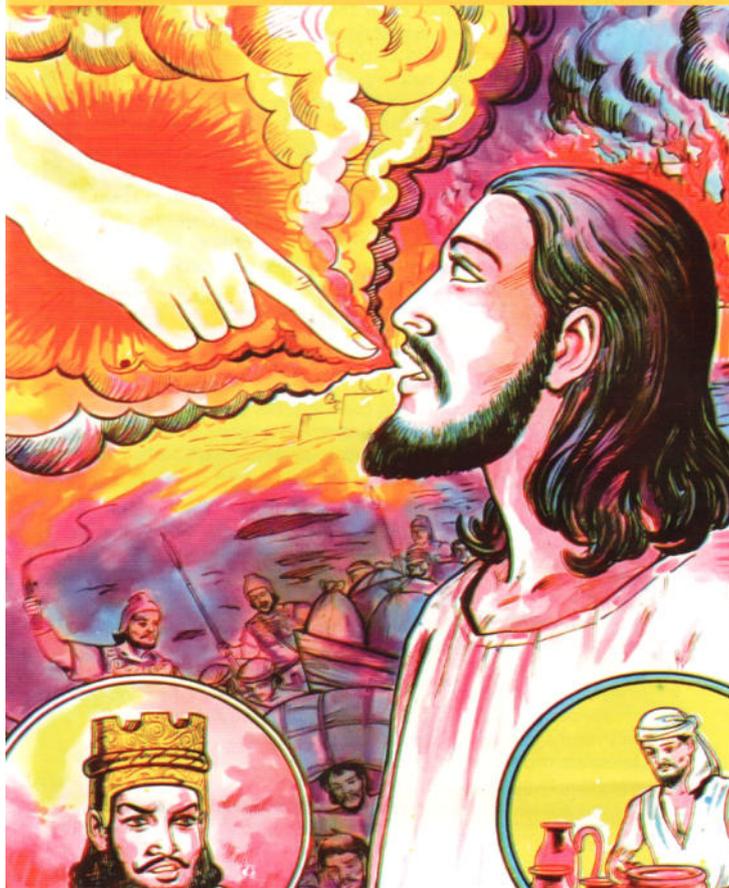


BIBLE COMICS -19

# JEREMIAH



Bible Comics – 19  
Broken for the nation

# Jeremiah

Script  
Rev. Dr. Michael Karimattam

Illustration  
Benny & Devassy

# JEREMIAH

The second half of the seventh century B.C. witnessed a rapid succession of empires in the Mesopotamian world. The tiny kingdom of Judah was seriously affected by the changes on the international arena of power politics. Within less than half a century she was successively brought under the yoke of three empires namely, Assyria, Egypt and

Babylon. Finally she was destroyed by the short sighted moves of imprudent leaders.

The fact that Assyrian army was miraculously routed at the gates of Jerusalem during the time of the prophet Isaiah, convinced the people that the Lord would always protect them. Even after violating all the commandments of the covenant, they believed to be able to please the Lord by sacrifices and feasts. The promise to David concerning the dynastic succession was taken

as unconditional and irrevocable. Moral corruption on the one hand and a false sense of security on the other blinded the people to the impending disaster.

At that crucial time Yahweh sent an array of mighty prophets such as Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakuk, and Ezekiel to Judah. Jeremiah was the greatest of them all. His prophetic ministry started in 626 B.C. and lasted over forty years, covering the reigns of the last five kings of Judah, namely Josiah,

Jehoahaz, Jehojachim, Jehojachin and Zedekiah.

Jeremiah was entrusted with a difficult mission. He was called by Yahweh to tear up and knock down the false sense of security, to overthrow the corrupt religious and political systems, and to build up a new people that would be faithful to the Covenant. In carrying out this mission Jeremiah had to stand all alone against the whole nation.

His preaching against the blind trust in the temple was taken for blasphemy. When Jeremiah denounced the corrupt religious and political leadership he was branded as a revolutionary. When he advised the people to surrender to the Babylonians as the only means of survival he was treated as a traitor and a spy. Yet, Jeremiah was convinced from the very beginning that Yahweh was going to punish his people for their infidelity. His heart broke at the sight of the disaster coming

upon his people and he wept bitterly. But no one took him seriously.

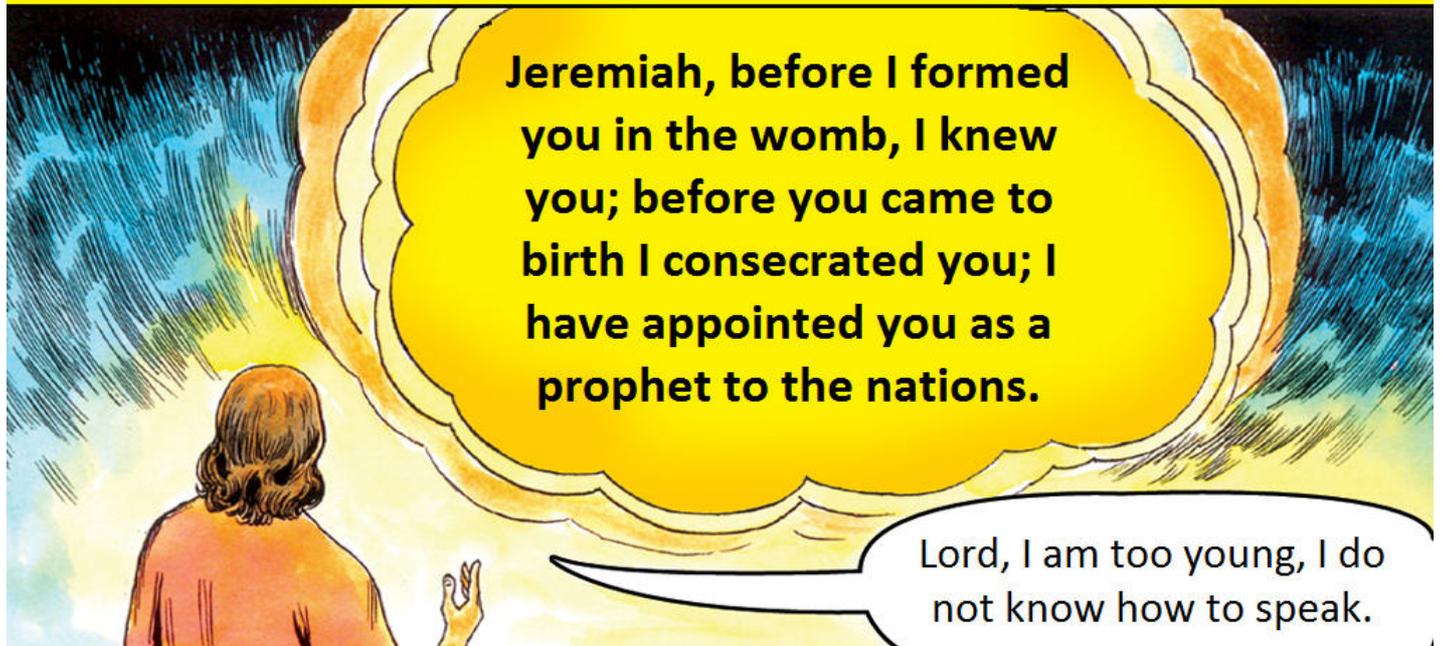
Jeremiah was destined to live in utter loneliness. Misunderstood and ridiculed, rejected and maltreated, he often reached the verge of despair. Not even from Yahweh did he receive any consolation. He lived long enough to witness all the disasters he predicted befalling his people; but he did not see their restoration. Far away from the Promised Land he died in Egypt, the land of

slavery. During his life time Jeremiah was a failure. But after the disaster his prophecies made the people repent and return to Yahweh with hope. The promise of a new covenant written upon the hearts of the people played a decisive role in the messianic expectations of the people of Israel.

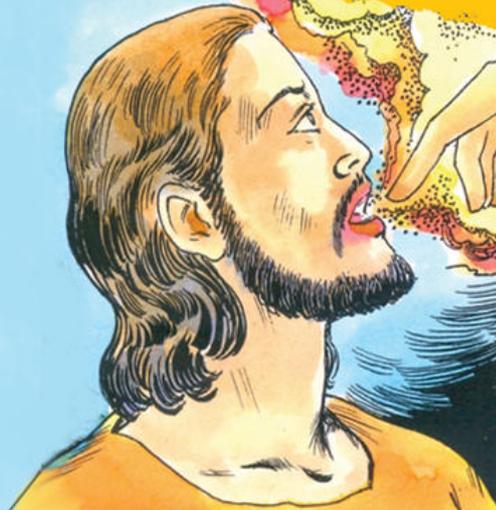
Jeremiah was filled with the Spirit and equipped with the word of God in order to carry out his difficult task. Even in the midst of persecution, he remained faithful to his

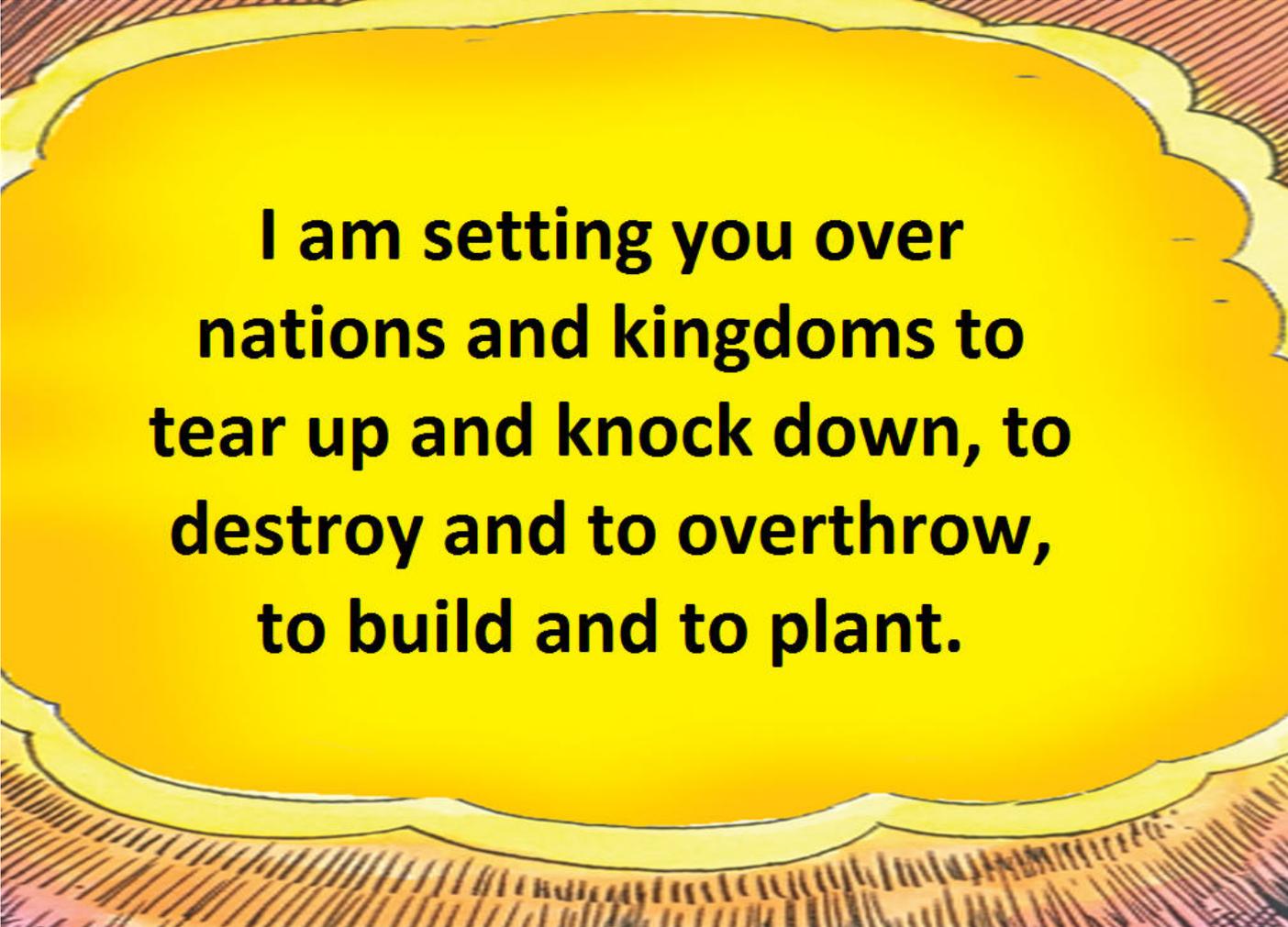
call. He carried the pain and sorrow of his people and was broken for the nation. In this he prefigured Jesus Christ who took upon himself the sin of the world and liberated the mankind. The new covenant of which Jeremiah spoke was fulfilled in Jesus' death on the cross.

In 626 B.C. Nebopolassar became king of Babylon. He declared independence from Assyria who had kept Babylon as a vassal country for a long time. It was the thirteenth year of king Josiah's rule in Jerusalem. That year Jeremiah, son of Hilkiah, a priest in Anathoth received his Prophetic call.

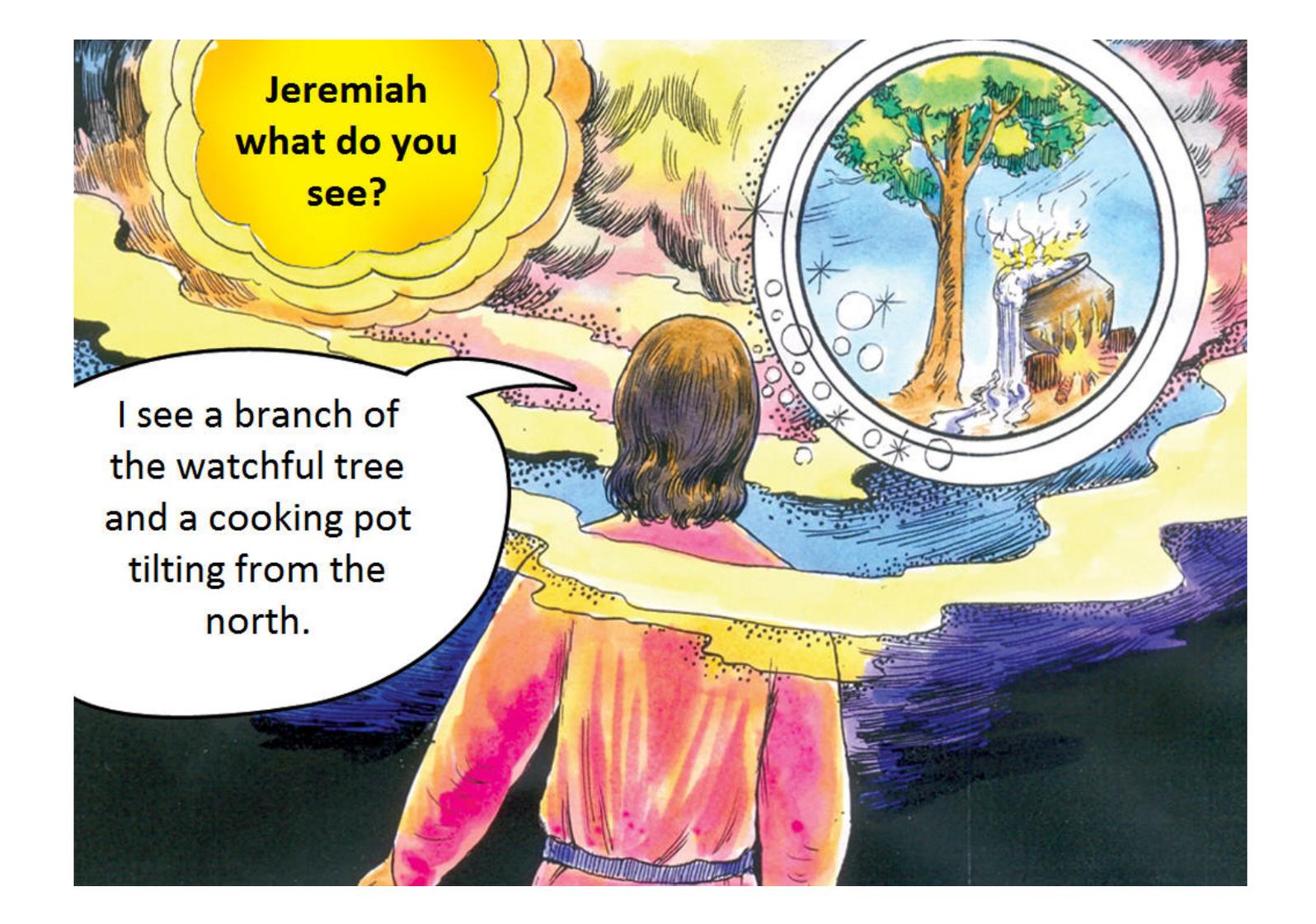


**Do not say that you are too young. You must go where I send you and say whatever I command you. I am putting my words into your mouth.**





**I am setting you over  
nations and kingdoms to  
tear up and knock down, to  
destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant.**



**Jeremiah  
what do you  
see?**

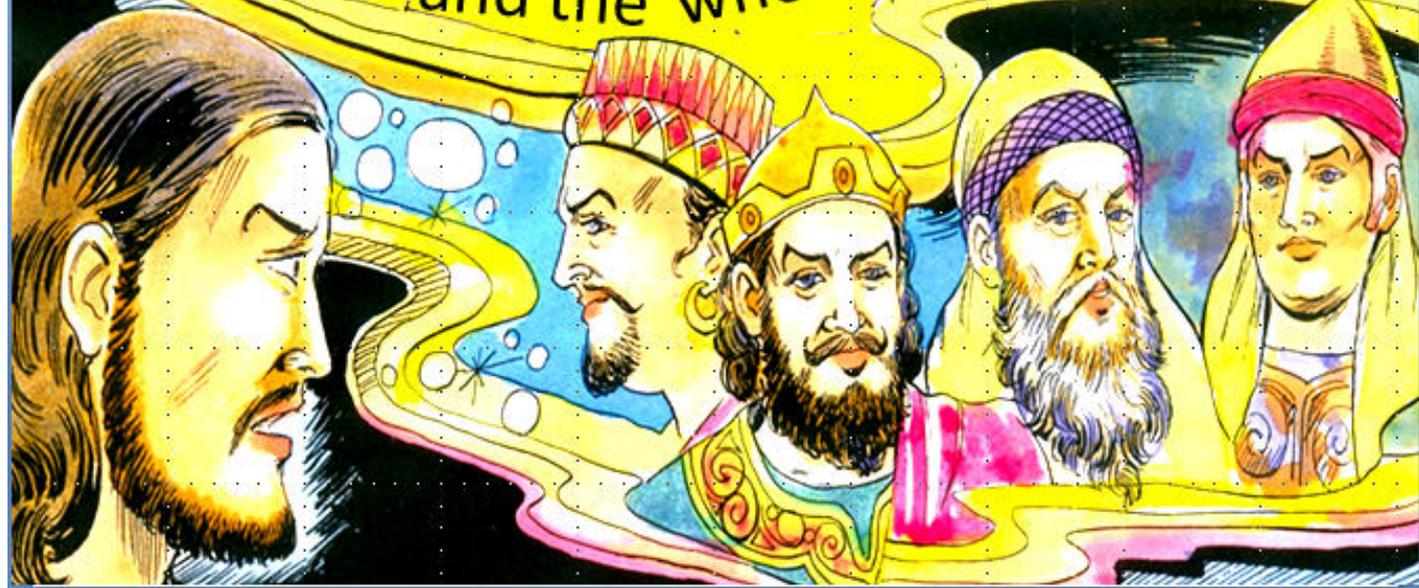
I see a branch of  
the watchful tree  
and a cooking pot  
tilting from the  
north.

**Right, I too watch  
over my word to  
see it fulfilled.  
Disaster is boiling  
over from the  
north to destroy  
the land.**



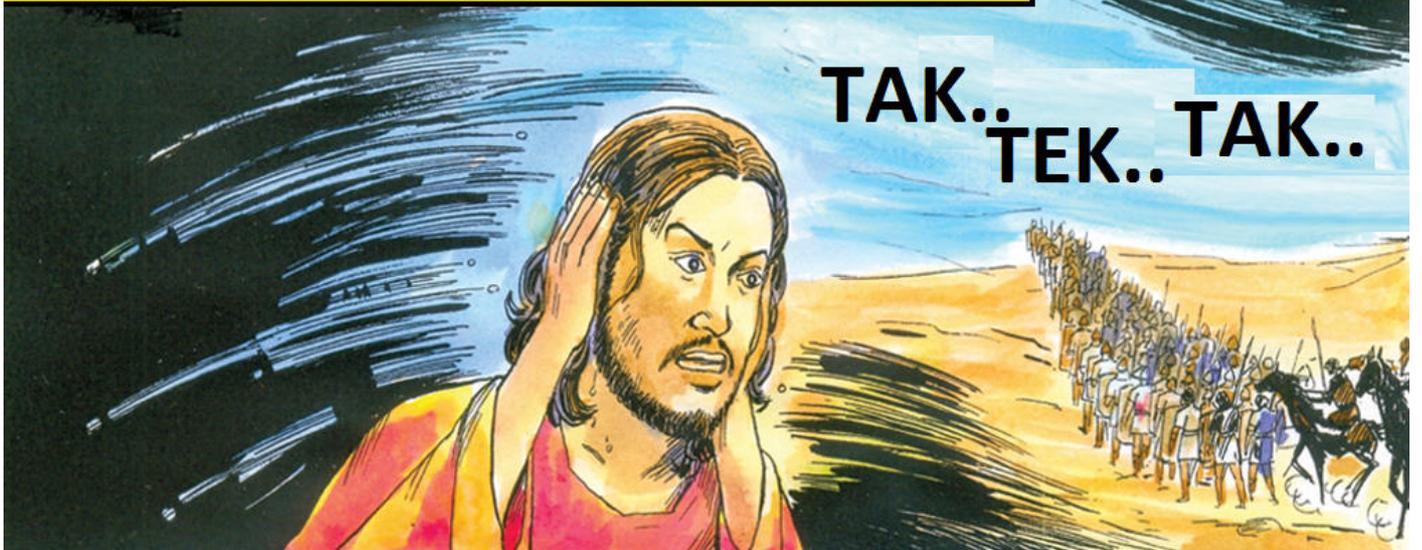
**!?**

Do not be afraid. I will make you strong.  
You will be like a fortified city, a pillar of iron  
and a wall of bronze against kings and princes  
and the whole nation.

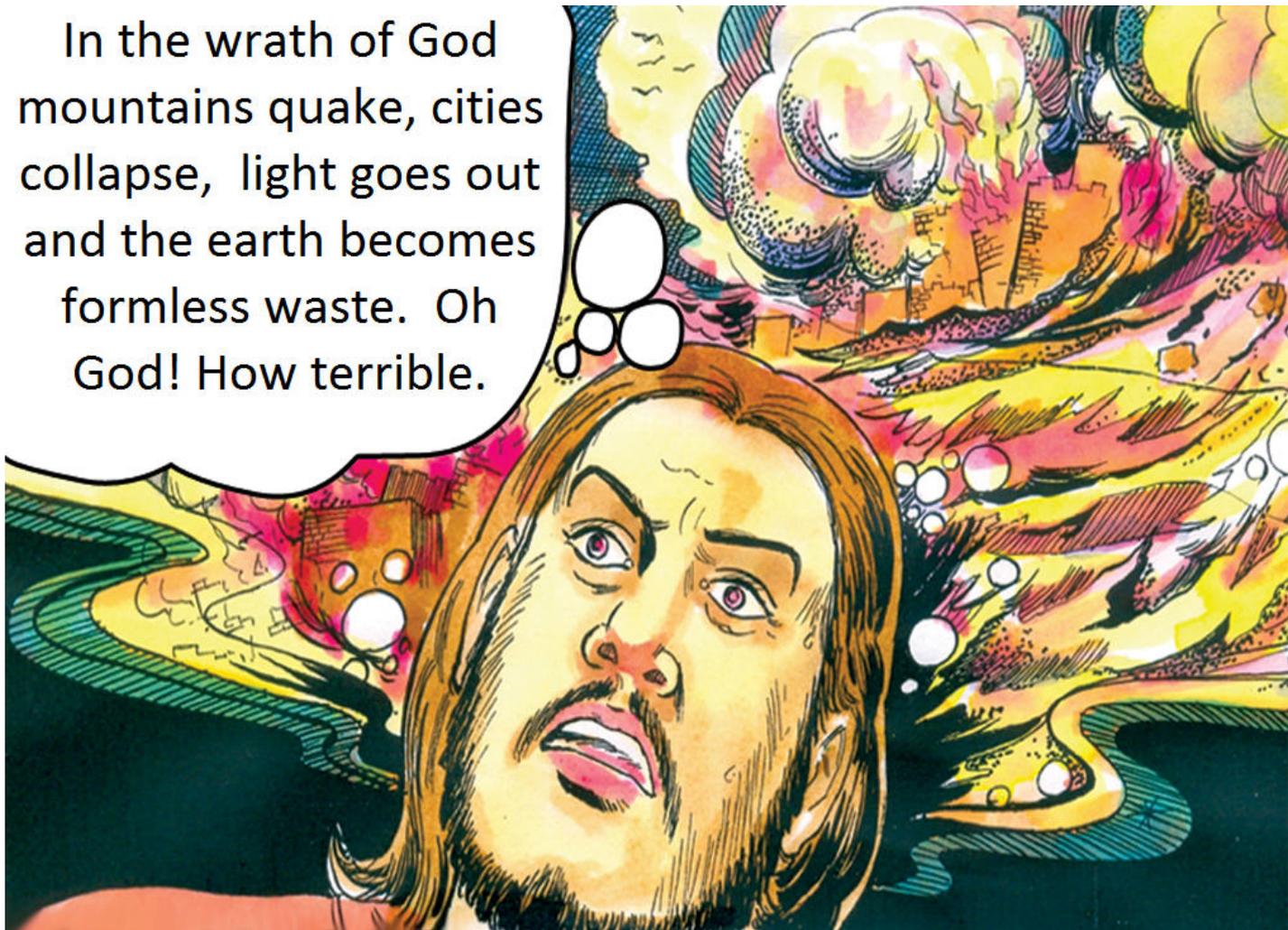


During the following days Jeremiah was tormented by strange sounds and visions.

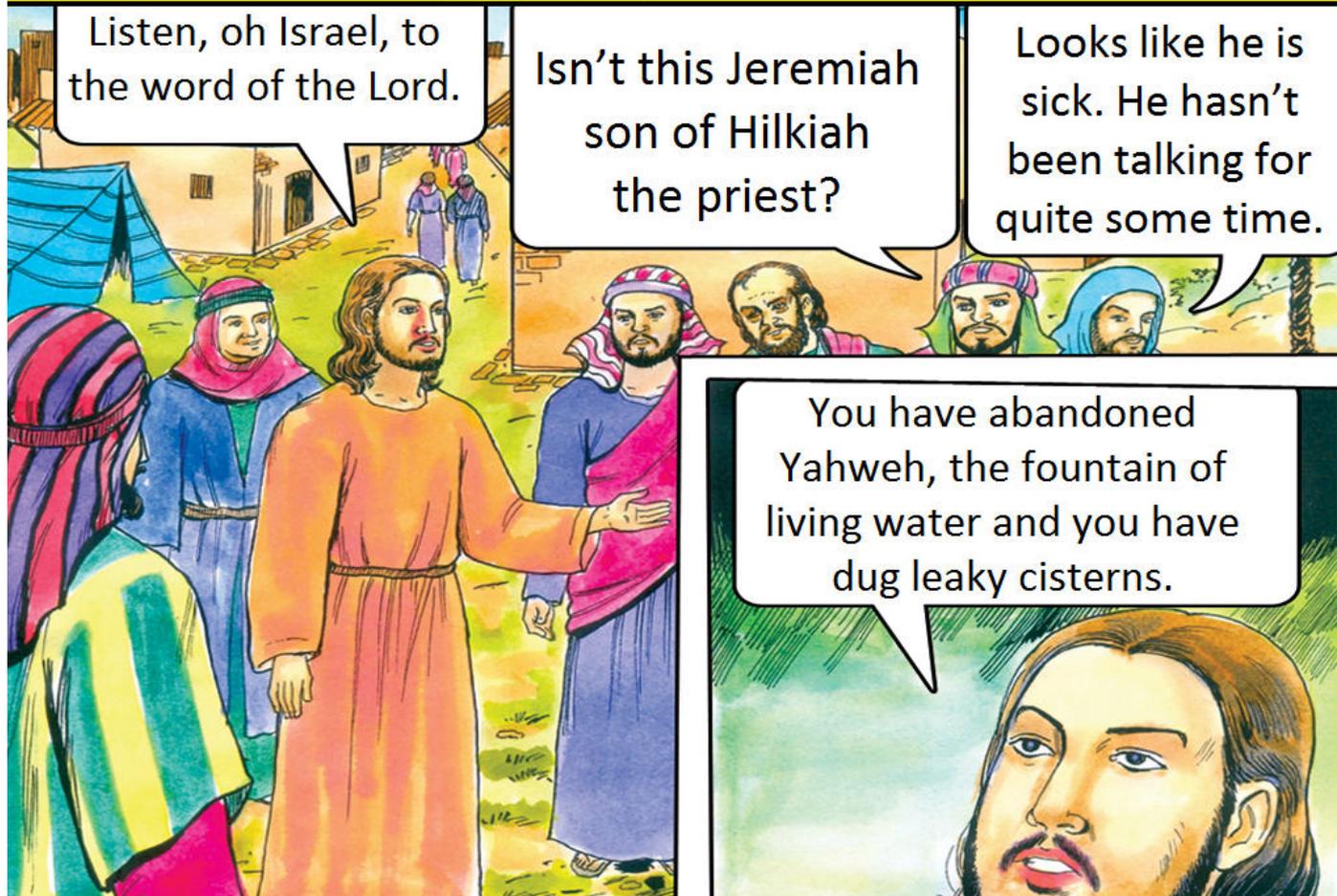
**TAK..  
TEK.. TAK..**



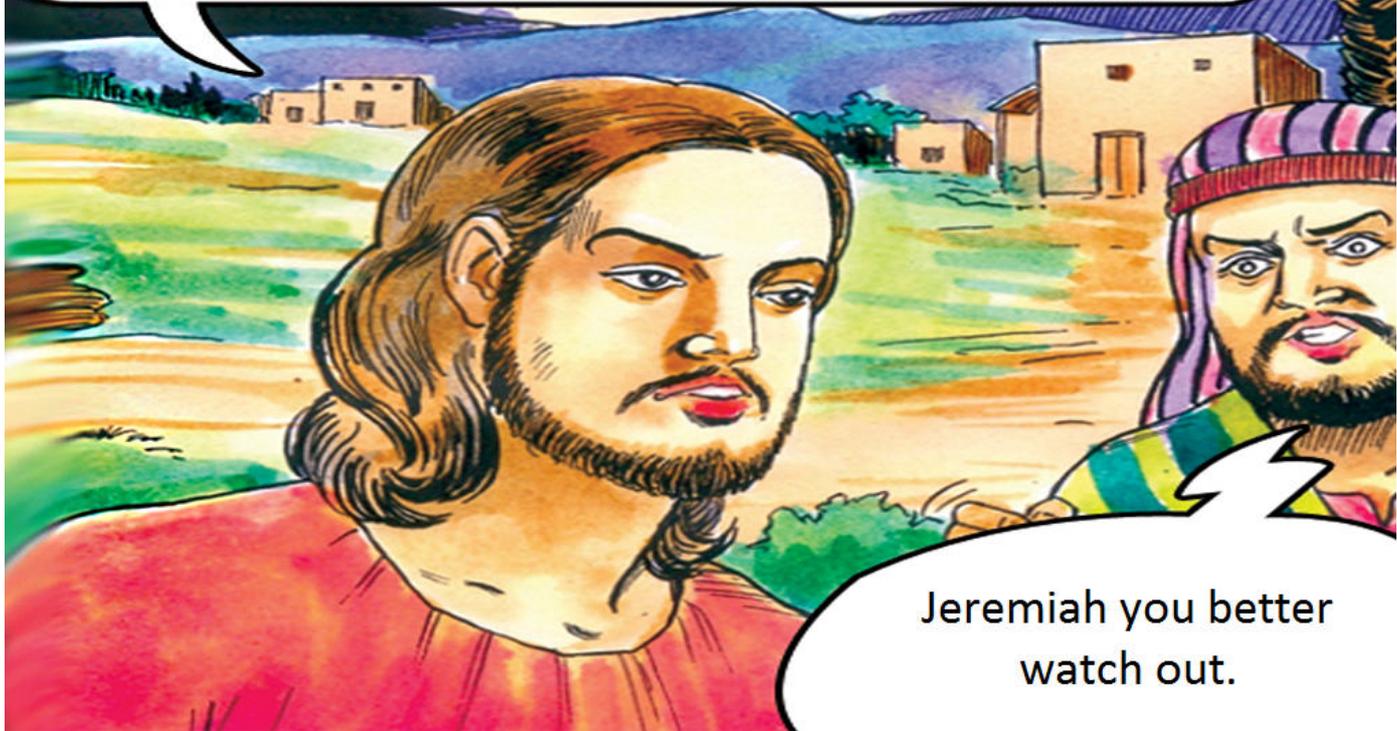
In the wrath of God mountains quake, cities collapse, light goes out and the earth becomes formless waste. Oh God! How terrible.



## Jeremiah begins his prophetic mission at Anathoth.

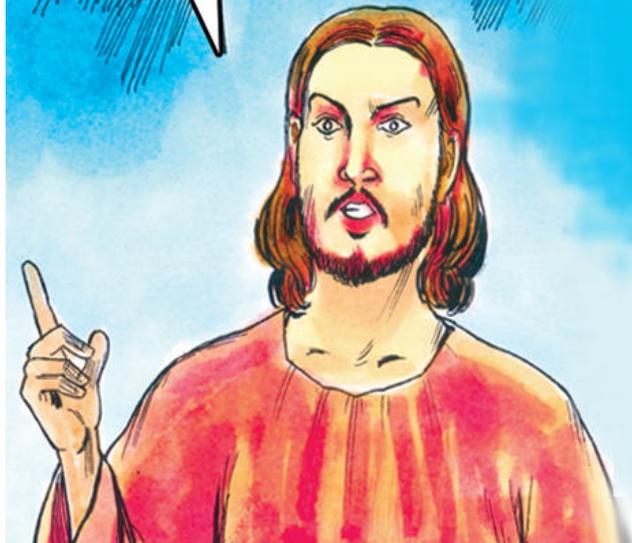


Your rulers abandoned Yahweh, your prophets spoke in the name of Baal, your priests offered sacrifices for a bribe.



Jeremiah you better watch out.

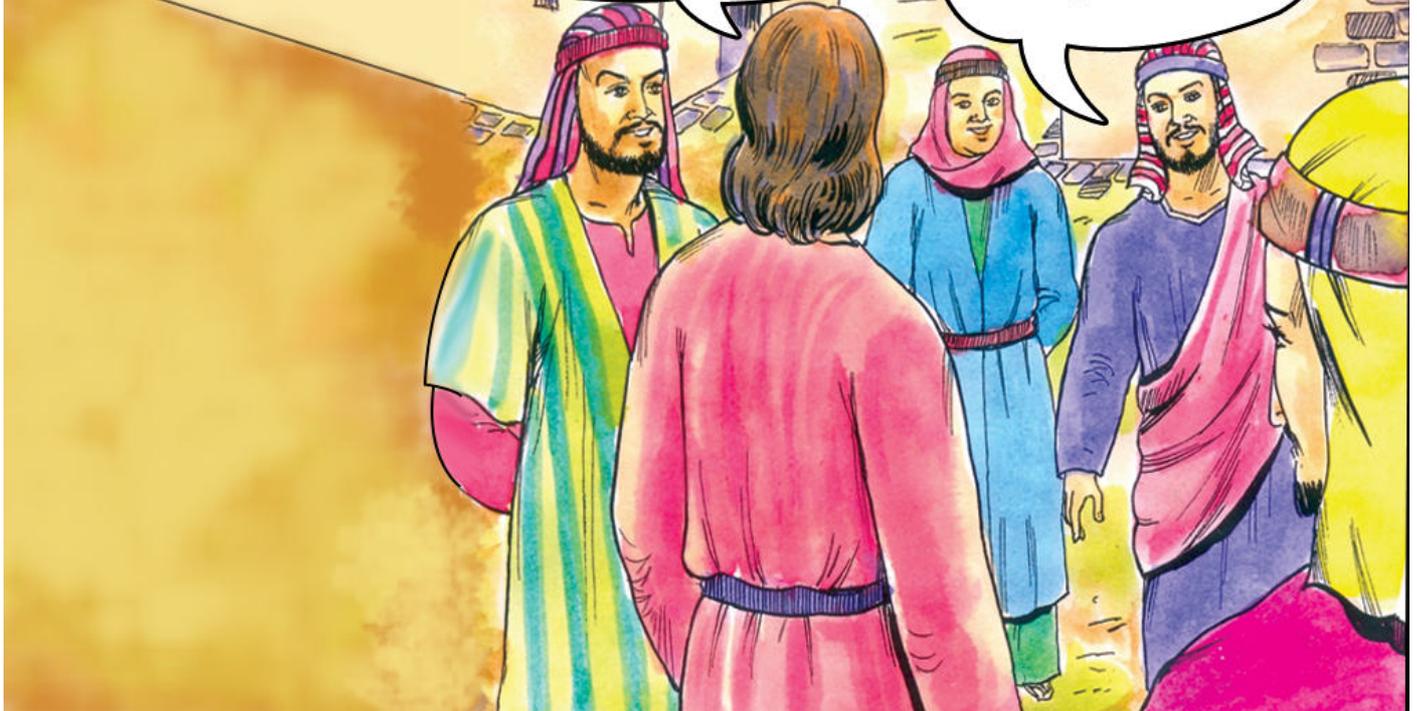
Israel is a killer.  
Her clothes are  
stained with the  
blood of the  
innocent.



Come back to Yahweh,  
you disloyal Israel. He is  
merciful, abandon your  
idols and do justice.

What? Are you playing  
the prophet?

We have already  
enough of them.



Jeremiah, my son, you better be a priest like your father. This prophesying is dangerous.

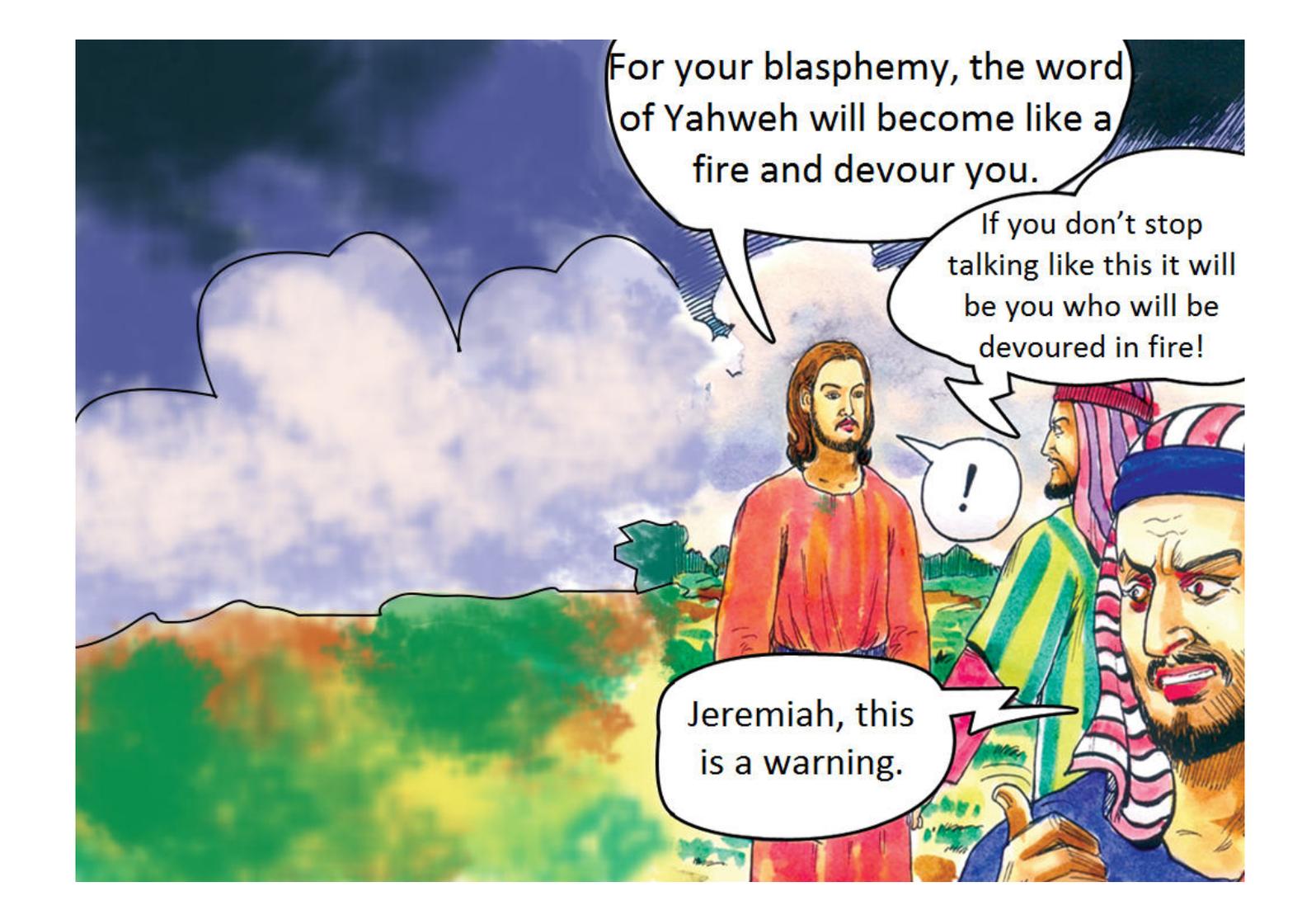




What fault did you find in  
Yahweh that you should  
desert Him?

What good is there in  
following Yahweh? If He  
had any power, we wouldn't  
be under Assyria now.

If you want good weather and  
a good harvest you must  
worship Baal.



For your blasphemy, the word of Yahweh will become like a fire and devour you.

If you don't stop talking like this it will be you who will be devoured in fire!

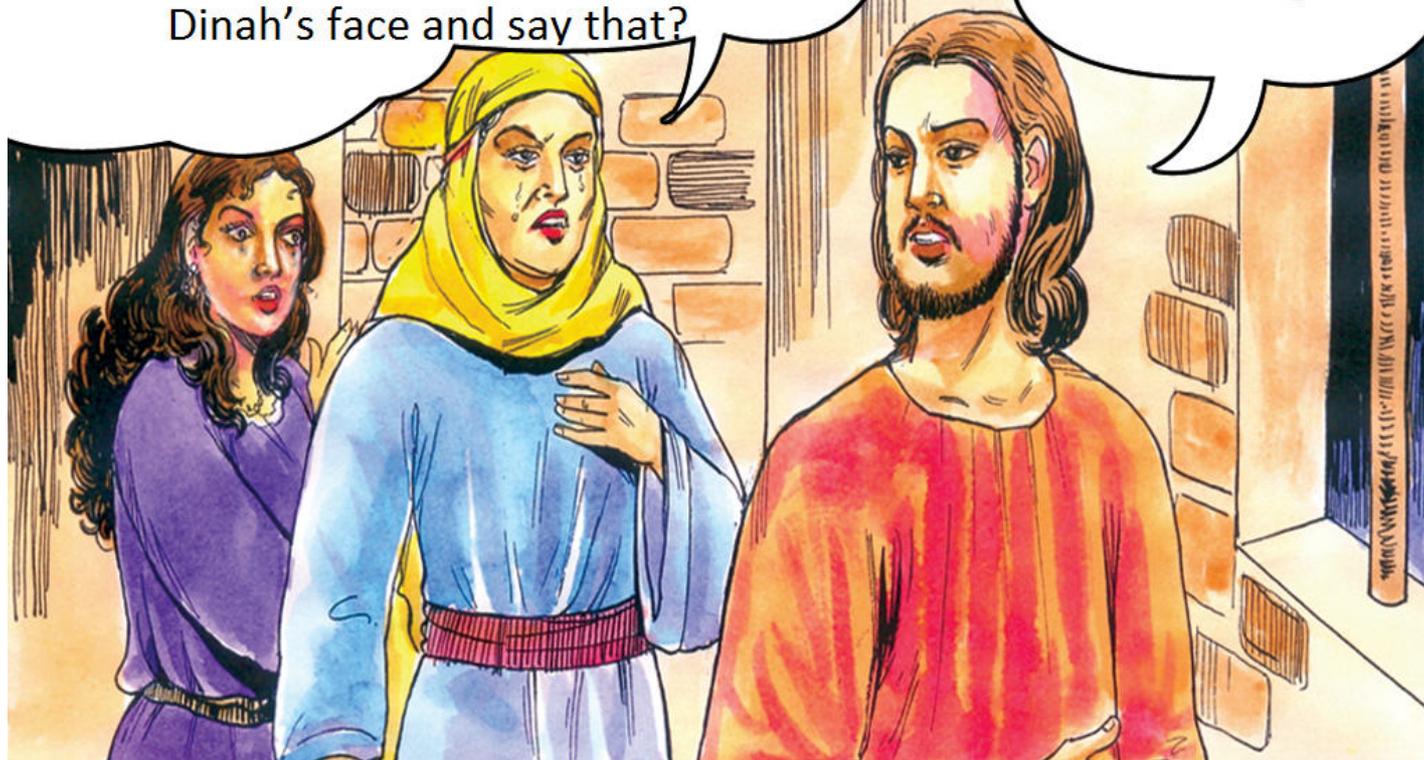
!

Jeremiah, this is a warning.

One day at Jeremiah's house.

Son, what are you saying? After fixing even the date of wedding, you don't want to get married? How can you look at Dinah's face and say that?

Mom, I love Dinah more than my life. But the Lord doesn't allow me to marry.

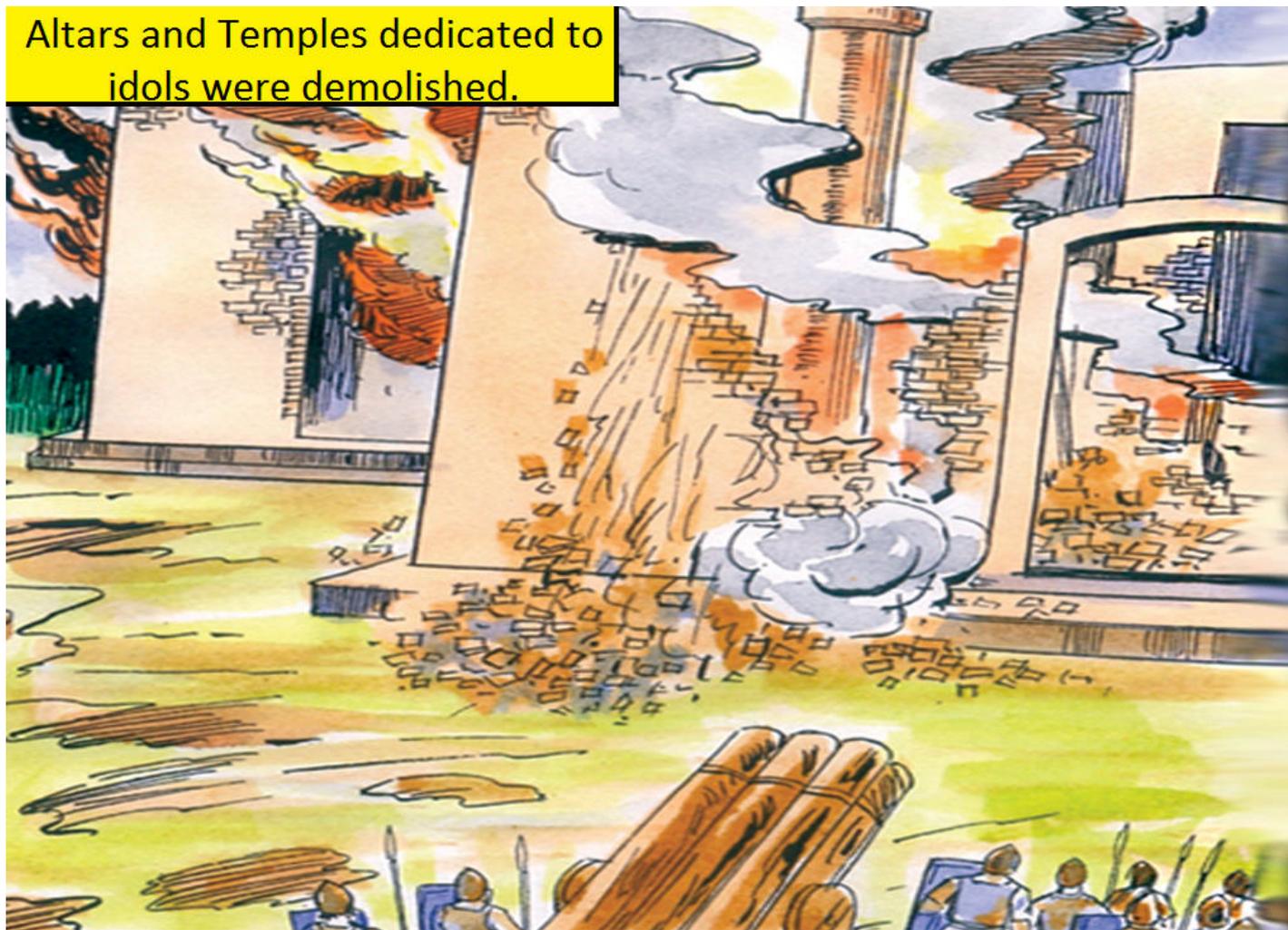


In 626 B.C. the book of Deuteronomy was found in the Temple. According to the laws recorded in that book, King Josiah started a religious reform.



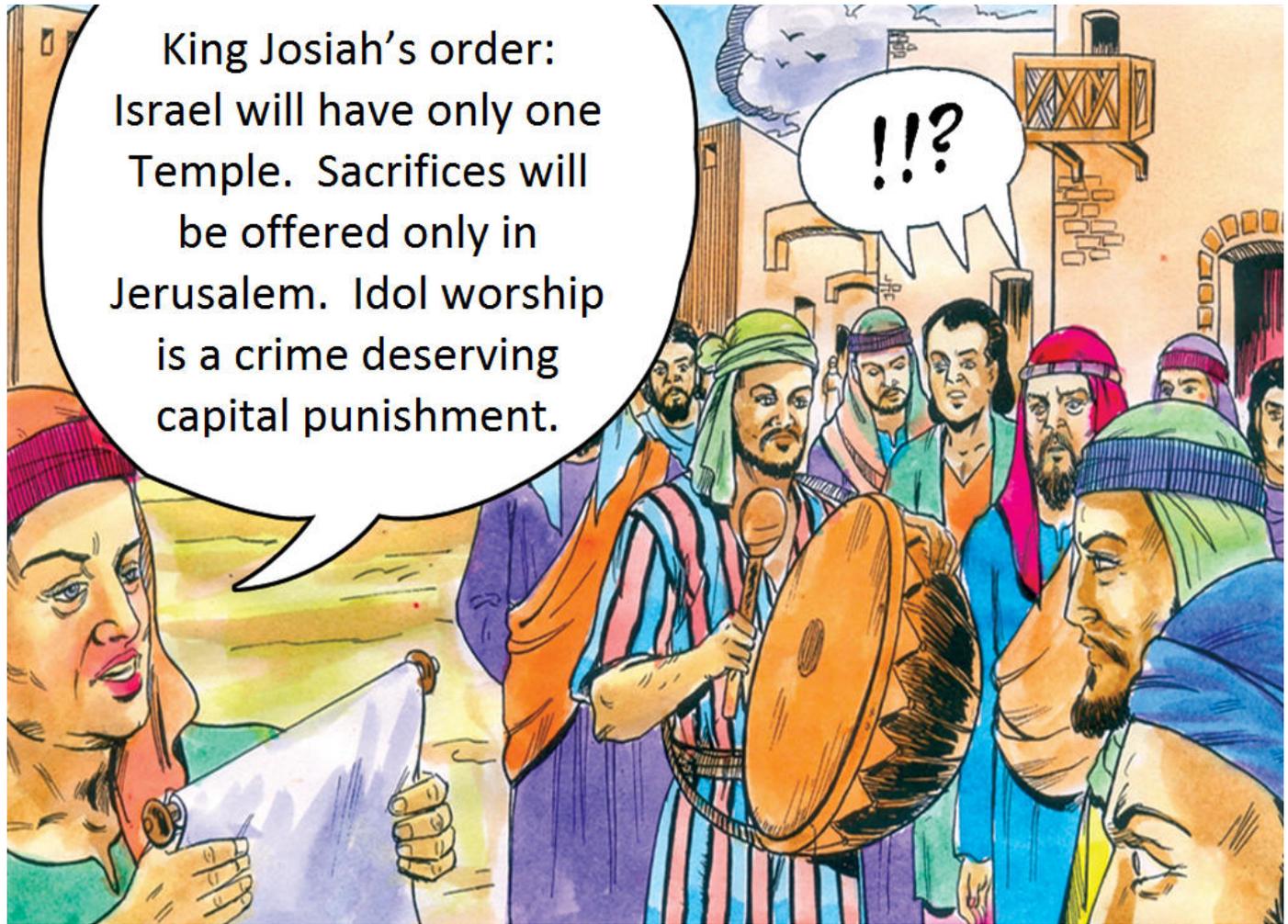
He destroyed the idols in the country.

Altars and Temples dedicated to idols were demolished.

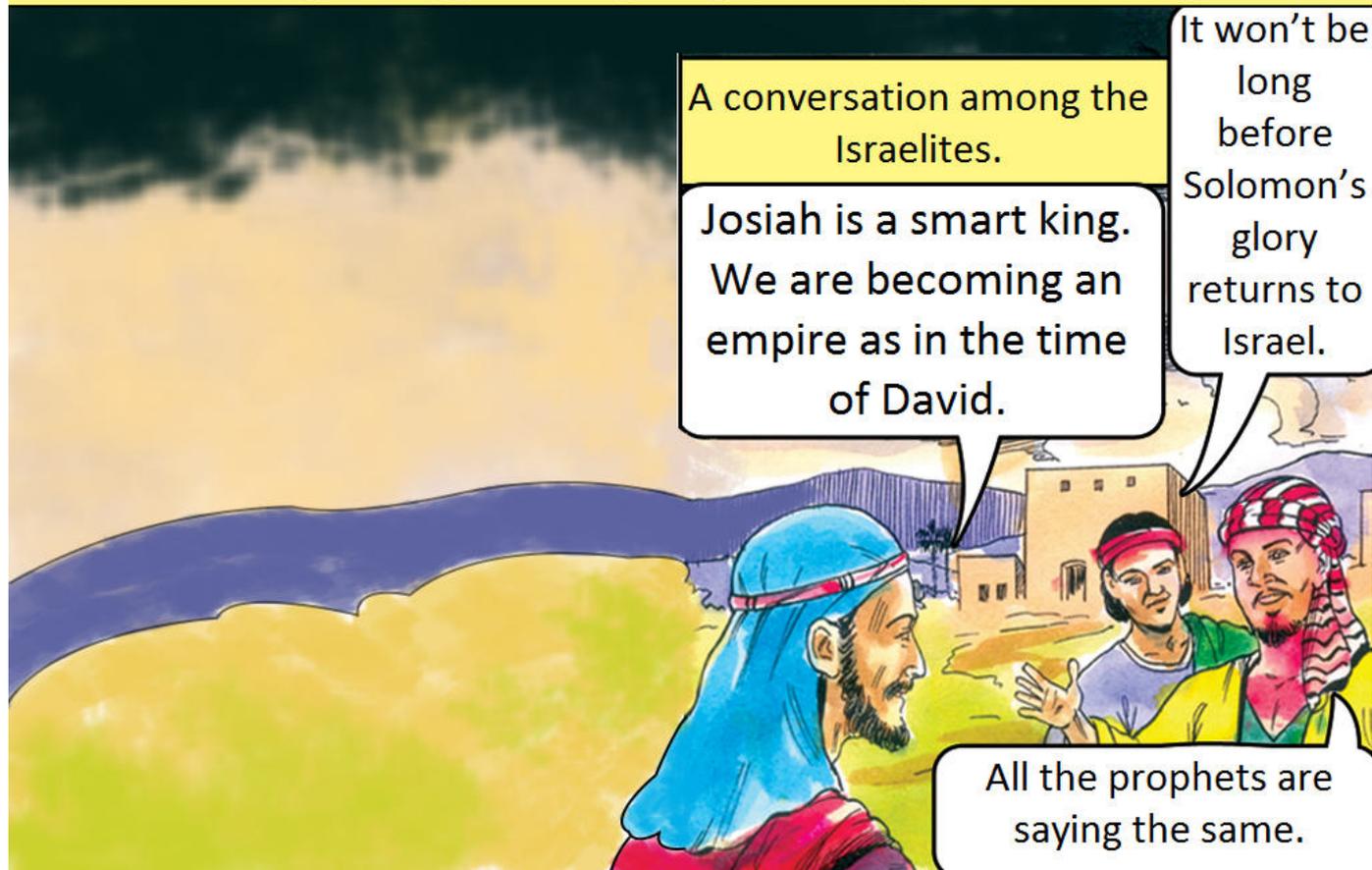


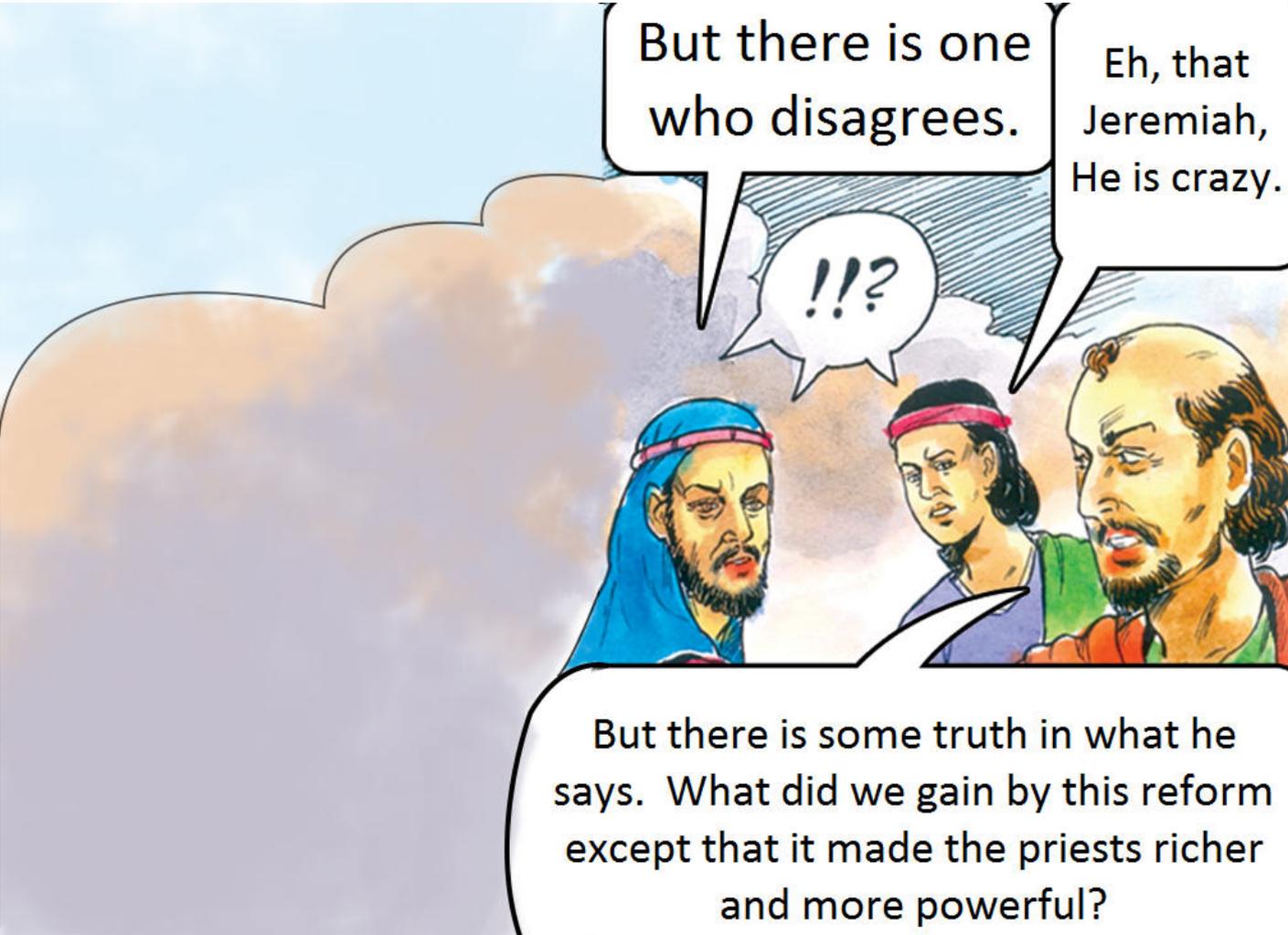
King Josiah's order:  
Israel will have only one  
Temple. Sacrifices will  
be offered only in  
Jerusalem. Idol worship  
is a crime deserving  
capital punishment.

!!?



Assyria that established its dominion over Israel was steadily growing weak. Using this opportunity King Josiah expanded his kingdom.





But there is one  
who disagrees.

Eh, that  
Jeremiah,  
He is crazy.

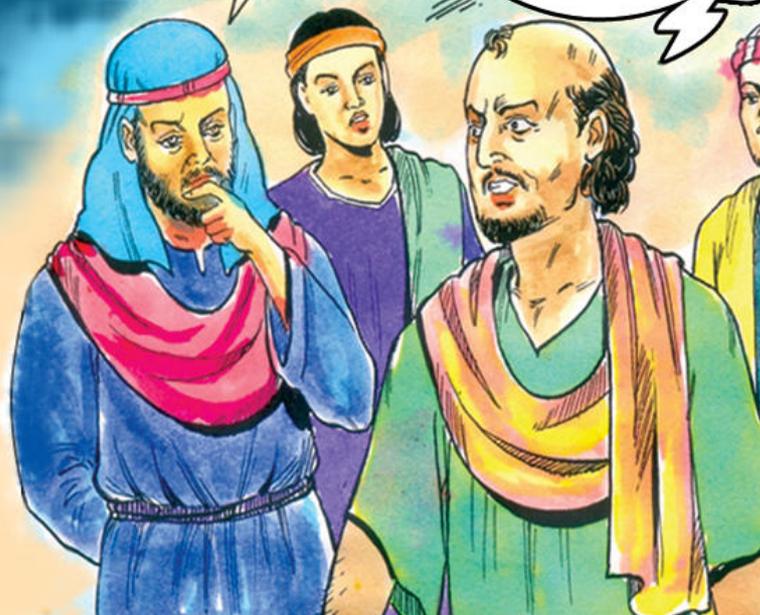
!!?

But there is some truth in what he  
says. What did we gain by this reform  
except that it made the priests richer  
and more powerful?

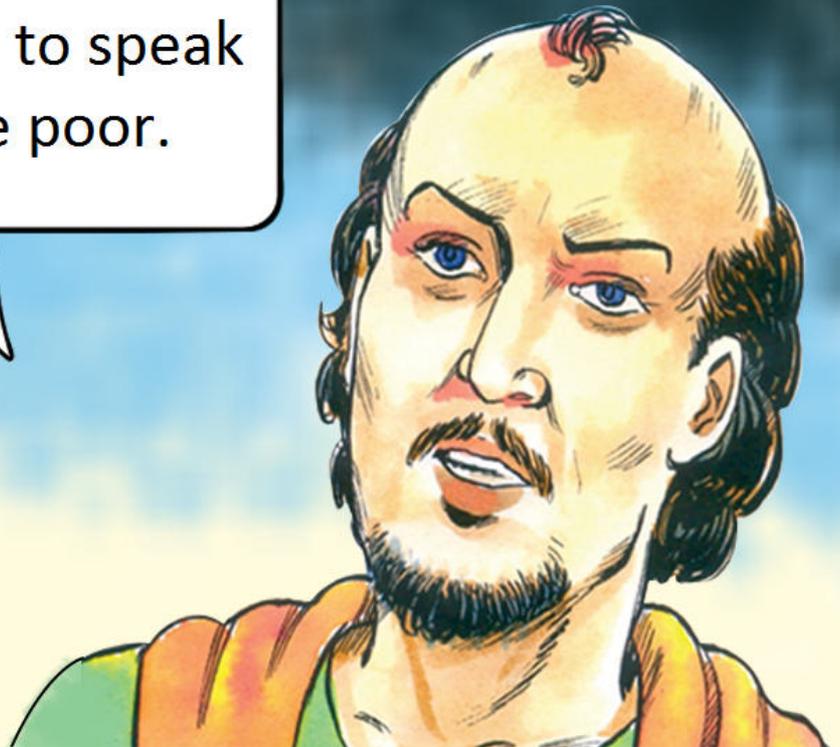
Has not idol  
worship  
disappeared?

!!!

True, the  
centralization of  
worship in  
Jerusalem made  
the capital more  
glamorous. But  
where is justice?



There is no one but  
Jeremiah to speak  
for the poor.



609 B.C. at the palace of Josiah.

Your majesty, Pharaoh Neco has crossed our border with a great army.

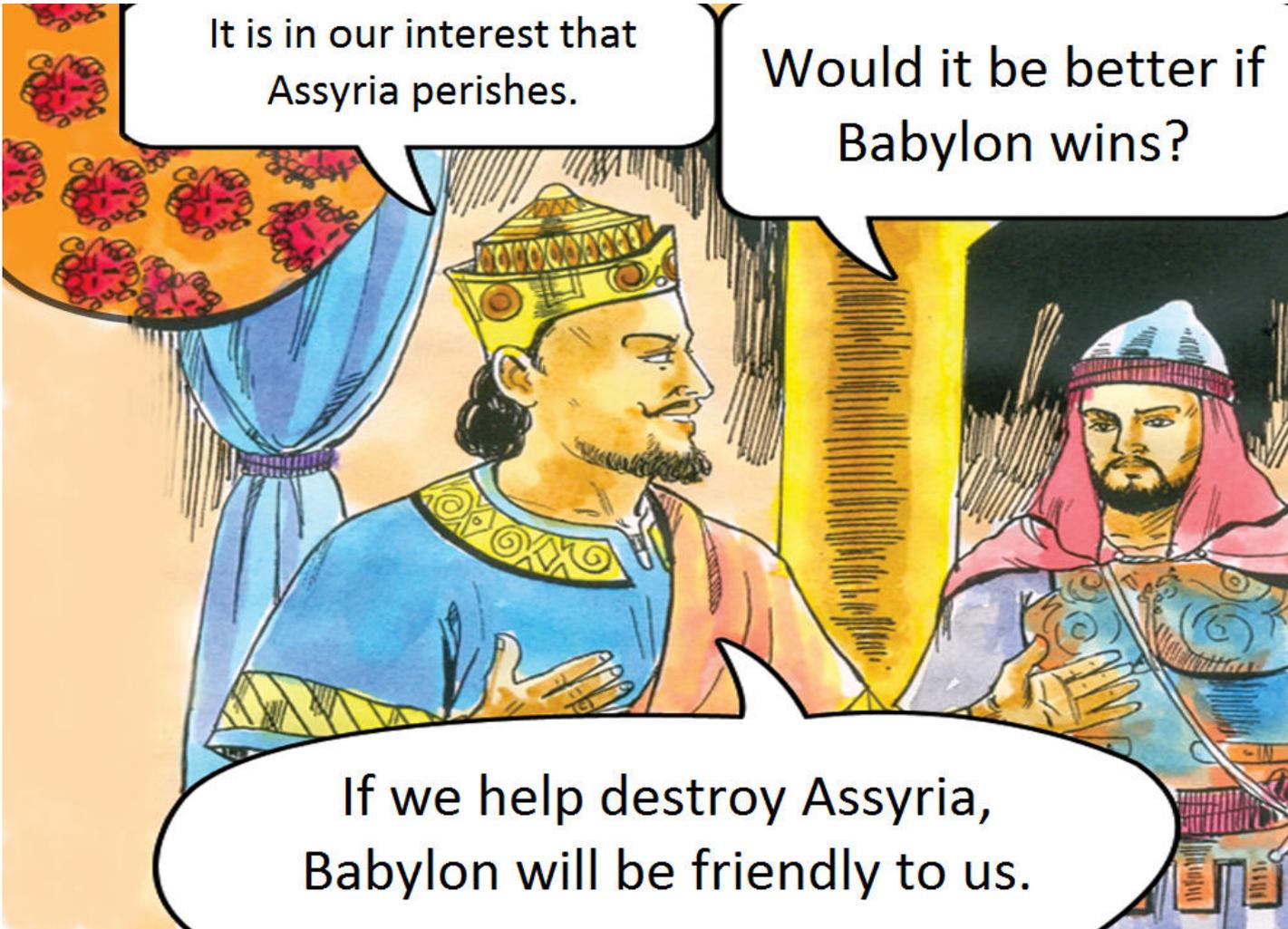
We must stop him.

!



He is doing no harm to us. It seems that he is marching north to help Assyria against Babylon.





It is in our interest that Assyria perishes.

Would it be better if Babylon wins?

If we help destroy Assyria, Babylon will be friendly to us.

Will we be able to stop Neco?

Mobilize the army.

!?



A conversation between Pharaoh Neco and his Commanders.

The Israelite army has blocked our way. King Josiah himself is leading them.

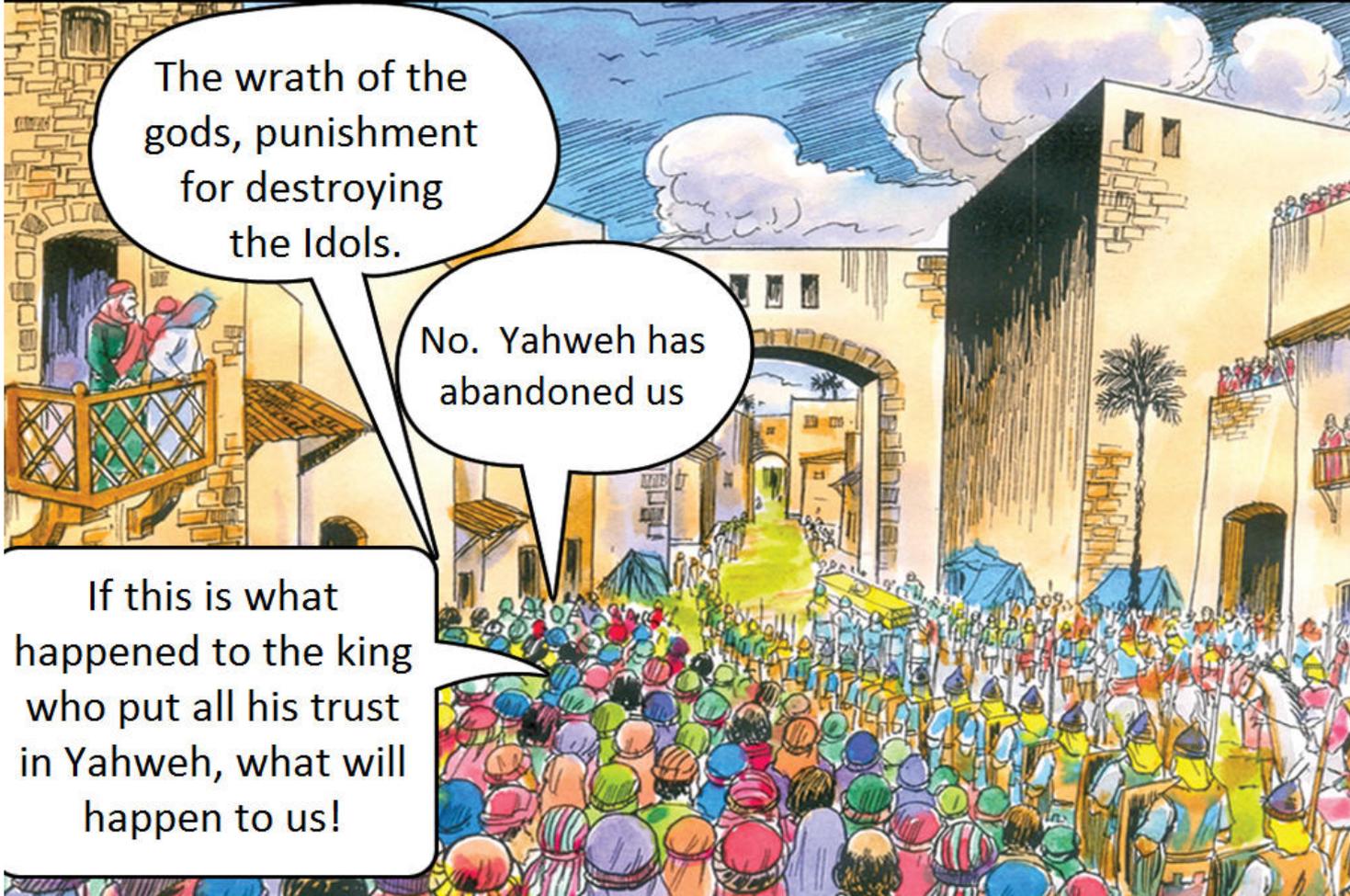
We have nothing against them. But we won't allow them to stop us.



A serious battle was fought at Megiddo. Josiah was mortally wounded.



## Josiah's body was carried to Jerusalem.



The wrath of the gods, punishment for destroying the Idols.

No. Yahweh has abandoned us

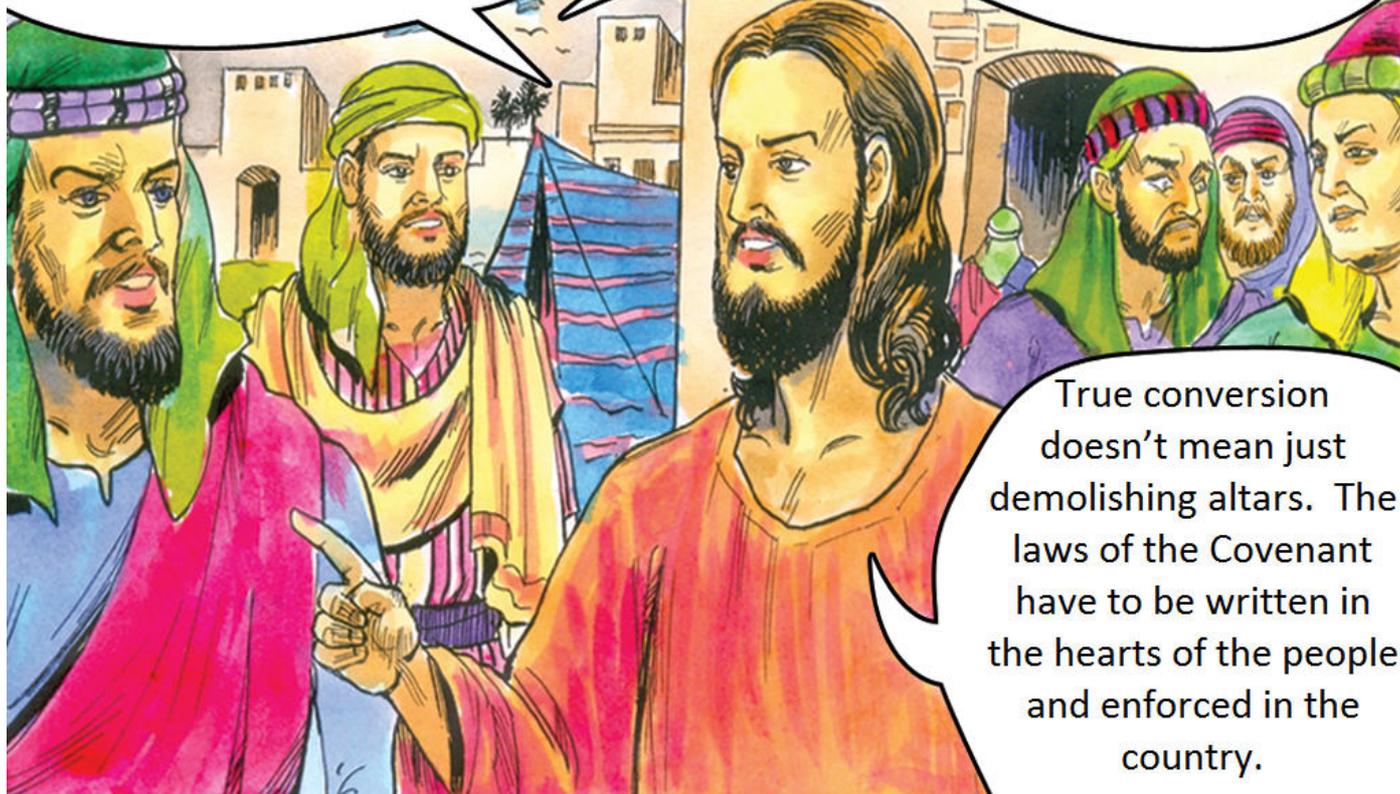
If this is what happened to the king who put all his trust in Yahweh, what will happen to us!

Jeremiah speaking to the people.

God is punishing Israel  
for its sins over the  
generations.

Didn't Josiah make up  
for it?

True conversion  
doesn't mean just  
demolishing altars. The  
laws of the Covenant  
have to be written in  
the hearts of the people  
and enforced in the  
country.



Jehoahaz, son of Josiah became king of Jerusalem, but Neco routed by the Babylonians, on the way home attacked Jerusalem, took Jehoahaz captive and made Jehojachim king instead. Israel became a vassal of Egypt.

A conversation among the Israelites.

Come quick! We have to reach the Temple before the coronation ceremony begins.

You know the price he paid for the Crown? A hundred talents of gold per year.

!?



A comic book panel showing two men in traditional attire. The man in the foreground is wearing a green hooded garment and has a serious expression. The man behind him is wearing a pink and blue striped garment. The background is a bright blue sky with dark, swirling clouds. Two speech bubbles are present: one at the top left and one in the center. The text in the top bubble reads "Then the taxes will be going up again." and the text in the center bubble reads "No matter who rules, we lose."

Then the taxes will  
be going up again.

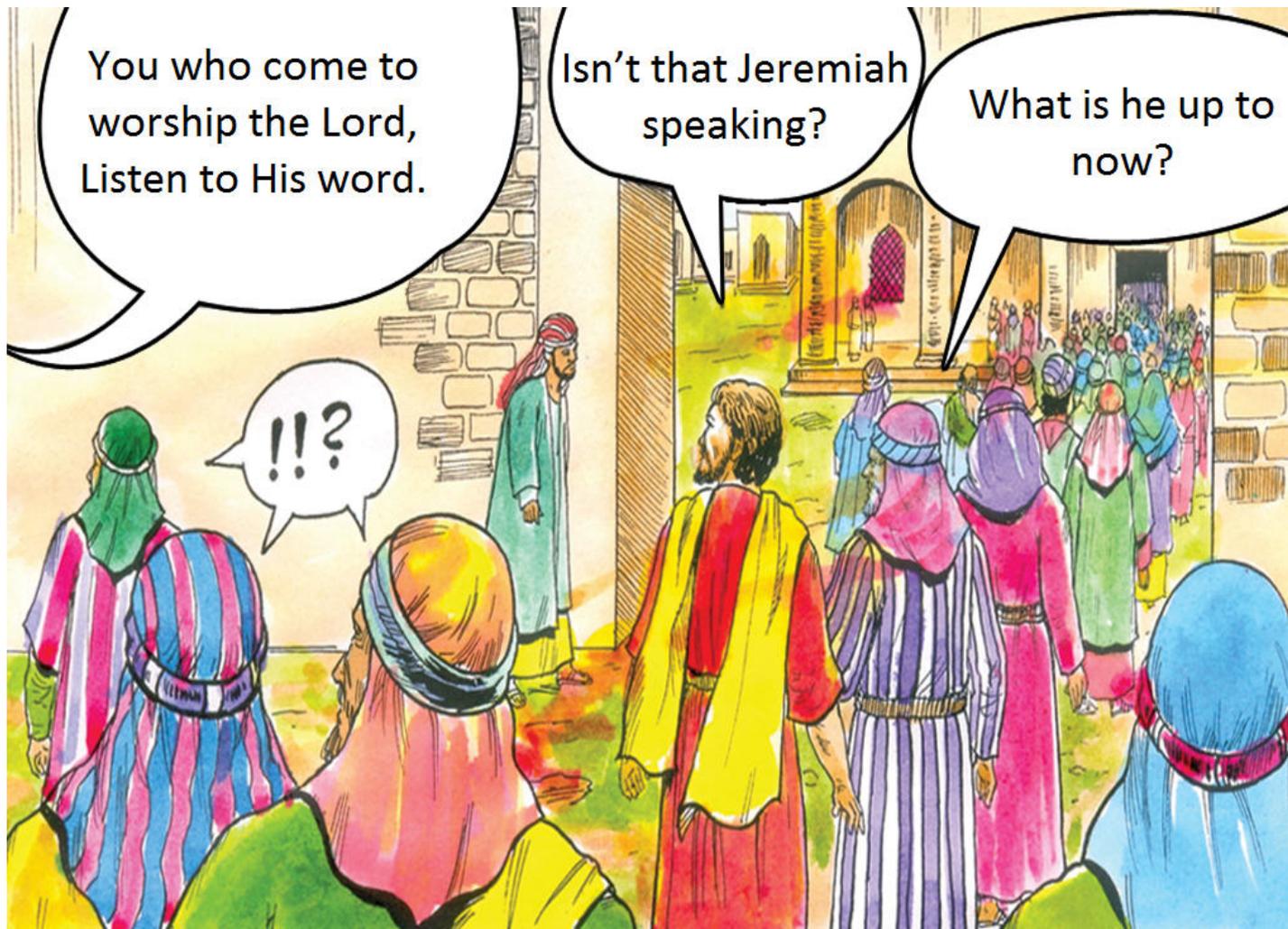
No matter who  
rules, we lose.

You who come to  
worship the Lord,  
Listen to His word.

Isn't that Jeremiah  
speaking?

What is he up to  
now?

!!?



It is in vain that you come to His house with offerings. I swear to you this place cannot save you.

This is the house of Yahweh. Yahweh will protect his house.



People of Israel, do  
not believe in  
empty promises.



You steal, murder and commit all other crimes, then come to the House of the Lord and think you are safe. Is this a den of robbers?

It is in obedience to Yahweh's command the people come.



It is Yahweh who speaks. Because you broke the Covenant, I will punish you according to the laws of the Covenant.

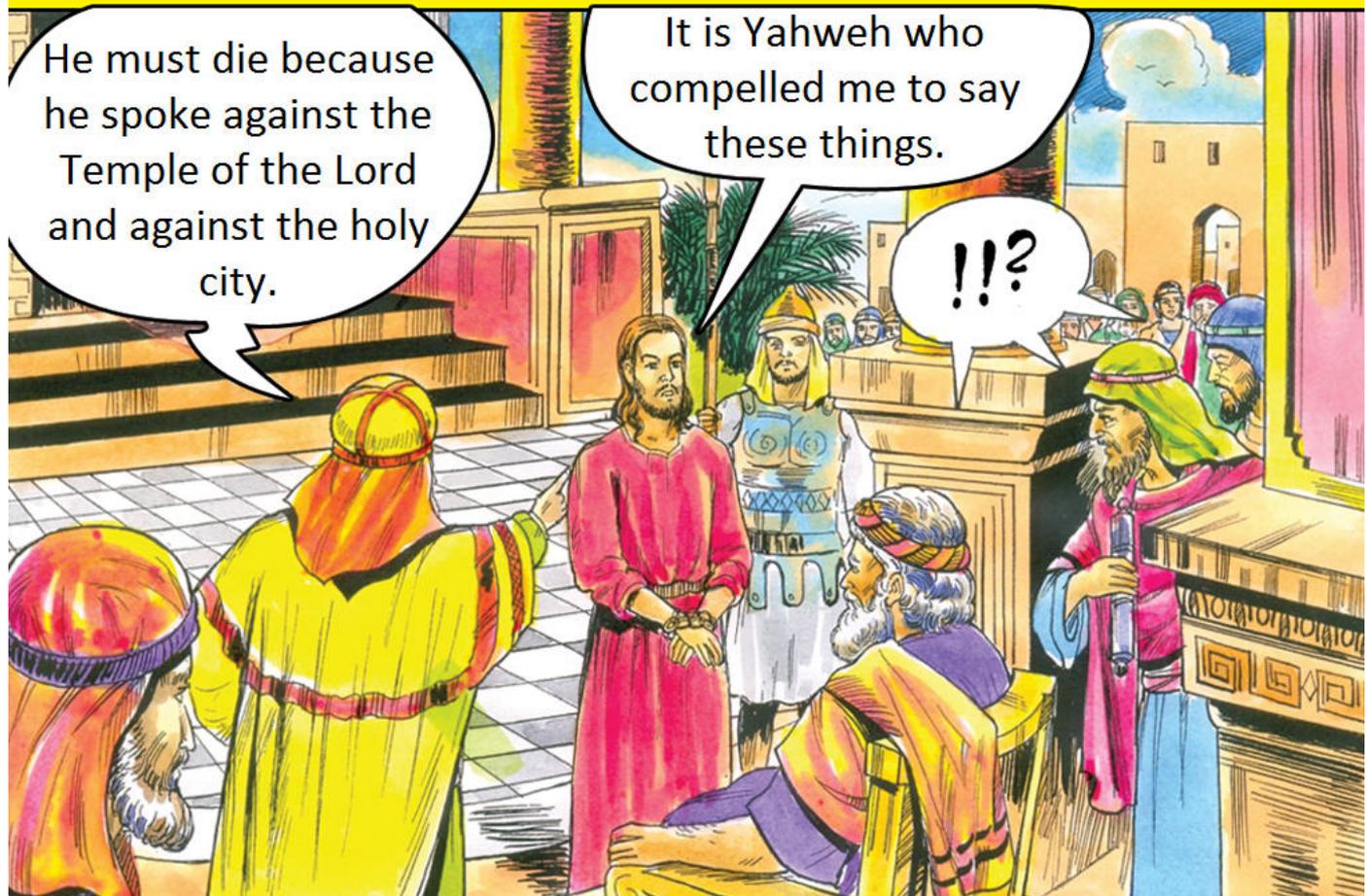


What I did to the temple of Shiloh during the time of Eli, I will do to this place. It will become a heap of rubble.

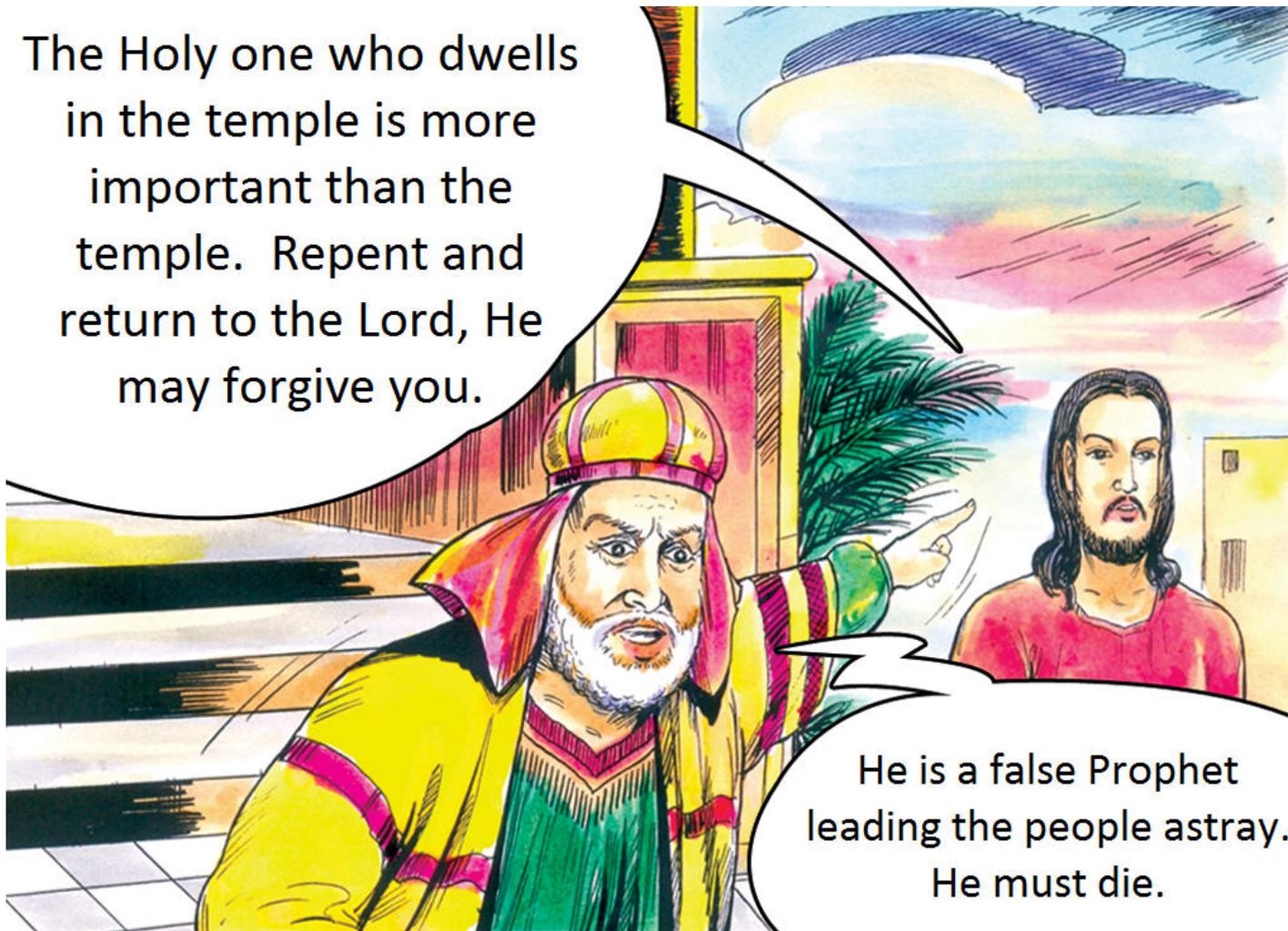
Arrest him!



They brought Jeremiah before the judges.



The Holy one who dwells  
in the temple is more  
important than the  
temple. Repent and  
return to the Lord, He  
may forgive you.



He is a false Prophet  
leading the people astray.  
He must die.

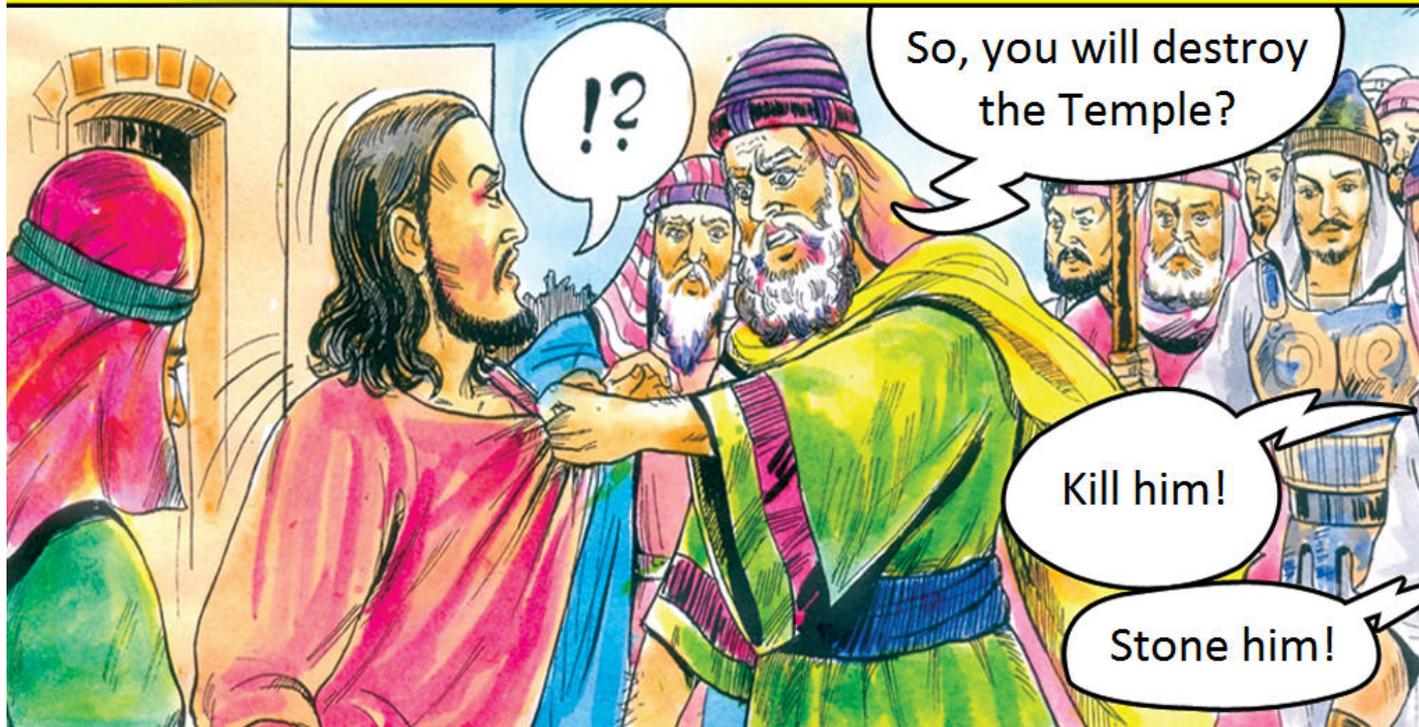
I am, as you see, in your hands. You do whatever you think right with me. But don't forget that if you kill me you will be responsible for the death of an innocent man. It is Yahweh who sent me.



How many times Lord, I  
swore to myself that I will not  
speak in your name again!  
Then your word is like fire, in  
my heart, imprisoned in my  
bones.



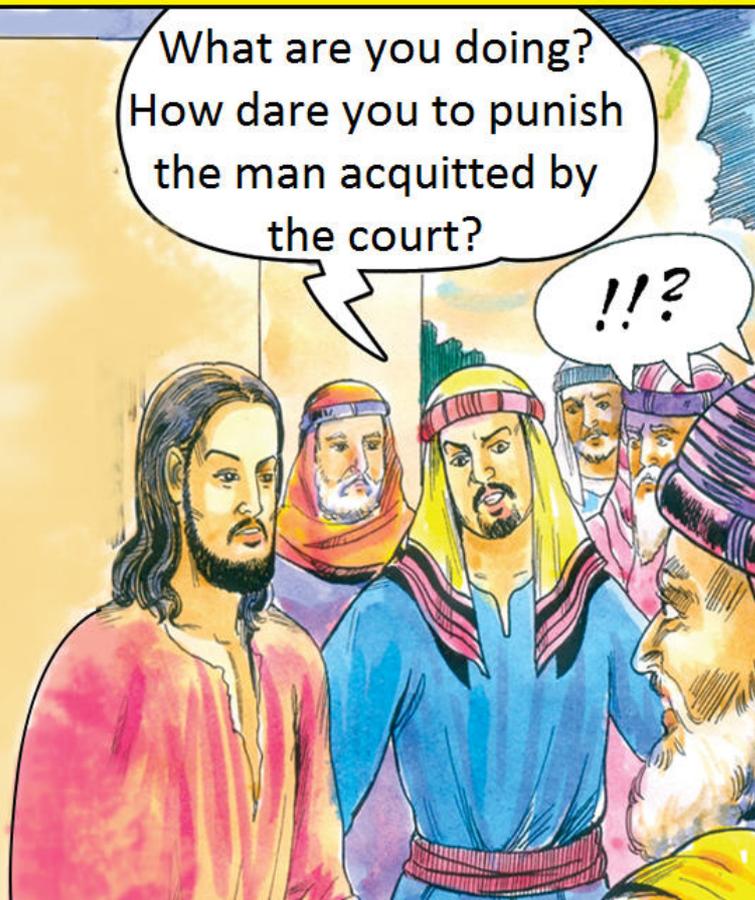
The judges sent Jeremiah away with an order forbidding him to enter the Temple. But incited by the priests, people surrounded him.

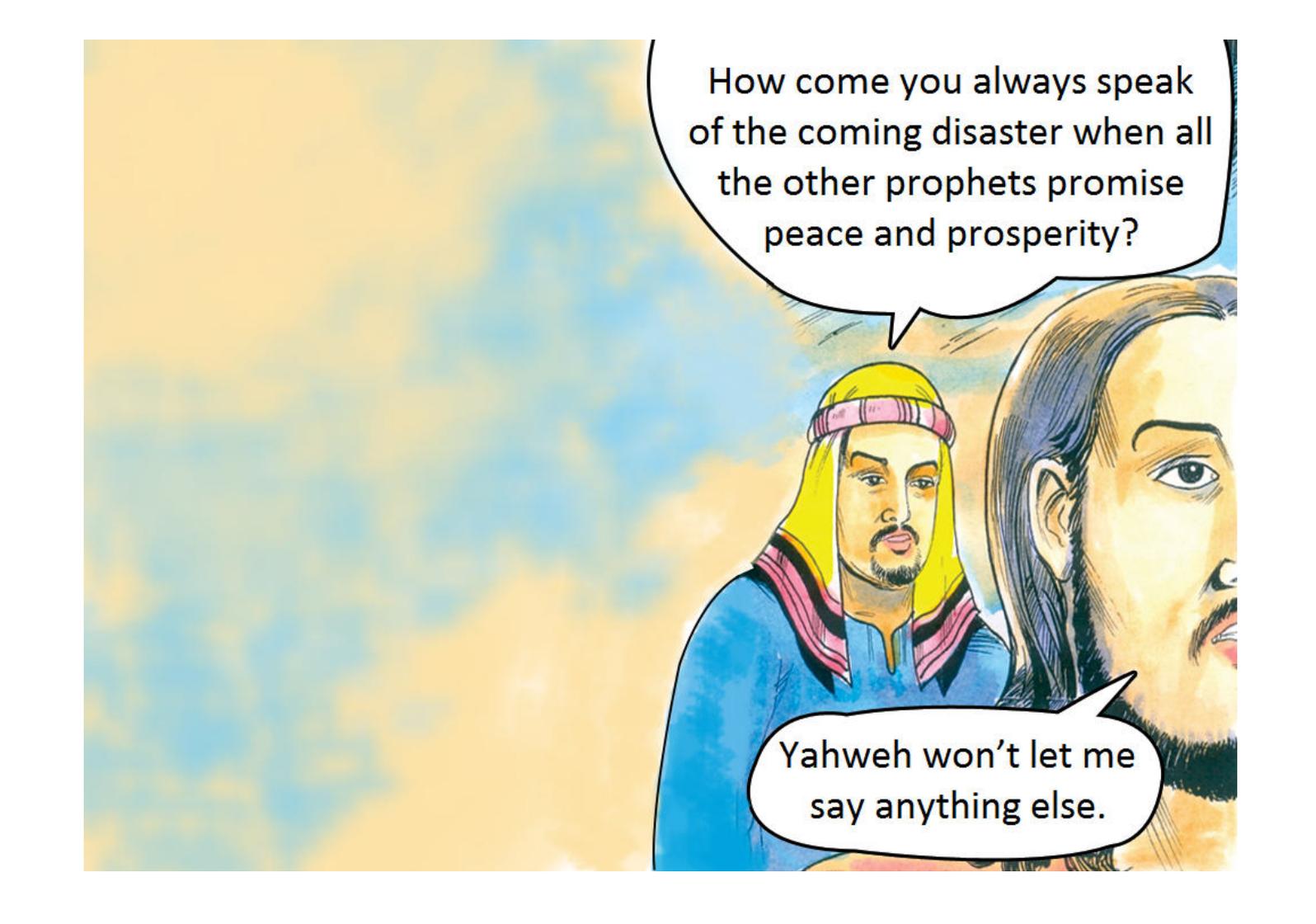


Ahikam, son of Shaphan, who was the finance minister of Josiah came to Jeremiah's aid.

What are you doing?  
How dare you to punish  
the man acquitted by  
the court?

!!?





How come you always speak  
of the coming disaster when all  
the other prophets promise  
peace and prosperity?

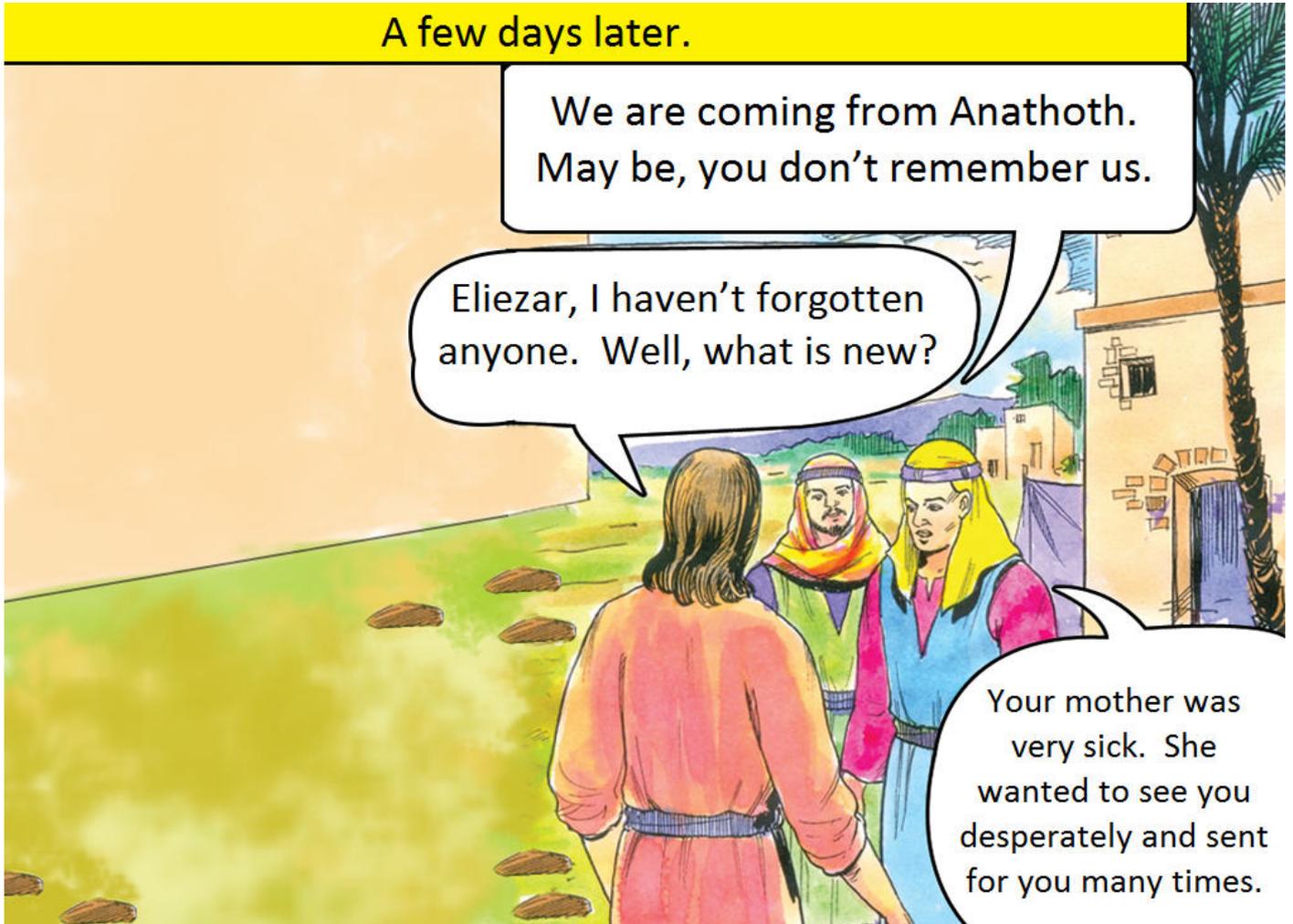
Yahweh won't let me  
say anything else.

A few days later.

We are coming from Anathoth.  
May be, you don't remember us.

Eliezar, I haven't forgotten  
anyone. Well, what is new?

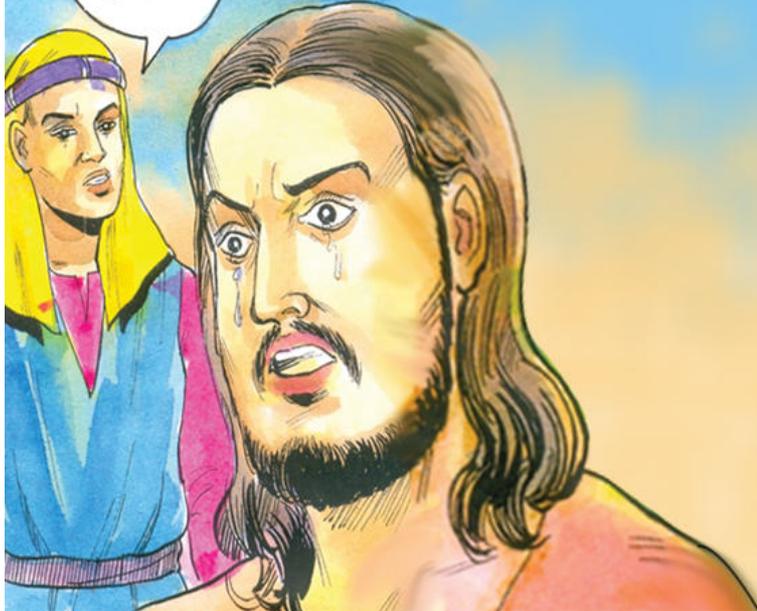
Your mother was  
very sick. She  
wanted to see you  
desperately and sent  
for you many times.

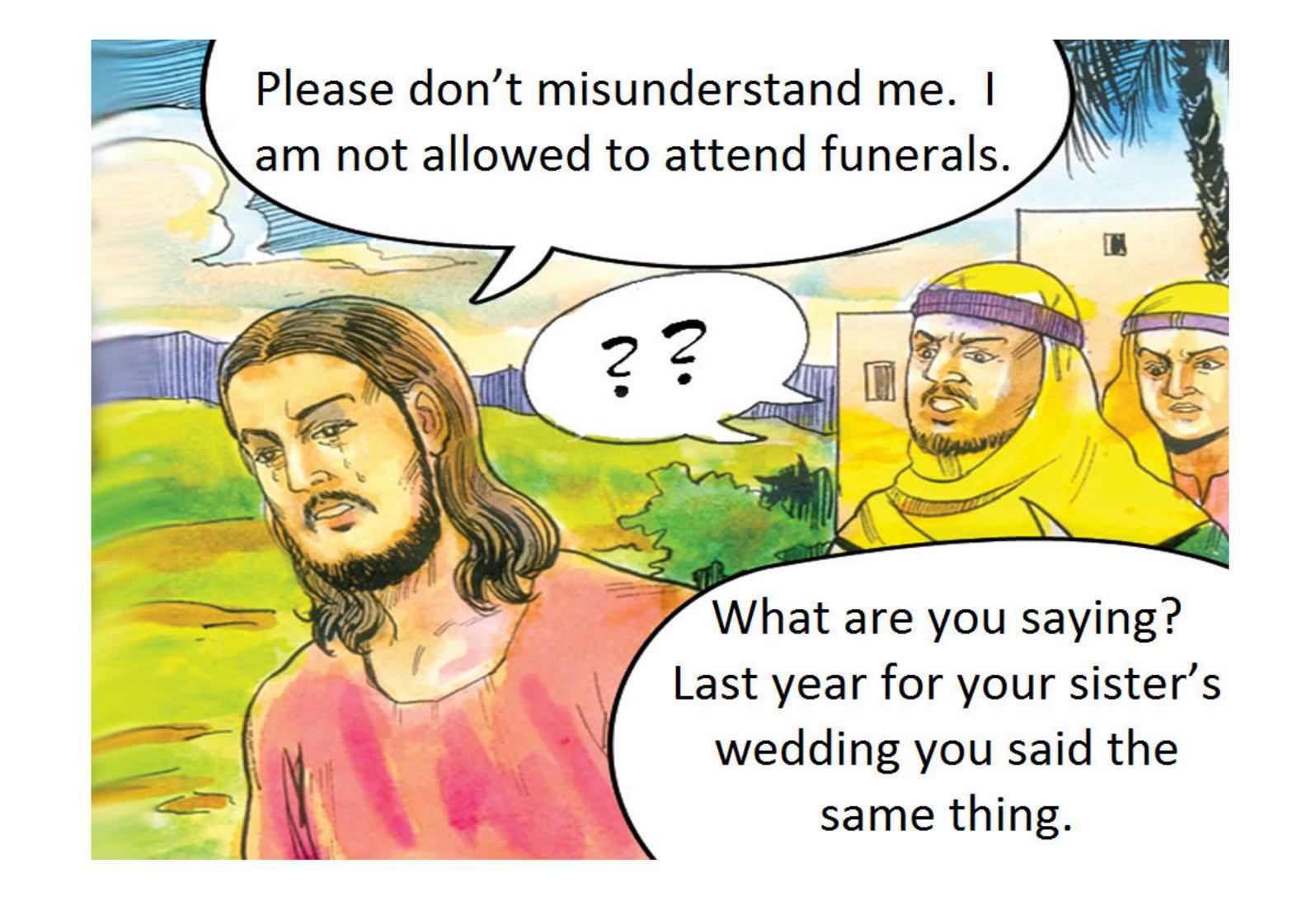


She died this morning. Tomorrow is the burial.

My mother!

!?





Please don't misunderstand me. I am not allowed to attend funerals.

??

What are you saying?  
Last year for your sister's  
wedding you said the  
same thing.



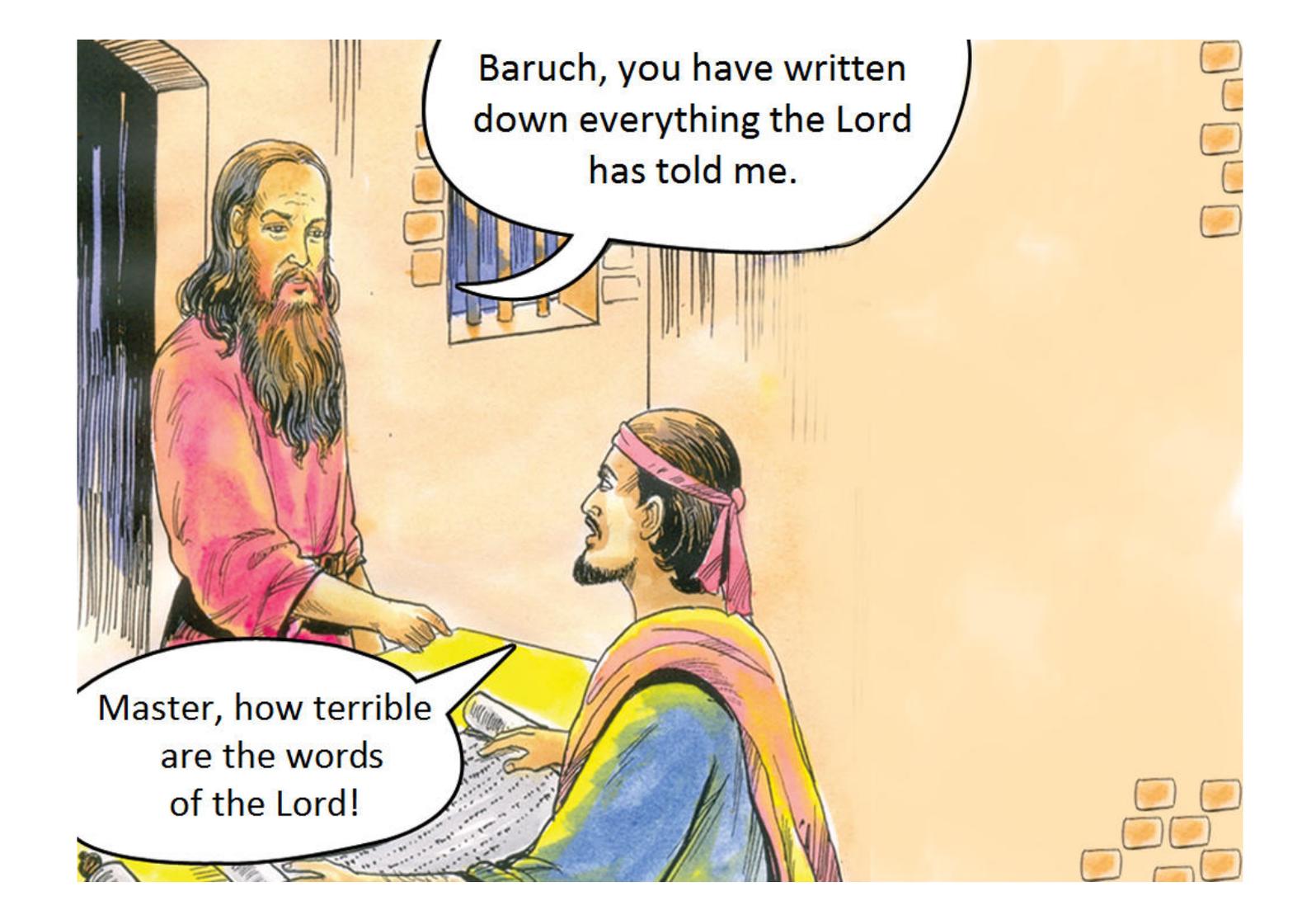
Yahweh does not allow  
me to take part in  
festivities either.

605 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon defeated the allied forces of Assyria and Egypt in the battle of Carchemish. Israel became a vassal of Babylon during the same year.

Jeremiah with his disciple Baruch:

Write: it is not truth but hypocrisy that prevails in the land. Corruption increases day by day. "They do not know me", says the Lord.





Baruch, you have written  
down everything the Lord  
has told me.

Master, how terrible  
are the words  
of the Lord!



Tomorrow is the solemn day of fasting. Since I am not allowed to enter the Temple, you must go and read the scroll before the whole assembly.

The king sent for Baruch who was reading the scroll in the Temple.

They dress my people's wounds without concern. Peace, peace they say, but there is no peace.

Baruch, come to the officials with the scroll immediately.



We must inform  
the king about  
these terrible  
things.

When Baruch had finished reading the  
scroll before the officials:

You and Jeremiah  
better go into  
hiding.



The scroll was read before the king.  
Each time a part of the scroll was read;  
the king cut it off and threw it  
into the fire.



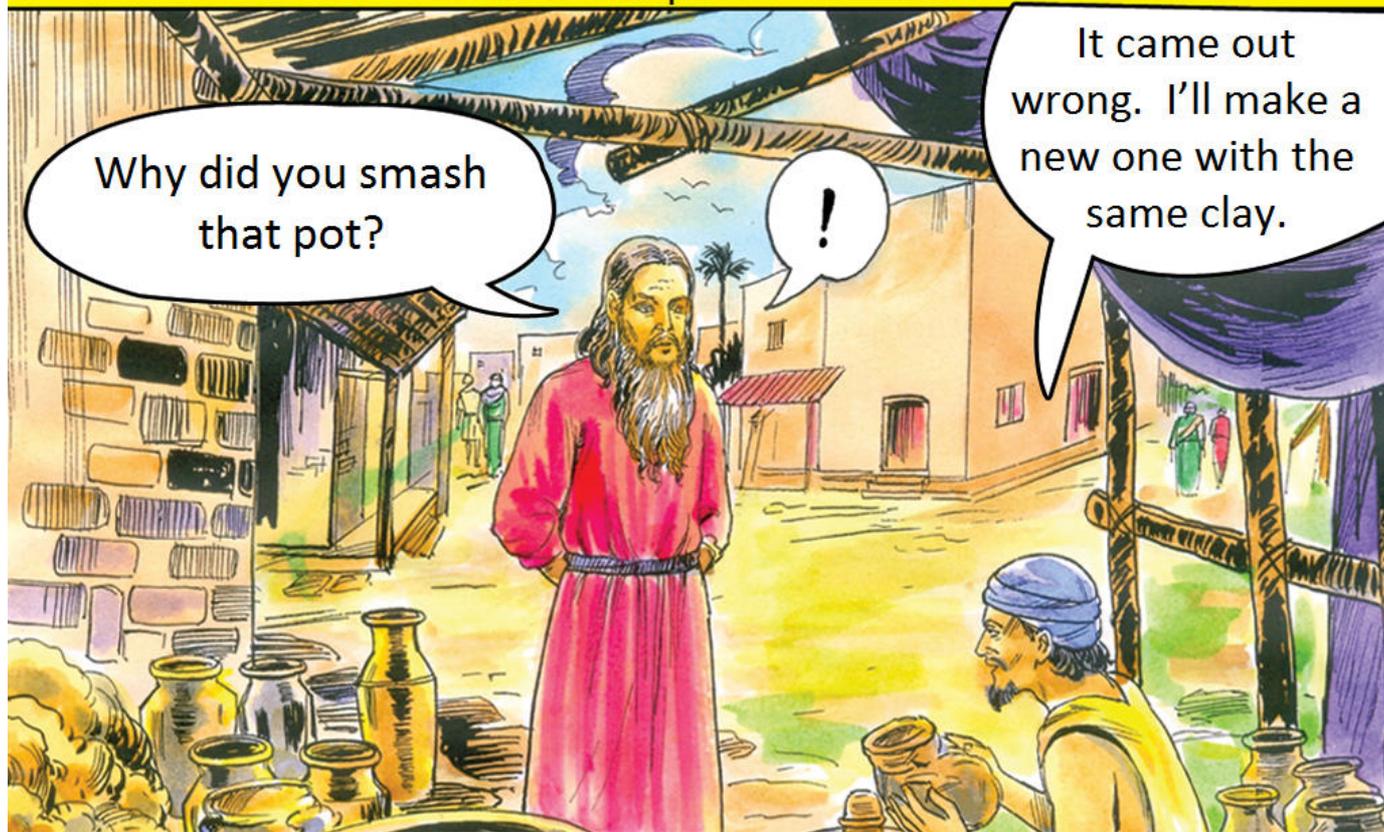
The word of God only hardened the heart of the king.



!!?

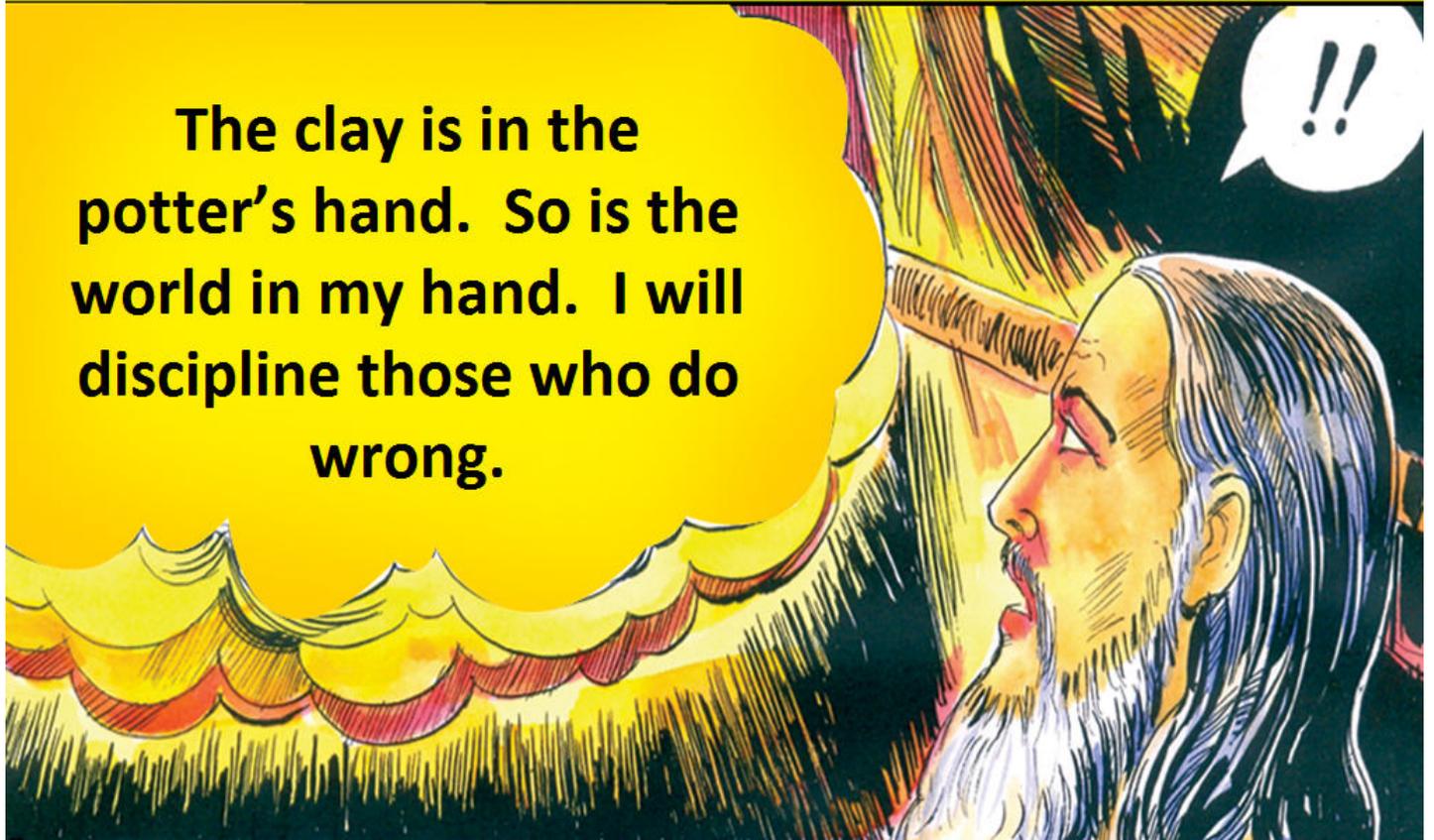
Word of God!  
Who cares! Arrest  
Jeremiah and  
Baruch.

Instead of the scroll the king burned, Jeremiah wrote another one. A few months later at the Lord's command Jeremiah went to the potter's house.

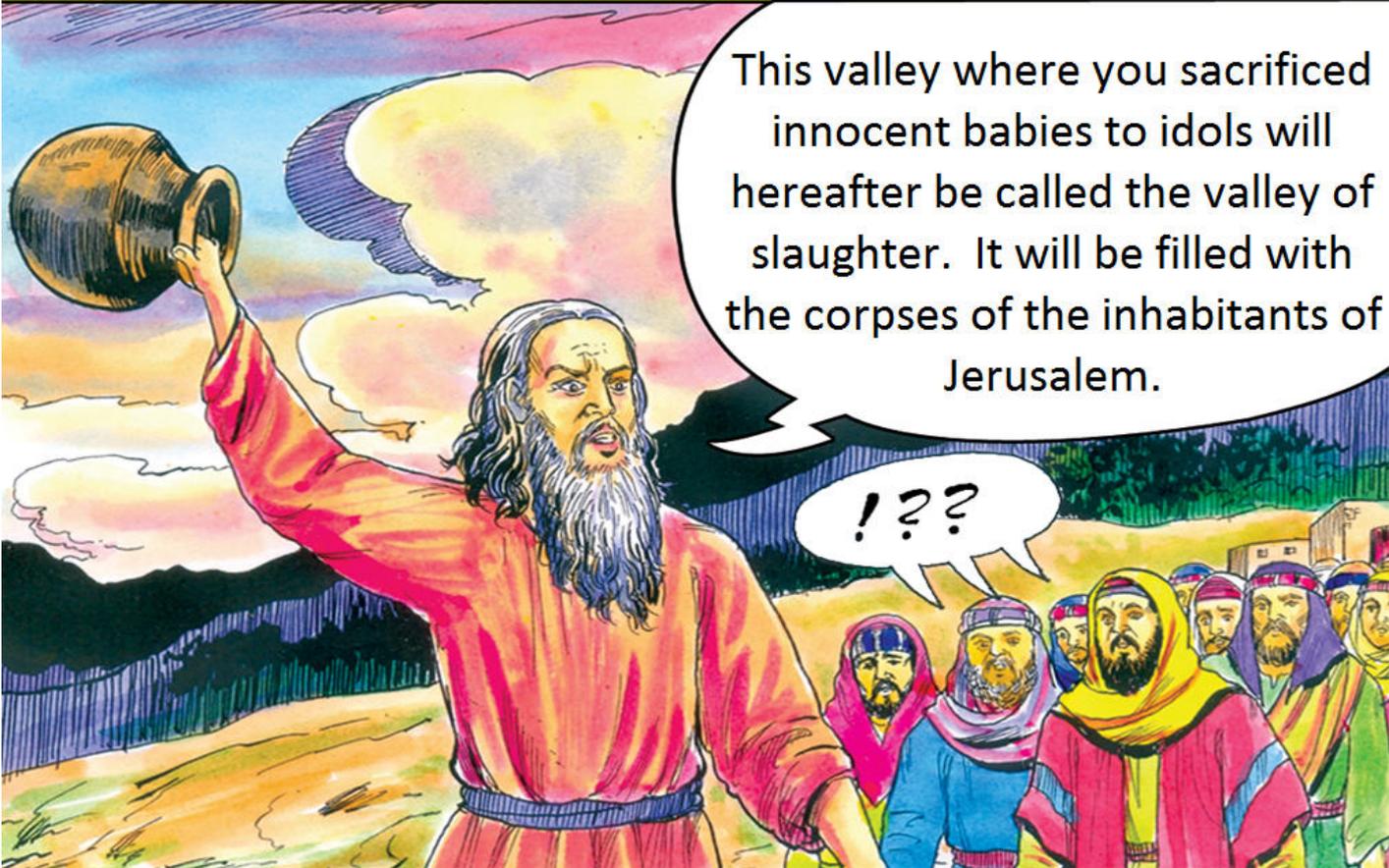


Then the word of God came to Jeremiah.

**The clay is in the  
potter's hand. So is the  
world in my hand. I will  
discipline those who do  
wrong.**

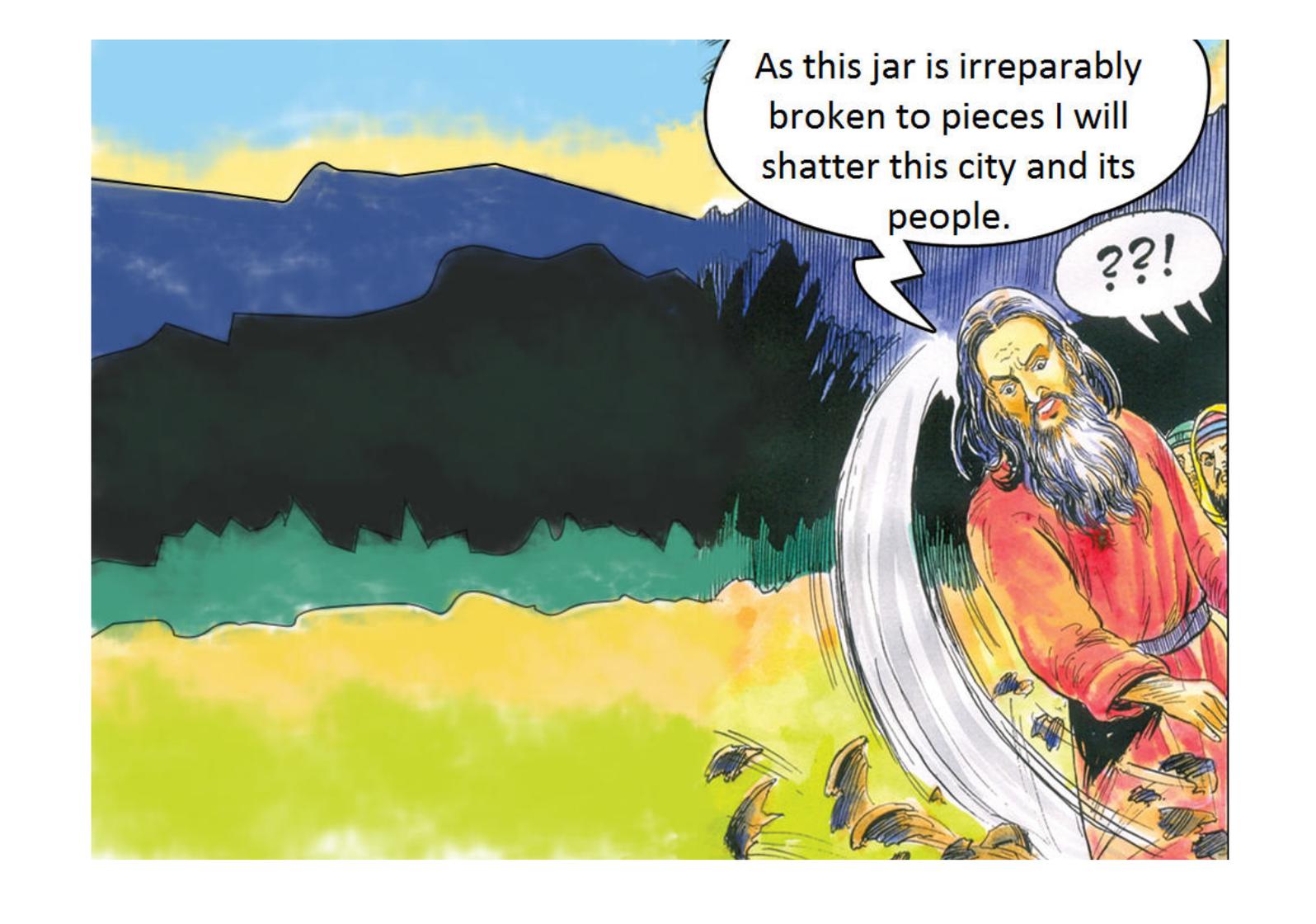


At the Lord's command Jeremiah bought a jar and with the elders he went to the valley of Benhinnom.



This valley where you sacrificed innocent babies to idols will hereafter be called the valley of slaughter. It will be filled with the corpses of the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

!??

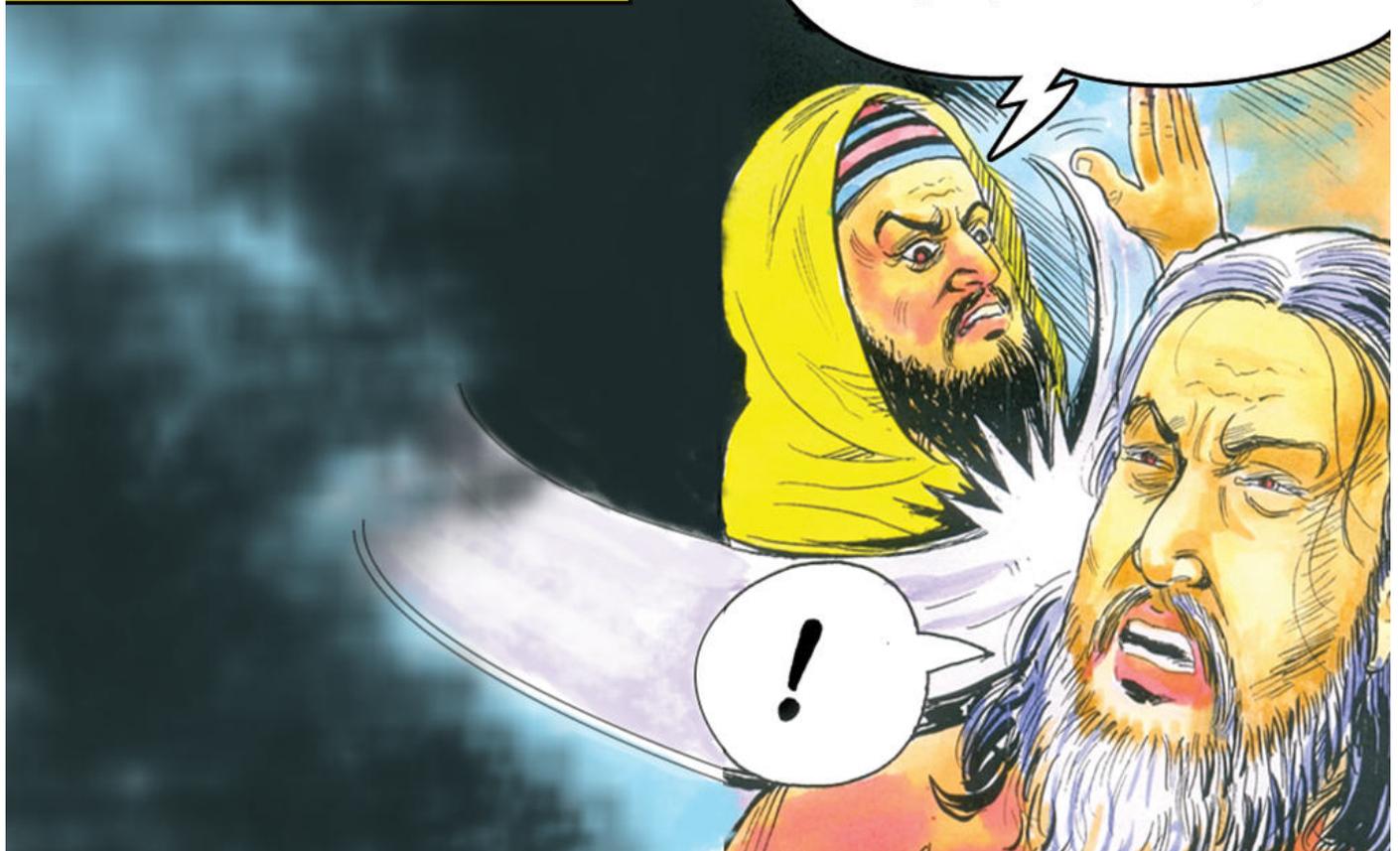


As this jar is irreparably broken to pieces I will shatter this city and its people.

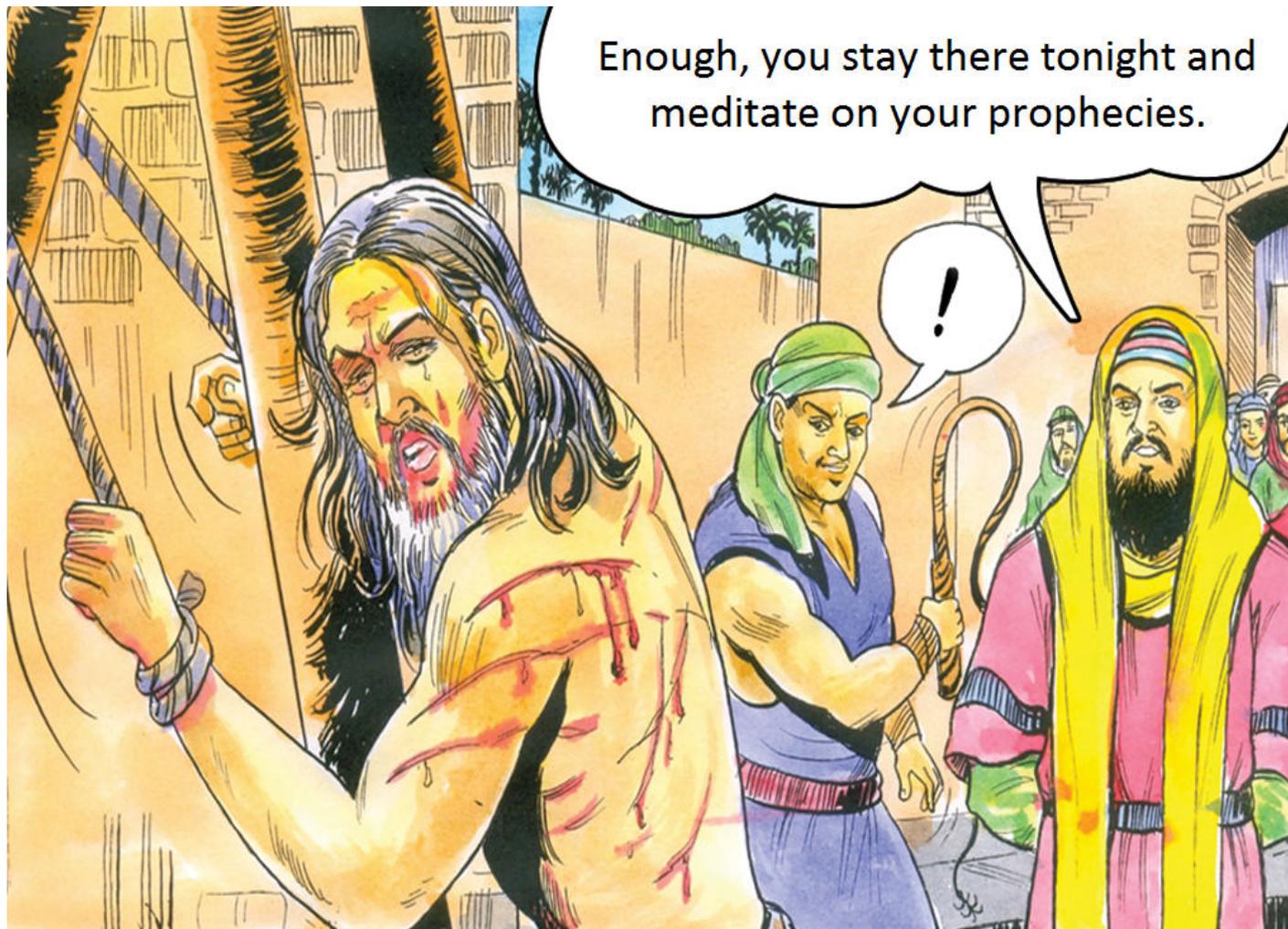
?!?

Infuriated by this, Pashur, the chief priest struck Jeremiah.

I will put an end to your prophecies today.



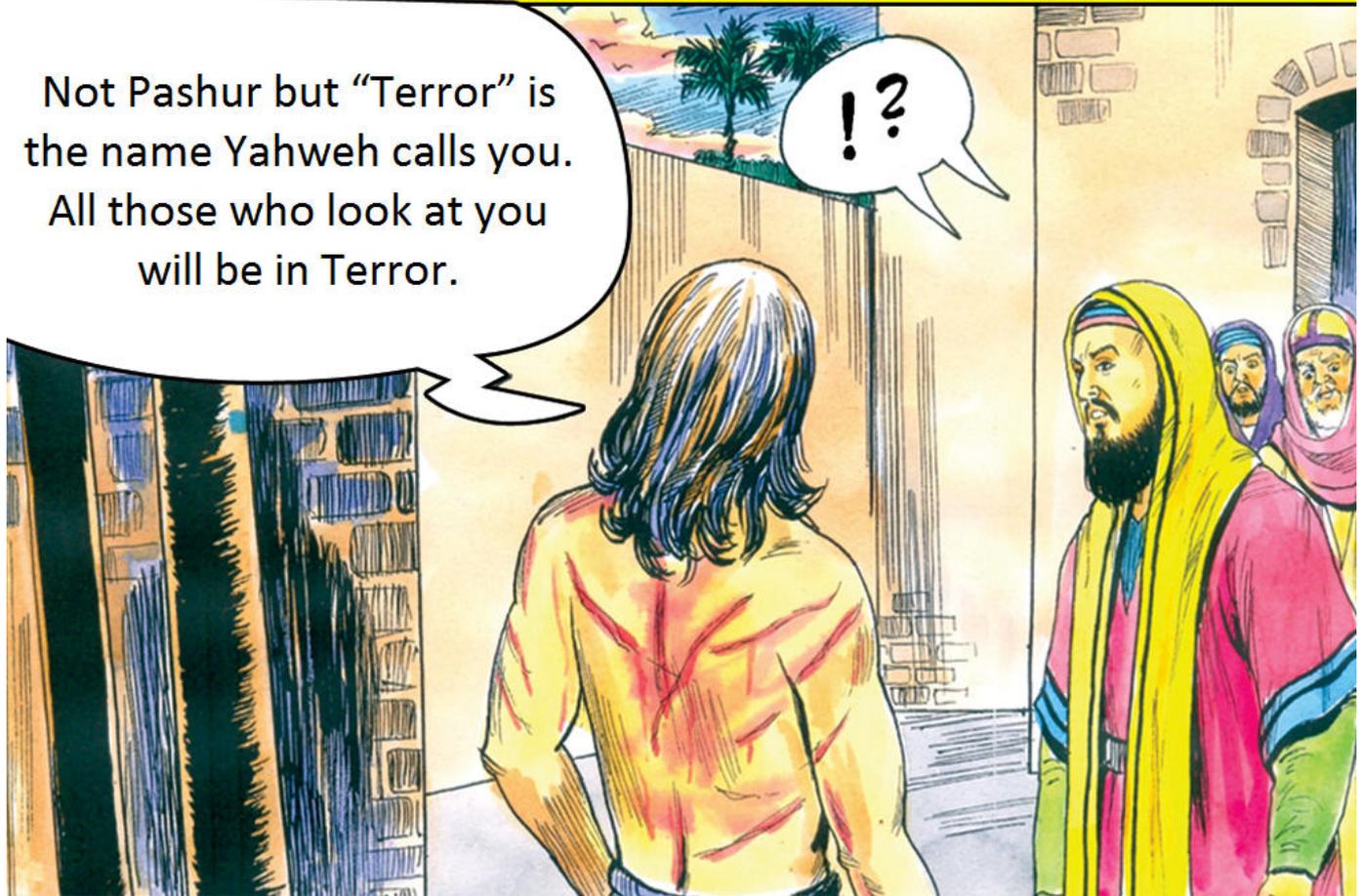
Enough, you stay there tonight and meditate on your prophecies.

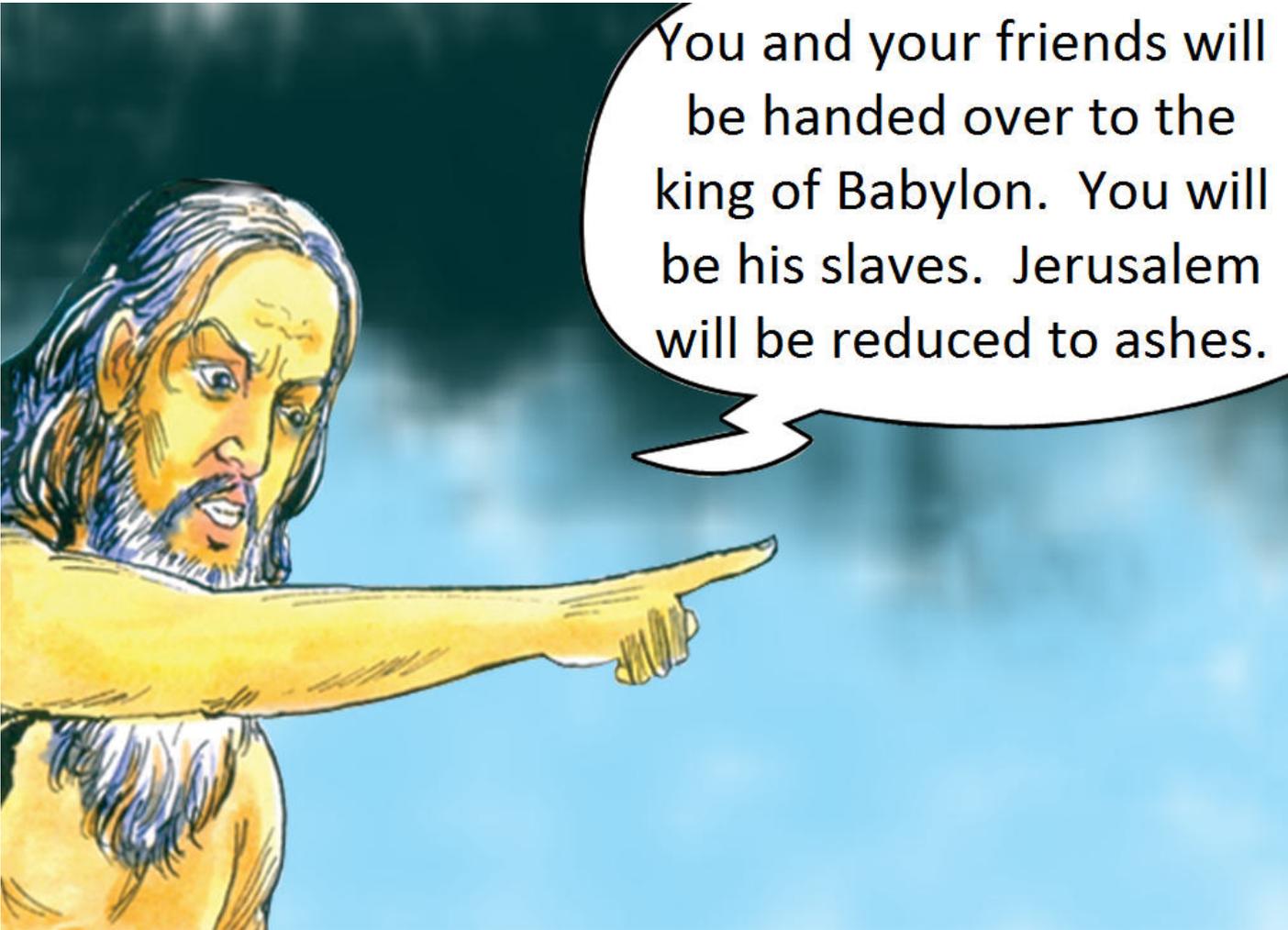


The next day Pashur had Jeremiah taken out of the stocks.

Not Pashur but "Terror" is  
the name Yahweh calls you.  
All those who look at you  
will be in Terror.

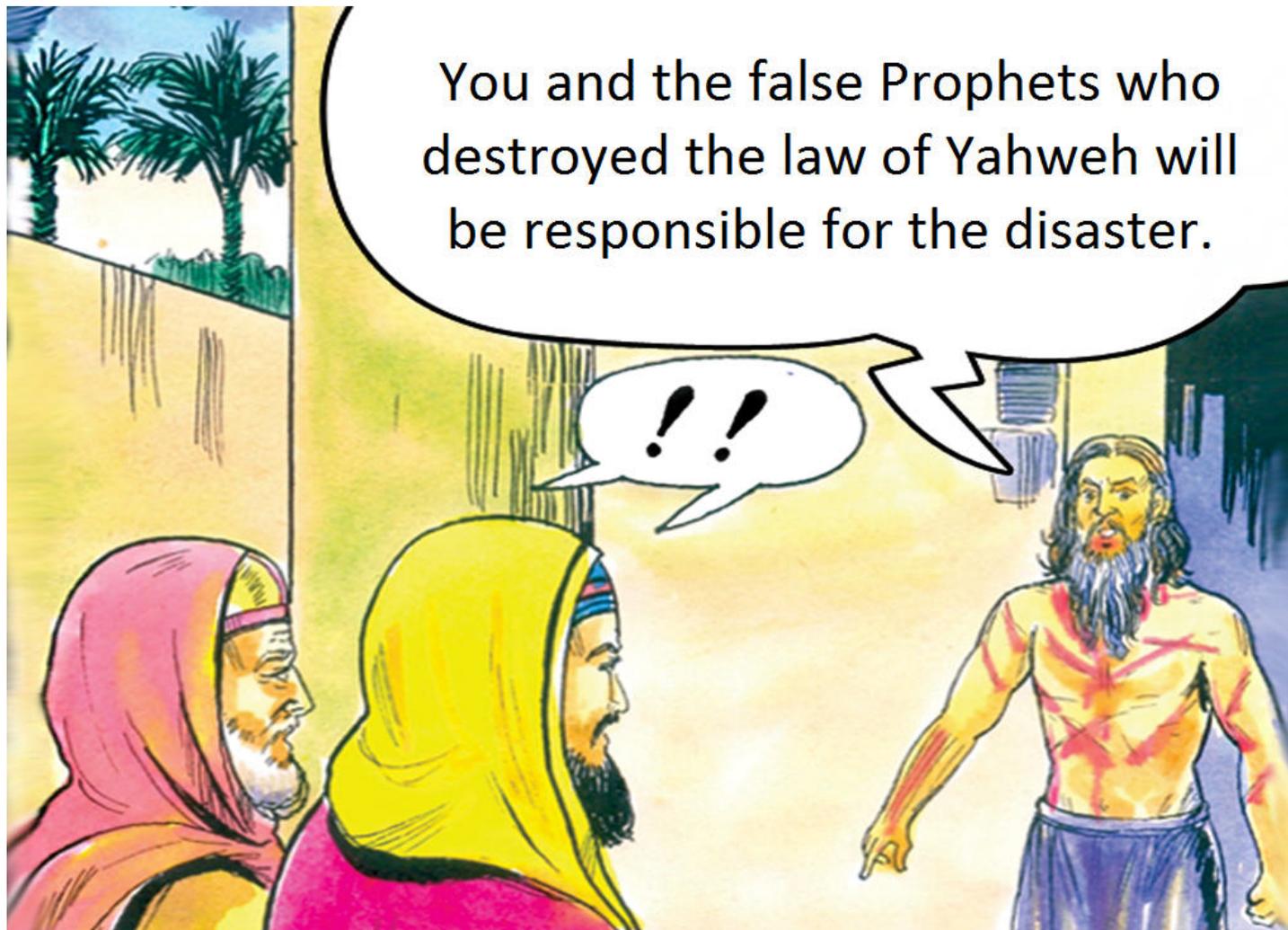
!?





You and your friends will be handed over to the king of Babylon. You will be his slaves. Jerusalem will be reduced to ashes.

You and the false Prophets who destroyed the law of Yahweh will be responsible for the disaster.



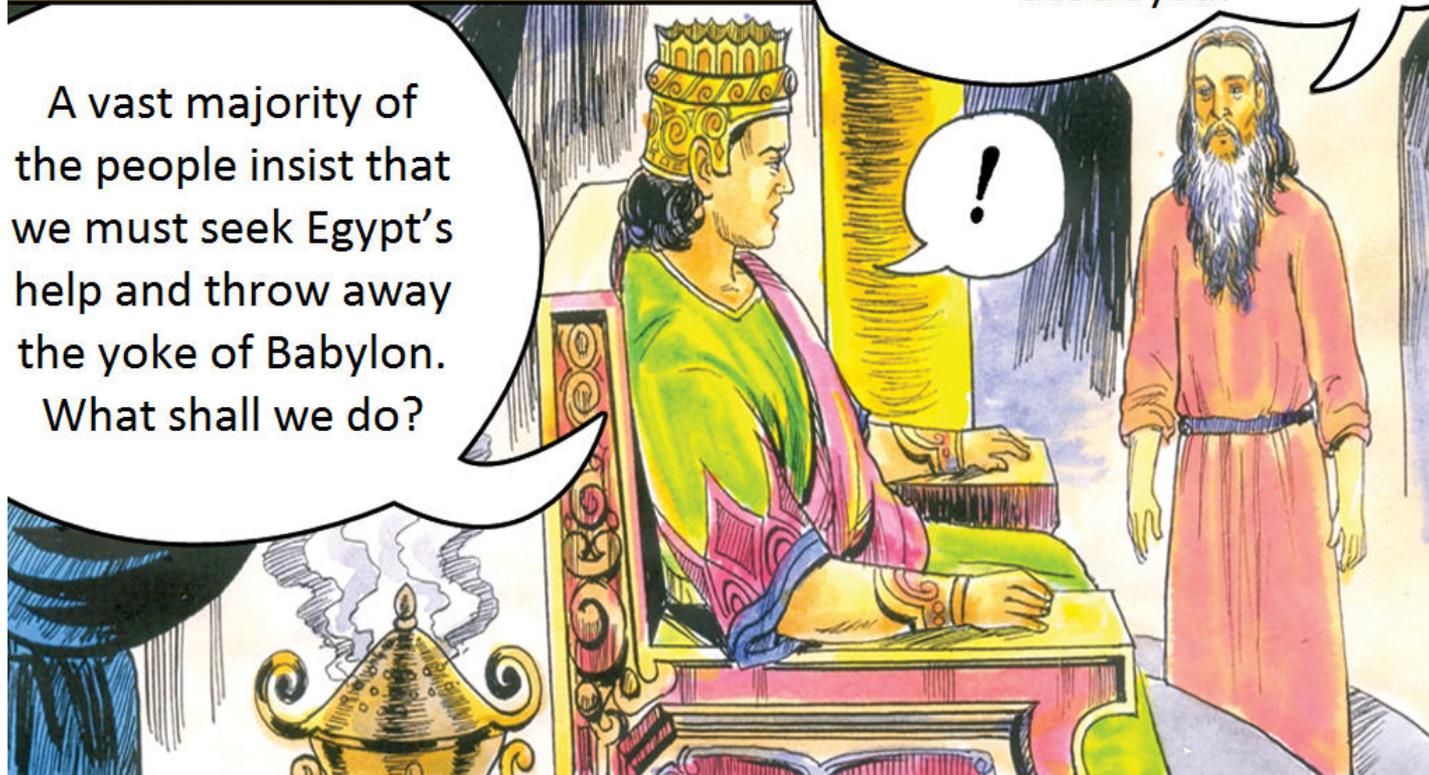
598 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon, Captured Jerusalem and looted the Temple. Ten Thousand captives, including the king, nobles and craftsmen were exiled to Babylon. Zedekiah was made king in Jerusalem.



King Zedekiah had great respect for Jeremiah and often consulted him.

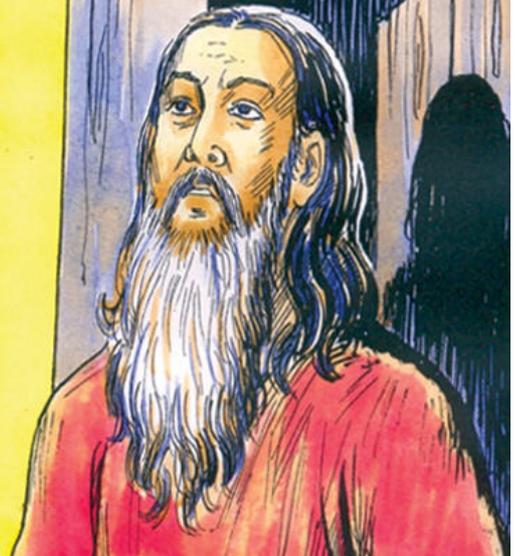
Trust in the Lord and live in submission to Babylon or else this city will be destroyed.

A vast majority of the people insist that we must seek Egypt's help and throw away the yoke of Babylon. What shall we do?

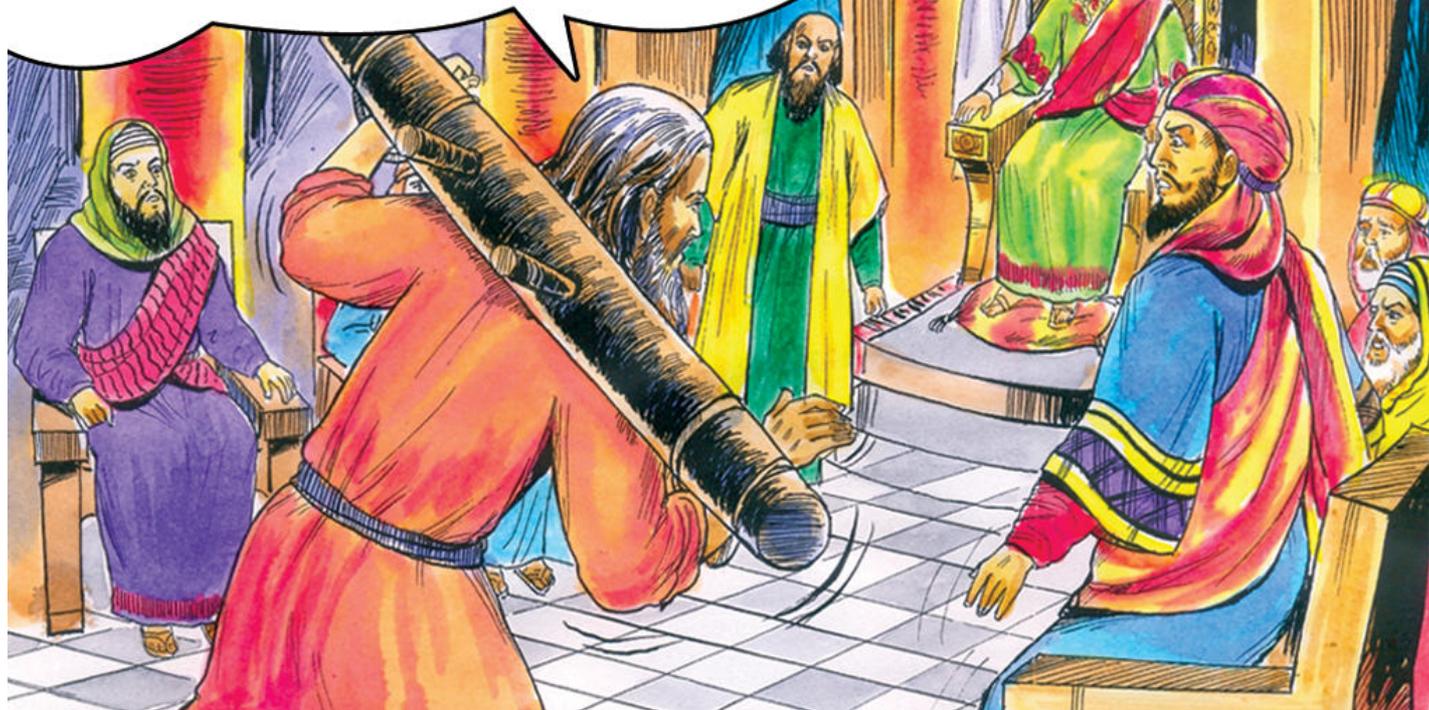


B.C. 594, the neighboring countries invited Zedekiah for an alliance against Babylon. At the same time the word of God came to Jeremiah.

**Make a yoke of wood, put it on your neck and go to Zedekiah and the delegates.**



Listen to the word of God: I have handed over all your countries to my servant Nebuchadnezzar. If you refuse to bend your necks to his Yoke, you will be utterly destroyed.



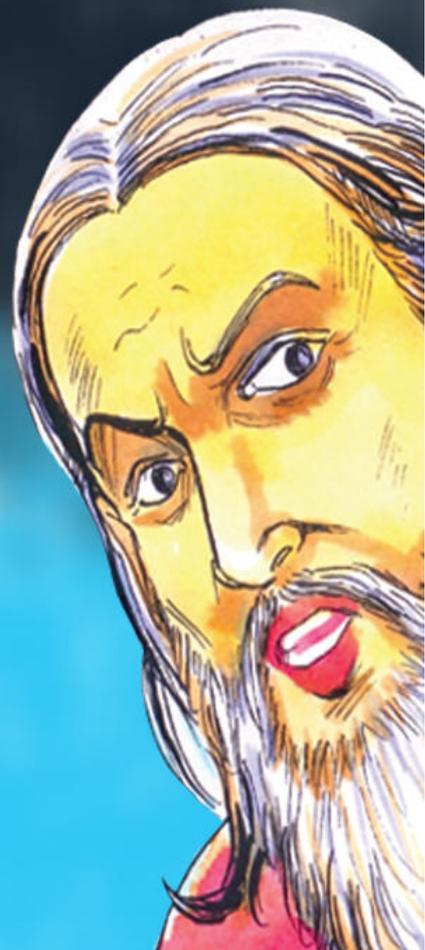
A false Prophet called Hannaniah took the yoke off Jeremiah's neck and broke it saying.

Within two years the Lord will break the yoke of Babylon like this and bring back our people from captivity.

?



You broke the wooden yoke.  
The Lord will place an iron  
yoke on your neck. You shall  
die in a foreign land.



Nobody believed Jeremiah. The king stopped paying tribute to Babylon. In 588 B.C. the Babylonians laid siege to Jerusalem.



From the city under siege Jeremiah tried to go to Anathoth, his home town.

Stop, you traitor! You are deserting to the Babylonians.

I am not. I am only going home.

Liar!

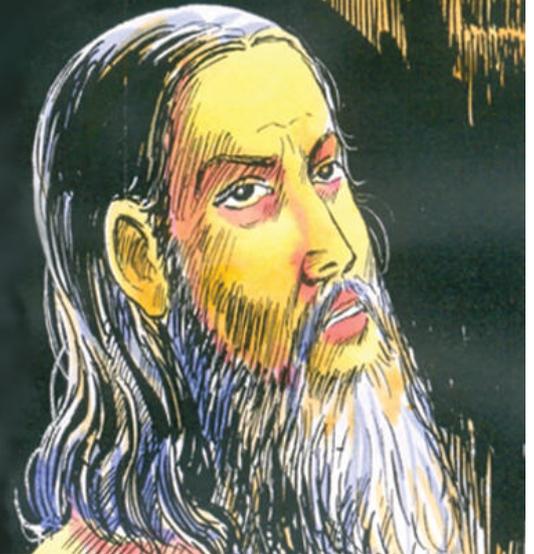


They imprisoned Jeremiah in an underground cell.

Why was I ever born? Why should I live at all, hated and despised by all? Why didn't they kill me the moment I was born?



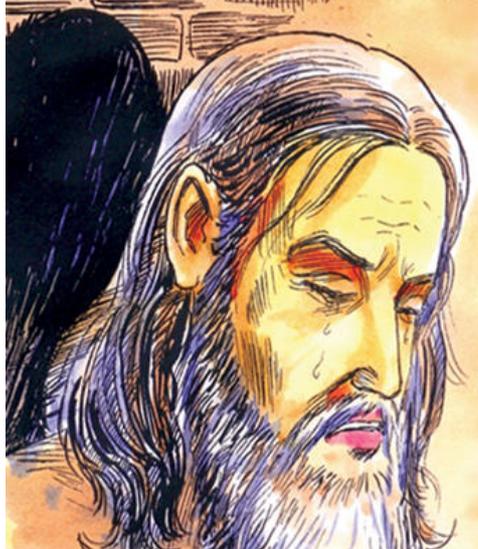
Lord, you alone are responsible for all this. It is you who deceived me to become your Prophet.



Your word was my delight. It  
was sweet as honey. I  
proclaimed it with joy. Why is  
it that you have abandoned  
me now?



Are you a deceptive stream with inconsistent waters? Enough! I won't utter your word anymore.



**If you come back, I  
will take you back  
into my service. If  
you speak only  
noble words, you  
shall be as my own  
mouth.**

So, this is the  
consolation  
you give!



King Zedekiah released Jeremiah from the dungeon and put him in the ordinary prison. The official got hold of him and threw him into a well.

Don't you ever dishearten the people again asking them to surrender to Babylon!

You and your prophecies will end in this well.

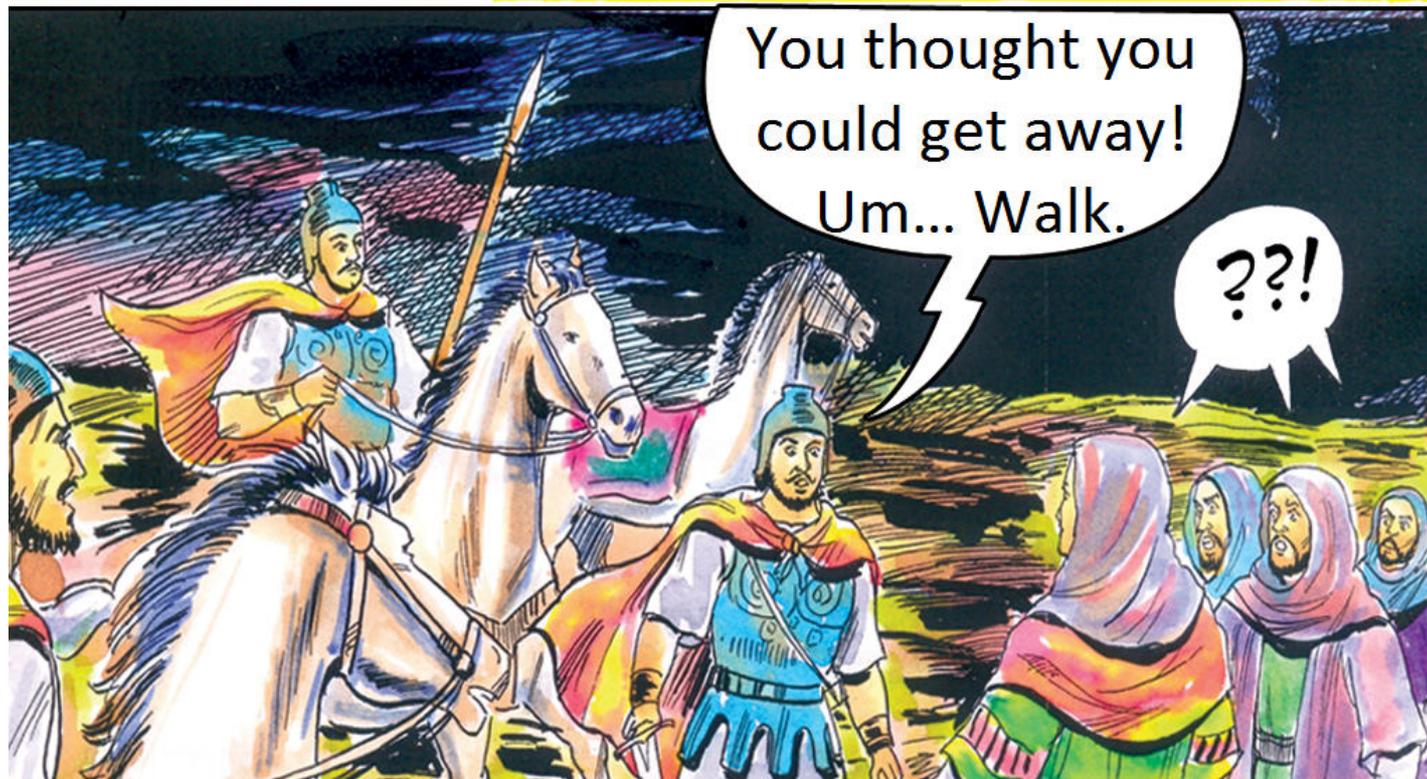
!?



That night, Jeremiah who had sunk waist deep in mud was pulled out by a servant of the king.



587 B.C. seeing that he will have to surrender, Zedekiah with a few of his servants tried to escape into the desert by night. But, the Babylonians overtook him.



Zedekiah was brought before the king Nebuchadnezzar who had Zedekiah's sons killed and his eyes put out.



The Babylonian army pulled down the walls of Jerusalem. Set fire to the Temple and to the palaces.



They carried off all the valuables. Thousands of people were enslaved and exiled to Babylon. They freed Jeremiah who was in prison.



**Jeremiah, tell my people:  
I punished those who broke the  
Covenant. The days are coming  
when I will make a new Covenant  
with the people of Israel. I will  
write my laws in their hearts. I will  
be their God and they  
shall be my people.**



In the year 587, the monarchy came to an end in Israel. The king of Babylon appointed Gedaliah as Governor to rule over the poor people left in Jerusalem. But some of the Jews assassinated him. Fearing the wrath of Babylon, they fled to Egypt dragging Jeremiah with them. According to the Jewish tradition, Jeremiah was stoned to death in Egypt. To call the people to conversion and sustain the hope of the exiles, God sent another Prophet.

Next Story **Ezekiel**

# Questions.

1. Where was Jeremiah born?
2. What was the mission entrusted to Jeremiah?
3. What defects did Jeremiah find in King Josiah's Religious Reform?
4. Why did Jeremiah say that the Temple will not save them?
5. Why did Yahweh allow Jerusalem to be destroyed?
6. What was the message Jeremiah conveyed by carrying the yoke?
7. What did Jeremiah learn from the potter?
8. Name one of the disciples of Jeremiah.
9. Name four prophets who lived during the time of Jeremiah
10. Jeremiah prefigured Jesus. How?

# 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