

***Bible Stories for Young Children***

*part of a curriculum prepared for young children*

***THE MAN OF GOD WHO DISOBEYED THE LORD***

*by*

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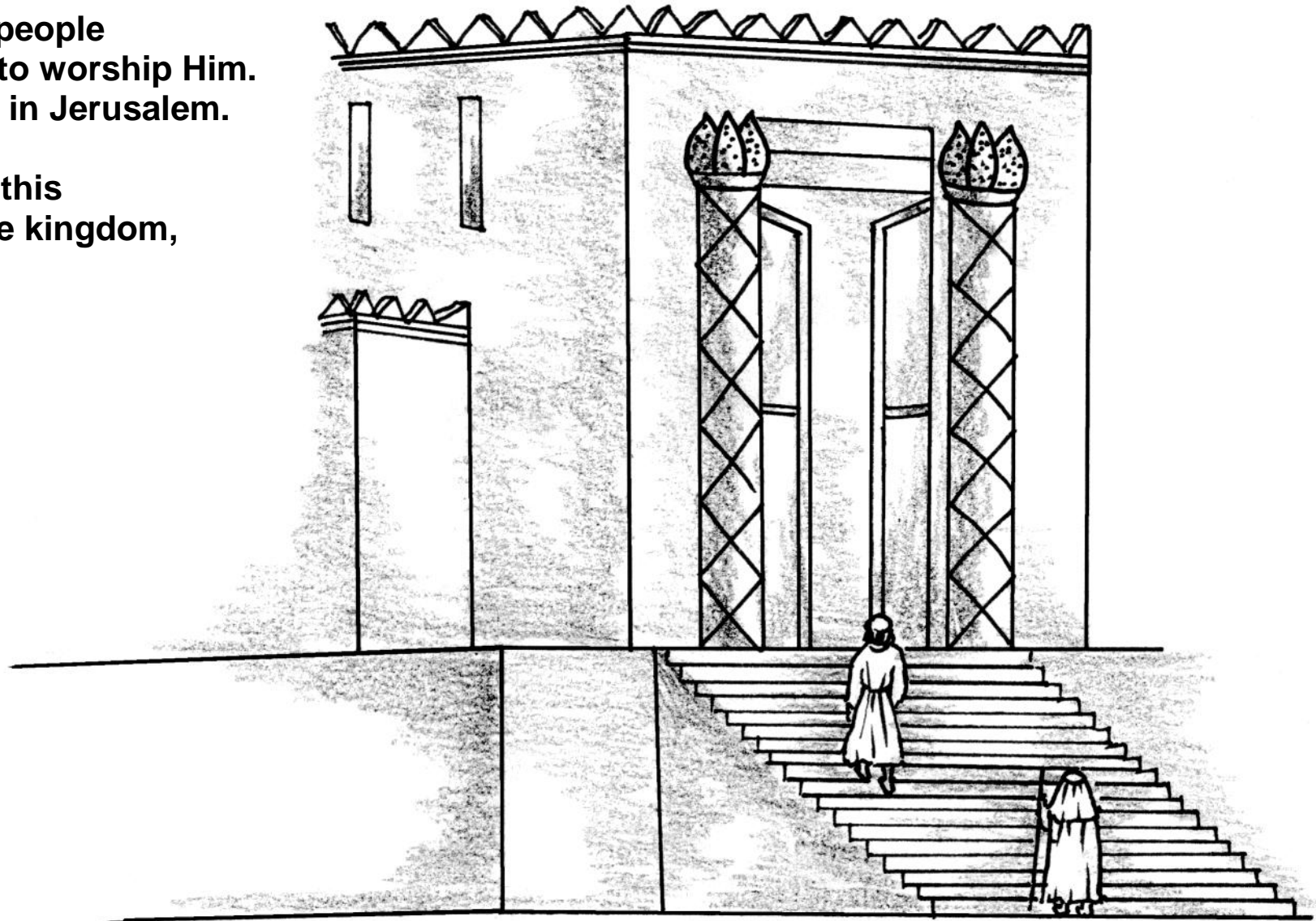
**1 KINGS 13:1–34**

**THE MAN OF GOD WHO DISOBEYED THE LORD**

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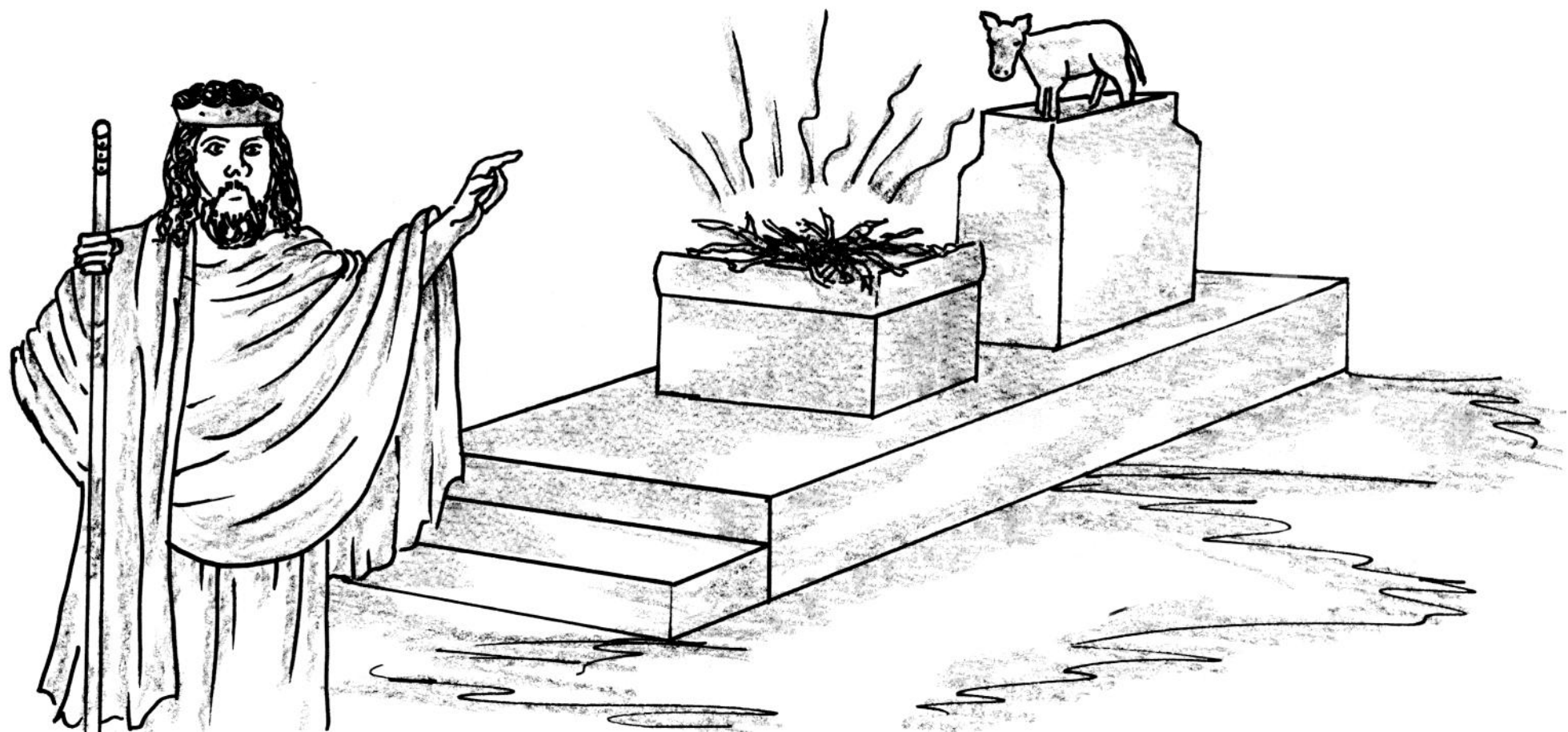
**God had given His people  
one place for them to worship Him.  
It was at the temple in Jerusalem.**

**No one questioned this  
when Israel was one kingdom,  
but now it was two.**



**King Jeroboam, who was king of the north,  
did not want his people going to Jerusalem.  
He was afraid they might stay there  
and become part of the southern kingdom.**

**So he built other places of worship,  
but God's presence was not there.**



**One day when Jeroboam was sacrificing at one of his temples, a man of God said to him, 'A King from David's line will come and get rid of this altar and its priests.'**

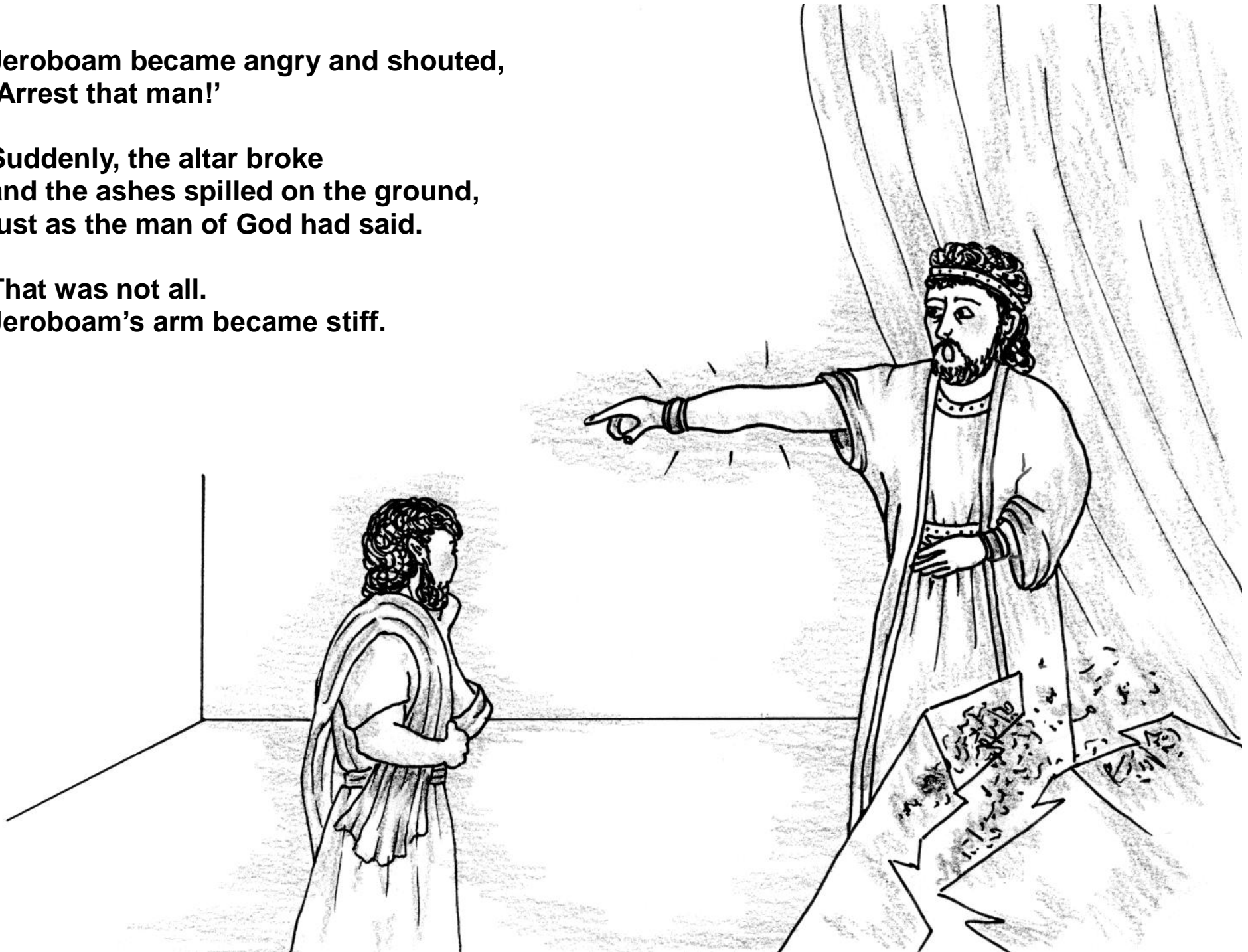
**'You will know that this message is from God, because the altar will break and the ashes will spill on the ground.'**



**Jeroboam became angry and shouted,  
'Arrest that man!'**

**Suddenly, the altar broke  
and the ashes spilled on the ground,  
just as the man of God had said.**

**That was not all.  
Jeroboam's arm became stiff.**





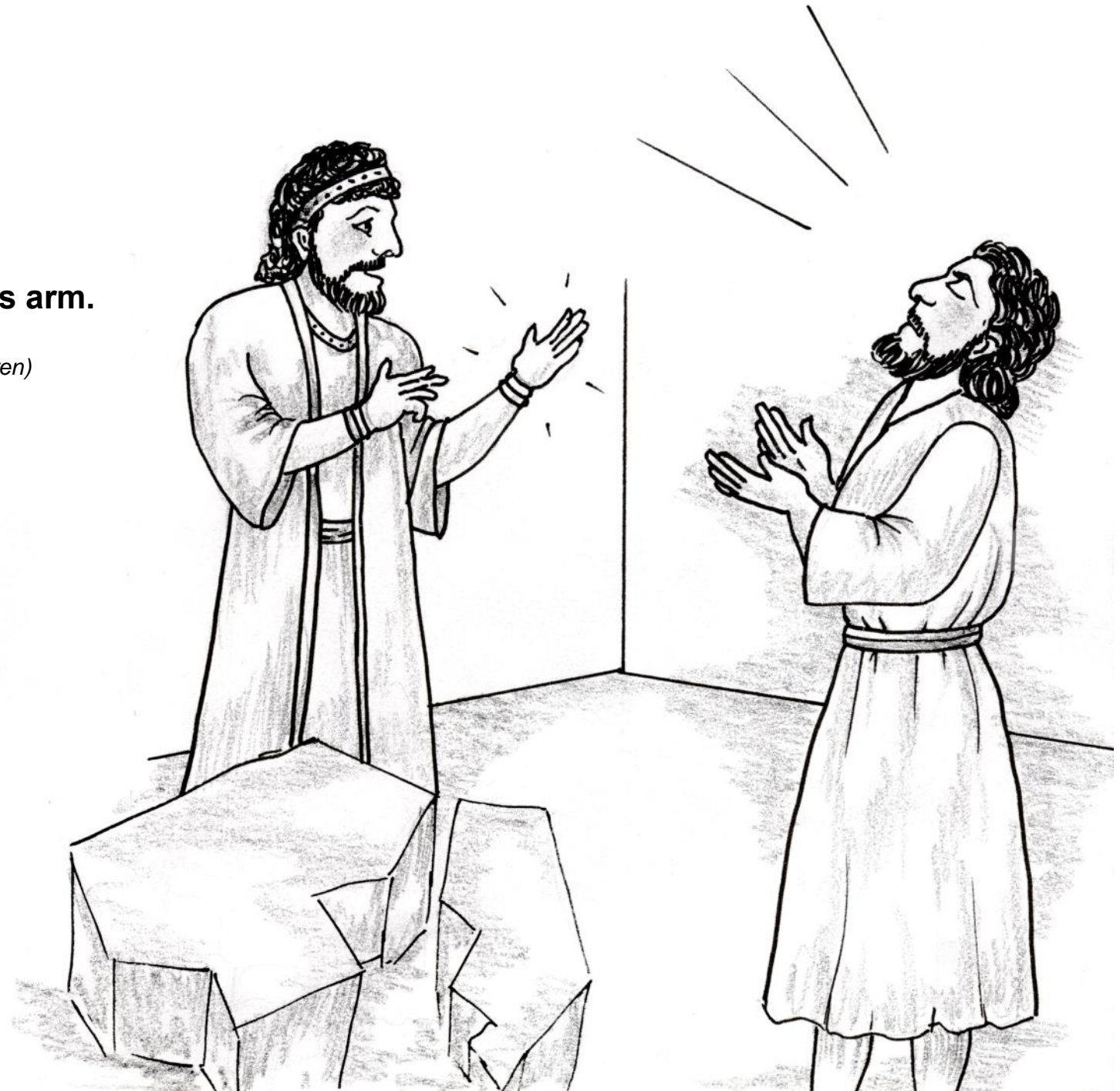
**Jeroboam cried out in fear,  
saying,  
'Please pray for me.  
Ask the Lord your God  
to make my arm well.'**

**The man of God prayed,  
and God healed Jeroboam's arm.**

*\*(Story could finish here for younger children)*

**'Come home with me,'  
asked Jeroboam.**

**'No,' said the man of God.  
'The Lord told me  
that I was not to go  
home with anyone.'**



On his way home,  
an old prophet met him  
and said,  
'Man of God, come home with me  
and have something to eat and drink.'

'I cannot go home with you,'  
said the man of God.  
'The Lord told me that  
I was not to go home  
with anyone.'

'I am a man of God too,'  
said the old prophet.  
'An angel of the Lord  
told me to take you  
to my home  
and give you something  
to eat and drink.'

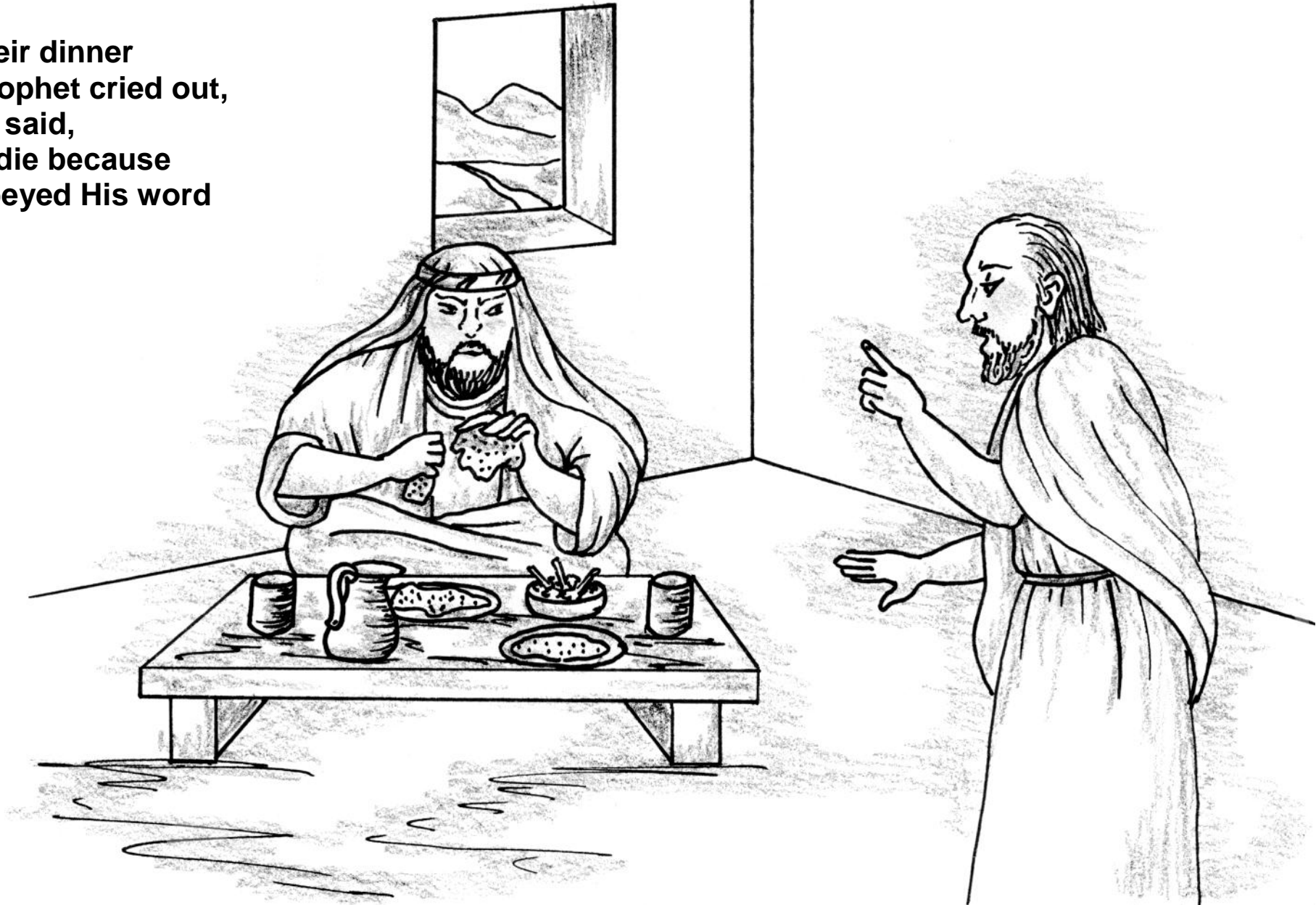
But, the old prophet  
was lying.





**The man of God  
went home with the old prophet  
and disobeyed the Lord.**

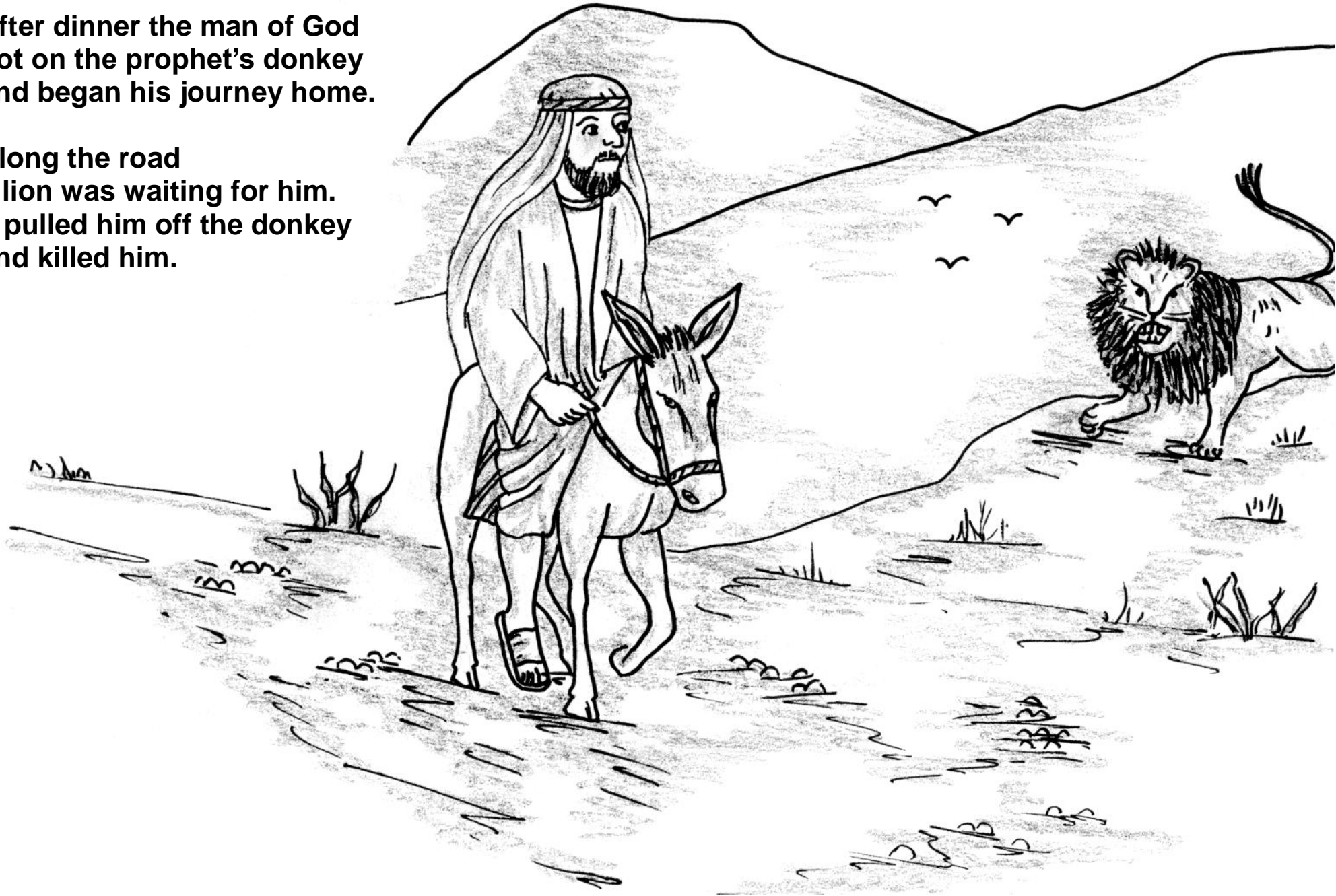
**During their dinner  
the old prophet cried out,  
'The Lord said,  
"You will die because  
you disobeyed His word  
to you."'**





After dinner the man of God  
got on the prophet's donkey  
and began his journey home.

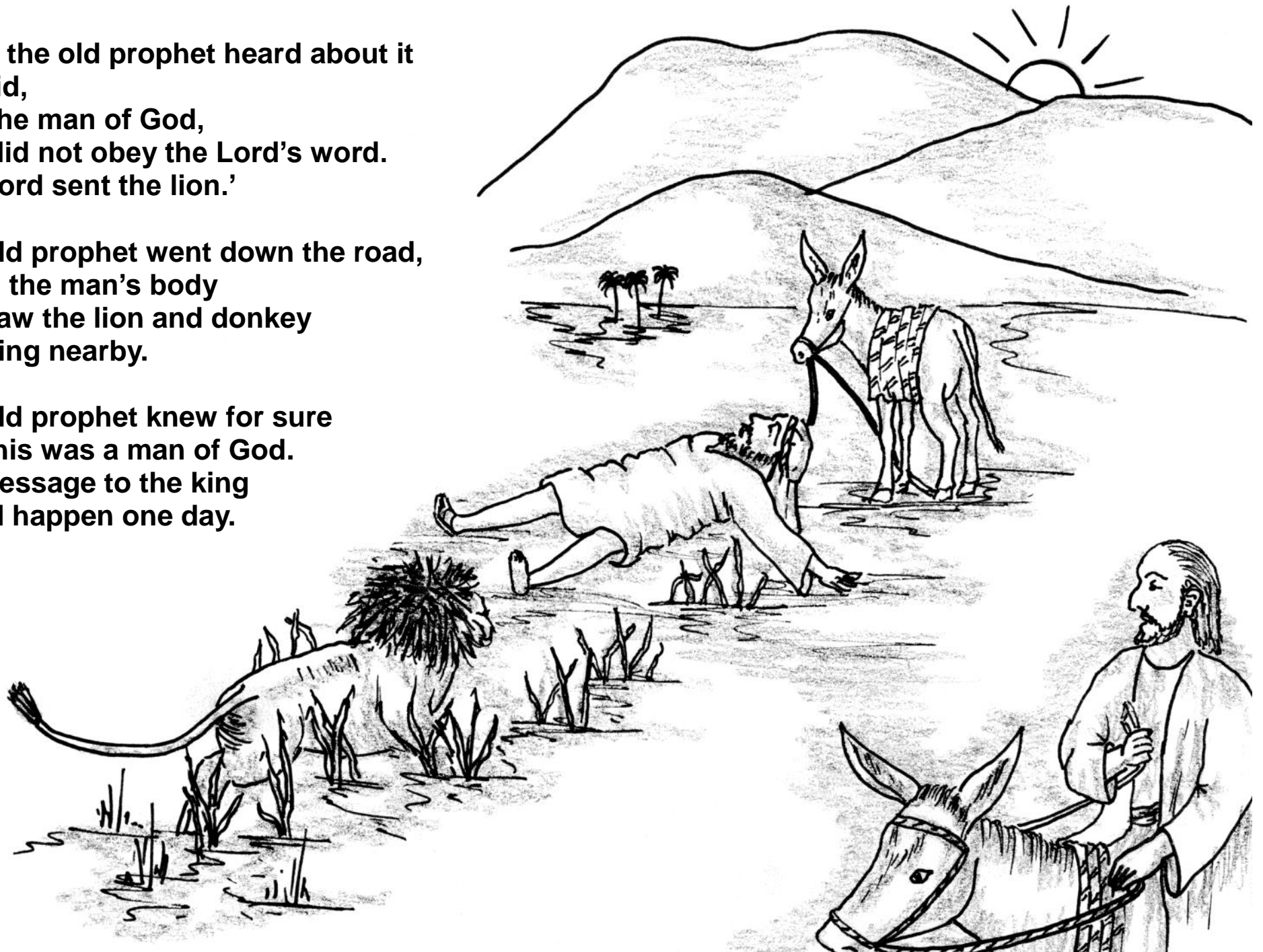
Along the road  
a lion was waiting for him.  
It pulled him off the donkey  
and killed him.



**When the old prophet heard about it  
he said,  
'It is the man of God,  
who did not obey the Lord's word.  
The Lord sent the lion.'**

**The old prophet went down the road,  
found the man's body  
and saw the lion and donkey  
standing nearby.**

**The old prophet knew for sure  
that this was a man of God.  
His message to the king  
would happen one day.**



***King Jeroboam went on doing things  
his way and not God's way.  
This is the way he led his people  
to sin against God  
and bring his country to ruin.***