

## 20.08 Jehoshaphat's Reign; Victory by Music (2 Chronicles 19:1–11; 20:1–34; 21:1; 1 Kings 22:41–46)

✓ “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 ambush*: to have a group of soldiers wait secretly and then attack when unexpected
- *spoil*: things taken from an enemy after defeating them
- *horde*: a huge number of attackers
- *Moab* and *Ammon*: descendants of Lot; the names of their countries
- *Edom*: descendants of Esau and the name of their country

### Scripture: (ESV)

2 Chronicles 19:1 Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned in safety to his house in Jerusalem. 2 But Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him and said to King Jehoshaphat, “Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord? Because of this, wrath has gone out against you from the Lord. 3 Nevertheless, some good is found in you, for you destroyed the Asheroth out of the land, and have set your heart to seek God.”

4 Jehoshaphat lived at Jerusalem. And he went out again among the people, from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim, and brought them back to the Lord, the God of their fathers. 5 He appointed judges in the land in all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city, 6 and said to the judges, “Consider what you do, for you judge not for man but for the Lord. He is with you in giving judgment. 7 Now then, let the fear of the Lord be upon you. Be careful what you do, for there is no injustice with the Lord our God, or partiality or taking bribes.”

8 Moreover, in Jerusalem Jehoshaphat appointed certain Levites and priests and heads of families of Israel, to give judgment for the Lord and to decide disputed cases. They had their seat at Jerusalem. 9 And he charged them: “Thus you shall do in the fear of the Lord, in faithfulness, and with your whole heart: 10 whenever a case comes to you from your brothers who live in their cities, concerning bloodshed, law or commandment, statutes or rules, then you shall warn them, that they may not incur guilt before the Lord and wrath may not come upon you and your brothers. Thus you shall do, and you will not incur guilt. 11 And behold, Amariah the chief priest is over you in all matters of the Lord; and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the governor of the house of Judah, in all the king’s matters, and the Levites will serve you as officers. Deal courageously, and may the Lord be with the upright!”

20:1 After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle. 2 Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, “A great multitude is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar” (that is, Engedi). 3 Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. 4 And Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.

5 And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, 6 and said, “O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you. 7 Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? 8 And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, 9 ‘If disaster

comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you—for your name is in this house—and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.’ 10 And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy— 11 behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. 12 O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

13 Meanwhile all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. 14 And the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. 15 And he said, “Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you, ‘Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God’s. 16 Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. 17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.’ Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you.”

18 Then Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord, worshiping the Lord. 19 And the Levites, of the Kohathites and the Korahites, stood up to praise the Lord, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

20 And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed.” 21 And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the Lord and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say, “Give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever.” 22 And when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed. 23 For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another.

24 When Judah came to the watchtower of the wilderness, they looked toward the horde, and behold, there were dead bodies lying on the ground; none had escaped. 25 When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoil, they found among them, in great numbers, goods, clothing, and precious things, which they took for themselves until they could carry no more. They were three days in taking the spoil, it was so much. 26 On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Beracah, for there they blessed the Lord. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Beracah to this day. 27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for the Lord had made them rejoice over their enemies. 28 They came to Jerusalem with harps and lyres and trumpets, to the house of the Lord. 29 And the fear of God came on all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard that the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel. 30 So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.

31 Thus Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah. (Jehoshaphat the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel; 1 Kings 22:41). He was thirty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi. 32 He walked in the way of Asa his father and did not turn aside from it, doing what was right in the sight of the Lord. 33 The high places, however, were not taken away; the people had not yet set their hearts upon the God of their fathers. (Jehoshaphat also made peace with the king of Israel; 1 Kings 22:44).

34 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, from first to last, are written in the chronicles of Jehu the son of Hanani, which are recorded in the Book of the Kings of Israel.

1 Kings 22:45 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, and his might that he showed, and how he warred, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? 46 And from the land he exterminated

the remnant of the male cult prostitutes who remained in the days of his father Asa.

2 Chronicles 21:1 Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David, and Jehoram his son reigned in his place.

### **Introduction/Review:**

When Israel returned to the land of Canaan after the Exodus from Egypt, God said not to destroy the people or to take away the land from Moab or Ammon or Edom because they were relatives. These countries will be in our lesson today.

I have a question for you: If you have a choice between being with a friend who does wrong or doing right without that friend, what should you do? [Do right.] We all should be kind to people, but it is wise and biblical (1 Corinthians 15:33) to keep your distance from people who would influence you to do wrong.

We've been learning about Ahab, king of Israel. Was he God's friend or God's enemy? [Enemy.] Why? [Because he worshiped idols.] We have also learned about Jehoshaphat, king of Judah. Was he God's friend or God's enemy? [Friend.] Why? [Because he worshiped God and destroyed idols.] Yet, Jehoshaphat's main weakness seems to be that he wanted to be friendly to all, even to God's enemies. He almost lost his life because of this weakness, but God spared him and brought him safely back to Jerusalem while his friend, Ahab, died in a common battle.

### **Story:**

#### ***Displeasure with Jehoshaphat's compromise***

Was God pleased with Jehoshaphat? No. He sent a prophet, Jehu, to him who said, "Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord? Wrath from God has gone out against you. However, you are seeking the Lord and have destroyed idols."

We can see that Jehoshaphat, as Jehu said, sought the Lord if we look up 2 Chronicles 9:4, which states that this king himself went throughout his land at this time in order to "bring his people back to the Lord, the God of their fathers." Also he set up judges to decide disputes in "the fear of the Lord."

Nevertheless, although his kingdom had formerly had no war because the nations were afraid of Jehoshaphat, now some nations—Moab, Ammon (both descendants of Lot), and Mount Seir (descendants of Esau) started coming against Judah in battle. God was showing His displeasure with Jehoshaphat. Some men came to tell Jehoshaphat, "A huge army is coming against you. They are already in En-gedi [locate]."

#### ***Prayer for protection***

If you were King Jehoshaphat in this situation, what would you do? Call your armies together? Give them last-minute instructions and start out to war? Although ✓that might have been his first thought and it might have been a good idea, that's not what Jehoshaphat did. Rather, the Bible states, "He set himself to seek the Lord." He did not begin with army preparation but with heart preparation.

This is how he did it: He "proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah." What does that mean? It means that people would not eat but would pray in order to seek God and show their dependence upon Him. The people gathered from all over the country at the temple in Jerusalem to seek the Lord. Even men's wives and their little ones came.

Jehoshaphat prayed to God. The prayer reminds one of Solomon's prayer when he had dedicated the temple a hundred years earlier. Jehoshaphat's prayer is so good that I want you to hear it all.

#### ***Praise in Jehoshaphat's prayer***

[Read 2 Chronicles 20:6–12, ESV.] "O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you. Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to

the descendants of Abraham your friend?

### ***Reminder in Jehoshaphat's prayer***

“And your people Israel have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, ‘If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you—for your name is in this house—and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.’

### ***Prayer in Jehoshaphat's prayer***

“And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy—behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

### ***Answer to Jehoshaphat's prayer***

✓Perhaps Jehoshaphat would have prayed longer, but at that point God answered Jehoshaphat. The Spirit of the Lord came upon a musician from the tribe of Levi who was in the crowd. His name was Jahaziel, and he shouted, “Listen, all Judah and Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat. This is what the Lord says: ‘Don’t be afraid and worried about that huge army, for the battle is not yours but God’s. Tomorrow go against them in a certain place. You will not need to fight in this battle. Take your positions, stand still, and see the victory of the Lord for you.’ So don’t be afraid or worried. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord be with you.”

### ***Worship of God***

At this tremendous answer from the Lord, Jehoshaphat bowed his head, bent his knees, put his head to the ground, as did all the people, worshiping the Lord. Then the Levites stood up to praise the Lord, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice. ✓Psalm 46 might have been the one the people shouted. It certainly gives praise to God. This is what it says: [Read in unison with students or have them take turns; print copies found below.]

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.

### ***Music for battle***

Early the next morning the crowd started out to meet the enemy. As they marched, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Listen, Judah and Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be strong. Believe His prophets, and you will succeed.”

Then after someone suggested it, Jehoshaphat did a very strange thing for an army: He ordered some singers to go in front of his men so that they could sing and praise the Lord, raising voices to a holy God instead of spears to a wicked enemy. “Give thanks to the Lord, for his mercy lasts forever!” they sang.

When the song and praise began, God sent ambushments. This is how it happened: Moab and Ammon secretly waited for the men of Mount Seir, attacked them when they weren't expecting them, and totally destroyed all the men from Mount Seir. Then, strangely, Moab and Ammon fought each other and totally destroyed each other. No one escaped.

### ***Spoil for God's people***

Judah, not knowing about all this, kept singing as they marched until they came to a place where they could see what had happened. There in the wilderness lay all the dead bodies. All that Jehoshaphat and his men had to do, as was customary after battle, was to gather spoil from the enemy. They got cattle, clothing, jewels, and precious things until they could carry no more. There was so much stuff that it took three whole days to take it.

### ***Praise to God***

On the fourth day, all the men gathered together in a valley that was named Berachah [locate], which means "blessing." What do you suppose they did? Went their way? No! They stopped to praise the Lord; they blessed His name in the valley of blessing—*Berachah*.

Then they went on their journey way back to Jerusalem and to the house of God with Jehoshaphat leading the way. Harps and lyres and trumpets sounded out praise to God, who had made them rejoice over their enemies.

When the other nations around heard how God Himself had fought against Judah's enemies, they feared God and didn't try to fight Judah again. God gave Jehoshaphat a quiet and restful kingdom from then on.

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

- We see Jesus:

God gave victory to Judah while the singers sang. At the end of time, Jesus will go forth to battle and conquer just as easily. Revelation 19:11–16 tells us about that battle: "Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. . . . On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords."

Jesus can do anything by using just His words. Hebrews 1:3 tells us, "He upholds the universe by the word of his power."

### **Activities:**

- Play dough: music notes; harps, trumpets
- Snack: Fresh veggies in the form of a note (see photo at [The Life and Times of N2: Third birthday-food and decorations \(thelifeofn2.blogspot.com\)](http://thelifeofn2.blogspot.com))
- With kazoos, toy harps, and other instruments sing, "Give thanks to the Lord for His mercy endures forever."
- Sing "My God Is So Big."
- Review questions: (Game: After a student has answered a question correctly, the class may sing one phrase of "My God Is So Big," divided into the following nine phrases:
  1. My God is so big.
  2. So strong and so mighty.

3. There's nothing my God cannot do.
4. The mountains are His.
5. The rivers are His.
6. The stars are His handiwork too.
7. My God is so big.
8. So strong and so mighty.
9. There's nothing my God cannot do.

Note: To see a video of this song with actions, go to [My God Is So Big with actions || Sunday School Song || Action Songs - Bing video](#), A second stanza is also in this video.

1. Why did Jehu the prophet rebuke Jehoshaphat? [Because he helped Ahab, a man who hated God.]
2. What did Jehoshaphat himself do among the people? [Brought them back to the Lord, the God of their fathers.]
3. What three nations came against Judah in battle? [Moab, Ammon, Edom.]
4. What did Jehoshaphat do when he heard these nations were coming against him? [Set his face to seek the Lord and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.]
5. Who assembled at the temple to seek the Lord? [All Judah, including wives and children.]
6. While Jehoshaphat was praying, Jahaziel, a Levite interrupted. What did he say? ["Do not be afraid, for the battle is not yours but God's. . . . You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord."]
7. What happened when the singers began to sing and praise? [The Lord set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Edom. They fought against each other until all were destroyed.]
8. How many days did it take to take up the spoil? [Three days.]
9. What did the people do on the fourth day in the Valley of Berachah? Hint: Berachah means "blessing." [They blessed the Lord there.]

#### Memory Verse[s]: (ESV)

- 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.

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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:

- Make harps with rubber bands around small boxes. For older students, extensive instructions may be found here: <https://feltmagnet.com/crafts/Kids-Crafts-How-to-Make-and-Elastic-Band-Harp>. A simpler one may be found at <https://www.instructables.com/Kids-Rubberband-Harp/>.
- If the harp craft is too challenging, the teacher might like to have students color a page that includes small pictures and the story. This is found at [Bible142Ch20\\_20-22 \(creationism.org\)](http://Bible142Ch20_20-22.creationism.org).

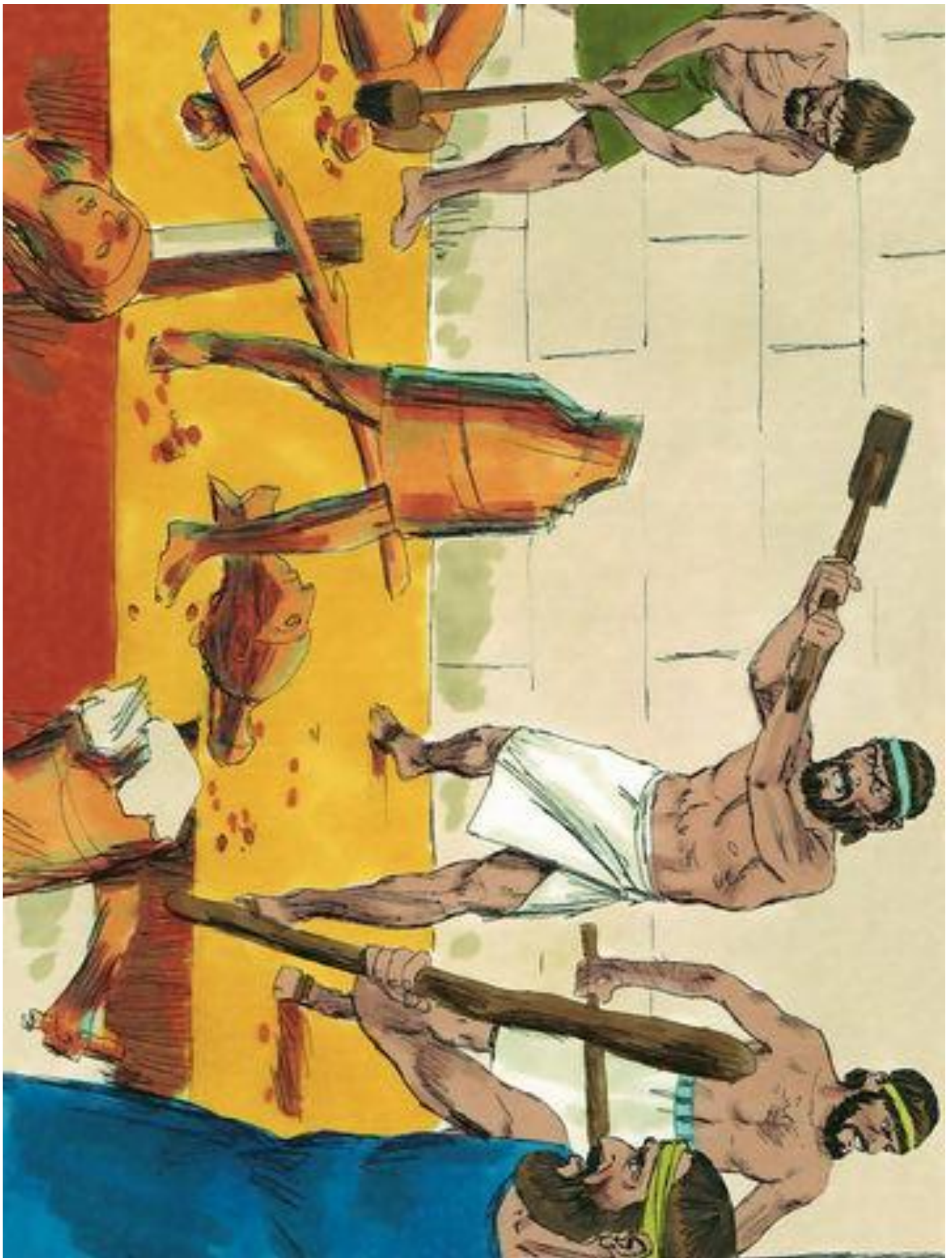
**to ambush**

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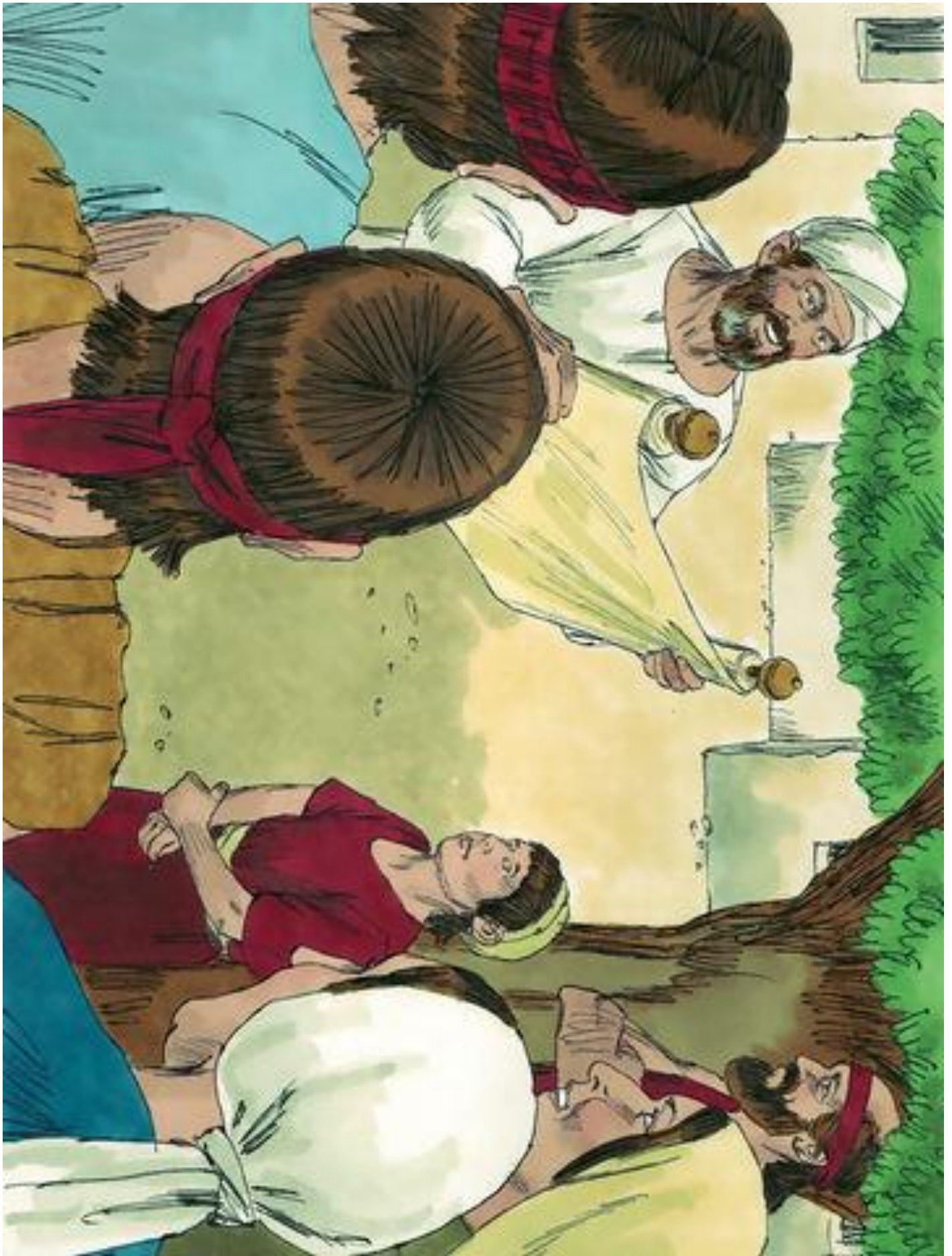
**Moab & Ammon**

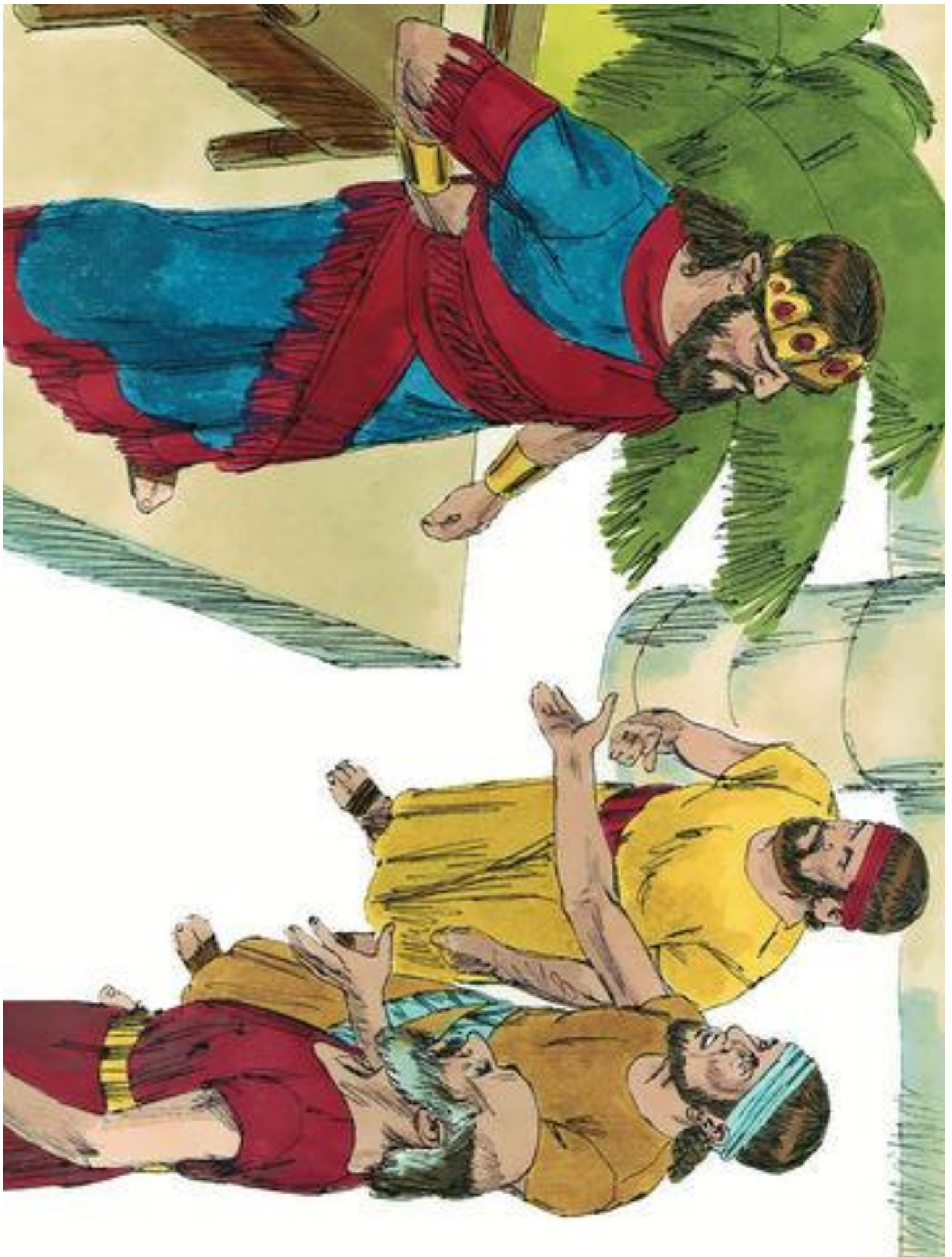
**Edom**



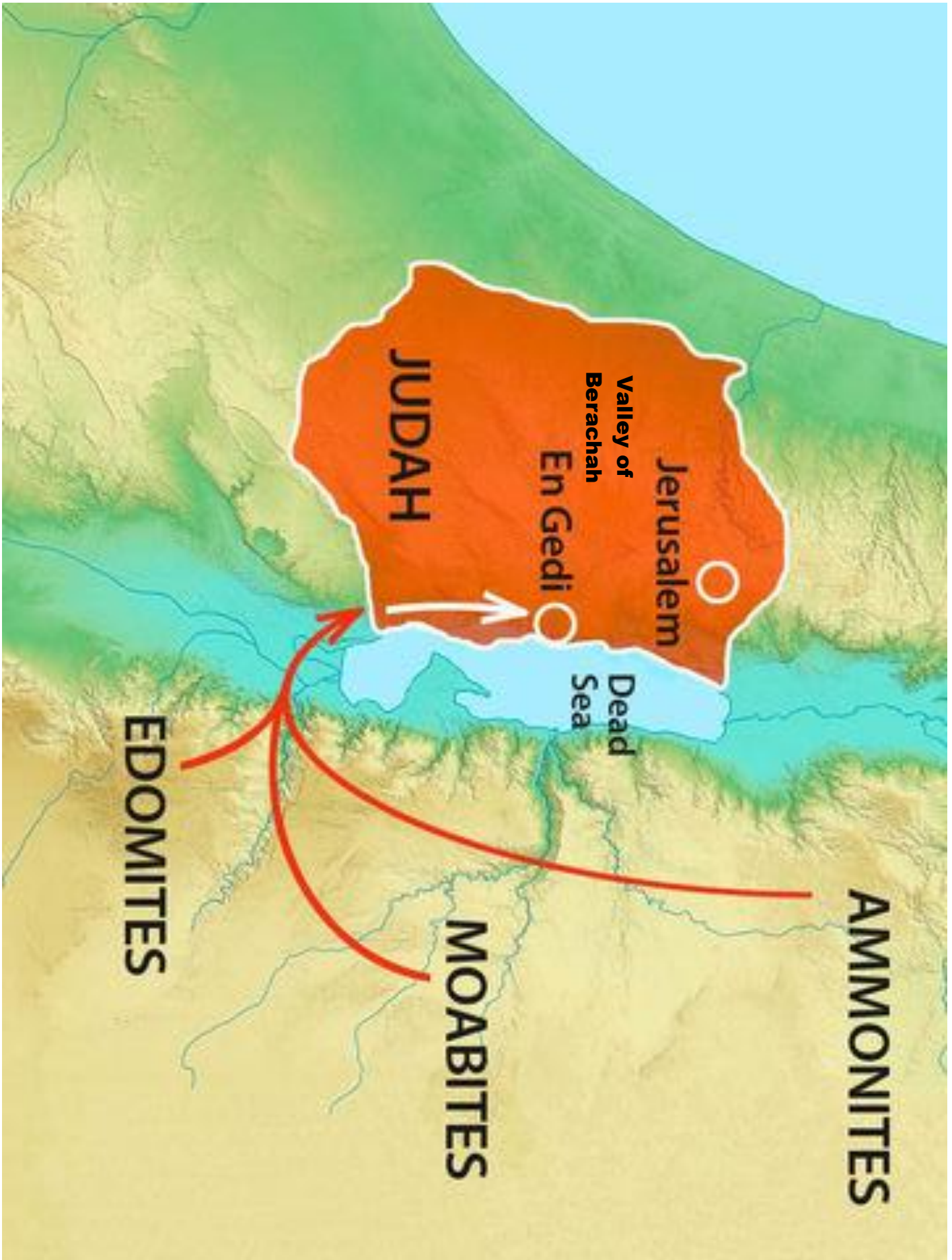
FreeBibleimages :: King Jehoshaphat sets out to obey God :: King Jehoshaphat encourages the nation to live by God's laws (1 Kings 22:41-47, 2 Chronicles 17:1-19)

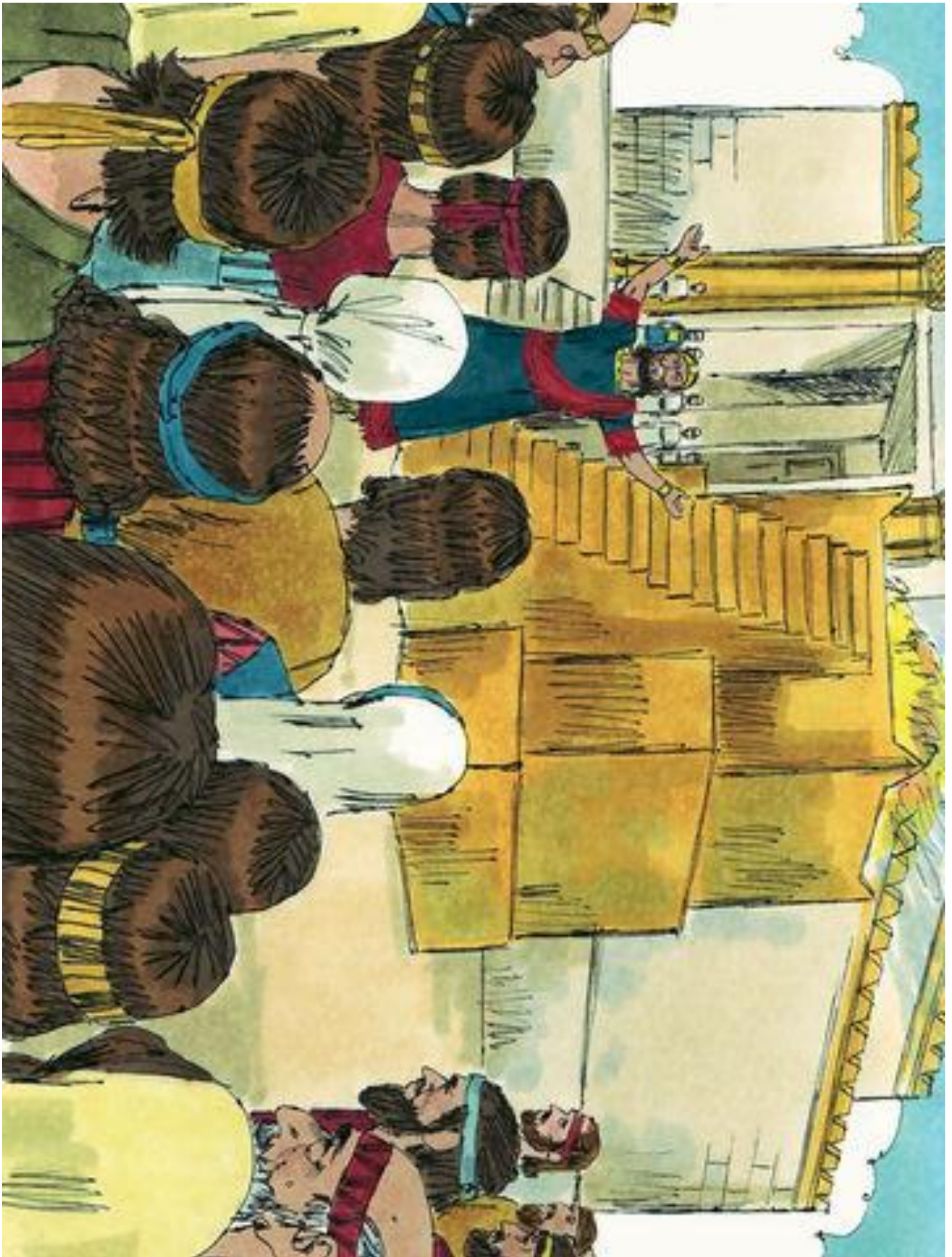




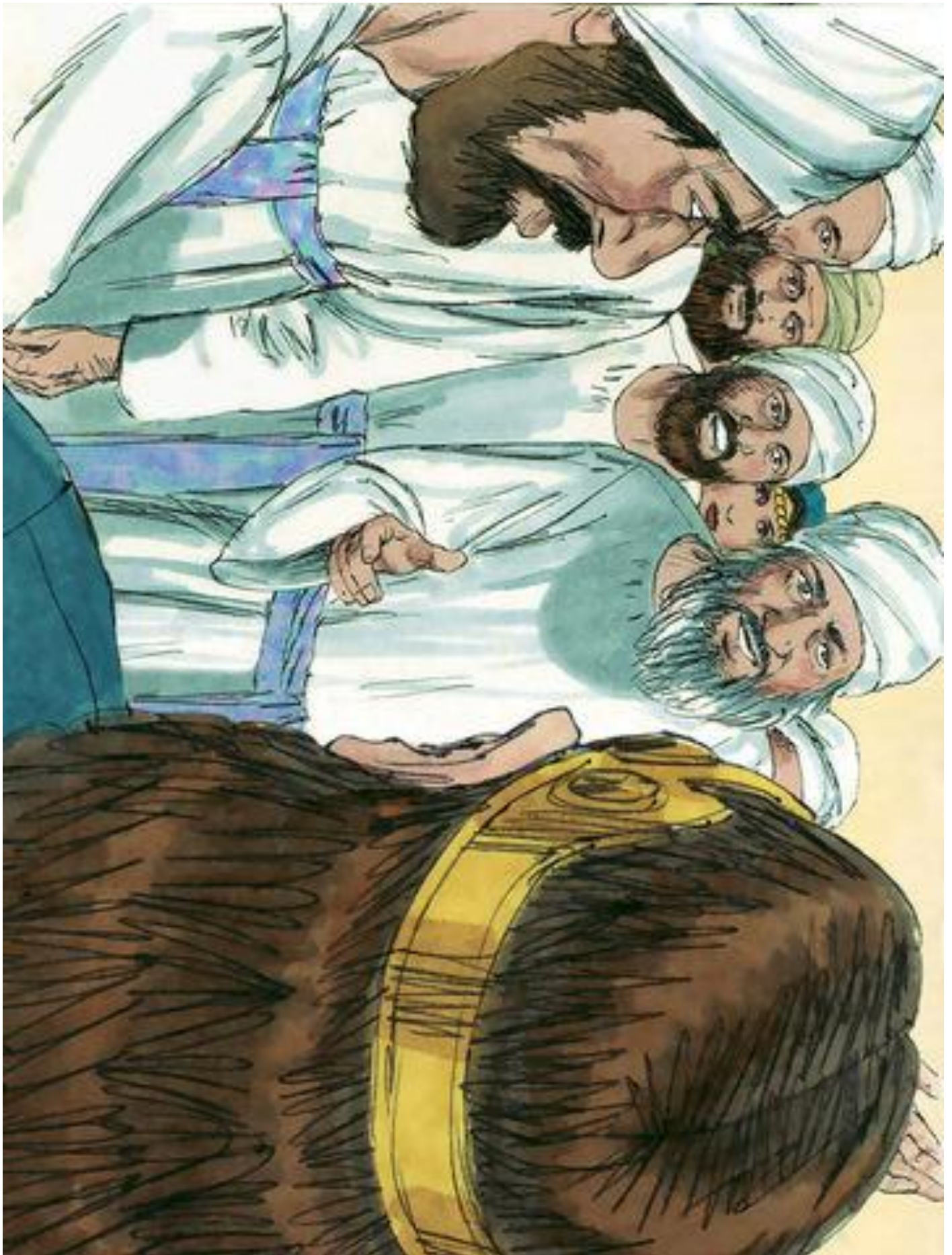


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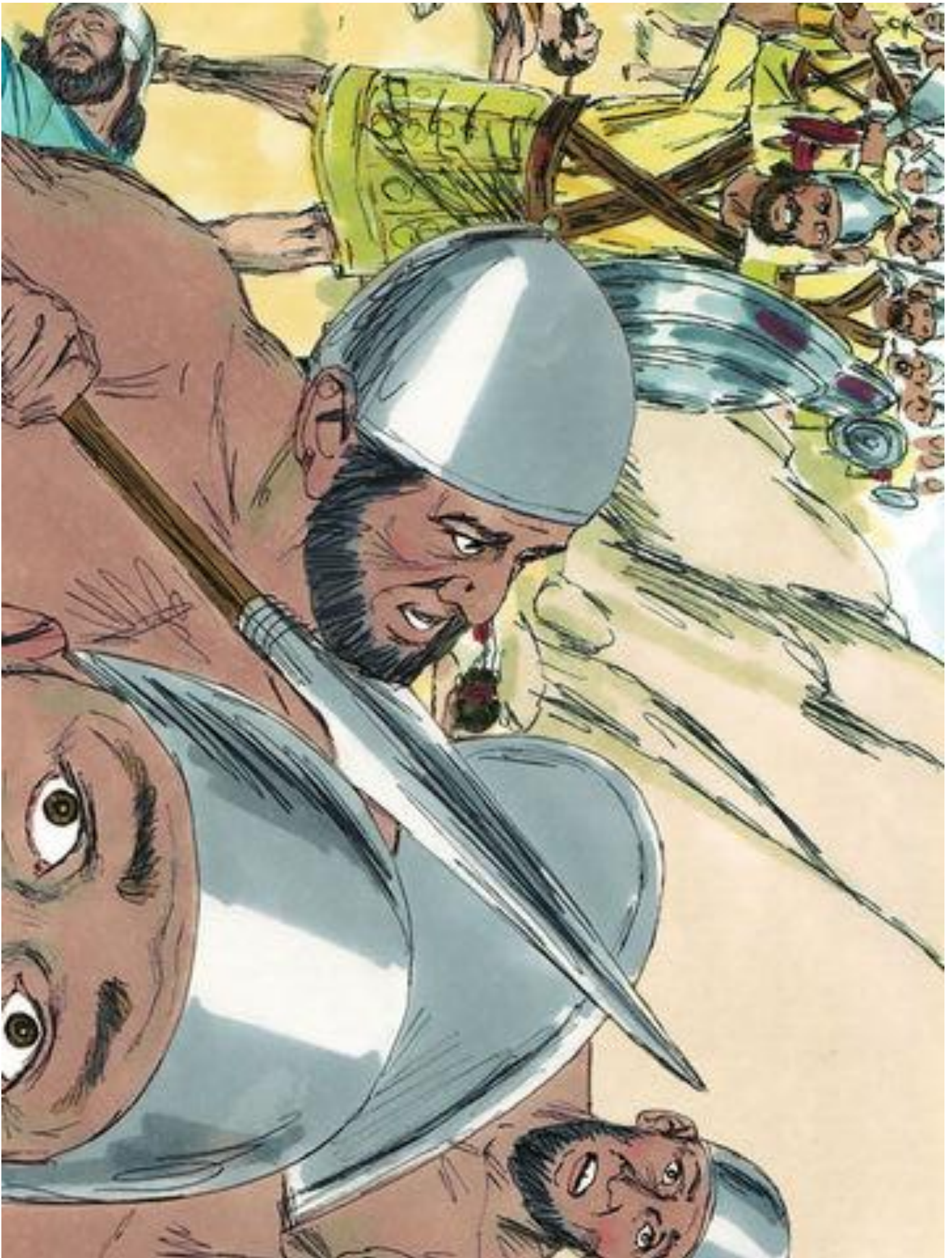
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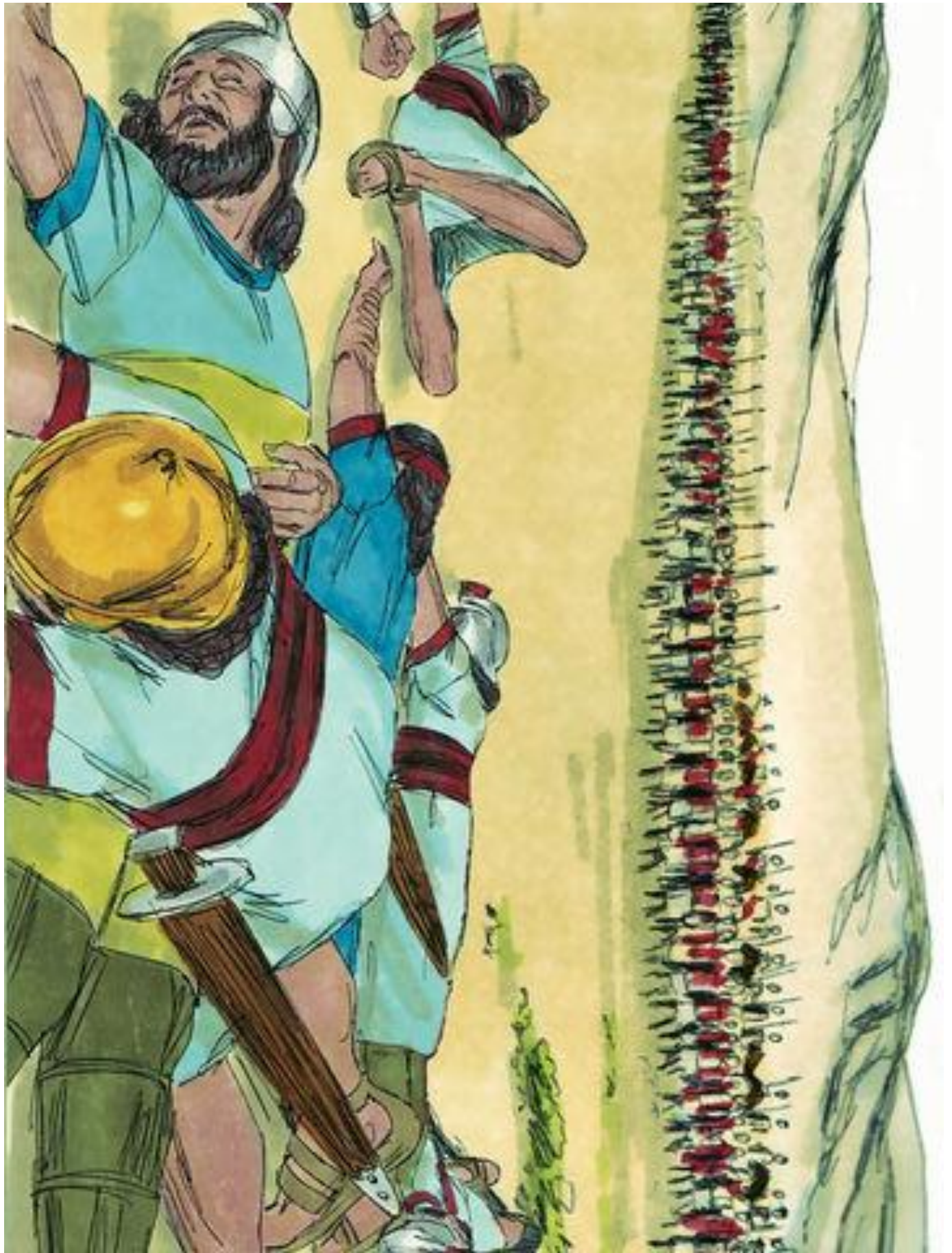
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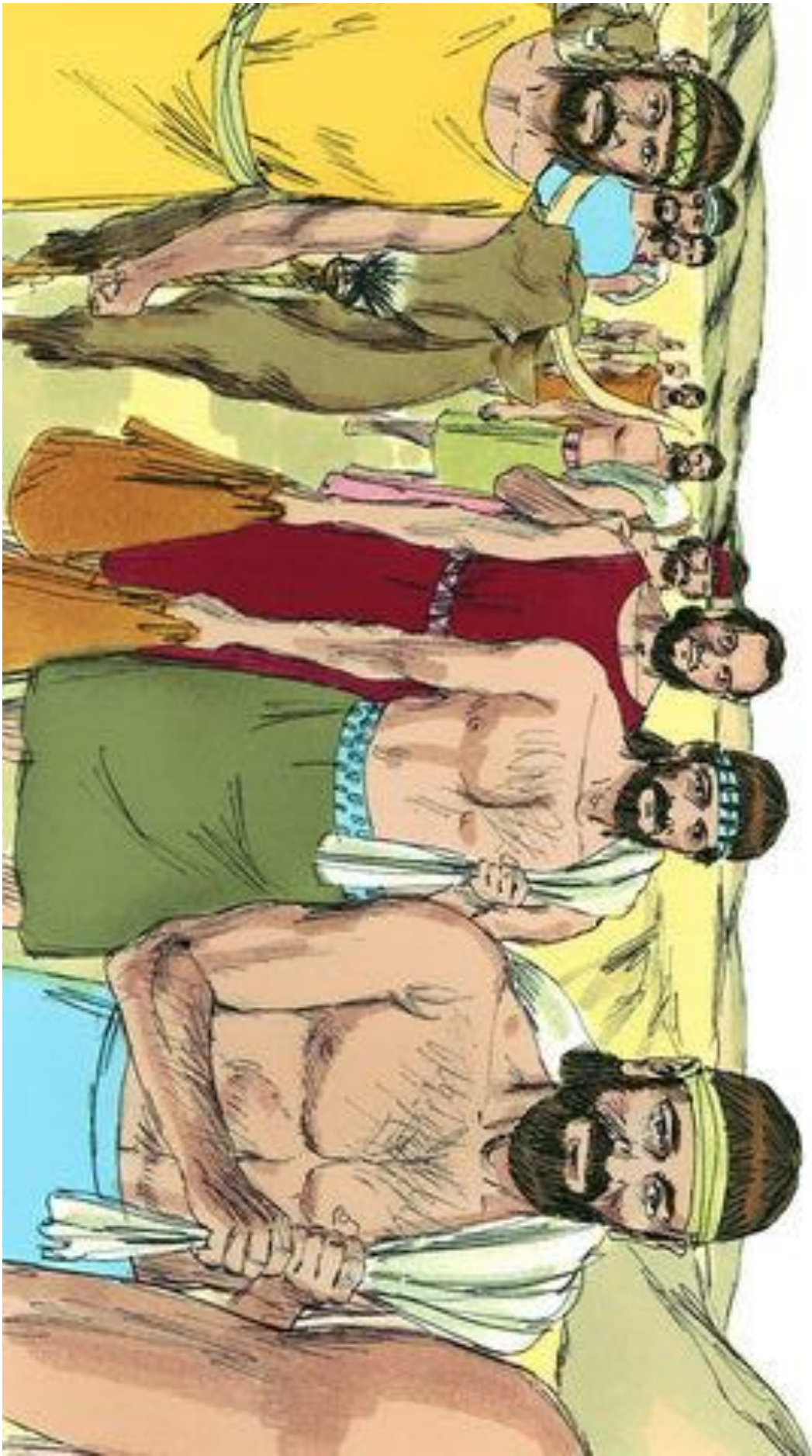


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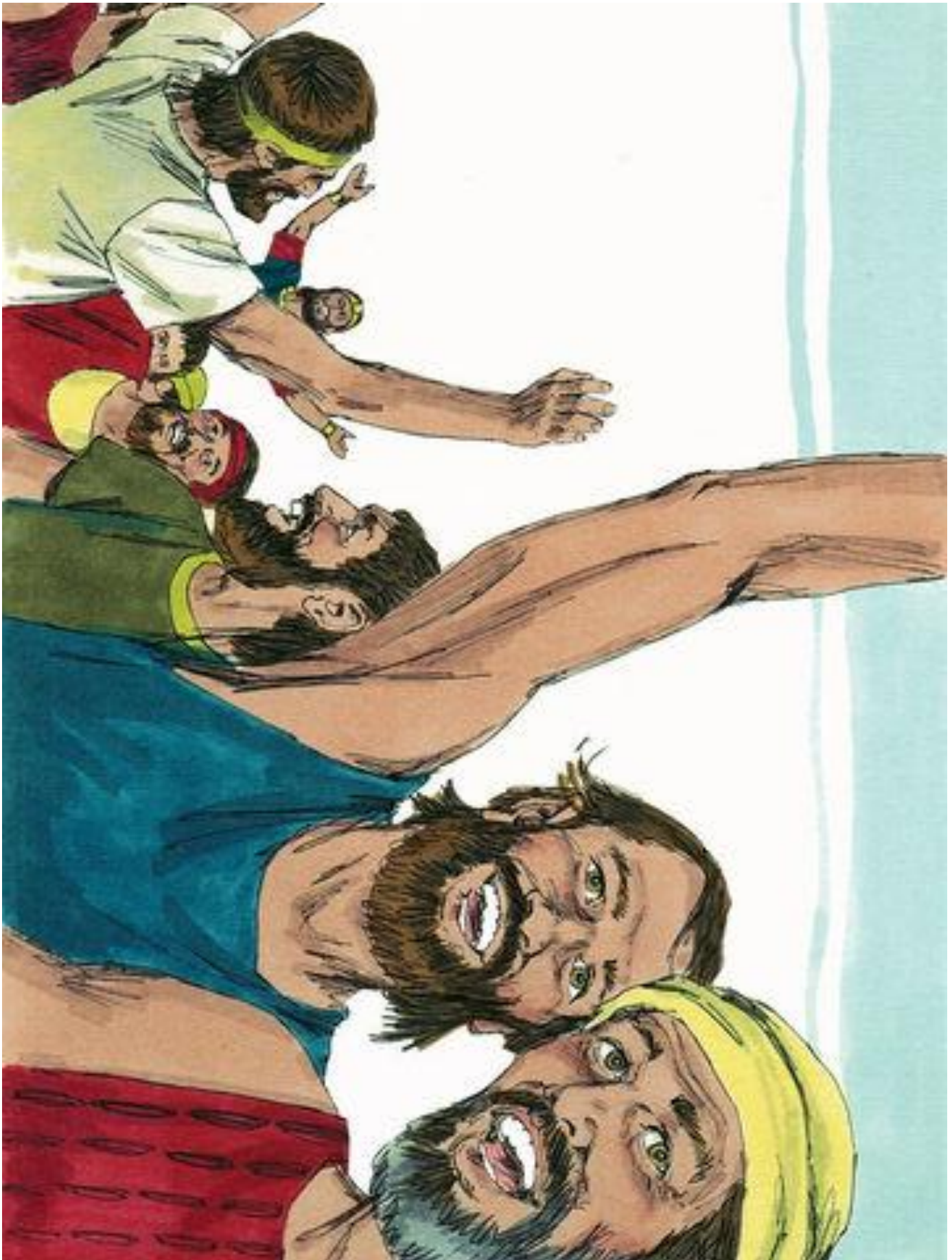




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