

Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

***OLD TESTAMENT
BOOK 8***

JEWS IN BABYLON TO THE RETURN TO JERUSALEM

*by
Chris Thorpe
& people from Coromandel Baptist Church*

Illustrated by Kay Kammermann

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JEWS IN BABYLON / EZEKIEL THE WATCHMAN

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2 CHRONICLES 36:14–21 / EZEKIEL 2:1–7; 3:10–21; 36:22–36

Ezekiel 11:14–17

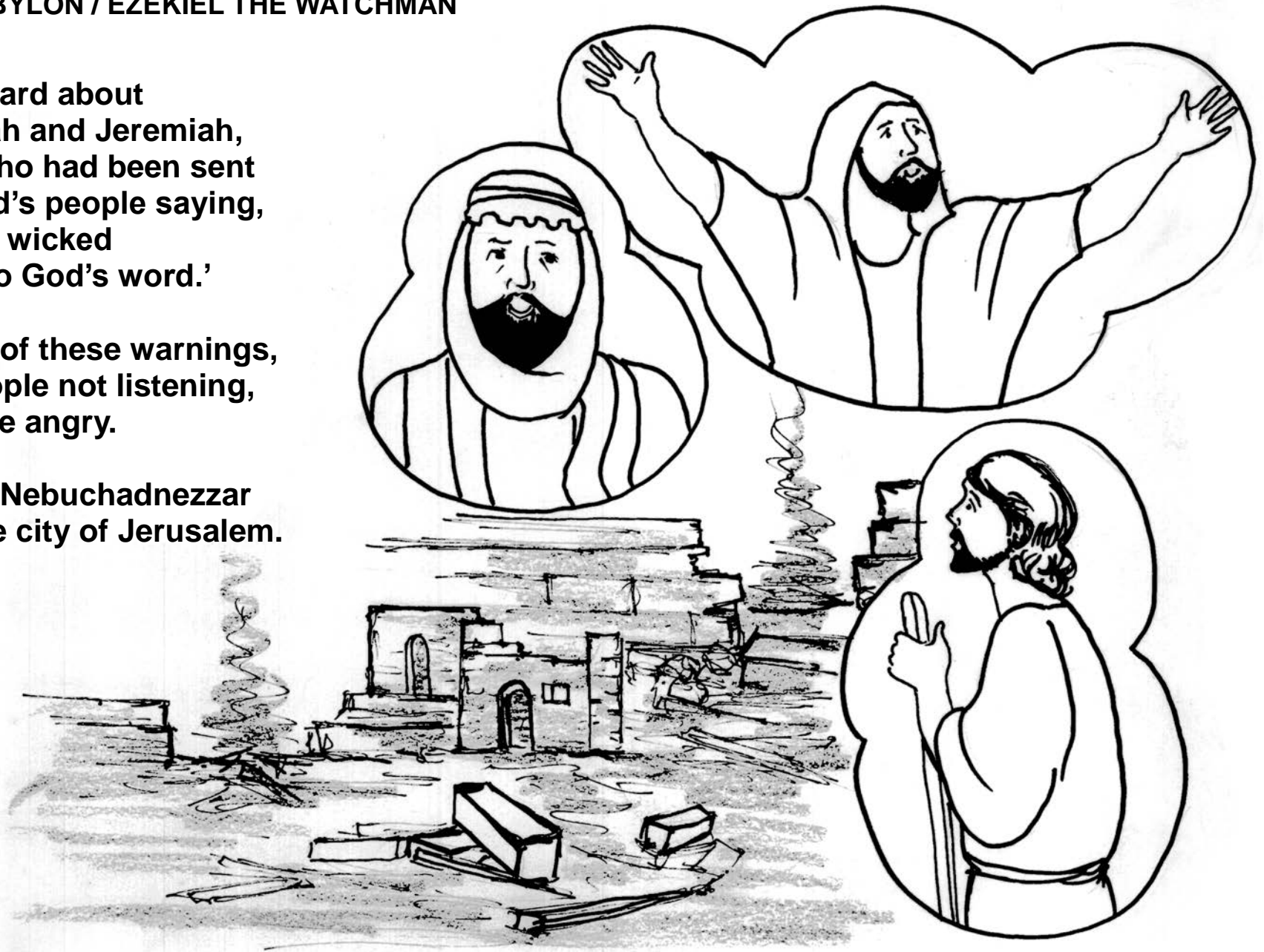
JEWS IN BABYLON / EZEKIEL THE WATCHMAN

File no. 89

**We have heard about
Amos, Isaiah and Jeremiah,
prophets who had been sent
to warn God's people saying,
'Stop being wicked
and listen to God's word.'**

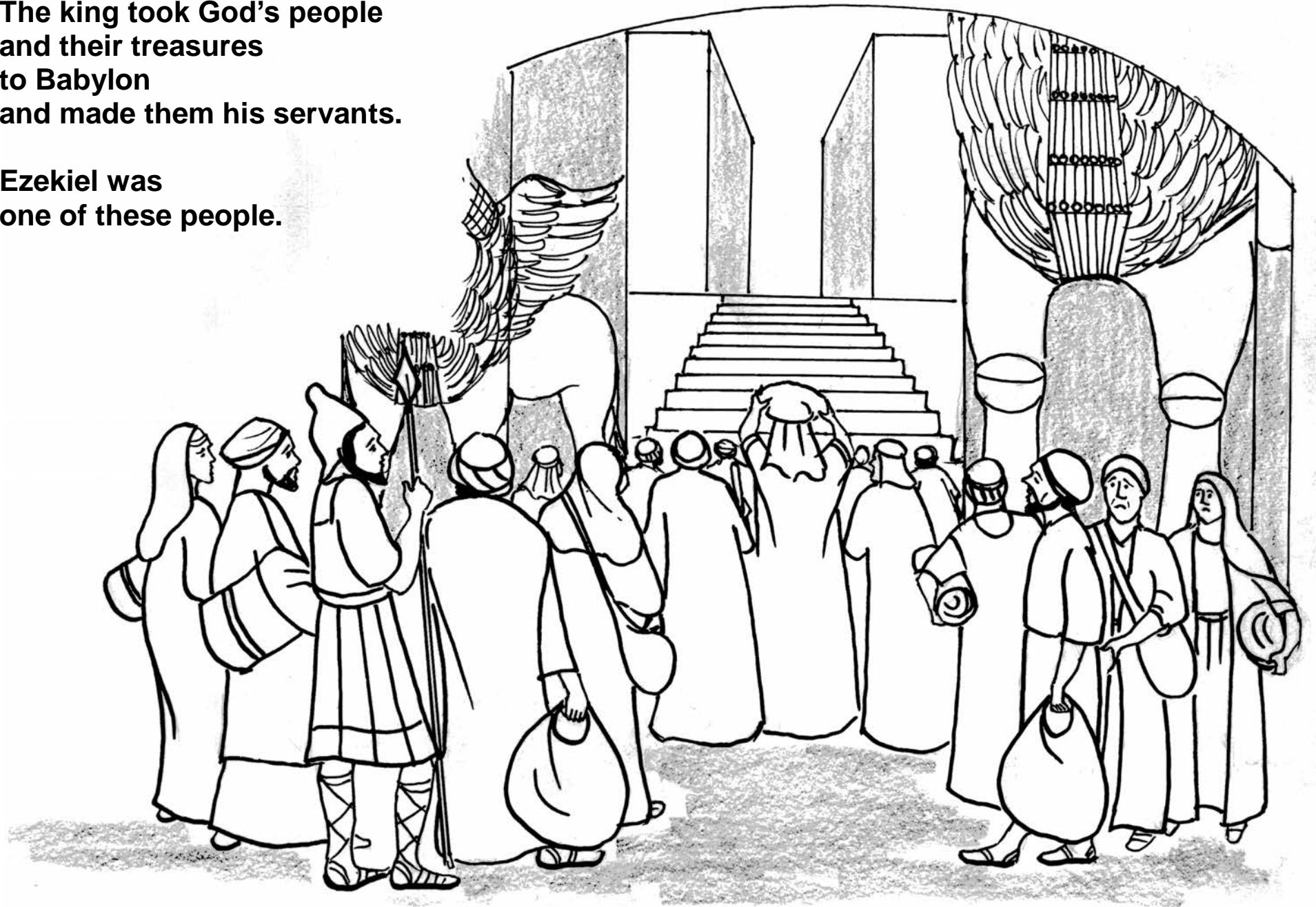
**After years of these warnings,
and the people not listening,
God became angry.**

**He let King Nebuchadnezzar
conquer the city of Jerusalem.**

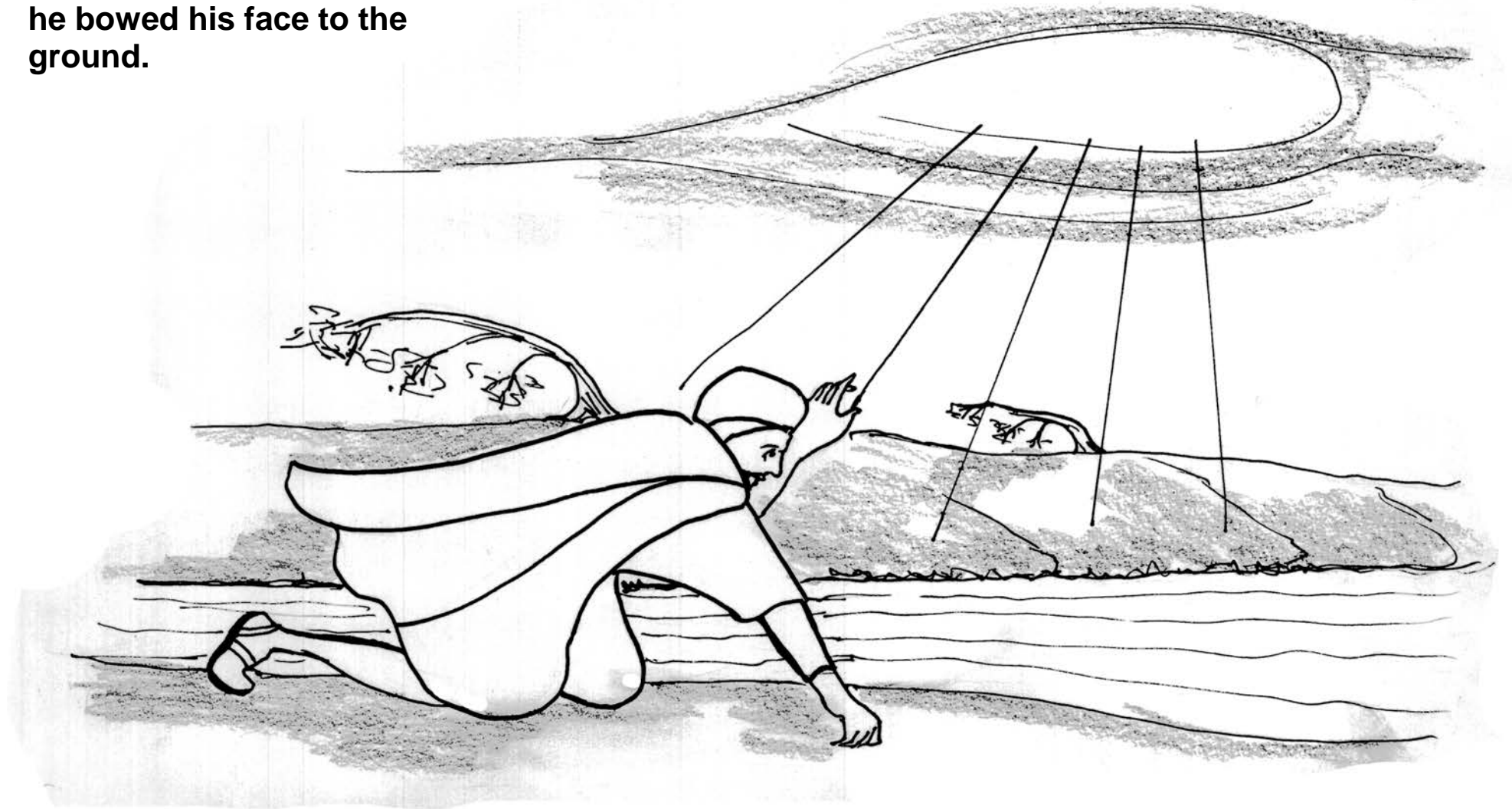


**The king took God's people
and their treasures
to Babylon
and made them his servants.**

**Ezekiel was
one of these people.**

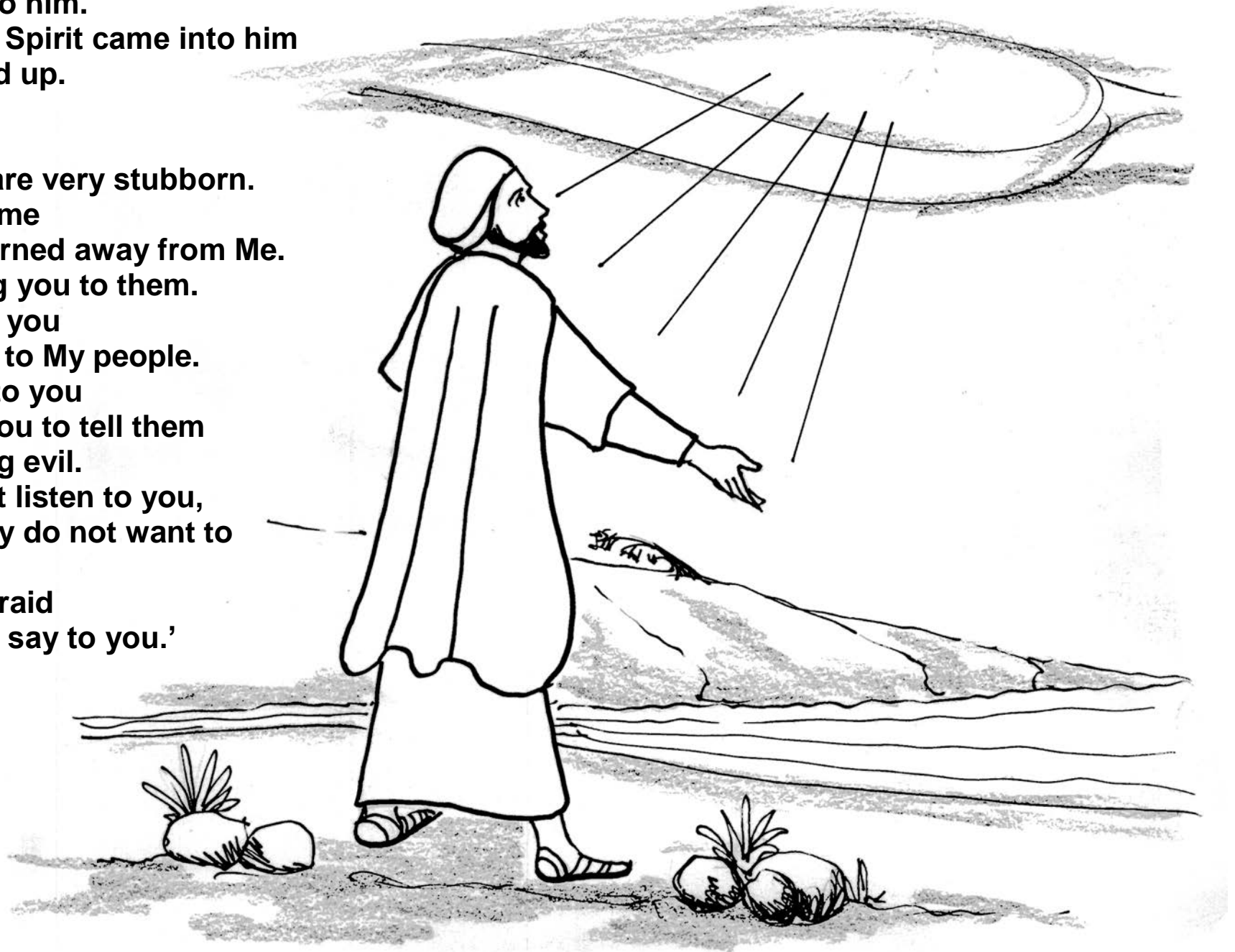


**In Babylon,
God came to Ezekiel
and showed him His glory.
When Ezekiel saw it
he bowed his face to the
ground.**

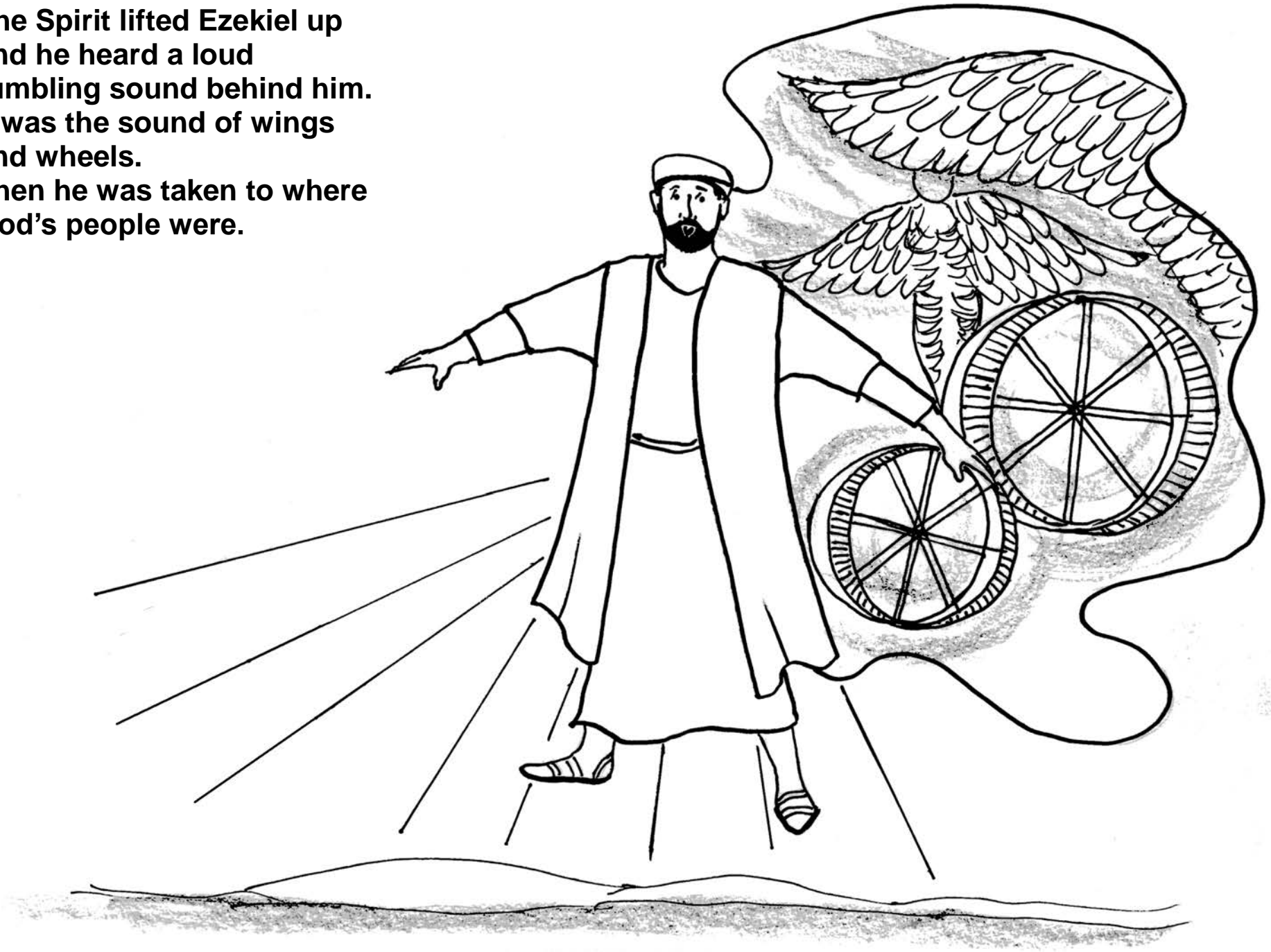


**God spoke to him.
Then, God's Spirit came into him
and he stood up.**

**God said,
'My people are very stubborn.
For a long time
they have turned away from Me.
I am sending you to them.
I am making you
a watchman to My people.
I will speak to you
and I want you to tell them
to stop doing evil.
They will not listen to you,
because they do not want to
listen to Me.
Do not be afraid
of what they say to you.'**



**The Spirit lifted Ezekiel up
and he heard a loud
rumbling sound behind him.
It was the sound of wings
and wheels.
Then he was taken to where
God's people were.**



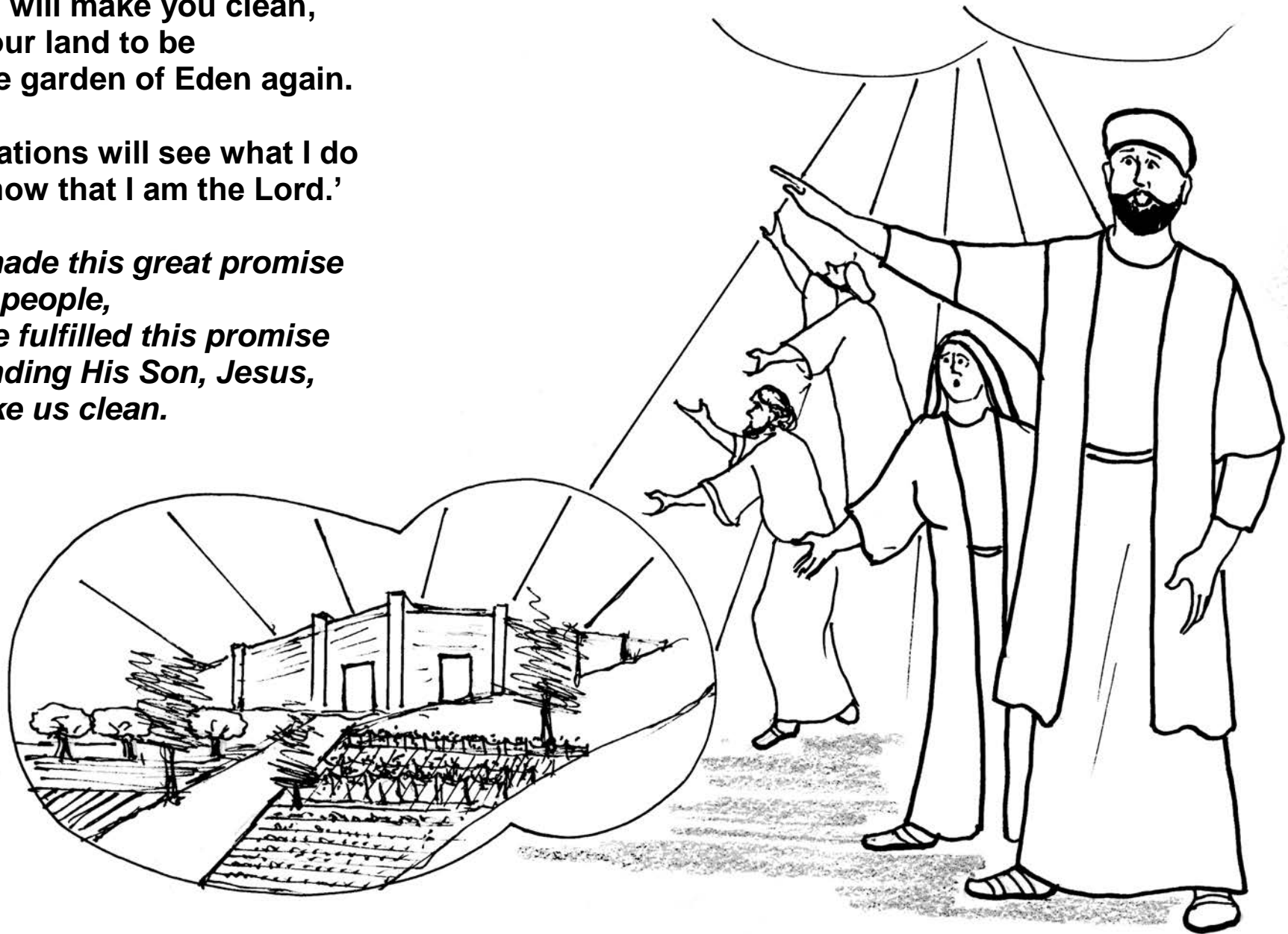
**God said to Ezekiel,
'Say this to My people:
Even though I sent you
away,
I have been with you
to look after you.
After seventy years
I will bring you back
to the land I gave you.
I will sprinkle
clean water on you
and you will be clean.
I will take out your
hard stony heart
and give you a new heart.
I will put a new spirit in you.
I will be your God
and you will be My people.
You will be ashamed
of your evil ways.**



**‘There is a day coming
when I will make you clean,
and your land to be
like the garden of Eden again.**

**‘The nations will see what I do
and know that I am the Lord.’**

***God made this great promise
to His people,
and He fulfilled this promise
by sending His Son, Jesus,
to make us clean.***



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DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS

by

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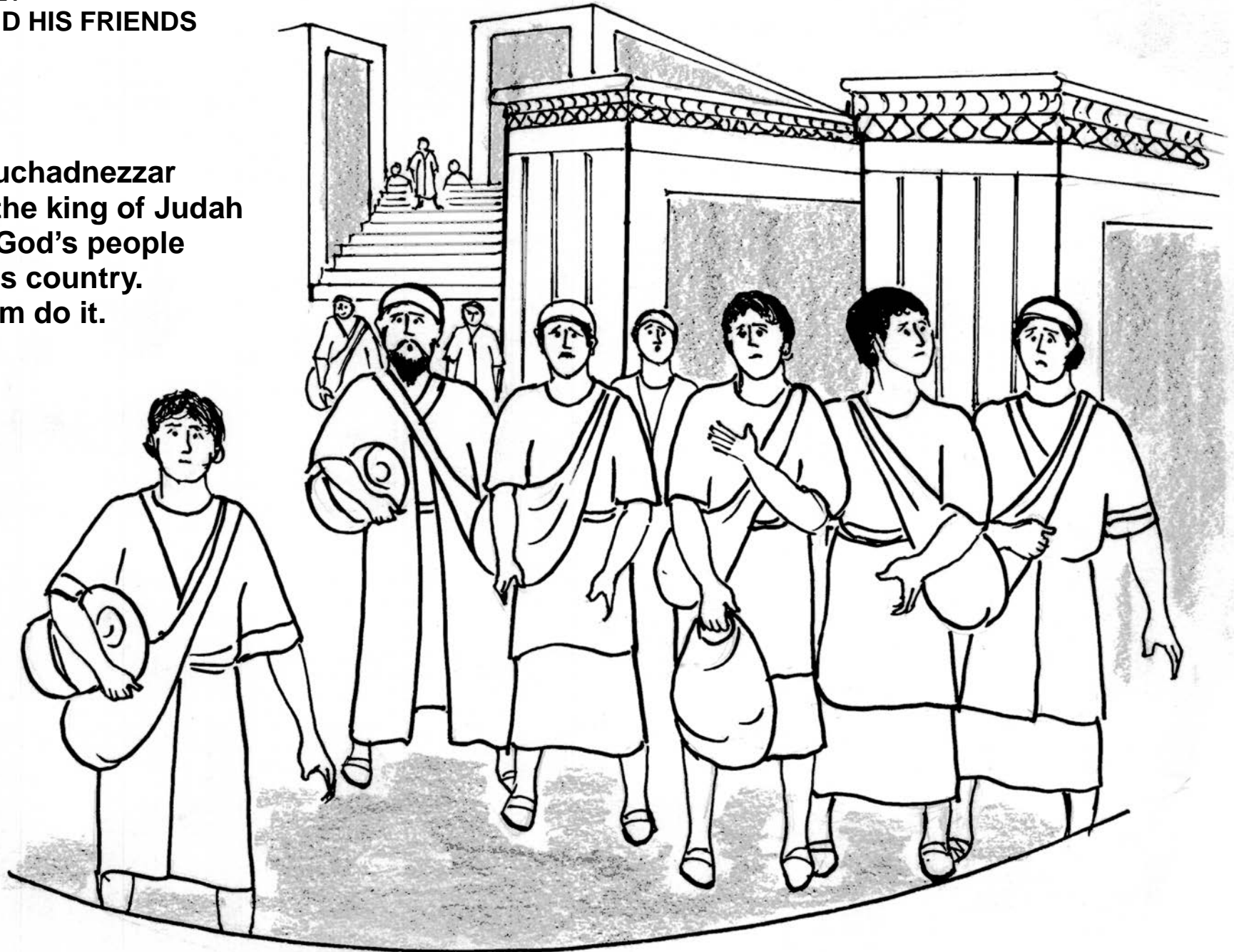
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DANIEL 1:1-21
DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS
File no. 90

**King Nebuchadnezzar
defeated the king of Judah
and took God's people
back to his country.
God let him do it.**



**Nebuchadnezzar
said to his officer,
'I want some
of these foreigners
to be my servants.
Choose the young men,
who are healthy,
good looking and clever.**

**'Teach them
our language and books.
Give them the
same kind of food
and wine as I have.
After three years
they should be ready
to be my servants.'**



**Daniel and his three friends,
Shadrach,
Meshach and Abednego,
were chosen to be some
of the king's servants.**

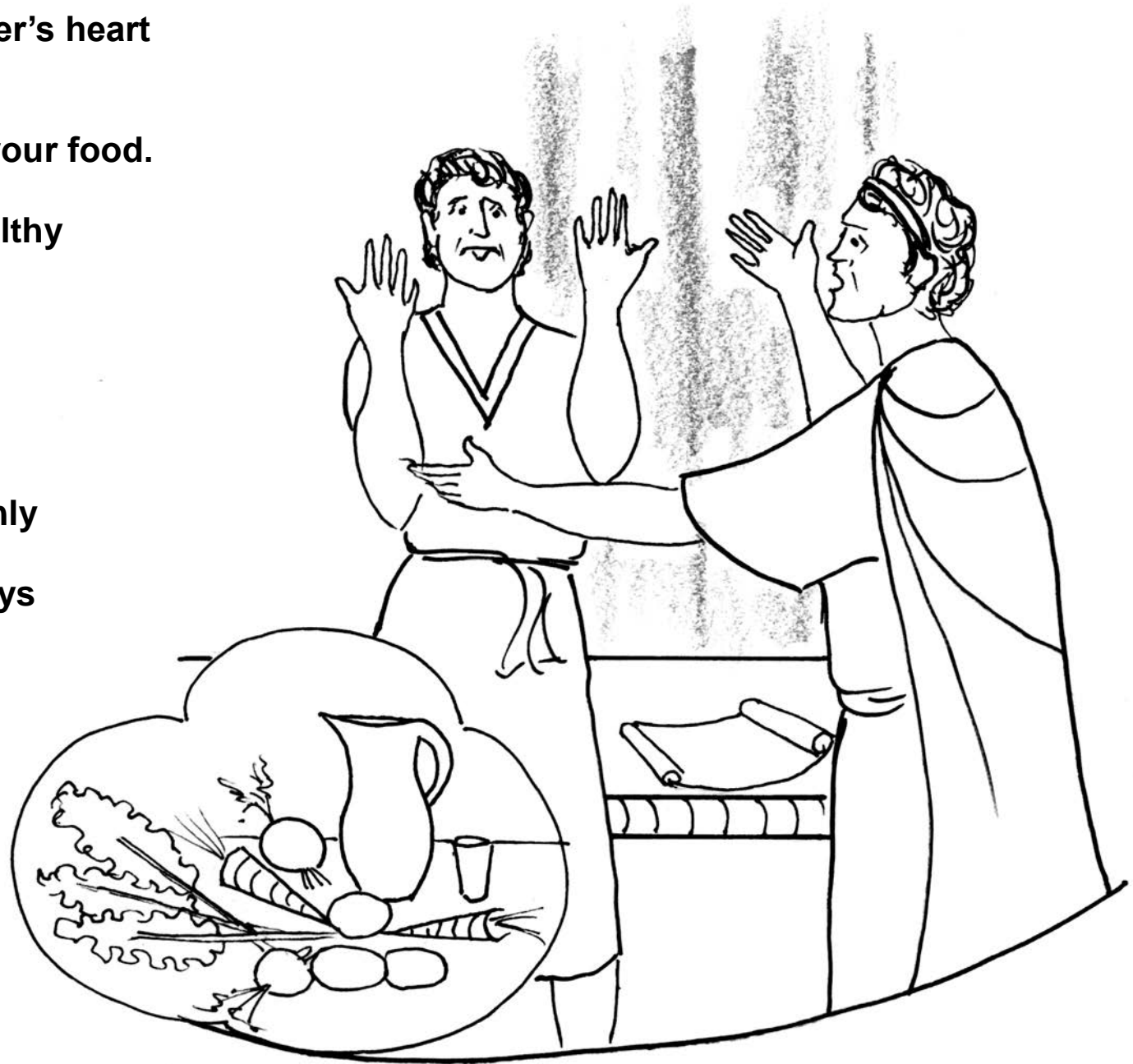
**They were given new names
and started learning
the new language.
However, Daniel knew
he could not
eat the king's food.**

**He said to the man
in charge,
'The king's food
will make me unclean.
Please do not
make me eat it.'**



God put it into the officer's heart
to like Daniel,
but he answered,
'The king has ordered your food.
If you do not eat it
you will not look as healthy
as the others.
The king will see it
and will kill me.'

Daniel said,
'Please, give us a test.
For ten days, give us only
vegetables and water.
At the end of the ten days
see what we look like.'



**After the ten days
the chief officer looked
at Daniel and his friends.
They looked great.
They were even better
than the other young men
who had eaten
the king's food.
So Daniel and his friends
were allowed to have
vegetables and water
every day.**



**God blessed Daniel
and his friends.
He gave them wisdom
and helped them to learn.
He even gave Daniel
the gift to know
the meaning of
dreams and visions.**



**After the three years
all the young men
were brought
to King Nebuchadnezzar.
He talked with each one
of them.
He noticed that
Daniel and his friends
had learned very well.
He chose them to serve him.**

**When the king
needed advice he asked
Daniel and his friends.
They were ten times wiser
than all the wise men
of Babylon.**

**God blessed Daniel
and his friends.**



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***THE DREAM THAT FRIGHTENED THE KING /
DANIEL EXPLAINS THE DREAM***

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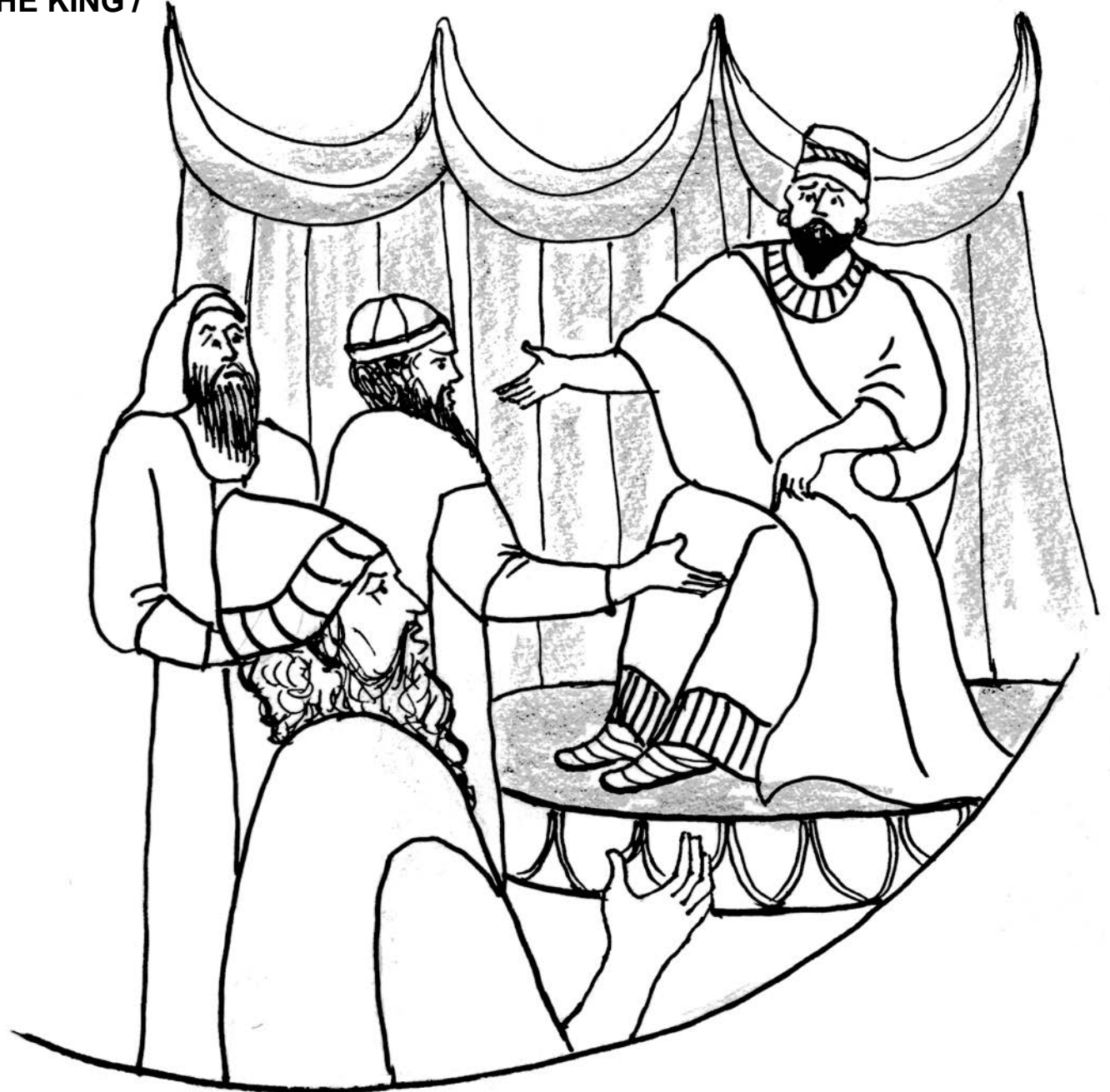
DANIEL 2:1–49
THE DREAM THAT FRIGHTENED THE KING /
DANIEL EXPLAINS THE DREAM
File no. 91

**King Nebuchadnezzar
said to his wise men,
'I had a dream that
frightened me.
Tell me what it means.'**

**The wise men said,
'O king, tell us your dream.
Then we will tell you
what it means.'**

**The king replied,
'Tell me the dream
and I will know that you can
tell me what it means.
If not I will get rid of you.'**

**The wise men said,
'Only the gods
can tell you the dream.'**



The king became angry
and ordered the guards
to get rid of all the wise men.

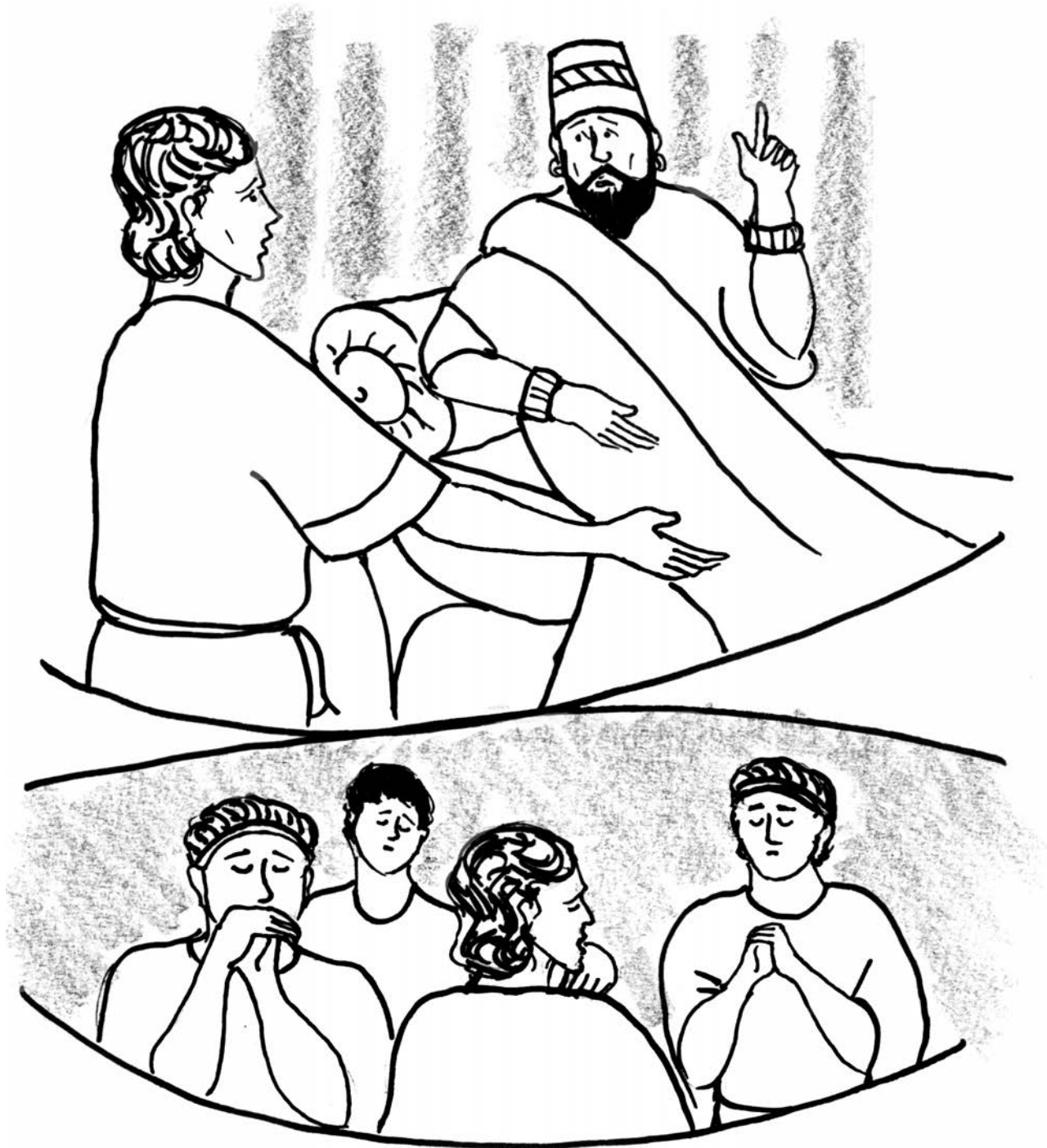
They came to get Daniel
and he asked,
'Why is the king in such a
hurry?'

Arioch said,
'The king had a dream,
but no one can tell him
what it means.'



Daniel went to the king
and said,
'Please wait and
I will tell you your dream
and its meaning.'

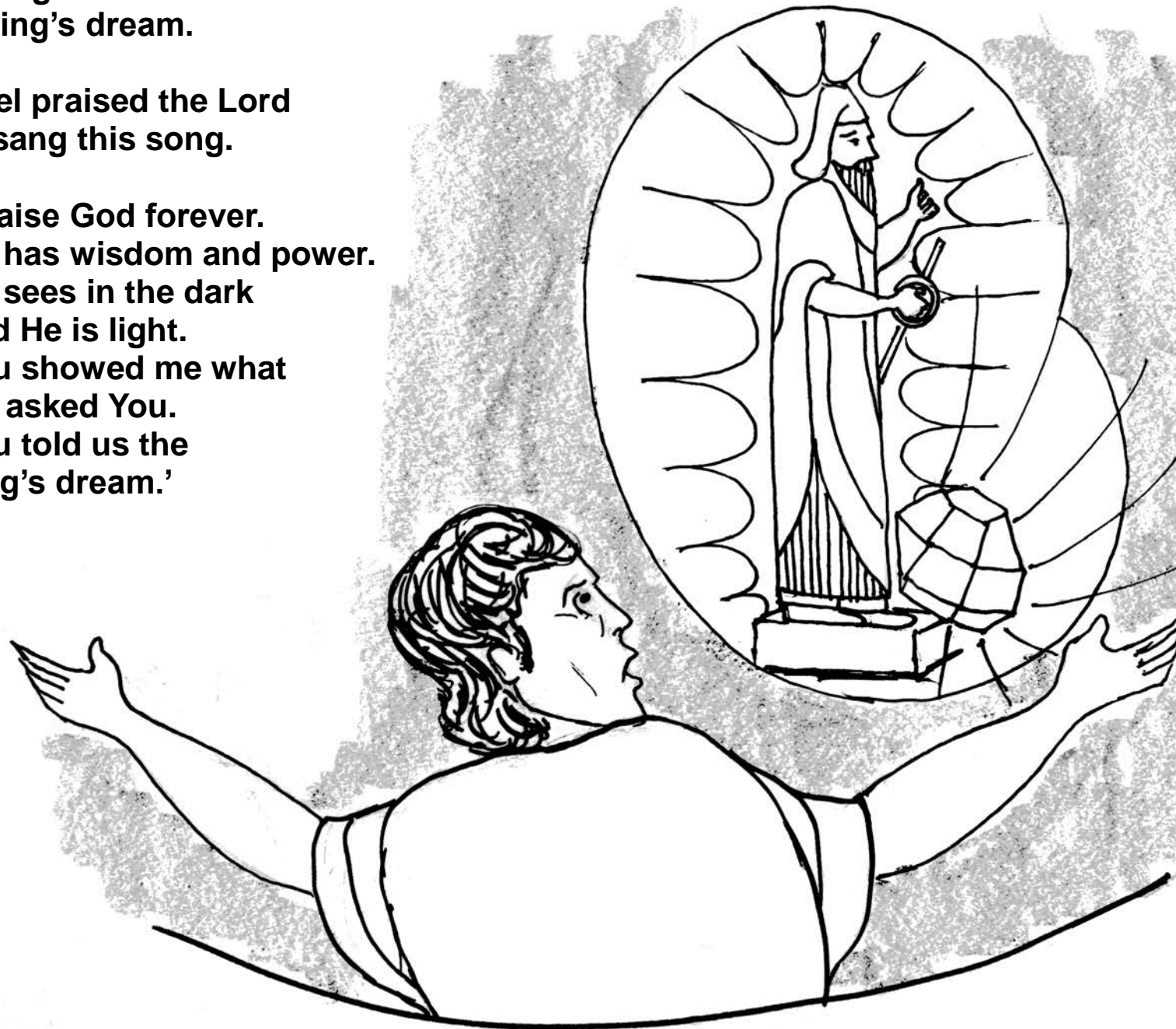
Then Daniel asked
his friends,
Shadrach, Meshach and
Abednego,
'Pray to God and ask Him
to show us the king's dream
to save us.'



**That night God showed Daniel
the king's dream.**

**Daniel praised the Lord
and sang this song.**

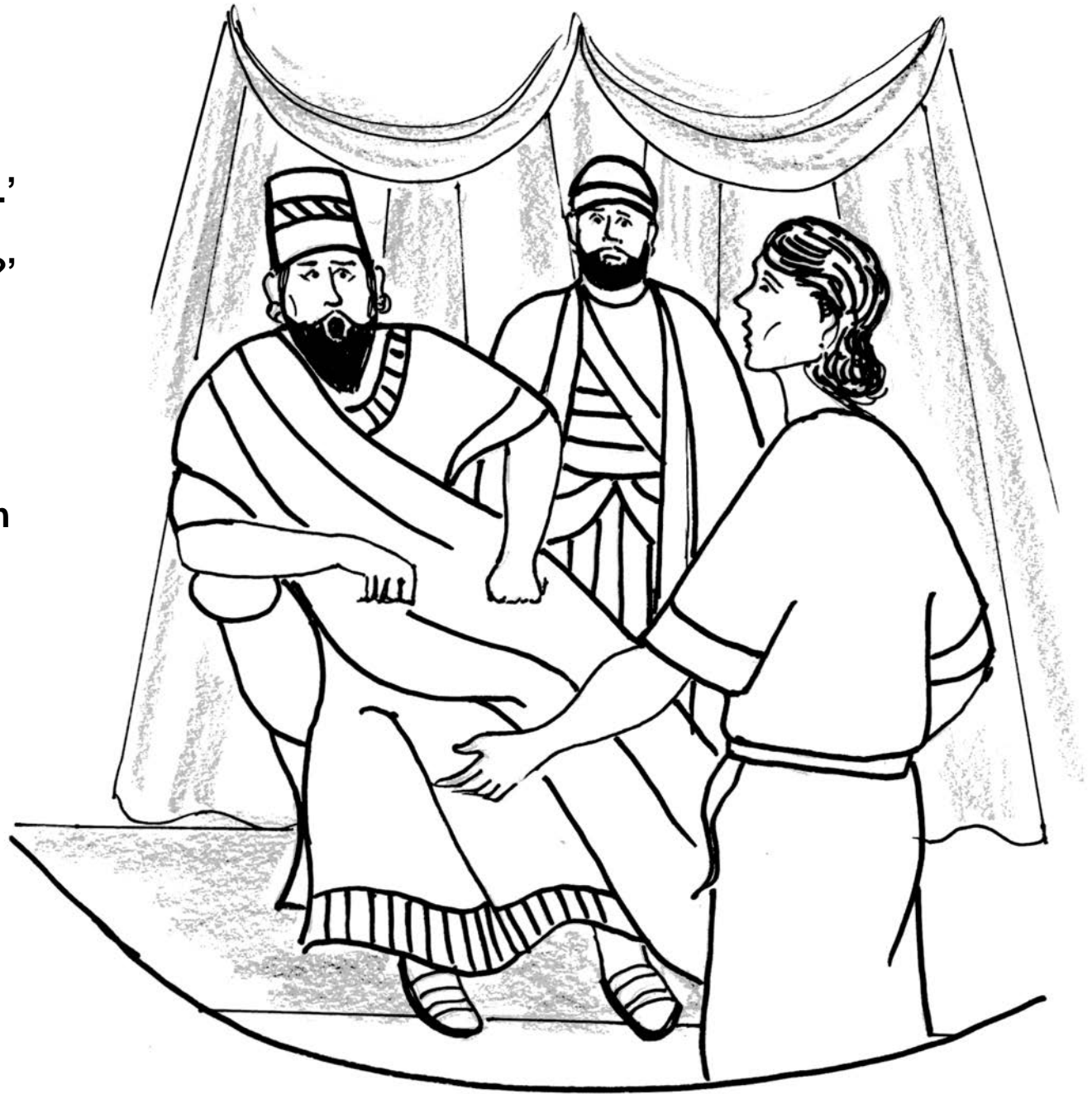
**'Praise God forever.
He has wisdom and power.
He sees in the dark
and He is light.
You showed me what
we asked You.
You told us the
king's dream.'**



**In the morning
Daniel said to Arioch,
'Take me to the king
and I will tell him his dream.'**

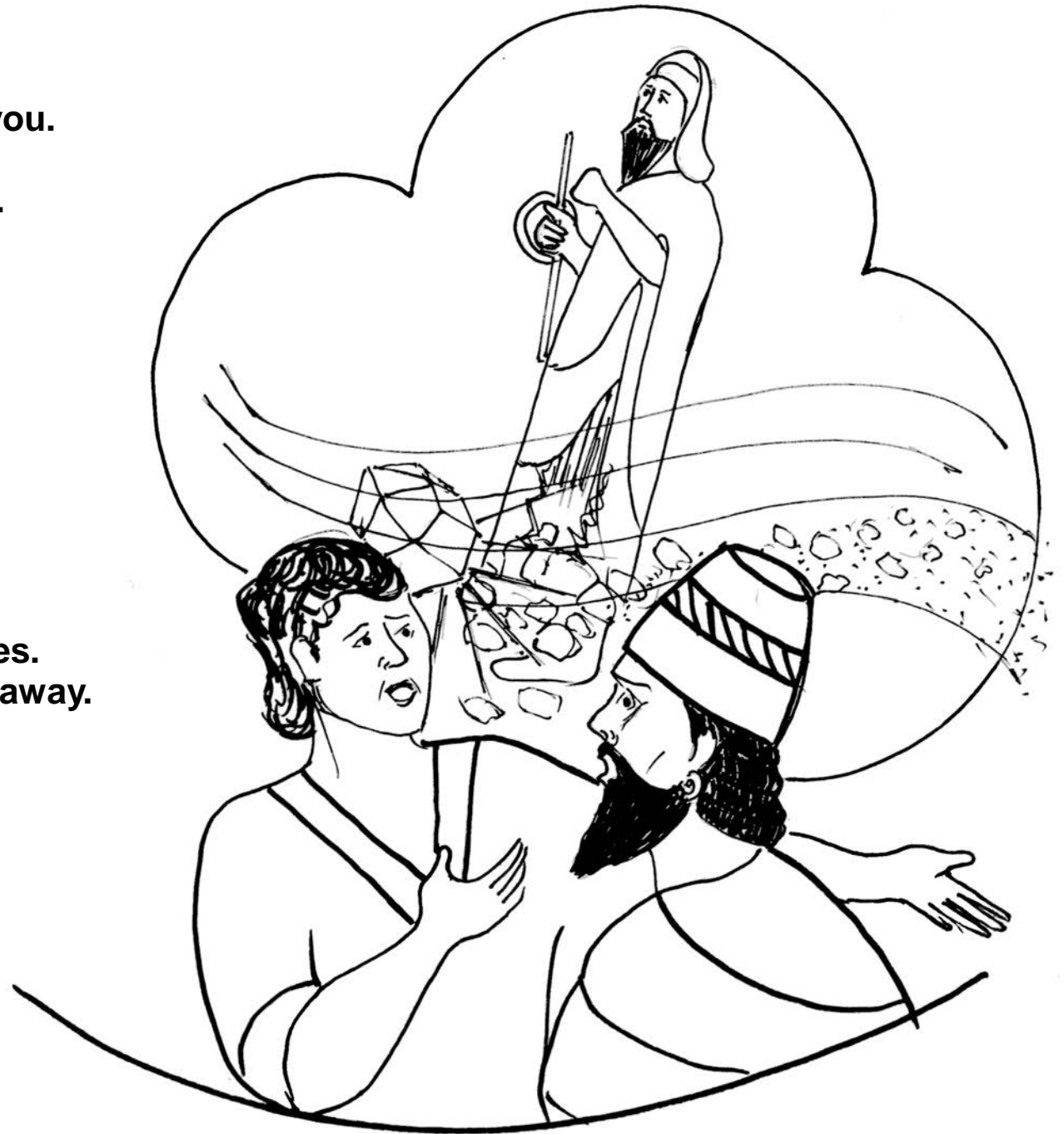
**'Can you tell me my dream?'
asked the king.**

**Daniel said,
'No one could tell you
your dream,
but there is a God in heaven
who knows all things.'**

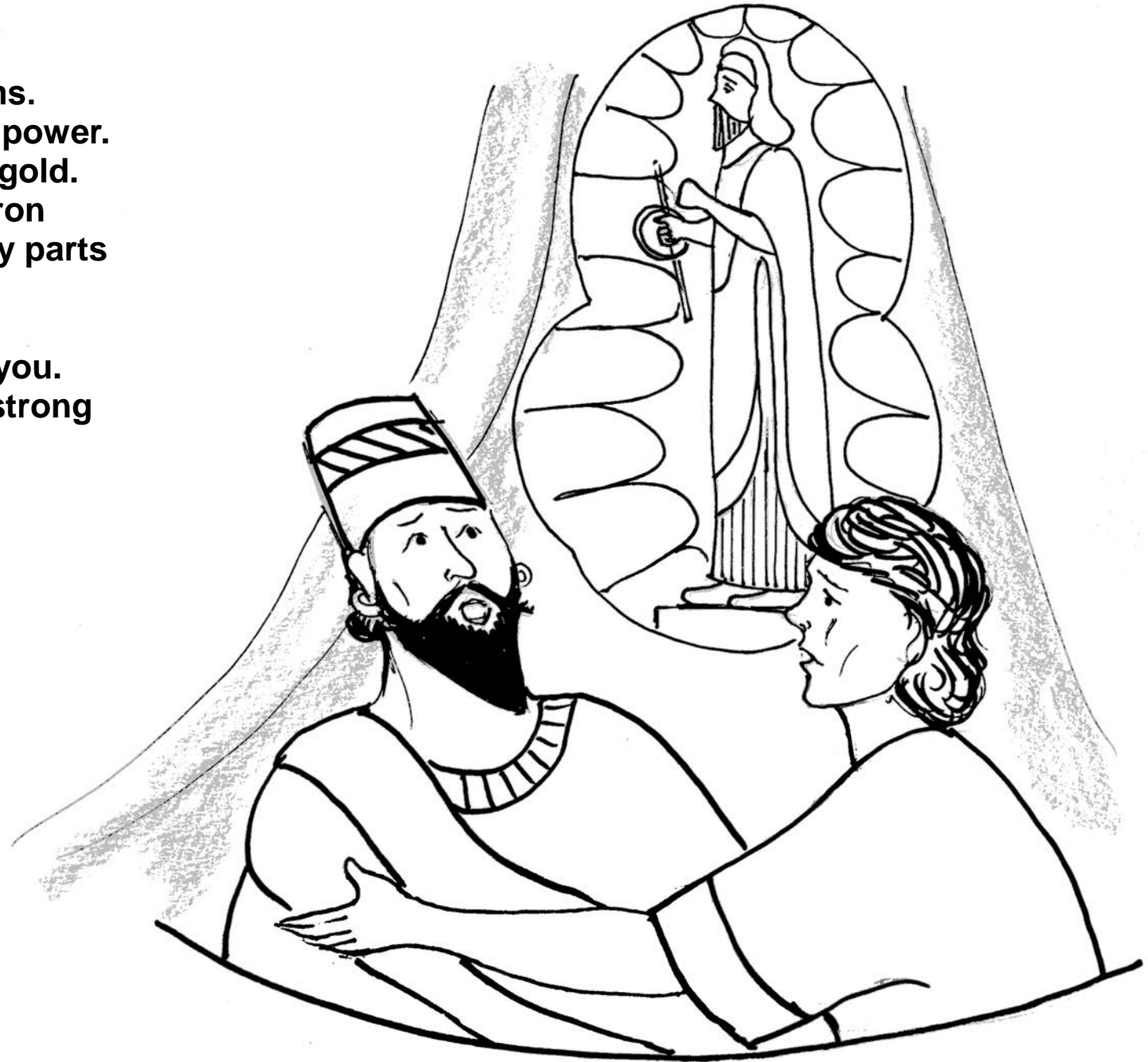


**'My king, in your dream
you saw a big statue.
It was huge and it frightened you.
The head was made of gold.
Its chest and arms were silver.
Its middle and thighs were
bronze.
Its legs were of iron
and its feet were
a mixture of iron and clay.'**

**'As you were looking
at the statue,
a stone from the mountain
came and hit its feet,
smashing the statue into pieces.
The wind came and blew it all away.
The stone that hit the statue
became a mountain
and filled the earth.
That was your dream.'**



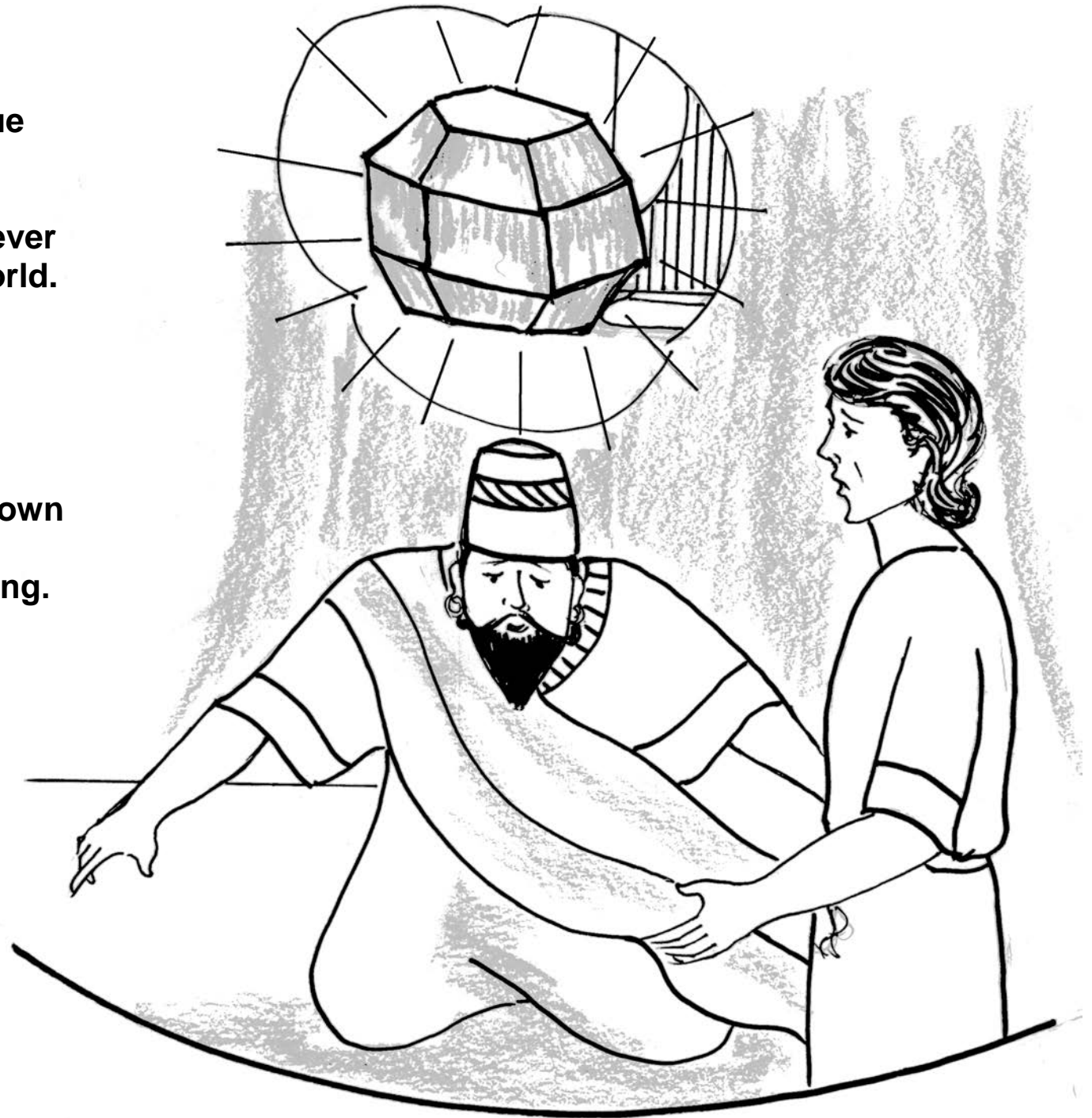
**'This is what it means.
God gave you great power.
You are the head of gold.
The silver, bronze, iron
and the iron and clay parts
of the statue
are other kingdoms
that will come after you.
They will not be as strong
as your kingdom.'**



**'The stone you saw
hitting the feet of the statue
is the kingdom
which God is setting up.
This kingdom will last forever
and it will fill the whole world.'**

**'That is the meaning
of your dream,
and it will come true.'**

**Nebuchadnezzar bowed down
before Daniel and said,
'Your God is over everything.
I know this is true.'**



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DANIEL'S FRIENDS IN THE BURNING FURNACE

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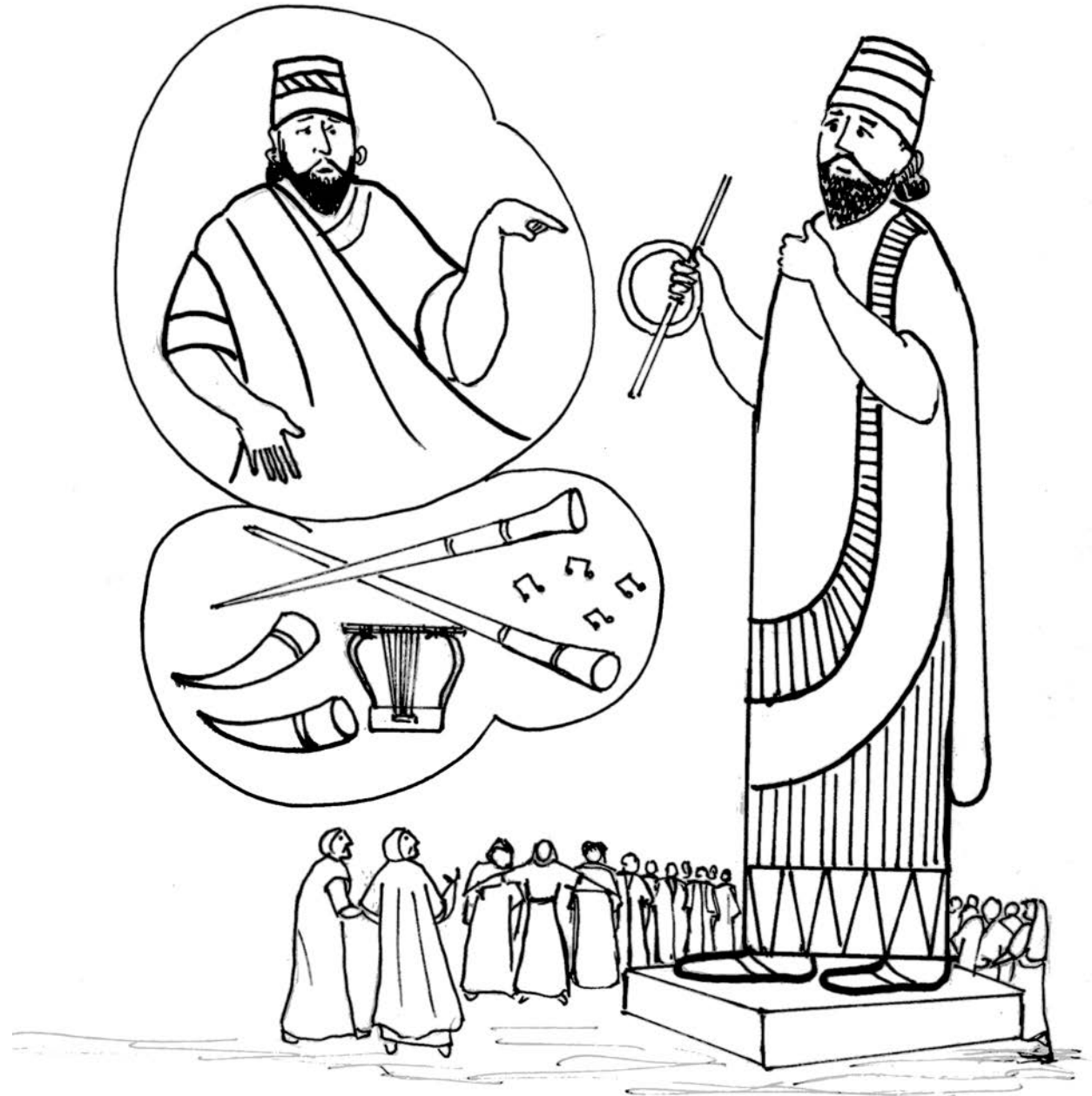
DANIEL 3:1-30

DANIEL'S FRIENDS IN THE BURNING FURNACE

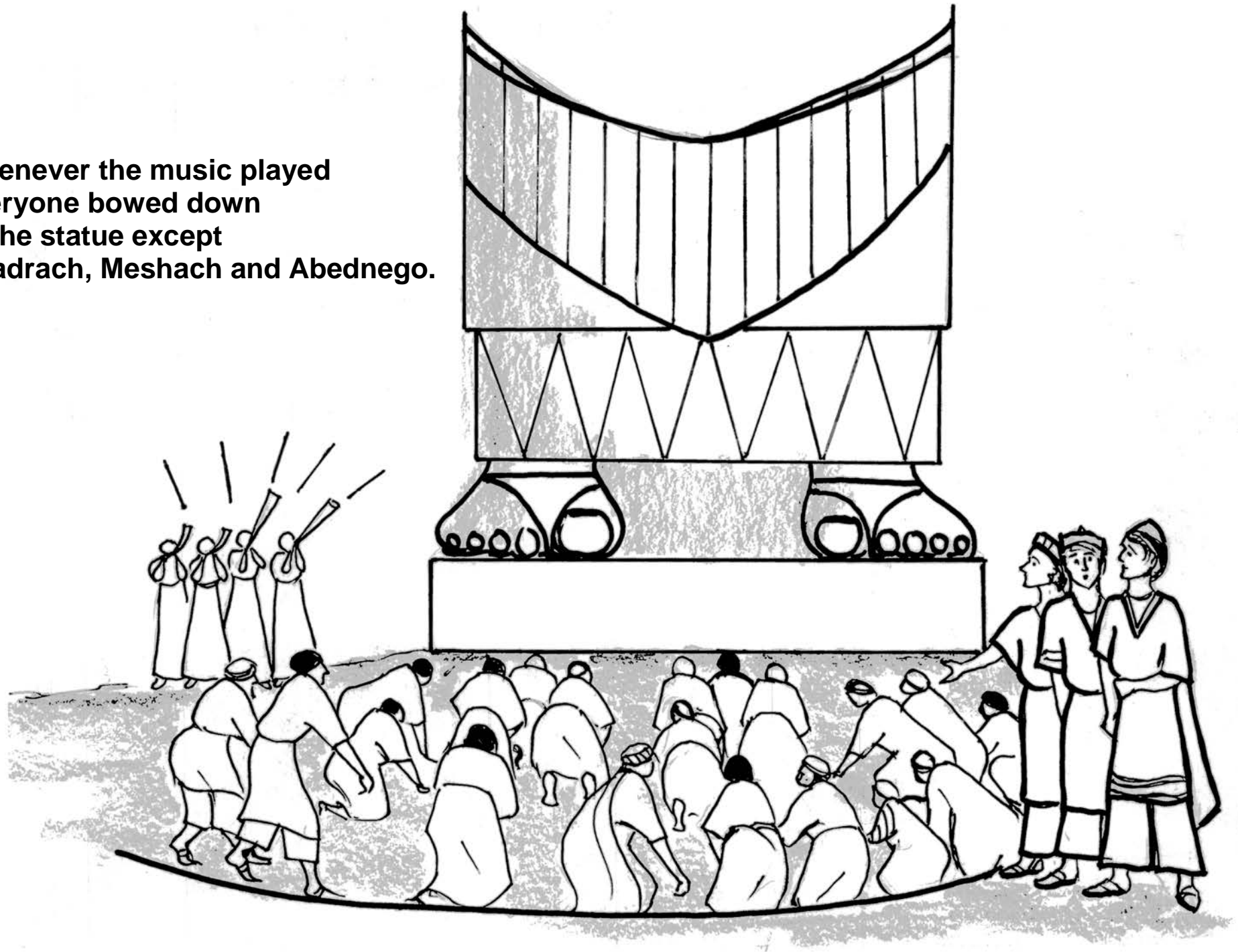
File no. 92

A huge gold statue was built for King Nebuchadnezzar.

**The king said,
'People of all nations,
music will play; horns, flutes,
zithers, harps, and pipes.
When you hear it
you must bow down
and worship the gold statue.
If you do not bow down,
you will be thrown
into a fiery furnace.'**



**Whenever the music played
everyone bowed down
to the statue except
Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.**



**There were some of the
Babylonians
who did not like God's people.
They went to the king and said,
'O king, live forever.
You told us to bow down
to your statue.**

**'Shadrach, Meshach and
Abednego,
the ones you made governors,
do not worship your gods
or bow down to your statue.'**

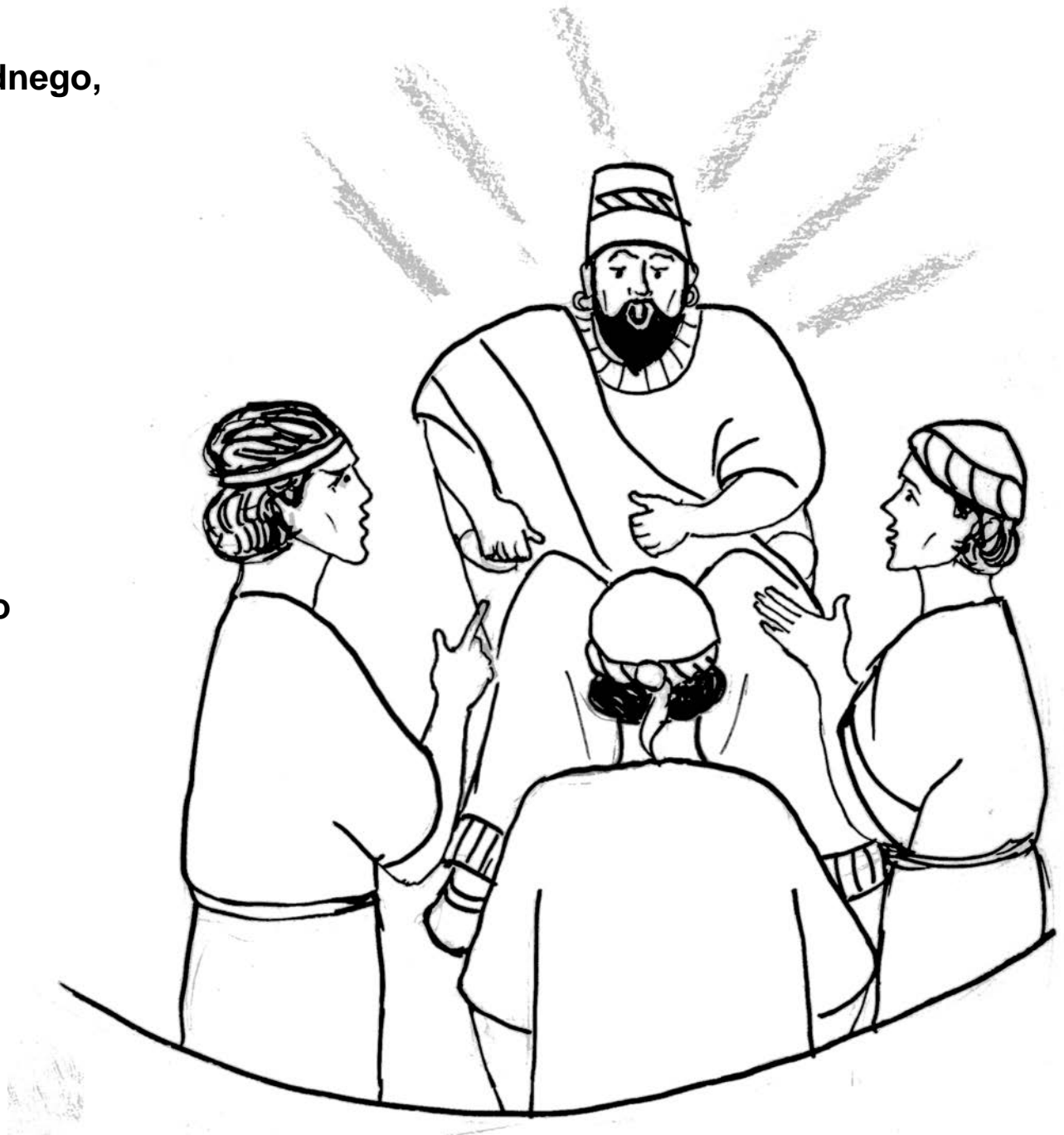
**Nebuchadnezzar was angry
and said,
'Bring these men to me.'**



**The king asked
Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego,
'Is it true that you
do not worship my gods
or my gold statue?'**

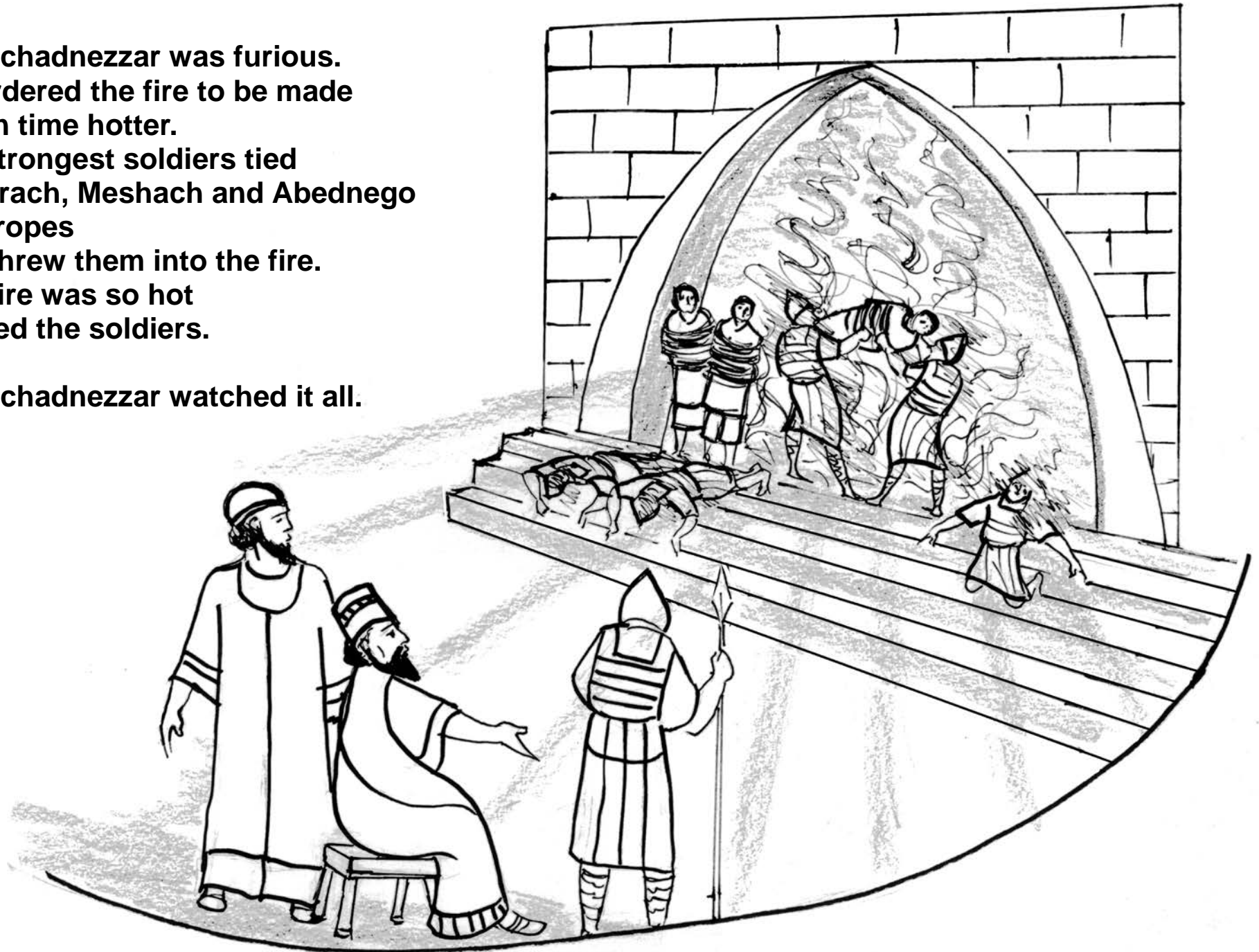
**'If you do not worship it
you will be thrown into the
fiery furnace.
No god can save you
from my power.'**

**Shadrach, Meshach
and Abednego answered,
'O king, you can throw us into
the fiery furnace.
The God we serve
is able to save us.
But if he does not save us
we want you to know
that we will not worship
your golden statue.'**



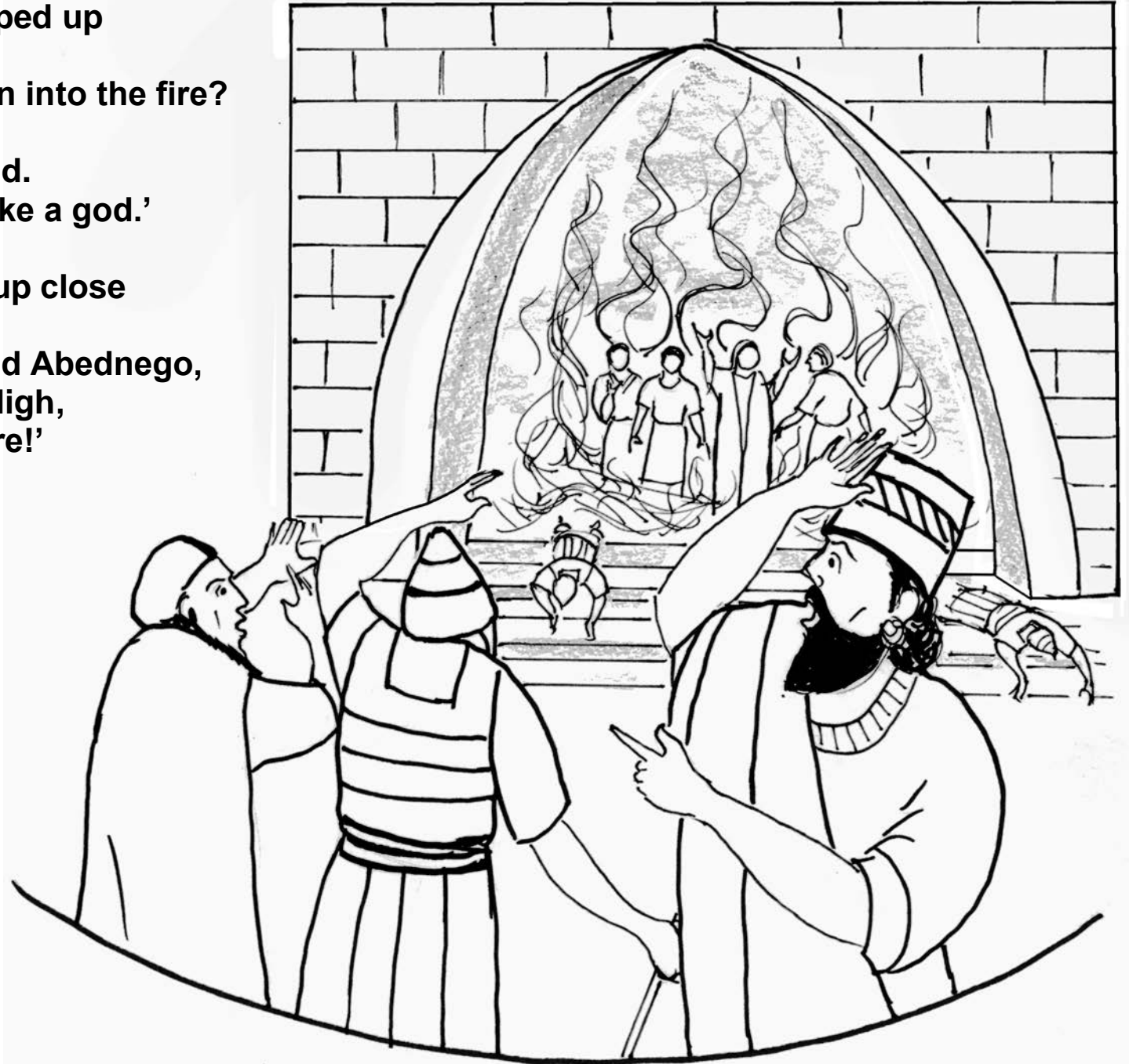
**Nebuchadnezzar was furious.
He ordered the fire to be made
seven time hotter.
His strongest soldiers tied
Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
with ropes
and threw them into the fire.
The fire was so hot
it killed the soldiers.**

Nebuchadnezzar watched it all.



**Suddenly, the king jumped up
and asked,
'Did we throw three men into the fire?
Look! I see four men.
They are walking around.
The fourth man looks like a god.'**

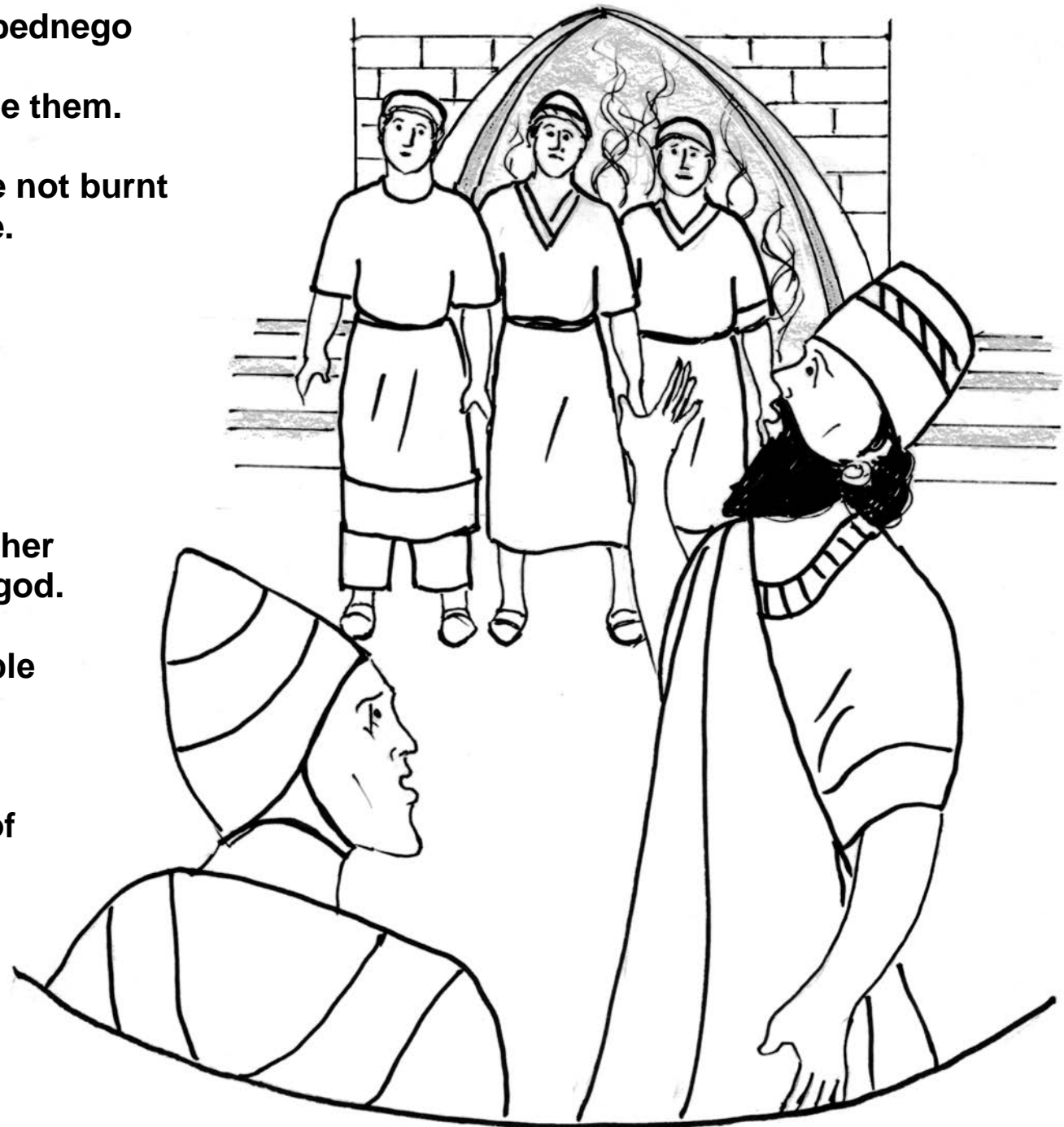
**Nebuchadnezzar went up close
and shouted,
'Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego,
servants of God Most High,
come out and come here!'**



**Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
walked out of the fire.
Everyone came close to see them.
The fire had not hurt them.
Their hair and clothes were not burnt
and did not smell of smoke.**

**Nebuchadnezzar said,
'Praise the God of
Shadrach, Meshach and
Abednego.
Their God sent an angel
to save them.
They were willing to die rather
than to worship any other god.**

**'Only God can rescue people
from trouble.
So, from now on,
no one is allowed to say
anything against the God of
Shadrach, Meshach
and Abednego.'**



**The king gave
Shadrach, Meshach
and Abednego
important jobs in his kingdom.**

**All this time
God was showing everyone
who was in charge of the
whole earth.**



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A PROUD TREE CUT DOWN

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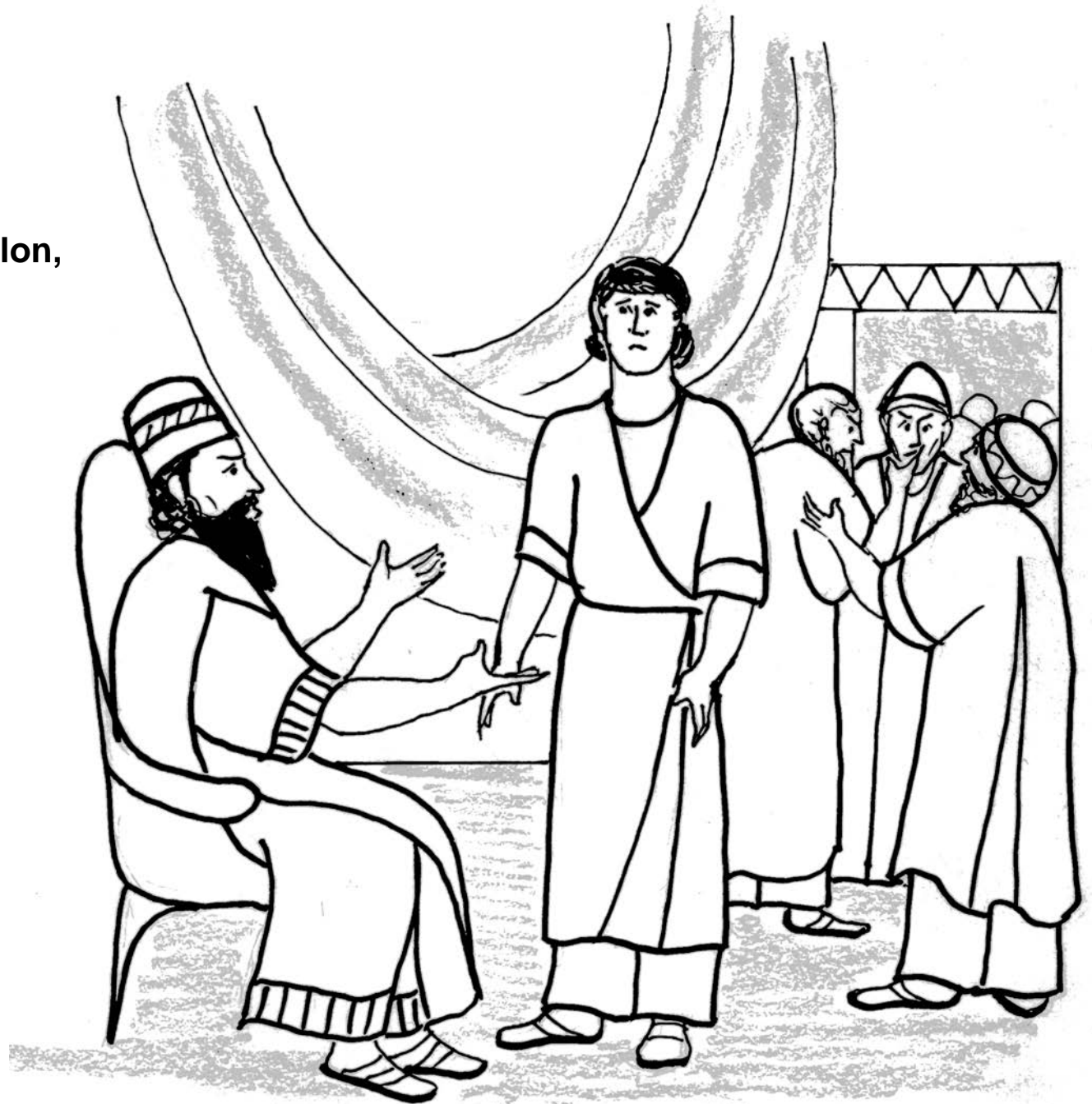
DANIEL 4:1-37
A PROUD TREE CUT DOWN
File no. 93

**Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon,
had a dream.
It frightened him.**

**‘Tell me the meaning of
my dream,’
he demanded of his wise men.**

But they could not.

Then Daniel came to the king.



**Nebuchadnezzar said to him,
'God's Holy Spirit is in you.
This is my dream.
You tell me what it means:**

**'I saw a very big tree
which touched the sky.
You could see it
from anywhere on earth.**

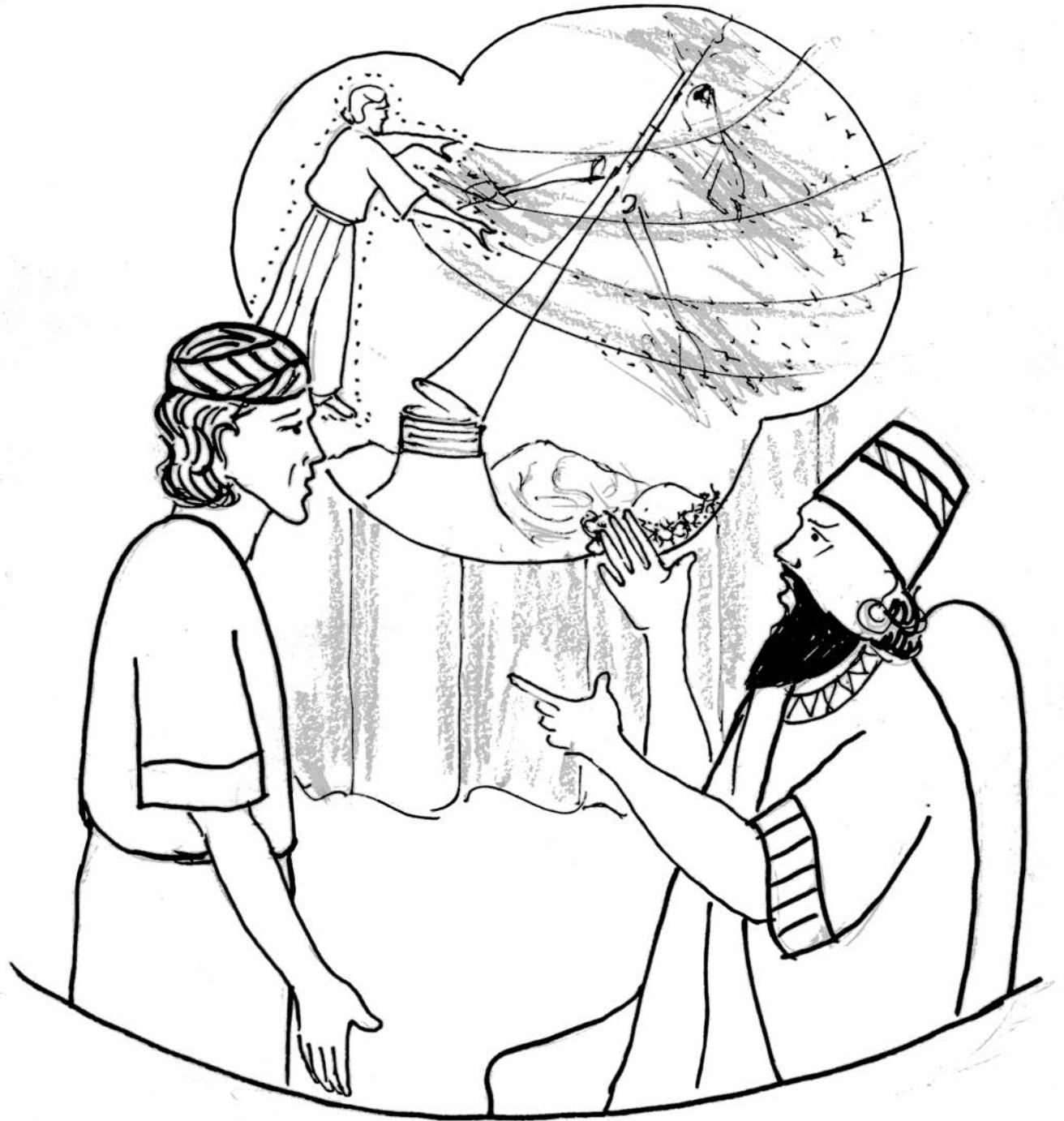
**'It looked beautiful
and there was plenty of fruit
for everyone.
Under the tree,
wild animals sheltered and
birds lived in its branches.**



**'I was looking at this
when an angel called out,
"Cut down the tree,
cut off its branches,
scatter the fruit and leaves.
Let the animals
and birds also scatter.
Leave the stump
in the ground
and put a metal band
around it.**

**'“Let the man live among
the grass for seven years
like the animals.
Everyone will know
that God is over everything.”**

'This is the end of my dream.'



**Daniel was troubled
and said to the king,
'I wish the dream was not for you.'**

**'The tree you saw in your
dream is you.'**

**'You have become
very great and powerful.'**

**'Then you heard the angel say,
"Cut down the tree."'**

**'This means that for seven years
you will be made to live
among the wild animals.
You will learn
that God Almighty
is the great Ruler over
all the earth.'**

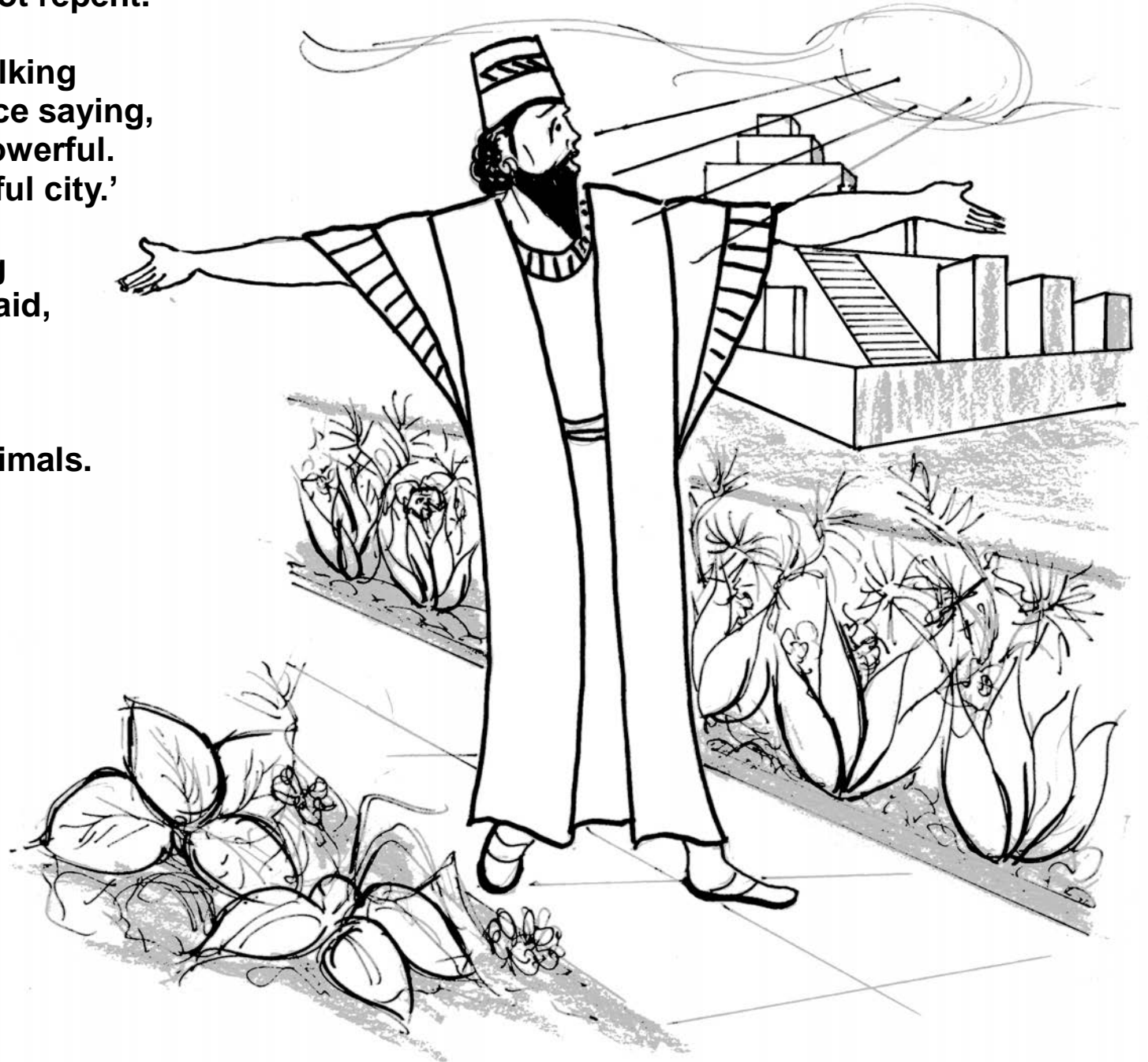
**'Stop sinning.
Ask God to forgive you
and do what is right
so that this will not happen
to you.'**



Nebuchadnezzar did not repent.

**A year later he was walking
on the roof of his palace saying,
'I am very great and powerful.
I have built this beautiful city.'**

**While he was speaking
a Voice from heaven said,
'Your kingly power
has been taken away.
You will be sent away
to live with the wild animals.
Seven years will go by
until you learn
that God Almighty
is the great Ruler
over all the earth.'**

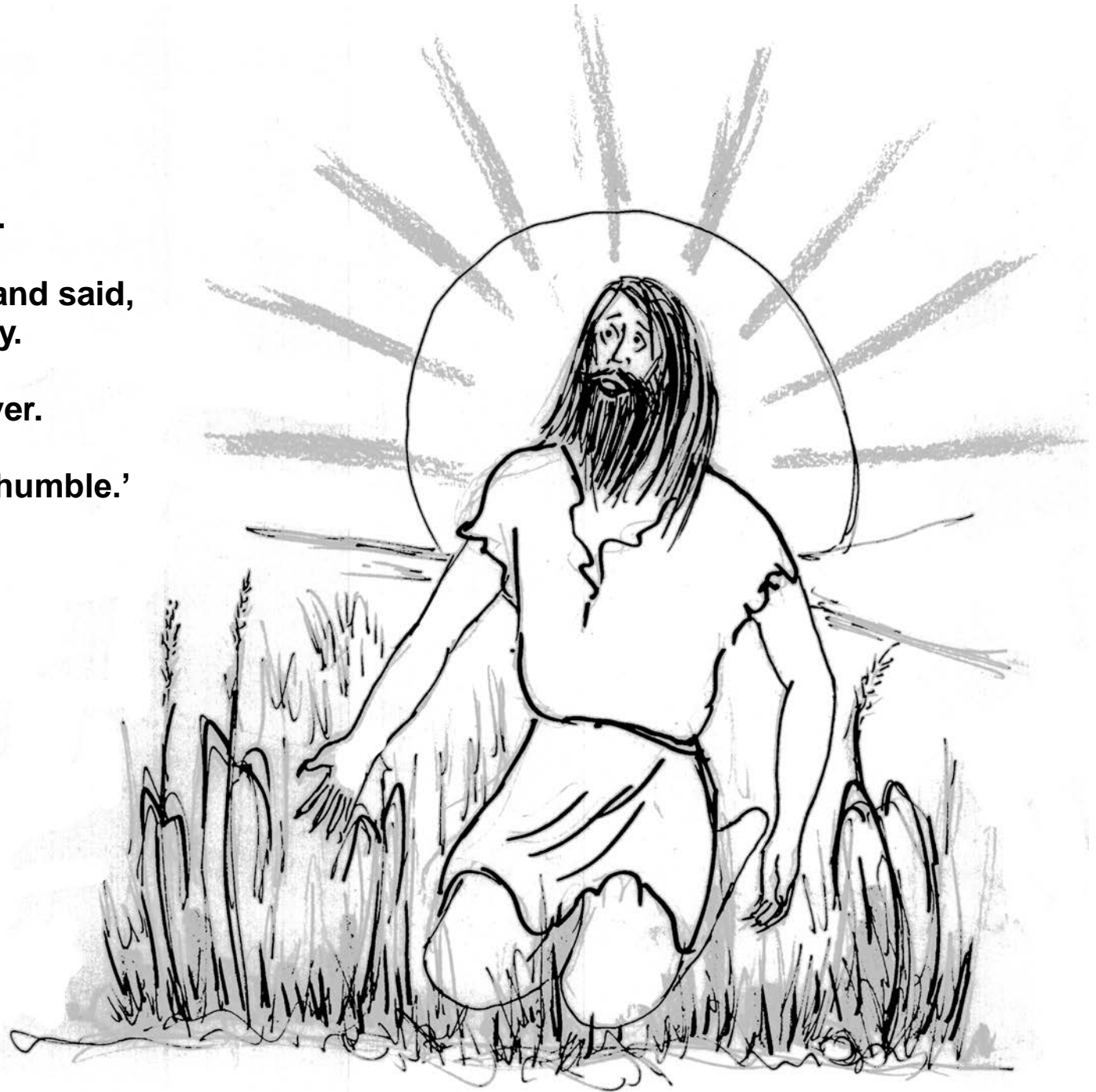


**Immediately something happened
to the king's mind.
He was sent away
and he lived like the animals.**



**Seven years later
Nebuchadnezzar's mind
was made right again.
He knew God had done this.**

**He looked towards heaven and said,
'Give praise to God Almighty.
He alone is King
and His kingdom lasts forever.
He is always right and fair.
He can make proud people humble.'**



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BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST

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DANIEL 5:1-31
BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST
File no. 94

King Belshazzar
was feasting with his guests,
and drinking to their gods
made of gold, silver, bronze,
iron, wood and stone.
He was using the gold cups
taken from God's temple
in Jerusalem.



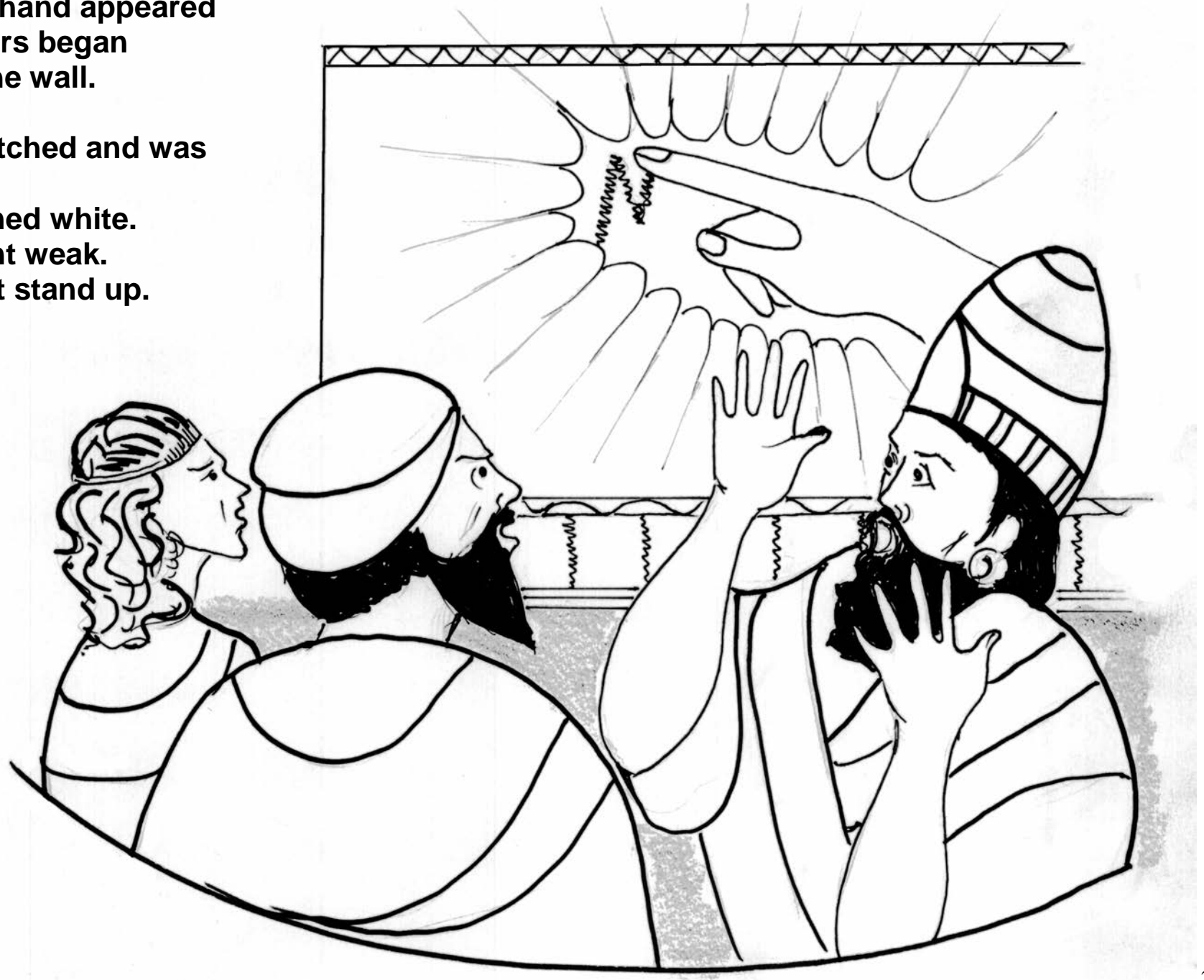
**Suddenly, a hand appeared
and its fingers began
writing on the wall.**

**The king watched and was
scared.**

His face turned white.

His legs went weak.

He could not stand up.



**Belshazzar called out,
'Bring in the wise men.
Tell me what the writing means.
I will give royal clothes to the person
who can do this and
make him third highest ruler
in my kingdom.'**

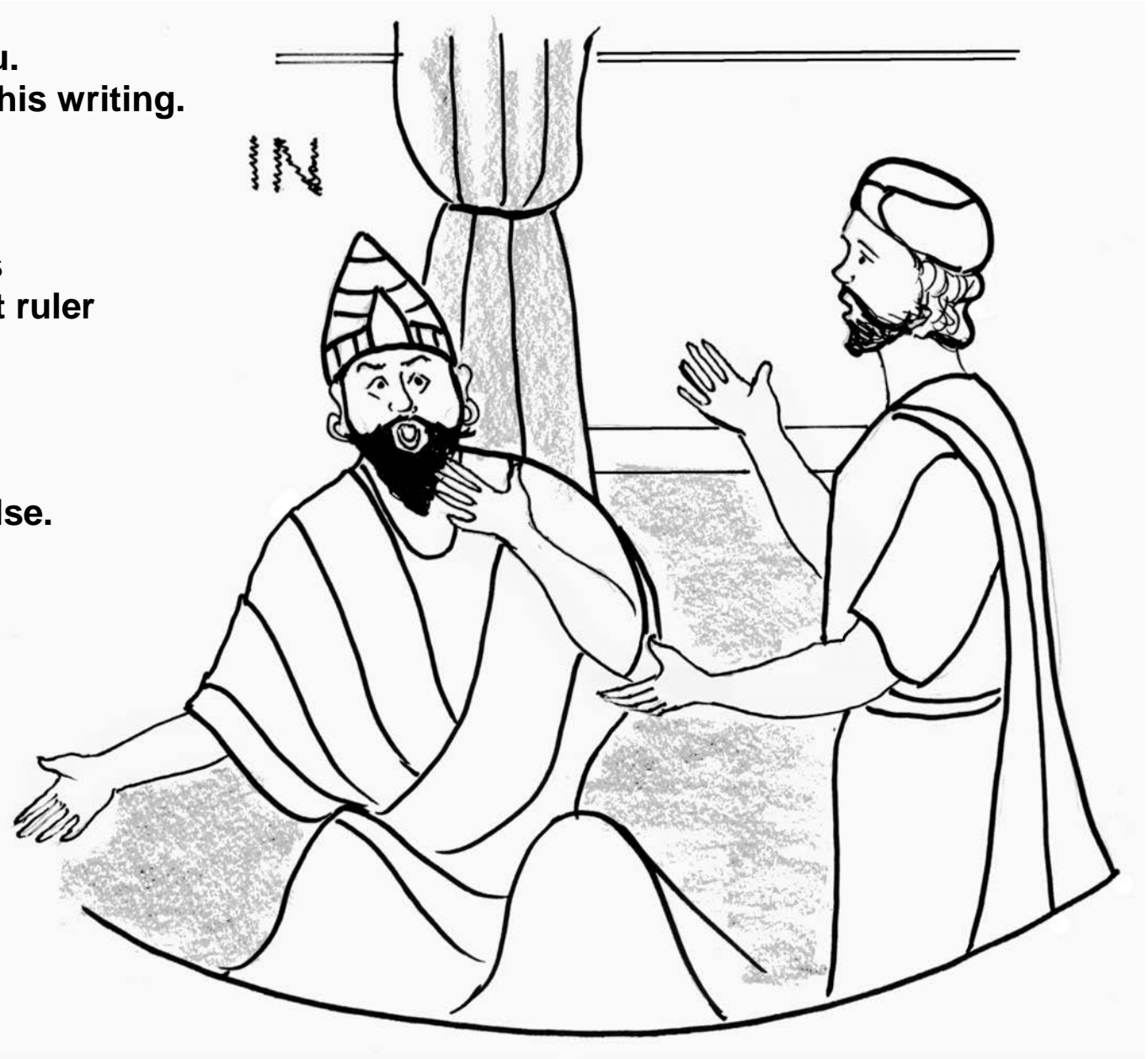
**The wise men looked at the writing.
They could not read it.
No one knew what to do.**

**Then the king's mother said,
'My king, live forever!
Do not be afraid!
There is a man
who has the spirit
of the holy gods in him.
When your father,
Nebuchadnezzar, was king,
he interpreted
your father's dreams.
This man is Daniel.
He will tell you
what the writing on the wall means.'**



**When Daniel was brought in
the king said to him,
'I have heard that you have
the spirit of the gods in you.
My wise men cannot read this writing.
You read it to me.
Tell me what it means.
If you can,
I will give you royal clothes
and make you third highest ruler
in my kingdom.'**

**Daniel answered,
'You can keep your gifts
or give them to someone else.
I will read the writing
on the wall for you
and explain what it means.'**



**'O king,
God Almighty made your father
a great king.
But he became proud.
God took away his power
and made him live with animals
until he learned that
God Almighty is over everything.**

**'You have not taken notice
of what happened to your father.
Instead, you have turned against
God Almighty.
You used the gold cups from
God's temple to praise your gods.
You did not honour God
who has power over everything
you do.
God has sent this hand
to write on the wall.**



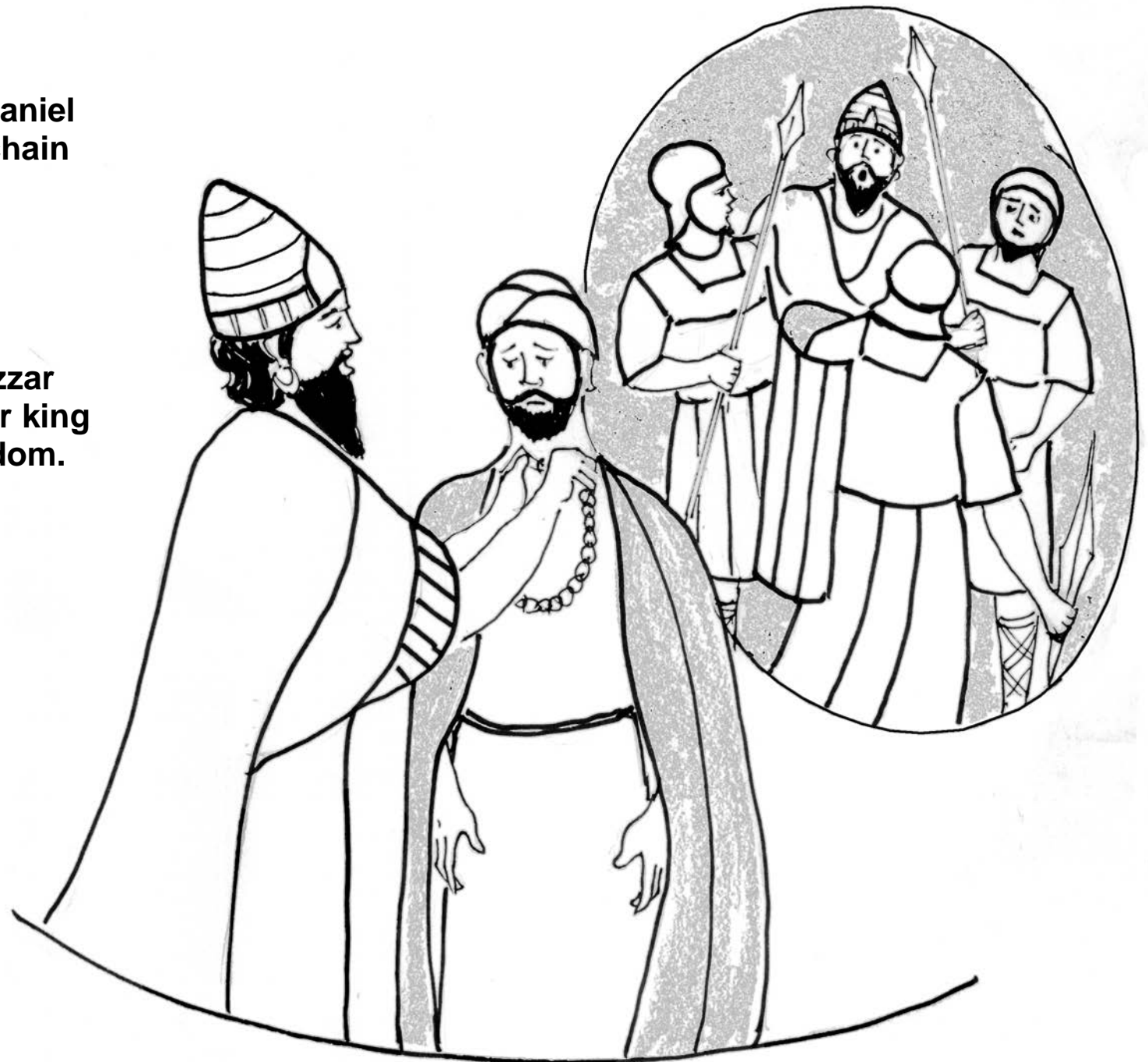
**‘The words you see, are:
“Mene, mene, tekel, parsin.”**

**‘They mean:
God is bringing your kingdom
to an end.
You have been weighed
on the scales
and have not passed the test.
Your kingdom is being divided
and given
to the Medes and the Persians.’**



Belshazzar dressed Daniel in purple, put a gold chain around his neck and made him the third highest ruler in his kingdom.

But that night Belshazzar was killed and another king took over all his kingdom.



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DANIEL WITH THE LIONS

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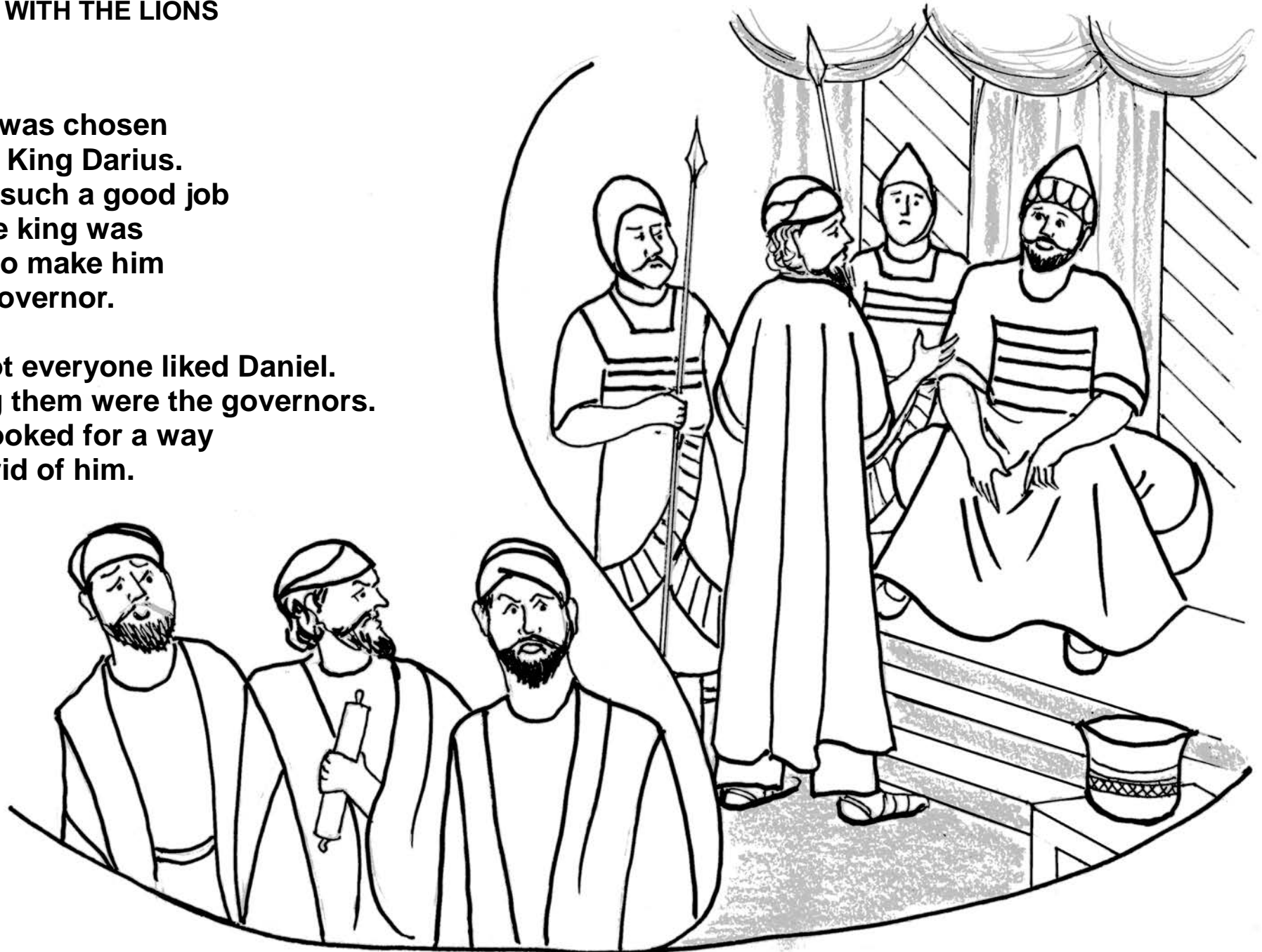
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DANIEL 6:1-27
DANIEL WITH THE LIONS
File no. 95

**Daniel was chosen
to help King Darius.
He did such a good job
that the king was
going to make him
chief governor.**

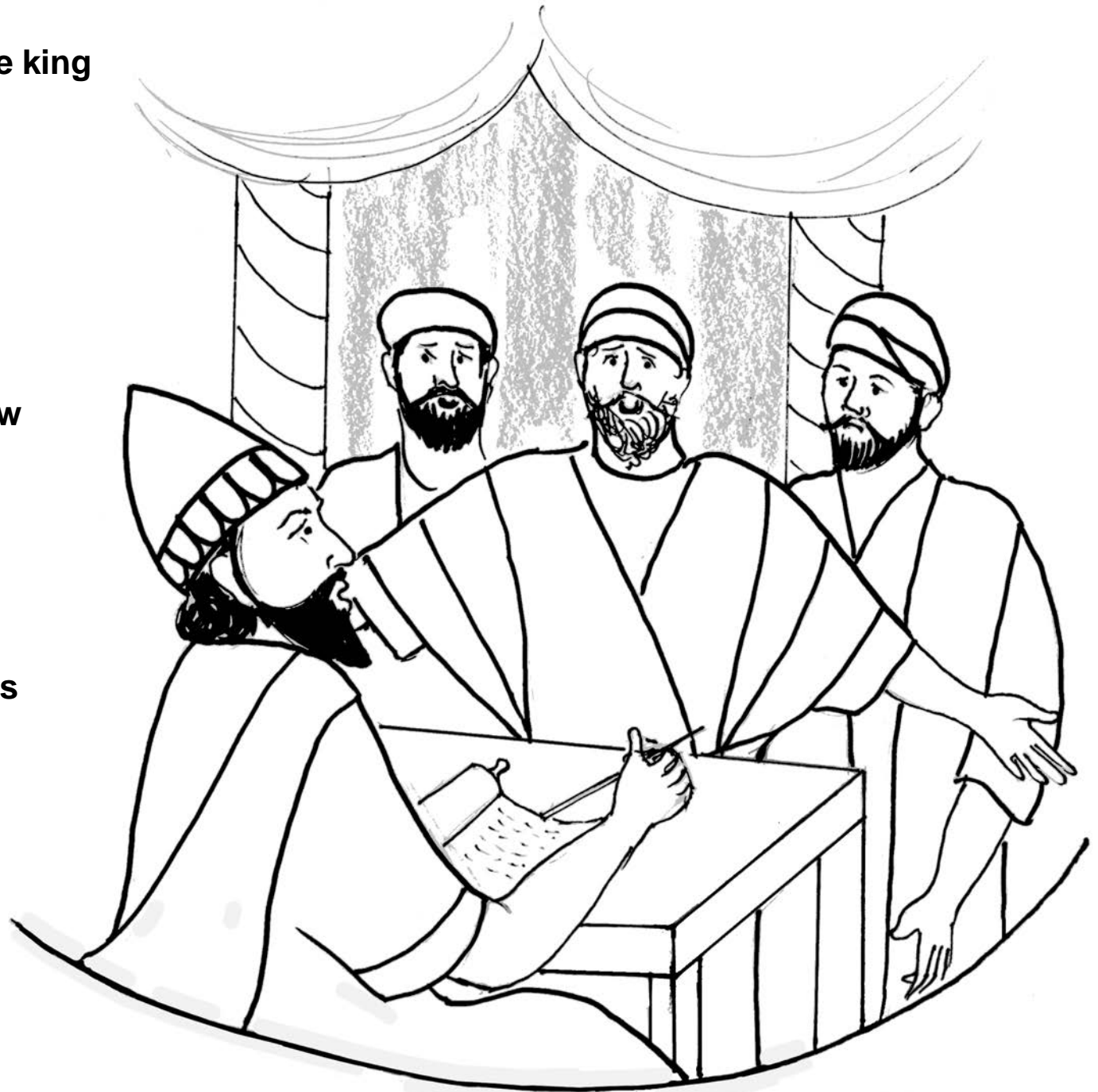
**But, not everyone liked Daniel.
Among them were the governors.
They looked for a way
to get rid of him.**



The governors went to the king
and said,
'O king, live forever.
We all think you
should make a new law:
"For the next thirty days
no one is to pray
to any other god
or man but you.
Whoever disobeys this law
will be thrown into
the lions' den."

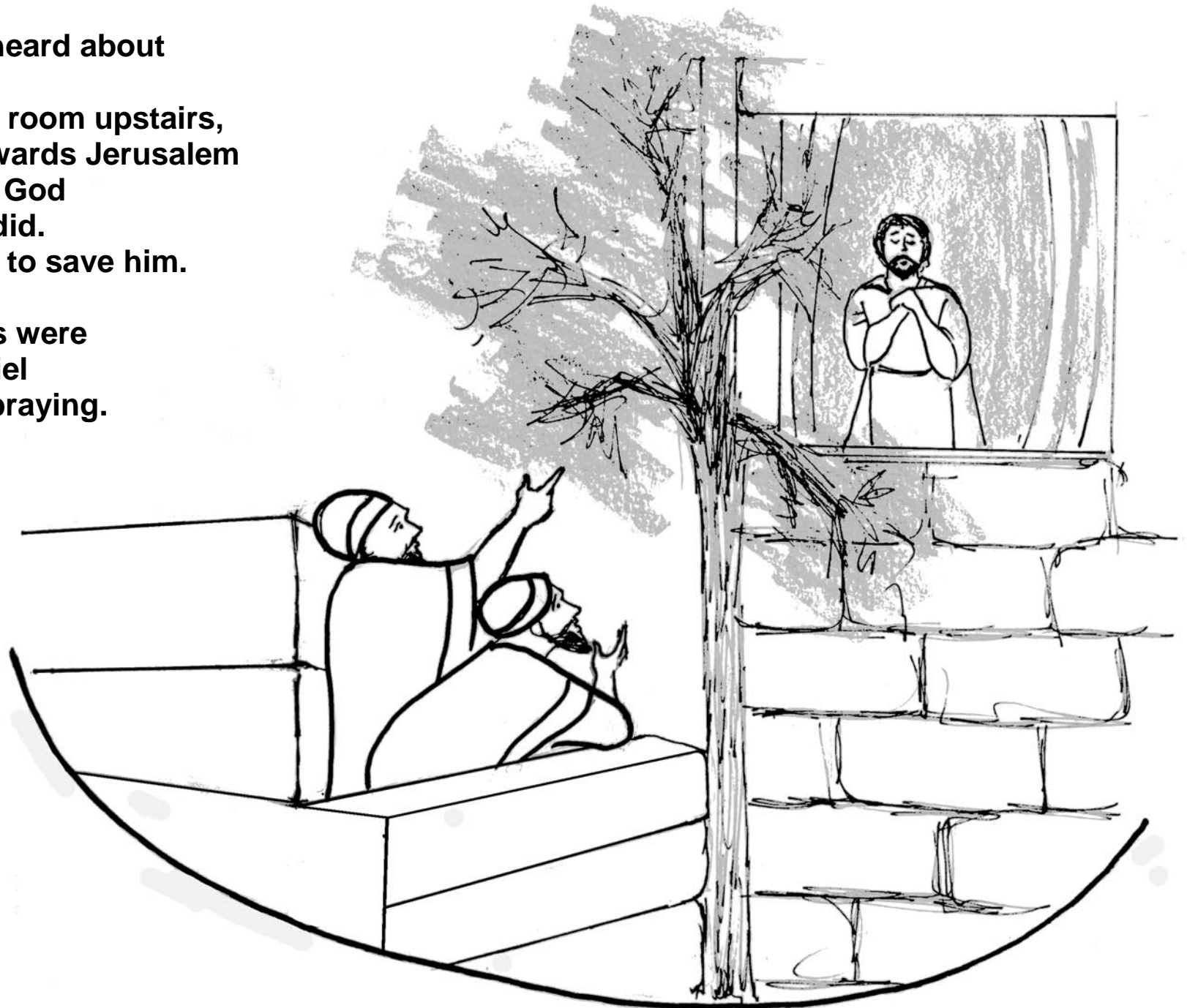
'Write it down and sign it
so it cannot be changed.'

King Darius thought it was
a good idea
and signed the new law.



**When Daniel heard about
the new law,
he went to his room upstairs,
looked out towards Jerusalem
and prayed to God
as he always did.
He asked God to save him.**

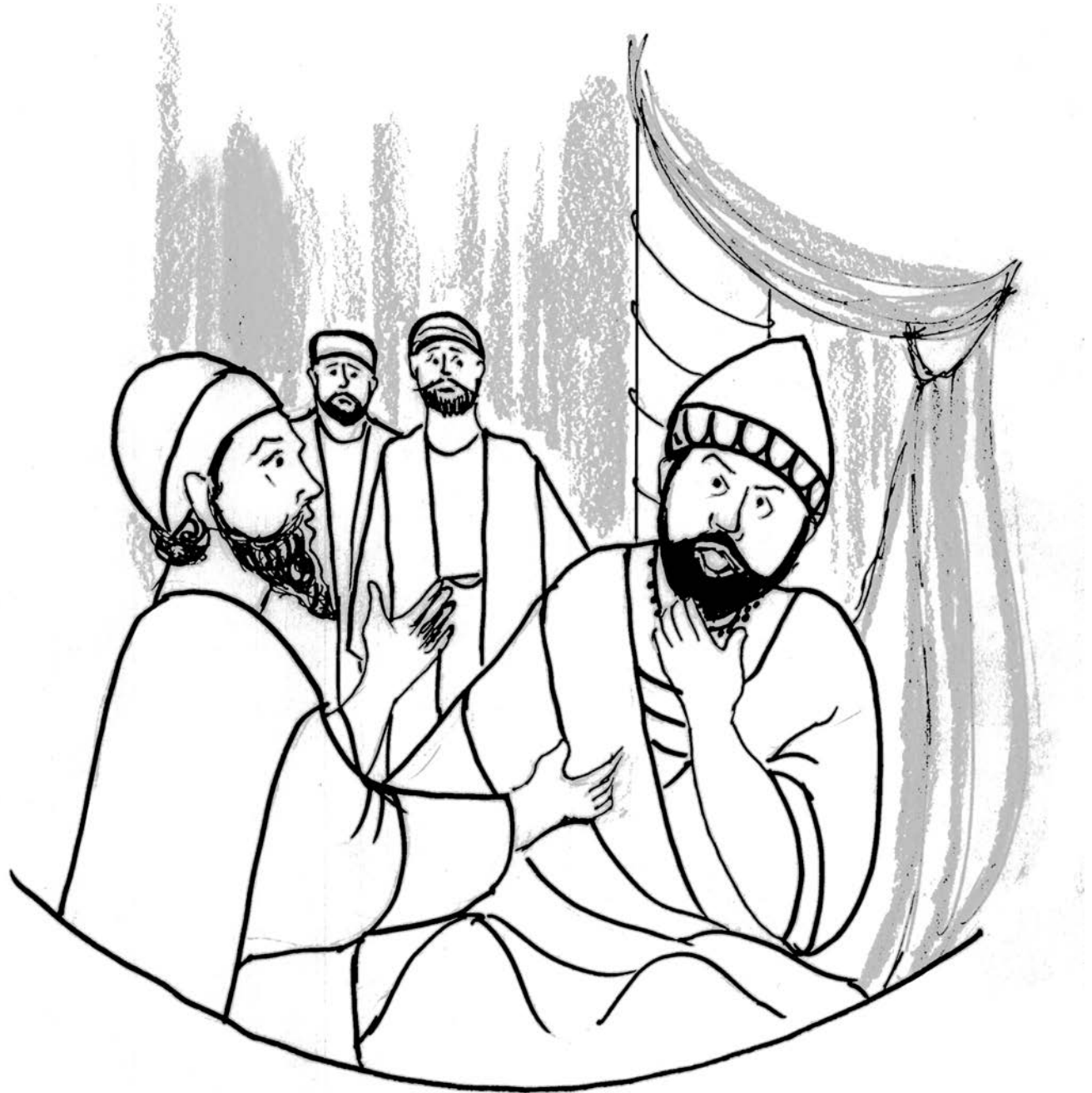
**The governors were
watching Daniel
and saw him praying.**



**Straight away, they went to the king and asked,
'Did you write a law saying,
"For the next thirty days
no one is to pray
to any other god
but to you, O king,
and that whoever disobeys
this law
will be thrown into the
lions' den?"'**

**'Yes,' answered the king,
'I wrote that law
and it cannot be changed.'**

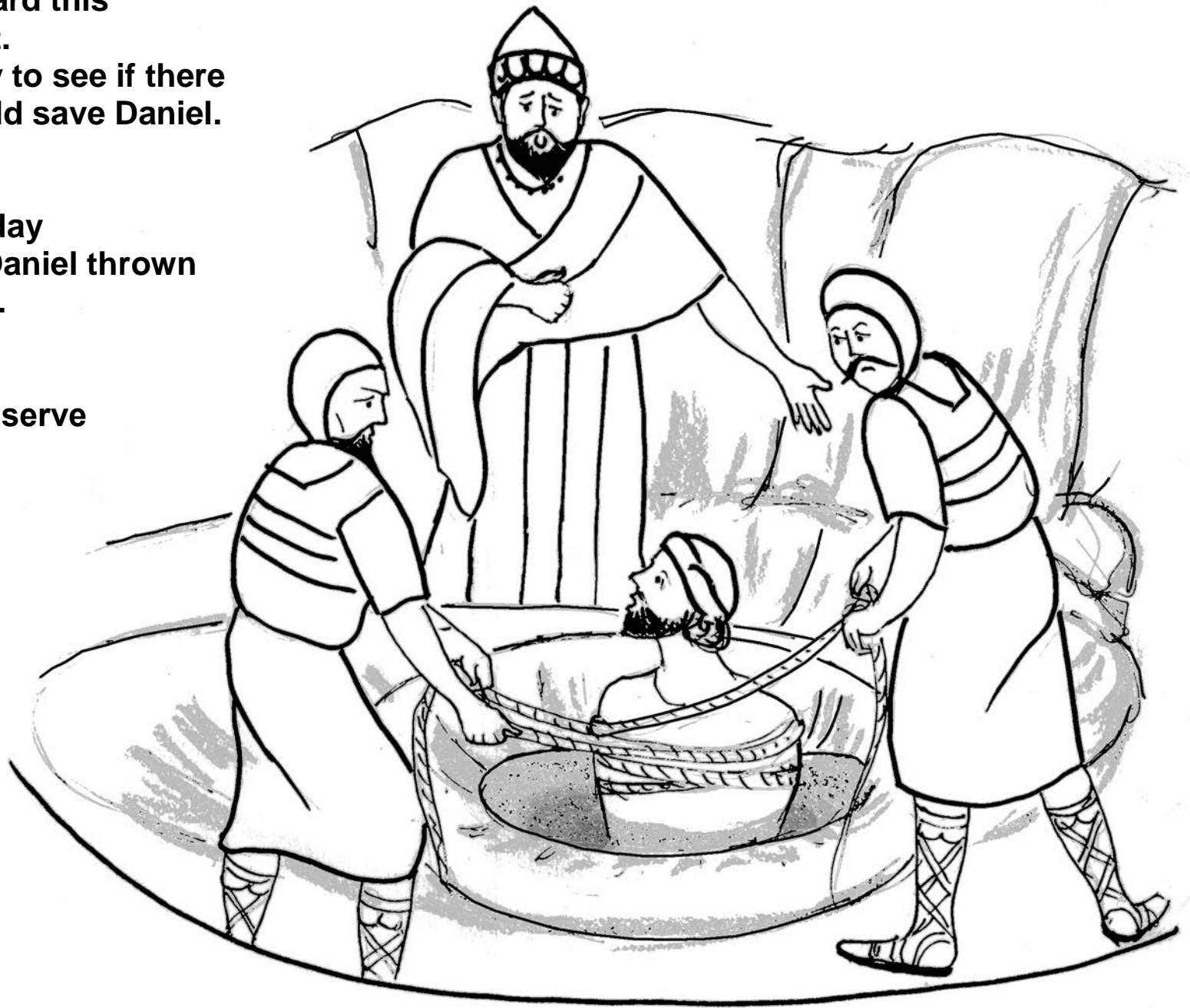
**The governors said,
'Daniel, one of the captives,
prays to his God three times
a day.
He takes no notice of your law.'**



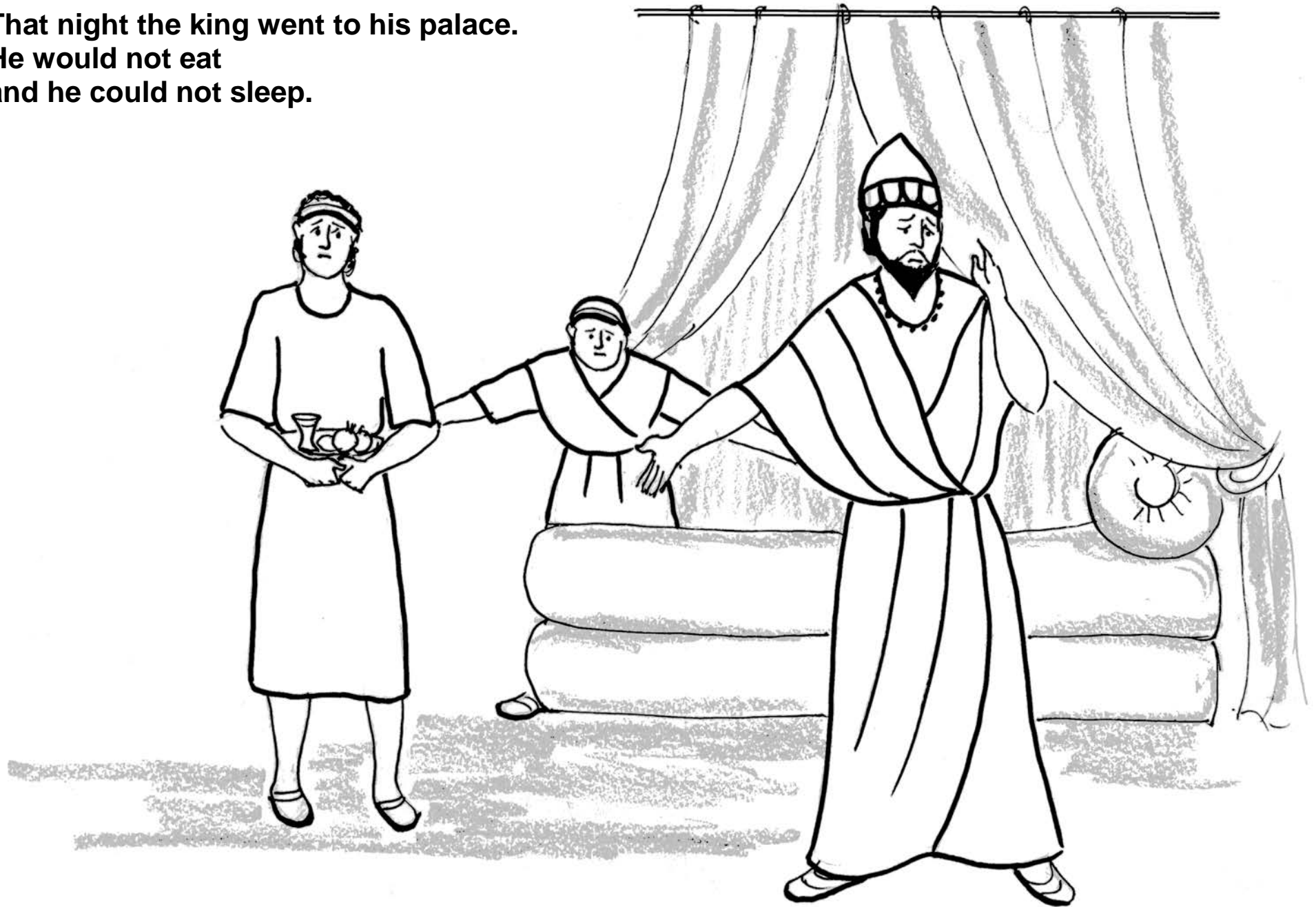
**When the king heard this
he was very upset.
He thought all day to see if there
was a way he could save Daniel.
But he could not.**

**At the end of the day
King Darius had Daniel thrown
into the lions' den.**

**He said to Daniel,
'May the God you serve
save you!'**

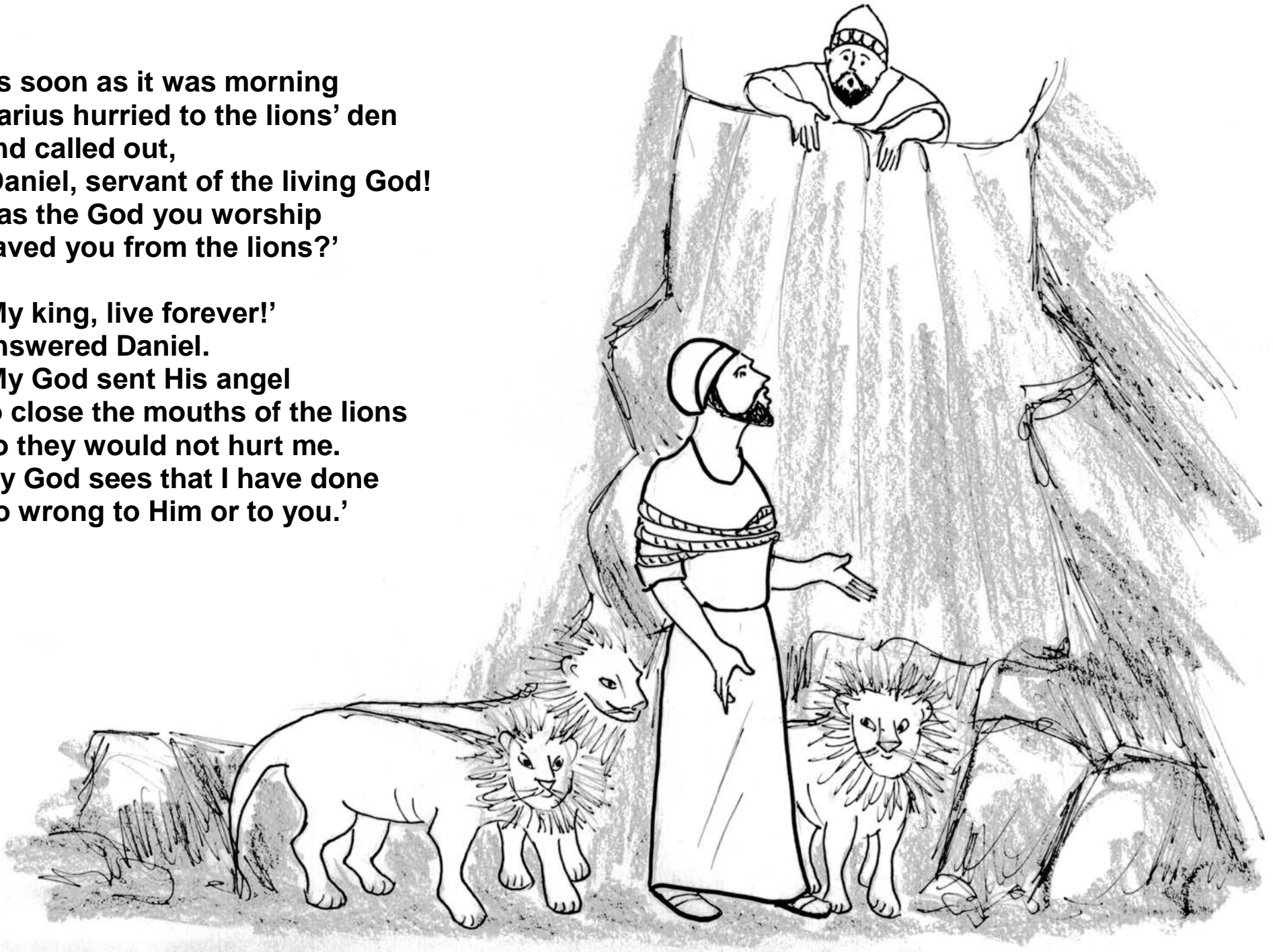


**That night the king went to his palace.
He would not eat
and he could not sleep.**



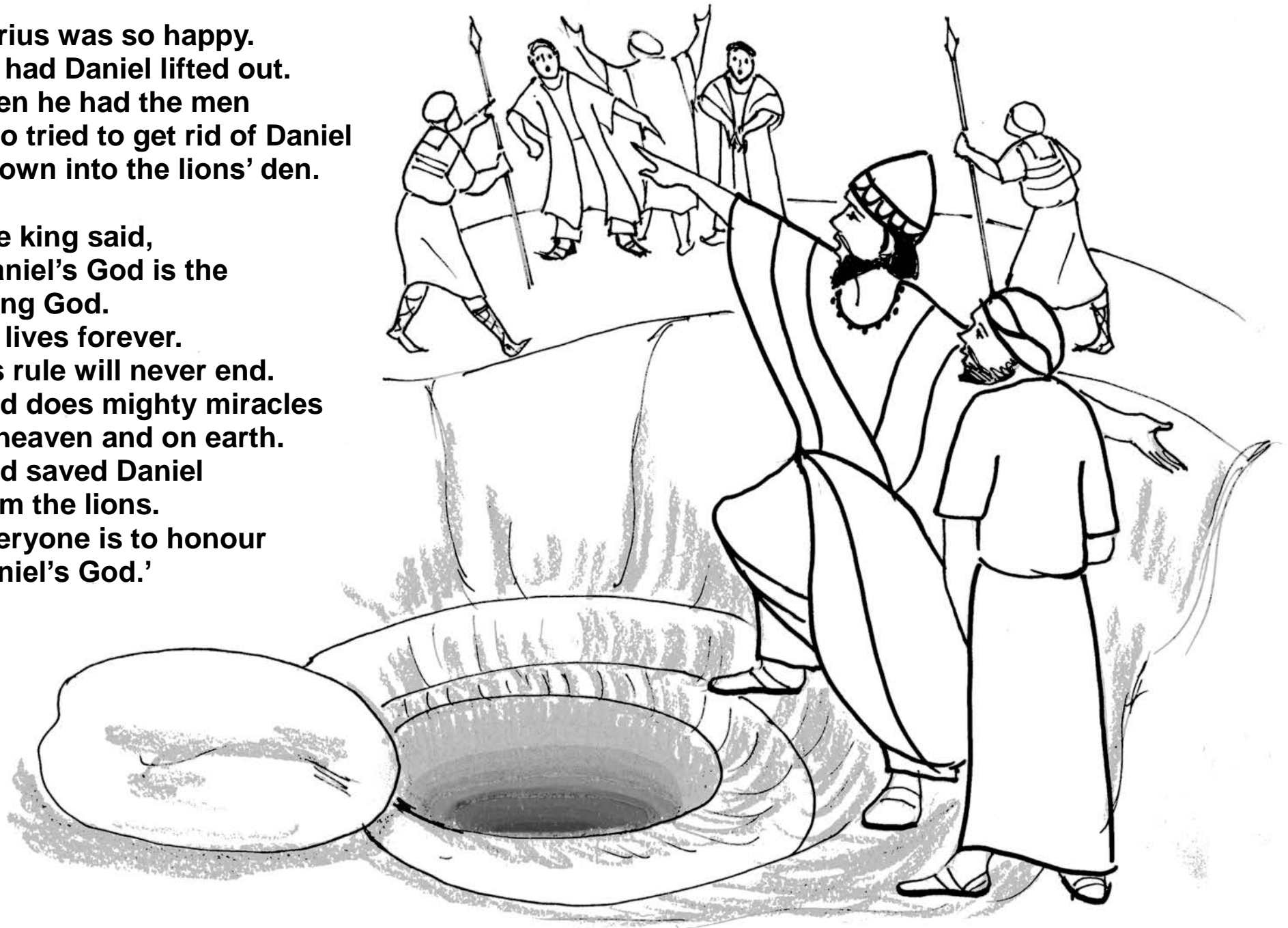
**As soon as it was morning
Darius hurried to the lions' den
and called out,
'Daniel, servant of the living God!
Has the God you worship
saved you from the lions?'**

**'My king, live forever!'
answered Daniel.
'My God sent His angel
to close the mouths of the lions
so they would not hurt me.
My God sees that I have done
no wrong to Him or to you.'**



Darius was so happy.
He had Daniel lifted out.
Then he had the men
who tried to get rid of Daniel
thrown into the lions' den.

The king said,
'Daniel's God is the
living God.
He lives forever.
His rule will never end.
God does mighty miracles
in heaven and on earth.
God saved Daniel
from the lions.
Everyone is to honour
Daniel's God.'



Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

***THE JEWS ARE SET FREE /
STARTING TO BUILD THE TEMPLE***

by

Chris Thorpe

& people from Coromandel Baptist Church

Illustrated by Kay Kammermann

Website: www.corobaptist.org.au

*The following pages may be copied
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EZRA 1:1–11; 3:1–4:5; chs 5 & 6

Isaiah 44:28; 45:1–5, 13; Ezra 2:1, 2, 64–70; 4:24; Haggai 1:1–15

**THE JEWS ARE SET FREE /
STARTING TO BUILD THE TEMPLE**

File no. 96

**God's people had to live
in Babylon for a long time.**

**Then one day King Cyrus said,
'The Lord God of heaven
has made me king over
all the lands.
He has told me
to let you go home
and build a temple
in Jerusalem.
May God be with you.'**

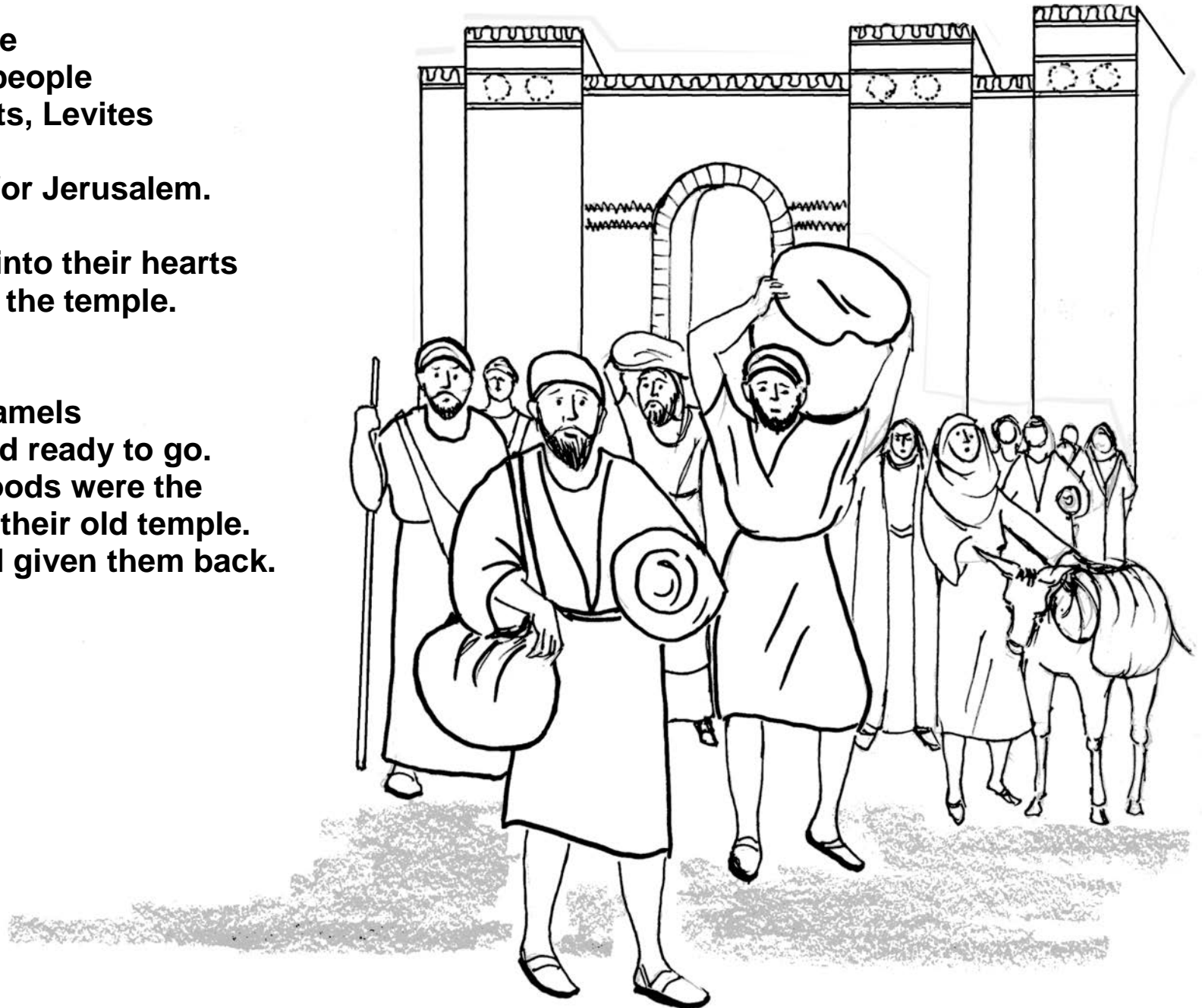
**'Those people
who do not want to go back
can help by giving things like
silver, gold, animals, goods
and offerings for the temple.'**



**Soon there were
fifty thousand people
including priests, Levites
and servants
ready to leave for Jerusalem.**

**God had put it into their hearts
to go and build the temple.**

**Their horses,
donkeys and camels
were loaded and ready to go.
Among their goods were the
treasures from their old temple.
King Cyrus had given them back.**

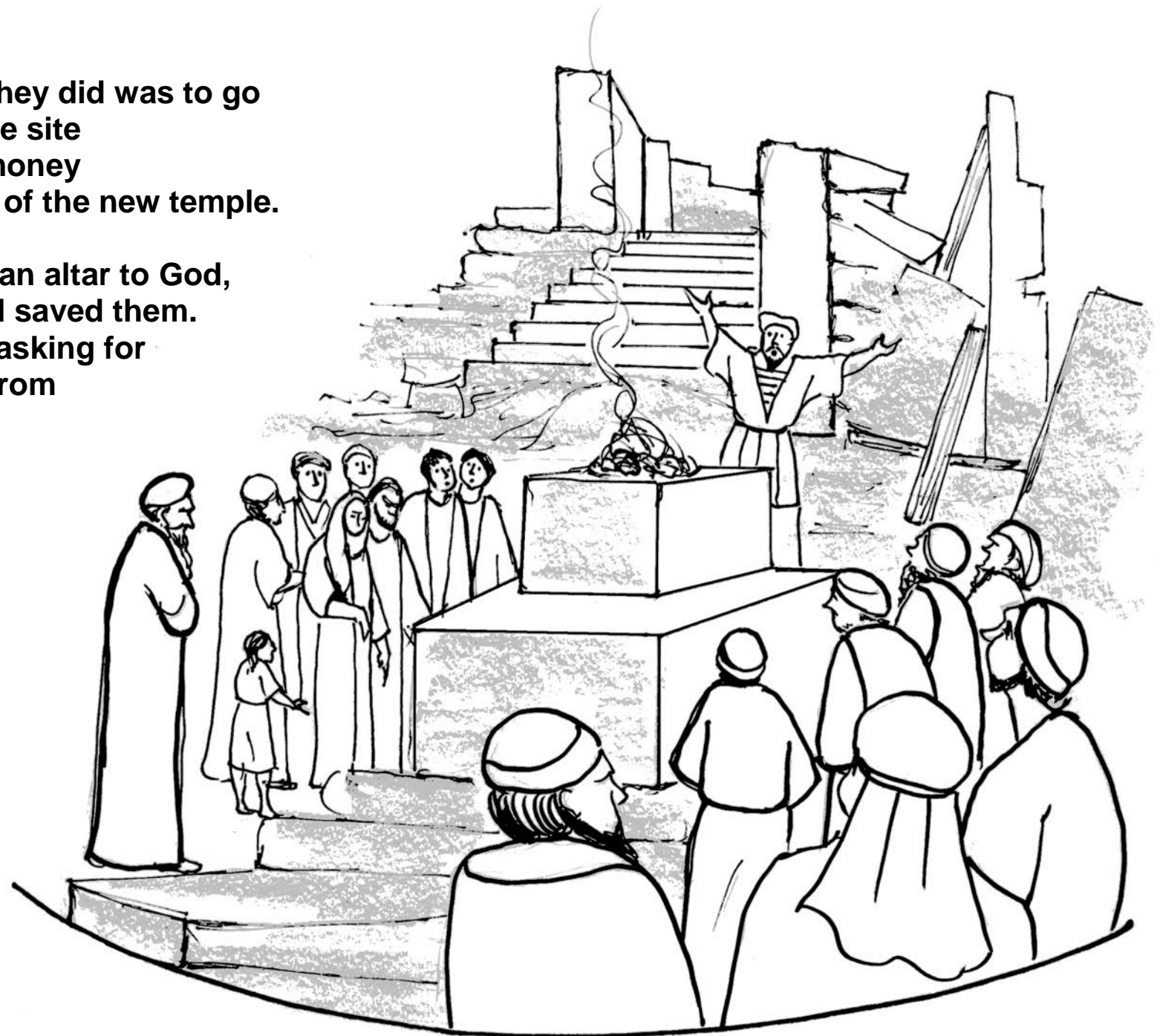


**They walked for many days,
then one day they saw Judah,
their homeland!**



The first thing they did was to go to the old temple site and give their money for the building of the new temple.

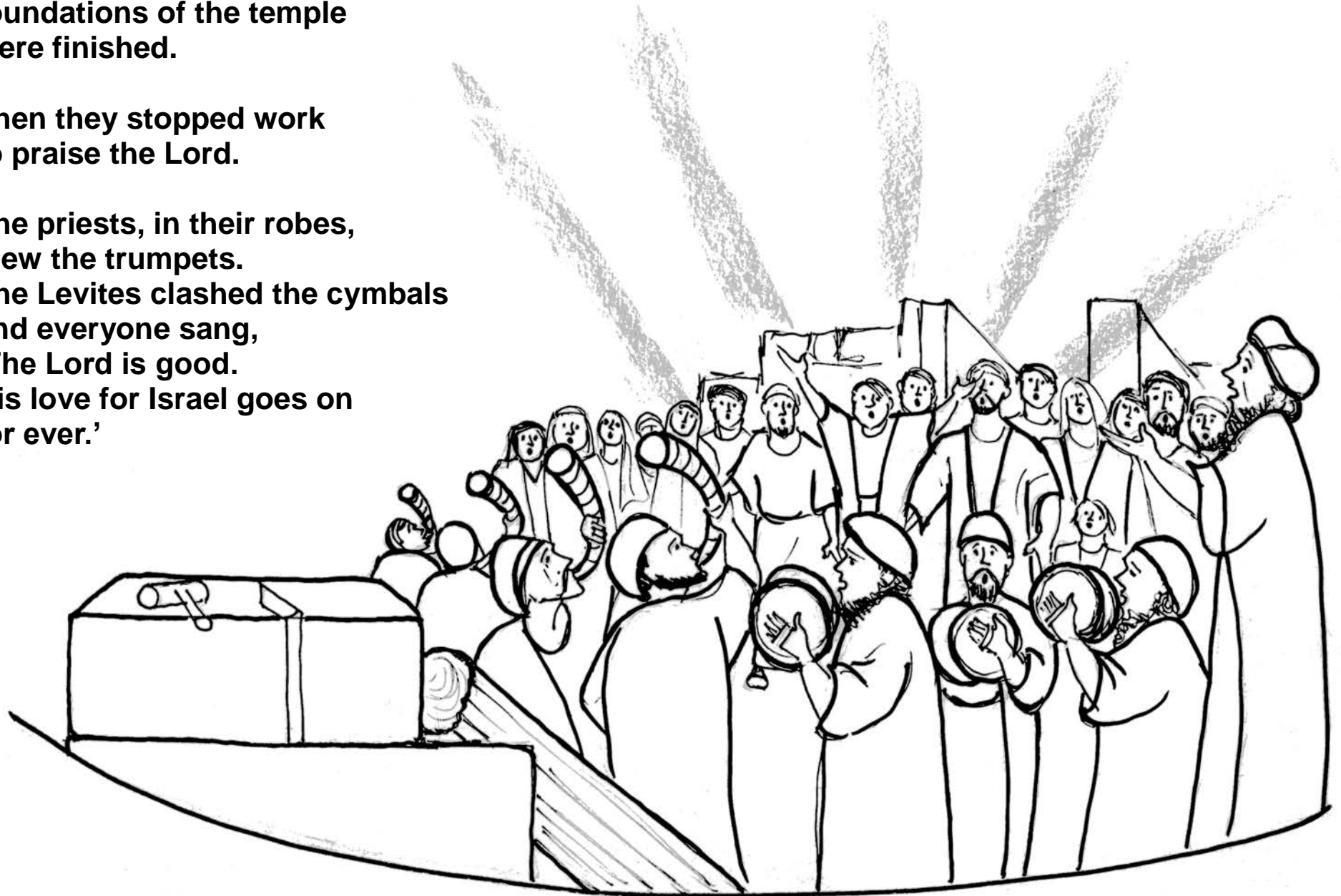
Then they built an altar to God, because He had saved them. Now they were asking for His protection from their enemies.



**The people bought wood
and worked until the
foundations of the temple
were finished.**

**Then they stopped work
to praise the Lord.**

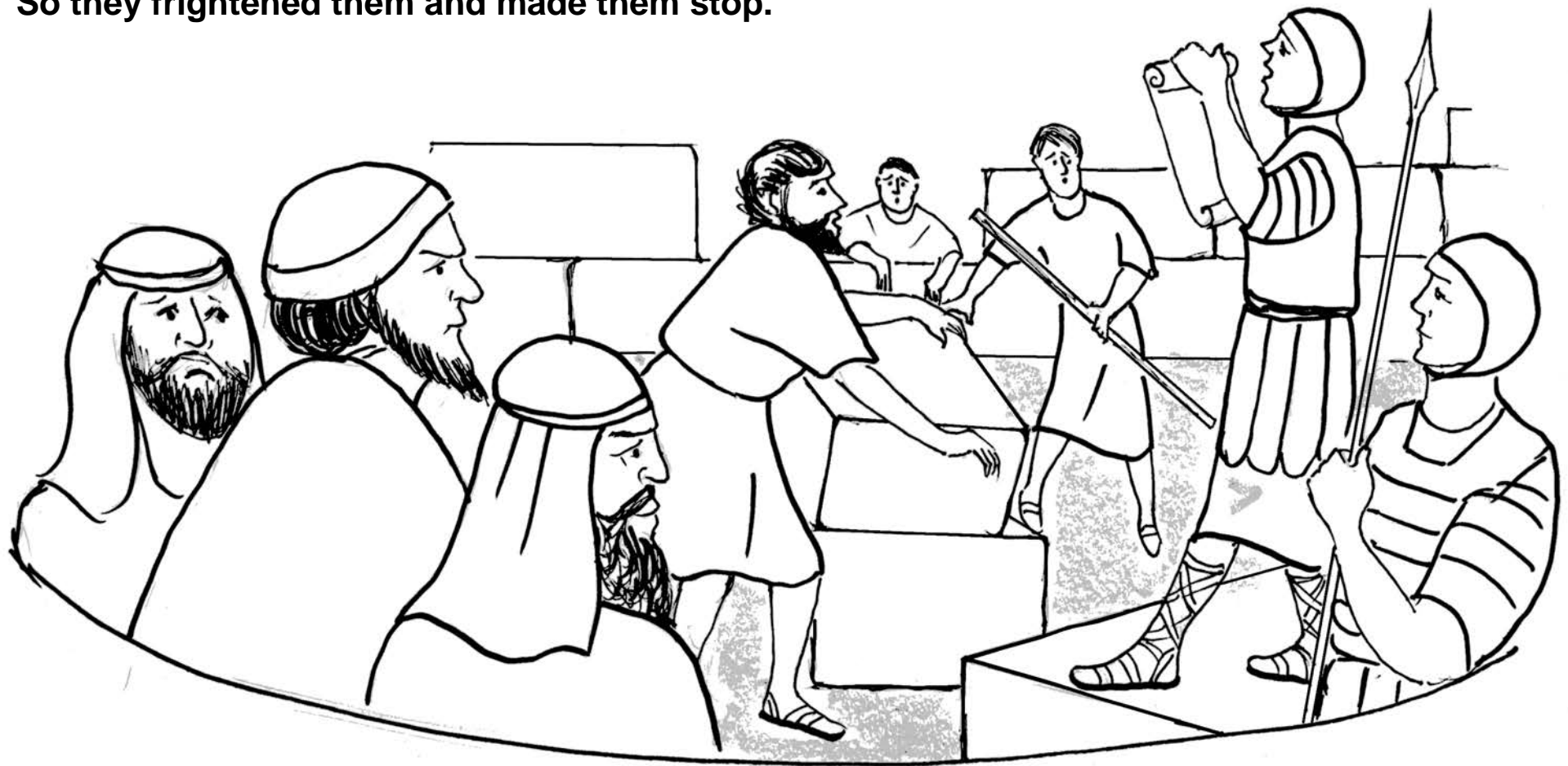
**The priests, in their robes,
blew the trumpets.
The Levites clashed the cymbals
and everyone sang,
'The Lord is good.
His love for Israel goes on
for ever.'**



So much noise was made that their enemies heard it and came to see what was happening.

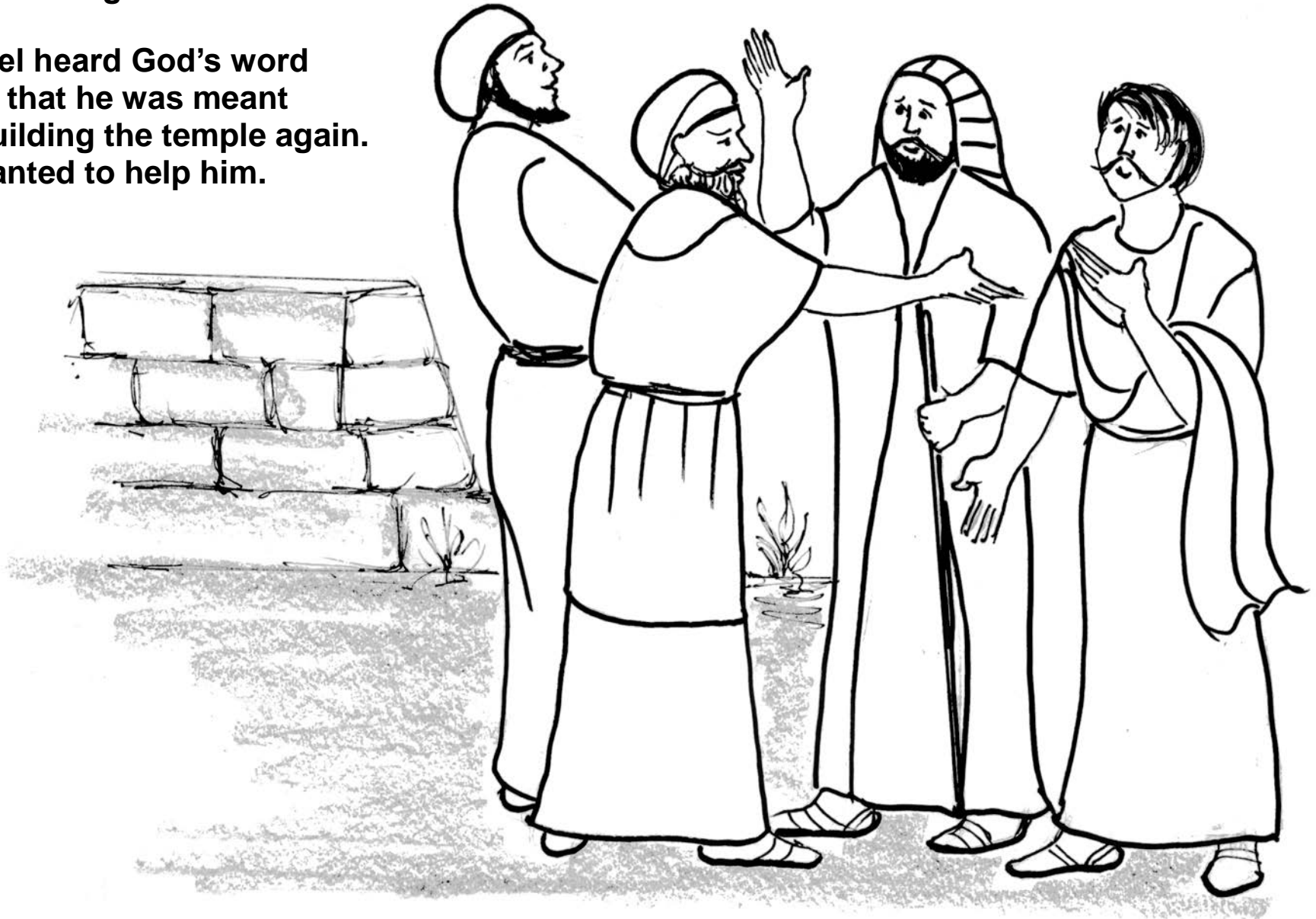
**They saw God's people praising God.
That was not all.**

**They saw the foundation of God's new temple.
They did not want these people
worshipping God Almighty.
So they frightened them and made them stop.**



Some years later two prophets called Haggai and Zechariah started preaching God's word.

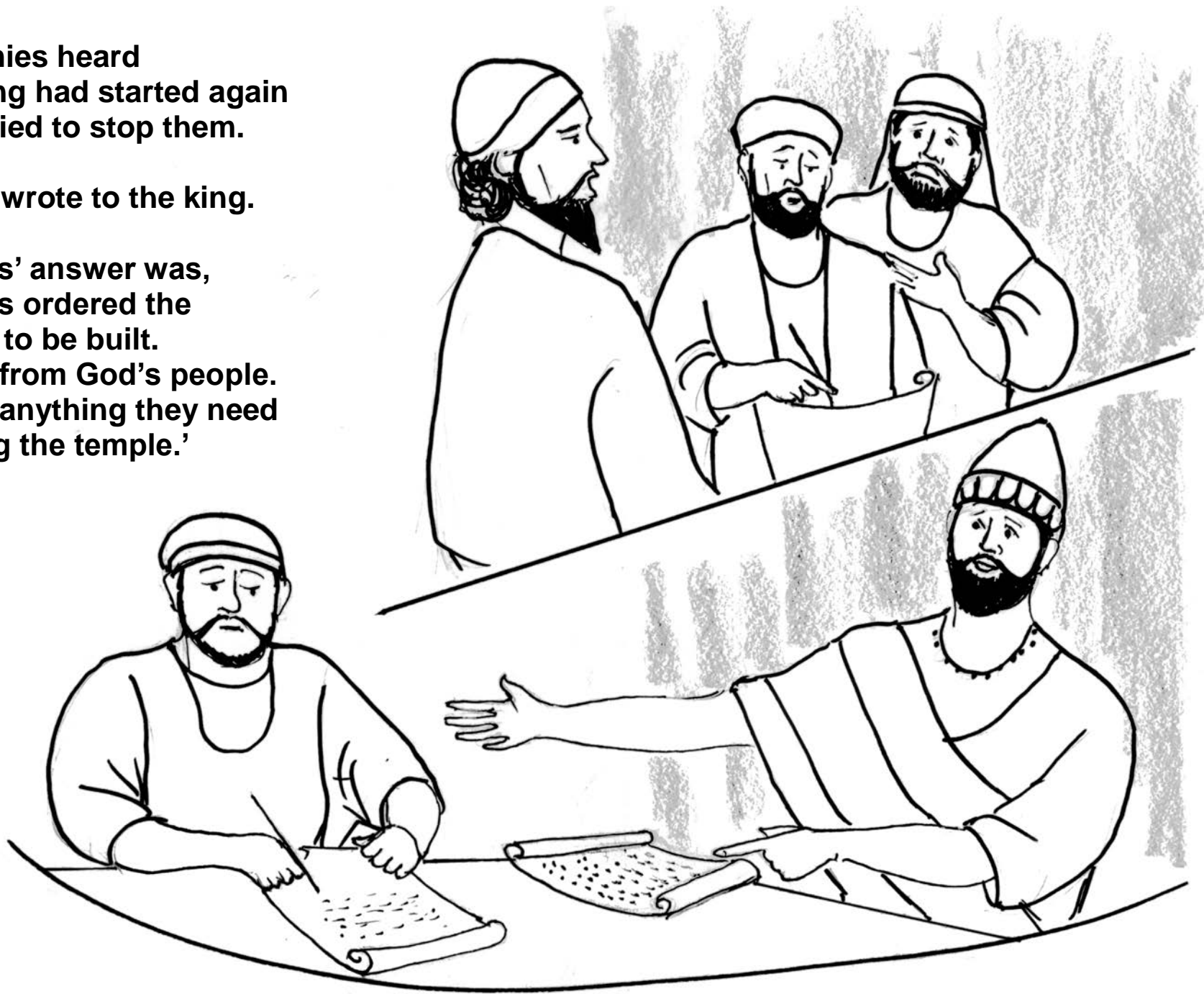
Zerubbabel heard God's word and knew that he was meant to start building the temple again. Others wanted to help him.



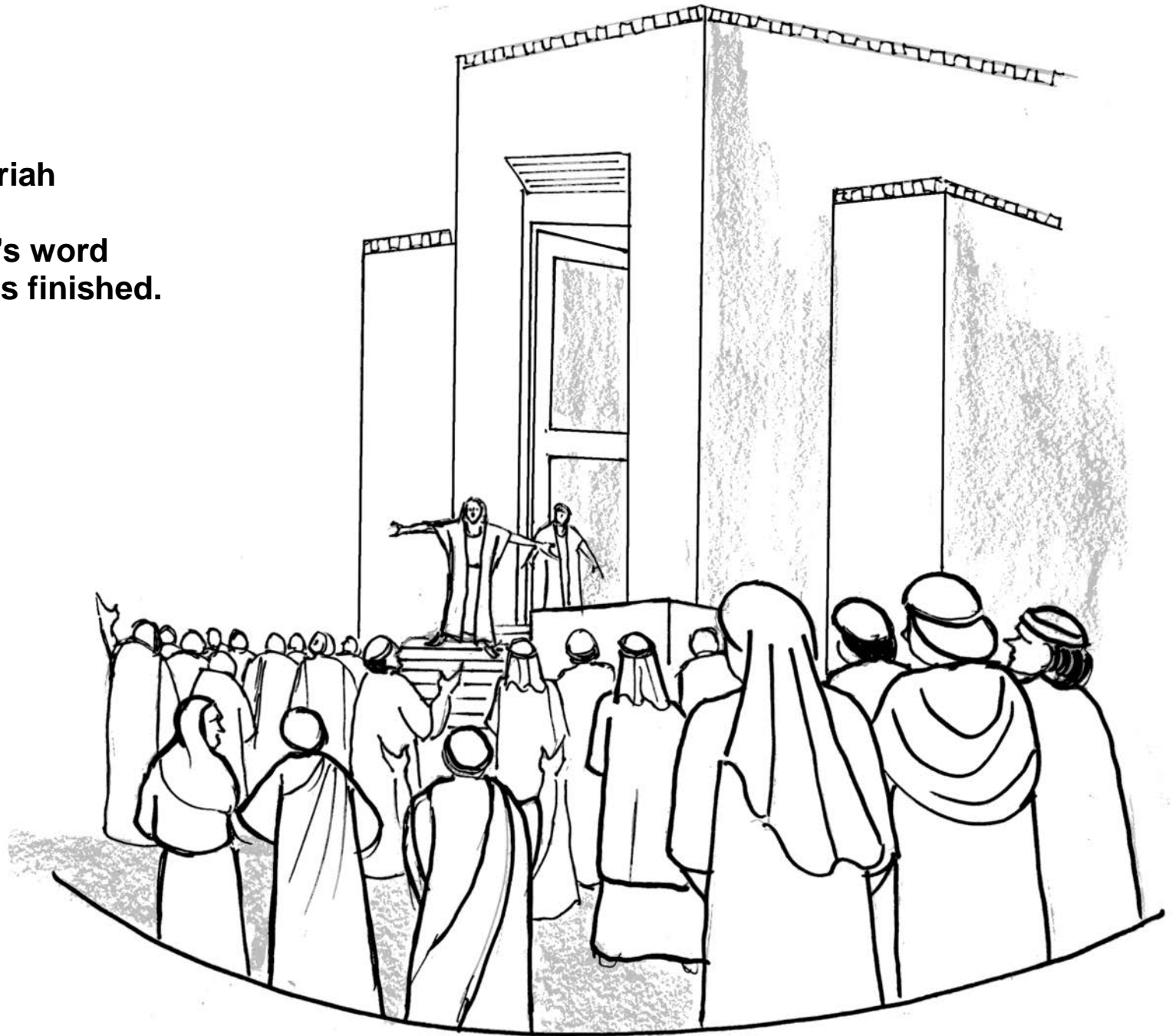
**Their enemies heard
that building had started again
and they tried to stop them.**

They even wrote to the king.

**King Darius' answer was,
'King Cyrus ordered the
the temple to be built.
Stay away from God's people.
Give them anything they need
for building the temple.'**



**Haggai and Zechariah
helped everyone
by preaching God's word
and the temple was finished.**



Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

ESTHER

by
Chris Thorpe
& people from Coromandel Baptist Church

Illustrated by Kay Kammermann

Website: www.corobaptist.org.au

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ESTHER 1:1–10:3
ESTHER
File no. 97

**Esther and her
uncle Mordecai
lived in Susa.
This is where
King Xerxes lived.**

**This king wanted
a new queen.**

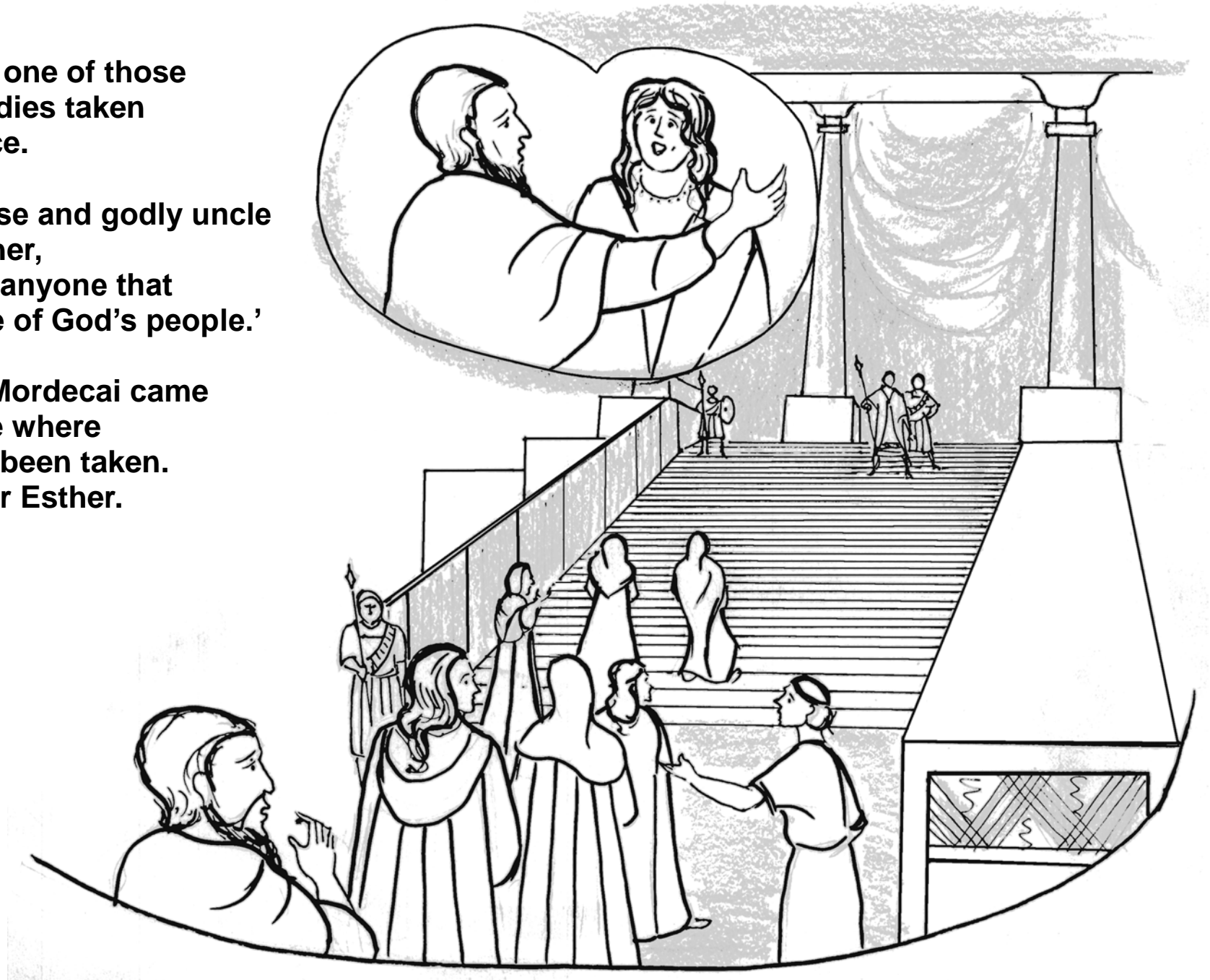
**So his helpers went
looking everywhere
for beautiful ladies
and brought them
to the palace.**



Esther was one of those beautiful ladies taken to the palace.

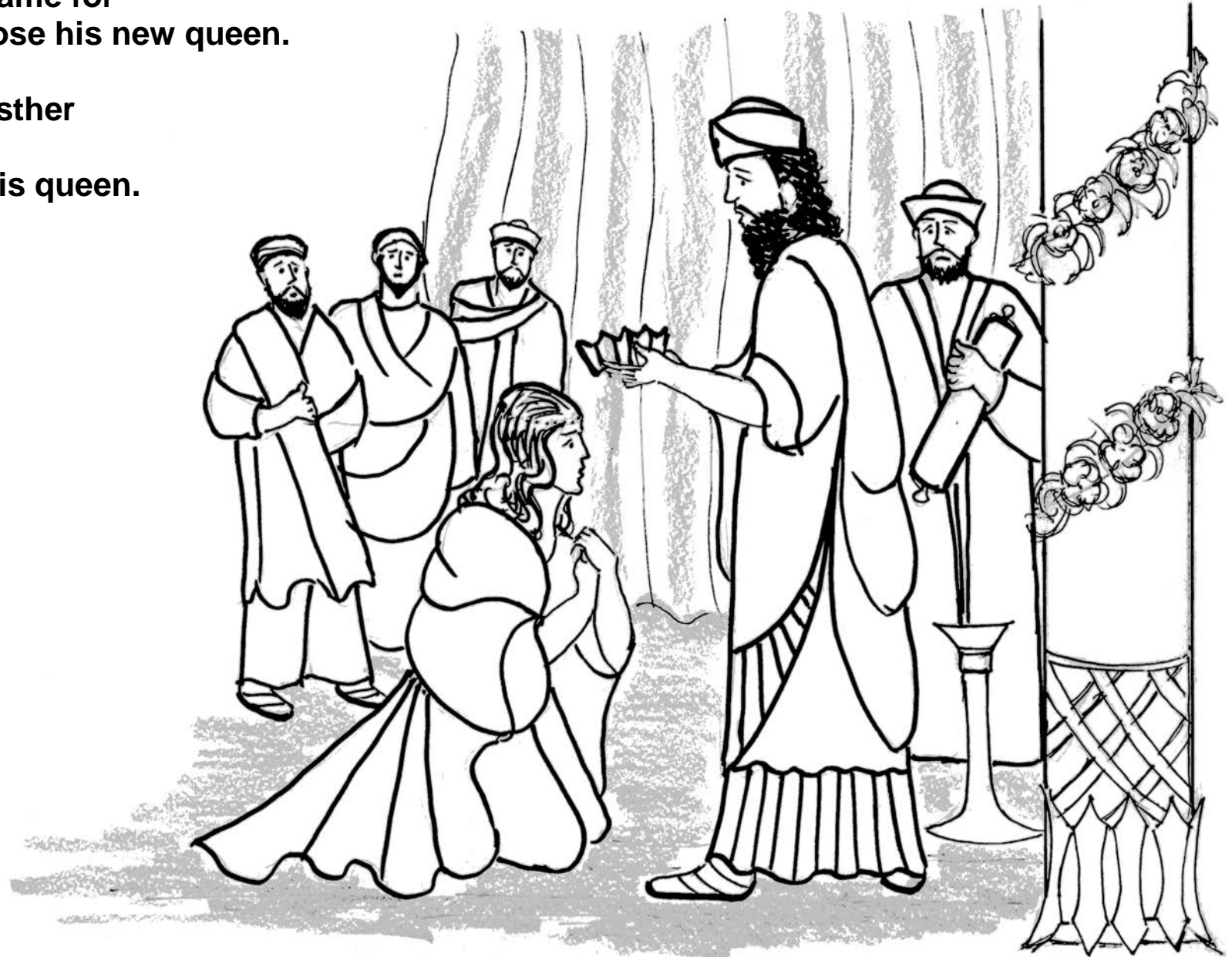
Esther's wise and godly uncle said to Esther, 'Do not tell anyone that you are one of God's people.'

Every day Mordecai came to the place where Esther had been taken. He cared for Esther.



**Then the time came for
the king to choose his new queen.**

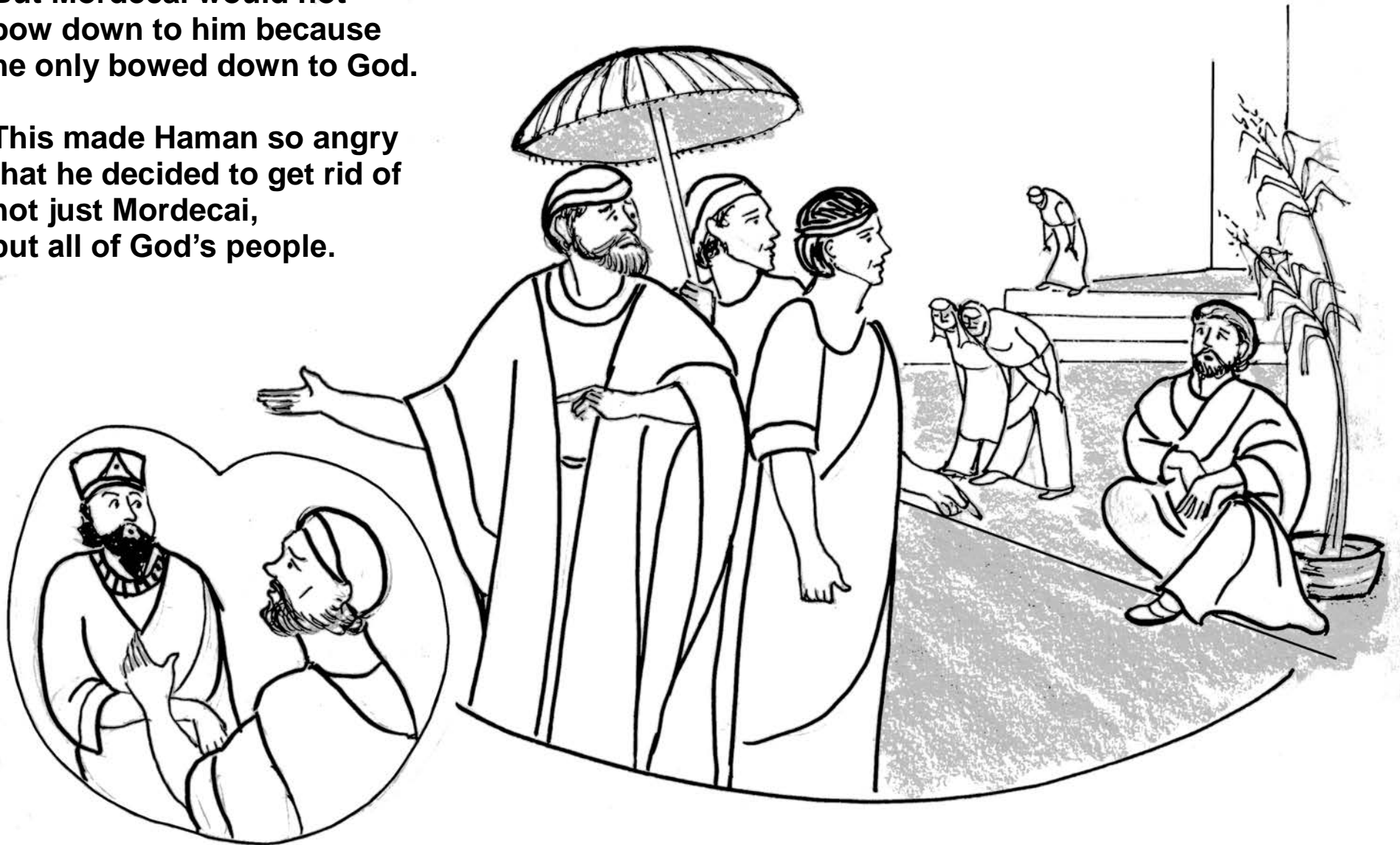
**When he saw Esther
he loved her
and made her his queen.**



Now the King had an officer called Haman,
who thought he was very important.
He loved people bowing to him.

But Mordecai would not
bow down to him because
he only bowed down to God.

This made Haman so angry
that he decided to get rid of
not just Mordecai,
but all of God's people.

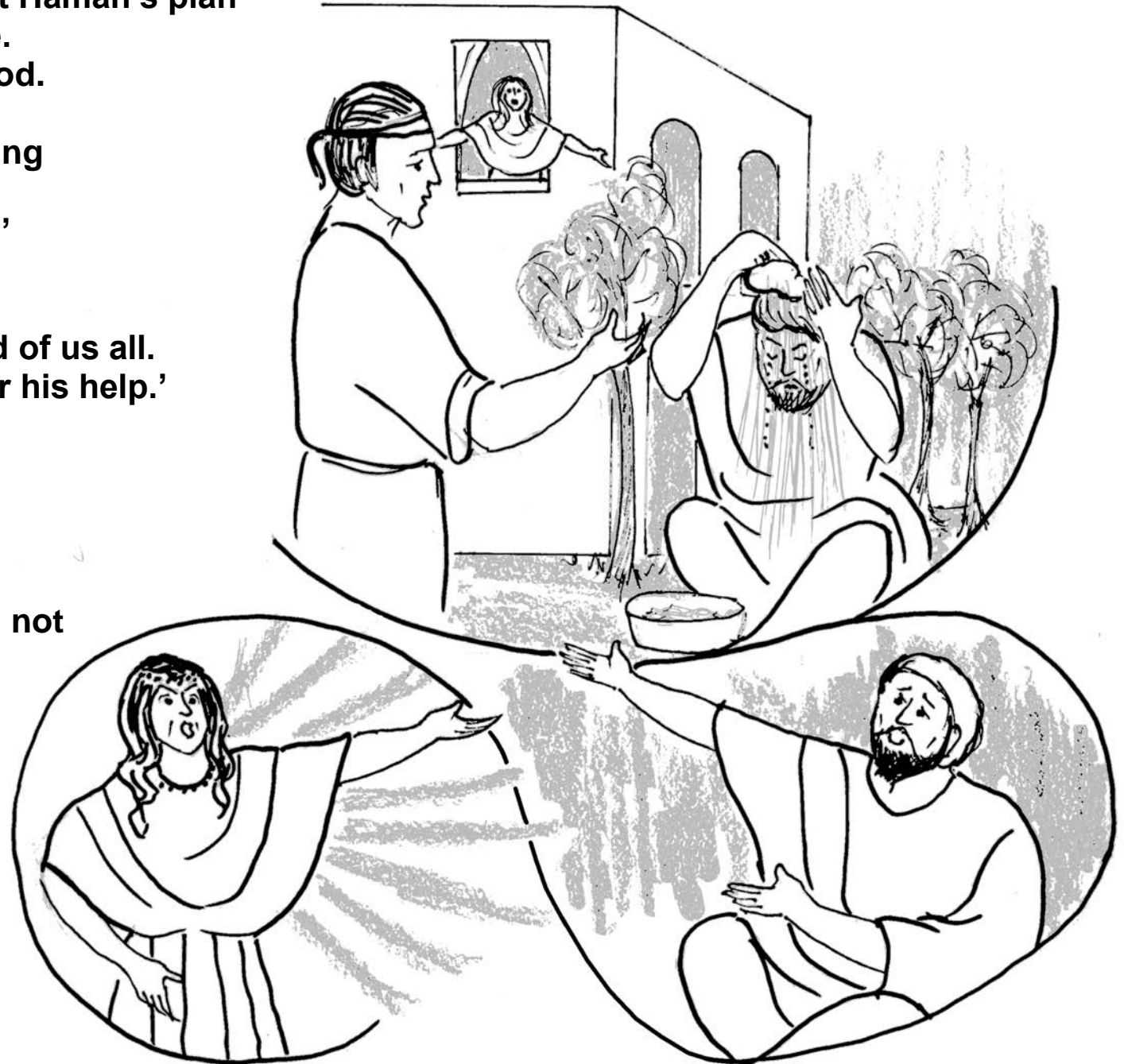


**Mordecai found out about Haman's plan
to get rid of God's people.
He cried and prayed to God.**

**Esther saw her uncle crying
and asked him,
'What are you crying for?'**

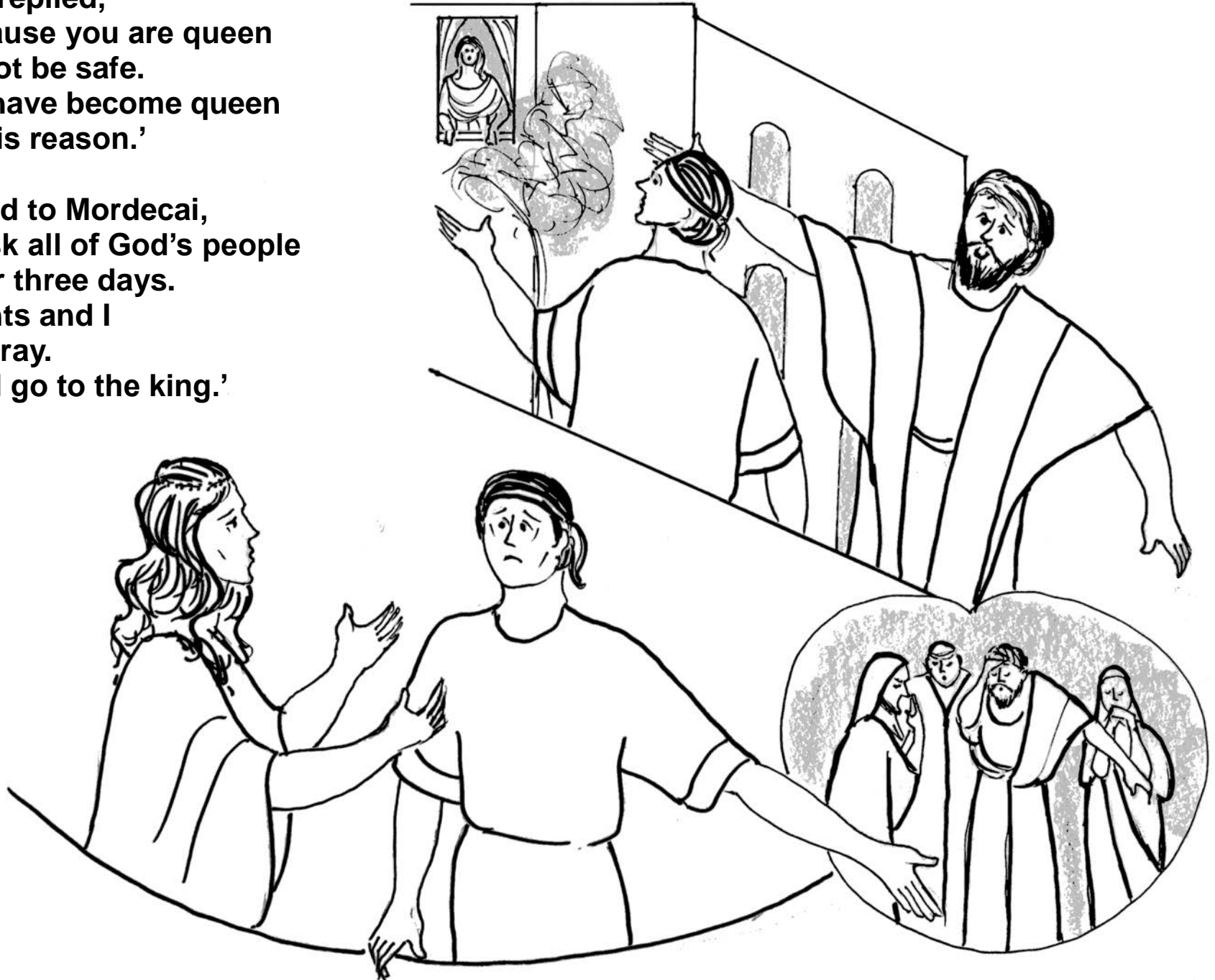
**Mordecai said,
'Haman is going to get rid of us all.
Go to the king and ask for his help.'**

**Esther said,
'Nobody is allowed
to go to the king
unless he asks for them.
If I go to him and he does not
hold out his sceptre
I will be killed.'**



**Mordecai replied,
'Just because you are queen
you will not be safe.
You may have become queen
for just this reason.'**

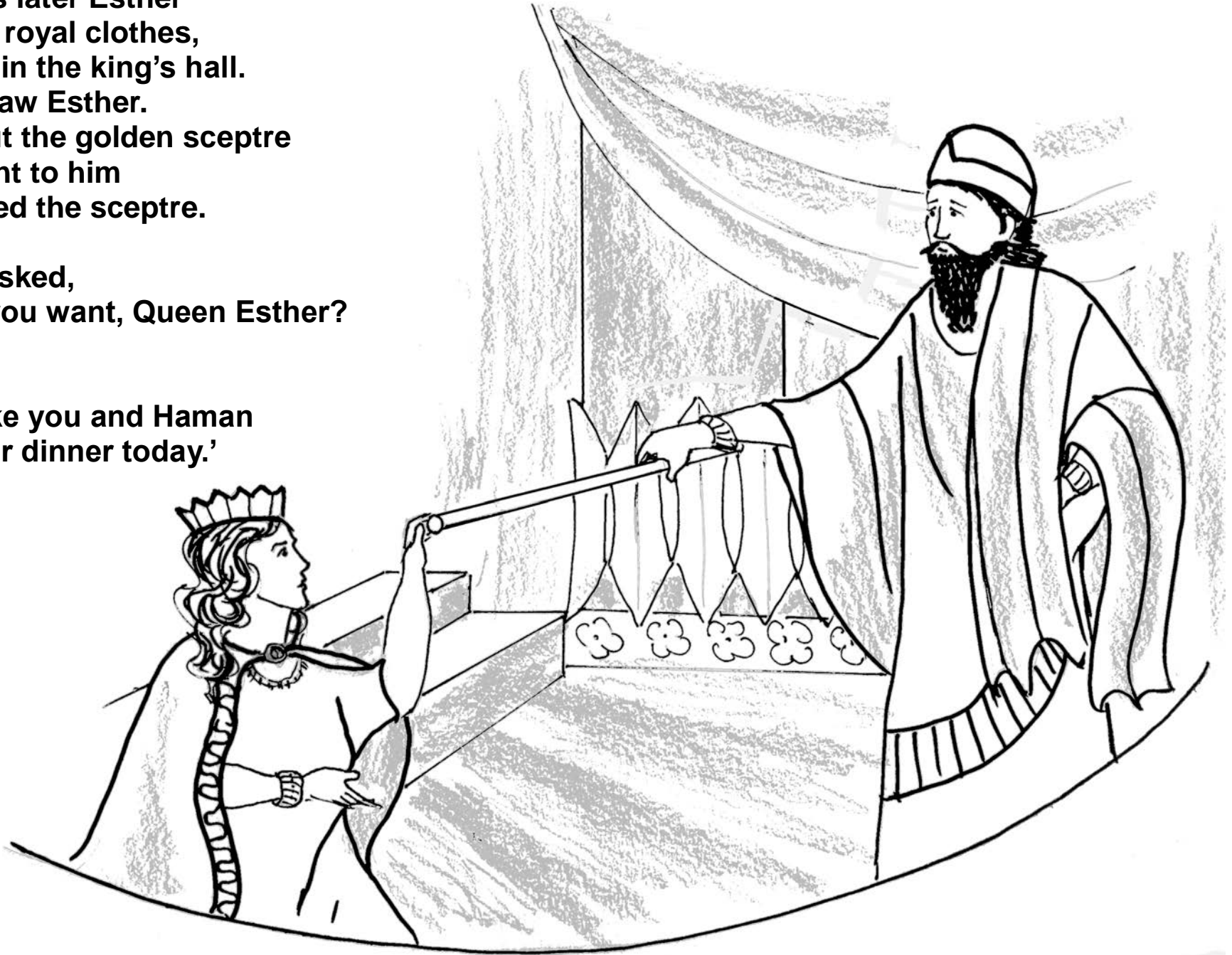
**Esther said to Mordecai,
'Please ask all of God's people
to pray for three days.
My servants and I
will also pray.
Then I will go to the king.'**



Three days later Esther
put on her royal clothes,
and stood in the king's hall.
The king saw Esther.
He held out the golden sceptre
so she went to him
and touched the sceptre.

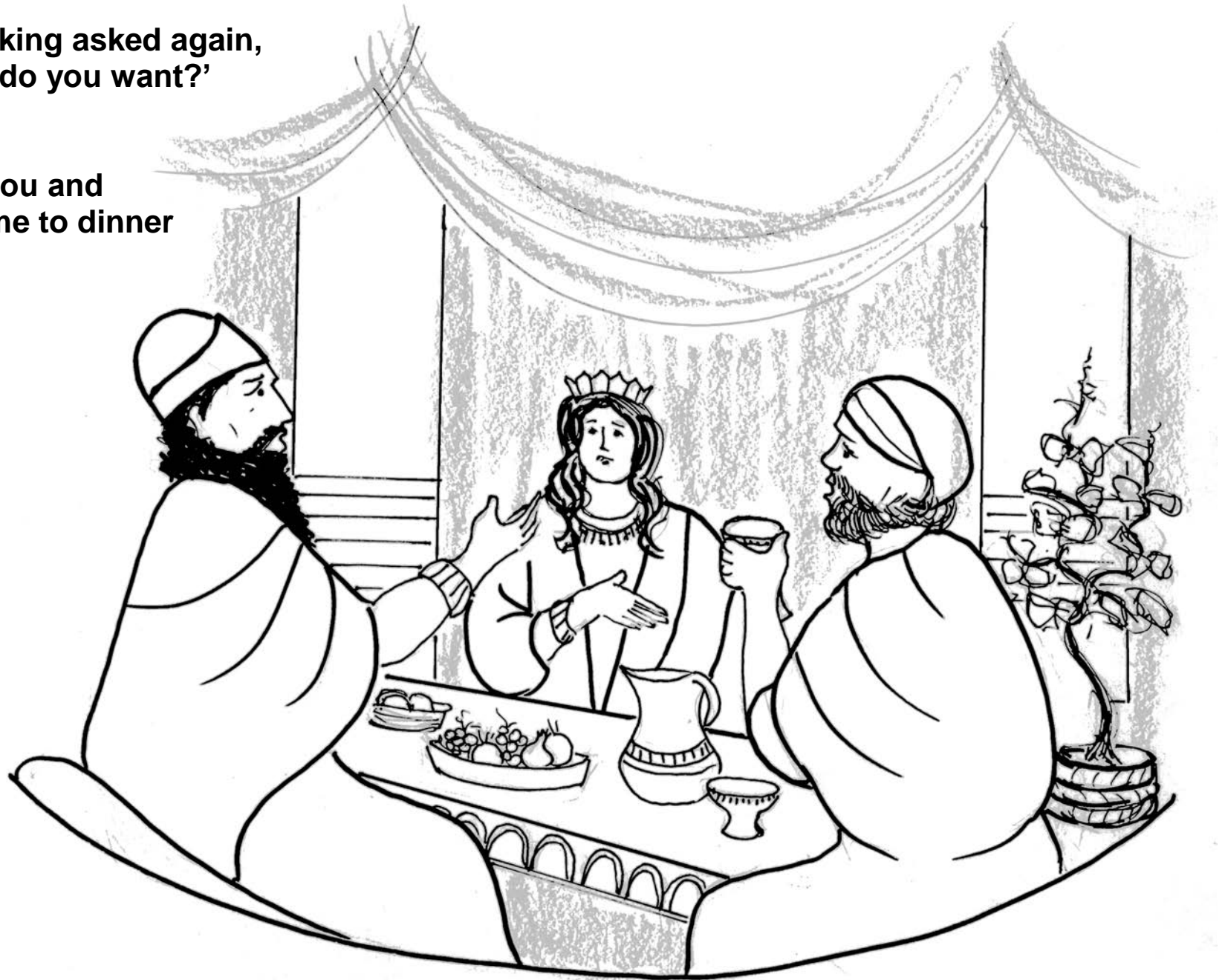
The king asked,
'What do you want, Queen Esther?

She said,
'I would like you and Haman
to come for dinner today.'



**At dinner the king asked again,
'Esther, what do you want?'**

**She said,
'I would like you and
Haman to come to dinner
tomorrow.'**



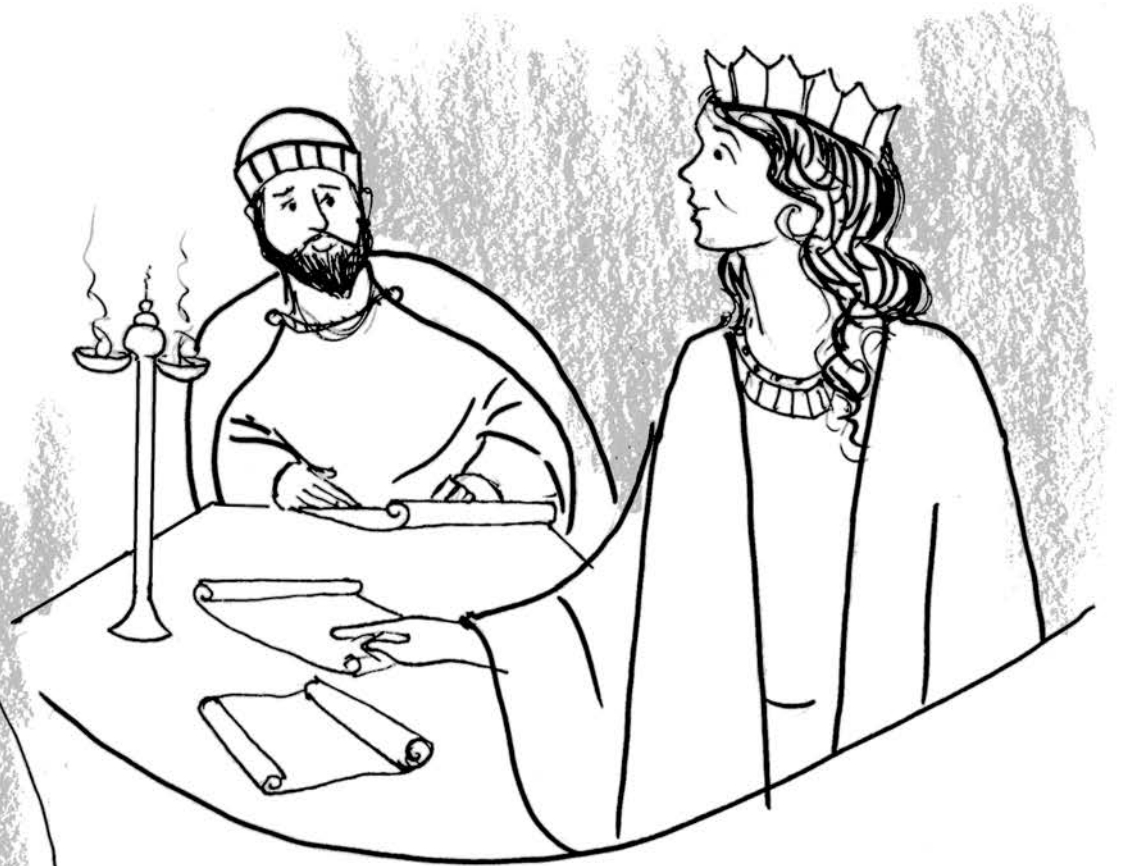
**At dinner the next day,
the king asked again,
'Esther, what do you want?'**

**She said to the king,
'Haman wants to
get rid of all my people.'**



**The king was sorry to hear
what Haman was going to do.**

**So the king, with Mordecai's help,
made a plan
to save God's people.**



**When God's people were saved
they were so thankful
they made a joyful feast
to the Lord
and gave thanks to Him
for saving them.**



Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

***NEHEMIAH IN THE KING'S PALACE /
NEHEMIAH COMES TO JERUSALEM***

by

Chris Thorpe

& people from Coromandel Baptist Church

Illustrated by Kay Kammermann

Website: www.corobaptist.org.au

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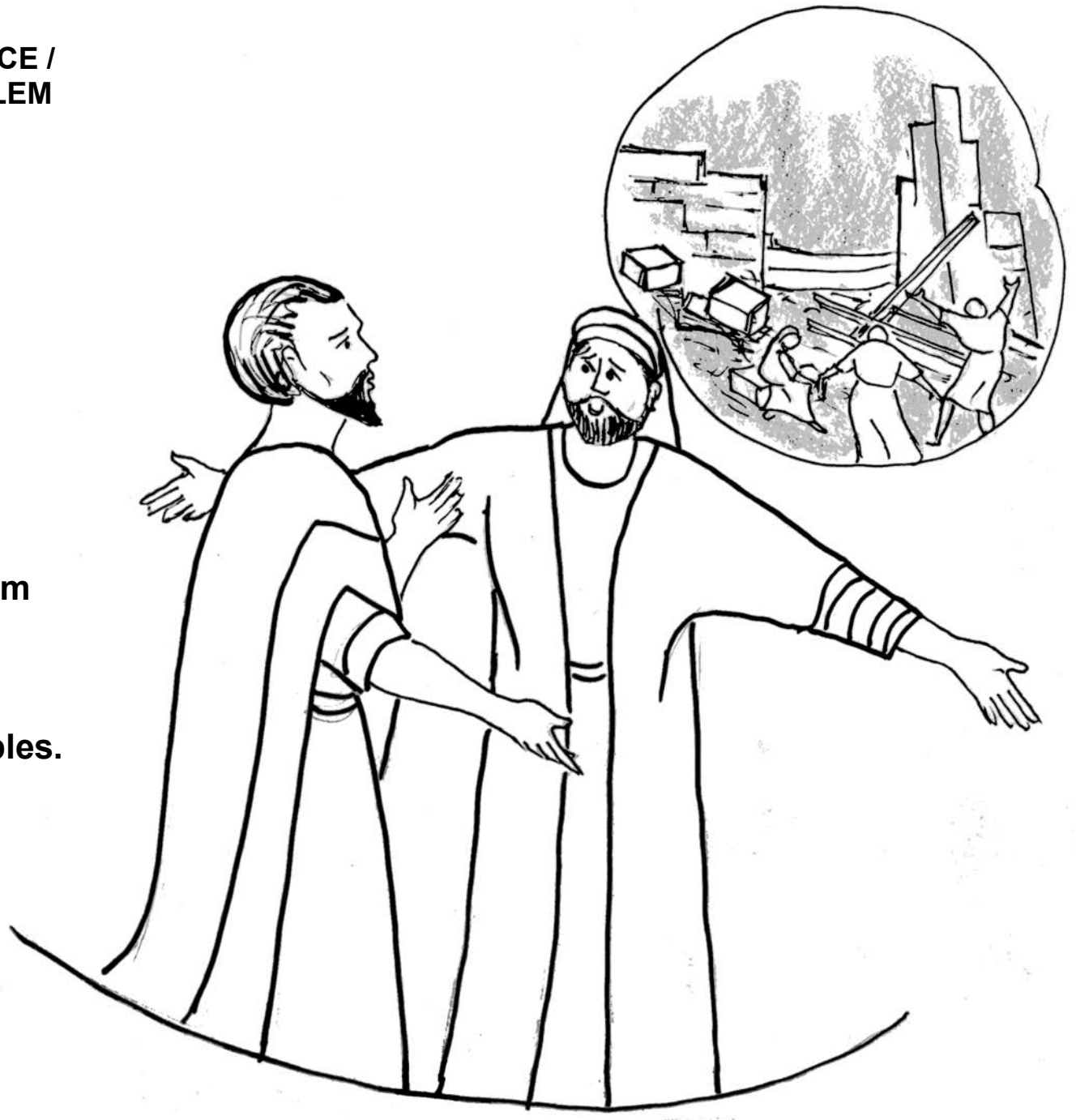
NEHEMIAH 1:1–2:18
NEHEMIAH IN THE KING'S PALACE /
NEHEMIAH COMES TO JERUSALEM
File no. 98

**Nehemiah was a servant
to the king of Babylon.**

**His brother visited him
when he returned
from Jerusalem.**

**Nehemiah asked him,
'How is everyone in Jerusalem
and what is the city like?'**

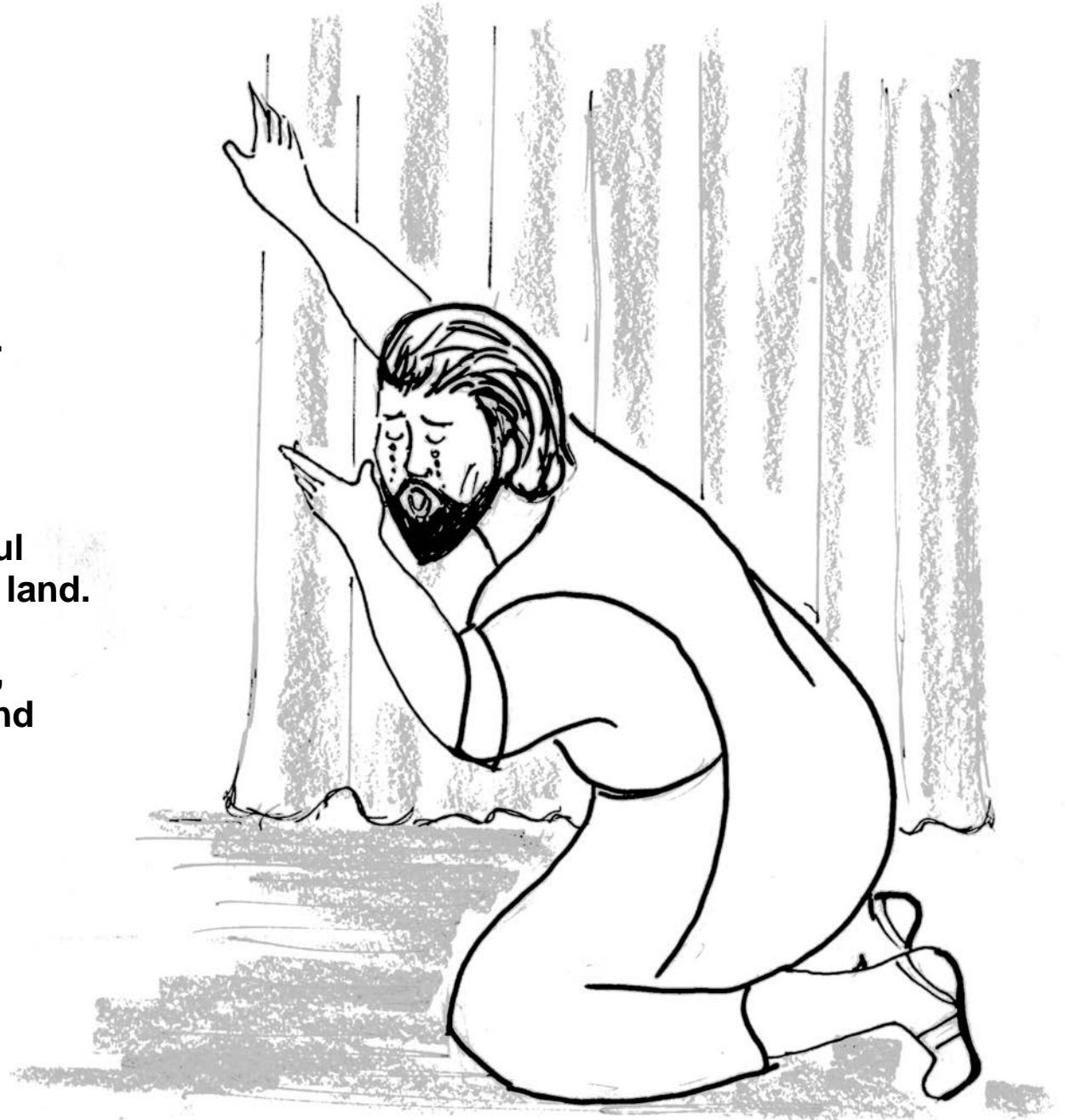
**His brother answered,
'The people have many troubles.
The walls of Jerusalem
are broken
and the gates are burned.'**



**Nehemiah was very sad
when he heard this.**

**He cried
and prayed to God in heaven,
'Please hear my prayer.
I am praying for all Israel.
We have all sinned against you.
We have not obeyed
the commands
which you gave to Moses.'**

**'You said that if we are unfaithful
you will send us away from our land.
But, if we come back to you
and obey your commandments,
you will bring us back to our land
to worship you.
Please listen to my prayer.
Give me success today
and let the king be kind to me.'**



When it was time for Nehemiah to take the wine into the king he was very sad.

The king was surprised and asked, 'Why are you sad?'

Nehemiah answered, 'My city, Jerusalem, is in ruins.'

'What do you want?' asked the king.

Nehemiah prayed to God then asked the king, 'If I have pleased you send me to Jerusalem to rebuild the city.'

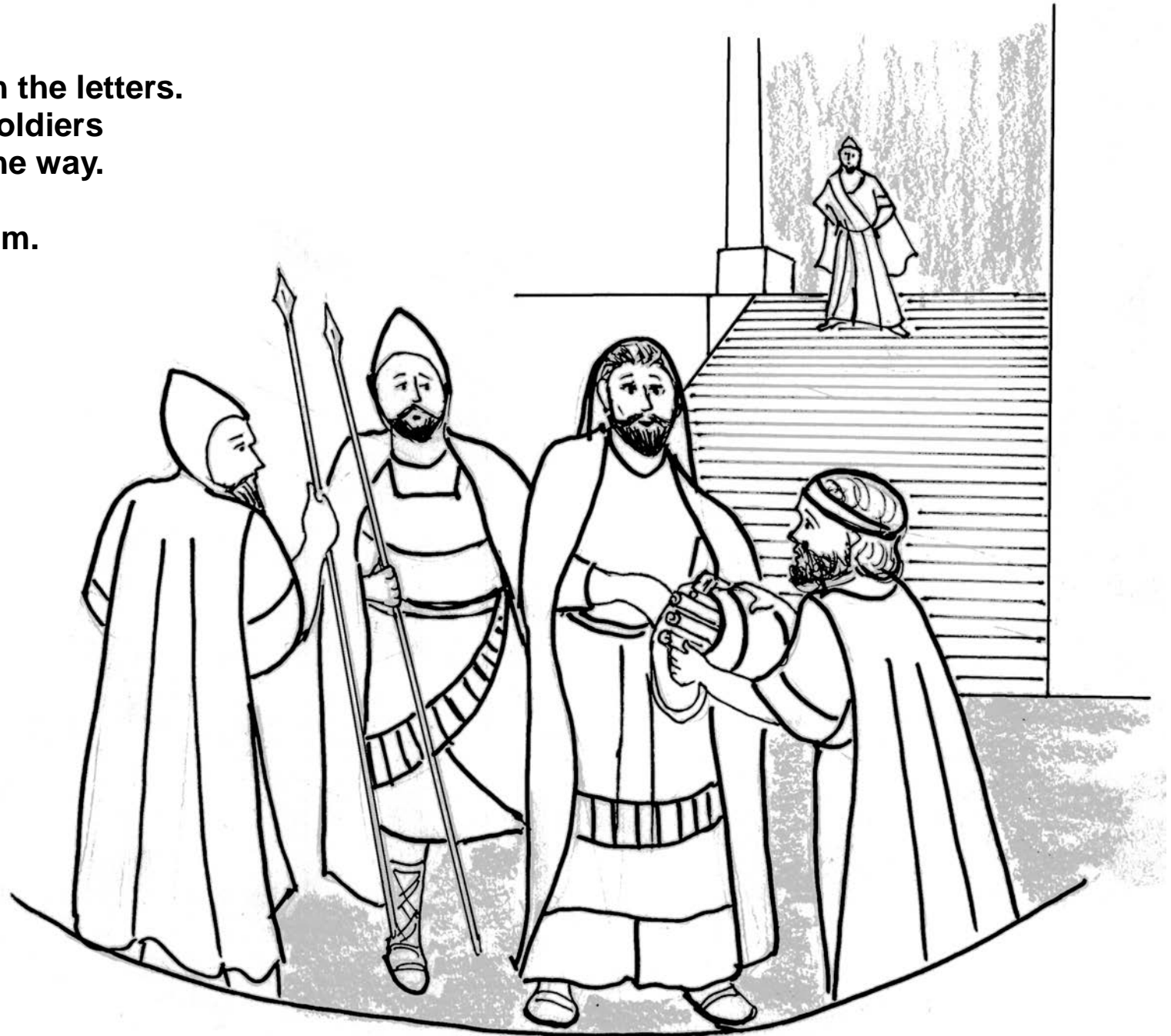
'How long would you be away?' asked the king.

Nehemiah told him, then asked, 'Would you give me letters to say that I can travel through your land and permission to use wood from your forests?'

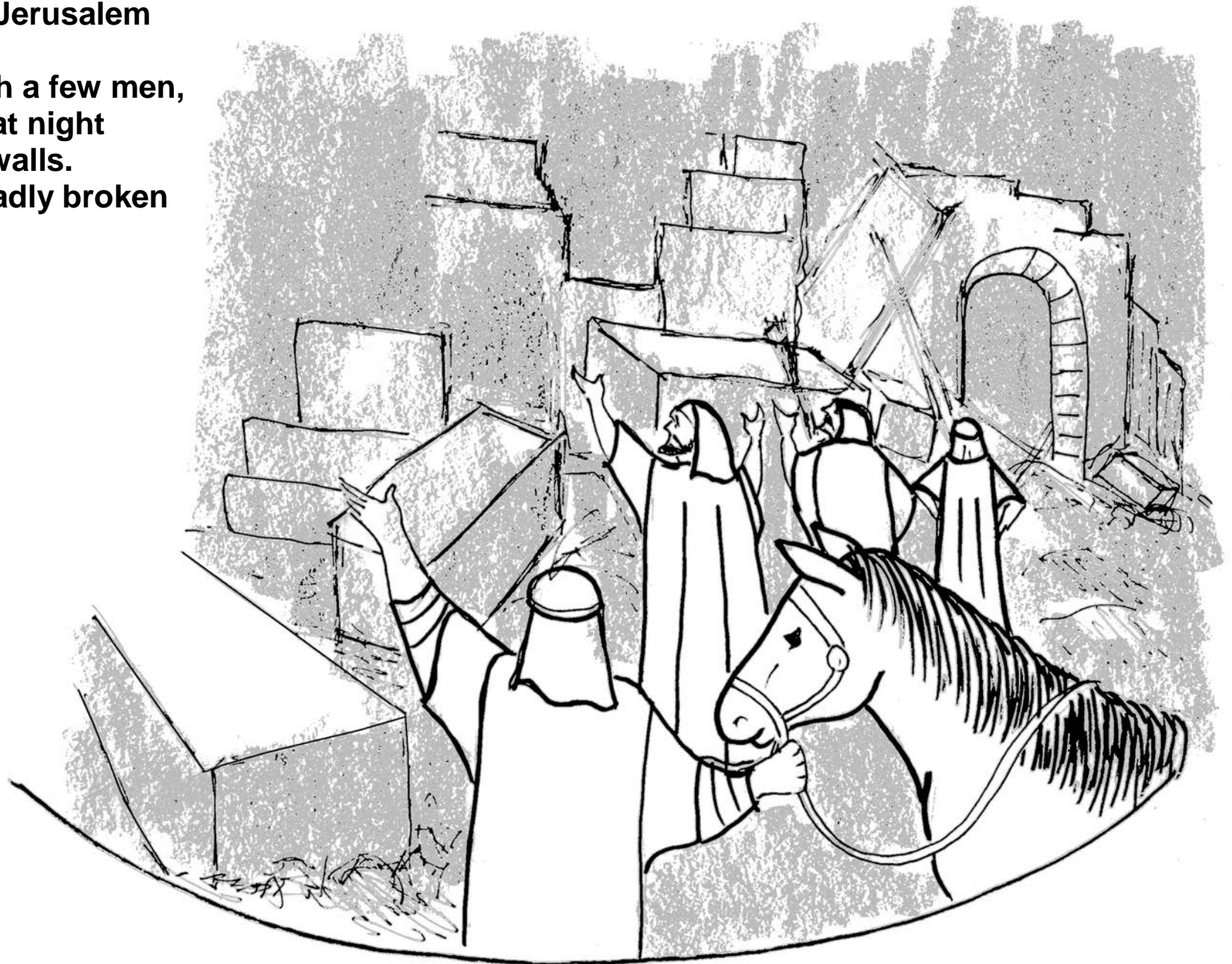


**The king was kind
and gave Nehemiah the letters.
He also gave him soldiers
to protect him on the way.**

God was helping him.



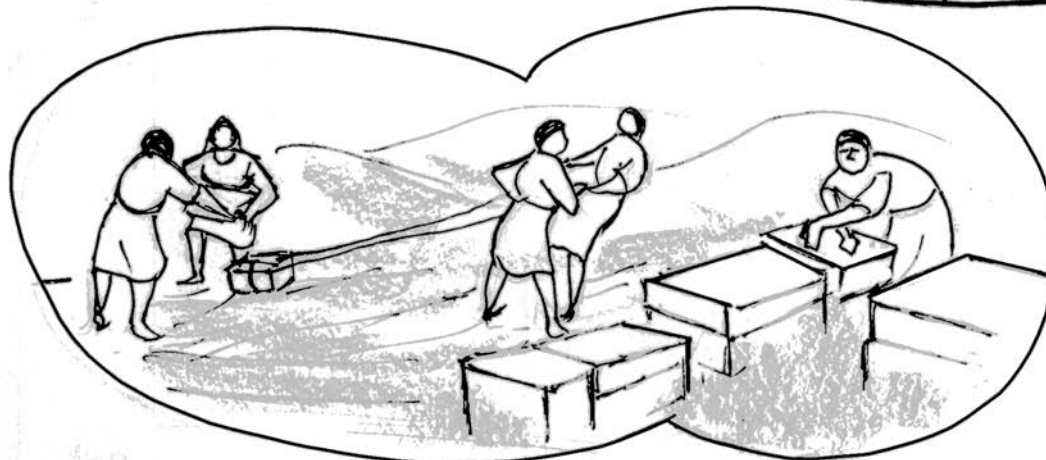
**After being in Jerusalem
for a few days
Nehemiah, with a few men,
went secretly at night
to look at the walls.
He saw how badly broken
they were.**



The next day he talked to the priests and leaders saying, 'Jerusalem is in a mess. Let us rebuild the walls and our shame will be gone. God has been kind to me and the king has given me wood.'

When the people heard this they were glad and said, 'Let us get started.'

Soon everyone was busy building the walls.



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***NEHEMIAH BUILDS THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM /
GIVING THANKS TO GOD***

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NEHEMIAH 2:19 – 4:23; 6:1–16; 12:27–43; 13:4–31

Malachi 1:6–8; 3:8–10, 16, 17

**NEHEMIAH BUILDS THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM /
GIVING THANKS TO GOD**

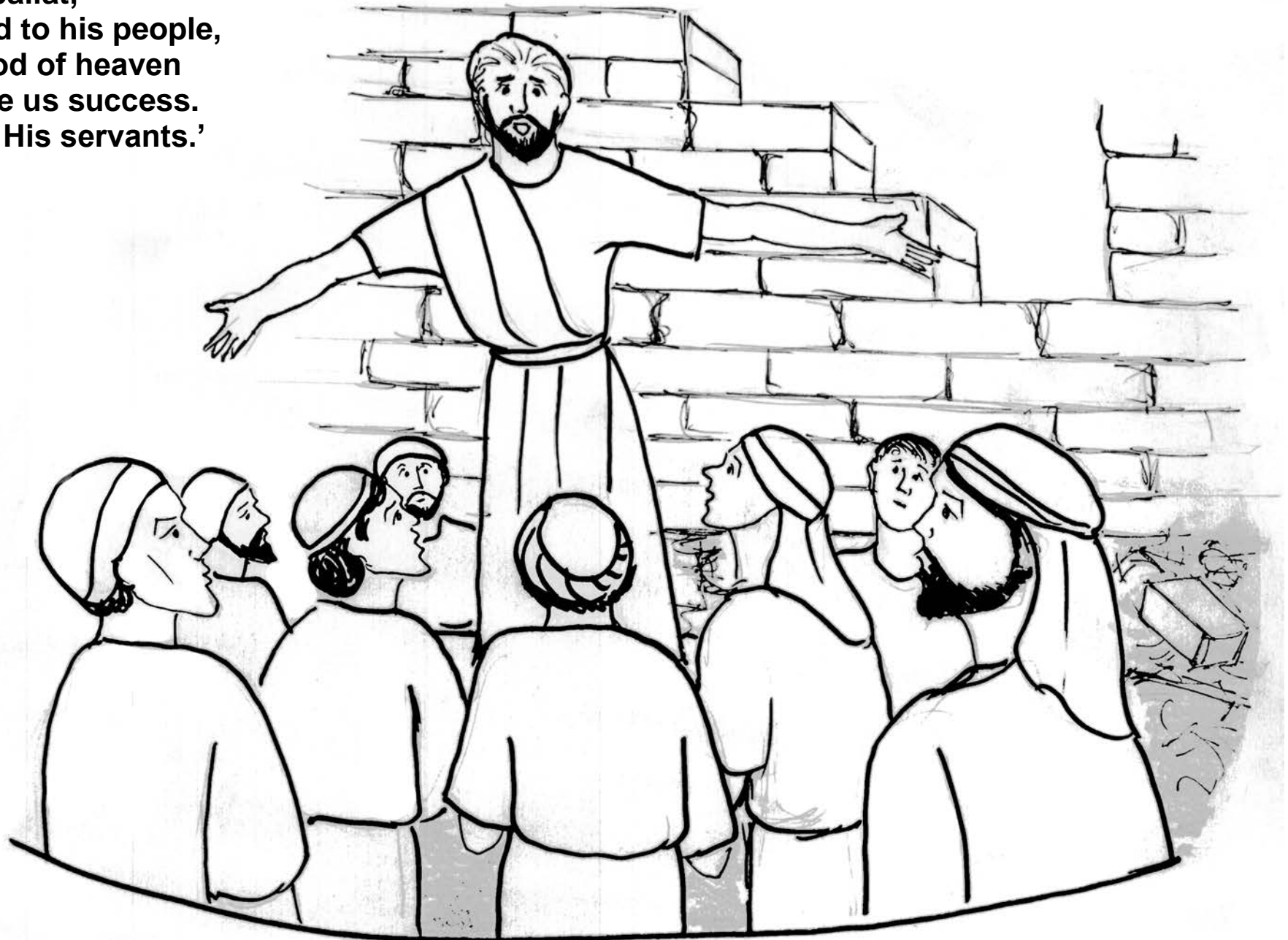
File no. 99

**Nehemiah and the men of Judah
kept on building the
walls of Jerusalem.**

**Sanballat and his friends,
tried to stop them.
They laughed and
made fun of them,
then asked,
'Are you going
against the king?'**



**Nehemiah did not listen
to Sanballat,
but said to his people,
'The God of heaven
will give us success.
We are His servants.'**

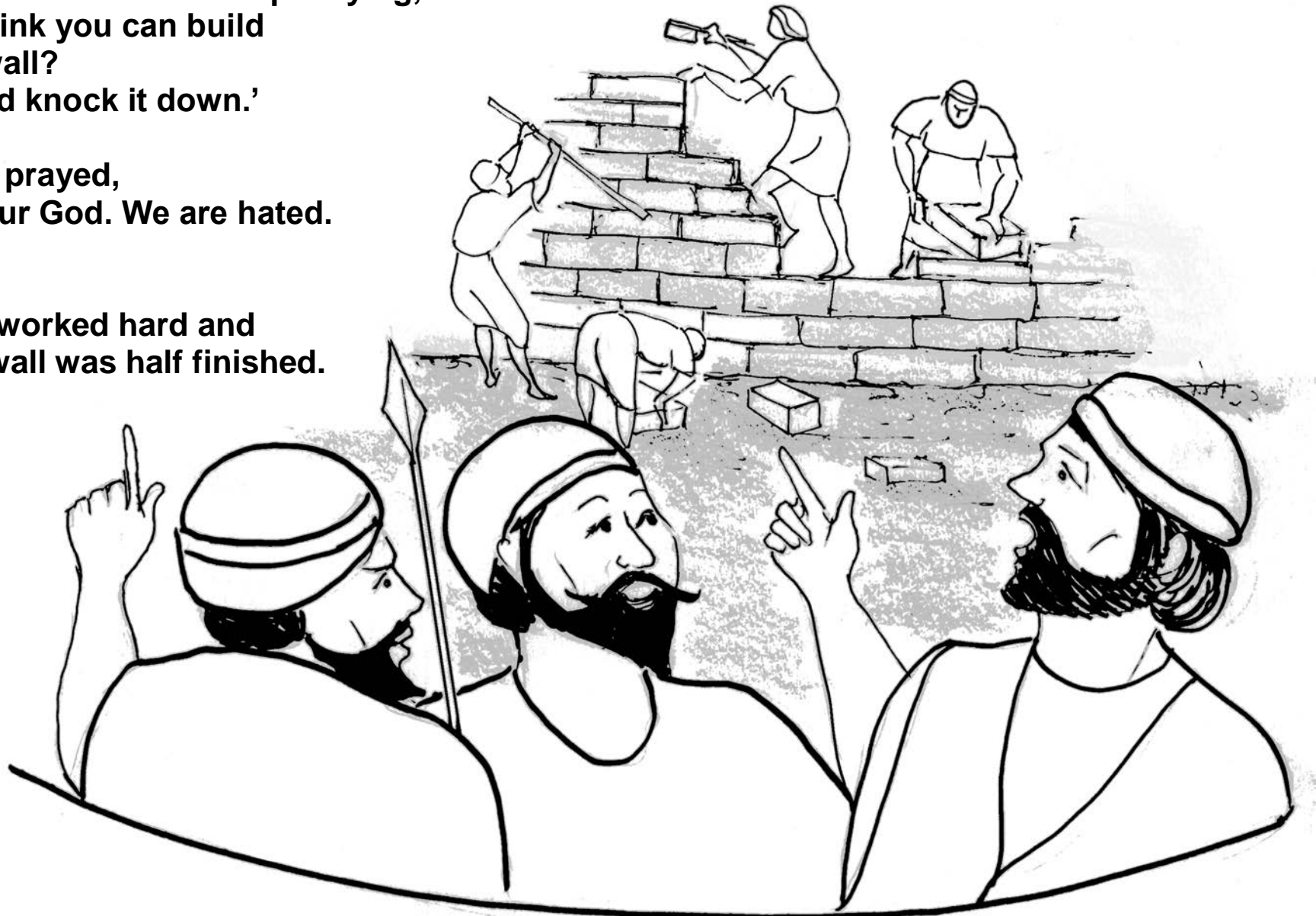


Each family was given a part of the wall to rebuild.

**Sanballat and his friends kept saying,
'Do you think you can build
a strong wall?
A fox could knock it down.'**

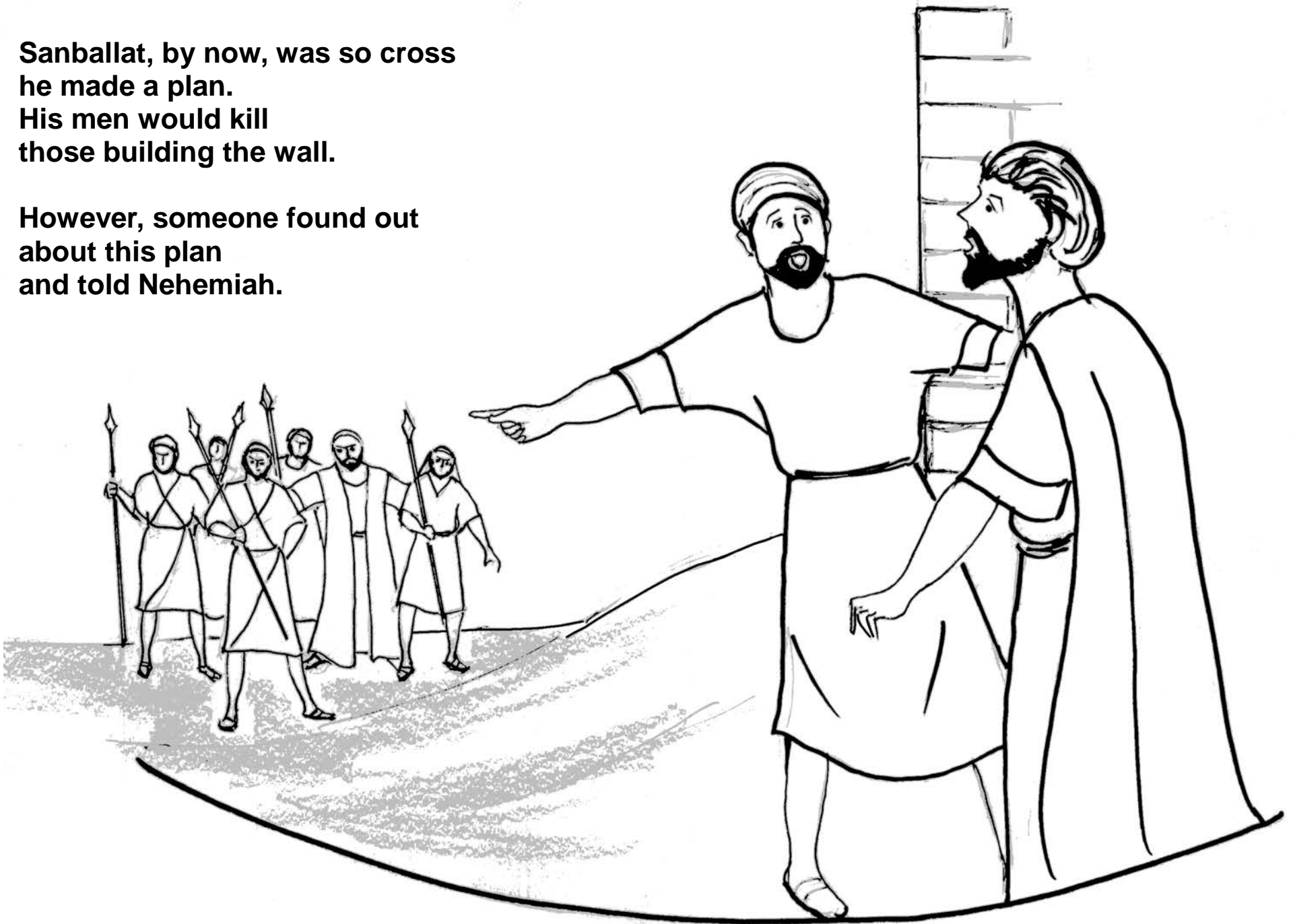
**Nehemiah prayed,
'Hear us our God. We are hated.
Help us.'**

**Everyone worked hard and
soon the wall was half finished.**



**Sanballat, by now, was so cross
he made a plan.
His men would kill
those building the wall.**

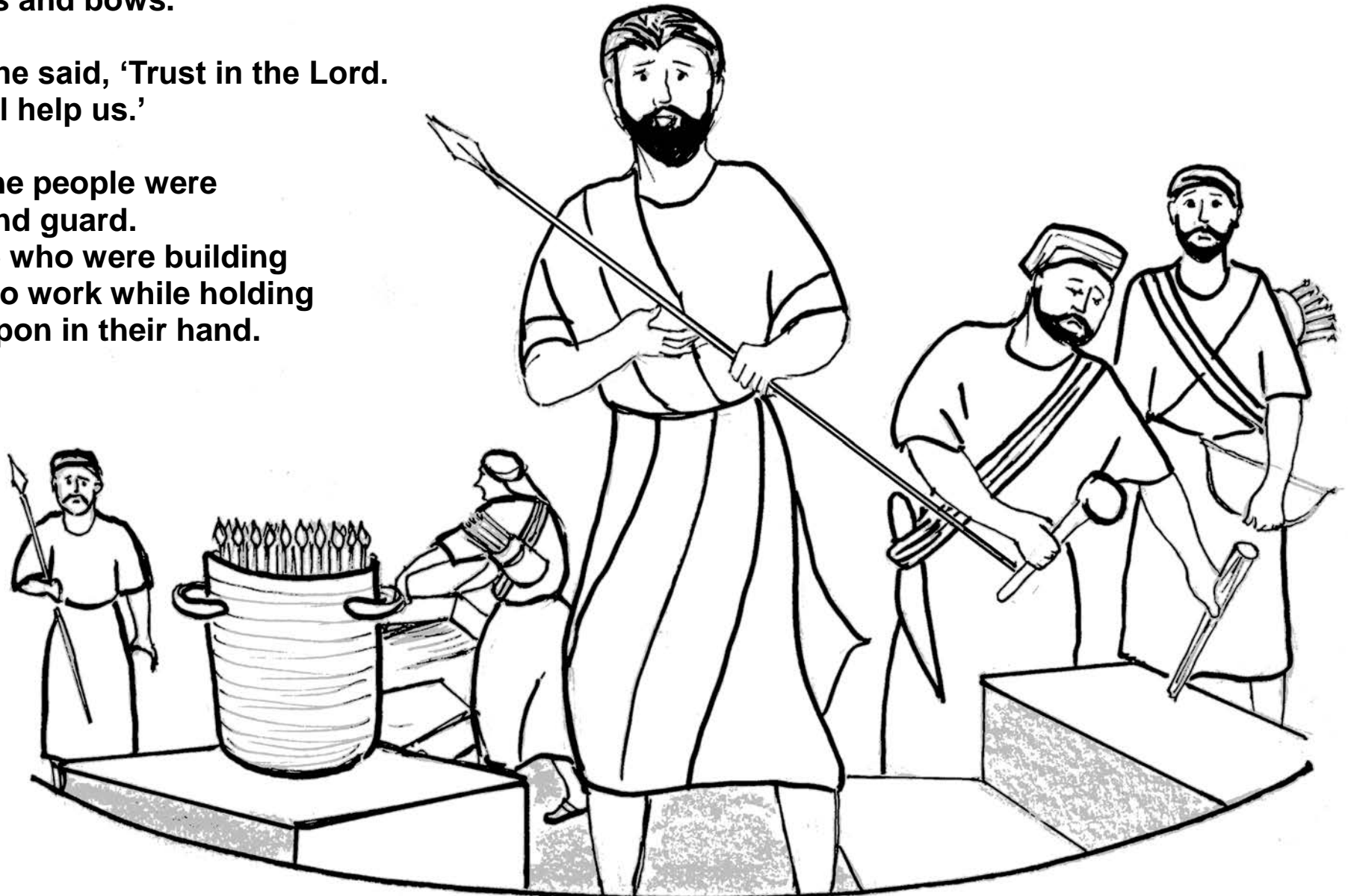
**However, someone found out
about this plan
and told Nehemiah.**



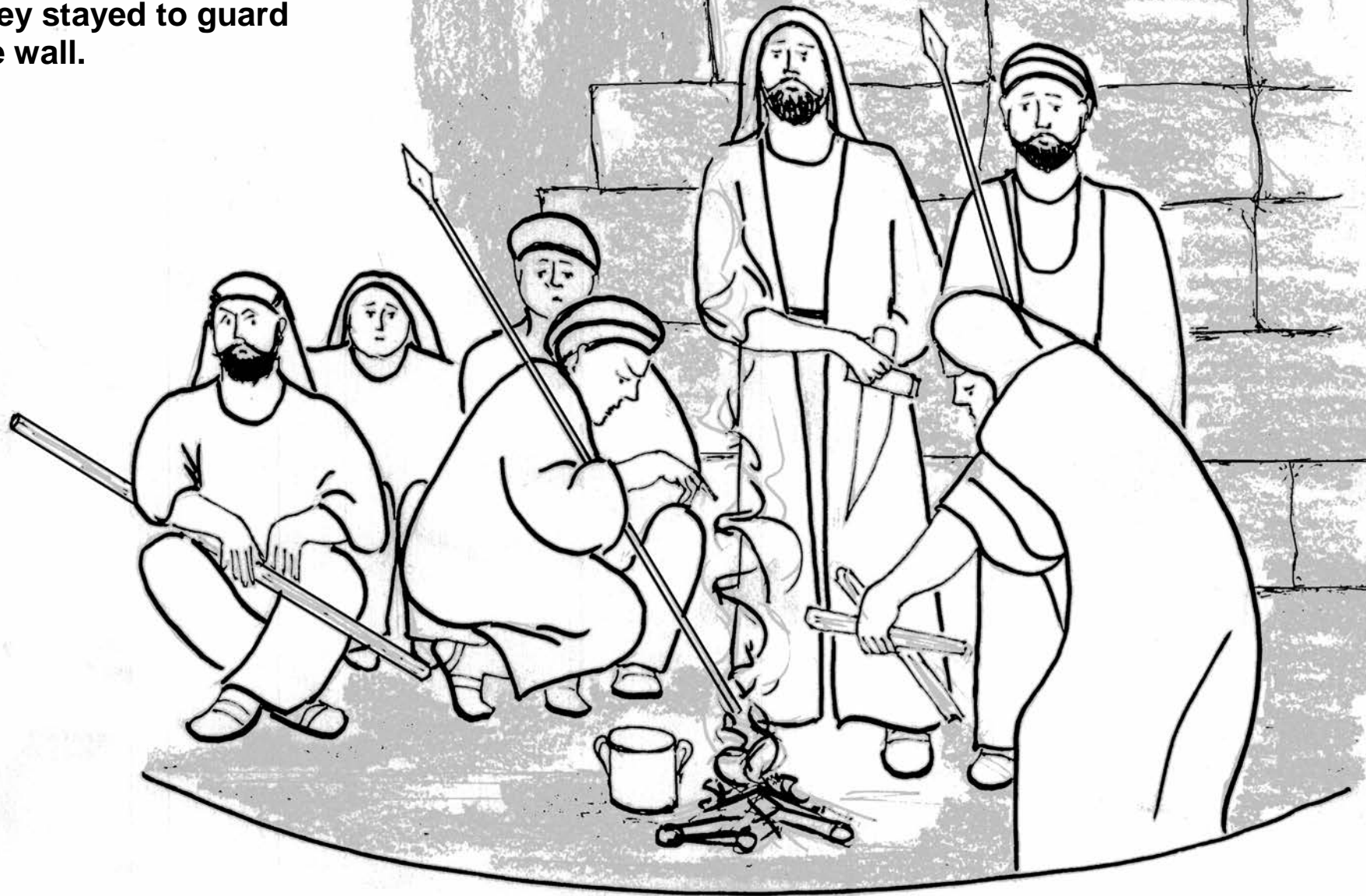
**Nehemiah told everyone to
be on guard.
He gave them swords,
spears and bows.**

**Then he said, 'Trust in the Lord.
He will help us.'**

**Half the people were
to stand guard.
Those who were building
were to work while holding
a weapon in their hand.**



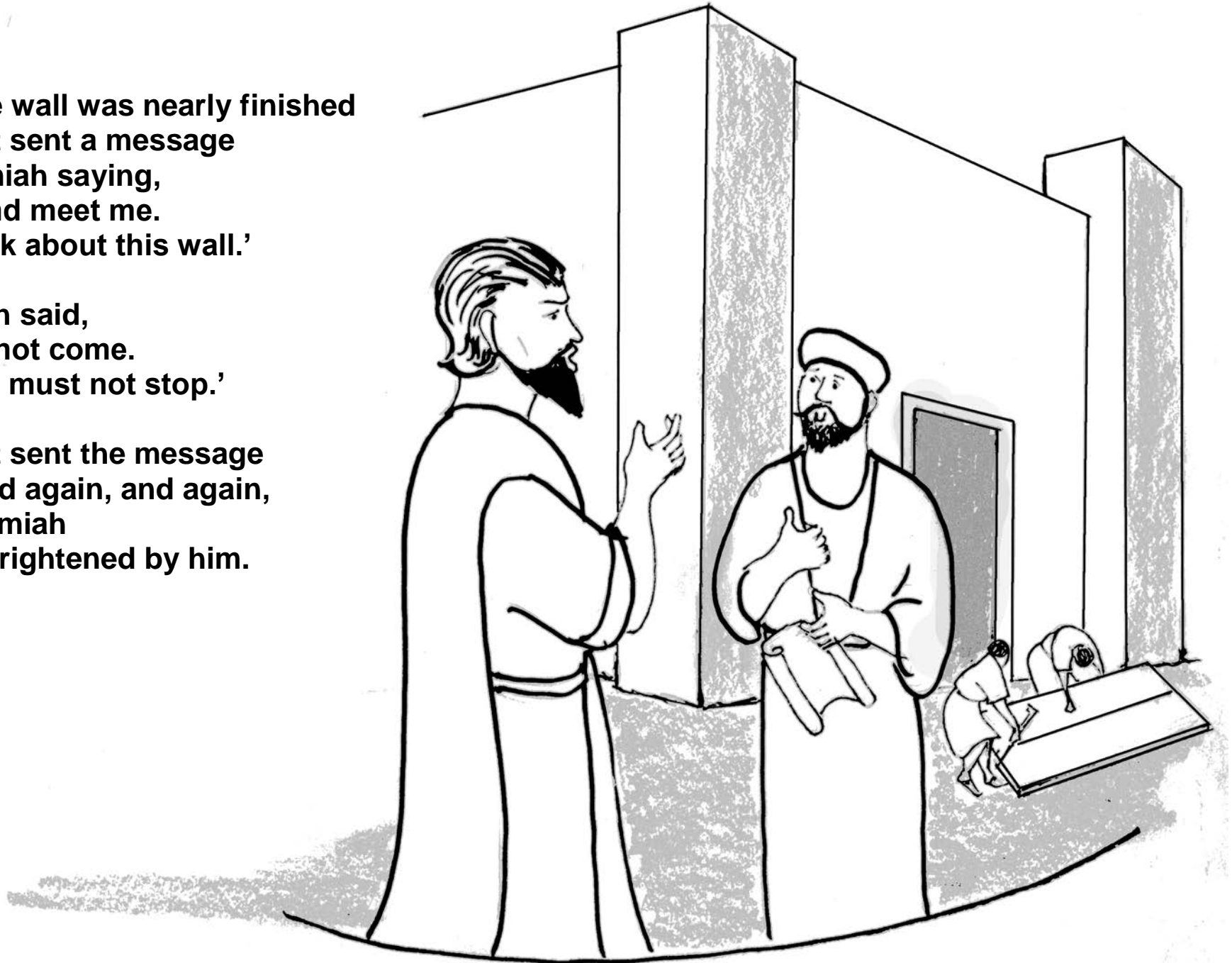
**At night no one went home.
They did not even
change their clothes.
They stayed to guard
the wall.**



**When the wall was nearly finished
Sanballat sent a message
to Nehemiah saying,
'Come and meet me.
Let us talk about this wall.'**

**Nehemiah said,
'No I cannot come.
The work must not stop.'**

**Sanballat sent the message
again, and again, and again,
but Nehemiah
was not frightened by him.**



Then he tried something else.

**He paid an old man to say
to Nehemiah,
'Your enemies are going to kill you.
Come and hide in the temple
so you will not be killed.'**

**Nehemiah answered,
'I am not the kind of man that
runs away and hides
to save my life.'**

**God then showed him that
this old man had been sent
to frighten him
and try and make him sin.**



**At last the walls were finished.
They had taken fifty-two days
to build.**

**Everyone gathered together and
gave thanks to God.
They walked around the wall
singing, playing music
and praising God.**

**After that they sacrificed
to the Lord
and rejoiced in God.**

**People far away
could hear the sound
of them giving thanks.**

