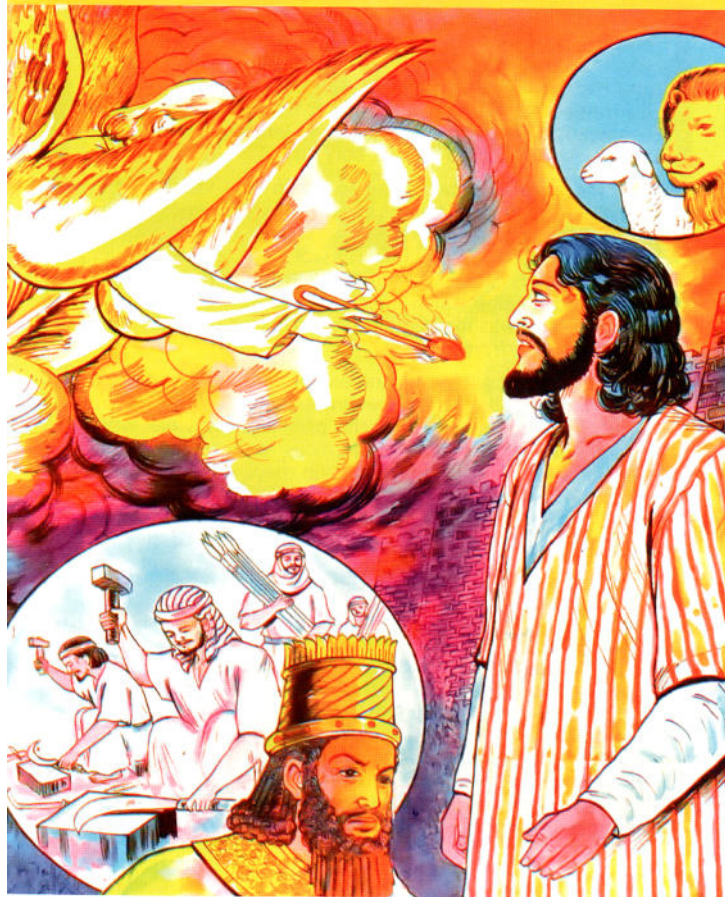


Bible Comics - 18  
**ISAIAH**



**BIBLE COMICS-18**

*Messenger of Peace*

**ISAIAH**

**Script : MICHAEL KARIMATTAM**

**Illustration : DEVASY**

# ISAIAH

Isaiah was a contemporary of Prophet Micah. His prophetic career that started in 740 B.C. lasted over forty years, during the reign of three kings namely, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah. From the lofty style of his prophecies and his free access to the royal courts it is believed that Isaiah belonged to an aristocratic family in Jerusalem. His whole activity was centered on that holy city.

The prophetic call came to Isaiah in a vision in the temple. In that vision he was given a deep awareness of the holiness of God and of his own sinfulness. He was purified by God and called to proclaim His word. His total surrender to God's call is expressed in his response: "Here I am, send me". As the name Isaiah indicates "Yahweh is salvation", his whole life was marked by the conviction that salvation can come only from Yahweh.

This newly gained awareness of the holiness of God also made him aware of the sinfulness of the society in which he lived. He saw that the poor and the weak were oppressed and exploited. Sacrifices and festivals had degenerated into empty rituals and mere show of human glory. Because of this large portion of his prophecies are denunciations of injustice. He proclaimed that as long as justice was denied to the poor and the weak, God would not listen to the prayers of the oppressor. Offering prayers

without giving justice to the poor is an insult to Yahweh. In order to obtain forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God, one has to give justice to the poor.

The Israelites used to claim that Yahweh is the God of Israel, but Isaiah told them that Yahweh is the God of the universe. It is He who shapes the history of the world and the destiny of each nation. The cruelty of one nation is punished by the wickedness of another, but no nation will escape unpunished for its crimes.

Isaiah firmly believed and constantly proclaimed that true and lasting peace can be obtained not through military alliance and accumulation of weapons but only through the trust in Yahweh and obedience to His covenant.

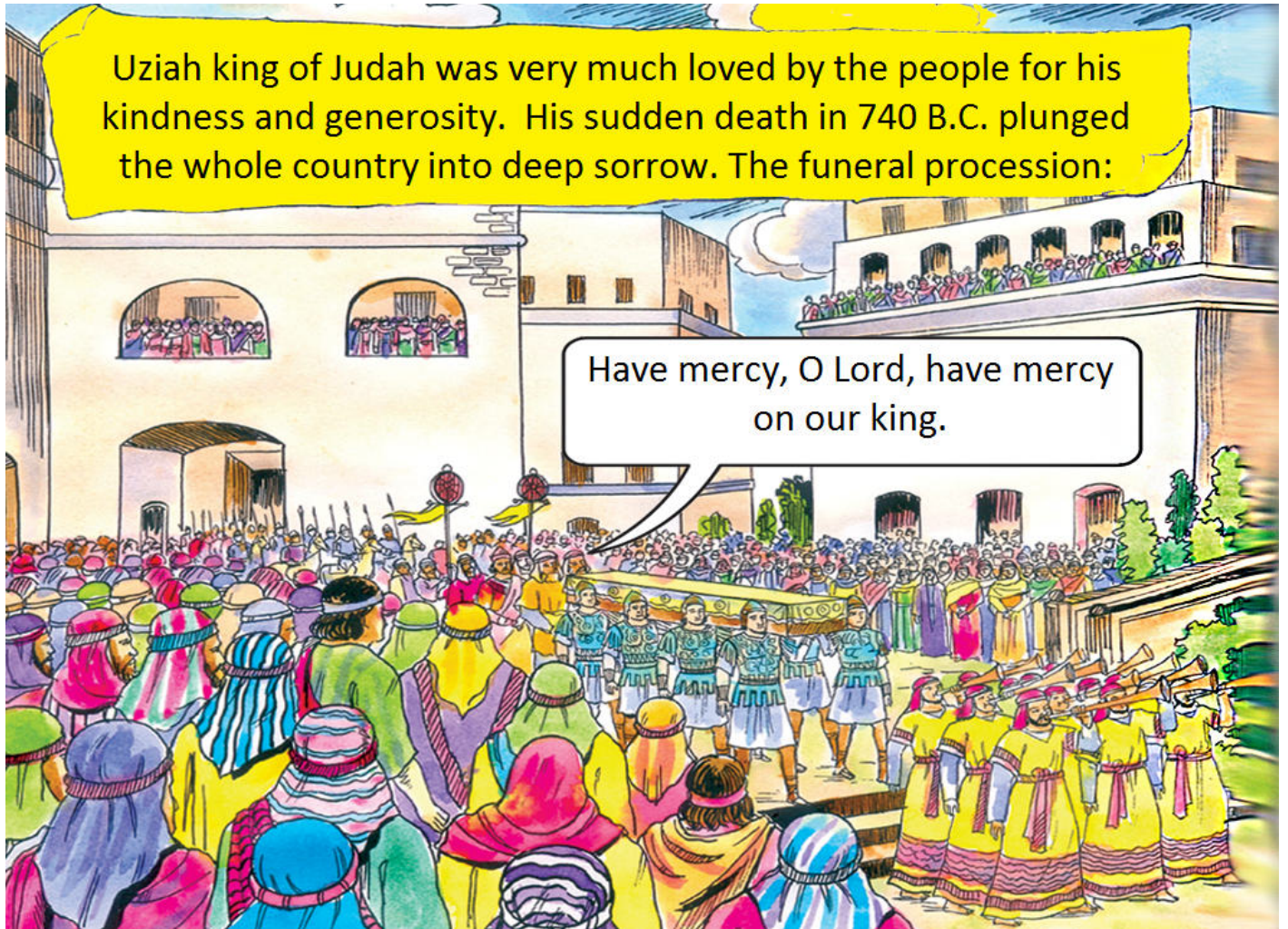
Some of the most well known messianic prophecies were uttered by Isaiah. He prophesied that instead of the corrupt and cruel kings, a just king would come from the house of David and rule the whole world with equity. He would give justice to the poor, destroy all the

weapons and put a permanent end to war. These prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah, the prince of peace.



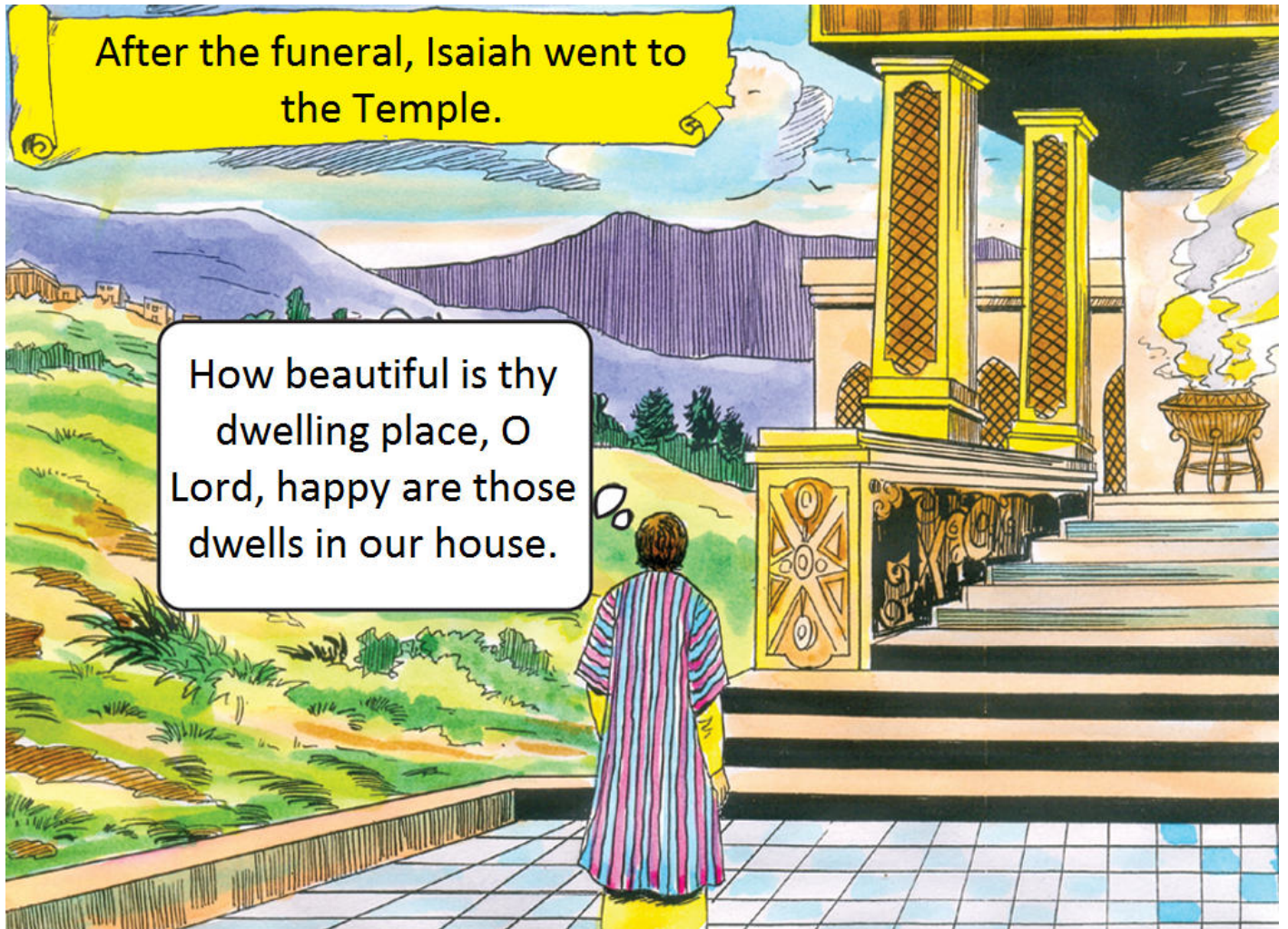
Uziah king of Judah was very much loved by the people for his kindness and generosity. His sudden death in 740 B.C. plunged the whole country into deep sorrow. The funeral procession:

Have mercy, O Lord, have mercy  
on our king.



After the funeral, Isaiah went to the Temple.

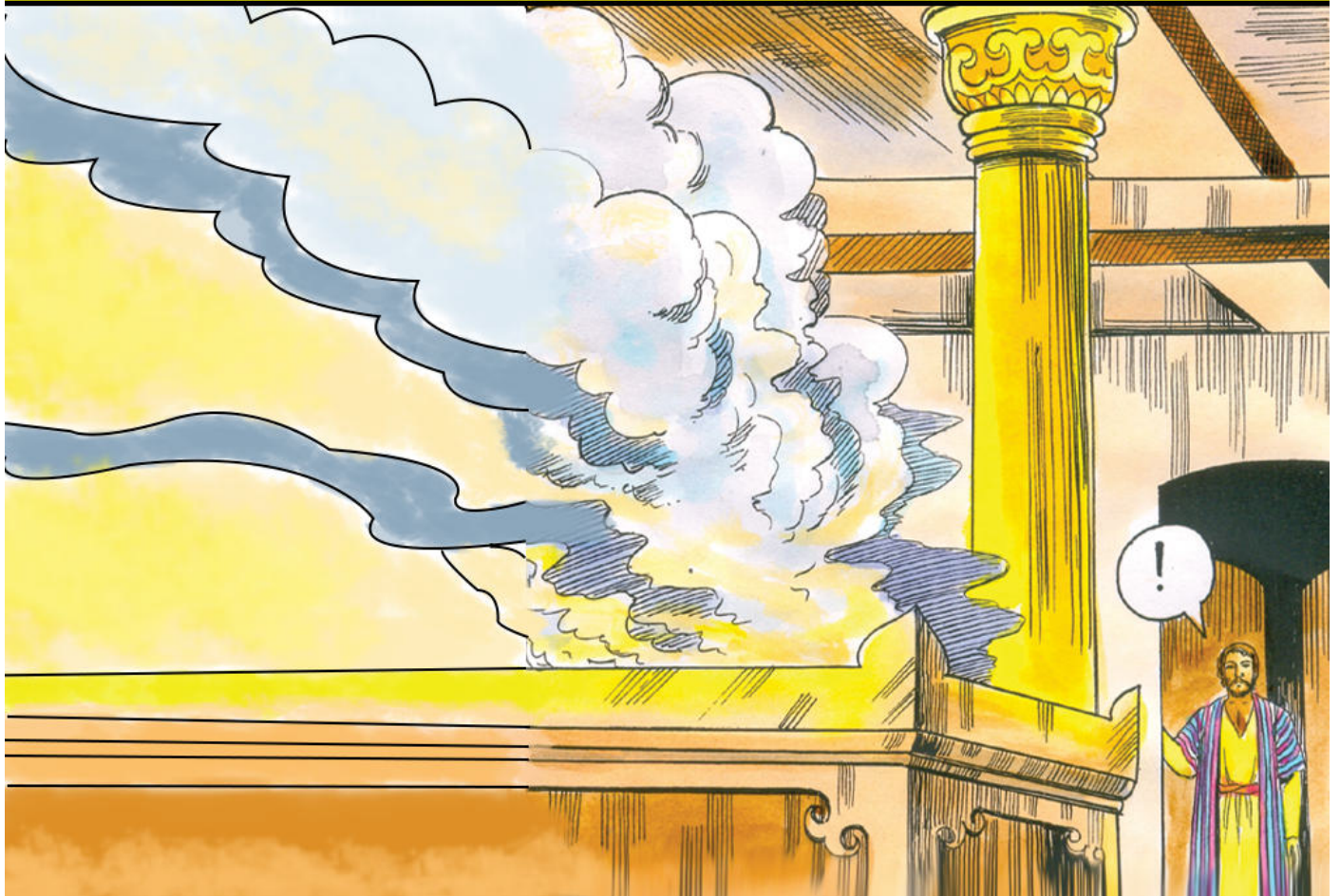
How beautiful is thy dwelling place, O Lord, happy are those dwells in our house.



King Uziah was a good king. Still, he could not eliminate injustice from the country.



Isaiah entered the Temple.



While in the Temple Isaiah had a vision.

Holy, holy, holy is  
Yahweh. His glory  
fills the whole earth.

!?

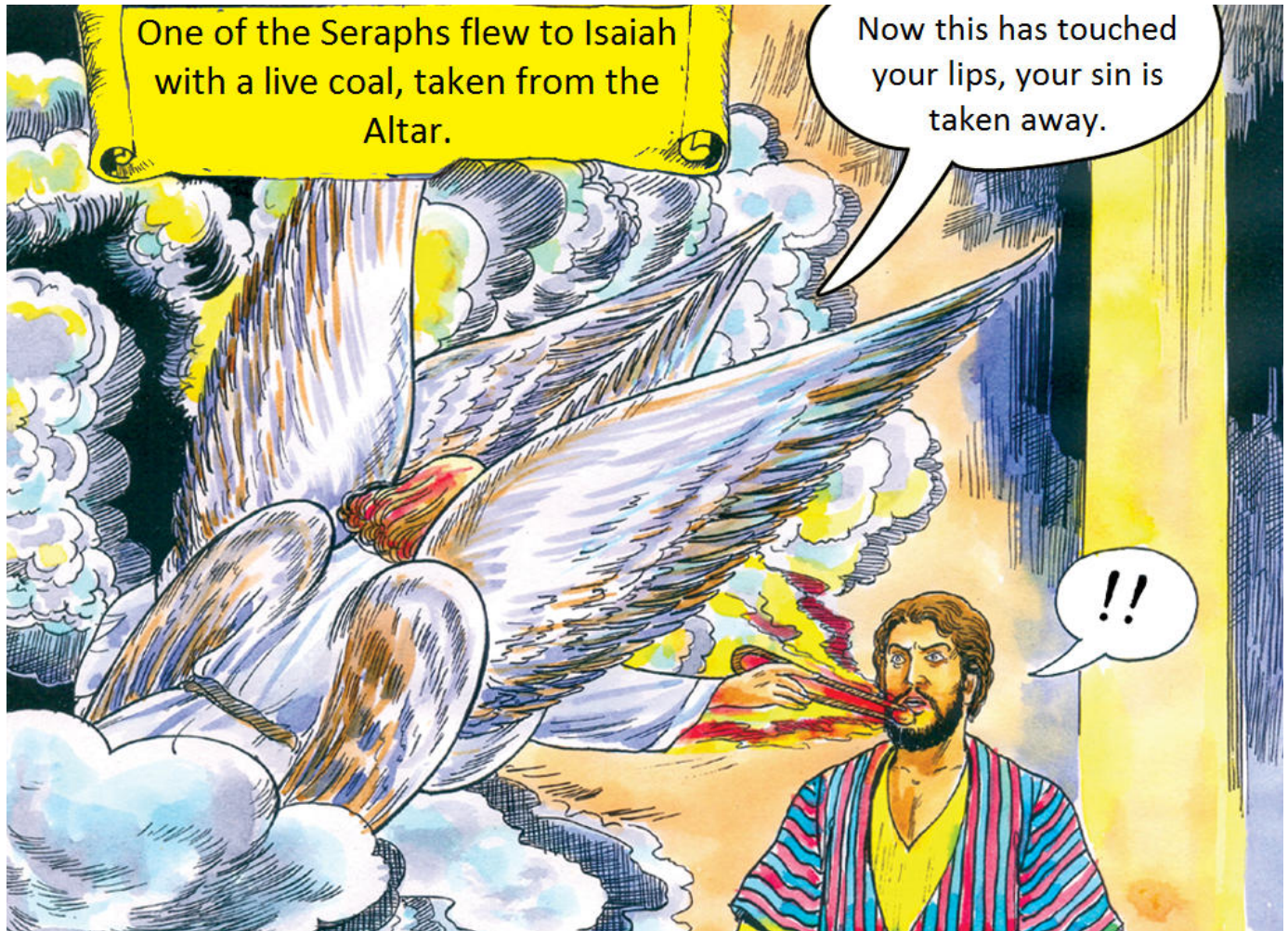


What wretched state I am in! I am lost for I am a sinner and I live among sinners. I have looked upon the most holy. Will I live?

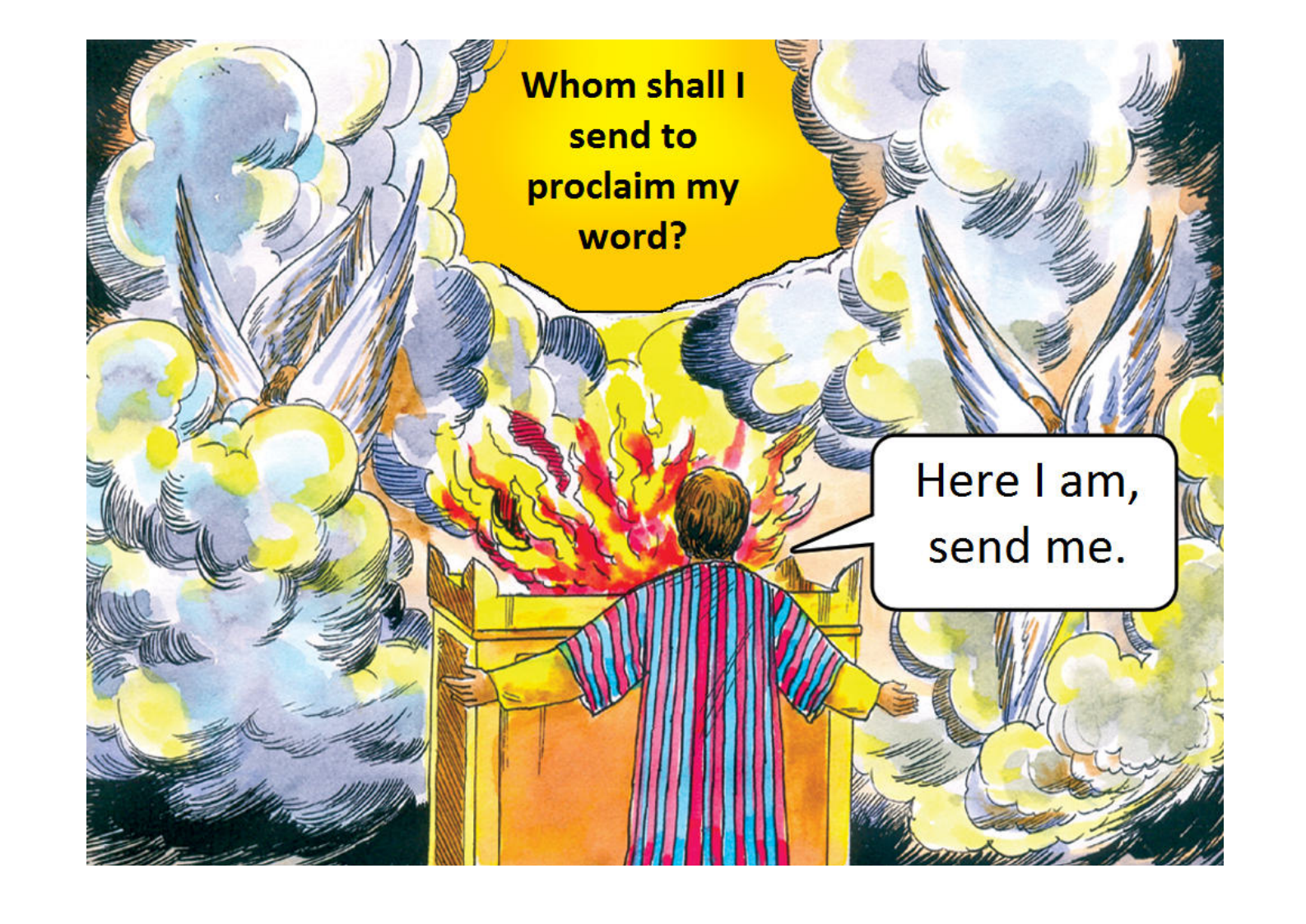


One of the Seraphs flew to Isaiah with a live coal, taken from the Altar.

Now this has touched your lips, your sin is taken away.



!!



Whom shall I  
send to  
proclaim my  
word?

Here I am,  
send me.



Go and say to the people.

Hear and hear again

but they won't understand. See and see again  
but they won't perceive.

They have hardened their hearts.



When the vision was over

Lord, God of  
Israel...

Praise and  
glory to you Lord,  
Hallelujah.

What shall I say  
and to whom?



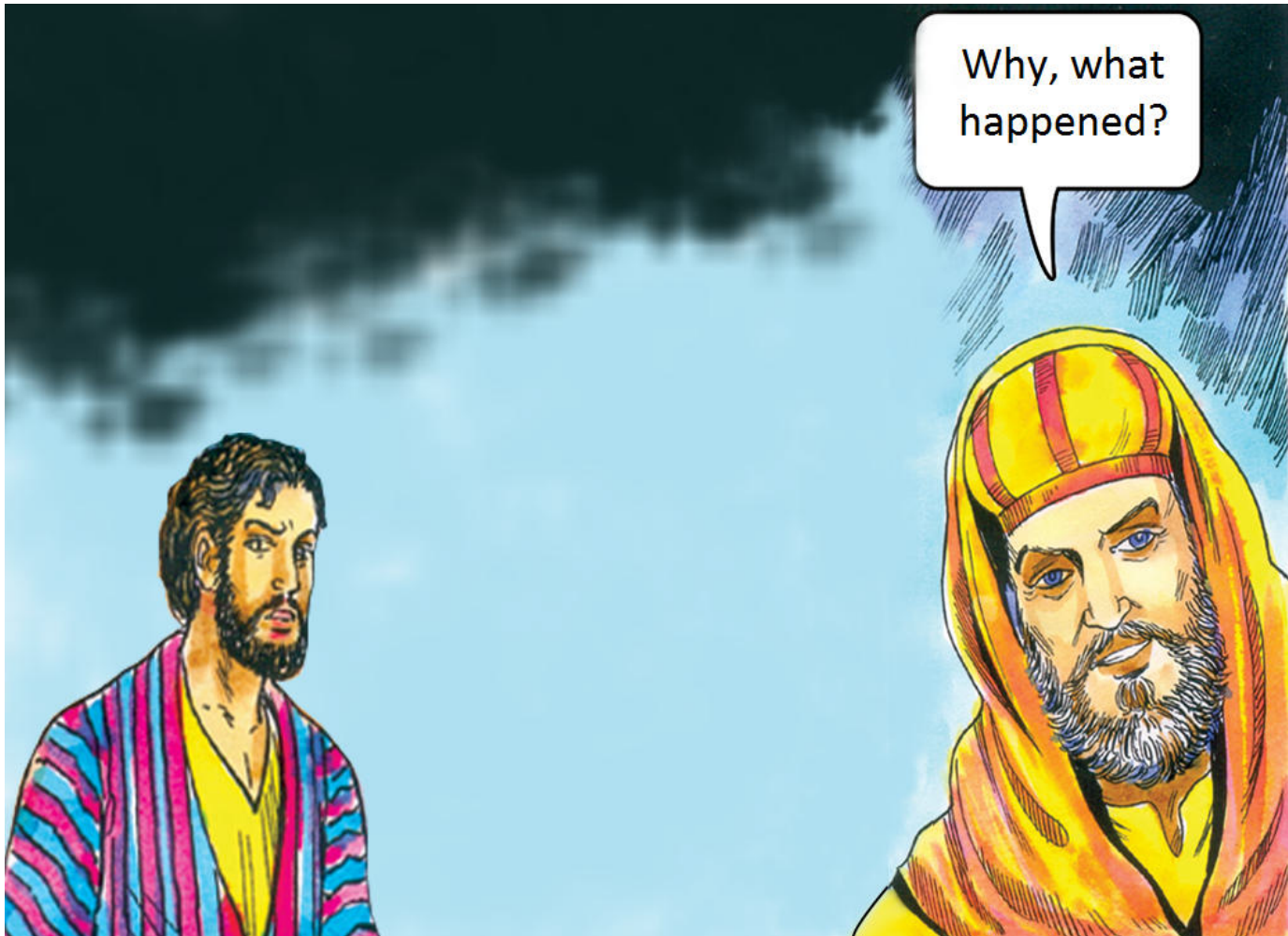
Isaiah came out of the Temple.

Isn't this Isaiah, son of Amos? What happened to you?

You look like a ghost!

!

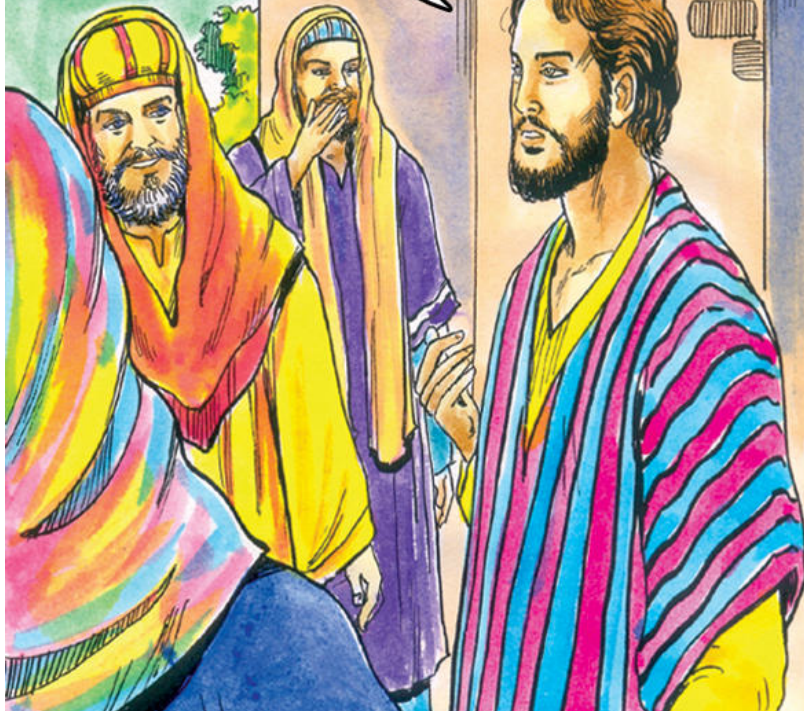




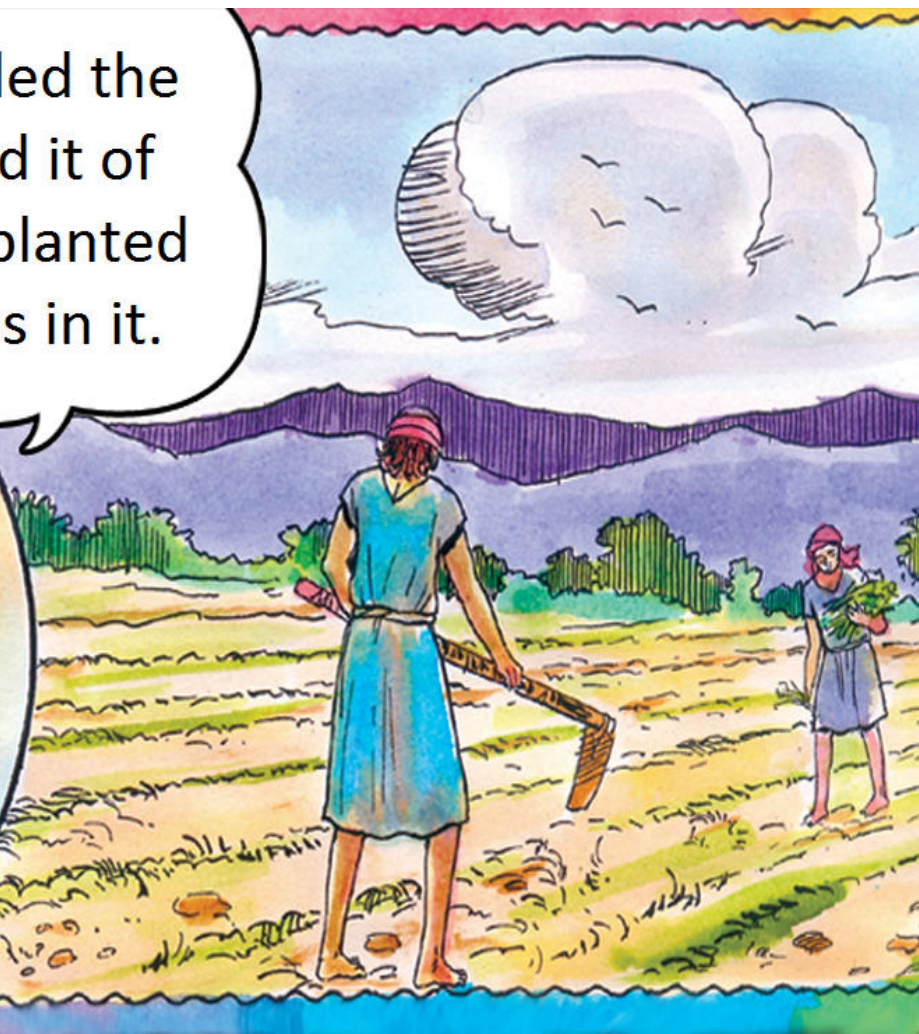
Why, what happened?

I saw a  
vineyard.

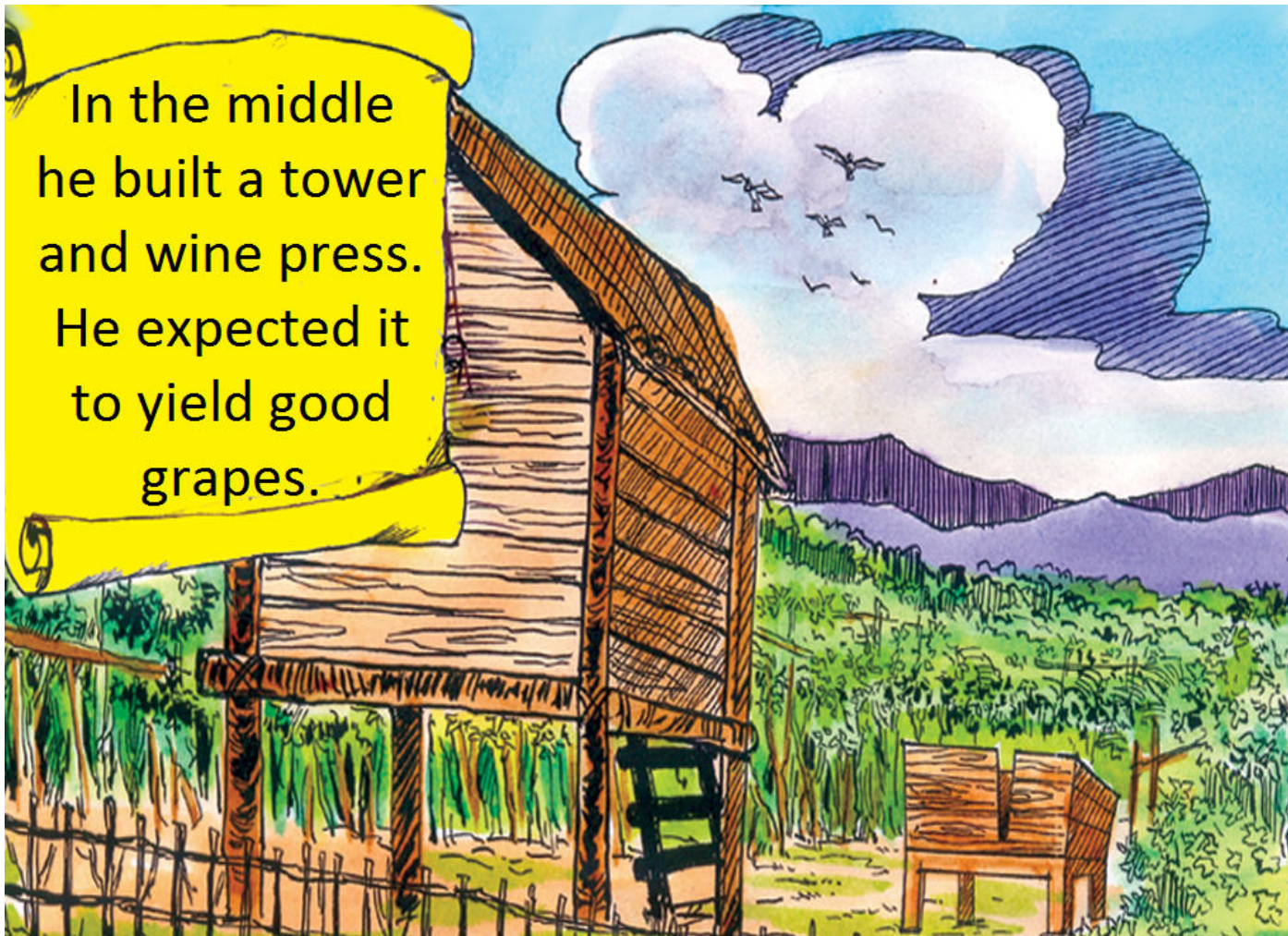
Got shocked by seeing  
the vineyard?



A farmer tilled the soil, cleared it of stones and planted choice vines in it.

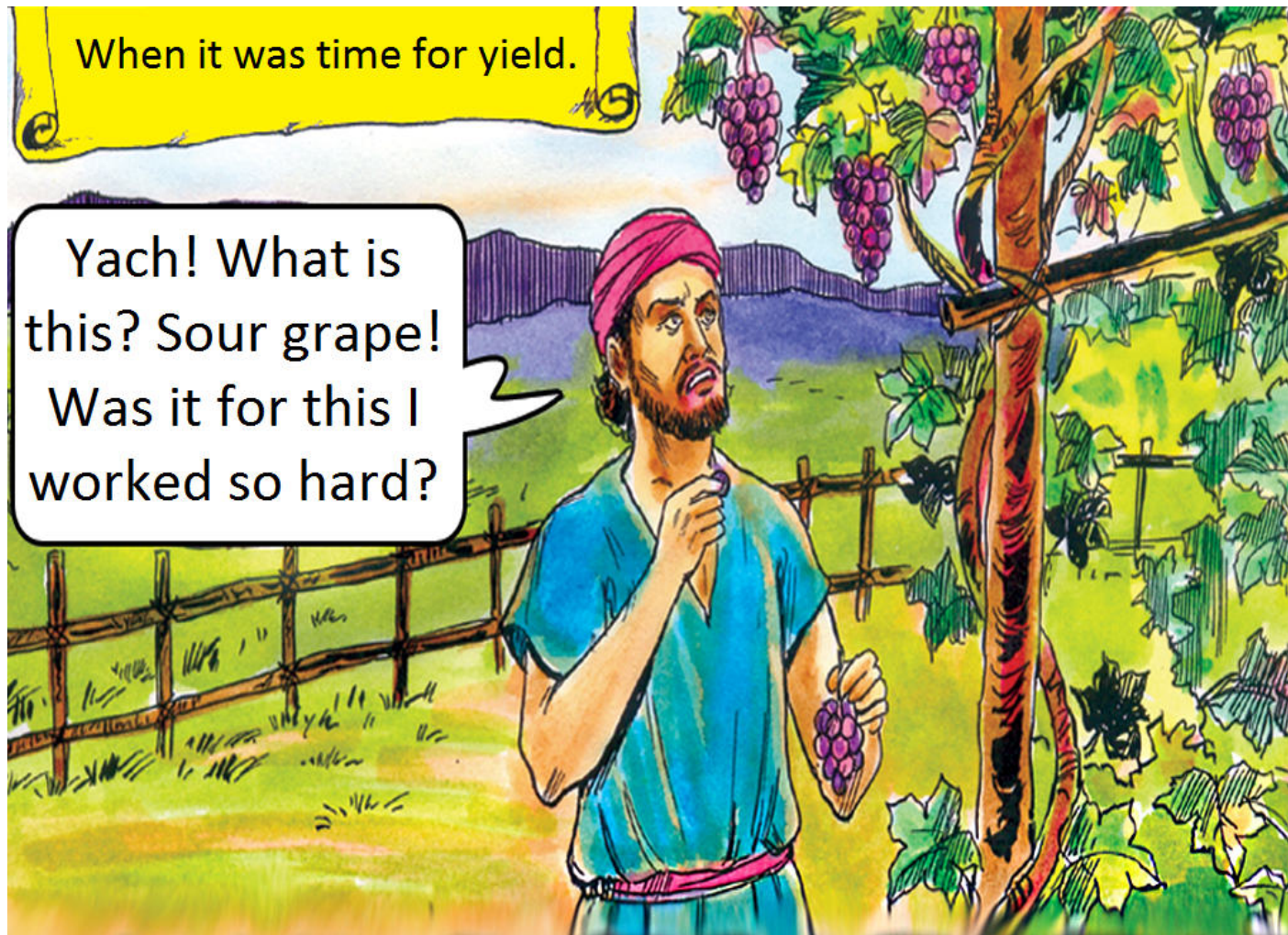


In the middle  
he built a tower  
and wine press.  
He expected it  
to yield good  
grapes.



When it was time for yield.

Yach! What is this? Sour grape!  
Was it for this I worked so hard?





Are you telling a story or explaining a vision.

Doesn't matter. Isiah, you continue... what did the farmer do?

If it were you, what would you do?

!!!



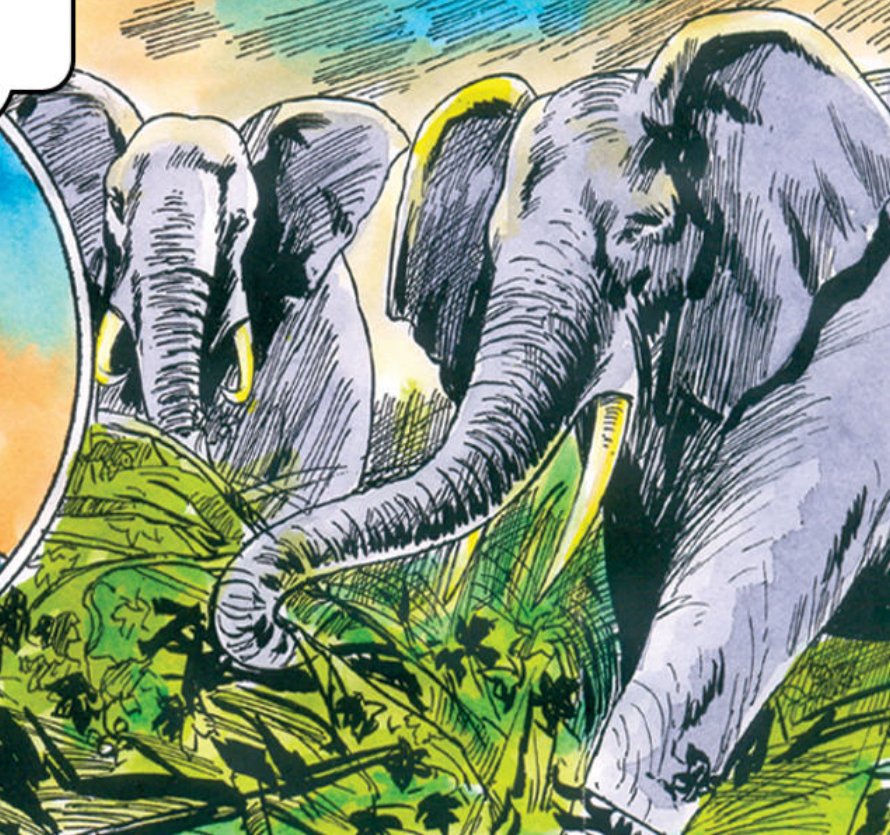
If it was me, I would dig out the old vines and plant new choice vines.

Wasn't it choice vines he planted?

Well, let Isaiah speak.

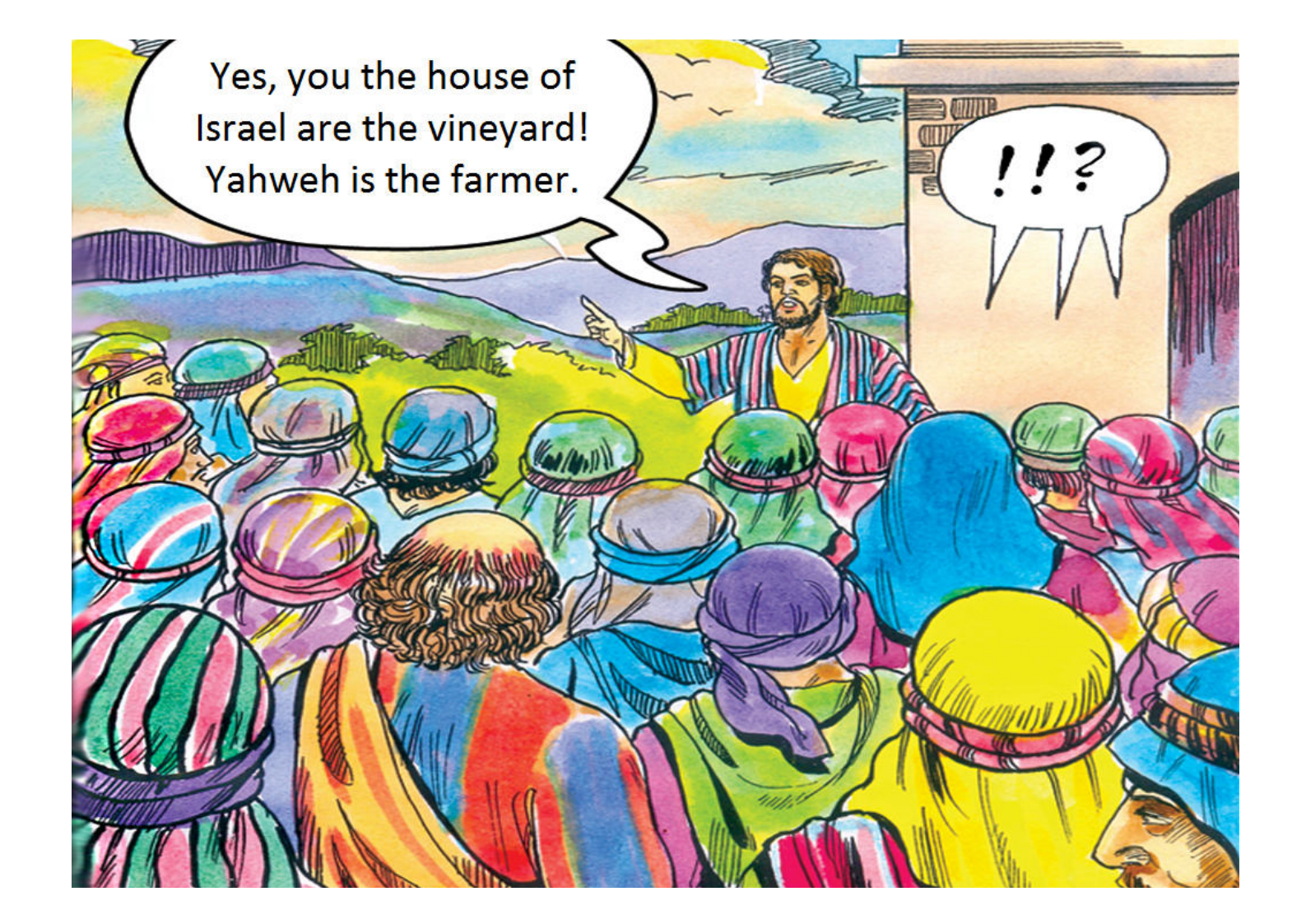


He took away the hedges and knocked down the walls for it to be grazed on.





What does this  
mean?



Yes, you the house of  
Israel are the vineyard!  
Yahweh is the farmer.

!!!?

He expected justice but found  
bloodshed, and cries of distress  
instead of integrity.



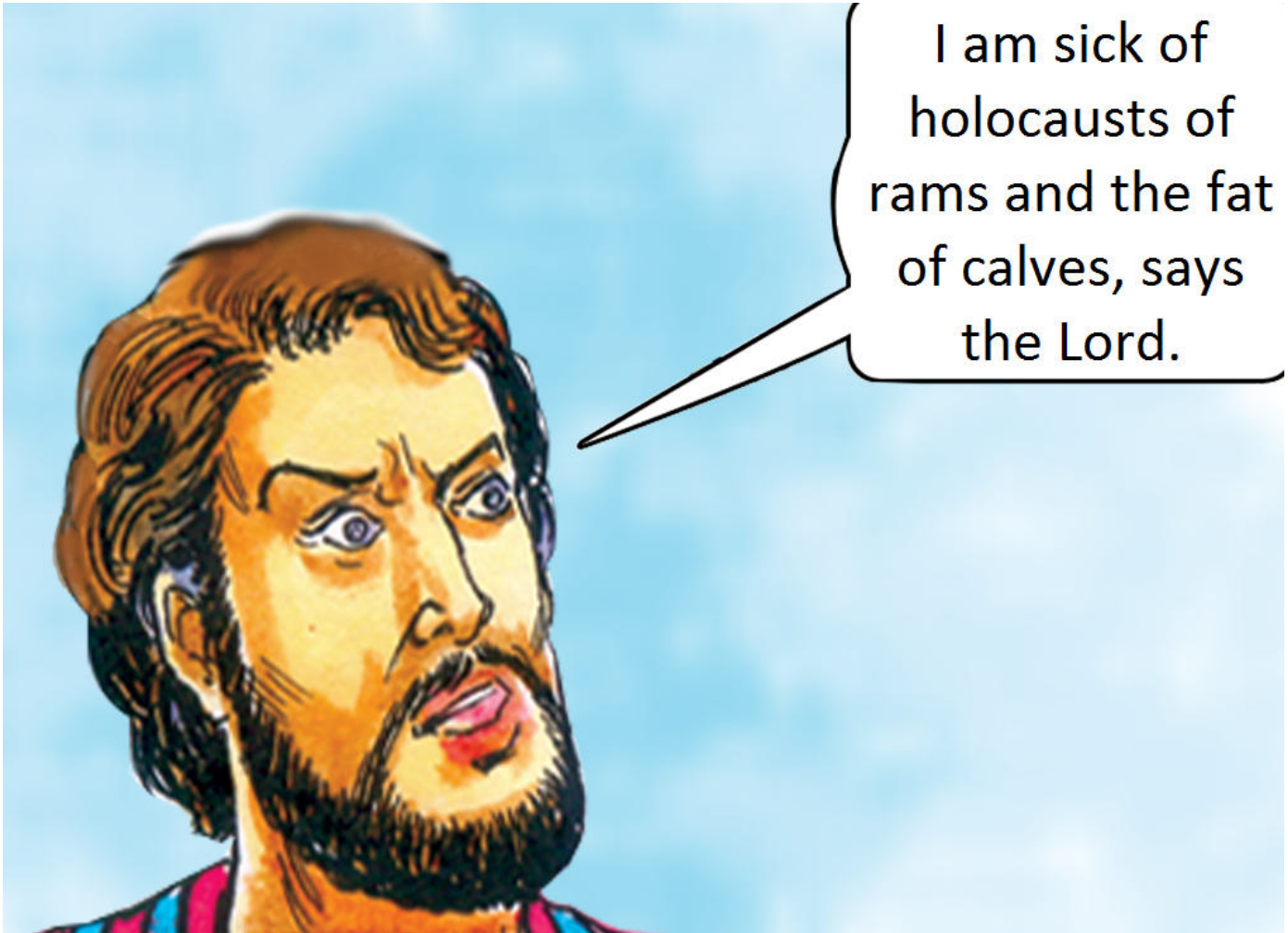
People gathered around Isaiah.

What are you saying?  
We are a priestly  
people, chosen to  
praise Yahweh.

You praise Yahweh  
with your lips. Your  
hearts are filled with  
wickedness.

Not only just  
hymns of praise,  
we offer sacrifices  
and celebrate all  
his feasts.





I am sick of  
holocausts of  
rams and the fat  
of calves, says  
the Lord.



I despise your festivals; your singing and dancing revolts me.



When you stretch out your hands, I turn my eyes away. Your hands are covered with blood.

How can we offer sacrifices without staining our hands with blood.

It is not blood of the animals but blood of the poor I see on your hand.



Who is killing  
the poor  
around here?

King Uziah gave  
away land to the  
farmers and made  
loan to cultivate it.

Wasn't it for  
the poor that  
he emptied the  
royal treasury?



You took the money  
intended for the poor.  
Built houses and bought  
fields for yourselves until  
you possessed everything.



Tell me how many of the poor people got the money.

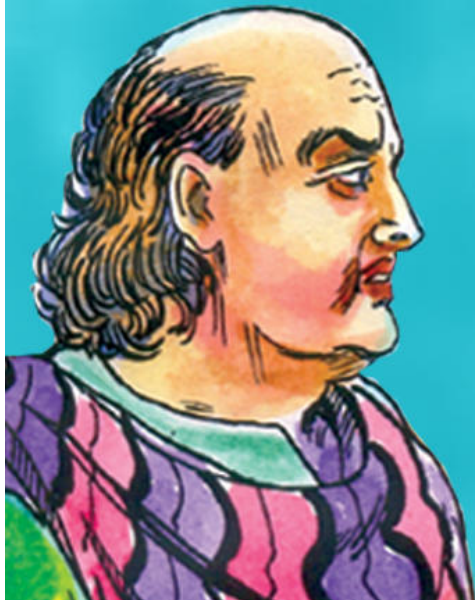
It was the king's own men who distributed the money to those who deserve.

King's men! Greedy beggars who stretch their hands for bribes. Look at this man.

!!



Your officials are thieves.  
Your judges are greedy for  
profit and chase after  
bribes. You show no  
justice to the orphans  
and widows.



To abandon Yahweh,  
despise his Holy Name.  
You have turned away  
from him.

Isaiah, you better  
watch out, your  
criticisms are  
exceeding all  
measures.



Woe to those who dwell in their sins. Turn to Yahweh, return to the Holy One of Israel.

What shall we do?

Stop the oppression, give justice to the poor, and protect the widows and orphans.





That is social  
work, not  
worship.

It is the work of justice  
that pleases Yahweh,  
not the blood of the  
bulls. Repent and return  
to Him.



!!!

Your hands are stained with the blood of the innocent, wash yourselves clean.

!!?



Isaiah preached the word of God in Jerusalem and its surrounding areas. A number of people became his disciples. Isaiah speaks to his disciples.

The Lord our God is holy. We must live according to his laws.

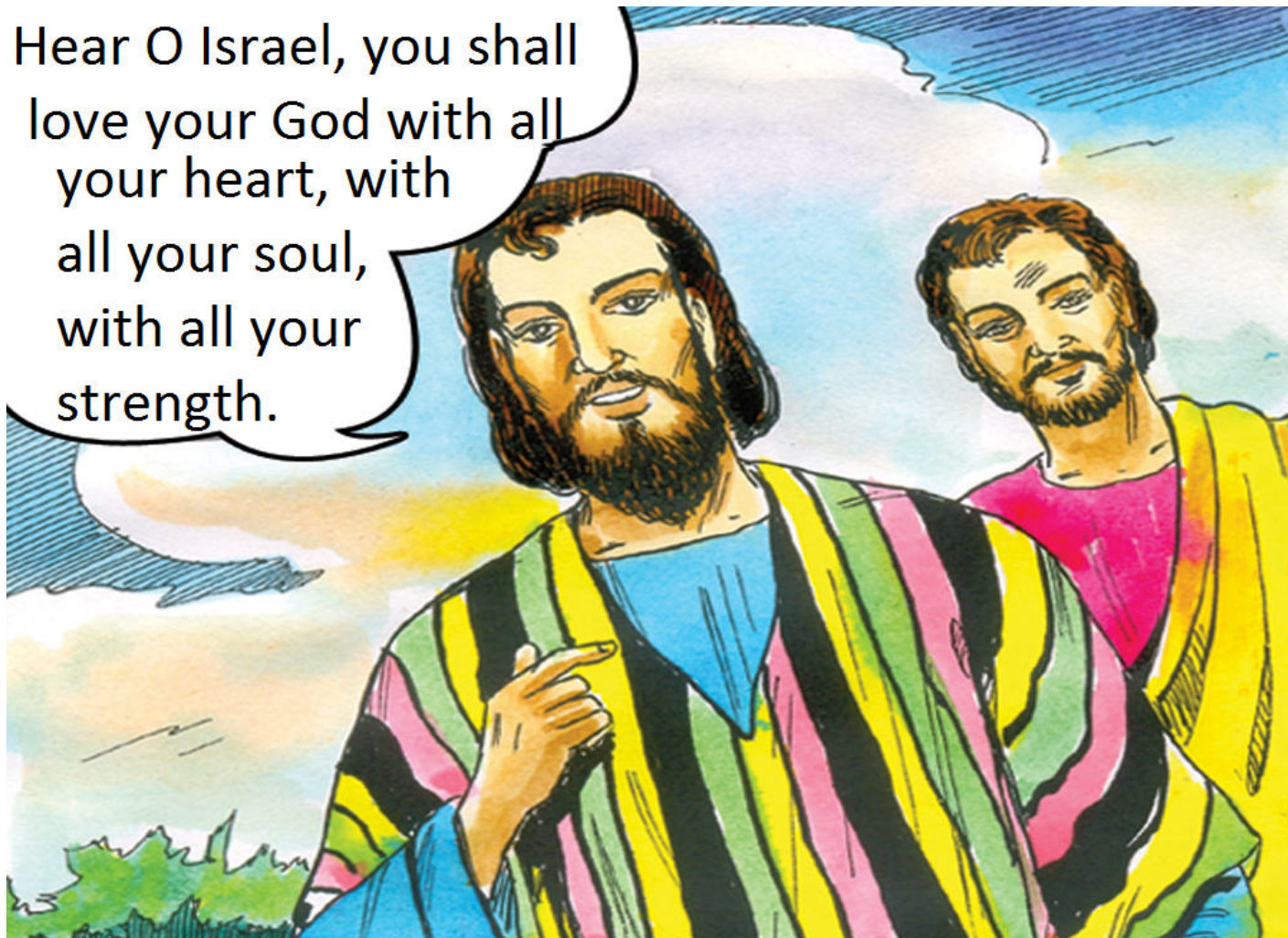
Which law master. There are so many.

Don't you know the Commandments Yahweh gave to us through Moses on Mount Sinai?

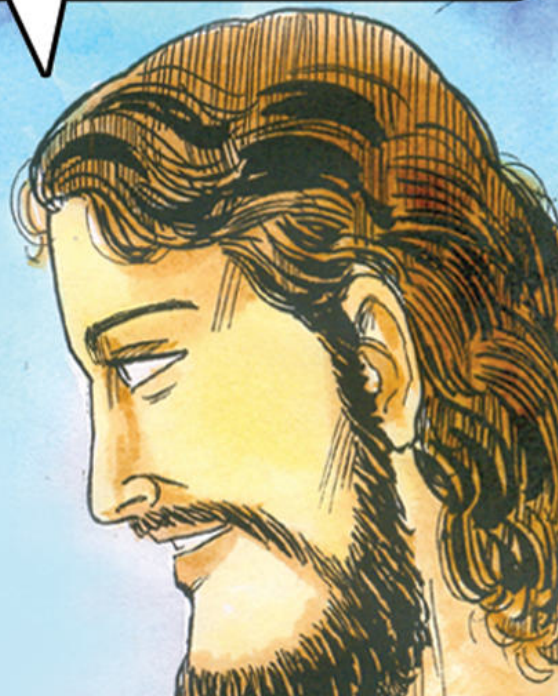
!



Hear O Israel, you shall love your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength.



He is like a consuming  
fire. He will purify us  
from all our sins.



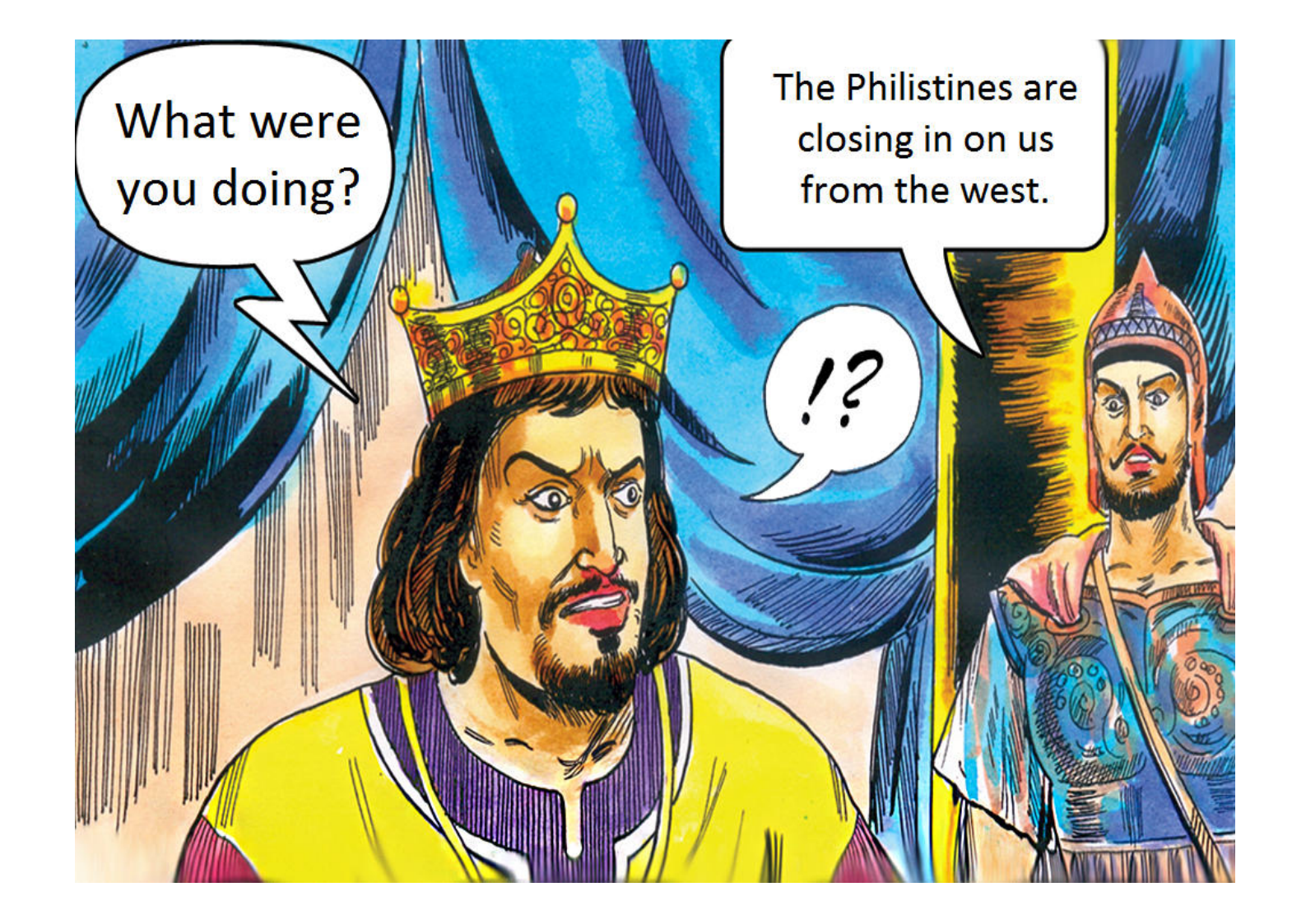
In 736 B.C. King Jotham died. His son Ahaz succeeded him. In the north, Assyria capturing all the neighboring countries became a great power. Israel and Syria joined forces against Assyria. But Judah refused to join them. At the Palace of Ahaz.

King Pekah of Israel and king Rezin of Syria marching south with a great army. They will reach our boarder in three days.

Mobilize our army and march North.

That will be dangerous as the Edomites have already crossed the Southern border. They have taken Ezion-Gerber.

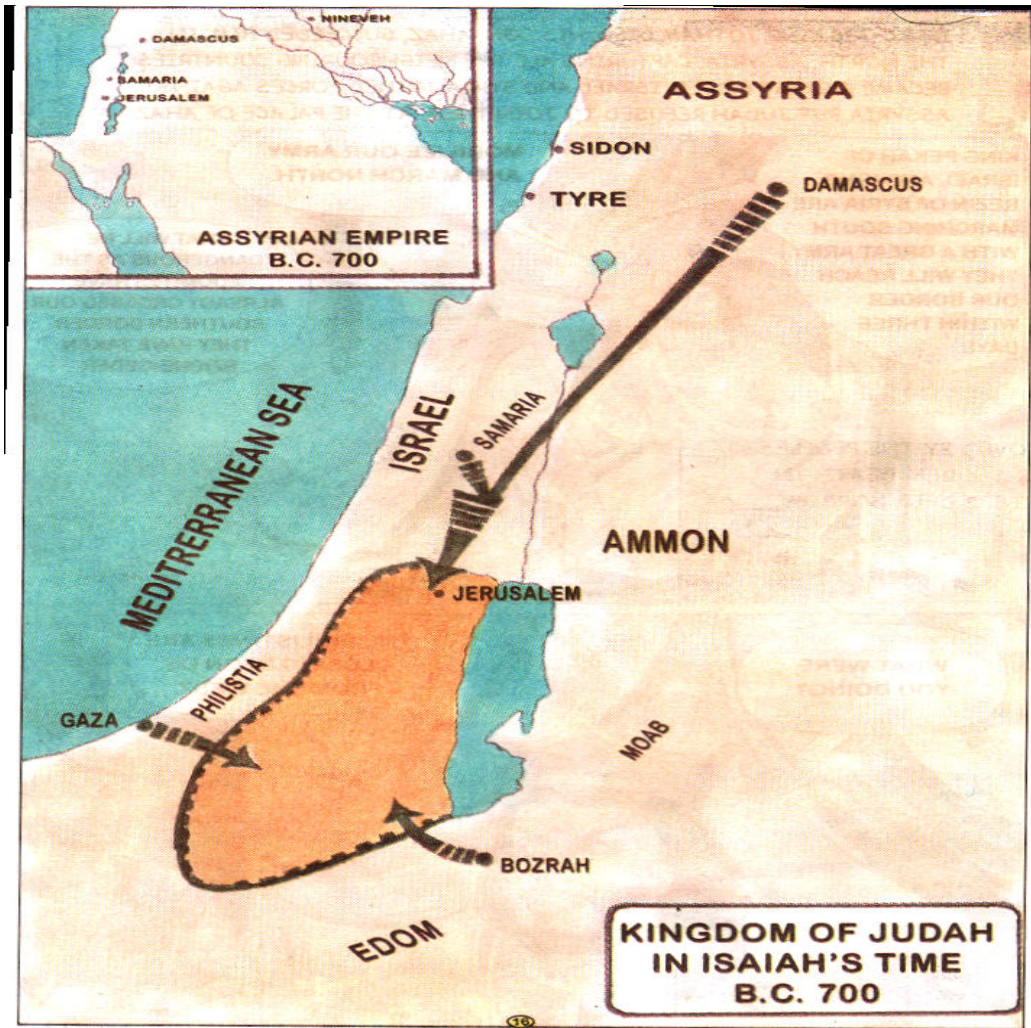




What were you doing?

The Philistines are closing in on us from the west.

!?





Ahaz sacrificed his son in the valley of Benhinnom and sought god Molech's help.



The great god Molech says  
“Ahaz I am pleased with  
you. I’ll protect you sent  
massagers to my servant  
Tiglathpilesar of Assirya.



That is the only  
way, the king of  
Assyria will  
help us.

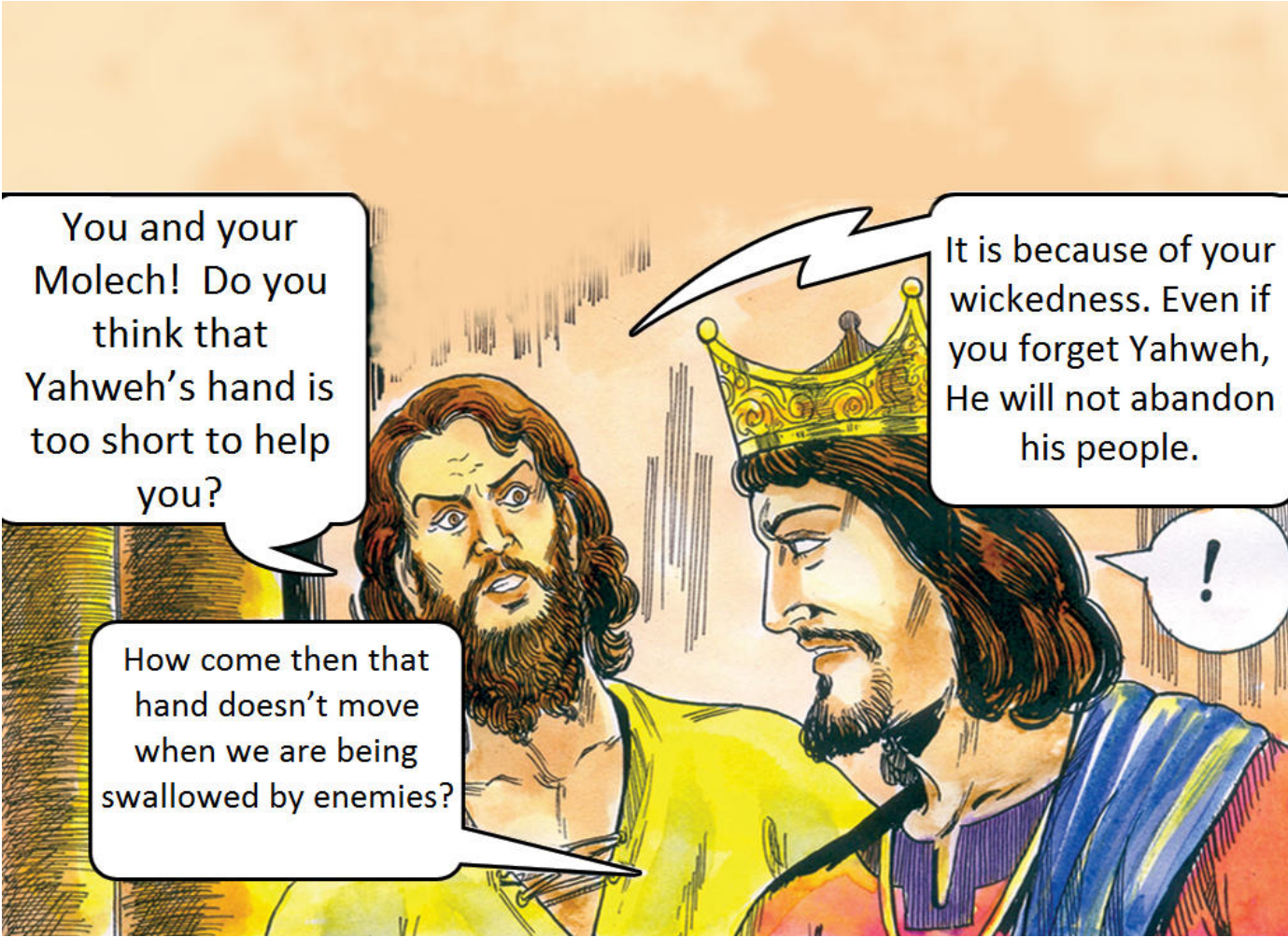


Yahweh sent Isaiah to Ahaz who was returning to his Palace.

Who told you to sacrifice your son?  
The Lord is displeased with what you did today.

We are being attacked from all sides. Who but the war-god Molech can help us.





You and your Molech! Do you think that Yahweh's hand is too short to help you?

How come then that hand doesn't move when we are being swallowed by enemies?

It is because of your wickedness. Even if you forget Yahweh, He will not abandon his people.

!

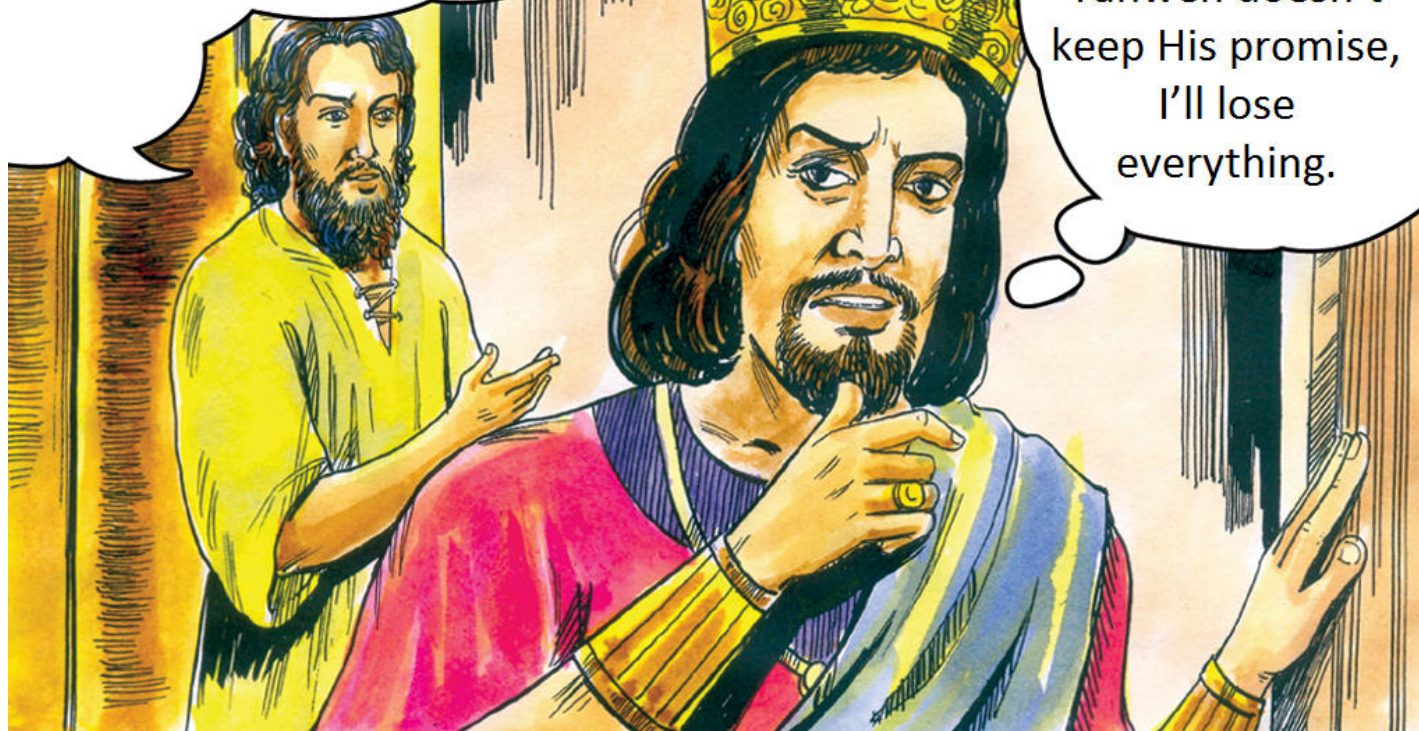
Do not be afraid.  
Pekah and Rezin are  
two smoldering logs.  
Soon, Yahweh will put  
them out.

Before that they will  
destroy Judah and  
capture Jerusalem.

No! Yahweh will not  
allow them to  
destroy His dwelling  
place.



If you are not convinced ask for a sign. You can ask for anything you want.

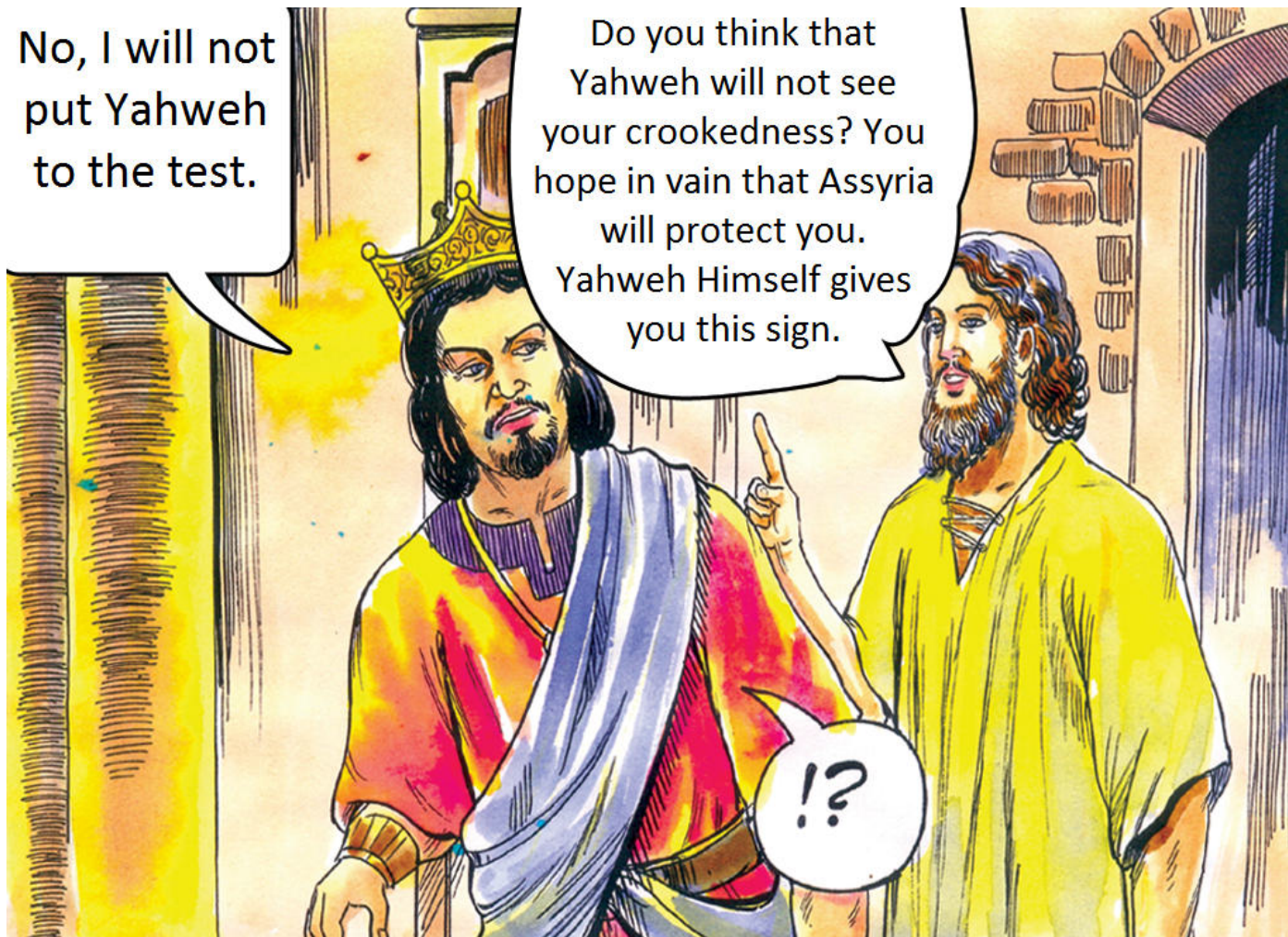


If I ask for and get a sign, I won't be able to seek help from Assyria. If Yahweh doesn't keep His promise, I'll lose everything.

No, I will not  
put Yahweh  
to the test.

Do you think that  
Yahweh will not see  
your crookedness? You  
hope in vain that Assyria  
will protect you.  
Yahweh Himself gives  
you this sign.

!?





The maiden is with the child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel. Before this child knows how to choose between good and evil, the land of those kings will be deserted.



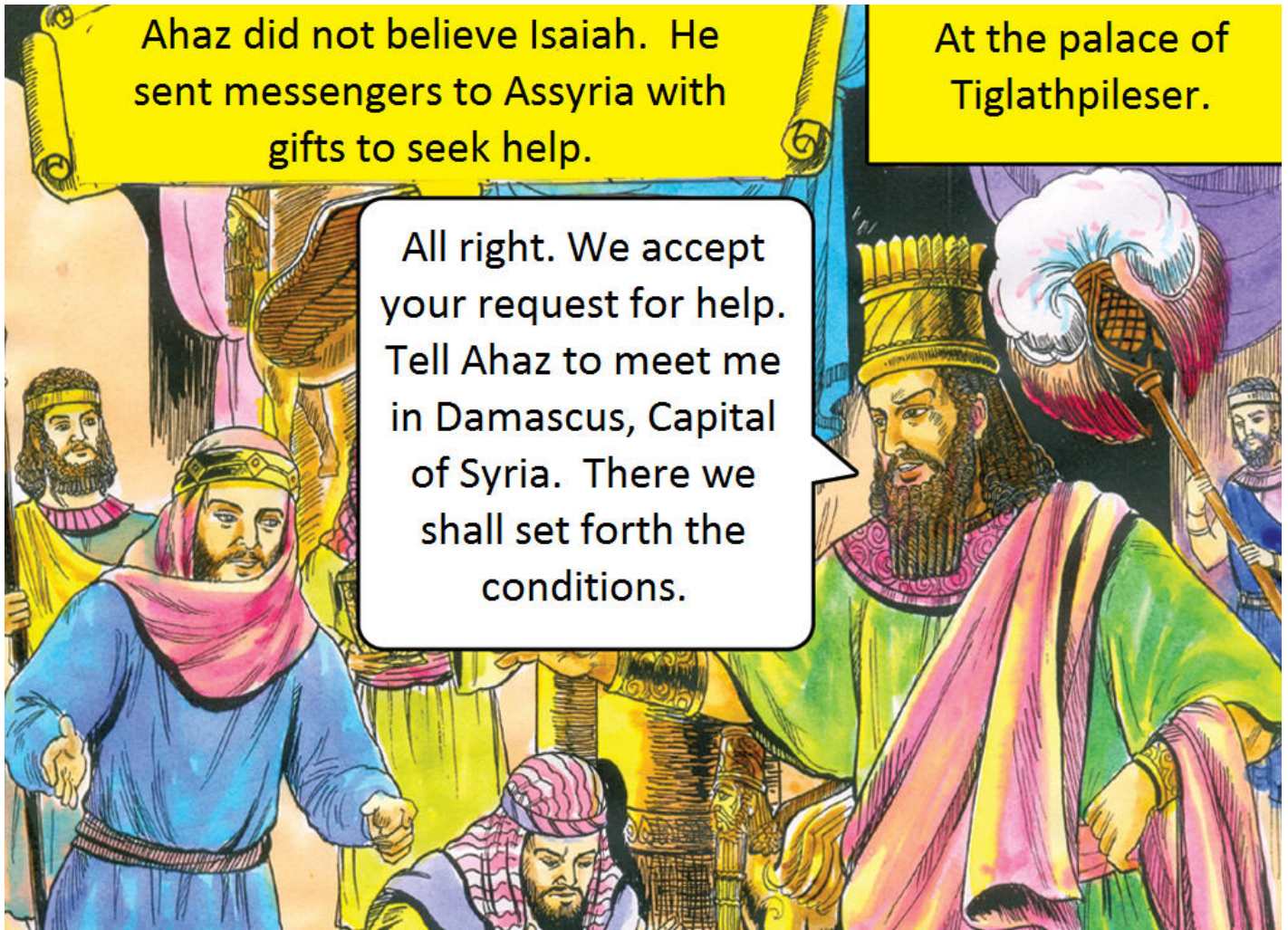
But, because of your wickedness, Assyria whom you trust now, will turn on you and attack Judah, still I will not abandon Jerusalem.



Ahaz did not believe Isaiah. He sent messengers to Assyria with gifts to seek help.

At the palace of Tiglathpileser.

All right. We accept your request for help. Tell Ahaz to meet me in Damascus, Capital of Syria. There we shall set forth the conditions.



From Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, the army marched to Syria.

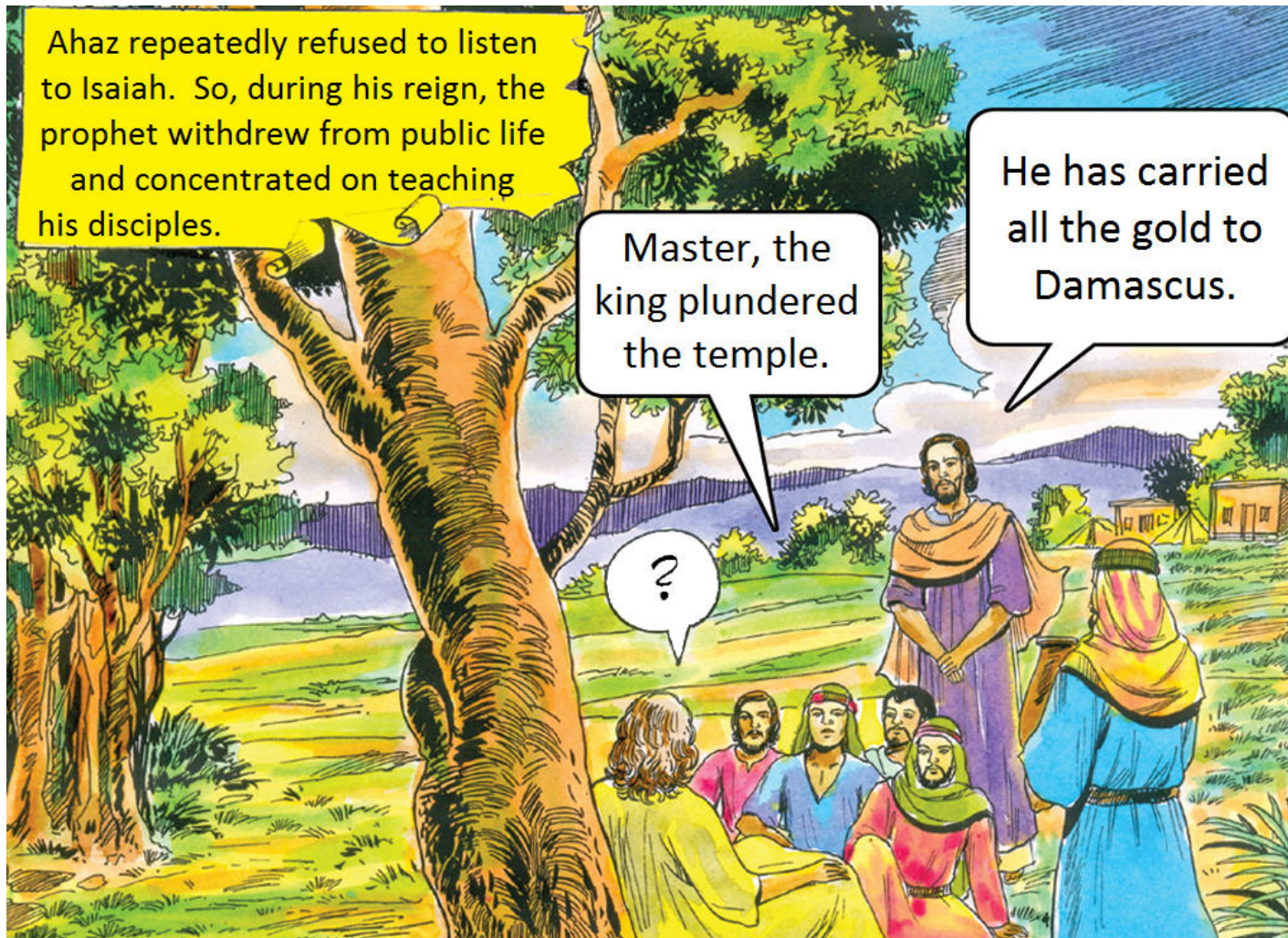


Ahaz repeatedly refused to listen to Isaiah. So, during his reign, the prophet withdrew from public life and concentrated on teaching his disciples.

Master, the king plundered the temple.

He has carried all the gold to Damascus.

?

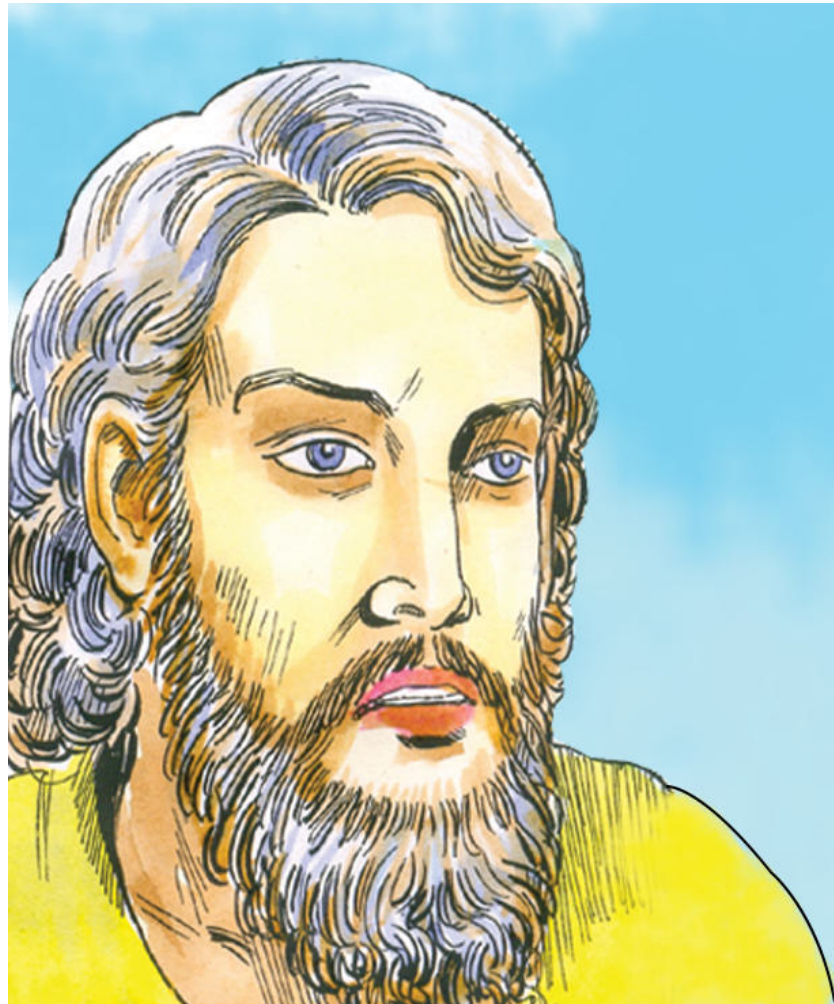


This treaty will ruin us.

Then why do you keep quiet.

This is a time to wait, my son.





Let us wait for the  
Lord who has  
turned His face  
from his people.

Hearing that Tiglathphileasar had invaded Syria, the allied forces withdrew from Jerusalem. Ahaz came to Damascus to meet Tiglathphileasar who had already conquered Syria.

You must make an altar like this in Jerusalem and offer daily sacrifice to god Assur.





You shall pay a hundred talents of gold and a thousand talents of silver as tribute to Assyria. Then you can live in peace.

Sure M'Lord. It is peace that we need. Kindly help us to regain the land we lost to the Edomites and the Philistines.

That will be taken into consideration in time.



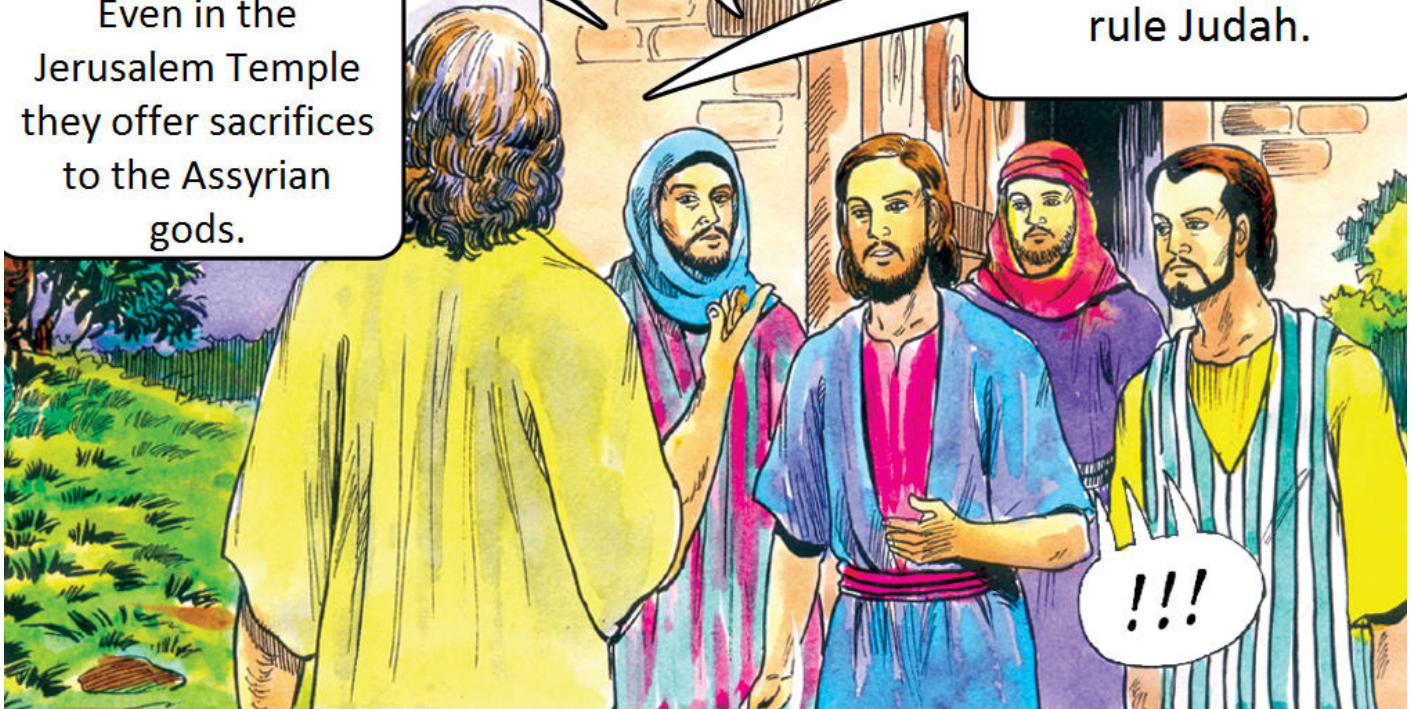
Though the enemies withdrew,  
Judah lost her independence.

Isaiah with his disciples:

Master, the land is  
filled with Idols.  
Even in the  
Jerusalem Temple  
they offer sacrifices  
to the Assyrian  
gods.

In order to pay the  
tribute, they are  
squeezing the life  
blood out of the poor.

Ahaz's days are  
numbered. After  
him, a just king will  
rule Judah.





A son is born for us. A son is given to us. He will rule the land with justice. The spirit of the Lord will lead him and he will be kind to the poor.

People have forgotten  
Yahweh. Molech and  
Assur have taken His  
place.

As the water swell  
the sea, so the  
country will be filled  
with the knowledge  
of Yahweh.




[Ahaz died in 716 B.C. and his son, Hezekiah became king. A new chapter opened in Isaiah's life.]

### Isaiah at the Palace

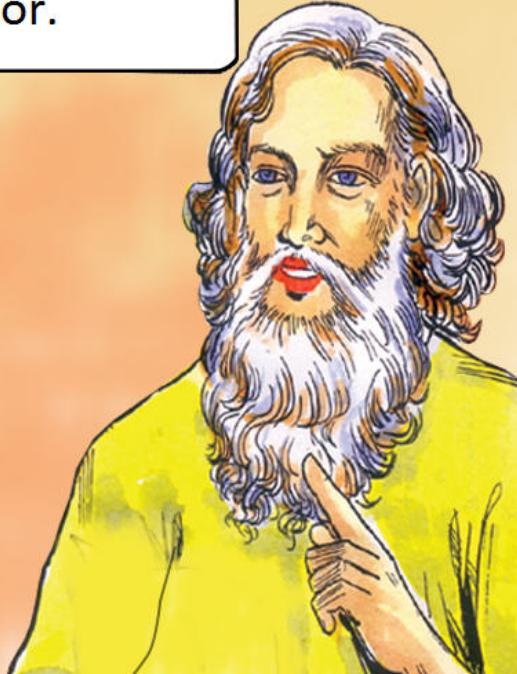
Master, welcome I am grateful for your presence in my house.

Peace to you, my son. I am happy to be at your service.






My Father did what is  
displeasing to  
Yahweh. The country  
is ruined. What  
shall I do?



Trust in the Lord,  
destroy the idols, and  
give justice to the  
poor.

A comic book illustration of a man with a crown and a speech bubble. The man is shown from the chest up, wearing a yellow crown with a scalloped edge and a red and yellow patterned garment. He has dark hair, a mustache, and a goatee. He is looking slightly to the right with a slight smile. A white speech bubble with a black border is positioned to the right of his head, containing the text "Master, I will need your support." The background is a blurred mix of blue and yellow.

Master, I will  
need your  
support.

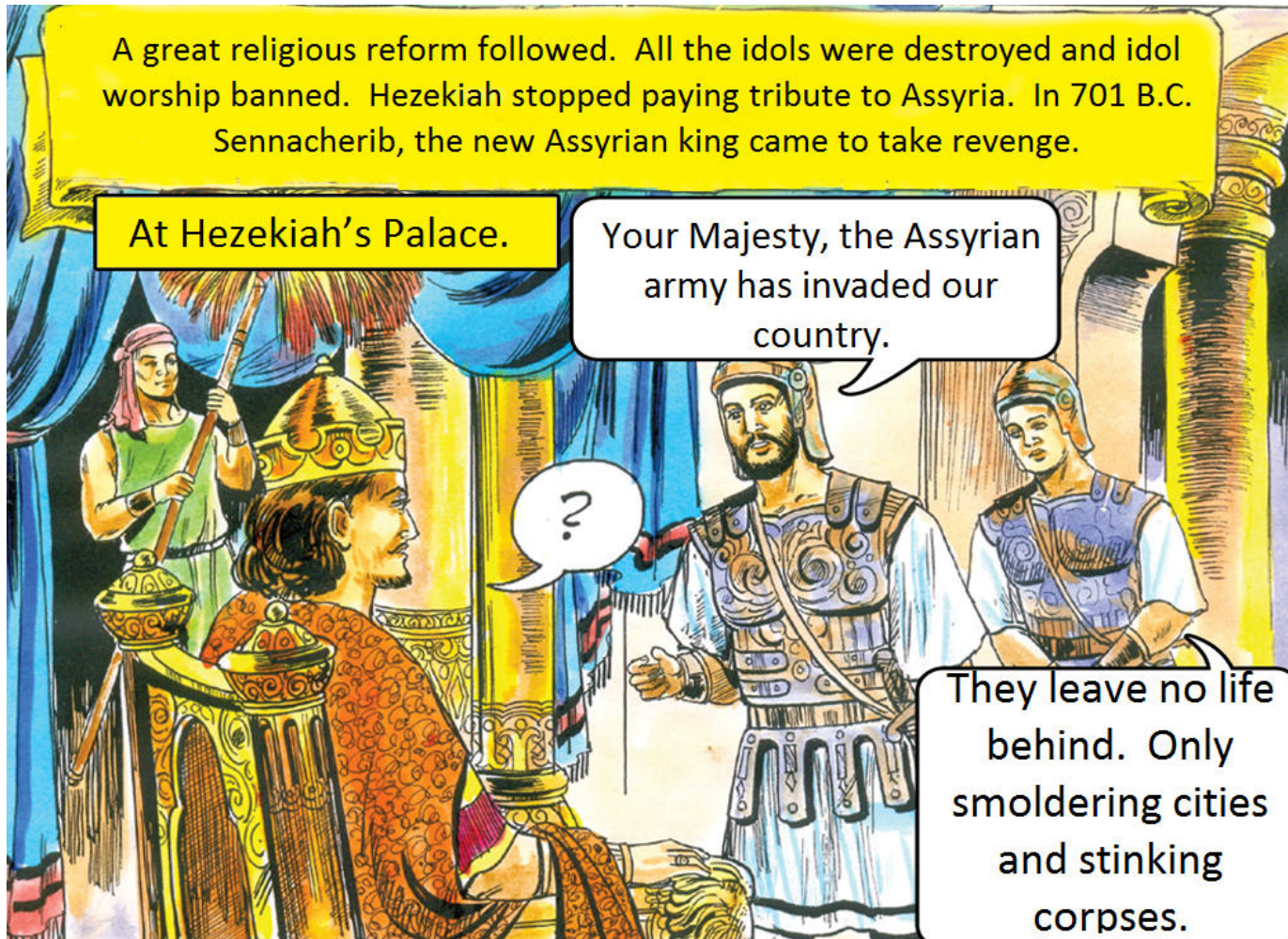
A great religious reform followed. All the idols were destroyed and idol worship banned. Hezekiah stopped paying tribute to Assyria. In 701 B.C. Sennacherib, the new Assyrian king came to take revenge.

At Hezekiah's Palace.

Your Majesty, the Assyrian army has invaded our country.

?


They leave no life behind. Only smoldering cities and stinking corpses.





Sennacherib boasts that he will destroy Jerusalem as Saragon II destroyed Samaria. We have no choice but seek the help of Egypt and Ethiopia.






Before that we must  
consult Prophet  
Isaiah.

He has become  
insane. He is going  
around naked.

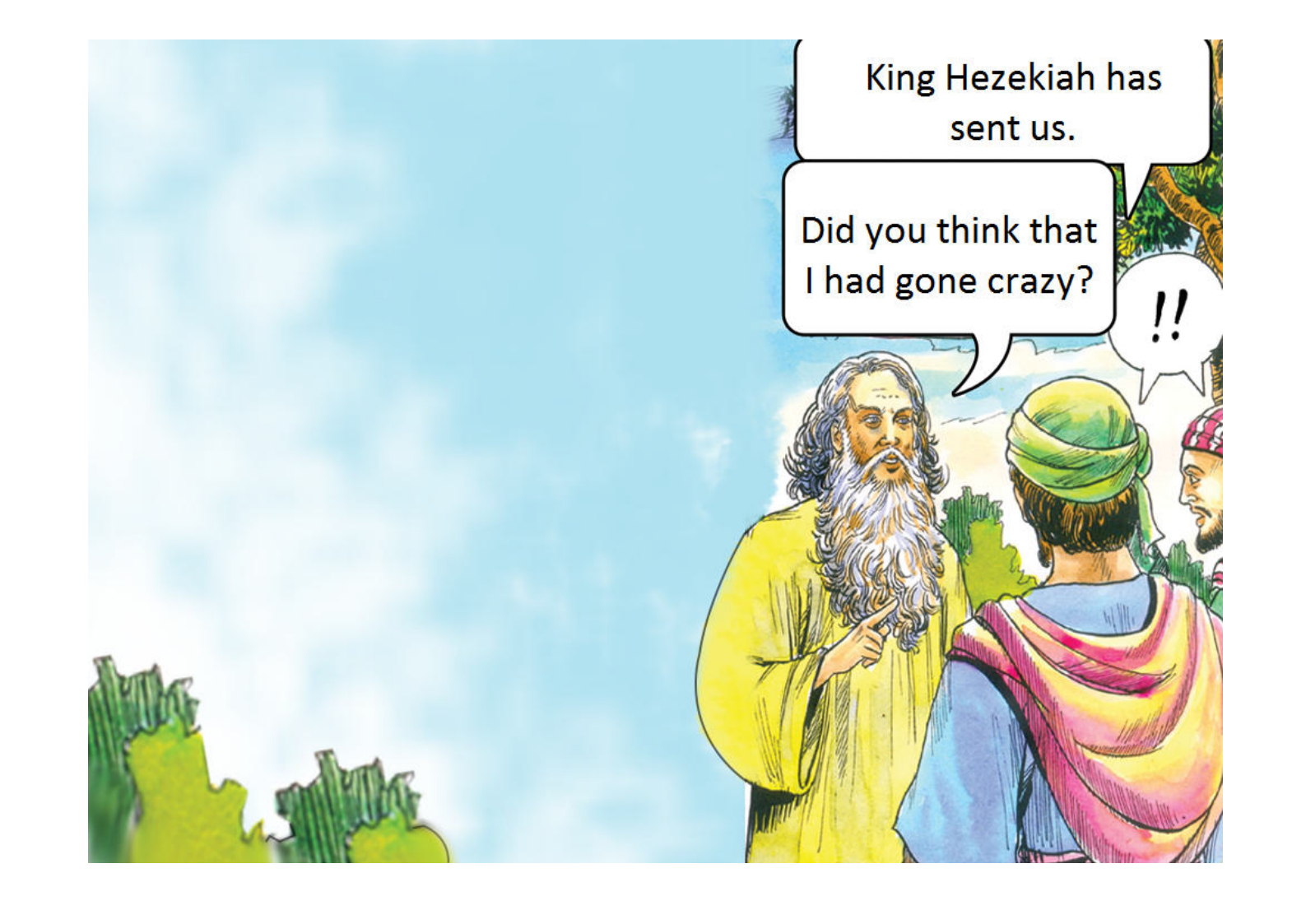
All the same  
go and  
consult him.

!!



**Isaiah, get up and  
put your clothes on.  
Hezekiah's men are  
coming to seek your  
advice. Say to  
them....**

**!**



King Hezekiah has sent us.

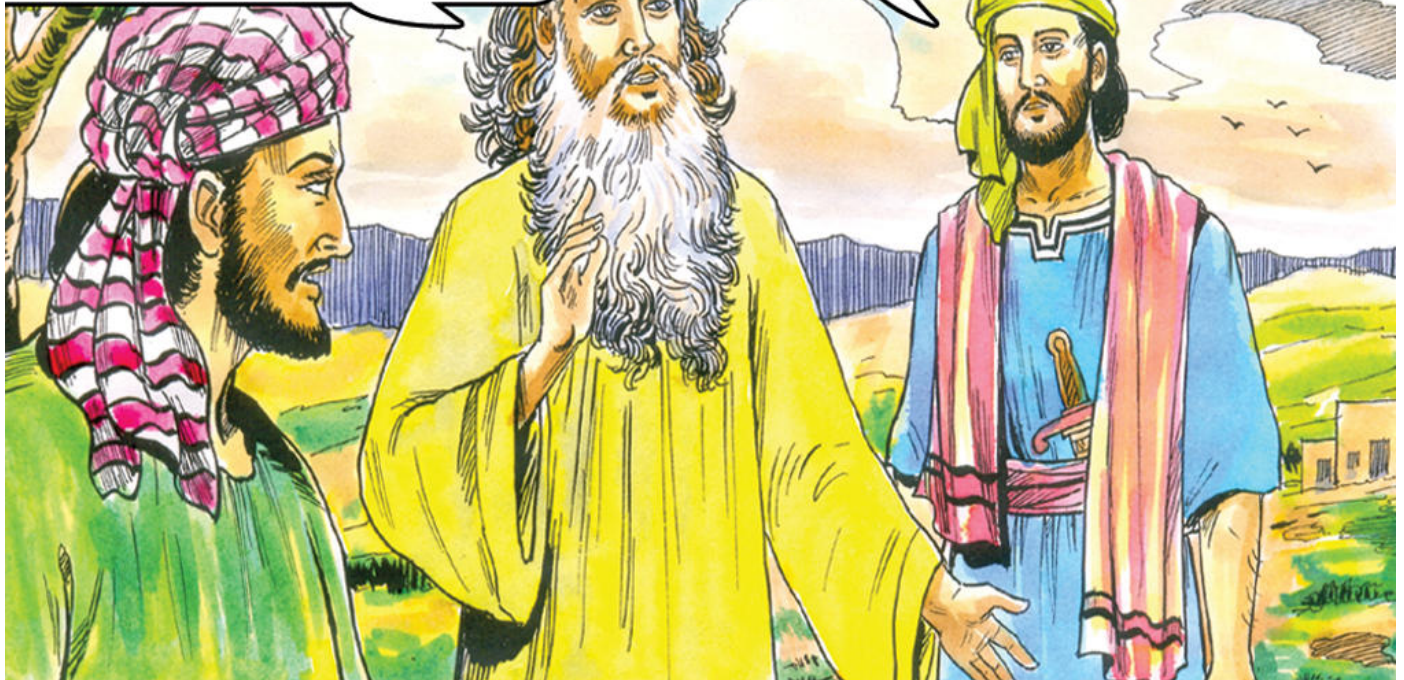
Did you think that I had gone crazy?

!!

You want to rely on Egypt and Ethiopia? As I went around naked these people will be stripped and exiled to Assyria.

What shall we do?

Fear not, Yahweh will protect you.



Within a few months the Assyrian army devastated most of the towns of Judah and reached the gate of Jerusalem. Hezekiah sent messengers with request for peace treaty to the Assyrian Commander who had already laid siege to Jerusalem.



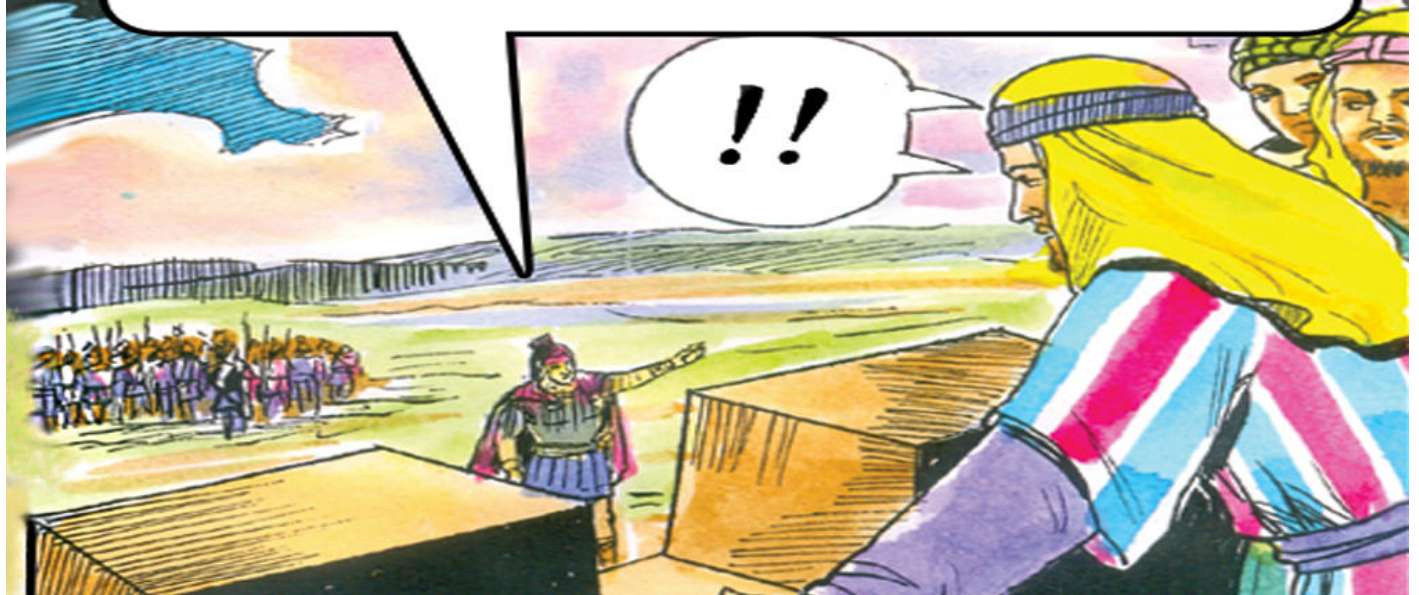
!!!?

Say to Hezekiah how dare you to defy the great king of Assyria.

I will give you two thousand horses. Can you find enough men to ride them? Open the gates and surrender. If not, we will knock down the walls.



Is it not your own God who sent us to  
punish you for demolishing the Altars?  
Surrender! You can have a  
better life in Assyria.





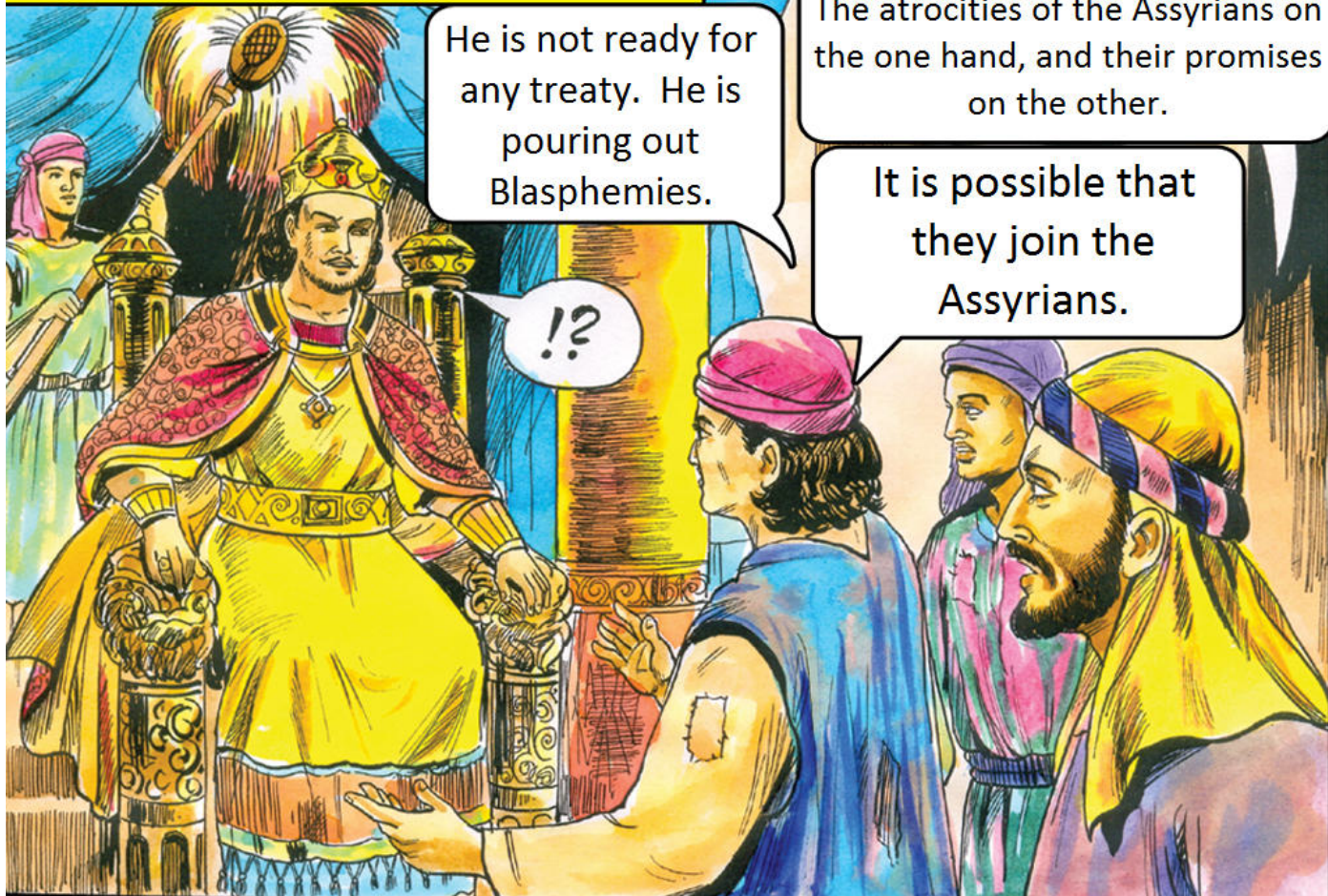
Messengers returned to Hezekiah.


He is not ready for any treaty. He is pouring out Blasphemies.

!?

The people are in a dilemma. The atrocities of the Assyrians on the one hand, and their promises on the other.

It is possible that they join the Assyrians.



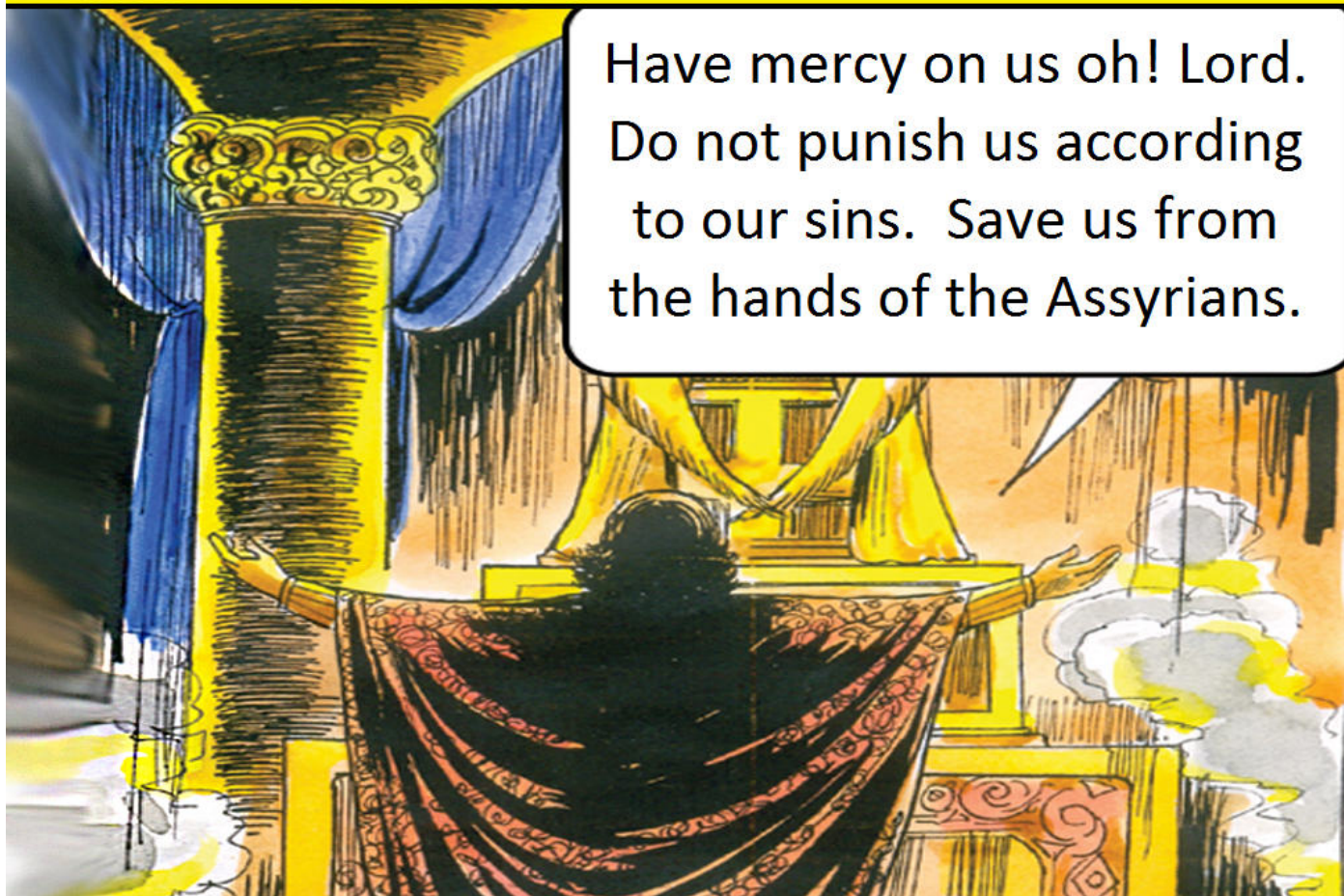


Oh! Lord.

??!

Hezekiah in the Temple, before the Ark of the Covenant.

Have mercy on us oh! Lord.  
Do not punish us according  
to our sins. Save us from  
the hands of the Assyrians.



Yahweh sent Isaiah to Hezekiah.

Master, we are  
lost.

Do not be  
afraid,  
Yahweh  
says:



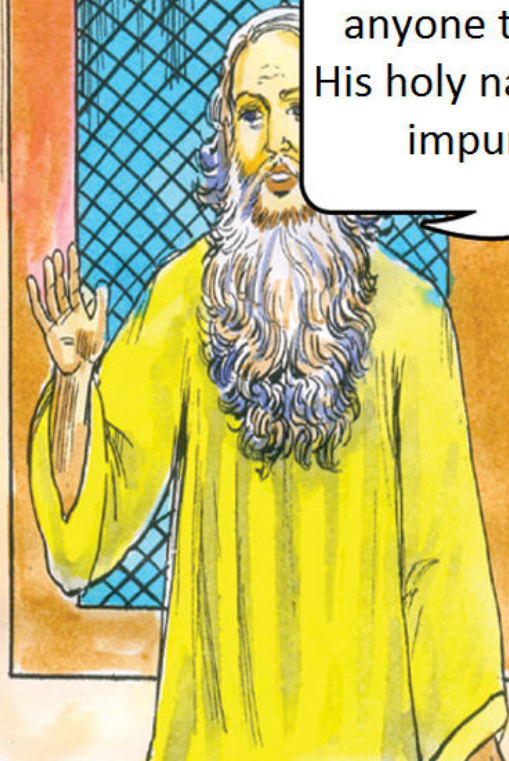
Assyria was a rod I used to  
punish Judah for her sins.  
But, because of Assyria's  
pride and exceeding cruelty  
I'll destroy her.



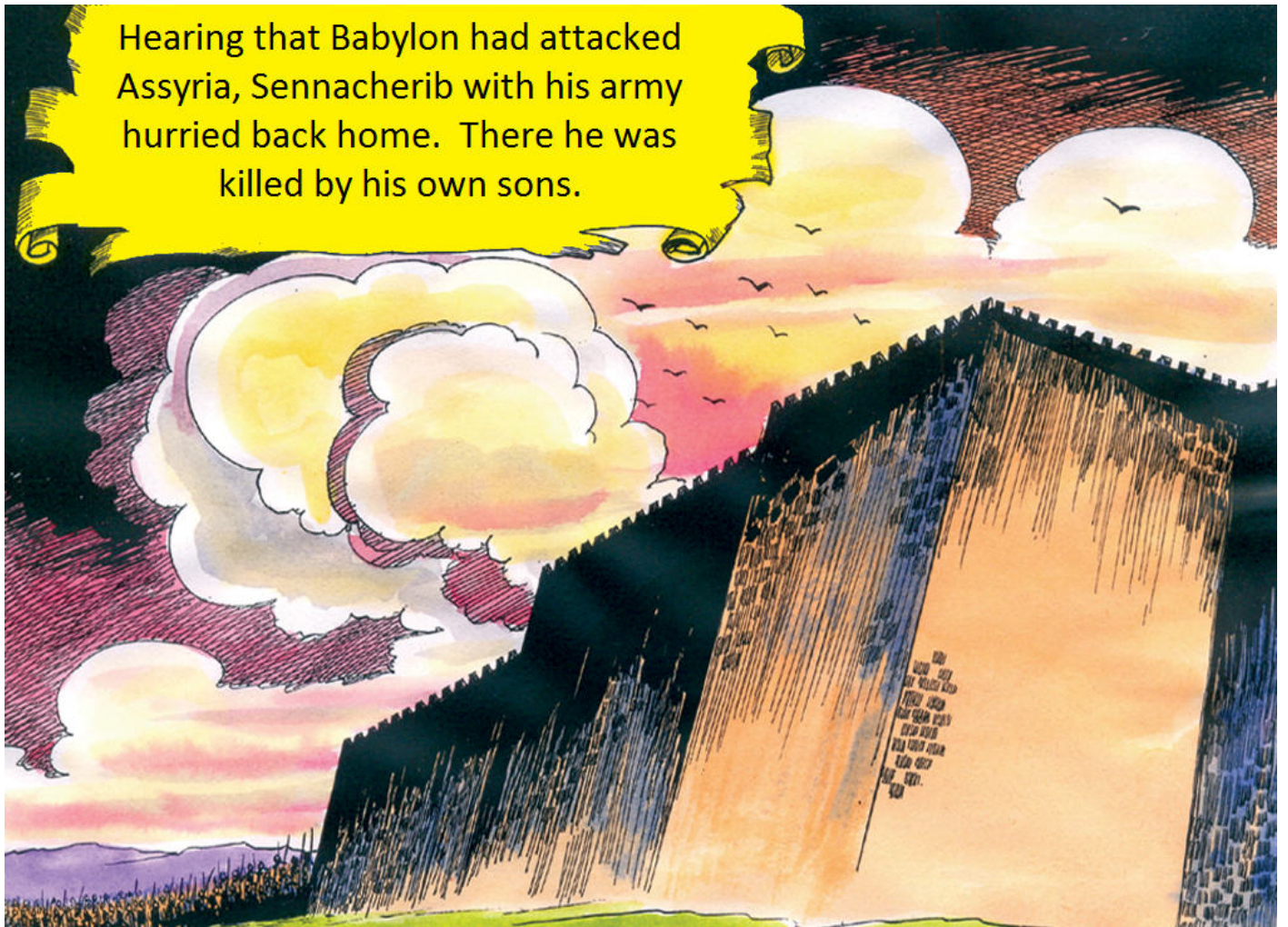
The Assyrians are trying to pull down the walls. We hardly have any food and water left.



The Assyrian army will not be here tomorrow. Yahweh won't let anyone to insult His holy name with impunity.



Hearing that Babylon had attacked Assyria, Sennacherib with his army hurried back home. There he was killed by his own sons.

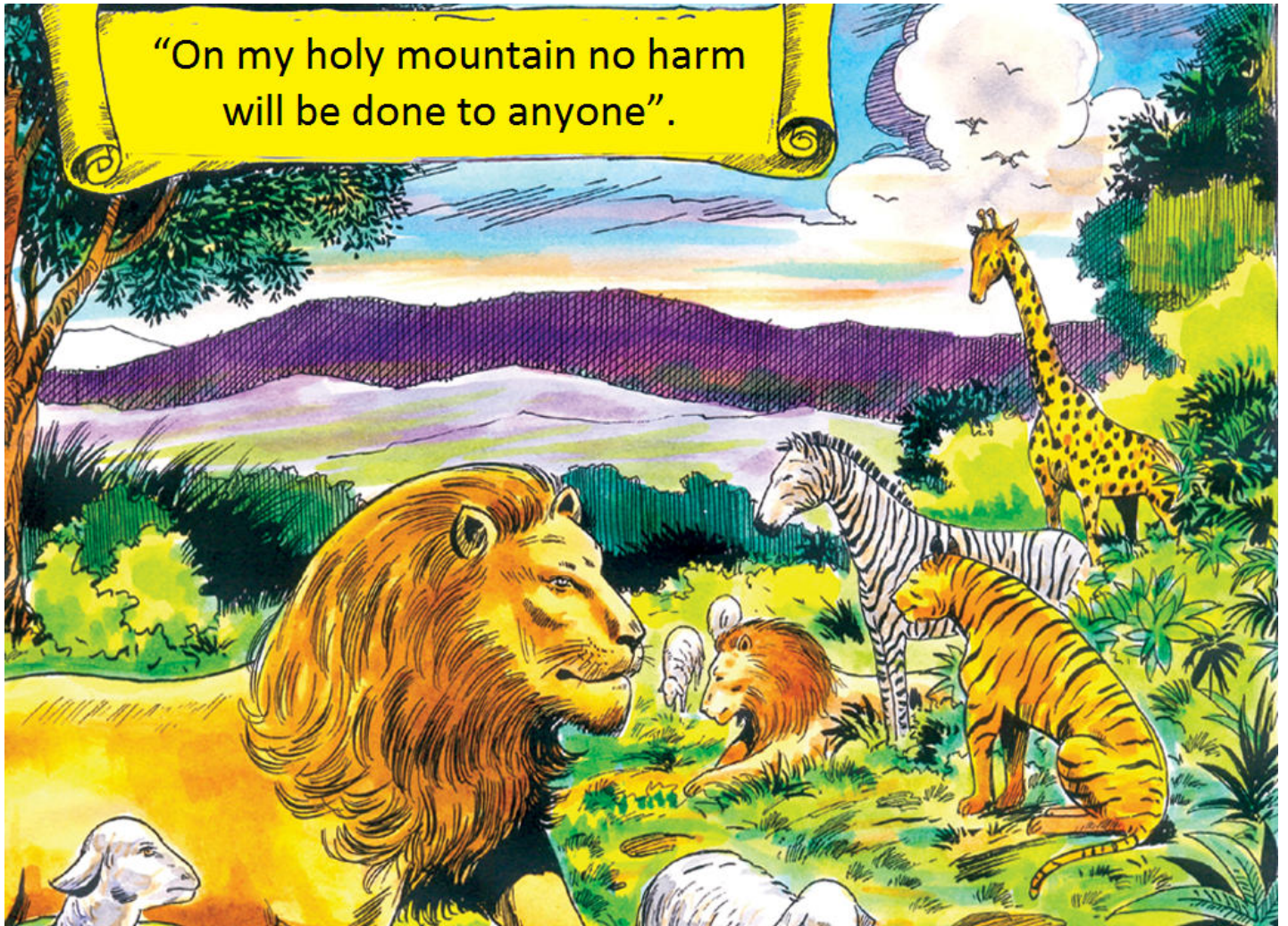


They will hammer their  
swords into plough shares,  
their spears into sickles.  
There will be no more war.





“On my holy mountain no harm  
will be done to anyone”.



After the death of Hezekiah, his son Manasse became king. According to the Jewish tradition, Isaiah was brutally killed by that wicked king. After a hundred years, Israel faced a decisive moment in her history. The people abandoned Yahweh. The rulers became corrupt to the core. The mighty army of Babylon marched into Jerusalem. The Temple of Yahweh was reduced to ashes. In the midst of this disaster, bearing the agony, there stood a Prophet alone against the nation.

Next Story

# Jeremiah

# Questions

1. What is the meaning of the name “Isaiah”?
2. What awareness did Isaiah gain from his vision in the temple?
3. Why does God detest sacrifices and festivals?
4. What must be done to reconcile with God?
5. Narrate the parable of the vineyard Isaiah told the people in your own words.
6. State the context of the Immanuel prophecy.
7. Why did King Ahaz refuse to ask for a sign?
8. Name the Assyrian king who besieged Jerusalem.
9. According to Isaiah how can we attain lasting peace?
10. Compare and contrast between Isaiah and Micah

Memorize: *Seek Justice, help the oppressed; defend the orphans, plead for widows.*

# 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