

The rise and fall of King Saul

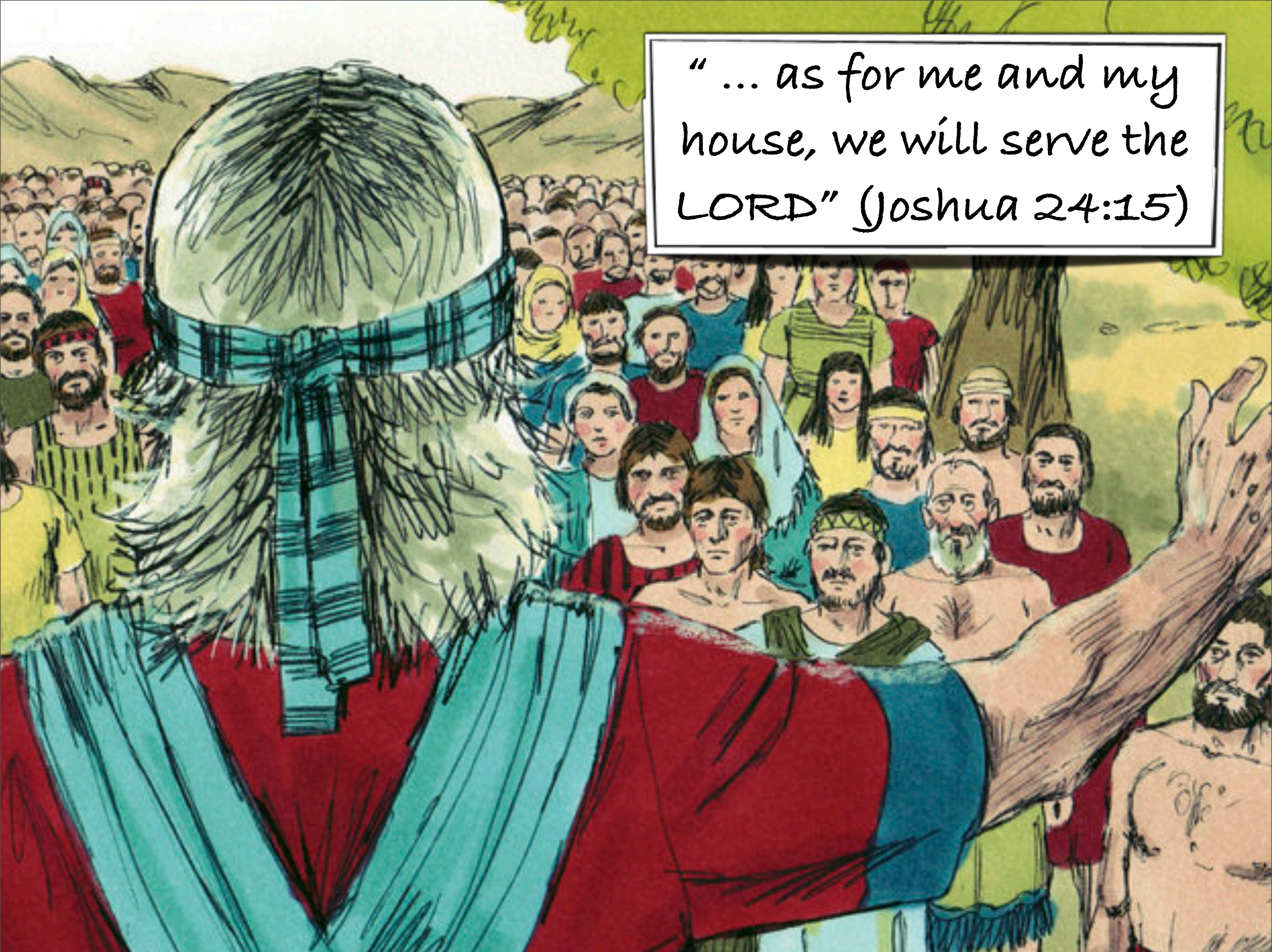
[1] 'Make us a king like all the nations'

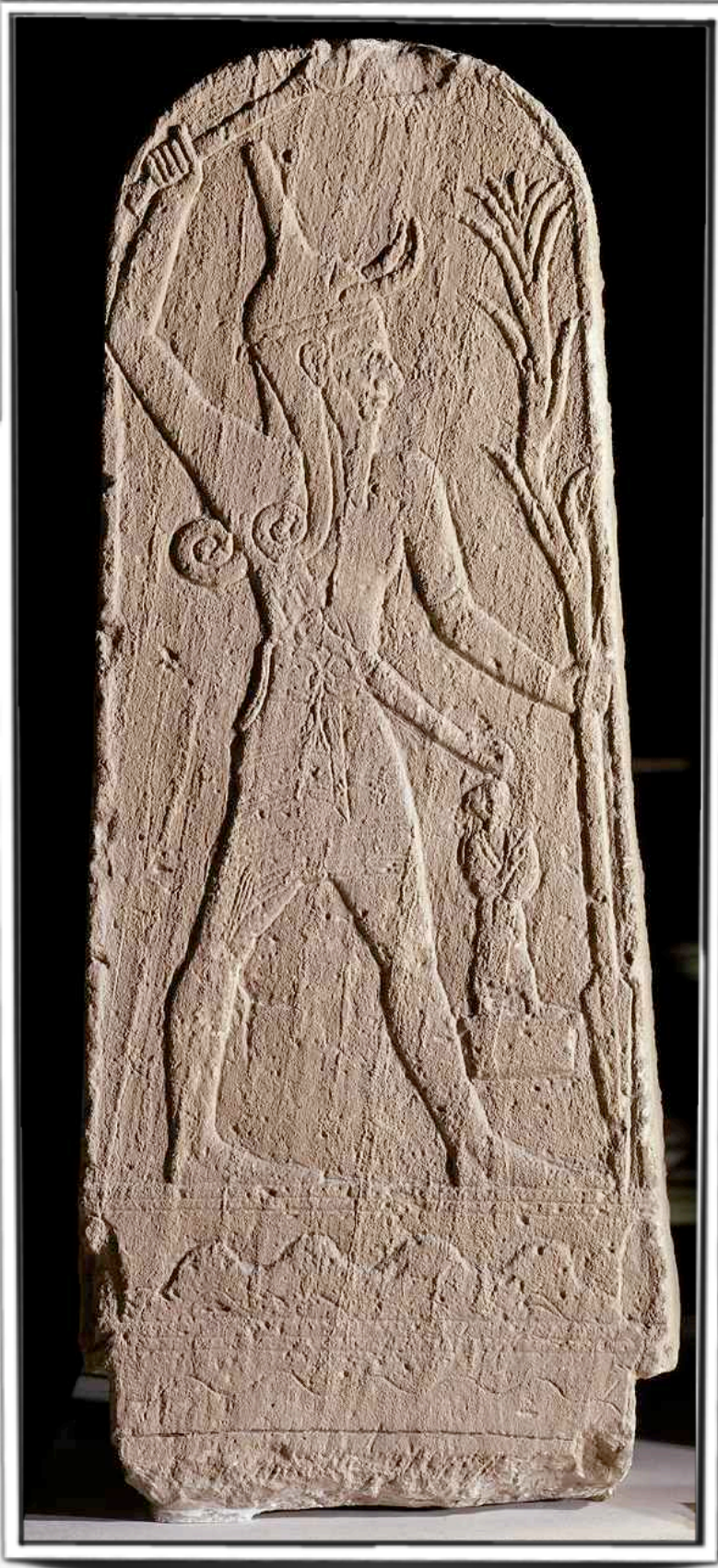
by Bro Stephen Whitehouse (Birmingham, UK)

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"In those days there was
no king in Israel: every
man did that which was
right in his own
eyes ..." (Judges 21:25)

"... as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15)



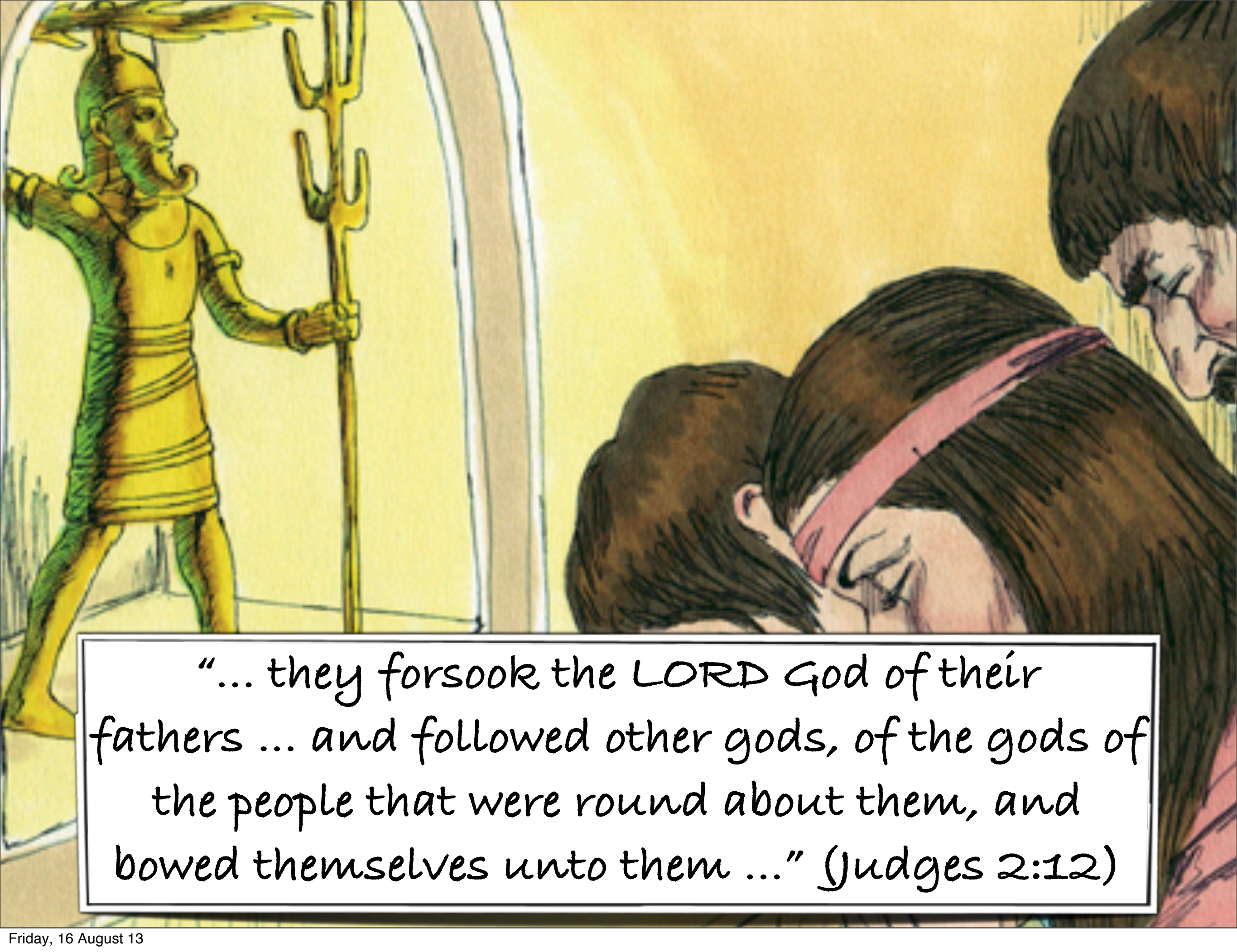


'Baal with thunderbolt' or 'the Baal Stele'

Discovered near the
Temple of Dagon

Now housed in the
Louvre, Paris

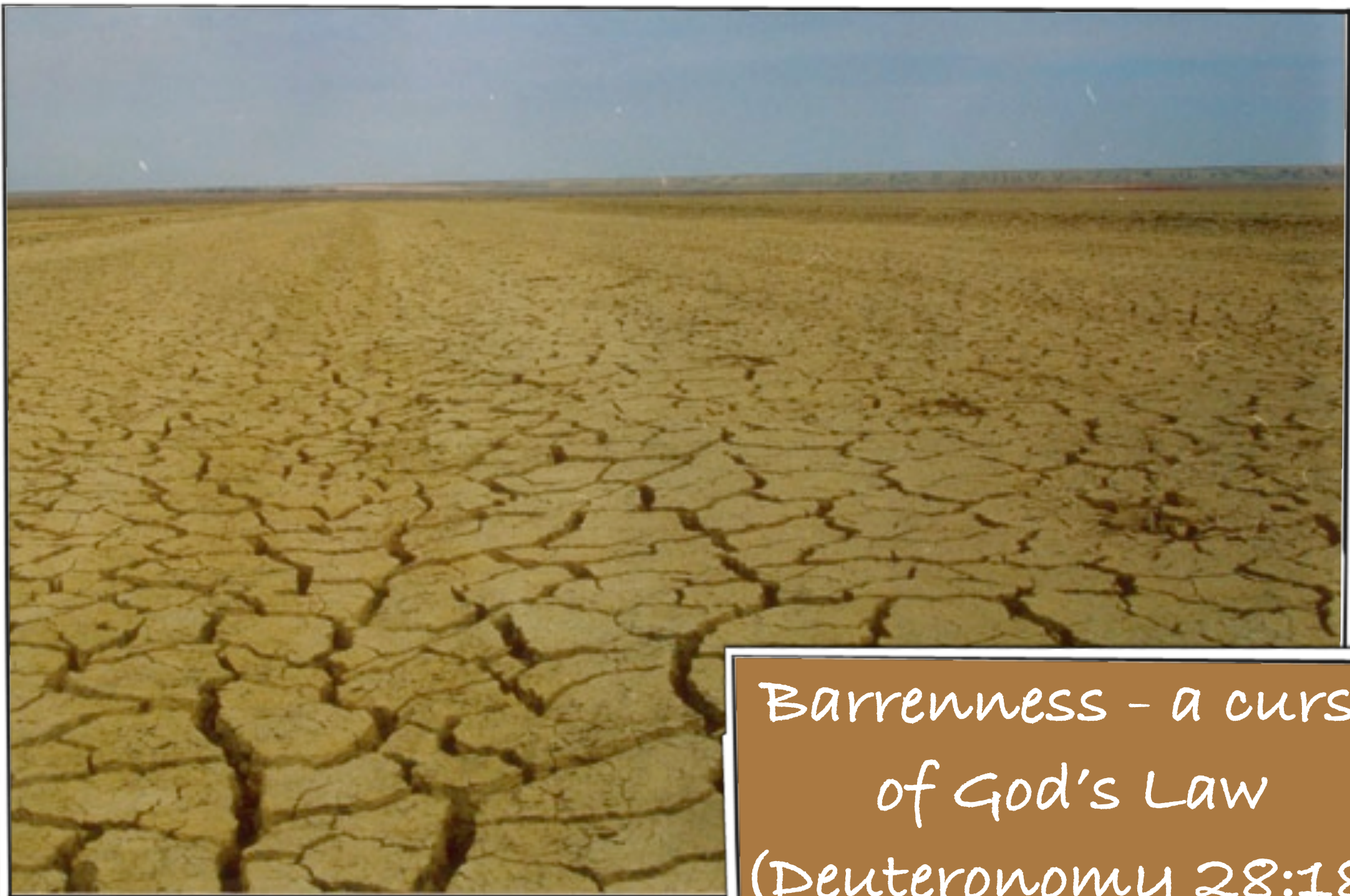
Stele showing the
Storm-God Baal
(14th-13th C BC)



“... they forsook the LORD God of their fathers ... and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them ...” (Judges 2:12)



".. but the LORD had shut up her womb" (1 Samuel 1: 5 & 6)



Barrenness - a curse
of God's Law
(Deuteronomy 28:18)

- ▶ "Because I have asked him of the LORD" (1 Samuel 1:20)
- ▶ "Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD" (verse 28)
- ▶ "asked" and "lent" are the same Hebrew words
- ▶ 'I asked the LORD for a man child. In giving him to me, the LORD asked in return for his full time service'



Hannah and
Elkanah made
it their joint
vow to give
their son unto
the LORD

High Priest's Ephod



"a little coat" (1 Samuel 2:19) or "robe" of the ephod (Exodus 28:31)

- ▶ Hannah asks for a "man child" and an 'ideal king'
- ▶ She is praying for two men - a Priest and a King
- ▶ They would work together in restoring God's people in His ways



Eli dies like an unredeemed ass, with
his neck broken (Exodus 13:13)

"The glory is departed from Israel"



Joshua - the great saviour of Israel



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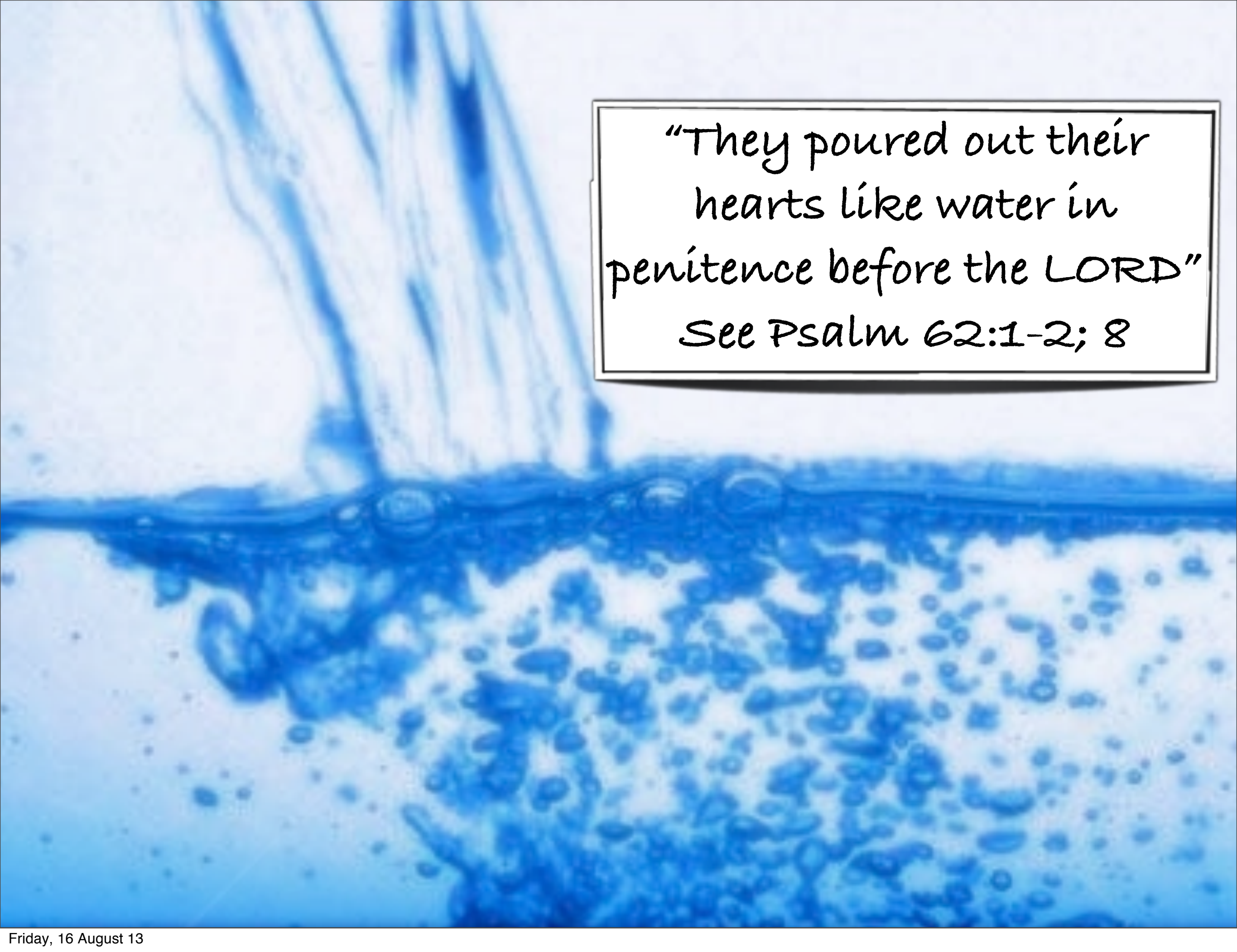
JOSHUA RENEWING THE COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

Josh. 24:14-28.

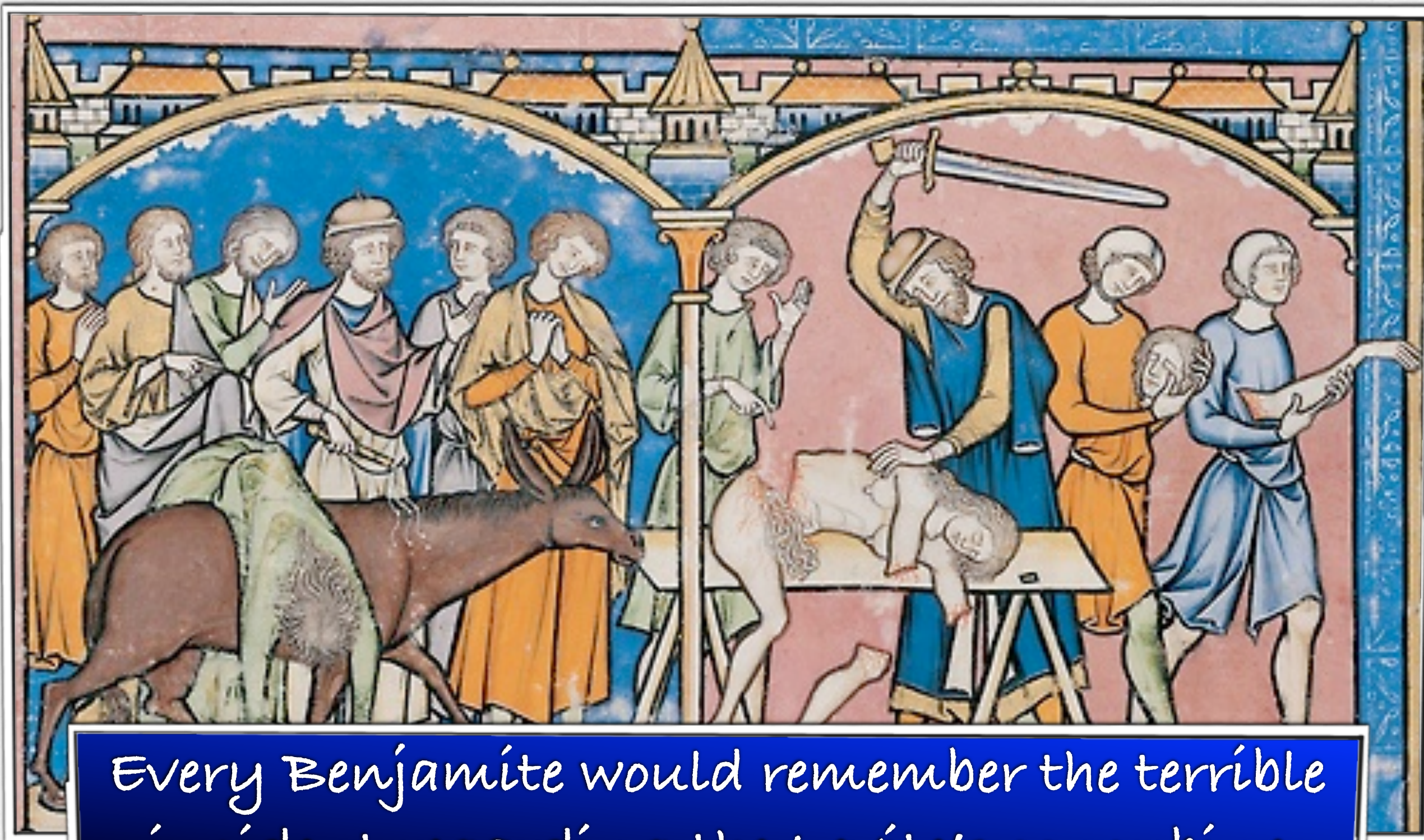
GOLDEN TEXT:—Choose you this day whom ye will
serve.

Josh. 24:15.

- ▶ "Choose you this day
whom ye will
serve" (Joshua 24:15)
- ▶ Joshua erected "a
great stone" (verse 26)
as witness to their vow



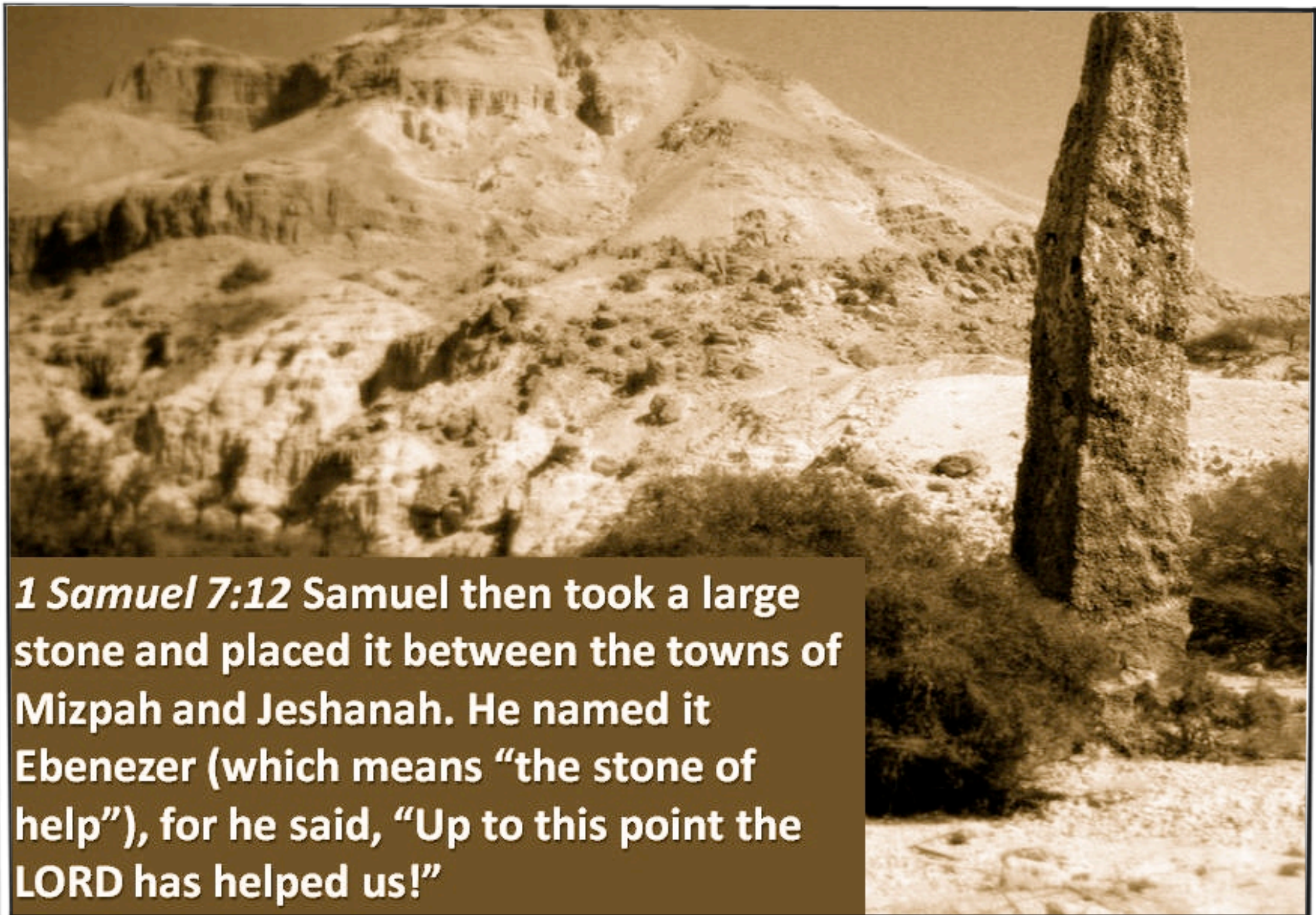
“They poured out their
hearts like water in
penitence before the LORD”
See Psalm 62:1-2; 8



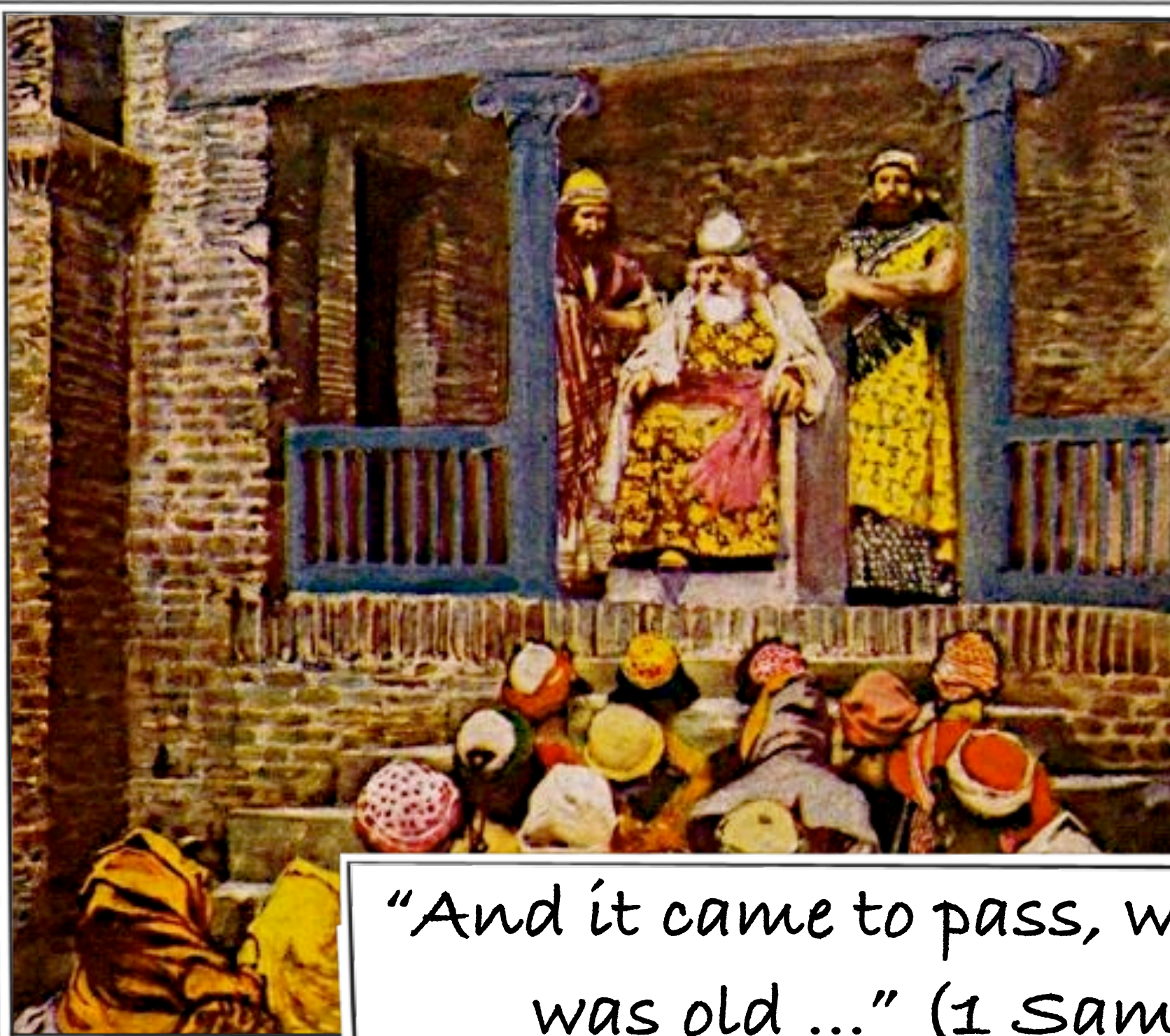
Every Benjamite would remember the terrible incident regarding the Levite's concubine



"Out of heaven shall He thunder
upon them" (1 Samuel 2:10)



1 Samuel 7:12 Samuel then took a large stone and placed it between the towns of Mizpah and Jeshanah. He named it Ebenezer (which means “the stone of help”), for he said, “Up to this point the LORD has helped us!”



"And it came to pass, when Samuel was old ..." (1 Samuel 8:1)

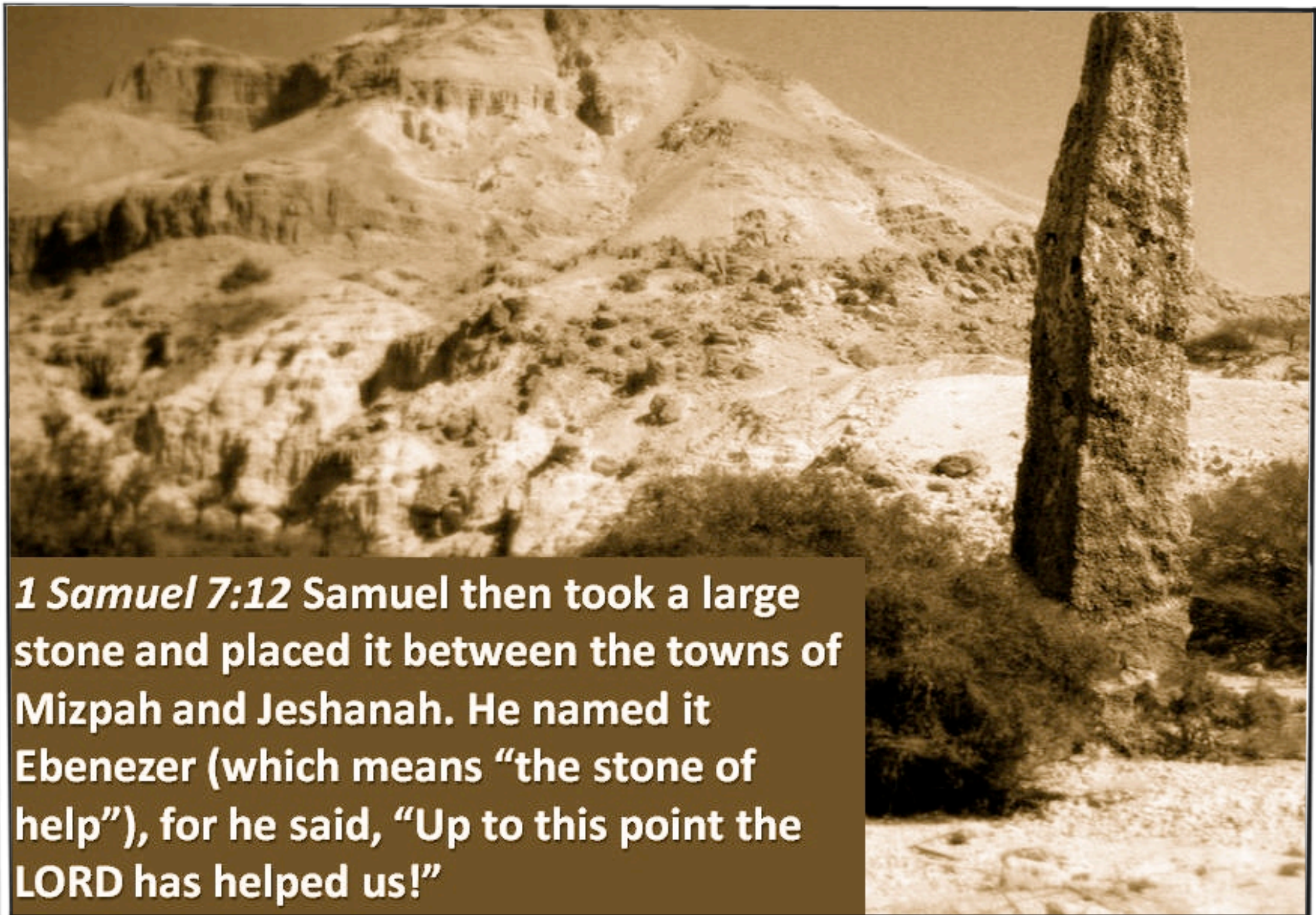
- ▶ "... make us a king like the nations" (1 Samuel 8:5);
- ▶ "Give us a king to judge us" (verse 6);
- ▶ "... like all the nations ... king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles" (verse 20)



"Hearken unto their voice" (verses 7, 9 & 22)



I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
He calls me FRIEND



1 Samuel 7:12 Samuel then took a large stone and placed it between the towns of Mizpah and Jeshanah. He named it Ebenezer (which means “the stone of help”), for he said, “Up to this point the LORD has helped us!”



“... whom the LORD thy God shall choose” (Deuteronomy 17:15)



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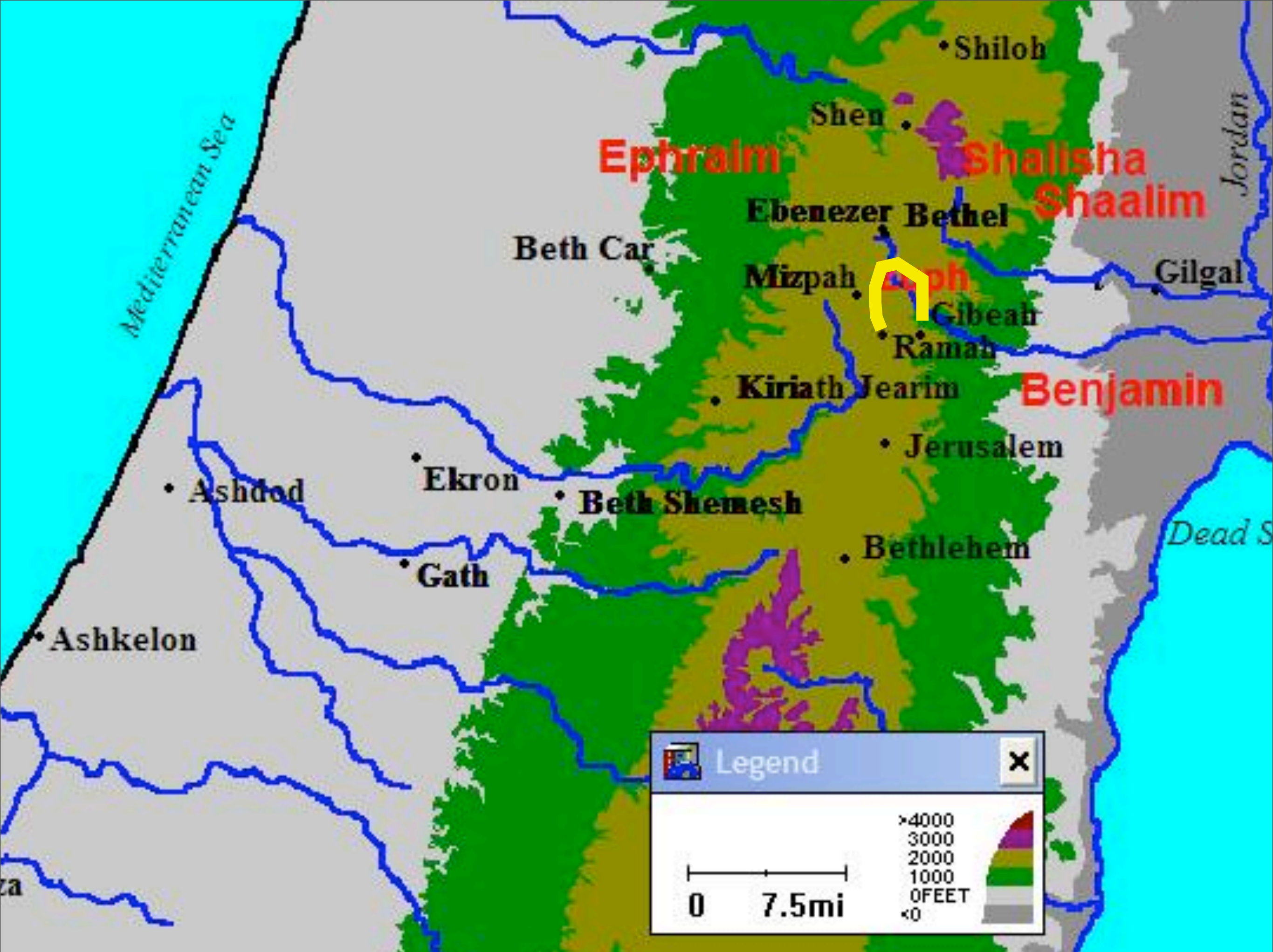
[2] 'Higher than any of the people'

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- ▶ ... 1 Samuel 9:1: "a mighty man". Not a brave man, but a man of property (see Ruth 2:1)
- ▶ Kish's son Saul ('prayed for') was "a choice young man and goodly", or 'young and beautiful'. There was no one in Israel that was "goodlier ... than he". "From his shoulder upwards he was higher than any of the people".

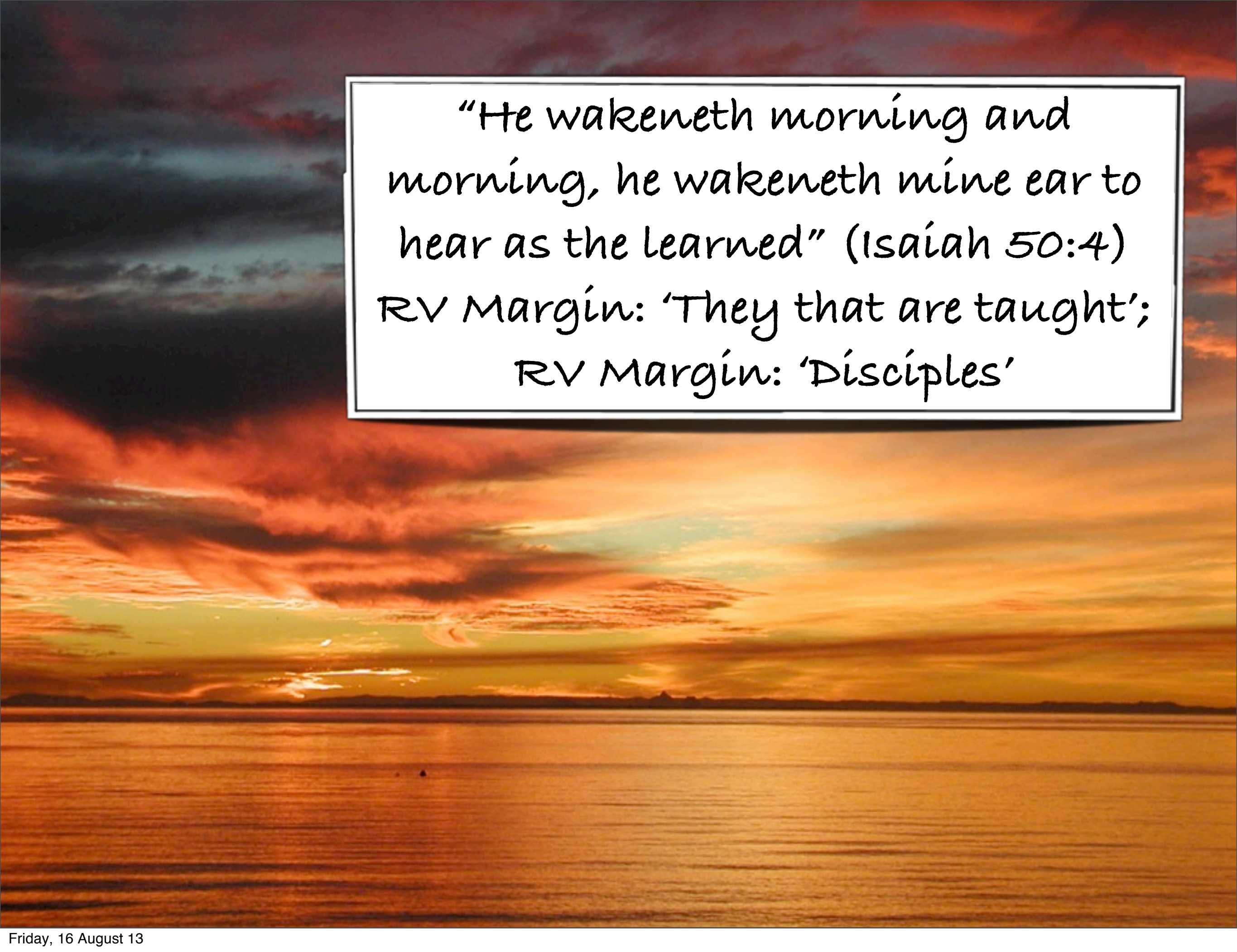


Saul and his servant
go searching for his
father's she-asses

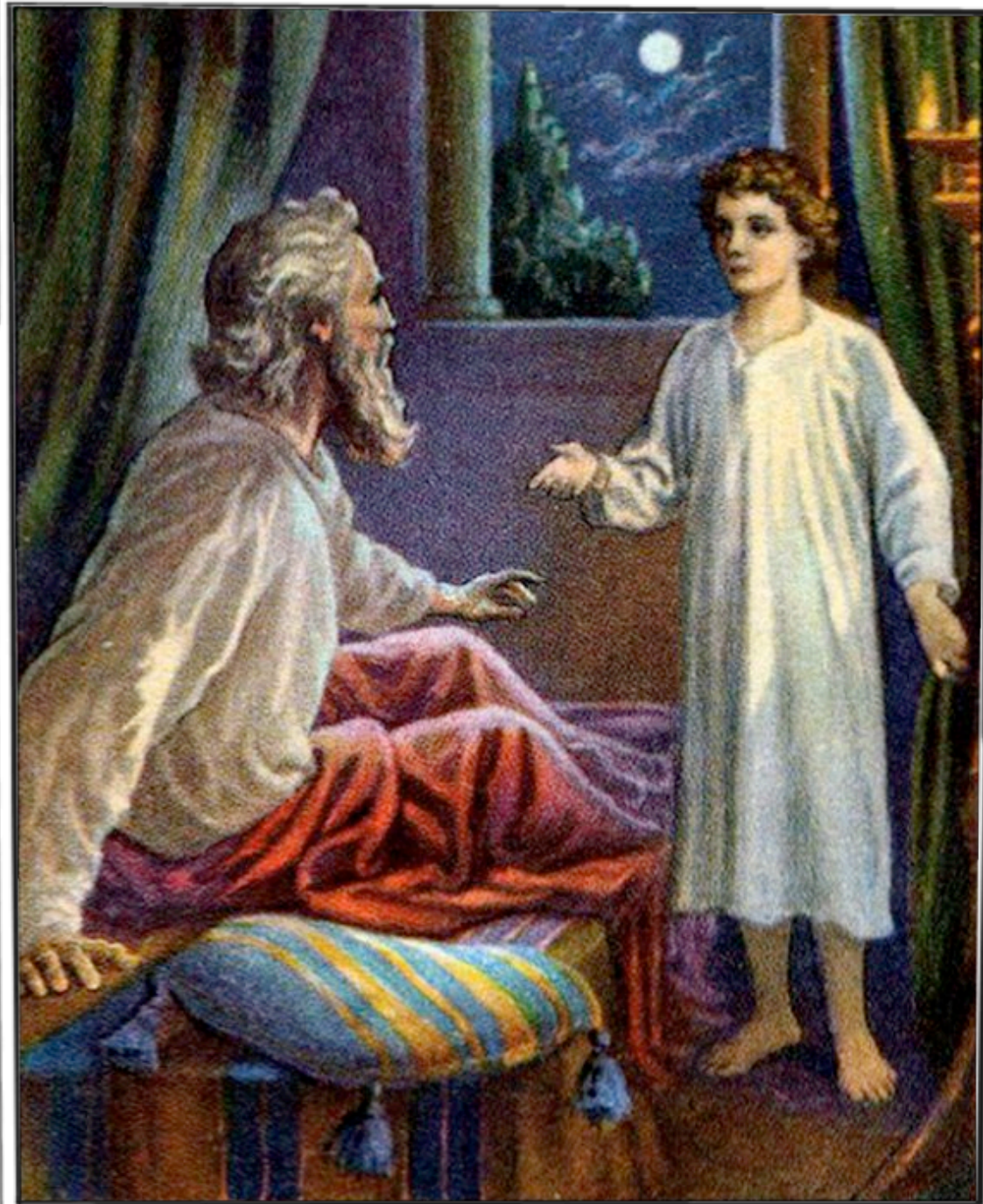




"Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear" (1 Samuel 9:15). AV Margin: 'revealed the ear of Samuel'; RV Margin: 'uncovered the ear of Samuel'



“He wakeneth morning and
morning, he wakeneth mine ear to
hear as the learned” (Isaiah 50:4)
RV Margin: ‘They that are taught’;
RV Margin: ‘Disciples’



Samuel means,
'Asked of the LORD'.
It's the Hebrew shama
which is in the passive
tense. It also means
'Asking of God'



Whispering as
good friends



The promise to Jacob: "... the sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come" (Genesis 49:10)

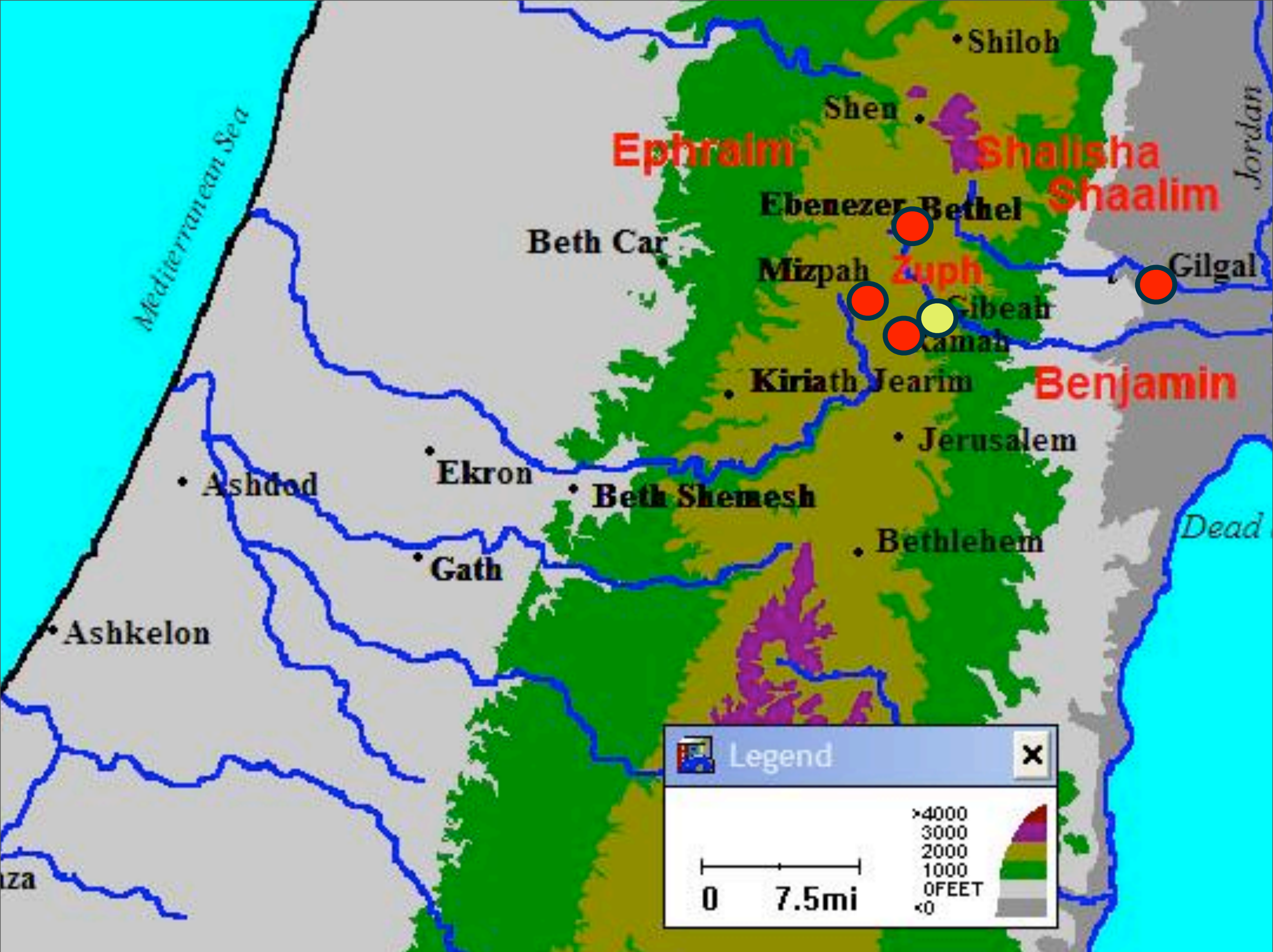
- ▶ ... 1 Samuel 9:16: God does not say, 'Anoint this Benjamite King', but, "Anoint him to be captain over my people". Or 'prince', RV Margin: 'leader'
- ▶ The people requested, "Make us a king"; God's response: 'Anoint him to be a prince'
- ▶ God was their King. He was more than head and shoulders above the people

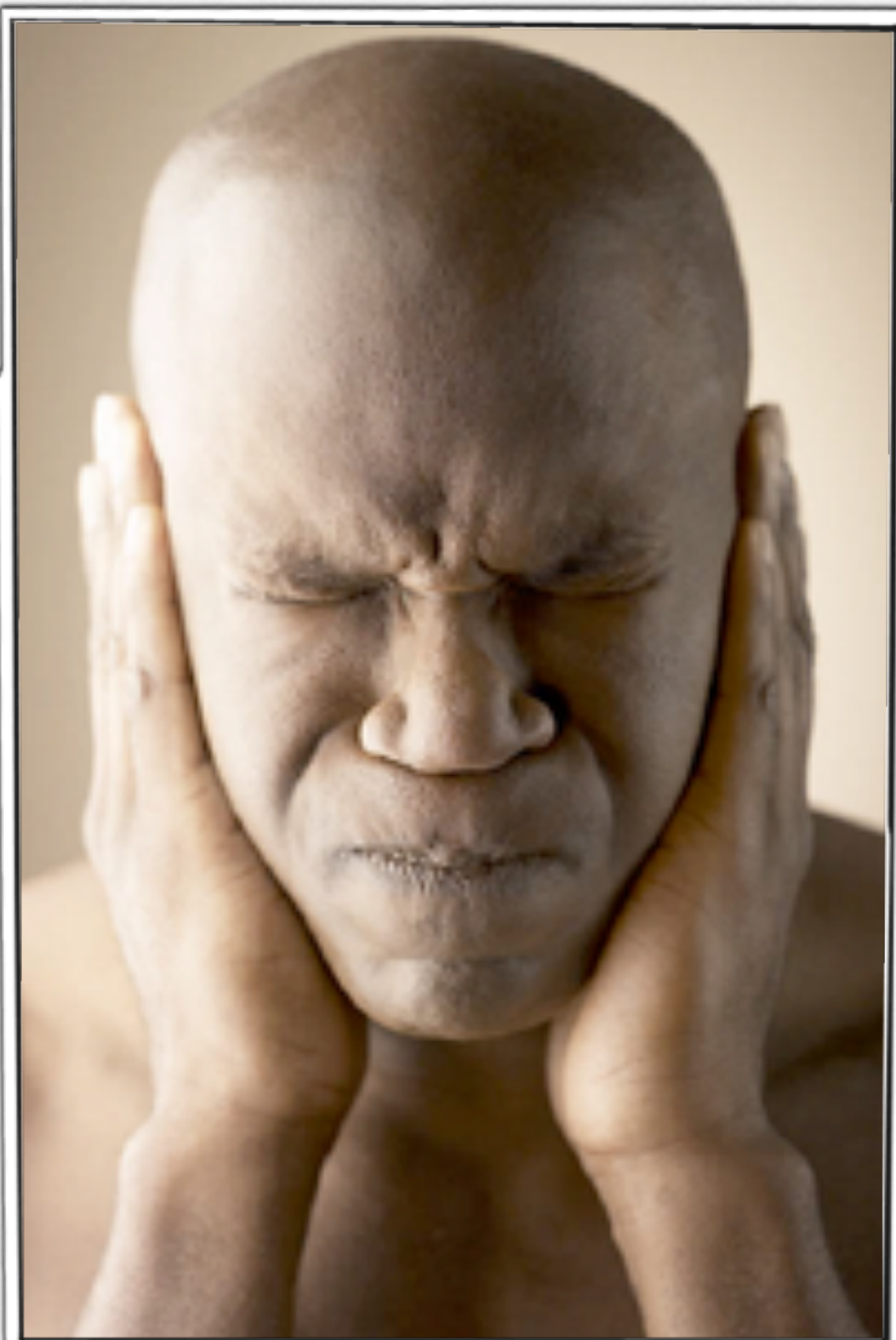


"For I looked upon my people, because their cry is come upon me" (1 Samuel 9:16). See Exodus 2:25; 3:7. God's look was compassionate and brought help in trouble. "Their cry is come unto me". This is word for word ... Exodus 3:9



"I am the Seer"





Saul's ears were
closed, yet
Samuel's were
always open:
'Speak Lord, for
thy servant heareth'



Gideon, Israel's deliverer
from the Midianites and
Saul's favourite Bible hero!



King David:
"Examine me, O
LORD, and prove
me; try my reins
and my
heart" (Psalm 26:2)

A photograph of a sunflower field. In the foreground, many sunflowers are in bloom, their heads tilted downwards. In the background, a single sunflower stands out prominently, its stem reaching much higher than the others, with its head facing forward. The background consists of a dense line of green trees under a clear blue sky.

The theme of 'Head and
Shoulders' above the rest

- ▶ "... to sit down in the chiefest place" (1 Samuel 9:22). The word "chiefest" is the Hebrew 'rosh' or 'head'. Saul was brought into the chamber and made to sit down at the 'head of the table'. In Samuel's place
- ▶ And now he's brought something to eat: "the shoulder". See verses 23-24
- ▶ See Leviticus 7: 32, where we find that "the shoulder" was the portion given to the priest. The 'heave offering'. Samuel gives his portion, the priest's portion, to Saul, because he was the king-elect



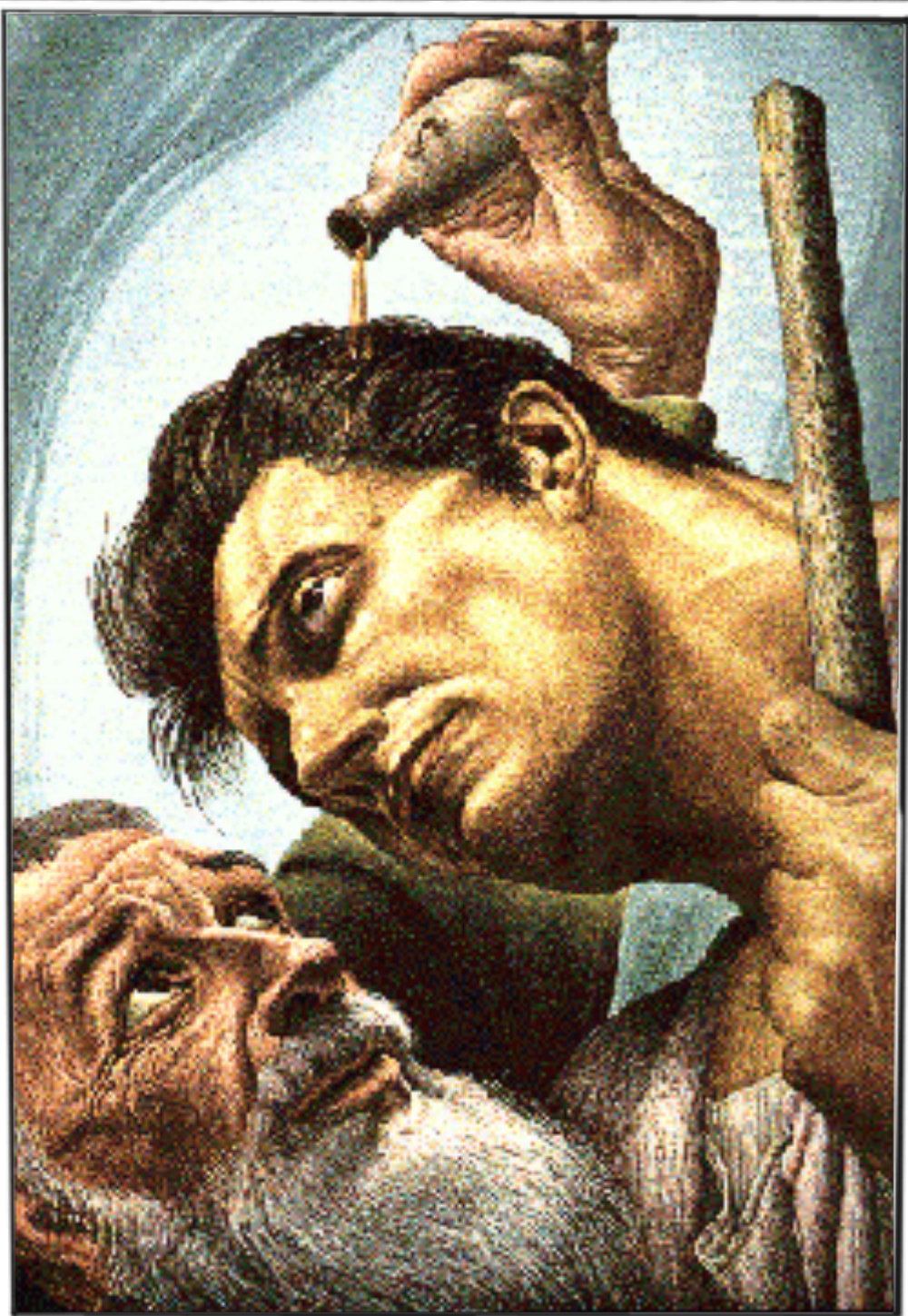
"... from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people" (1 Samuel 9:2)



The rise and fall of King Saul

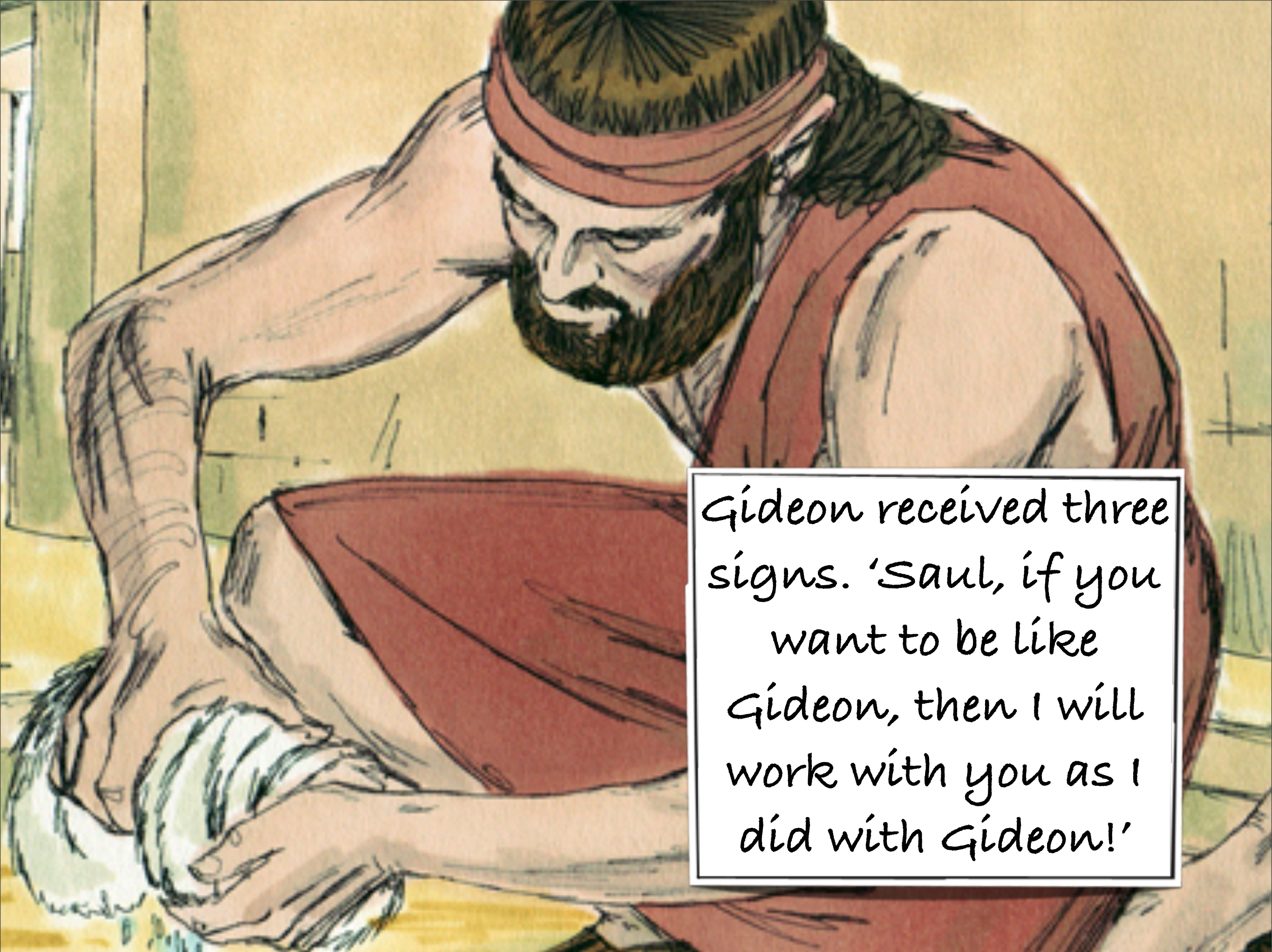
[3] 'Let the Hebrews hear'

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Saul is anointed as Israel's first natural king by Samuel the prophet. He is anointed as Israel's "captain" (1 Samuel 10:1)

- ▶ Saul "captain" (1 Samuel 10.1)
- ▶ It means "a captain" not "the captain"
- ▶ God was the "the Captain", but in Saul "a captain" had been appointed



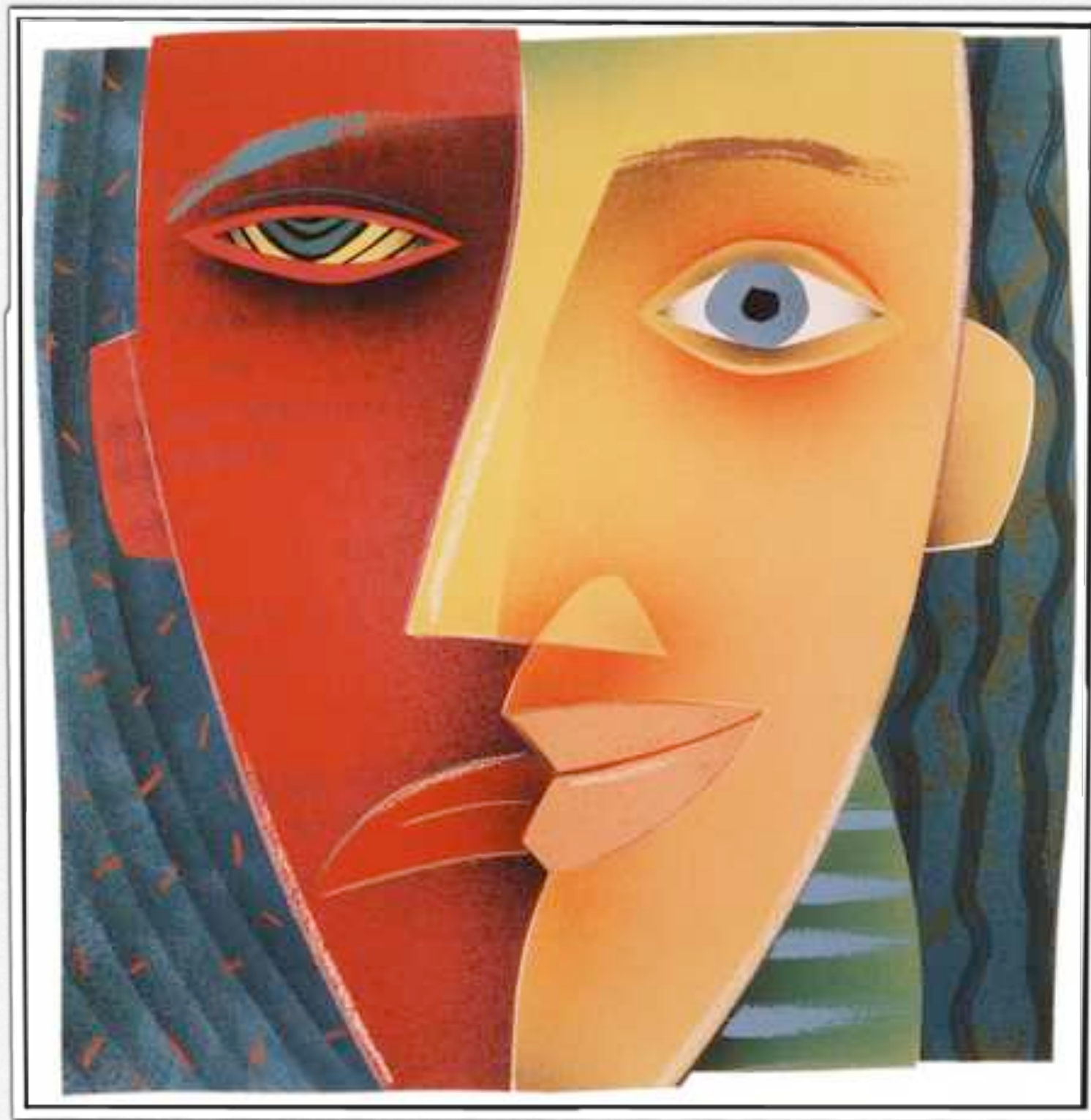
Gideon received three signs. 'Saul, if you want to be like Gideon, then I will work with you as I did with Gideon!'

First stop: Rachel's
Sepulchre - see Genesis 35



THE SEPULCHRE OF RACHEL.

SEPULCHRE DE RACHEL.



would Saul
be a 'son of
my sorrows'
or a 'son of
my right
hand'? He
had to make
the choice



Second stop: Travel to Bethel, 'The House of God'. He is reminded that God is with him, and that Kings were promised!



The Oak of Tabor

Saul is told to go to the "plain (or oak) of Tabor". See Genesis 35: 2,4. 'You need to bury your old ways under the oak and commit yourself to Me, Saul.'



Third stop: Saul comes to the "hill of God" or Gibeah Elohím. Saul would be "turned into another man". These these signs told him that "God is with thee"

The power of God in Saul's life would increase if Saul continued to respond to God ('a two-way relationship')

2 men (10:2): the asses are not lost!
This was God's assurance - accept it!

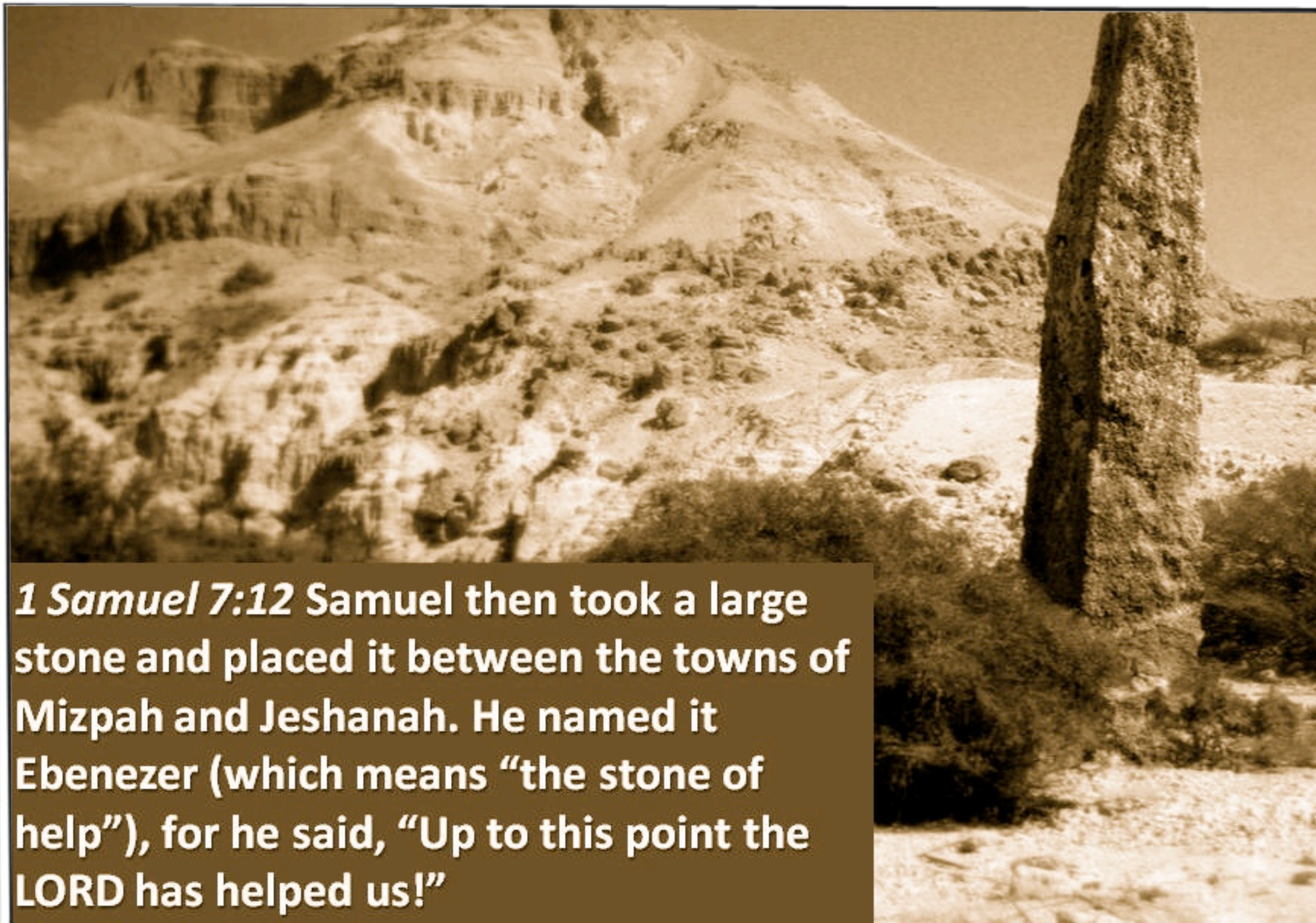
3 men (10:3): 3 loaves of bread and a bottle of wine
2 loaves given to Saul - a double portion
Fellowship with God and Saul would be blessed!

A company of prophets (10:5) - Spirit of the Lord
Saul was turned into another man
If Saul allowed God to enter his heart then God would transform him and the nation



"Saul Prophesies With The Prophets"
By James Tissot (1836-1902)

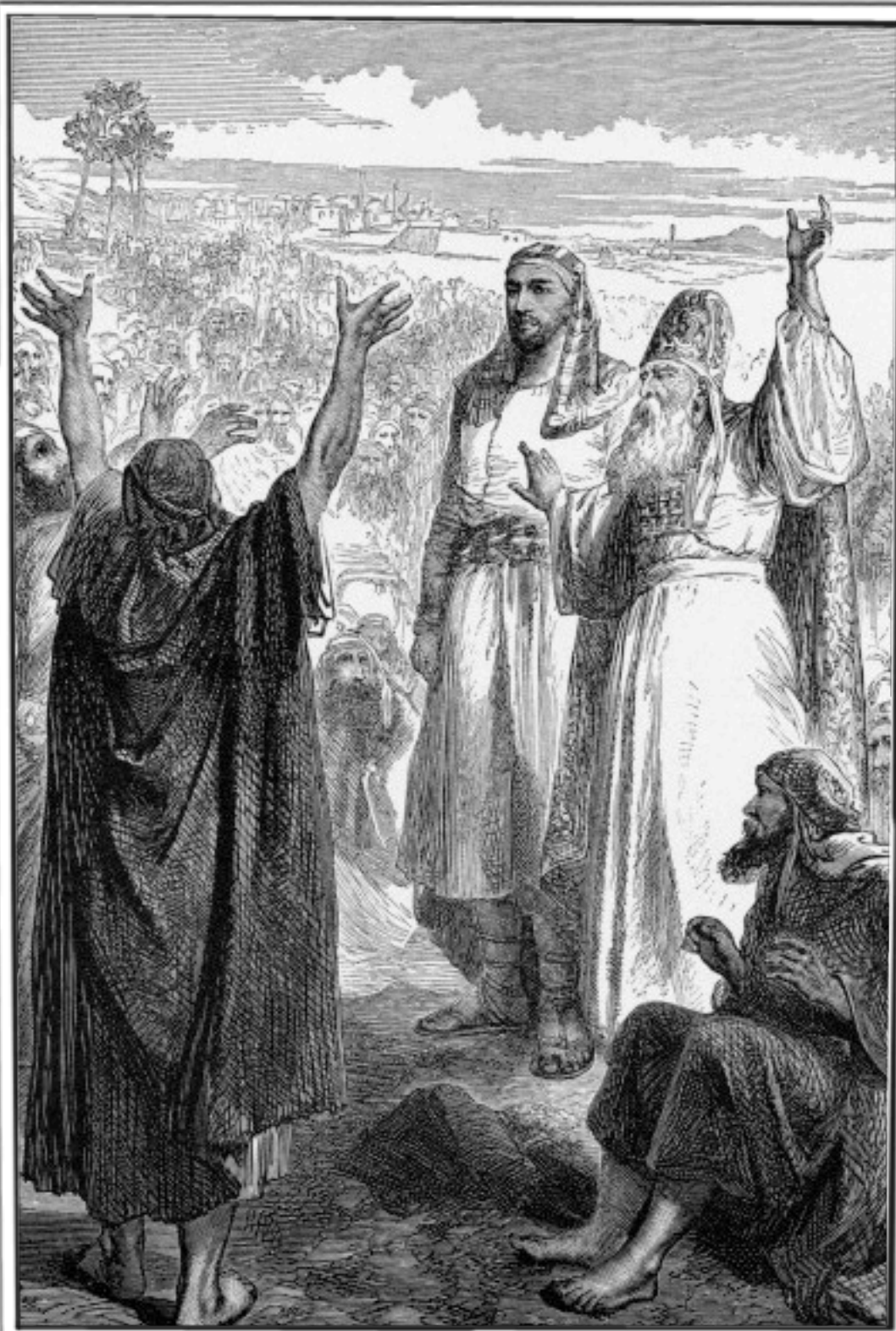
"Is Saul among
the prophets?"



1 Samuel 7:12 Samuel then took a large stone and placed it between the towns of Mizpah and Jeshanah. He named it Ebenezer (which means “the stone of help”), for he said, “Up to this point the LORD has helped us!”



Saul is found
hiding behind
the cases! Not a
good start for
the new king!

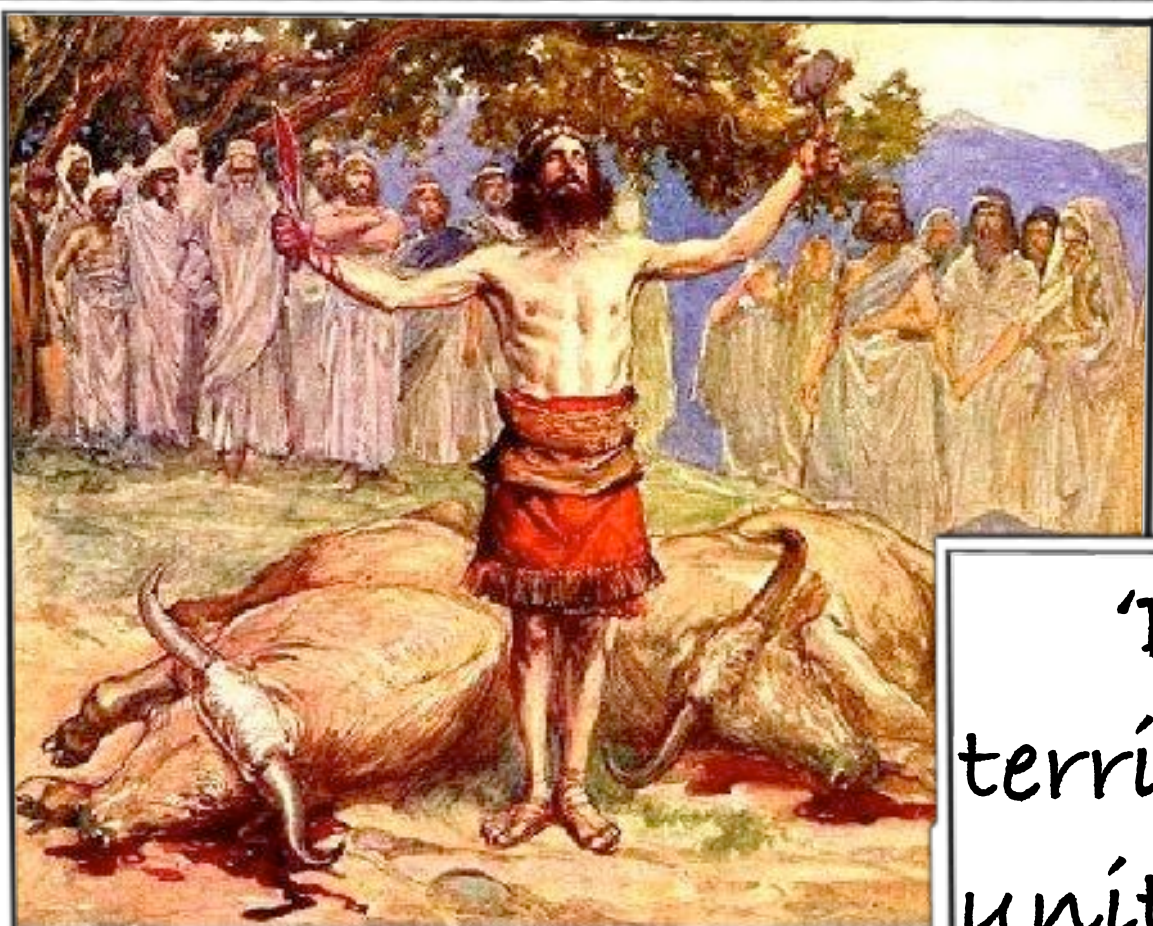


'There he is, hiding behind the luggage!' 'How can he lead us, if he's hiding now?' But as soon as Saul stood up they could see that he was a giant of a man.

They broke out in chorus, "God save the king!" (verse 24)

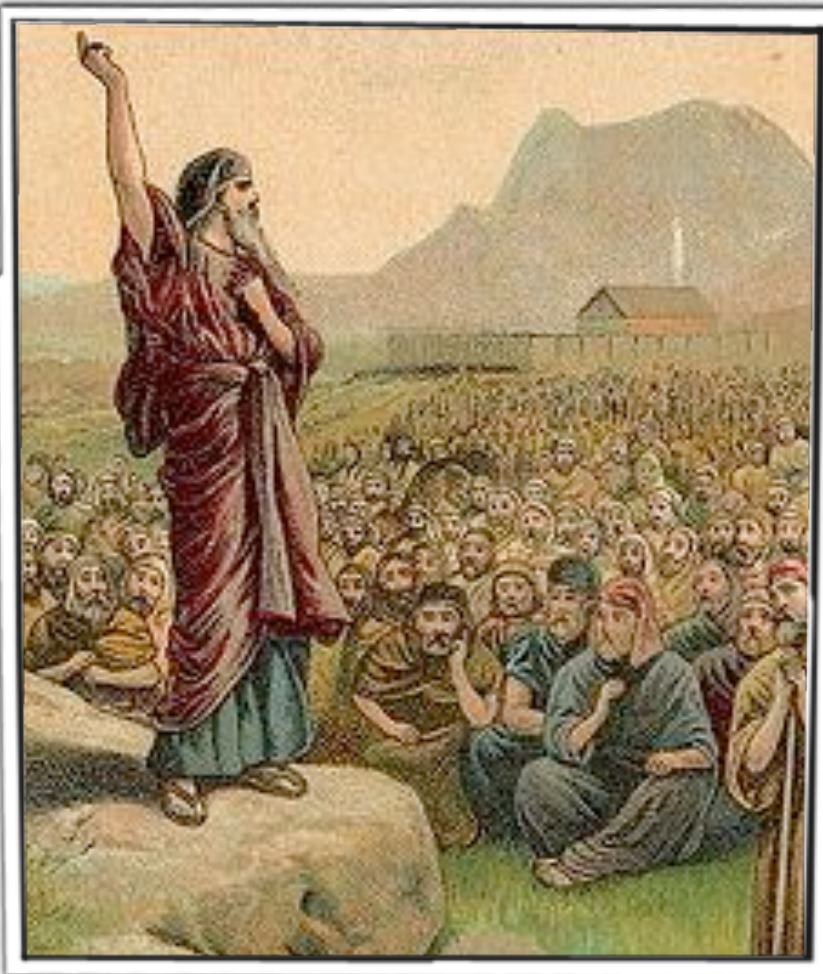


The king was
commanded by
God to write a
copy of the Law
in a book (see
Deuteronomy 17:
18). Saul never
truly became
God's king.

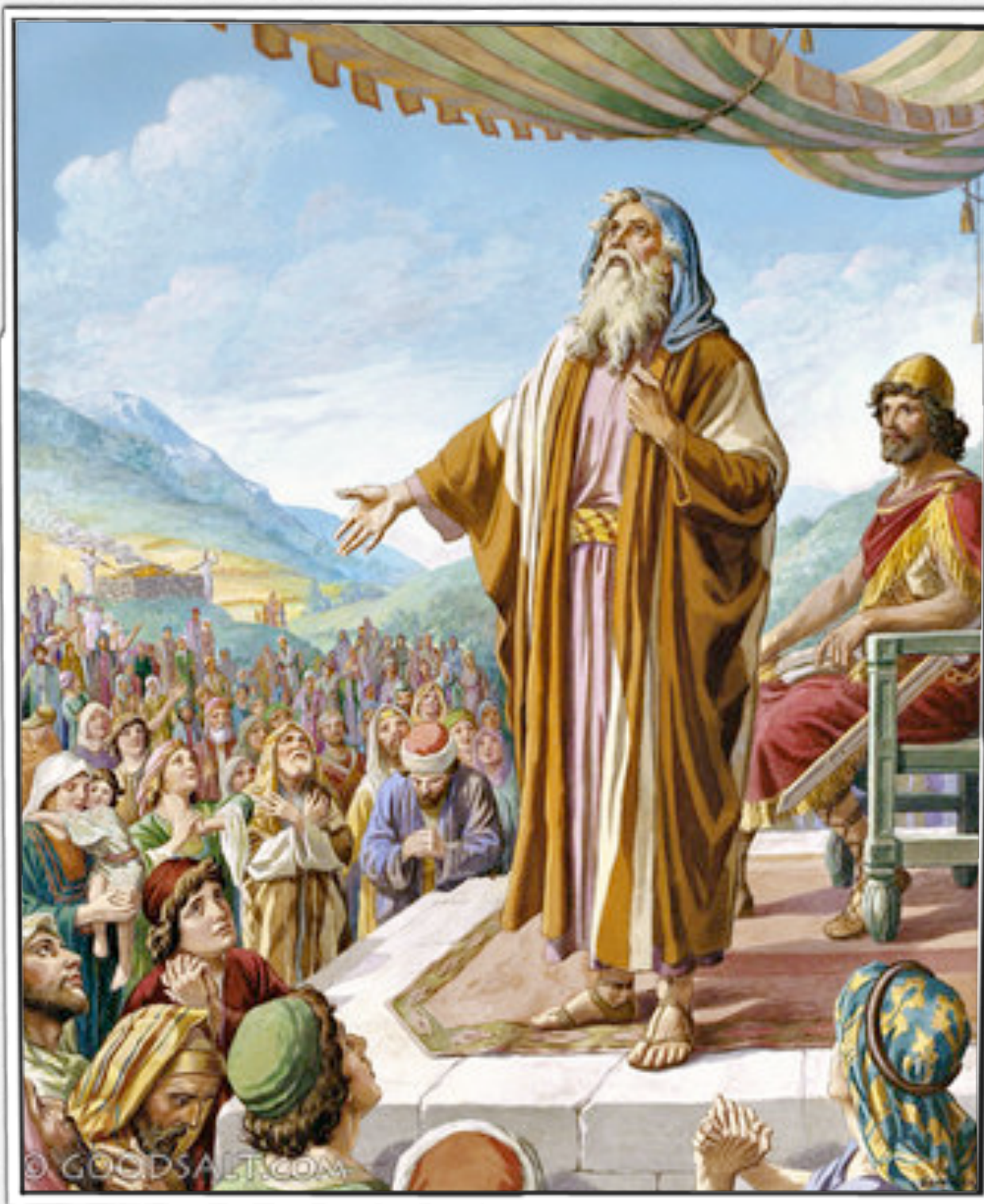


"Saul Sacrifices The Oxen"
By James Tissot (1836-1902)

'Don't you remember the terrible effects when we are not united! I'm a Benjamite, and I remember well. Remember Jabesh Gilead. Come and support them now. Redeem yourselves! Let us be united!'



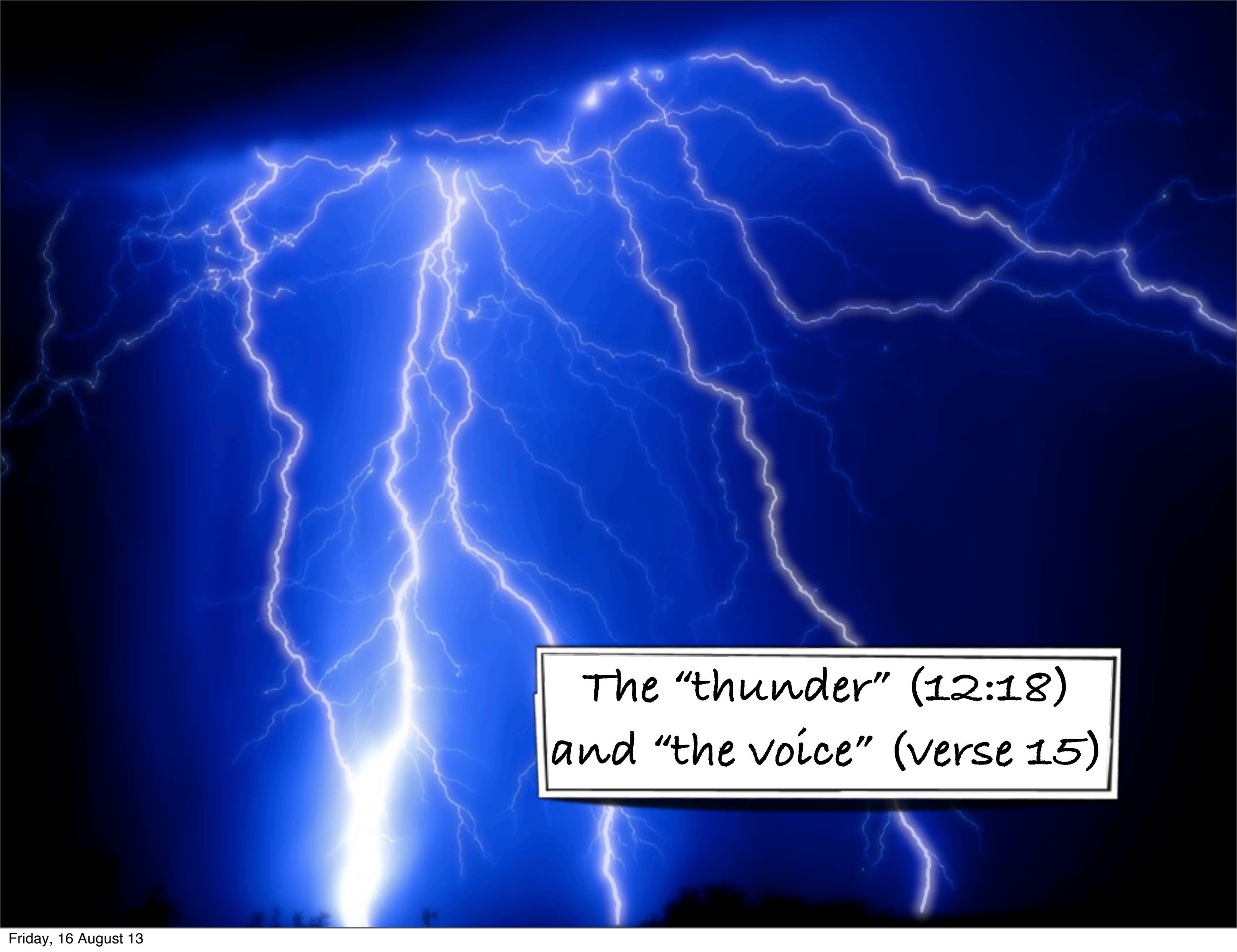
Samuel gathers Israel at Gilgal. They were going to "renew" or 'rebuild'. A reminder of Joshua 5:9. 'Let's go to when we first pledged ourselves to God.'



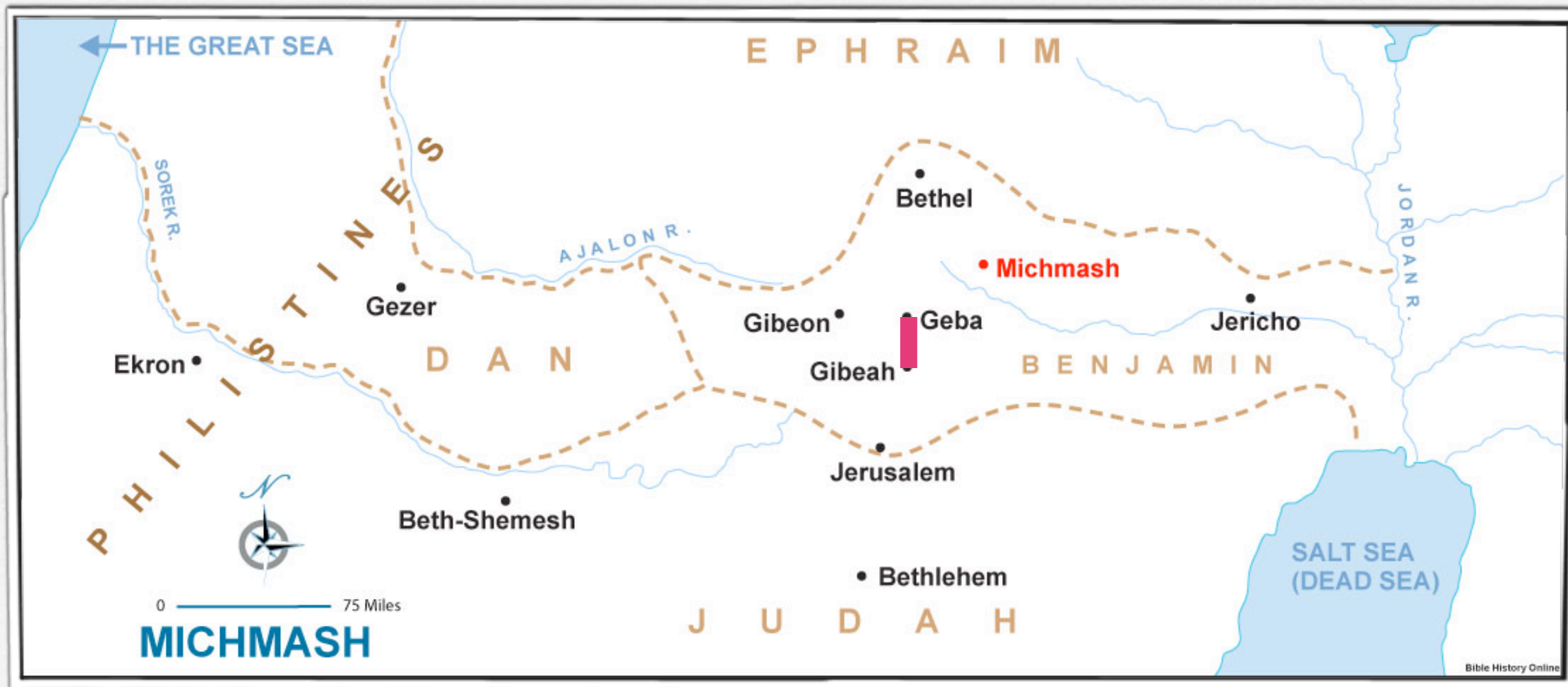
Saul is announced
as king at Gilgal.
'The man who
stands before you
today, Saul, is a
Joshua-like-figure,
a saviour. He will
bring you back to
God and free you
from the nations'

They were to "obey" or
'hearken' to God's
"voice" (1 Samuel 12:14)





The "thunder" (12:18)
and "the voice" (verse 15)

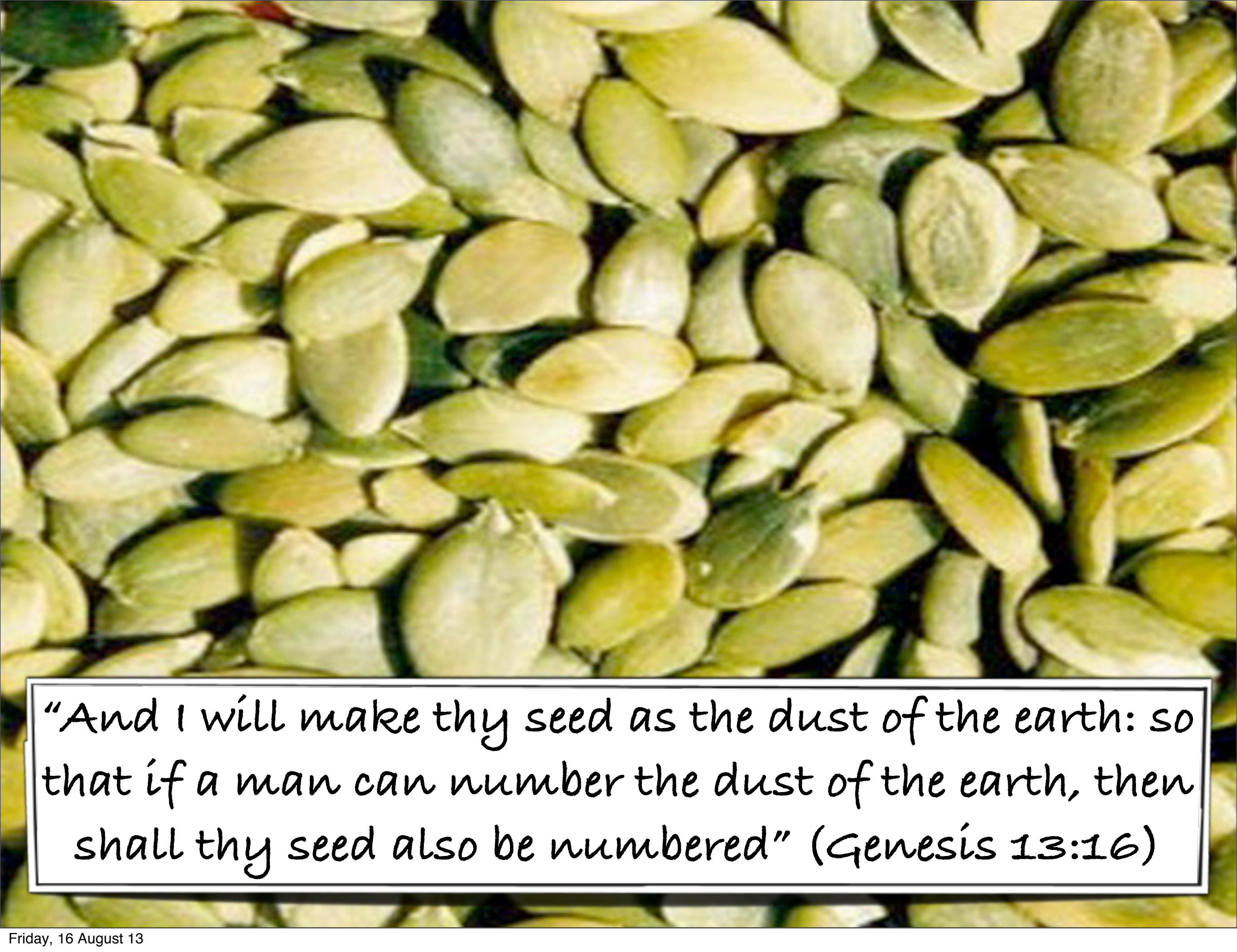




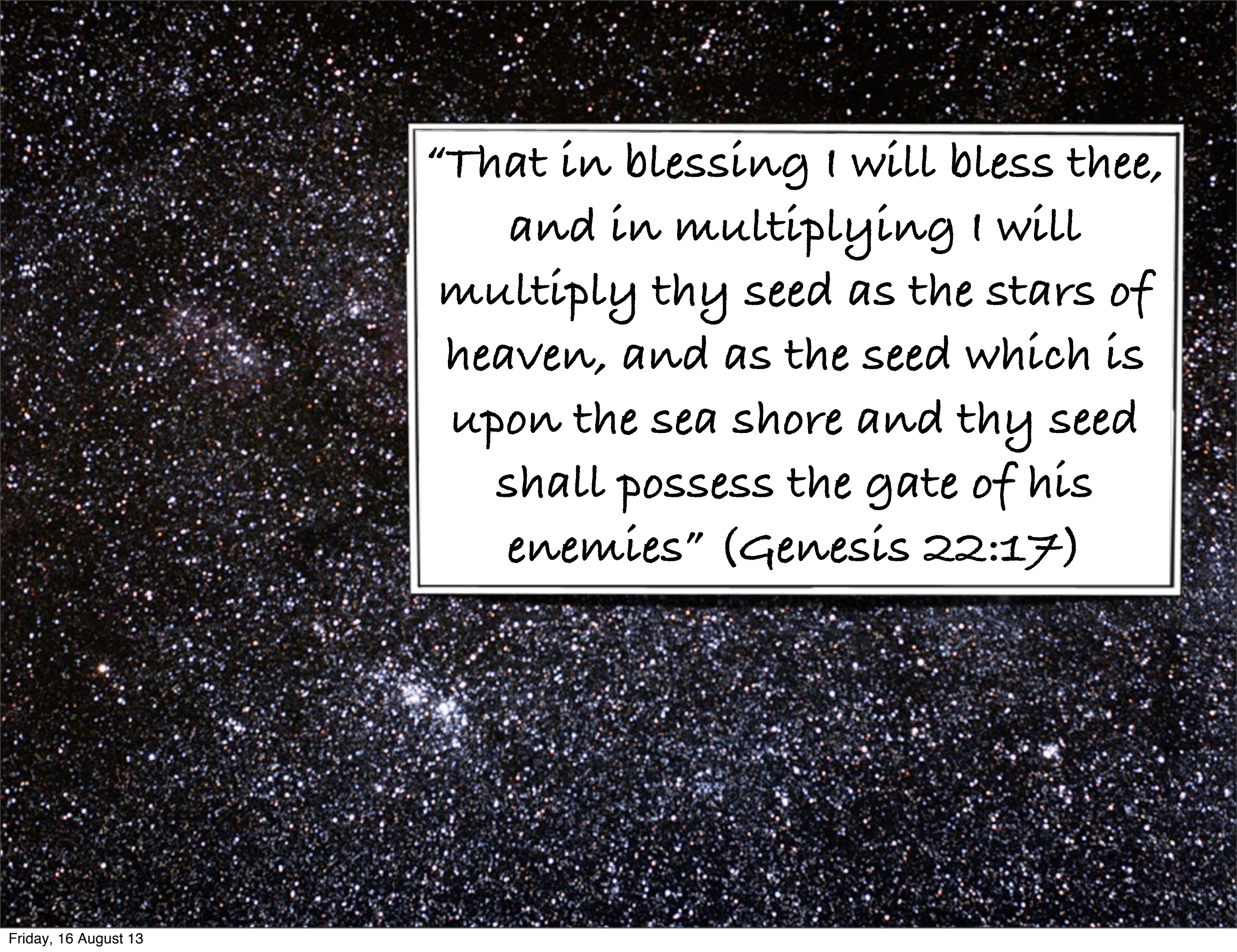
Jonathan courageously smote the Philistine garrison in Geba (1 Samuel 13:3). Saul declared the victory was his with the words: "Let the Hebrews hear"



Abram defeated the Babylonian kings and rescued Lot. He is called "Abram the Hebrew" (Genesis 14:13). The word "Hebrew" is related to the verb 'cross over' or 'pass through'



"And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered" (Genesis 13:16)



“That in blessing I will bless thee,
and in multiplying I will
multiply thy seed as the stars of
heaven, and as the seed which is
upon the sea shore and thy seed
shall possess the gate of his
enemies” (Genesis 22:17)



See Judges 7 for links with Gideon

"... sand by the sea side for multitude" (v 12)

"... the sword of the LORD and of Gideon" (v 18 & 20)



Saul offered the burnt offering as a King and a Priest!

- ▶ Blames the people: "... the people were scattered from me" (v 11)
- ▶ Blames Samuel: "... thou camest not within the days appointed" (v 11)
- ▶ Blames the Philistines: "... the Philistines gathered themselves together" (v 11)



"But now, thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart ... because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee" (1 Samuel 13:14)



The rise and fall of King Saul

[4] 'My Father hath troubled the land'

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Before the destruction of Jericho there was to be a week of dedication and worship

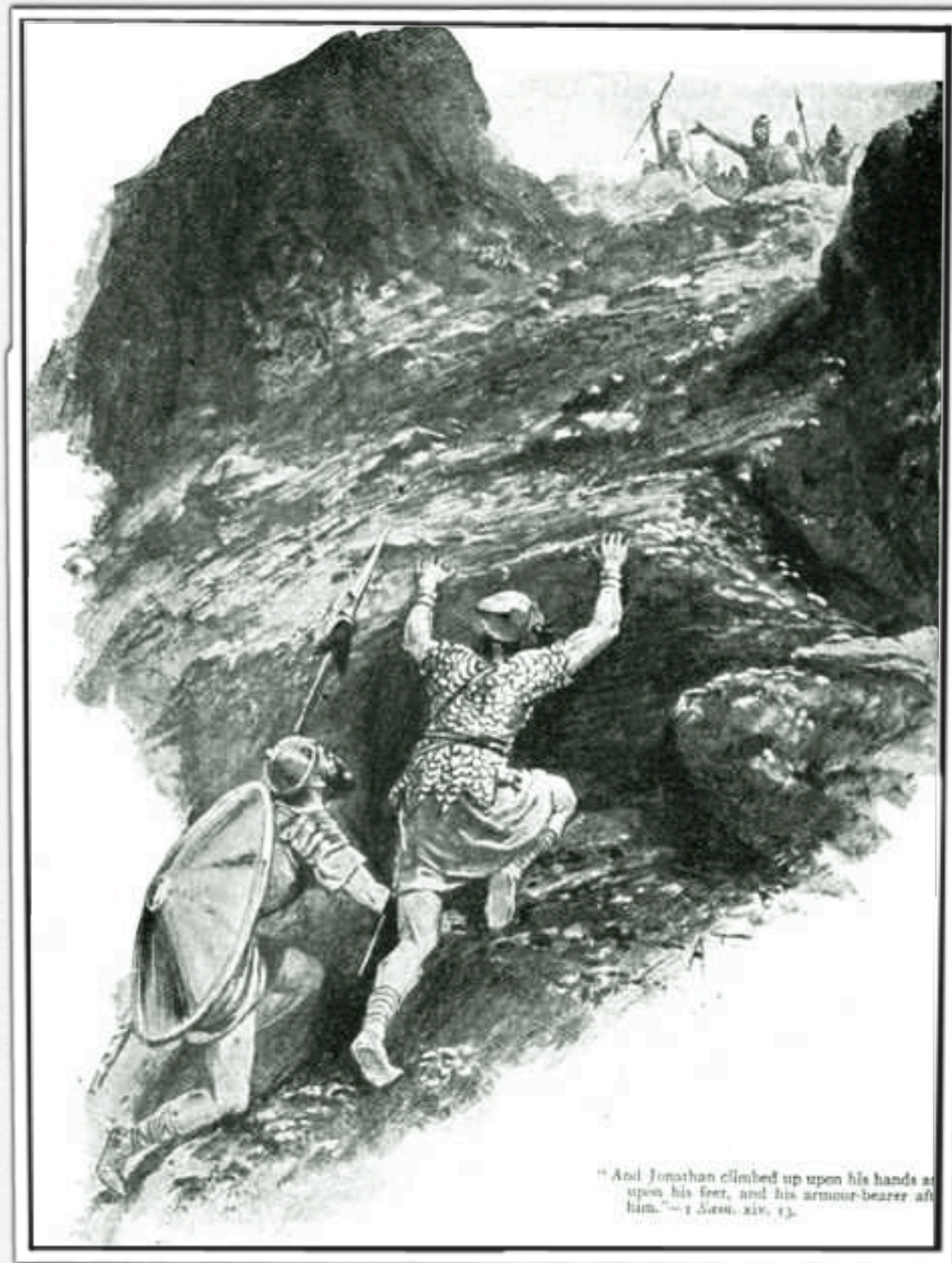
- Through this practice the Israelites would be victorious
- [Joshua 6: 3, 21]

A week of worship was to be kept for the three annual feasts

- If they kept this week then their enemies would be "cast out" and not "desire their land"
- God would have protected them during this 7-day period
- [Exodus 34:22-24]

Saul should have remembered what High Priest always said before the Israelites went to war

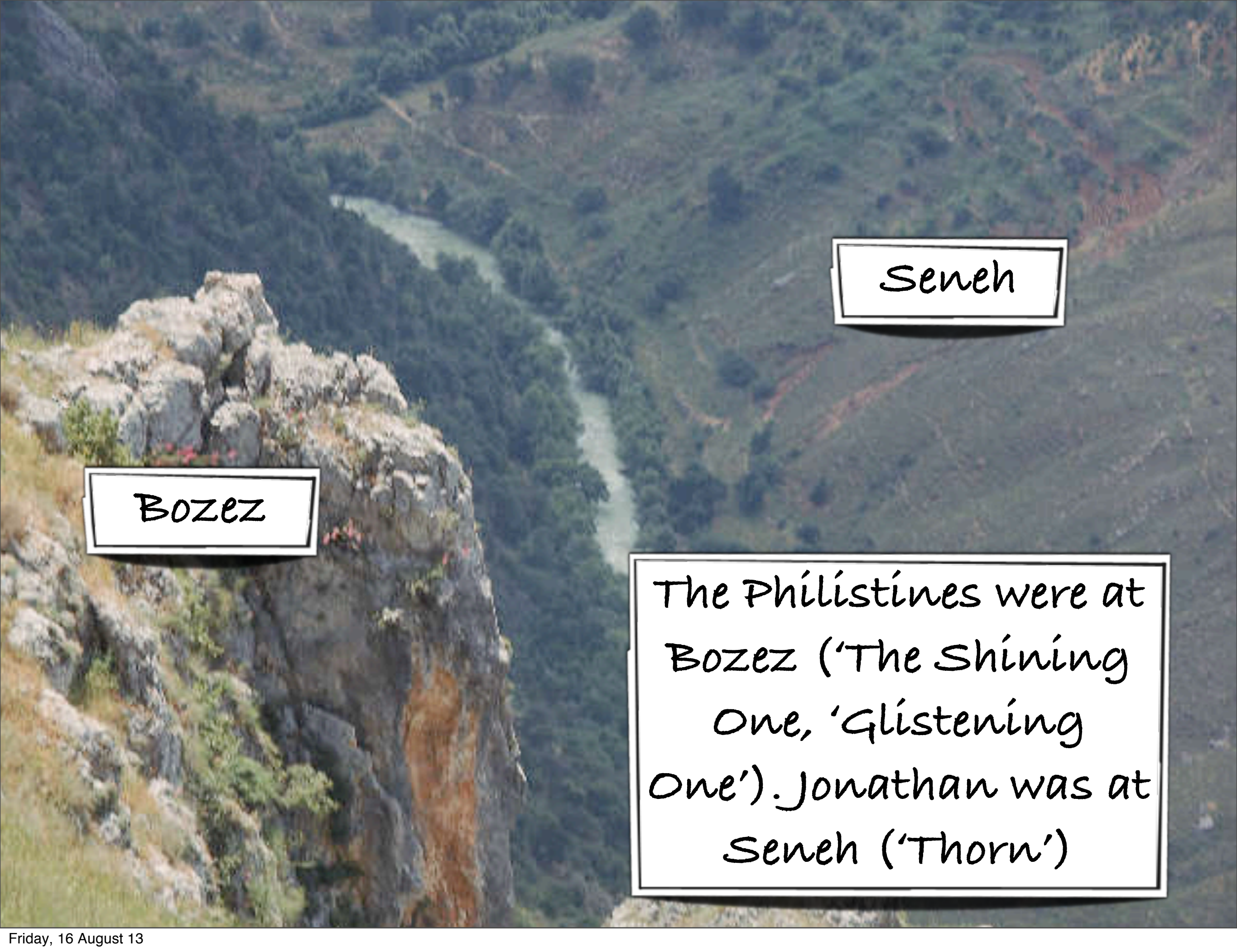
- God would "fight for you ... to save you"
- [Deuteronomy 20:1-4]
- Besides, "The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is His Name" (Exodus 15:3)



Jonathan refers to the Philistines as "these uncircumcised" (1 Samuel 14:6).

Though Saul tried to emulate Abraham, it was Jonathan who shared the faith of Abraham. See

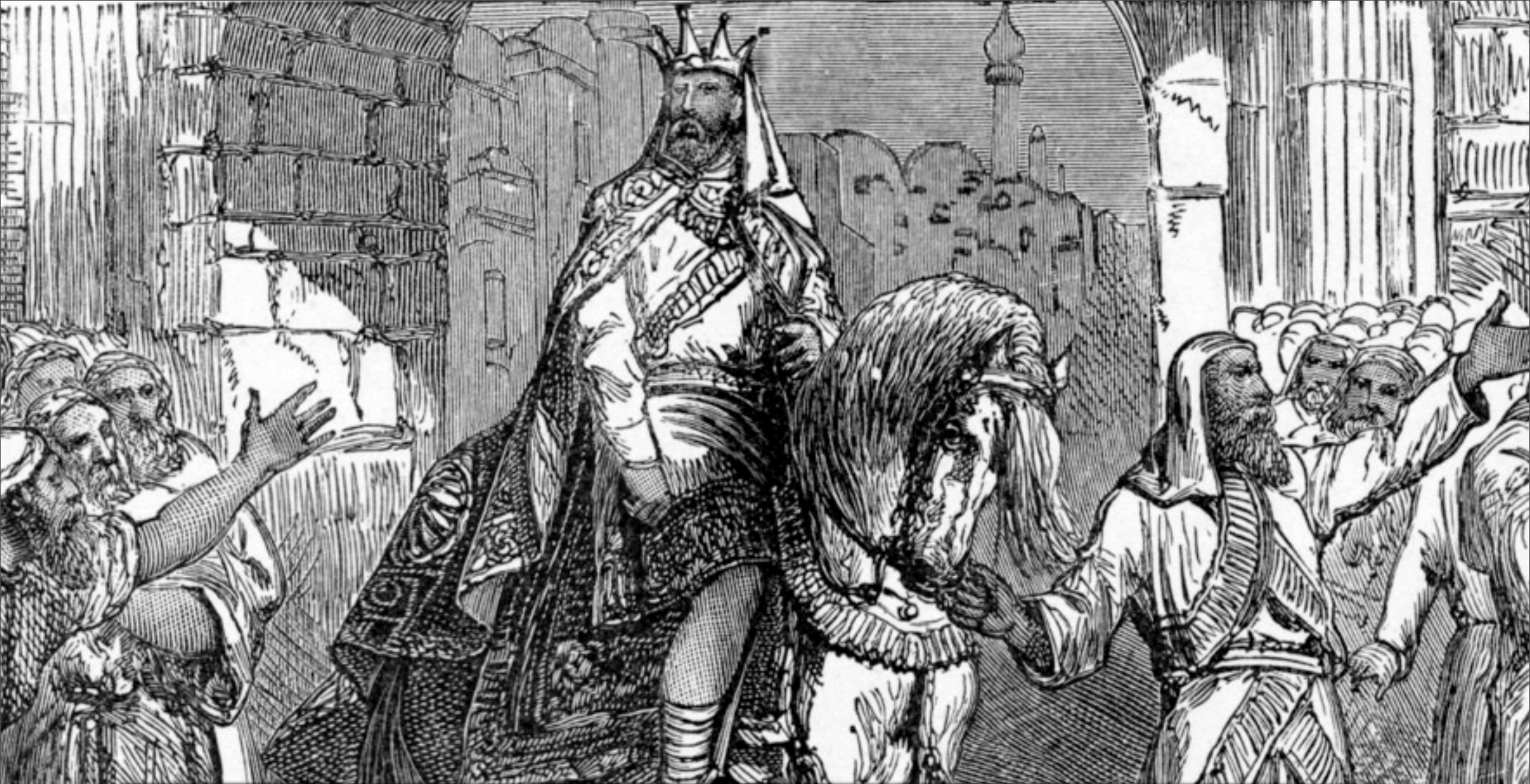
Genesis 17:10 - "you shall be circumcised"



Bozez

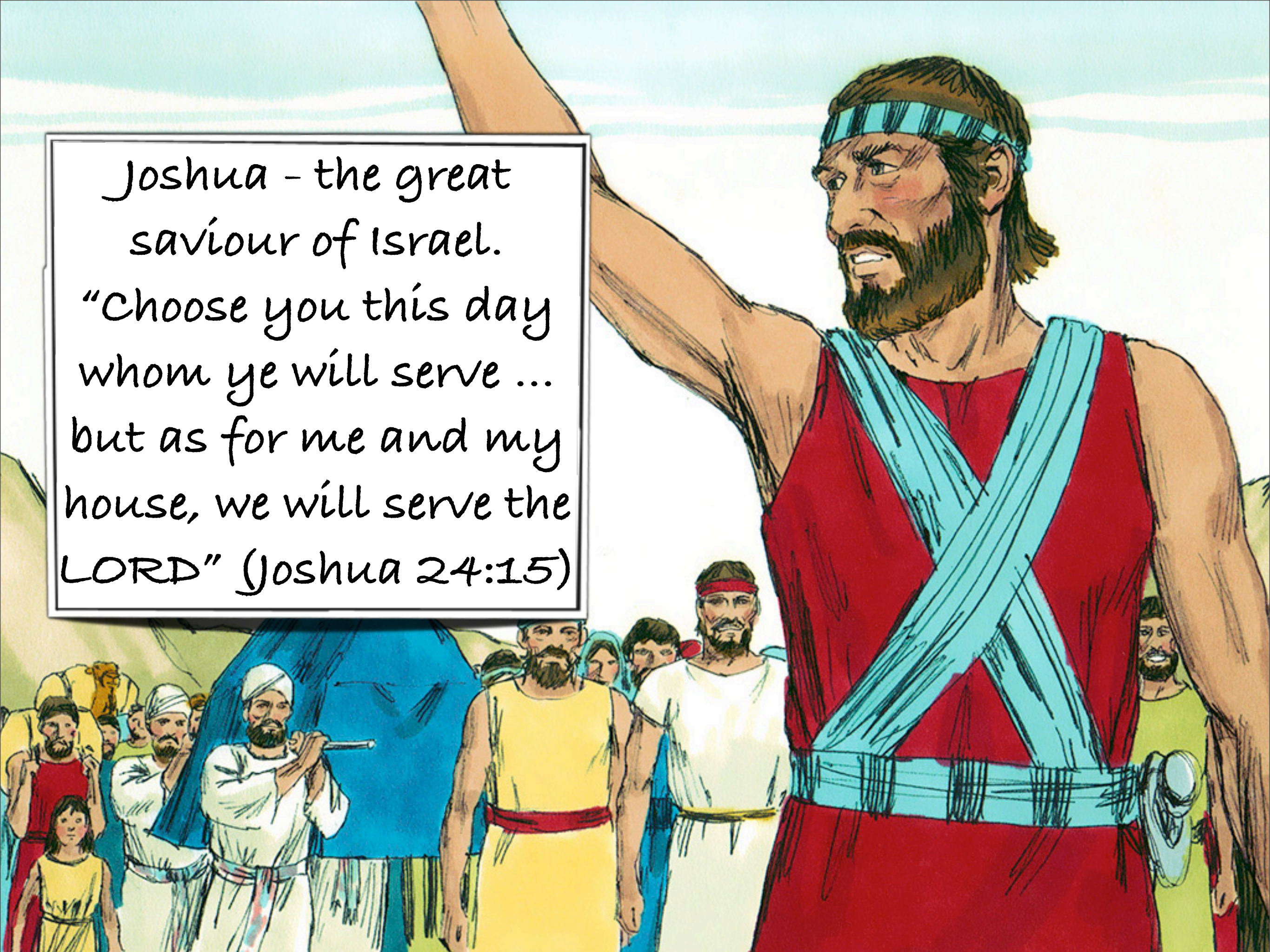
Seneh

The Philistines were at Bozez ('The Shining One, 'Glistening One'). Jonathan was at Seneh ('Thorn')



After "the LORD saved Israel" (1 Samuel 14:23), Saul says: "Cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies" (v24)

Joshua - the great
saviour of Israel.
"Choose you this day
whom ye will serve ...
but as for me and my
house, we will serve the
LORD" (Joshua 24:15)



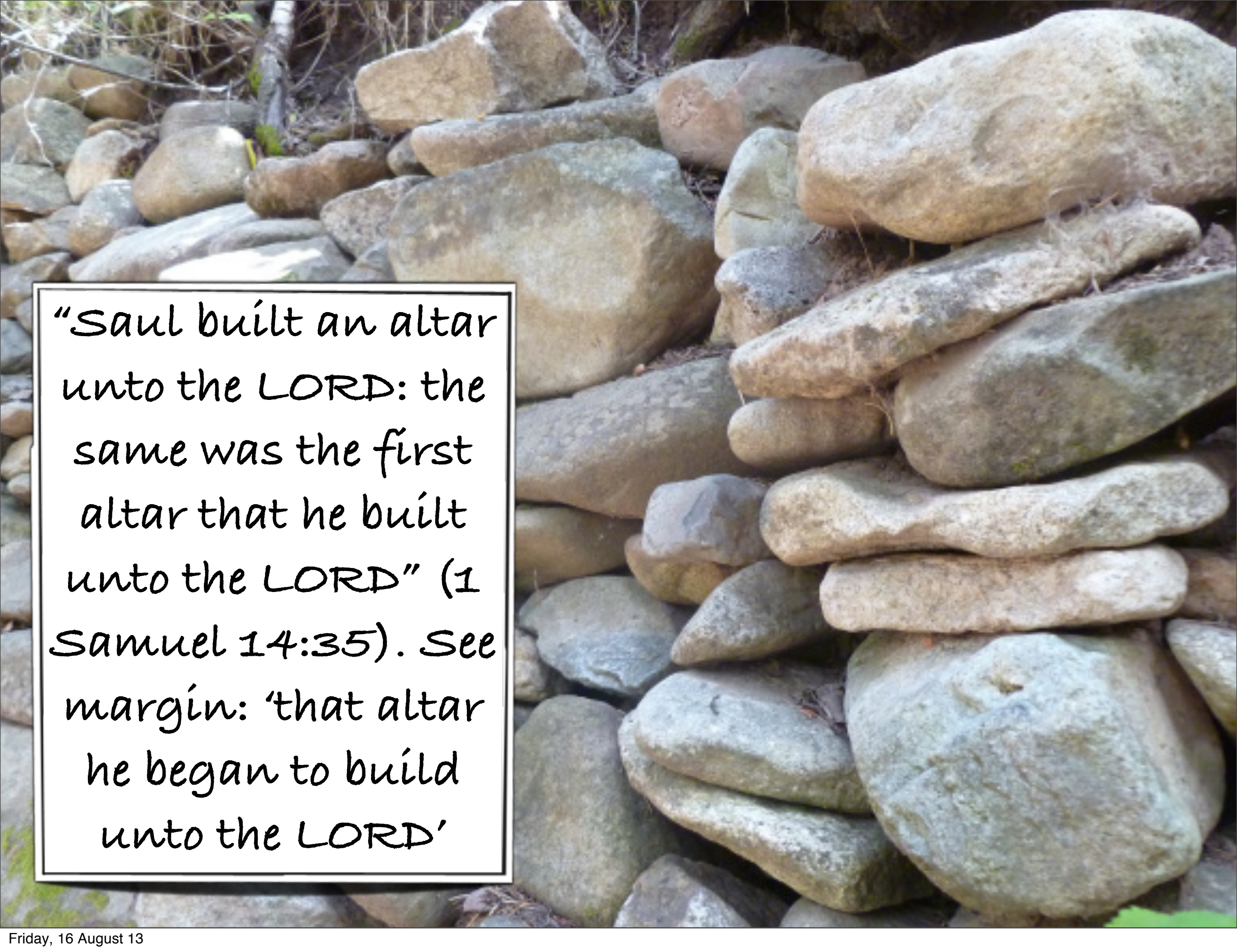
- ▶ Saul's oath was, "Cursed be the man that eateth" (1 Samuel 14:28)
- ▶ Jonathan's reply was, "My father hath troubled the land" (v 29)
- ▶ "troubled" means 'Achan or Achor'



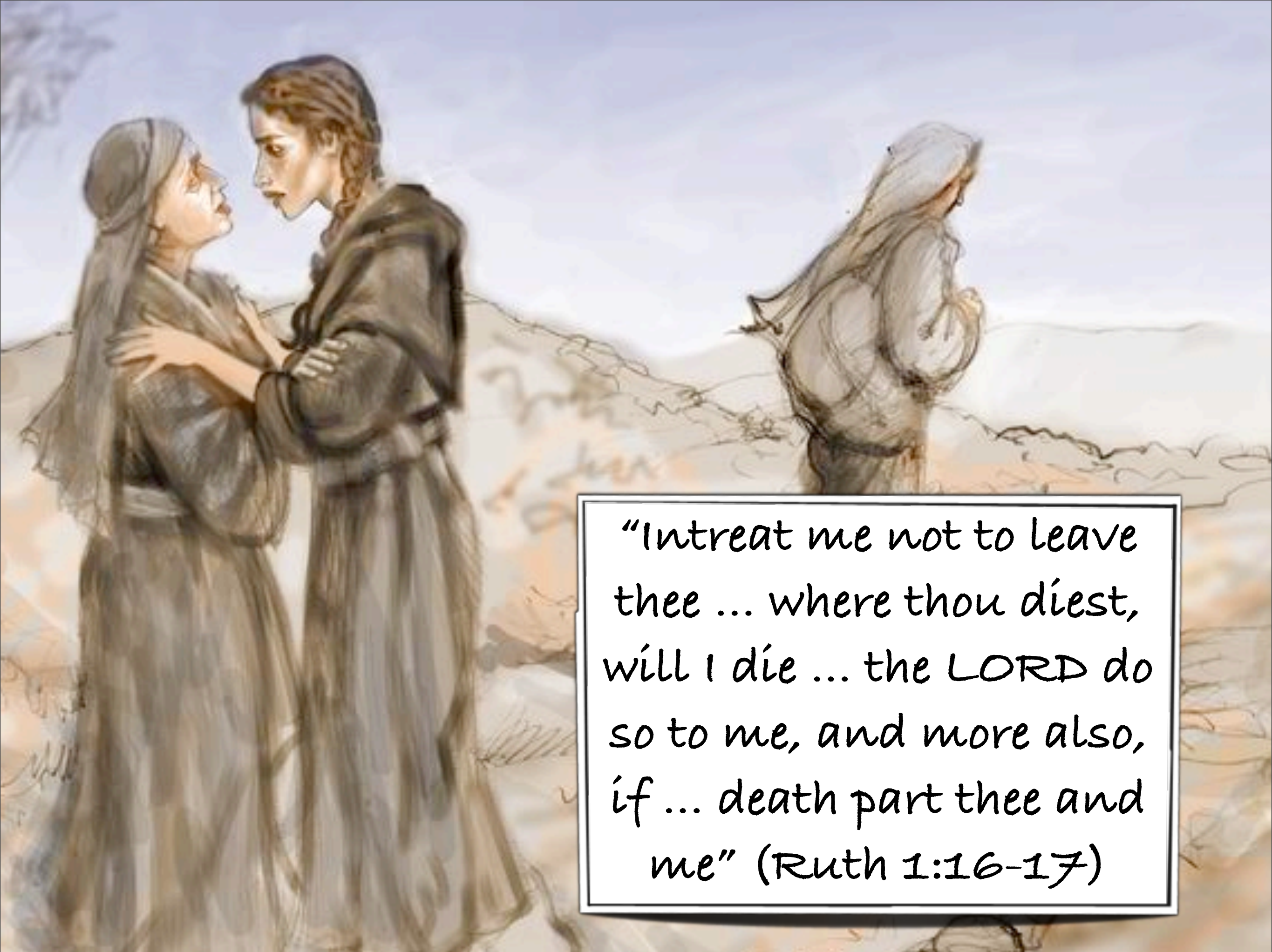
The link is back to Joshua and Jericho. Joshua says, "Cursed be the man before the LORD" (Joshua 6:26)



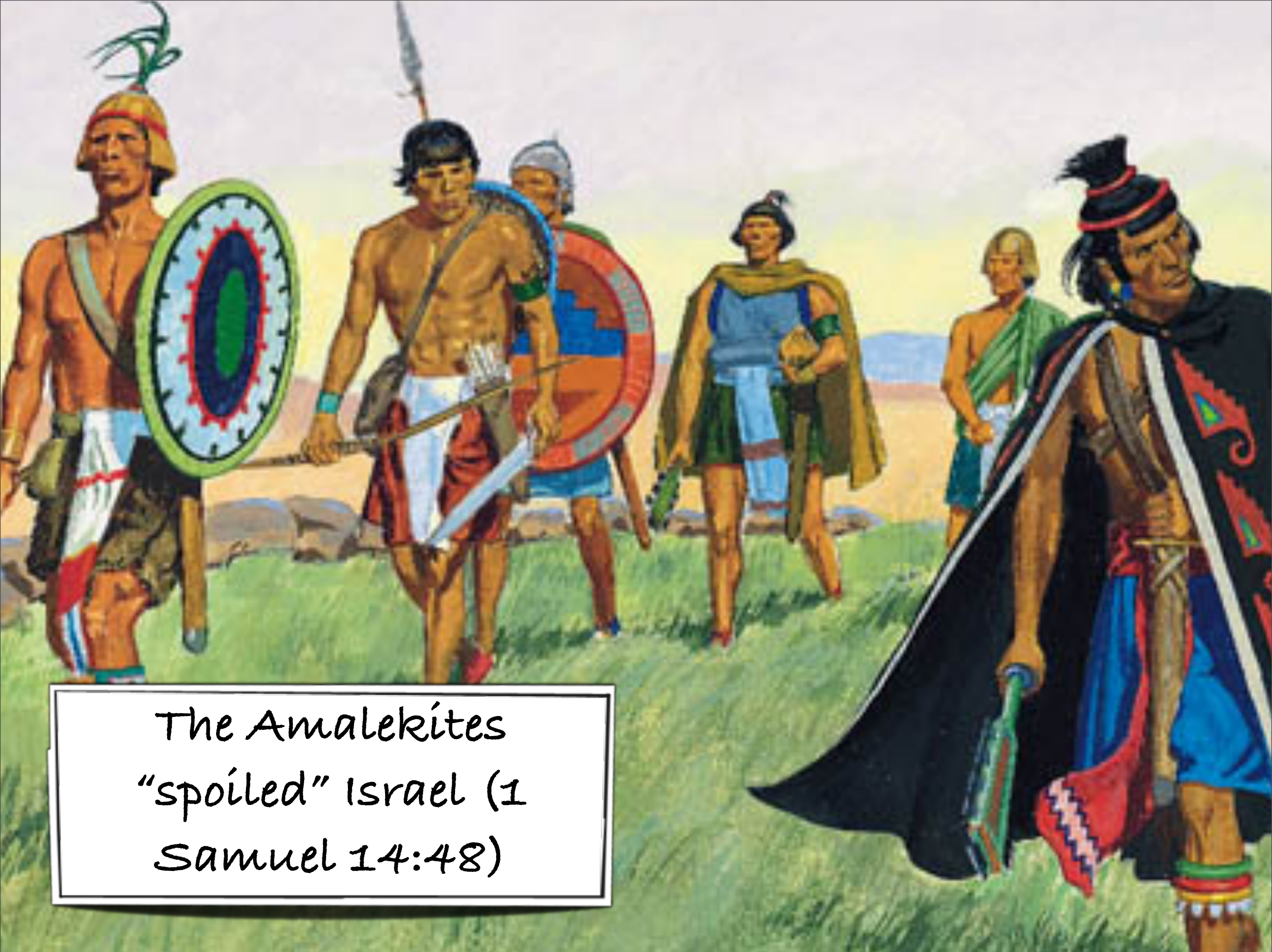
Joshua says to Achan, "Why hast thou troubled us?" (Joshua 7:25). "troubled" means 'Achan or Achor'. Achan was 'The Troubler of Israel'. Compare the words of Jonathan, "My father hath troubled the land" (1 Samuel 14:29)



“Saul built an altar unto the LORD: the same was the first altar that he built unto the LORD” (1 Samuel 14:35). See margin: ‘that altar he began to build unto the LORD’



"Intreat me not to leave thee ... where thou diest, will I die ... the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ... death part thee and me" (Ruth 1:16-17)



The Amalekites
"spoiled" Israel (1
Samuel 14:48)



'... because a hand is on the throne of Yah' (Exodus 17:16)

- ▶ God says to Saul, "Now go and smite Amalekíte and utterly destroy all that they have ..." (1 Samuel 15:3)
- ▶ "utterly destroy" is the Hebrew verb cherem: 'to devote utterly to destruction'
- ▶ God was saying to Saul, 'Fulfil the prophecy of Moses! I'm with you!'



Against Jericho, Joshua is commanded by God: "... the city shall be accursed" (Joshua 6:17). "accursed" is the Hebrew noun *cherem*: 'to devote utterly to destruction'

Territory of the Ismaelites and Amalekites

"Ishmael settled from Havilah to Shur which is east of Egypt as one goes toward Assyria" Gen 25:18

Western boundary: Shur and Egypt **Eastern boundary: Havilah**

"from ancient times,
inhabited the land as you come to Shur
even as far as Egypt." 1 Samuel 27:8

Assyria "from Havilah as you go to Shur,
which is east of Egypt." 1 Samuel 15:7

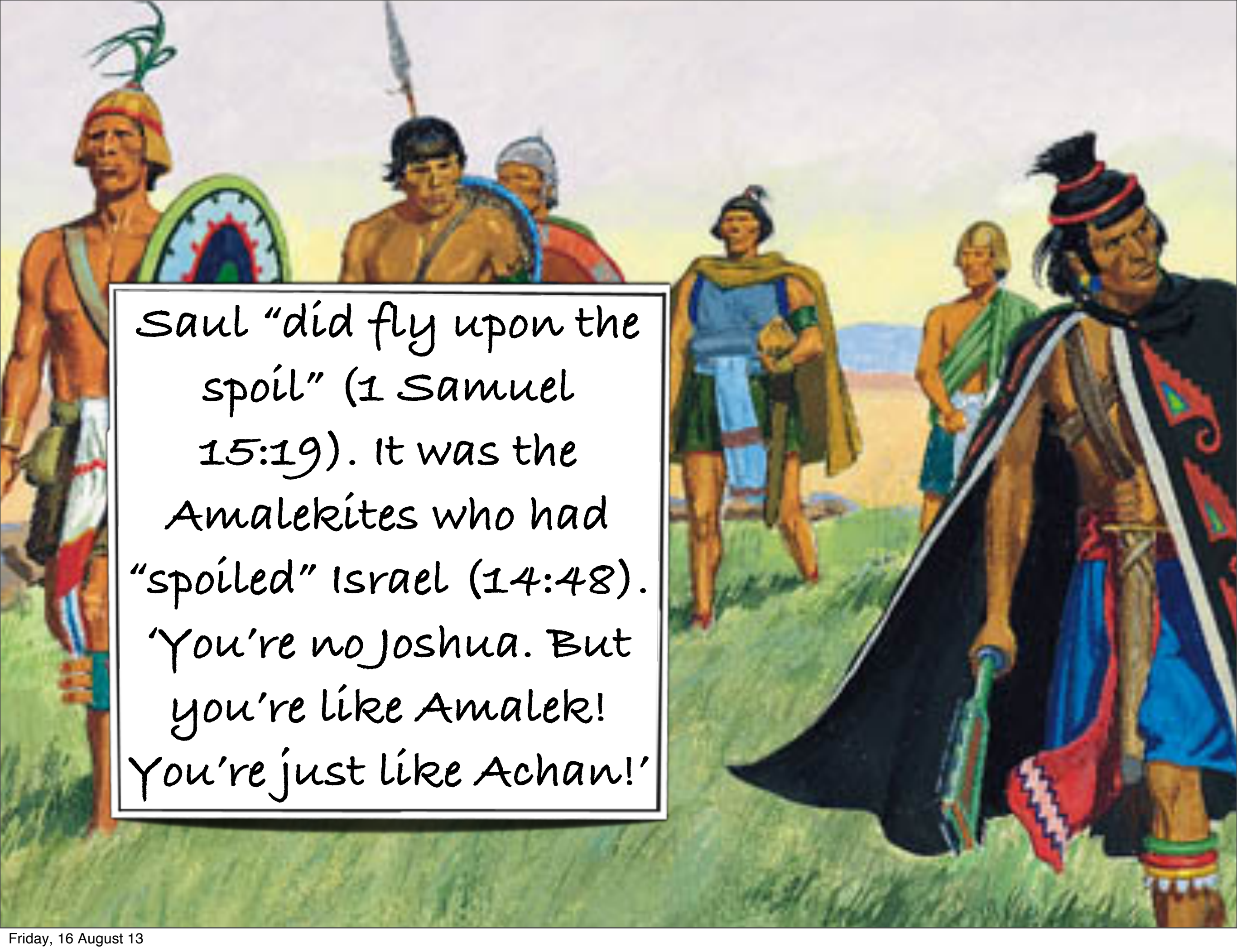




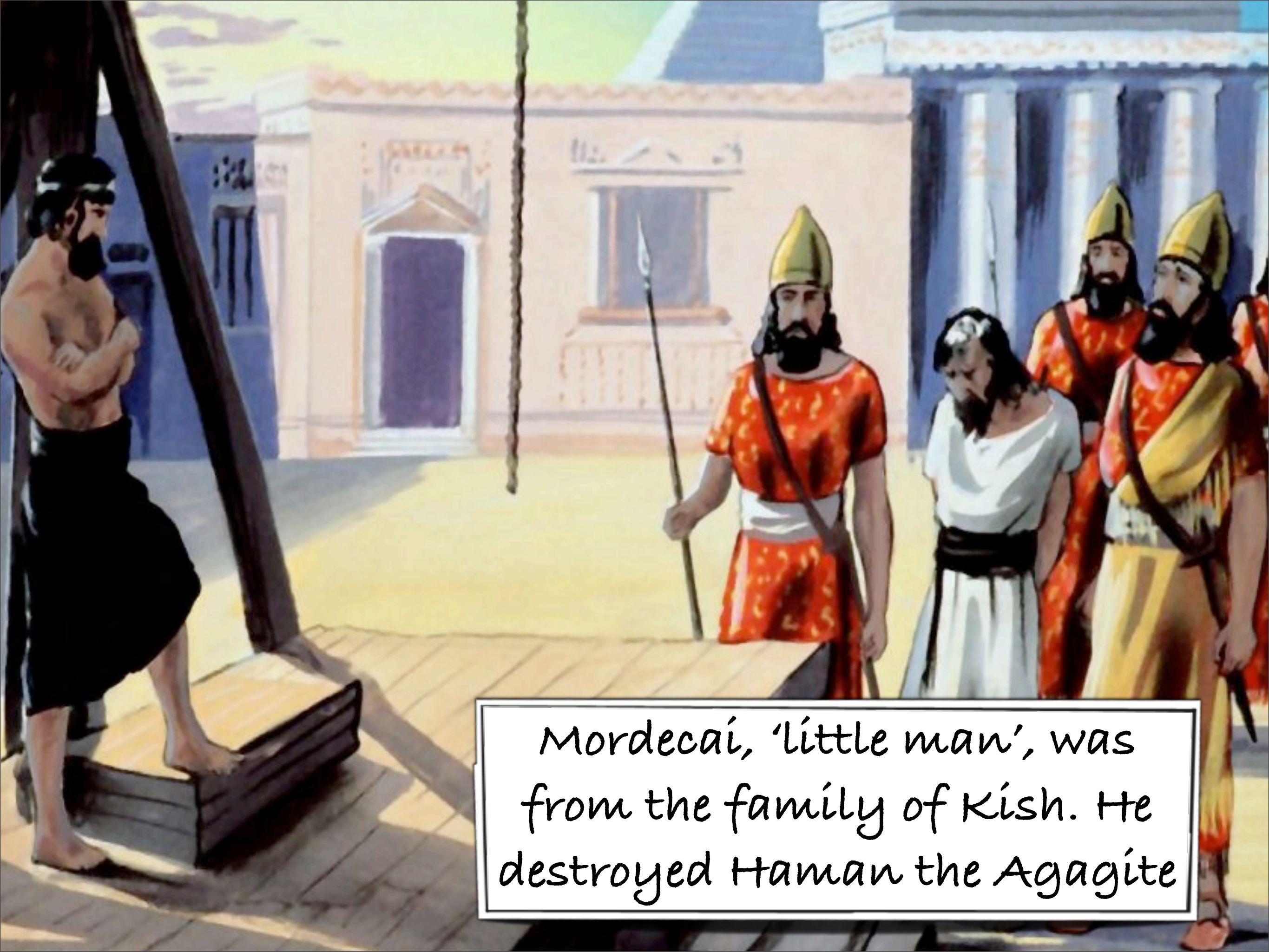
Saul spared Agag ...
"and all that was
good" (1 Samuel 15:9).
Compare with Achan
who took "a **goodly**
Babylonish
garment" (Joshua 7:21)



After the victory against the Amalekites, Saul went to Carmel and "set him up a place" (1 Samuel 15:12). Literally, 'a hand'. See 2 Samuel 18:18. Saul set up a monument in his own honour!



Saul "did fly upon the
spoil" (1 Samuel
15:19). It was the
Amalekites who had
"spoiled" Israel (14:48).
'You're no Joshua. But
you're like Amalek!
You're just like Achan!'



Mordecai, 'little man', was from the family of Kish. He destroyed Haman the Agagite



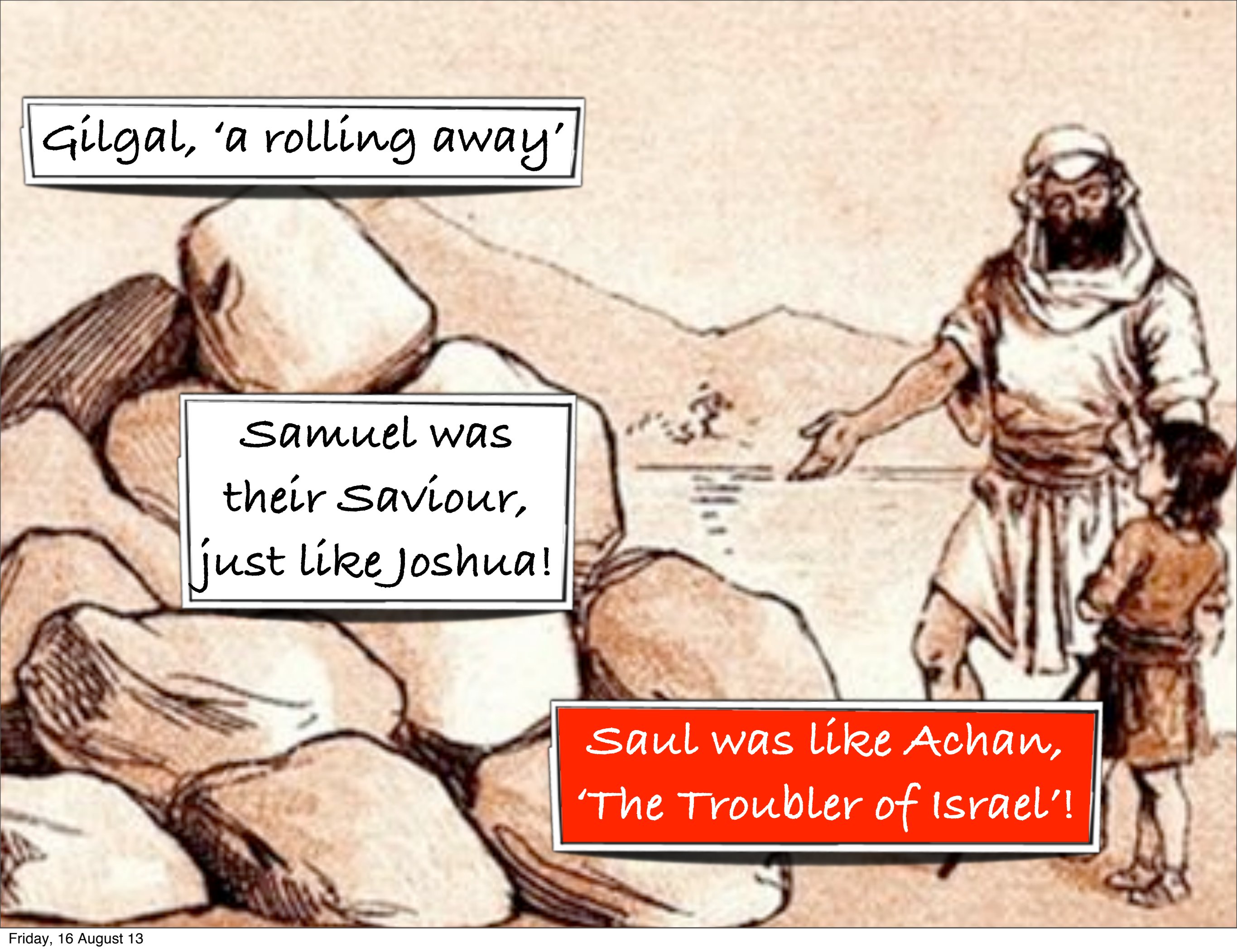
But who is playing
Joshua? Who is
behind the mask?



Gilgal, 'a rolling away'

Samuel was
their saviour,
just like Joshua!

Saul was like Achan,
'The Troubler of Israel'!





The rise and fall of King Saul

[5] 'The LORD looketh on the heart'

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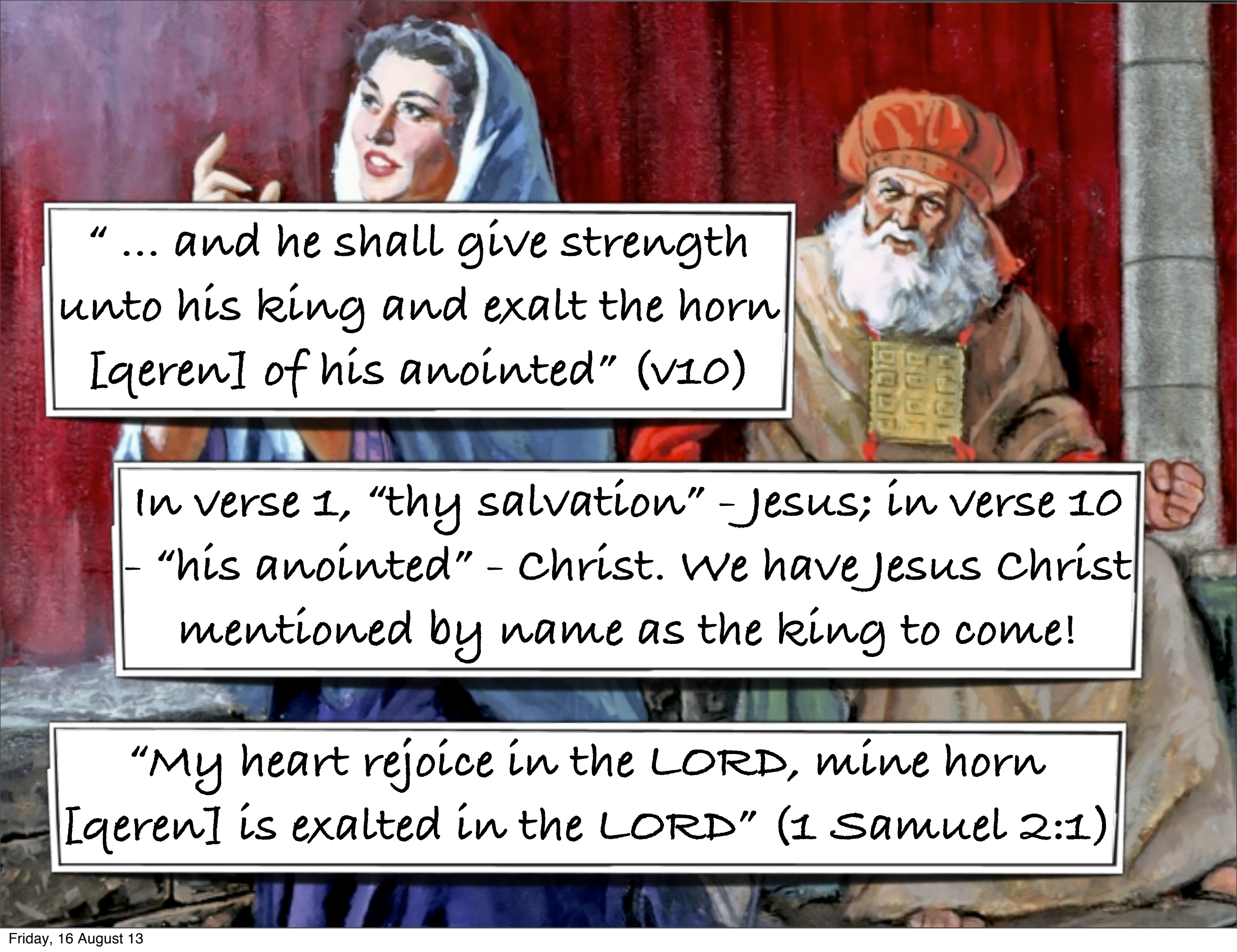


Horn

vial



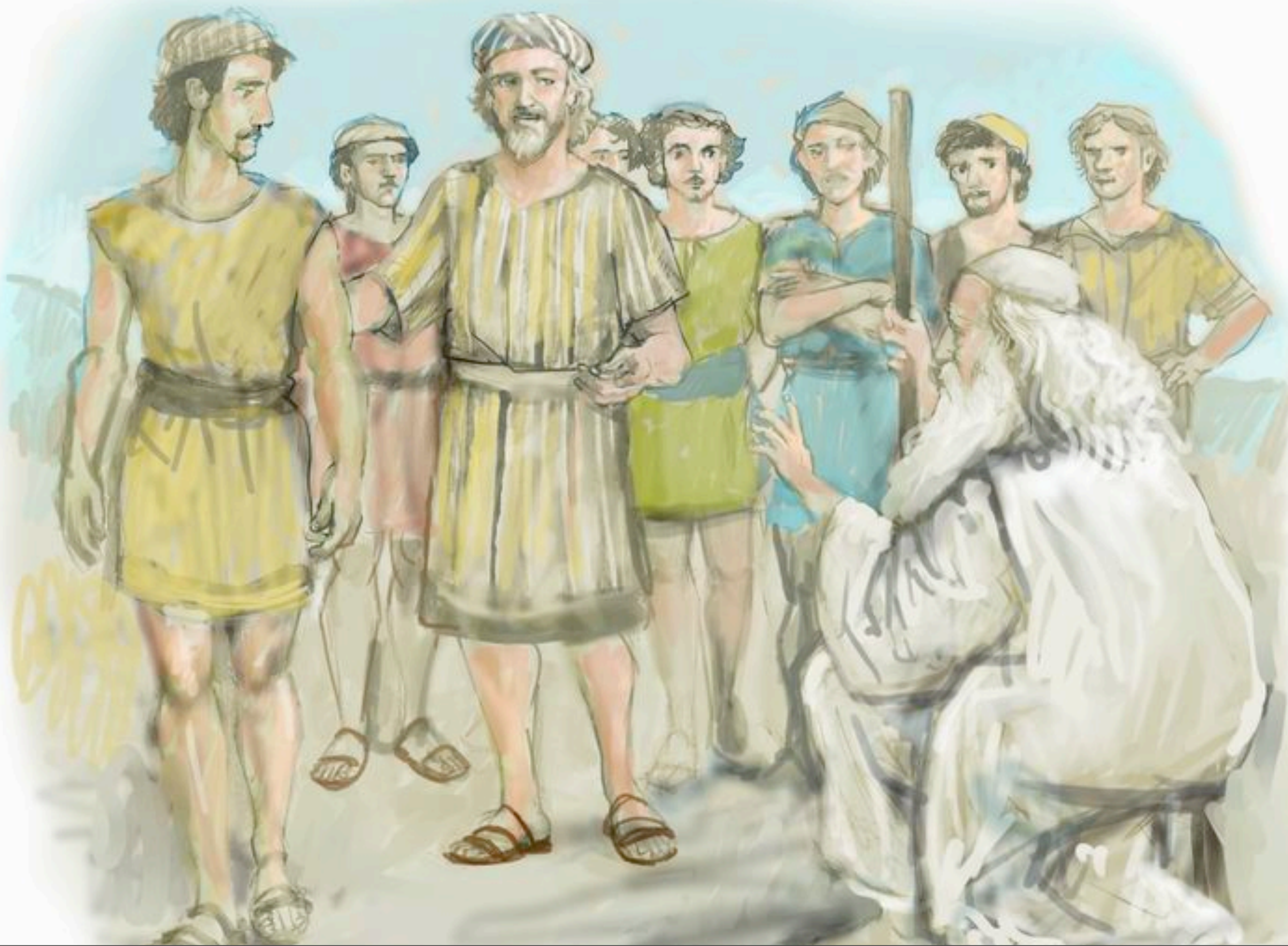
Samuel is commanded, "Fill thine horn [qeren] with oil" (1 Samuel 16:1) which contrasts with the "vial [pak]" which was used to anoint Saul (10:1)



“ ... and he shall give strength
unto his king and exalt the horn
[qeren] of his anointed” (v10)

In verse 1, “thy salvation” – Jesus; in verse 10
– “his anointed” – Christ. We have Jesus Christ
mentioned by name as the king to come!

“My heart rejoice in the LORD, mine horn
[qeren] is exalted in the LORD” (1 Samuel 2:1)





"My beloved is white
and ruddy, the chiefest
among ten
thousand" (Song 5: 10)

"His mouth is most
sweet: yea, he is
altogether lovely" (v16)

David was "ruddy" (1
Samuel 16:12) or 'red'.
Probably red-haired. A
colour greatly admired
in the East because of
its rarity. "beautiful
countenance": 'fair of
eyes' (margin).

"countenance": 'eye'
which has a physical
and spiritual aspect



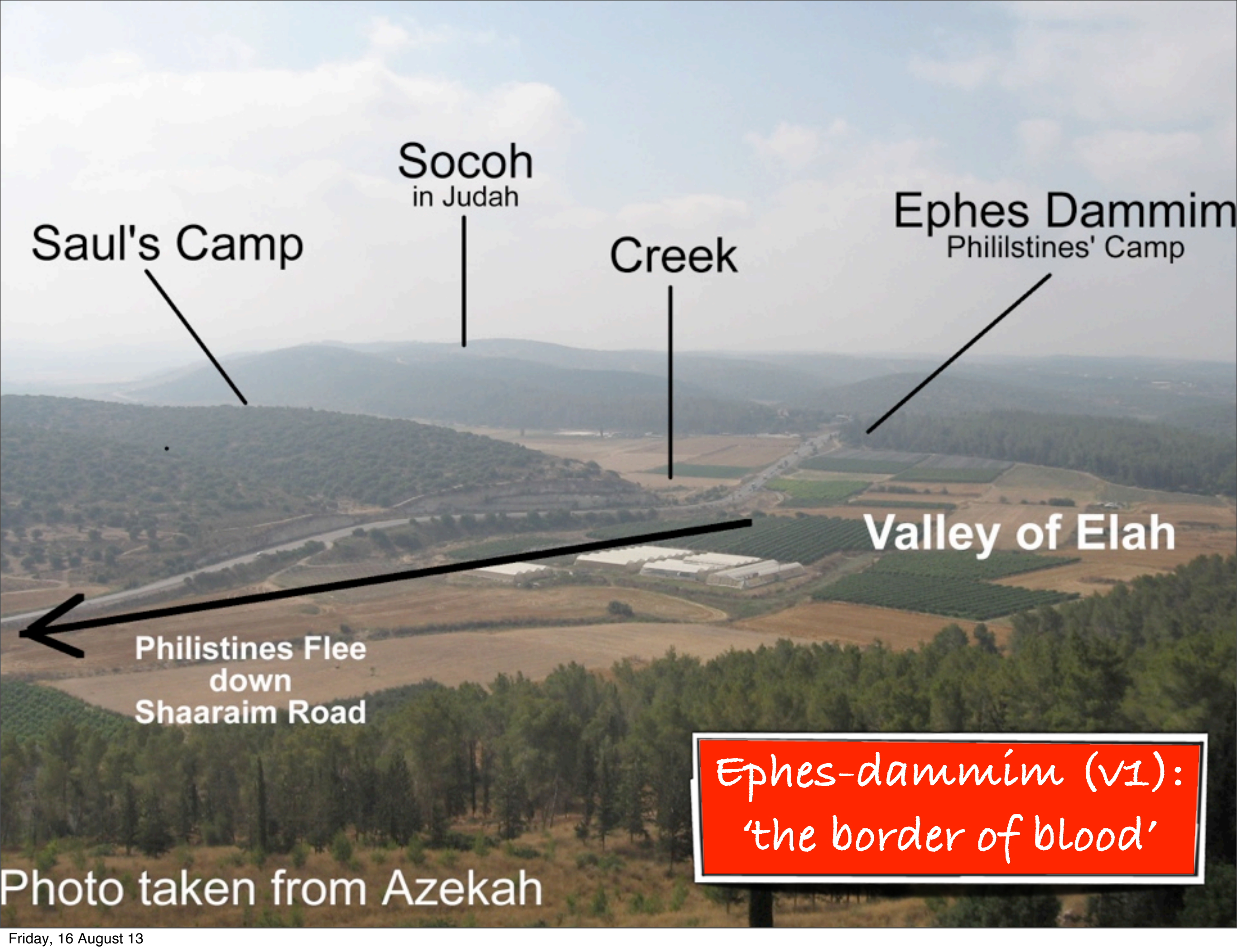




SAMUEL ANOINTING DAVID - LIGARI - C. 1717

"... the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward" (1 Samuel 16:13). The word "came" means 'break out'. The Spirit broke upon him from that day! See Psalm 23:1-6 ("thou anointest my head with oil" - v6)





Saul's Camp

Socoh
in Judah

Creek

Ephes Dammim
Philistines' Camp

Valley of Elah

Philistines Flee
down
Shaaraim Road

Ephes-dammim (v1):
'the border of blood'

Photo taken from Azekah

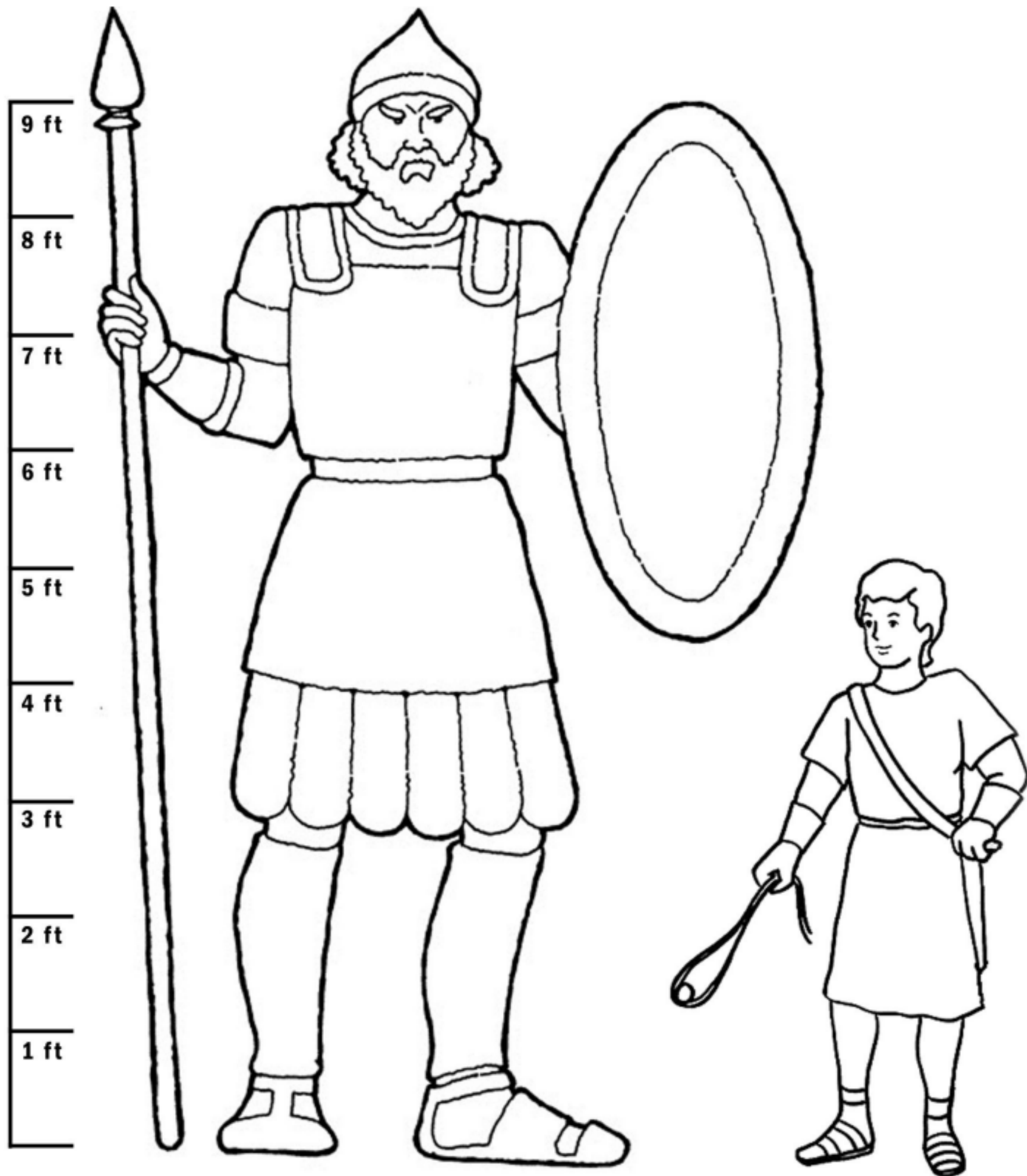


Goliath was the
Philistines'
"champion" (1 Samuel
17:4) which literally
means 'the man
between the two'

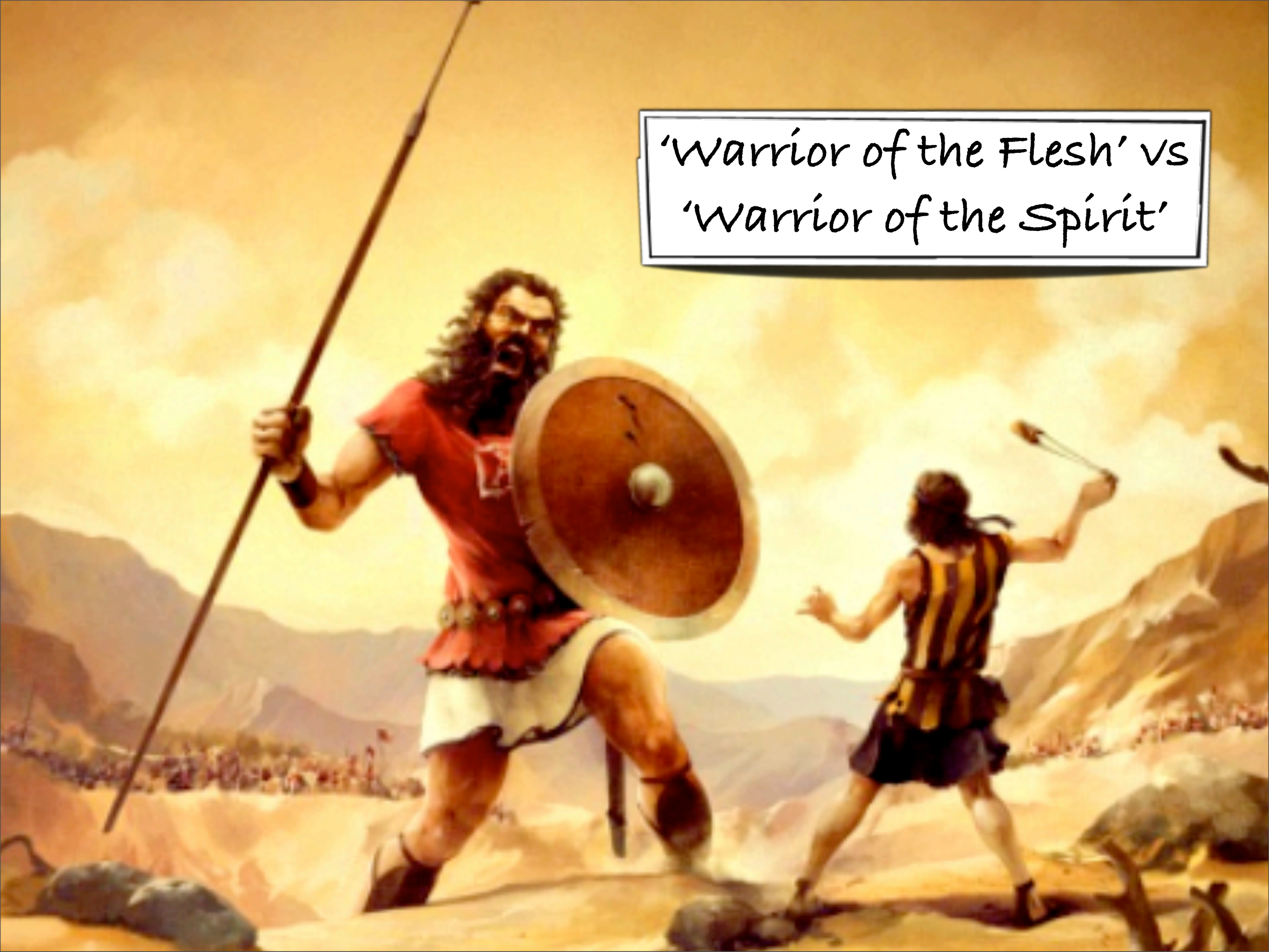


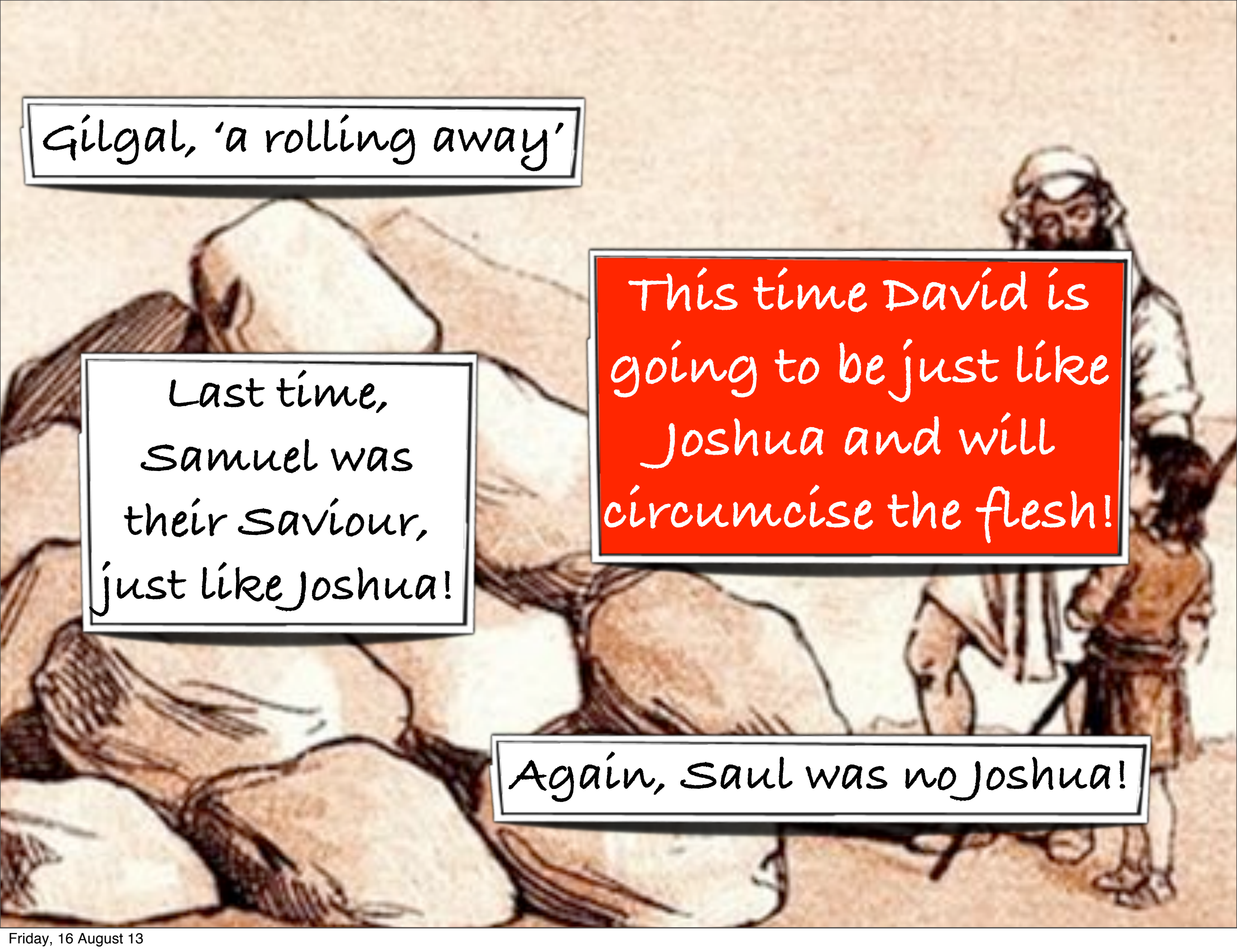
"I defy the
armies of
Israel" (v10).
"defy" means 'to
expose or strip
off'. He was
exposing Israel
to be naked

Goliath means
'Splendour'. He
represented the
splendour of the flesh.
Goliath is derived from
the Hebrew word galah
which means 'dennude
and to uncover'. Goliath
was making them
naked before God!



'Warrior of the Flesh' vs
'Warrior of the Spirit'





Gilgal, 'a rolling away'

Last time,
Samuel was
their saviour,
just like Joshua!

This time David is
going to be just like
Joshua and will
circumcise the flesh!

Again, Saul was no Joshua!

The continual burnt offering was morning and evening - see Exodus 29: 39. Then look at Exodus 30: 20 "come near InagashI" - 'to present oneself' (same as 1 Samuel 17:16)

Goliath "drew near InagashI" which literally means 'to present oneself'. He did this "morning and evening" (1 Samuel 17:16)



“And then we saw the giants ... and we were ... as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight” (Numbers 13:25)



David asks, "Is there not a cause?" (1 Samuel 17:29). Jesus says before he destroys the man of sin, "for this cause" (John 12:27). David came "in the name of the LORD of hosts" (17:45), and Jesus said, "Father, glorify thy name" (12:28).







"And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem" (1 Samuel 17:54)

"... the place Golgotha, which is being interpreted, The place of a skull" (Mark 15:22);
"Wherefore Jesus also ... suffered without the gate" (Hebrews 13:12)



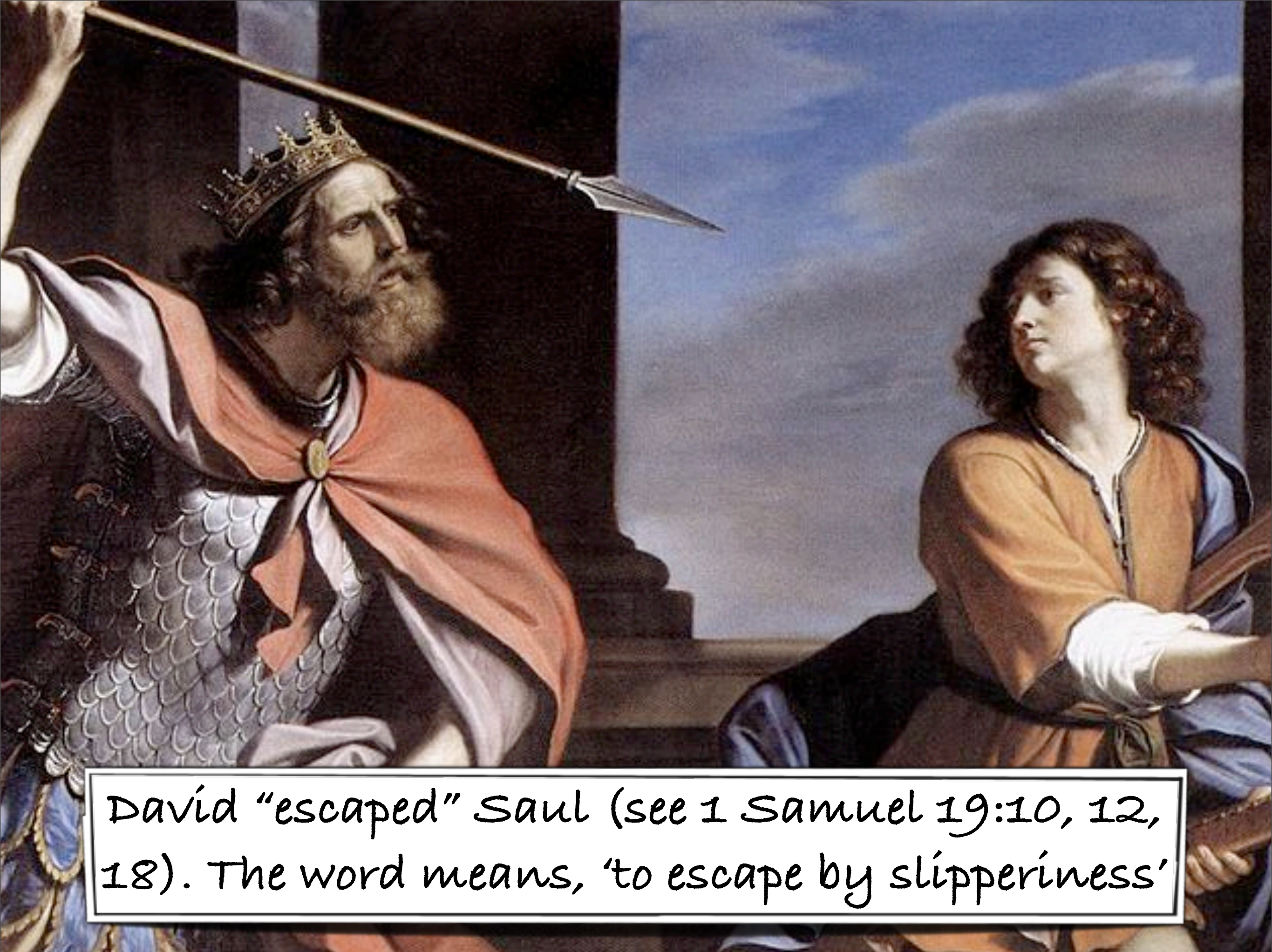
"Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature ... for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7)



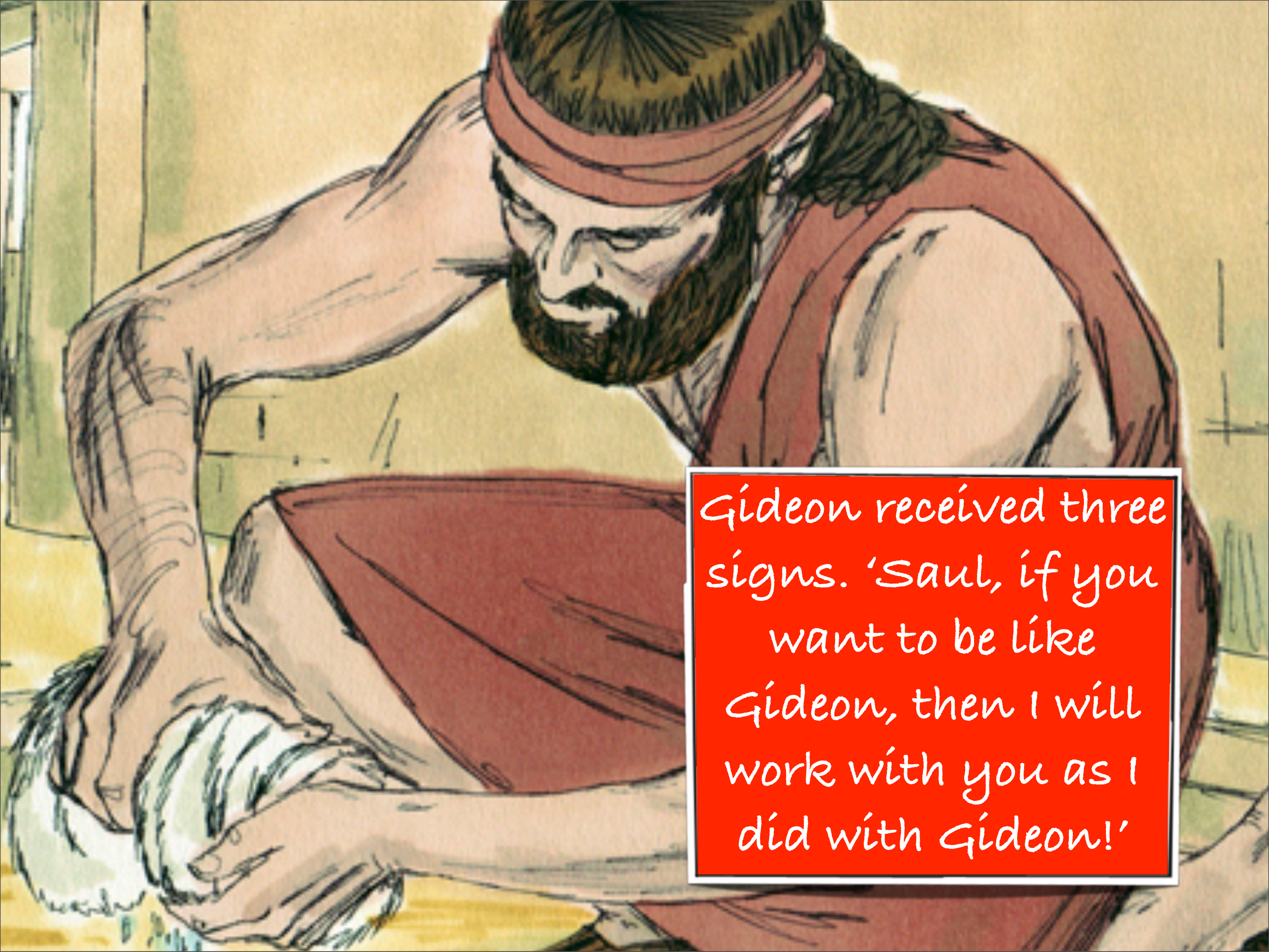
The rise and fall of King Saul

[6] 'Slay the priests of the LORD'

Whatshan Lake Bible School 2013



David "escaped" Saul (see 1 Samuel 19:10, 12, 18). The word means, 'to escape by slipperiness'



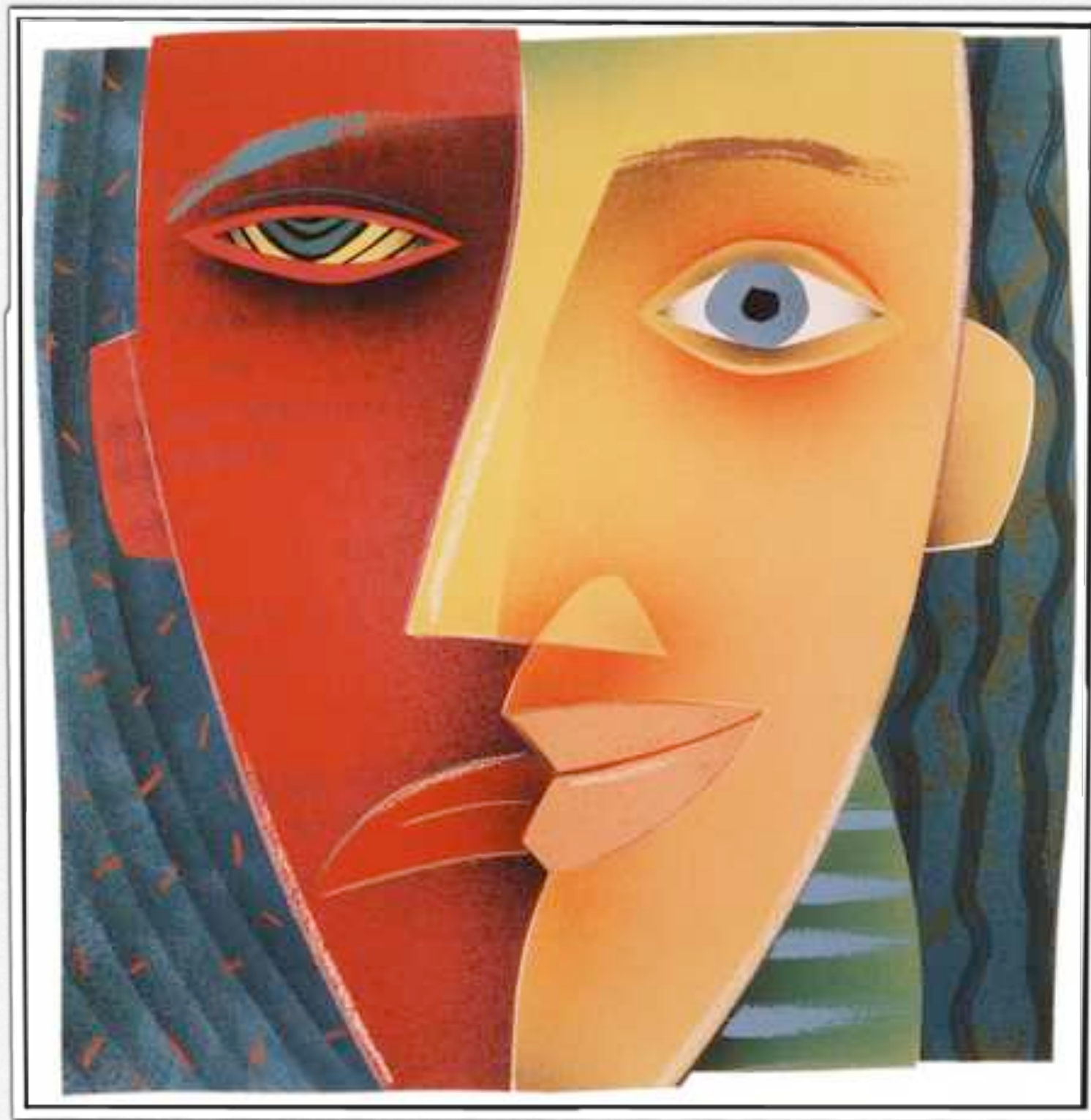
Gideon received three signs. 'Saul, if you want to be like Gideon, then I will work with you as I did with Gideon!'

First stop: Rachel's
Sepulchre - see Genesis 35



THE SEPULCHRE OF RACHEL.

SEPULCHRE DE RACHEL.



would Saul
be a 'son of
my sorrows'
or a 'son of
my right
hand'? He
had to make
the choice



Second stop: Travel to Bethel, 'The House of God'. He is reminded that God is with him, and that Kings were promised!



The Oak of Tabor

Saul is told to go to the "plain (or oak) of Tabor". See Genesis 35: 2,4. 'You need to bury your old ways under the oak and commit yourself to Me, Saul.'

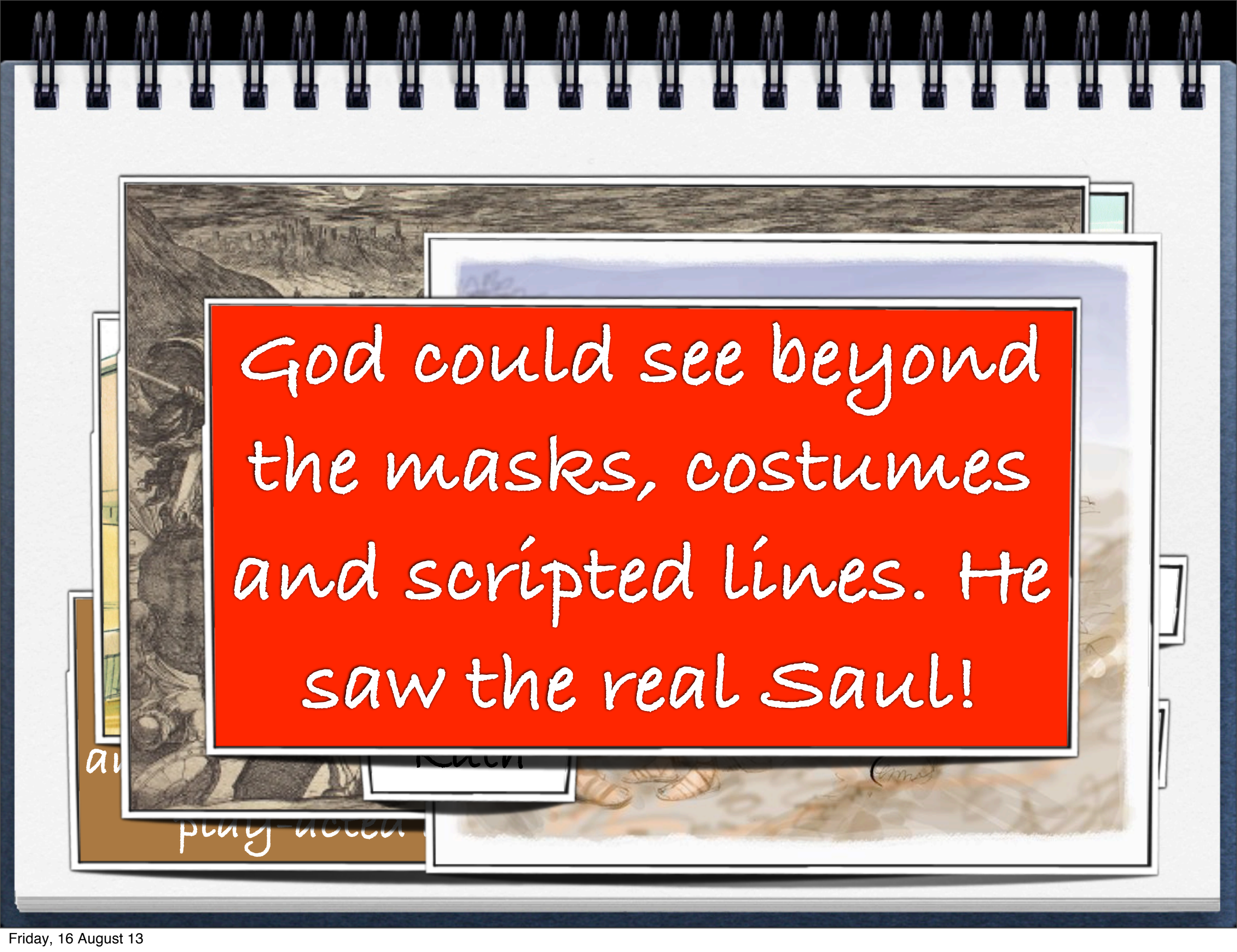


Third stop: Saul comes to the "hill of God" or Gibeah Elohím. Saul would be "turned into another man". These these signs told him that "God is with thee"



"Saul Prophesies With The Prophets"
By James Tissot (1836-1902)

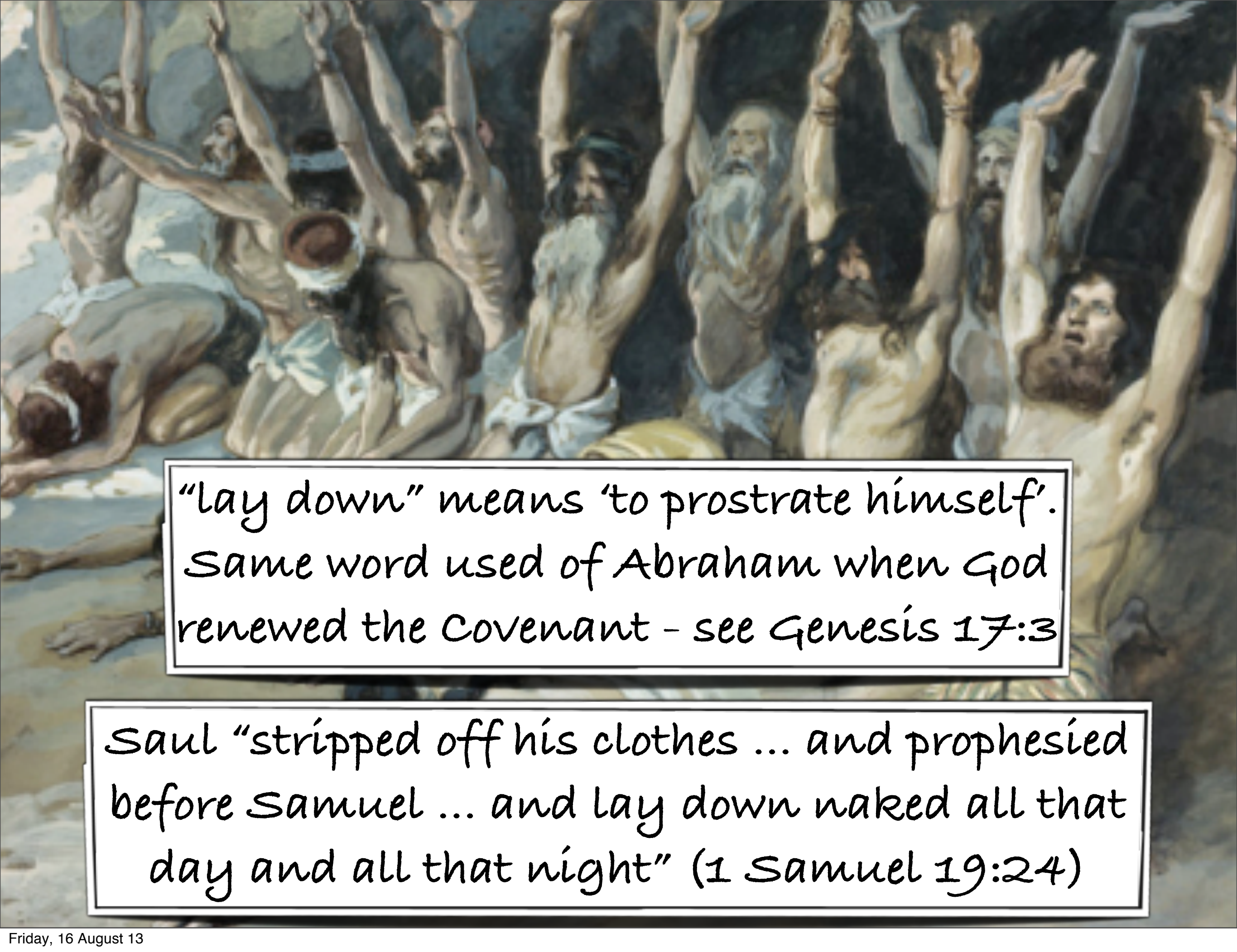
"God is with thee"



God could see beyond
the masks, costumes
and scripted lines. He
saw the real Saul!

an

play-acted

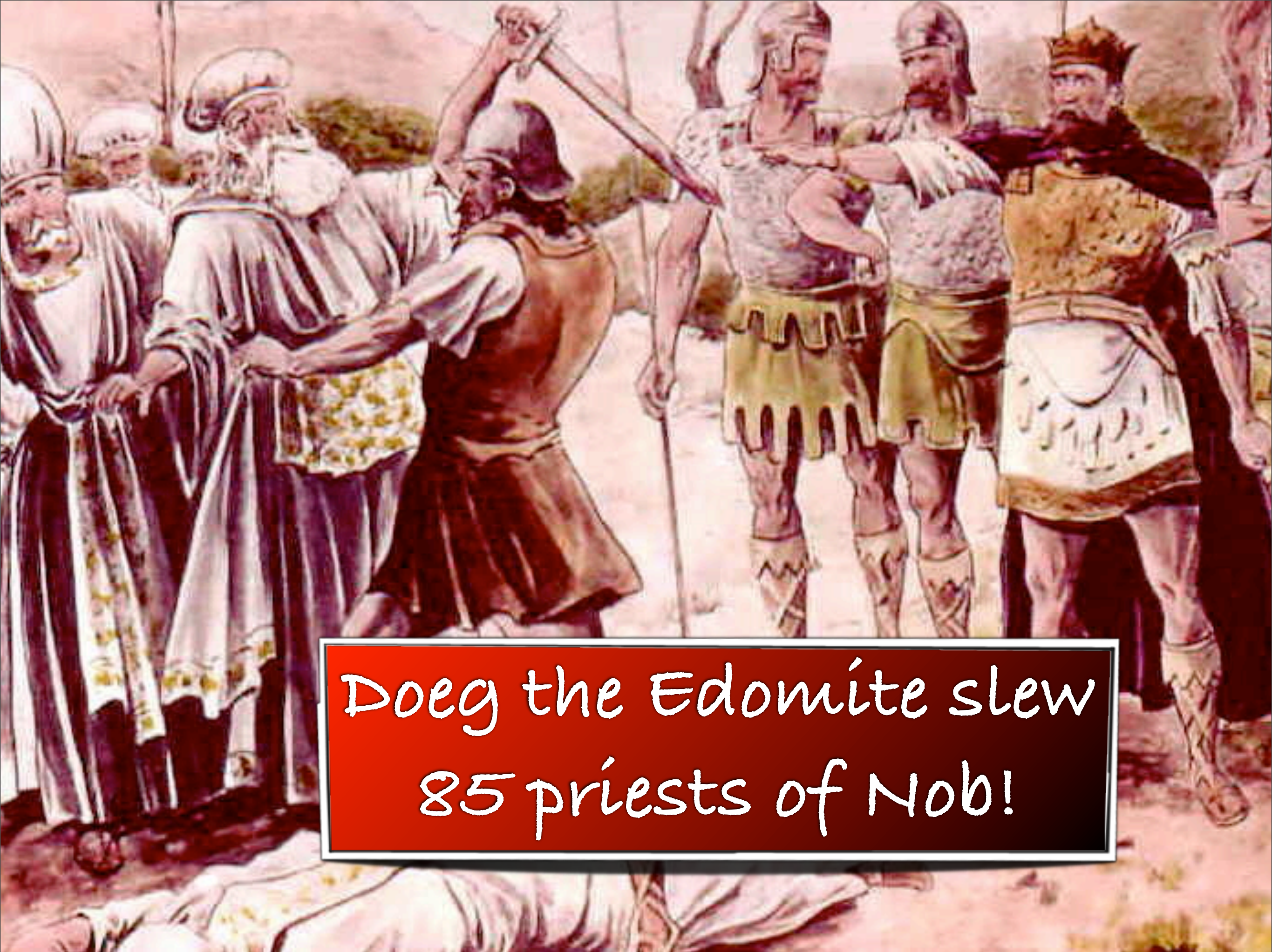


“lay down” means ‘to prostrate himself’.
Same word used of Abraham when God
renewed the Covenant - see Genesis 17:3

Saul “stripped off his clothes ... and prophesied
before Samuel ... and lay down naked all that
day and all that night” (1 Samuel 19:24)



David goes to Nob,
to Ahimelech the
Priest and receives
food - the shewbread
from the Tabernacle



Doeg the Edomite slew
85 priests of Nob!



Saul gathers 3000 men
to find David!

Unbeknown to him, he
chooses to rest in the
same cave as David.

Still in his early
twenties, "David stayed
his servants" (1 Samuel
24:7). The same word is
used of Samson killing
a lion - see Judges 14:6



"Swear now
therefore unto
me by the
LORD, that
thou wilt not
cut [Ikarath]
off my seed
after me ..." (1
Samuel 24:21)



Gideon, Israel's deliverer from the Midianites.
Would there be one last great effort from Saul?



Saul meets with a witch of Endor. His one request,
"Bring me up Samuel" (1 Samuel 28:11)



Saul dies on Mount Gilboa where Gideon won his great victory! Though he tried to emulate Gideon, he never got close to emulating his character! He would become "another man" on stage, but not "another man" in real life



“... under whose
wings thou art come
to trust” (Ruth 2:12)



"... the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth;
and he shall give strength unto his king, and
exalt the horn of his anointed" (1 Samuel 2:10)

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