

### 19.03 Jeroboam, Nadab<sup>2</sup> ☹ Baasha<sup>3</sup> ☹/ Abijah (Abijam)<sup>2</sup> ☹ (1 Kings 14:1–20; 15:1–8, 25–31; 2 Chronicles 13:1–22)

In the story title above, the names to the left of the slash indicate northern kings (of Israel); the name on the right, a southern king (of Judah). The superscript numbers indicate the king's accession number, and the happy or sad faces show whether the king was good or bad.

✓ “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.
- Print the names in a chart of the three main characters in this lesson. They are found on the same page as the Bible term, *to lay a siege*, at the end of this lesson.

**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 lay siege*: to surround and blockade a city, town, or fortress, attempting to capture it

#### Scripture: (ESV)

1 Kings 14:1 At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam fell sick. 2 And Jeroboam said to his wife, “Arise, and disguise yourself, that it not be known that you are the wife of Jeroboam, and go to Shiloh. Behold, Ahijah the prophet is there, who said of me that I should be king over this people. 3 Take with you ten loaves, some cakes, and a jar of honey, and go to him. He will tell you what shall happen to the child.”

4 Jeroboam's wife did so. She arose and went to Shiloh and came to the house of Ahijah. Now Ahijah could not see, for his eyes were dim because of his age. 5 And the Lord said to Ahijah, “Behold, the wife of Jeroboam is coming to inquire of you concerning her son, for he is sick. Thus and thus shall you say to her.”

When she came, she pretended to be another woman. 6 But when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet, as she came in at the door, he said, “Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why do you pretend to be another? For I am charged with unbearable news for you. 7 Go, tell Jeroboam, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Because I exalted you from among the people and made you leader over my people Israel 8 and tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, and yet you have not been like my servant David, who kept my commandments and followed me with all his heart, doing only that which was right in my eyes, 9 but you have done evil above all who were before you and have gone and made for yourself other gods and metal images, provoking me to anger, and have cast me behind your back, 10 therefore behold, I will bring harm upon the house of Jeroboam and will cut off from Jeroboam every male, both bond and free in Israel, and will burn up the house of Jeroboam, as a man burns up dung until it is all gone. 11 Anyone belonging to Jeroboam who dies in the city the dogs shall eat, and anyone who dies in the open country the birds of the heavens shall eat, for the Lord has spoken it.’ 12 Arise therefore, go to your house. When your feet enter the city, the child shall die. 13 And all Israel shall mourn for him and bury him, for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found something pleasing to the Lord, the God of Israel, in the house of Jeroboam. 14 Moreover, the Lord will raise up for himself a king over Israel who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam today. And henceforth, 15 the Lord will strike Israel as a reed is shaken in the water, and root up Israel out of this good land that he gave to their fathers and scatter them beyond the Euphrates, because they have made their Asherim, provoking the Lord to anger. 16 And he will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he sinned and made Israel to sin.”

17 Then Jeroboam's wife arose and departed and came to Tirzah. And as she came to the threshold of the house, the child died. 18 And all Israel buried him and mourned for him, according to the word of the Lord, which he spoke by his servant Ahijah the prophet.

19 Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he warred and how he reigned, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel. 20 And the time that Jeroboam reigned was twenty-two years. And he slept with his fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his place.

15:1 Now in the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam the son of Nebat, Abijam began to reign over Judah. 2 He reigned for three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maacah the daughter of Abishalom. 3 And he walked in all the sins that his father did before him, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father. 4 Nevertheless, for David's sake the Lord his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, setting up his son after him, and establishing Jerusalem, 5 because David did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and did not turn aside from anything that he commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite. 6 Now there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life. 7 The rest of the acts of Abijam and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? And there was war between Abijam and Jeroboam. 8 And Abijam slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David. And Asa his son reigned in his place.

25 Nadab the son of Jeroboam began to reign over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years. 26 He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin which he made Israel to sin.

27 Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him. And Baasha struck him down at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines, for Nadab and all Israel were laying siege to Gibbethon. 28 So Baasha killed him in the third year of Asa king of Judah and reigned in his place. 29 And as soon as he was king, he killed all the house of Jeroboam. He left to the house of Jeroboam not one that breathed, until he had destroyed it, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by his servant Ahijah the Shilonite. 30 It was for the sins of Jeroboam that he sinned and that he made Israel to sin, and because of the anger to which he provoked the Lord, the God of Israel.

31 Now the rest of the acts of Nadab and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

2 Chronicles 13:1 In the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam, Abijah began to reign over Judah. 2 He reigned for three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Micaiah the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah.

Now there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam. 3 Abijah went out to battle, having an army of valiant men of war, 400,000 chosen men. And Jeroboam drew up his line of battle against him with 800,000 chosen mighty warriors. 4 Then Abijah stood up on Mount Zemaraim that is in the hill country of Ephraim and said, "Hear me, O Jeroboam and all Israel! 5 Ought you not to know that the Lord God of Israel gave the kingship over Israel forever to David and his sons by a covenant of salt? 6 Yet Jeroboam the son of Nebat, a servant of Solomon the son of David, rose up and rebelled against his lord, 7 and certain worthless scoundrels gathered about him and defied Rehoboam the son of Solomon, when Rehoboam was young and irresolute and could not withstand them.

8 "And now you think to withstand the kingdom of the Lord in the hand of the sons of David, because you are a great multitude and have with you the golden calves that Jeroboam made you for gods. 9 Have you not driven out the priests of the Lord, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and made priests for yourselves like the peoples of other lands? Whoever comes for ordination with a young bull or seven rams becomes a priest of what are no gods. 10 But as for us, the Lord is our God, and we have not forsaken him. We have priests ministering to the Lord who are sons of Aaron, and Levites for their service. 11 They offer to the Lord every morning and every evening burnt offerings and incense of sweet spices, set out the showbread on the table of pure gold, and care for the golden lampstand that its lamps may burn every evening. For we keep the charge of the Lord our God, but you have forsaken him. 12 Behold, God is with us at our head, and his priests with their battle trumpets to sound the call to battle against you. O sons of Israel, do not fight against the Lord, the God of your fathers, for you cannot succeed."

13 Jeroboam had sent an ambush around to come upon them from behind. Thus his troops were in front of Judah, and the ambush was behind them. 14 And when Judah looked, behold, the battle was in front of and

behind them. And they cried to the Lord, and the priests blew the trumpets. 15 Then the men of Judah raised the battle shout. And when the men of Judah shouted, God defeated Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. 16 The men of Israel fled before Judah, and God gave them into their hand. 17 Abijah and his people struck them with great force, so there fell slain of Israel 500,000 chosen men. 18 Thus the men of Israel were subdued at that time, and the men of Judah prevailed, because they relied on the Lord, the God of their fathers. 19 And Abijah pursued Jeroboam and took cities from him, Bethel with its villages and Jeshanah with its villages and Ephron with its villages. 20 Jeroboam did not recover his power in the days of Abijah. And the Lord struck him down, and he died. 21 But Abijah grew mighty. And he took fourteen wives and had twenty-two sons and sixteen daughters. 22 The rest of the acts of Abijah, his ways and his sayings, are written in the story of the prophet Iddo.

### **Introduction/Review:**

Rehoboam, son of Solomon, ruled in Judah, south in the land of Israel. He was not a good king, worshiping other gods. The king of Egypt came and took all the kingdom treasures. After ruling seventeen years, Rehoboam died.

Jeroboam was the king of the north in the area that claimed the name *Israel*. He made golden calves for gods and set up whoever he wanted to be priests. Even though a man of God from Judah spoke against Jeroboam's altar, splitting it by God's power, and even though God first paralyzed and then healed Jeroboam's arm, Jeroboam continued his wicked ways.

[Refer to the three-names chart you have printed.] Today's lesson has three names that sound alike. In fact, two are alike. They are *Abijah*, Jeroboam's son; *Ahijah*, the prophet who had anointed Jeroboam; and *Abijah* (also known as *Abijam*), the king of Judah. [Keep the chart displayed throughout the lesson.]

### **Story:**

#### ***Going to Ahijah***

When we sin against God, we can expect punishment. The next thing that happened to Jeroboam brought grief to his family and all Israel: Jeroboam's son, Abijah, became very sick. Wanting to know whether or not this son would recover, Jeroboam said to his wife, "Disguise yourself so that no one can tell you are my wife, and go to the prophet Ahijah, the one who told me I would become king of Israel. Take ten loaves of bread, some cakes, and a jar of honey. He will tell you what will happen to the boy."

Jeroboam's wife did as Jeroboam requested. She exchanged her fine clothes for plain ones; she took off her jewels; she undid her fancy hair and looked plain. But God, who knows all things, would not let her trick the prophet Ahijah. God told this old, blind prophet, "Jeroboam's wife is coming to visit and to ask about her sick son. This is what you shall say to her." (We will save this information for later.)

#### ***Hearing Ahijah***

Along came Jeroboam's disguised wife to Shiloh, to Abijah's house. Imagine her surprise when Ahijah greeted her: "Come on in, wife of Jeroboam. Why do you pretend to be someone else? Come in, for I have some bad news for you. Go tell Jeroboam this is what the God of Israel says: "Because I made you a king, tearing the kingdom away from David's family, giving the kingdom to you who is nothing, who did not follow Me like David but did worse things than all who have been before you, making and worshiping idols and provoking My anger and throwing Me behind your back . . . because of all this, I, God, will cut off Jeroboam's house (family) until no one remains." [Refer to the chart below for the means by which God would cut off Jeroboam's family.]

Students, you have probably seen birds (hawks, eagles, *etc.*) eat dead animals on the road and dogs eat meat. That's what God said would happen to Jeroboam's grandchildren until all were gone. Now, let's listen to Ahijah speak to Jeroboam's wife again.

"The sign that all this will happen is this: when you enter your city, your son will die and all Israel will weep

about his death because the Lord knows of his goodness. He's the only one of your family who will die peacefully. Another king will cut off the reign of Jeroboam. Furthermore, one day all Israel will be uprooted from the land and scattered past the Euphrates River because they worshiped other gods because Jeroboam made the people to sin against God."

### ***Returning home***

So Jeroboam's wife went back home. At the very time her feet entered the city, her son died. All Israel mourned for him, just as Ahijah had said, proving that everything else God had said would also happen.

### ***Fighting a war***

Now, in the south, Rehoboam's son, Abijah (or Abijam) had become king. Rehoboam's and Jeroboam's soldiers had been fighting each other from time to time. Now Abijah's soldiers and Jeroboam's soldiers were fighting a big war. Abijah had 400,000 soldiers, but Jeroboam had twice as many—800,000. Jeroboam had sent some of his men behind Abijah's so that they were surrounded, but Abijah didn't know that yet.

### ***Giving a speech***

Abijah got up on a high hill so that Israel's soldiers could see and hear him when he declared, "You all know that God gave the kingdom to David and his sons, but Jeroboam ripped Israel away from Judah. You think you have more people, and you think you have golden-calf gods to help you. You have made just anyone to be priests. We, however, have Levite priests, as God commanded, offering sacrifices in the temple of God. In fact, God's priests, with their warfare trumpets, are with us today to sound the call of battle against you. O sons of Israel, do not fight against the God of your fathers, for you cannot succeed."

### ***Crying to God***

It was at about this point in Abijah's speech that Judah realized they were surrounded by Jeroboam's soldiers. Judah cried out to the Lord for help. The priests blew the trumpets, and soldiers raised a great battle shout. When the men of Judah shouted, God defeated Jeroboam, and his men went running back north. Judah slew 500,000 men of Israel and took cities away from Israel—Bethel, Jehanah, and Ephron [locate]. Jeroboam never was strong again. Judah prevailed, because they relied on the Lord, the God of their fathers.

### ***Dying kings***

It was four more years before the Lord slew Jeroboam, but Abijah died after ruling only three years. In spite of his good speech, he was not a good king, except in this one battle.

As for Jeroboam's end, the Bible states merely that he died and his son, Nadab, reigned in his place. However, a man named Baasha of the tribe of Issachar [locate], conspired against Nadab and struck him down at Gibbethon [locate] in Philistia, where Nadab and all Israel were laying siege to Gibbethon. As soon Baasha became king, he killed all the house (family) of Jeroboam, just as the Lord had spoken by Ahijah the prophet. Why did God bring about the death of Jeroboam and Nadab? Because Jeroboam had made Israel to sin when he ordered them to worship the golden calves.

## **Lessons from This Lesson:**

- We see Jesus:

We can compare Jeroboam's ill son to Jesus in that God said of the boy, "In [only] him [of all your family] there is found something pleasing to the Lord, the God of Israel," and of Jesus, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). Jesus is the only One of all mankind of whom God could truly say He was continually well pleased.

## **Activities:**

- Play dough: boy; woman; soldier
- Snack: Bread with honey (what Jeroboam's wife took to Abijah)

- Sing “Rehoboam/Jeroboam.” A pdf song sheet can be found at [REHOBOAM JEROBOAM.musx \(biblesongsandmore.com\)](http://REHOBOAM JEROBOAM.musx(biblesongsandmore.com)). An audio of the song is found at [www.biblesongsandmore.com/biblesongsrehoboamjeroboam.mp3](http://www.biblesongsandmore.com/biblesongsrehoboamjeroboam.mp3).
- Review questions: (Game: Print the last page found below on paper, or if using a pocket chart, print on card stock. Back the paper figures and words with paper towel. Cut rectangular shapes around each figure and each word, separating the words *son*, *prophet*, and *king* from the names. For each correct answer, a student will place a figure or its correct label beside the figure.)
  1. Which relative of Jeroboam’s became very ill? [His son, Abijah.]
  2. What did Jeroboam tell his wife to do? [Disguise herself and go to the prophet Ahijah to see what would happen to his son.]
  3. How did Ahijah the prophet greet Jeroboam’s wife? [“Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why do you pretend to be another? For I am charged with unbearable news for you.”] (Any part of this answer will suffice.)
  4. What did Ahijah say about Jeroboam’s sick son? [He would die when Jeroboam’s wife returned to the city.]
  5. Ahijah prophesied several things about Jeroboam and Israel. Tell one of them. [(1) I will bring harm upon the house of Jeroboam; (2) I will cut off from Jeroboam every male, both bond and free in Israel; (3) I will burn up the house of Jeroboam, as a man burns up dung until it is all gone; (4) Anyone belonging to Jeroboam who dies in the city the dogs shall eat; (5) Anyone who dies in the open country the birds of the heavens shall eat; (6) The Lord will raise up for himself a king over Israel who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam; (7) The Lord will strike Israel as a reed is shaken in the water; (8) The Lord will root up Israel out of this good land that he gave to their fathers and scatter them beyond the Euphrates because they have made their false gods; (9) The Lord will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he sinned and made Israel to sin.]
  6. What was the name of Rehoboam’s son who became king after Rehoboam’s death? [Abijah.]
  7. Recall one point of King Abijah’s speech. [(1) Jeroboam ripped Israel away from Judah. (2) You think you have more people, and (3) you think you have golden-calf gods to help you. (4) You have made just anyone to be priests. (5) We, however, have Levite priests, as God commanded, offering sacrifices in the temple of God. (6) God’s priests, with their warfare trumpets, are with us today to sound the call of battle against you. (7) O sons of Israel, do not fight against the God of your fathers, for you cannot succeed.]
  8. What did Abijah and his men do when they realized they were surrounded by Jeroboam’s army? Tell one thing. [They cried to the Lord, the priests blew the trumpets, and soldiers raised a great battle shout.]
  9. Who won the war, Israel or Judah? [Judah.]
  10. Why did God give victory to Judah? [Because they relied on the Lord, the God of their fathers.]

**Memory Verse[s]:** (KJV) A song sheet by Earl Martin for this verse may be found at [STB05SM \(mysteryministries.net\)](http://STB05SM(mysteryministries.net)), #11.

- Proverbs 3:5, 6—Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

### **Handwork:**

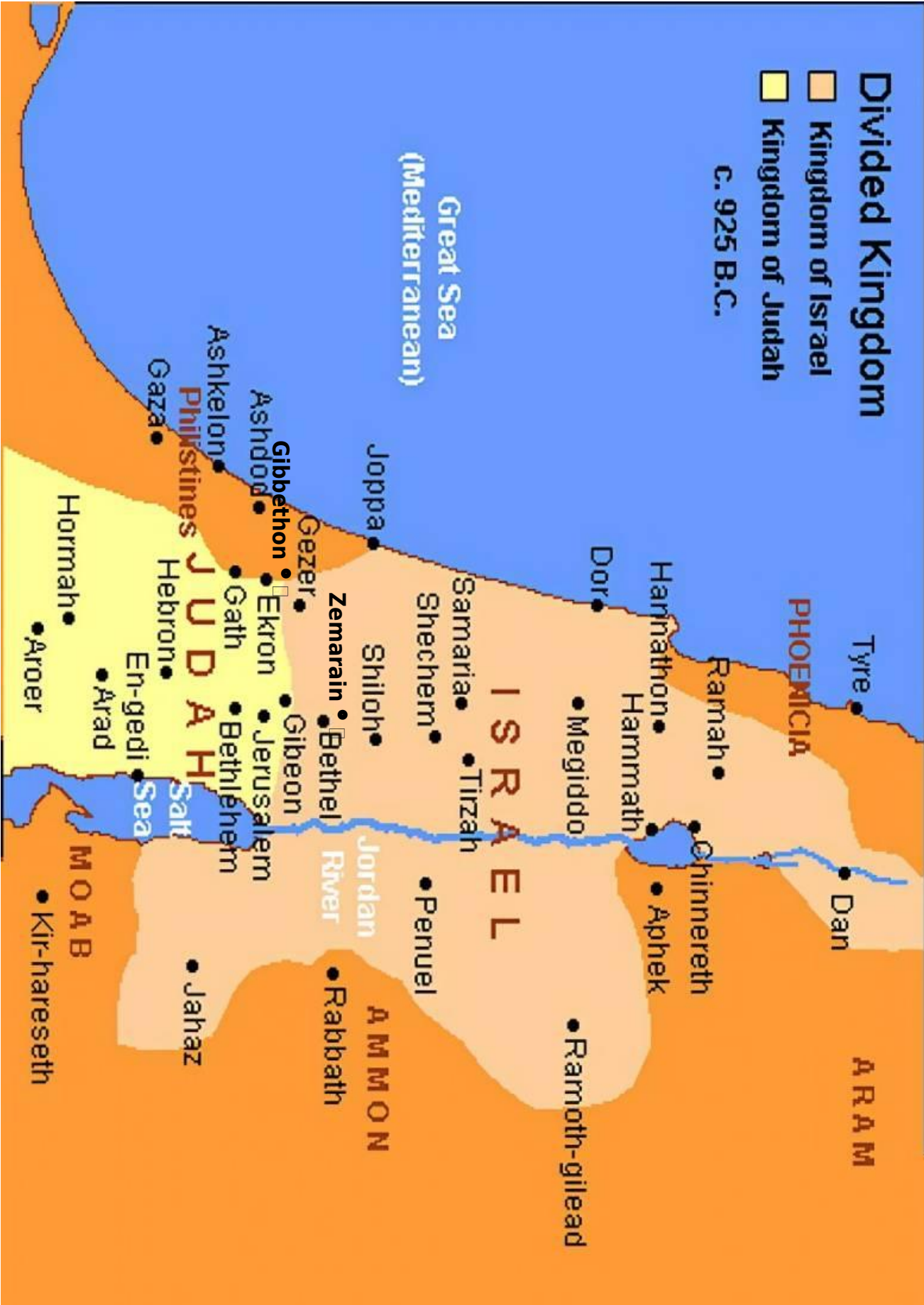
- Print a copy of the last page found below for each student. Student may draw lines from the name and description to the correct character.

**to lay siege**

**Abijah—son**

**Ahijah—prophet**

**Abijah/m—king**



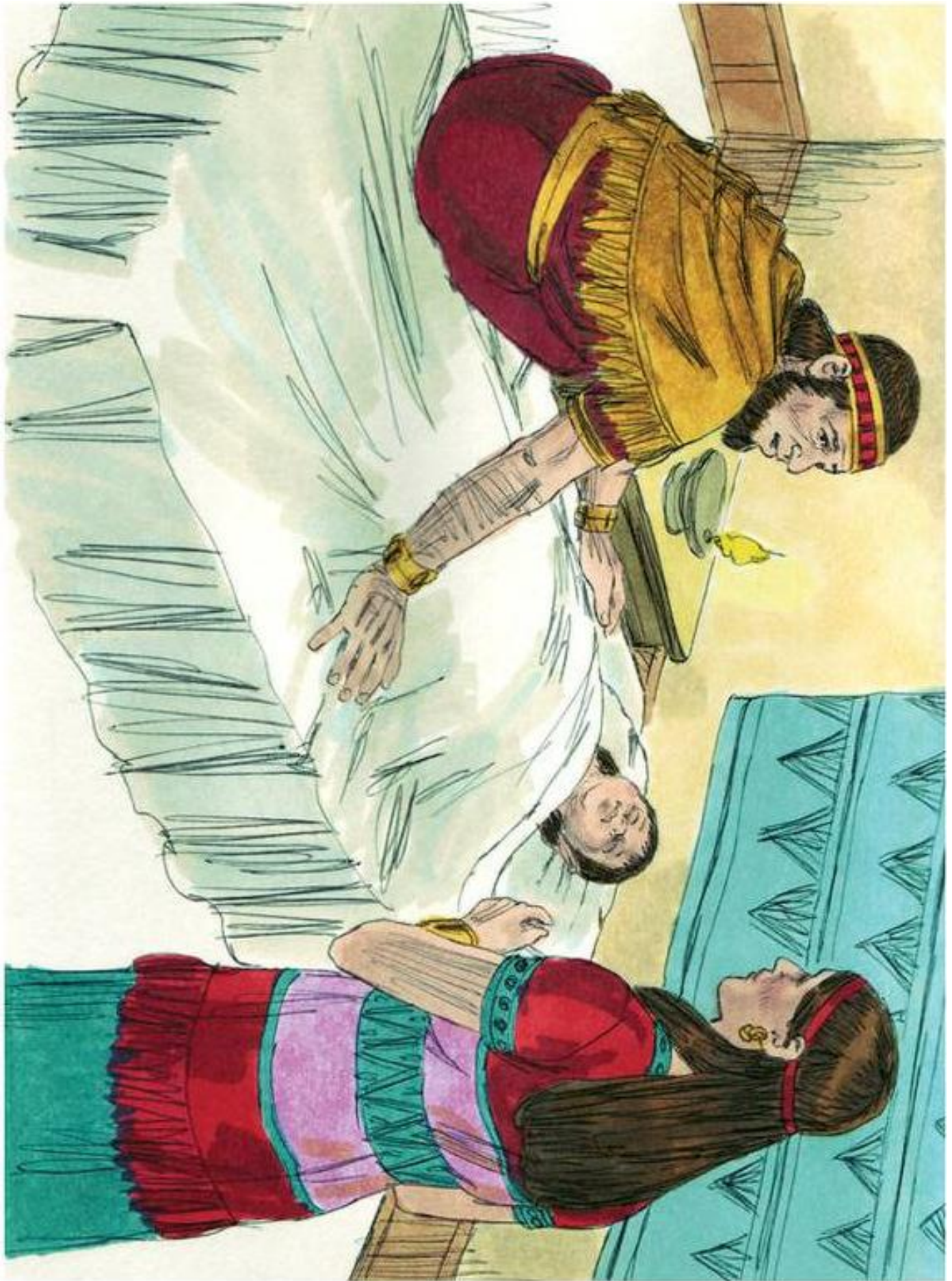
# God's Judgment on Jeroboam and Israel

- I will bring harm upon the house of Jeroboam.
- I will cut off from Jeroboam every male, both bond and free in Israel.
- I will burn up the house of Jeroboam, as a man burns up dung until it is all gone.
- Anyone belonging to Jeroboam who dies in the city the dogs shall eat.
- Anyone who dies in the open country the birds of the heavens shall eat.
- The Lord will raise up for himself a king over Israel who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam.
- The Lord will strike Israel as a reed is shaken in the water.
- The Lord will root up Israel out of this good land that he gave to their fathers and scatter them beyond the Euphrates because they have made their false gods.
- The Lord will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he sinned and made Israel to sin.

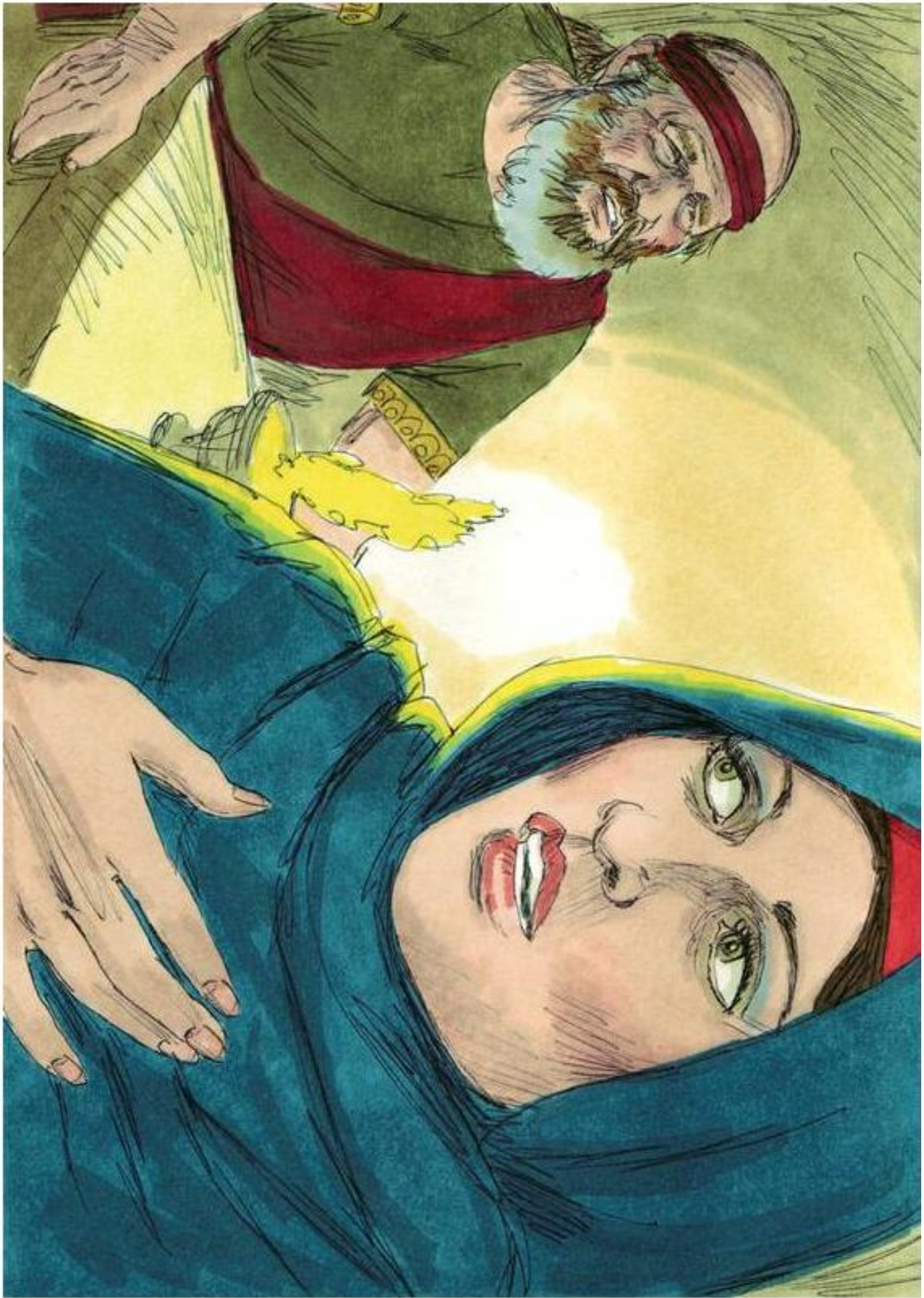


## **Abijah/m's Speech**

- Jeroboam ripped Israel away from Judah.
- You think you have more people to help you.
- You think you have golden-calf gods to help you.
- You have made just anyone to be priests.
- We, however, have Levite priests offering sacrifices in the temple of God, as God commanded.
- God's priests, with their warfare trumpets, are with us today to sound the call of battle against you.
- Do not fight against the God of your fathers, for you cannot succeed.





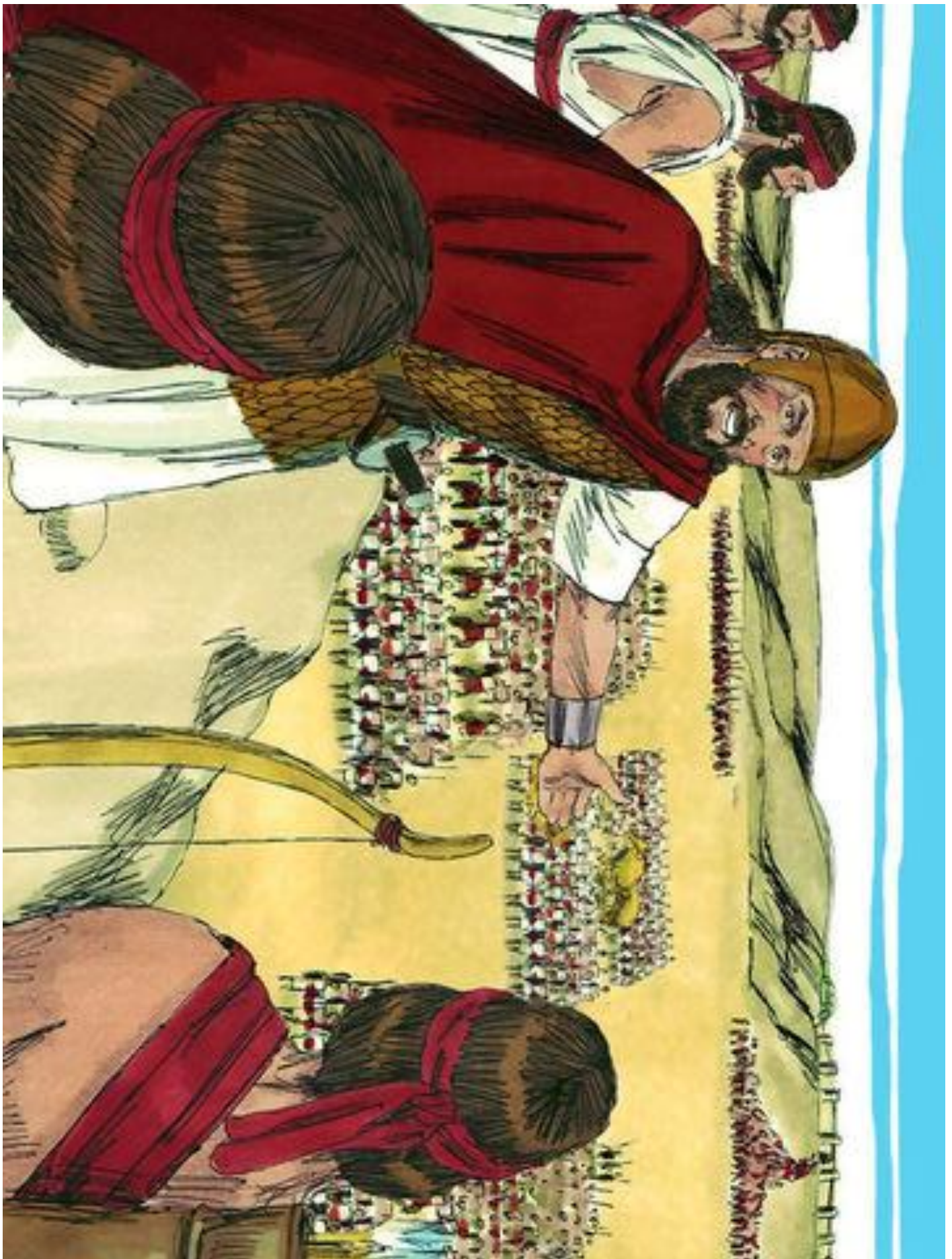






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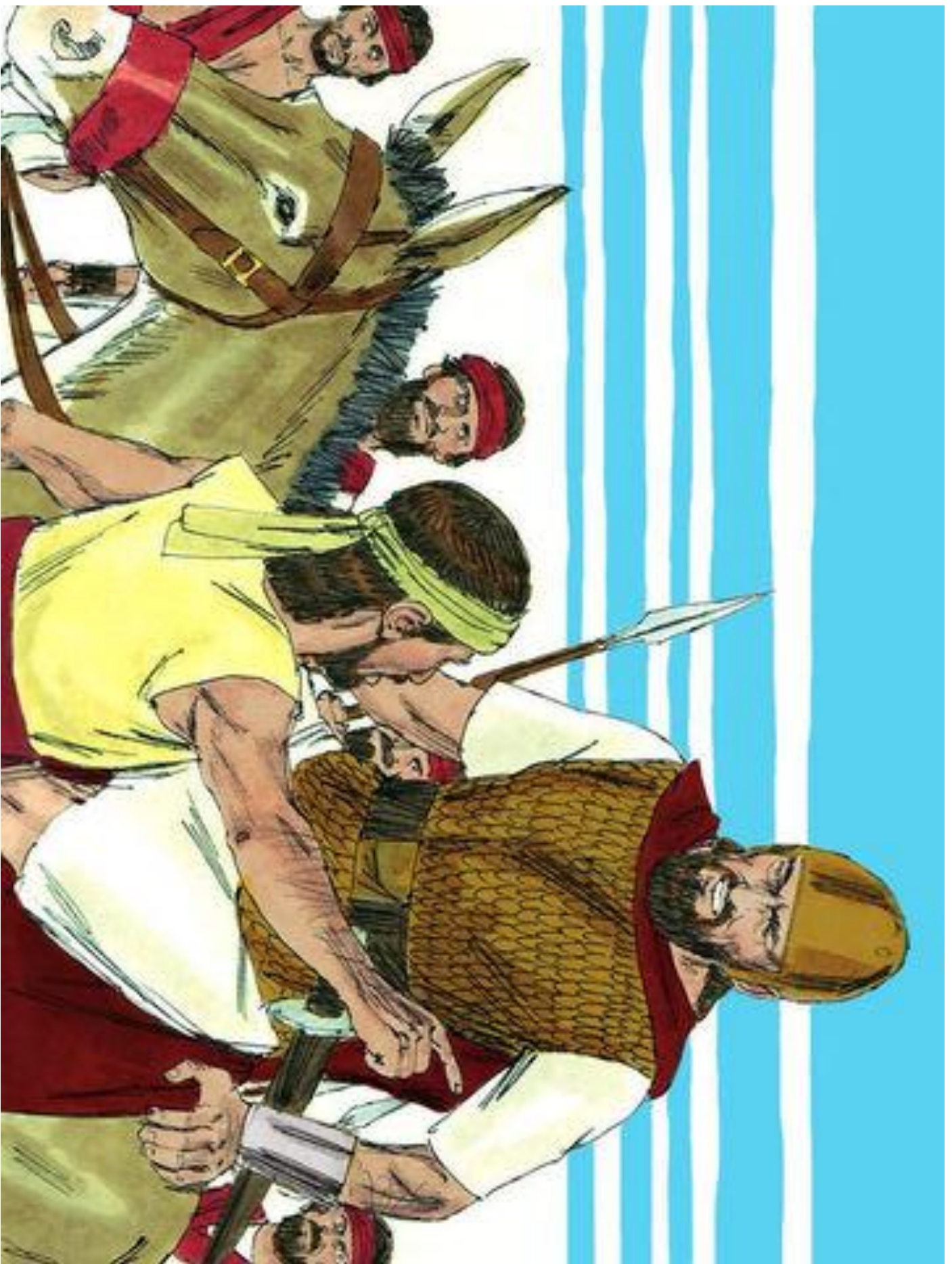


[FreeBibleimages](#) :: King Abijah's battle against Jeroboam :: King Abijah is outnumbered by Jeroboam's army but trusts God for victory (2 Chronicles 13:1-22)

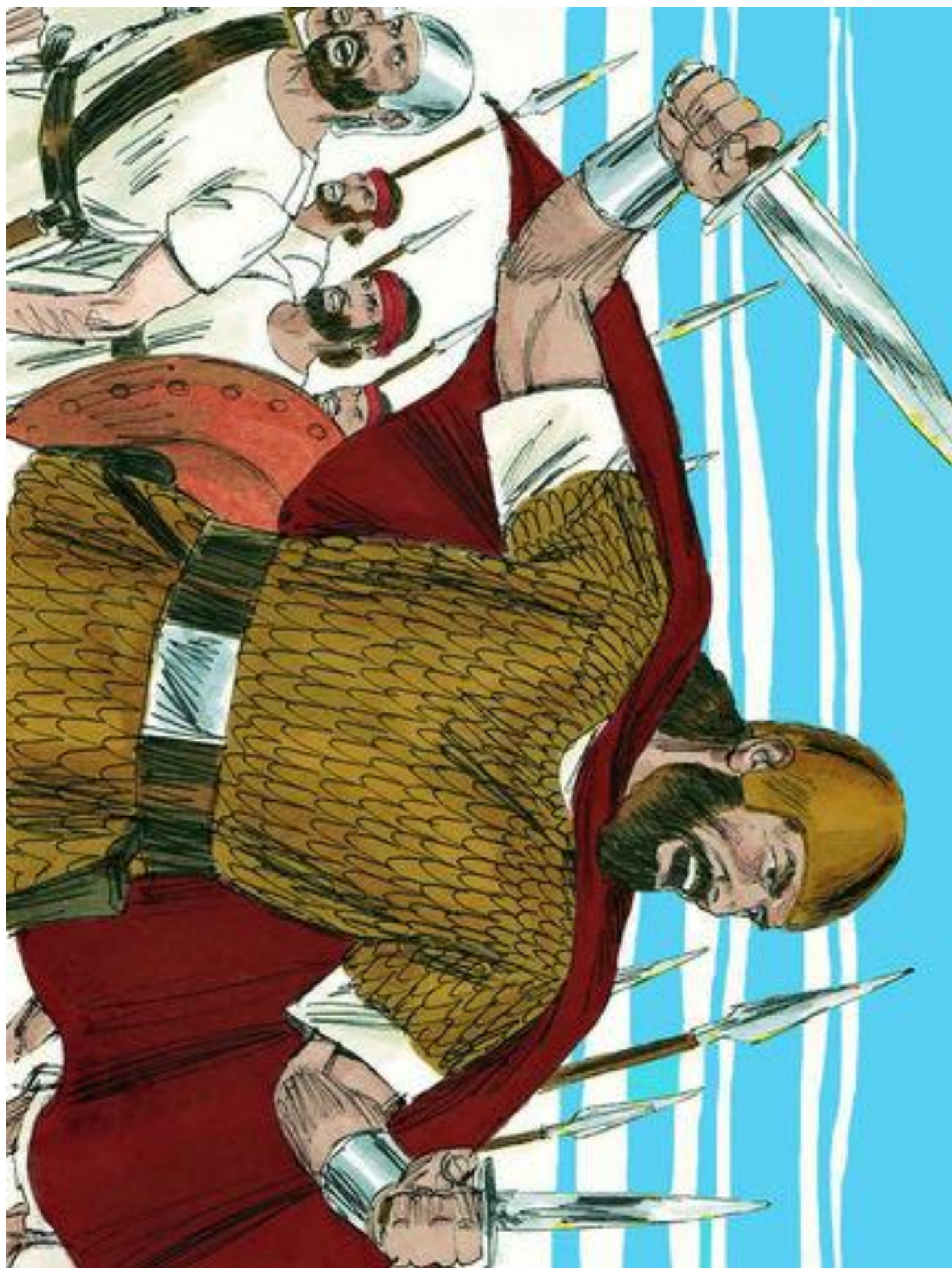








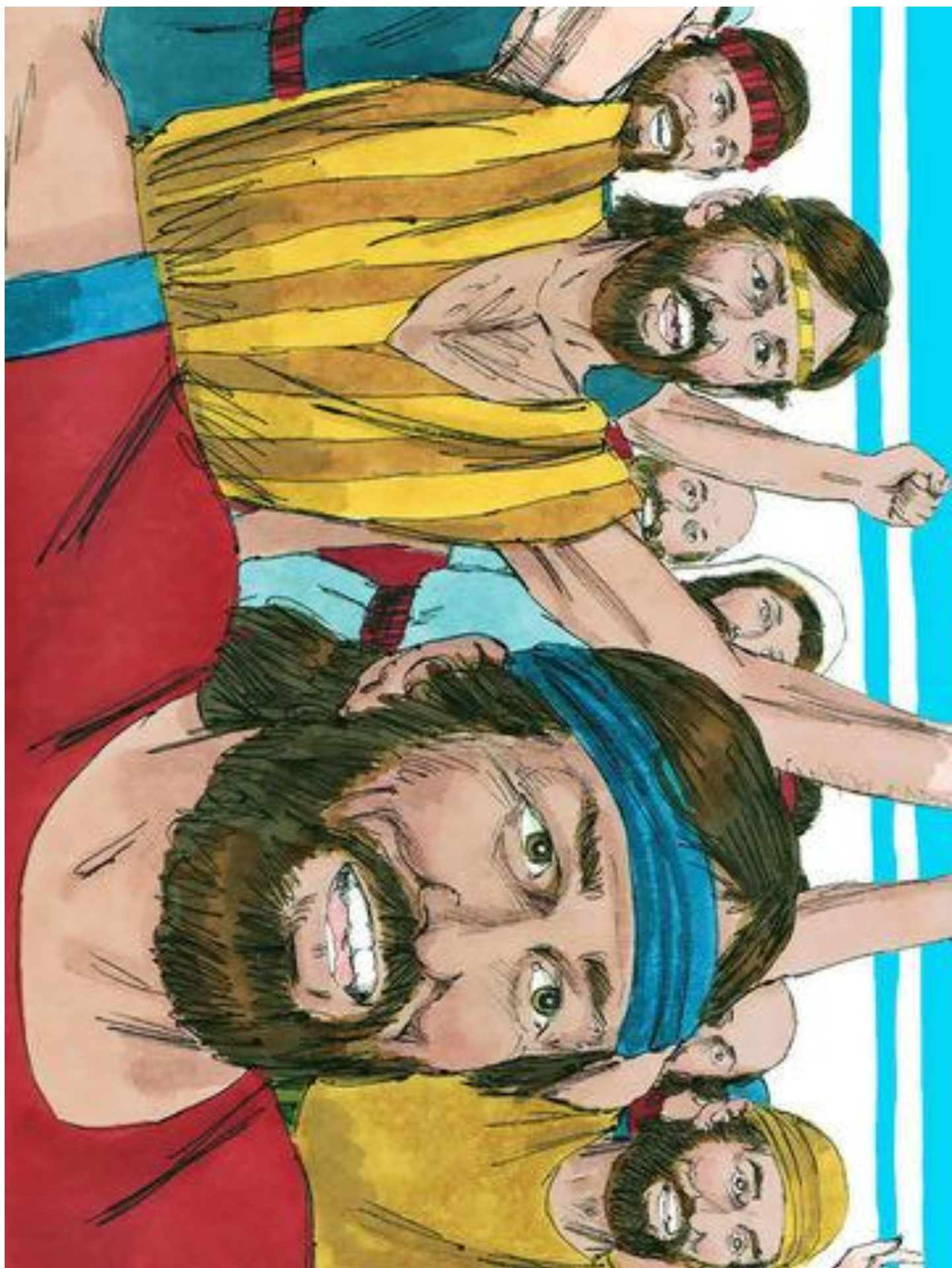


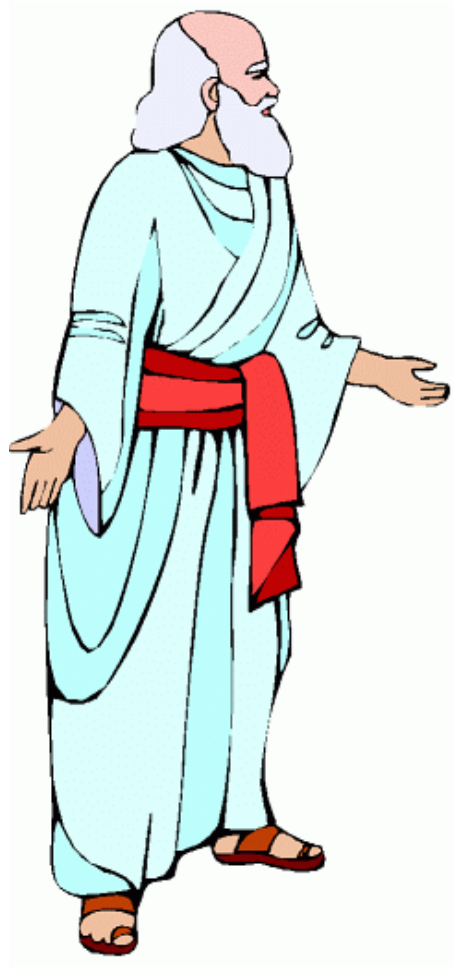












**Abijah—son**

**Ahijah—prophet**

**Abijah/m—king**

“The men of Judah prevailed, because they relied on the Lord, the God of their fathers”  
(2 Chronicles 13:18).