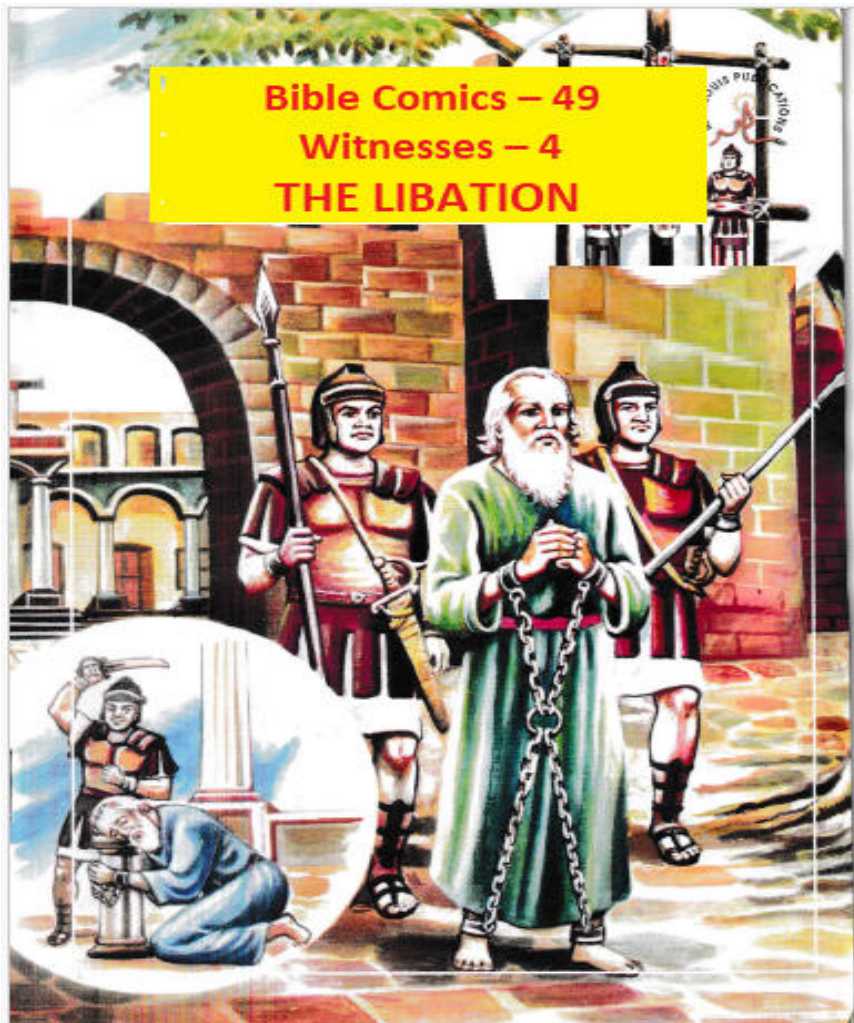


Bible Comics – 49
Witnesses – 4
THE LIBATION



THE LIBATION

The Life of the Apostle Paul was totally dedicated to Christ. All his strength was to be used to make Christ known to the whole world. All must know Jesus Christ and attain the salvation promised by Him-this was the driving force in Paul's life. It was his ardent love for Christ that carried him through trials and tribulations. After his conversion in 36 A.D., Paul spent about thirty years spreading the

message of Christ all through the Roman Empire.

Paul visited the Churches he established as often as possible. He remained in constant contact with the elders and Deacons he had appointed in each of the Churches. A good portion of his time during the second and third journeys was spent in visiting the Churches, strengthening them and helping them to grow in their faith.

As years passed, the Christian communities confronted numerous problems. They were faced with opposition from the Jews as well as the gentiles. At the same time there were internal conflicts. In the face of mounting oppositions, people began to question their faith. They needed directions in the areas of faith, morality and administration. In response to these needs of the various local churches, Paul wrote many letters of which we have got thirteen as part of the Bible.

The first two missionary journeys of Paul started and ended in Antioch, capital of Syria. The third journey also started in Antioch but ended in Jerusalem. There is much in common between the “Jerusalem Journey” of Jesus and Paul. Jesus went to Jerusalem, seeing the Cross ahead of Him. The Jews arrested and handed him over to the gentiles who crucified him. Paul was warned many times that he would be persecuted in Jerusalem but he proceeded with more fervor to suffer for the Lord and to

become one with Him. Just as Jesus, Paul too was eventually killed by the Romans.

Upon reaching Jerusalem in 58 A.D., Paul had the same kind of experience as Jesus. The Jewish leaders arrested him, put him on trial and tried to kill him. He too was accused of misleading the people. Just as Jesus, Paul was handed over to the Romans. The trials that followed and the journey to Rome provided Paul many more opportunities to proclaim the Good News.

Apostles Peter and Paul offered their lives as an acceptable sacrifice to the Lord. This book is called “Liberation” because it depicts their martyrdom in Rome. From the human point of view, the death of the martyrs may seem to be foolish but it is the fulfillment of Christian life. Through martyrdom one enters into the joy of the resurrection of Jesus Christ who has attained victory over death.

Bible Comics – 49

Witnesses – 4

Libation

Script:

Rev. Dr. Michael Karimattam

Illustration:

Devassy & Benny.

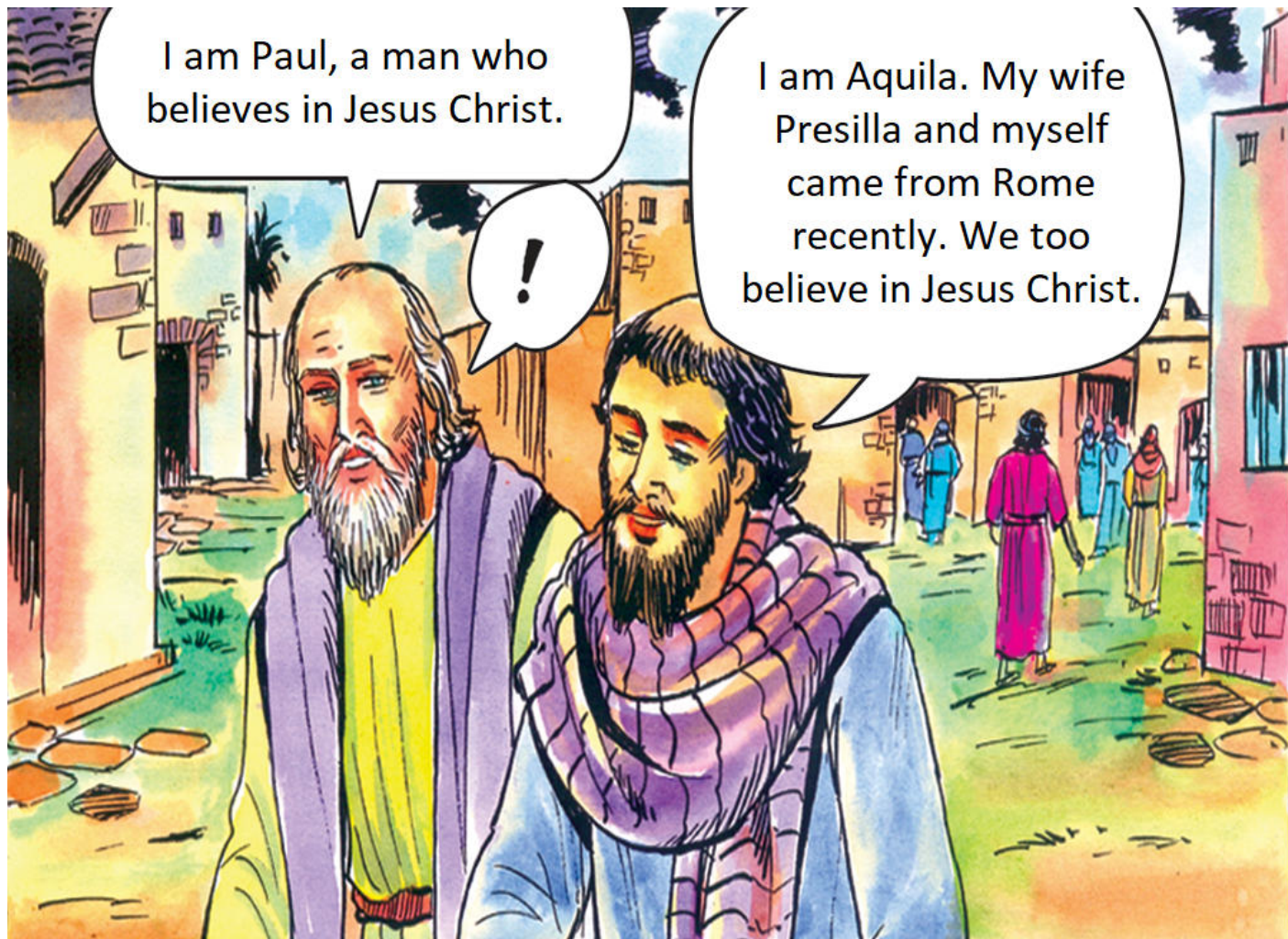
Leaving Athens Paul went to Corinth, the capital of Achaia, a roman province.

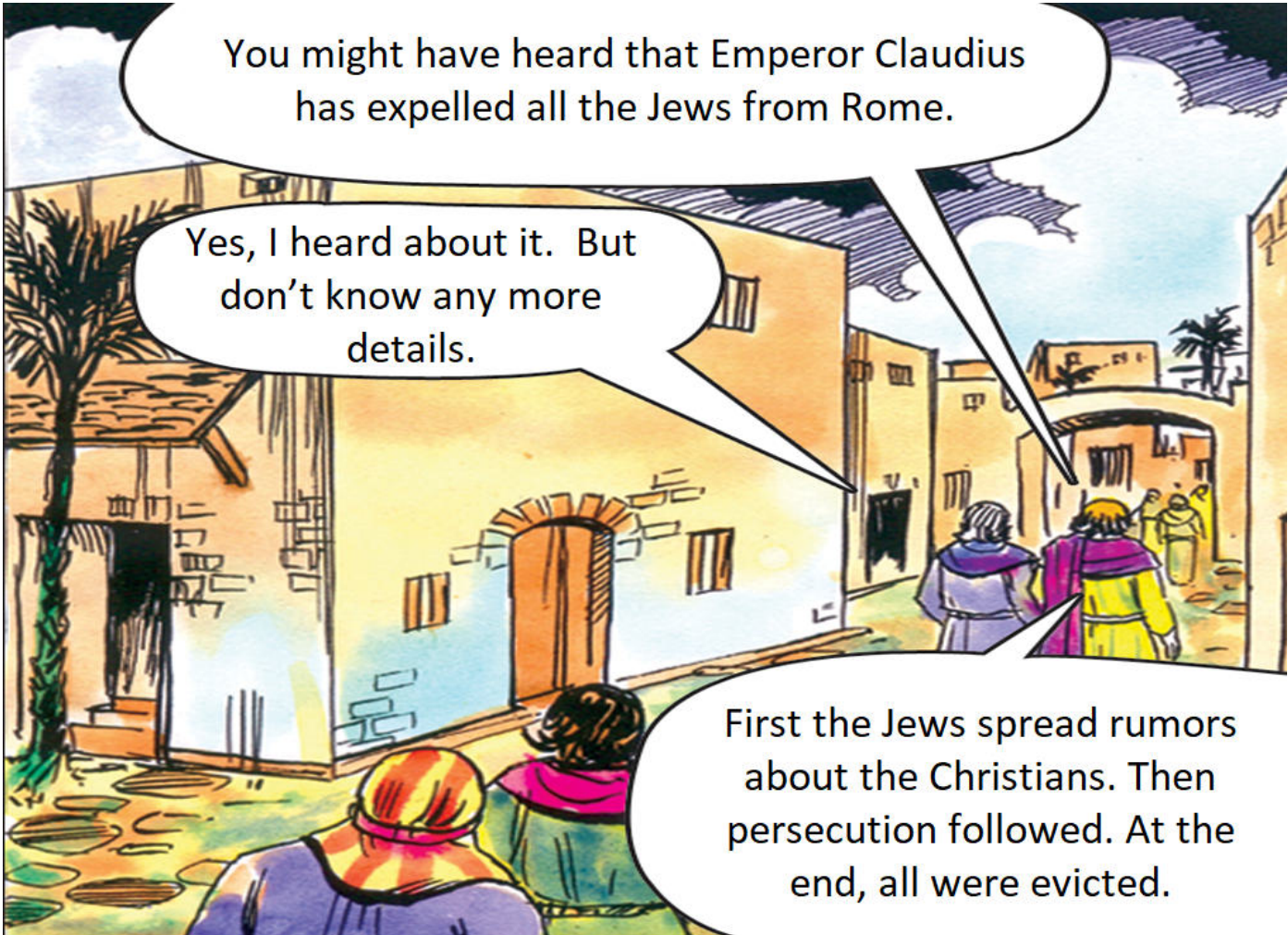


I am Paul, a man who believes in Jesus Christ.

!

I am Aquila. My wife Presilla and myself came from Rome recently. We too believe in Jesus Christ.

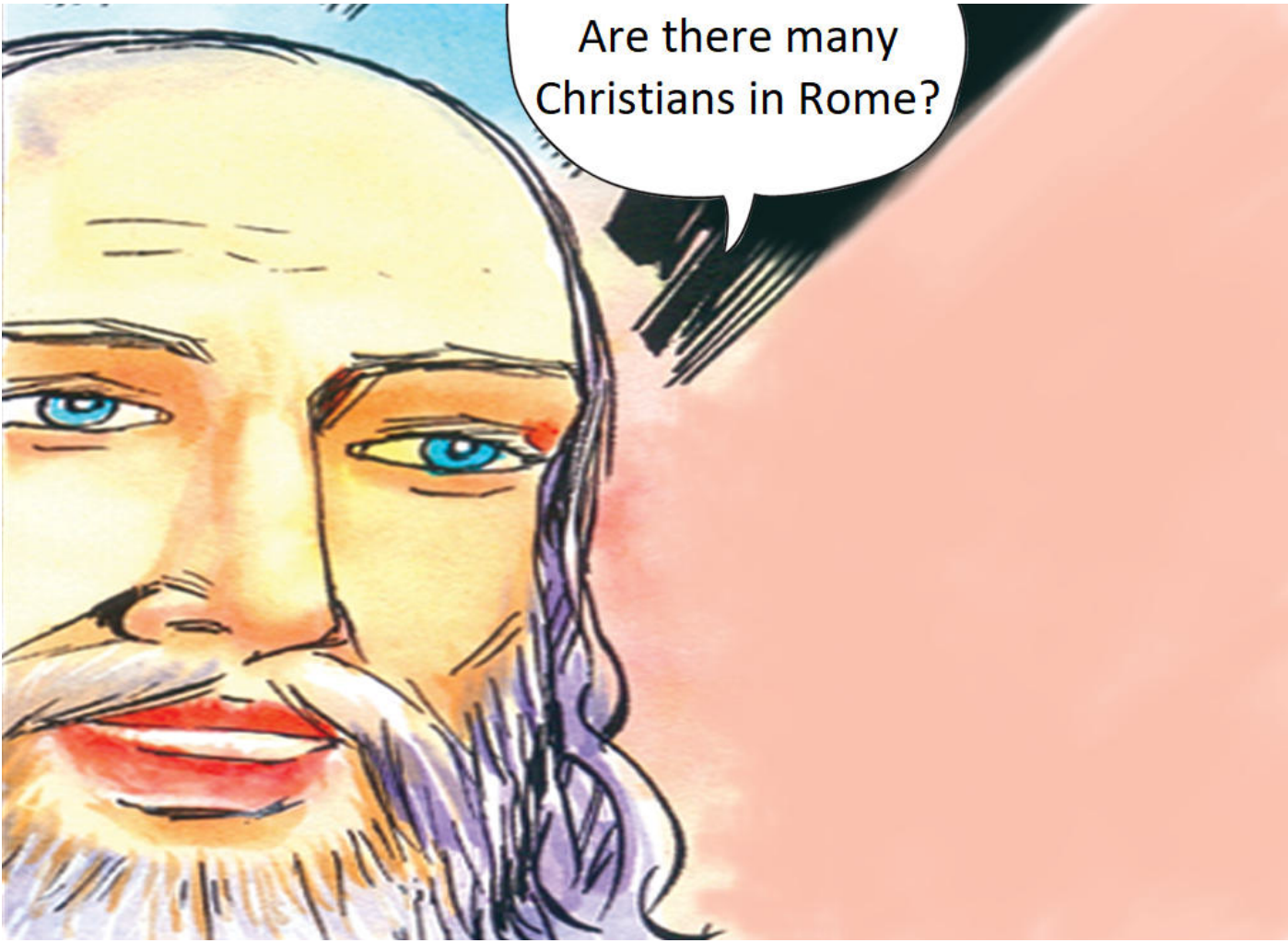




You might have heard that Emperor Claudius
has expelled all the Jews from Rome.

Yes, I heard about it. But
don't know any more
details.

First the Jews spread rumors
about the Christians. Then
persecution followed. At the
end, all were evicted.



Are there many
Christians in Rome?

There were many, please
come home we can share all
the news. Priscilla will be
delighted to see you.



What do you do for a living?

Tent making.

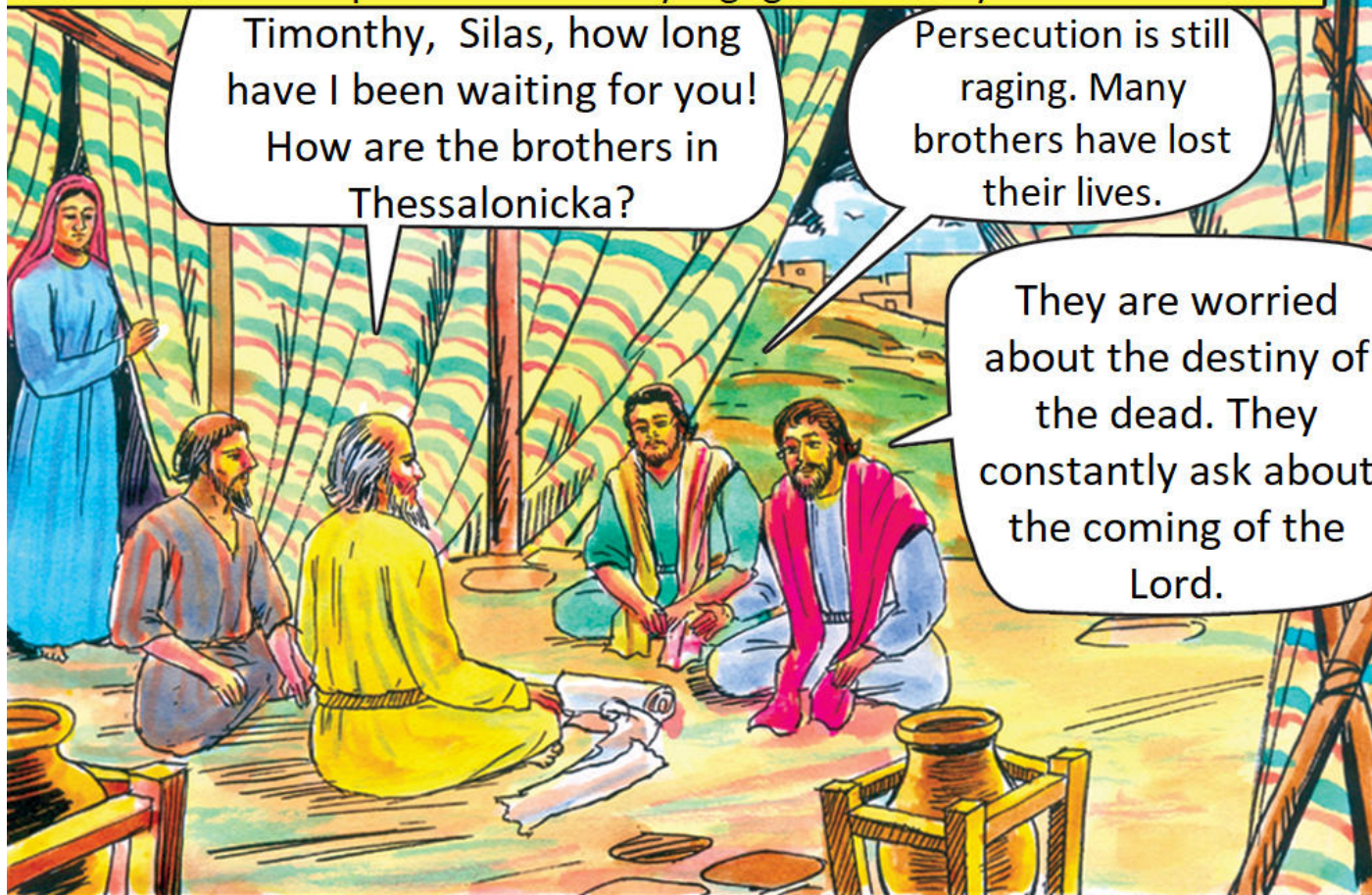
I too know the trade. I could join you for the work.

Paul lodged with them and they worked together. On Sabbaths, he preached in the Synagogue. One day:

Timothy, Silas, how long have I been waiting for you! How are the brothers in Thessalonicka?

Persecution is still raging. Many brothers have lost their lives.

They are worried about the destiny of the dead. They constantly ask about the coming of the Lord.

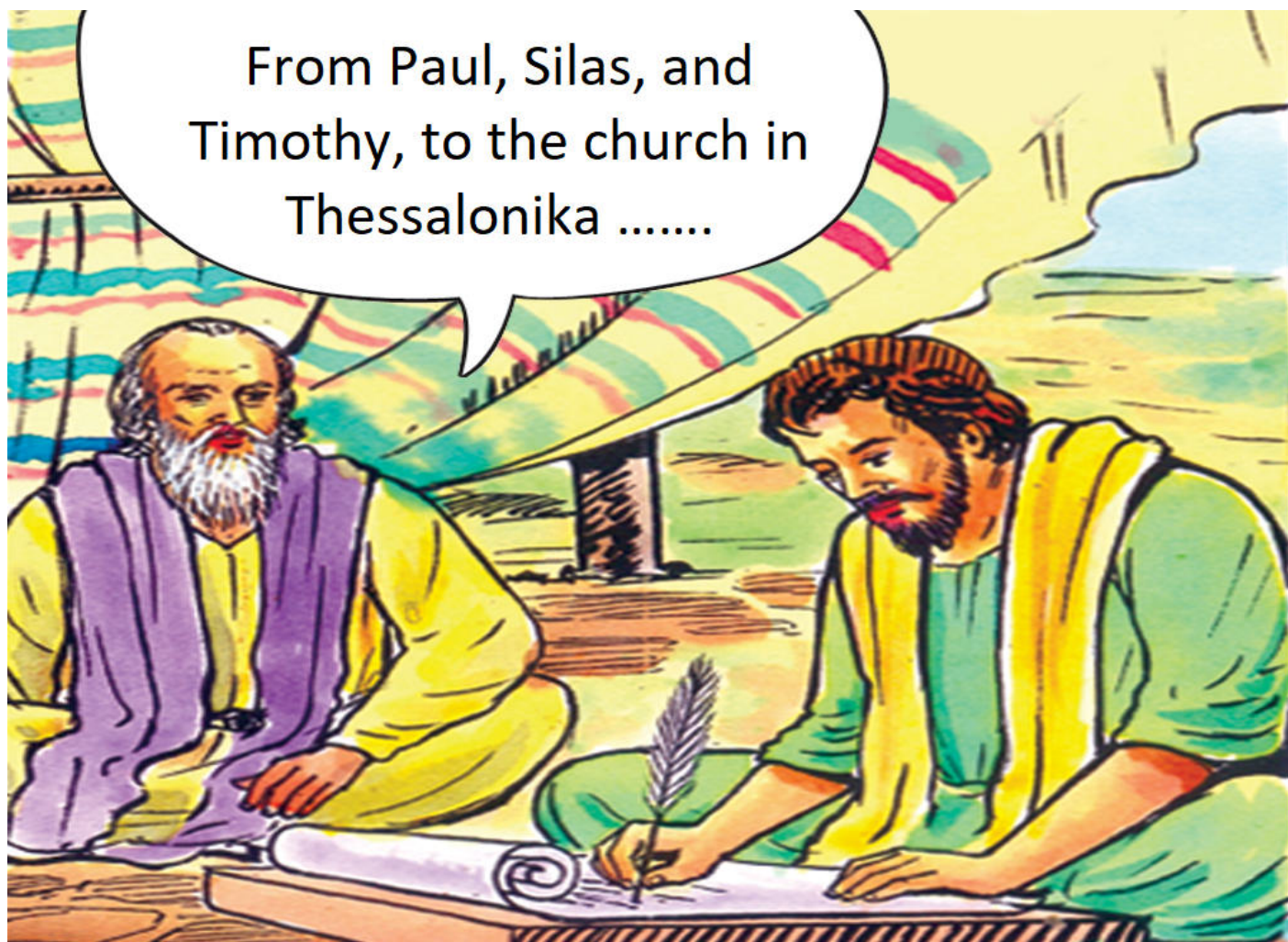


They would love to see you. But, your presence will cause more trouble. Jason and family are still on parole.

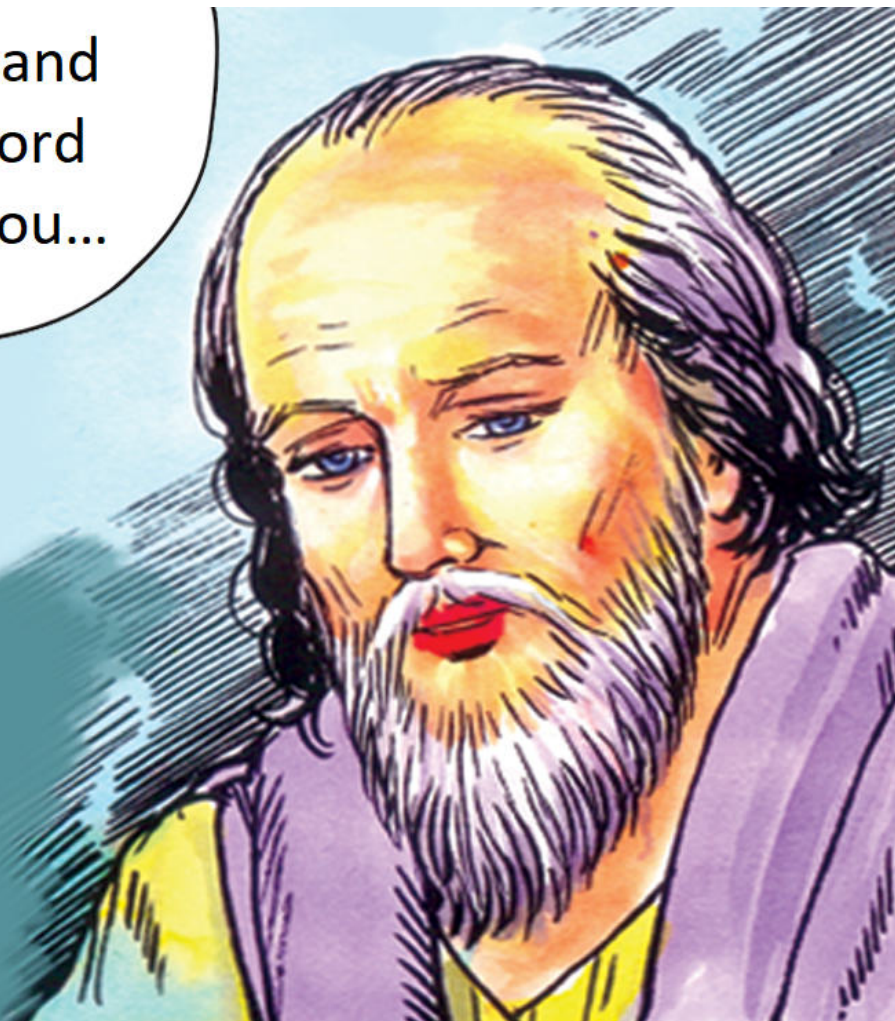
I shall write a letter to them. Silas, I shall dictate and you write.



From Paul, Silas, and
Timothy, to the church in
Thessalonika

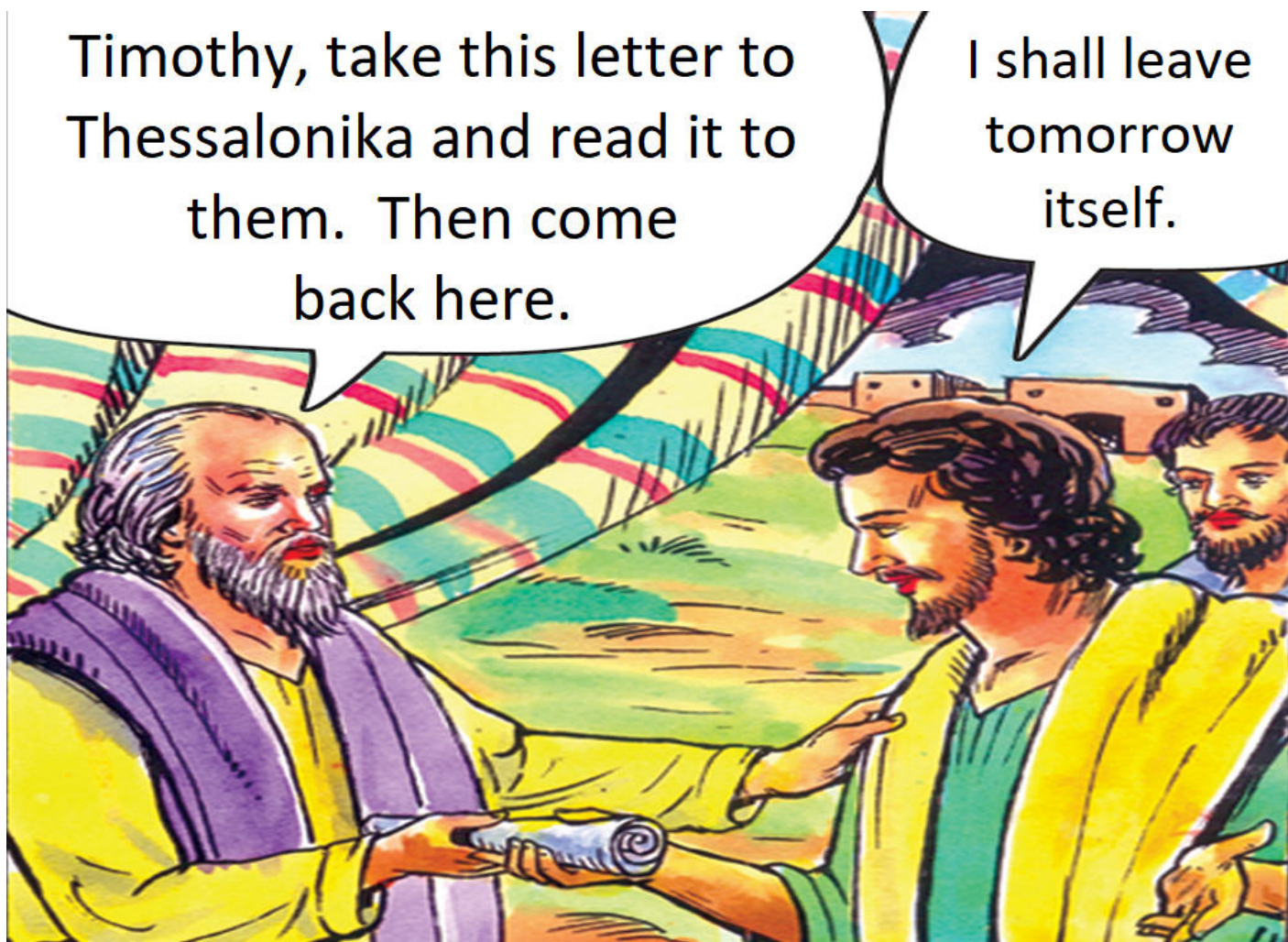


May the grace and
peace of our Lord
Jesus be with you...



Timothy, take this letter to
Thessalonika and read it to
them. Then come
back here.

I shall leave
tomorrow
itself.

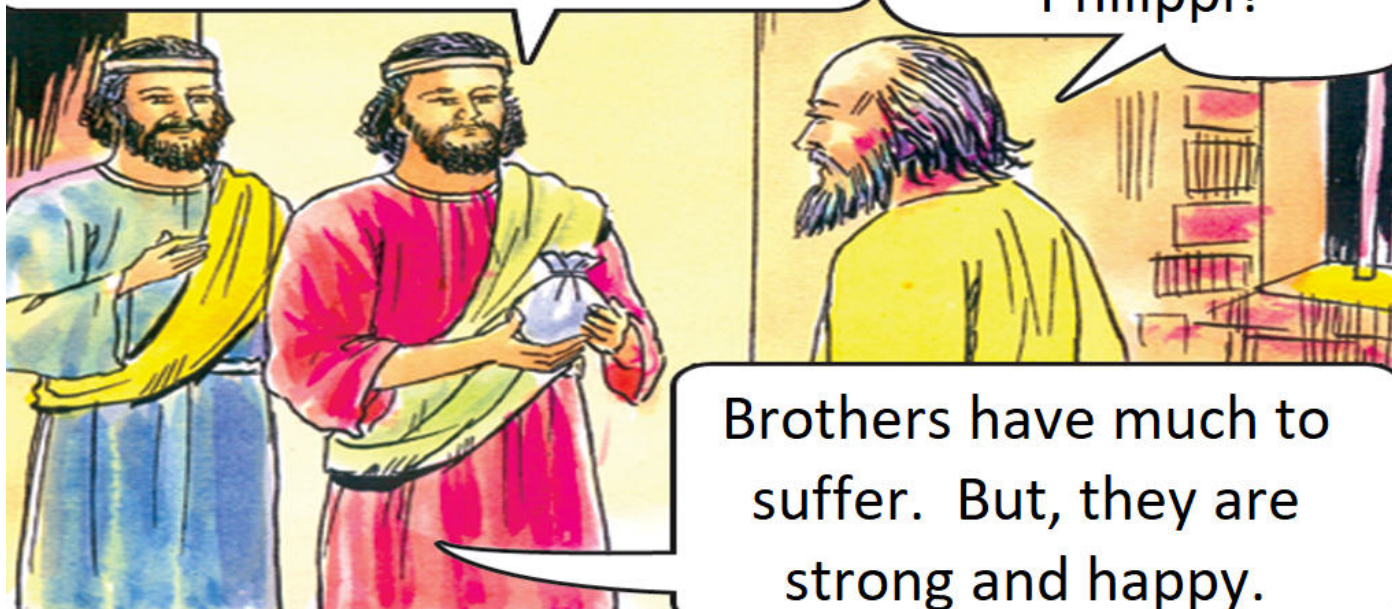


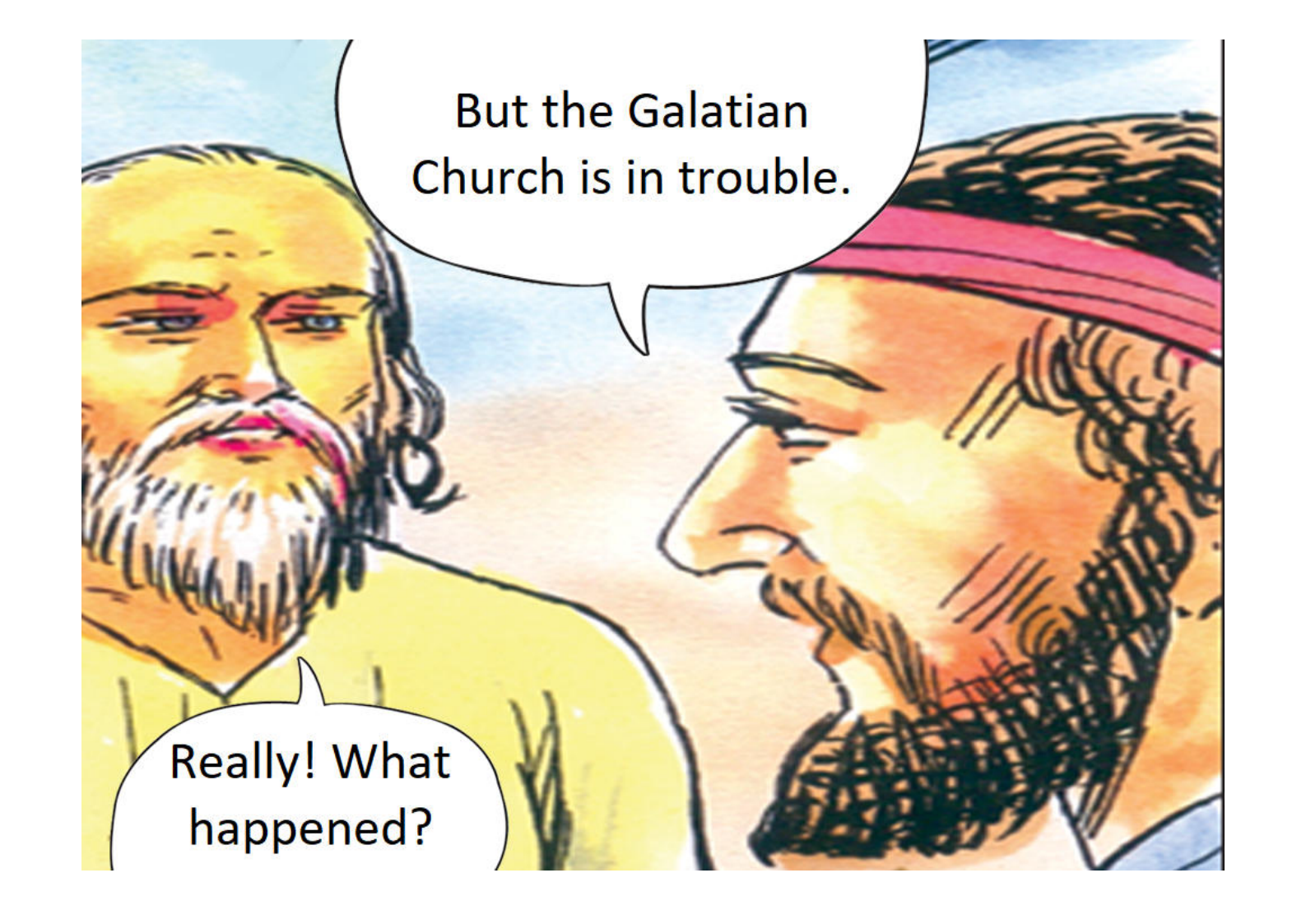
Paul continued his work in Corinth. One day.

Master, the Church in Philippi
has sent this money to you.
Hope it will help in your
mission.

Praise the Lord
Jesus Christ. How
are things in
Philippi?

Brothers have much to
suffer. But, they are
strong and happy.





But the Galatian Church is in trouble.

Really! What happened?

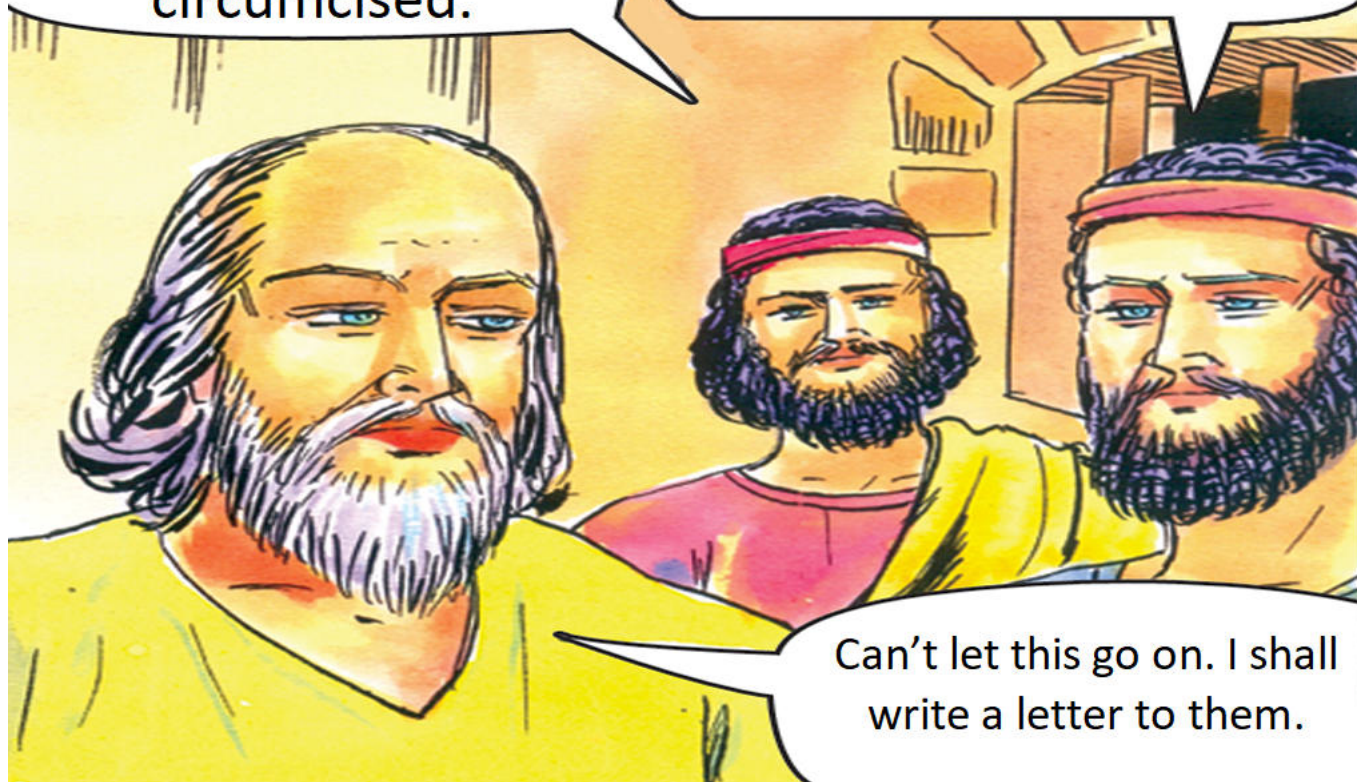
Jews from Jerusalem are creating
confusion among the brothers.

They say that to be saved
the laws of Moses should
be scrupulously obeyed.



They insist that the
gentiles must be
circumcised.

They want to excommunicate
those who refuse to comply.

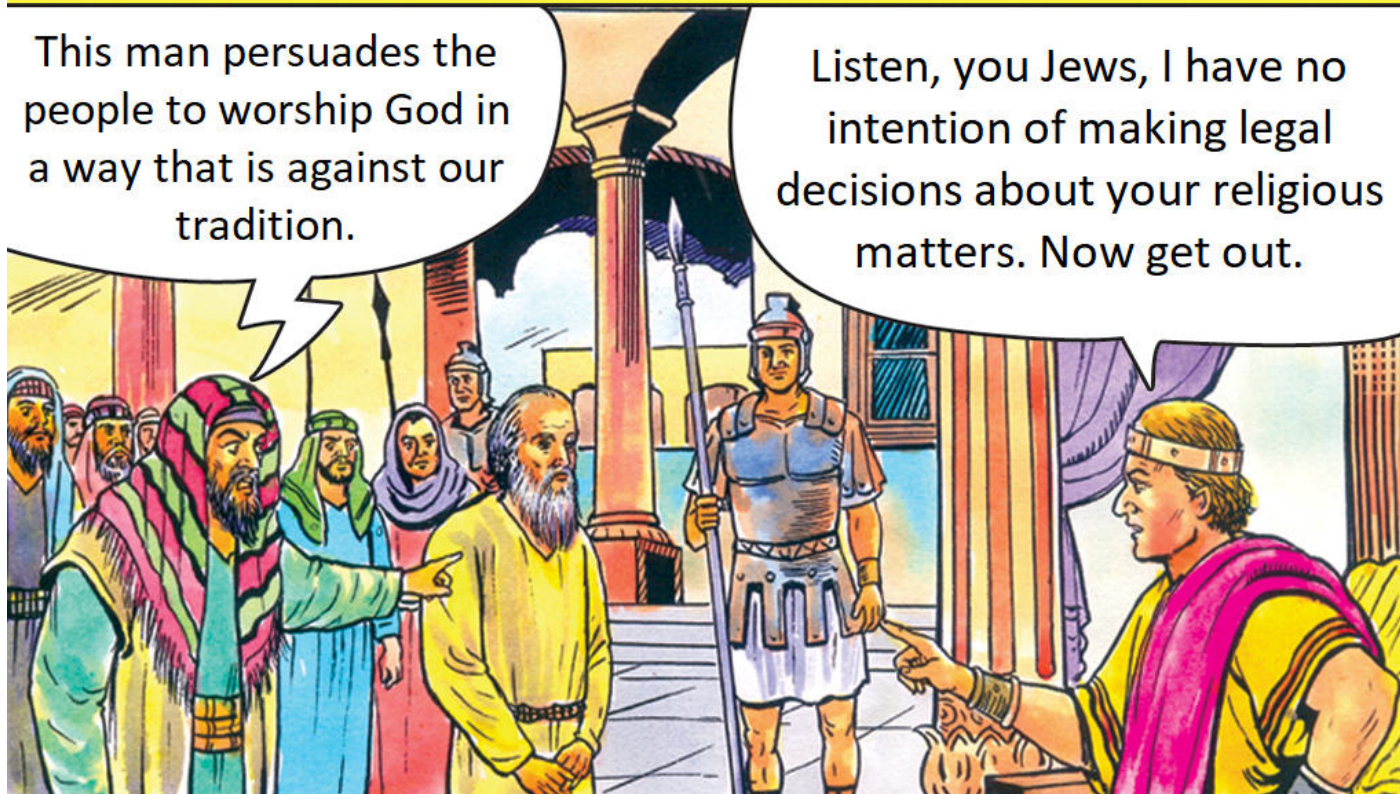


Can't let this go on. I shall
write a letter to them.

Paul wrote to the Galatians explaining that Salvation is not attained not through the law of Moses, but through faith in Jesus Christ. After some time the Jews in Corinth dragged Paul before the court.

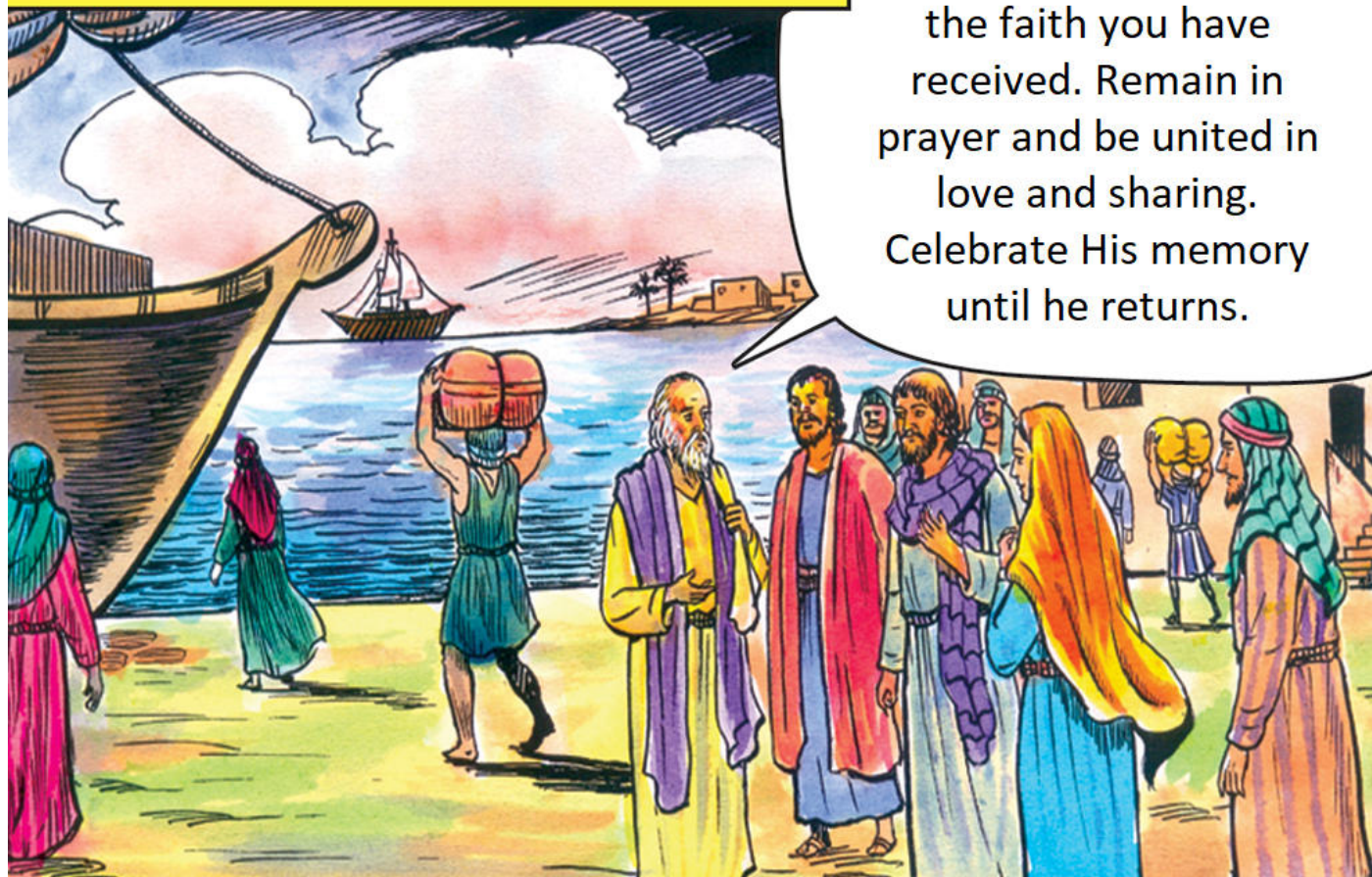
This man persuades the people to worship God in a way that is against our tradition.

Listen, you Jews, I have no intention of making legal decisions about your religious matters. Now get out.

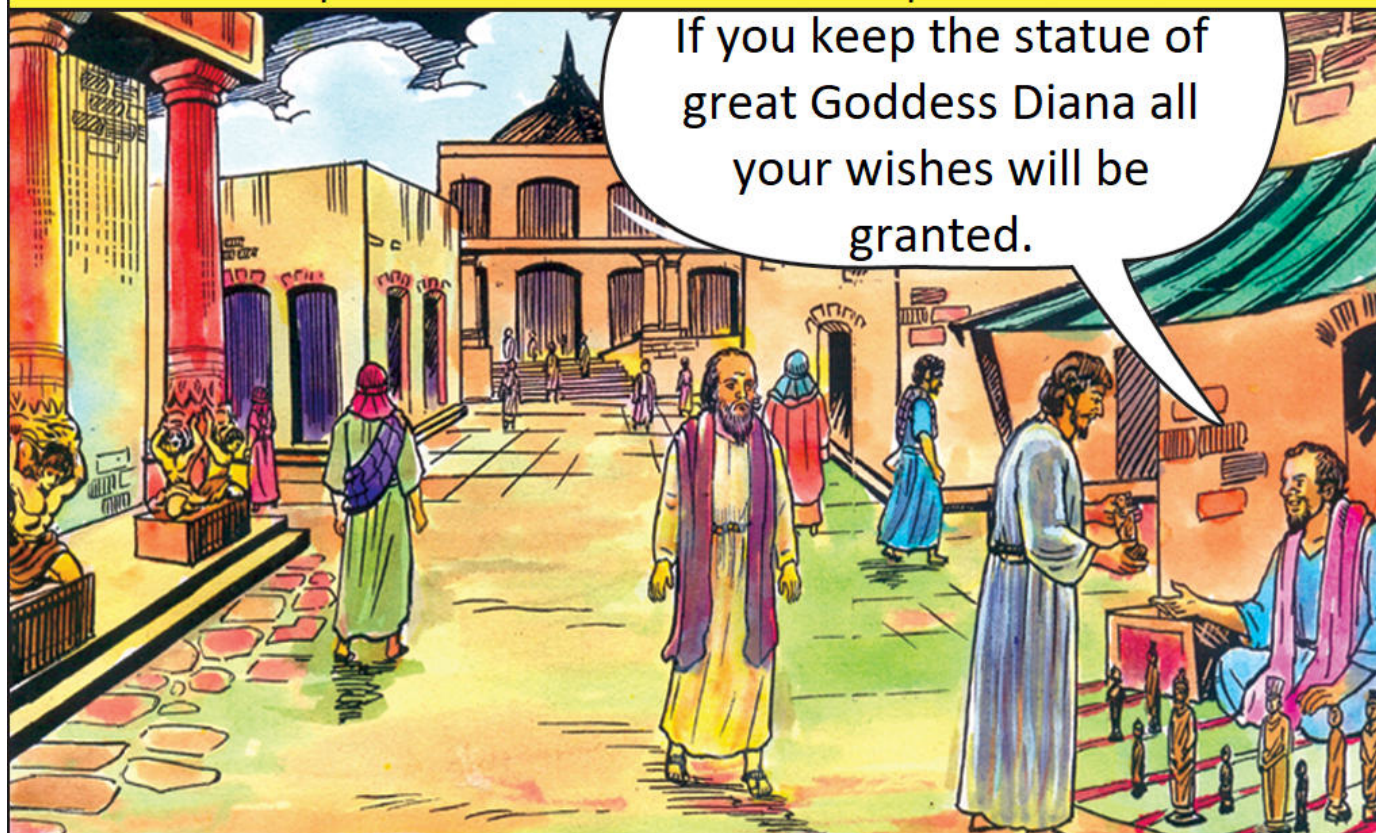


After Eighteen months in Corinth, Paul left.

Brethren, be strong in the faith you have received. Remain in prayer and be united in love and sharing. Celebrate His memory until he returns.



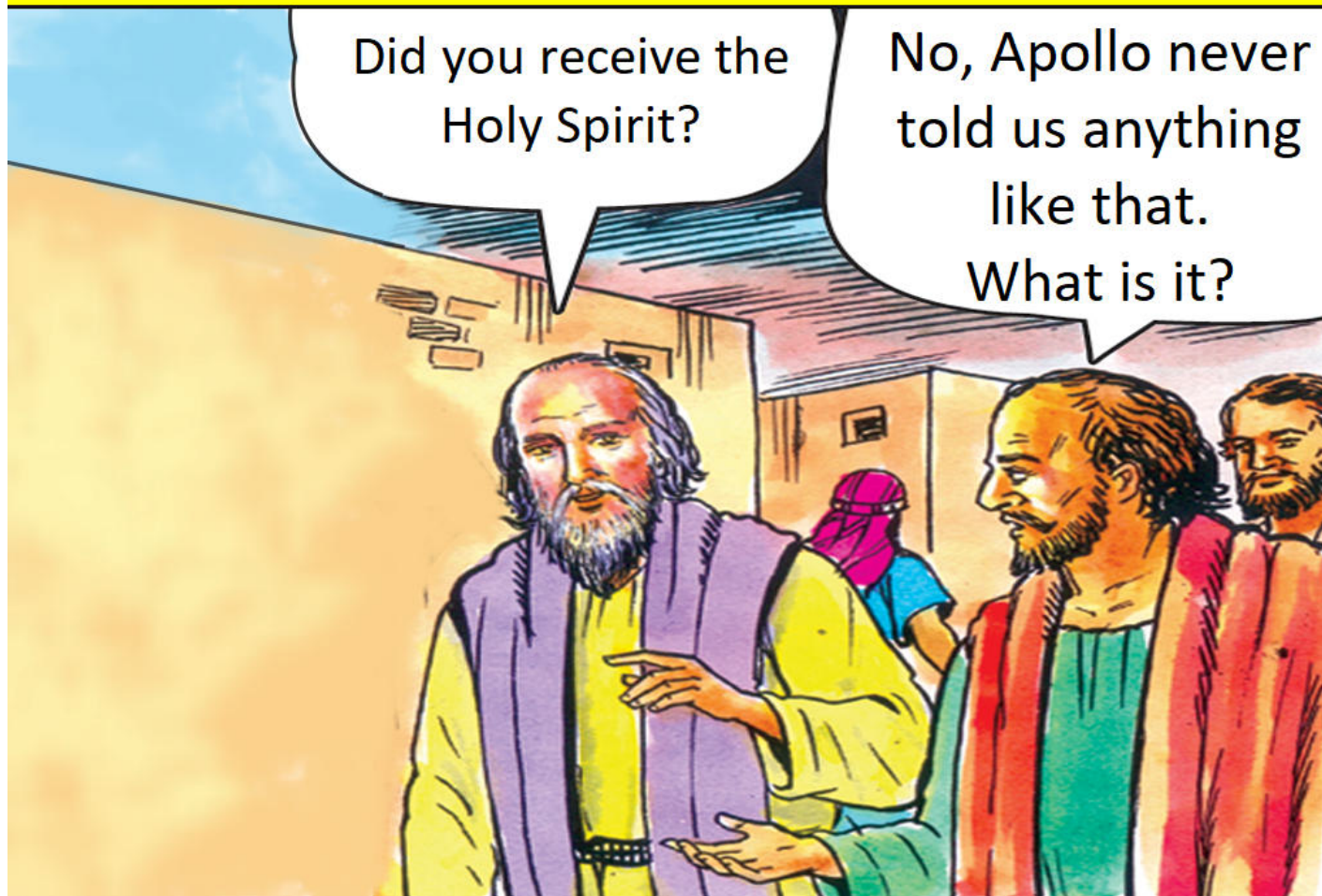
Paul returned to Antioch and after some time started his third missionary journey. He visited all the Churches he had started in the province of Asia and reached Ephesus.



Paul met some Christians.

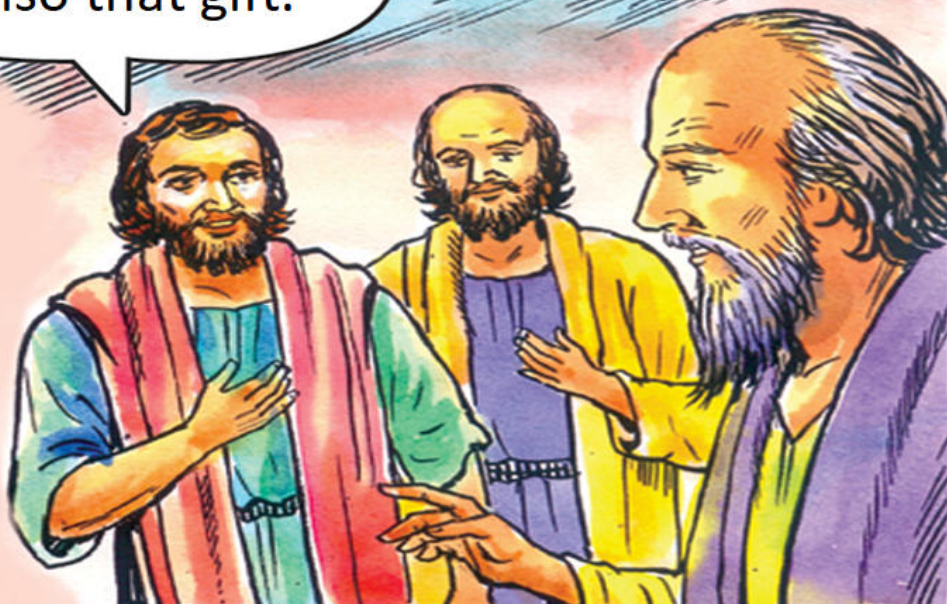
Did you receive the
Holy Spirit?

No, Apollo never
told us anything
like that.
What is it?

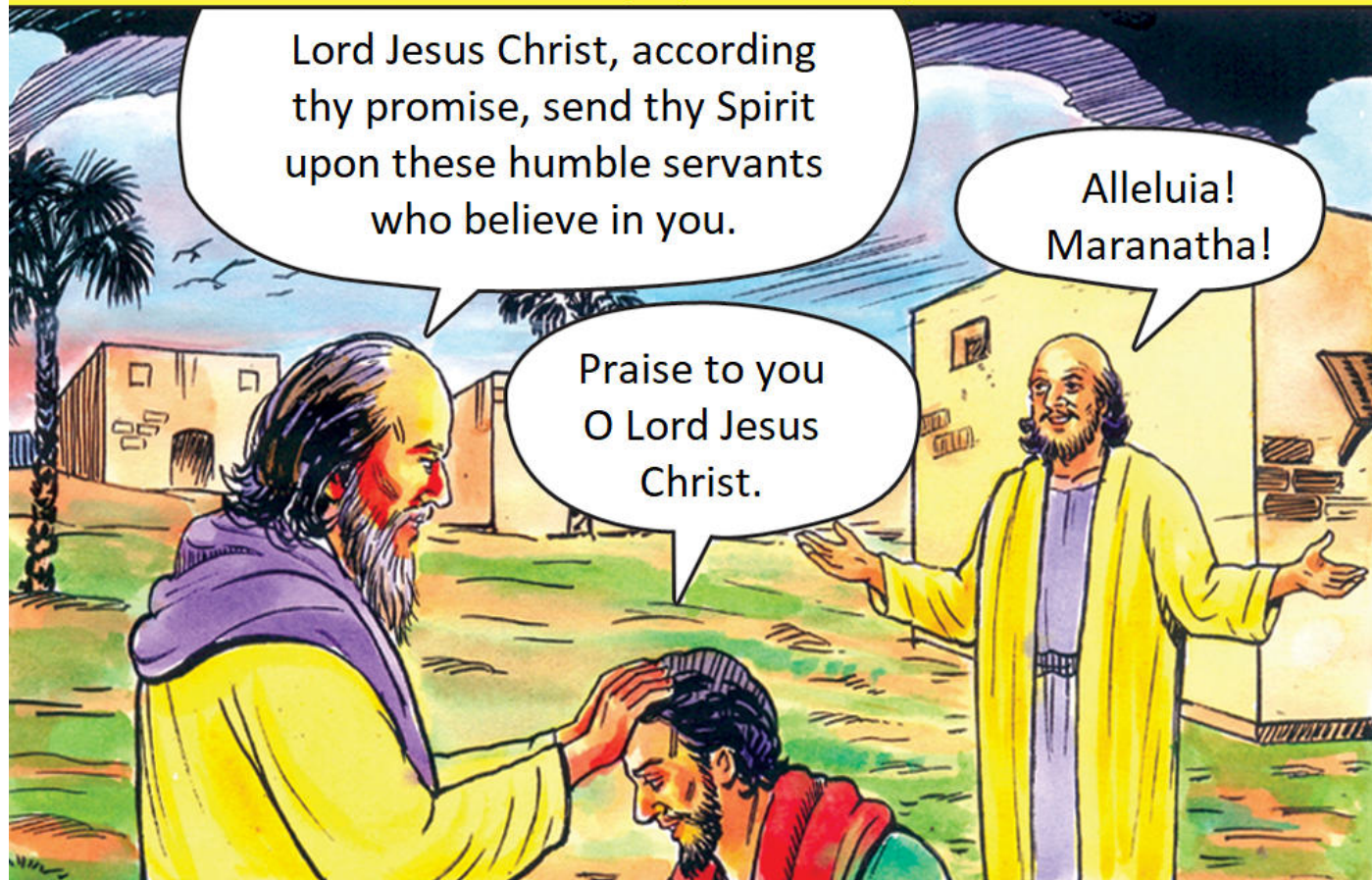


The Spirit of God is the gift
that is given to all those
who believe in Christ and
are baptized.

Please give us
also that gift.



They were baptized in the name of Jesus and when Paul laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them.

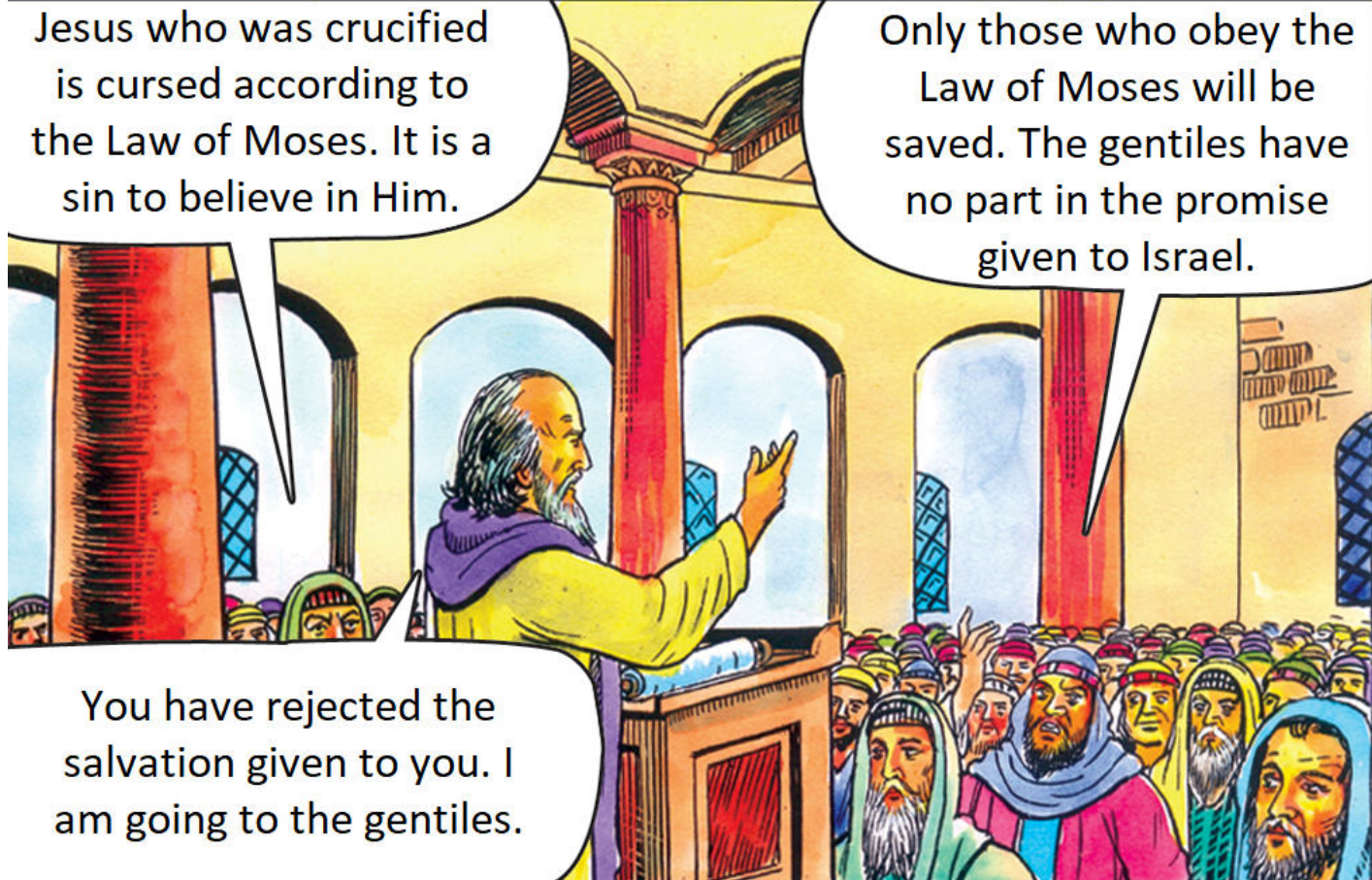


Paul continued to preach in the Synagogue for about three months.
Many were converted. One day in the Synagogue.

Jesus who was crucified
is cursed according to
the Law of Moses. It is a
sin to believe in Him.

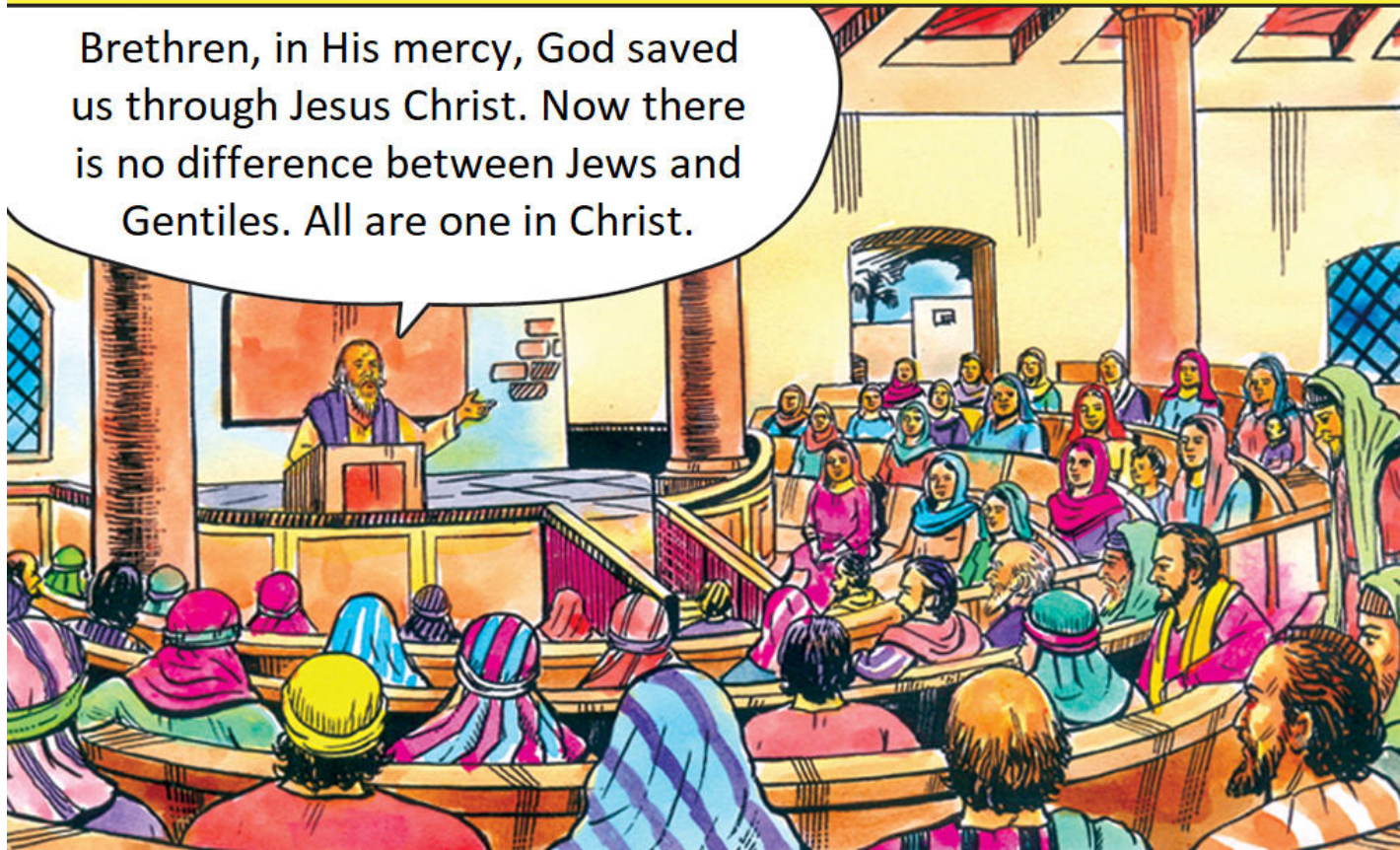
Only those who obey the
Law of Moses will be
saved. The gentiles have
no part in the promise
given to Israel.

You have rejected the
salvation given to you. I
am going to the gentiles.



Paul rented the lecture hall of Tyrannus and continued to preach there from 11:AM to 4:00 P.M. The rest of the time he worked for a living.

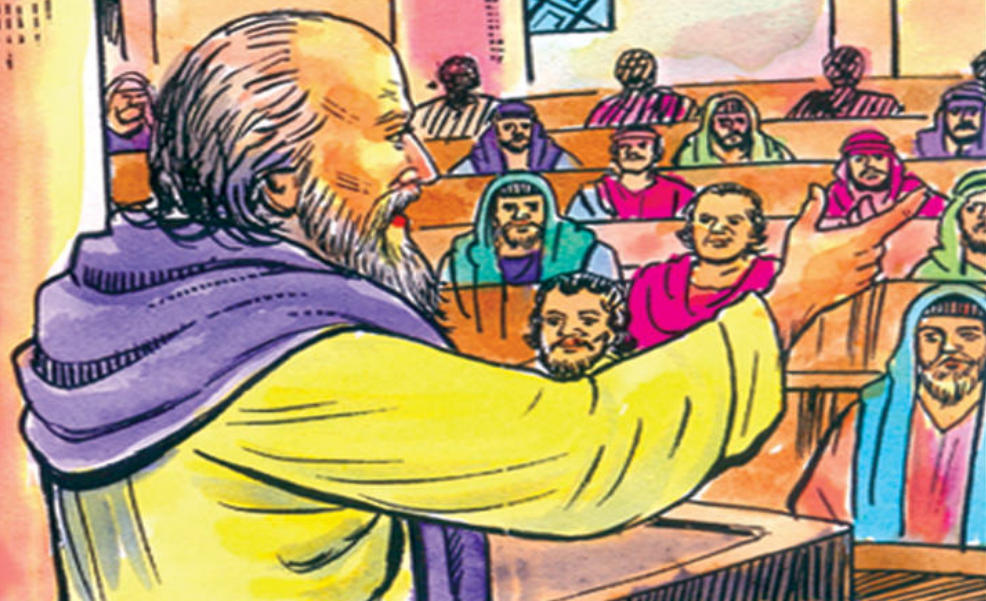
Brethren, in His mercy, God saved us through Jesus Christ. Now there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles. All are one in Christ.



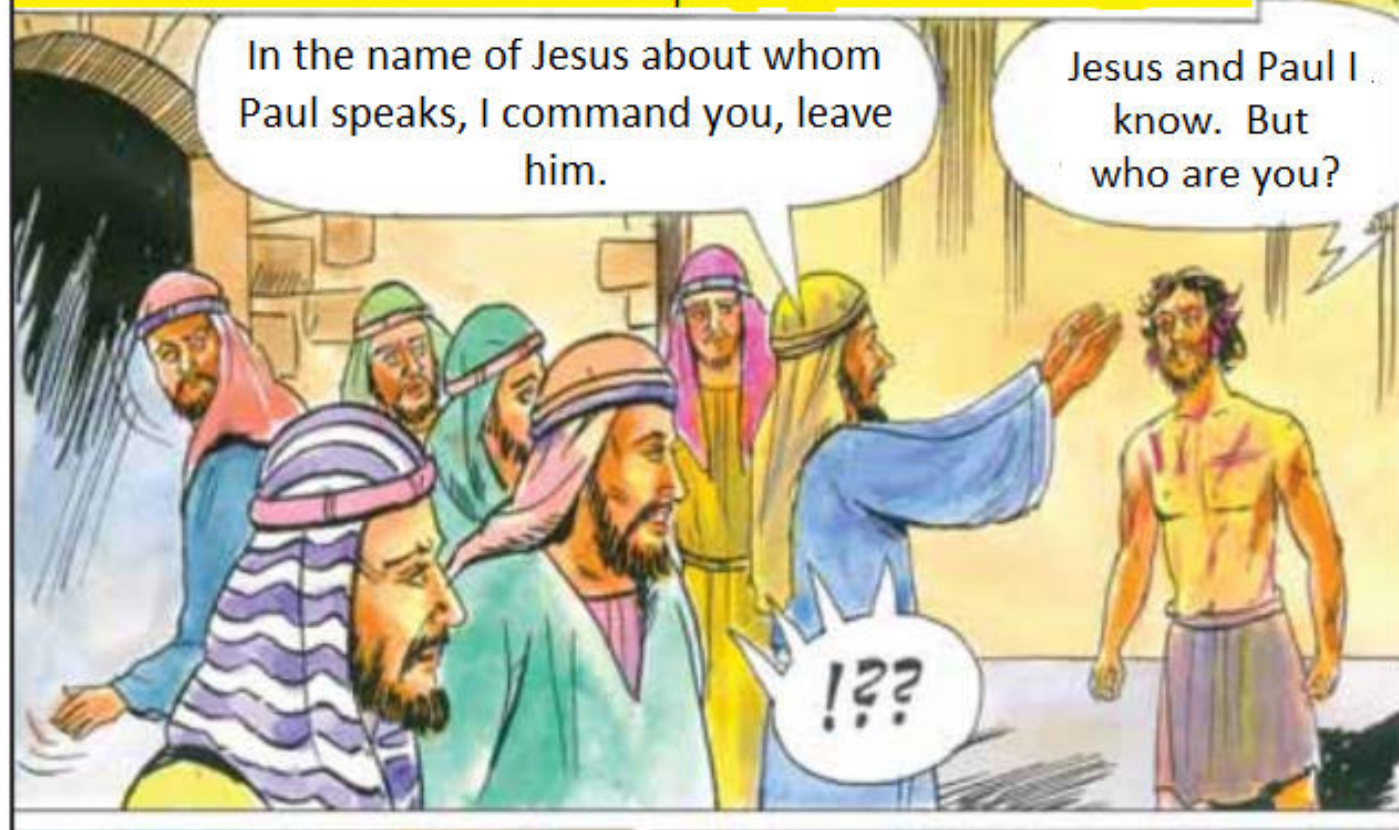
May Christ live in your hearts
through faith. May you be
renewed by the Holy Spirit.



Love each other as Jesus
has loved you. Stay away
from Idols.



God performed many miracles through Paul. Seeing this, seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish Priest tried to cure a man possessed by an evil spirit.





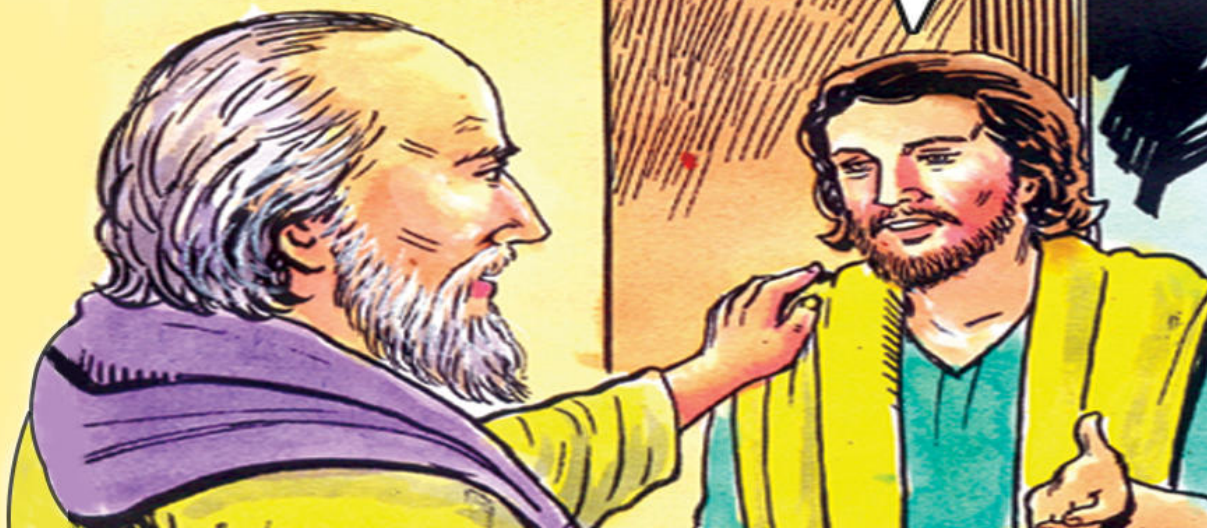
Everybody in Ephesus heard about this and believed in Jesus Christ. A number of people who had practiced Magic burned their books in public.

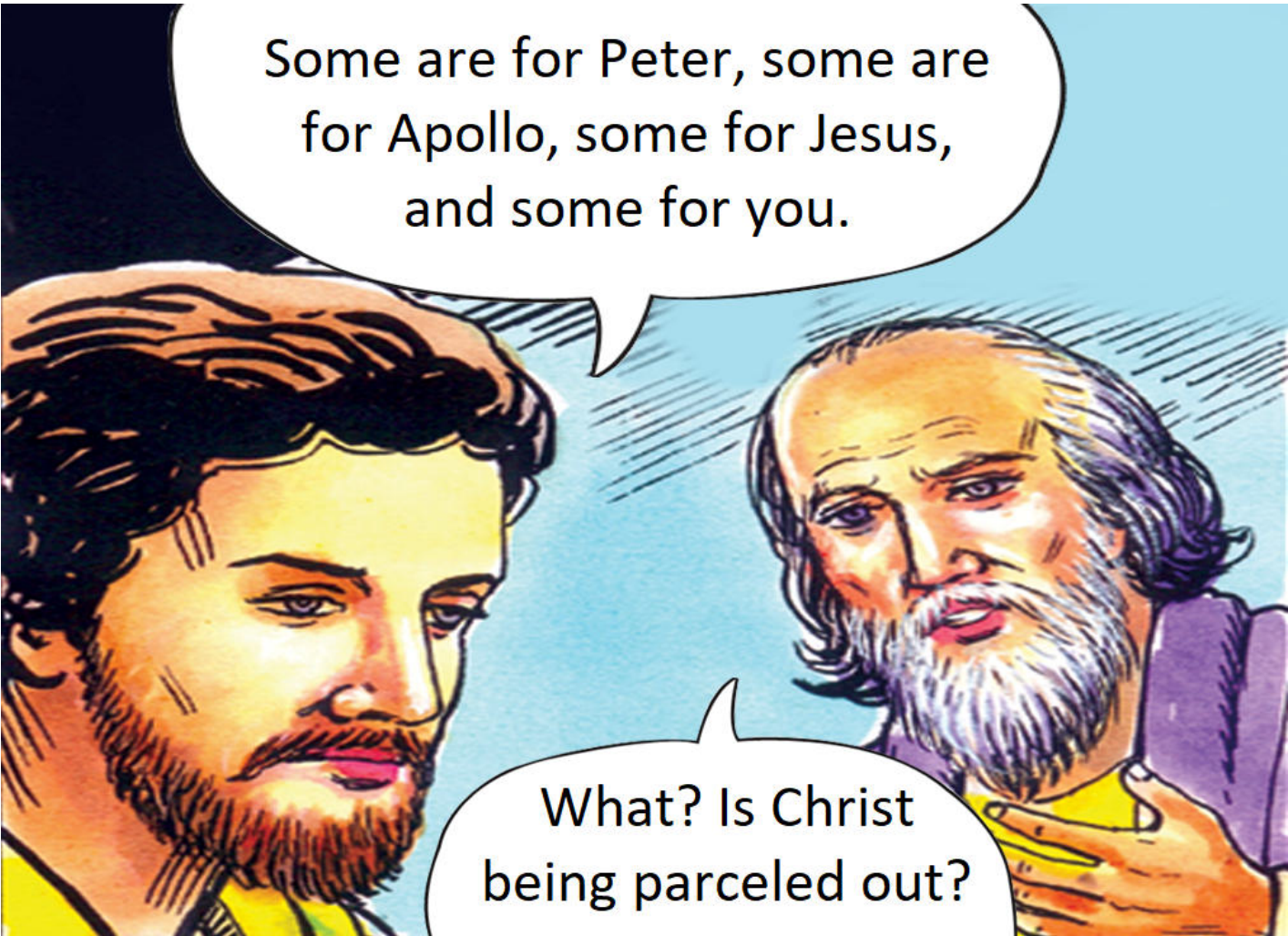


Timothy returned from Corinth.

Timothy, how are things in Corinth?

The Whole Church is in turmoil. The brothers are divided into four groups.





Some are for Peter, some are
for Apollo, some for Jesus,
and some for you.

What? Is Christ
being parceled out?

Not only that, the table
fellowship is broken.
Some are living in luxury
while others are
starving.

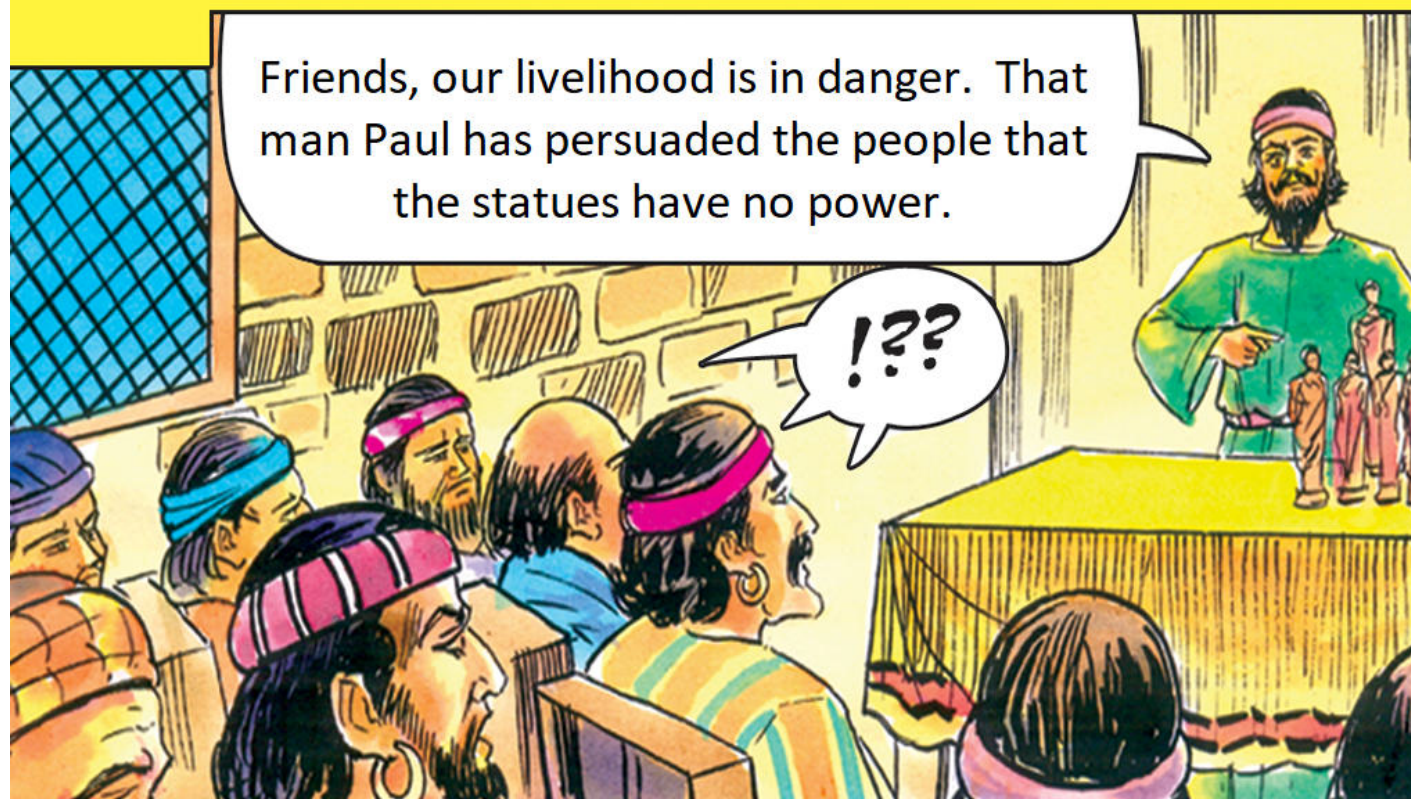


Gifts of tongues and prophecy also are causing trouble. Some eccentric women claiming to be gifted are causing great damage to the Church.

I cannot leave this place now. I shall write a letter which you shall take to them.



The visit of Timothy did no good. Paul himself went to Corinth but they insulted him. After returning to Ephesus, he sent Titus with another letter to them. At the same time in Ephesus:



Haven't you noticed that since a year
the demand for the statues is
declining steadily?

I used to sell at least ten statues a
day. Now, I don't even sell one in a
month.

!



Not only that we lose our jobs, our great Goddess Diana is being insulted and neglected.

We must put an end to this.

Kill them! 99 # * #



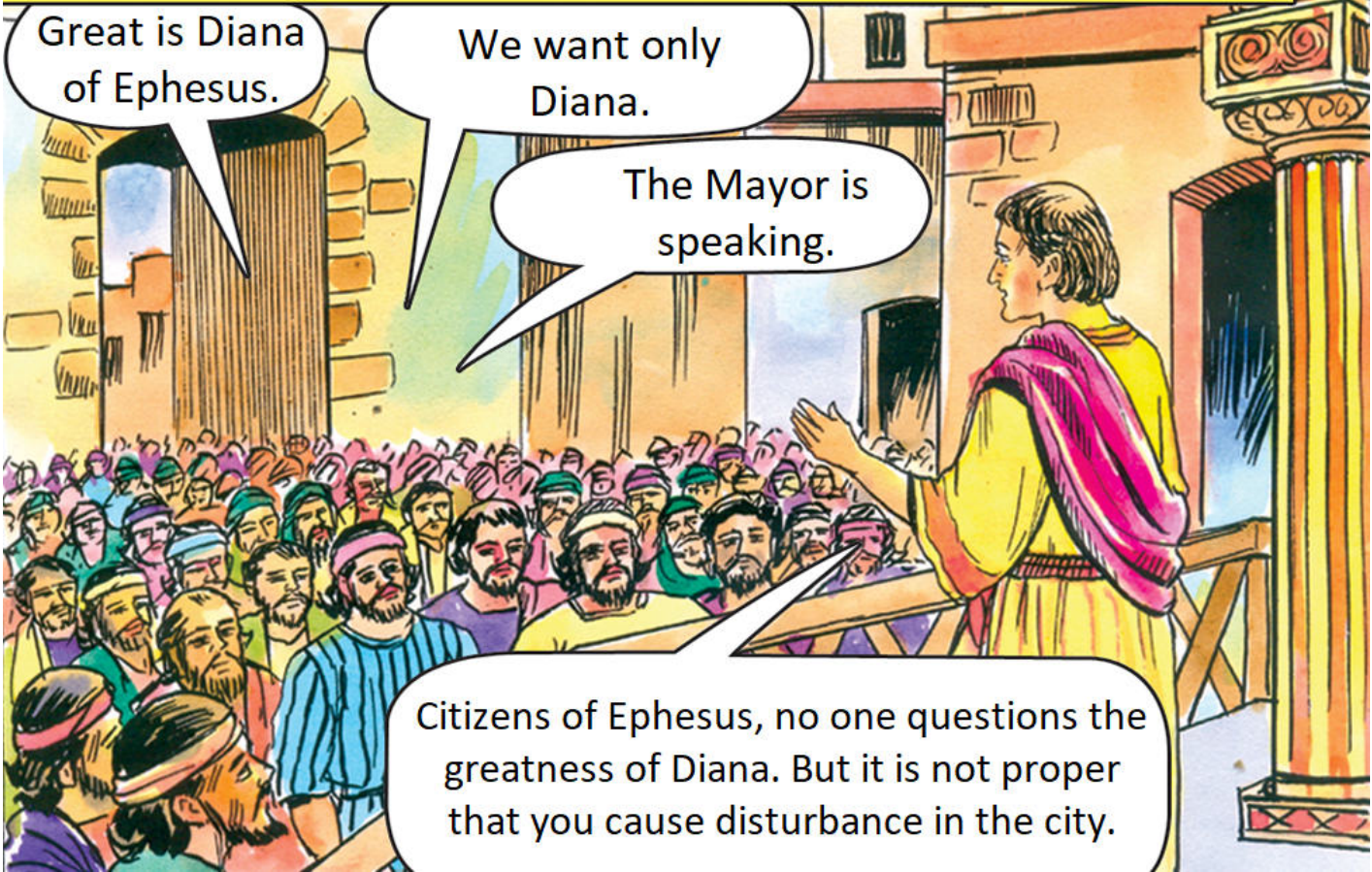
The silver smiths roused a riot in the city. They dragged two companions of Paul to the Theater.

Great is Diana
of Ephesus.

We want only
Diana.

The Mayor is
speaking.

Citizens of Ephesus, no one questions the
greatness of Diana. But it is not proper
that you cause disturbance in the city.





If you have any complaints against Paul or his Companions, take it to the court.

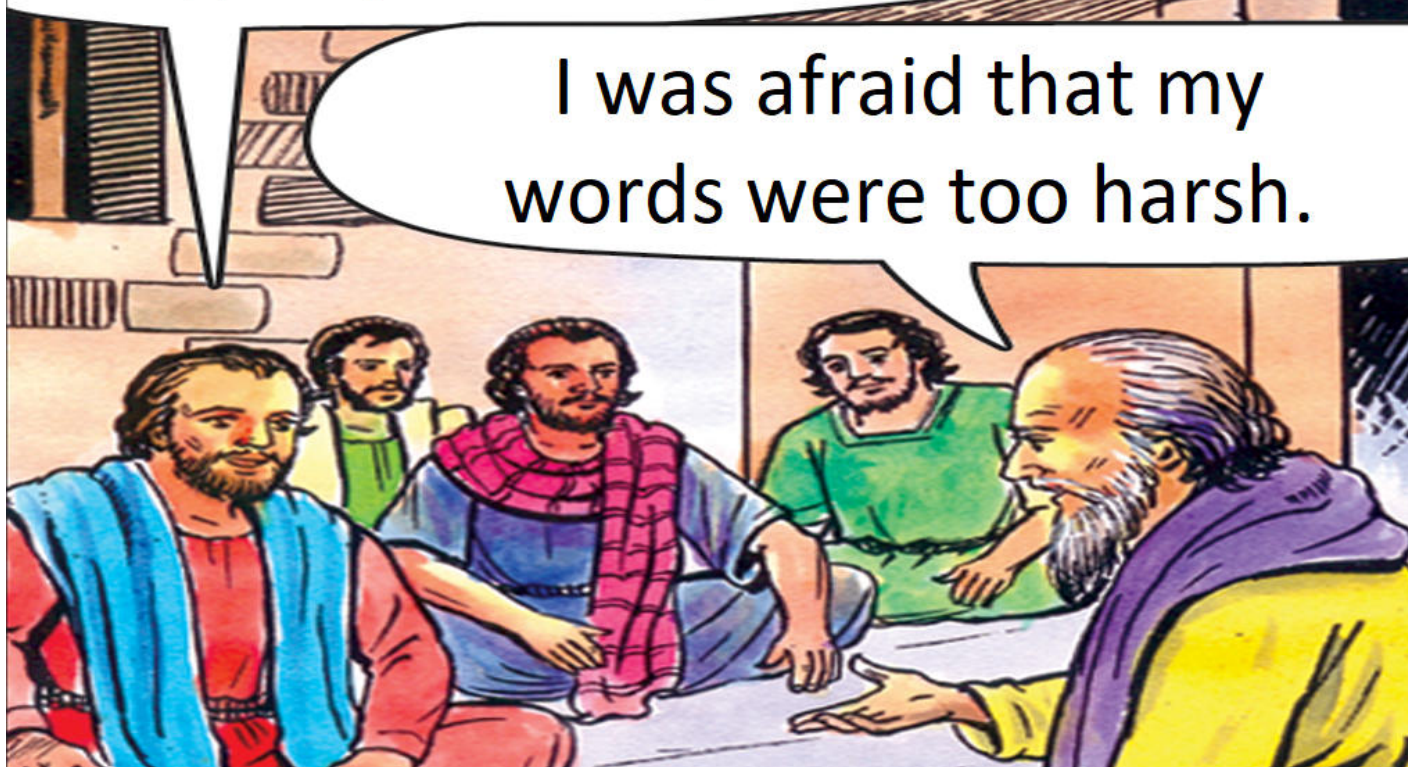
Now go in peace. If not, Rome will charge us with rioting. That will create more problems.



When the disturbance was over Paul left for Philippi.
There he met Titus.

Your letter was very effective. Those who
opposed you have been punished.

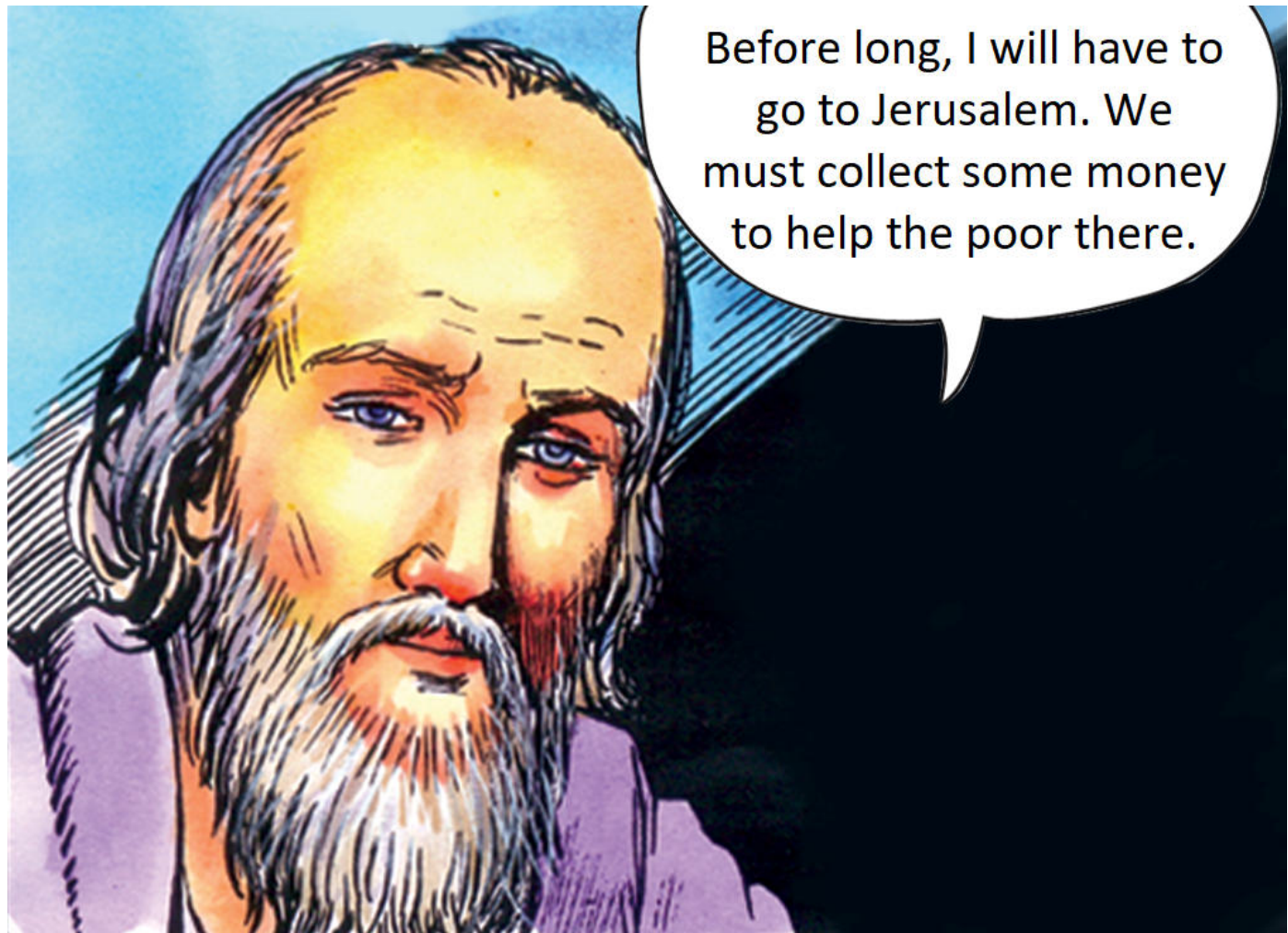
I was afraid that my
words were too harsh.



That was necessary. Now the whole community regrets insulting you and they are waiting to ask your pardon.

All right! I shall go. But, before that I will write a consoling letter.





Before long, I will have to go to Jerusalem. We must collect some money to help the poor there.

We must encourage the
Corinthians to be generous like the
Churches in Macedonia and Asia.



After visiting the Churches in Macedonia, Paul reached Corinth.

We sinned gravely. In the name
of the entire Congregation, I
ask your pardon.

Get up and be
happy. I did not
write to hurt you.

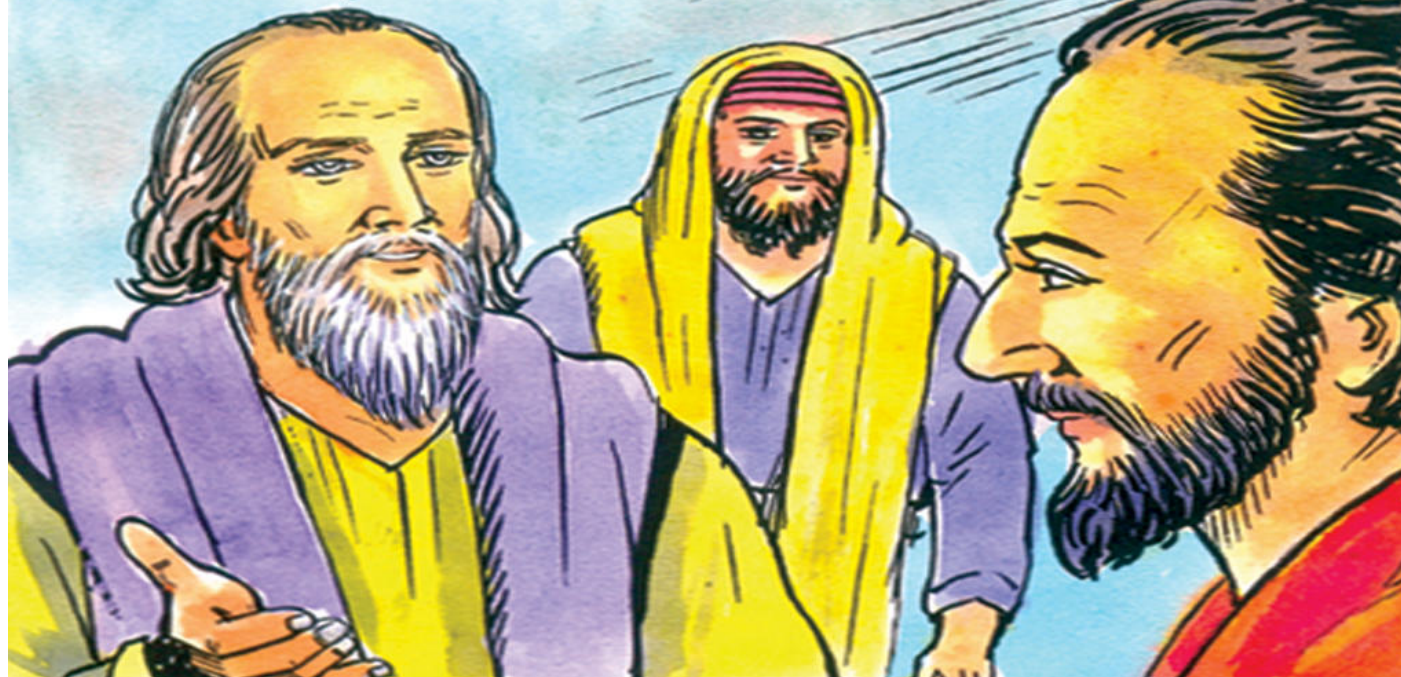


When we read about the trials
and suffering you went through,
we realized how petty we were.

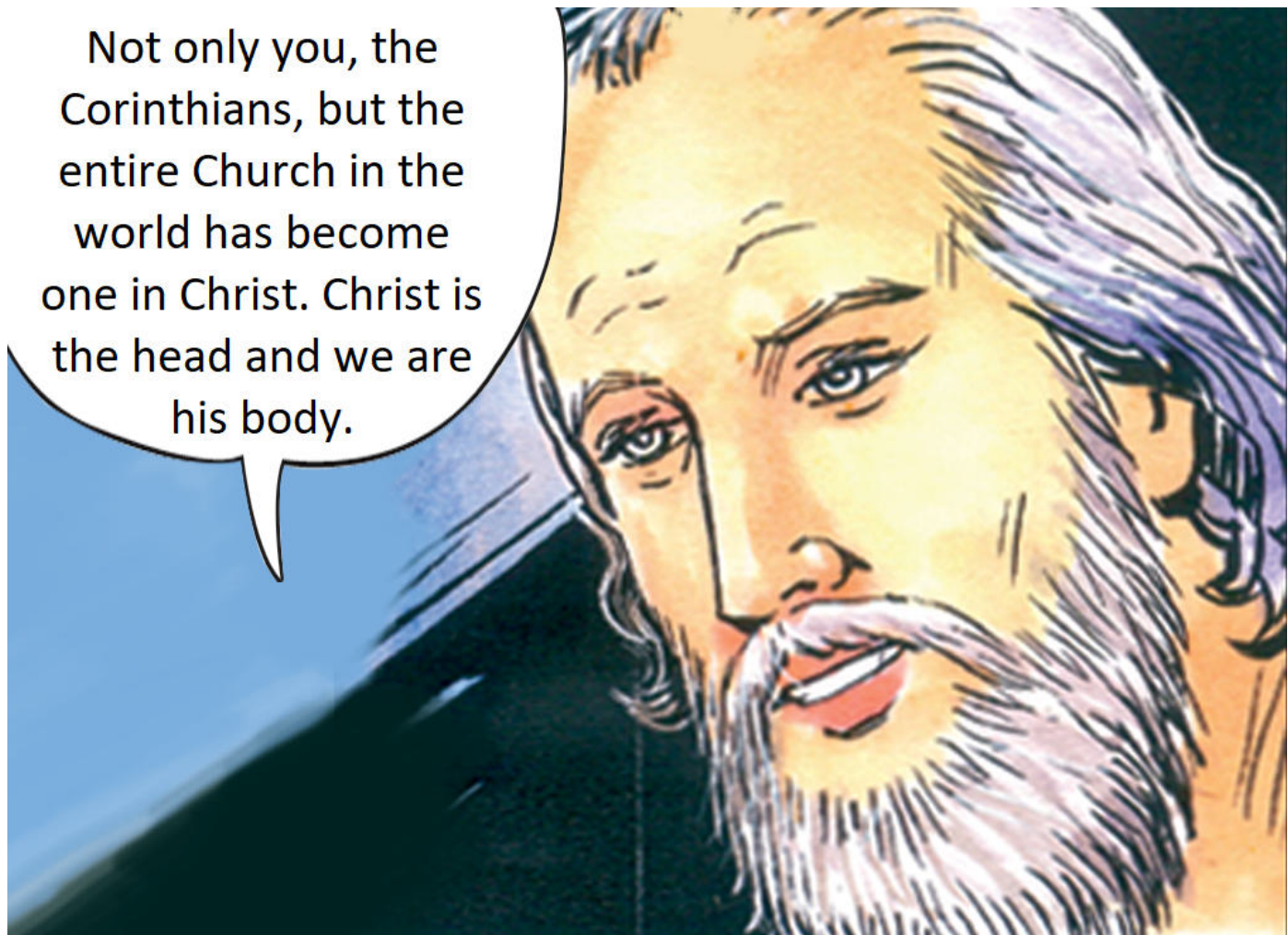
It is the love of Christ that
gives me strength. We live
and die in Him and for Him.



I thank the Lord for seeing you
united in Jesus Christ.



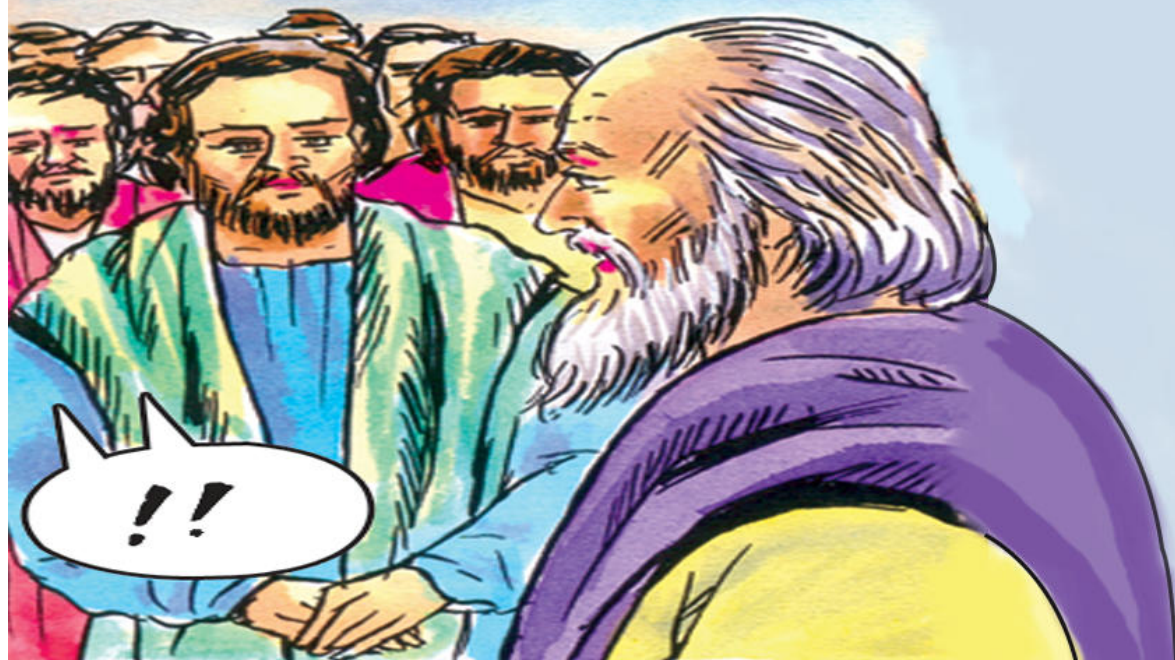
Not only you, the
Corinthians, but the
entire Church in the
world has become
one in Christ. Christ is
the head and we are
his body.



Paul stayed in Corinth for about three months. During that time, he wrote a letter to the Church in Rome.

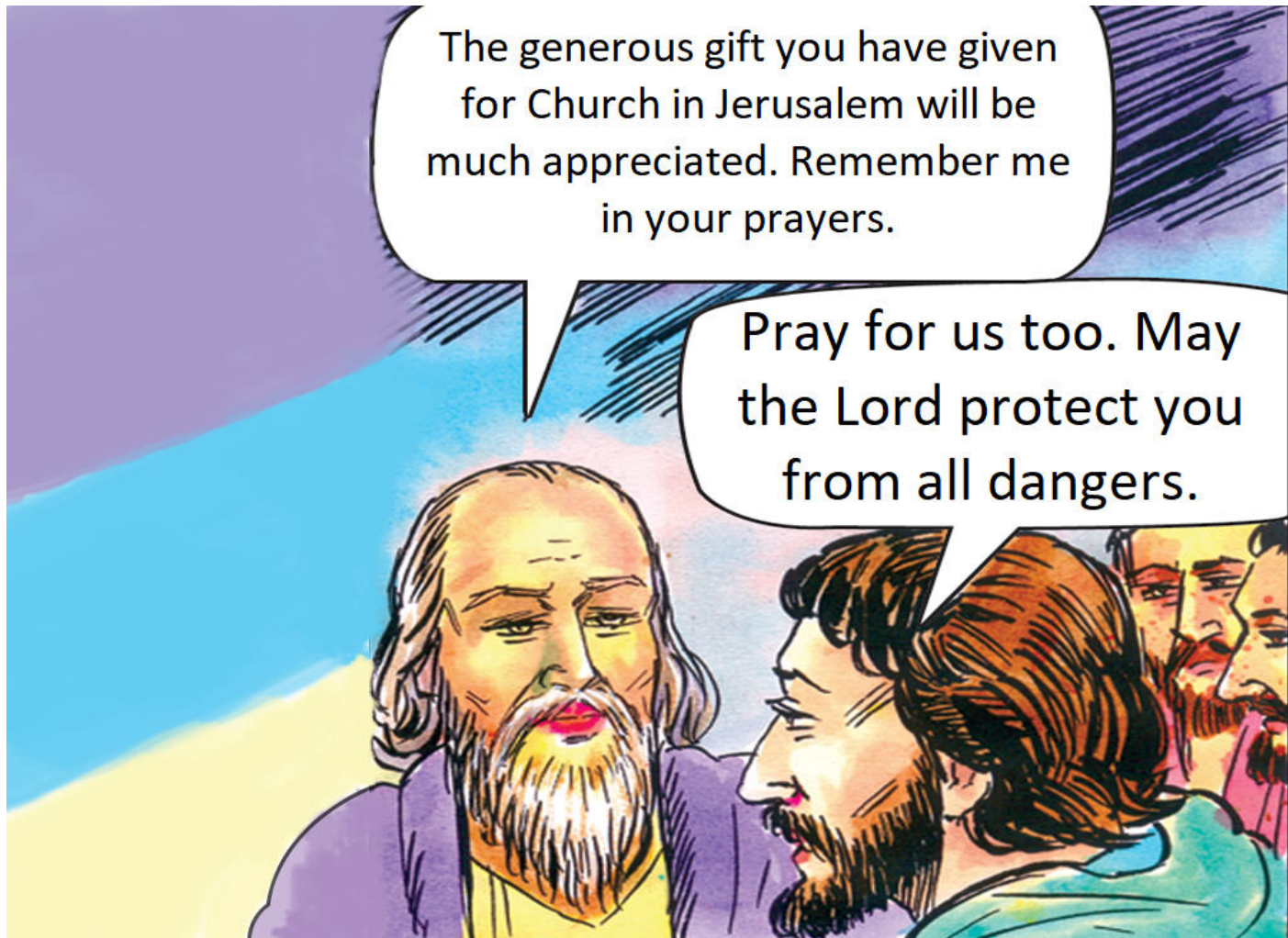


We may never meet again. You must
love each other and be strong in your
faith in Jesus Christ.



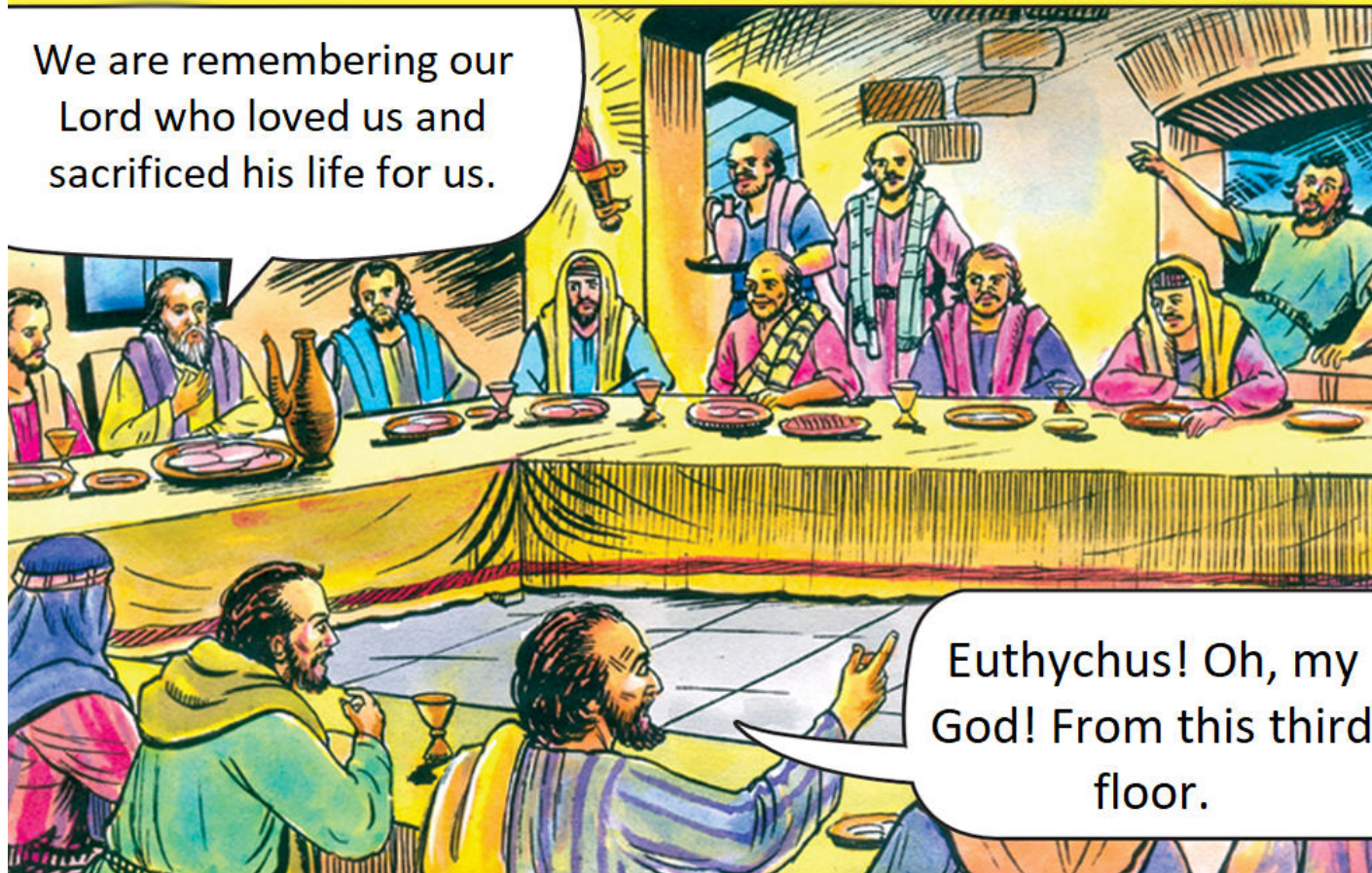
The generous gift you have given
for Church in Jerusalem will be
much appreciated. Remember me
in your prayers.

Pray for us too. May
the Lord protect you
from all dangers.



Paul went to Troas by Ship. On the first day of the week, in the evening, the brethren gathered to break bread.

We are remembering our Lord who loved us and sacrificed his life for us.



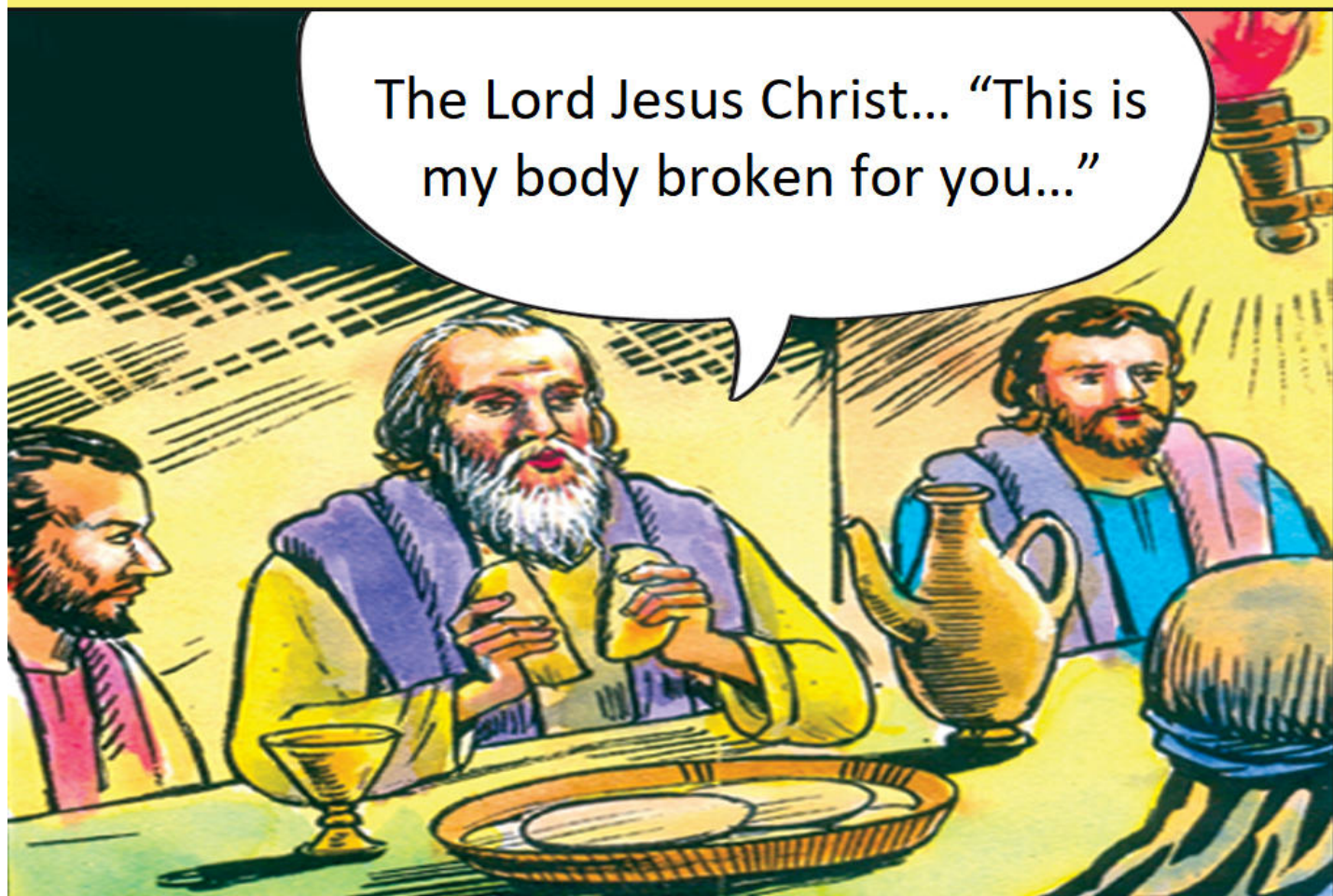


He is dead.

Don't worry.
He is still alive.

They went back and continued the prayer.

The Lord Jesus Christ... "This is
my body broken for you..."

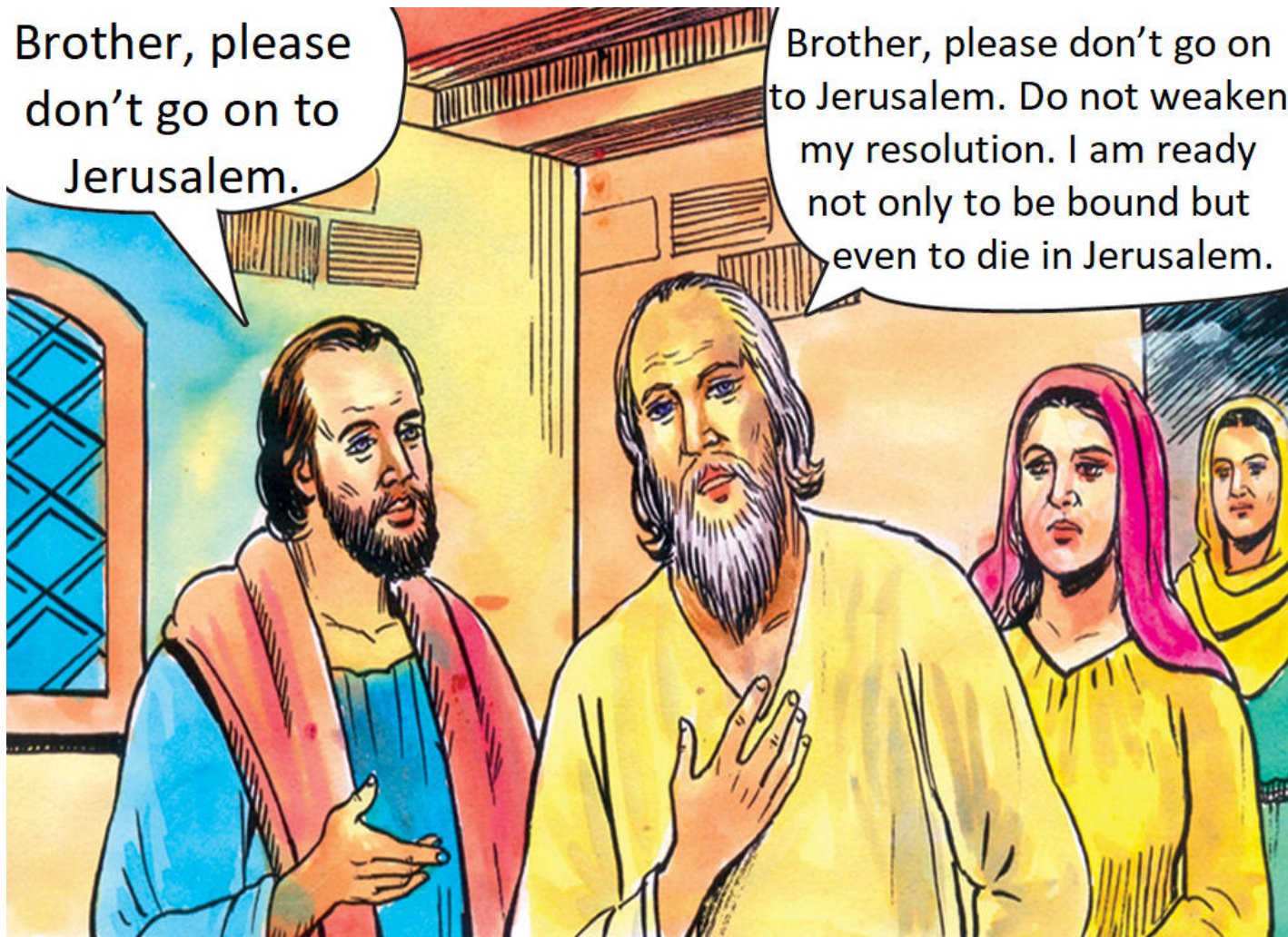


They all rejoiced that Euthychus was alive. At day-break Paul took leave of them. He reached Caesarea by sea and stayed with Philip, the deacon.



Brother, please
don't go on to
Jerusalem.

Brother, please don't go on
to Jerusalem. Do not weaken
my resolution. I am ready
not only to be bound but
even to die in Jerusalem.





Paul reached Jerusalem. James and the elders gave him a warm welcome.

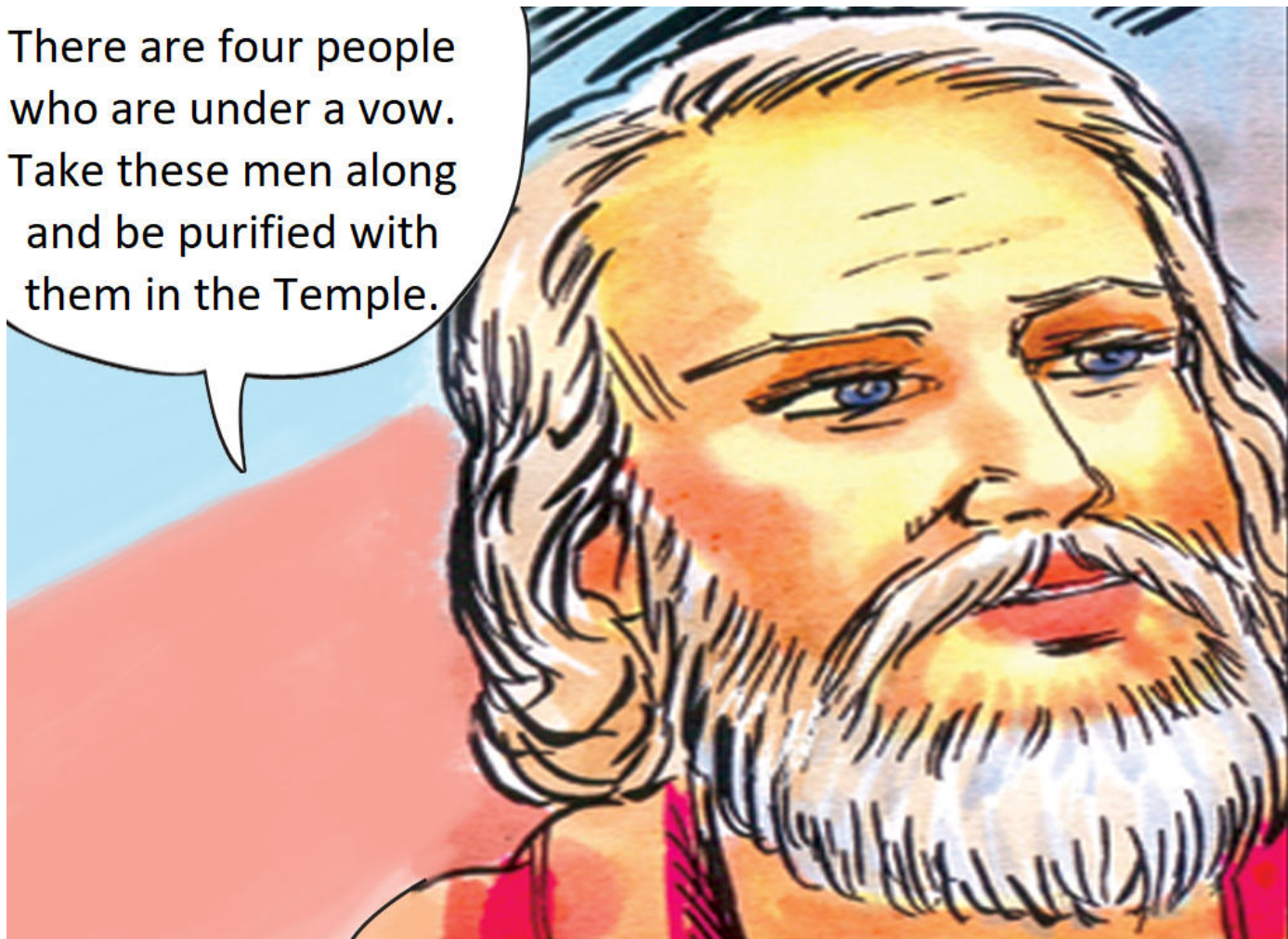
We are grateful for the generous help received from the Gentile Churches but among the Jews and Christians here, there are misunderstandings and doubts about you.

I am ready to do anything you suggest as long as we do not deny the freedom granted to the gentiles.

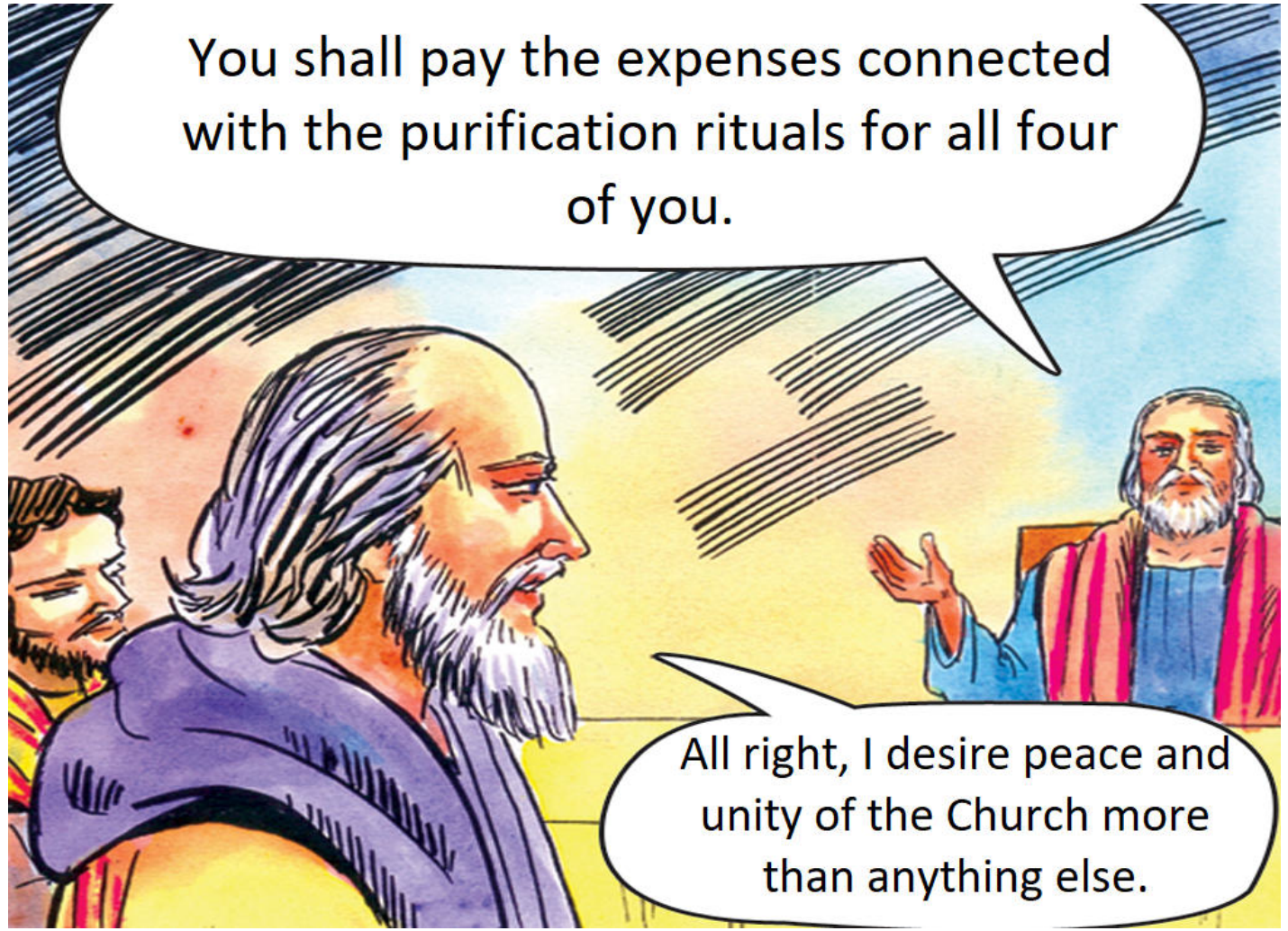
They accuse of preaching against the Law of Moses. You must disprove it.



There are four people
who are under a vow.
Take these men along
and be purified with
them in the Temple.

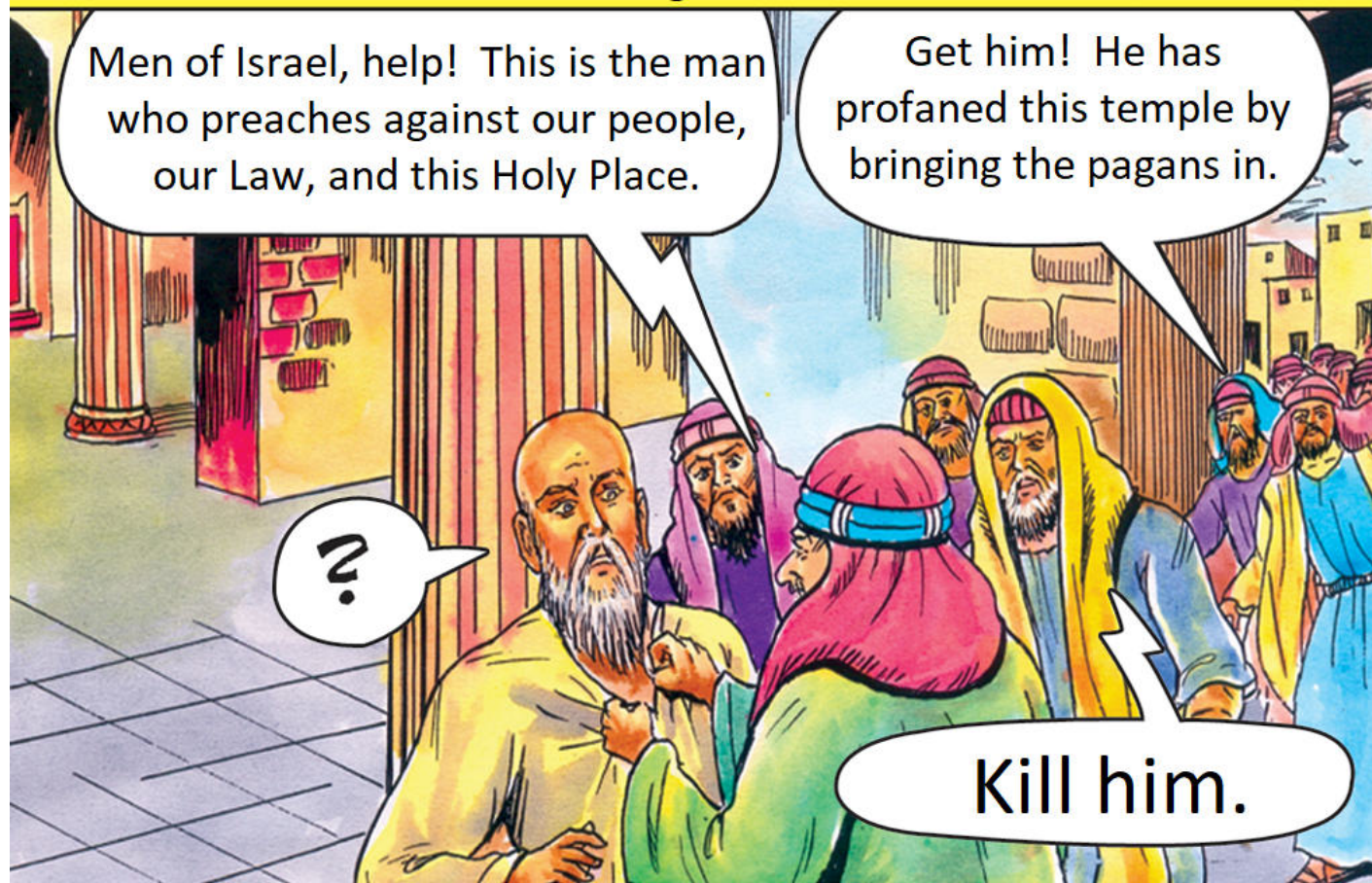


You shall pay the expenses connected with the purification rituals for all four of you.

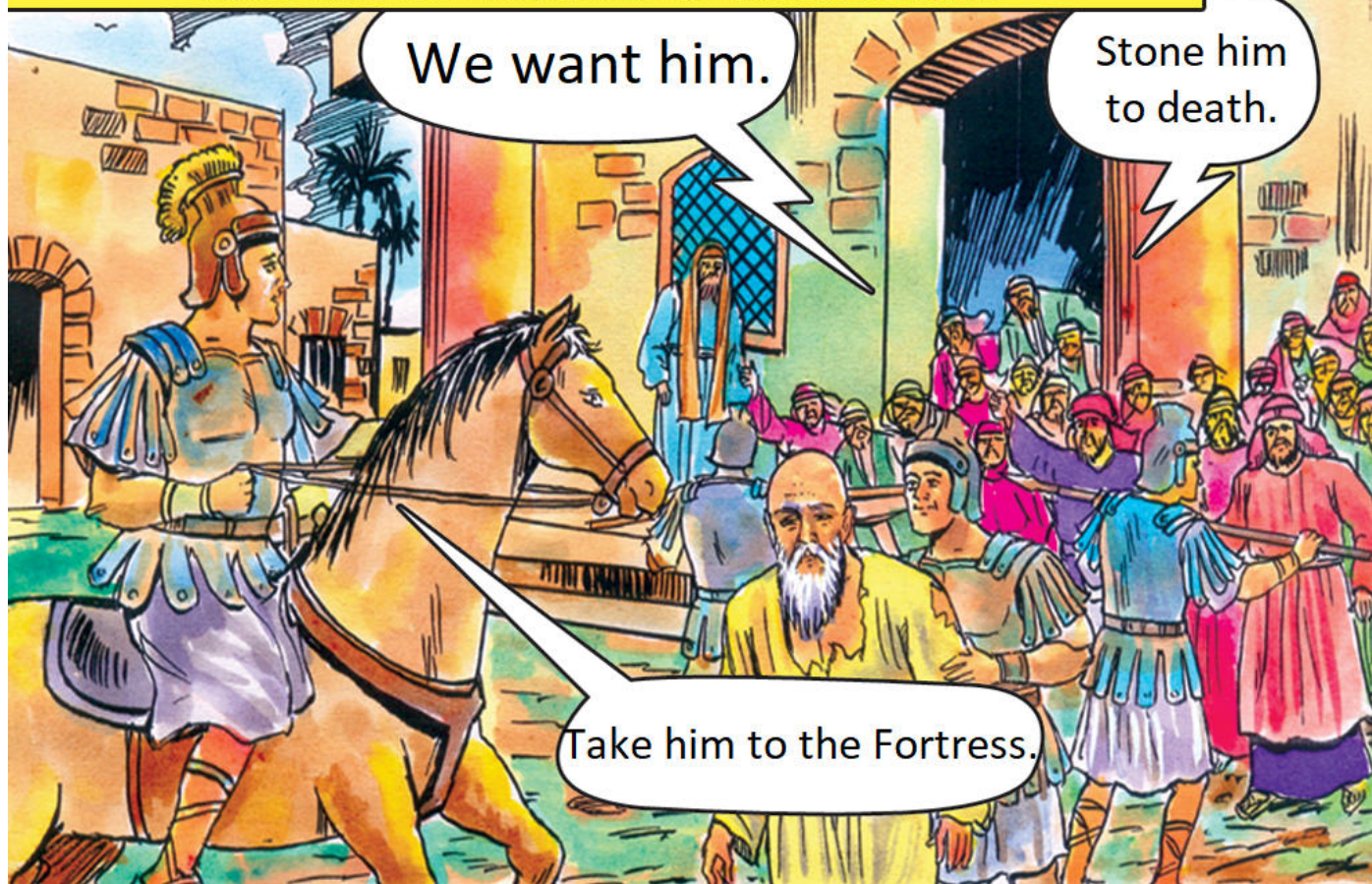


All right, I desire peace and unity of the Church more than anything else.

While Paul was in the Temple, the Jews from Asia stirred up the crowd against him.

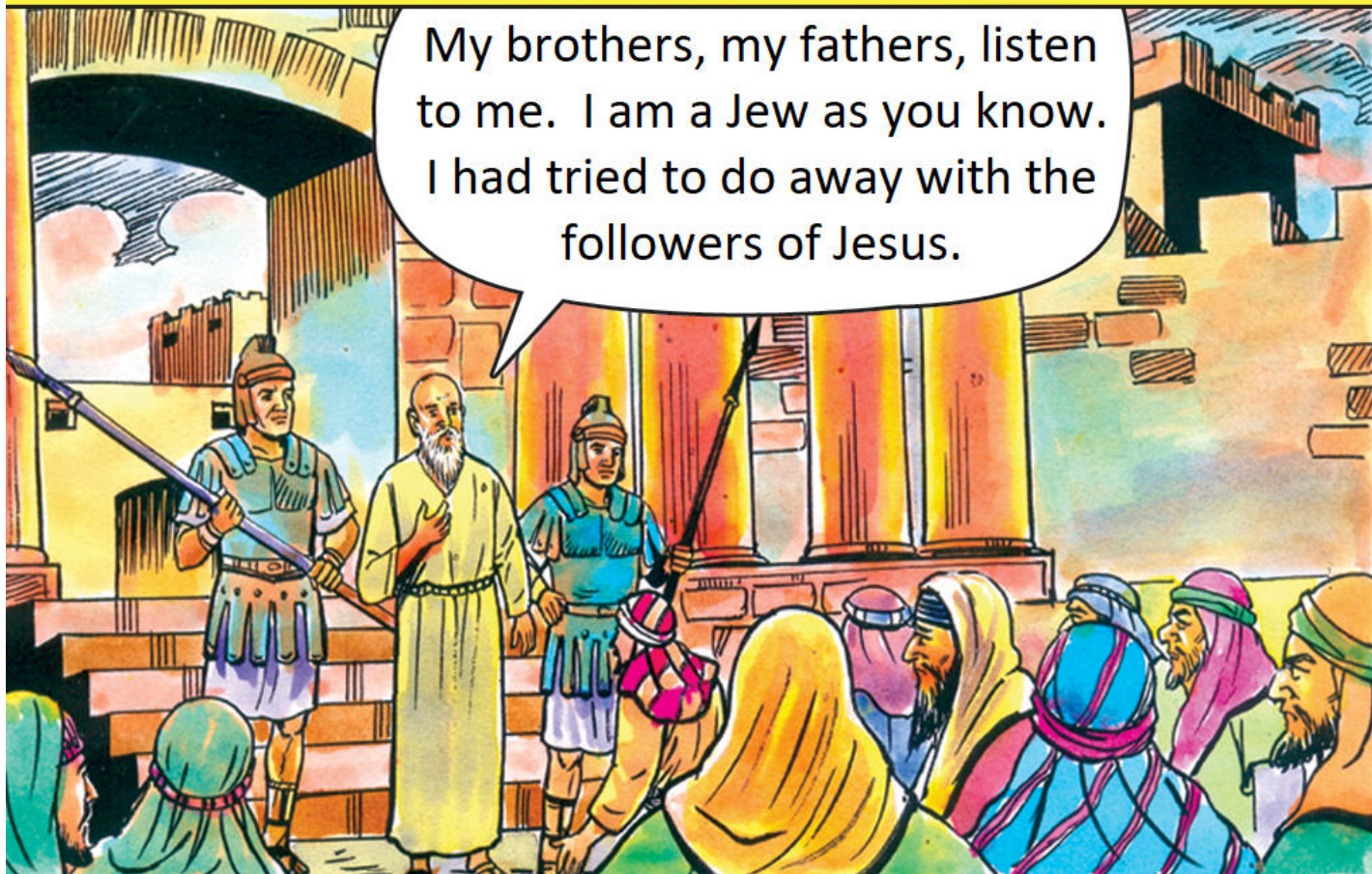


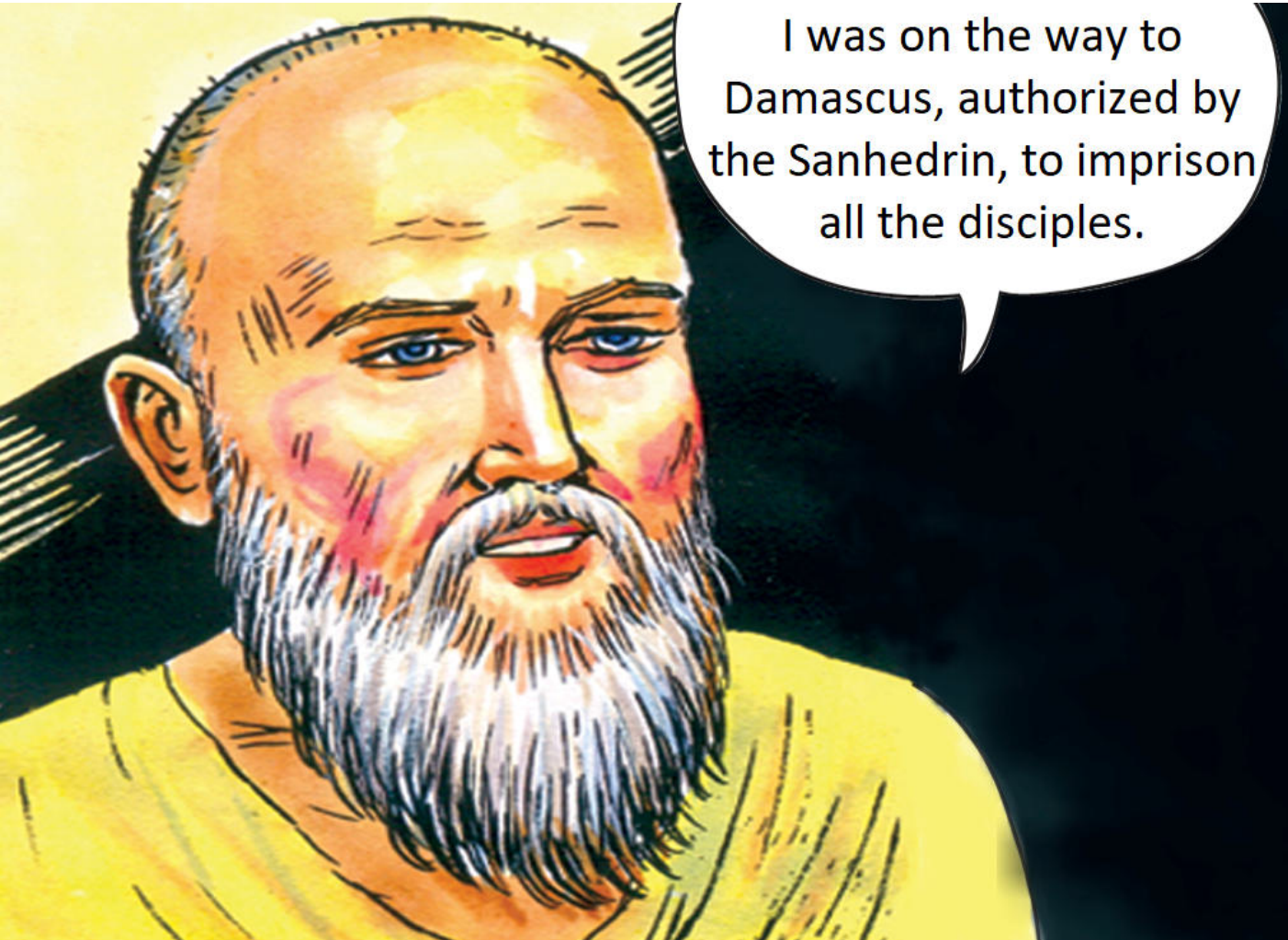
They dragged Paul out of the Temple and would have killed him had the Romans not interfered.



Just as Paul was being taken to the Fortress Antonia, he asked permission to speak to the people.

My brothers, my fathers, listen to me. I am a Jew as you know. I had tried to do away with the followers of Jesus.



A stylized illustration of a man with a white beard and blue eyes, wearing a yellow garment. He has a serious expression. A speech bubble is positioned to his right, containing text. The background is dark with some yellow highlights on the left side.

I was on the way to
Damascus, authorized by
the Sanhedrin, to imprison
all the disciples.

Paul explained his experience, but before he ended his speech.

Rid the earth of
this man.

He is not fit to live.



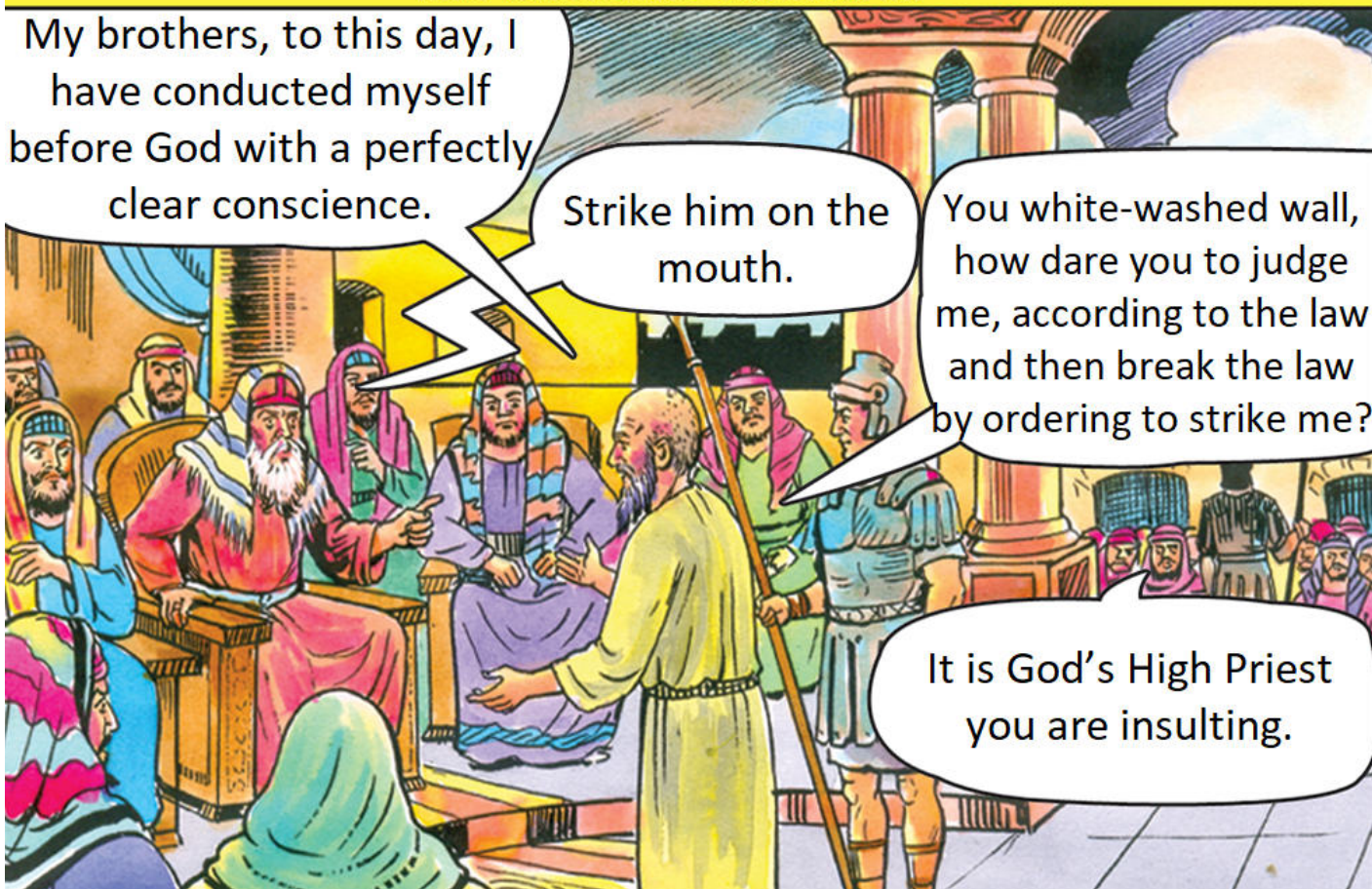
The tribune kept Paul in the fortress and the next day brought him before the Sanhedrin.

My brothers, to this day, I have conducted myself before God with a perfectly clear conscience.

Strike him on the mouth.

You white-washed wall, how dare you to judge me, according to the law and then break the law by ordering to strike me?

It is God's High Priest you are insulting.

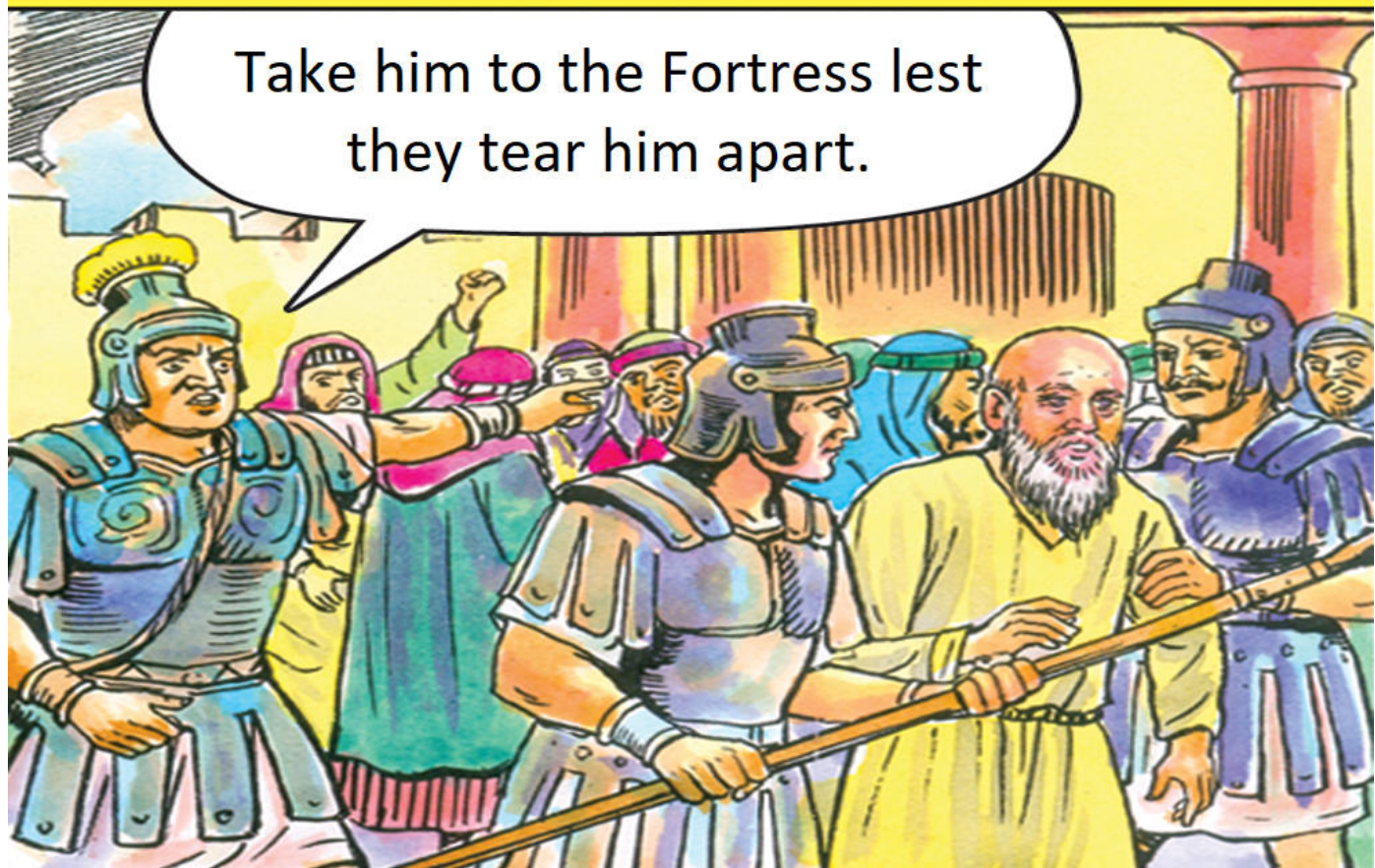


Pardon me. I did not know
it was the High priest
brothers. I am a Pharisee
and it is for our hope in
the resurrection of the
dead I am on trial.



Upon hearing this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees who believed in the resurrection and Sadducees who did not.

Take him to the Fortress lest they tear him apart.



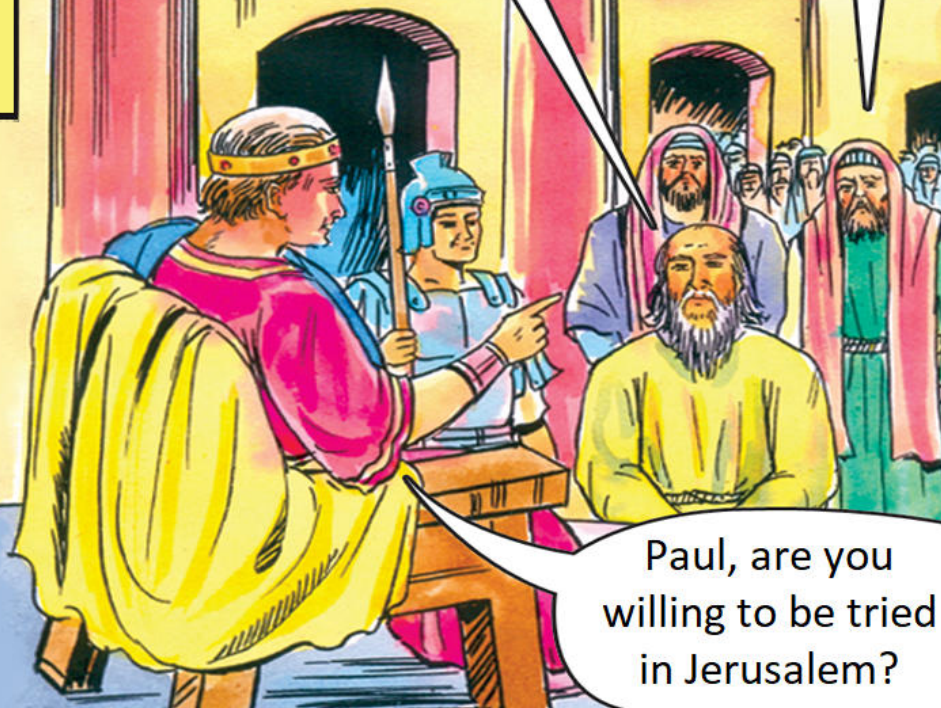
Hearing about a conspiracy of the Jews against Paul the tribune transferred Paul to Caesarea.



For two years Paul remained in Prison. When Festus became the new Tribune Paul was brought to trial again.

I have committed no offense against either the Jewish Law or the Temple.

He should be tried in Jerusalem before the Sanhedrin.



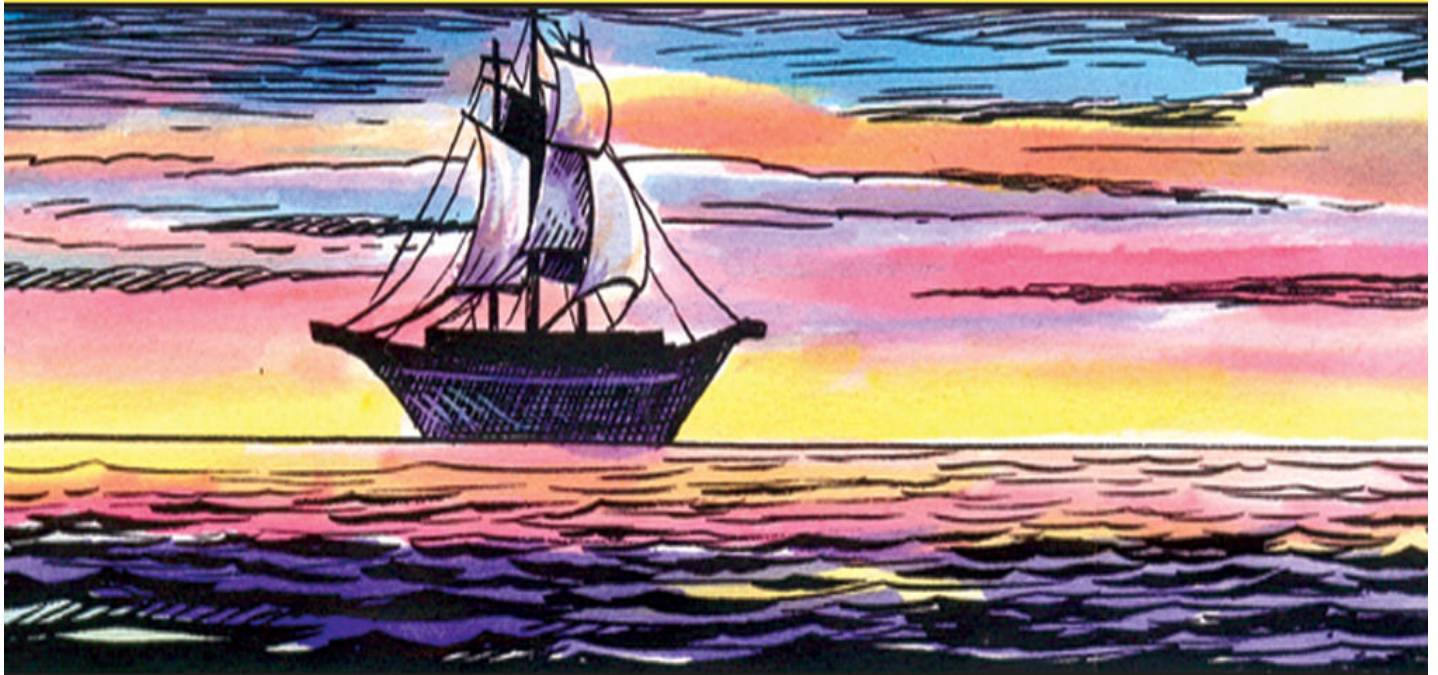
Paul, are you willing to be tried in Jerusalem?

I am a Roman citizen
and I appeal to
Caesar to examine my
case.

All right. To Caesar
you shall go.



After another trial before Herod Agrippa, Paul was sent to Rome by ship.



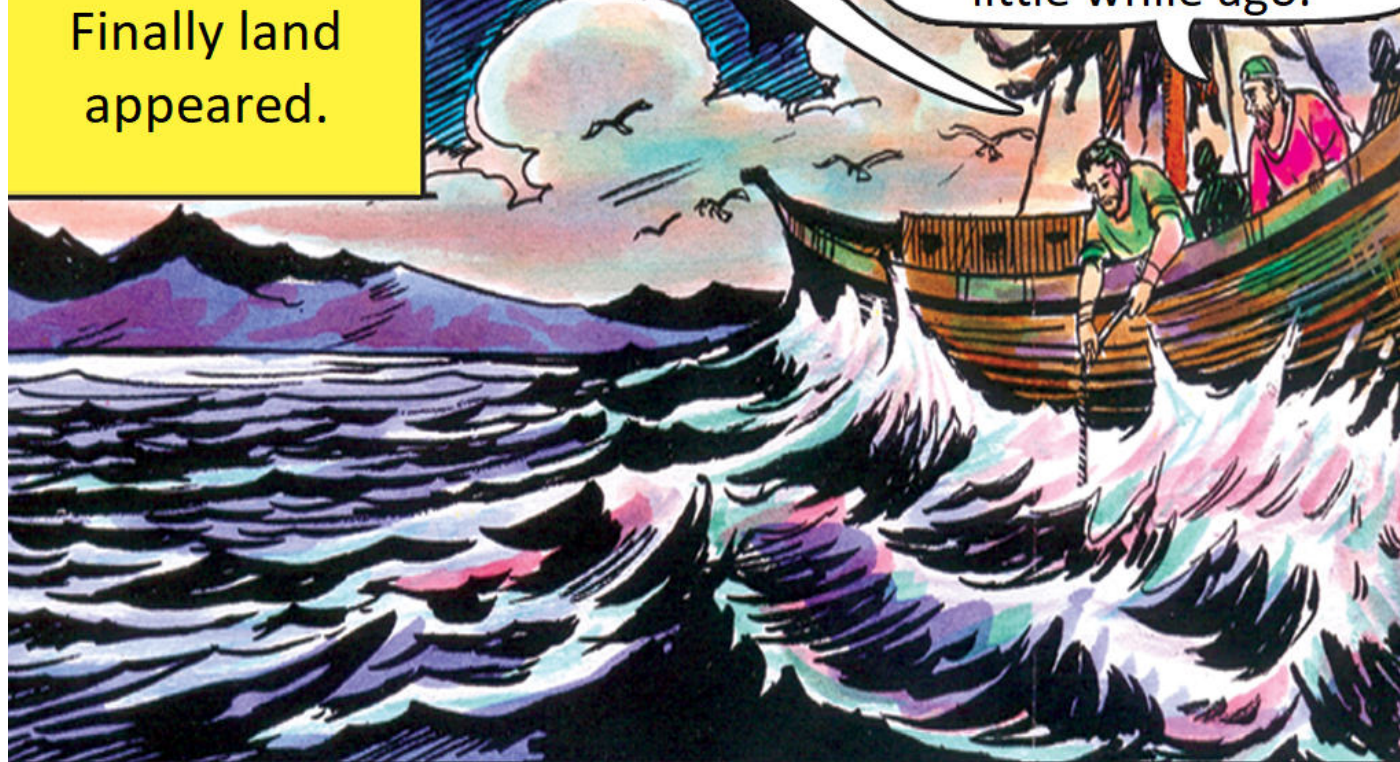
Because the wind was against them, the ship sailed at a slow pace. A hurricane burst on them.



For many days
the ship drifted
aimlessly.
Finally land
appeared.

Here the water
is shallow.

The ship is bound to
break up. The water
was much deeper a
little while ago.



When the Captain saw that the ship was about to wreck.

If the prisoners escape we will be responsible. Kill them all.

Don't. Nobody will run away. All will live. Remove the chains.



The ship wrecked. All
swam to the shore.



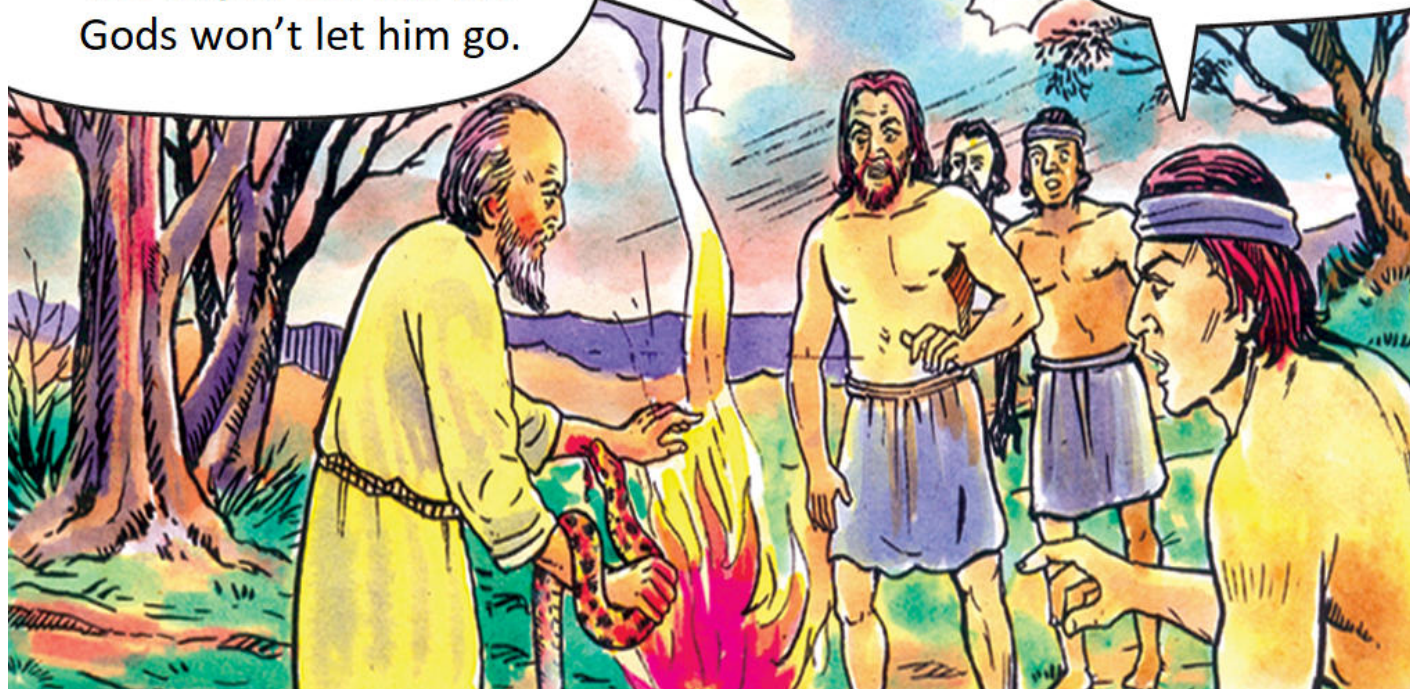
It was Malta, the
inhabitants welcomed
them.



Paul collected a bundle of sticks and threw them
on the fire.

That man must be a
murderer. He just escaped
the shipwreck but the
Gods won't let him go.

It is viper, he
will die
immediately.



Paul shook the
snake into the fire.

Nothing
happened to
him.



He is a God.



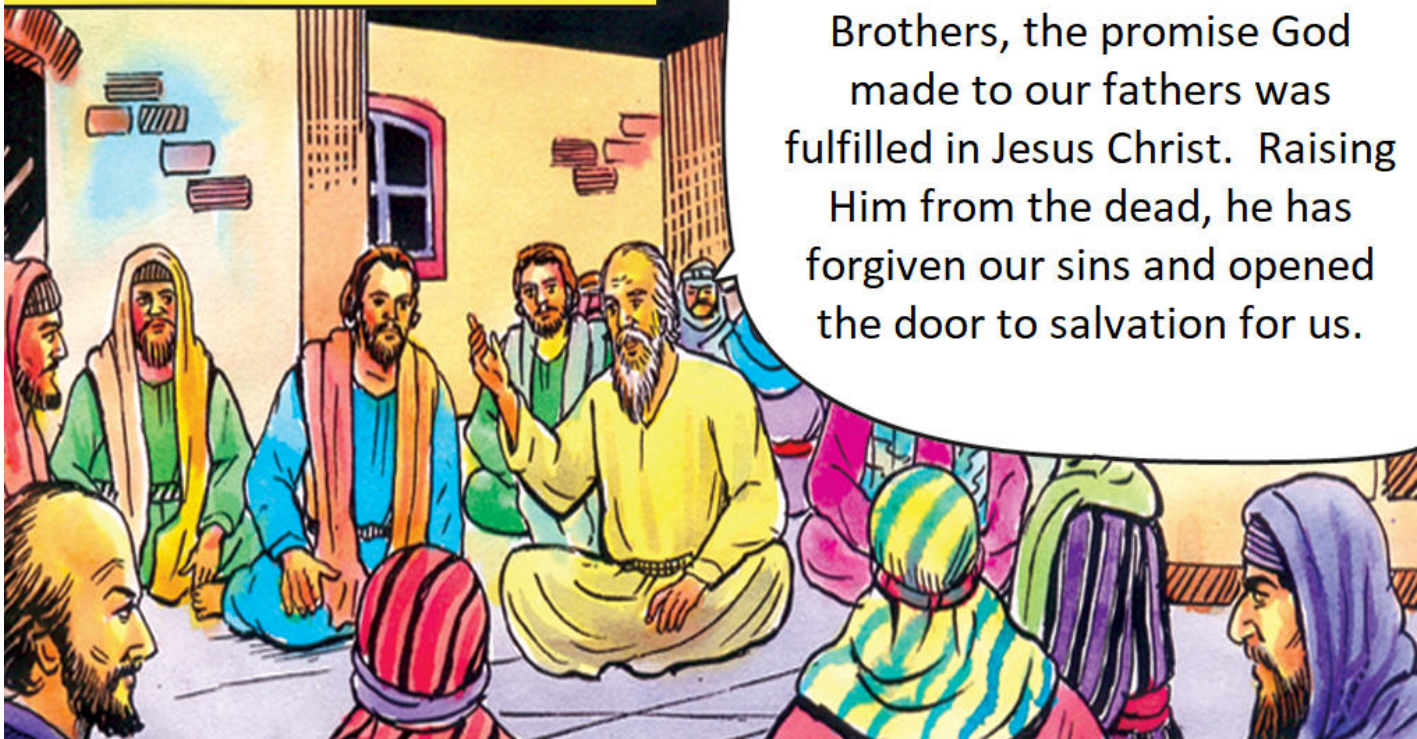
They stayed there for three months. All the sick who came to Paul were cured.

The winter is over. We can set sail again. We are grateful for your kind hospitality.


It is we who are grateful for getting a chance to know Jesus Christ and to enjoy his healing power.



Paul reached Rome. The brethren welcomed him.
While remaining under house arrest, Paul gathered the
Jews in Rome.



Brothers, the promise God made to our fathers was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Raising Him from the dead, he has forgiven our sins and opened the door to salvation for us.



I am in
prison for
proclaiming
this Good
News.

We have received
no information
from Jerusalem
regarding your
case.

We can say
nothing without
knowing their
decision.

What Prophet Isaiah said
has come true. You have
hardened your hearts
that you cannot grasp
the truth.



I am called to bring this
message of Salvation to the
Gentiles. They will listen.



Paul spent two years in that house and proclaimed the Good News to all who came to see him.

Brother, where are you coming from?

I am a runaway slave from Colossae. My name is Onesimus.

!



I have also stolen some money from my master. Ever since I heard about you, I wanted to see you.

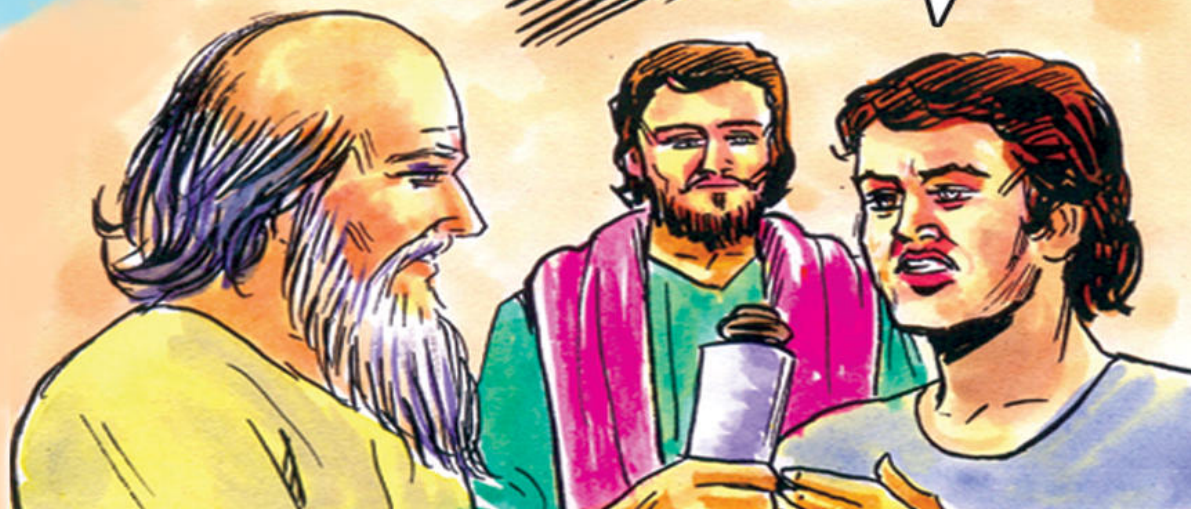
The desire is good, but not stealing and running away. Anyway, stay here for a while.



A few days later.

One of these letters is to your master Philemon. And the other is Church in Colossae. I want you to deliver them.

If I return to my master, you know the punishment for a runaway slave.



Don't worry I have
written to him to
consider you as a
brother and send you
back if possible.

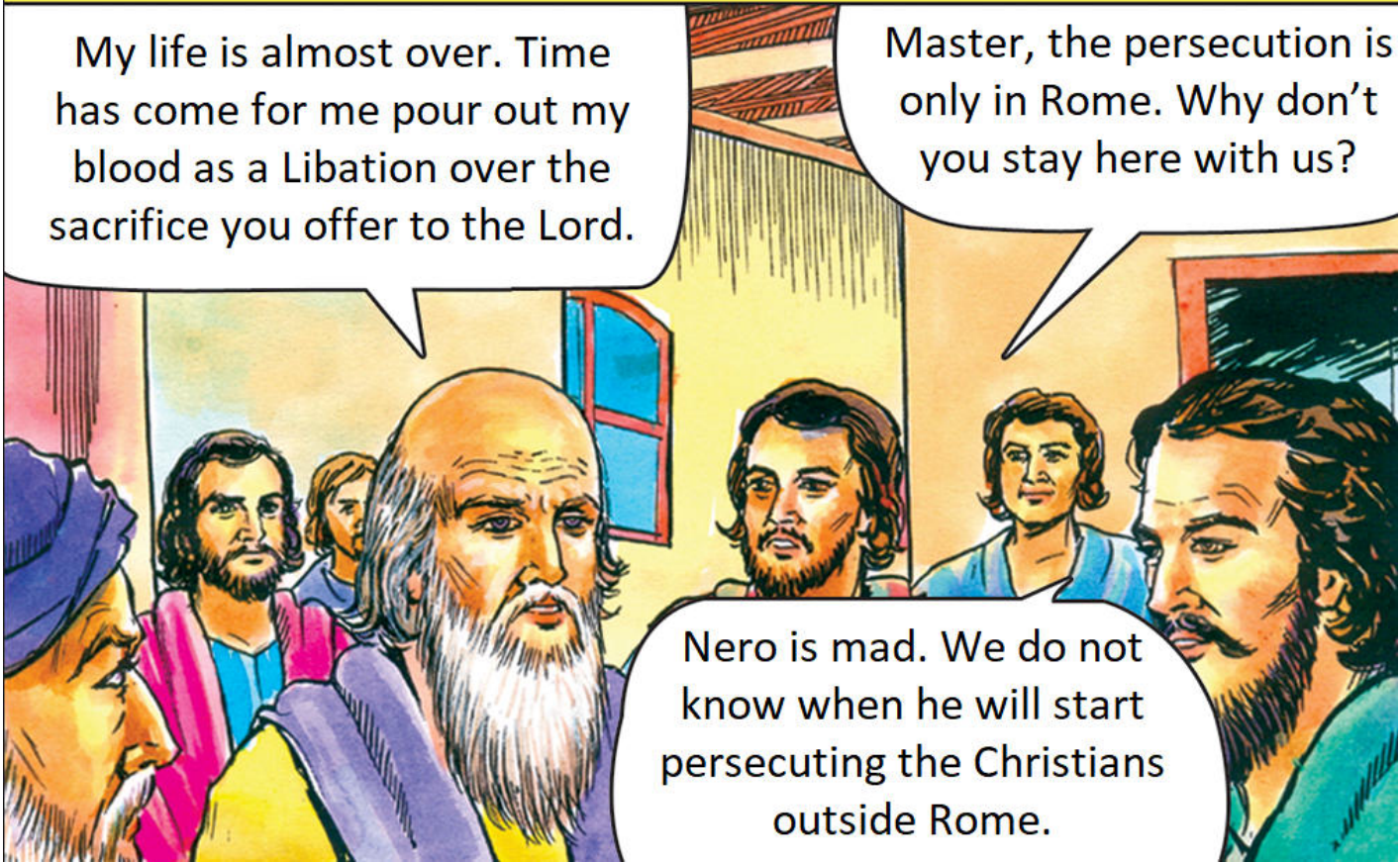


While in prison Paul wrote to the Churches in Ephesus and Philippi. After being released he visited the Churches he had founded in Philippi.

My life is almost over. Time has come for me pour out my blood as a Libation over the sacrifice you offer to the Lord.

Master, the persecution is only in Rome. Why don't you stay here with us?

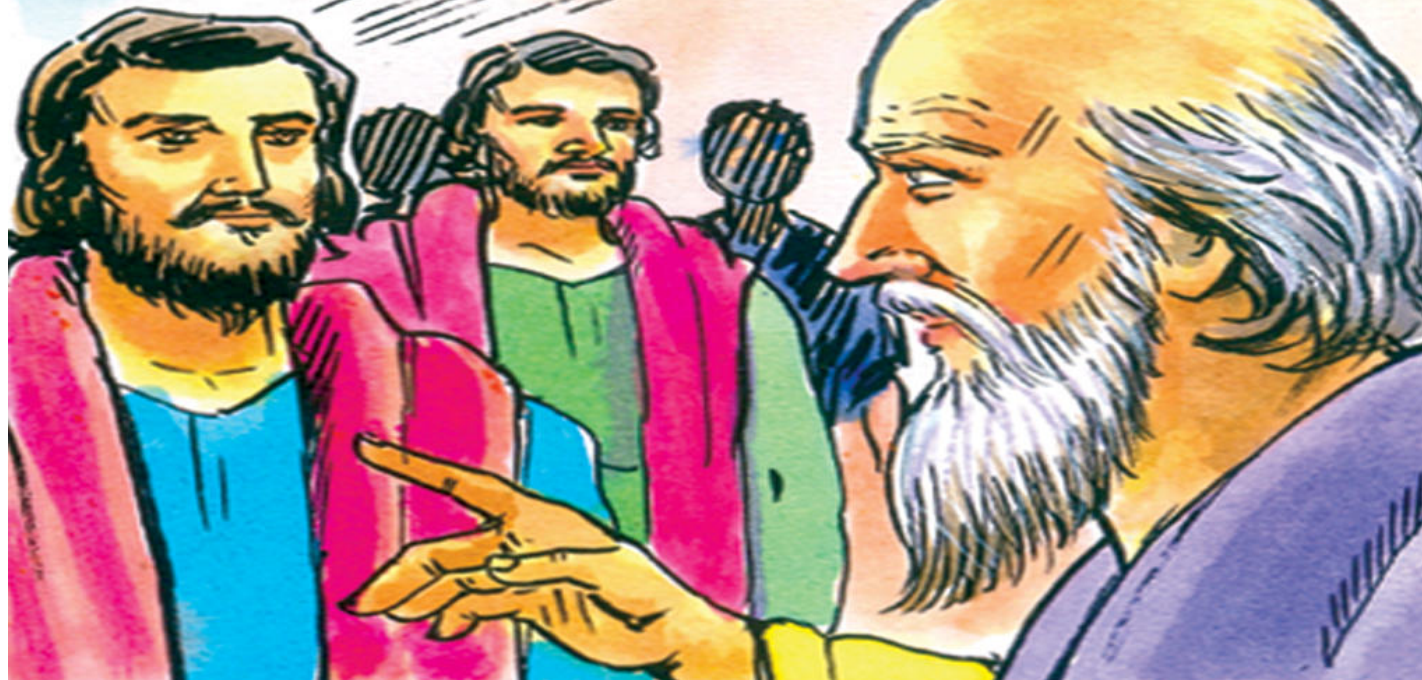
Nero is mad. We do not know when he will start persecuting the Christians outside Rome.



The time for my leadership is over. Timothy shall lead the Church in Ephesus and Titus in Crete.



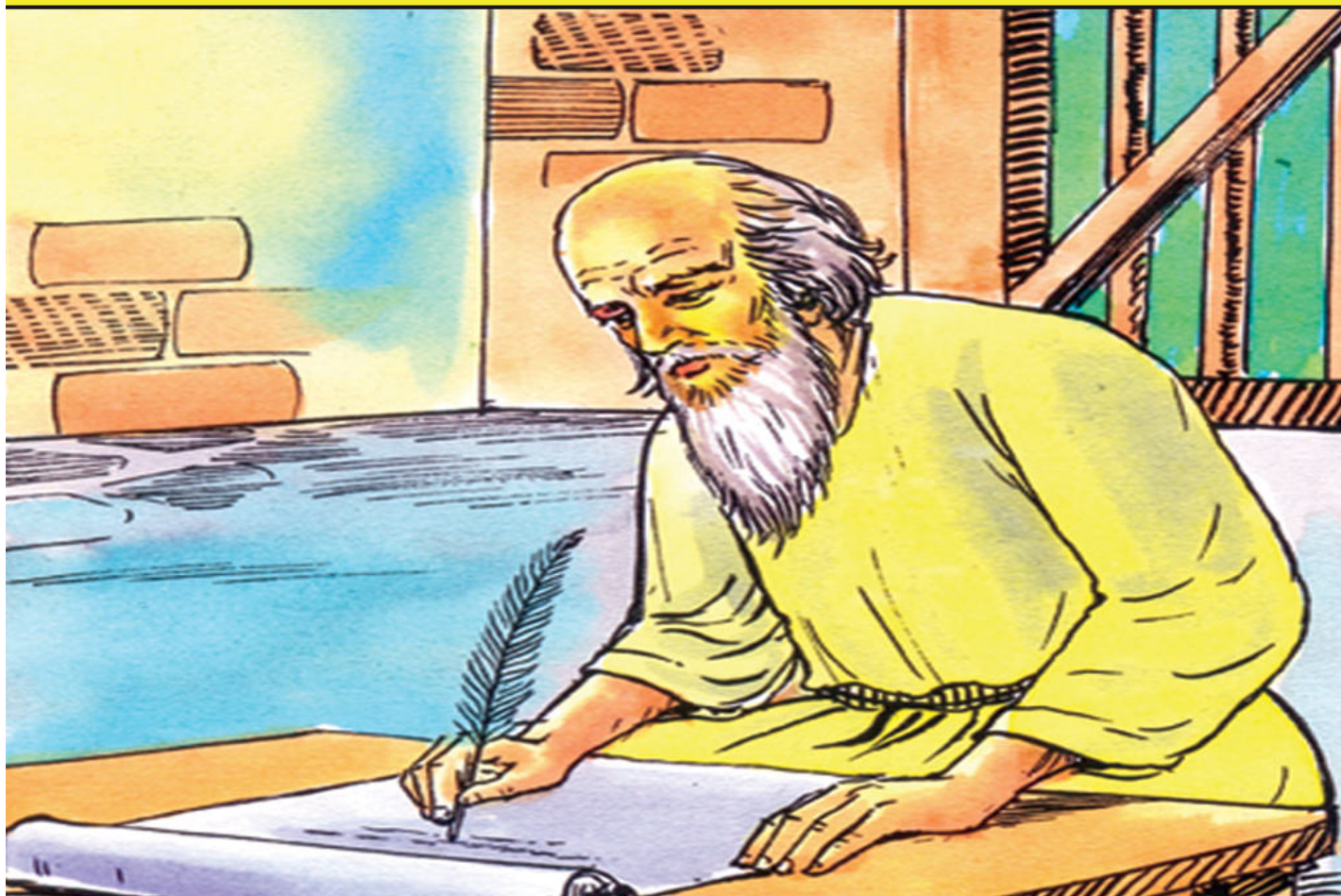
Take good care of the people
the Lord has entrusted to you.
You may start tomorrow.

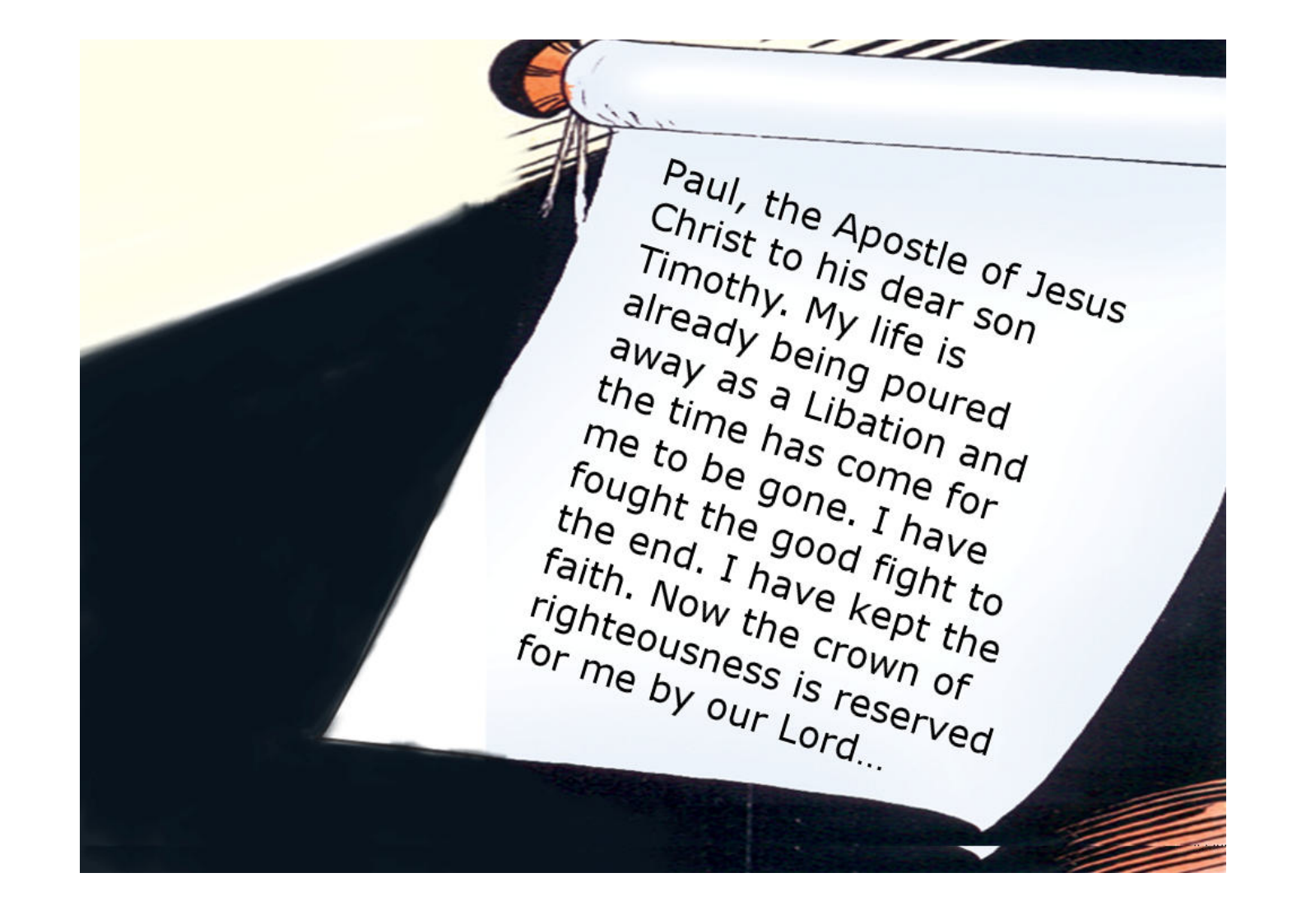


Paul wrote to Timothy and Titus reminding them of their pastoral responsibilities. One day in Troas.



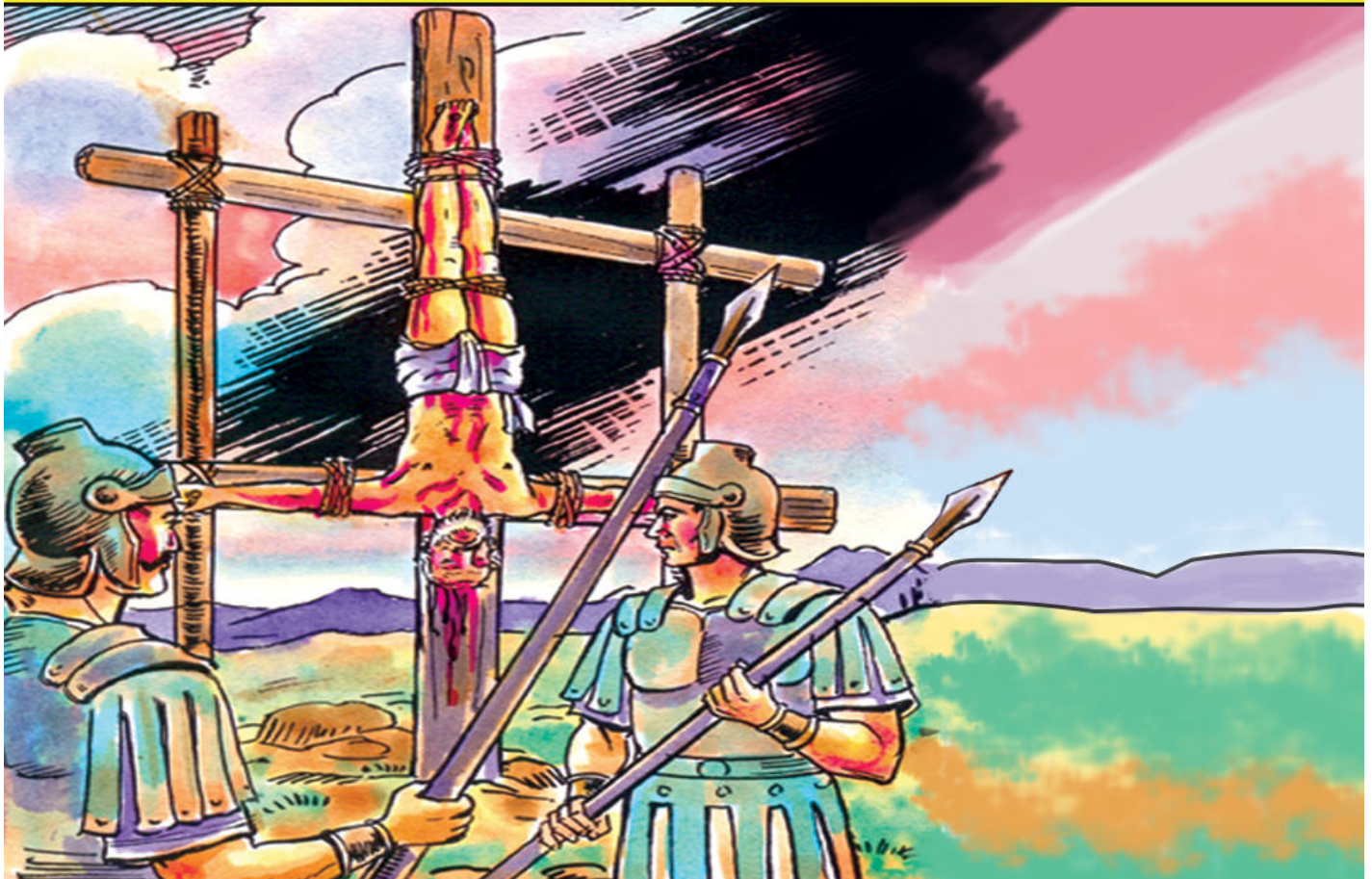
Paul was imprisoned in Rome. After the first trial:



A cartoon illustration of a scroll with text. The scroll is white and is being unrolled from the top left. It is held by a wooden handle with a yellow and orange striped band. The background is dark blue with some orange and yellow light effects. The text on the scroll is written in a black, sans-serif font and is slanted to follow the curve of the scroll. The text reads: "Paul, the Apostle of Jesus Christ to his dear son Timothy. My life is already being poured away as a Libation and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end. I have kept the faith. Now the crown of righteousness is reserved for me by our Lord..."

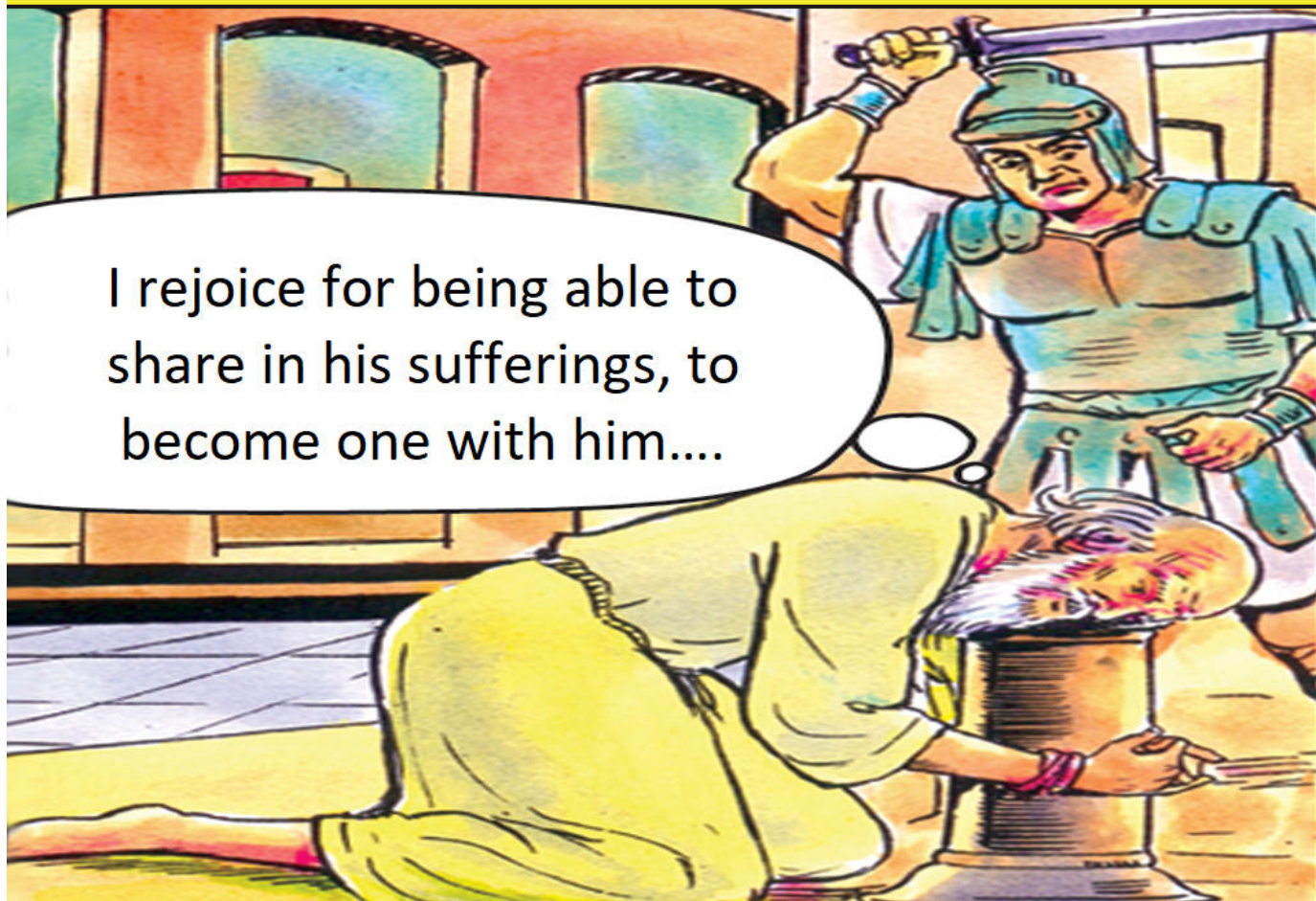
Paul, the Apostle of Jesus
Christ to his dear son
Timothy. My life is
already being poured
away as a Libation and
the time has come for
me to be gone. I have
fought the good fight to
the end. I have kept the
faith. Now the crown of
righteousness is reserved
for me by our Lord...

Meanwhile, Peter also was imprisoned by Nero's command. In 67 A.D. Peter was crucified in the Vatican Hill.



Paul was beheaded outside the city wall.

I rejoice for being able to
share in his sufferings, to
become one with him....



The powers of evil tried to drown the young church in her own blood. Drawing strength from the cross, the church resisted with heroic suffering. The struggle continues until the risen Lord wipes away the tears from every eye.

NEXT STORY

NEW HEAVEN NEW EARTH

Questions

1. Where did Paul stay at Corinth?
2. Explain the circumstances that led to the first letter to the Thessalonians.
3. What was the trouble in the Galatian Church?
4. Explain the events that led to the letters to the Corinthians.
5. What was the impact of the episode of the “sons of Sceva” in Ephesus?
6. Why did the silver smiths in Ephesus turn against Paul?
7. What happened to Eutychus who fell asleep during the sermon?
8. What did the prophet Agabus say about Paul?
9. Compare and contrast the last days of Jesus and Paul?
10. Death of the martyrs is a victory. Explain.

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