




CHAPTER 5

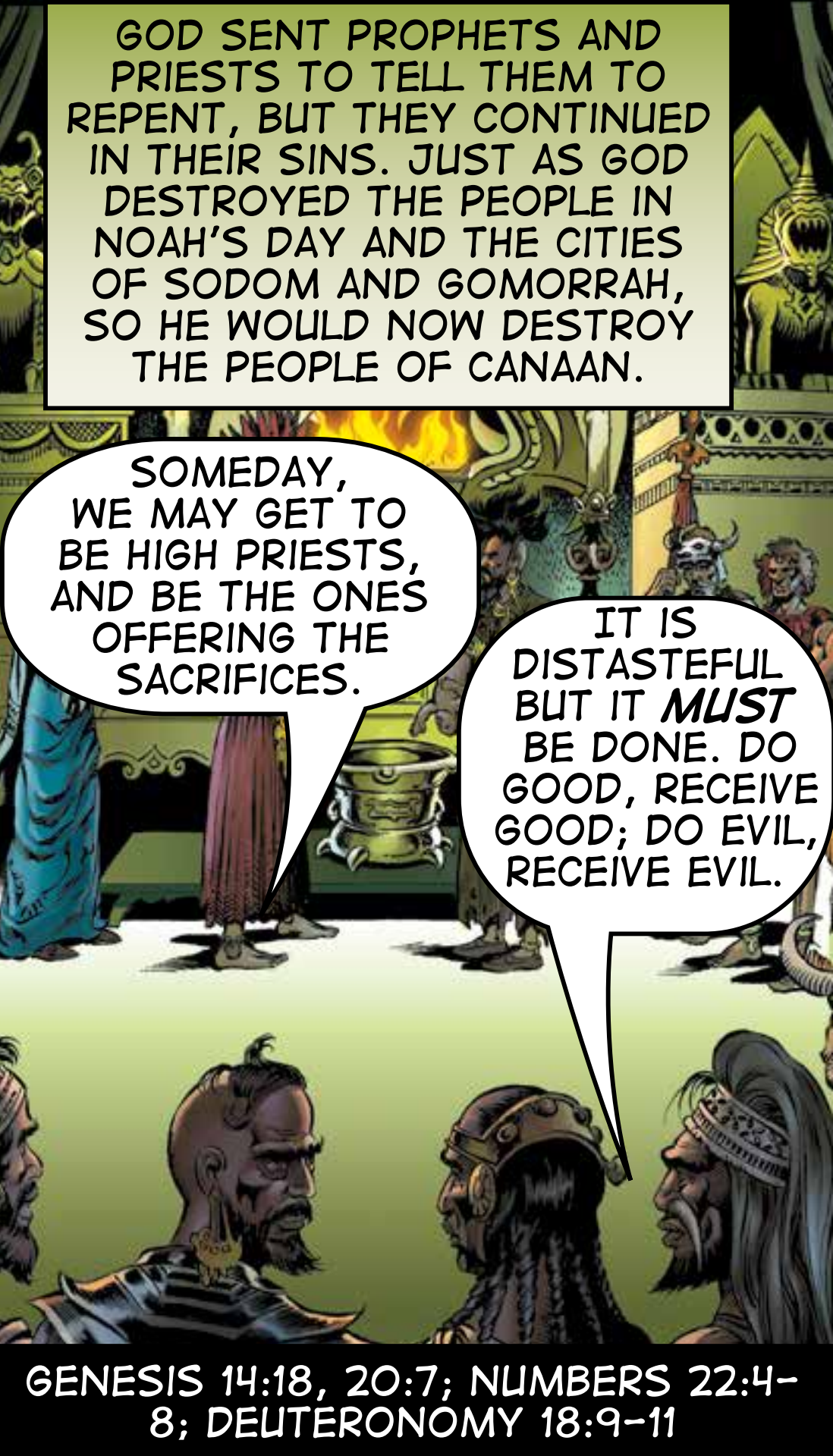
THE
KINGDOM



WE OFFER
THIS INNOCENT
CHILD TO YOU,
O BAAL. MAY HIS
BLOOD **APPEASE**
YOUR WRATH.

I WILL GIVE
MY BABY TO PAY
FOR THE SIN OF
MY SOUL.

THE PEOPLE INHABITING PALESTINE, THE LAND INTO WHICH THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL HAD COME, WERE EVIL. THEY WERE CALLED CANAANITES AND WERE OF A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE THAN THE ISRAELITES. THEY OFFERED HUMAN SACRIFICES AND BOWED BEFORE GODS MADE OF GOLD, SILVER, BRASS, AND WOOD.



GOD SENT PROPHETS AND PRIESTS TO TELL THEM TO REPENT, BUT THEY CONTINUED IN THEIR SINS. JUST AS GOD DESTROYED THE PEOPLE IN NOAH'S DAY AND THE CITIES OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH, SO HE WOULD NOW DESTROY THE PEOPLE OF CANAAN.

SOMEDAY, WE MAY GET TO BE HIGH PRIESTS, AND BE THE ONES OFFERING THE SACRIFICES.

IT IS DISTASTEFUL BUT IT **MUST** BE DONE. DO GOOD, RECEIVE GOOD; DO EVIL, RECEIVE EVIL.

GENESIS 14:18, 20:7; NUMBERS 22:4-8; DEUTERONOMY 18:9-11




THE IDOLATROUS PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN THE PROMISED LAND RESISTED THE PRESENCE OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL AND FOUGHT TO KEEP THEIR LAND, BUT GOD GAVE THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL POWER TO DEFEAT THEM.



**HOW
DARE YOU
COME IN THIS
SACRED
TEMPLE!**

**YOU HAVE
KILLED YOUR
LAST BABY.**



WHEN THE BLOODY WAR FINALLY ENDED, THE HEBREWS HAD CONQUERED THEIR ENEMIES, AND THE LAND LAY BEFORE THEM FOR THE TAKING. JOSHUA ADDRESSED THE PEOPLE.

OUR MOST ANCIENT ANCESTOR, **ABRAHAM**, CAME FROM AN IDOLATROUS PEOPLE. GOD SPOKE TO HIM AND PROMISED TO MAKE OF HIM A GREAT NATION.



GOD ALSO SAID THAT HIS PEOPLE WOULD GO DOWN INTO EGYPT AND THERE REMAIN FOR FOUR HUNDRED YEARS, AFTER WHICH HE WOULD LEAD THEM OUT AND BRING THEM BACK TO THIS VERY LAND ON WHICH YOU NOW STAND. HERE WE ARE, OVER 500 YEARS LATER, AND GOD HAS *KEPT* HIS PROMISES TO ABRAHAM. NOW GO IN AND SETTLE THE REST OF THE LAND. DO NOT FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF THE SINNERS WHO LIVED IN THIS LAND BEFORE YOU, FOR GOD WILL JUDGE YOU JUST AS HE JUDGED THEM.

IN THE NEW LAND THEY WERE AT PEACE. EVERYONE OWNED HIS OWN FARM AND THERE WAS PLENTY TO EAT. GOD BLESSED THEM ABOVE ALL PEOPLE.



YOUR DINNER IS READY.

JUST AS SOON AS WE GET THIS ROCK OUT.

JUST AS GOD PROMISED, THE HEBREWS MULTIPLIED UNTIL THEY FILLED THE LAND. THEIR CITIES WERE ALIVE WITH GOODWILL AND JUSTICE. THE NEW NATION WAS CALLED ISRAEL.



PEACE TO YOU, MY SISTER. HOW IS THE FISH TODAY?

IT IS *FRESH* FROM THE SEA AS ALWAYS.




JEHOVAH

HAS DEFEATED YOUR ENEMIES, BUT THERE IS STILL *IDOLATRY* IN THIS LAND. CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY WHOM YE WILL SERVE; WHETHER THE FALSE GODS OF THESE PEOPLE, IN WHOSE LAND YE DWELL, OR THE GOD OF ABRAHAM. AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.

GOD FORBID THAT WE SHOULD FORSAKE THE LORD TO SERVE OTHER GODS; FOR WITH GREAT POWER JEHOVAH DELIVERED US FROM OUR SLAVERY IN EGYPT AND TOOK CARE OF US IN THE WILDERNESS.

WE PROMISE TO SERVE THE LORD.



AND THE
LORD DROVE OUT
FROM BEFORE US ALL
THE PEOPLE, EVEN THE
AMORITES WHICH DWELT
IN THIS LAND. THEREFORE
WILL WE ALSO SERVE THE
LORD; FOR HE IS
OUR GOD.

GOD IS A HOLY GOD;
HE IS A JEALOUS GOD;
IF YOU FORSAKE HIM AND
FOLLOW IDOLS, HE WILL TURN
AND DO YOU HURT AND
CONSUME YOU.

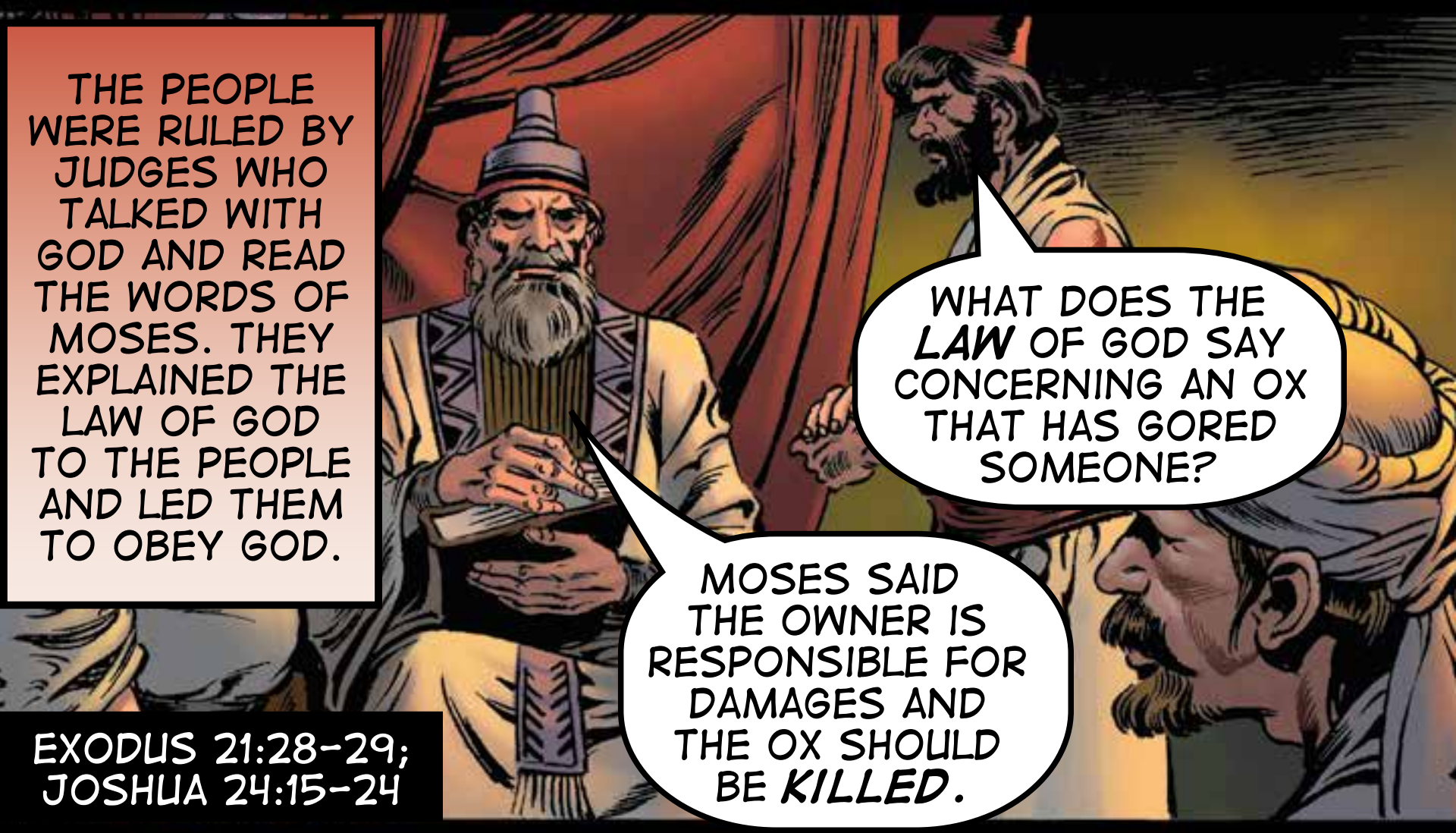


YE ARE WITNESSES
AGAINST YOURSELVES THAT YE
HAVE CHOSEN YOU THE LORD,
TO SERVE HIM.

WE ARE
WITNESSES.

I WILL WRITE IN THE
BOOK THE **COVENANT**
YOU HAVE MADE WITH
GOD THIS DAY.

AS WE OBEYED MOSES IN ALL
THINGS, SO WILL WE OBEY YOU; ONLY THE
LORD THY GOD BE WITH THEE, AS HE WAS WITH
MOSES. WHOSEVER REBELS AGAINST GOD'S
COMMANDMENTS SHALL BE PUT TO DEATH.

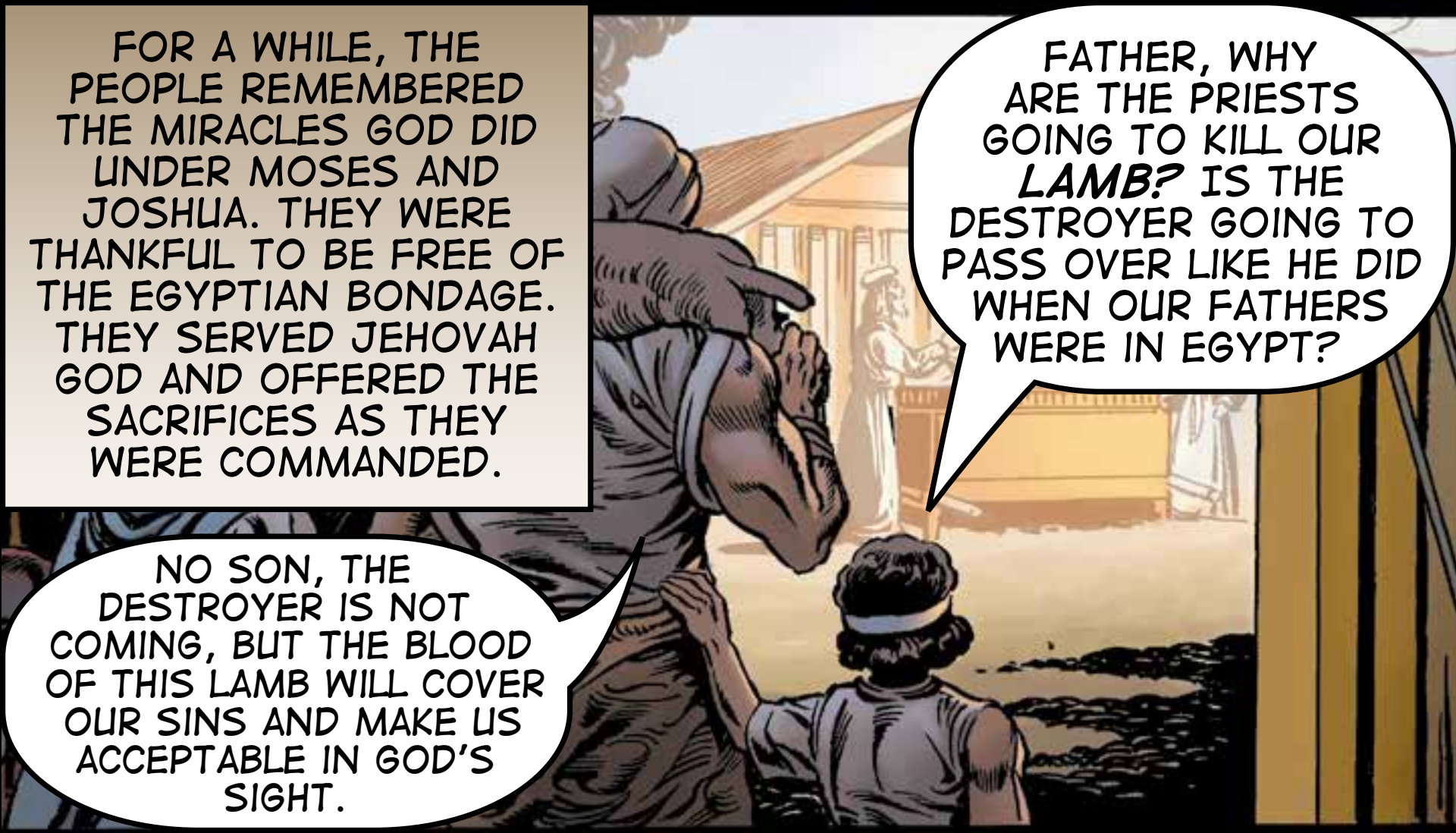


THE PEOPLE WERE RULED BY JUDGES WHO TALKED WITH GOD AND READ THE WORDS OF MOSES. THEY EXPLAINED THE LAW OF GOD TO THE PEOPLE AND LED THEM TO OBEY GOD.

WHAT DOES THE **LAW** OF GOD SAY CONCERNING AN OX THAT HAS GORED SOMEONE?

MOSES SAID THE OWNER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGES AND THE OX SHOULD BE **KILLED**.

EXODUS 21:28-29;
JOSHUA 24:15-24



FOR A WHILE, THE PEOPLE REMEMBERED THE MIRACLES GOD DID UNDER MOSES AND JOSHUA. THEY WERE THANKFUL TO BE FREE OF THE EGYPTIAN BONDAGE. THEY SERVED JEHOVAH GOD AND OFFERED THE SACRIFICES AS THEY WERE COMMANDED.

FATHER, WHY ARE THE PRIESTS GOING TO KILL OUR **LAMB?** IS THE DESTROYER GOING TO PASS OVER LIKE HE DID WHEN OUR FATHERS WERE IN EGYPT?

NO SON, THE DESTROYER IS NOT COMING, BUT THE BLOOD OF THIS LAMB WILL COVER OUR SINS AND MAKE US ACCEPTABLE IN GOD'S SIGHT.

THE PEOPLE PROMISED JOSHUA THAT THEY WOULD WORSHIP GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, BUT NOT EVERYONE CONTINUED TO WORSHIP JEHOVAH.



WHEN THE MIRACLES CEASED, THE NEXT GENERATION FORGOT THE LIVING GOD AND WORSHIPED IN FRONT OF LIFELESS IMAGES. THEY ALSO WORSHIPED THEIR ANCESTORS.

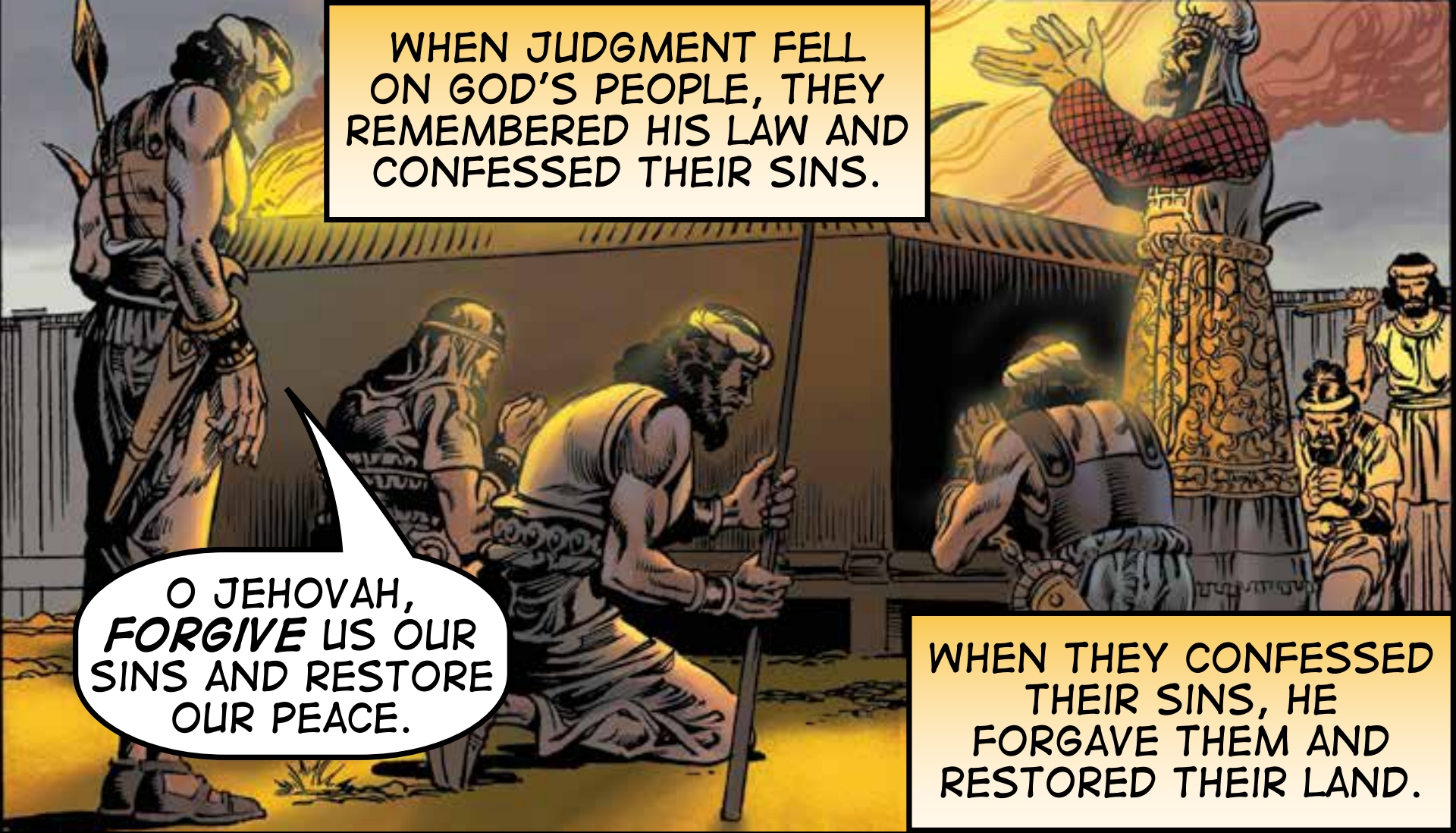
JUST AS JOSHUA
WARNED, GOD SENT
THE HEATHEN TO
DESTROY ISRAEL.

**NO! SAVE
ME BAAL!**

YAHHHH!

JUDGES 3:7-8, 12-13, 4:1-2, 10:6-7






WHEN JUDGMENT FELL
ON GOD'S PEOPLE, THEY
REMEMBERED HIS LAW AND
CONFESSED THEIR SINS.

O JEHOVAH,
FORGIVE US OUR
SINS AND RESTORE
OUR PEACE.

WHEN THEY CONFESSED
THEIR SINS, HE
FORGAVE THEM AND
RESTORED THEIR LAND.



THE PEOPLE GREW TIRED OF FOLLOWING THE JUDGES WHO SOUGHT GOD AND DIRECTED THE PEOPLE OUT OF THE BOOK OF GOD, SO THEY DECIDED THEY WOULD MAKE A KING TO RULE OVER THEM.

YOUR LANDS WILL BE **CONFISCATED** FOR THE GOOD OF THE KINGDOM. YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR **DAUGHTER** HERE. WE WILL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER.

A PROPHET AND
JUDGE NAMED
SAMUEL WARNED
THEM THAT IN MAKING
A KING THEY WERE
REJECTING GOD AS
THEIR RULER, BUT
THEY DID NOT WANT
TO WALK BY FAITH.
KING SAUL ABUSED
THEM, TOOK THEIR
MONEY, THEIR
PROPERTY, MADE
SERVANTS OF THEIR
SONS AND ABUSED
THEIR DAUGHTERS.

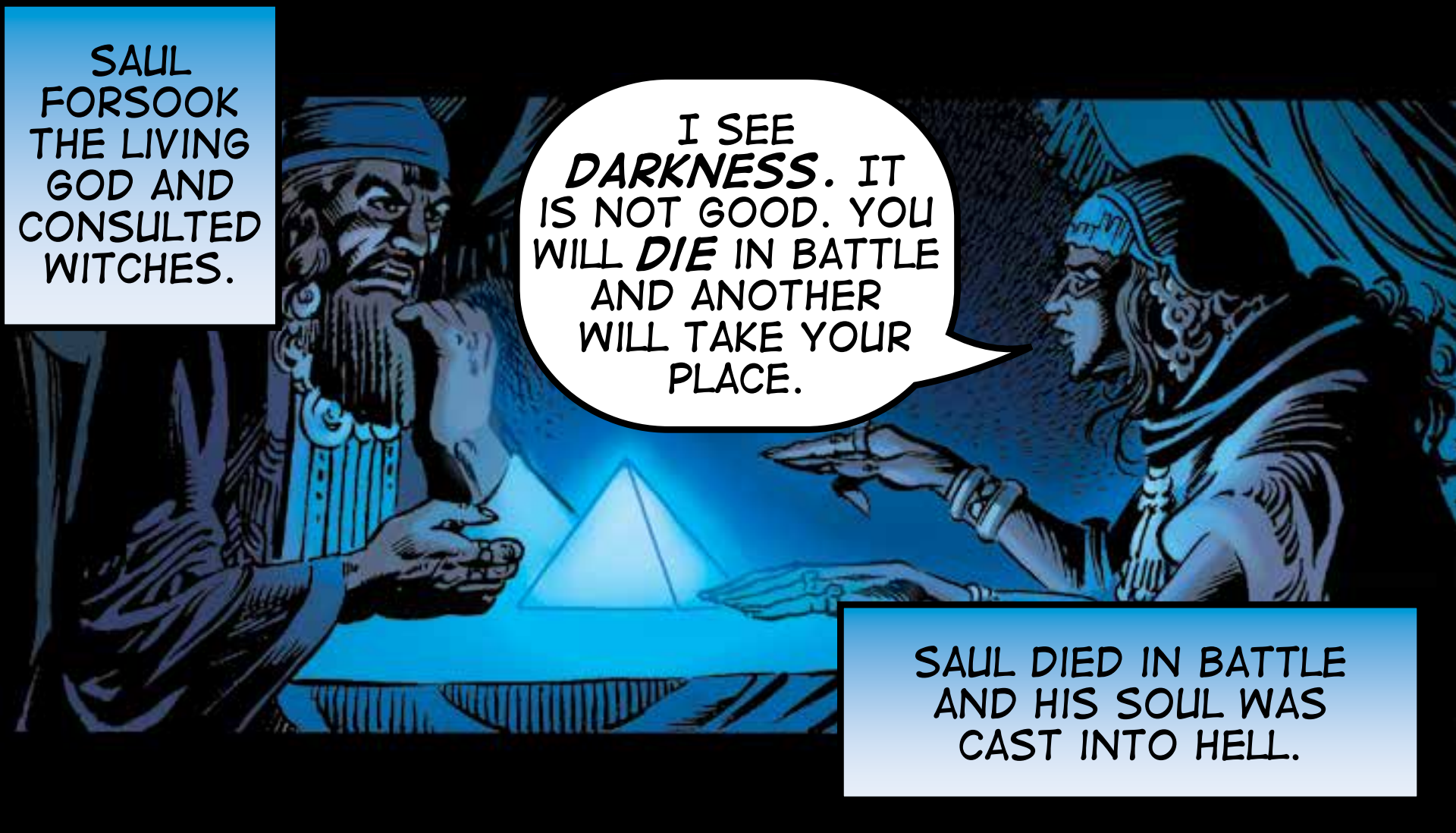


WHEN KING SAUL WAS OLDER, EVIL SPIRITS CAME ON HIM AND HE HAD AN UNCONTROLLABLE TEMPER.

ONE DAY, HE TRIED TO SPEAR A YOUNG BOY NAMED DAVID WHO WAS PLAYING THE HARP FOR HIM.

1 SAMUEL 8

SAUL SINNED YET MORE AND MORE. HE WAS JEALOUS OF EVERYONE AND FEARFUL. THE EVIL SPIRITS PROMISED TO GIVE HIM POWER AND WEALTH, BUT THEY ONLY BROUGHT MISERY AND SUFFERING OF THE SOUL.



SAUL
FORSOOK
THE LIVING
GOD AND
CONSULTED
WITCHES.

I SEE
DARKNESS. IT
IS NOT GOOD. YOU
WILL **DIE** IN BATTLE
AND ANOTHER
WILL TAKE YOUR
PLACE.

SAUL DIED IN BATTLE
AND HIS SOUL WAS
CAST INTO HELL.



GOD CHOSE A YOUNG MAN TO REPLACE SAUL AS KING. HE WAS A SHEPHERD BOY THAT LOVED GOD AND KEPT HIS COMMANDMENTS; THE SAME ONE THAT SAUL HAD TRIED TO KILL.

THE LORD IS MY **SHEPHERD**, I SHALL NOT WANT. HE MAKETH ME TO LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES. HE **RESTORETH** MY SOUL.

DAVID WAS RIGHTEOUS AND BELOVED OF GOD. COULD HE BE THE ONE TO DELIVER MANKIND FROM SIN AND DEATH? WOULD DAVID BE THE PROMISED ONE?

1 SAMUEL 18:10-11, 31:4, 16:1-13; PSALM 23:1-3

DAVID WROTE:
BLESSED IS THE MAN
THAT WALKETH NOT
IN THE COUNSEL OF
THE UNGODLY, NOR
STANDETH IN THE WAY
OF SINNERS, NOR
SITTETH IN THE SEAT
OF THE SCORNFUL.
BUT HIS DELIGHT IS
IN THE LAW OF THE
LORD; AND IN HIS LAW
DOETH HE MEDITATE
DAY AND NIGHT.

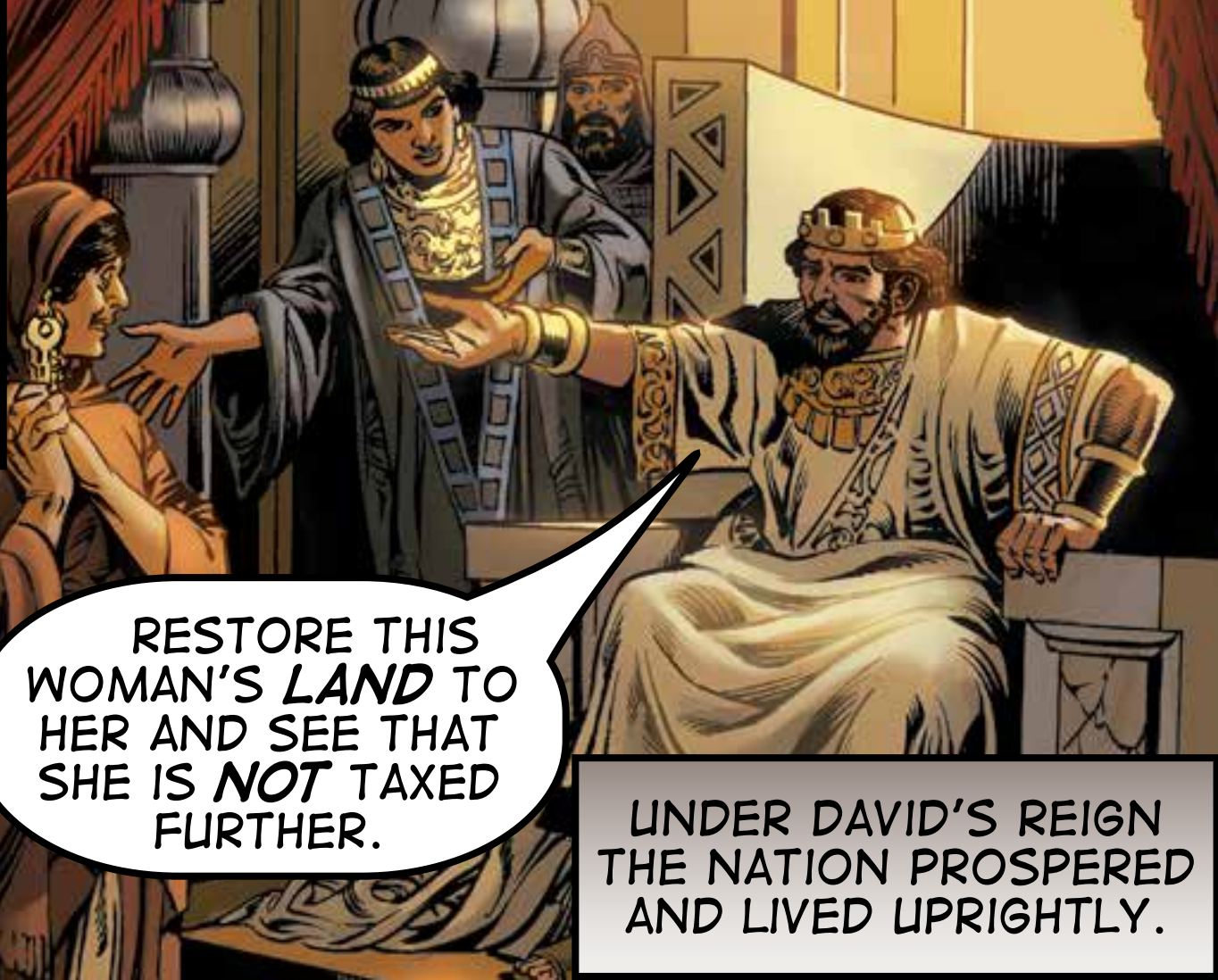


AND HE SHALL BE
LIKE A TREE PLANTED
BY THE RIVERS OF
WATER, THAT BRINGETH
FORTH HIS FRUIT IN
HIS SEASON; HIS
LEAF ALSO SHALL
NOT WITHER; AND
WHATSOEVER HE
DOETH SHALL PROSPER.



THE UNGODLY ARE
NOT SO: BUT ARE
LIKE THE CHAFF
WHICH THE WIND
DRIVETH AWAY.
THEREFORE THE
UNGODLY SHALL
NOT STAND IN THE
JUDGMENT, NOR
SINNERS IN THE
CONGREGATION OF
THE RIGHTEOUS.
FOR THE LORD
KNOWETH THE WAY
OF THE RIGHTEOUS:
BUT THE WAY OF
THE UNGODLY
SHALL PERISH.

WHEN SAUL DIED,
DAVID BECAME
KING OF ISRAEL
AND LED THE
PEOPLE TO
WORSHIP GOD
AND KEEP HIS
COMMANDMENTS.



RESTORE THIS
WOMAN'S *LAND* TO
HER AND SEE THAT
SHE IS *NOT* TAXED
FURTHER.

2 SAMUEL 2:4;
PSALM 1;
ACTS 13:22-23

UNDER DAVID'S REIGN
THE NATION PROSPERED
AND LIVED UPRIGHTLY.

GOD SPOKE TO DAVID AND REVEALED MANY THINGS ABOUT THE FUTURE. DAVID WROTE THOSE PROPHECIES IN THE BOOK OF PSALMS. MANY OF THEM HAVE ALREADY BEEN FULFILLED.



HE SHALL JUDGE THY PEOPLE WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND THY POOR WITH JUDGMENT. HE SHALL SAVE THE CHILDREN OF THE NEEDY, AND SHALL BREAK IN PIECES THE OPPRESSOR. IN HIS DAYS SHALL THE RIGHTEOUS FLOURISH; AND ABUNDANCE OF PEACE SO LONG AS THE MOON ENDURETH. HE SHALL HAVE DOMINION ALSO FROM SEA TO SEA, AND FROM THE RIVER UNTO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.



YEA, ALL KINGS SHALL FALL
DOWN BEFORE HIM: ALL
NATIONS SHALL SERVE
HIM. HE SHALL REDEEM
THEIR SOUL FROM DECEIT
AND VIOLENCE: AND HE
SHALL LIVE. PRAYER ALSO
SHALL BE MADE FOR HIM
CONTINUALLY; AND DAILY
SHALL HE BE PRAISED. HIS
NAME SHALL ENDURE
FOR EVER: HIS NAME
SHALL BE CONTINUED
AS LONG AS THE SUN:
MEN SHALL BE BLESSED IN
HIM: ALL NATIONS SHALL
CALL HIM BLESSED.
(PSALM 72)

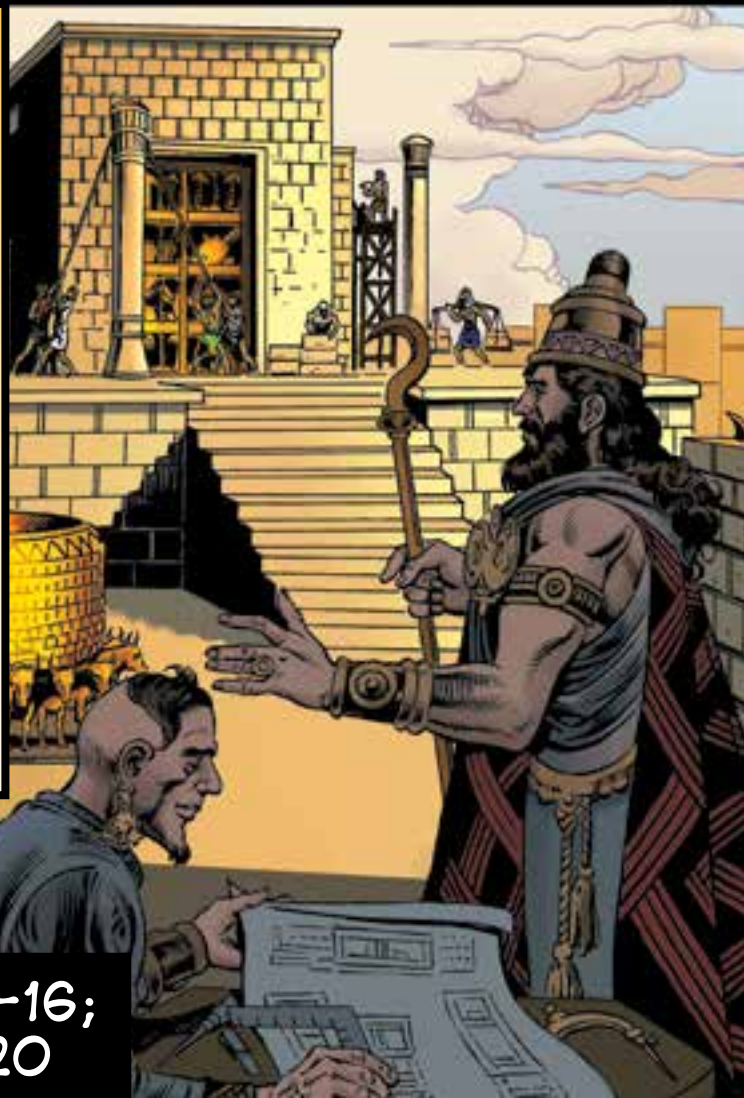
DAVID WAS A RIGHTEOUS
MAN, BUT HE DID SIN,
SO HE COULD NOT
BE THE PROMISED
REDEEMER. HE
WROTE THIS OF THE
COMING REDEEMER:

GOD SAID TO DAVID: AFTER YOU HAVE DIED, I WILL ESTABLISH YOUR KINGDOM UNDER YOUR SON. HE WILL BUILD A TEMPLE IN WHICH I WILL BE WORSHIPED, AND I WILL ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM FOREVER.



AFTER DAVID DIED, SOLOMON HIS SON BECAME KING (971 B.C.). ACCORDING TO INSTRUCTIONS GOD GAVE DAVID, SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE (966 B.C.) TO REPLACE THE AGING TABERNACLE THEY HAD USED IN THE WILDERNESS.

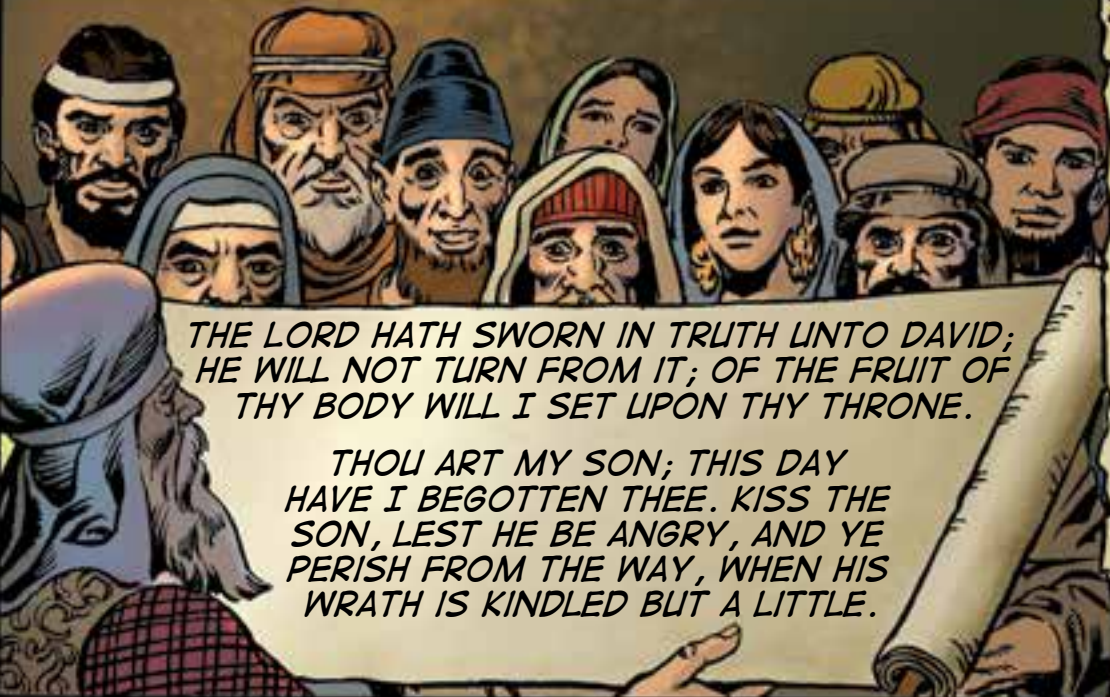
THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL PROSPERED AS NEVER BEFORE. TRULY GOD FULFILLED HIS PROMISE TO BRING THEM INTO THE LAND AND BLESS THEM THERE.



BUT THERE WAS ONE PROMISE GOD HAD NOT YET FULFILLED - THE COMING OF A SAVIOR WHO WOULD DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL. THE PEOPLE STILL SINNED, AND ANIMAL BLOOD WAS STILL OFFERED TO ATONE FOR SIN. BUT THEY WERE THANKFUL THAT GOD GAVE THEM A WAY TO COVER THEIR SINS UNTIL THE TIME APPOINTED WHEN THE DELIVERER WOULD REMOVE SINS FOREVER.

2 SAMUEL 7:12-16;
PSALM 72:1-20

PEOPLE CAME TO THE TEMPLE TO HEAR TEACHING FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURES. THEY ESPECIALLY ENJOYED THE PROPHECIES OF A COMING SAVIOR.



*THE LORD HATH SWORN IN TRUTH UNTO DAVID;
HE WILL NOT TURN FROM IT; OF THE FRUIT OF
THY BODY WILL I SET UPON THY THRONE.*

*THOU ART MY SON; THIS DAY
HAVE I BEGOTTEN THEE. KISS THE
SON, LEST HE BE ANGRY, AND YE
PERISH FROM THE WAY, WHEN HIS
WRATH IS KINDLED BUT A LITTLE.*

DAVID WROTE MANY THINGS ABOUT THE COMING DELIVERER:

THE LORD SAID UNTO MY LORD, SIT THOU AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE THINE ENEMIES THY FOOTSTOOL.
(PSALM 110:1)

THY THRONE, O GOD, IS FOR EVER AND EVER: THOU LOVEST RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND HATEST WICKEDNESS: THEREFORE GOD, THY GOD, HATH ANOINTED THEE WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE THY FELLOWS.
(PSALM 45:6-7)

MORE PROPHECIES OF THE COMING SAVIOR:

ALSO I WILL MAKE HIM MY FIRSTBORN,
HIGHER THAN THE KINGS OF THE EARTH.
(PSALM 89:26-27)

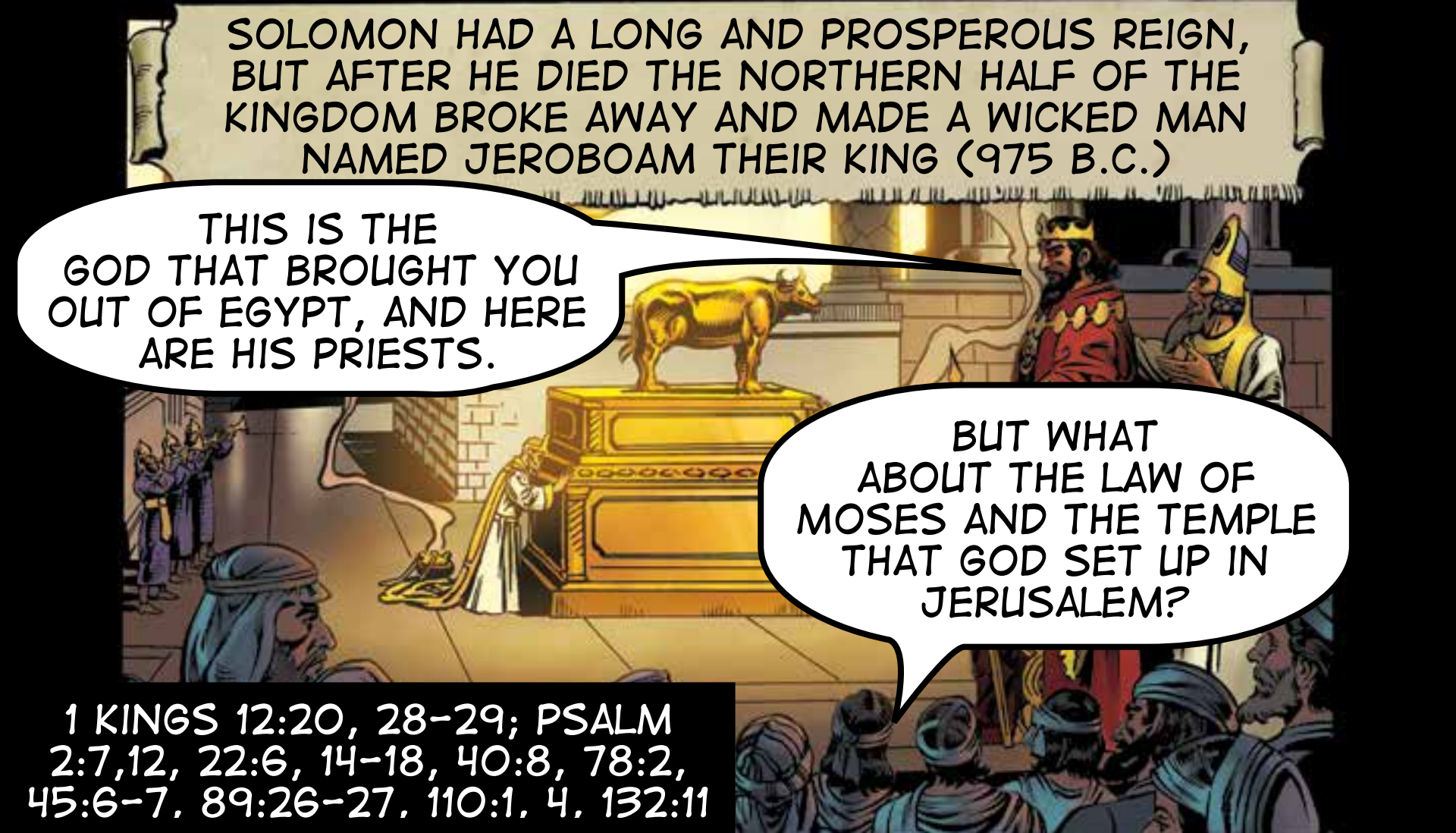
I DELIGHT TO DO THY WILL, O MY GOD:
YEA, THY LAW IS WITHIN MY HEART.
(PSALM 40:8)

I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN A
PARABLE: I WILL UTTER DARK
SAYINGS OF OLD:
(PSALM 78:2, MATTHEW 13:34-35)

DAVID WROTE A **STRANGE THING**
ABOUT THE COMING MESSIAH:

I AM POURED OUT LIKE WATER,
AND ALL MY BONES ARE OUT
OF JOINT: MY HEART IS LIKE
WAX;

IT IS MELTED IN THE MIDST
OF MY BOWELS. MY STRENGTH
IS DRIED UP LIKE A POTSHERD;
AND MY TONGUE CLEAVETH
TO MY JAWS; AND THOU HAST
BROUGHT ME INTO THE DUST
OF DEATH. THE ASSEMBLY OF
THE WICKED HAVE INCLOSED
ME: **THEY PIERCED MY
HANDS AND MY FEET.** THEY
PART MY GARMENTS AMONG
THEM, AND CAST LOTS UPON
MY VESTURE.
(PSALM 22:14-18)



SOLOMON HAD A LONG AND PROSPEROUS REIGN,
BUT AFTER HE DIED THE NORTHERN HALF OF THE
KINGDOM BROKE AWAY AND MADE A WICKED MAN
NAMED JEROBOAM THEIR KING (975 B.C.)

THIS IS THE
GOD THAT BROUGHT YOU
OUT OF EGYPT, AND HERE
ARE HIS PRIESTS.

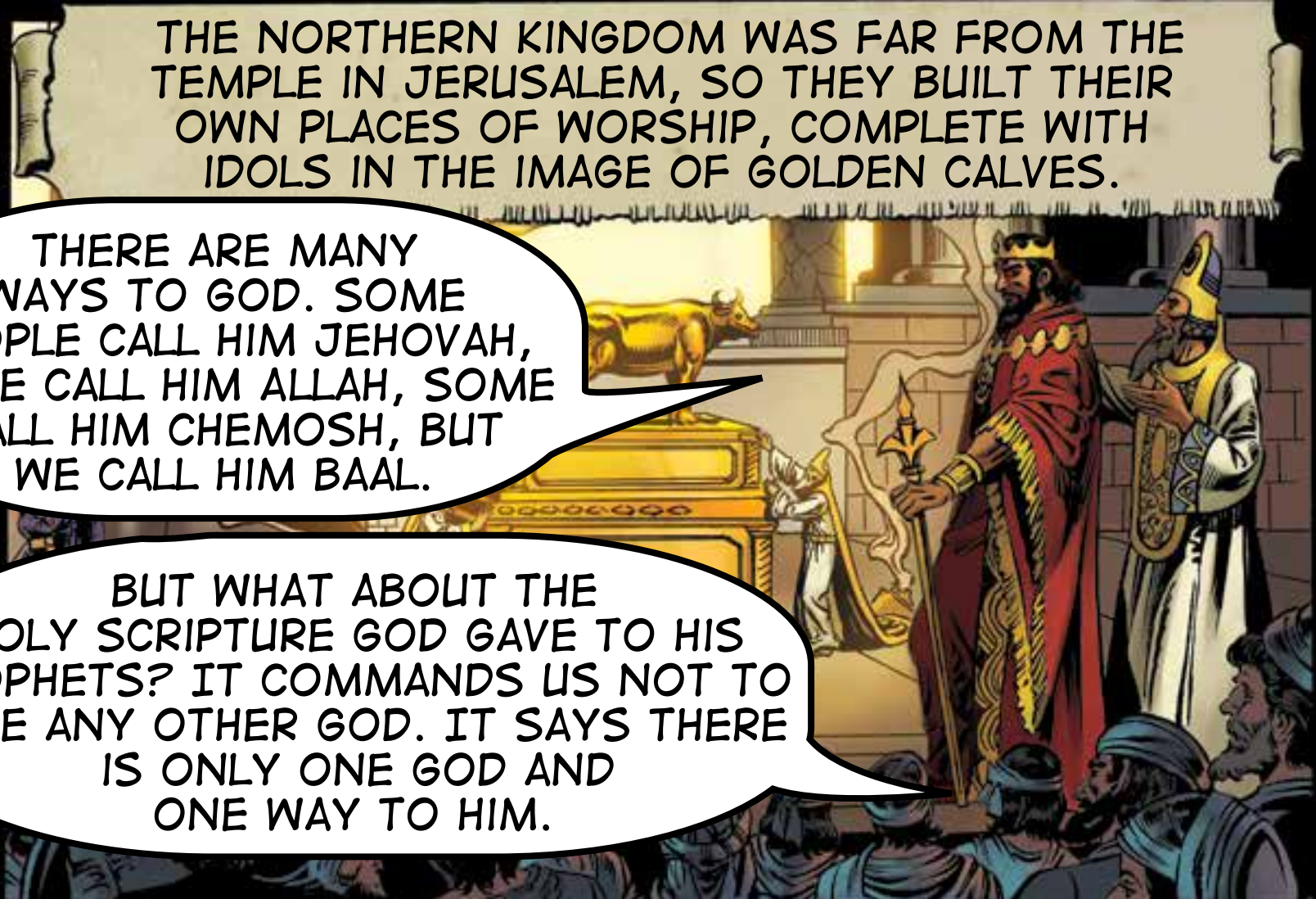
BUT WHAT
ABOUT THE LAW OF
MOSES AND THE TEMPLE
THAT GOD SET UP IN
JERUSALEM?


1 KINGS 12:20, 28-29; PSALM
2:7,12, 22:6, 14-18, 40:8, 78:2,
45:6-7, 89:26-27, 110:1, 4, 132:11

THE NORTHERN KINGDOM WAS FAR FROM THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM, SO THEY BUILT THEIR OWN PLACES OF WORSHIP, COMPLETE WITH IDOLS IN THE IMAGE OF GOLDEN CALVES.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GOD. SOME PEOPLE CALL HIM JEHOVAH, SOME CALL HIM ALLAH, SOME CALL HIM CHEMOSH, BUT WE CALL HIM BAAL.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE HOLY SCRIPTURE GOD GAVE TO HIS PROPHETS? IT COMMANDS US NOT TO HAVE ANY OTHER GOD. IT SAYS THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD AND ONE WAY TO HIM.





**DO YOU
THINK GOD IS SO
NARROW-
MINDED?**

***I WILL HEAR
NO MORE OF THIS!***
BAAL WORSHIP IS NOW THE
OFFICIAL RELIGION OF THE
LAND. INFIDELS WILL BE
PUT TO ***DEATH!***



O BAAL,
RECEIVE THIS
SACRIFICE FROM
OUR HUMBLE
HANDS.

WHEN THE PRIESTS SELECTED THE
BULL AS THE IMAGE TO WORSHIP
THEY UNKNOWINGLY SELECTED THE
VERY IMAGE OF LUCIFER, THE SINFUL
CHERUB. THEY WERE WORSHIPING
THE DEVIL, AND HE WAS DELIGHTED;
FOR HE WAS TURNING THE PEOPLE
AWAY FROM THE PROMISE OF GOD
CONCERNING A COMING REDEEMER.



BLESSED ART THOU, **QUEEN**
OF HEAVEN, **MOTHER** OF GOD.
HEAR OUR PRAYERS AND FORGIVE
US OUR SINS.

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING ON
THIS **SACRED**
GROUND?

IN THE NAME OF
JEHOVAH, FROM WHOM YOU HAVE
DEPARTED, HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD. A
CHILD SHALL BE BORN OF THE SEED OF DAVID.
FROM HIS LINEAGE WILL COME THE DELIVERER.
HIS NAME WILL BE **JOSIAH**, AND UPON THIS
ALTAR HE WILL **BURN** THE PRIESTS OF
BAAL.

1 KINGS
12:28, 13:1-2;
JEREMIAH
44:17-25



HOW CAN YOU SAY
SUCH A THING? NO ONE CAN
TELL THE *FUTURE* BUT THE
GODS.

BY THE WORD OF THE *LORD*
I SAY UNTO YOU THAT THE
BONES OF THESE VERY PRIESTS
SHALL *JOSIAH* BURN UPON
THIS ALTAR.



GOD WILL GIVE YOU A **SIGN** THAT I SPEAK FOR HIM. THIS VERY DAY THAT FINE ALTAR THAT YOU HAVE BUILT TO WORSHIP **DUMB** IDOLS WILL **SPLIT** AND THE ASHES WILL SPILL OUT.

HA, HA, HA! LISTEN TO THE
PIOUS ASS BRAY. HE THINKS
HE IS *RIGHT* AND EVERYONE
ELSE IS *WRONG!*




SEIZE HIM!
KILL HIM. HOW DARE
HE SPEAK AGAINST
ANOTHER MAN'S
RELIGION!

**MY ARM
HAS WITHERED!
JEHOVAH HAS
PUNISHED ME. PRAY
THAT HE WILL HEAL
ME.**





LORD GOD,
MAKE **YOURSELF**
KNOWN THIS DAY.
HEAL THE KING'S
ARM.



IT'S A
MIRACLE! GOD
HEALED MY
ARM!

1 KINGS 13:2-6

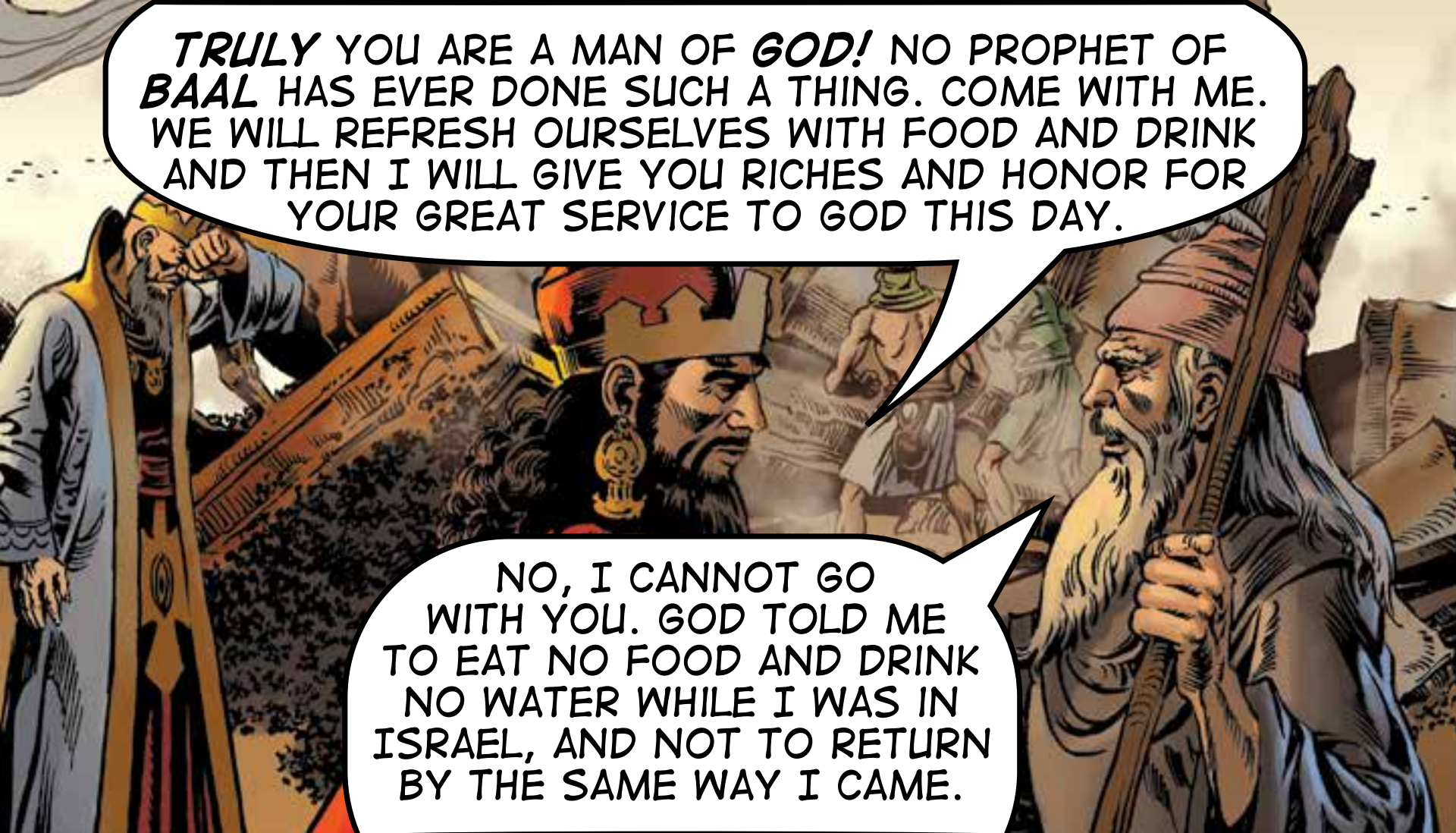
CRASH!

BOOOOOM!

EIIII!

NOOOO!

**JEHOVAH,
SO SOON?**



TRULY YOU ARE A MAN OF GOD! NO PROPHET OF BAAL HAS EVER DONE SUCH A THING. COME WITH ME. WE WILL REFRESH OURSELVES WITH FOOD AND DRINK AND THEN I WILL GIVE YOU RICHES AND HONOR FOR YOUR GREAT SERVICE TO GOD THIS DAY.

NO, I CANNOT GO WITH YOU. GOD TOLD ME TO EAT NO FOOD AND DRINK NO WATER WHILE I WAS IN ISRAEL, AND NOT TO RETURN BY THE SAME WAY I CAME.



HE *DESTROYED*
MY *RELIGION*.
THERE IS NOTHING
LEFT.

BUT YOU SAID THE
PRIESTS' BONES *WOULD*
BE BURNT ON THE ALTAR.
THE ALTAR IS GONE AND
NO ONE *DIED*.

THEY
WERE *GOD'S*
WORDS, NOT
MINE.

1 KINGS 13:5, 7-9

SO AS GOD
COMMANDED, THE
PROPHET OF GOD
RETURNED BY A
DIFFERENT ROUTE. HE
HAD BEEN WITHOUT
FOOD OR WATER FOR
TWO DAYS AND HE
WAS TERRIBLY THIRSTY
AND HUNGRY. TWO
YOUNG MEN, WHO
WERE WORSHIPPING
THE GOLDEN CALF
THAT DAY, FOLLOWED
HIM TO SEE WHICH
WAY HE WOULD GO.





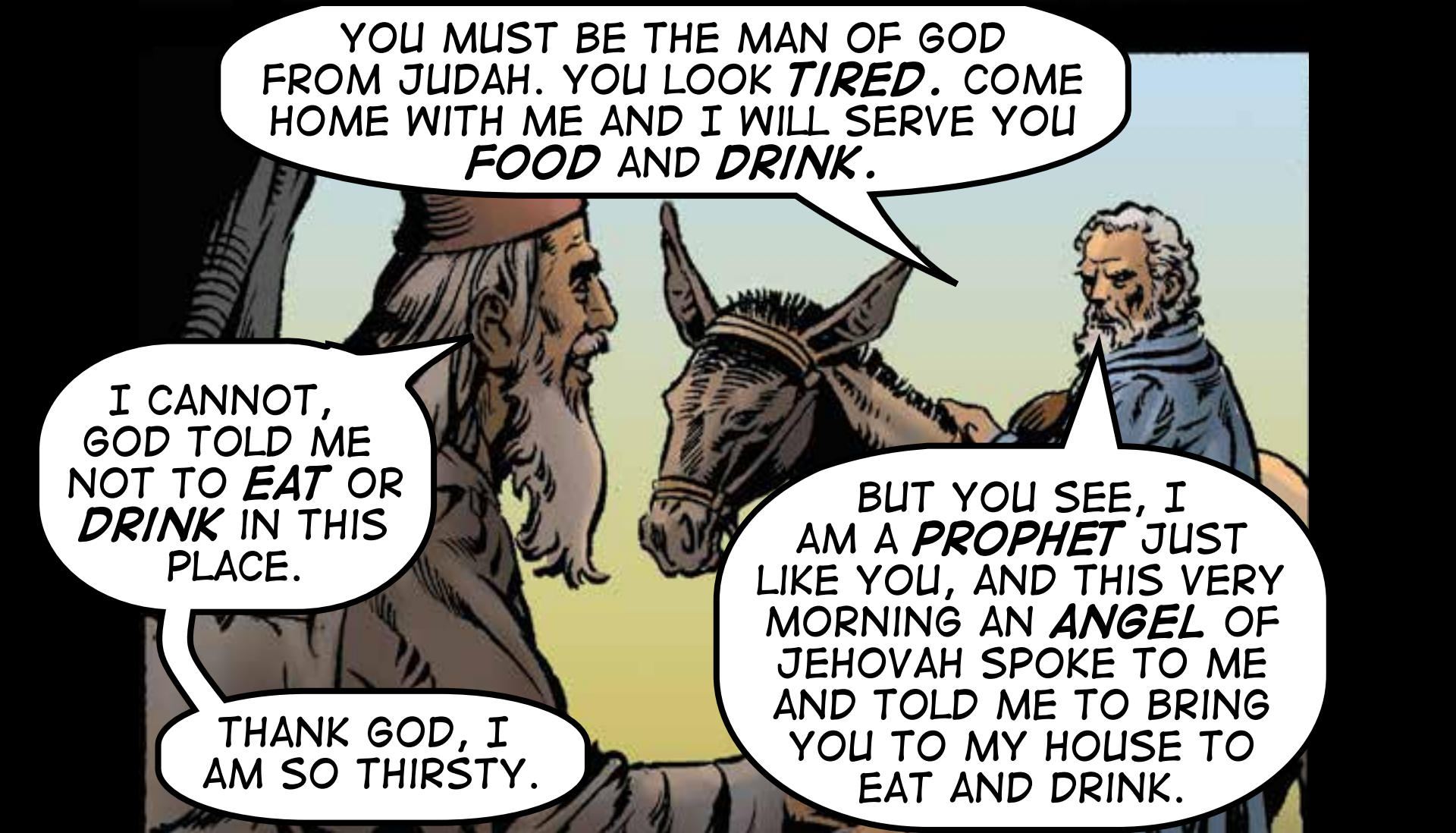
FATHER, I WOULD NOT HAVE BELIEVED IT IF I HADN'T SEEN IT. **IT WAS JUST LIKE THE OLD PROPHETS OF ISRAEL!**

QUICK!
SADDLE THE ASS! I MUST FIND HIM!

FATHER, DO YOU THINK WHAT HE SAID IS **TRUE?** IS JEHOVAH THE **ONLY** LIVING GOD? ARE OUR IDOLS NOTHING BUT WOOD AND GOLD?



HE FOUND THE PROPHET OF JEHOVAH SITTING UNDER A TREE. HE WANTED TO BE CLOSE TO THIS MAN WITH SUCH POWER. HE WAS ONCE A PROPHET OF JEHOVAH, BUT WHEN THE KINGDOMS DIVIDED HE FOLLOWED THE IDOLATRY OF HIS COUNTRYMEN. HE HAD REASONED, "WEREN'T ALL RELIGIONS THE SAME?"



YOU MUST BE THE MAN OF GOD FROM JUDAH. YOU LOOK *TIRED*. COME HOME WITH ME AND I WILL SERVE YOU *FOOD AND DRINK*.

I CANNOT, GOD TOLD ME NOT TO *EAT OR DRINK* IN THIS PLACE.

THANK GOD, I AM SO THIRSTY.

BUT YOU SEE, I AM A *PROPHET* JUST LIKE YOU, AND THIS VERY MORNING AN *ANGEL* OF JEHOVAH SPOKE TO ME AND TOLD ME TO BRING YOU TO MY HOUSE TO EAT AND DRINK.



IT HAS BEEN A **FINE** MEAL, BUT I **MUST** BE ON MY WAY BACK TO JUDAH.

JEHOVAH HAS SPOKEN: "BECAUSE YOU HAVE **NOT OBEYED** THE COMMANDMENT OF JEHOVAH GOD, BUT HAVE EATEN AND DRUNKEN IN THIS PLACE, YOUR **DEAD** BODY WILL NOT RETURN TO JUDAH TO BE BURIED IN YOUR FAMILY CEMETERY."

PAPA, YOU'RE **PROPHESYING**. DID GOD SPEAK TO YOU TOO?

YES MY SON, THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS.



1 KINGS 13:10-22

YOU MEAN
HE IS GOING TO
DIE?

I'M
AFRAID SO,
AND IT IS MY
FAULT.

THE PROPHET LEFT WITH A HEAVY HEART, KNOWING THAT GOD WAS ALWAYS FAITHFUL TO HIS WORD. HE KNEW HE WOULD DIE. HE JUST DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE SO SOON, OR IN THIS MANNER.



ELLIII!



THAT IS
THE PROPHET
FROM JUDAH!

IT IS EVEN
STRANGER
THAT THE LION
AND THE DONKEY
SIT THERE
TOGETHER LIKE
THEY WERE
GUARDING
THE BODY.

I HAVE
NEVER SEEN
ANYTHING LIKE
IT. THE LION
KILLED HIM
BUT JUST SITS
THERE AND
WON'T **EAT**
HIM.

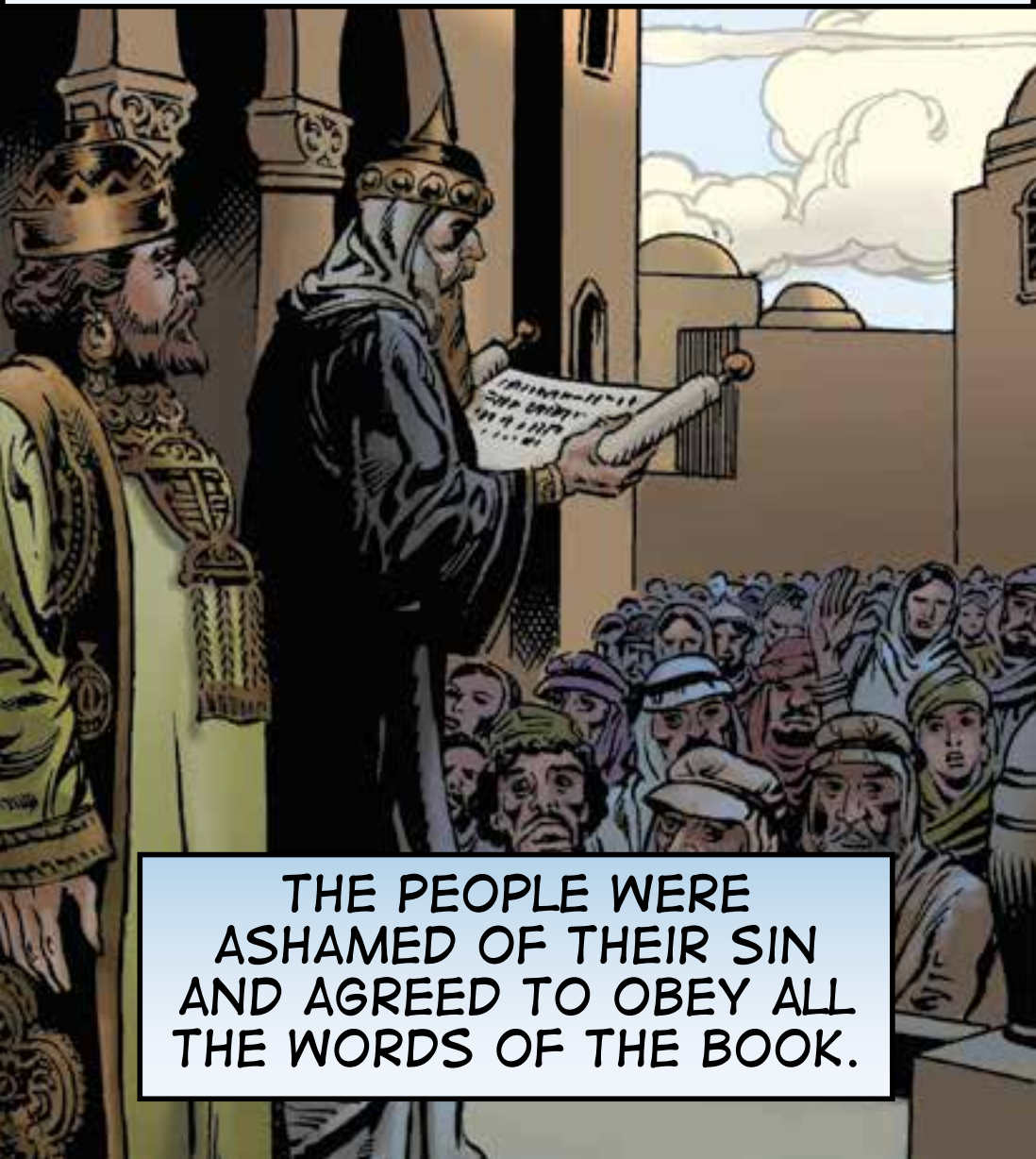
THE FALSE
PROPHET
TOOK THE
MAN OF GOD
AND BURIED
HIM IN HIS
OWN GRAVE
AMONG THE
PROPHETS OF
BAAL, CLOSE
TO THE PLACE
WHERE GOD
DESTROYED
THE ALTAR.

GOD
SLEW HIM FOR HIS
DISOBEDIENCE.
SURELY ALL THAT HE
PROPHESIED **WILL**
COME TO PASS.

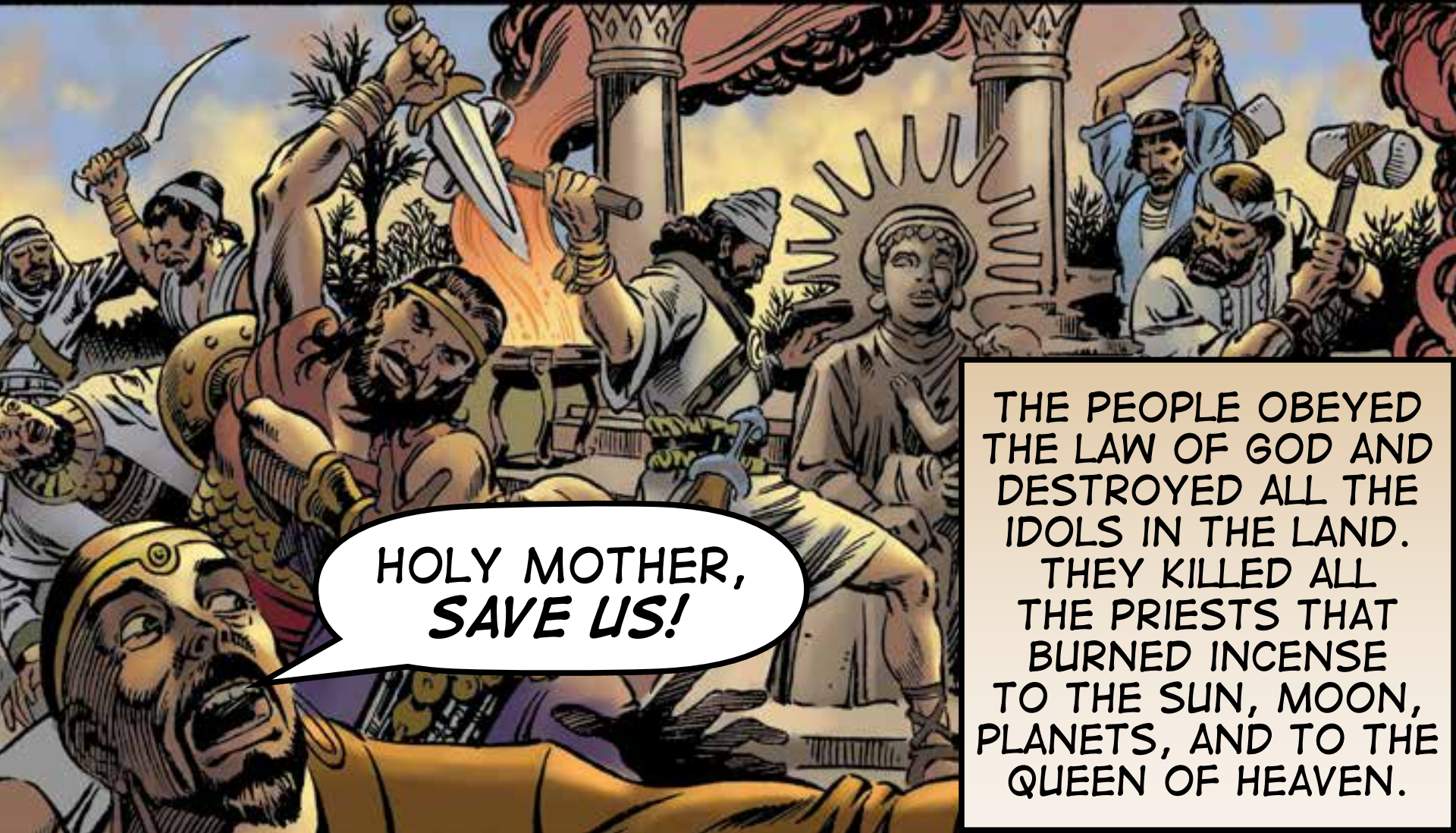
THE MAN OF GOD WAS BURIED
AND SOON FORGOTTEN BY ALL
BUT A FEW. THE ALTAR WAS
REPAIRED AND NEARLY THREE
HUNDRED YEARS LATER IT WAS
STILL USED BY WORSHIPERS OF
BAAL, BUT NO ONE EVER BURNT
THEIR BONES ON THE ALTAR AS
THE MAN OF GOD PREDICTED.

1 KINGS 13:23-31; 2 KINGS 21:24,
22:8-11, 23:1-3

THREE HUNDRED YEARS LATER, A KING NAMED JOSIAH TOOK THE THRONE IN JUDAH (640 B.C.). HE WENT UP TO THE TEMPLE AND FOUND A COPY OF THE BIBLE. IT DISTURBED HIM WHEN HE REALIZED THAT THE NATION HAD FORGOTTEN THE LIVING GOD AND GONE AFTER IDOLS, SO HE COMMANDED ALL THE ELDERS, PROPHETS, PRIESTS, AND ALL THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM TO COME TOGETHER TO HEAR THE BOOK READ.




THE PEOPLE WERE ASHAMED OF THEIR SIN AND AGREED TO OBEY ALL THE WORDS OF THE BOOK.



HOLY MOTHER,
SAVE US!

THE PEOPLE OBEYED
THE LAW OF GOD AND
DESTROYED ALL THE
IDOLS IN THE LAND.
THEY KILLED ALL
THE PRIESTS THAT
BURNED INCENSE
TO THE SUN, MOON,
PLANETS, AND TO THE
QUEEN OF HEAVEN.



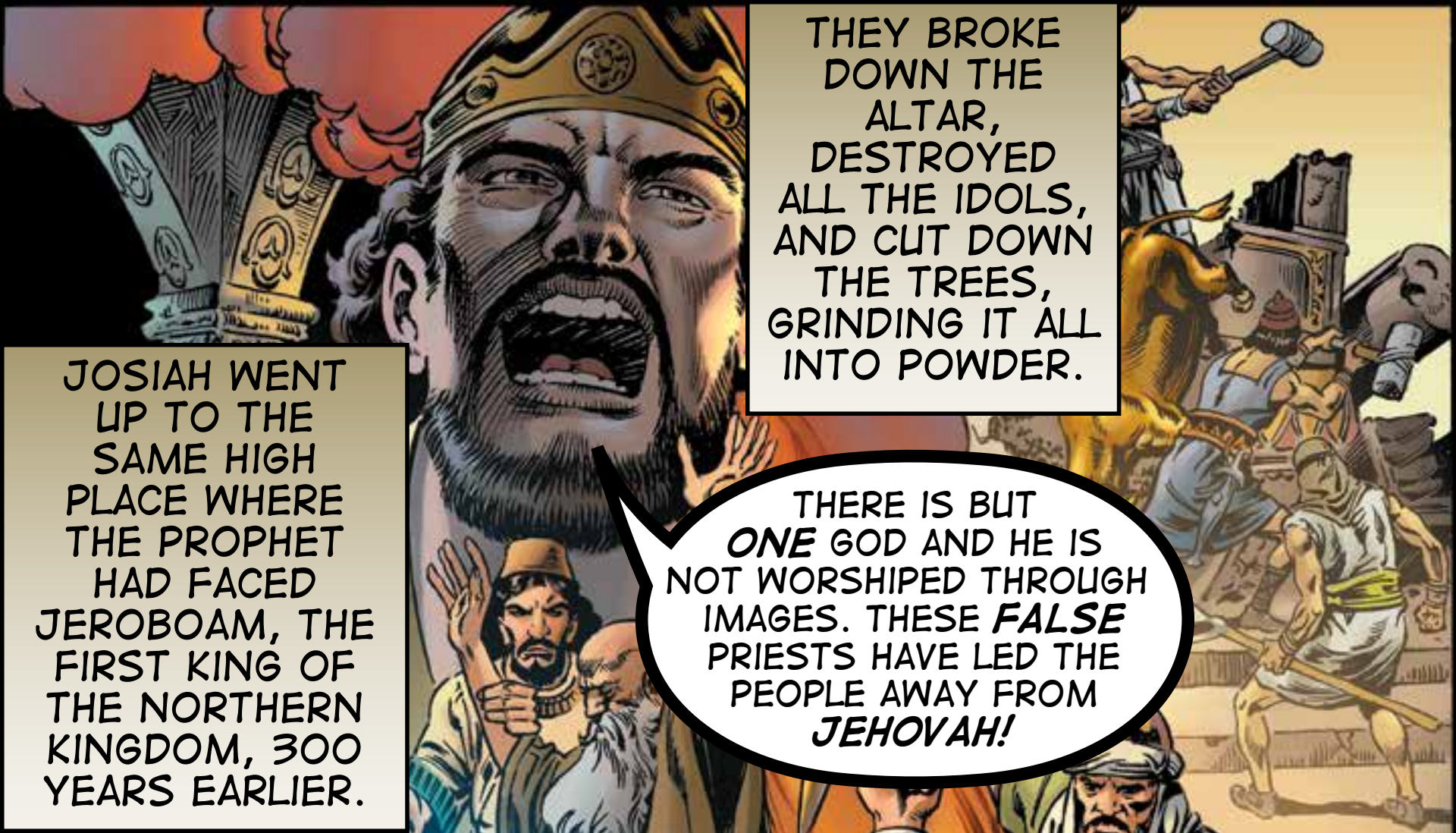
THE LAW OF GOD, AS GIVEN BY
MOSES, FORBIDS HOMOSEXUAL
ACTIVITY, SO ALL SODOMITES
WERE DRIVEN OUT OF THE LAND.

INTOLERANT
JERKS.

THEY ALSO CLEANSED
THE LAND OF ALL THOSE
WHO CONSULTED FAMILIAR
SPIRITS, THE MEDIUMS,
AND THE WITCHES.

**BREAK HER
CRYSTAL BALL
AND BURN THE
HOUSE.**

2 KINGS 23:5,7,10



JOSIAH WENT UP TO THE SAME HIGH PLACE WHERE THE PROPHET HAD FACED JEROBOAM, THE FIRST KING OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM, 300 YEARS EARLIER.

THEY BROKE DOWN THE ALTAR, DESTROYED ALL THE IDOLS, AND CUT DOWN THE TREES, GRINDING IT ALL INTO POWDER.

THERE IS BUT **ONE** GOD AND HE IS NOT WORSHIPED THROUGH IMAGES. THESE **FALSE** PRIESTS HAVE LED THE PEOPLE AWAY FROM **JEHOVAH!**

**YOU
MUST DIE.**

ONCE AGAIN THE
ALTAR WAS RENT
AND THE ASHES
SPILLED OUT.

ALL THE FALSE PRIESTS
WERE KILLED AND THEIR
BODIES BURNT ON THE
RUINS OF THE ALTAR.



NEARBY WAS A GRAVEYARD
FOR THE FALSE PRIESTS.
TO KEEP THE PEOPLE FROM
WORSHIPPING AT THEIR
TOMBS, JOSIAH DUG UP
THEIR BONES AND BURNT
THEM ON THE ALTAR.

2 KINGS 23:15-16



**BURN
ALL THE
BONES.**

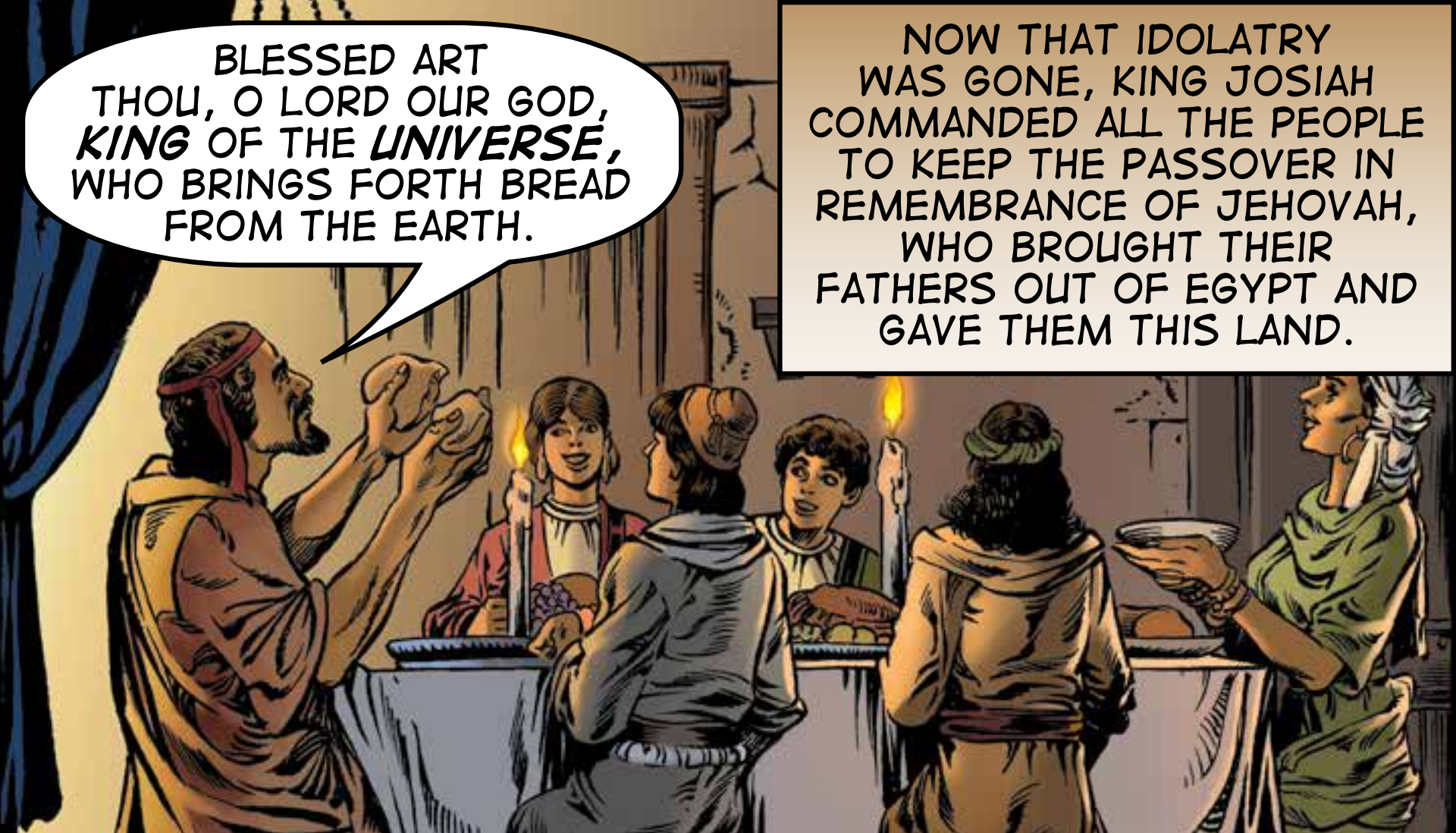
AND SO THE 300-YEAR-
OLD PROPHECY WAS
FINALLY FULFILLED,
JUST AS THE MAN
OF GOD HAD SAID.

THEN LEAVE
HIS BONES ALONE.
BURN THE OTHERS. THIS
IDOLATRY MUST END IF
GOD IS TO BLESS US.

BUT YOUR
GRACIOUSNESS, THIS IS THE
TOMB OF THE **MAN OF GOD** THAT
CAME FROM JUDAH NEARLY THREE
HUNDRED YEARS AGO AND PREDICTED
THIS VERY DAY. HE SAID THAT A MAN
NAMED **JOSIAH**, THAT IS YOURSELF,
WOULD COME AND DO THE VERY
THINGS YOU HAVE DONE THIS DAY.

BLESSED ART
THOU, O LORD OUR GOD,
KING OF THE *UNIVERSE*,
WHO BRINGS FORTH BREAD
FROM THE EARTH.

NOW THAT IDOLATRY
WAS GONE, KING JOSIAH
COMMANDED ALL THE PEOPLE
TO KEEP THE PASSOVER IN
REMEMBRANCE OF JEHOVAH,
WHO BROUGHT THEIR
FATHERS OUT OF EGYPT AND
GAVE THEM THIS LAND.



FATHER,
HOW IS THIS DAY
DIFFERENT FROM
ALL OTHERS?

SO FATHER TOLD THEM THE OLD STORY OF HOW GOD DELIVERED THEM FROM EGYPTIAN BONDAGE AND GAVE THEM THE LAW AND THE TABERNACLE. HE TOLD THEM HOW THE BLOOD ON THE DOORPOSTS SAVED THE FIRSTBORN MALES FROM THE DESTROYING ANGEL. IT WAS THE GREATEST PASSOVER EVER.



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