

21.07 Syrians Blinded and Let Go (2 Kings 6:8–23)

✓ “*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. They also indicate answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- (Optional) Flannelgraph from CEF’s “Elisha”; background of outside of house; inside palace
- Puppets might be effective in the first part of this story, which is written in script format. Needed are these puppets of males: Syrian king, Elisha, Israel’s king, 2 servants.

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.

- *blindness*: having eyes that cannot see
- Review definitions for *raids* (small groups of soldiers take over a city or territory) and *wars* (whole army wages war against a whole country).

Scripture: (ESV)

2 Kings 6:8 Once when the king of Syria was warring against Israel, he took counsel with his servants, saying, “At such and such a place shall be my camp.” 9 But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel, “Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are going down there.” 10 And the king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God told him. Thus he used to warn him, so that he saved himself there more than once or twice.

11 And the mind of the king of Syria was greatly troubled because of this thing, and he called his servants and said to them, “Will you not show me who of us is for the king of Israel?” 12 And one of his servants said, “None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.” 13 And he said, “Go and see where he is, that I may send and seize him.” It was told him, “Behold, he is in Dothan.” 14 So he sent there horses and chariots and a great army, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

15 When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” 16 He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 18 And when the Syrians came down against him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, “Please strike this people with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness in accordance with the prayer of Elisha. 19 And Elisha said to them, “This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.” And he led them to Samaria.

20 As soon as they entered Samaria, Elisha said, “O Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see.” So the Lord opened their eyes and they saw, and behold, they were in the midst of Samaria. 21 As soon as the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, “My father, shall I strike them down? Shall I strike them down?” 22 He answered, “You shall not strike them down. Would you strike down those whom you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.” 23 So he prepared for them a great feast, and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the Syrians did not come again on raids into the land of Israel.

Introduction/Review:

[Show pictures or flashcards from the story of Naaman and ask students to recount the story.]

Story:

Last time we told you about Syria's raiding Israel and even waging war against Israel. Today's story will teach us about a time when the king of Syria attempted to raid two or three different cities in Israel. This is what he did. He gathered his servants together to plan just where the Syrians could surprise attack the Israelites and, thus, beat the Israelites in battle. Let's pretend to be with him as he talks to his servants.

Syrian king: We will set up camp in Hazor. [No specific cities are mentioned in the biblical account; random cities of Israel are given here for illustration.] ✓We will surprise the king of Israel. Let's go!

Elisha [off a distance from the Syrian king and not looking at him]: ✓Is that right, Lord? The Syrian king is going to Hazor. I'll tell the king of Israel. Go, Servant, to Samaria. Tell the king of Israel that the Syrian king wants to ambush him at Hazor. He should not go there.

Israel's king: Thank you so much for your information. [Turning to another.] Go check Hazor out to see if this is true. We'll be sure not to go there.

Syrian king: I can't understand why the Israelites didn't come up to Hazor. Well, let's set up camp in ✓Carmel. That's a little closer to Samaria. We'll surely get them this time.

Elisha: Thank you, Lord, for telling me where the Syrian king is going. I'll send word to Israel's king. Servant, go tell the king not to go to Carmel, for the Syrian king is there with his men.

Israel's king: You have another message from Elisha? The Syrians are at Carmel? We shouldn't go there? Check it out, Servant. We won't go there.

Syrian king: That's two times that Israel's king has learned where we were. Is someone in this court telling him our plans? Is one of you in favor with the king of Israel? You'd better not be! Well, we'll try again. Let's go to ✓Jezreel this time, and none of you had better let the Israelites know!

Elisha: Yes, Lord, I'll tell him. Servant, go tell the king of Israel that the Syrians are at Jezreel. Tell him not to go there.

Israel's king: Are the Syrians lying in wait for us again? Where is it this time? Jezreel, eh. Well, we won't go there.

Syrian king [very agitated]: Someone told that king again! Now, which one of you is it?!?

Servant: No, O king. It is not one of us but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel. He tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.

Syrian king: No kidding? Find out where this Elisha is so that I may send horses, chariots, and a great army to capture him. Go by night and surround his city. [End of puppet script.]

Syrian army at Dothan

Just as the Syrian king commanded, the great Syrian army surrounded the city called Dothan, where Elisha was staying. Elisha's servant got up in the morning and saw this multitude of soldiers stationed all around the city. He was scared. "My master, what shall we do?!?" he cried in anguish.

"Don't be afraid," replied Elisha, "for those who are with us are more than those who are with them. Lord, please open the eyes of my servant so that he will see who is with us."

The Lord's army at Dothan

The Lord answered Elisha's prayer, and the servant's eyes were opened to behold Elisha's protection--a whole mountain full of horses and chariots of fire.

The Bible tells us this kind of protection is still available for the children of God: "Greater is he that is in

you than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

The Syrian army blinded and led away

Yet, the Syrians came closer and closer in order to capture Elisha. Elisha prayed again: “Please strike these people with blindness so that they cannot see.” Those soldiers were immediately blind. ✓ Now, we think this blindness might not have been the kind that closes the eyes so that a person must grope around to move. Rather, it might have been a blindness that made these soldiers unable to recognize Elisha nor their surroundings. Whether it was complete blindness or not, Elisha said to them, “This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.”

Elisha led that huge Syrian army, who followed him “blindly,” ten miles or more south to Samaria, the city where Israel’s king lived. As soon as Elisha and the army entered the city, Elisha prayed, “O Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see.” So the Lord opened their eyes, they saw, and ✓ they were frightened out of their wits for they were in the midst of the city of their enemies who could slay them!!

The Syrian army fed and sent away

The king of Israel was frenzied [Teacher, act nervous], not knowing what to do. “Shall I slay them, my father, shall I slay them?” he asked Elisha.

Elisha answered, “You shall not slay them. Wouldn’t you feed captives you had taken in battle with your sword? Give them a big feast. When they are full, send them home.”

And that’s exactly what happened. Those soldiers went home to their master, and for a while those raids on Israel stopped.

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:

The kind treatment offered by Elisha to the Syrian army is a reminder of Jesus’ words in the Sermon on the Mount in which He said, “I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matthew 5:43–45; see also Romans 12:20).

Activities:

- Play dough: horses; chariots; eyes
- Snack: Frog-Eye Salad. Small-shaped pasta such as pastina or small stars, Israeli-style couscous, or tapioca pearls may be substituted for the ingredient Acini di Pepe. A recipe is found at [Frog Eye Salad Recipe - simplesidedishes.com](http://www.simplesidedishes.com/recipe/frog-eye-salad/).
- Sing “The Eyes of the Lord Are Everywhere” from Children’s Ministries International (CMI). An audio version of this song is at [https://irp.cdn-website.com/421a1f11/files/uploaded/08 B8 The Eyes of the Lord Are Everywhere.mp3](https://irp.cdn-website.com/421a1f11/files/uploaded/08%20B8%20The%20Eyes%20of%20the%20Lord%20Are%20Everywhere.mp3).
- Take precautions with this activity: Blindfold students and try to have them follow a person without touching that person.
- Sing “Greater Is He That Is in Me” from 1 John 4:4. This music is available at [Greater Is He That Is in Me Sheet music for Piano \(Solo\) | Musescore.com](https://www.musescore.com/user/10000000/score/10000000). A suggestion is to change the word, *me*, to *you*, as in the biblical text.
- Sing “My God Is So Big.” Here is a video of this song: <http://missionbibleclass.org/songs/songs-k-p/my-god-is-so-big-song/>
- Review Questions: (Game: Play “Pin the Tail on the Donkey” or other animal. If a student answers a question correctly, s/he is blindfolded and gets a chance to pin the tail.)

1. When the king of Syria and his soldiers wanted to raid Israel, what happened to thwart their plans? [The Israelites found out through Elisha that Syria was coming, and Israel didn't go that way.]
2. After this happened a few times, what did the king of Syria think? [That someone in his army was telling Israel where they planned to go.]
3. What did the king of Syria do when he learned Elisha was the culprit? [Sent an army to surround Dothan where Elisha was staying.]
4. What did Elisha mean when he said, "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them"? [The mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.]
5. What did Elisha ask God to do when the Syrians were getting to him? ["Please strike this people with blindness."]
6. What did Elisha do to this "blind" army? [Led them to Samaria.]
7. What did the king of Israel ask Elisha? ["My father, shall I strike them down?"]
8. What was Elisha's answer? ["You shall not strike them down. Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master."]

Memory Verse[s]:

Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, 3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. 5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. 6 The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. 7 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

8 Come, behold the works of the Lord, how he has brought desolations on the earth. 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. 10 "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" 11 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Handwork:

- Print the clipart found at [b26c21c4696009cc50fda5cad27d09de.jpg \(1024x724\)](http://b26c21c4696009cc50fda5cad27d09de.jpg) (pinimg.com). Students will color the picture.

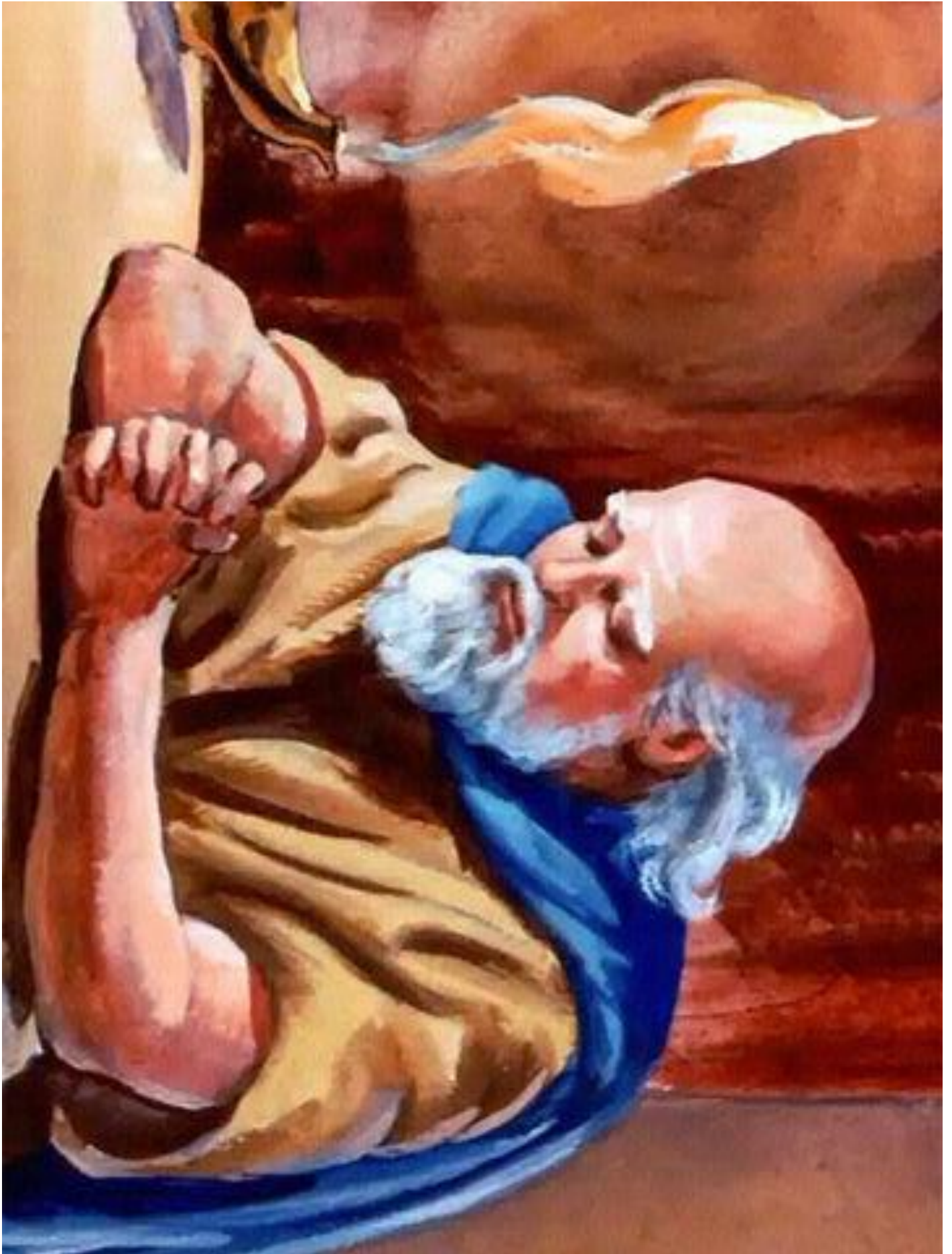
blindness

raids

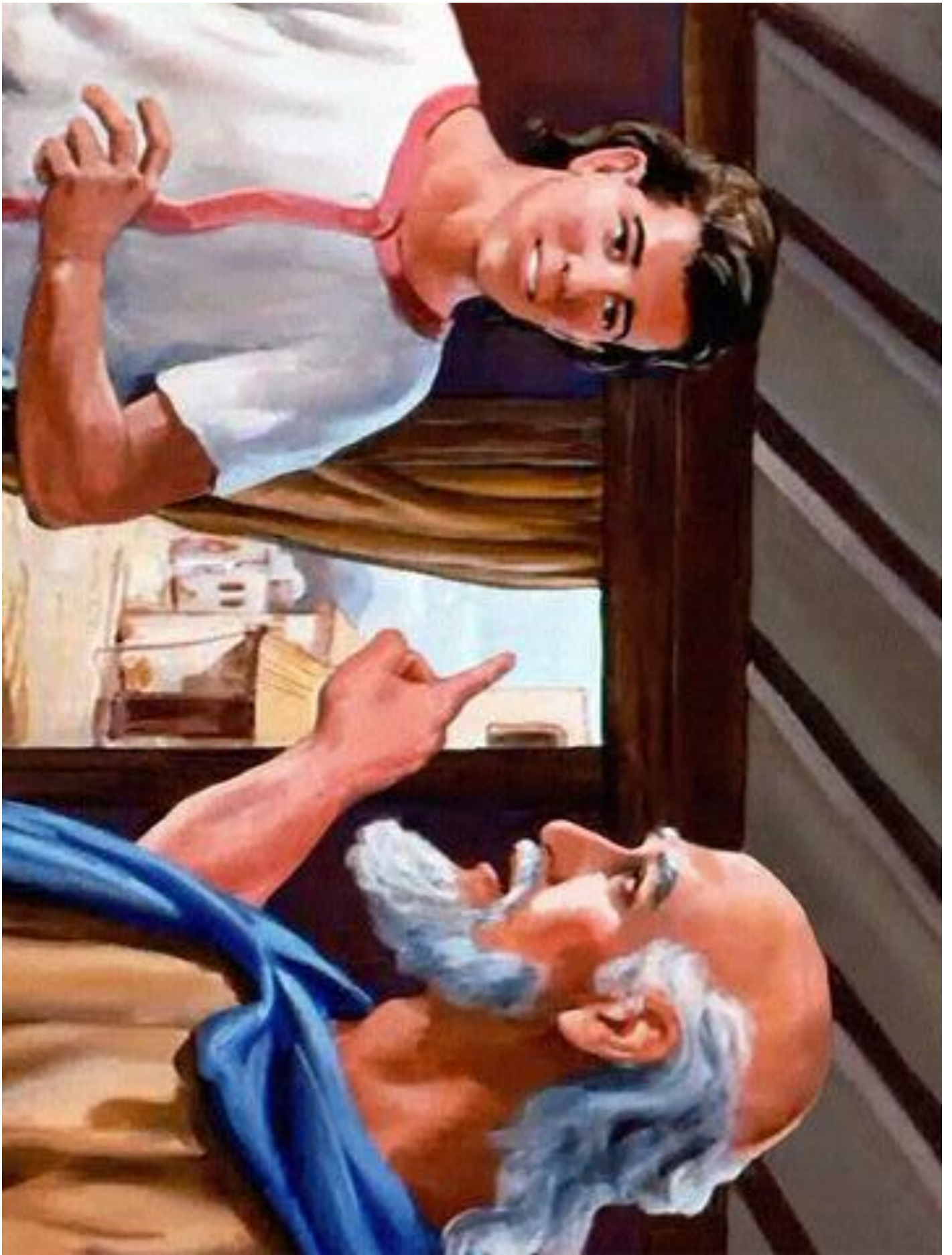
wars



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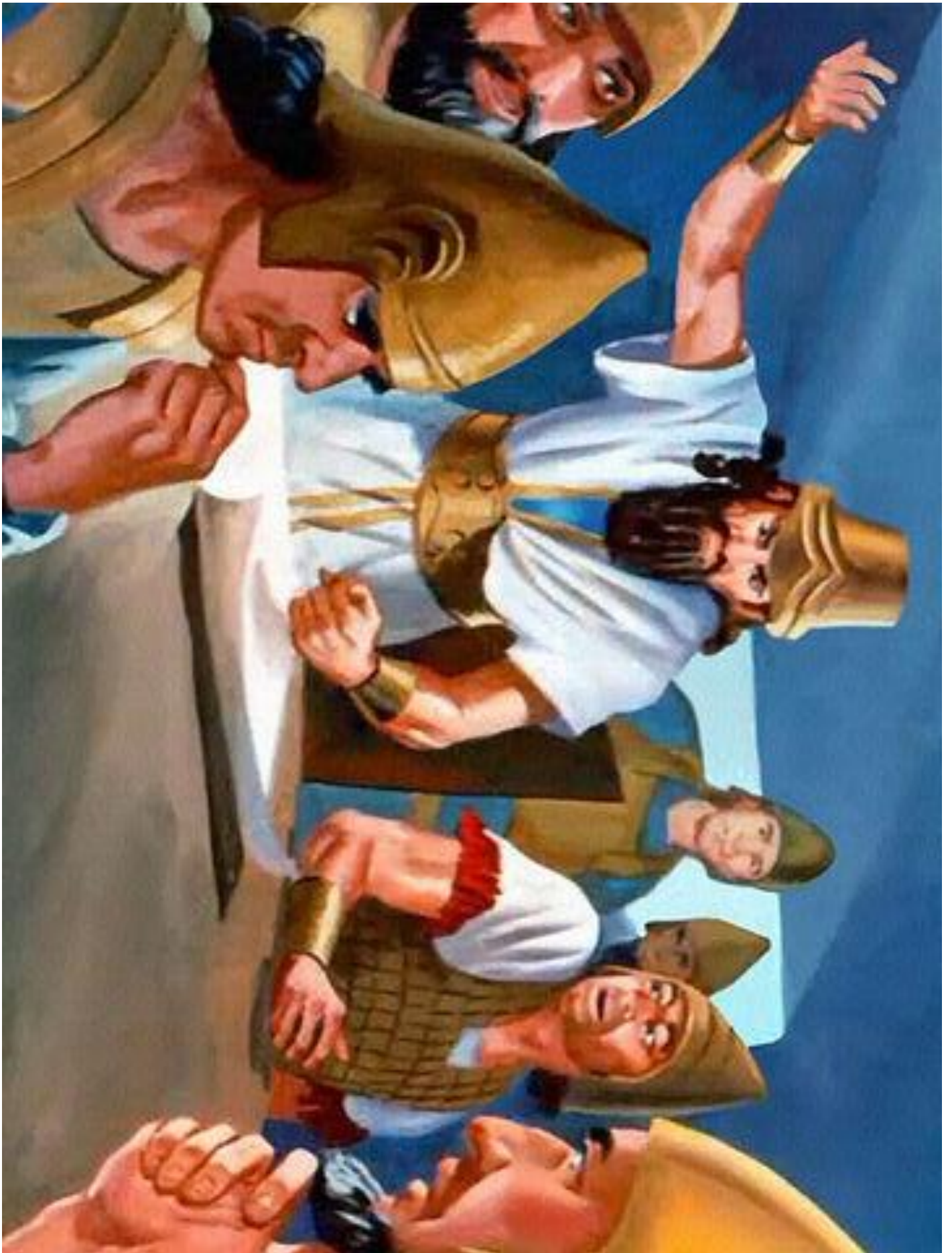
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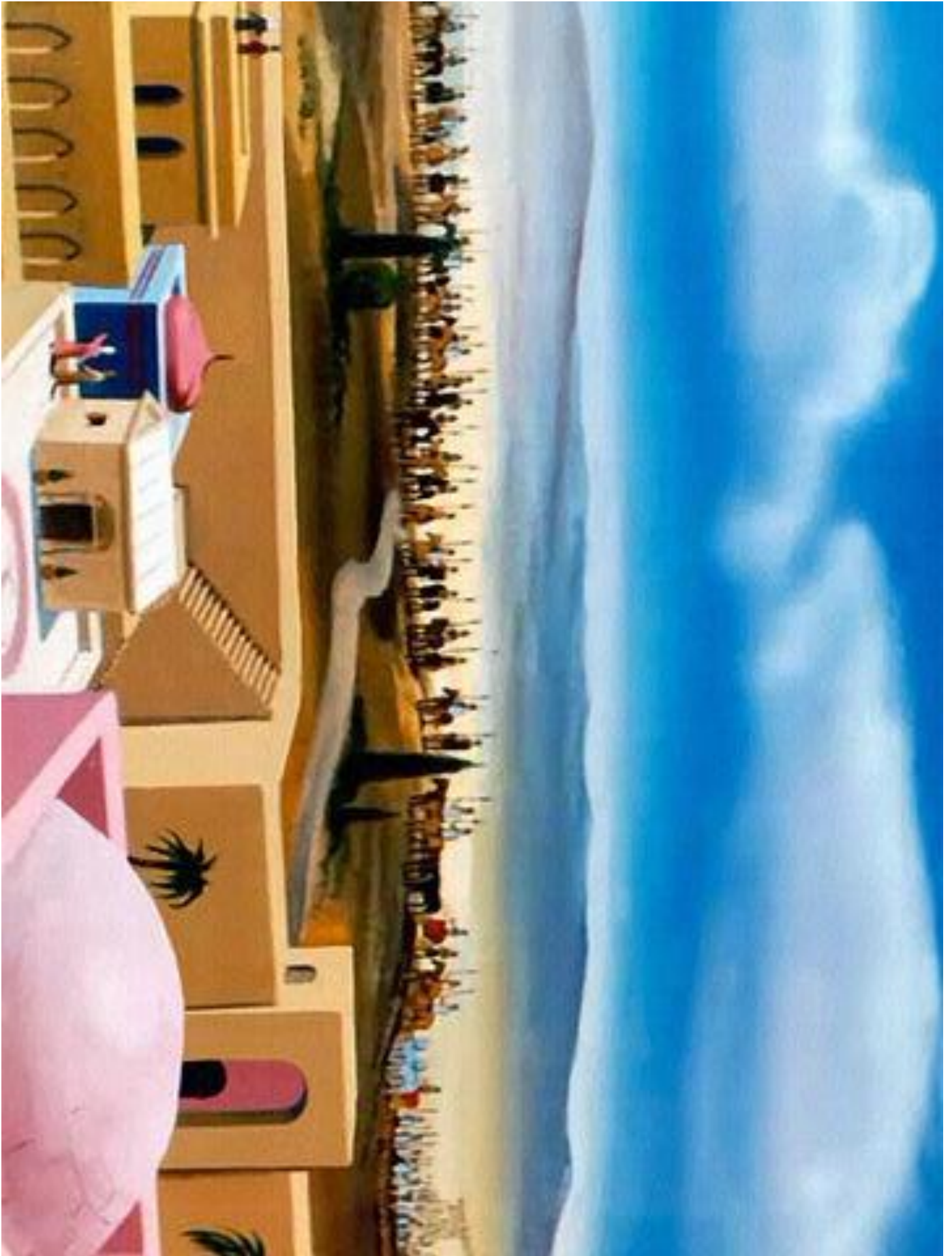
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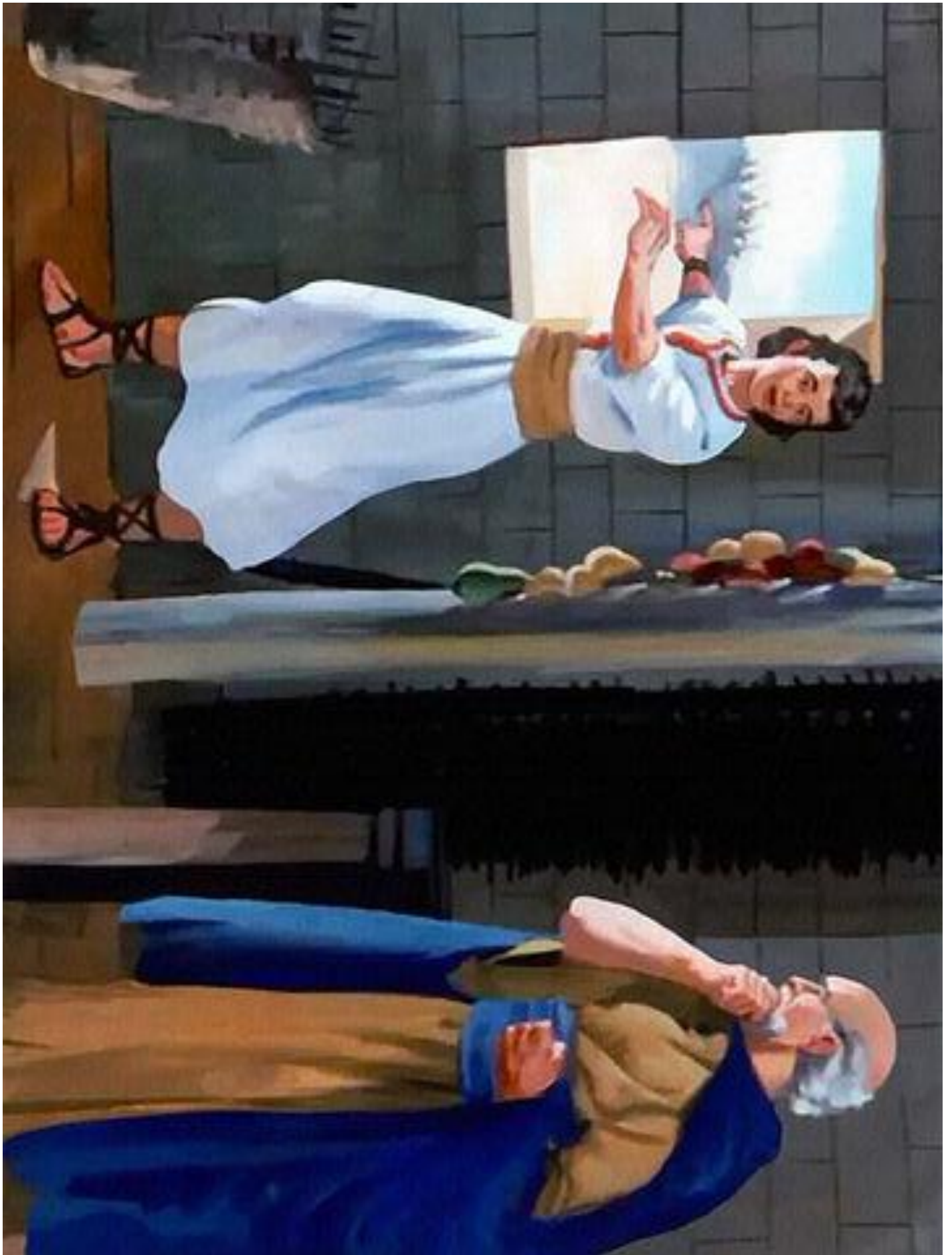
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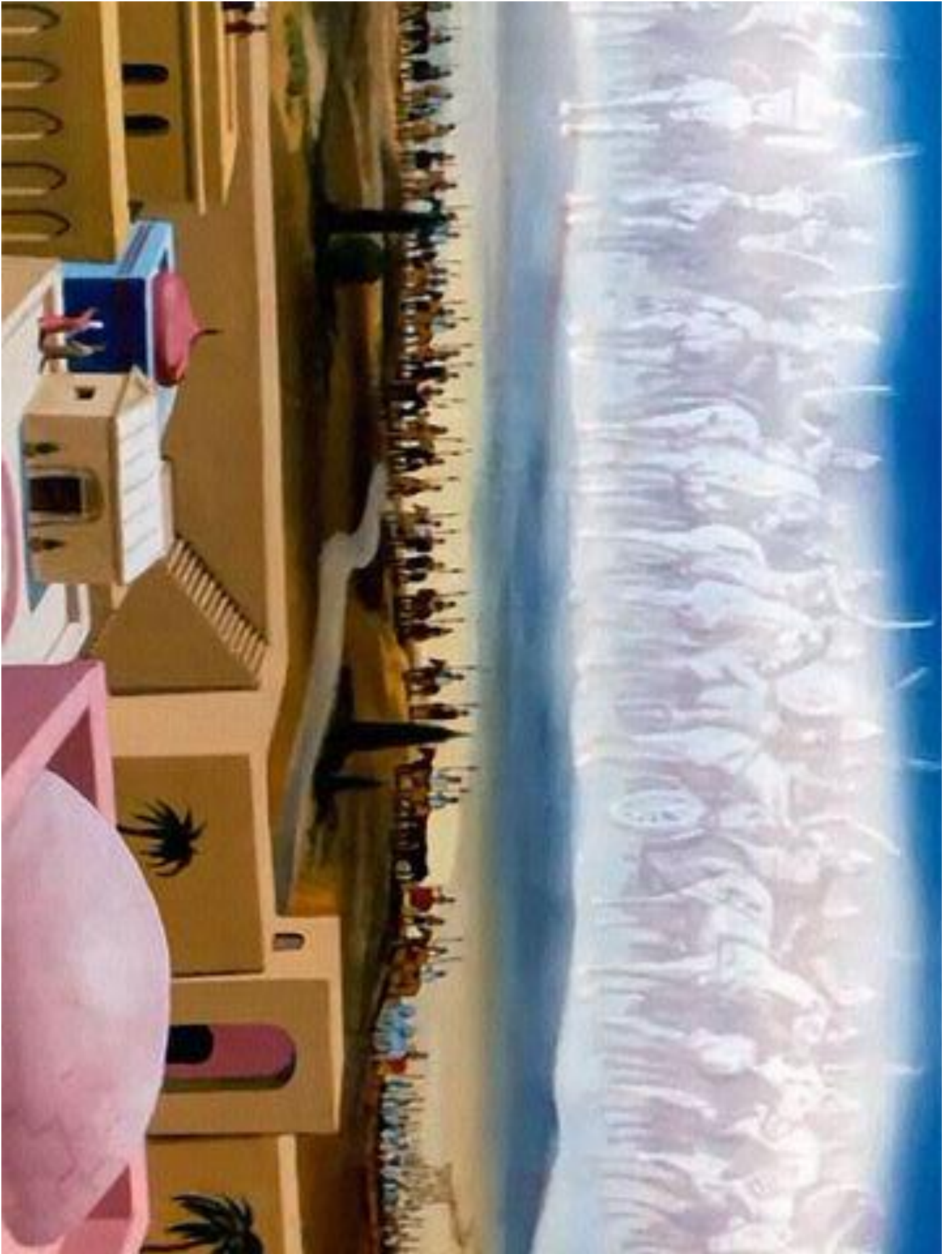
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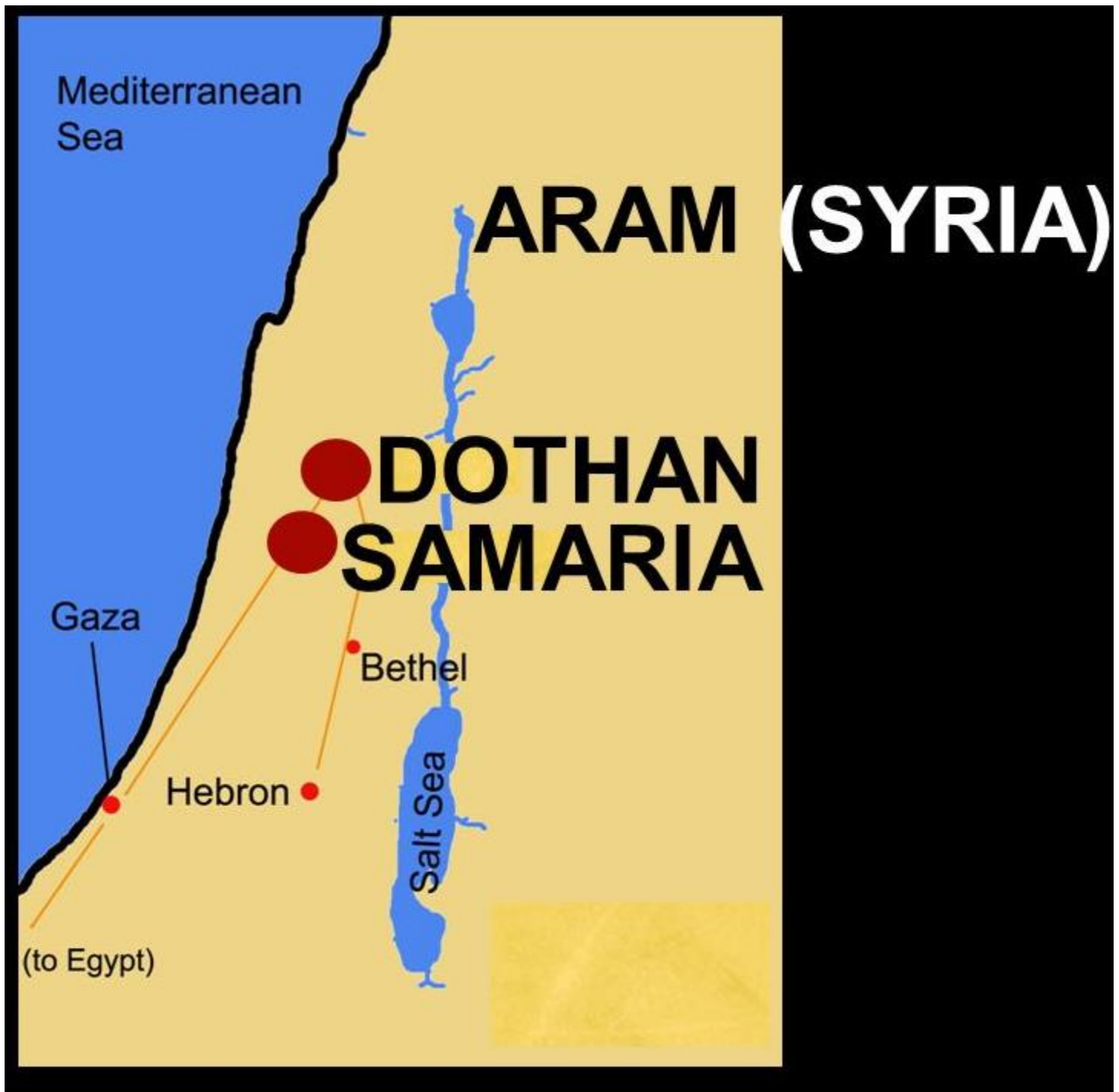
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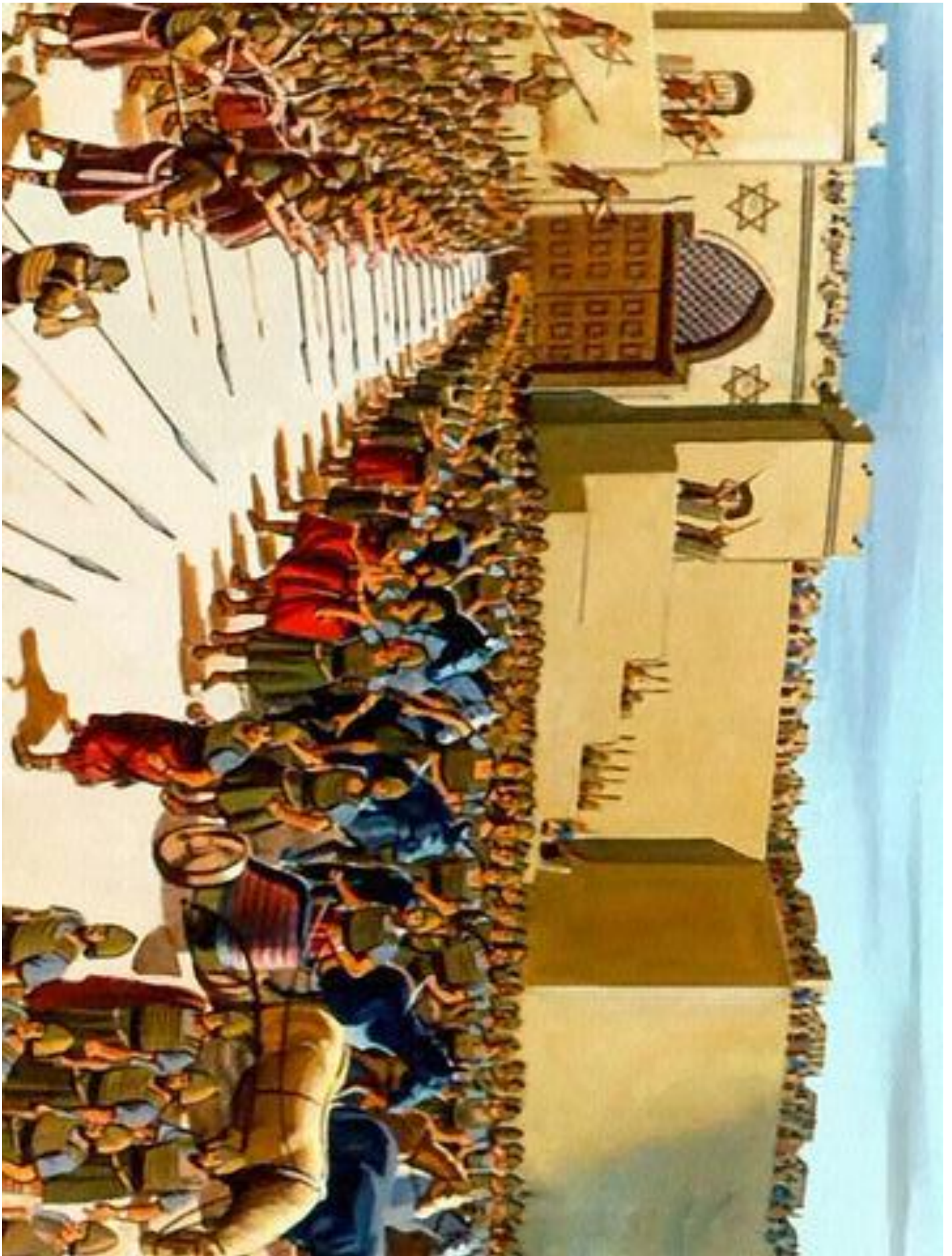


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