

17.29 Ammonites Reproach David (1 Samuel 11:1, 2; 2 Samuel 10:1–19 ; 1 Chronicles 19:1–19)

✓ “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.
- (optional) A robe (can be made out of an old pillow case or curtain; cut armholes and front opening)
- (optional) A beard for a student (may be constructed by sewing yarn to a piece of seam binding)
- Plastic Bible soldiers and a box to indicate a city

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.

- *Arameans*: people from the area of Syria [locate]; the term is now *Syrians*

Scripture: (ESV)

1 Samuel 11:1 Then Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh-gilead, and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, “Make a treaty with us, and we will serve you.” 2 But Nahash the Ammonite said to them, “On this condition I will make a treaty with you, that I gouge out all your right eyes, and thus bring disgrace on all Israel.” . . . 11 And the next day Saul put the people in three companies. And they came into the midst of the camp in the morning watch and struck down the Ammonites until the heat of the day. And those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.

2 Samuel 10:1 After this the king of the Ammonites died, and Hanun his son reigned in his place. 2 And David said, “I will deal loyally with Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father dealt loyally with me.” So David sent by his servants to console him concerning his father. And David’s servants came into the land of the Ammonites. 3 But the princes of the Ammonites said to Hanun their lord, “Do you think, because David has sent comforters to you, that he is honoring your father? Has not David sent his servants to you to search the city and to spy it out and to overthrow it?” 4 So Hanun took David’s servants and shaved off half the beard of each and cut off their garments in the middle, at their hips, and sent them away. 5 When it was told David, he sent to meet them, for the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, “Remain at Jericho until your beards have grown and then return.”

6 When the Ammonites saw that they had become a stench to David, the Ammonites sent [sent 1,000 talents of silver to hire chariots and horsemen from Mesopotamia; 1 Chronicles 19:6] and hired the Syrians of Beth-rehob, and the Syrians of Zobah, 20,000 foot soldiers, and the king of Maacah with 1,000 men, and the men of Tob, 12,000 men. [They hired 32,000 chariots and the king of Maacah with his army, who came and encamped before Medeba. And the Ammonites were mustered from their cities and came to battle; 1 Chronicles 19:7] 7 And when David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the host of the mighty men. 8 And the Ammonites came out and drew up in battle array at the entrance of the gate, and the Syrians of Zobah and of Rehob and the men of Tob and Maacah were by themselves in the open country.

9 When Joab saw that the battle was set against him both in front and in the rear, he chose some of the best men of Israel and arrayed them against the Syrians. 10 The rest of his men he put in the charge of Abishai his brother, and he arrayed them against the Ammonites. 11 And he said, “If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me, but if the Ammonites are too strong for you, then I will come and help you. 12 Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God, and may the Lord do what seems good to him.” 13 So Joab and the people who were with him drew near to battle against the Syrians, and they fled before him. 14 And when the Ammonites saw that the Syrians fled, they likewise fled before Abishai and entered the city. Then Joab returned from fighting against the Ammonites and came to Jerusalem.

15 But when the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they gathered themselves together. 16 And Hadadezer sent and brought out the Syrians who were beyond the Euphrates. They came to Helam, with Shobach the commander of the army of Hadadezer at their head. 17 And when it was told David, he gathered all Israel together and crossed the Jordan and came to Helam. The Syrians arrayed themselves against David and fought with him. 18 And the Syrians fled before Israel, and David killed of the Syrians the men of 700 chariots, and 40,000 horsemen, and wounded Shobach the commander of their army, so that he died there. 19 And when all the kings who were servants of Hadadezer saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and became subject to them. So the Syrians were afraid to save the Ammonites anymore.

Introduction/Review:

Let's name some of the good things David did after becoming king over all Israel. [Teacher, if you have a bulletin board or other display of the events in David's life—see the "Extras" page for bulletin boards at teachingthebibleto kids.org—use it to review these points.]

1. Conquered Jerusalem and made it the capital city
2. Fought Philistines and got back land Saul had lost
3. Brought the ark to Jerusalem
4. Defeated God's enemies, expanded Israel's territory, and got materials for the temple
5. Was kind to Mephibosheth

So far, we can see that, as the Bible says, "The Lord was with David wherever he went."

Story:

Just after Saul had been anointed king of Israel, Nahash, the king of Ammon [locate southwest of Israel], had threatened to take over Jabesh Gilead (north and east of the Jordan River). Saul had defeated Nahash.

Sending sympathy

✓Perhaps David had gotten some help from this King Nahash when he was hiding from Saul. We don't know, but it is obvious he had helped David at some time.

Now, Nahash, king of the Ammonites, died, and David thought, "I will show kindness to Hanun, Nahash's son, just as his father, Nahash, showed kindness to me" (2 Samuel 10:2). So David gathered a small group of men together and said, "I want you to go to Ammon and speak to Hanun the new king. Tell Hanun how sorry I am that his father died." [Optional activity: dress a student in a robe and a beard.]

This group of men did as David said: They went to Hanun to tell him how sorry David was that Nahash had died. But the nobles and advisers to the new King Hanun didn't believe David's messengers. They said to King Hanun, "You don't really believe these men are here to show kindness, do you? Don't you think David sent these men as spies to check us out so that he may war against our city?"

Stinking treatment

So instead of receiving comfort from David, the men of Ammon grabbed David's men, shaved off half their beards, and cut off their robes just below their hips. [Optional activity: cut off half the beard and part of the garment of the student dressed in a "robe."] Oh, it was shameful! Then the Ammonites sent David's messengers away to face the jeering people along the road back to Israel.

David learned about this humiliating treatment of his men and sent messengers to meet them, telling them, "Stay at Jericho [locate] until your beards have grown; then come on home."

By this time, the Ammonites realized they had made a serious mistake. Israel did not like what Ammon had done. Their actions were like a bad stink in Israel's nostrils.

Hiring soldiers

The Ammonites figured they'd better prepare for a war that was sure to come. In order to be sure they had

enough men to fight, they hired soldiers—33,000 of them from other kingdoms called Arameans (Syrians) to help them. There they were—the Ammonites in front of their city gate and the hired soldiers out in the fields. [Demonstrate with plastic soldiers.]

David, when he heard about the Ammonites' preparation for war, sent his captain Joab and the army against the Ammonite soldiers near their city gate.

Oh, Oh! Joab was in trouble. Somehow he hadn't learned that the hired soldiers were in the field behind him. He had an enemy line in front and an enemy line behind him. This was not good at all. It was a sure setup for defeat.

But Joab devised a plan. He and some of his best troops would go behind and fight the hired soldiers—the Arameans/Syrians. He would have his brother Abishai go against the Ammonites at the city gate.

"Listen," he said to Abishai. "If the hired Aramean soldiers are too strong against me, you come help me. If the Ammonites are too strong for you, I'll come help you. Let's both be strong and fight bravely for our people and the cities of our God. The Lord will do what is good in His sight."

Trusting God

Joab not only trusted the Lord; he also demonstrated his trust by fighting the enemy. When he and his men started fighting the hired soldiers, those Syrians thought, "Let's get out of here" and ran away. When the Ammonites saw that the hired soldiers were running away, they, too, ran back into their city. There was no more battle to fight; so Joab and Abishai and their men went back home to Jerusalem.

That's not the end of the story, though. When those hired soldiers returned to Syria, they mustered more soldiers to come back and attack Israel. When David heard about this gathering against Israel, he got his army, crossed the Jordan to meet the enemy in battle, and defeated them, slaying 47,000 of them.

From then on, those nations did not fight Israel but became servants to David.

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:
"Jesus Christ, the Son of David, sent his ambassadors, his apostles and ministers, after all his servants the prophets, to the Jewish church and nation; but they treated them shamefully, as Hanun did David's ambassadors, mocked them, abused them, slew them; and it was this that filled the measure of their iniquity, and brought upon them ruin without remedy ([Matt. 21:35, 41, 22:7](#); [2 Chron. 26:16](#)); for Christ takes the affronts and injuries done to his ministers as done to himself and will avenge them accordingly" ([2 Samuel 10 Commentary - Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible \(Complete\) \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).

Activities:

- Play dough: Put the clay through a "machine" with holes; "shave" half of these "beards" with a plastic knife.
- Snack: [Spaghetti and Meatball Snack Cups Recipe | Be Plum Crazy! \(plumcrazyaboutcoupons.com\)](#)
- Reenact the battle scene with plastic soldiers
- Review questions: (Game: Print on card stock and cut apart the beard silhouettes found below. For each correct answer, a student may place a silhouette in a pocket chart.)
 1. How had Nahash, king of Ammon, dealt with David? [Loyally; with kindness.]
 2. Why did David send messengers to Hanun, son of Nahash, after Nahash's death? [To express sympathy because of the death of his father.]
 3. What did the princes of Ammon think was David's real motive for sending messengers to Ammon?

[To spy out the land so that he could war against it.]

4. What did the Ammonites do to shame the messengers from David? [Shaved off half their beards; cut off their robes.]
5. When he realized he had provoked Israel, to whom did Ammon send for help? [Mesopotamia: Syria, Zobah, Maachah, Tob. Any of these answers will be fine.]
6. Who were the two army captains of Israel in this battle? [Joab and his brother Abishai.]
7. How did the battle go? [The hired armies and Ammon both fled from Israel.]
8. Which country tried a second time to fight against Israel? [Syria.]
9. How did that battle turn out? [Syria was defeated and became subject to David.]

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

- 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.

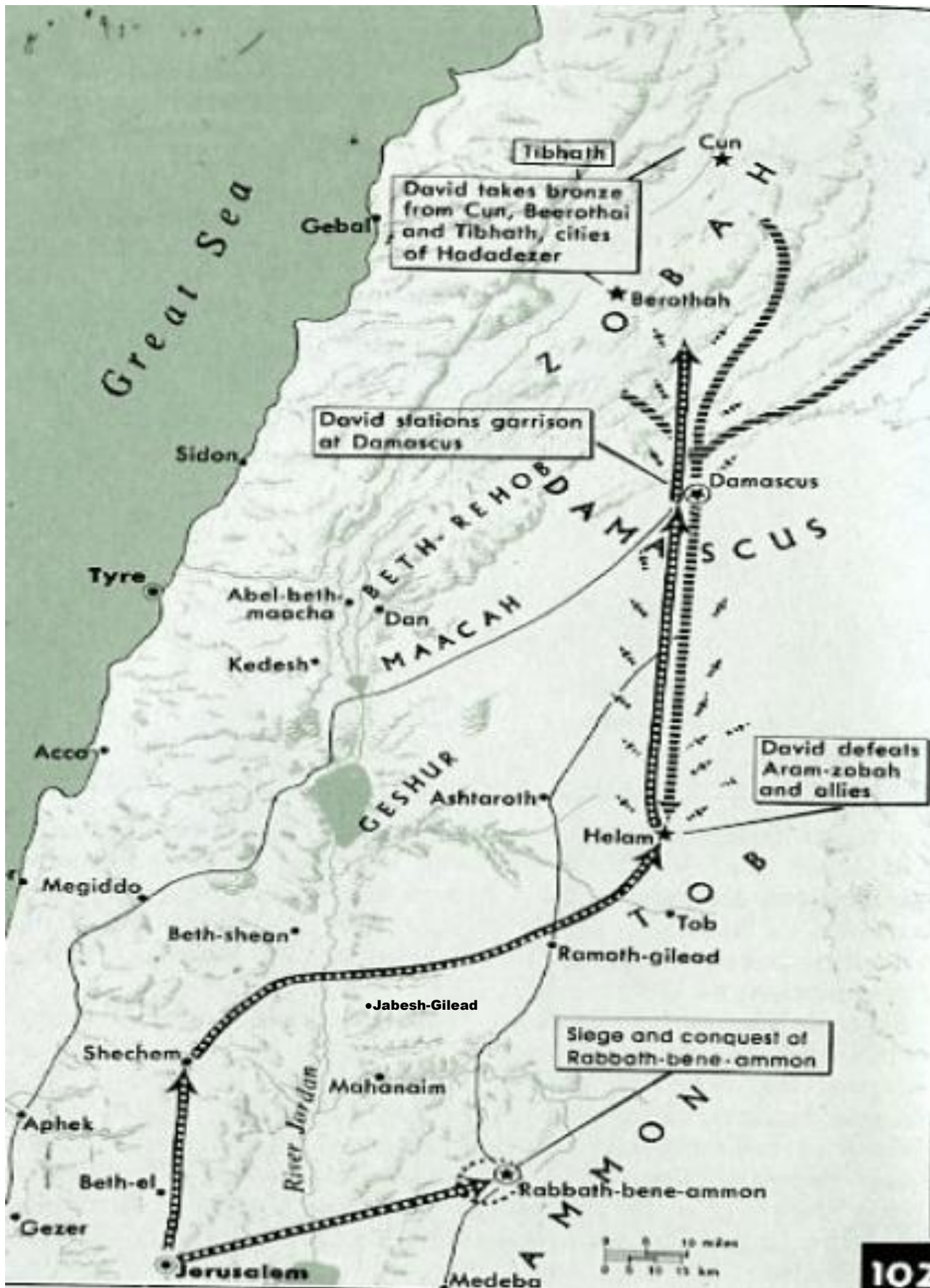
Handwork:

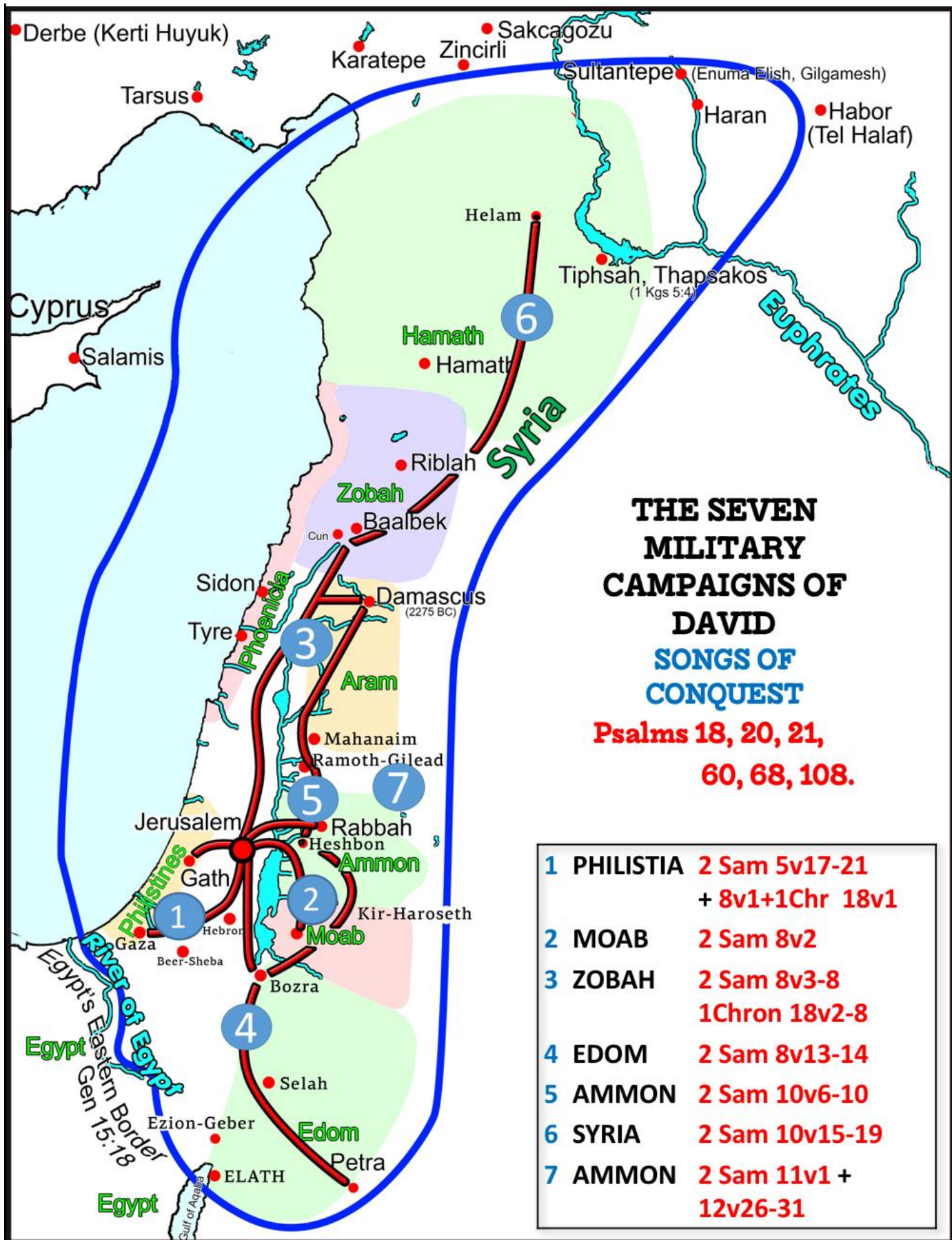
- Print on card stock the men's faces found below. Cut apart and give one to each student. Glue yarn beards to the faces; cut off half the yarn.

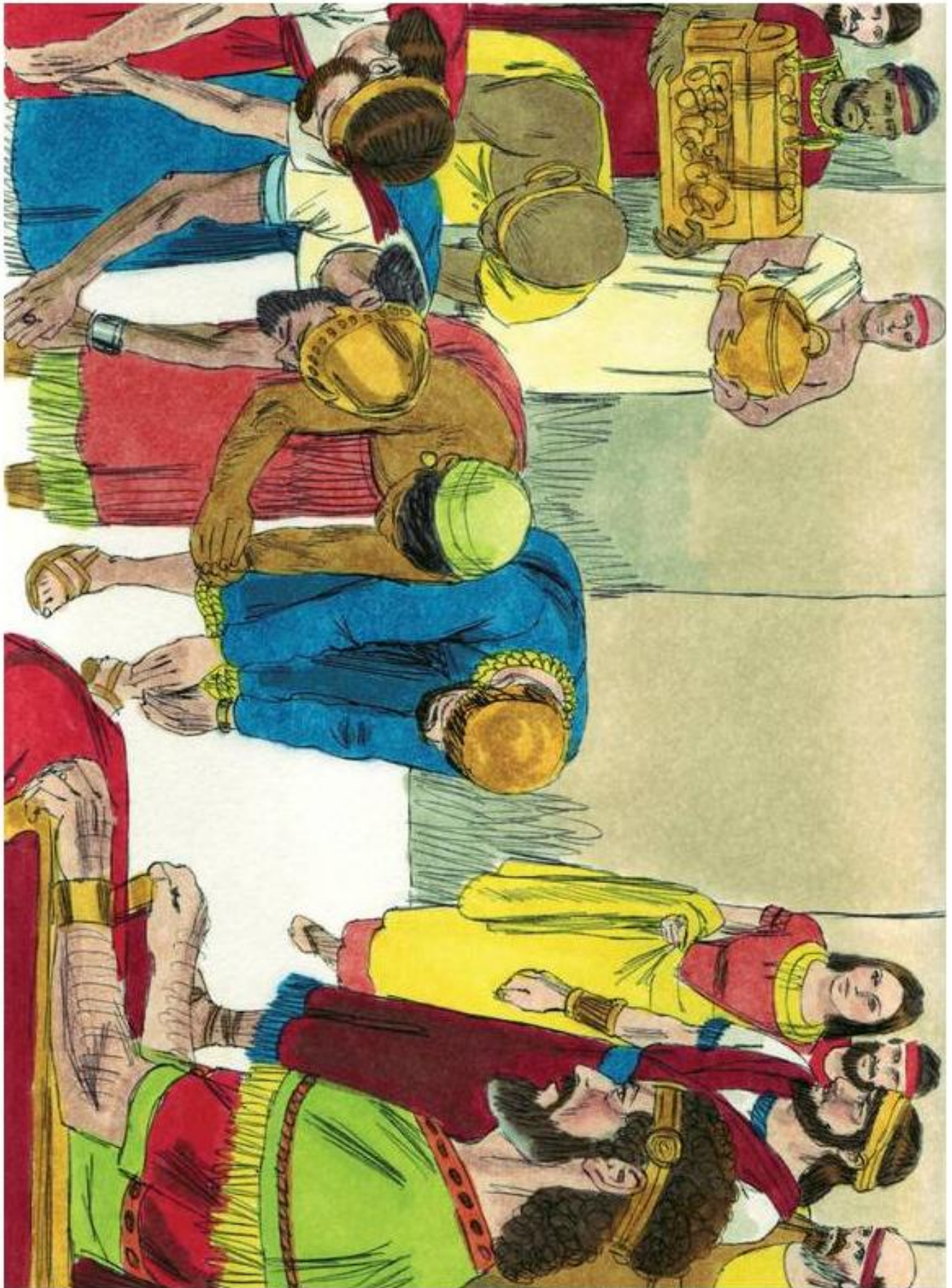


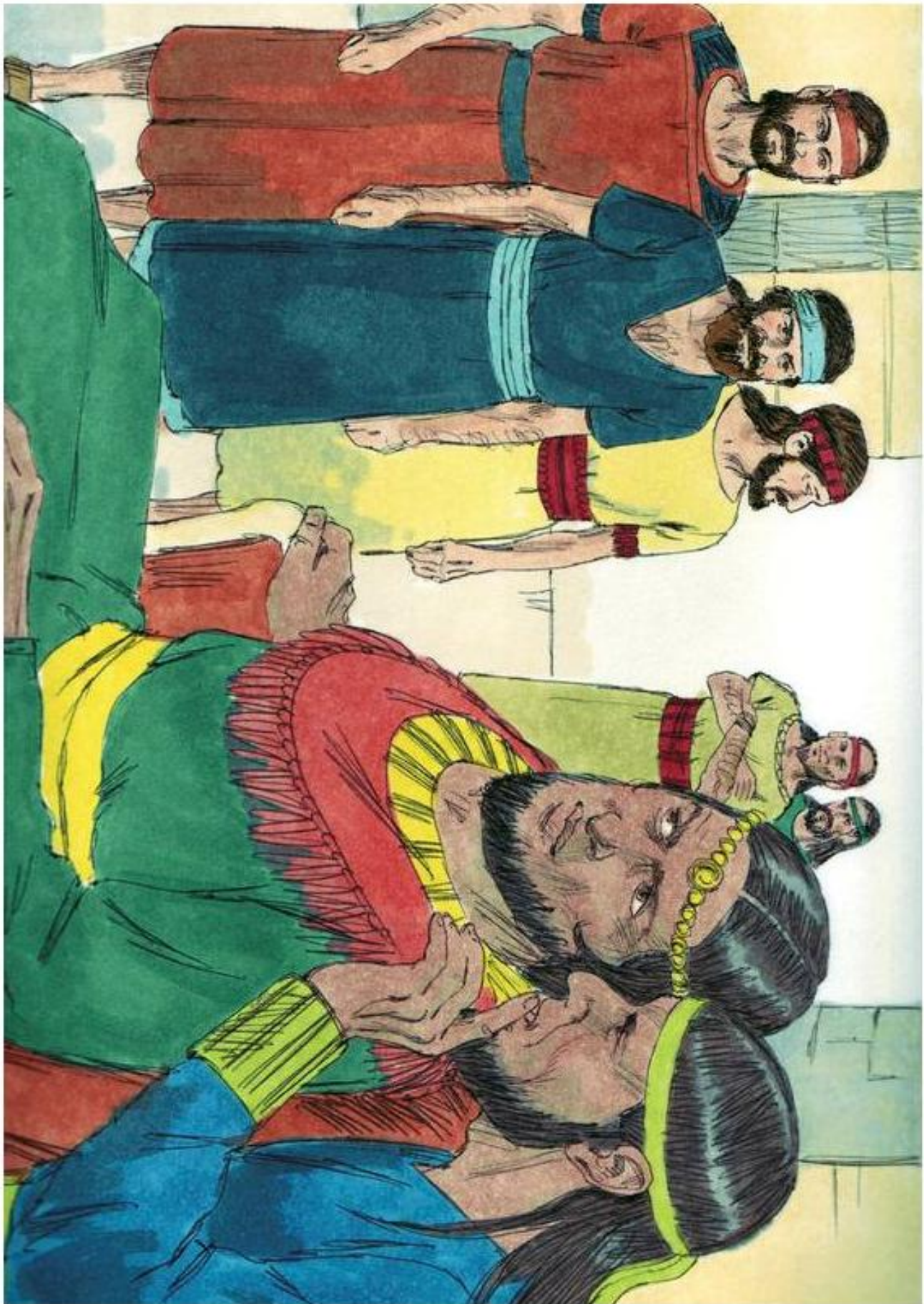
Arameans

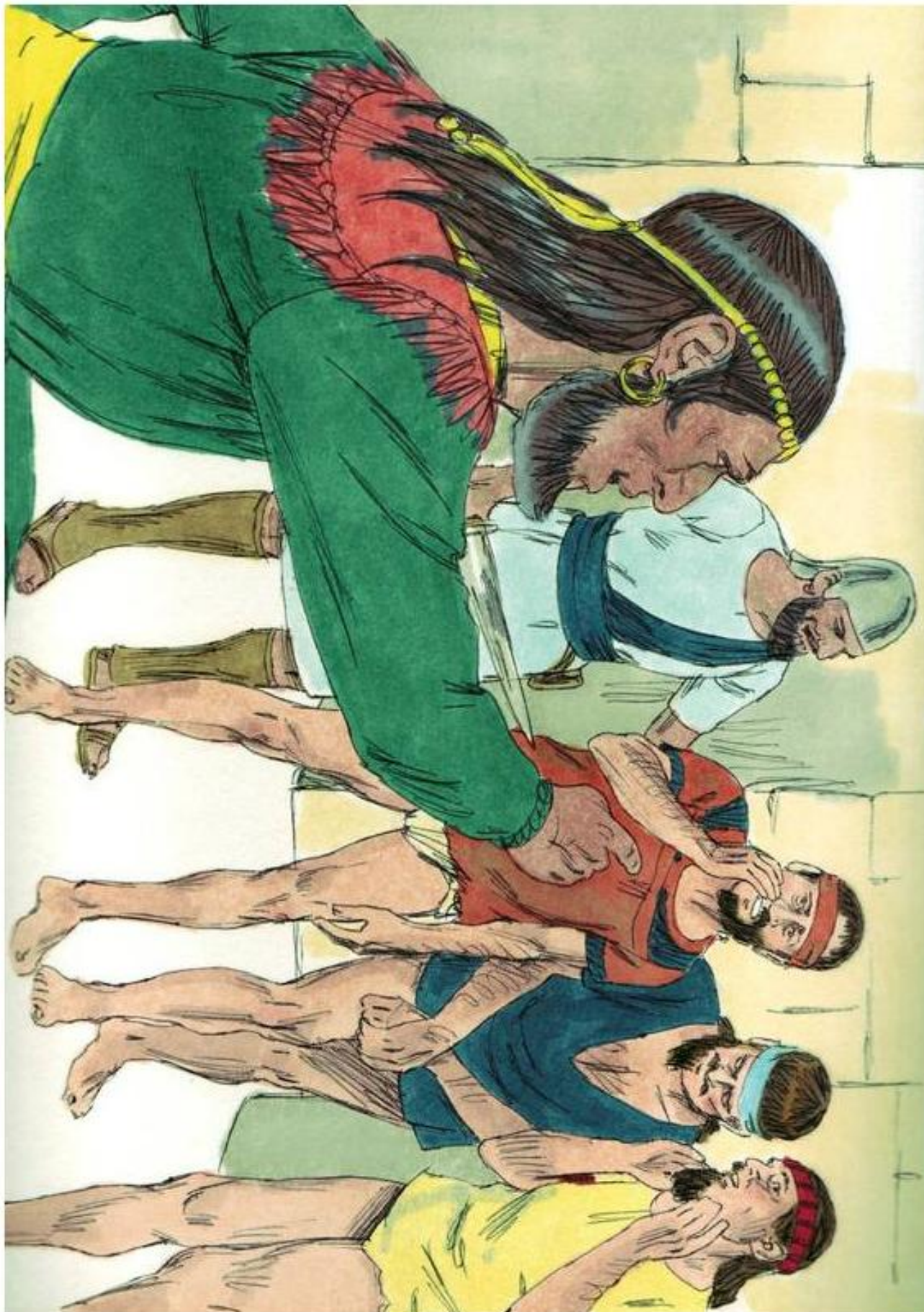
Syrians

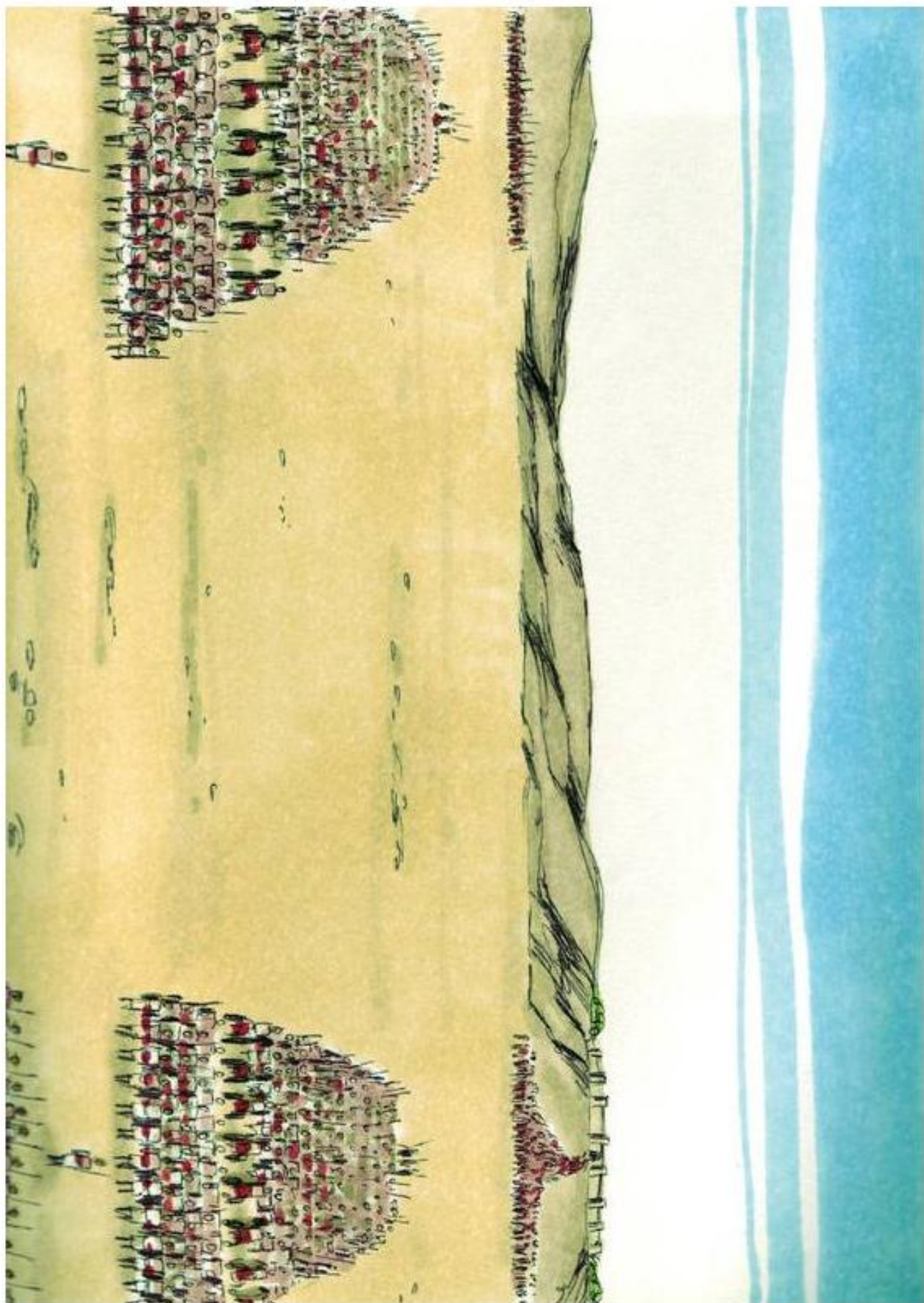












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