

## 20.01 Ahab<sup>7</sup> (North) ☉, Elijah Prophecies Famine; Cherith (1 Kings 16:29–33; 17:1–7)

✓ “*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 piece of wide leather or a leather belt
- Sheepskin, small or large

**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.

- *dynasty*: a bloodline—father, son, grandson, great grandson, *etc.*—that rule a country
- *Baal*: a popular male false god
- *Asherah*: a female false goddess
- *tunic*: a loose garment, typically sleeveless and reaching to the knees
- *mantle*: a coat
- *brook*: a small stream

### Scripture: (ESV)

1 Kings 16:29 In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri began to reign over Israel, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. 30 And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him. 31 And as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took for his wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal and worshiped him. 32 He erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he built in Samaria. 33 And Ahab made an Asherah. Ahab did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

17:1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.” 2 And the word of the Lord came to him: 3 “Depart from here and turn eastward and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. 4 You shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.” 5 So he went and did according to the word of the Lord. He went and lived by the brook Cherith that is east of the Jordan. 6 And the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook. 7 And after a while the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

### Introduction/Review:

We have been and will be talking about good kings and bad kings. What makes a king good according to Scripture’s evaluation? [One who walks in the ways of the Lord God.] Which king is the standard—the person to whom to compare a king—for being good? [David.] What makes a king bad? [Serving idols instead of God.] Who is the person the Bible compares when it states a king is evil or bad? [Jeroboam, the first king of Israel, who taught Israel to sin.]

Here’s a new word: *dynasty*. A dynasty is a family ruling a nation: father, son, grandson, great grandson, like David, Solomon, Rehoboam, Abijah, and Asa in Judah. There was only one dynasty in Judah [locate], for God had promised David an everlasting dynasty. How could it be everlasting since we know that Israel doesn’t have a king today? Jesus Christ is in David’s dynasty, and He now reigns behind the scenes and will

one day openly and physically rule the whole world forever.

In the north, in Israel [locate], there were several dynasties. God had told Jeroboam, “If you follow My ways, I will make your dynasty as long lasting as David’s” (1 Kings 11:38). What a promise! Did Jeroboam follow God’s way? [No.] Therefore God cut off Jeroboam’s dynasty after his son, Nadab, had ruled only two years. The next dynasty in Israel also lasted for only two kings, Baasha and Elah. After the, the next king, Zimri, died after ruling a mere seven days, and he had no dynasty to rule after him.

The sixth king to reign over Israel, Omri, changed the capital city from Tirzah to Samaria. Omri did more evil than those before him. However, his dynasty lasted through four kings, ✓perhaps more in judgment to Israel than in blessing to himself, for these kings were very evil.

## **Story:**

### ***Ahab and Jezebel***

Omri’s son, Ahab, ruled after his father died. Omri was known for being more evil than his predecessors, but Ahab was even worse! He not only caused the people to worship Jeroboam’s idols but also married a king’s daughter from Sidon [locate north of Tyre on the coast] and brought her gods to Israel to worship. In addition, she destroyed people who loved God. One hundred prophets hid from her in a cave. To this day her name, Jezebel, makes us think of evil and of wickedness. She worshiped Baal and paid 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah. Ahab made an altar and a temple for Baal in his kingly city, Samaria, where he worshiped and served Baal. Oh, how this king provoked the Lord to anger—more than all the kings before Ahab!

How can people defy God so? ✓Maybe it’s because God doesn’t always judge them immediately. Nothing happens to them; so they sin more and more. They are deceived, though, not knowing God, for He will judge the wicked and will bless those who belong to Him, those who are made righteous by the blood of Jesus Christ.

### ***Elijah and his appearance***

God will judge Ahab, and he will use a prophet to tell him about his wickedness and God’s punishment. That prophet’s name is Elijah. We will learn about some mighty miracles God performed through Elijah. He is one of the greatest men of Scripture—along with Abraham, Moses, Joshua, and David. But he might not at first glance, be someone you would think could be great.

Elijah was rough-looking, wearing a leather belt to hold in his tunic that was made of camel’s hair, which sounds scratchy but could be as soft as wool. Sometimes he wore a coat, called a mantle, made of sheepskin. He probably wasn’t much to look at, but he was a godly man. He becomes a model for John the Baptist in Jesus’ time. In fact, John the Baptist was prophesied to be another “Elijah.”

### ***Elijah and his prayer***

Elijah was dismayed and angry, as God was, with the idol worship in Ahab’s Israel. ✓He perhaps wondered why God kept blessing Israel with rain, food, and crops. Wouldn’t famine show God’s power and His punishment for the terrible sin? Why, yes! Well, then, he would pray that it might not rain.

The Bible tells us he prayed earnestly.” That means he prayed with all his heart. ✓Maybe he prayed, “Lord, Ahab is making Israel worship Baal. Jezebel has a total of 850 prophets. She slays people who love you. O God! Wake up Israel. Show them you are displeased. Please shut up the heaven. Stop the rain!”

Then, believing God answered his prayer, the brave prophet Elijah went to Ahab with a message: “As surely as the true Lord God of Israel lives, there will *no* rain for three years. There won’t even be any dew until I say so.”

### ***Elijah and his hiding place***

Then God told Elijah to get away from Ahab in Samaria and to hide himself across the Jordan River near a brook named Cherith [pronounced “CARE eth”; locate] while God stopped the rain and dew.

A month passed with no rain or dew; then two, three, six, nine, twelve months. A whole year without rain or even dew. But that wasn't the end. Two more years would pass without rain. All the rivers would dry up. The crops would die. There would be no food.

Meanwhile, God took care of Elijah in his hiding place. "You may drink water from that brook, Cherith, and I will send some 'things' to bring you your food," said God. Can you guess what those "things" would be that would get Elijah some food. Might it be people? No, he was to hide away from people. Might it be dogs? No. How about wild animals? No. God said He would feed Elijah by using ravens—big, black, unclean birds about two feet long, something like our crows. Now, ravens would normally take food *from* people. They might not even take care of their babies if they were hungry, or they might peck out someone's eye. But here they were, feeding Elijah, just as God had said they would. Every morning the ravens brought Elijah bread and meat; every evening the ravens brought Elijah bread and meat. And Elijah drank from the brook. God provided miraculously for Elijah. God can do the same today.

But then the Brook Cherith dried up. Will Elijah starve? What will happen to him? We will find out in our next lesson.

### Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:

Jesus Christ is in David's dynasty, and He now reigns behind the scenes. One day He will openly and physically rule the whole world forever.

Elijah was a model for John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus' earthly life and death. In fact, John the Baptist fulfilled the prophecy of being another "Elijah" before the "great and awesome day of the LORD" (Malachi 4:5).

### Activities:

- Play dough: ravens, bread, meat, praying hands
- Snack: Sandwiches with bread and meat
- Pray earnestly that God would make sinning people turn to Him.
- Show pictures of dew. Demonstrate something cold, like a mirror, getting moisture.
- Action poem for young students: "Fed by Ravens"  
When Elijah needed food to eat, (rub stomach)  
God sent big birds with bread and meat. (wave arms as if flying)  
God cared for Elijah in a wonderful way. (point upward)  
I know God cares for me today! (point to self)  
(Copied from a S.S. paper)
- Review questions: (Game: Print 6 copies of the page of ravens found below. Cut out each raven. Students will place two ravens, one with bread [yellow food] and one with meat [red food] on a flannel board or in a pocket chart for each correctly answered question. If using a flannel board, back printed paper with paper towel before cutting; if using a pocket chart, print on card stock.)
  1. How many dynasties did God say Judah would have? [One.]
  2. Who was the first king of Judah's everlasting dynasty? [David.]
  3. Who will be the last king of David's dynasty? [Jesus.]
  4. What was the name of the son of the king of Israel, Omri? [Ahab.]
  5. How badly did Ahab make Israel to sin? [Worse than all the kings before him.]
  6. What was Elijah's message to Ahab? ["There shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except as I say."]
  7. Where did God tell Elijah to hide from Ahab? [At the Brook Cherith.]

8. What would feed Elijah his meals of bread and meat? [Ravens.]

9. What happened to the Brook Cherith? [It dried up.]

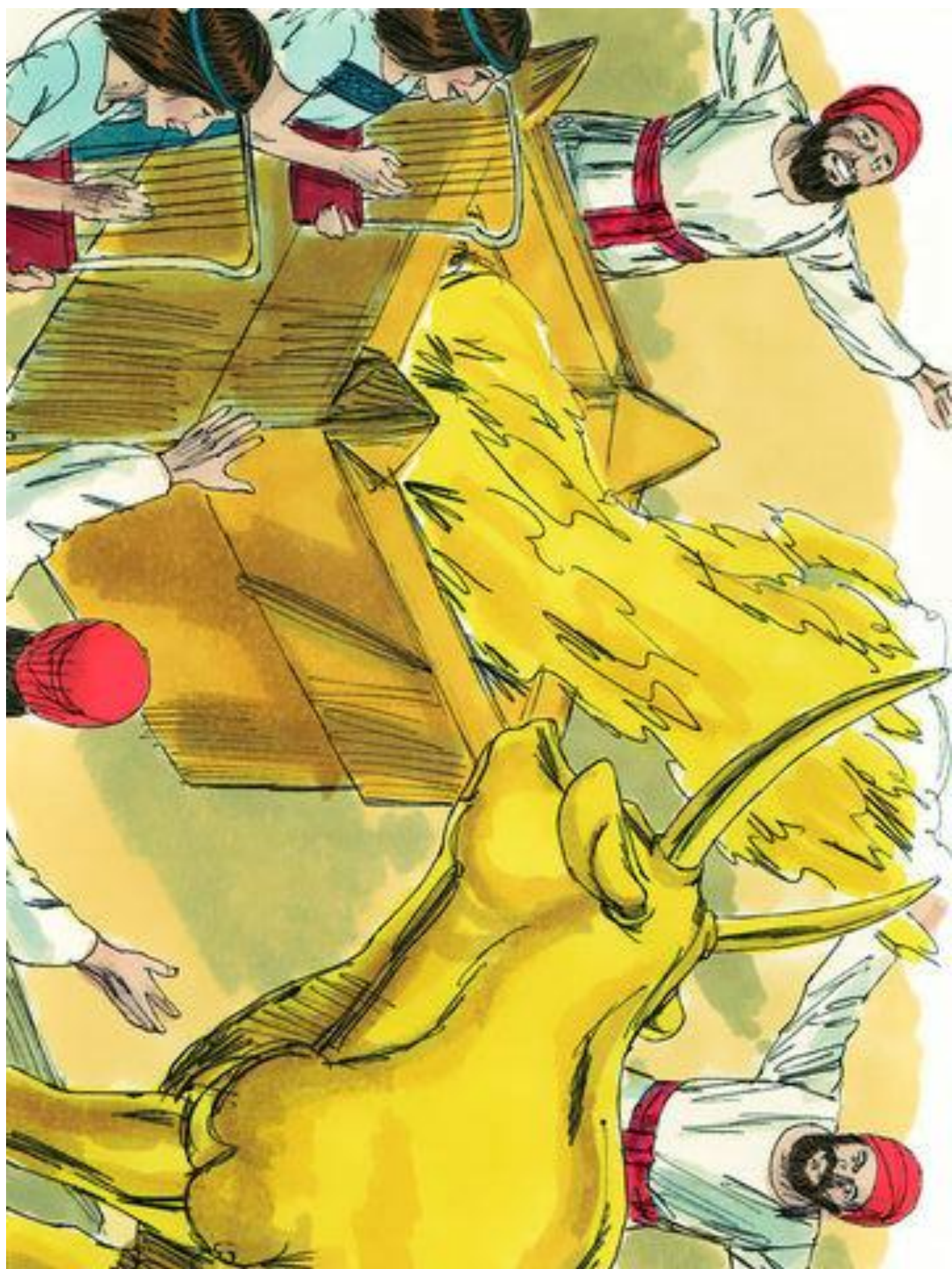
**Memory Verse[s]:**

- 2 Chronicles 16:9: For the eyes of the Lord [look] to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him.

**Handwork:**

- Students will solve the maze found below.









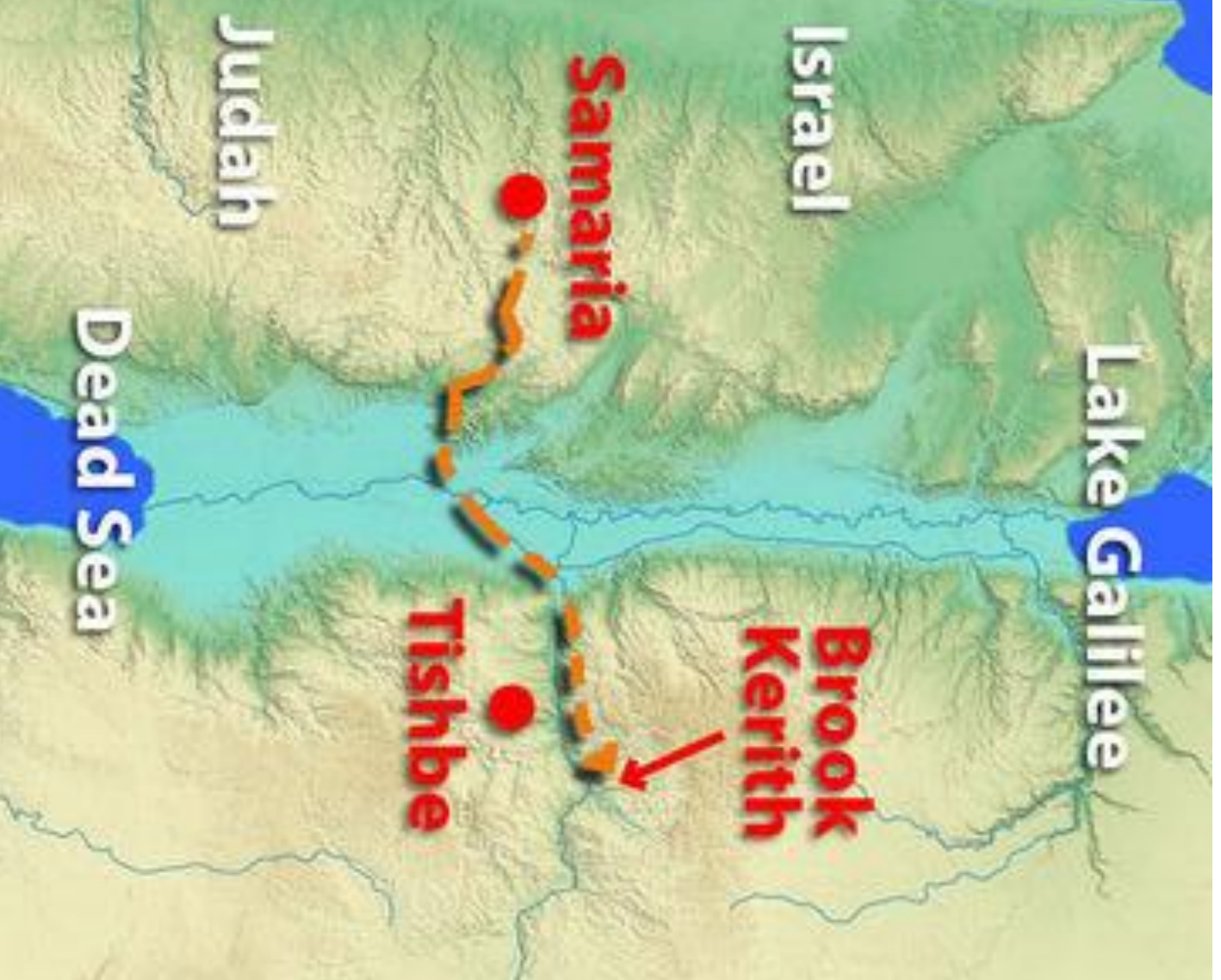
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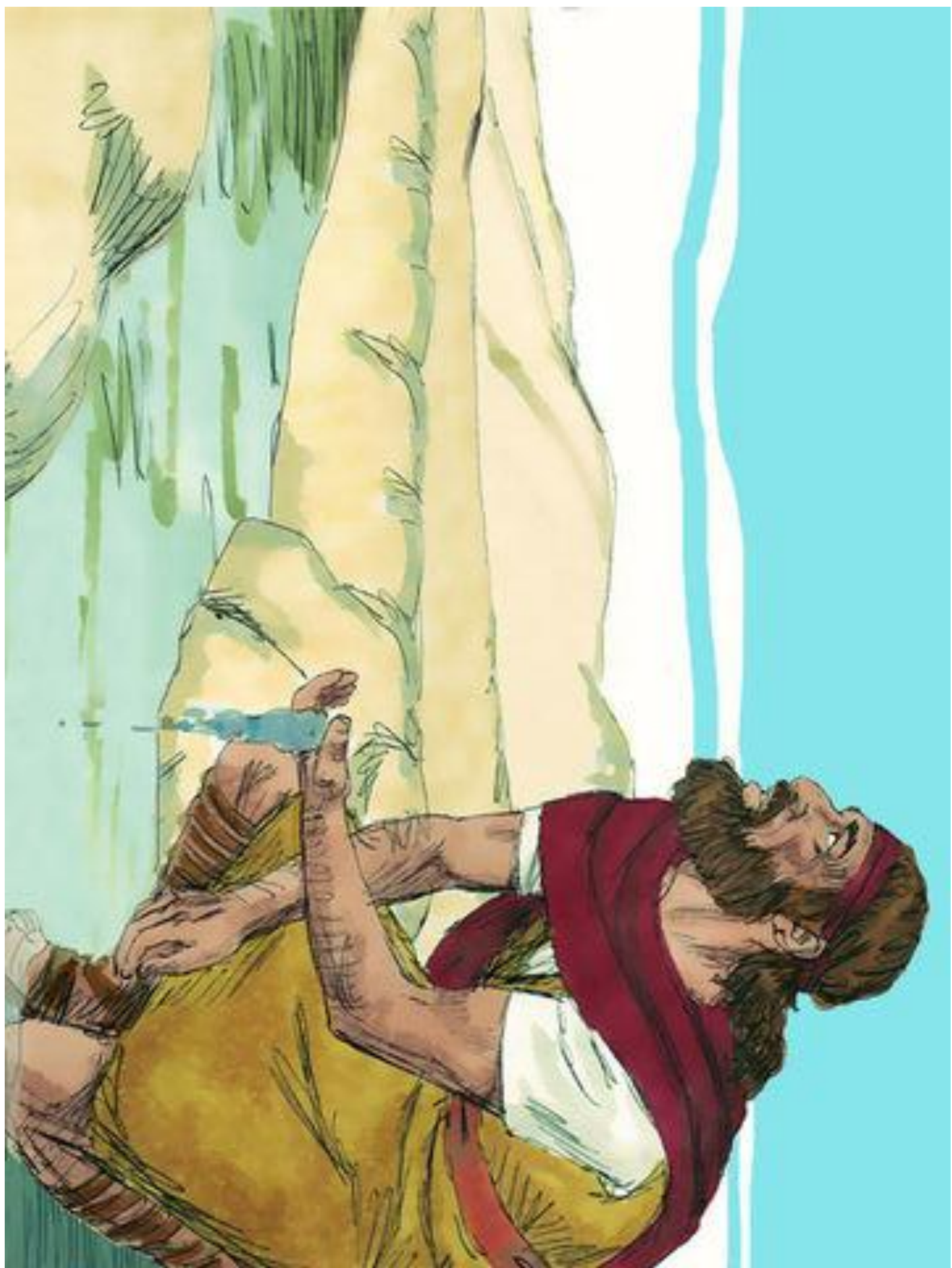


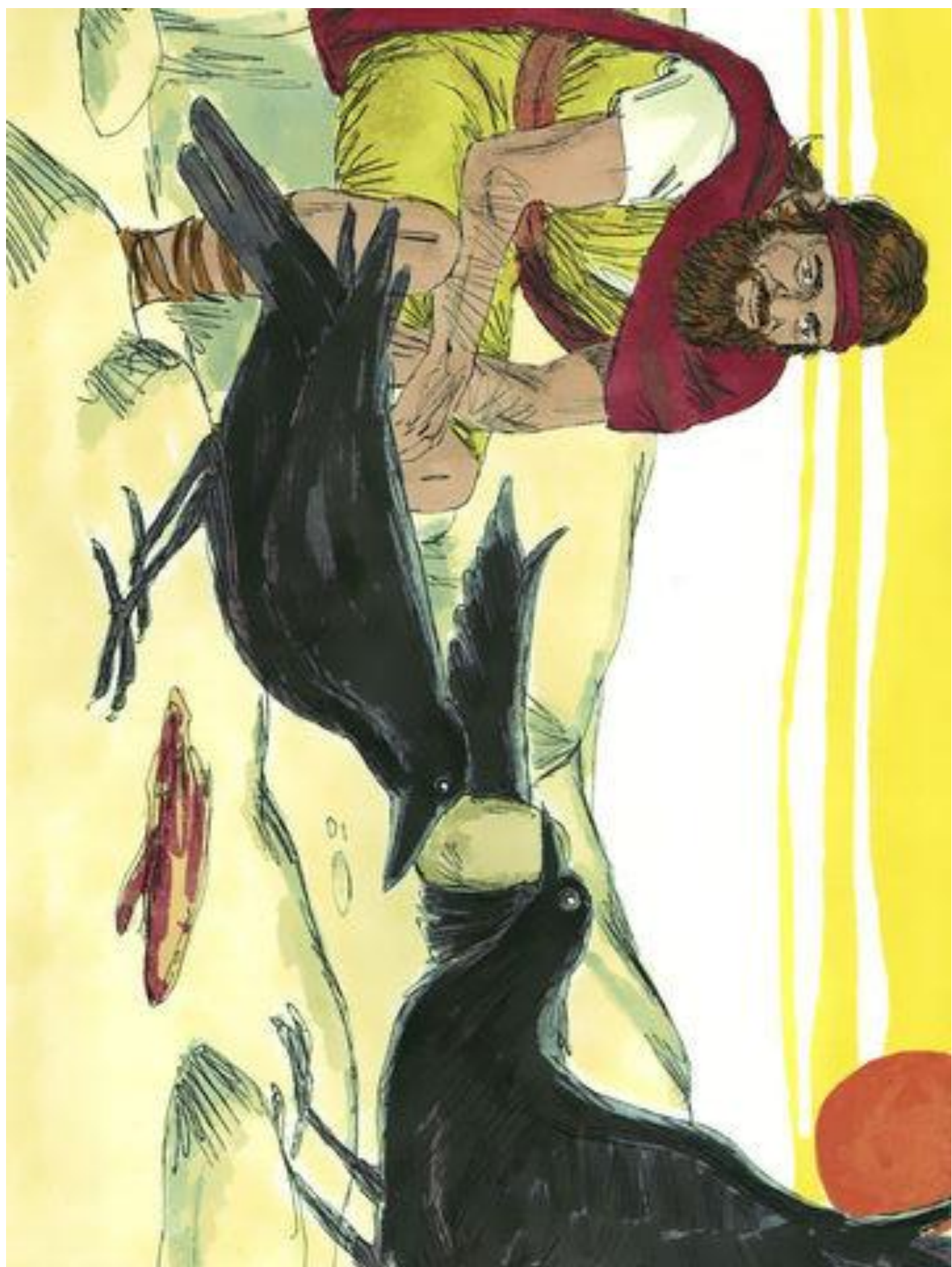
**Scale**

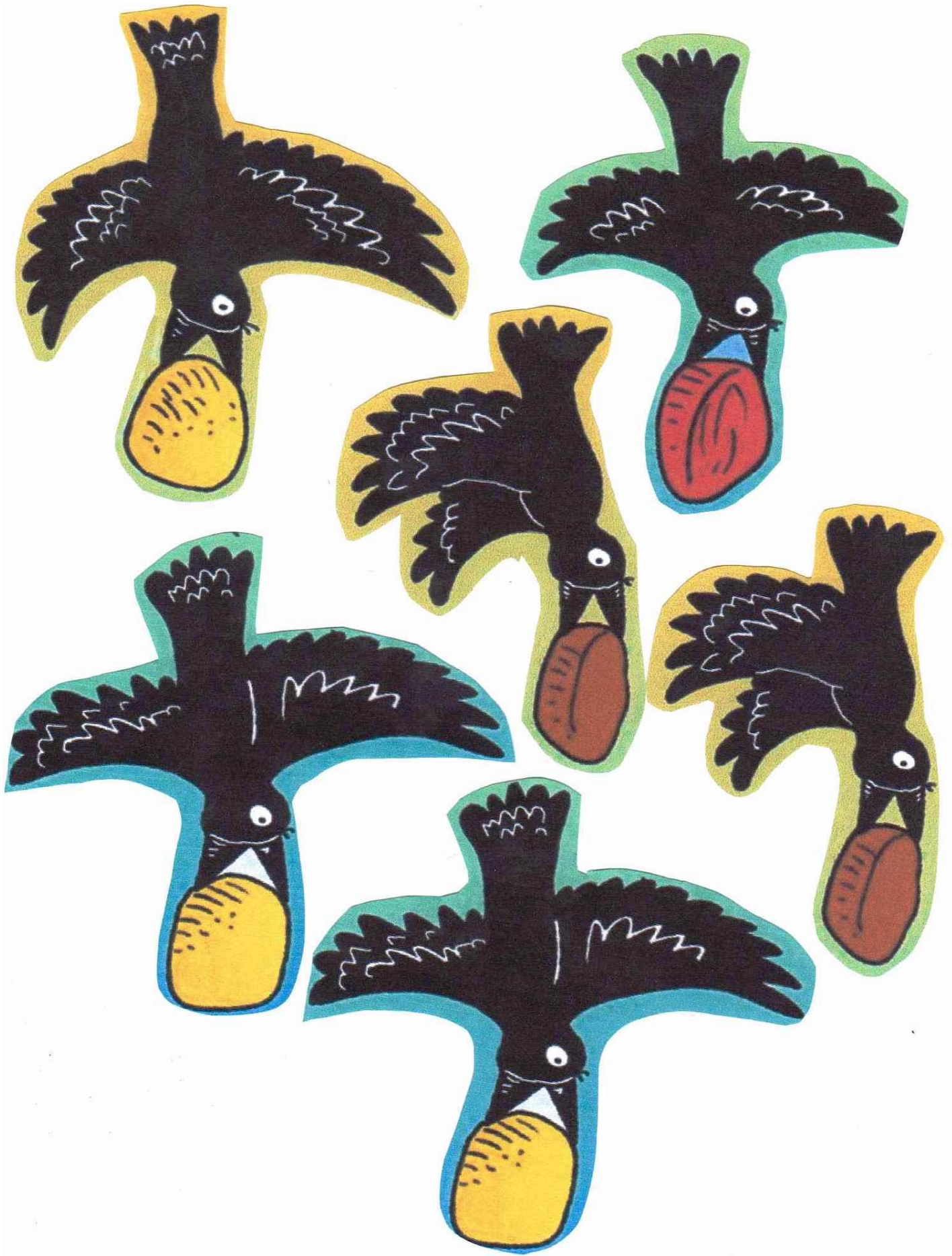
0 20 miles

0 20 km









God cares for our needs. Help the  
ravens take food to Elijah.

