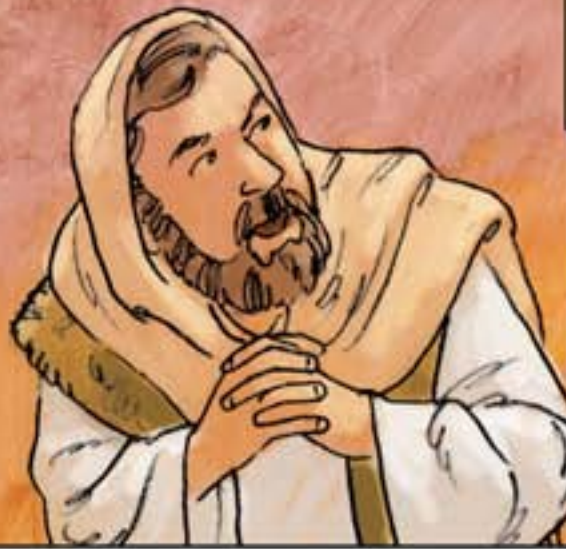
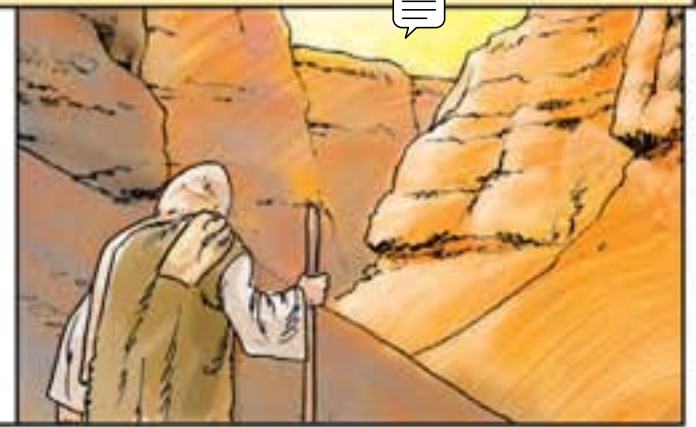


2 Then the Lord spoke his word to Elijah:

3 "Leave this place. Go east and hide near Kerith Ravine. It is east of the Jordan River. 4 You may drink from the brook. And I have commanded ravens to bring you food there.



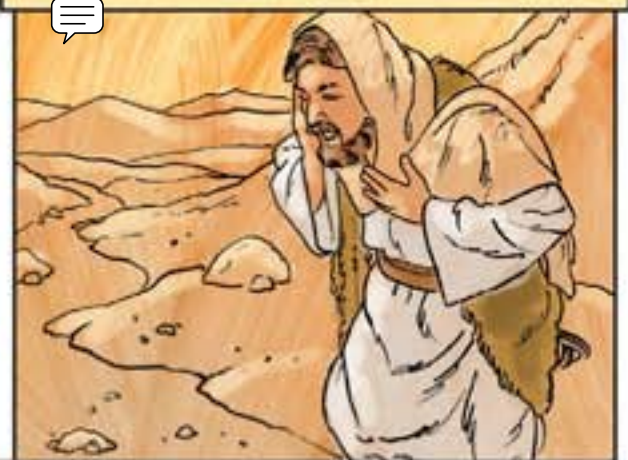
5 So Elijah did what the Lord told him to do. He went to Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and lived there.



6 The birds brought Elijah bread and meat every morning and every evening. And he drank water from the brook.



7 After a while the brook dried up because there was no rain.



8 Then the Lord spoke his word to Elijah,

9 "Go to Zarephath in Sidon. Live there. I have commanded a widow there to take care of you."



10 So Elijah went to Zarephath.



When he reached the town gate, he saw a widow there. She was gathering wood for a fire.

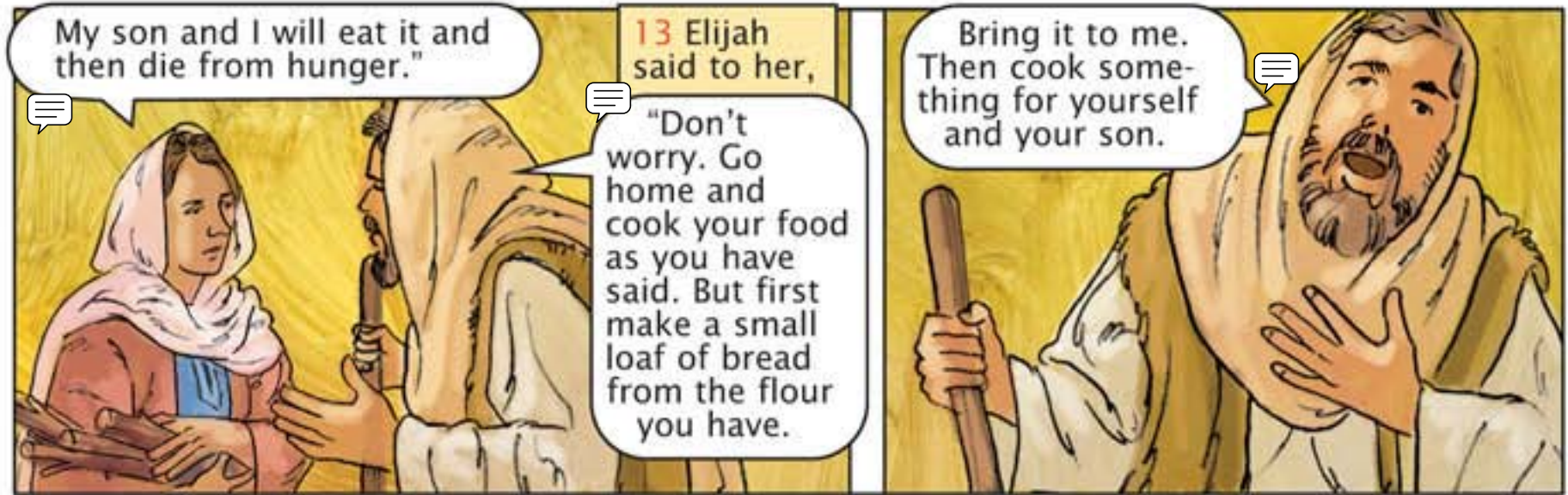


Elijah asked her,

"Would you bring me a little water in a cup? I would like to have a drink."

1 Kings 17:11-17

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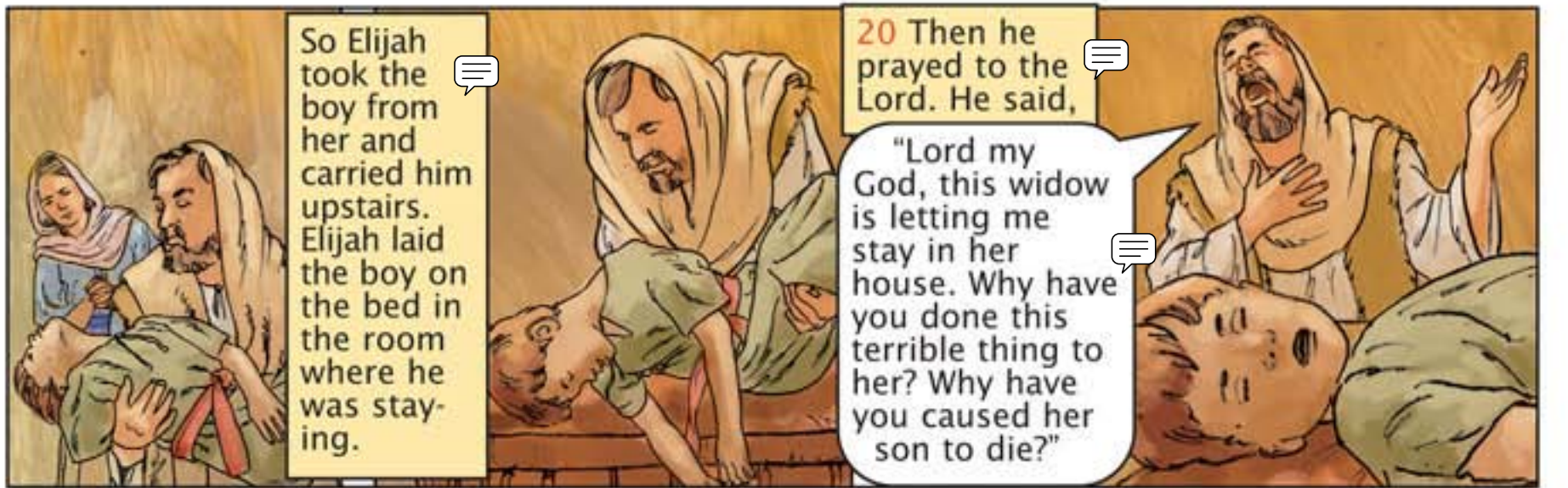


So Elijah, the woman and her son had enough food every day. 16 The jar of flour and the jug of oil were never empty. This happened just as the Lord, through Elijah, said it would.

Elijah Brings a Boy Back to Life

17 Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. He grew worse and worse.





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Chapter 18

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

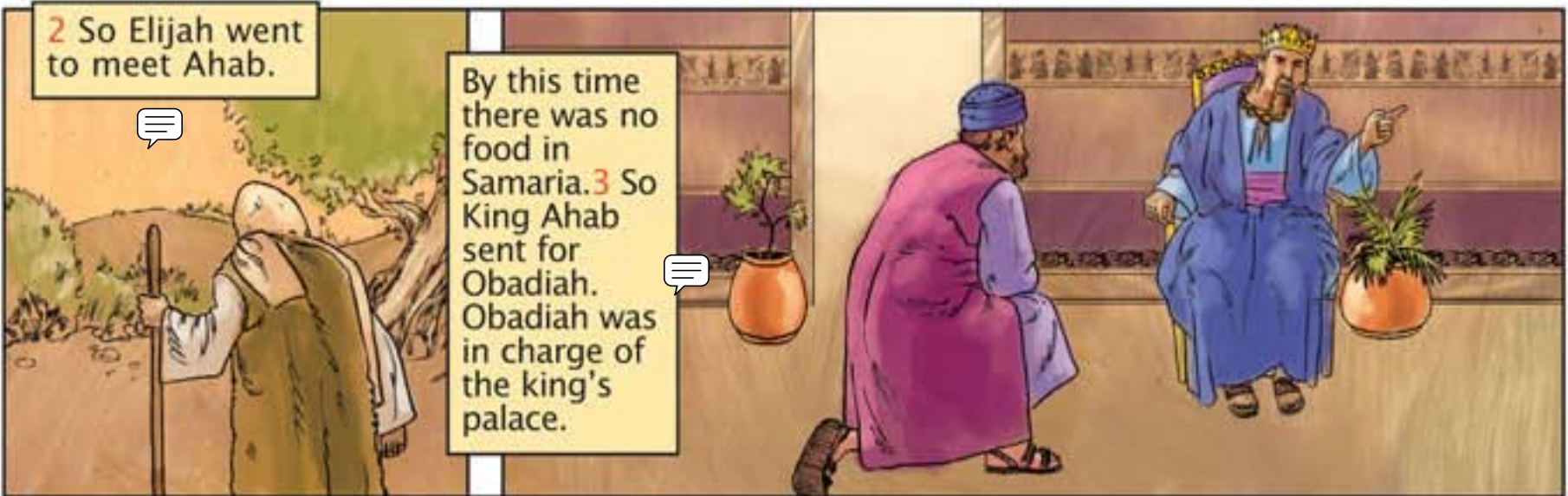
1 During the third year without rain, the Lord spoke his word to Elijah. The Lord said,

"Go and meet King Ahab. I will soon send rain."



2 So Elijah went to meet Ahab.

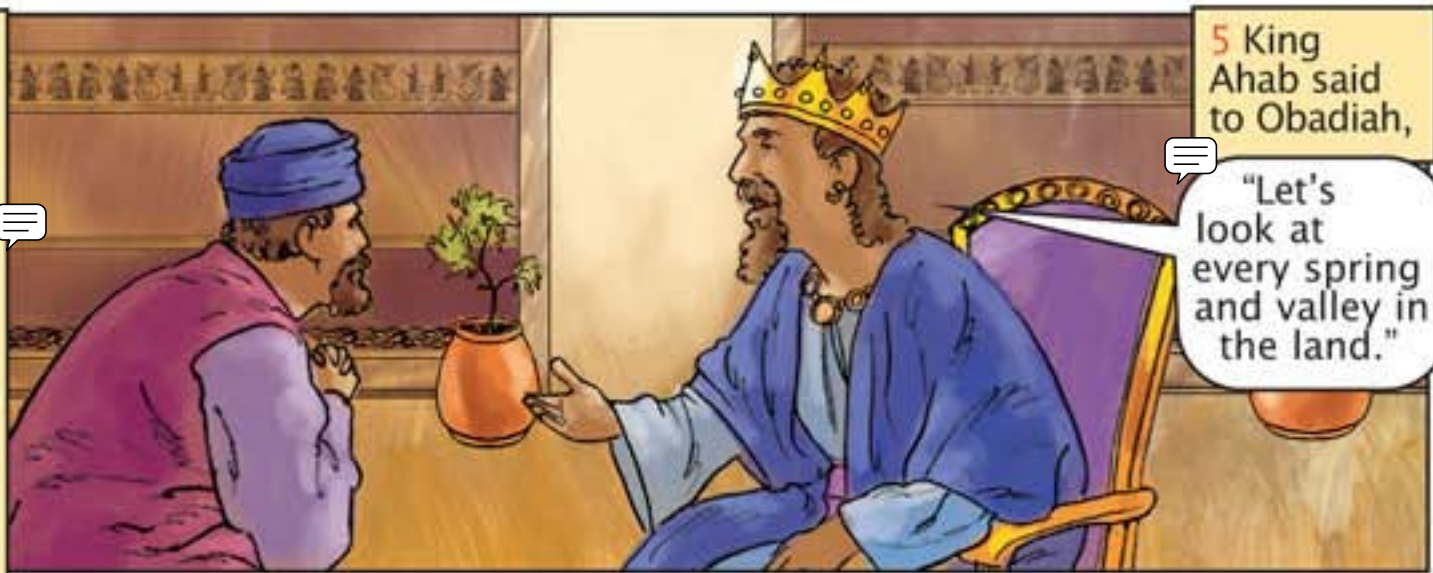
By this time there was no food in Samaria. 3 So King Ahab sent for Obadiah. Obadiah was in charge of the king's palace.



(Obadiah was a true follower of the Lord. 4 One time Jezebel was killing all the Lord's prophets. So Obadiah took 100 of them and hid them in two caves. He put 50 in one cave and 50 in another cave. And he brought them food and water.)

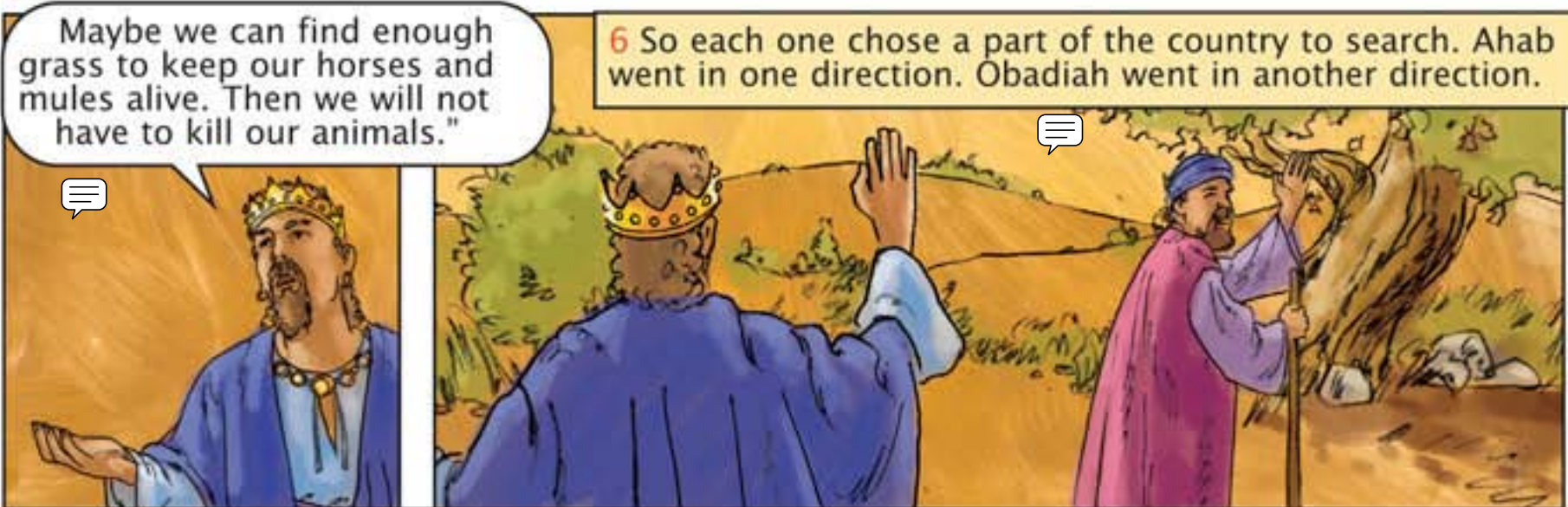
5 King Ahab said to Obadiah,

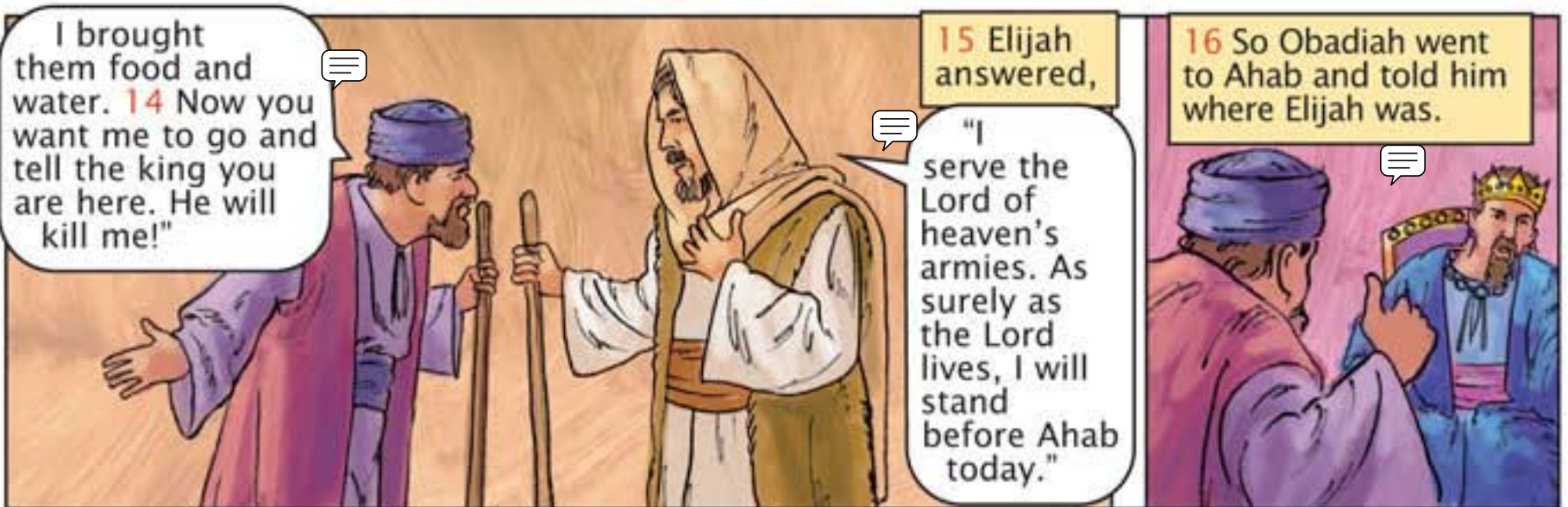
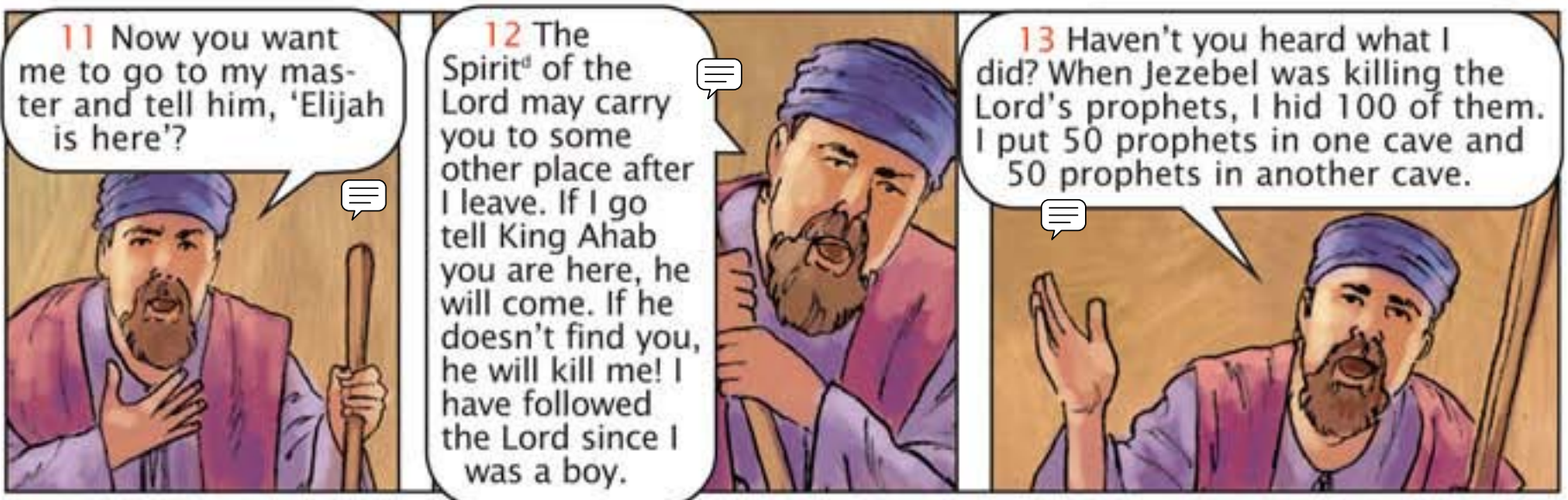
"Let's look at every spring and valley in the land."



Maybe we can find enough grass to keep our horses and mules alive. Then we will not have to kill our animals."

6 So each one chose a part of the country to search. Ahab went in one direction. Obadiah went in another direction.





1 Kings 18:17-24

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Then Ahab went to meet Elijah. **17** When he saw Elijah, he said,

"Is it you—the biggest trouble-maker in Israel?"

18 Elijah answered,

"I have not caused trouble in Israel. You and your father's family have caused all this trouble. You have not obeyed the Lord's commands. You have followed the Baals." **19** Now tell all Israel to meet me at Mount Carmel. Also bring the 450 prophets of Baal there. And bring the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."



20 So Ahab called all the Israelites and those prophets to Mount Carmel. **21** Elijah stood before the people. He said,

"How long will you try to serve both Baal and the Lord? If the Lord is the true God, follow him. But if Baal is the true God, follow him!"

But the people said nothing.




22 Elijah said,

"I am the only prophet of the Lord here. But there are 450 prophets of Baal. **23** So bring two bulls. Let the prophets of Baal choose one bull. Let them kill it and cut it into pieces. Then let them put the meat on the wood. But they are not to set fire to it. Then I will do the same with the other bull. And I will put it on the wood. But I will not set fire to it."

24 You prophets of Baal, pray to your god. And I will pray to the Lord. The god who answers the prayer will set fire to his wood. He is the true God."

All the people agreed that this was a good idea.



25 Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal,

"There are many of you. So you go first. Choose a bull and prepare it. Pray to your god, but don't start the fire."

26 So they took the bull that was given to them and prepared it. They prayed to Baal from morning until noon.

They shouted,

"Baal, answer us!"

But there was no sound. No one answered. They danced around the altar they had built.

27 At noon Elijah began to make fun of them. He said,

"Pray louder! If Baal really is a god, maybe he is thinking. Or maybe he is busy or traveling! Maybe he is sleeping so you will have to wake him!"

28 So the prophets prayed louder. They cut themselves with swords and spears until their blood flowed. (This was the way they worshiped.)

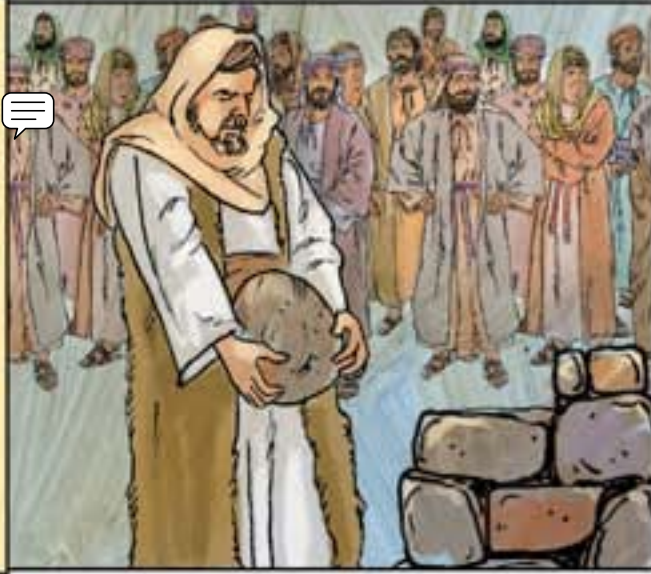
29 The afternoon passed, and the prophets continued to act wildly. They continued until it was time for the evening sacrifice. But no voice was heard. Baal did not answer. No one paid attention.

30 Then Elijah said to all the people,

"Now come to me."

1 Kings 18:31-37

So they gathered around him. Elijah rebuilt the altar of the Lord because it had been torn down.
31 He took 12 stones. He took 1 stone for each of the 12 tribes.^d These 12 tribes were named for the 12 sons of Jacob. (Jacob was the man the Lord had called Israel.) 32 Elijah used these stones to rebuild the altar in honor of the Lord.



Then he dug a small ditch around it. It was big enough to hold about 13 quarts of seed.



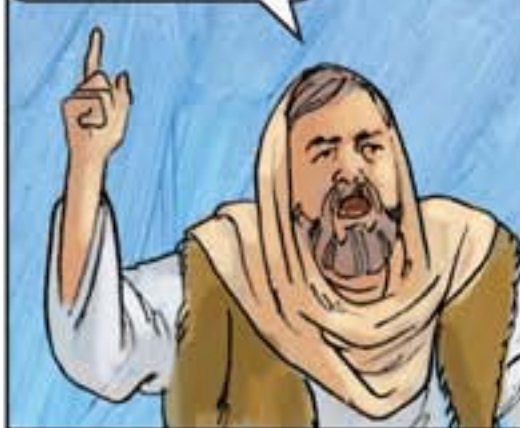
33 Elijah put the wood on the altar. He cut the bull into pieces and laid them on the wood.



Then he said,

"Fill four jars with water. Put the water on the meat and on the wood."

34 Then Elijah said, "Do it again."



And they did it again. Then he said,

"Do it a third time."

And they did it the third time. 35 So the water ran off of the altar and filled the ditch.

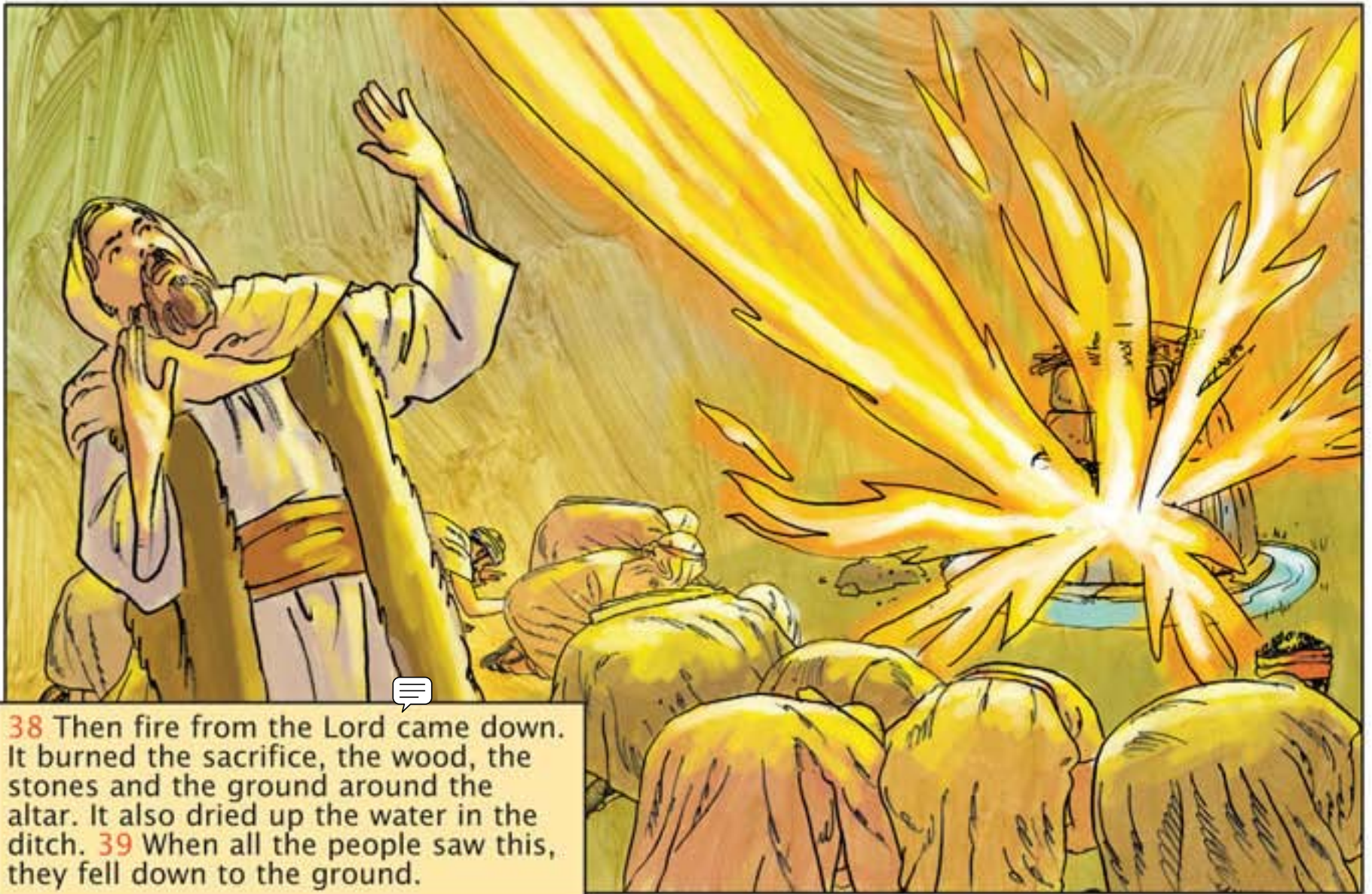
36 It was time for the evening sacrifice. So the prophet Elijah went near the altar. He prayed,

"Lord, you are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. I ask you now to prove that you are the God of Israel. And prove that I am your servant. Show these people that you commanded me to do all these things.

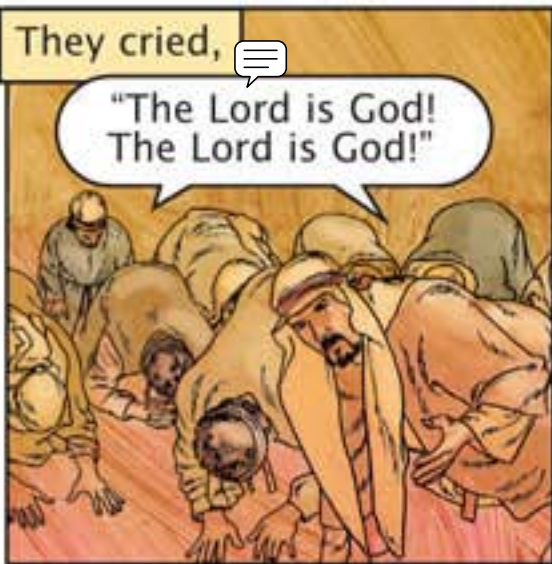


37 Lord, answer my prayer. Show these people that you, Lord, are God. Then the people will know that you are bringing them back to you."



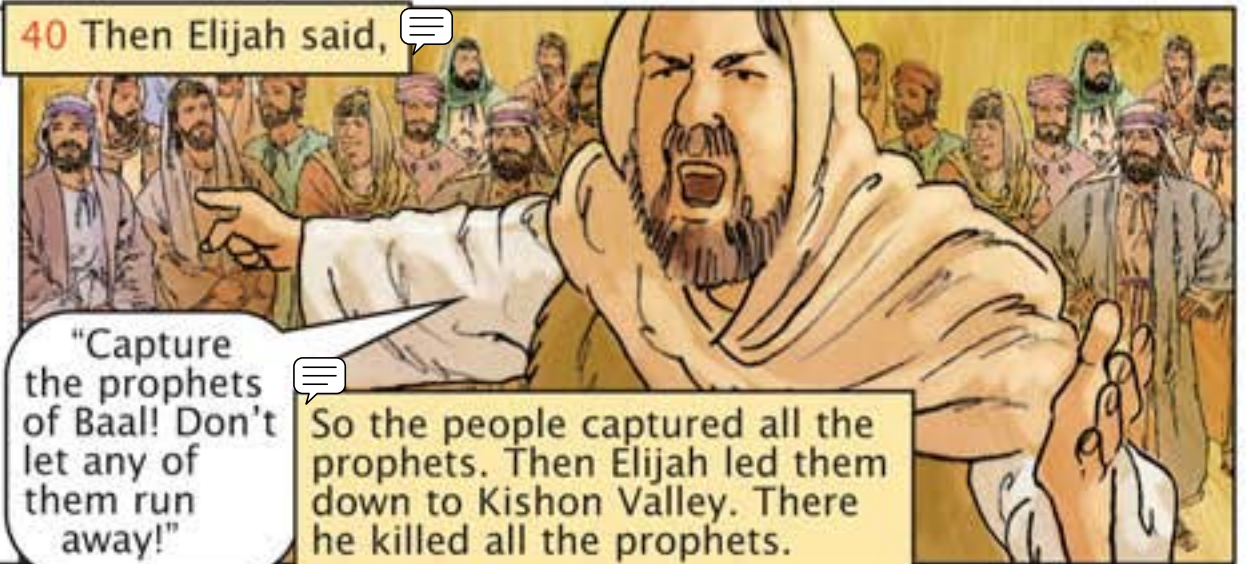


38 Then fire from the Lord came down. It burned the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the ground around the altar. It also dried up the water in the ditch. **39** When all the people saw this, they fell down to the ground.



They cried,

"The Lord is God!
The Lord is God!"



40 Then Elijah said,

"Capture the prophets of Baal! Don't let any of them run away!"

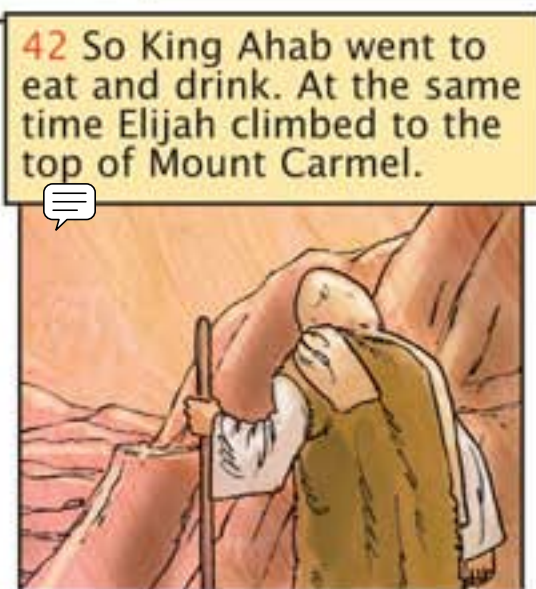
So the people captured all the prophets. Then Elijah led them down to Kishon Valley. There he killed all the prophets.



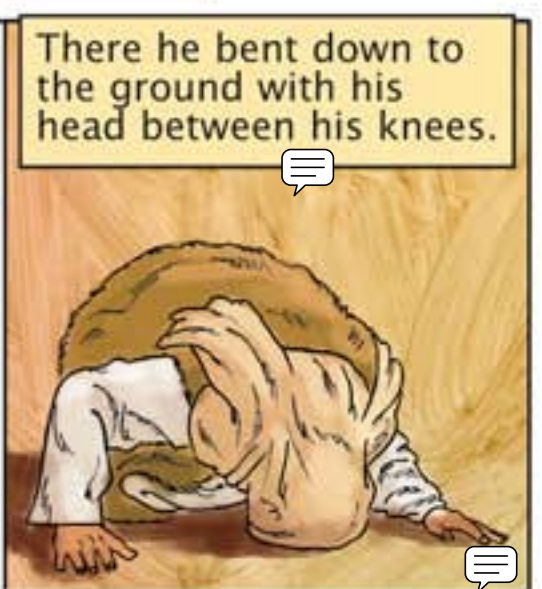
The Rain Comes Again

41 Then Elijah said to Ahab,

"Now, go, eat and drink. A heavy rain is coming."



42 So King Ahab went to eat and drink. At the same time Elijah climbed to the top of Mount Carmel.



There he bent down to the ground with his head between his knees.