



ELIJAH & ELISHA

Lessons In Faith



LESSON 5

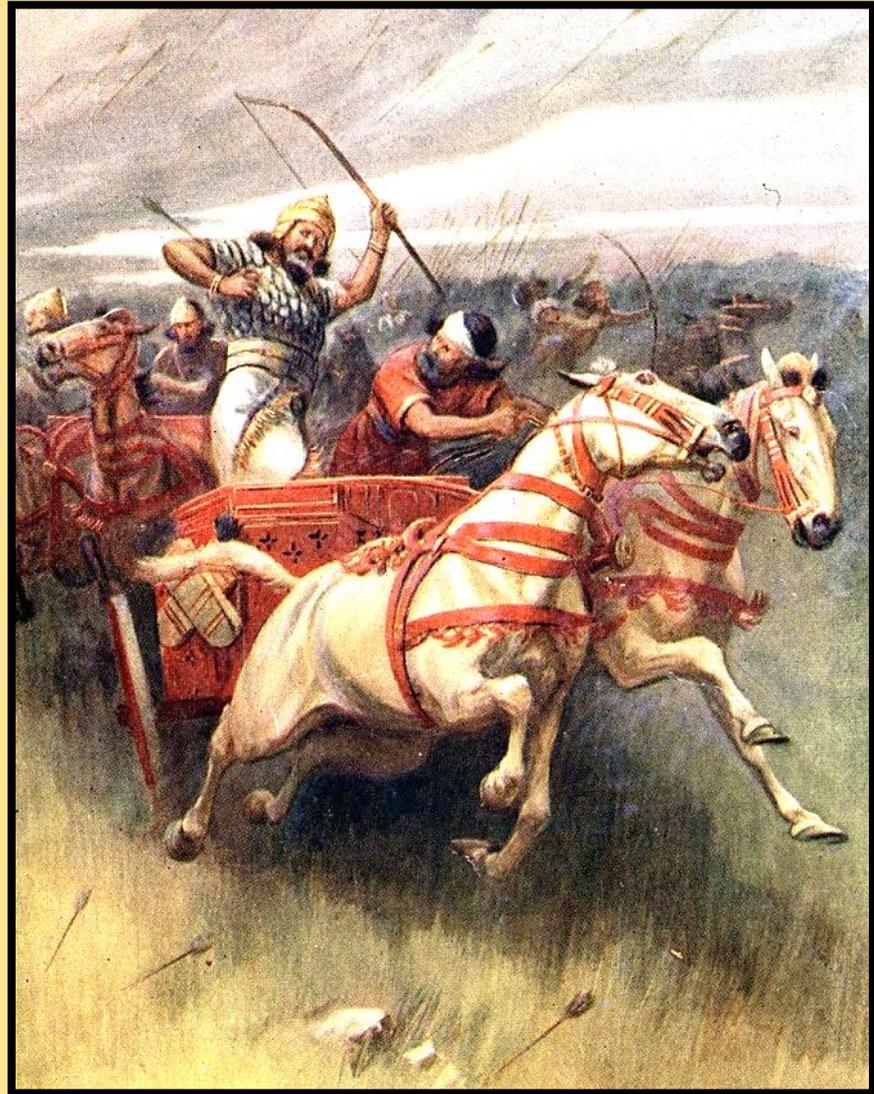
The background of the image is a stained glass pattern. It features a central horizontal band of yellow, flanked by two horizontal bands of green. The top and bottom sections are filled with a repeating diamond or lozenge pattern, outlined in black, with a light tan or beige color inside. The text is centered within the yellow band.

II CHRONICLES 20

REVIEW

DEATH OF KING AHAB

King Ahab decided to go to war with Syria and King Jehoshaphat compromised by joining him with his army despite the warning from the prophet Micaiah. King Ahab died in the battle when an arrow shot him “at a venture” and dogs licked his blood.



Following the death of Ahab and loss of the battle against the Syrians the timing was perfect for the prophet Jehu to make an impression upon King Jehoshaphat with his admonition to trust in God and avoid evil alliances.



Jehoshaphat took Jehu's prophecy to heart, and in II Chronicles 20:1-30 he demonstrated that he was capable of trusting in God. It is one of the most beautiful examples of faith in the Holy Scriptures. If only he had continued to seek God and avoid compromise. But, look what he did not long after this sterling example of faith . . .

2 Chronicles 20

“³⁵And after this did Jehoshaphat king of Judah join himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who did very wickedly.”

Ahaziah was the son of Ahab and Jezebel. He reigned only briefly. He worshipped Jeroboam's calves and his mother's idols Baal and Ashtoreth.

KINGS OF ISRAEL

Jeroboam	975-954
Nadab	954-953
Baasha	953-930
Elah	930-929
Zimri	929
Omri	929-918
Ahab	918-897
Ahaziah	897-896
Jehoram	896-884
Jehu	884-856
Jehoahaz	856-841
Jehoram II	841-825
Jehoahaz II	825-784
Jehoiada	773
Jehoash	772
Jehoiakim	772-762
Jehoiachin	762-760
Jehoiachin	760-740
Hoshea	730-721

KINGS OF JUDAH

Rehoboam	975-958
Abijah	958-955
Asa	955-914
Jehoshaphat	914-892
Jehoram	892-884
Ahaziah	885
Athaliah	885-878
Joash	878-839
Amaziah	839-810
Uzziah	810-758
Jotham	758-742
Ahaz	742-726
Hezekiah	726-698
Manasseh	698-643
Amon	643-641
Josiah	641-610
Jehoahaz	610
Jehoiakim	610-599
Jehoiachin	599
Zedekiah	599-588

Tarshish—

Possibly in southern Spain near Gibraltar. Because of mineral wealth the Phoenicians established a colony there.

Jehoshaphat went into the shipping business with Ahaziah.

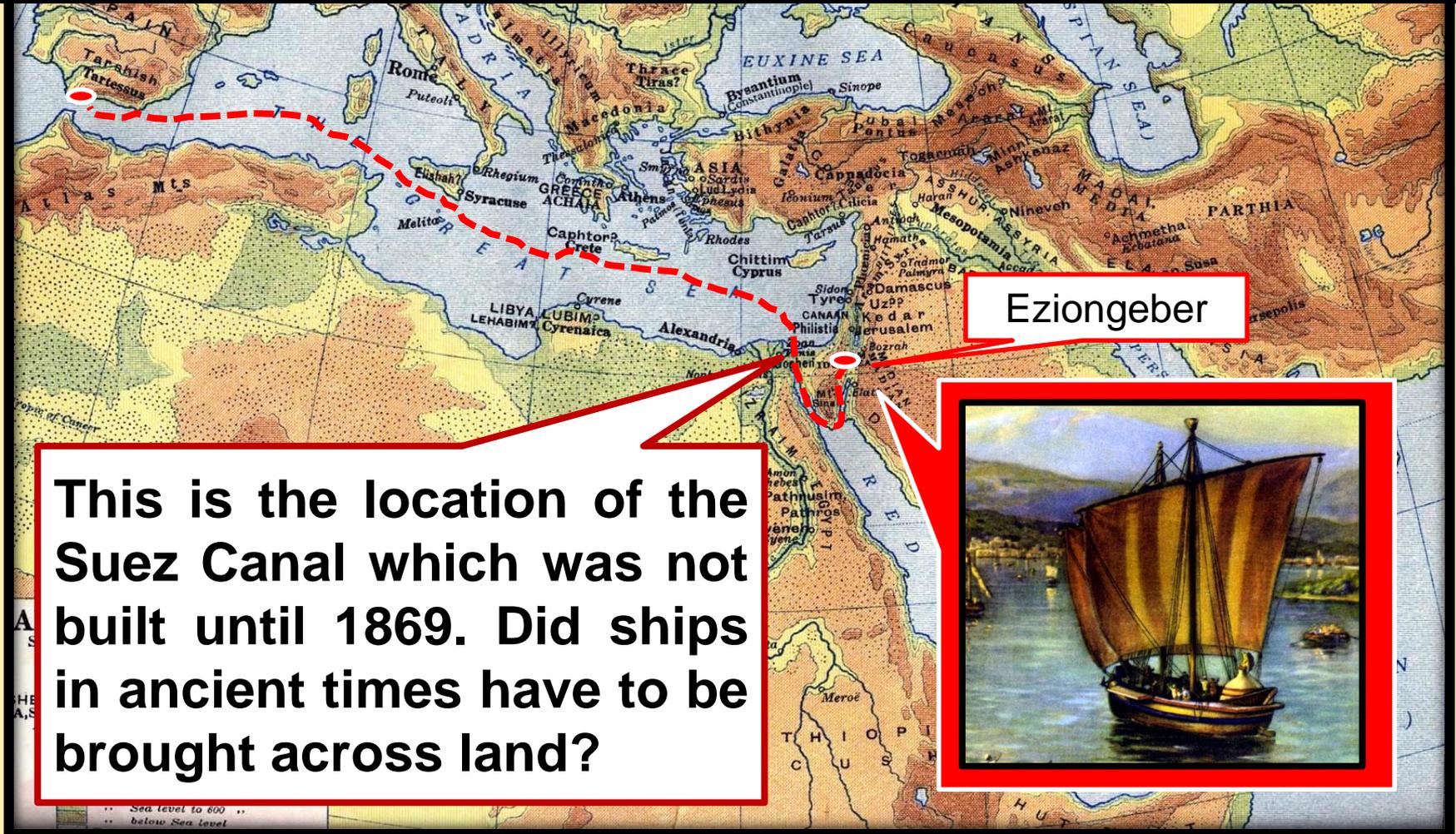
2 Chronicles 20

“³⁶And he joined himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish: and they made the ships in Eziongeber.”

Eziongeber



KNOW YOUR HISTORY



Eziongeber

This is the location of the Suez Canal which was not built until 1869. Did ships in ancient times have to be brought across land?



KNOW YOUR HISTORY

The modern Suez Canal is only the most recent of several manmade waterways that once snaked their way across Egypt.

The Egyptian Pharaoh Senusret III may have built an early canal connecting the Red Sea and the Nile River around 1850 B.C., about 1,000 years before King Ahab's reign.



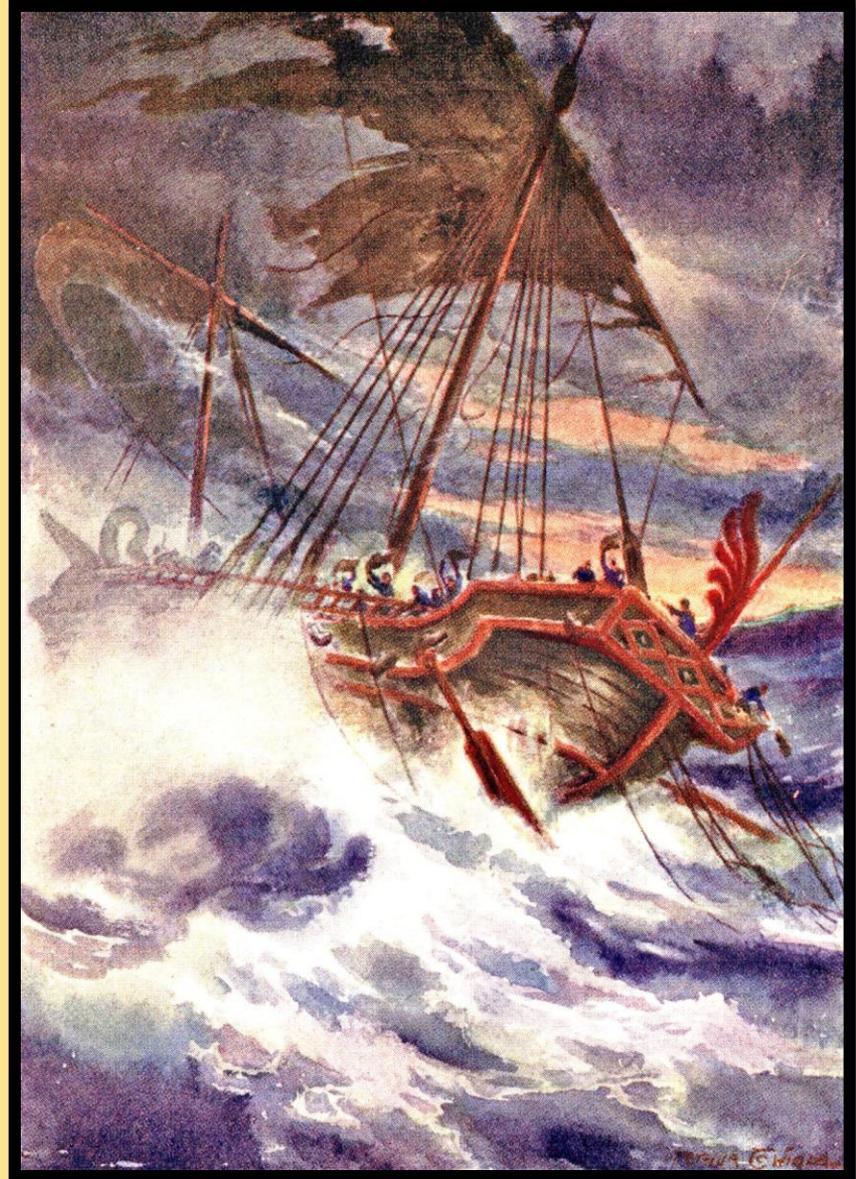
KNOW YOUR HISTORY

Also, according to ancient sources, the Pharaoh Necho II and the Persian conqueror Darius both began and then abandoned work on a similar project. The canal was supposedly finished in the 3rd century B.C. during the Ptolemaic Dynasty.



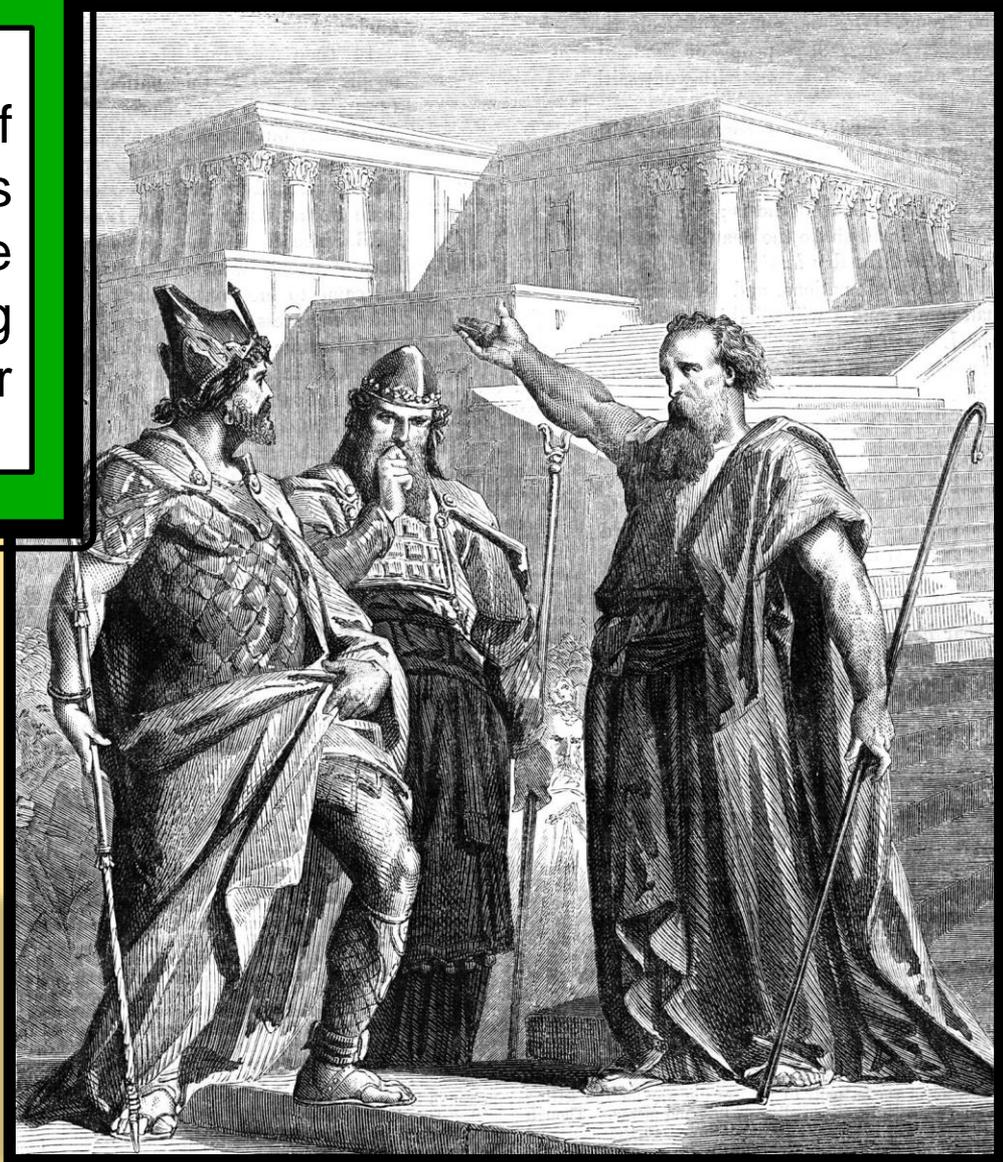
2 Chronicles 20

“³⁷Then Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, Because thou hast joined thyself with Ahaziah, the LORD hath broken thy works. And the ships were broken, that they were not able to go to Tarshish.”



Meanwhile . . .

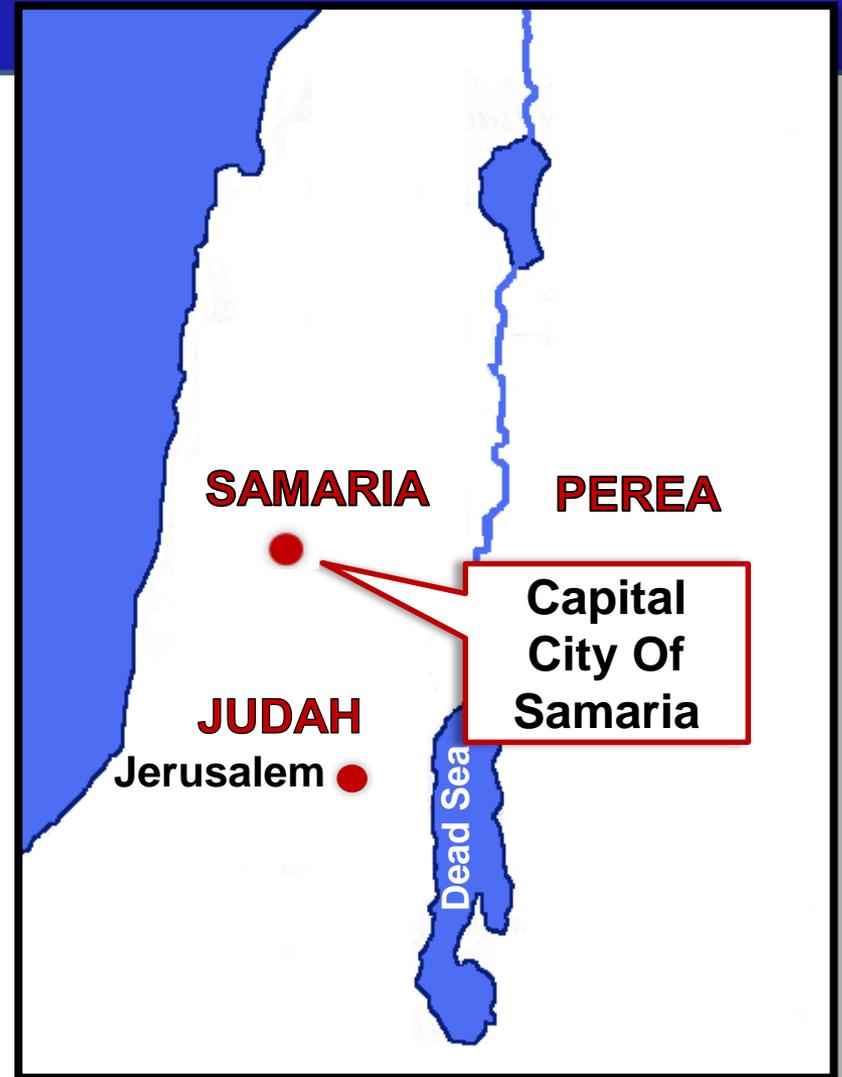
At the capital city of Samaria Elijah was trying to convince Ahaziah, the evil king of Israel, to repent for the sin of idolatry.



Archeology And The Bible

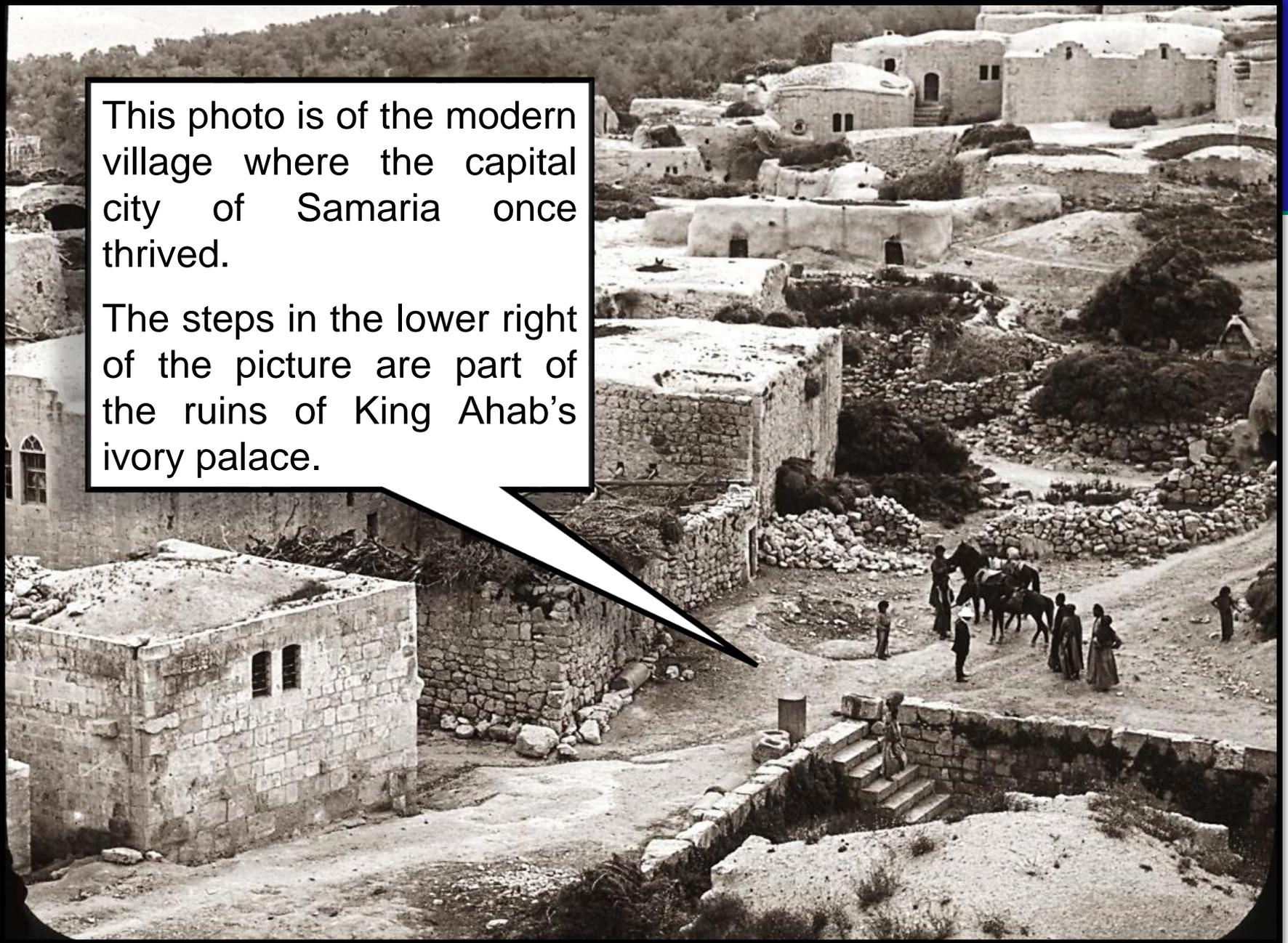
The site of Israel's capital city of Samaria has been excavated by two expeditions.

The hill on which the city was built lay in a cup-like valley surrounded at some distance on all sides by hills. This made it easily defensible.



This photo is of the modern village where the capital city of Samaria once thrived.

The steps in the lower right of the picture are part of the ruins of King Ahab's ivory palace.



Excavations of the city of Samaria

An interesting find made during the excavations of Samaria was the discovery of a number of inscribed pieces of pottery called the Samaria ostraca. They are receipts of oil and wine delivered as taxes to the royal storehouses.



Ostraca— a potsherd used as a writing surface

Excavations of the city of Samaria

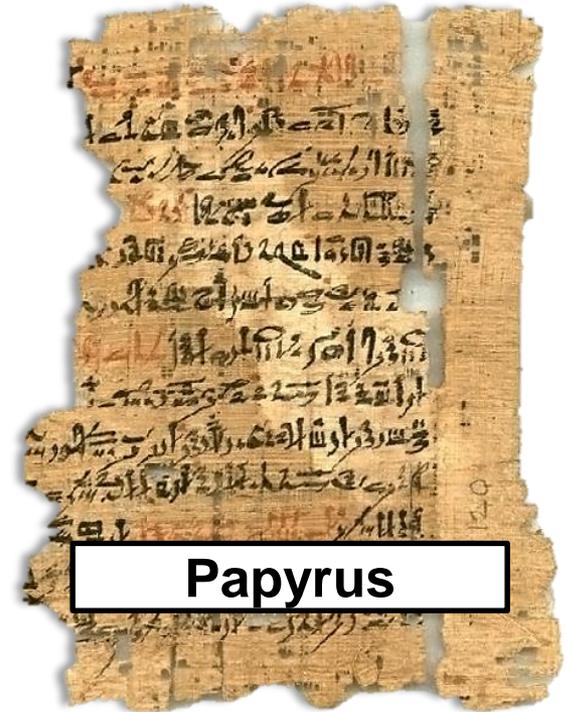
Documents made of perishable material which as papyrus, wood, or leather have perished long ago in the humid soil of Palestine, but the few notations that occasionally were put on broken pieces of pottery have survived to the present day.



Leather



Wood



Papyrus

The Samaria ostraca were written around the time of Ahaziah's reign.

They provide modern scholars with samples of the Israelite script and language of the time of the great prophets Elijah and Elisha, and through the personal names on them it is easy to see there were Israelite names and Canaanite names. The Canaanite names strongly associate with the god Baal as **Baalzamer**, **Abibaal** et cetera.

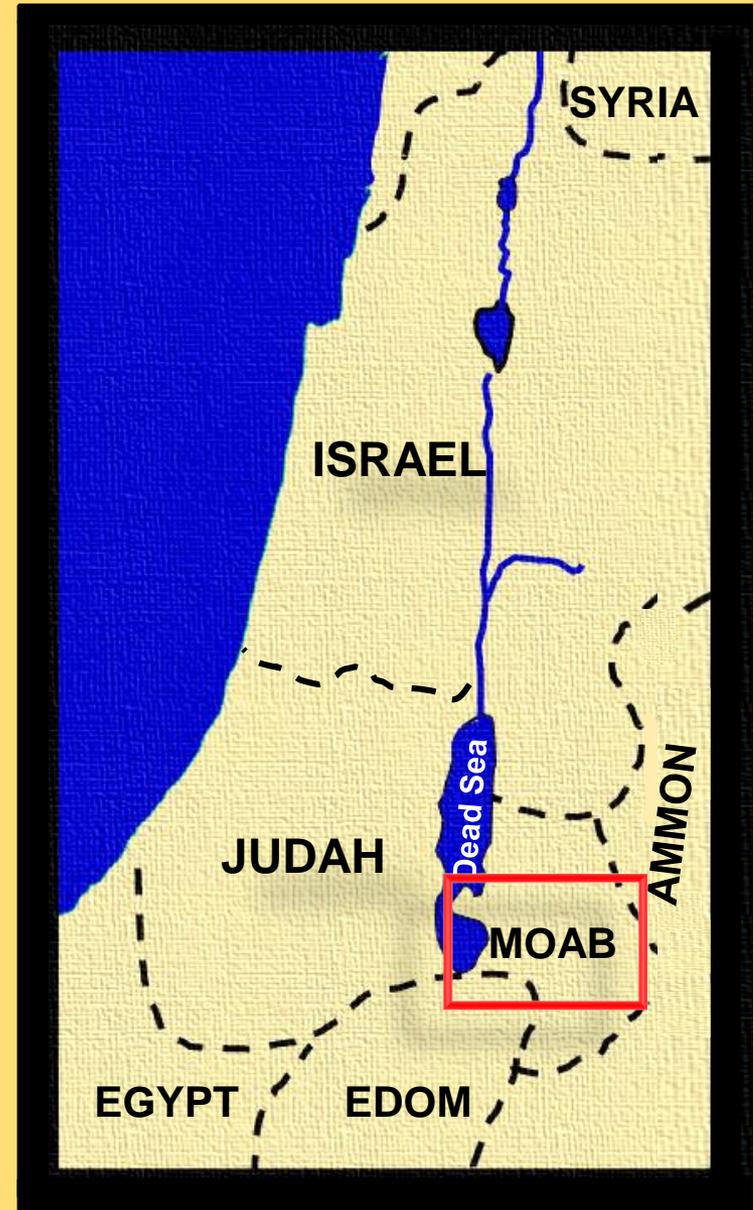
This evidence illustrates how simple archeological discoveries confirm Biblical narratives.

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Zechariah	773
Shallum	772
Menahem	772-762
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Hoshea	730-721

BACK TO OUR TEXT

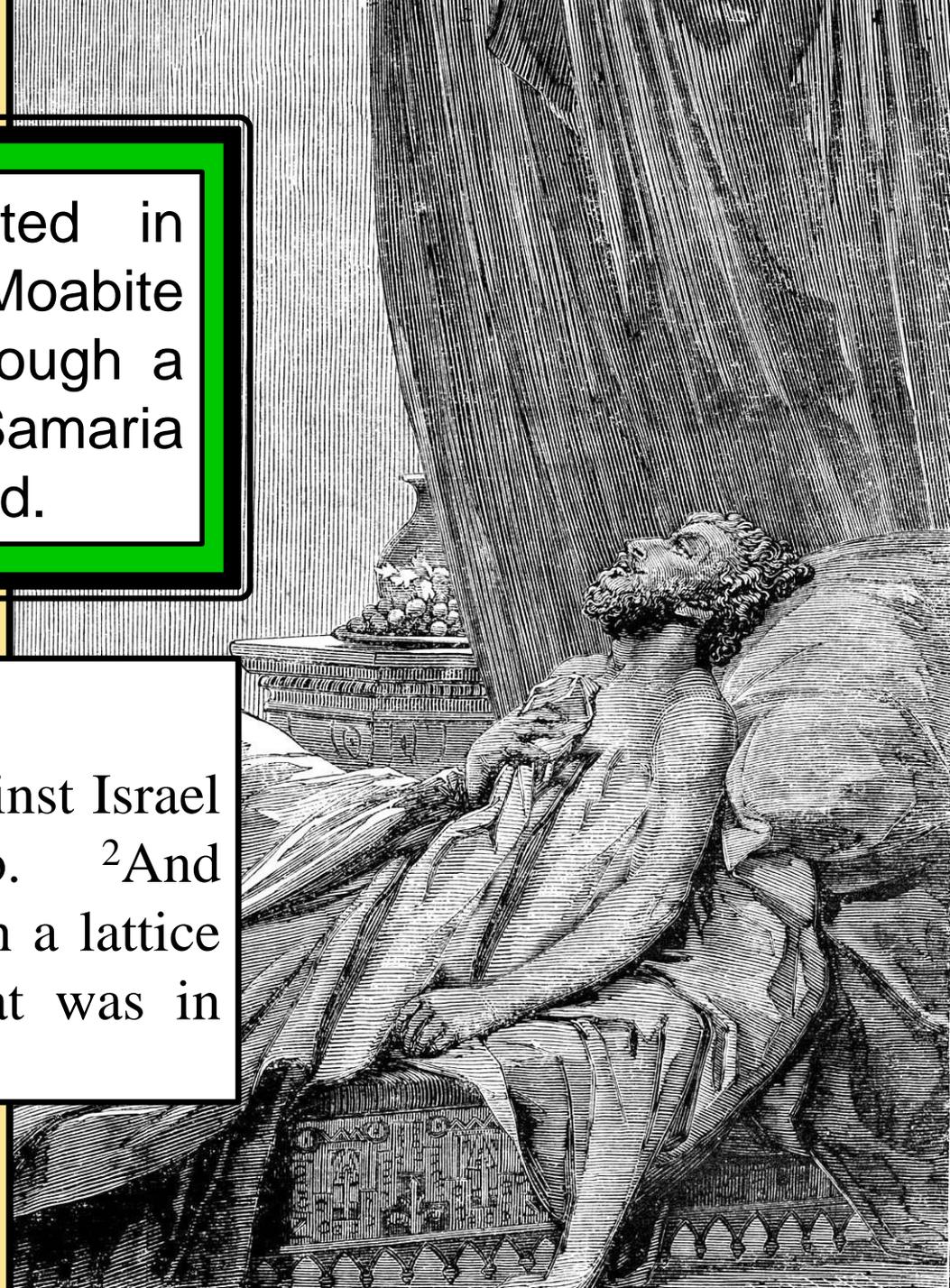
The most notable event of Ahaziah's reign was the revolt of the Moabites who had been giving tribute to Israel until Ahab died.



Ahaziah was prevented in putting down the Moabite revolt when he fell through a lattice in his palace in Samaria and was severely injured.

2 Kings 1

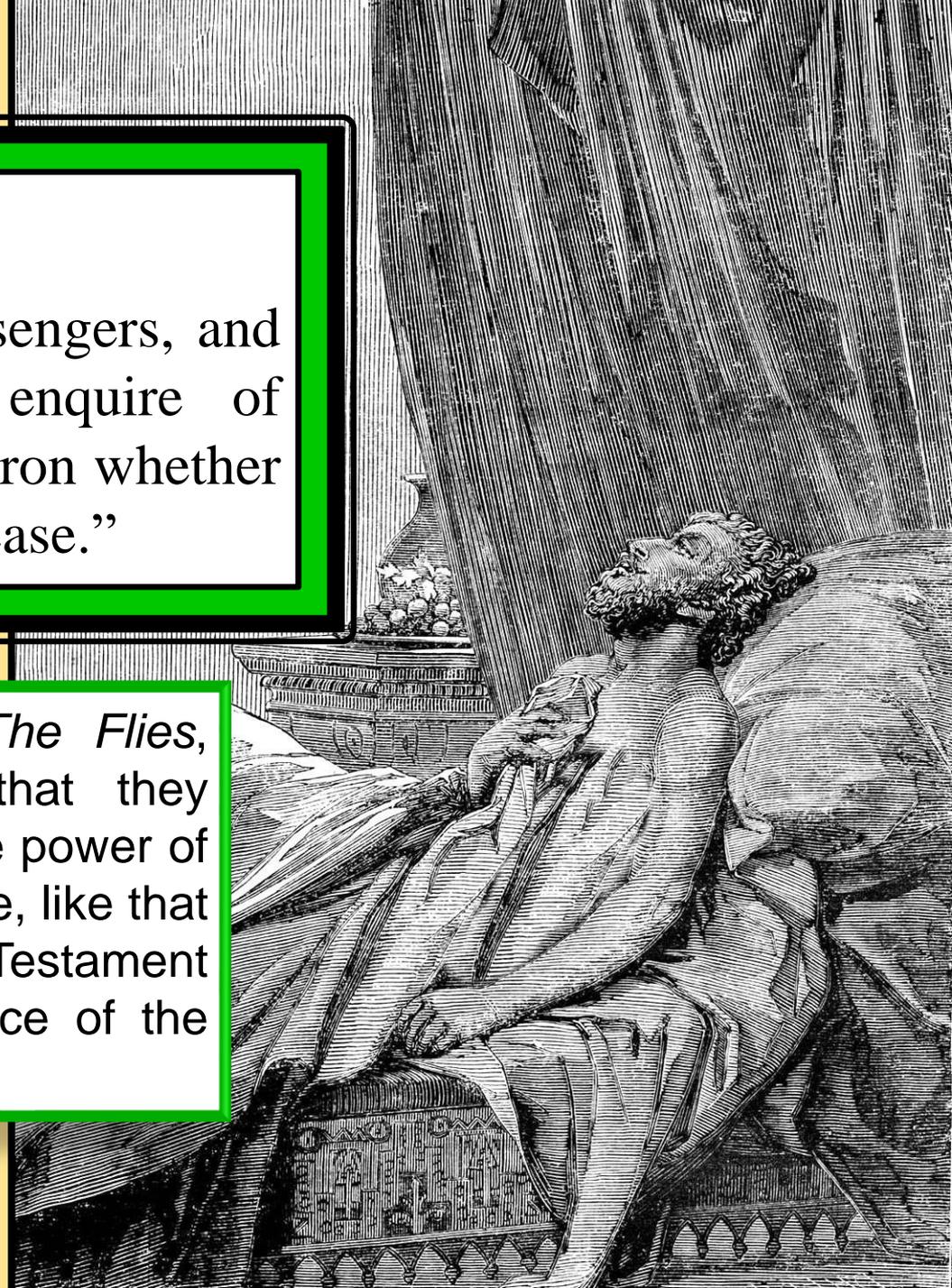
“¹Then Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab. ²And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Samaria, and was sick . . .”



2 Kings 1

“² . . . And he sent messengers, and said unto them, Go, enquire of **Baalzebub** the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease.”

BAALZEBUB, or *Lord Of The Flies*, was one of their Baals that they believed gave answers by the power of demons with a humming noise, like that of a fly. In the New Testament Beelzebub is called the prince of the devils (Matthew 12:24).

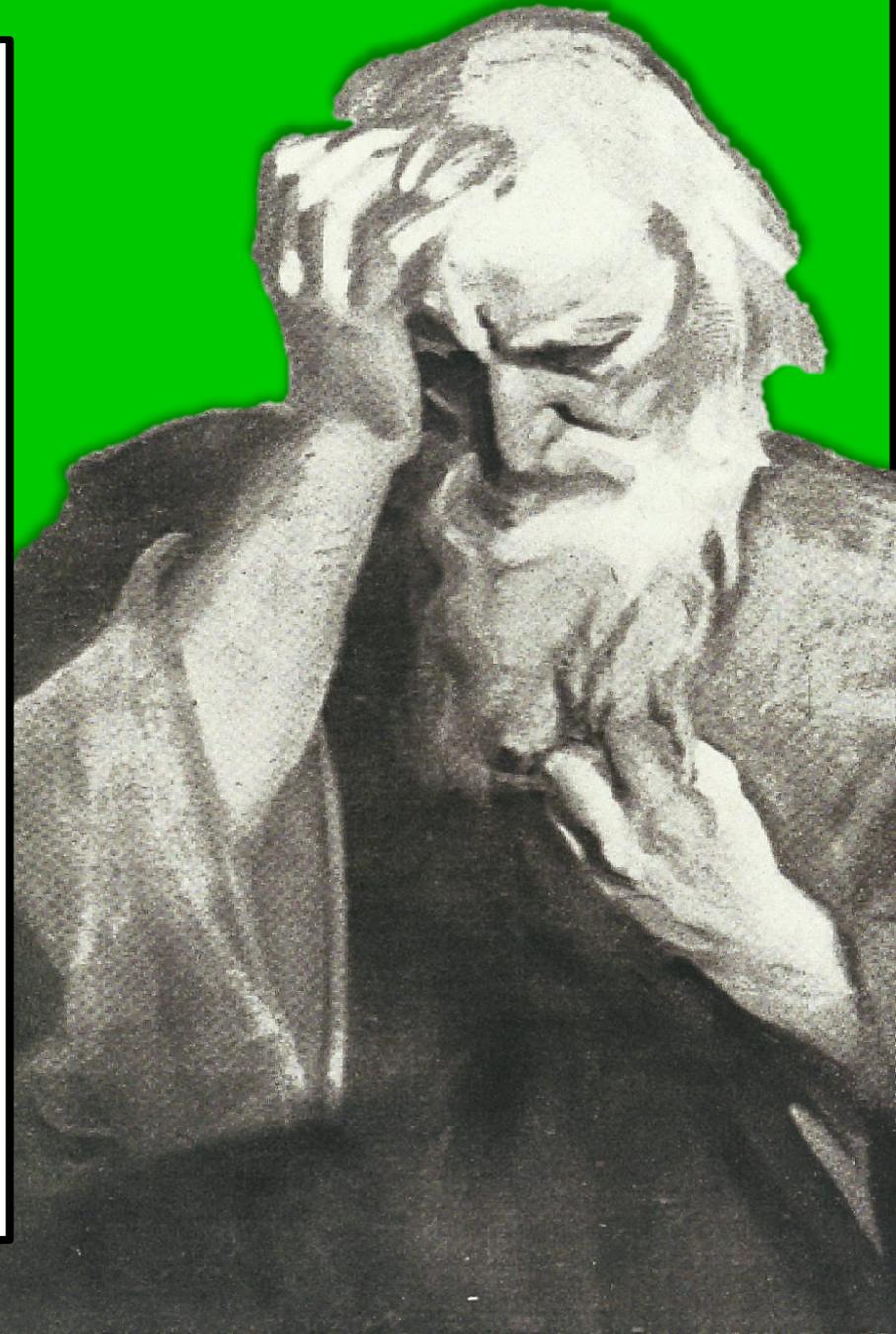


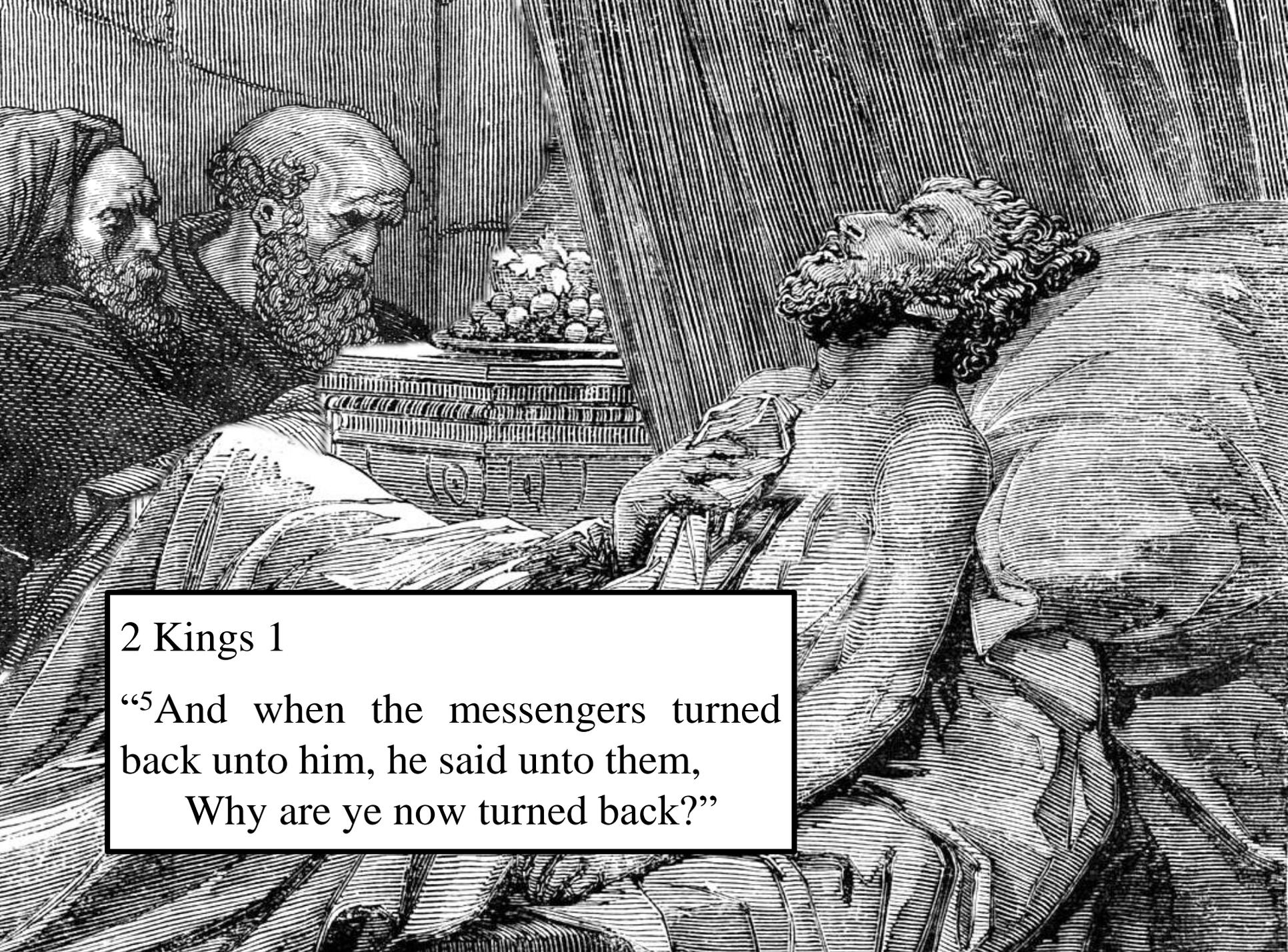
2 Kings 1

“³But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite,

Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? ⁴Now therefore thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.

And Elijah departed.”





2 Kings 1

“⁵And when the messengers turned back unto him, he said unto them, Why are ye now turned back?”



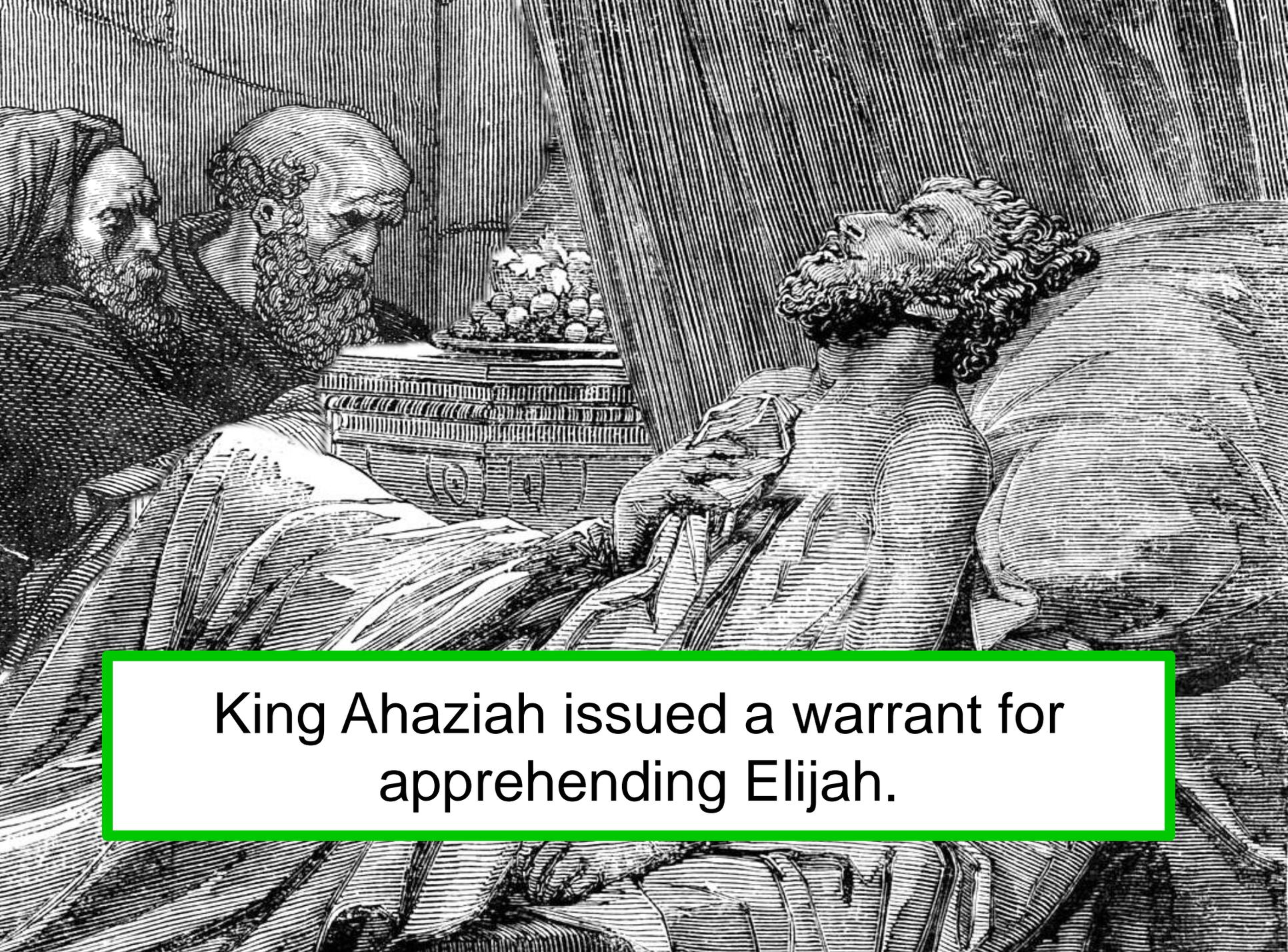
2 Kings 1

“⁶And they said unto him, There came a man up to meet us, and said unto us, Go, turn again unto the king that sent you, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that thou sendest to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? therefore thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.”



2 Kings 1

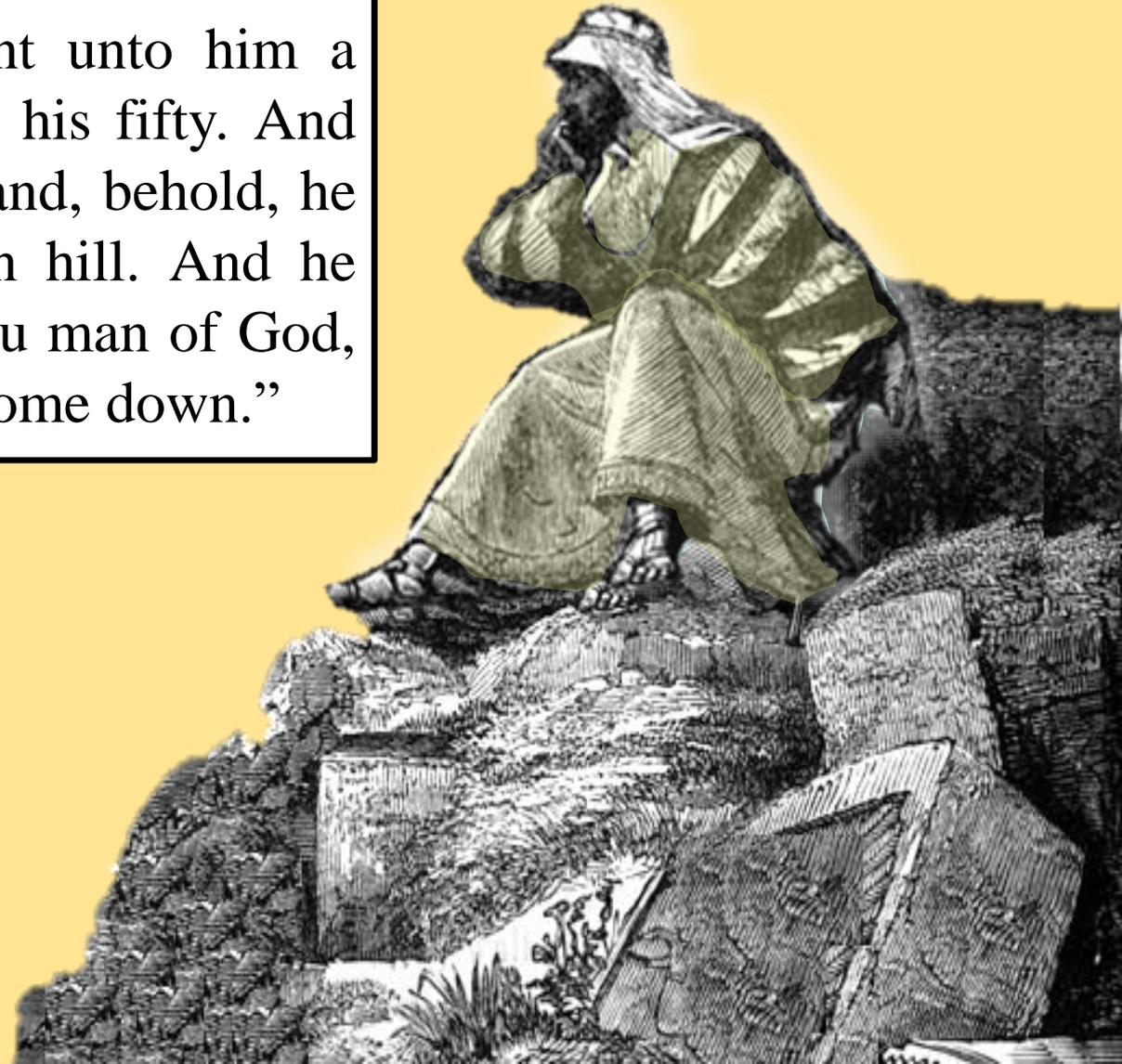
“⁷And he said unto them, What manner of man was he which came up to meet you, and told you these words? ⁸And they answered him, He was an hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said, It is Elijah the Tishbite.”



King Ahaziah issued a warrant for apprehending Elijah.

2 Kings 1

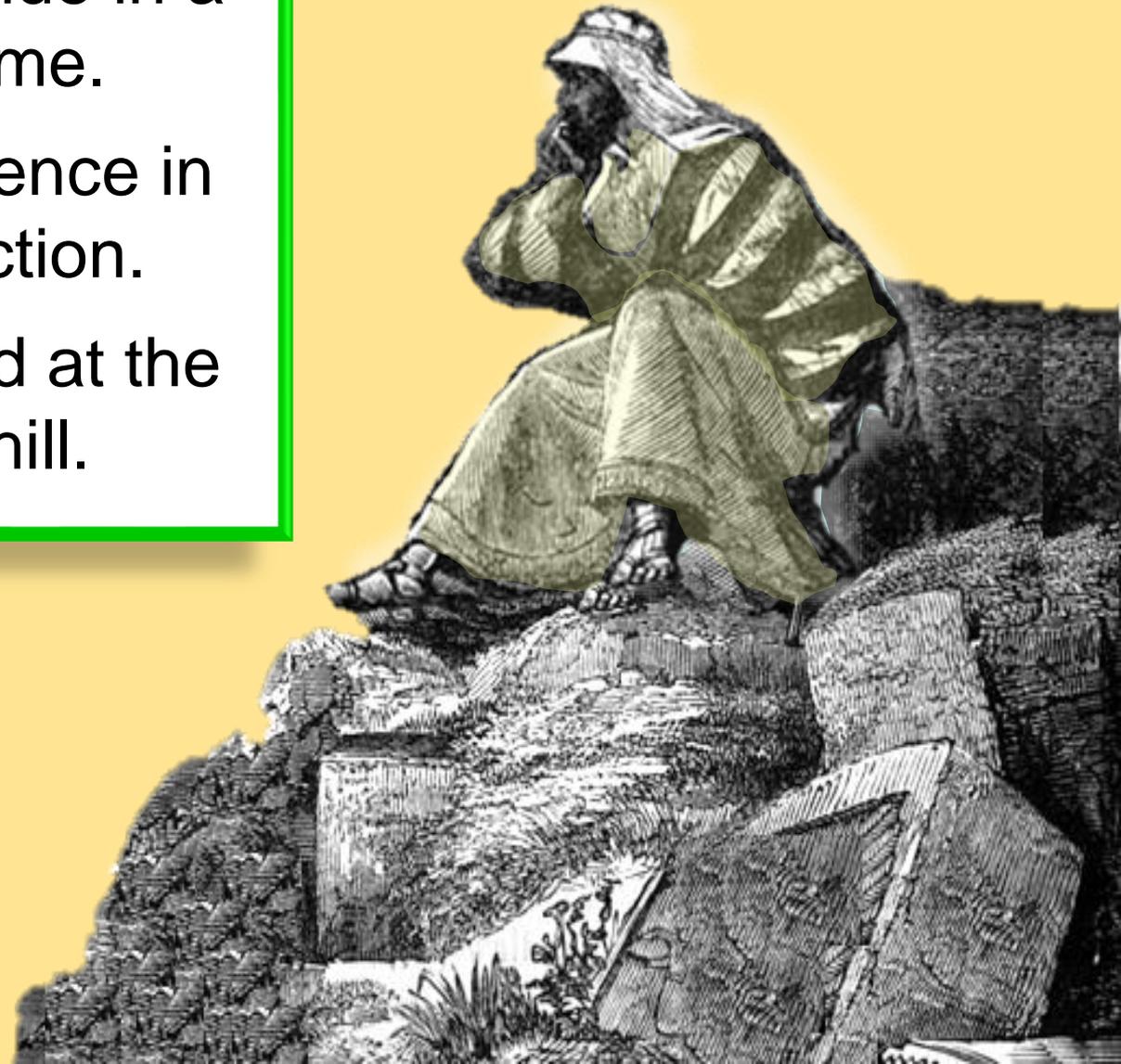
“⁹Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him: and, behold, he sat on the top of an hill. And he spake unto him, Thou man of God, the king hath said, Come down.”



Elijah did not hide in a cave this time.

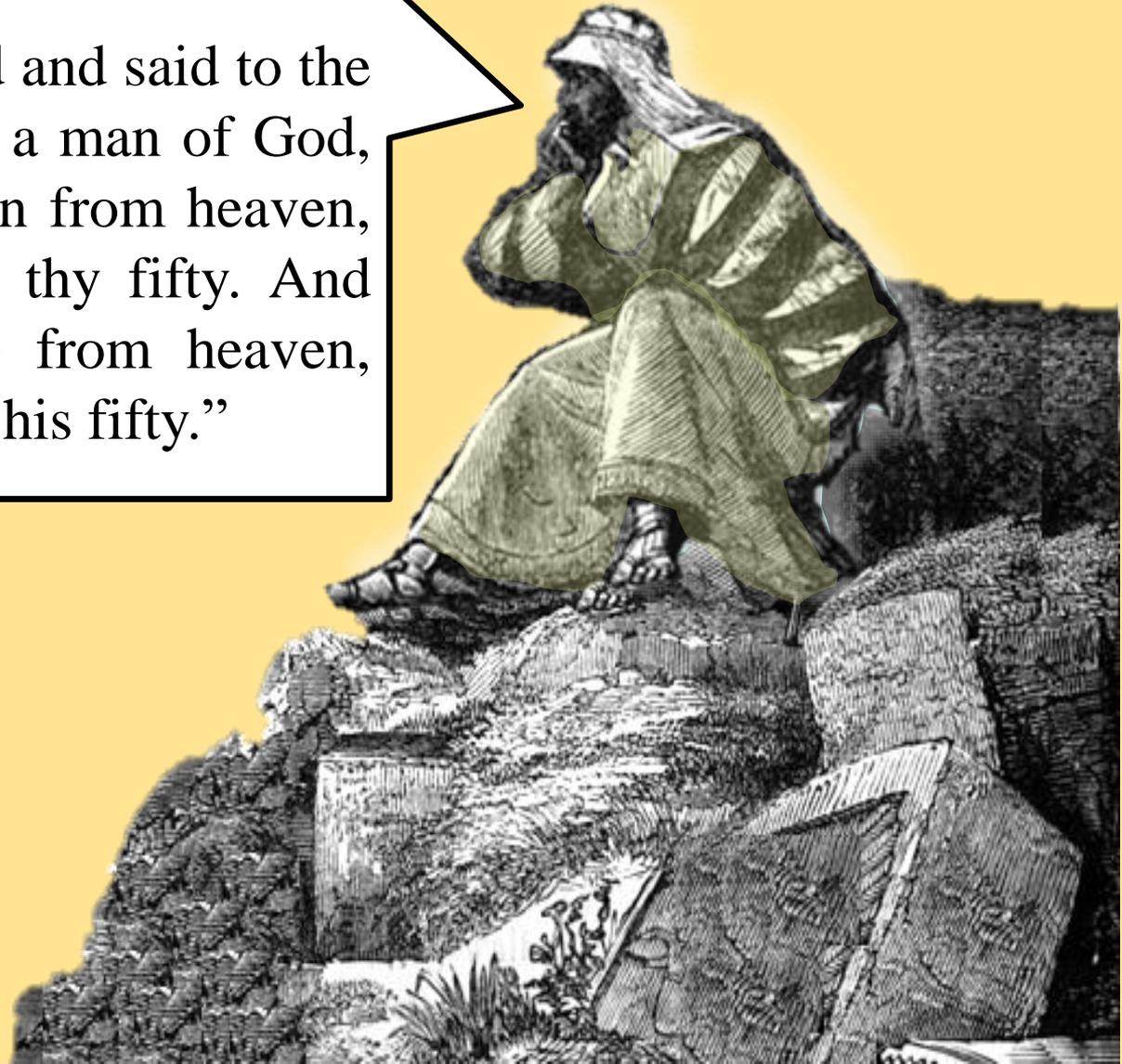
He had experience in God's protection.

He boldly stood at the top of the hill.



2 Kings 1

“¹⁰And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.”

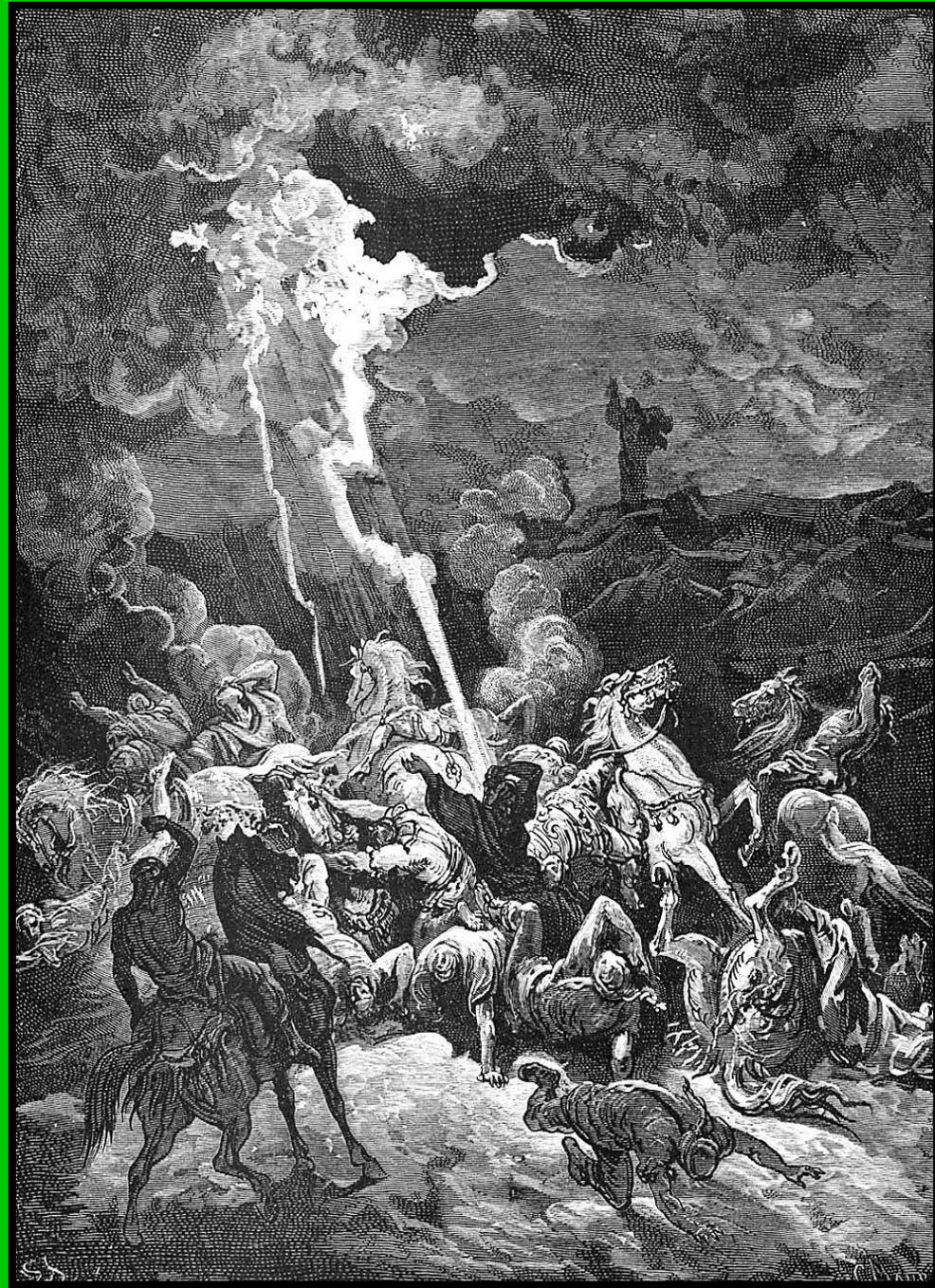


**ELIJAH SPOKE AND
IT WAS DONE**



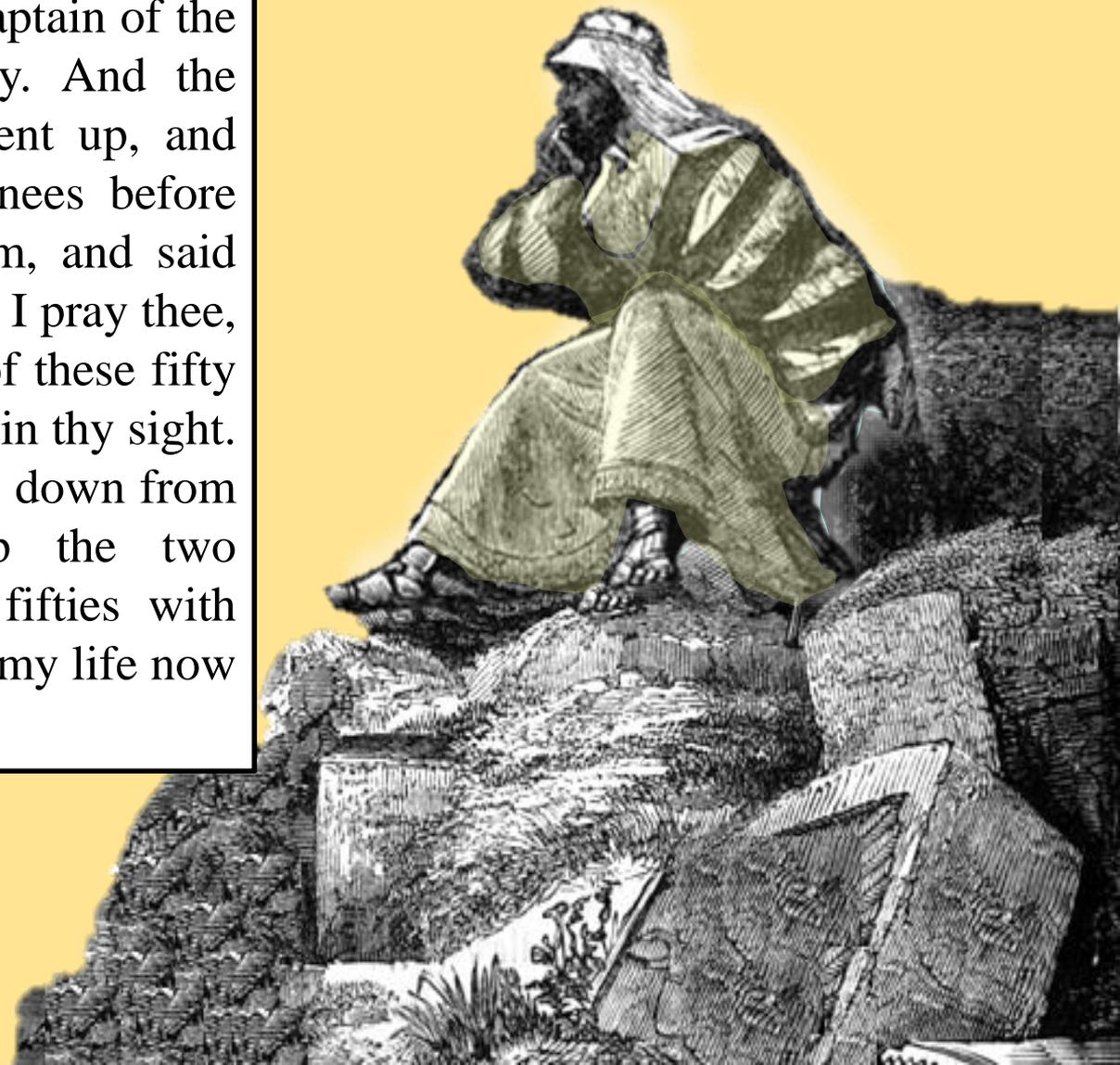
2 Kings 1

“¹¹Again also he sent unto him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said unto him, O man of God, thus hath the king said, Come down quickly. ¹²And Elijah answered and said unto them, If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.”



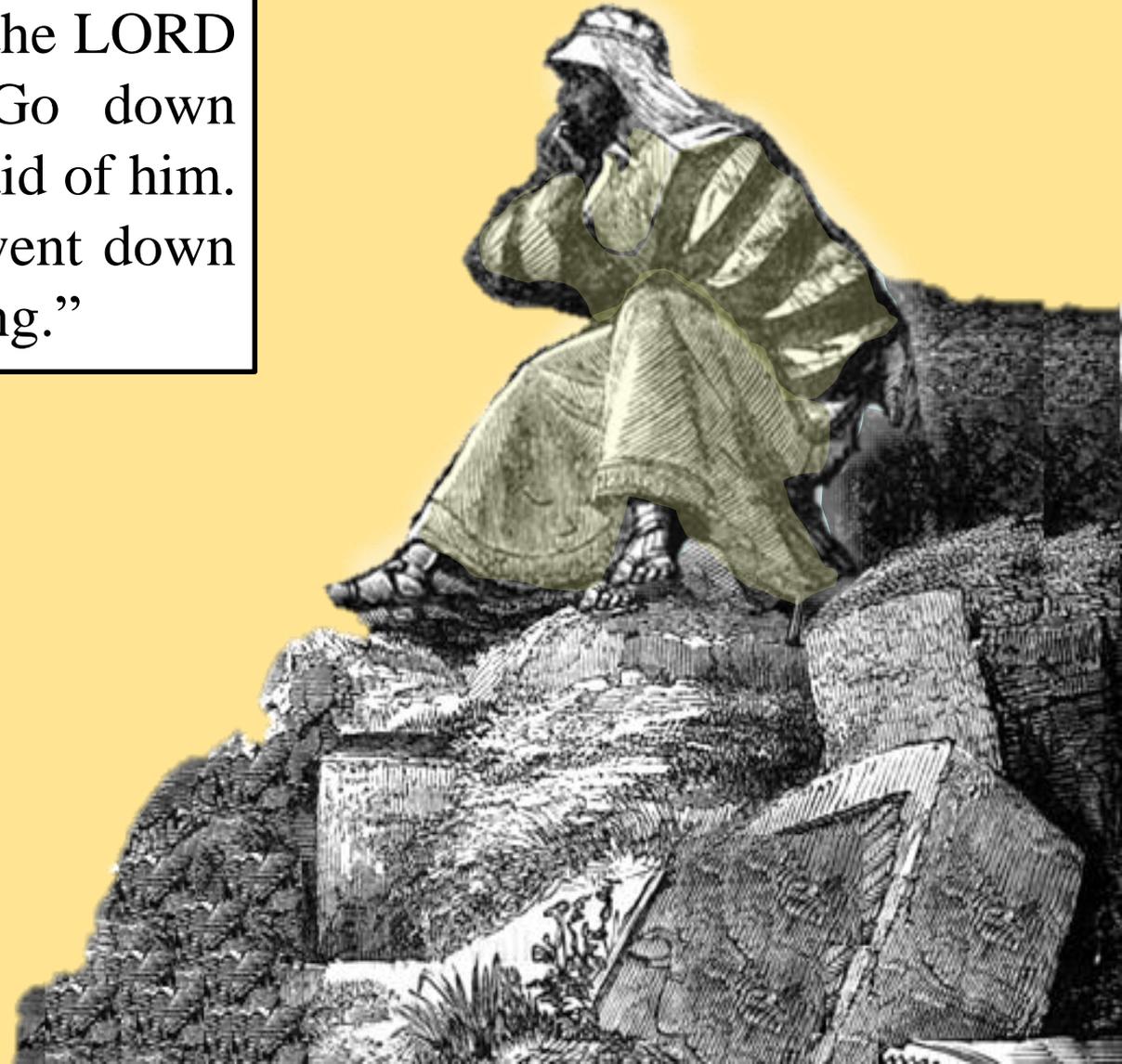
2 Kings 1

“¹³And he sent again a captain of the third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him, O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight.
¹⁴Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties: therefore let my life now be precious in thy sight.”



2 Kings 1

“¹⁵And the angel of the LORD said unto Elijah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him. And he arose, and went down with him unto the king.”



2 Kings 1

“¹⁶And he said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast sent messengers to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron, is it not because there is no God in Israel to enquire of his word? therefore thou shalt not come down off that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.”



2 Kings 1

“¹⁷So he died according to the word of the LORD which Elijah had spoken. And Jehoram reigned in his stead in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah; because he had no son. ¹⁸Now the rest of the acts of Ahaziah which he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?”



**KING AHAZIAH DIED
AND
JEHORAM REIGNED IN HIS STEAD**



The background is a stained glass pattern. It features a central horizontal band of yellow glass. Above and below this band are sections of light brown or tan glass, each divided into diamond shapes by dark, thick lead lines. Two horizontal bands of green glass separate the yellow band from the diamond-patterned sections. The overall effect is that of a decorative window or a stylized architectural element.

THE END