

17.40 David Plans for the Temple, Instructs Levites and Leaders, Dies (Selections from 1 Chronicles 22–29; 1 Kings 2:1–12)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

Brackets [. . .] indicate a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud, or they show answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- A “lots” jar or box with names of all class students written on slips of paper and placed inside
- A white board or chalk board and a writing instrument to make rough drawings. Or print on card stock and cut apart the small pictures found below. At the appropriate point in the story, place a picture in a pocket chart.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *to draw lots*: to decide something by randomly picking an item, often a slip of paper, from a container
- *treasuries*: rooms to keep valuable treasures
- *vineyards*: land where grape vines grow

Scripture: (ESV)

1 Chronicles 22:1 Then David said, “Here shall be the house of the Lord God and here the altar of burnt offering for Israel.”

2 David commanded to gather together the resident aliens who were in the land of Israel, and he set stonecutters to prepare dressed stones for building the house of God. 3 David also provided great quantities of iron for nails for the doors of the gates and for clamps, as well as bronze in quantities beyond weighing, 4 and cedar timbers without number, for the Sidonians and Tyrians brought great quantities of cedar to David. 5 For David said, “Solomon my son is young and inexperienced, and the house that is to be built for the Lord must be exceedingly magnificent, of fame and glory throughout all lands. I will therefore make preparation for it.” So David provided materials in great quantity before his death.

6 Then he called for Solomon his son and charged him to build a house for the Lord, the God of Israel. 7 David said to Solomon, “My son, I had it in my heart to build a house to the name of the Lord my God. 8 But the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘You have shed much blood and have waged great wars. You shall not build a house to my name, because you have shed so much blood before me on the earth. 9 Behold, a son shall be born to you who shall be a man of rest. I will give him rest from all his surrounding enemies. For his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. 10 He shall build a house for my name. He shall be my son, and I will be his father, and I will establish his royal throne in Israel forever.’

11 “Now, my son, the Lord be with you, so that you may succeed in building the house of the Lord your God, as he has spoken concerning you. 12 Only, may the Lord grant you discretion and understanding, that when he gives you charge over Israel you may keep the law of the Lord your God. 13 Then you will prosper if you are careful to observe the statutes and the rules that the Lord commanded Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Fear not; do not be dismayed. 14 With great pains I have provided for the house of the Lord 100,000 talents of gold, a million talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond weighing, for there is so much of it; timber and stone, too, I have provided. To these you must add. 15 You have an abundance of workmen: stonecutters, masons, carpenters, and all kinds of craftsmen without number, skilled in working 16 gold, silver, bronze, and iron. Arise and work! The Lord be with you!”

17 David also commanded all the leaders of Israel to help Solomon his son, saying, 18 “Is not the Lord your

God with you? And has he not given you peace on every side? For he has delivered the inhabitants of the land into my hand, and the land is subdued before the Lord and his people. 19 Now set your mind and heart to seek the Lord your God. Arise and build the sanctuary of the Lord God, so that the ark of the covenant of the Lord and the holy vessels of God may be brought into a house built for the name of the Lord.”

23:1 When David was old and full of days, he made Solomon his son king over Israel.

2 David assembled all the leaders of Israel and the priests and the Levites. 3 The Levites, thirty years old and upward, were numbered, and the total was 38,000 men. 4 “Twenty-four thousand of these,” David said, “shall have charge of the work in the house of the Lord, 6,000 shall be officers and judges, 5 4,000 gatekeepers, and 4,000 shall offer praises to the Lord with the instruments that I have made for praise.” 6 And David organized them in divisions corresponding to the sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. . . .

27 For by the last words of David the sons of Levi were numbered from twenty years old and upward. 28 For their duty was to assist the sons of Aaron for the service of the house of the Lord, having the care of the courts and the chambers, the cleansing of all that is holy, and any work for the service of the house of God. 29 Their duty was also to assist with the showbread, the flour for the grain offering, the wafers of unleavened bread, the baked offering, the offering mixed with oil, and all measures of quantity or size. 30 And they were to stand every morning, thanking and praising the Lord, and likewise at evening, 31 and whenever burnt offerings were offered to the Lord on Sabbaths, new moons, and feast days, according to the number required of them, regularly before the Lord. 32 Thus they were to keep charge of the tent of meeting and the sanctuary, and to attend the sons of Aaron, their brothers, for the service of the house of the Lord.

24:1 [David organized] [t]he divisions of the sons of Aaron . . . under sixteen heads of fathers’ houses of the sons of Eleazar, and eight of the sons of Ithamar. 5 They divided them by lot, all alike, for there were sacred officers and officers of God among both the sons of Eleazar and the sons of Ithamar. 6 And the scribe Shemaiah, the son of Nethanel, a Levite, recorded them in the presence of the king and the princes and Zadok the priest and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar and the heads of the fathers’ houses of the priests and of the Levites. . . . [Division of labor by lots is listed.] . . .

19 These had as their appointed duty in their service to come into the house of the Lord according to the procedure established for them by Aaron their father, as the Lord God of Israel had commanded him. . . .

25:1 David and the chiefs of the service also set apart for the service the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who prophesied with lyres, with harps, and with cymbals. The list of those who did the work and of their duties was: 2 Of the sons of Asaph. . . . 3 Of . . . the sons of Jeduthun: . . . six . . . who prophesied with the lyre in thanksgiving and praise to the Lord. 4 Of . . . the sons of Heman . . . 5 . . . the king’s seer, according to the promise of God to exalt him, for God had given Heman fourteen sons and three daughters. 6 They were all under the direction of their father in the music in the house of the Lord with cymbals, harps, and lyres for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under the order of the king. 7 The number of them along with their brothers, who were trained in singing to the Lord, all who were skillful, was 288. 8 And they cast lots for their duties, small and great, teacher and pupil alike. . . .

26:1 As for the divisions of the gatekeepers: of the Korahites [and Merarites 87 “able” men, “rulers in their fathers’ houses” are listed]. . . . 12 These divisions of the gatekeepers, corresponding to their chief men, had duties, just as their brothers did, ministering in the house of the Lord. 13 And they cast lots by fathers’ houses, small and great alike, for their gates. . . .

20 And of the Levites, Ahijah had charge of the treasuries of the house of God and the treasuries of the dedicated gifts. 21 The sons of Ladan, the sons of the Gershonites . . . 23 Of the Amramites, the Izharites, the Hebronites, and the Uzzielites— 24 and Shebuel the son of Gershom, son of Moses, was chief officer in charge of the treasuries. . . . This Shelomoth and his brothers were in charge of all the treasuries of the dedicated gifts that David the king and the heads of the fathers’ houses and the officers of the thousands and the hundreds and the commanders of the army had dedicated. 27 From spoil won in battles they dedicated gifts for the maintenance of the house of the Lord. 28 Also all that Samuel the seer and Saul the son of Kish and Abner the son of Ner and Joab the son of Zeruiah had dedicated—all dedicated gifts were in the care of Shelomoth and his

brothers.

29 Of the Izharites, Chenaniah and his sons were appointed to external duties for Israel, as officers and judges. 30 Of the Hebronites, Hashabiah and his brothers, 1,700 men of ability, had the oversight of Israel westward of the Jordan for all the work of the Lord and for the service of the king. 31 Of the Hebronites, Jerijah was chief of the Hebronites of whatever genealogy or fathers' houses. (In the fortieth year of David's reign search was made and men of great ability among them were found at Jazer in Gilead.) 32 King David appointed him and his brothers, 2,700 men of ability, heads of fathers' houses, to have the oversight of the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of the Manassites for everything pertaining to God and for the affairs of the king.

27:1 This is the number of the people of Israel, the heads of fathers' houses, the commanders of thousands and hundreds, and their officers who served the king in all matters concerning the divisions that came and went, month after month throughout the year, each division numbering 24,000, [one division each month]. . . . [Leaders of each tribe are listed.] These were the leaders of the tribes of Israel. . . .

25 Over the king's treasuries was Azmaveth the son of Adiel; and over the treasuries in the country, in the cities, in the villages, and in the towers, was Jonathan the son of Uziah; 26 and over those who did the work of the field for tilling the soil was Ezri the son of Chelub; 27 and over the vineyards was Shimei the Ramathite; and over the produce of the vineyards for the wine cellars was Zabdi the Shiphmite. 28 Over the olive and sycamore trees in the Shephelah was Baal-hanan the Gederite; and over the stores of oil was Joash. 29 Over the herds that pastured in Sharon was Shitrai the Sharonite; over the herds in the valleys was Shaphat the son of Adlai. 30 Over the camels was Obil the Ishmaelite; and over the donkeys was Jehdeiah the Meronothite. Over the flocks was Jaziz the Hagrite. 31 All these were stewards of King David's property. . . .

28:1 David assembled at Jerusalem all the officials of Israel, the officials of the tribes, the officers of the divisions that served the king, the commanders of thousands, the commanders of hundreds, the stewards of all the property and livestock of the king and his sons, together with the palace officials, the mighty men and all the seasoned warriors. 2 [Reviews God's not giving David the go-ahead to build the temple and charges Solomon with the task.] . . . 11 Then David gave Solomon his son the plan of the vestibule of the temple, and of its houses, its treasuries, its upper rooms, and its inner chambers, and of the room for the mercy seat; 12 and the plan of all that he had in mind for the courts of the house of the Lord, all the surrounding chambers, the treasuries of the house of God, and the treasuries for dedicated gifts; 13 for the divisions of the priests and of the Levites, and all the work of the service in the house of the Lord; for all the vessels for the service in the house of the Lord, 14 the weight of gold for all golden vessels for each service, the weight of silver vessels for each service, 15 the weight of the golden lampstands and their lamps, the weight of gold for each lampstand and its lamps, the weight of silver for a lampstand and its lamps, according to the use of each lampstand in the service, 16 the weight of gold for each table for the showbread, the silver for the silver tables, 17 and pure gold for the forks, the basins and the cups; for the golden bowls and the weight of each; for the silver bowls and the weight of each; 18 for the altar of incense made of refined gold, and its weight; also his plan for the golden chariot of the cherubim that spread their wings and covered the ark of the covenant of the Lord. 19 "All this he made clear to me in writing from the hand of the Lord, all the work to be done according to the plan."

20 Then David said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous and do it." . . .

29:1 And David the king said to all the assembly, ". . . 2 I have provided for the house of my God, so far as I was able, the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, and the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood, besides great quantities of onyx and stones for setting, antimony, colored stones, all sorts of precious stones and marble. 3 Moreover, in addition to all that I have provided for the holy house, I have a treasure of my own of gold and silver, and because of my devotion to the house of my God I give it to the house of my God: 4 3,000 talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and 7,000 talents of refined silver, for overlaying the walls of the house, 5 and for all the work to be done by craftsmen, gold for the things of gold and silver for the things of silver. Who then will offer willingly, consecrating himself today to the Lord?"

6 Then the leaders of fathers' houses made their freewill offerings, as did also the leaders of the tribes, the

commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and the officers over the king's work. 7 They gave for the service of the house of God 5,000 talents and 10,000 darics of gold, 10,000 talents of silver, 18,000 talents of bronze and 100,000 talents of iron. 8 And whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the Lord, in the care of Jehiel the Gershonite. 9 Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly.

10 Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. 11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. 13 And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

14 "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. 15 For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. 16 O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. 17 I know, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you. 18 O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of your people, and direct their hearts toward you. 19 Grant to Solomon my son a whole heart that he may keep your commandments, your testimonies, and your statutes, performing all, and that he may build the palace for which I have made provision."

20 Then David said to all the assembly, "Bless the Lord your God." And all the assembly blessed the Lord, the God of their fathers, and bowed their heads and paid homage to the Lord and to the king. 21 And they offered sacrifices to the Lord, and on the next day offered burnt offerings to the Lord, 1,000 bulls, 1,000 rams, and 1,000 lambs, with their drink offerings, and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel. 22 And they ate and drank before the Lord on that day with great gladness.

1 Kings 2:1 When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, 2 "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, 3 and keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn, 4 that the Lord may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

5 "Moreover, you also know what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, how he dealt with the two commanders of the armies of Israel, Abner the son of Ner, and Amasa the son of Jether, whom he killed, avenging in time of peace for blood that had been shed in war, and putting the blood of war on the belt around his waist and on the sandals on his feet. 6 Act therefore according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to Sheol in peace. 7 But deal loyally with the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table, for with such loyalty they met me when I fled from Absalom your brother. 8 And there is also with you Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjaminite from Bahurim, who cursed me with a grievous curse on the day when I went to Mahanaim. But when he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the Lord, saying, 'I will not put you to death with the sword.' 9 Now therefore do not hold him guiltless, for you are a wise man. You will know what you ought to do to him, and you shall bring his gray head down with blood to Sheol."

10 Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David. 11 And the time that David reigned over Israel was forty years. He reigned seven years in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. 12 So Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established.

Introduction/Review:

David was old and cold. He stayed in bed nearly all the time. But even from bed, he could rule. He made Solomon, his young son, not yet twenty years old, king after him. This spoiled Adonijah's plans to become king while his father David still lived.

Story:

David organized the kingdom of Israel ✓from his bed too. This was a gargantuan task. David did it so well that ✓this organization remained in place for hundreds of years.

Levite organization

First, he counted (this time with God's blessing) the Levites. There were 38,000 of them.

(1) [Draw or show a temple building.] Of these, 24,000 (about 2/3) worked in the temple, helping the priests and ✓perhaps later helping to build the temple of the Lord. They cleaned, set out bread and flour for offerings, and stood every morning and evening to thank and praise the Lord. They helped with sacrifices. Even though they no longer needed to carry the tabernacle, they still had lots of work to do. One thousand Levites worked each week; they worked in the temple about two weeks per year, drawing lots in order to figure out which week their family would serve.

(2) [Draw or show a judge's gavel.] Six thousand Levites acted as judges. They were scattered throughout the land.

(3) [Draw or show a door.] Four thousand men guarded the doors of the temple so that no wrong people would come in. An enemy or even a rebel Israelite might want to steal some of the gold or silver items. These porters or gatekeepers kept them out. The particular gates they guarded were chosen by drawing lots.

(4) [Draw or show a music note.] Four thousand men—288 special ones—praised the Lord with musical instruments and songs. They prophesied, accompanied by harps, lyres, and cymbals. They were well trained and skilled in music for the Lord. Others may also have praised God with music among the people. What would they sing? Why, David's psalms and others' psalms.

(5) [Draw or show gold and silver coins, shields, *etc.*] Other men were in charge of the treasuries, the storage places for the gold, silver, and precious stones that Samuel, Saul, and David had gotten from their defeated enemies. These treasures would be kept in special rooms in the temple.

Soldier and worker organization

(6) [Draw or show a figure of a man with a long spear.] David organized his fighting men also. Each month of the year, a different group of 24,000 men was ready to fight if need be.

(7) [Draw or show a camel, donkey, and/or sheep; grapes; a tree.] Leaders were set up over storehouses that were not in the temple. Also, David appointed supervisors over field workers. The workers tended vineyards, fig trees, olive trees, herds of camels, donkeys, and sheep—all the king's property.

Temple plans

One day David ✓got up out of bed and stood up to talk to all these leaders and helpers. "Listen to me, brothers," he said. "I wanted to build a temple for the ark of God, but God said I could not because I was a warrior and had shed much blood. Yet, the Lord, the God of Israel, chose me from my tribe, Judah, and from my father's sons to be king over Israel.

(8) [Draw or show a crown.] Of all my sons, God has chosen Solomon to be the next king. God has said, 'Solomon your son will build my house and courts. I will establish his kingdom forever if he keeps my commands.' So, now I'm telling you all," David continued, "be careful to follow the commands of the Lord your God so that you may keep this land forever."

(9) [Draw or show a heart.] David charged Solomon, "Serve the God of your father wholeheartedly, for He knows your heart. If you forsake Him, He will forsake you. Be strong and courageous. Build the temple."

(10) [Draw or show a scroll.] Then David gave Solomon exact plans for the temple. God had shown David how His house was to be built just as God had shown Moses exactly how to build the tabernacle. It was all down in writing, in detail from the Lord. David had set aside the exact amount of gold to be used to make the gold items, silver for silver items, iron for nails, bronze for bronze items, wood for wood items, and precious stones. He gave much of his own gold and silver and encouraged Israel's leaders to do the same. Foreigners who lived in Israel from other nations became stonecutters to prepare dressed stones for building the house of God. In addition, David saw to it that many masons (stone workers), carpenters (wood workers), and craftsmen in metals were ready to work.

(11) [Draw or show a sad face and cross it out.] "Don't be discouraged with this big project, Solomon," David said. "The Lord God is with you."

Praising God

Then David prayed to God. Actually, he praised God: "You are great and powerful and full of greatness and power." On and on he went in praise to God. Then he said to all the people, "Now, you all praise God." And they did, bowing low.

(12) [Draw or show a burning altar.] The next day they made sacrifices to the Lord—1000 bulls, 1000 rams, 1000 male lambs, drink offerings and other sacrifices. They ate and drank with great joy.

(13) [Draw or show an anointing horn with oil coming from it.] Again, they anointed Solomon as king, and all David's sons pledged to be loyal to him. It was a glorious event.

Parting words

✓Not long after this day, however, David became weaker and weaker. He knew he would soon die. There were a few more things he needed to tell Solomon. 1. Again, he reminded Solomon, "Be strong. Walk in God's ways so that you may prosper." 2. Then he had some business that he wanted Solomon to finish. "You know what Joab did to me, slaying Abner and Amasa in peacetime as if in battle. Do not let him die of old age." 3. "Show kindness to the sons of Barzillai, for he helped me when I had to get away from your brother Absalom." 4. "Remember you have Shimei with you. He's the one who threw stones at me and cursed me as I ran from Absalom. You are wise and will know what to do with him."

Then David died and was buried in his city, Jerusalem. He was seventy years old and had reigned forty years over Israel.

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:

Much talk of the priests in these verses remind us that "Christ is high priest over the house of God, to whom all believers, being made priests, are to be in subjection" ([1 Chronicles 24 Commentary - Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible \(Complete\) \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).

Activities:

- Play dough: grapes, trees, camels, donkeys, hearts—all those things drawn or displayed by the teacher during the story
- Snack: grapes (Draw lots for the students who will get water, the snack, and napkins.)
- For song time, draw lots for children to choose the songs to be sung.
- Have older students read and consider David's praise to God in 1 Chronicles 19:10–19. Note the way David worshiped.
- Review Psalm 23 and Psalm 100 by singing their songs.
- Review questions: (Game: Students who answer questions correctly may choose one of pictures used in

this lesson and briefly tell about the picture's part in the story.)

1. What huge job did David accomplish that remained in place for hundreds of years? [Organizing the nation.]
2. Name one job done by the Levites in the temple or in worship. [Help the priests in their duties; guard the temple doors; guard the treasures; sing and play instruments.]
3. What had David done during his lifetime in preparation for the temple? [Collected much gold, silver, and all the other materials needed for the temple.]
4. Why had God said David could not build the temple himself? [Because he had shed much blood in war.]
5. David charged Solomon to do what regarding the temple and Solomon's relationship to God? Name one thing. ["Set your mind and heart to seek the Lord your God. Build the sanctuary of the Lord God. Be strong and courageous. Don't be afraid, for God is with you. Serve God with a whole heart and with a willing mind."]
6. David wanted Solomon to bring vengeance on two men. Name one of these men. [Joab; Shimei.]
7. How long had David ruled before he died? [Forty years.]

Memory Verse[s]: I heartily recommend the song and visual at [Psalm 139 - NKJV \(thywordcreations.com\)](https://thywordcreations.com/psalm-139-nkjv).

- Psalm 139:1 O Lord, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. 5 You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.

7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; 12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.

13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You. . . .

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

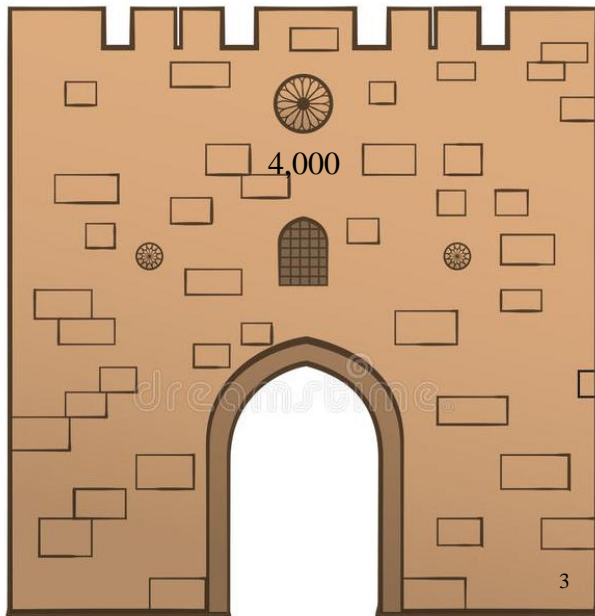
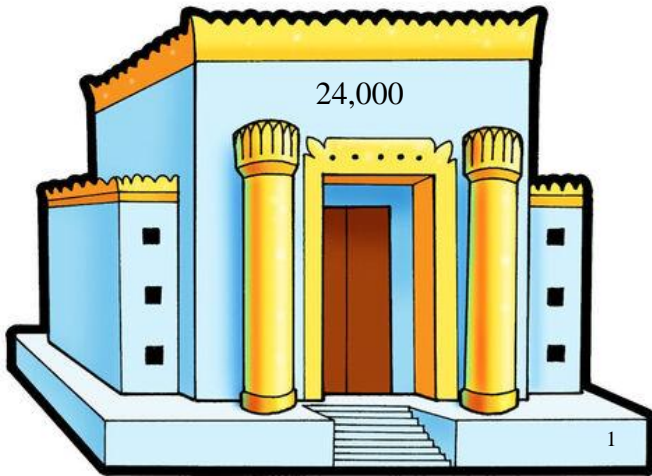
Handwork:

- Display the thirteen small pictures found below. Print the grid found below. Students will draw a mini-
rendition of each picture the proper numbered box.

to draw lots

vineyards

treasuries





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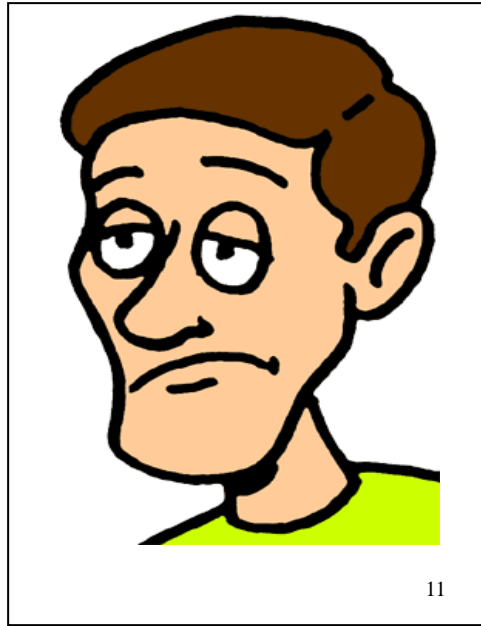
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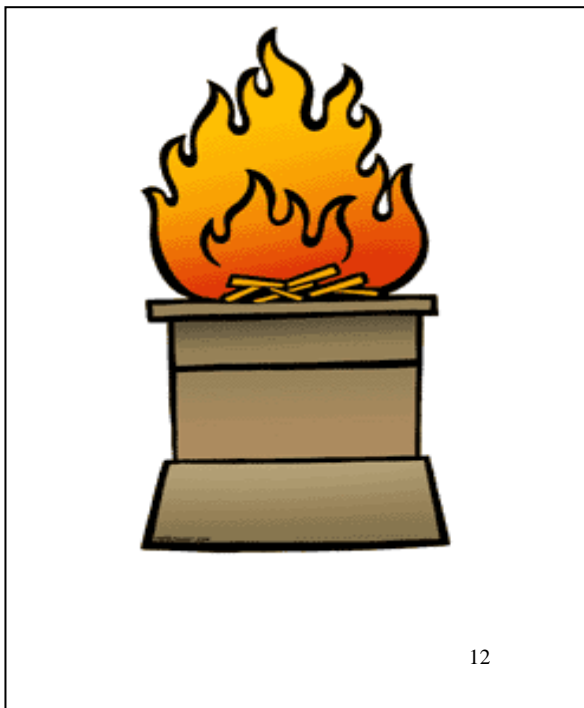
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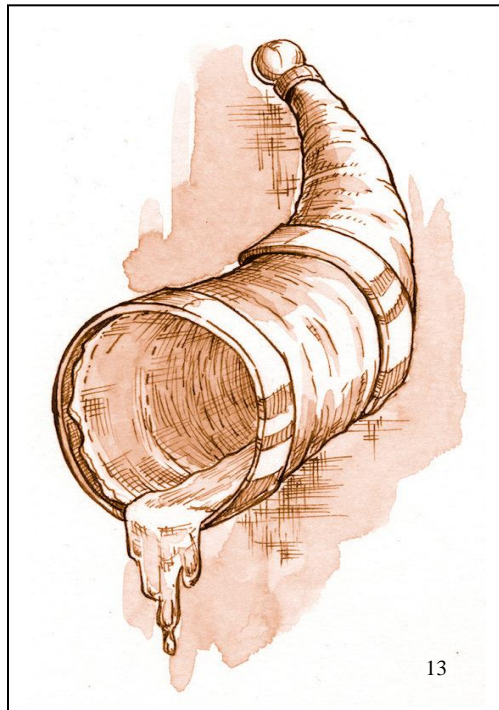
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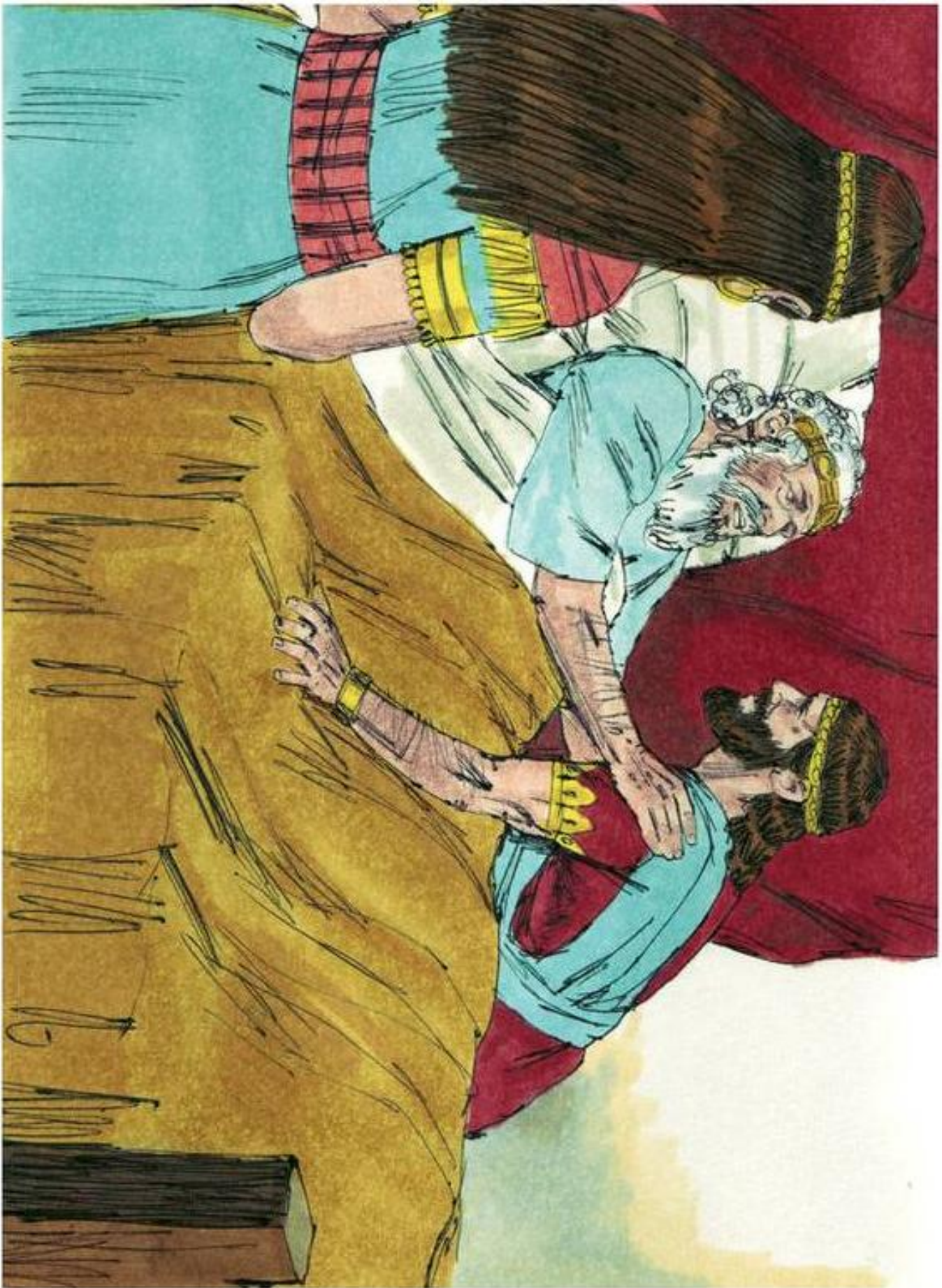


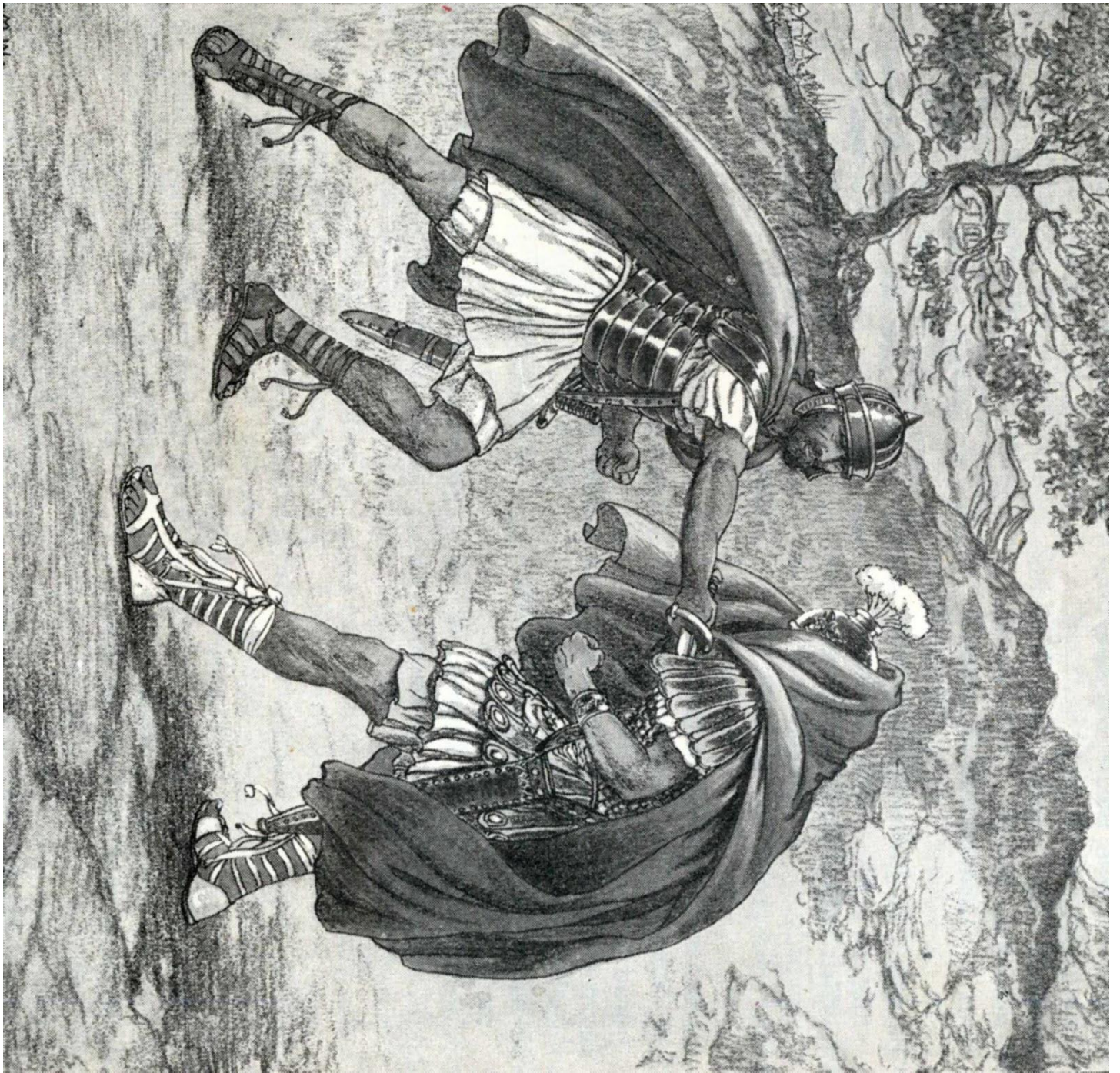
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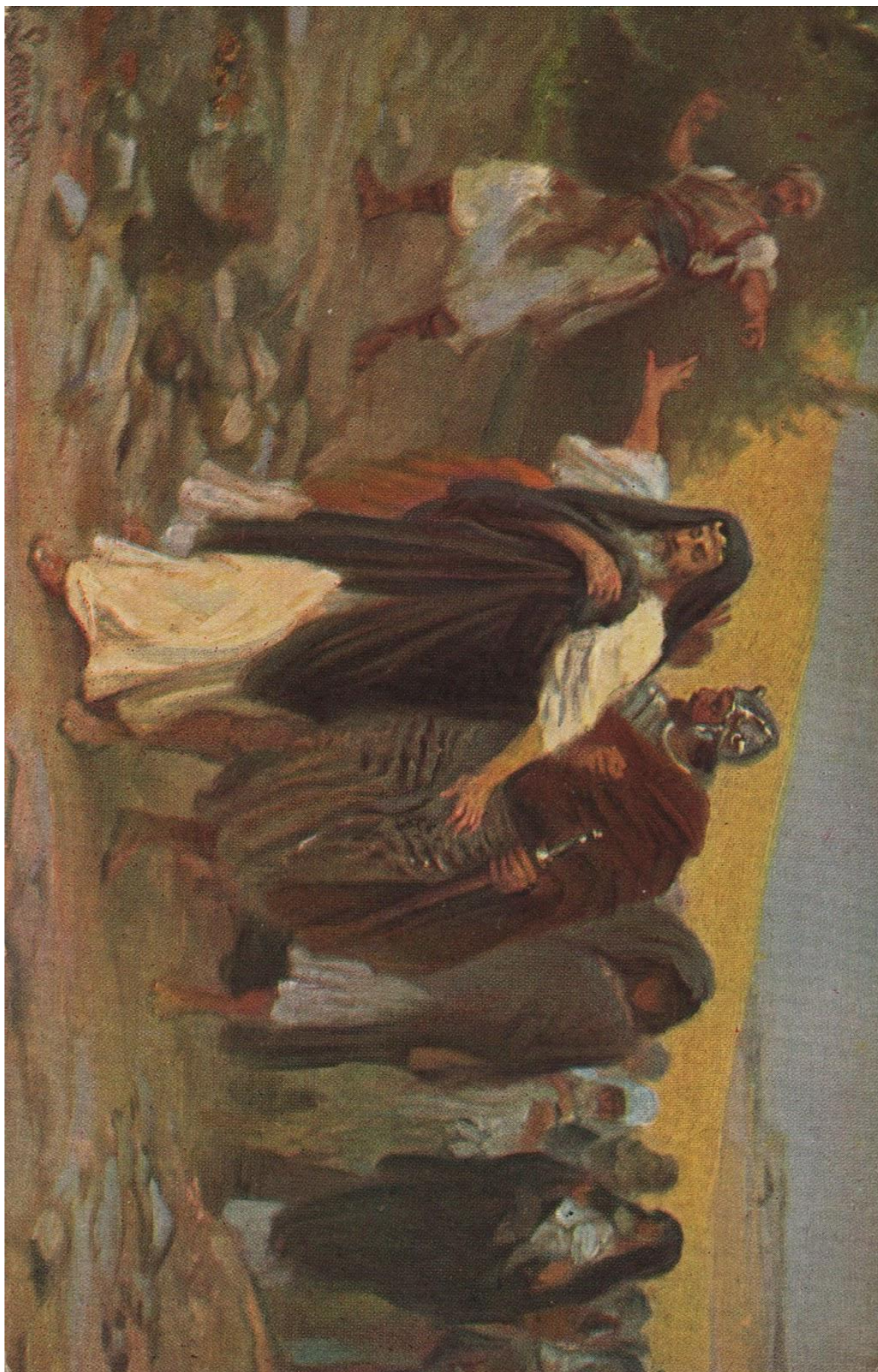
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David Organizes the Nation

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