



A King's Proclamation

King Asa wanted everyone in the country—all the men, women, and children—to obey and respect God and His Word. He called the people together and told them what God wanted them to do. Everyone then promised to follow God's ways.

King Asa prayed for God's help, and God continued to bless and protect the kingdom. The king listened to the prophets that came to tell him God's instructions.

The messages from God said that it was good to ask for His help, instead of only trusting in people, and that God was always looking for opportunities to do miracles for those that loved and obeyed Him.



God Cares for Elijah

Elijah was a man who listened to God, and did what He said to do. One time, when there wasn't enough rain and the crops couldn't grow, God told Elijah what to do.

He went and stayed by a brook and had fresh water to drink. God sent birds to bring him food in the morning and in the evening every day.

Later, a woman in a city called Zarephath helped Elijah. She gave him water and the last bit of food that she had. Then, for a few years, by a miracle, her jar of oil and barrel of flour always had enough in them to feed her family and Elijah.

One time the woman's son got very sick and then died. Elijah prayed for him to have life again and be healed—and he was! The woman knew that Elijah was one of God's prophets who spoke God's Words.



Fire and Water

God wanted people to love and follow Him and to change from their disobedient ways. The Prophet Elijah told the king, and the people, to meet him on a mountain and that he would speak with them there.

Elijah prayed for God to do a miracle and send fire from Heaven down onto the altar of prayer. All of a sudden a blast of fire came straight from God and burned the wood and everything on the altar, including the stones!

Everyone was very amazed! They believed that God was powerful and close to them, and knew they should respect and worship Him.

The Prophet Elijah then prayed for the rain to come, so the crops would grow. At first a little cloud was seen in the sky, and it soon turned into a very big rainstorm.

Everyone was grateful for the refreshing rain. They knew that God loved and cared for them.



Heavenly Food and Encouragement

One time, the prophet Elijah was tired and needed encouragement. He went to sleep under a tree. Then an angel woke him up and gave him freshly baked bread and some water.

Elijah ate it and felt better. He went to sleep again, and once more the angel woke him up to give him more heavenly bread and water.

Elijah was going to have a long trip, and he needed this special angel food to give him the strength to travel.

He walked, ran, and travelled for 40 days, and didn't even get hungry! The special bread from the angel gave him lots of energy.

When he arrived at his new place, he stayed in a cave. God talked with him and encouraged him. Then he travelled onward to continue doing the jobs that God wanted him to do.



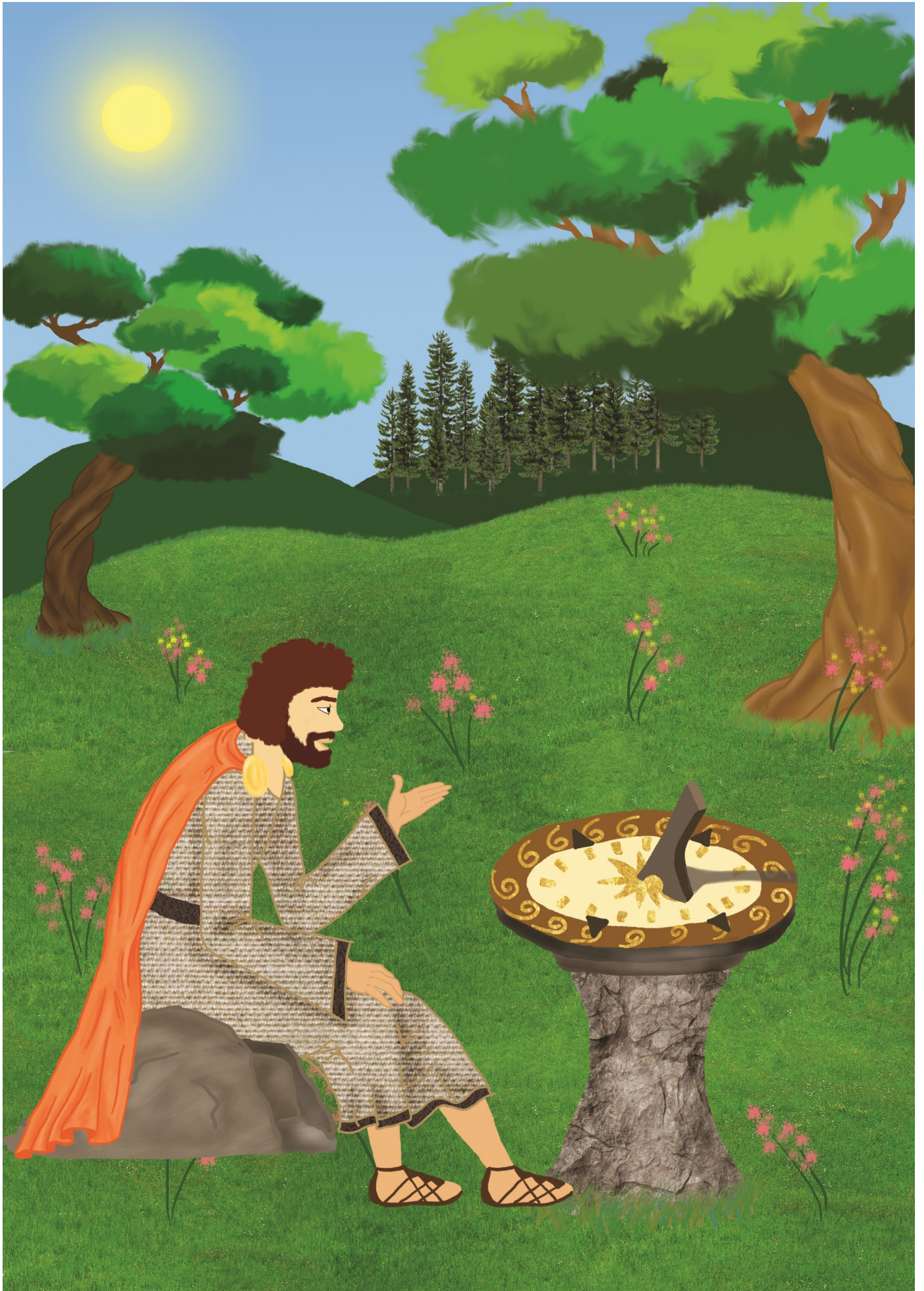
The Boys Who Were Kings

God let children be kings at times—children who wanted to follow and obey Him. One boy was Joash, and he obeyed what God's Word said to do. Priest Jehoiada taught Joash God's ways and helped to instruct him, when he was the King.

King Joash set up a special chest with a hole in it, for people to drop money in. The money was to be used to make repairs on the temple.

Another boy that was a king later on was Josiah. He also helped to fix up the temple. When someone discovered a scroll of God's Word that was written down a long time before, that was hidden in a wall, they read it to the King.

King Josiah wanted everyone to hear what it said and had it read to the people. He got everyone obeying God's Word again. As soon as he heard what God had said, he obeyed right away, and told everyone to do things God's way.



Hezekiah's Healing

King Hezekiah loved God and wanted to obey God's Word, and he told many others to love and follow Him too.

He instructed people to sing songs to God with instruments, and to pray and praise. King Hezekiah trusted in God's protection, and the Lord took care of him.

One time he was very sick and he prayed with all his heart for healing. The prophet Isaiah told him that God would heal him. Then God showed King Hezekiah a special sign, as a promise from God that he would get healed.

God made the shadow of the sundial—the way they could tell what time it was—go backwards.

Only God could make the sun shine in that unusual way! King Hezekiah was so happy to know that God was near him and that he would be healed soon.