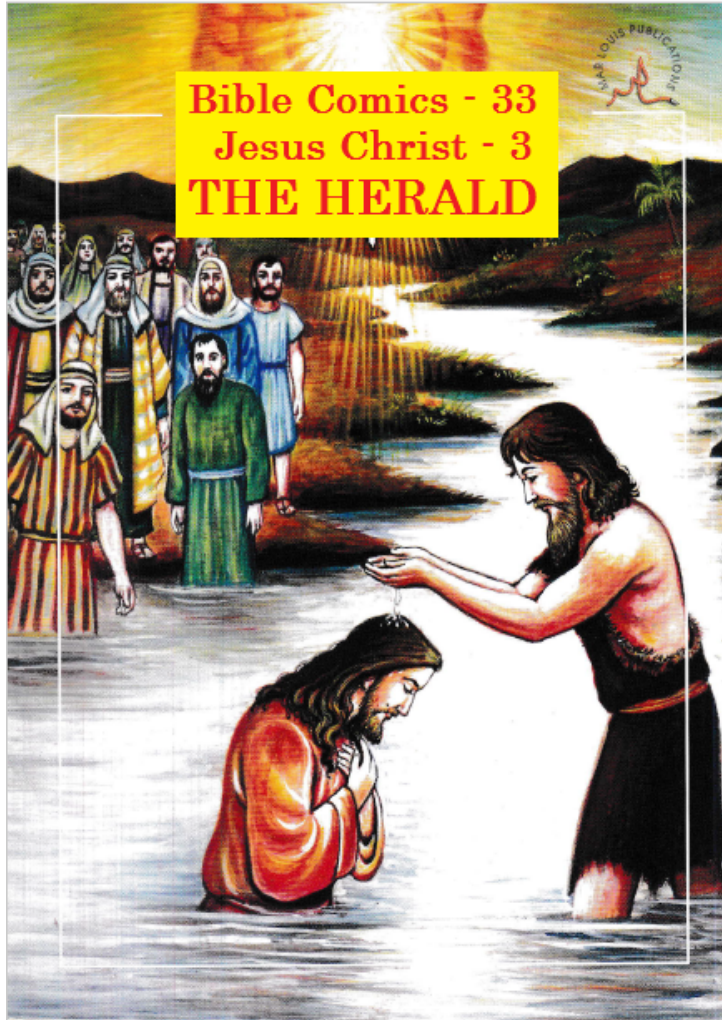


Bible Comics - 33
Jesus Christ - 3
THE HERALD

USA LOUIS PUBLISHING
1974



The Herald

In this book we are depicting the period that lies between Jesus' return from Egypt and the beginning of his public ministry. The Gospels give us no information about his life in Nazareth except the fact that he grew up in Nazareth as an obedient boy, he was loved by all and that he worked as a carpenter. He lived as an ordinary man, earning his bread by the sweat of his brow. Such a life

has no place in the world history that records the triumphs of heroes.

The event in the temple at the age of twelve stands out as an exception to this obscurity. The setting in which we present that event is based on the historical context of the period. By staying back in the temple and then responding to his parents as he did, Jesus reveals his unique relationship to God and his firm determination to do the will of his Father. The finding of Jesus in the Temple on the

third day foreshadows the Paschal event that turns Sorrow into joy.

John the Baptist was the Herald sent to announce the coming of Messiah and to prepare the people to receive him. The Gospels tell us that until receiving the prophetic call John was in the desert. His association with the Qumran community depicted in this story is plausible because of the similarity and differences between John and the desert community. His attire reminded one of Elijah and his words

were like those of the authentic prophets of the Old Testament.

John's message was an urgent call to conversion. He proclaimed that God was angry with the world and was about to punish the sinful humanity. Only a true change of heart and life could save the world from impending disaster. The Messiah, he said, was coming after him to purify the world with fire. Everybody without exception was a sinner before God and stood in need of conversion. The

Baptism he administered was a sign of admitting one's sinfulness and need of redemption.

Together with the common people Jesus came and was Baptized by John. Though he was sinless, by submitting to the Baptism, Jesus expressed his solidarity with the sinful humanity. He took upon himself the sins of the world in order to liberate the world from its sins.

With the appearance of the Lord on the scene, the task of the Herald is accomplished. When he challenged the ruler of Galilee, with his call to conversion, John was signing his own death warrant. The first wife whom Herod Antipas divorced in order to marry Herodias, was the daughter of Aretas, king of the neighboring Nabataea. Aretas was preparing for war to avenge this insult when John started his violent accusations. Herod

feared that this would raise popular revolt in that critical moment. Instead of changing his ways, Herod chose to silence the accusing voice. Thus, John became the Herald not only announcing the coming, but also prefiguring the outcome of Jesus' ministry.

Bible Comics - 33



Bible Comics - 3



THE HERALD

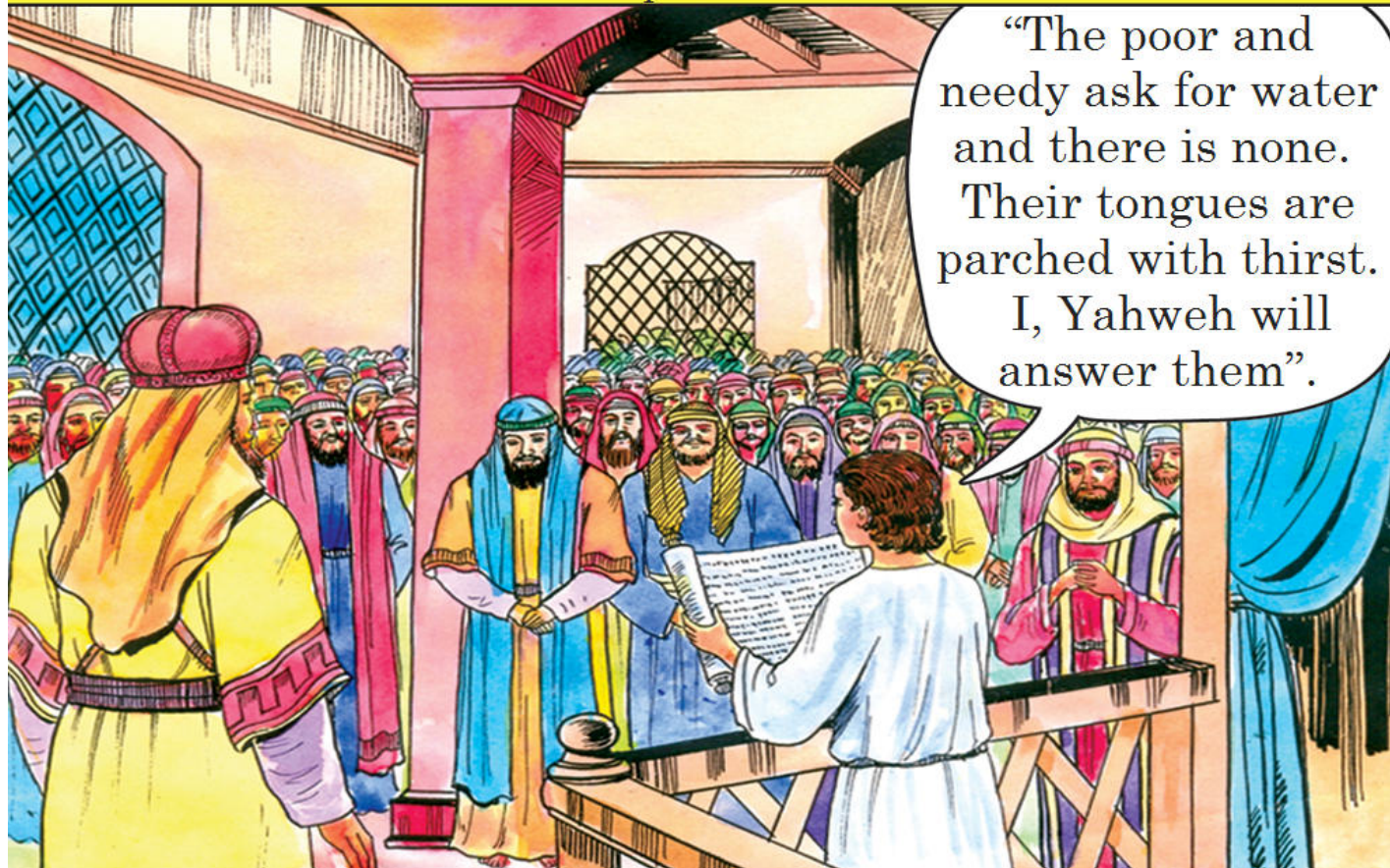
Script

Dr. Michael Karimattam

Illustration

Devassy & Benny

When Jesus was twelve years old they celebrated his Bar-Mitzvah. As a part of the ceremony, he exercised his right of reading the scripture in public.



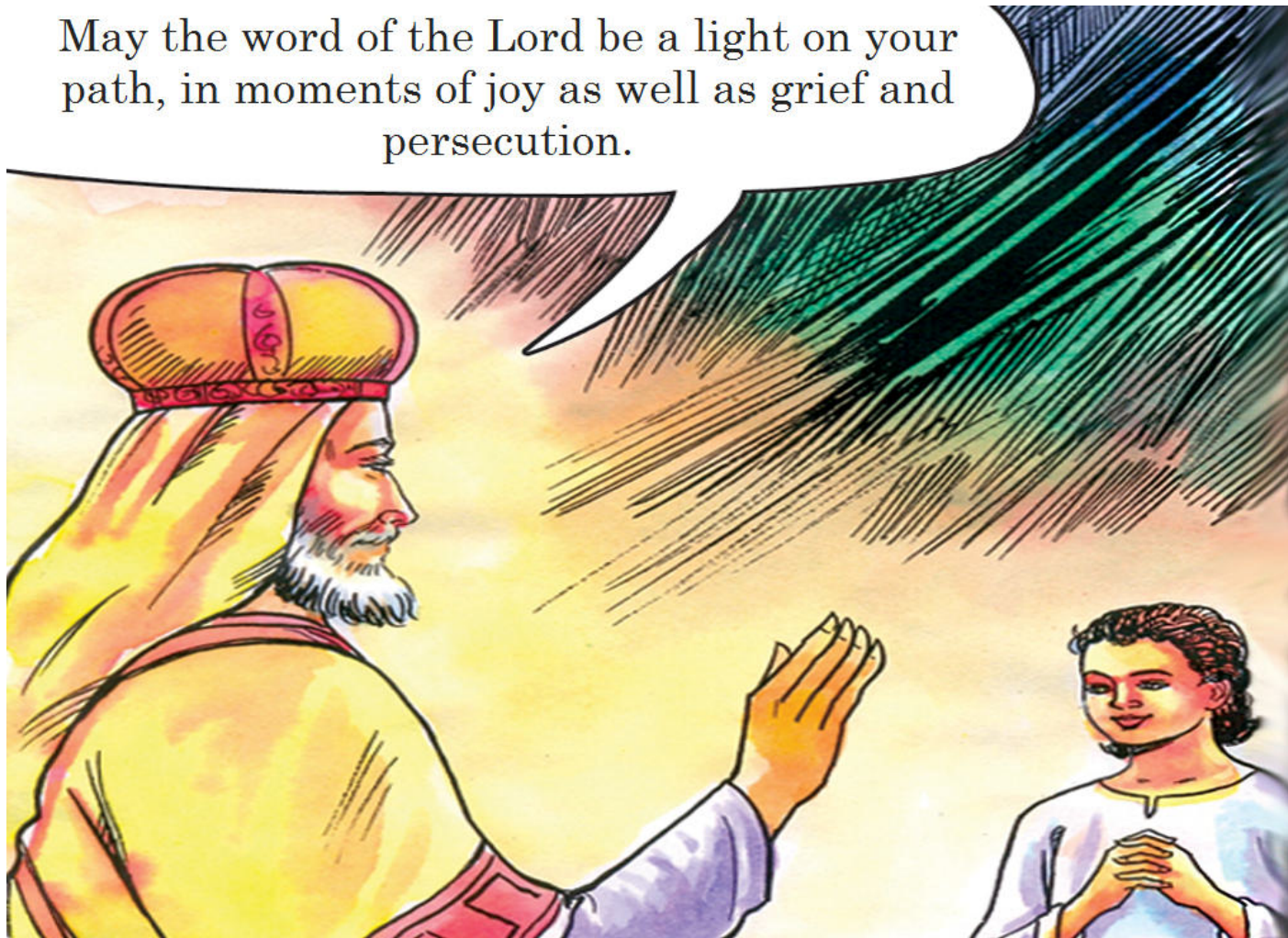
“The poor and needy ask for water and there is none. Their tongues are parched with thirst. I, Yahweh will answer them”.

After the reading.

Jesus, son of Joseph, today you have become an adult member of Israel. Hold fast to the laws of the Covenant.



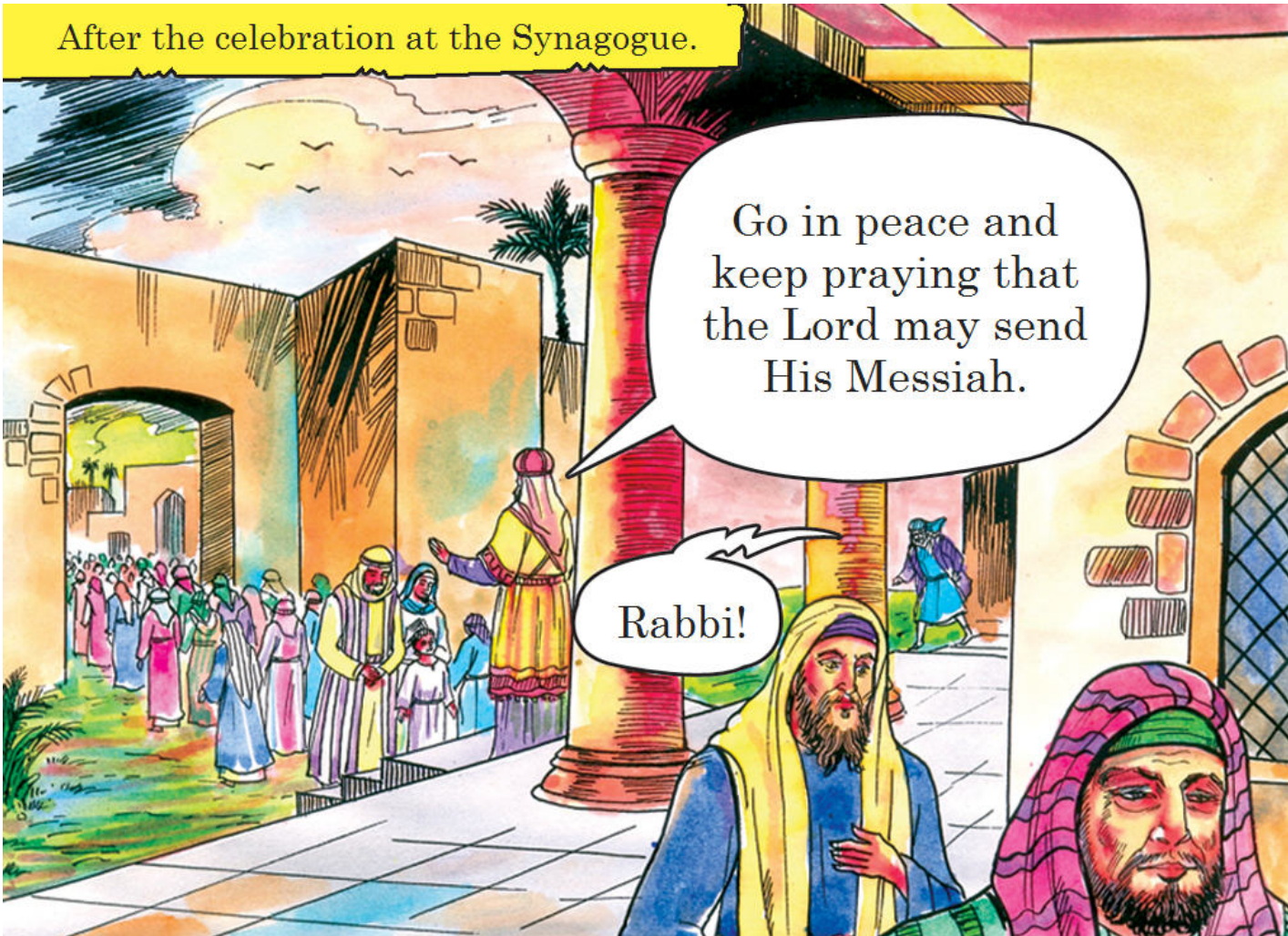
May the word of the Lord be a light on your path, in moments of joy as well as grief and persecution.



Remain faithful to the word until the Messiah comes and liberates us.

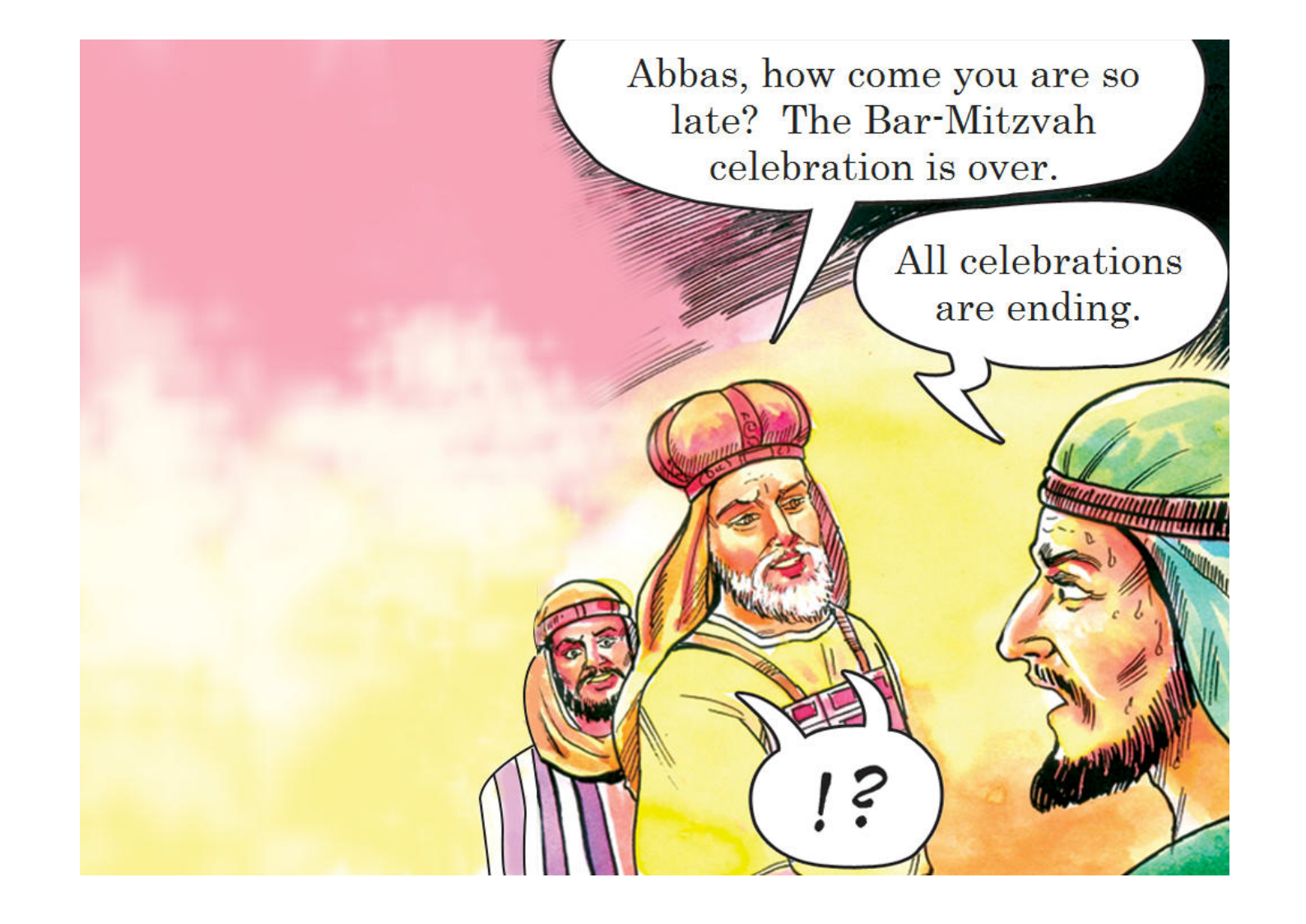


After the celebration at the Synagogue.



Go in peace and
keep praying that
the Lord may send
His Messiah.

Rabbi!



Abbas, how come you are so late? The Bar-Mitzvah celebration is over.

All celebrations are ending.

!?

Why? What are you saying?

Judas, Son of Hezekiah
has plundered the royal
armory at Zephoris. A
revolt has started.

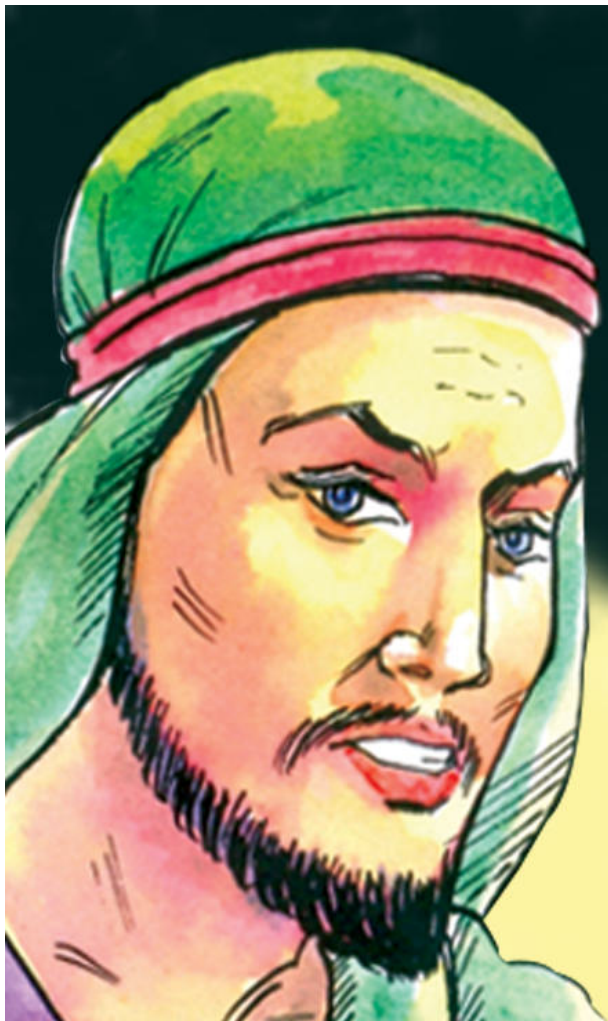


Didn't the army of Antipas do anything?

This is a popular uprising. Thousands have joined Judas. The soldiers can do nothing.

Then the Romans will move in soon.





We must throw them out. That is the ultimate goal. They are going to count us again.

Our law forbids counting the people of God!

The followers of Judas are burning with zeal for the law.



They are courageous like the Maccabees. We acknowledge no king but the Lord.

Abbas, you've already joined them? You know what happened to Hezekiah.

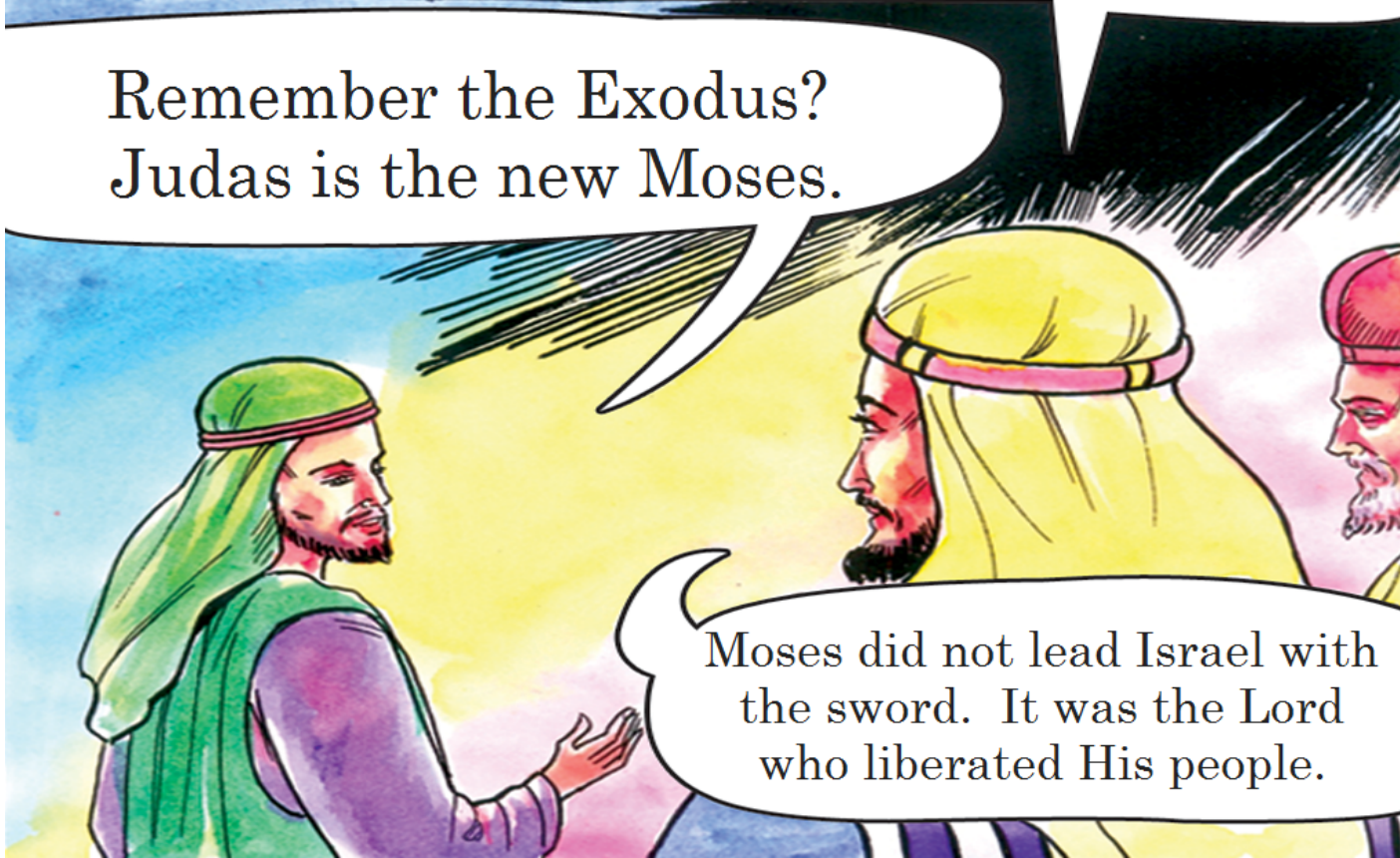


Crucified! Precisely
because of that we all
must take up arms.

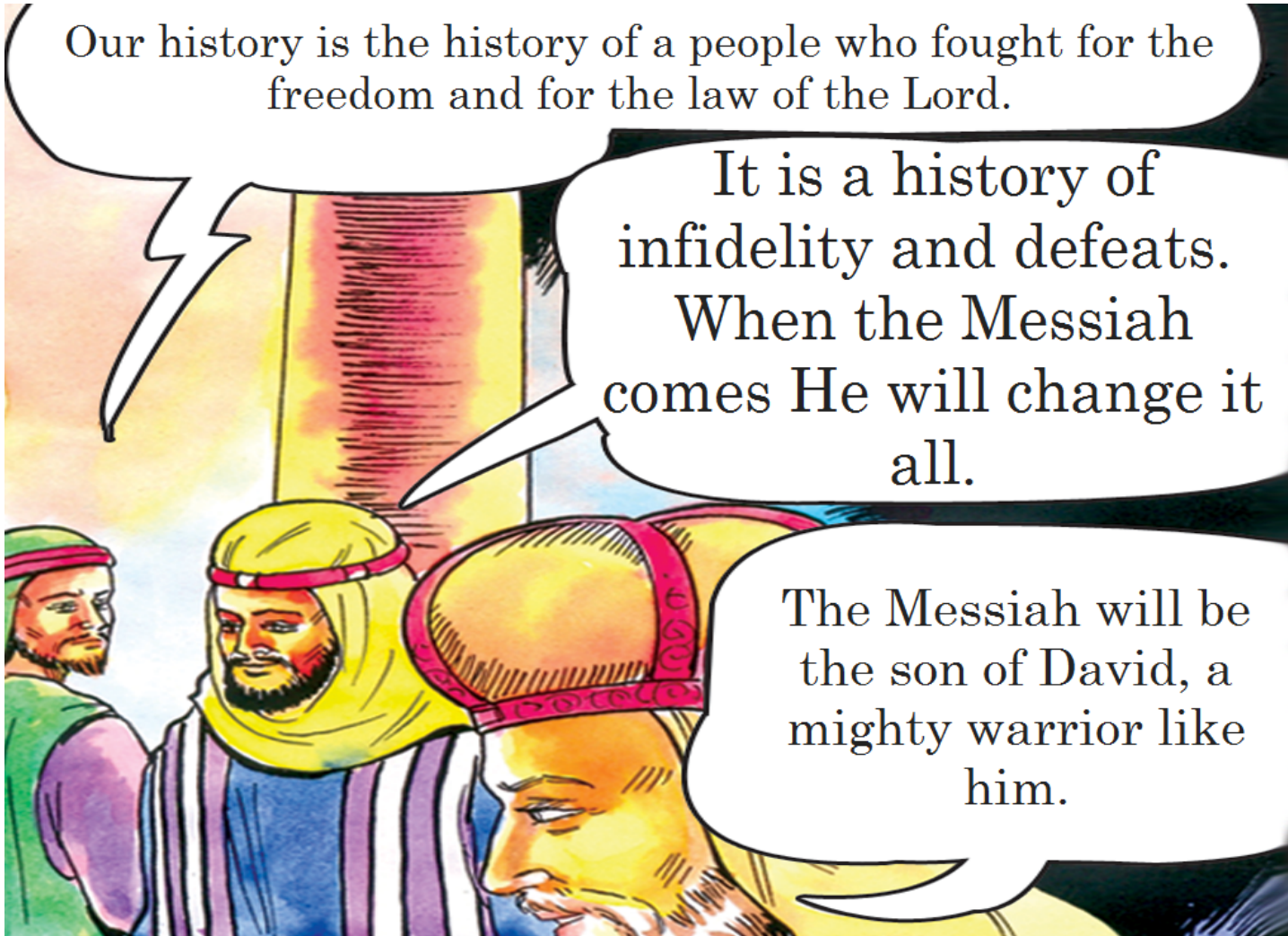


What can we do against Rome who rules the world?
Do we have any chance to survive?

Remember the Exodus?
Judas is the new Moses.



Moses did not lead Israel with
the sword. It was the Lord
who liberated His people.



Our history is the history of a people who fought for the freedom and for the law of the Lord.

It is a history of infidelity and defeats. When the Messiah comes He will change it all.

The Messiah will be the son of David, a mighty warrior like him.

I have not time to argue. Guerrilla training is going on in the mountains. Those who wish can join.



After some time at Joseph's house.

Now that Jesus has come of age, shouldn't we take him to Jerusalem for the Passover?

Sure, but there may be fighting in Jerusalem this year.

Why father, who is going to fight?



The men of Judas are determined to attack the Romans during the Passover.

If at all, that will be only at the end of the feast.
We can return before that.

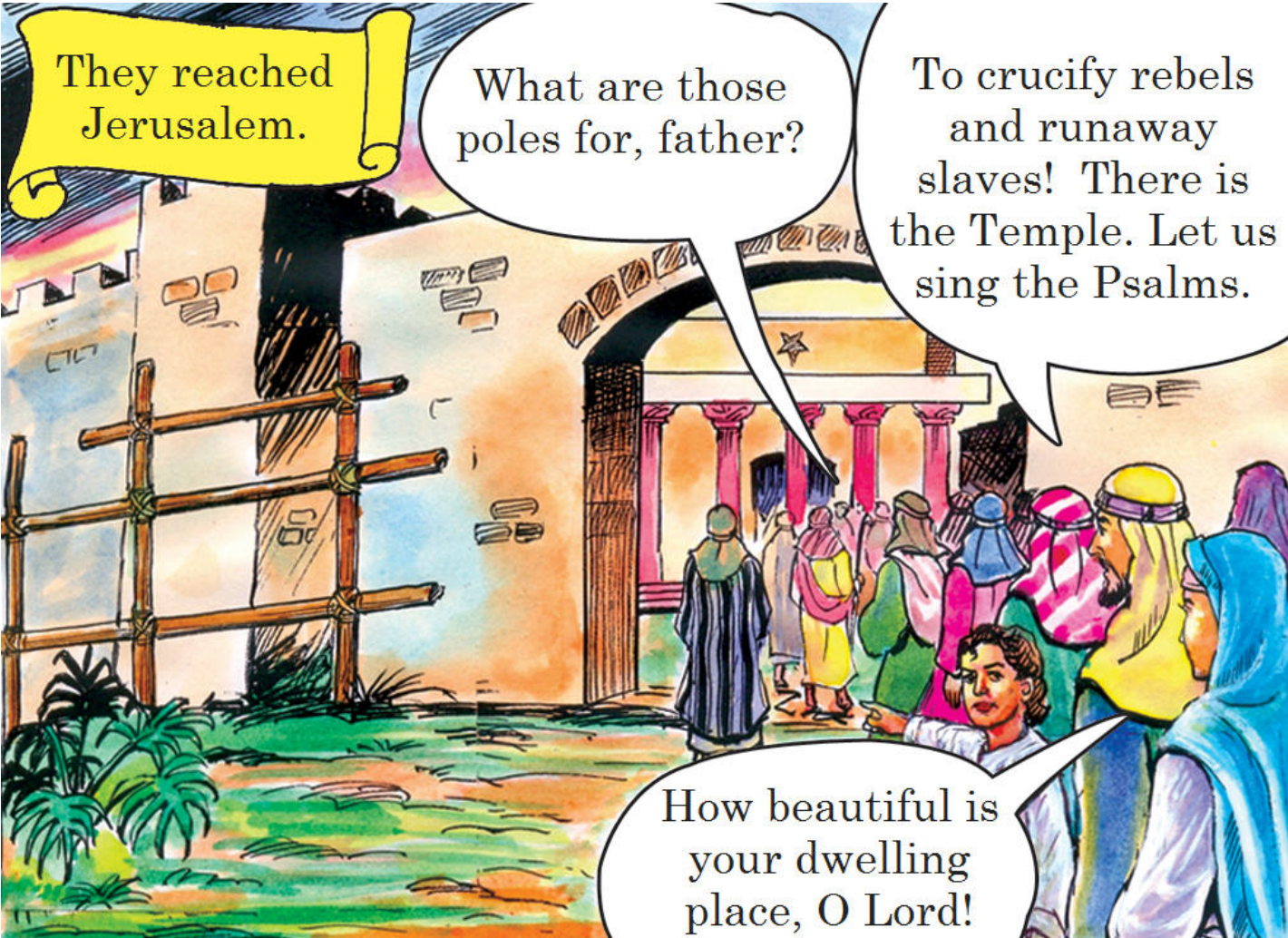


We must take Jesus for the pilgrimage. But, if the war breaks out....

The Lord will protect us. We won't be involved in the revolt.

!





They reached Jerusalem.

What are those poles for, father?

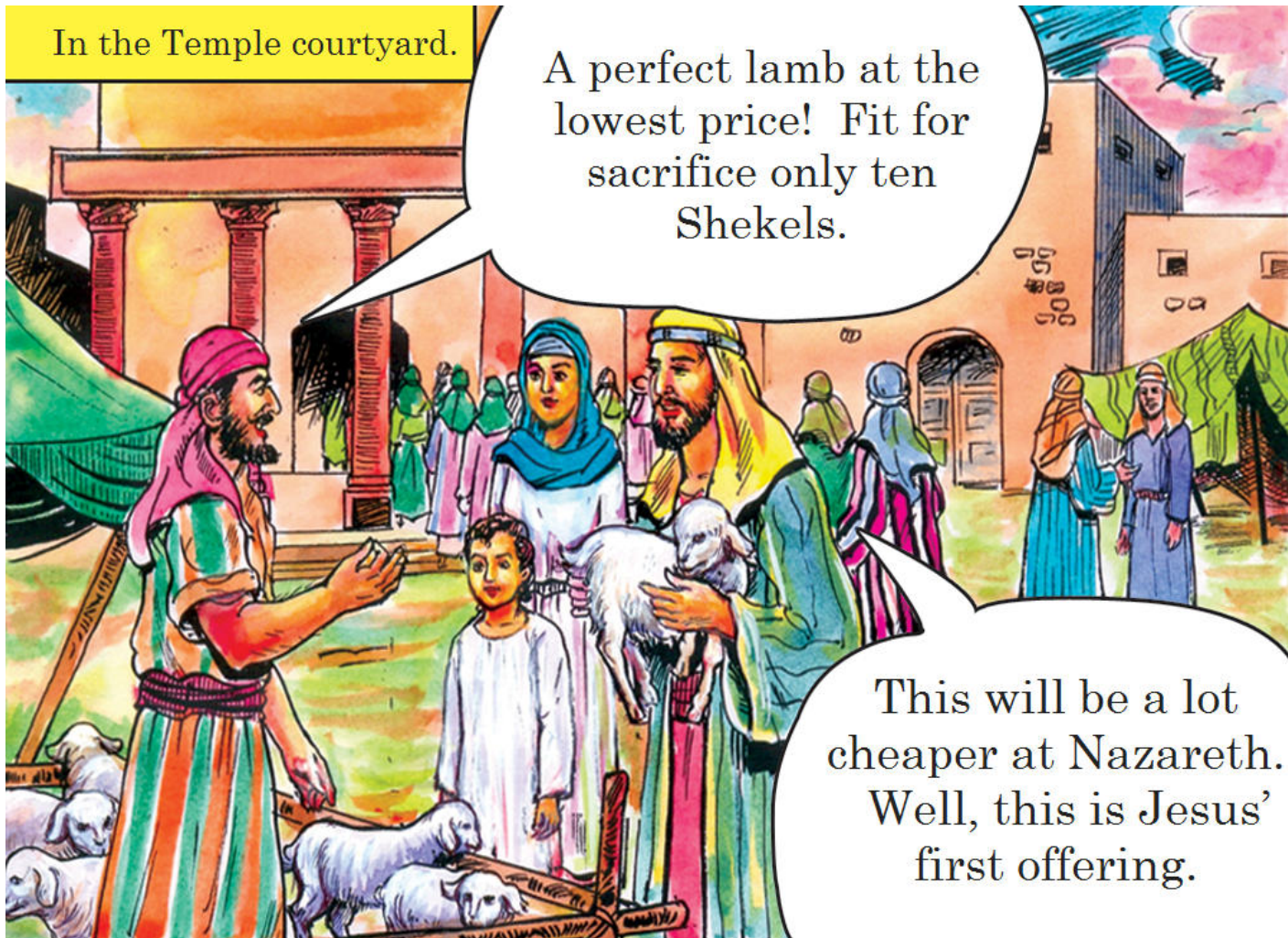
To crucify rebels and runaway slaves! There is the Temple. Let us sing the Psalms.

How beautiful is your dwelling place, O Lord!

In the Temple courtyard.

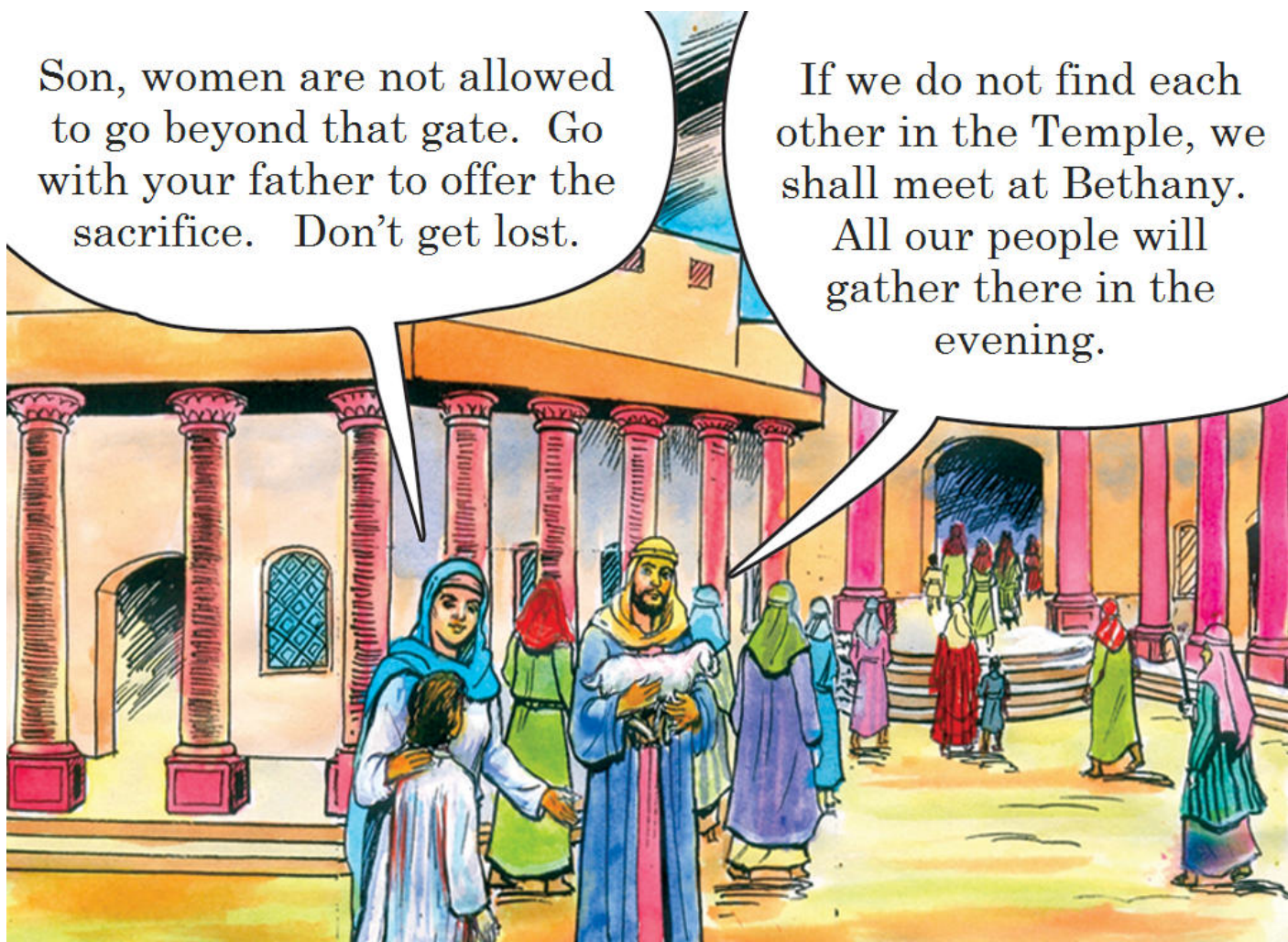
A perfect lamb at the lowest price! Fit for sacrifice only ten Shekels.

This will be a lot cheaper at Nazareth. Well, this is Jesus' first offering.



Son, women are not allowed to go beyond that gate. Go with your father to offer the sacrifice. Don't get lost.

If we do not find each other in the Temple, we shall meet at Bethany. All our people will gather there in the evening.



This is our offering to the Lord. Kindly accept this gift and bless us.

A lamb acceptable to the Lord! May His face shine upon you.



What is going on at the gate?

Roman soldiers!

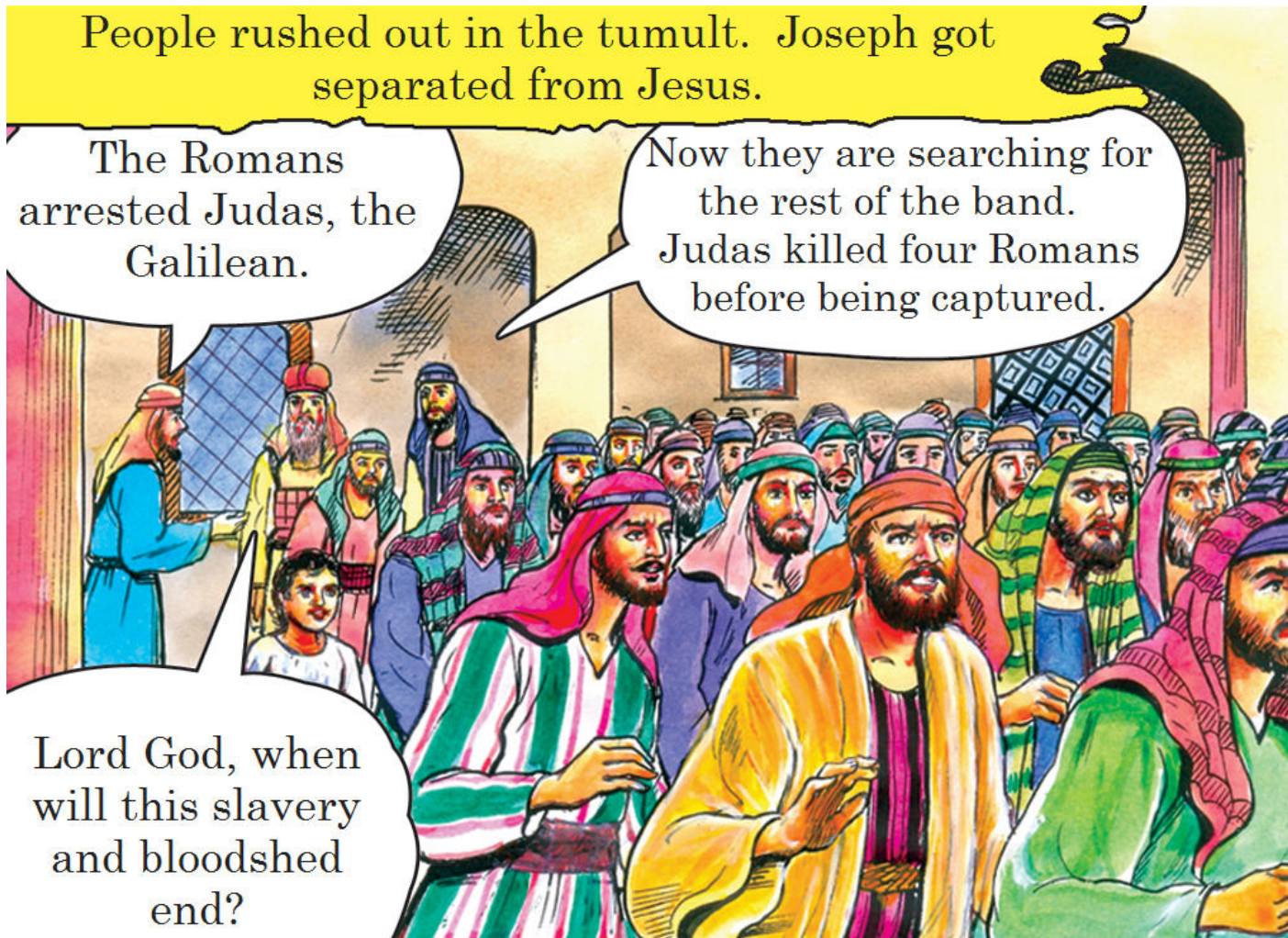
Looks like they are chasing someone.

People rushed out in the tumult. Joseph got separated from Jesus.

The Romans arrested Judas, the Galilean.

Now they are searching for the rest of the band. Judas killed four Romans before being captured.

Lord God, when will this slavery and bloodshed end?



When the tumult was over, Jesus was left alone. He walked around the Temple and reached a corner where a discussion was in progress among some leaders and Rabbis.

The Romans defiled the Temple by walking into the Holy ground where only the Israelite men are allowed to enter.

It is all because those Bandits took refuge in the Temple!

They are no bandits. They are freedom fighters.



The Romans are also human beings.
How can you say that the Temple is
defiled because they entered it?

They are Gentiles and so
unclean.



Isn't God the Father of all? If so, shouldn't' be His house open to all?

The Lord our God chose only Israel to be His holy people.



The Pilgrims from Nazareth gathered at Bethany.

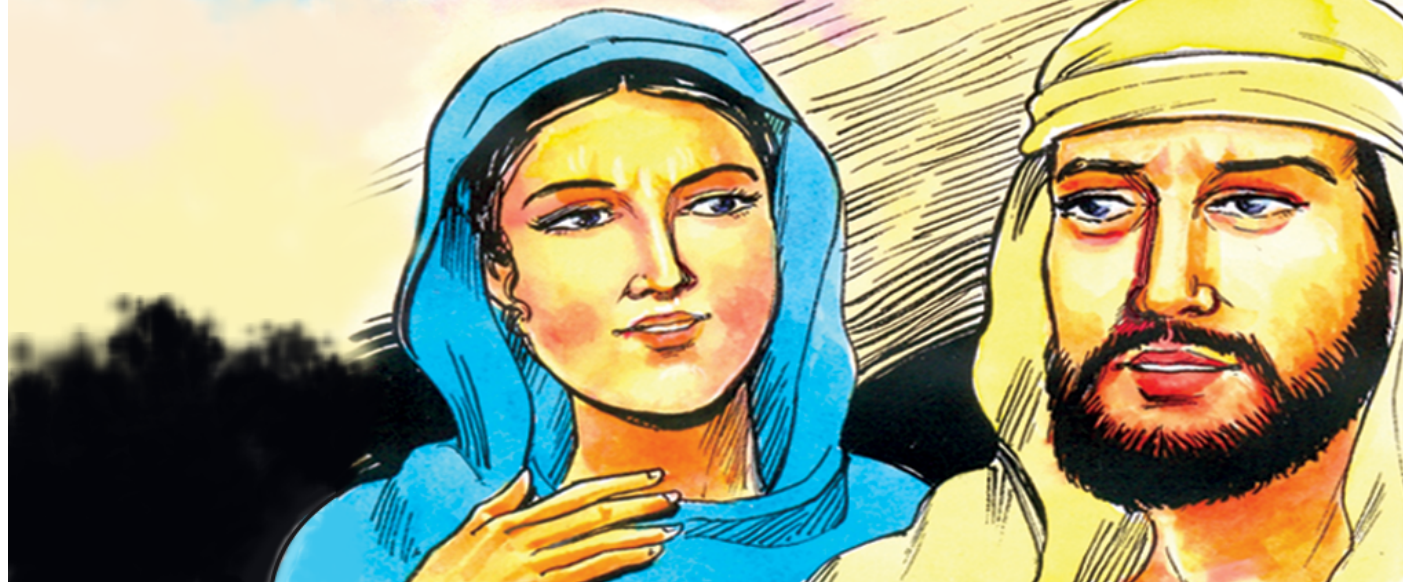
Thank God. I never thought we would get out of Jerusalem in one piece.

Roman soldiers everywhere. They stopped and questioned everyone from Galilee.



Good thing we had no weapons. Well, let us eat. Where is Jesus?

I thought he was with you!



I saw neither of you
after we parted in
the Temple.

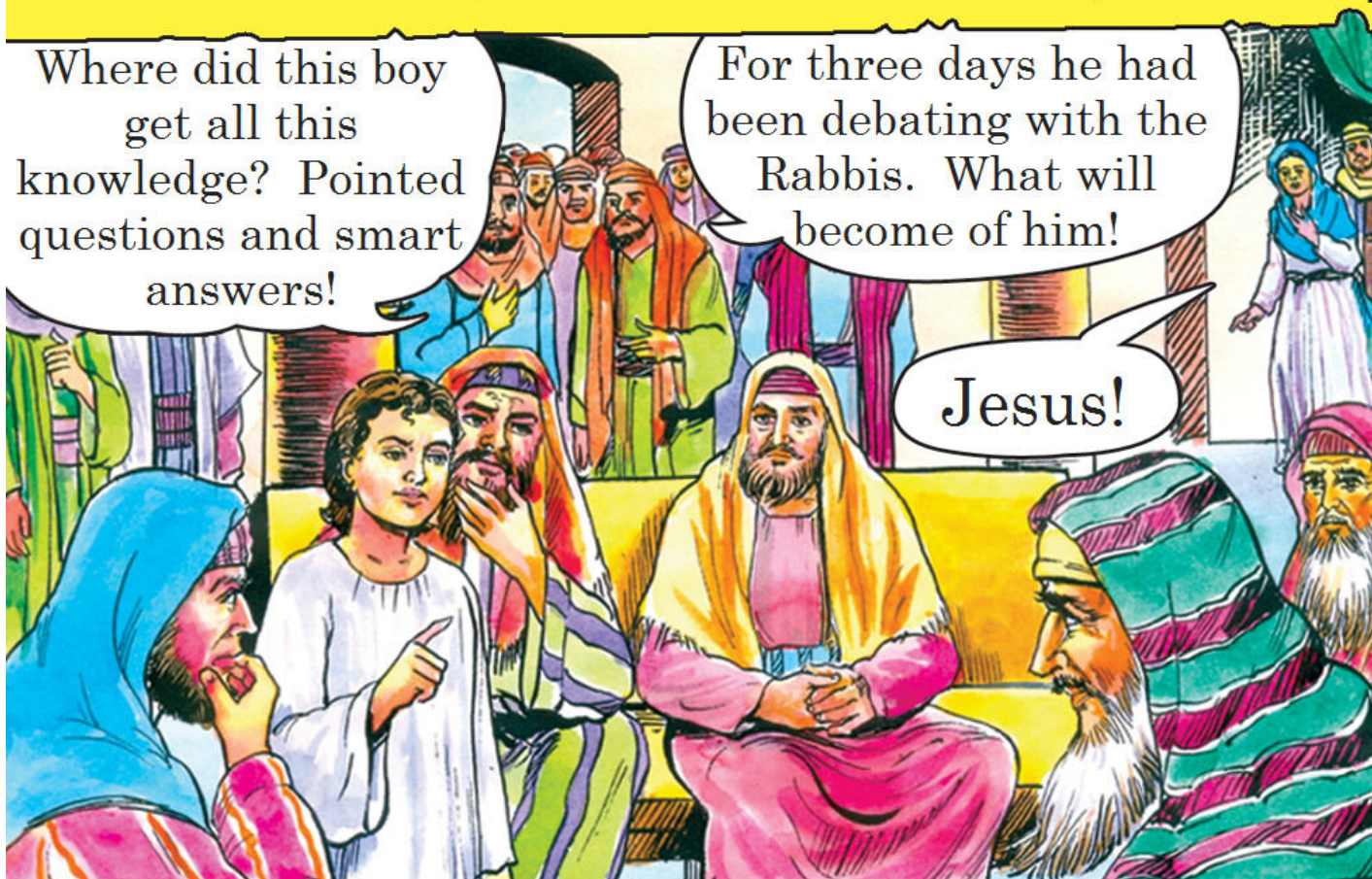


Greatly troubled, they went around searching for Jesus. On the third day they found him in the Temple.

Where did this boy get all this knowledge? Pointed questions and smart answers!

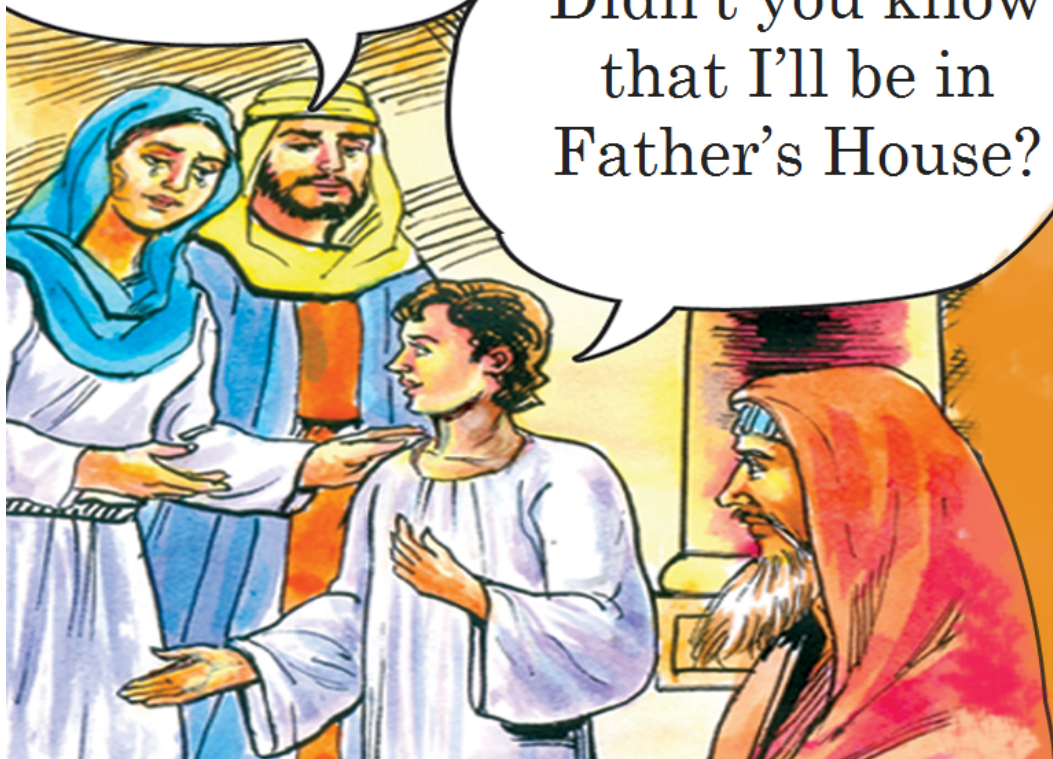
For three days he had been debating with the Rabbis. What will become of him!

Jesus!



My son, we
looked for you
everywhere.

Where did you
look for me?
Didn't you know
that I'll be in
Father's House?

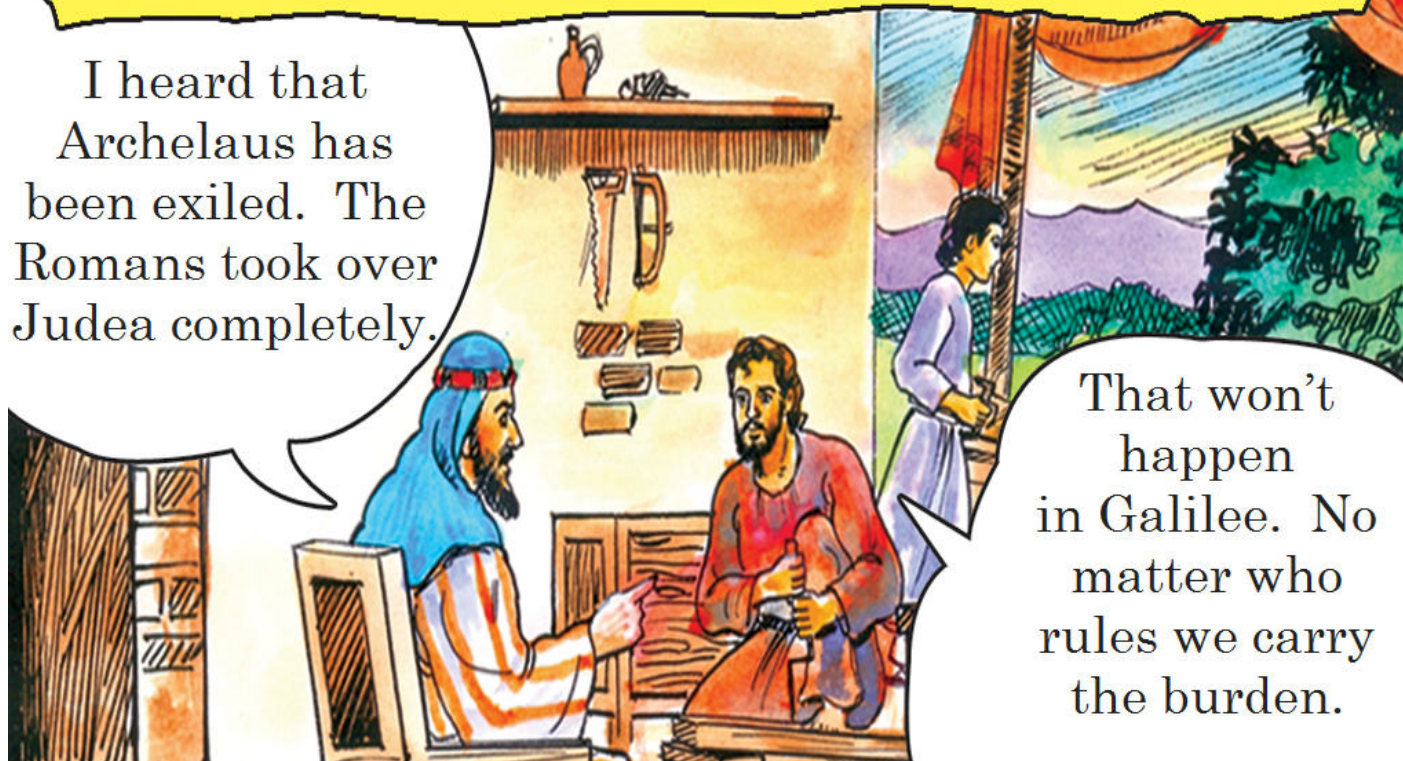


Come, let us go
home.



He went home to Nazareth and lived obedient to them. Sometime later.

I heard that Archelaus has been exiled. The Romans took over Judea completely.



That won't happen in Galilee. No matter who rules we carry the burden.

Did you hear that Antipas is building a new city on the shore of the Lake?

It is heard that he is planning to shift the Capital to the new city and call it Tiberias to please the Emperor.



They found skeletons when they dug for the foundation. It was a burial ground.

The king can build anywhere. The problem is the taxes we are forced to pay.



The men of Judas are gaining power.
They will do something.

Now they are raiding the villages
and harassing our people too.

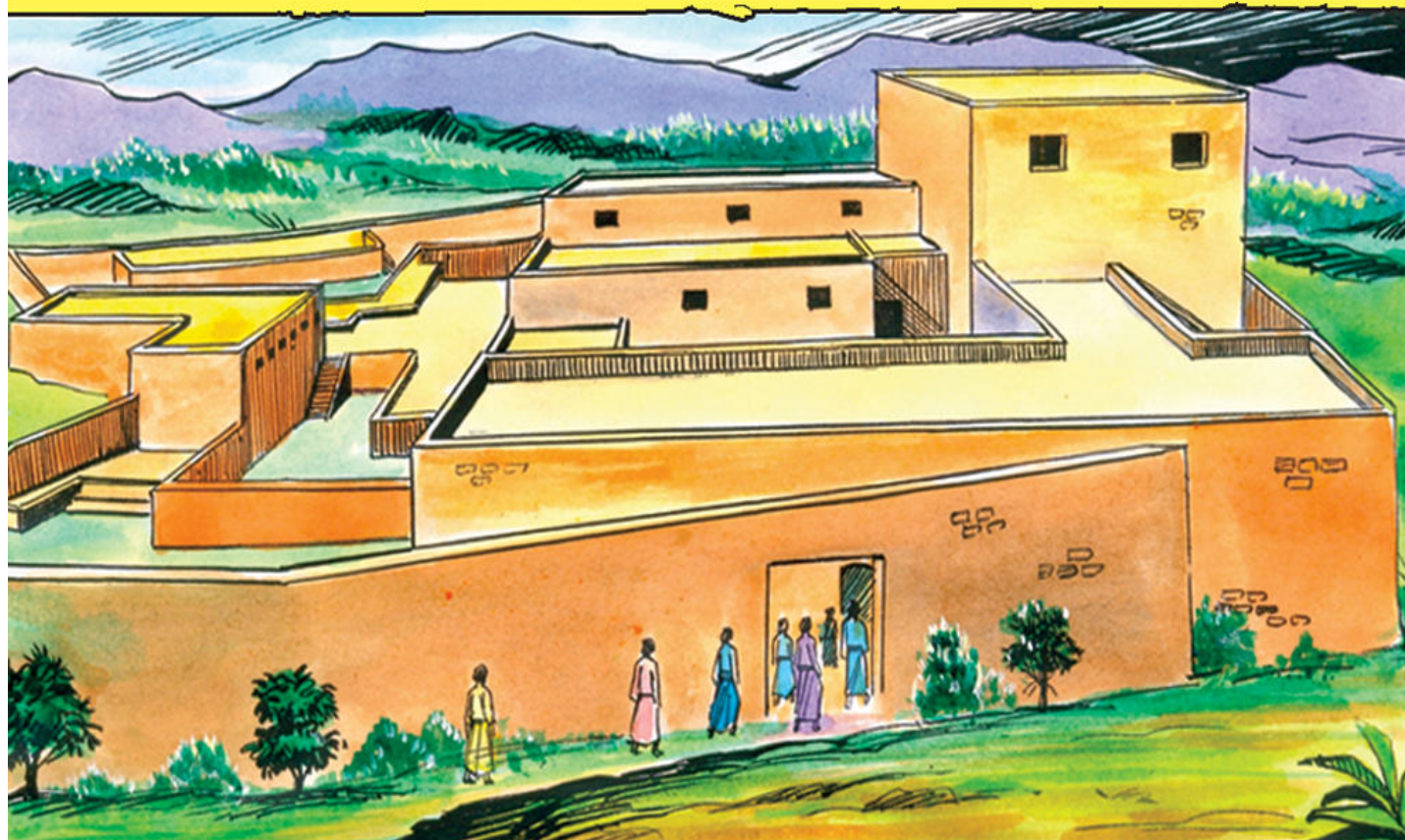


Only those
who help the
Romans!

The king and the
Romans and
zealots! All
together are
strangling the
people.

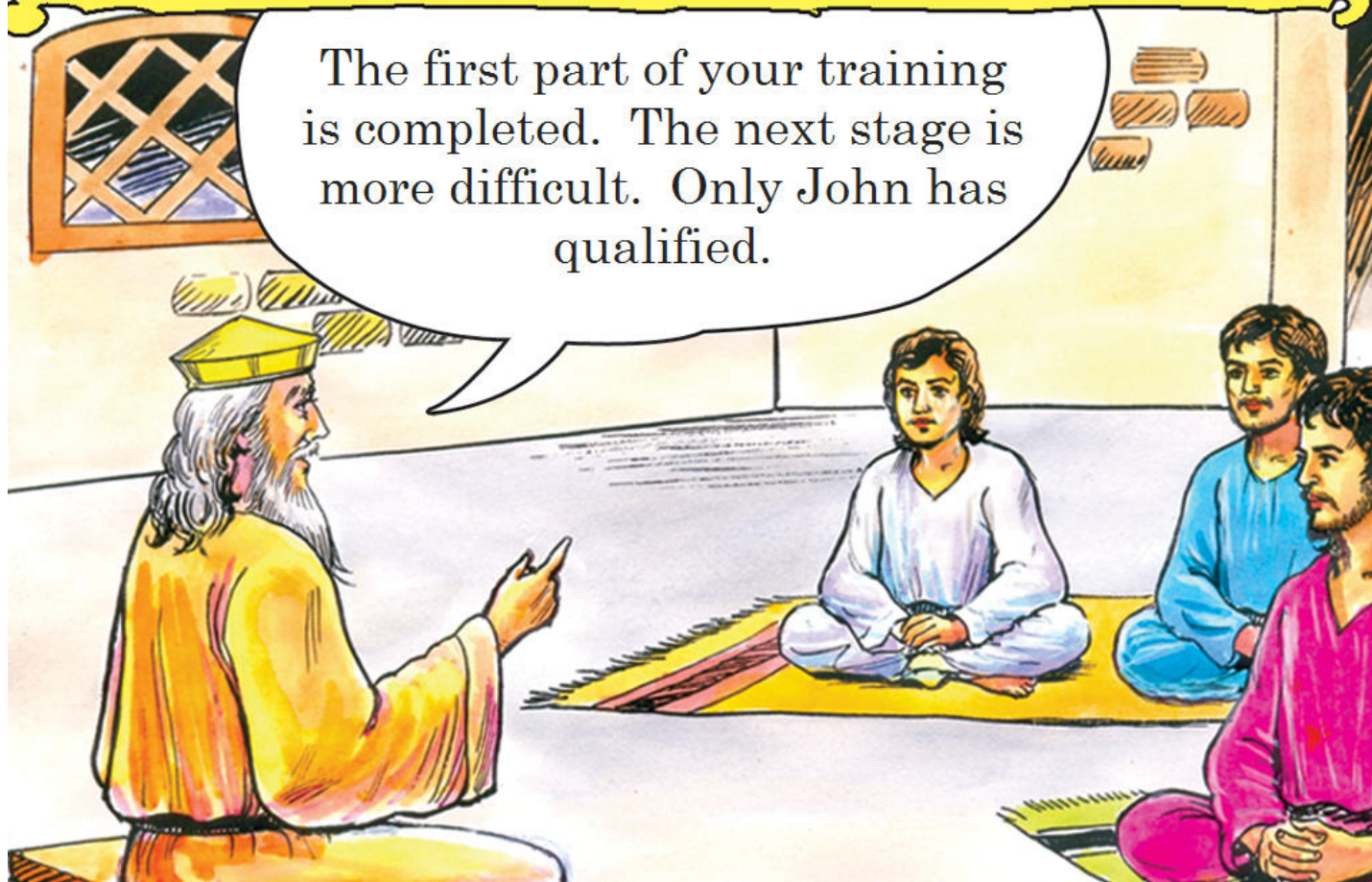


Time Passed. Jesus lived in Nazareth as a carpenter. At the same time John went into the desert and joined the Essene monks at Qumran, on the shore of the Dead Sea.



John went through strict training under various masters.

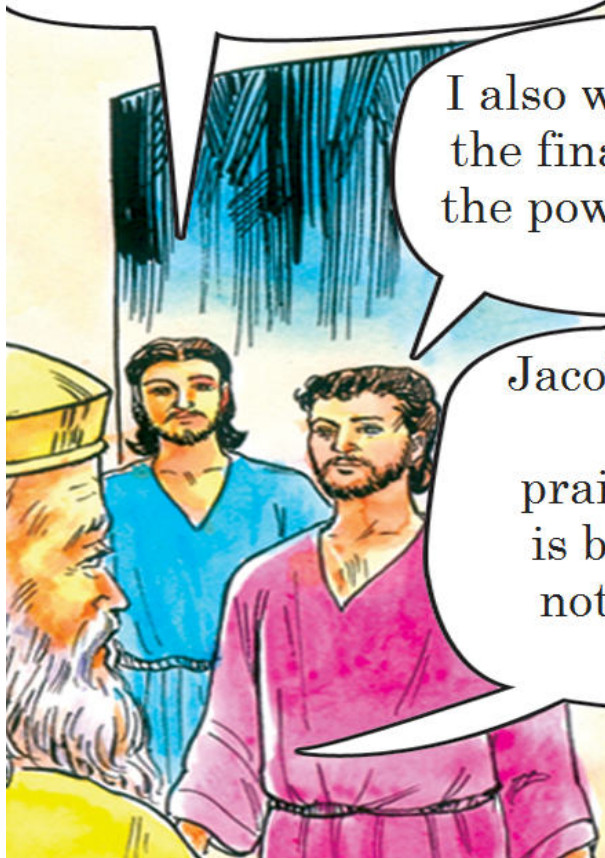
The first part of your training is completed. The next stage is more difficult. Only John has qualified.



I would like to stay and prepare the way for the Messiah.

I also would like to join the final battle against the powers of darkness.

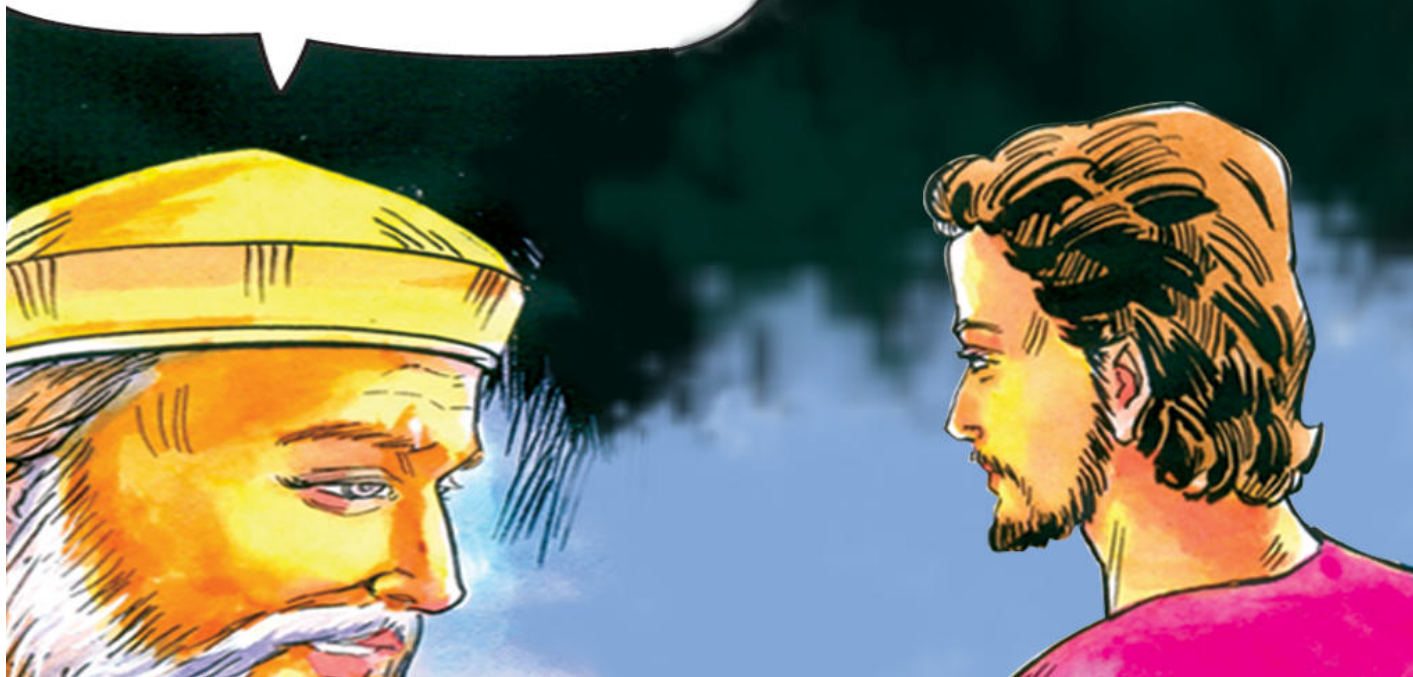
Jacob, Andrew, your desire is praiseworthy but it is best that you do not continue here now.



Return home and live according
to the laws you learned here.
Spread our spirit all over
Palestine.



When it is time you also
can join the battle. There
should be children of light
everywhere.



Master, what shall we do?

Study the law and observe it strictly. Pray for the coming of the Messiah. Wait for the call.



John's religious training started.



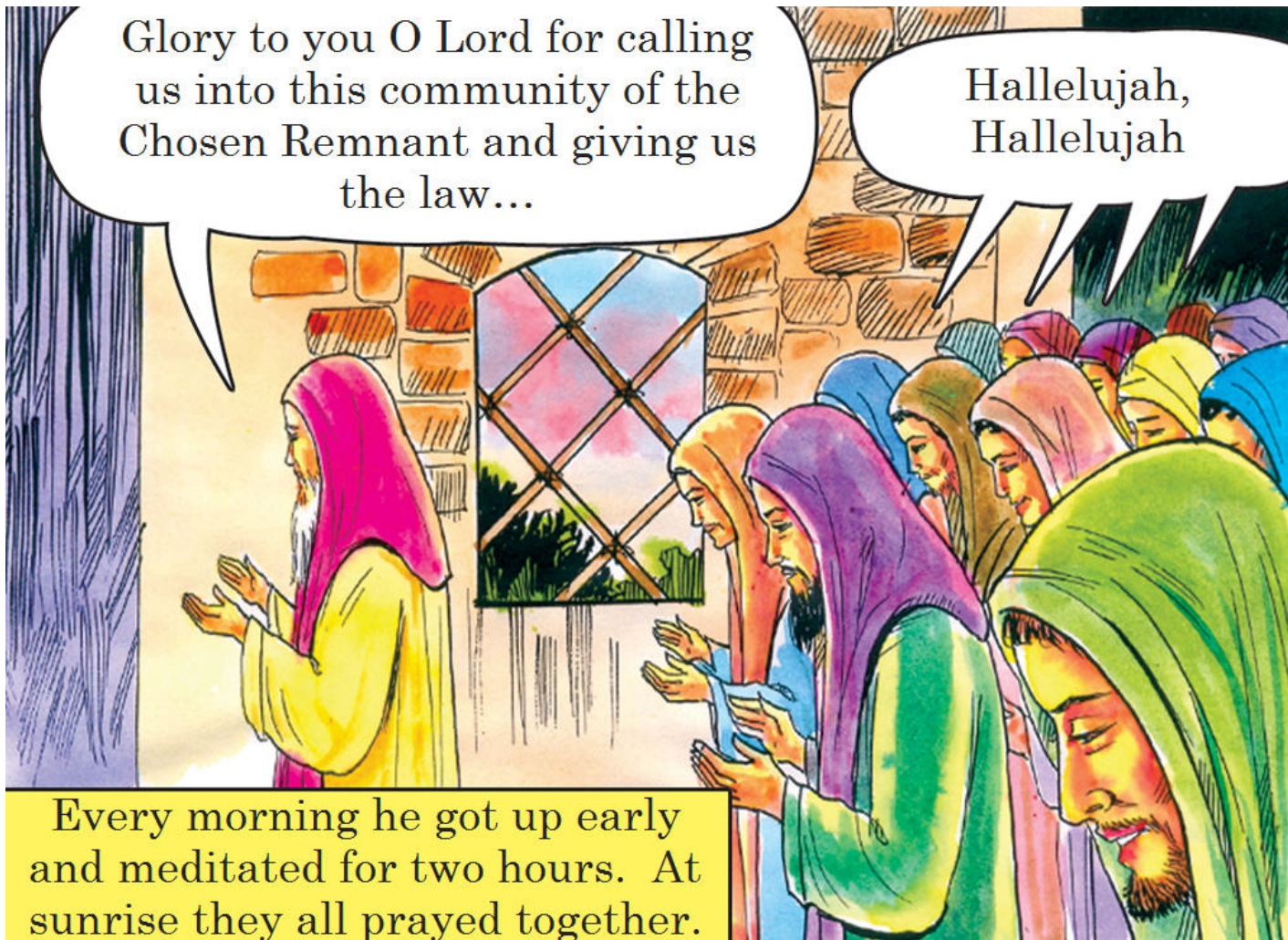
John, son of Zachariah, you
are admitted to the
Community of the chosen.



Glory to you O Lord for calling us into this community of the Chosen Remnant and giving us the law...

Hallelujah,
Hallelujah

Every morning he got up early and meditated for two hours. At sunrise they all prayed together.



After the Morning Prayer
two hours of scripture
reading.



Then physical labor for three hours, followed by bath, meal, and learning of the law.

We are specially chosen to prepare the way for the Messiah. Stay pure in body and soul.



Obey the law strictly.
Don't distort it for your
convenience as the
priests and Pharisees
of Jerusalem do.



The interpretation our Teacher
of Righteousness gave is the
only valid interpretation.

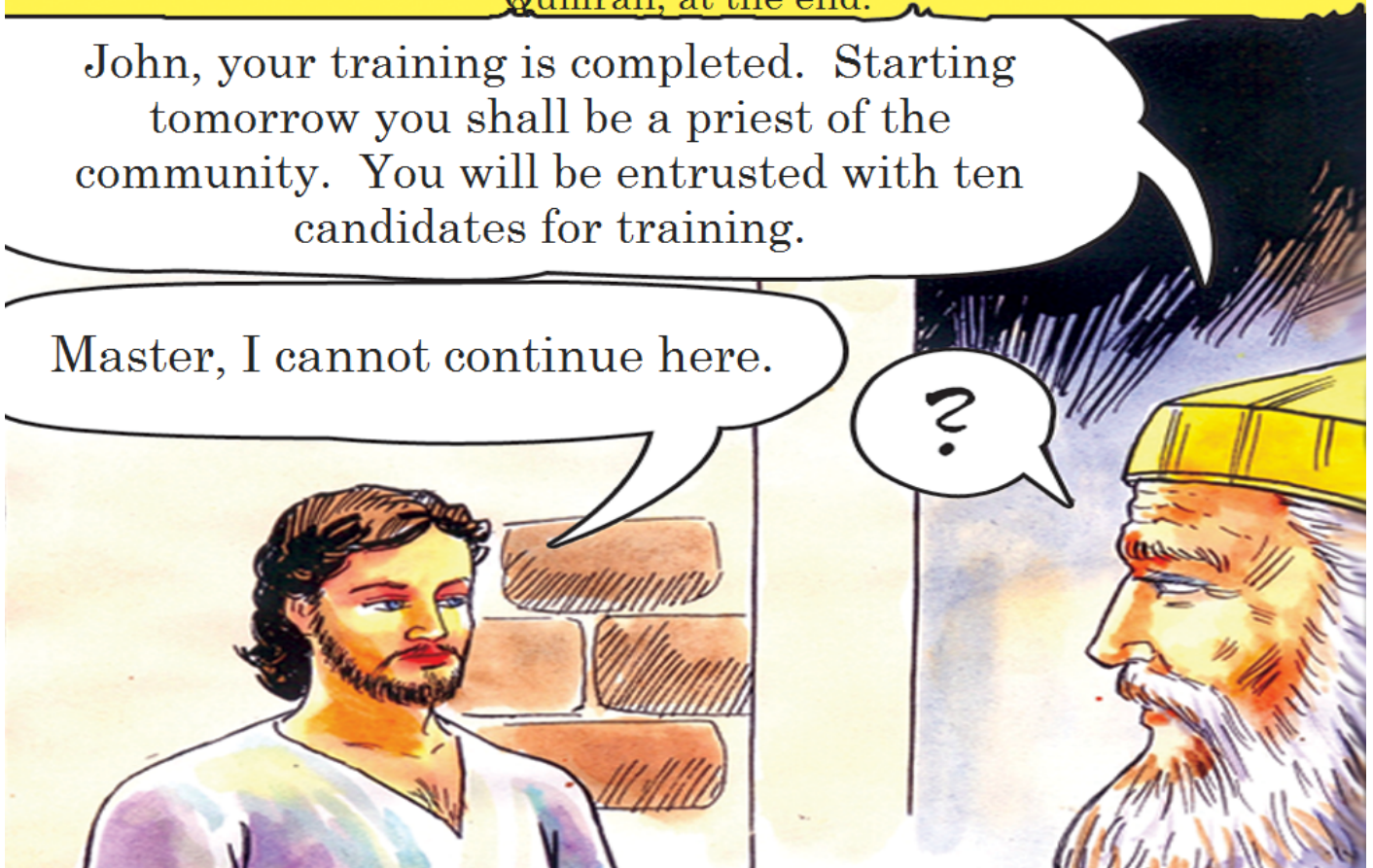


After the study, again reading of the Sacred Scripture, physical labor, bath and at sunset common prayer. In this routine years passed at Qumran, at the end.

John, your training is completed. Starting tomorrow you shall be a priest of the community. You will be entrusted with ten candidates for training.

Master, I cannot continue here.

?



I am grateful for the training you gave me but I cannot continue as a member of this community.



What is the matter, John? You are the best disciple I ever had.

We will not be clean just because we washed and prayed many times daily.



I think it is Hypocrisy to claim that we are the only chosen ones. Isn't God the Father of all?



The master had no answer to the many questions John raised.

I hear a call to leave all the security of this Monastery and go deeper into the desert . Kindly send me with your blessing.

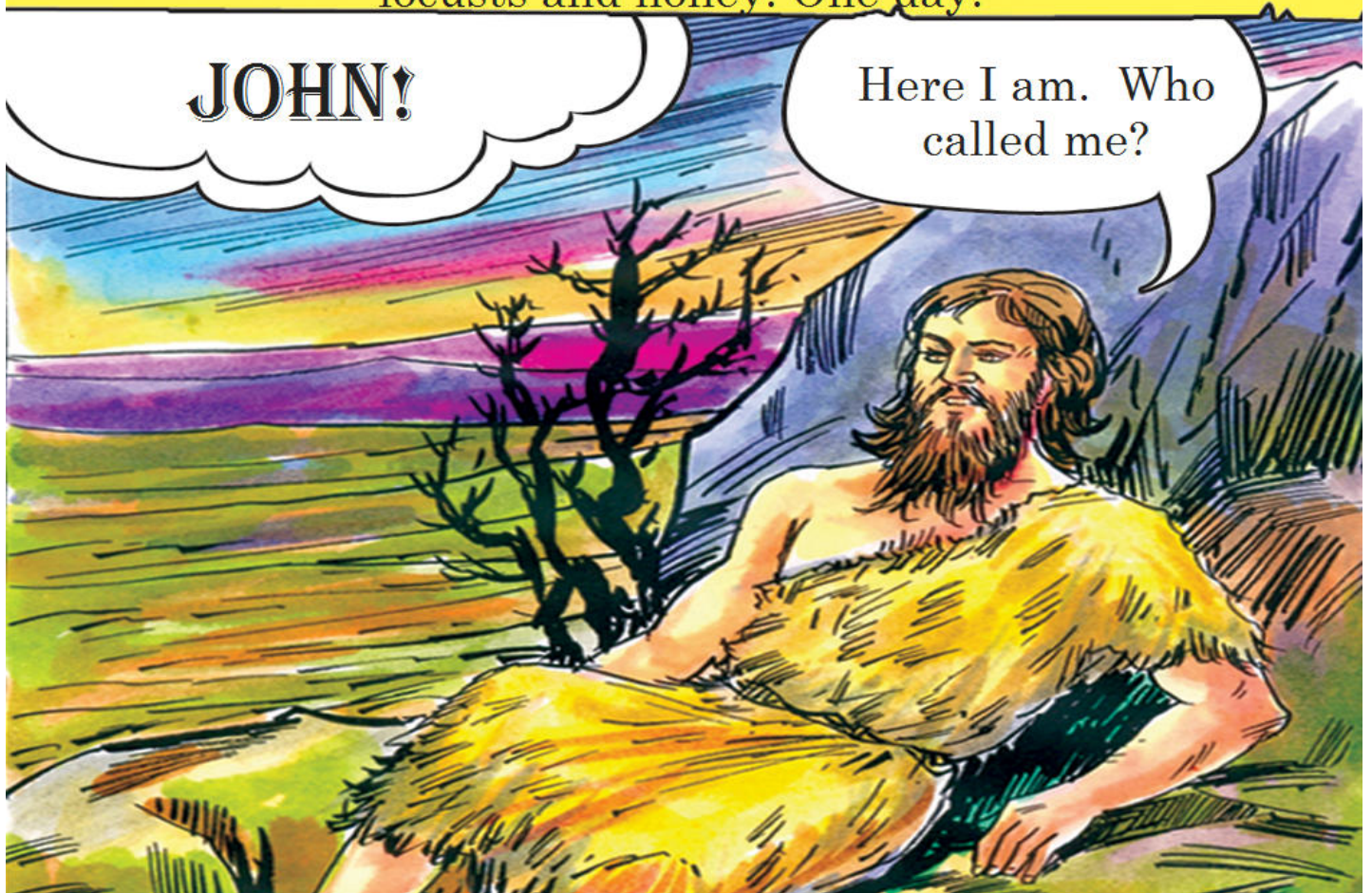
May the Almighty bless you and lead you.



John spent years in the utter loneliness of the desert, eating locusts and honey. One day.

JOHN!

Here I am. Who called me?

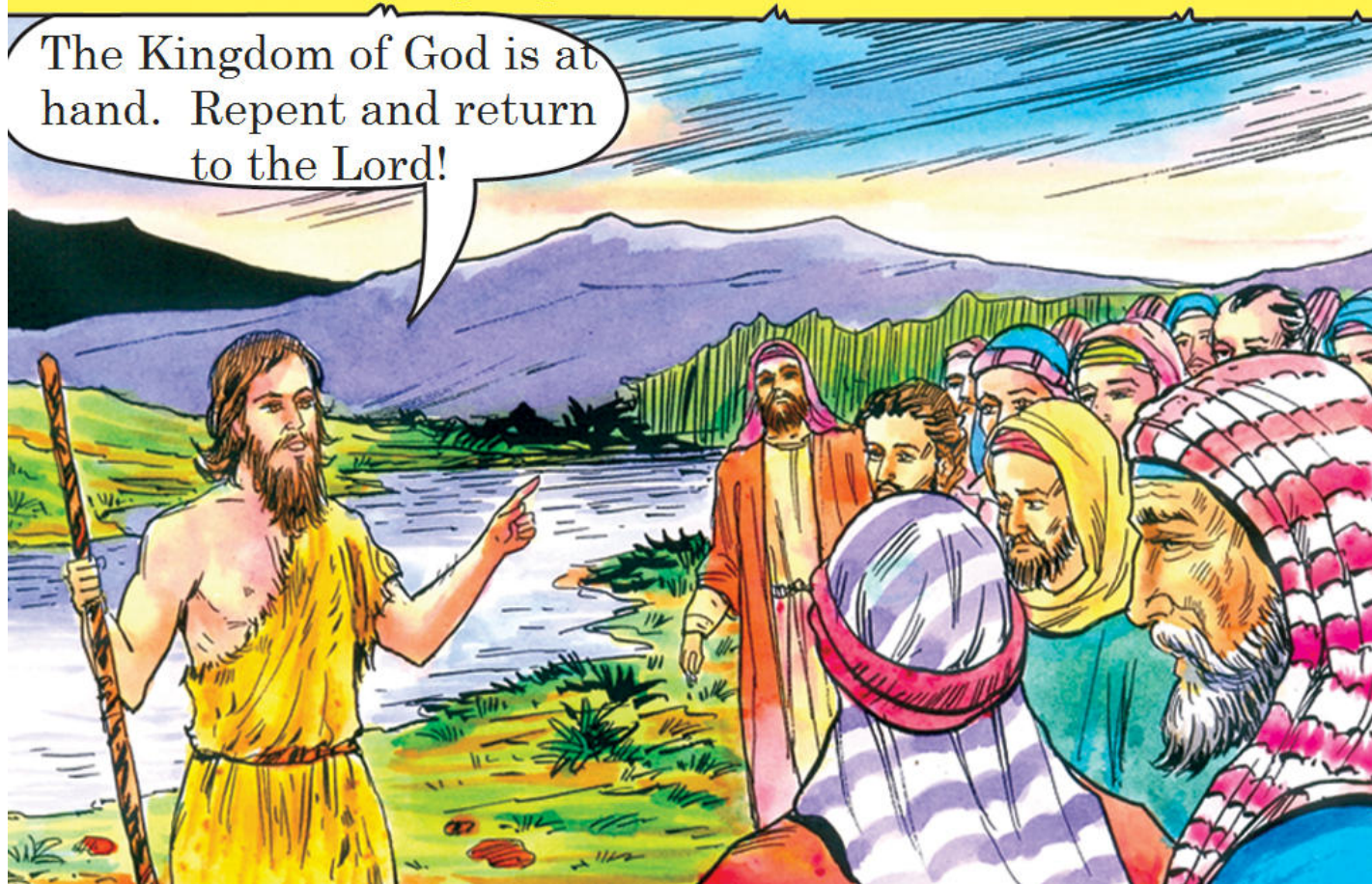


I AM THE GOD OF YOUR
FATHERS. IT IS TIME ... GO AND
TELL MY PEOPLE ...



Receiving the call, John came to the bank of River Jordan.
People gathered around him.

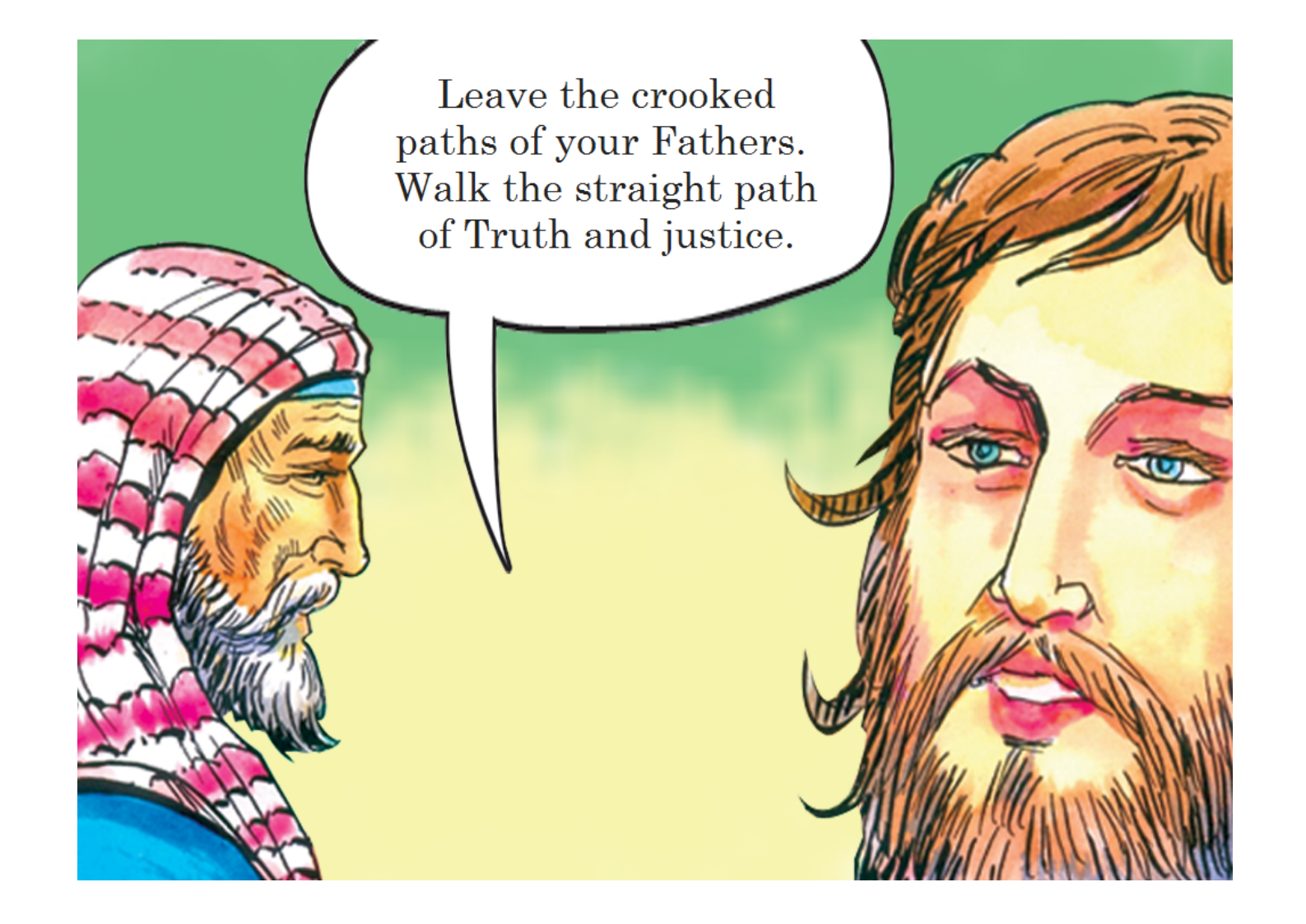
The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and return to the Lord!



The great and terrible day of the Lord is coming. Every mountain shall be laid low and every valley exalted. Repent and be humble.



!?

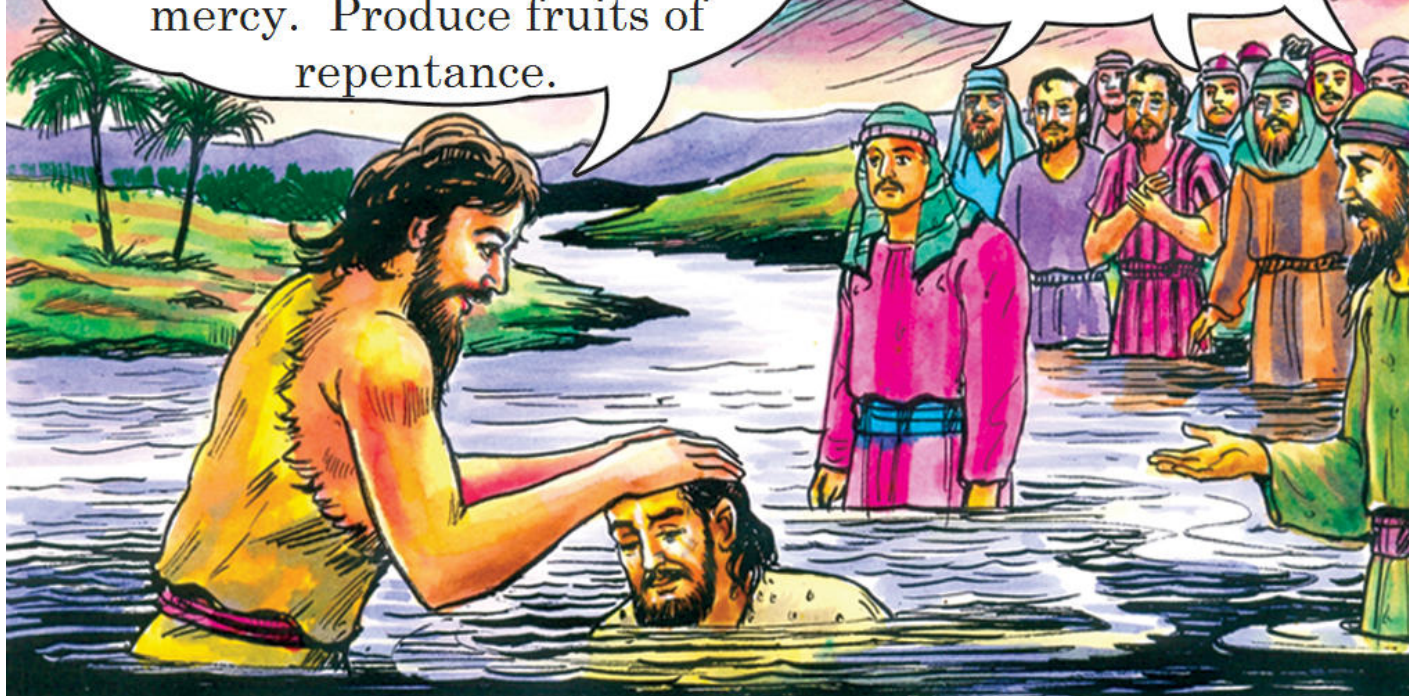


Leave the crooked
paths of your Fathers.
Walk the straight path
of Truth and justice.

People came in crowds and were baptized by John.

Receive the baptism of repentance! Confess your sins and cry out to the Lord for mercy. Produce fruits of repentance.

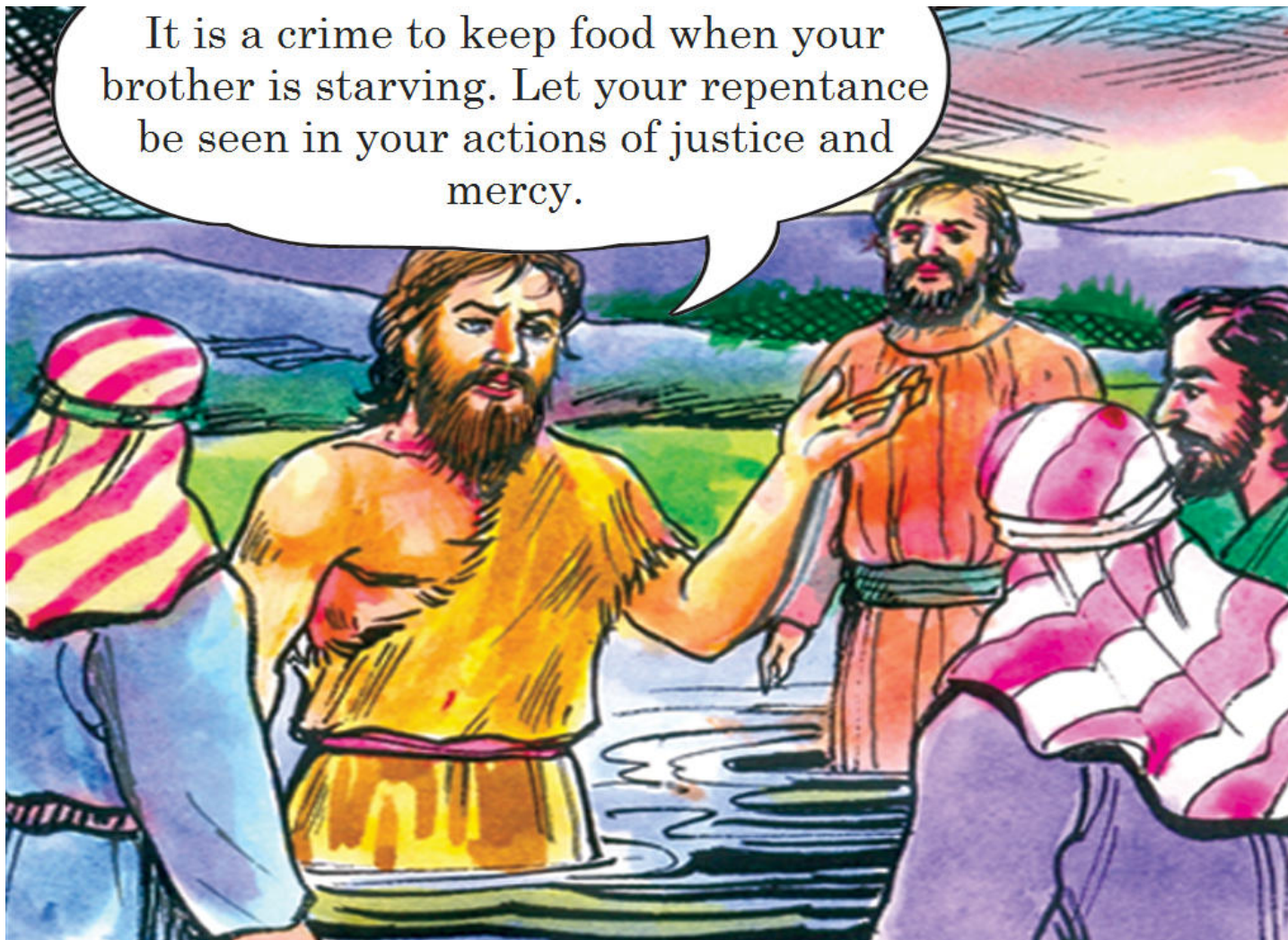
Master, what shall I do?



Share what you have. If you have two shirts give one to the one who has none. Share your bread with the hungry. It is a sin to keep more clothes than you need when your neighbor goes naked and freezing.



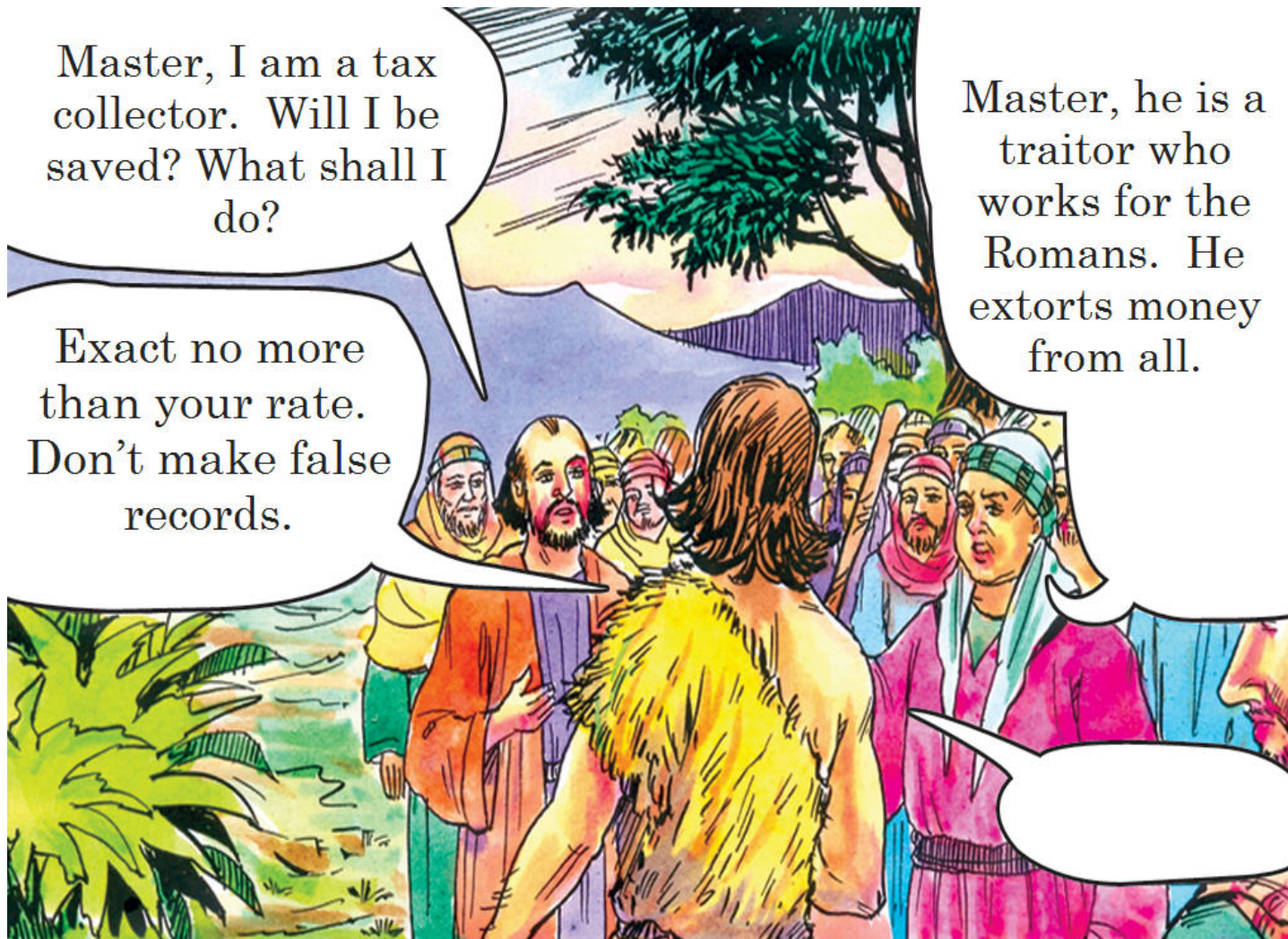
It is a crime to keep food when your brother is starving. Let your repentance be seen in your actions of justice and mercy.



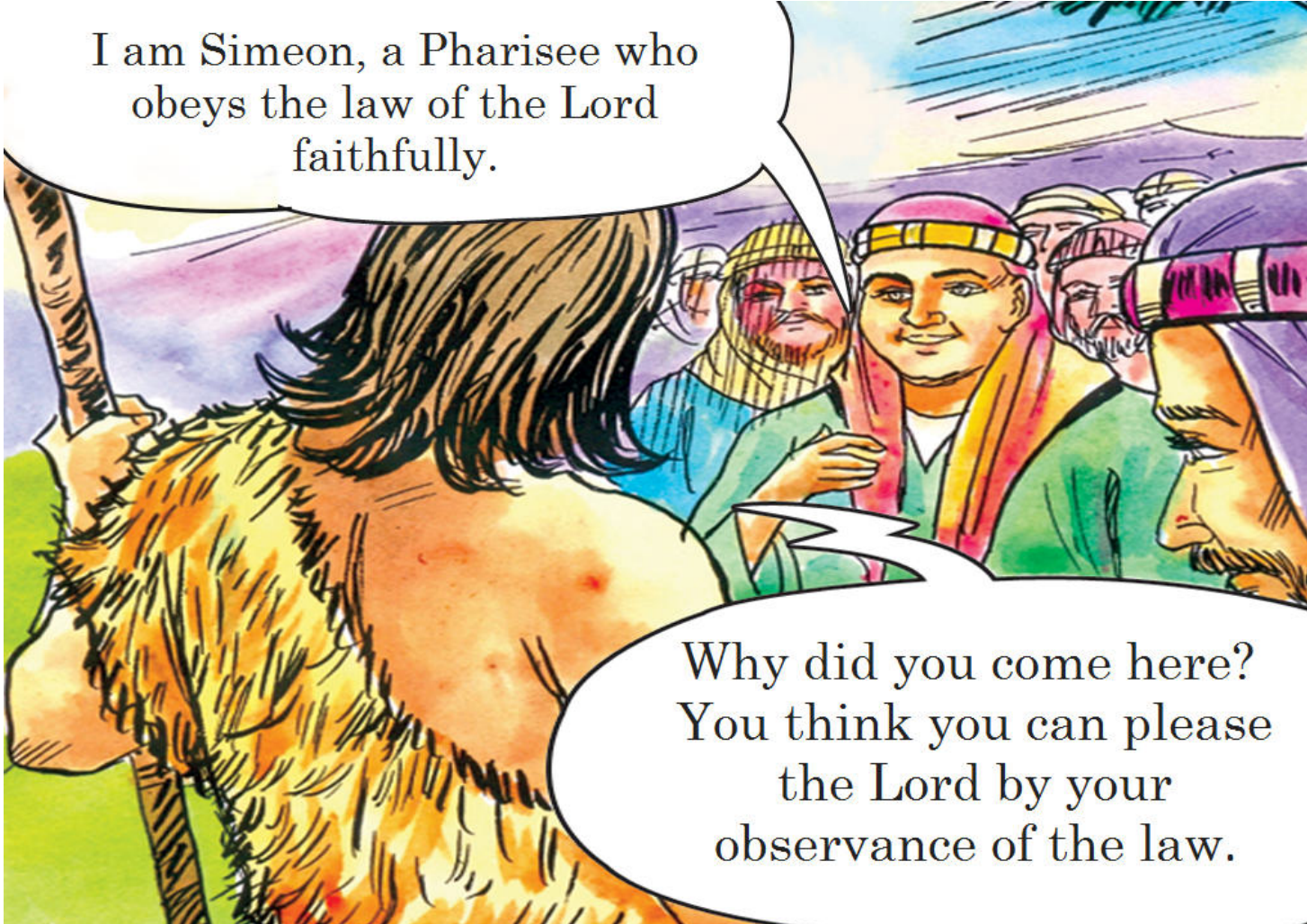
Master, I am a tax collector. Will I be saved? What shall I do?

Exact no more than your rate. Don't make false records.

Master, he is a traitor who works for the Romans. He extorts money from all.



I am Simeon, a Pharisee who obeys the law of the Lord faithfully.



Why did you come here? You think you can please the Lord by your observance of the law.

You Hypocrites, Brood of
vipers! Do you think that you
can escape from the fire of
Judgment by submerging in
the water?





It is not enough
that you wash
your body. Purify
your heart. Be
humble and pray
for mercy

Master, what about me? I am a soldier.

No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay. Protect the poor and the weak.



From Jerusalem a group of Jewish leaders came to John.

It is the holy Sanhedrin who sent us to you with one question.

Who are you?
Are you the Messiah?

No, I am not the Messiah. I am not worthy even to undo the straps of His sandals.

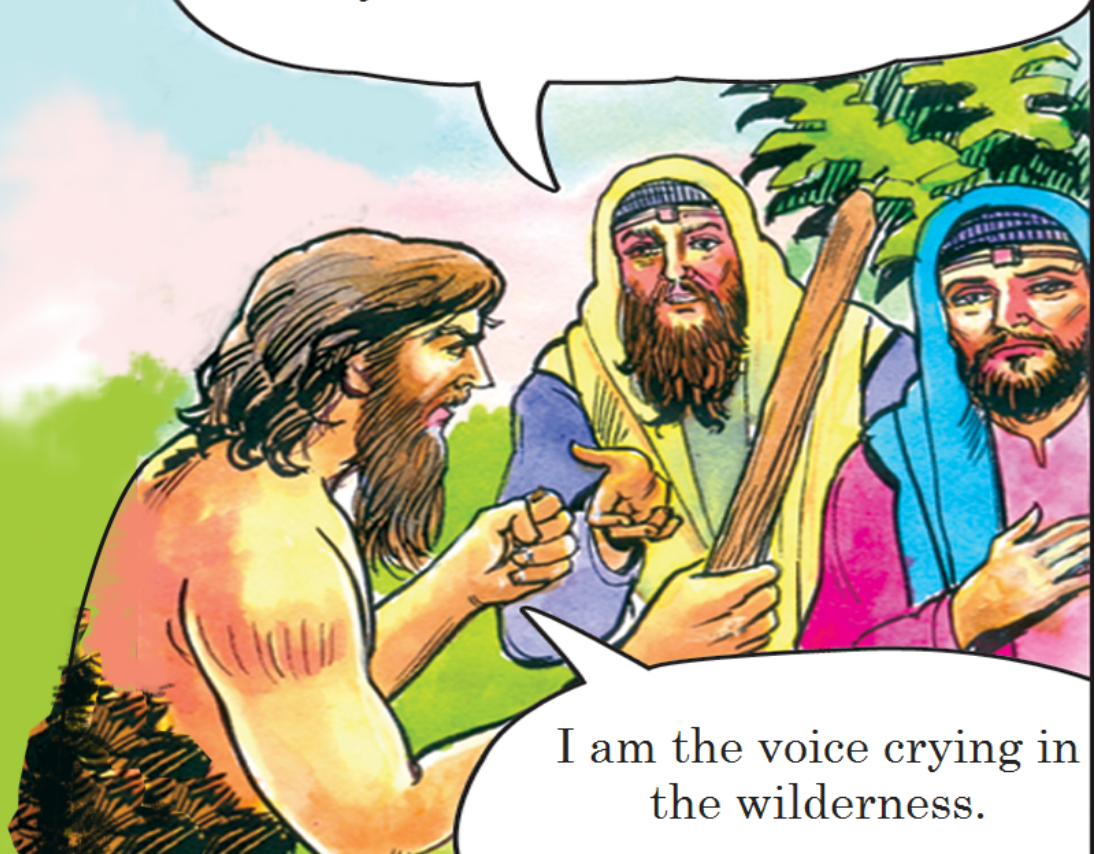


Are you the prophet Elijah returned?

No, I am neither Elijah nor the prophet.

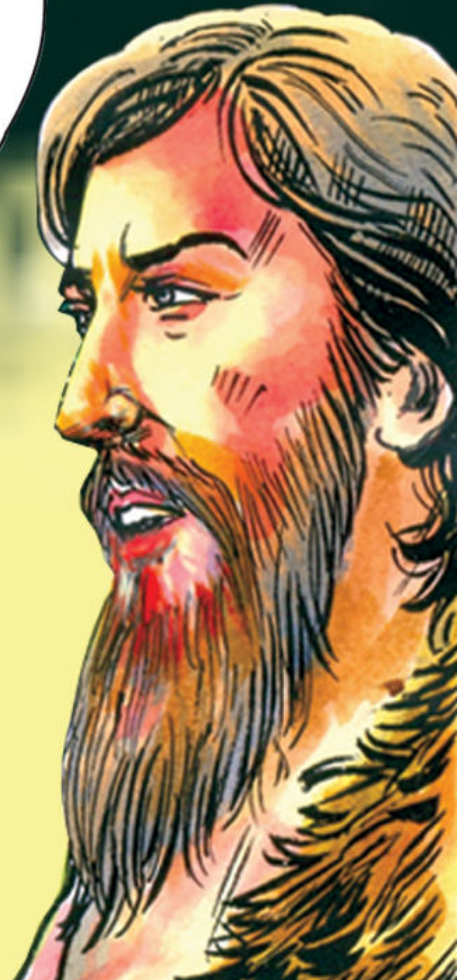


Then who are you? What shall we say to the ones who sent us?

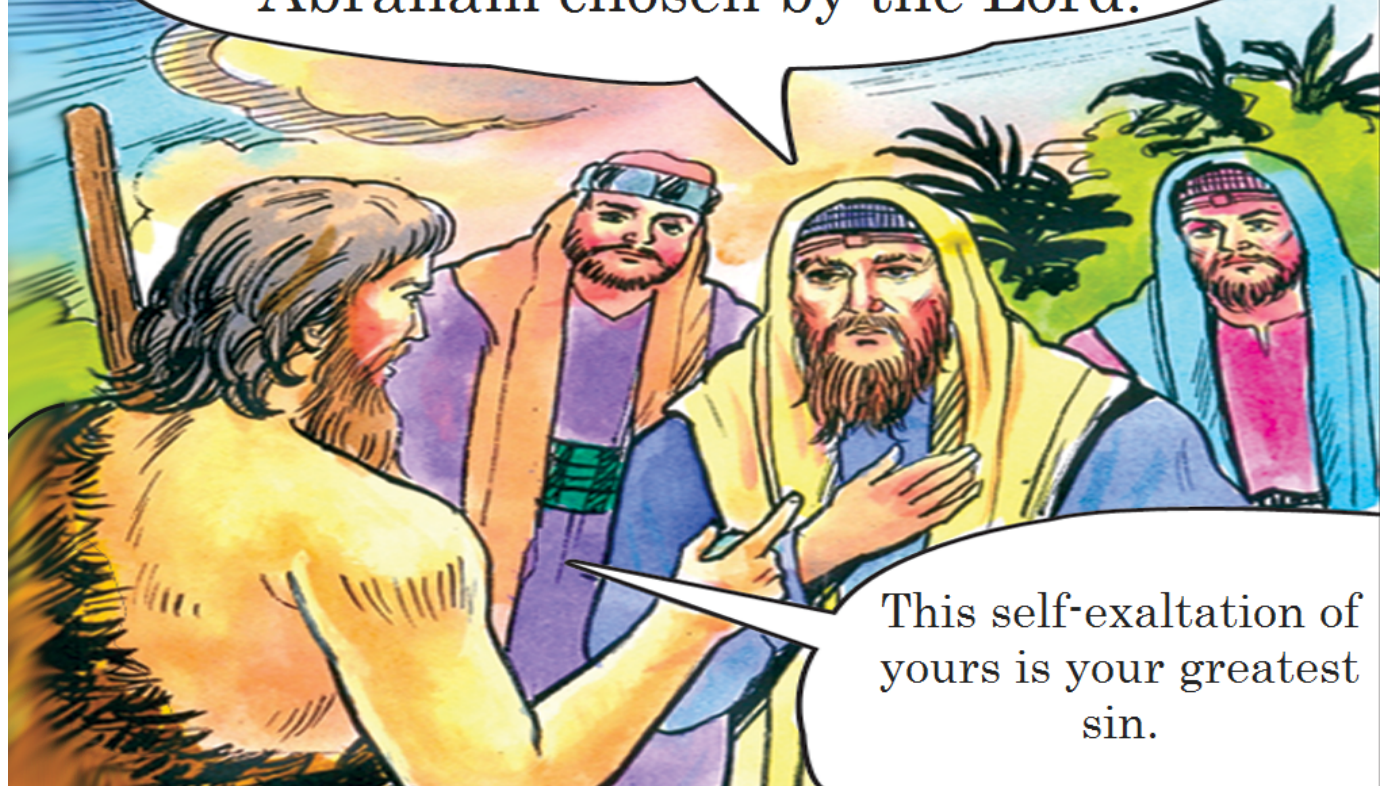


I am the voice crying in the wilderness.

Repent and
receive the
baptism!



Repentance and baptism are for the
Gentiles. We are the sons of
Abraham chosen by the Lord!

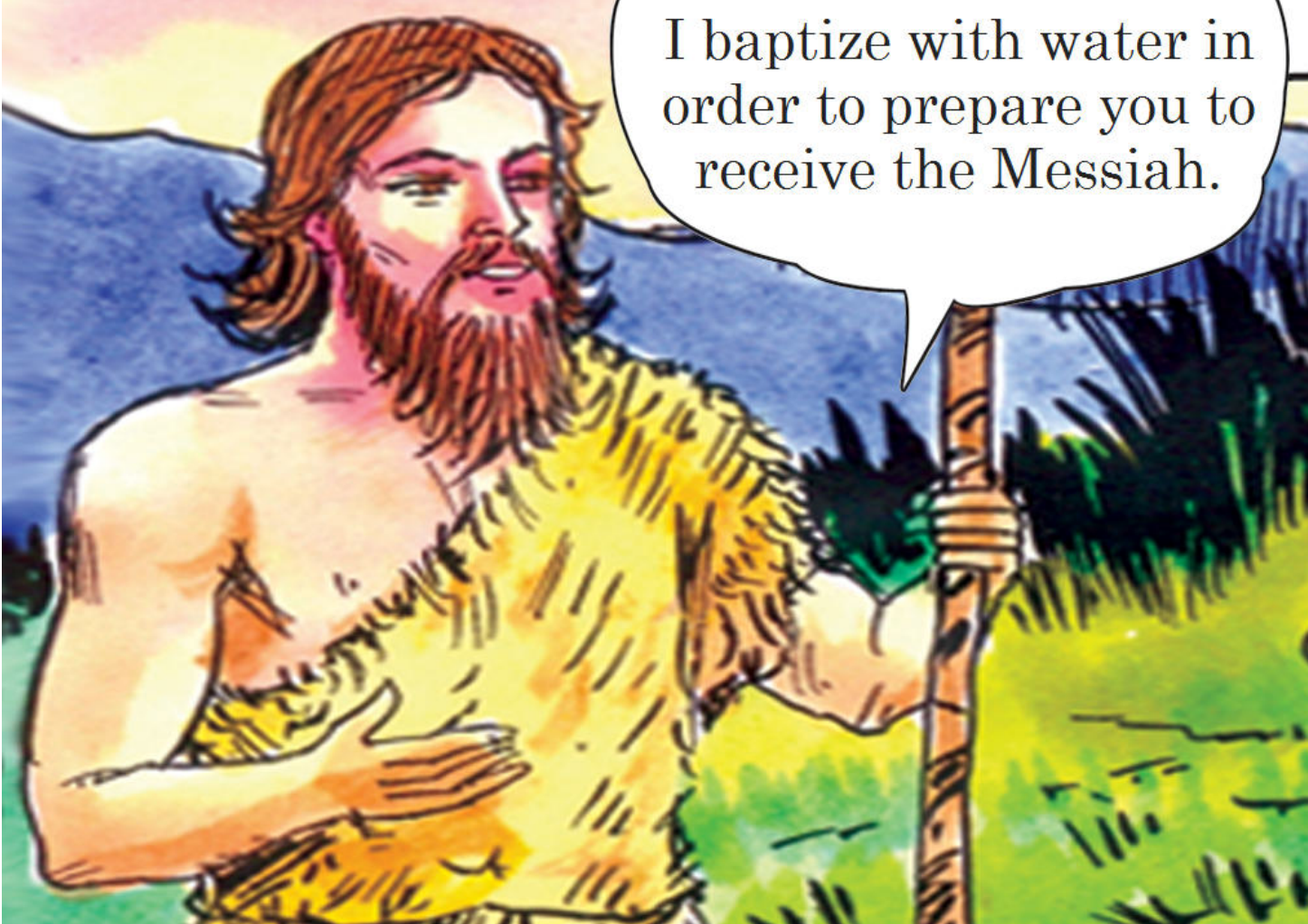


This self-exaltation of
yours is your greatest
sin.


God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. God is the Father of all.

If you are neither the Messiah nor the Prophet, then by whose authority are you baptizing?





I baptize with water in order to prepare you to receive the Messiah.



He will baptize you with
the Holy Spirit and fire.
The axe is laid at the
root of the trees.

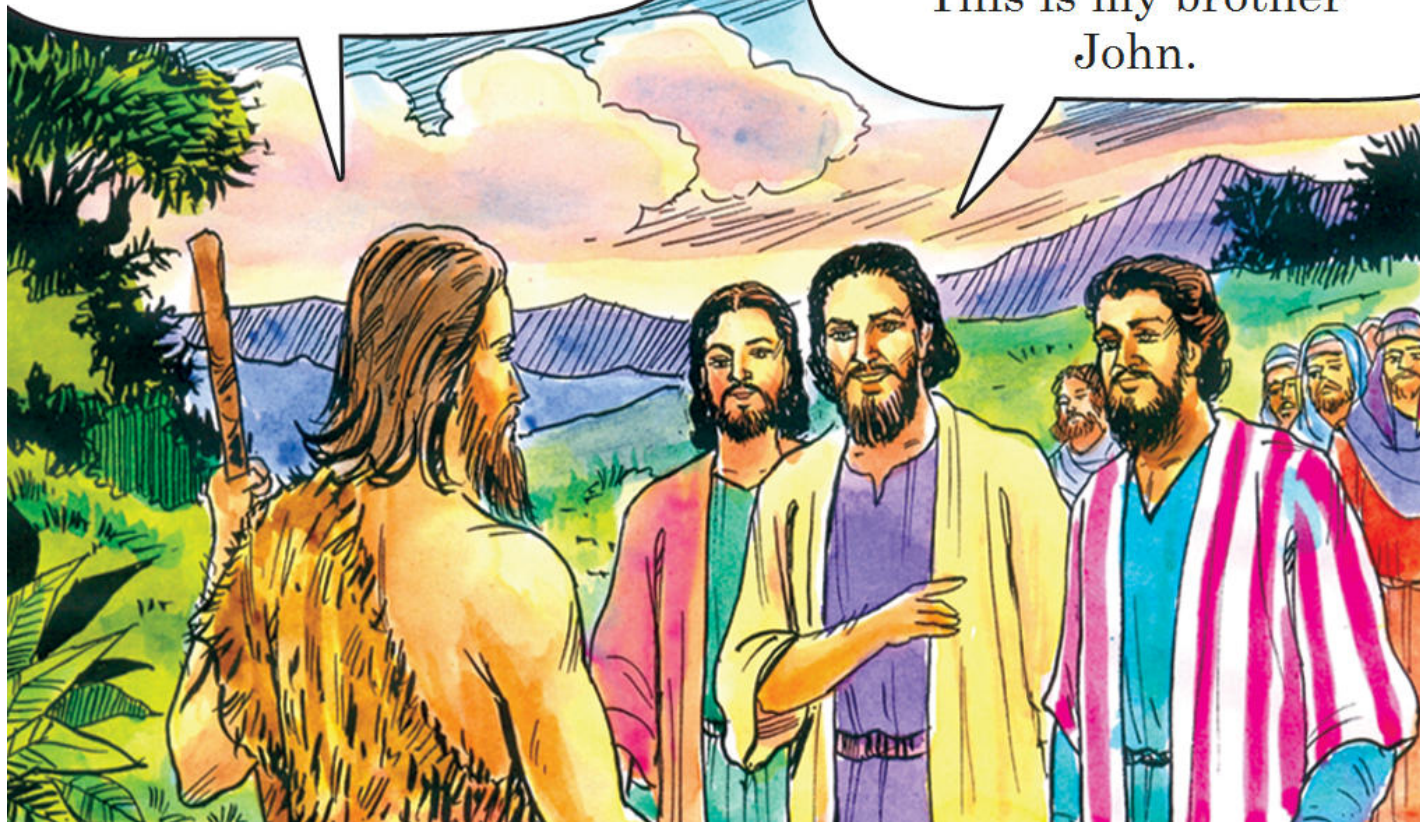
Every tree that fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown in the fire.



When the envoys were gone.

Who are you? You look familiar.

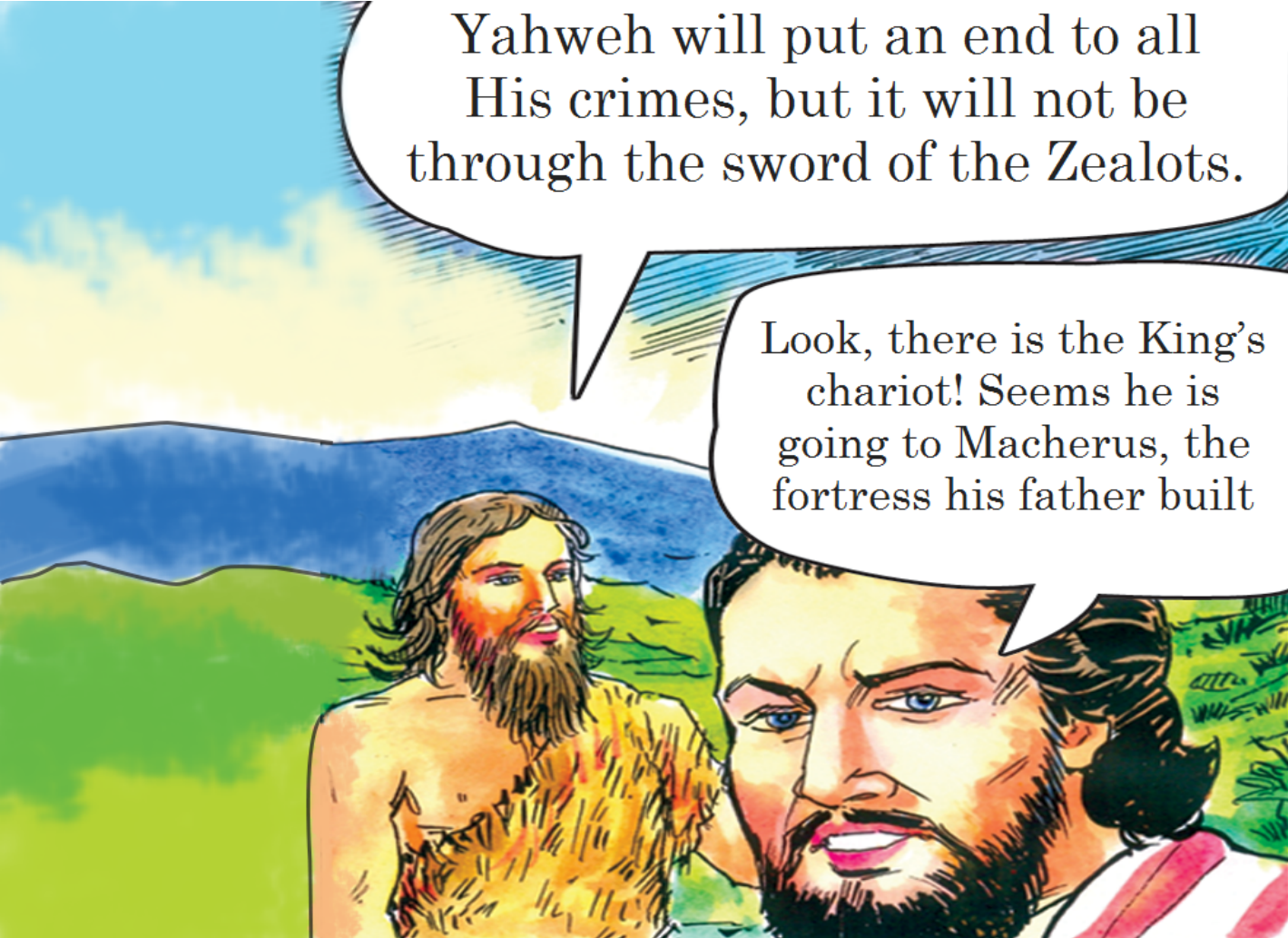
I am James. This is Andrews. We were at Qumran for a while. This is my brother John.



We come from
Capernaum. We
would like to join
you.

You must be aware of the
wickedness of Herod
Antipas. The zealots are
organizing themselves
against him.





Yahweh will put an end to all
His crimes, but it will not be
through the sword of the Zealots.

Look, there is the King's
chariot! Seems he is
going to Macherus, the
fortress his father built

Herod, you build your cities with
blood and fill your strongholds
with injustice. Is there no limit
to your wickedness?



Inside the Chariot.

Who is screaming out there?
there?

A religious fanatic who
pretends to be a prophet!



It is a sin to marry your brother's wife while he is still alive. Send away that whore or else you'll perish.



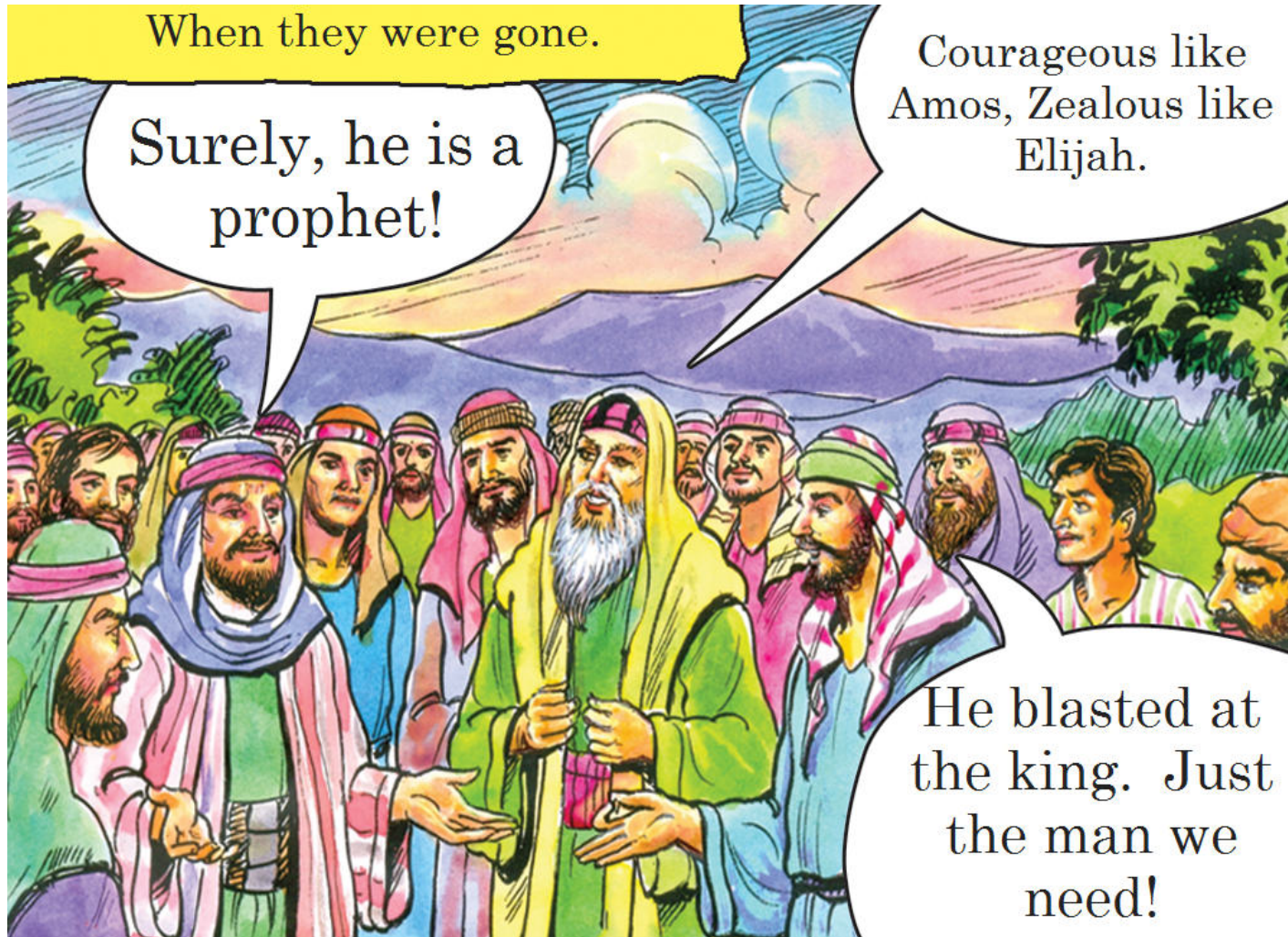
Me, a whore? You
will pay for it
dearly.



When they were gone.

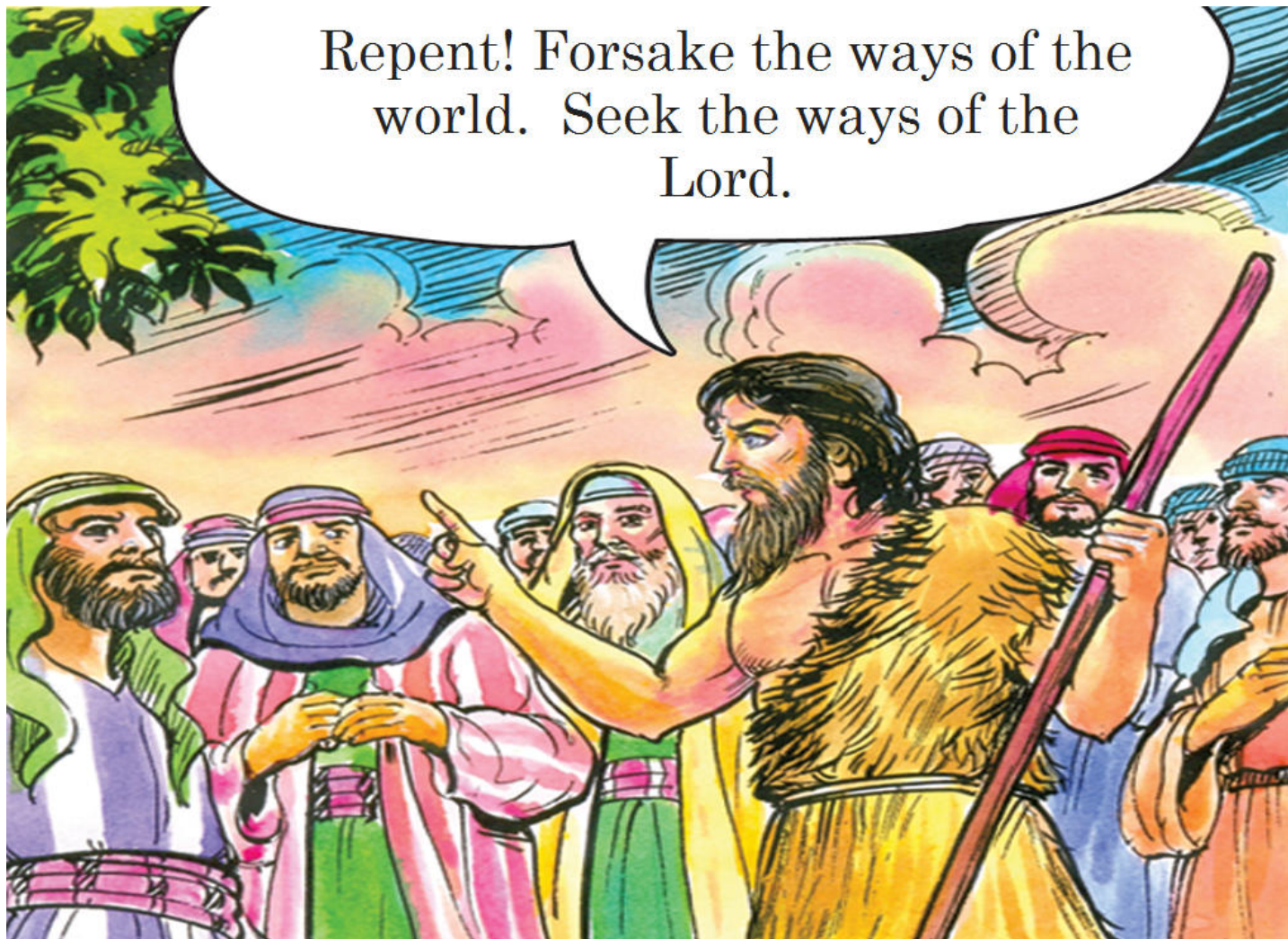
Surely, he is a prophet!


Courageous like Amos, Zealous like Elijah.



He blasted at the king. Just the man we need!

Repent! Forsake the ways of the world. Seek the ways of the Lord.





Behold he comes with
winnowing fan in his hand.
He will cleanse the threshing
floor. He will gather the
wheat into the barn and
burn the chaff in fire.

One day at the workshop of Jesus in Nazareth.

Shalom Jesus, how are you?


Shalom Jose, So long since we met! Where have you been?



I had gone to John at Jordan for a few weeks.

How is John? Are there a lot of people coming?






Auntie, you must see the crowds! Thousands are coming to him to be baptized.

Is John baptizing them all alone?

No, he has a number of disciples. You know Zebedee, the rich fish merchant of Capernaum? Two of his sons are with him.



Of course, Zebedee
is a distant relative
ours.

Well, who
are those
coming to
receive
Baptism? Do
our leaders
also come?

The Pharisees and
Lawyers came from
Jerusalem but they
didn't get baptized.


They came to question
him. But he blasted at
them.



Except the Leaders, all the tax collectors, soldiers, even Barabbas and his men came.

You mean the son of Abbas?
Do those zealots also receive Baptism?





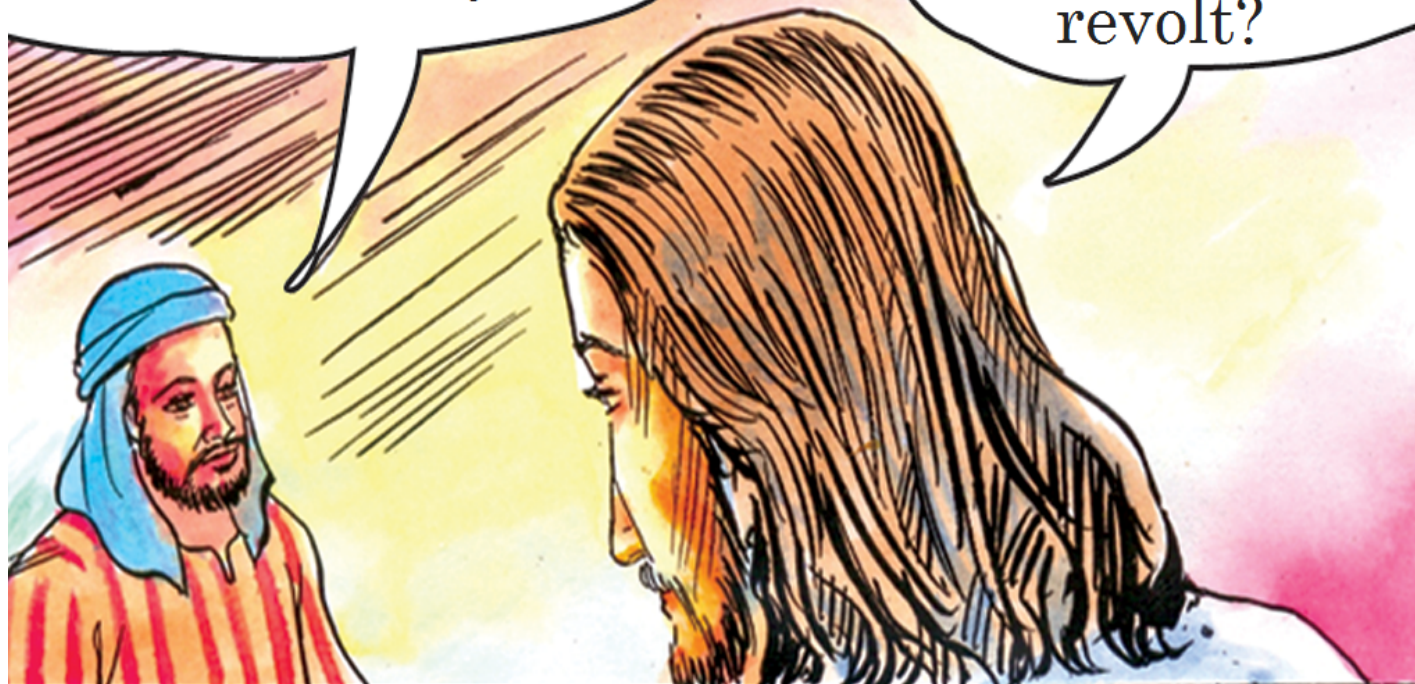
They are in the forefront. In fact they wanted to make him their leader.

Is John ready for it?

They haven't told him yet. All that the master saying is repent.

They began to take interest in him when he confronted Herod directly.

Will the one calling to repentance join an armed revolt?

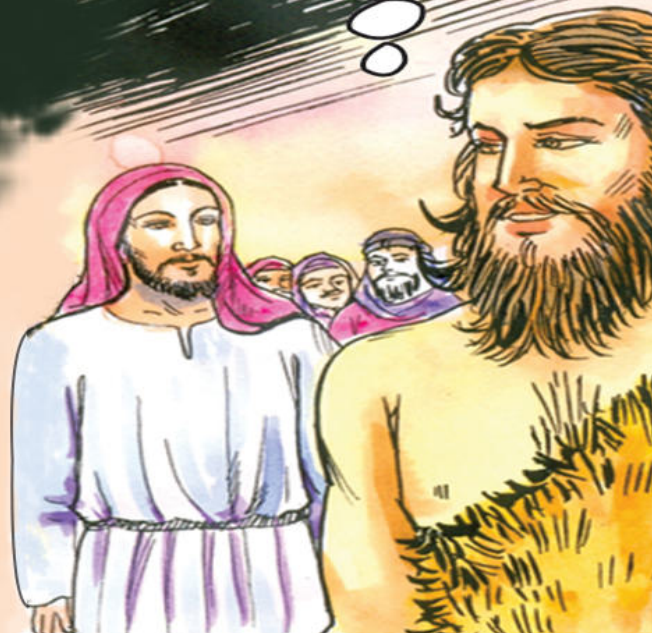


That remains to be
seen.



When the appointed time came Jesus went to John to receive baptism.

Why is the one without sin coming to receive the baptism of the sinners?

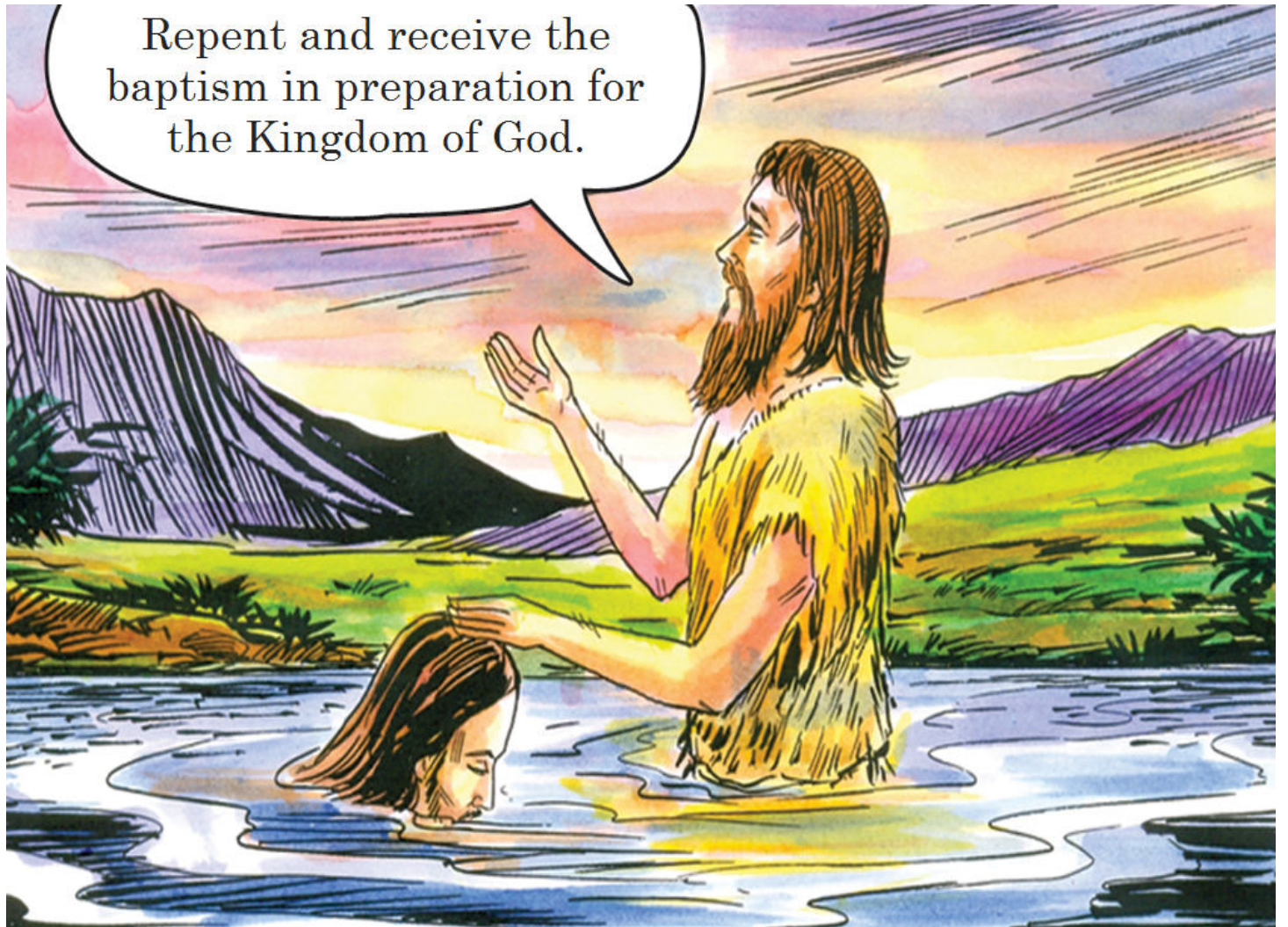


It is I who need
baptism from you, and
yet you come to me!

We should do all
that God requires
of us.



Repent and receive the baptism in preparation for the Kingdom of God.



When Jesus received baptism the heavens opened and the Spirit of God descended upon him like a dove.



A voice was heard from heaven.

YOU ARE MY BELOVED
SON IN WHOM I AM WELL
PLEASED.



Then Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness.

Behold the
Lamb of God
who takes
away the sin
of the
world!



**Decision in the Desert.
Declaration at
Nazareth.**

Next story

The Prophet

Questions

1. Why did the Jews oppose the census?
2. What do you know about the Zealots?
3. What does Jesus' stay in the Temple reveal?
4. What message does the obscure life in Nazareth convey?
5. What do you know about the Essenes?
6. How was John clothed? Whom does he remind you of?
7. What did John tell the soldiers and tax collectors?
8. What did John's Baptism signify?
9. Why did Jesus receive John's Baptism?
10. Why did John criticize Herod Antipas?

Memorize: *“Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise”*

Lk. 3,11).

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