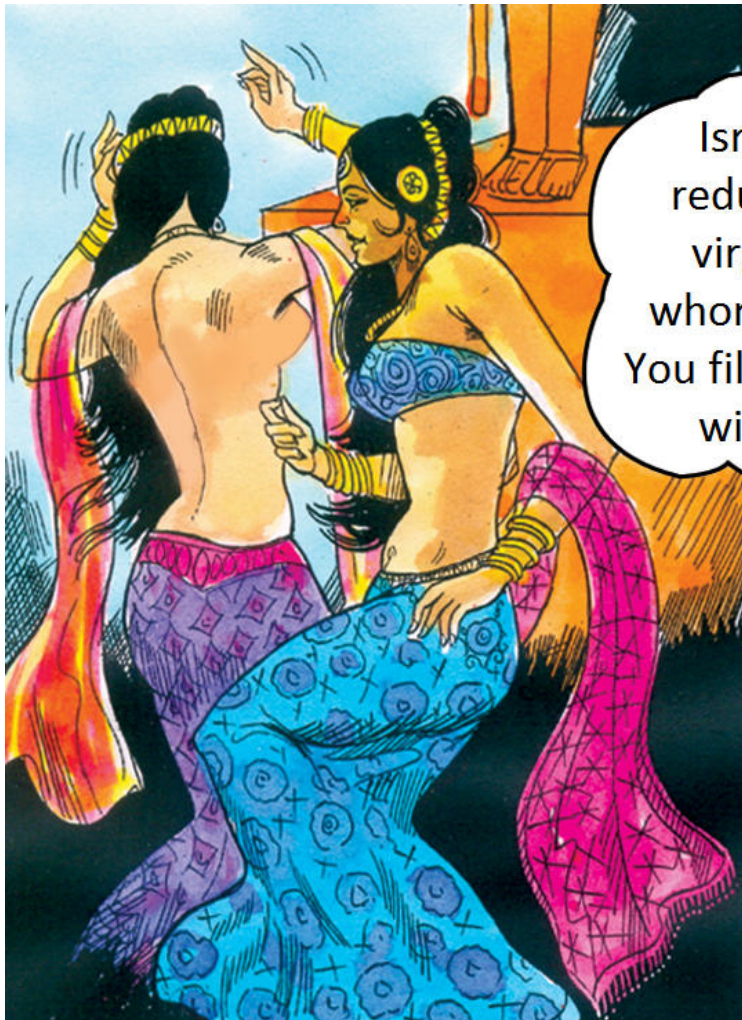


I will destroy your family. You  
will die in exile.



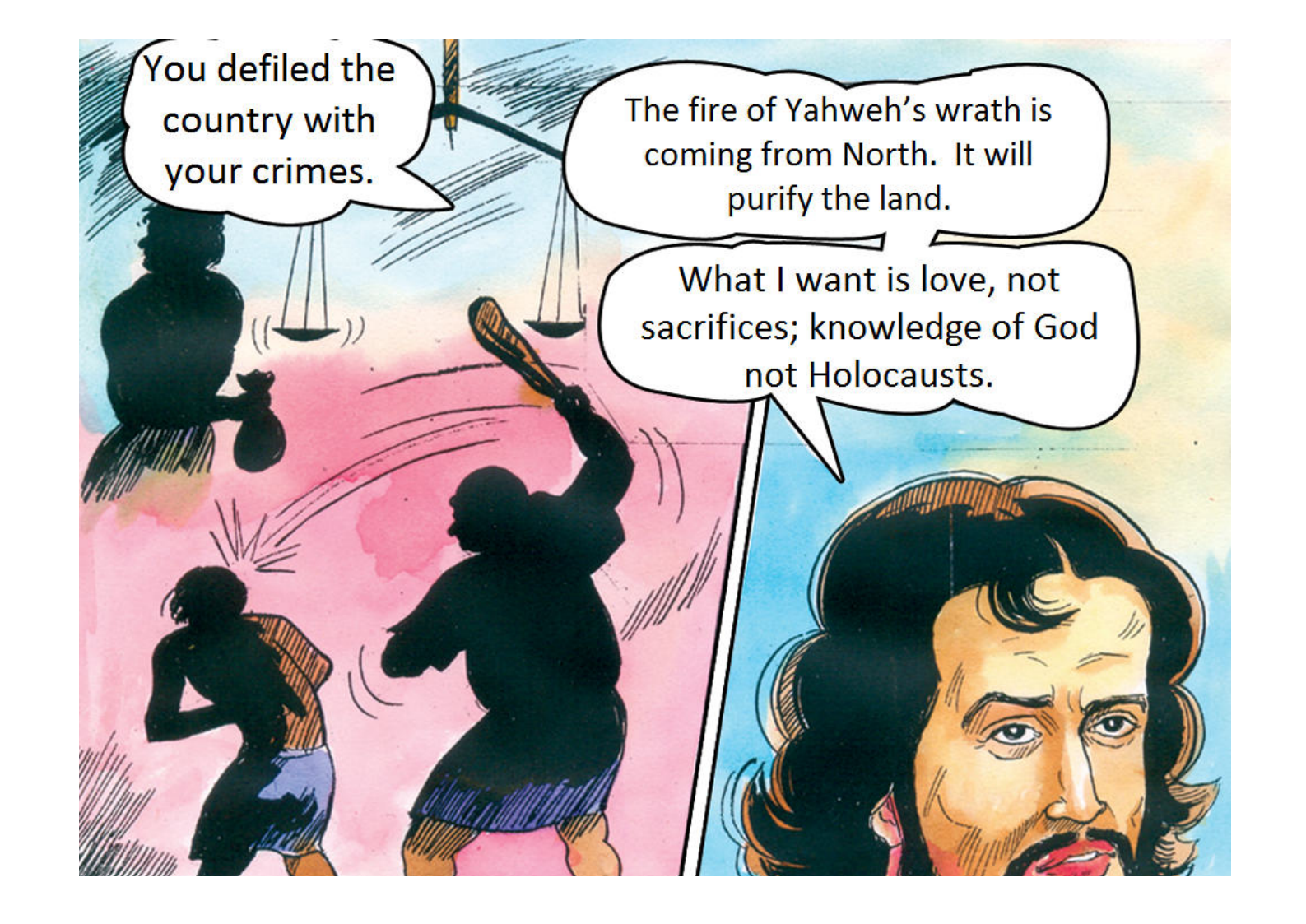






Israel, you reduced your virgins into whores of Baal. You filled the land with idols.





You defiled the country with your crimes.

The fire of Yahweh's wrath is coming from North. It will purify the land.

What I want is love, not sacrifices; knowledge of God not Holocausts.

Army at the gate of Jerusalem.

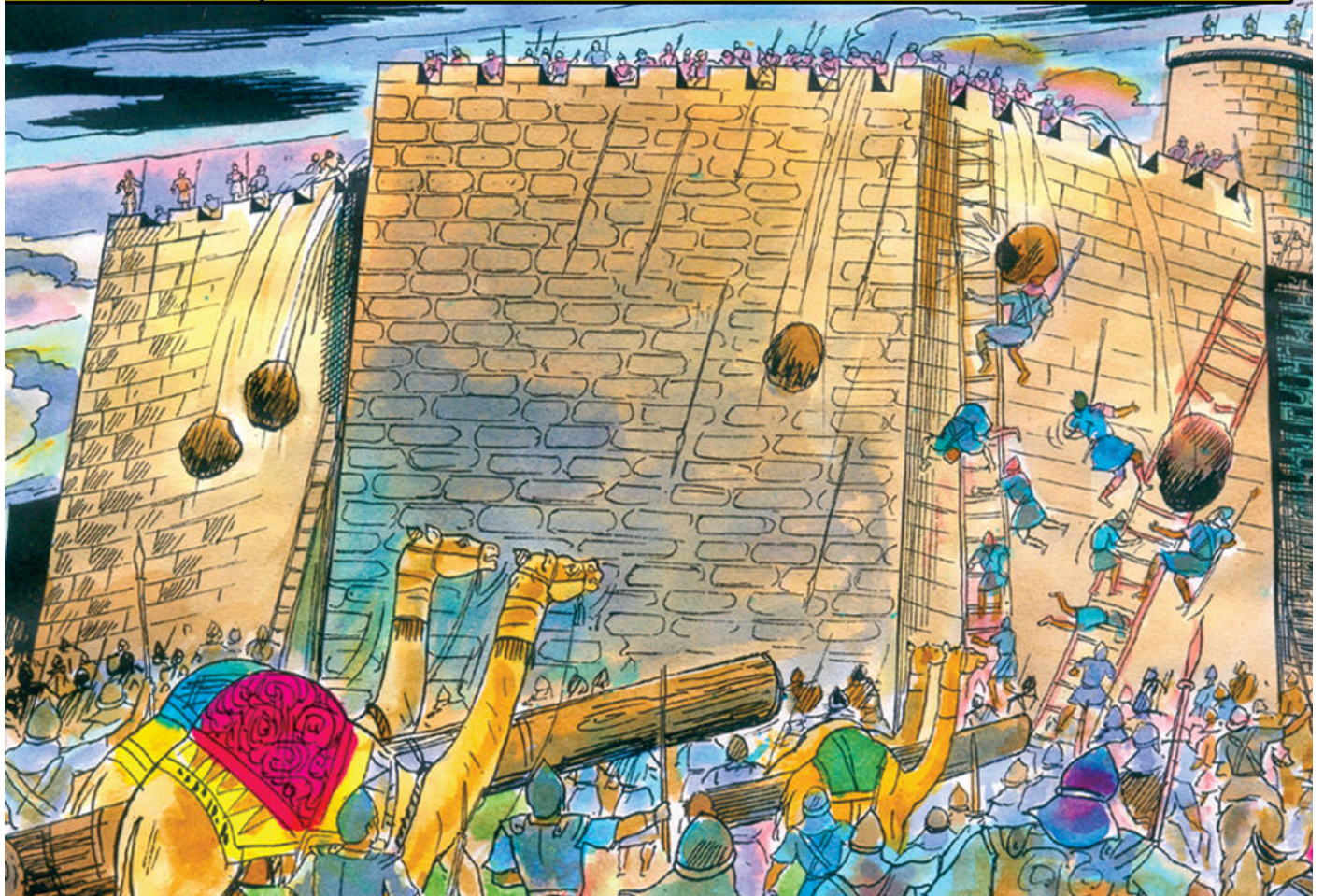
Soldiers, men of valor,  
pride of Israel and Syria,  
today we storm the city.  
March.



The army marched towards Jerusalem.




They tried to break or overcome the walls but...



Even after days they could neither breach the wall nor enter inside the city. Meanwhile, Ahas, King of Judah appealed to Assyria. In response Assyria invaded Syria.





That can wait.  
First defend  
our home.

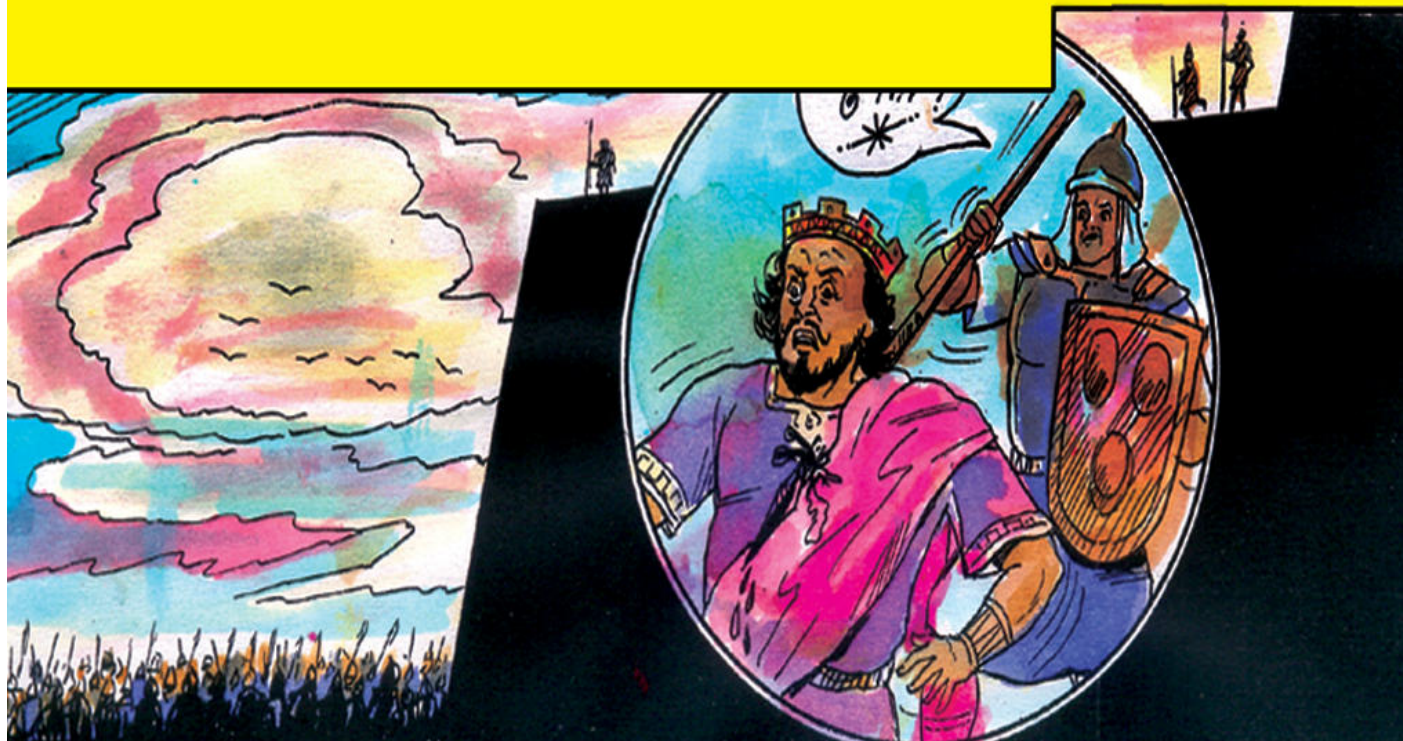
Then let us  
move  
North.



Royal commands: The allied forces of Israel and Syria march to Damascus.



The Israelite army became furious for stopping the war suddenly. One of their captains, Hosea, killed Pekah and proclaimed himself king.



After reducing Syria into a province of Assyria, Tiglathpilesar marched into Israel and destroyed many towns. Only after king Hosea paid a large tribute and agreed to remain a vassal of Assyria did Tiglathpilesar withdraw.

## Prophet Hosea two years later.

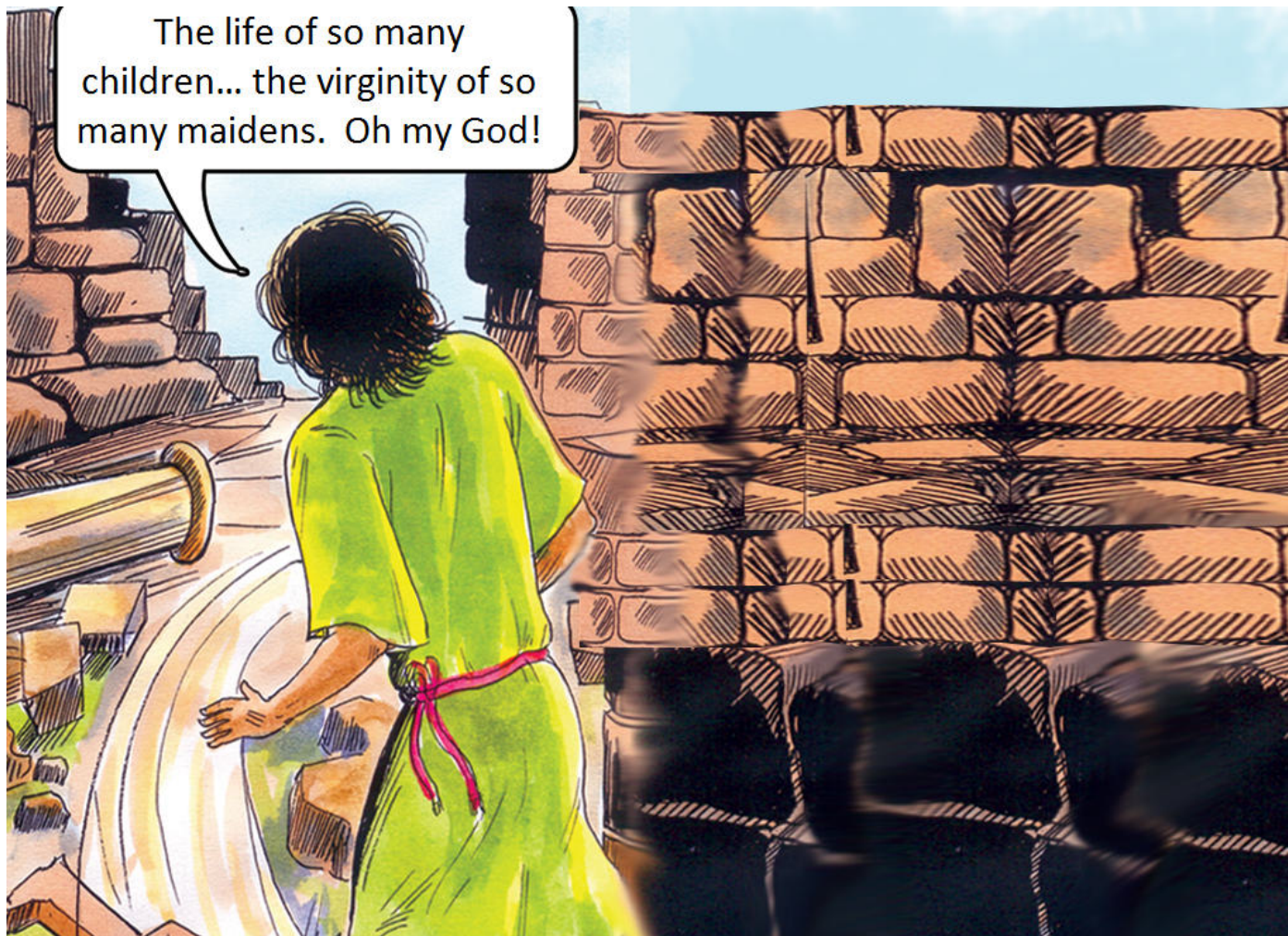
Yahweh is punishing Israel for her sins. What He said through Prophet Amos is being fulfilled.

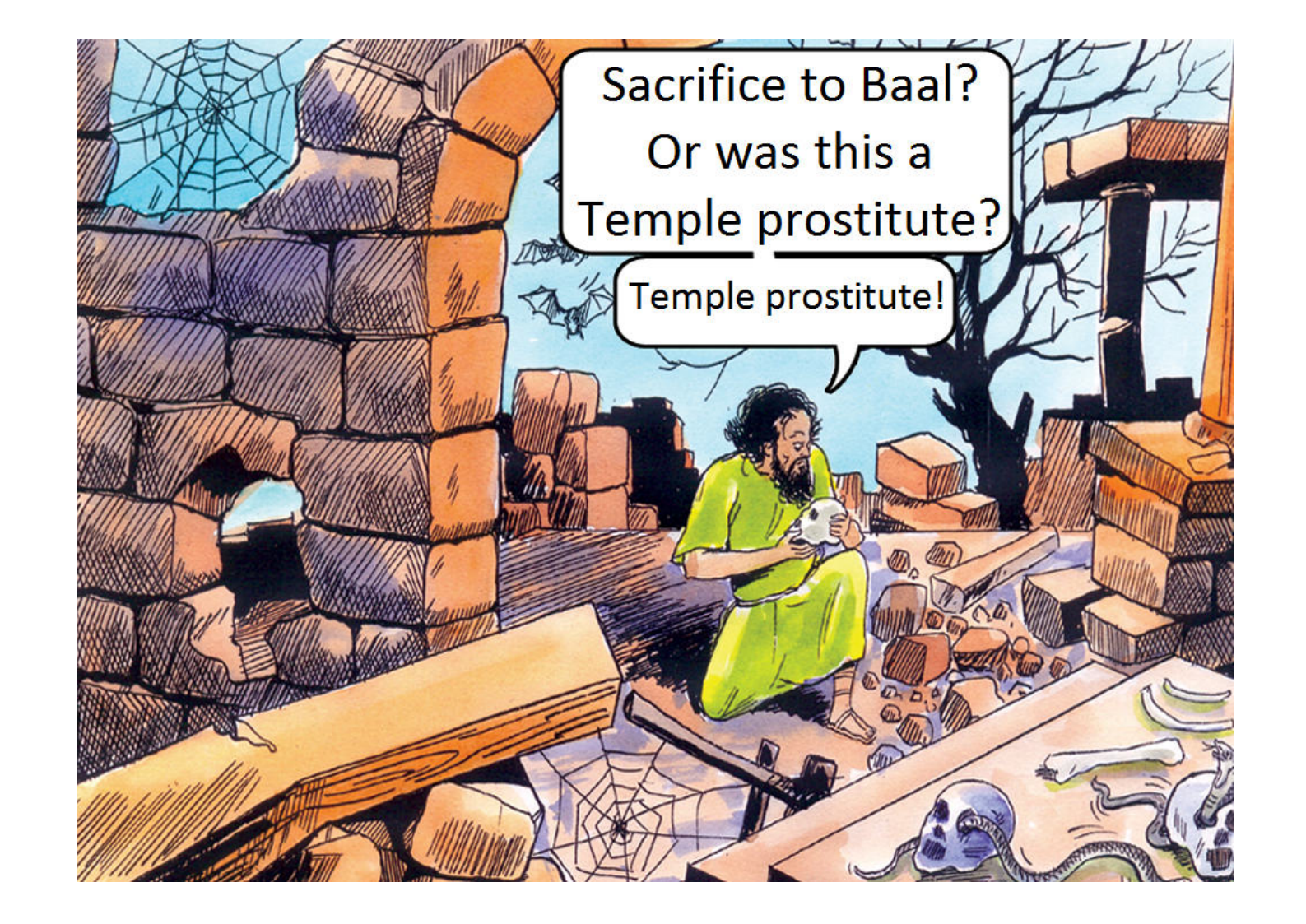


Hey Baal where is  
our glory? How  
much innocent  
blood were poured  
on you, a piece of  
wood.



The life of so many children... the virginity of so many maidens. Oh my God!





Sacrifice to Baal?  
Or was this a  
Temple prostitute?

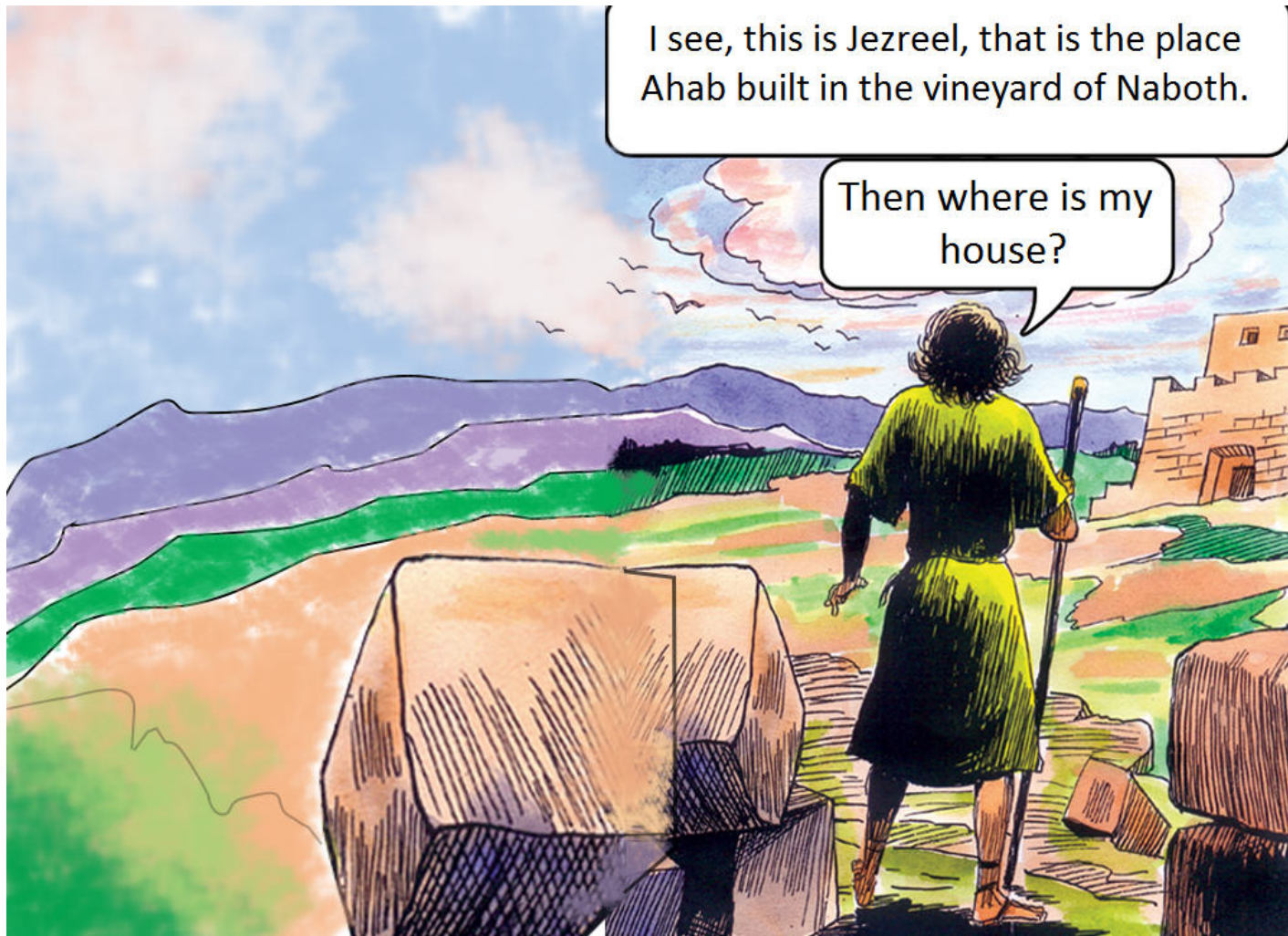
Temple prostitute!

Gomer... my beloved,  
where are you? Where  
are my children?  
Where am I?



I see, this is Jezreel, that is the place  
Ahab built in the vineyard of Naboth.

Then where is my  
house?





This was my house! I Wonder  
what happened to Gomer and  
children, Gomer where  
are you?



Hosea went to his neighbor Hodiah to inquire.

Hosea, my son what happened to you?

Madam, where are my wife and children?



After you were gone, she  
stayed around for a  
while. Then she left with  
a soldier.

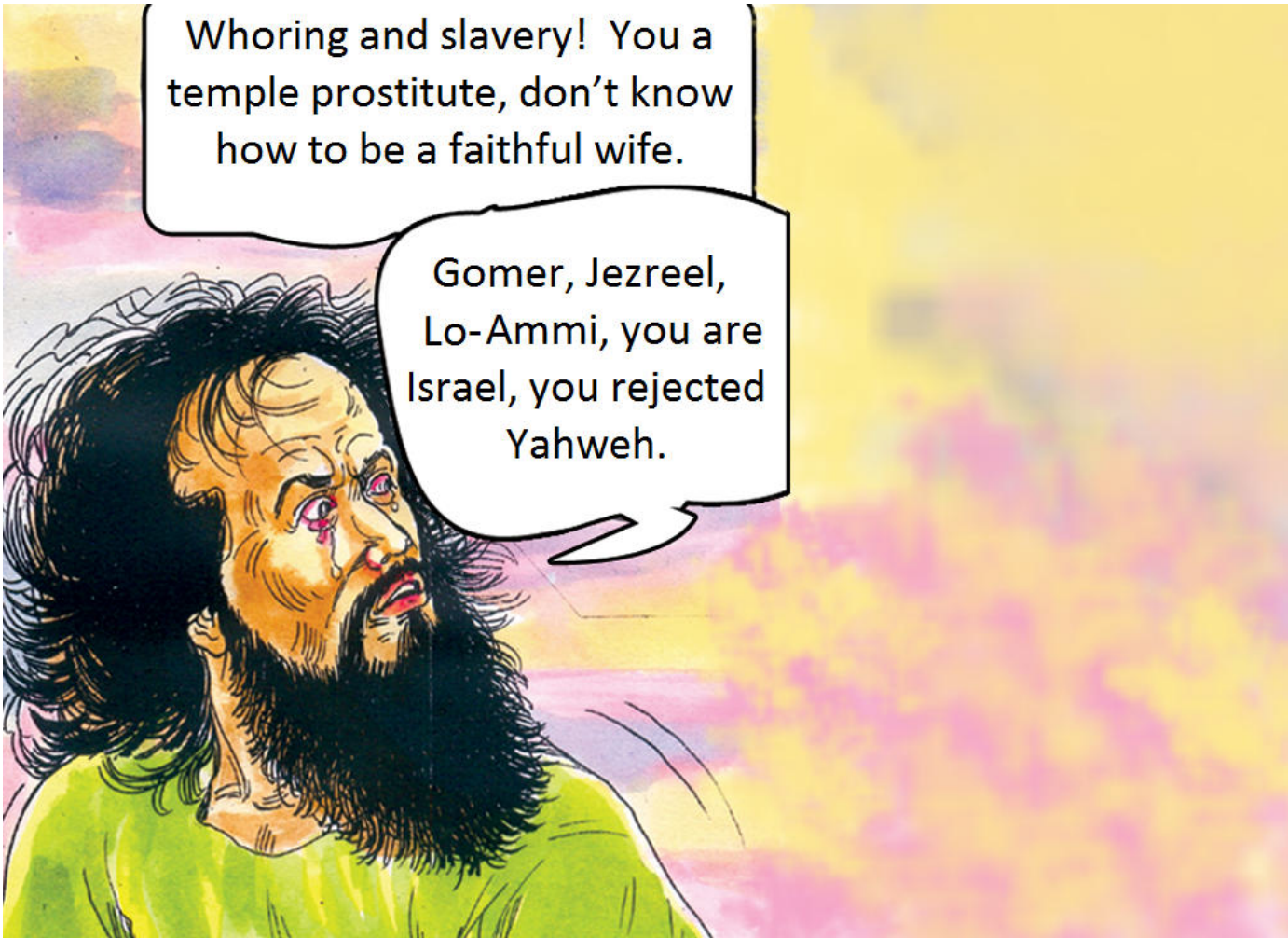


She sold the children in a slave market and enjoyed her life. Two months later, he left her. Now she is working somewhere as a slave.



Oh! Gomer how could you  
be so cruel? How soon  
you forgot me!

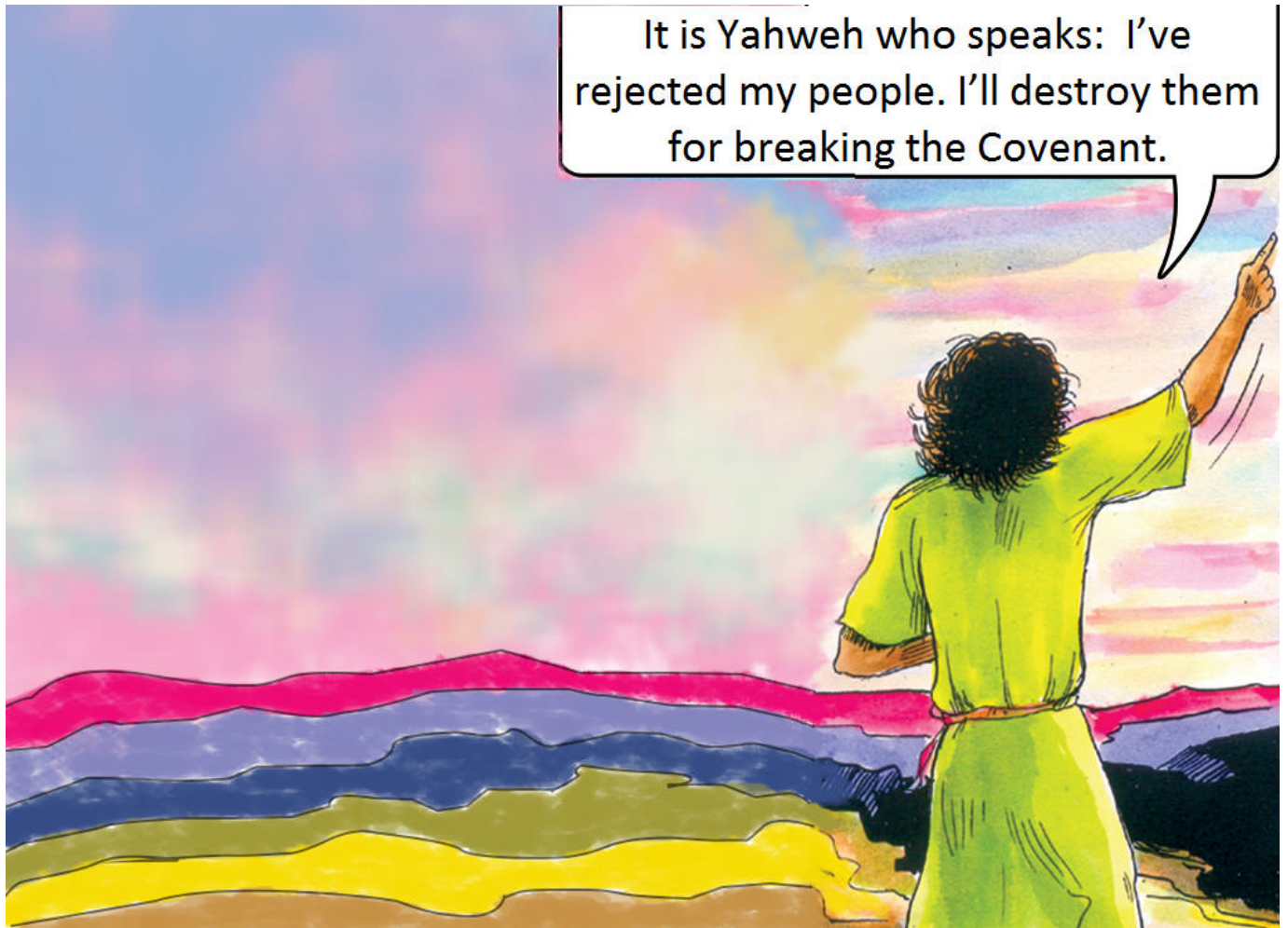





Whoring and slavery! You a temple prostitute, don't know how to be a faithful wife.

Gomer, Jezreel, Lo-Ammi, you are Israel, you rejected Yahweh.

It is Yahweh who speaks: I've rejected my people. I'll destroy them for breaking the Covenant.





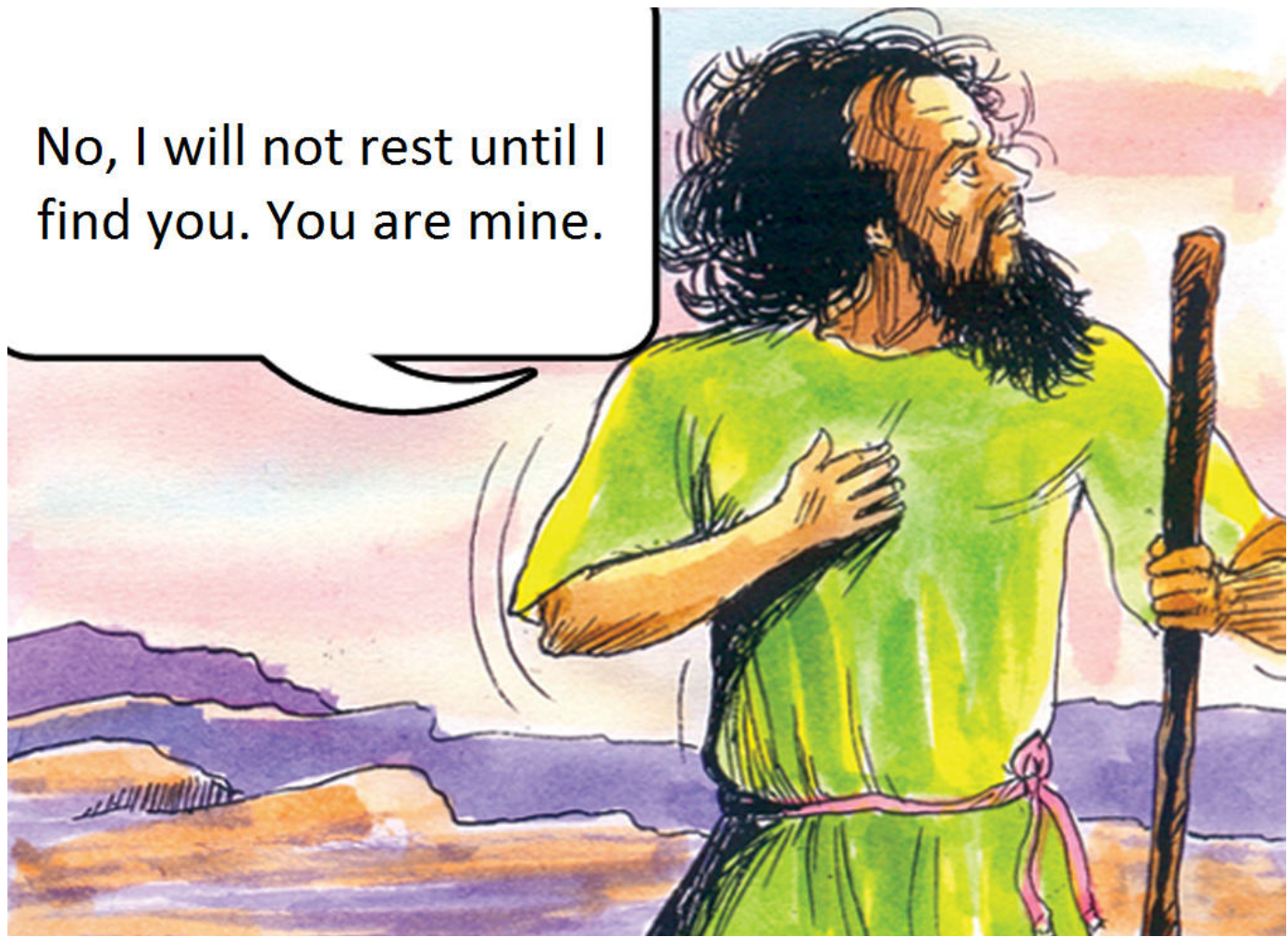
I will break Israel like  
this twig. It'll never  
be one again.

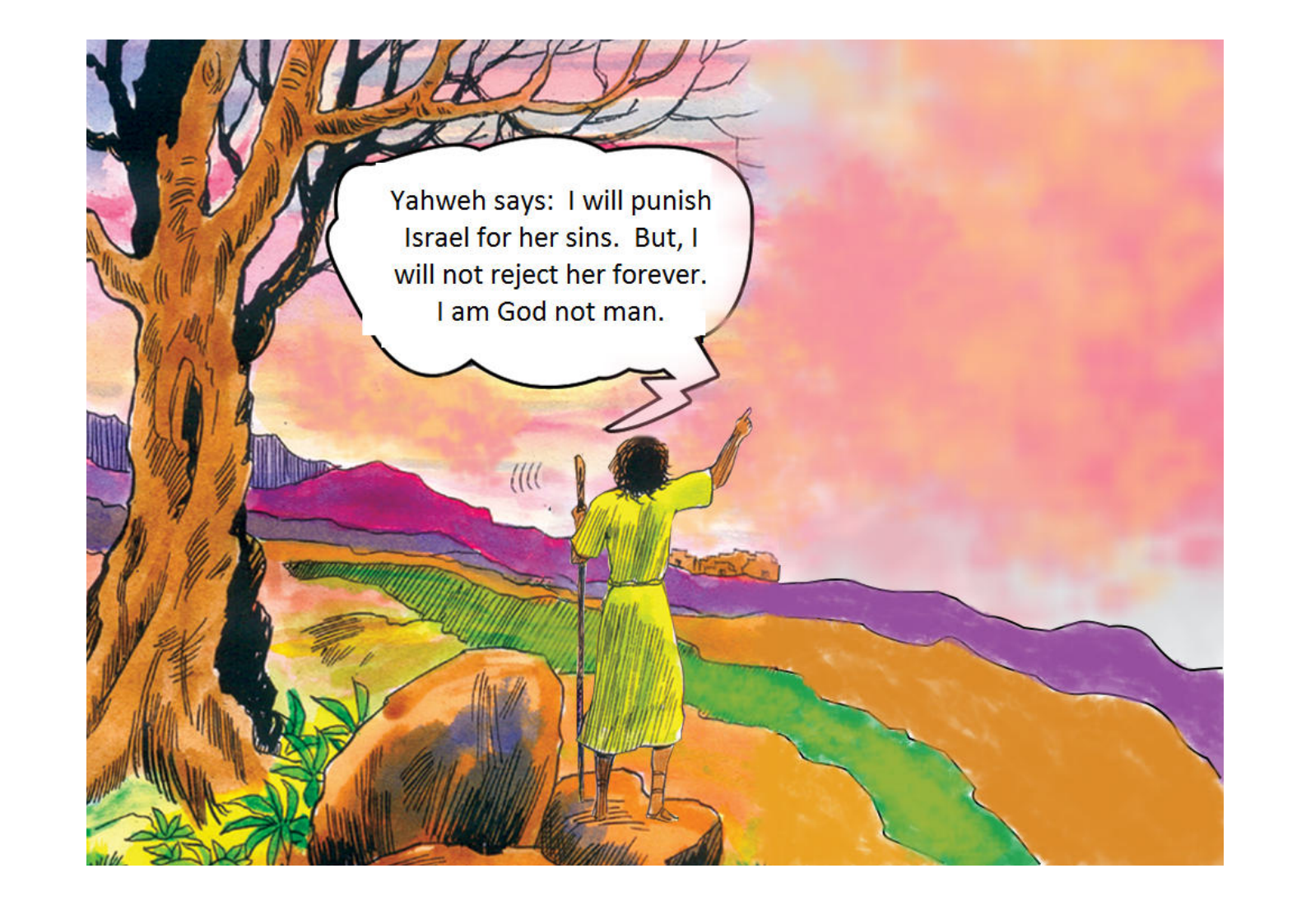


Oh Gomer, how can I  
forget you!  
Lo-Ruhamah, my  
darling.



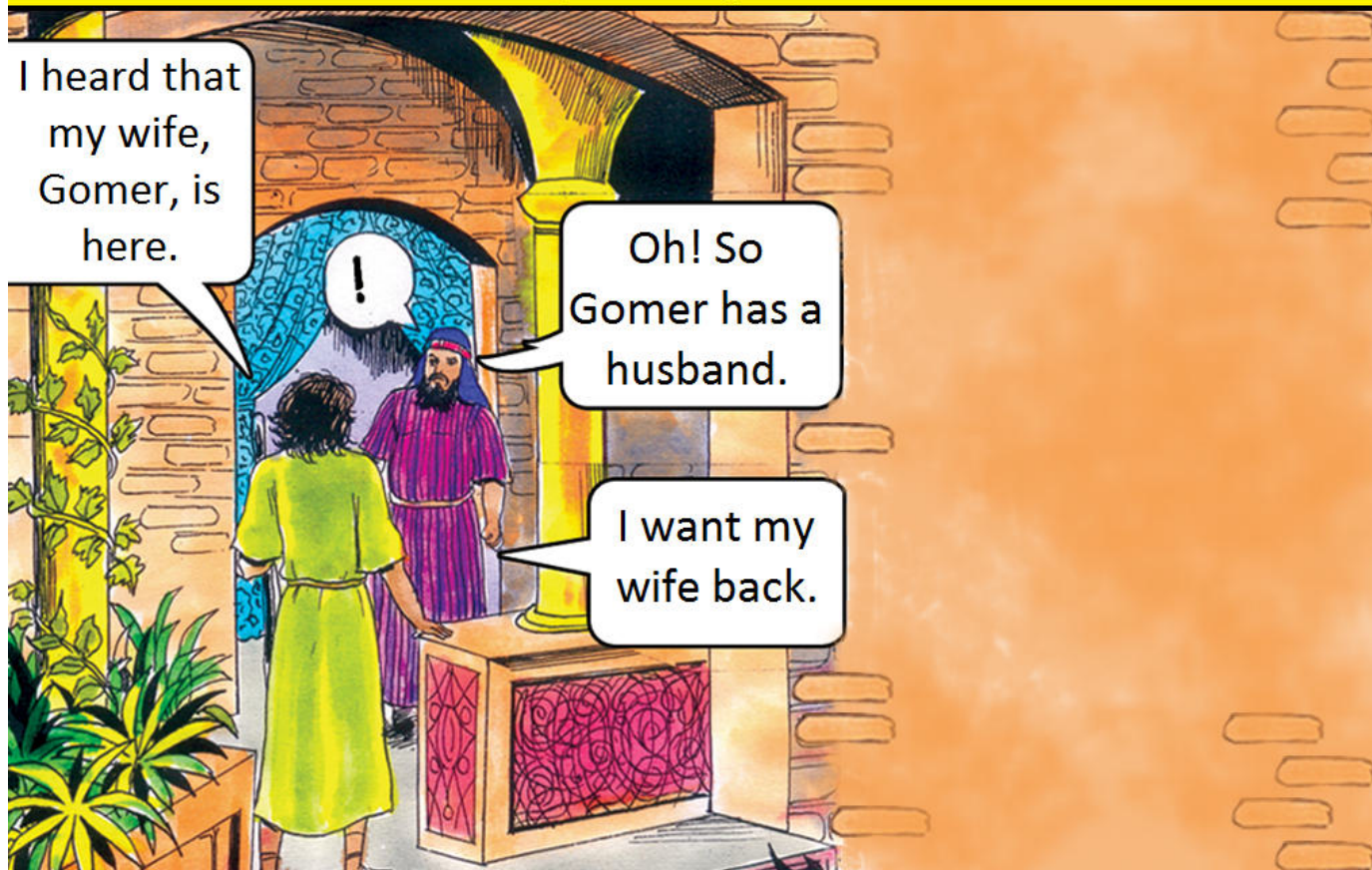
No, I will not rest until I find you. You are mine.



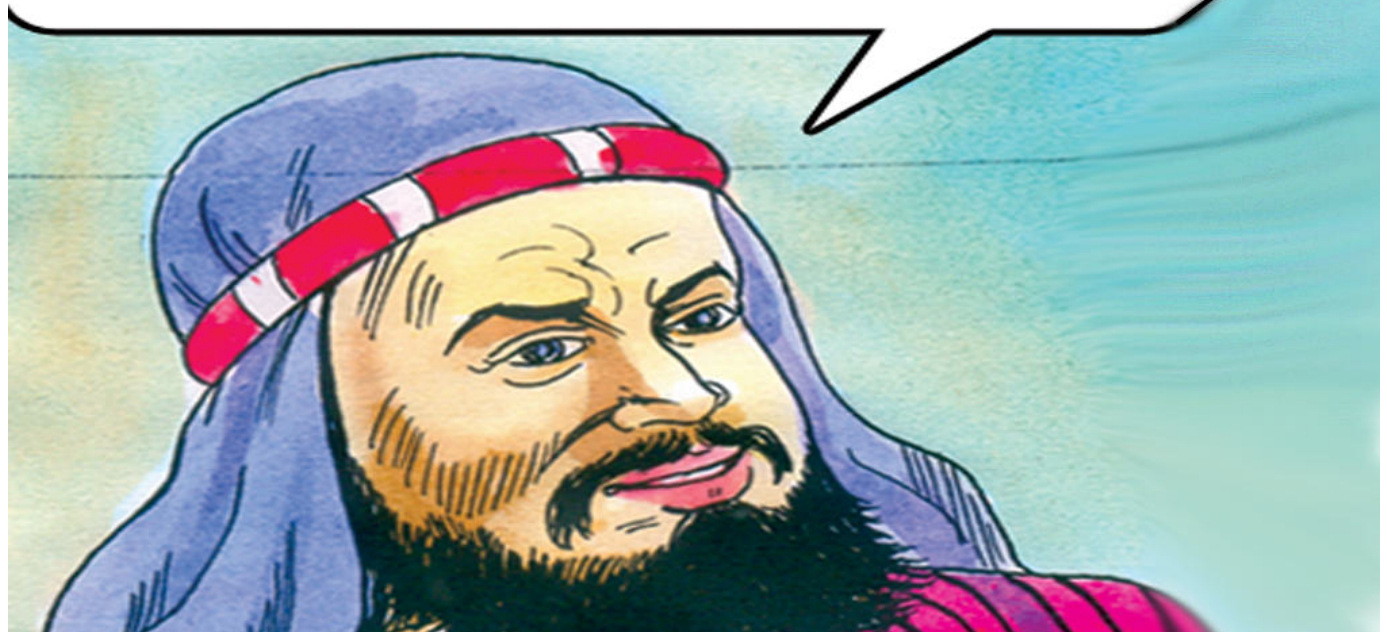


Yahweh says: I will punish  
Israel for her sins. But, I  
will not reject her forever.  
I am God not man.

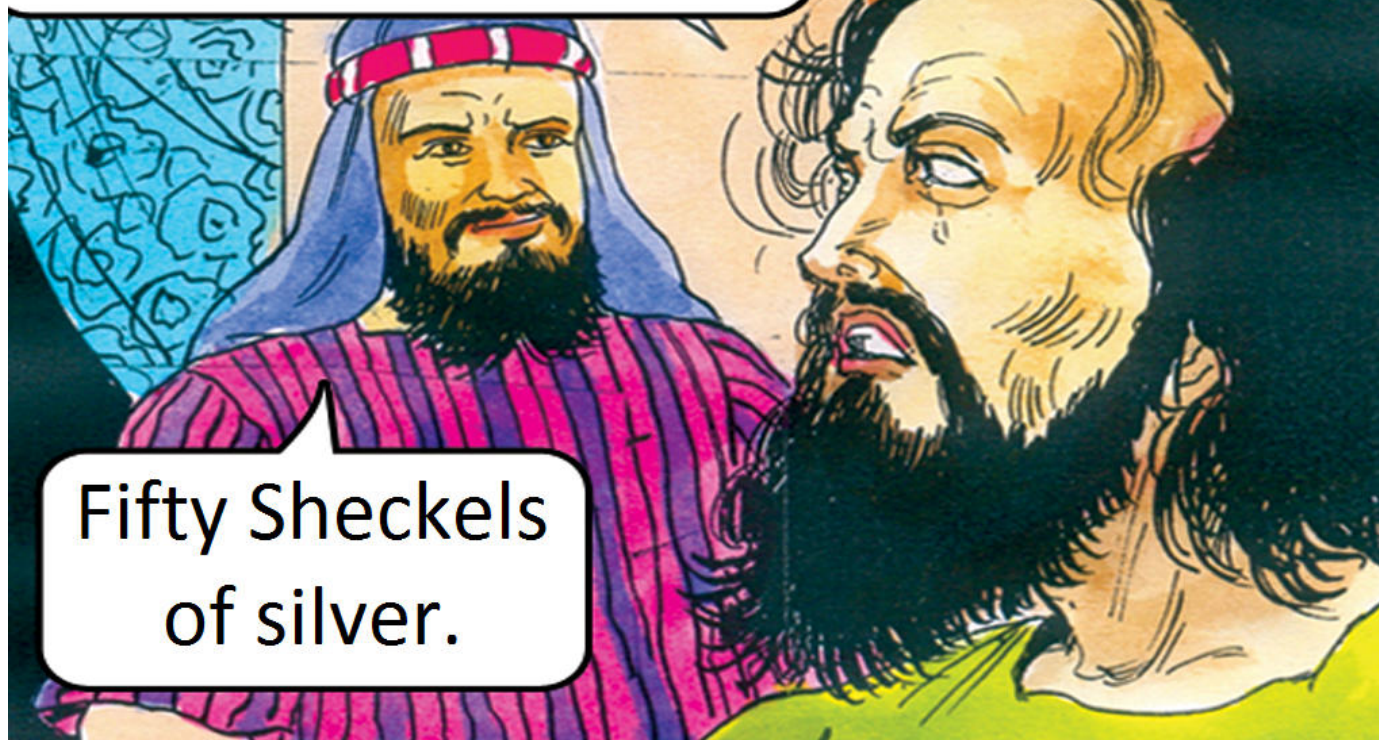
Hosea went around searching for Gomer. Finally he found her in Bethel, working as a slave.



You can have her if you are willing to pay. She is an experienced woman you know.

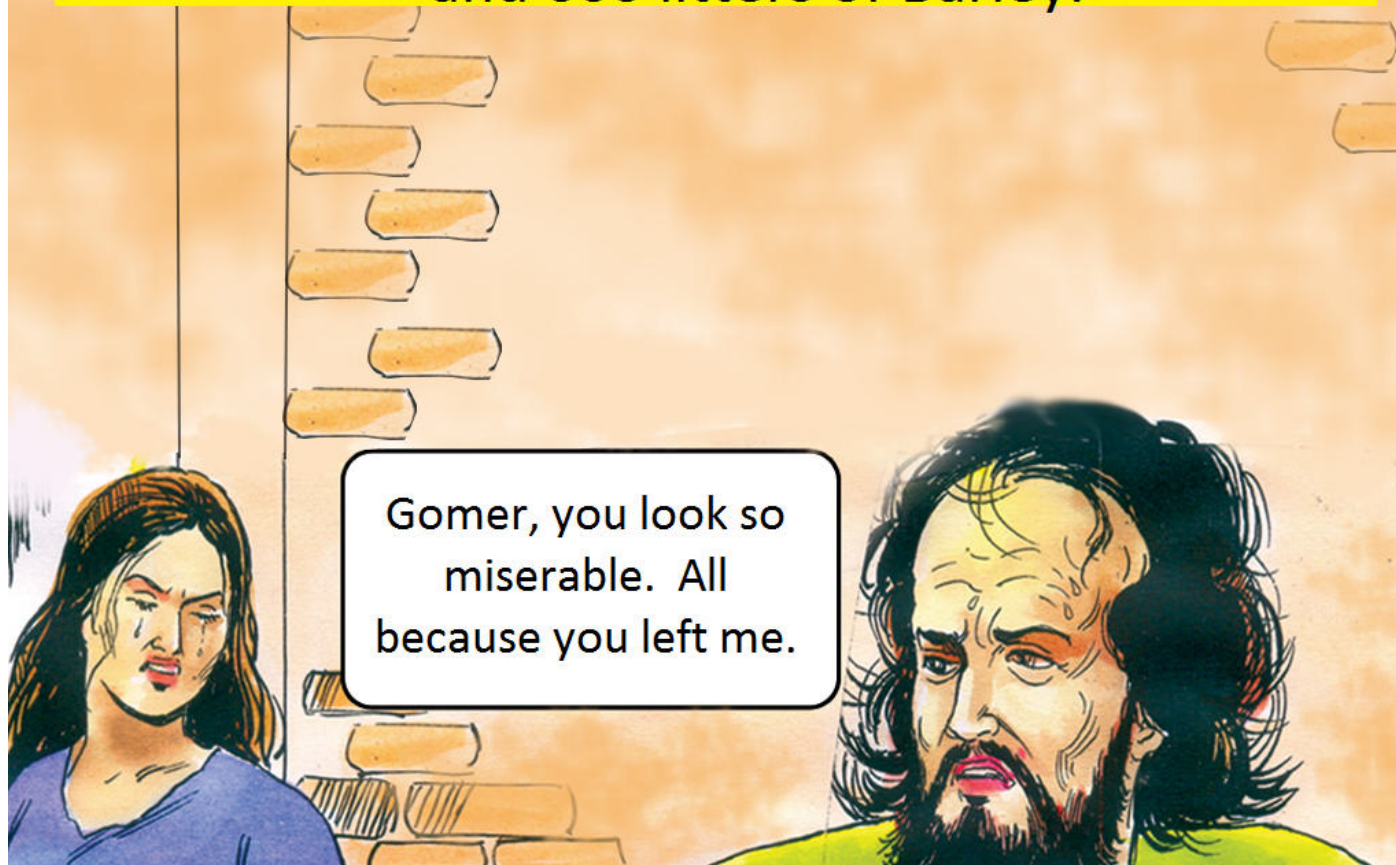


Stop it. Gomer is my wife.  
Just tell me how much you  
want.



Fifty Sheckels  
of silver.

Hosea redeemed her paying 15 Sheckels  
and 600 litters of Barley.



Even though you rejected me. I won't abandon you.

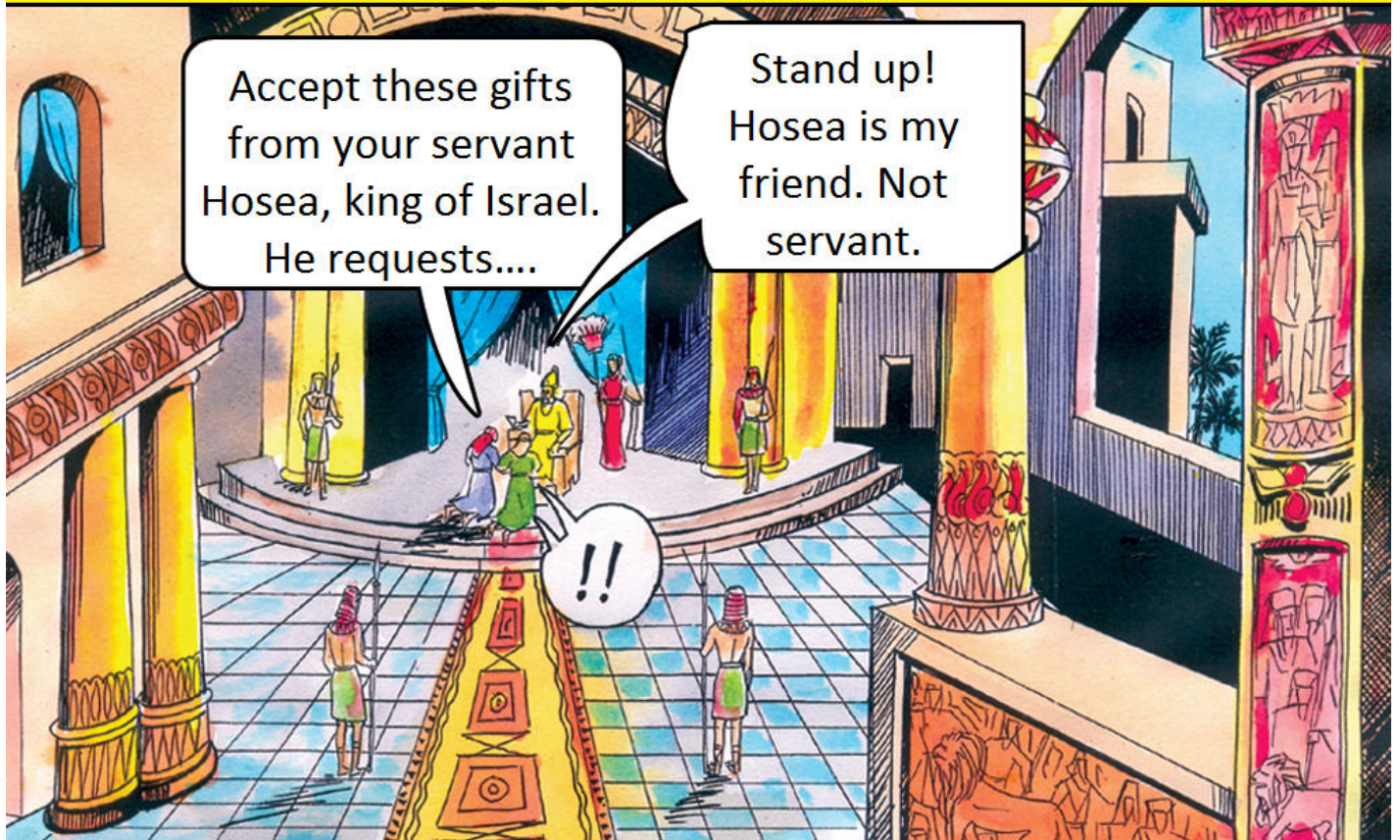




Come, never leave me again.



Great events were reshaping the international political scene. In 726 B.C. Tiglathpileser died. Shalmanesar succeeded him. Israel stopped paying tribute to Assyria and sought help from Egypt.

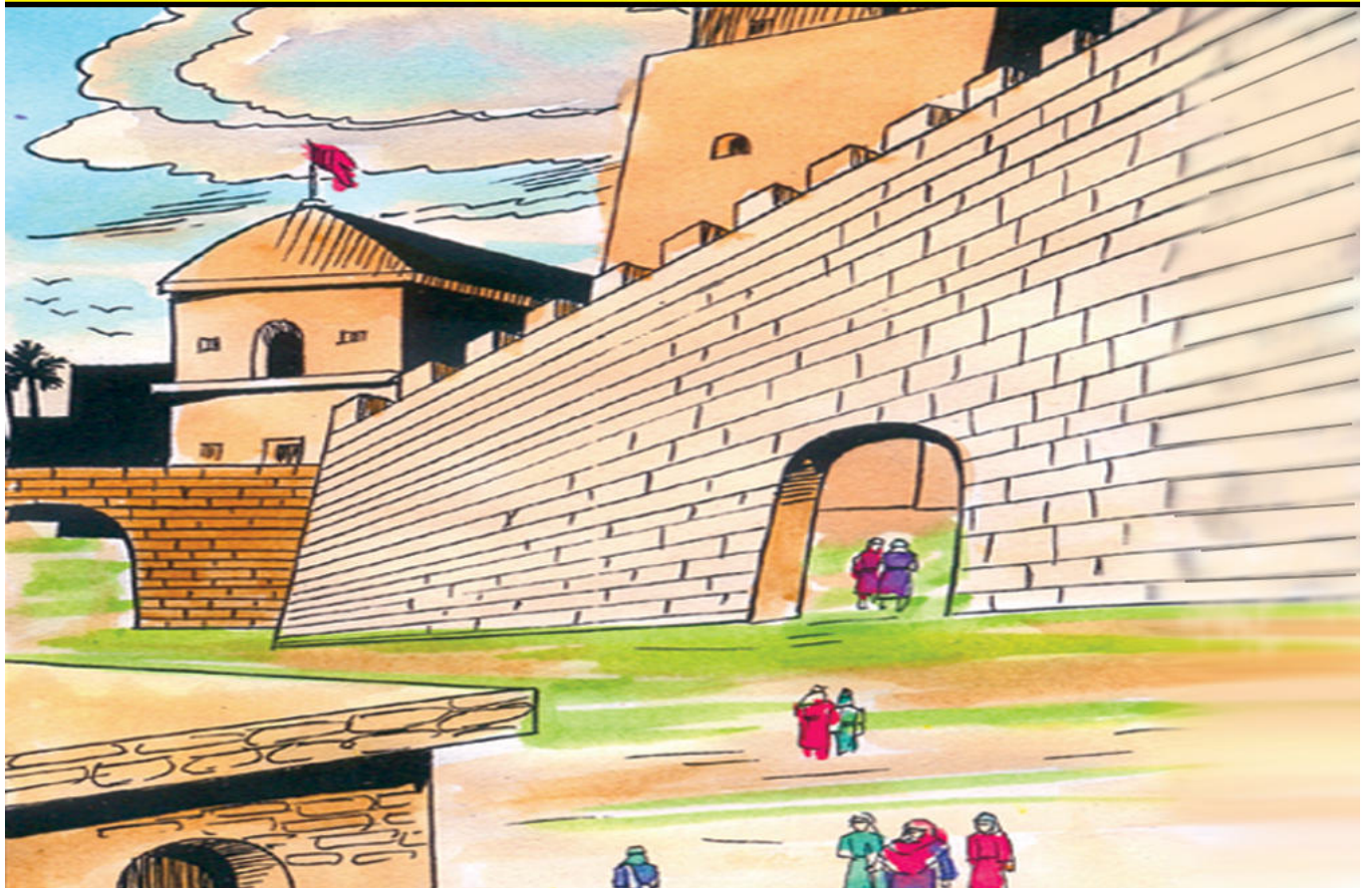




We need protection from Shalmanesar, king of Assyria.

Go in peace! I myself will be in Samaria with the army in two months.

The messengers returned to Samaria with Pharaoh's promise.

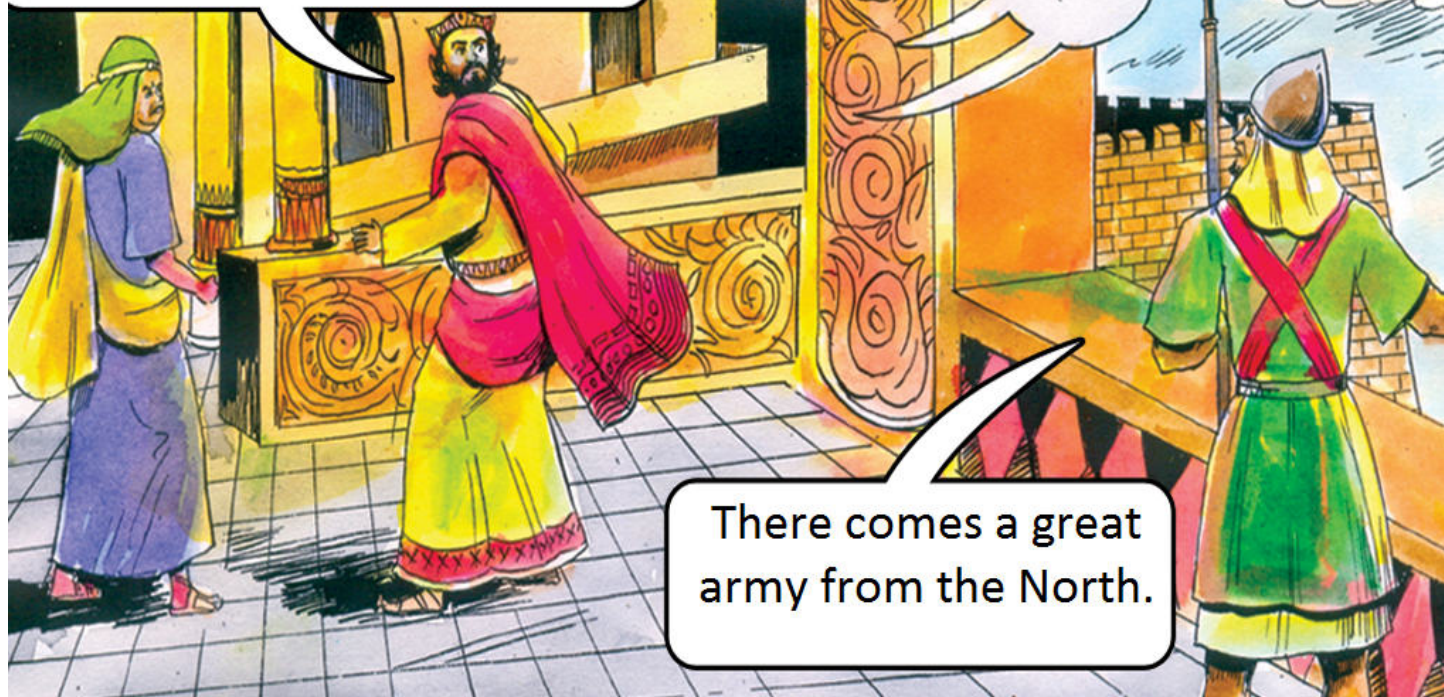


At the palace in Samaria.

It will take another week for the Pharaoh's army to get here. Until then we have to hold the ground against the Assyrians.

!!!?

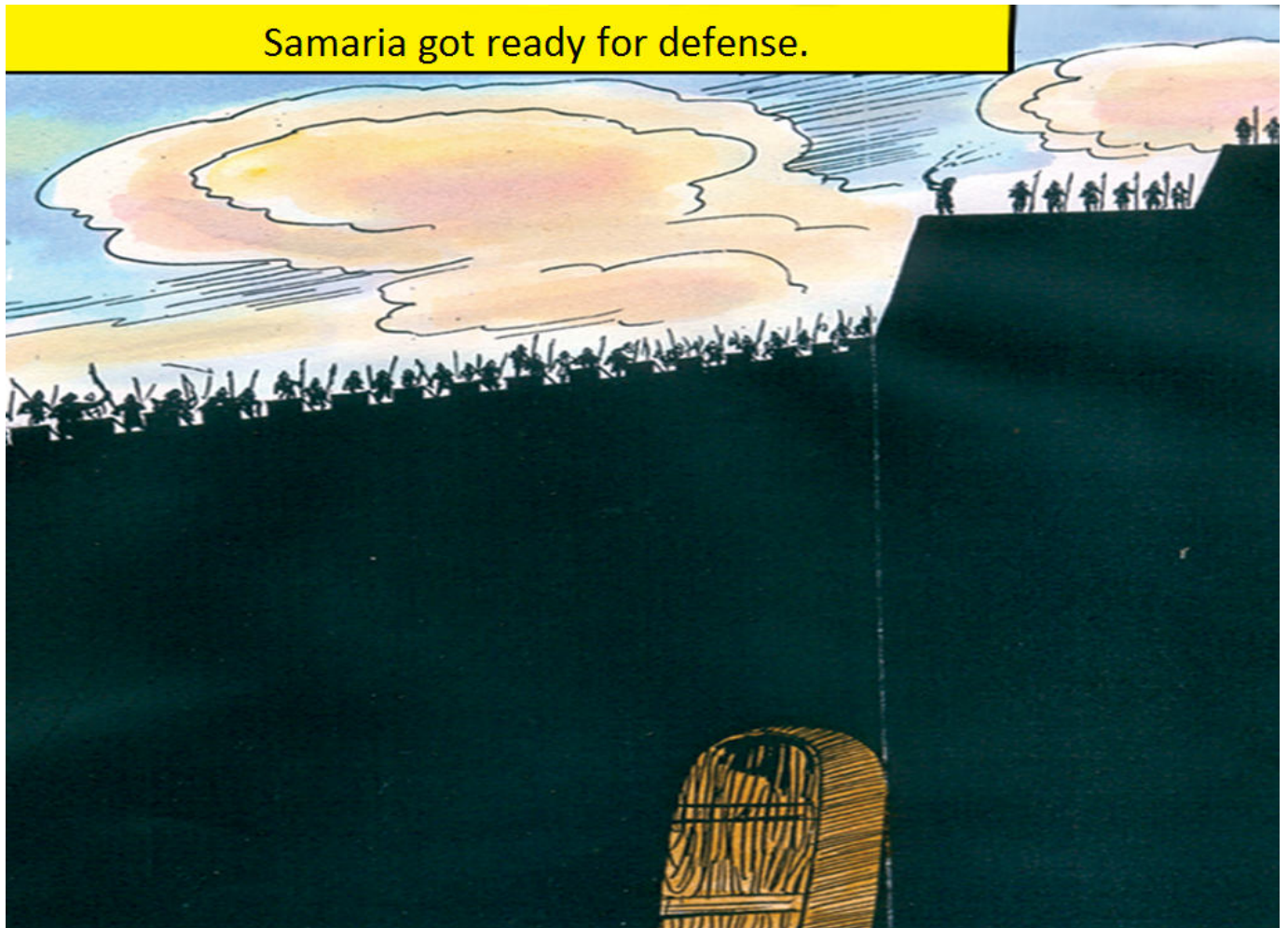
There comes a great army from the North.



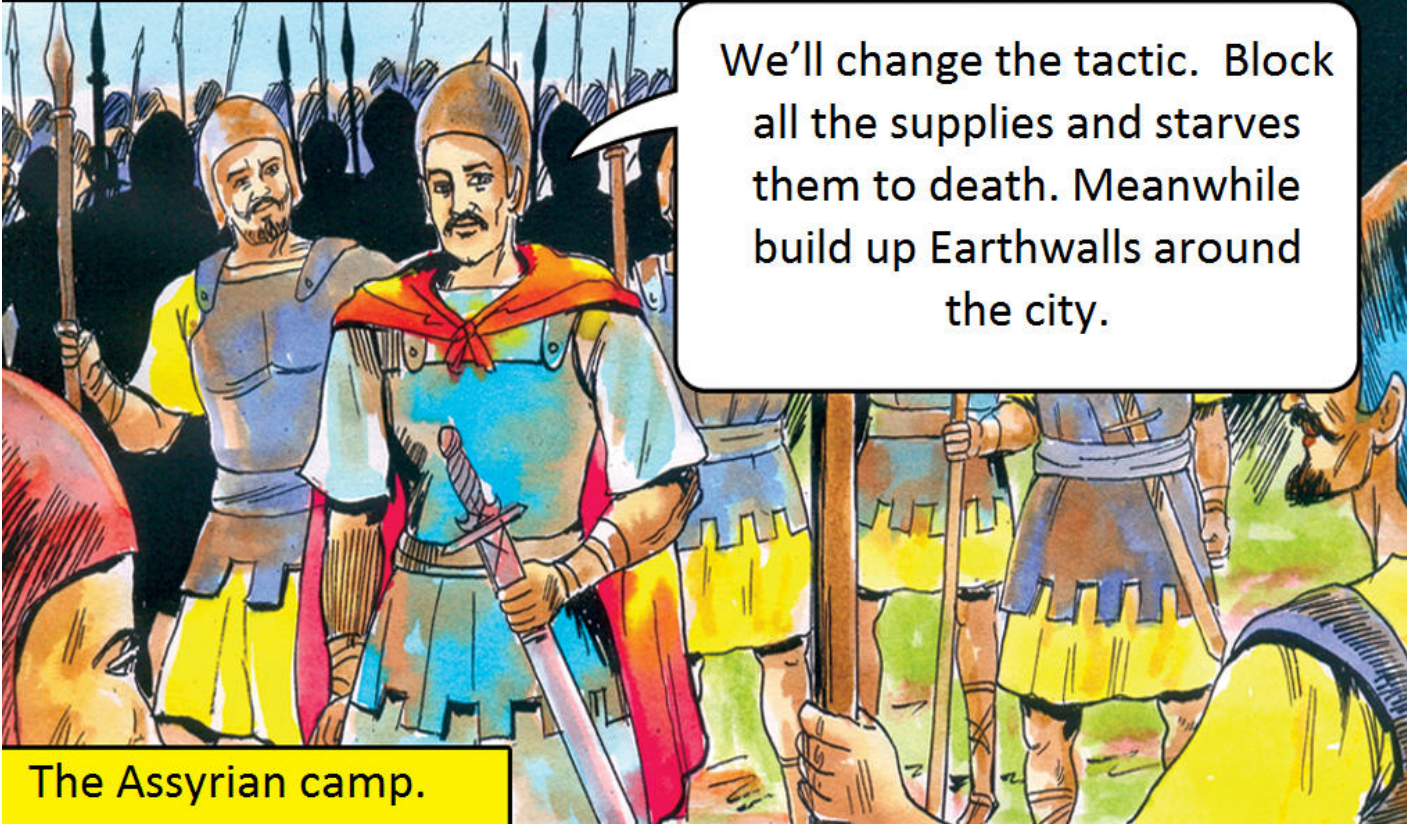
From the North?  
Shalmanser reached  
here so fast? Close  
all the city gats.  
Human sacrifices  
should be offered  
to Baal everyday.



Samaria got ready for defense.



Outside the city heavy fighting continued for days. But the Assyrians could not breach the mighty walls.



We'll change the tactic. Block all the supplies and starves them to death. Meanwhile build up Earthwalls around the city.

The Assyrian camp.



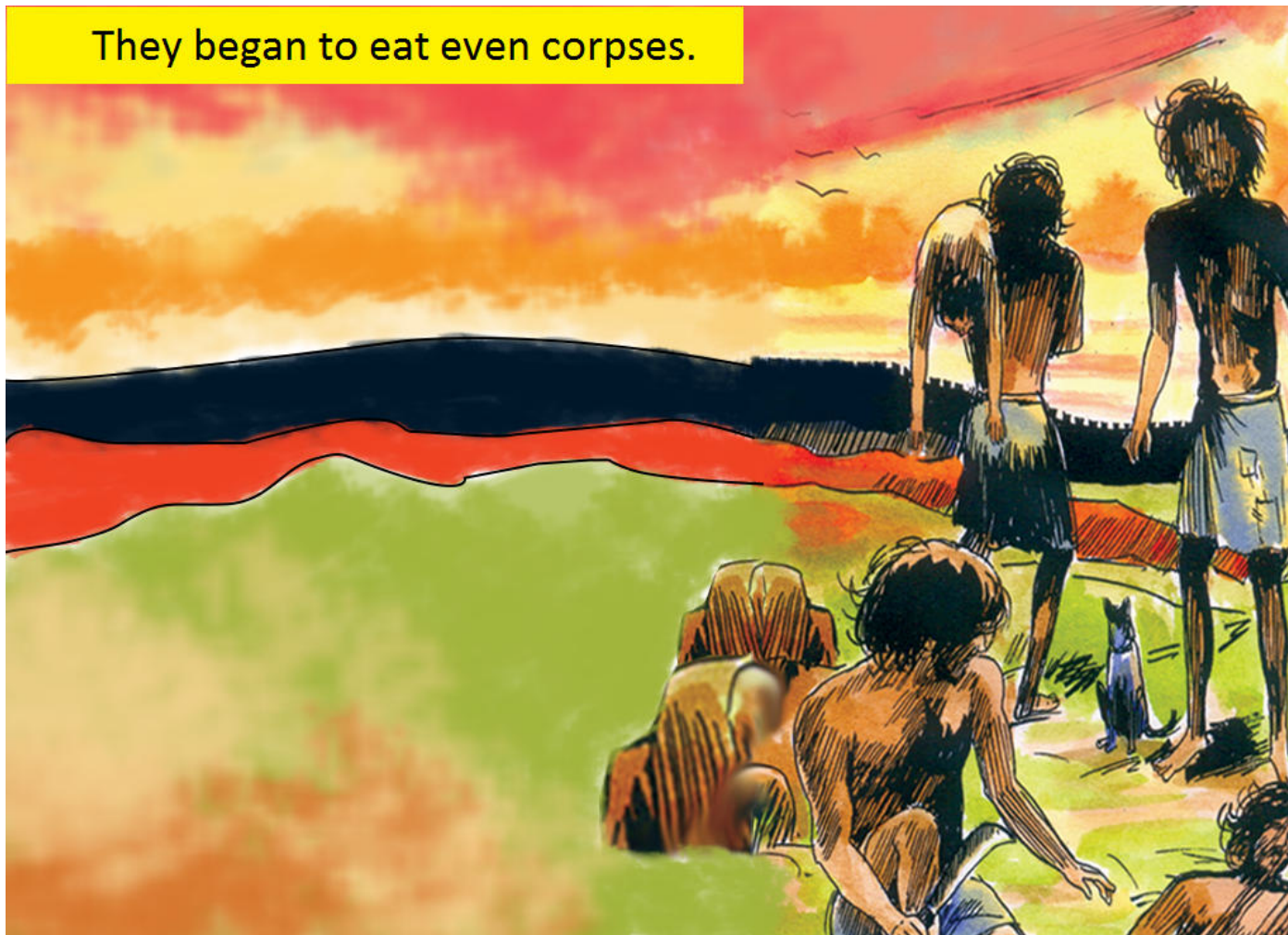
The blockade continued for three years. Egypt did not come to help. Shalmanassar died. His Son, Sargon II became king of Assyria. From Siege they turned to attack.

I won't let you kill my child.

What did you think when you ate my son last week?



They began to eat even corpses.

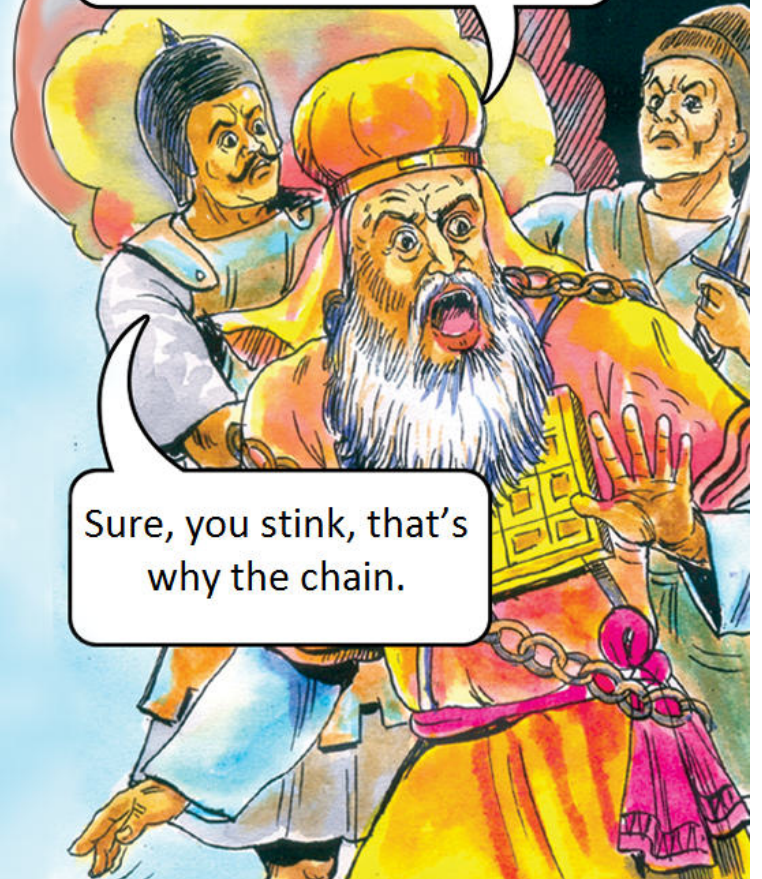


Finally, Sargon II captured Samaria. Deported King Hosea and his people and annexed Israel to the Assyrian empire.

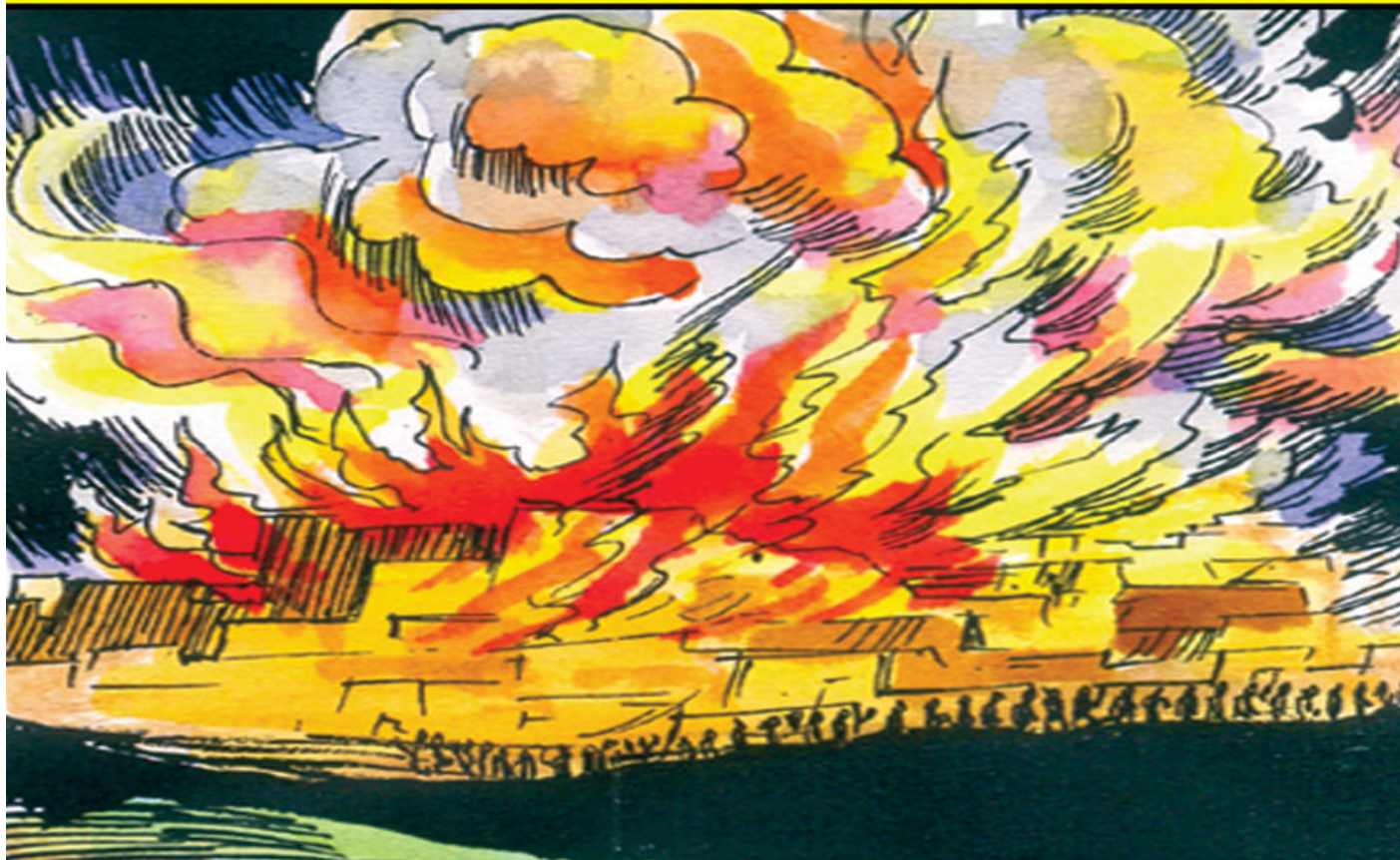



Don't touch me! I am the High Priest.

Sure, you stink, that's why the chain.



In B.C. 721 the prophecies of Amos and Hosea were fulfilled. The Northern kingdom, Israel, ceased to exist.



A colorful illustration of a man and a woman in a tropical setting. The man, on the left, has a beard and is wearing a green shirt. The woman, on the right, has long dark hair and is wearing a brown top. They are kissing. The background features a blue sky, green foliage, and a pink flower. Two speech bubbles are present: one on the left and one on the right.

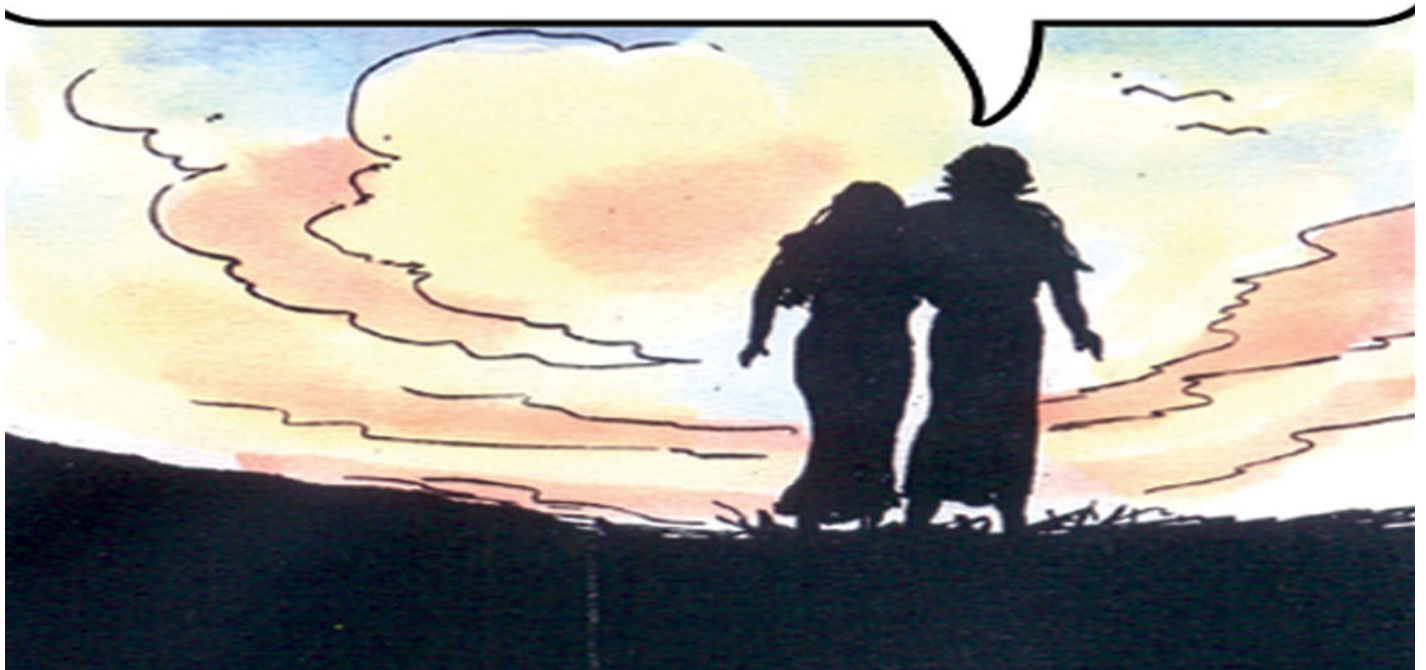
Our life is a  
symbol of Israel.  
All these  
happened to us  
to help the world  
to understand  
Yahweh's love  
and Israel's sin.

I don't deserve such  
love. I'll never leave  
you again.

Israel is an unfaithful woman. She went after other gods. Still Yahweh will not abandon her.



Come, let us go to Judah. Holding fast to love and justice. Let us wait for His mercy.





Israel did not open her heart to the pleas of love. Yahweh's struggle to win over the heart of His people continued in the Southern Kingdom, Judah. Against military atrocities and violent injustice God raised his protest through a farmer.

Next Story

**Micah**

## Questions

1. Who was Gomer's father?
2. What are the names Hosea gave to His children and what did they mean?
3. Why did Israel and Syria join forces against Judah?
4. Ahas, King of Judah sought help from a king? Which King?
5. Who was the last king of the Northern kingdom of Israel?
6. Name the Assyrian king who destroyed Samaria.
7. According to Hosea, what is the root cause of every evil?
8. Life of Hosea was a symbol. Explain.
9. What does Gomer Symbolize?
10. What message do you get from the life of Hosea?

Memorize: *What I want is love, not sacrifice  
Knowledge of God, not Holocausts.*

# 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