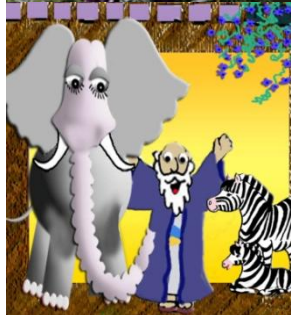
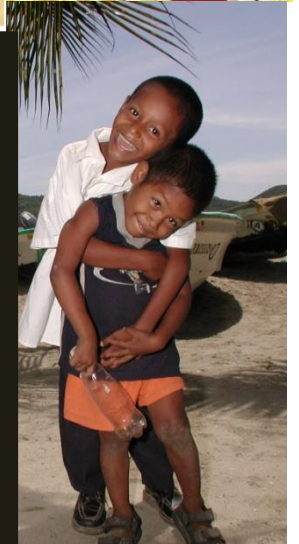




*Children's Beautiful Bible Treasures*



# **Children's Beautiful Bible Treasures**

**—Part 6—**

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**A Heavenly Ride on a Fiery Chariot** (Page 7)

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**Humility and Healing** (Page 23)

**The Axe that Floated** (Page 27)

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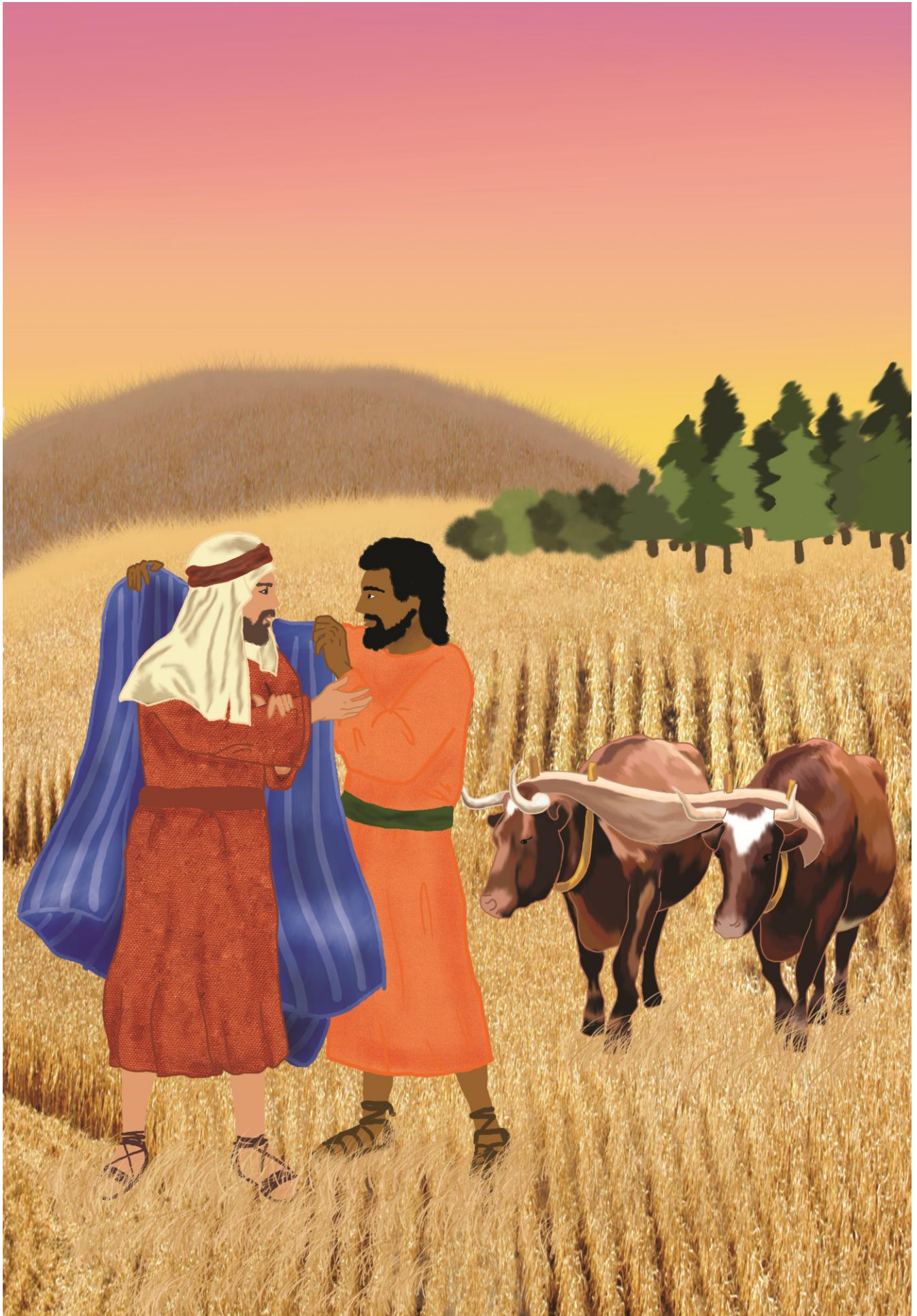
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(These stories and illustrations are also included in the  
*"Beautiful Bible Treasures"* Lessons 62-74: *Kings and Prophets II.*)



## Elisha is Called

Elijah was on Mount Horeb, talking with the Lord about his next mission. God spoke to him in a gentle and quiet voice. Elijah listened real well to God's voice.

He said to go to a man named Elisha, and to call him to come and work together with him, as preparation for him to be the new prophet later on. Elijah began travelling right away to do what God asked him to do.

When Elijah made it to the place where Elisha was, he found him outside working on his farm. He had 12 yokes of oxen working to plough the field.





Elijah came up to him and threw his coat over Elisha as a sign that he was being called and given a new job to do—to live with Elijah and help him. Elisha was to learn from Elijah about hearing from the Lord and being a prophet.



Elijah then kept on walking. Elisha didn't wait around, he stopped what he was doing and ran over to catch up with Elijah to tell him he would like to follow him and do what God was calling him to do.

Elisha first cooked a meal for everyone there, and then said good-bye. He didn't delay, but went right away to obey what God and His prophet asked him to do. He was happy to learn all he could about listening to God and being one of His special messengers.



## A Heavenly Ride on a Fiery Chariot

Elijah had been a faithful messenger, telling God's Words to everyone. Finally, it was time for him to go to Heaven. Elisha would be the new prophet, continuing the job of leading people in God's ways, listening to God's Words and passing those messages on to the people.

It was hard for Elisha and the others who knew and loved Elijah, to think of him leaving them. God told Elijah the day he was going to leave, and so he told good-bye to those who knew him and were learning to be prophets too.

Elijah and Elisha were walking along and talking, as they travelled to the last places that God told Elijah he needed to visit before he left this Earth. Elisha knew this was Elijah's last day with him, so he wanted to stay closely with him and go with him wherever he went on that day.



The two men needed to cross over the Jordan River, and they needed a miracle. Prophet Elijah took his coat and hit the water with it, and amazingly the water parted and there was a dry path going straight across it, for them to walk on. It closed up as soon as they were across.

Elijah asked Elisha if there was anything that he wanted to have given to him. Elisha wanted to have twice as much of the power of God's Spirit as Elijah had! He knew it would be a big job for him to help people walk in God's ways, and he knew it would take lots of Heavenly help to do it.

As they kept walking and talking, all of a sudden a chariot with horses sent from heaven, appearing all bright and fiery, came



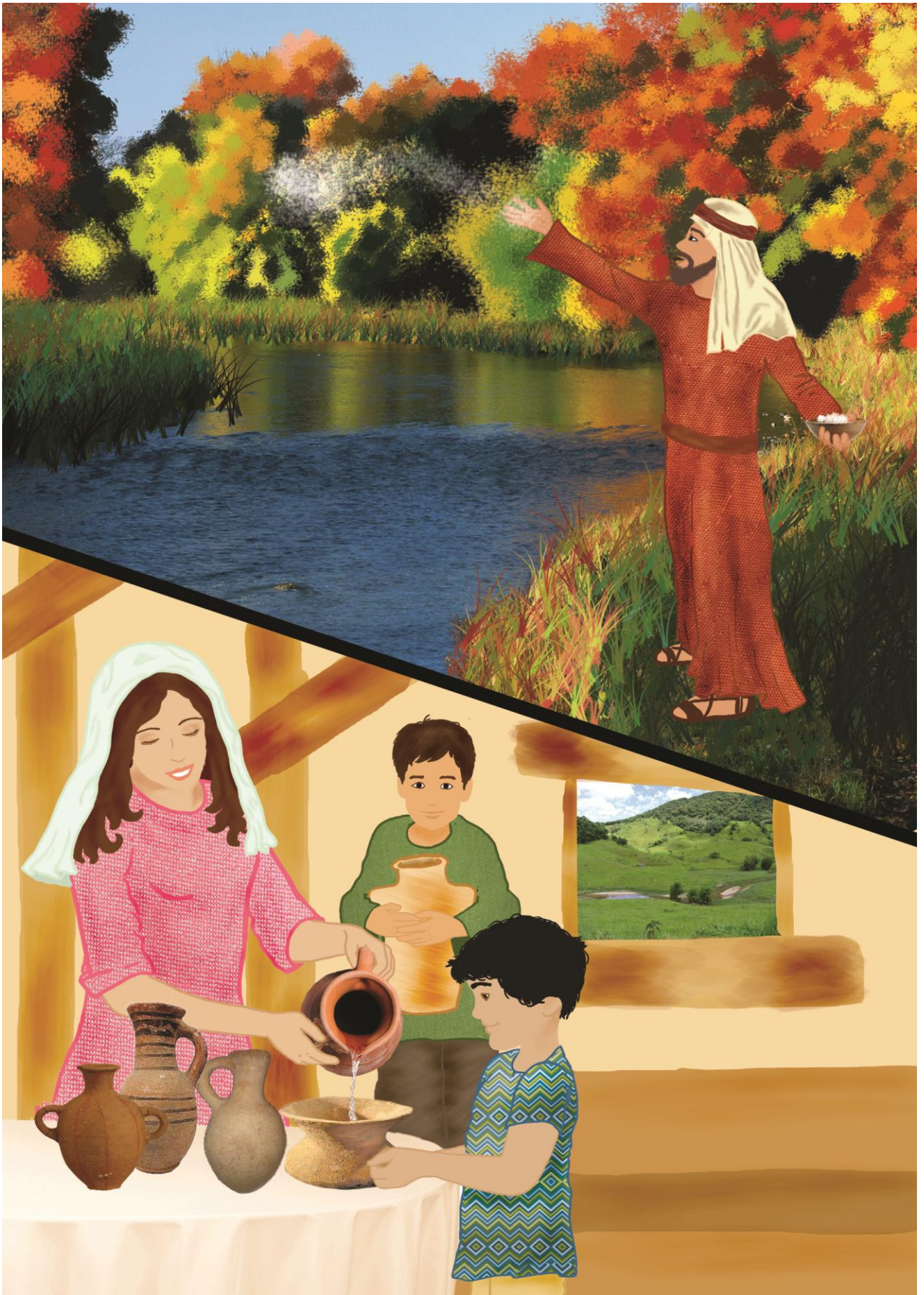
galloping to where they were walking. With a whoosh of wind Elijah was lifted up into this chariot to catch his ride to heaven! It was very amazing!

Elisha would now be the new prophet that others looked up to and would listen to, as he passed on God's Words to them. Elijah's coat fell down and Elisha picked it up. He carried it as he went to cross back over the Jordan River.

Elisha took the coat and prayed for a miracle—that God would be now with him too, and help him. As he hit the water with Elijah's coat, it again parted and he walked across on a dry path. Everyone who saw Elisha knew that God's Spirit was now with him.







## Amazing Water and Oil

Prophet Elisha was often called on to help people in difficult situations. He loved the Lord and prayed for miracles, and then would obey whatever God said to do.

One time the water that was in the city of Jericho wasn't clean and pure, and it was causing a big problem for those living there. The people asked Prophet Elisha what to do about it. When he prayed, God told him to do something interesting. Good things always happened when he obeyed God's instructions. "Bring me a new jar with salt in it!" he said.

Elisha took the jar with salt and poured it into the water, and told the people God's promise that the water was now clean and fine and good. Everyone was so glad! It was good that they went to the Lord and to His prophet to find out what to do.



Fresh water would make the plants grow well, and would make the people and animals healthy too.



Another time a miracle was needed was for a woman and her two children. They owed a lot of money to someone, and he was demanding to have it paid back. She was very poor and didn't have anything to give. The only thing she had left was a little bit of oil in a jar.

She made the wise choice and wanted to find out what God wanted her to do. She told Prophet Elisha about her problem.

The woman had faith and obeyed whatever Prophet Elisha told her to do—which were God's instructions to her.

She was to collect lots of jars and pots and bring them to her house. Then she was to pour her little bit of oil into them, and to just keep pouring until all the jars and pots were filled.

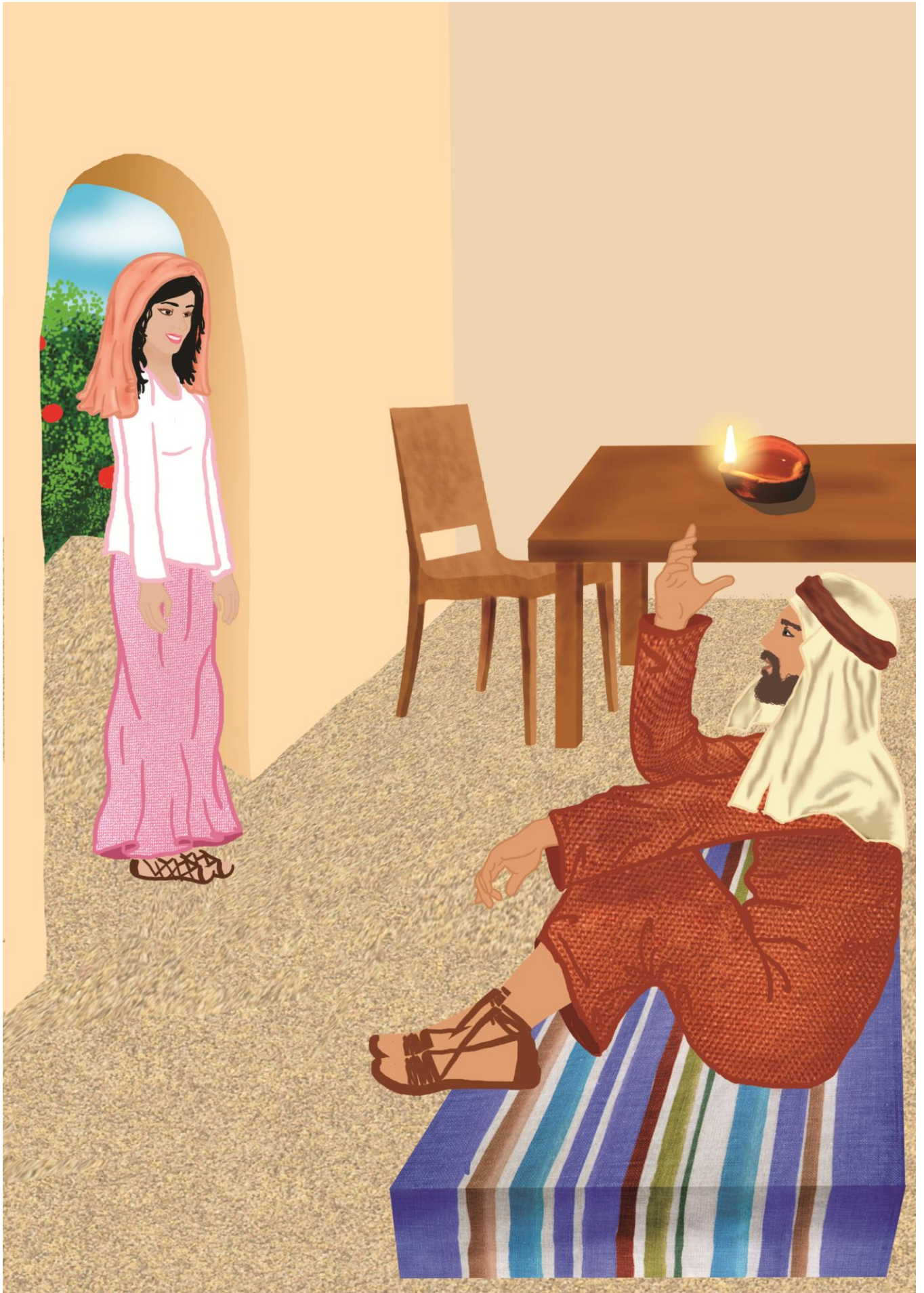


The woman did that and she and her children were happily surprised to see the oil from the little jar never ran out, until all

the big jars and pots were filled! Now they could sell the oil and have all the money they needed—both to pay the debt as well as for their family's needs.

Asking for God's ideas for a solution to a problem, and then doing what He says to do, with an attitude of faith, brings wonderful blessings your way!





## Elisha's Room, and a Special Child

As Prophet Elisha walked to different parts of the country talking with and helping people, he needed food and water and places to rest.

There was a man and woman that would often invite him to stay and have a meal with them when he passed by their house on his journeys. She realised that he was a man of God and wanted to take good care of him. One time she got an idea of something else they could do.

The woman suggested to her husband that they build an extra room for Elisha to stay in when he was travelling that way, if he was tired and needed to rest. So they built the room on top of their own house's flat roof, and put a bed, a table and stool, and a candle stick in the room for him.

The next time the prophet came that way he was so happy to see the great gift they made for him—a room to rest in, whenever he wanted to!

He wanted to thank them for their kindness and prayed for the Lord to give them a child.

This was what the woman had always

wished for. The next year, the woman and her husband had a baby boy, and it made them so glad!



One time when Prophet Elisha was on Mount Carmel he looked up and saw the woman riding on a donkey towards where he was. He went to find out what she needed. Her son had suddenly gotten very ill and was lying on the prophet's bed at their house.





Prophet Elisha went home with her and prayed for the boy to recover, as he had already passed away.

The boy then sneezed seven times, and was healed and alive! The mother was so grateful!

She held her son and was very happy! Her kindness to God's prophet had brought many joys back to her in return.



## Food for Hungry Men

Prophet Elisha and his team of young men who were learning to hear from God too, needed food to eat. They had travelled to a place where there hadn't been much rain so crops in the farms weren't growing well.

They put water in a big pot to boil for soup. Some people went to look in the fields all around to find any types of vegetables they could find growing wild; something that they could pick and add to the soup.

However, some gourds were picked from a vine that was poisonous, because they didn't know that it wasn't edible. It made the whole soup bad to eat. Everyone was hungry and had nothing else to eat. Prophet Elisha prayed, and God said to throw a handful of flour into the pot, and then it would be changed by a miracle into good food.



God would change it and make it fine to eat. And that's what happened!

Everyone was able to have a nice bowl of good, healthful, warm vegetable soup. They were grateful for the Lord's loving care for them.



Another time when Prophet Elisha and his team were in need of food, a kind man brought a special gift. The food from his first harvest was brought to them. He gave them 20 barley loaves and some corn.

Instead of eating it all himself with his own household, this man wanted to share it with God and His Prophet and the team of men with him.

Prophet Elisha had one hundred men who were in need of a meal, but the food the man brought wouldn't be enough for everyone to have some.

When Prophet Elisha asked God what to do, He spoke and said to go ahead and serve the bread and corn to everyone and that there would be enough—and even some left over. They did that, and the hungry men ate until they had plenty.



Afterwards, when they felt full and left the meal there still was extra food left over for later! God made even more than enough for everyone to get what they needed. As they listened to God and obeyed by faith, God supplied all that they needed.





## Humility and Healing

There was an important man in the land of Syria named Naaman, but he had a big problem. He was very sick. It was a sickness that made his skin filled with sores, and there was no cure. He and his wife were very sad. One day his wife's maid gave them some hope.

"If only Naaman were with the Prophet Elisha, he could get healed!" the maid said. She had lived in the land of Israel before, so she knew about the prophet. This was the first time someone had given Naaman hope that he could be healed. He was eager to go and find the prophet.

Naaman and his team went to the king of Israel to ask about getting healed. The king couldn't heal him, of course, but Elisha told the king to send Naaman to his house.

When Naaman arrived, Prophet Elisha's servant went out to greet him and tell him the instructions from God that Prophet Elisha had said to tell him.

"Go wash in the Jordan River seven times and you will be healed!" Elisha's servant told the message to Naaman.

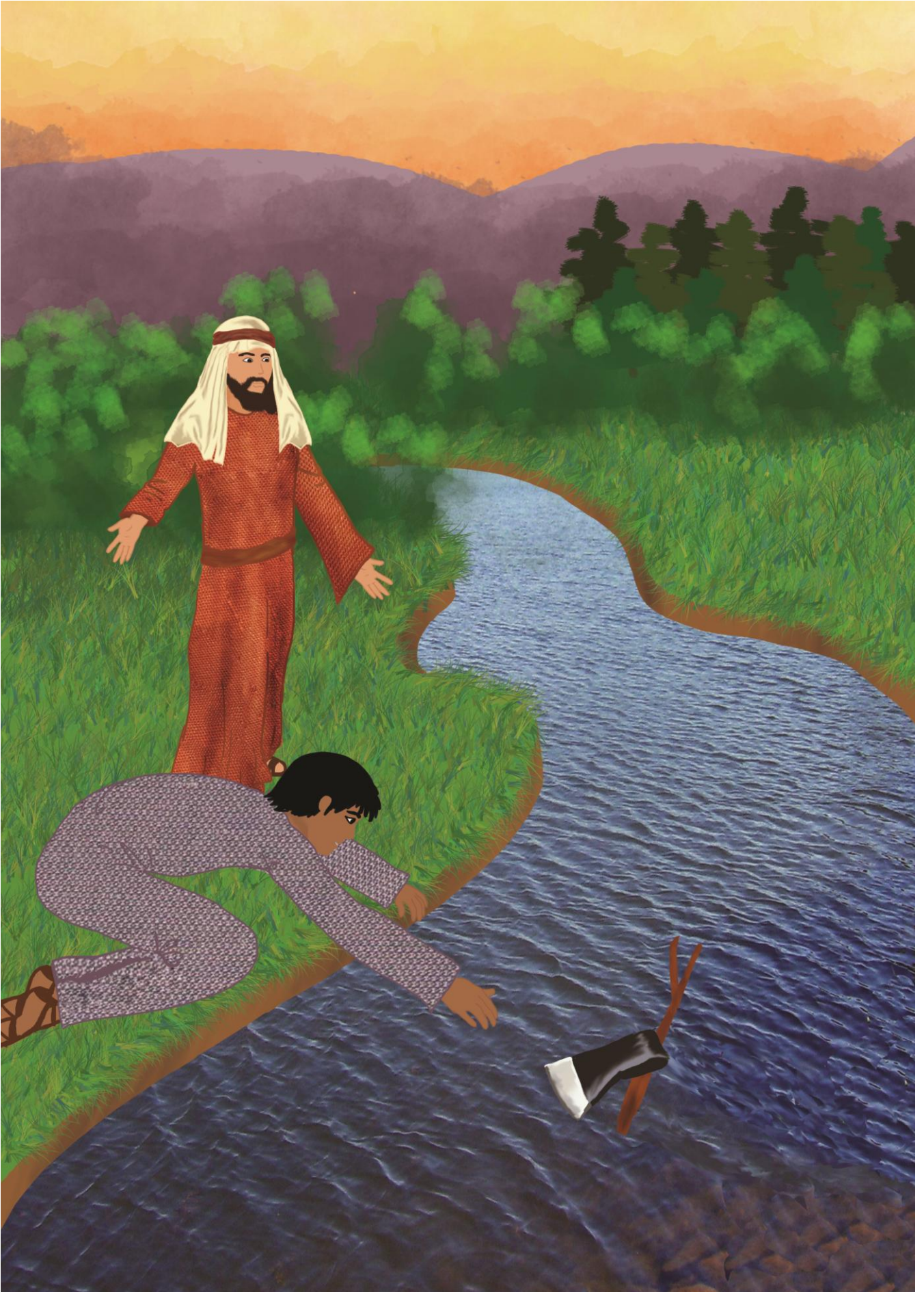
Naaman wasn't very happy to go and wash in the muddy river, but finally he agreed. When he humbly obeyed what God asked him to do first, and washed seven times, his body became totally healed. He looked and felt great!



Naaman went back to say 'thank you' to Prophet Elisha and to give him gifts, but Elisha told him that it was God who healed him, not himself. He took none of the gifts, as he wanted Naaman to realise that it was God alone who healed him.

Naaman believed in God when he saw how wonderful and powerful He was, able to do such a great miracle—healing him from his otherwise incurable illness. He would respect and pray to God from then on!





## The Axe that Floated

Prophet Elisha helped to teach a team of men how to hear from the Lord, and instructed them in God's ways. Sometimes they travelled around, and other times they stayed in a house with Prophet Elisha.

One time, they needed a bigger place to live, so they got an idea to make a bigger place out of logs. Elisha agreed and said they could get to work building. First they would need to go and find some trees to cut down, to use for making the new house.

"Please come with us to the river's edge while we cut down the trees," the men asked Prophet Elisha. So he went together with them as they started on this project. An axe had to be borrowed for this job, and the man who borrowed it was trying to take good care of it.

After awhile, as the man was working hard chopping down trees the metal head of the axe flew off the handle and splashed right into the water of the Jordan River. Oh dear! It sunk immediately to the bottom of the river. It would be impossible to find.

"My Father, my Father!" he cried out to Prophet Elisha, for that is what he called him. "The axe head fell into the water. It was the one I was borrowing! What am I going to do?"

Prophet Elisha prayed, and God showed him to do something rather unusual. Elisha obeyed right away. He cut a stick off a tree, one that could float, and threw it on the water in the place where the axe head had fallen in.





To the relief and joy and surprise of the young man and everyone else watching, the iron axe head also began to float. The man reached and grabbed it from off the surface of the water. They thanked God for helping them.



The team was working hard doing the part they could do to build a house, and God did the miracles they needed to make it possible.



## The Fruit

The kind and generous woman, who helped Elisha by inviting him for meals as well as having a room built for him to rest in, needed to move to a new place for awhile.

Elisha came to tell her that there wouldn't be sufficient food in the country for several years; there would be a famine in the land. It wouldn't be easy for her if she stayed where she lived. Elisha suggested that she, and all who lived with her, move for the seven years that it would take, until the famine was over.

The woman believed God's Words and obeyed Prophet Elisha. She and all who lived with her packed up what they could and travelled to another country, to stay there until things were better again in her own country.



After seven years the famine was over and it was time for her to move back to her house with a nice farm and many fruit trees.



However, when she arrived she saw that other people had been using her property. She didn't know what to do, so she went to talk with the king about it.

The king was in the middle of hearing about some of the miracles of Prophet Elisha, and how when he prayed for a lifeless little boy, he was healed and alive again.

When the woman walked in right then, the king was happy to find out that this was the mother of the boy he'd just heard was brought back to life.

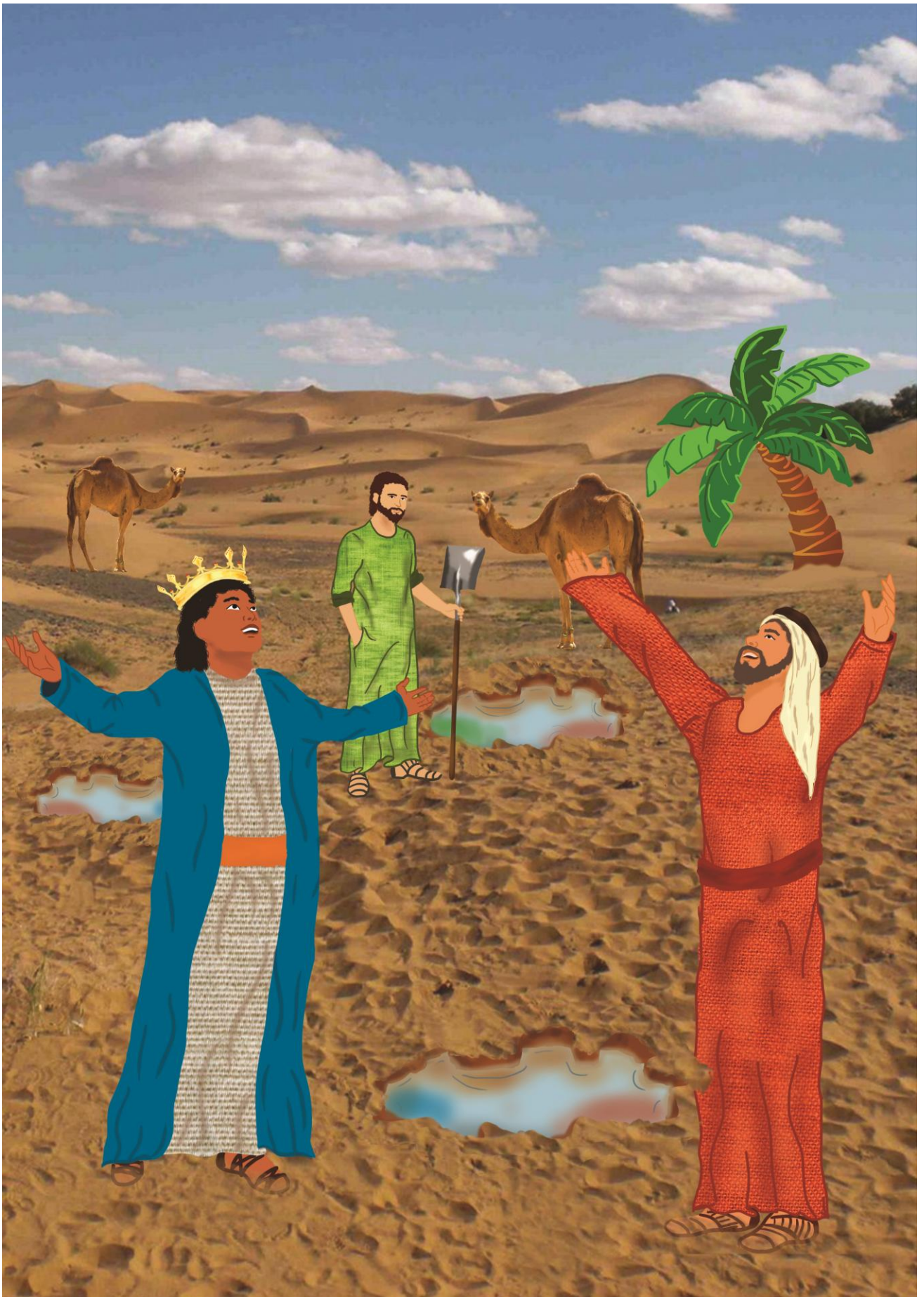
When she confirmed to the king that this is indeed what happened, he wanted to help this woman all he could. The king was glad to hear about the good things that were going on, and that this was a woman who had faith in God.



The king sent someone to work out the situation and help this woman's house and property and all her fruit be given back to her and her team again. Because this woman had faith and obeyed what God and His prophet had told her to do, then everything worked out well in the end.

Even the things that were difficult at the time ended up bringing blessings into her life, because she loved God and wanted to do things that pleased Him.







## Abundance and Obedience

King Jehoshaphat wanted to do what God said, and he wanted others in his country to hear what God's Word said, too. He selected some good men who read and obeyed God's instructions, and gave them the job of teaching it to others. Those men travelled around the country and read the books of God's Word to people. They taught everyone what God said to do.

Because King Jehoshaphat chose to love and obey God, God let their country have peace and plenty. Many riches and presents were given to him by lots of people all over. He was a good king and did his best to make the country nice for everyone.

One time a team of three kings and their helpers were meeting in an area where they found out there wasn't any water to drink.

There were many people and animals that had travelled a long way to get there. They all needed water, so they called Prophet Elisha to pray and find out from God what they should do.

Prophet Elisha asked a musician to play nice music for him while he prayed. Then God talked with him and told him what to tell the kings.



“Dig ditches in the valley down there, and without rain coming, water will be there for you.” Prophet Elisha told them what God said to do.

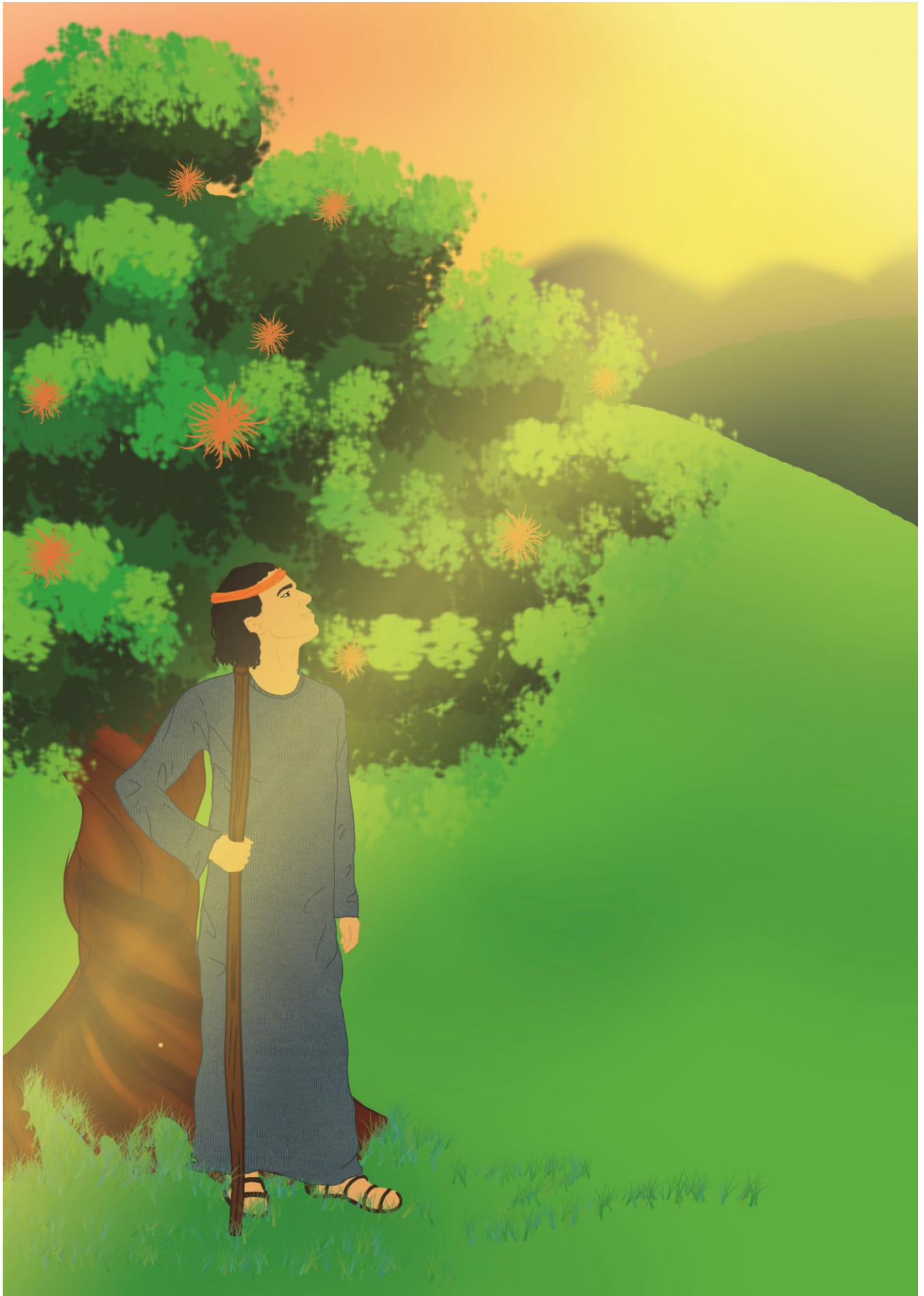
The people obeyed, and were so glad to see the miracle that happened the next morning.

There was water that was rushing along the ground and came and filled up all the ditches, turning them into little pools of water. Everyone had refreshing water to drink.



It was good they had faith to do the hard work of digging the ditches. God blessed it and supplied for them what they needed.





## Amos, Joel, and Hosea

During the time when the kings ruled over the lands of Israel and Judah, there were prophets sent from God to speak His Words and instructions to the people. One man was Prophet Hosea. He wrote down the messages God gave him and they are recorded in the Book of Hosea.

God wanted him to let the people know that God loved them, even when they were naughty. He wanted them to love Him too, and to say they were sorry, and God would forgive them.

The prophet Joel told of how God can give His Spirit and His Words to anyone now, at this time. If someone loves the Lord and prays, they can receive God's Spirit. They will be able to hear what God wants to tell them, and will have the strength and power to do what He needs them to do.

With God's thoughts and ideas, visions and dreams leading His people, they can do a wonderful job for Him.

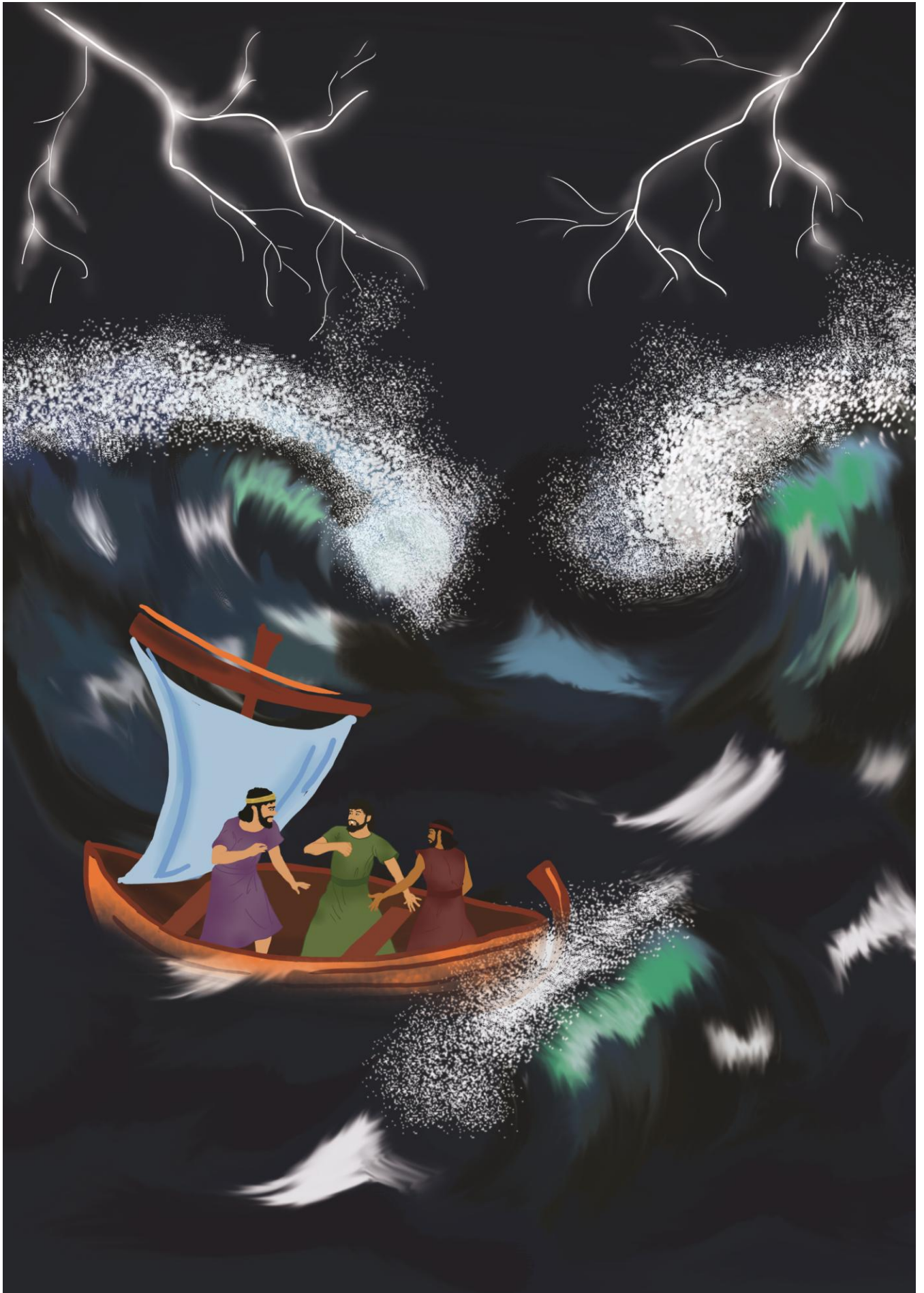
There was a man called Amos, and he was a herdsman that cared for the flocks and cattle on the hill sides. He also had the job of picking fruit.

One day God called him to instead be a prophet and tell God's words to the people.



Amos listened to God and told others what God wanted to say to them. He was a faithful and obedient messenger.





## Jonah's Trip

Jonah was a prophet of God, and he was given an important message to pass on to the people in the city of Nineveh. The people there weren't doing the things that were right and good and kind, and it was making God very sad. He wanted everyone to feel loved and to know that He cared about them.

The wrongdoers needed to be told to stop. God sent Jonah to tell them that there would be trouble and difficulty coming their way real soon.

However, when Jonah thought about it, he didn't want to go and do that hard job. He didn't want to have to go to that bad city. Jonah was afraid and chose to not obey what God asked him to do, and instead took a trip to somewhere else.

He got on a ship that was sailing to Tarshish, but the journey wasn't an easy one as there was a very big and troubling storm.

The sailors didn't know if they would make it to land safely. They tried rowing hard, but the stormy waves and the wind prevented them from reaching shore.



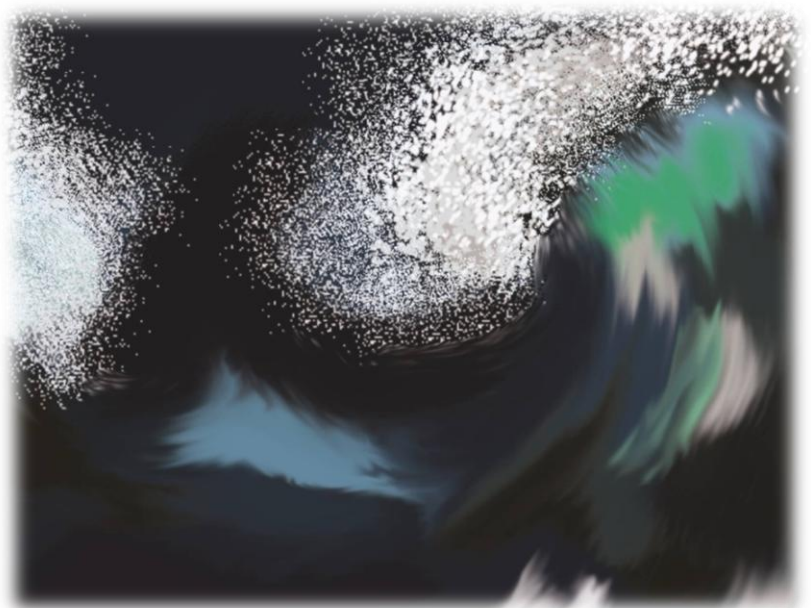
The sailors wondered if the storm happened because someone on their boat had done something wrong and it was a punishment perhaps. When they talked with Jonah about it, Jonah said that the storm happened as a lesson because of his disobedience to what God had asked him to do.



He was sorry that he disobeyed, and the other sailors realised the importance of listening to and obeying God's instructions. They all prayed and asked God to help them.

God's solution was something very different. God said that Jonah needed to get out of the ship and swim. And when he did, the storm stopped and was calm again.

The sailors believed in God's power when they saw that happen. They turned their hearts to the Lord and learned



to respect Him. Jonah was kept safe in the water by God's loving care, and God sent him a new way to travel to the land, so he could go where he was meant to go.

A very big fish came and took Jonah for a ride, right inside of his huge belly for three days, and took him to the land. Isn't that amazing?

Jonah prayed desperately while inside the fish. He trusted in God to help him. After three days the fish spit him out on to land.

When Jonah was safe and fine on the land again, God asked him once more to go and give the important message to the people of Nineveh. Jonah quickly obeyed and did what God told him to do. This made God happy, as He loved the people there and wanted them to change and start making better and more loving choices in their lives.





## Warnings and Forgiveness

Prophet Jonah arrived in Nineveh at last. What an eventful and challenging journey it had been. It wasn't a fun job, but it was a lot better than finding out the difficulties that come when someone chooses to go the wrong way. He knew what it was like to make the wrong choices and to disobey God.

The people of Nineveh were also making the wrong choices and weren't doing things that pleased the Lord. Instead of just stopping them with a big punishment and making things hard for them, God chose to give them a chance to change on their own.

That is why He wanted Jonah to go there, to give them a warning—to be like a warning sign that says “wrong way—danger”.



Jonah told everyone that soon there would be hard times and unpleasant consequences for them for all their wrong and hurtful ways of living.

He told them God's message, that their city would be ruined in 40 days, because of all the bad that was going on in that city.

Thankfully, everyone listened and decided that they wanted to change. The king announced that everyone needed to stop doing their wrong and unkind deeds, and for all the people of the country to have some days of prayer and desperation. They fasted and prayed and showed they were sorry, asking God to forgive them.

When God saw that they were sorry and wanted to change, He chose to give them another chance.



He didn't give them the trouble that He would have given them if they hadn't chosen to pray and decided to do things God's way.

Jonah didn't understand why the trouble that he announced was to come to Nineveh in 40 days, didn't come, so God helped explain it in a special way.

One night God made a gourd plant grow very fast and big right over the stick shelter that Jonah was resting under. This helped to provide more shade for Jonah in the hot day.



He was glad. But then in the night a hungry worm nibbled on the stem and it made the gourd plant and its leaves wither. Jonah was sad.

Then God explained that He felt the same way about the people of Nineveh; He would rather they change from their wrong ways, rather than having their city get ruined. Just like Jonah didn't want the plant to get ruined, God didn't want Nineveh to, either.

Jonah learned to understand why God chose to give them another chance, since they were sorry and wanted God to help them.



## Obadiah and Micah

Obadiah was a prophet who lived long ago, and he listened to God's messages and words to him. One time the Lord told him that those who were very proud of themselves, and didn't act in humility and love, were going to have troubles.

These people lived in strong houses carved out of the rocky mountains, and they thought they were better than everyone else. They were not humbly showing God that they needed Him and wanted to do the right things that make Him happy. Instead, they proudly thought that their nation would last forever and they could do whatever they wanted, even if it was hurting others.

Just having a nice house and being strong and smart isn't going to bring you great things for the rest of your life.



It's best to do things God's way and to obey His Words. This is what will bring God's blessings into your life. This nation did not last forever; the people eventually passed away, but the Words of God telling us the lesson on humility, still remain.

Many people know the name of the humble and obedient prophet Obadiah, because he listened to and passed on God's Words; but no one today knows the names of those in the proud nation living in strong rocky houses.

The prophet Micah was told by God where Jesus was to be born, when it was time later for God's Son to be born on Earth—in Bethlehem.



Many years later, the wise men, those kings from the East, were asking where Baby Jesus was born. This prophecy was looked up and read and it helped give them guidance.

Prophet Micah also wrote about the wonderful world of the future, when Jesus comes to rule the Earth and all people know about Him and learn to do things His way.

One day, the world and everyone living here will be at peace, and it will be a great place to live, with many of the difficulties taken away, that are in the world now.



One day Jesus, will come back and be the King of everyone, and then things will be nice again on Earth. That's something you can look forward to!