

## 20.06 Naboth's Vineyard (1 Kings 21:1–29)

✓ “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.

**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 stone to death*: to kill someone for a major offense by throwing rocks at the person
- *to put on sackcloth*: Sackcloth was a coarse material usually made of black goat’s hair, making it quite uncomfortable to wear. The act of putting on sackcloth showed heartfelt sorrow.

### Scripture: (ESV)

1 Kings 21:1 Now Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. 2 And after this Ahab said to Naboth, “Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house, and I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money.” 3 But Naboth said to Ahab, “The Lord forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers.” 4 And Ahab went into his house vexed and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him, for he had said, “I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.” And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and would eat no food.

5 But Jezebel his wife came to him and said to him, “Why is your spirit so vexed that you eat no food?” 6 And he said to her, “Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, ‘Give me your vineyard for money, or else, if it please you, I will give you another vineyard for it.’ And he answered, ‘I will not give you my vineyard.’” 7 And Jezebel his wife said to him, “Do you now govern Israel? Arise and eat bread and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.”

8 So she wrote letters in Ahab’s name and sealed them with his seal, and she sent the letters to the elders and the leaders who lived with Naboth in his city. 9 And she wrote in the letters, “Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth at the head of the people. 10 And set two worthless men opposite him, and let them bring a charge against him, saying, ‘You have cursed God and the king.’ Then take him out and stone him to death.” 11 And the men of his city, the elders and the leaders who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them. As it was written in the letters that she had sent to them, 12 they proclaimed a fast and set Naboth at the head of the people. 13 And the two worthless men came in and sat opposite him. And the worthless men brought a charge against Naboth in the presence of the people, saying, “Naboth cursed God and the king.” So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones. 14 Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, “Naboth has been stoned; he is dead.”

15 As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab, “Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money, for Naboth is not alive, but dead.” 16 And as soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

17 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 18 “Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who is in Samaria; behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to take possession. 19 And you shall say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord, Have you killed and also taken possession?’ And you shall say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord: In the place where dogs licked up the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick your own blood.’”

20 Ahab said to Elijah, “Have you found me, O my enemy?” He answered, “I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do what is evil in the sight of the Lord. 21 Behold, I will bring disaster upon you. I will

utterly burn you up, and will cut off from Ahab every male, bond or free, in Israel. 22 And I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the anger to which you have provoked me, and because you have made Israel to sin. 23 And of Jezebel the Lord also said, 'The dogs shall eat Jezebel within the walls of Jezreel.' 24 Anyone belonging to Ahab who dies in the city the dogs shall eat, and anyone of his who dies in the open country the birds of the heavens shall eat."

25 (There was none who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the Lord like Ahab, whom Jezebel his wife incited. 26 He acted very abominably in going after idols, as the Amorites had done, whom the Lord cast out before the people of Israel.)

27 And when Ahab heard those words, he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his flesh and fasted and lay in sackcloth and went about dejectedly. 28 And the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 29 "Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the disaster in his days; but in his son's days I will bring the disaster upon his house."

### **Introduction/Review:**

[Do review questions from Moses and the law.] When Israel had come from Egypt back to Canaan, they had warred against and had chased the wicked, evil nations that had lived in Canaan. God gave laws—more than just the Ten Commandments—to His people, the children of Jacob, whose name God changed to Israel. One of those laws, found in Leviticus 25:23, was, "The land shall not be sold forever." God wanted the families of Israel to have their own land and to have their grandchildren, great grandchildren, *etc.*, live in it perpetually.

Did King Ahab care much about God's laws? [No.] Why not? Because he didn't worship the one true God. God had given Ahab proof after proof that He was the one true God. Tell me some of those ways. [(1) God stopped rain; (2) God sent fire on the altar; (3) God sent rain; (4) God gave victory over Syria two times.] God had also told Ahab he would die soon because he showed mercy to the enemy, King Ben-hadad, when he shouldn't have.

### **Story:**

#### ***Ahab wants a vineyard***

Ahab had gone home after battle sad and depressed after learning he would soon die. ✓Maybe he took a little vacation and went to his second palace in the beautiful area of Jezreel [locate]. As he entered that palace, ✓he looked at a piece of land growing grapes next to the palace and thought, "Hmmm! That's so close to the palace. It would be perfect for a vegetable garden. I'll buy it!"

He went to the owner, Naboth, and made a good offer: "I want that property. I'll give you a better vineyard for it, or, if you wish, I'll pay you a good price for your vineyard."

Sounds like a good offer to me. Should Naboth sell his vineyard to Ahab? No. Why not? Because God had said the land should not be sold forever. But wouldn't it be okay to sell the land to the king? No, it would not. What would you do in Naboth's case?

#### ***Naboth refuses***

Naboth courageously answered King Ahab, "The Lord forbids me to sell the inheritance of my father to you. I will not do it."

Hurray for Naboth! ✓He must be one of those 7000 who hadn't worshiped Baal. Yay, Naboth!

Ahab didn't get mad: he got sad and depressed again. He went home to his bed, turned his face to the wall, and refused to eat—like a spoiled child.

Jezebel found him there. "Why are you so sad that you won't eat?" she asked.

[Pouty.] "Because I asked Naboth to sell me his vineyard. I offered him money or a better vineyard, but he

won't sell it to me."

### ***Jezebel handles the matter***

Jezebel ✓raised her voice to Ahab, "Aren't you the *king*? Get up and eat and cheer up. *I* will get you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." And she did.

This is how Jezebel got the vineyard. She wrote letters and signed them with the king's seal, ordering the elders of the city to find a couple of no-good men to charge Naboth with cursing God and cursing the king. The letter included these orders: "Bring the people together so that they can hear the charge."

Jezebel knew that ✓because of these charges, even though they were untrue, Naboth would be taken out of the city along with his sons and stoned to death. Sure enough, it wasn't long before a messenger told Jezebel, "Naboth has been stoned to death." What injustice! What wickedness!

Immediately, Jezebel ordered Ahab, "Get up and get Naboth's vineyard, for it is yours. Naboth is not alive but dead."

Ahab wasted no time. He got together ✓a procession to go claim Naboth's vineyard as his own.

### ***God sends Elijah***

Was God pleased with this? [No.] God's word came to Elijah to go meet Ahab in Naboth's vineyard and to deliver God's message.

When Ahab saw Elijah, he said, "Have you found me, O my enemy?"

"Indeed, I have found you because you have given yourself over to do evil in the sight of the Lord. Have you killed and taken a man's land? God will bring evil upon you. Your entire house—all your family—will be just like Jeroboam's and just like Baasha's—totally destroyed—because you have made Israel to sin. Where dogs licked up the blood of Naboth, there the dogs will lick your blood. Furthermore, Jezebel shall die and be eaten by dogs in this very town of Jezreel."

Elijah left, and Ahab went home, sad and dejected again. This time he seemed to be genuinely repentant about his doom, for he ripped his clothes, put on sackcloth, and acted sorry. God saw Ahab's change of heart, and He spoke to Elijah again: "Because Ahab has humbled himself before me, I will not destroy his family until after he dies. I will destroy his family in the days of his son." Punishment would come, but it would be delayed.

The Bible tells us no one was so bad as Ahab: he sold himself to do evil before the Lord just as those wicked nations had done in the land before Israel had come. If Ahab wasn't already bad enough, Jezebel, Ahab's wife, stirred him to do more evil than even Ahab could imagine. But great judgment would be coming on Ahab. We'll learn about it in our next lesson.

### **Lessons from This Lesson:**

- We see Jesus:

In John 15:4 and 5 Jesus states of Himself, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

Elijah is a type of Christ in that he obeyed God, doing all that the Father asked of him.

In addition, he rebuked the sin of Ahab as Jesus rebuked the sins of the religious rulers. One day Jesus will judge all unrighteousness.

- The Bible tells us that all the wicked and unbelieving will suffer forever away from God. But there is hope for us. Jesus gave His life on the cross so that those who repent and believe on Him might have

everlasting life, not death.

### Activities:

- Play dough: grapes; a bed
- Snack: Grapes
- Use wax and a seal to show how Jezebel authorized her letter with Ahab's seal.
- Review "Who Am I?" cards on Moses and the law.
- Review questions: (Game: Print, back with paper towel [or print on card stock and don't back] the nine sections of grape vines found below. Cut out the sections. A student who answers a question correctly may place a paper section on a flannel board or a card-stock section in a pocket chart.)
  1. In what town does this story take place? [Jezreel.]
  2. What did Ahab want? [A vineyard next to his palace.]
  3. Why did Naboth refuse to give or sell the vineyard? [God's law prohibited his giving or selling it.]
  4. What did Ahab do when Naboth refused him? [Went home, pouted, would not eat.]
  5. What did Jezebel say she would do? [Get the vineyard.]
  6. How did Jezebel get the vineyard? [Wrote letters saying Naboth had cursed the king and God.]
  7. How did Naboth die? [By being stoned by the men of Jezreel.]
  8. What did Elijah prophesy about Ahab and his family? ["God will cut off Ahab's family. In the place where dogs licked up the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick your own blood. The dogs shall eat Jezebel within the walls of Jezreel. Dogs and bird will eat the flesh of Ahab's relatives."]
  9. When Ahab repented, what did God say about the judgment? [It would happen after Ahab's death, during the reign of his son.]

### Memory Verse[s]:

- Psalm 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? 2 My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. 4 Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. 6 The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. 8 The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

### Handwork:

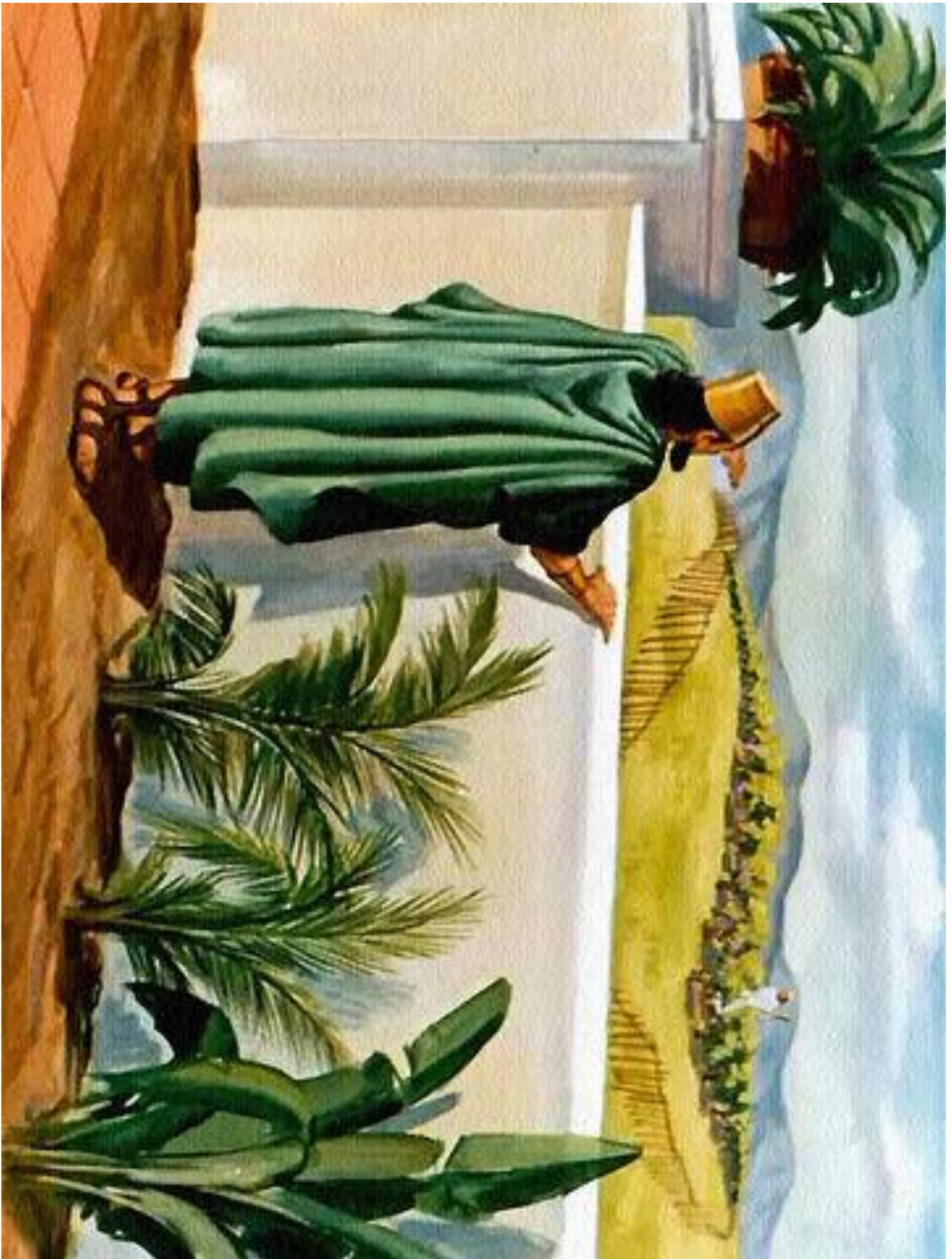
- Print and cut out the pictures found below of the John 15:5 verse. Have students decoupage the verse on wood, glue to paper to make a card, or put in a frame.

**to stone to death**

**to put on sackcloth**



FreeBibleimages :: Ahab - the pouting king :: King Ahab sulks when he can't buy Naboth's vineyard. Queen Jezebel plots to kill Naboth. Elijah arrives with God's judgement (1 Kings 21:1-21)

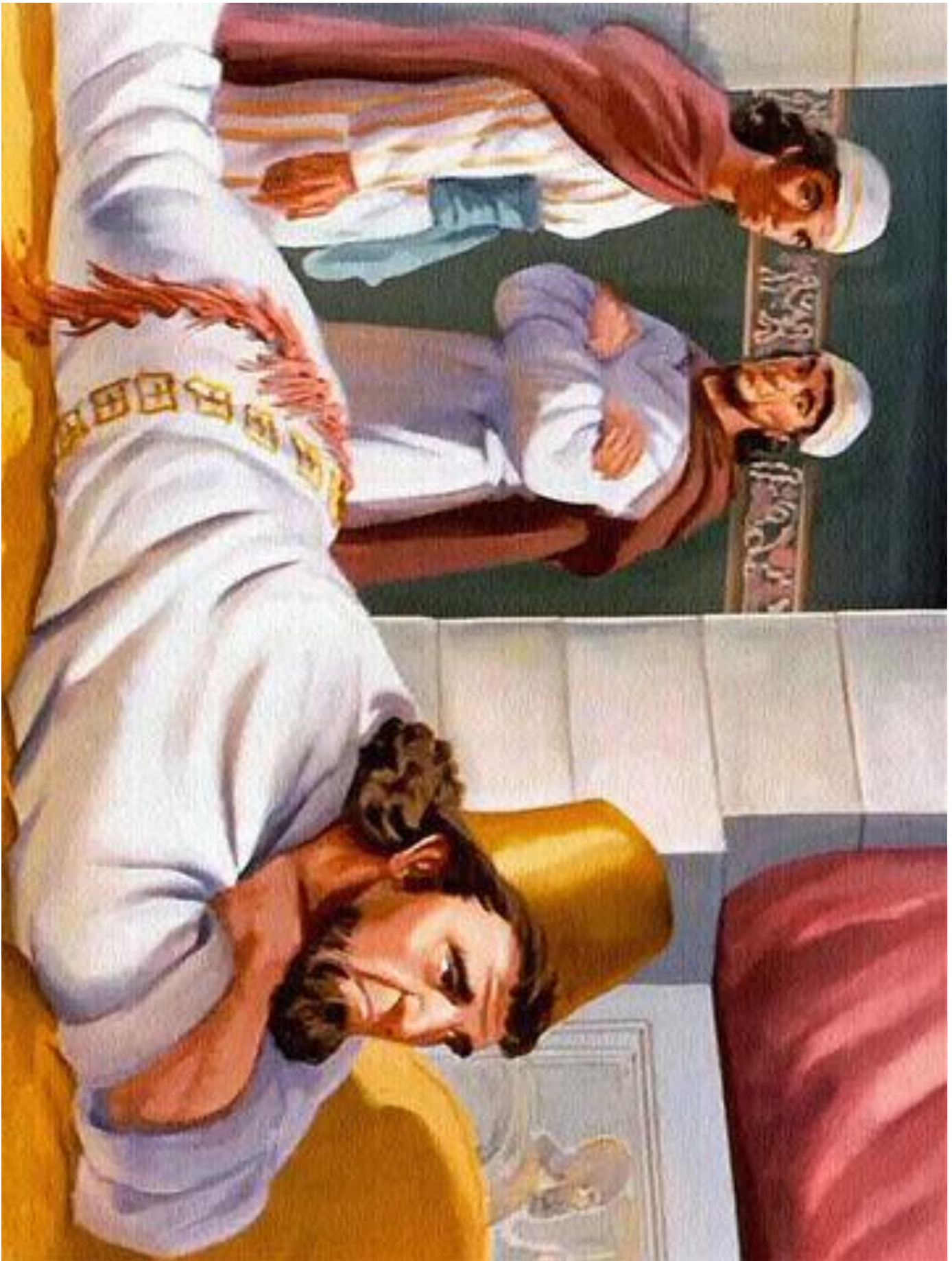


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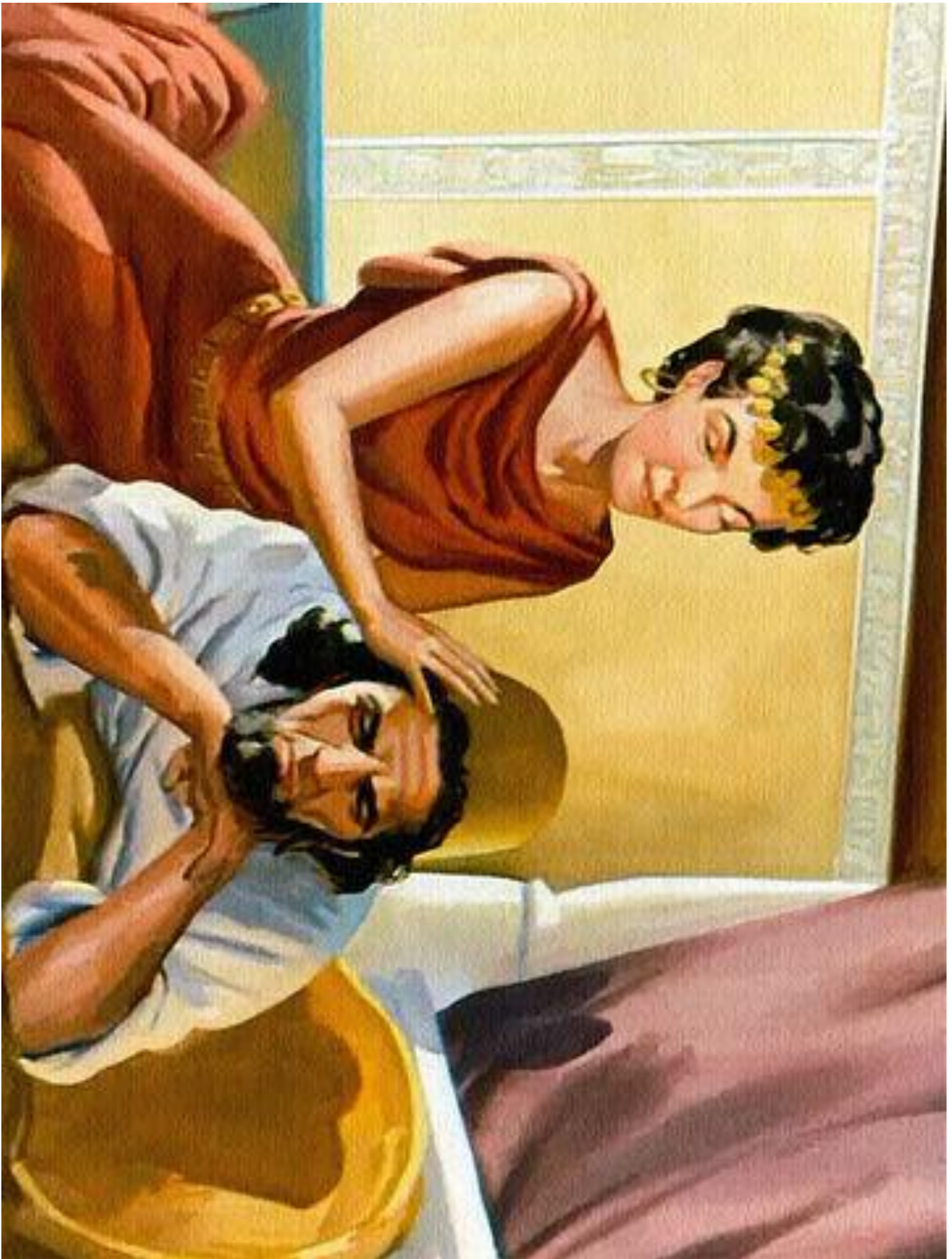


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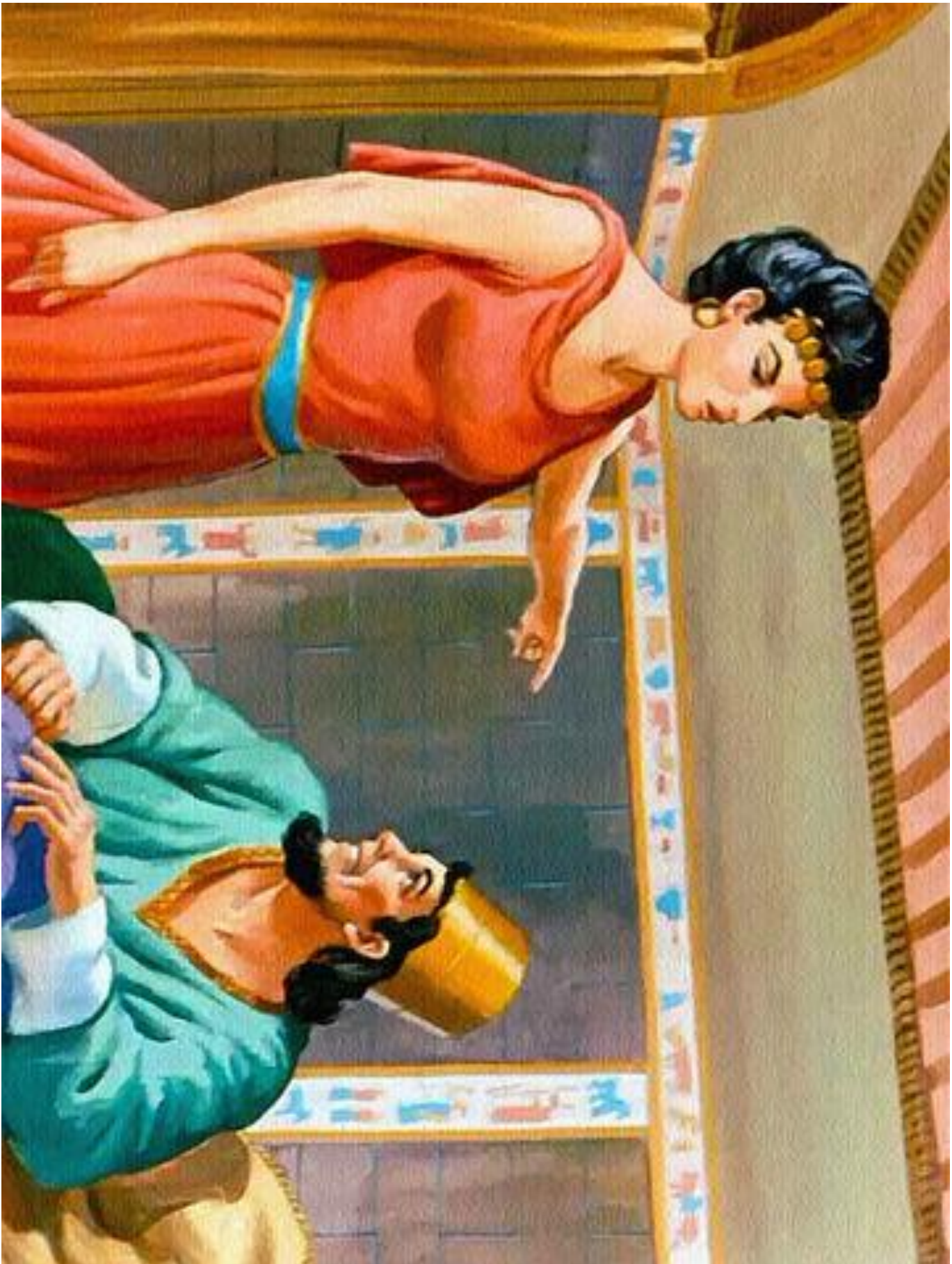
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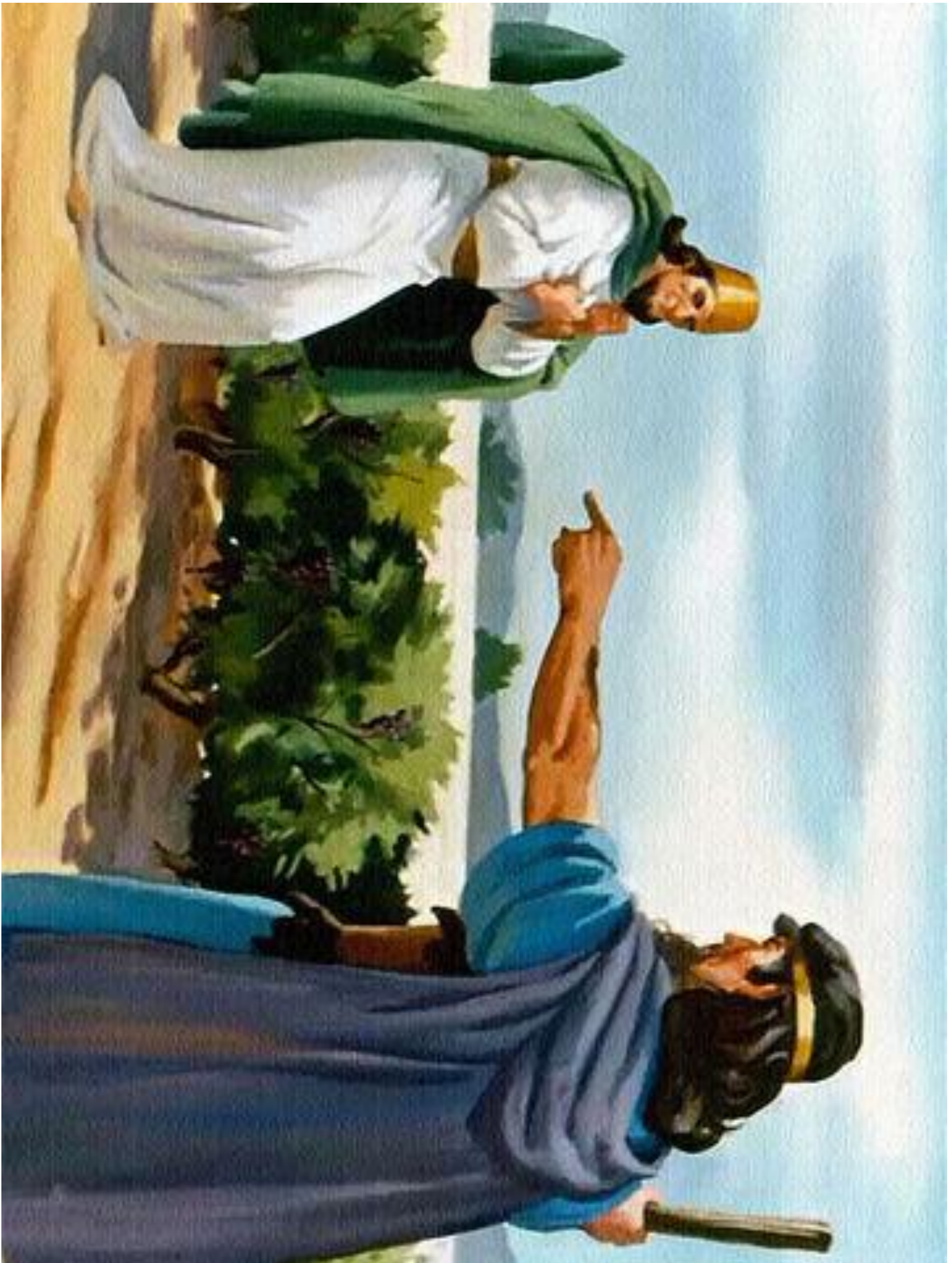
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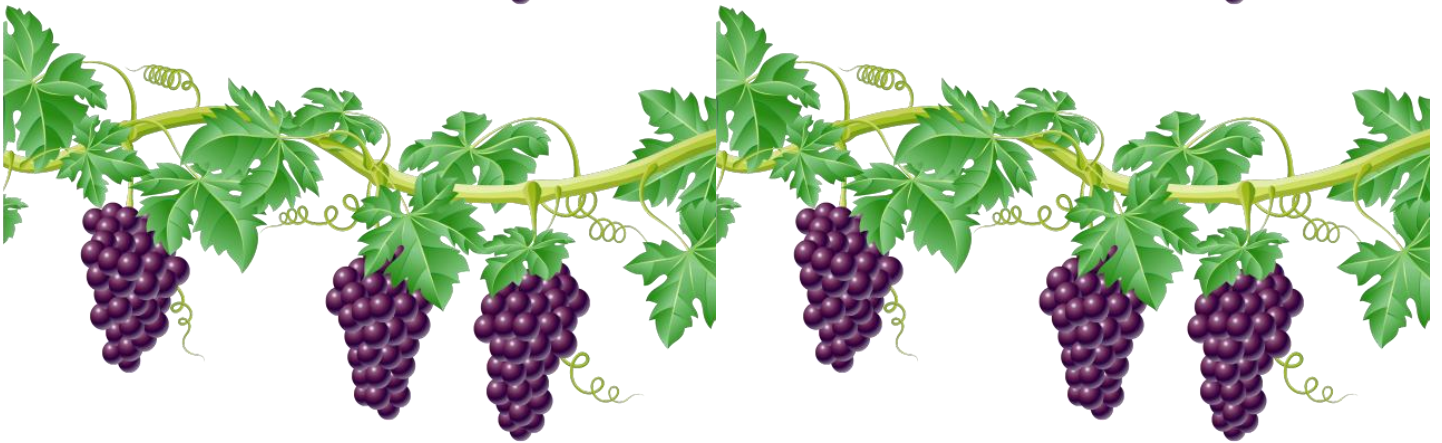
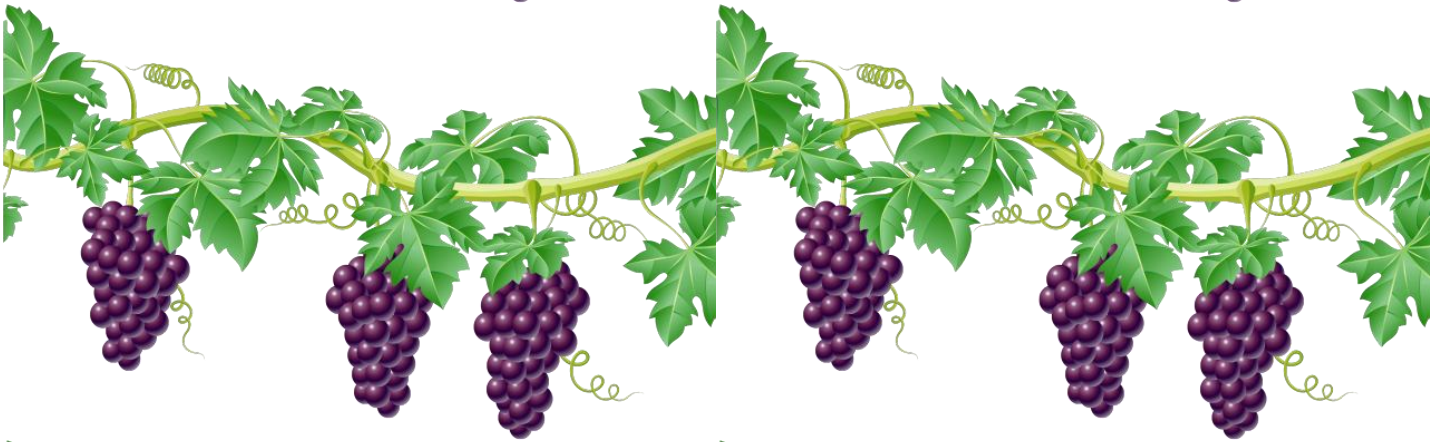
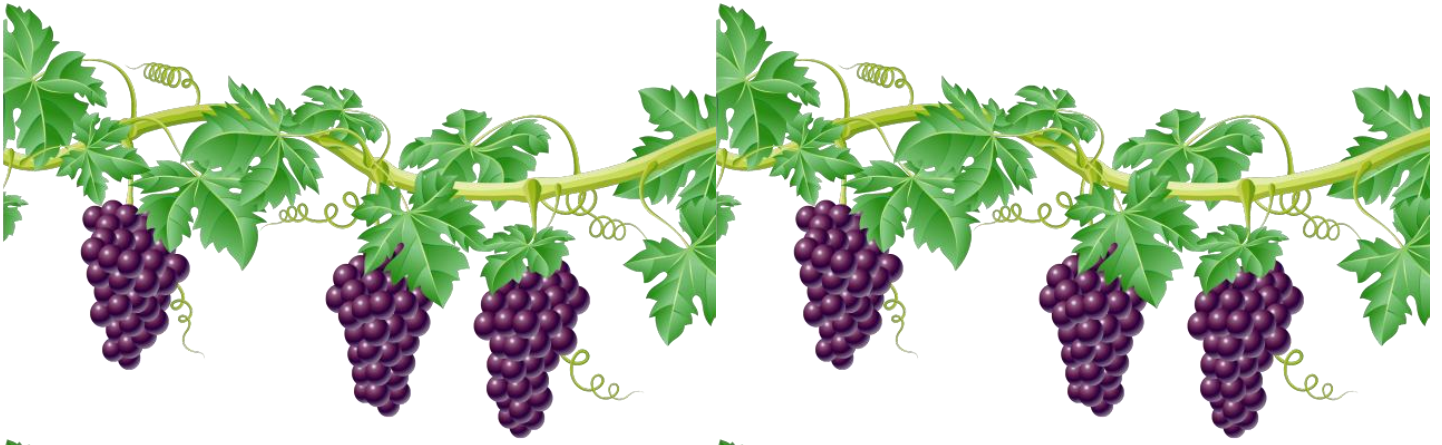
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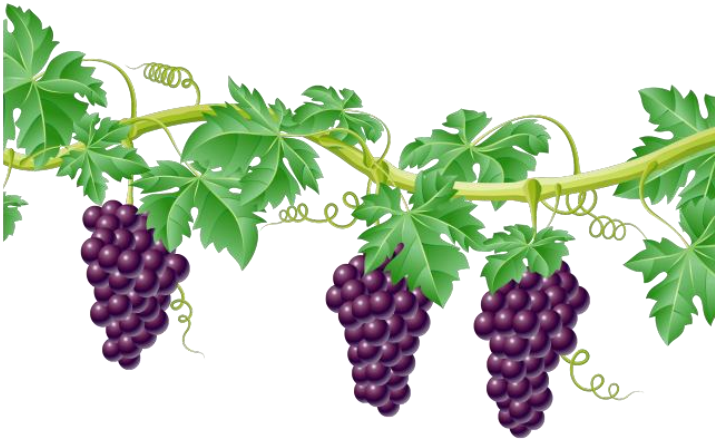


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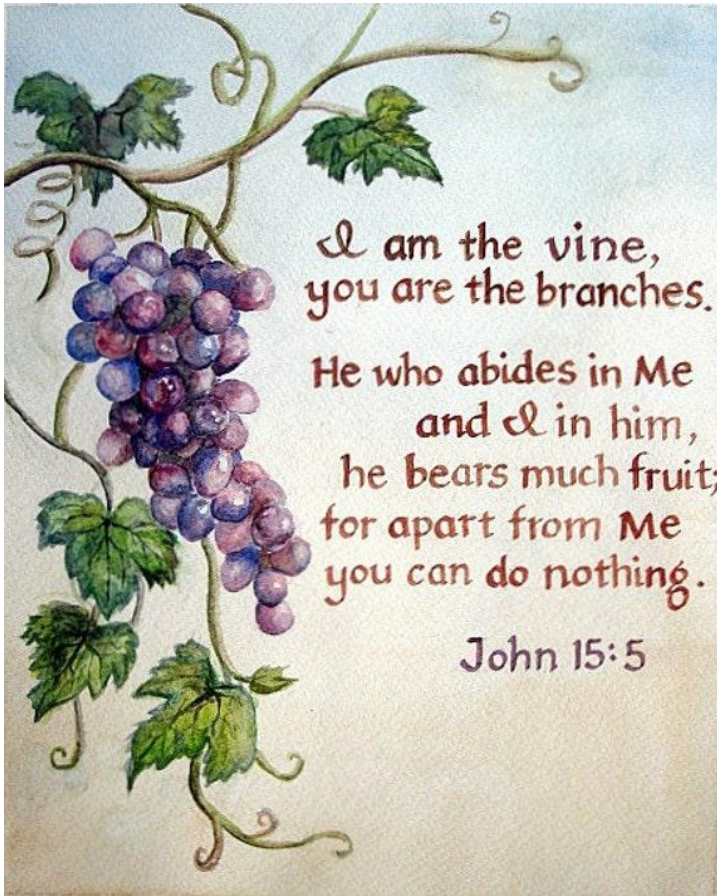


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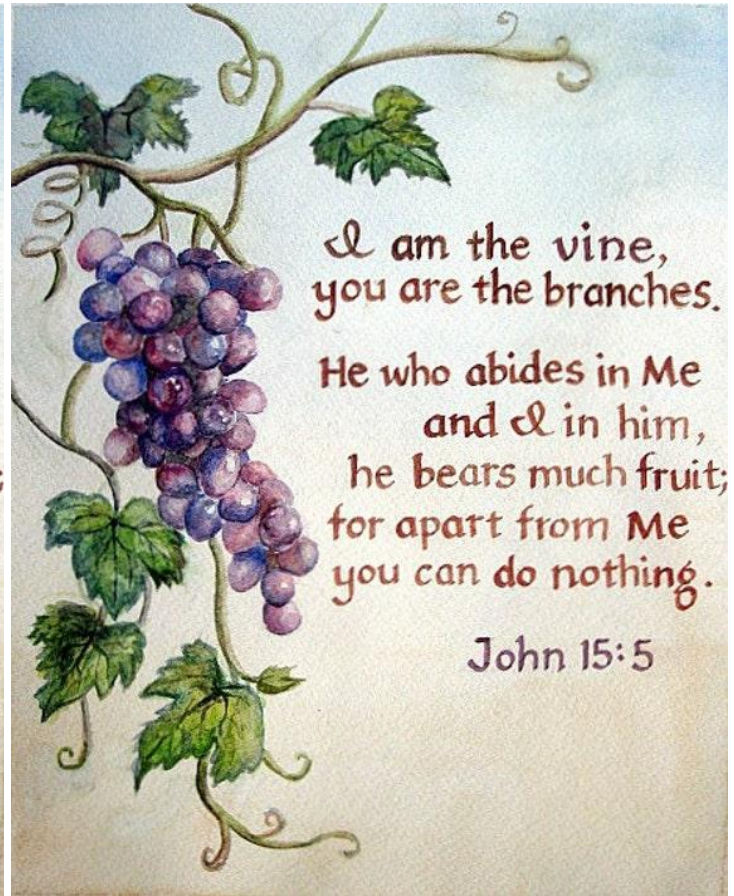




I am the vine,  
you are the branches.

He who abides in Me  
and I in him,  
he bears much fruit;  
for apart from Me  
you can do nothing.

John 15:5



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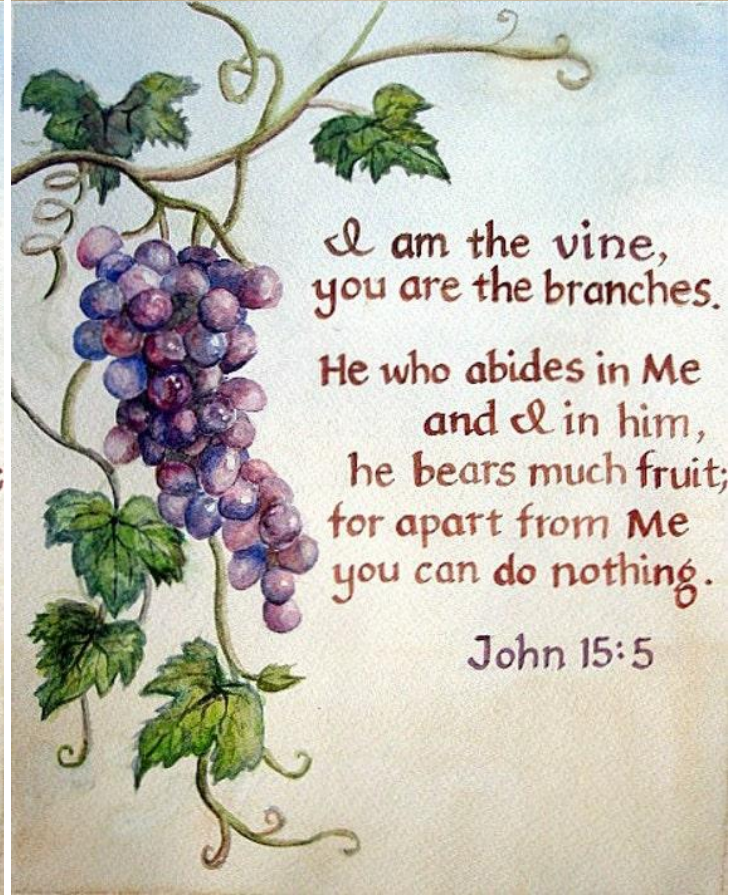
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