

SAUL, DAVID, & SOLOMON

Lessons In Faith





LESSON 1

Samuel Anointed Saul

I Samuel 8 - 13



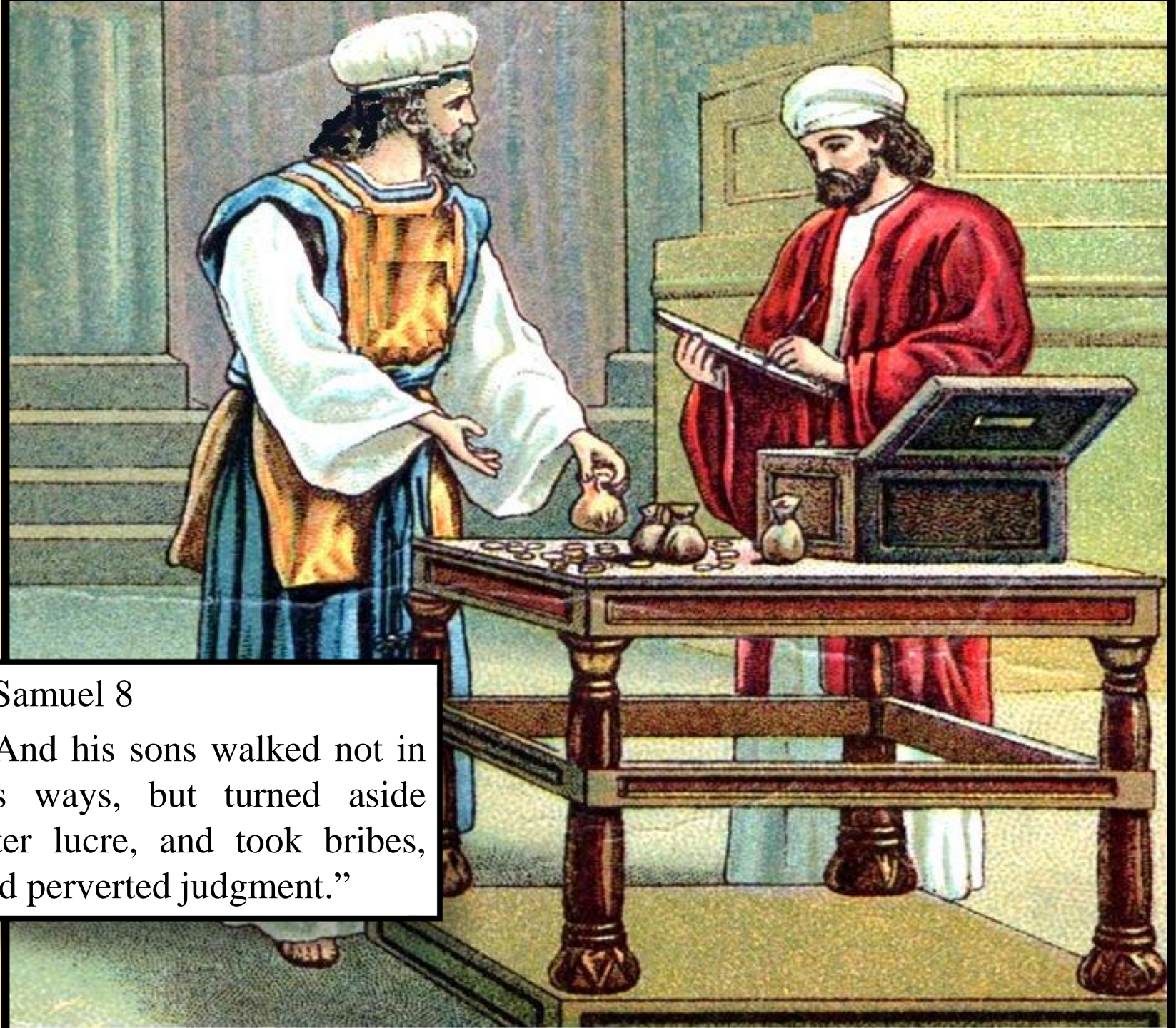
1 Samuel 8

“¹And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel.”



1 Samuel 8

“²Now the name of his firstborn was **Joel**; and the name of his second, **Abiah**: they were judges in Beersheba.”



1 Samuel 8

“³And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.”

1 Samuel 8

“⁴Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, ⁵And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now **make us a king to judge us like all the nations.** ⁶But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.”



1 Samuel 8

“⁷And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for **they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me**, that I should not reign over them. ⁹. . . howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.”



Samuel told the people God's warning that when they have a king they will soon have enough of him, and it will be too late to change their mind. He warned them that a king would rule with cruelty and that he will—

Take your sons to
serve in his army

Take your daughters
to be cooks

Take your crops to
make himself rich

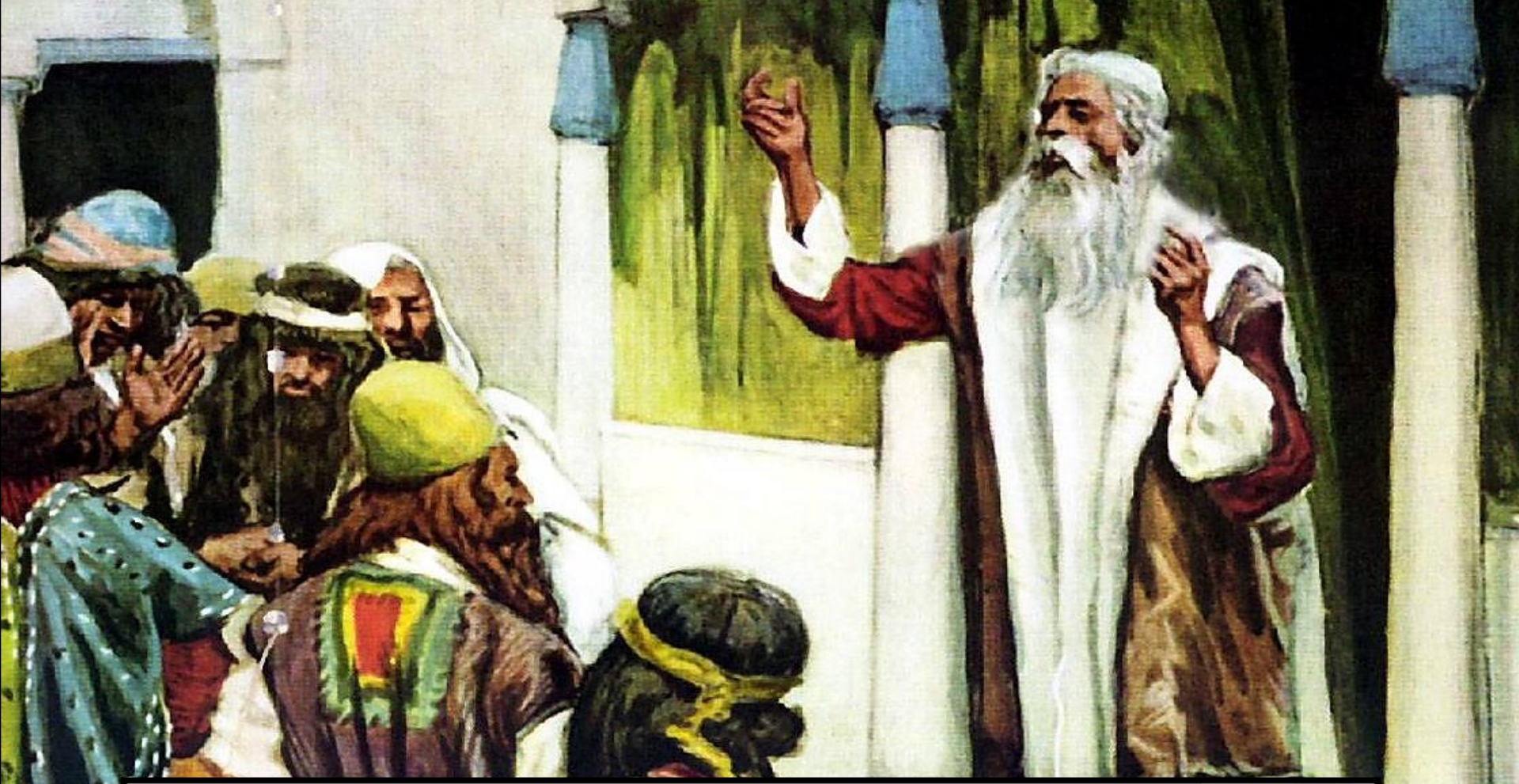
Take your servants
and animals



1 Samuel 8

“¹⁸And **ye shall cry out in that day because of your king** which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.”





1 Samuel 8

“¹⁹Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; ²⁰That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.”



1 Samuel 8

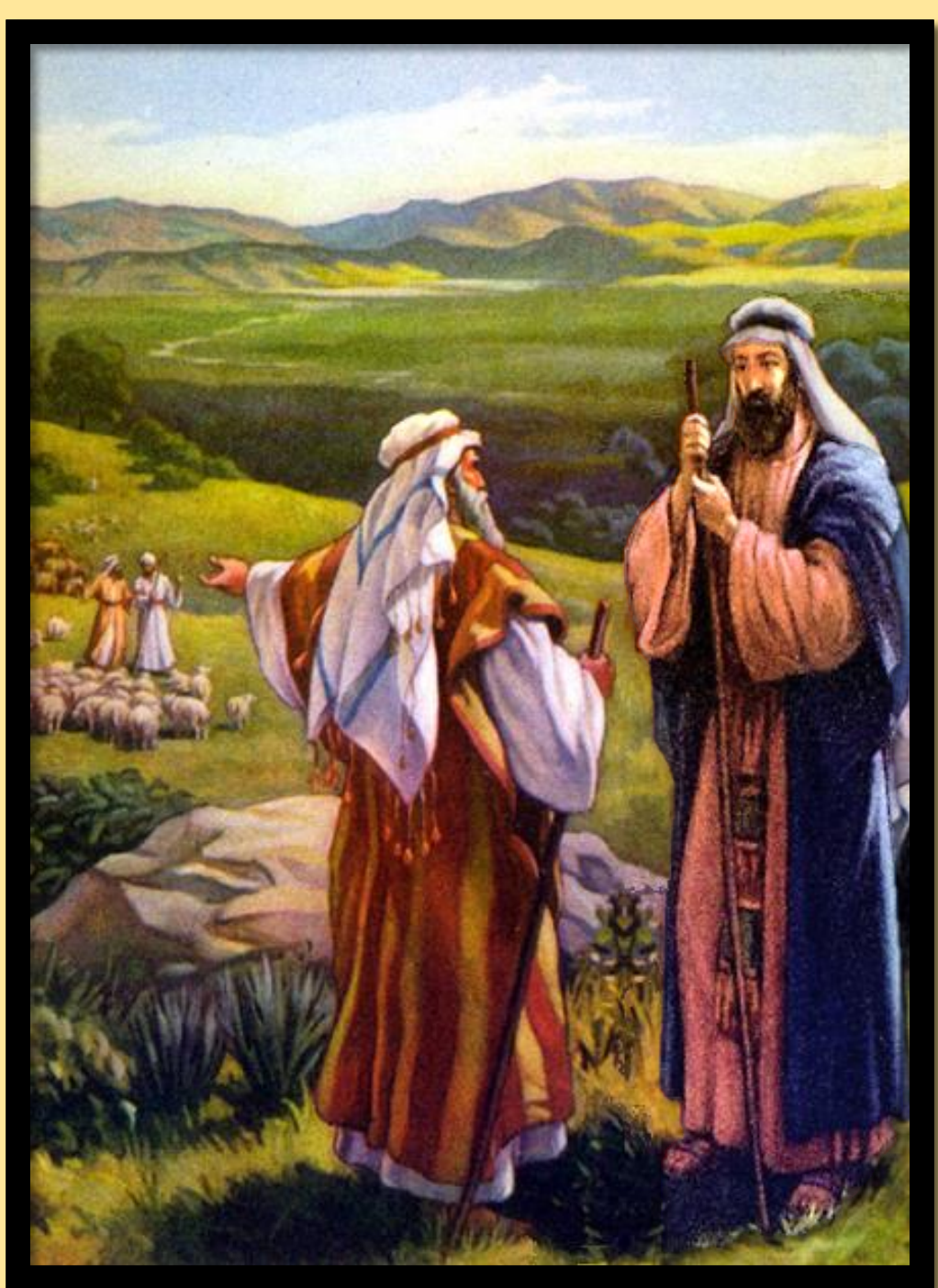
“²¹And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD. ²²And the LORD said to Samuel, **Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king.** And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city.”

1 Samuel 9

1 Samuel 9

¹Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was **Kish** . . . a Benjamite, a mighty man of power.

²And he had **a son, whose name was Saul**, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: **from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.**”

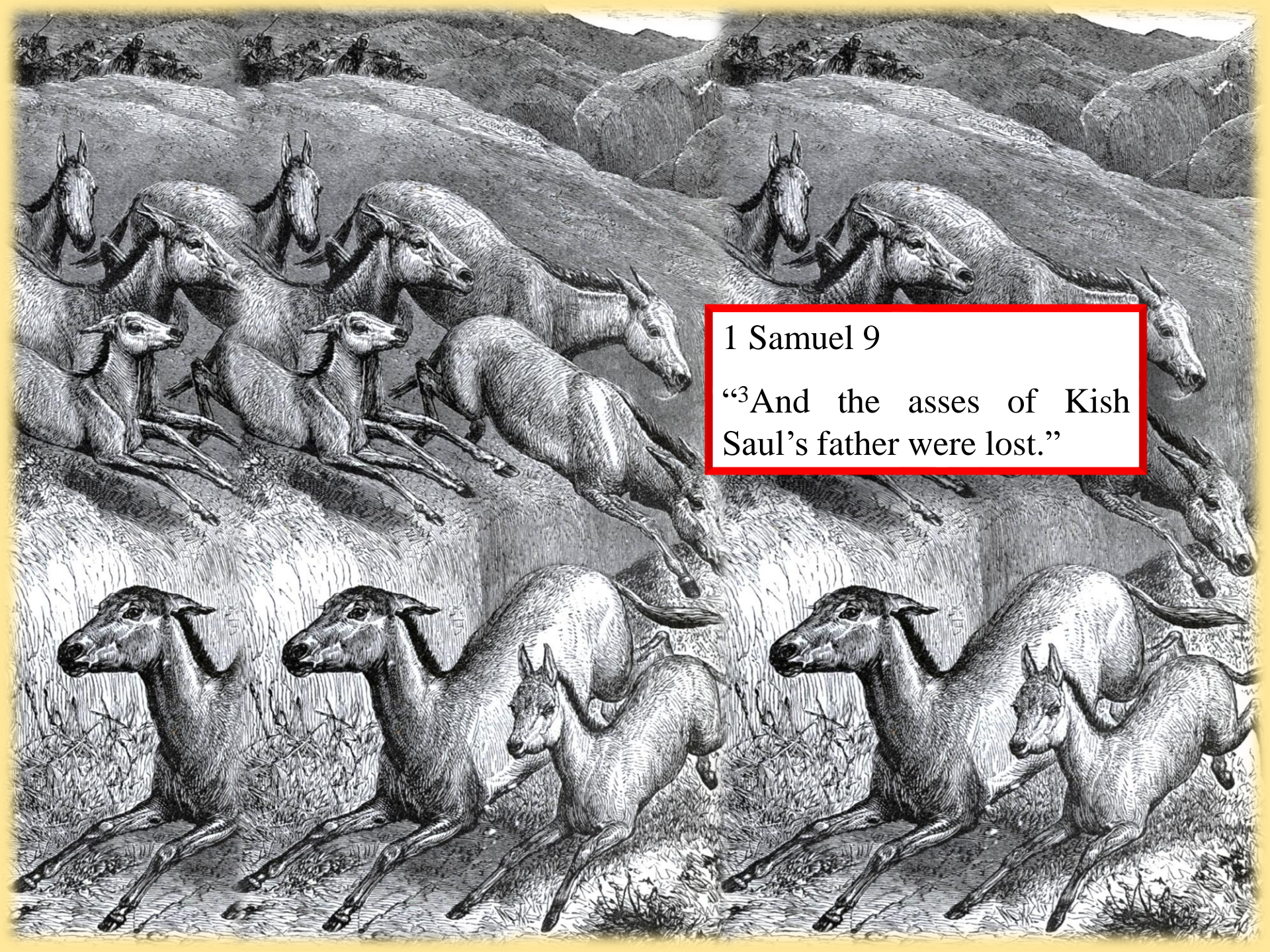


Saul rose from small beginnings. He was poor yet stepped at once into the throne. Hannah in her song of praise (1 Sam. 2:8) makes the prophecy:

“God raiseth up the poor out of the dust . . . to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory.”

Saul was married and had grown children, yet lived in his father's house and was subject to him. Promotion came not by chance nor human probabilities but by God.





1 Samuel 9

“³And the asses of Kish
Saul’s father were lost.”

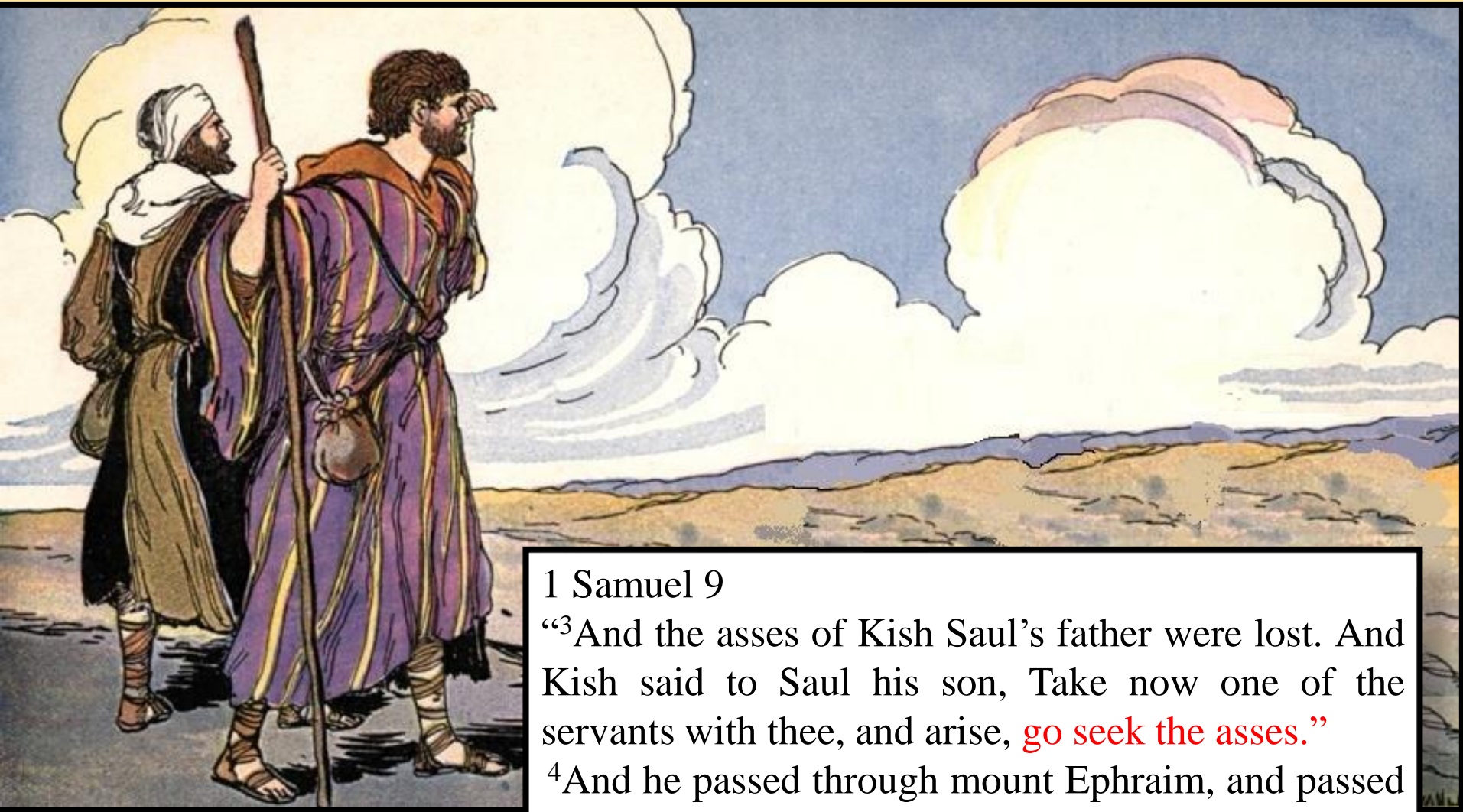
It seems the ass was much more esteemed than the horse in ancient times, especially white ones . . .

Deborah sings in her song of triumph: “Speak, ye that ride on white asses, ye that sit in judgment, and walk by the way”
Judges 5:10.

Little is said of Jair, a judge of Israel, but it is said that “he had thirty sons that rode on thirty ass colts”
Judges 10:4.

Little is said of Abdon, a judge of Israel also, but it does say, “He had forty sons and thirty nephews, that rode on threescore and ten ass colts”
Judges 12:14.





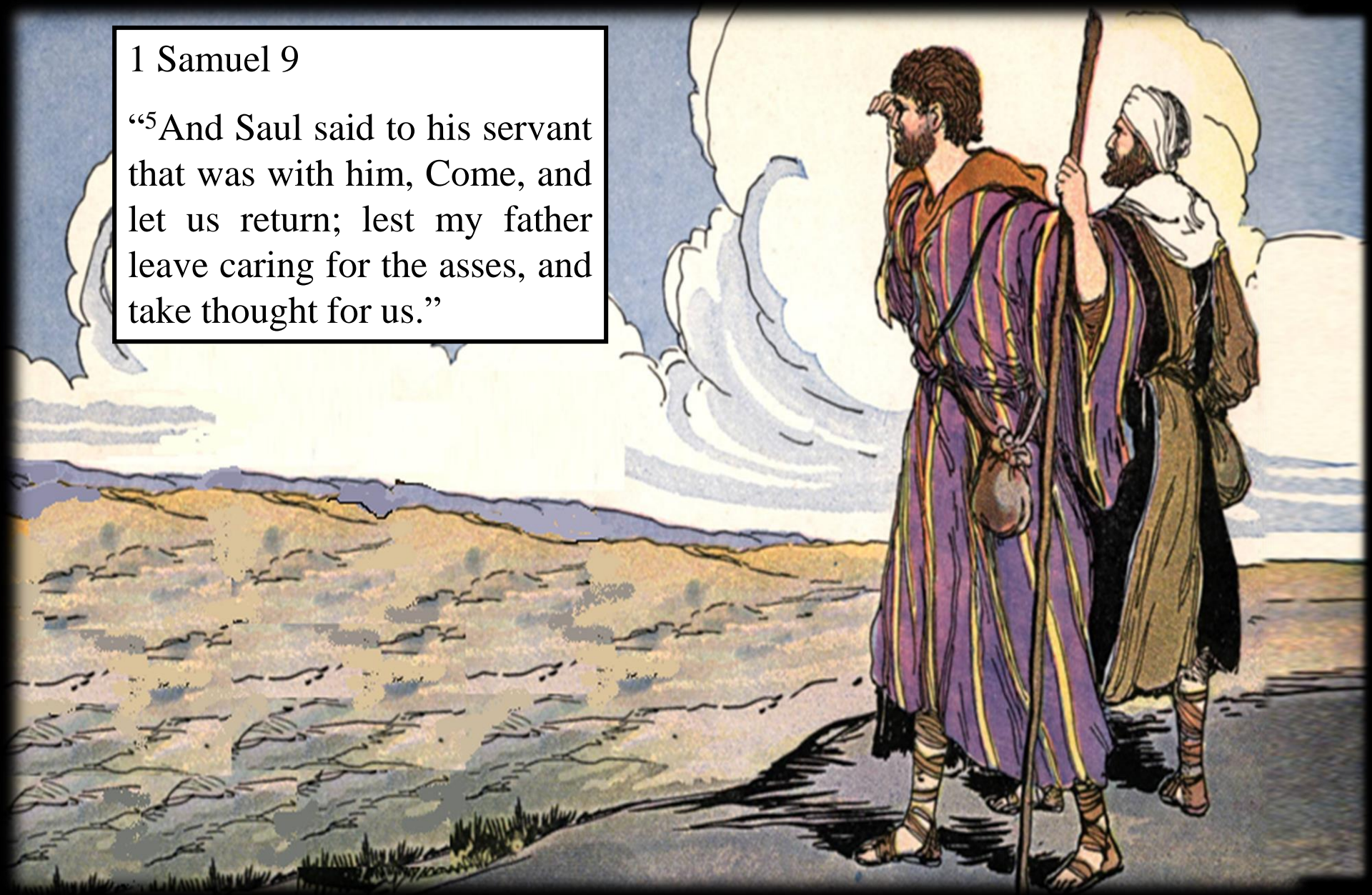
1 Samuel 9

“³And the asses of Kish Saul’s father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, **go seek the asses.**”

⁴And he passed through mount Ephraim, and passed through the land of Shalisha, but they found them not: then they passed through the land of Shalim, and there they were not: and he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they found them not.”

1 Samuel 9

“⁵And Saul said to his servant that was with him, Come, and let us return; lest my father leave caring for the asses, and take thought for us.”



The servant said they should ask the advice of a prophet he knew of in the near city, but Saul said they didn't have anything to give him for his help.

1 Samuel 9

“⁸And the servant answered Saul again, and said, Behold, **I have here at hand the fourth part of a shekel of silver:** that will I give to the man of God, to tell us our way. ¹⁰Then said Saul to his servant, Well said; come, let us go. So they went unto the city where the man of God was.”



THE SERVANT HAD HEARD OF SAMUEL BUT SAUL HAD NOT

Saul was from Gibeah not twenty miles from Ramah where Samuel dwelt, and yet it seems Saul had lived so very privately, and had taken so little notice of public affairs, that he had never seen Samuel, for when he met him he did not know him.



As they came near the city there were young maidens drawing water at a well. Saul and his servant asked them if the prophet was there, and they directed them to Samuel who was about to make a sacrifice.



1 Samuel 9

“¹⁴And they went up into the city: and when they were come into the city, behold, Samuel came out against them, for to go up to the high place.”

God had told Samuel the day before that a man would come to him, and he should anoint this man to be king.





1 Samuel 9

“¹⁷And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people.”

1 Samuel 9

“¹⁸Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, where the seer’s house is.

¹⁹And Samuel answered Saul, and said, I am the seer: **go up before me unto the high place; for ye shall eat with me to day**, and to morrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that is in thine heart.

²⁰And as for **thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found.**”



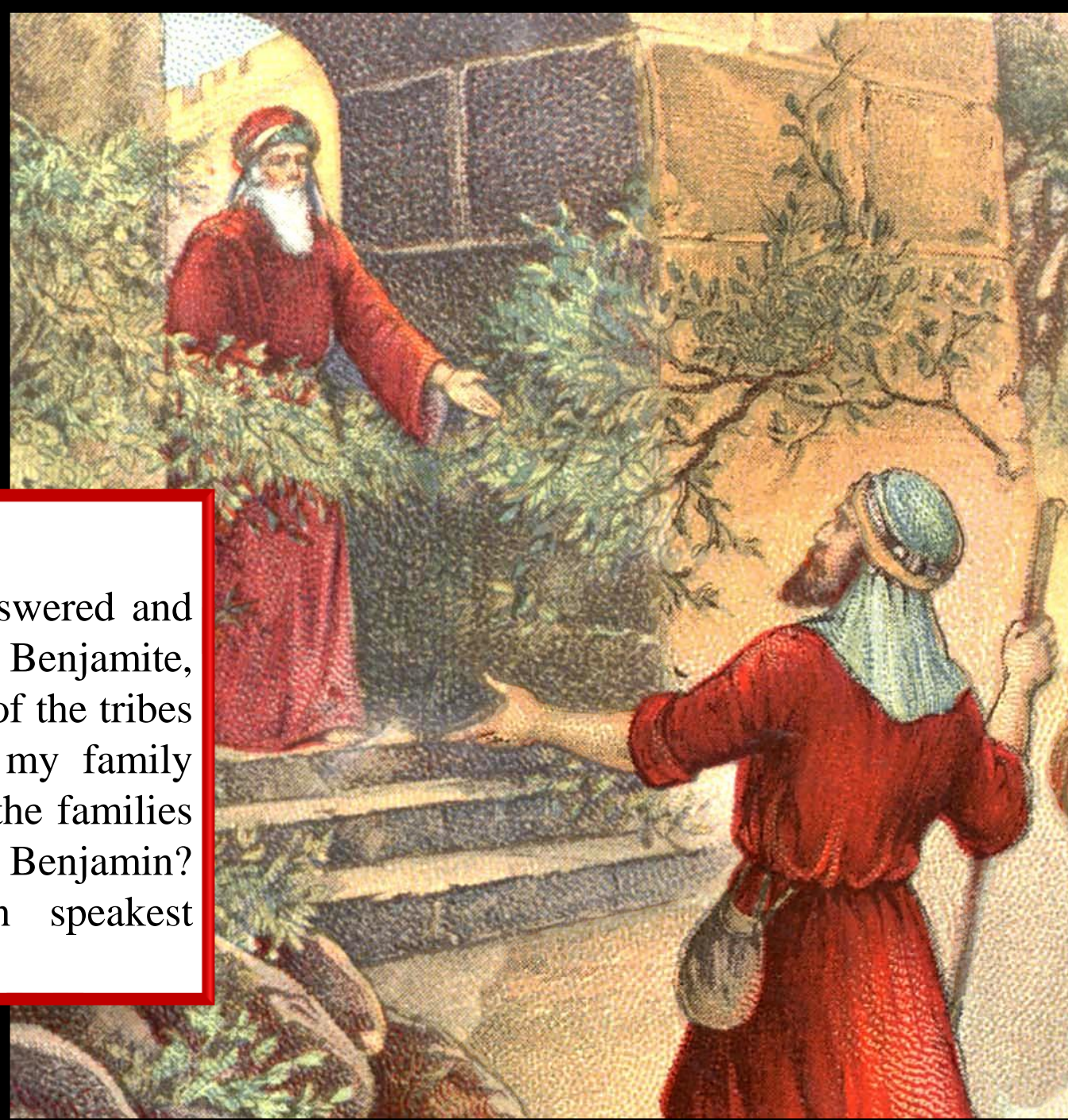
See how humble a man Samuel was? He had no attendants, no special clothing; he was going to sacrifice yet he appeared to be a common person.

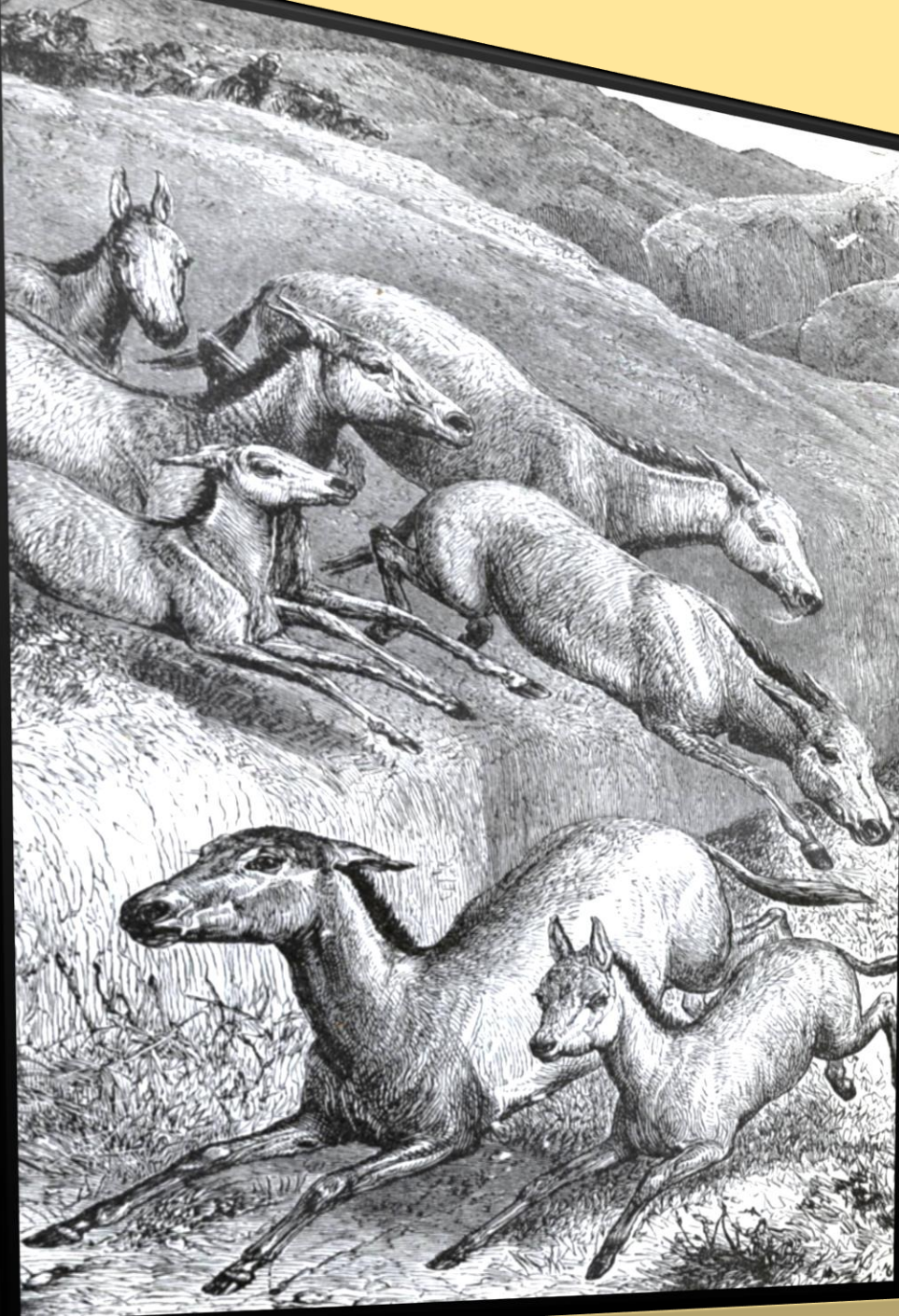
Saul did not realize this was a prophet, priest, and judge, but asked him the way to the prophet's house.



1 Samuel 9

“²¹And Saul answered and said, Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me?”



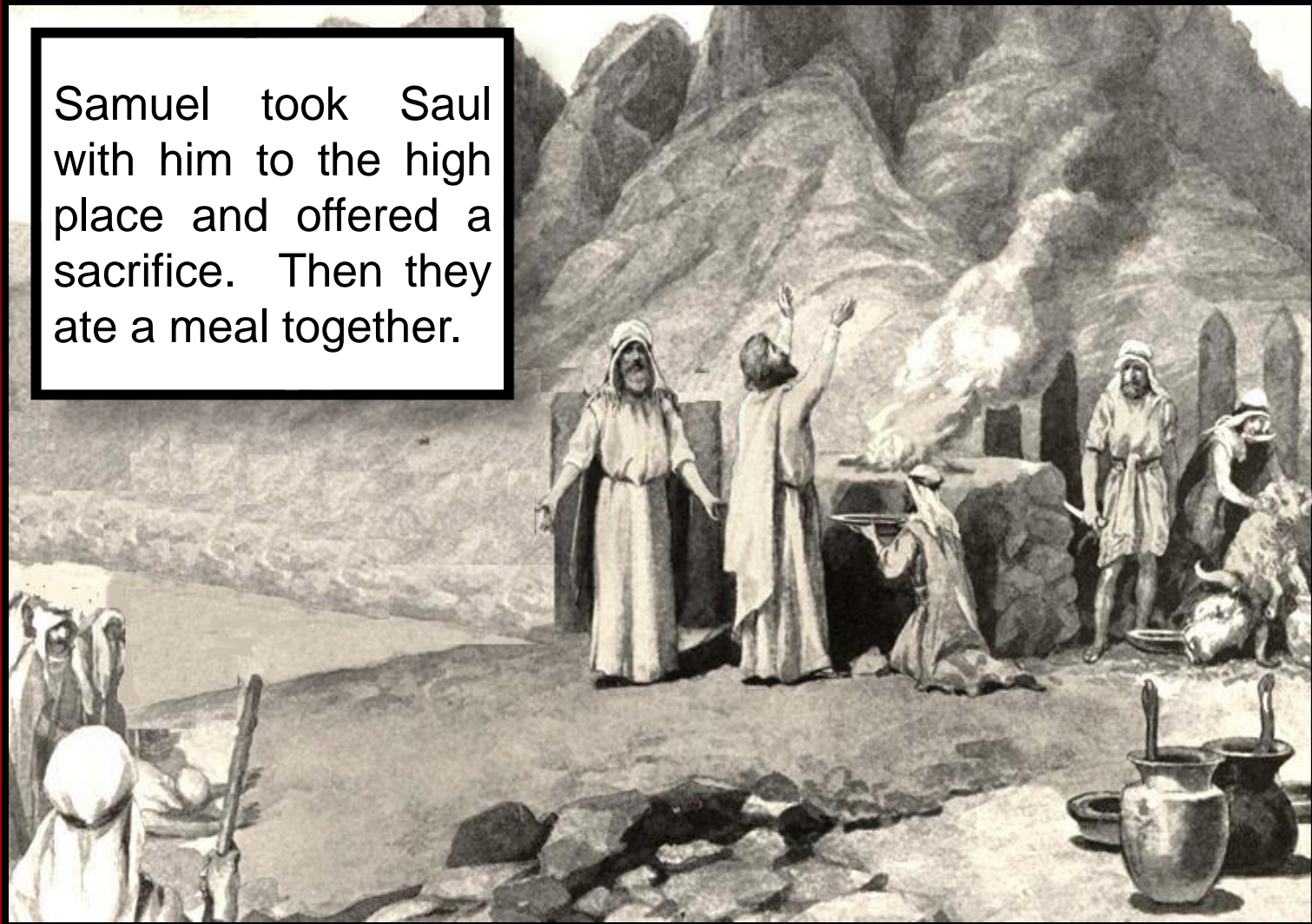


Saul was surprised that Samuel, a great man of God, treated him with such honor.

But, he must have been relieved to hear his father's asses had been found.

found
asses had been
hear his father's

Samuel took Saul with him to the high place and offered a sacrifice. Then they ate a meal together.



Eli's sons had profaned the tabernacle, and it was then deprived of the ark. The altar there no longer had the reputation it formerly had, nor were they confined to it, as they would be when God had again chosen a place in which to put his name; and, therefore now other places were allowed. Samuel had built an altar at Ramah (I Samuel 7:17), and here we have him making use of that altar.



Samuel had been told by God that Saul was coming, so he had prepared. He told the cook to make a special meal and invited about 30 chief men of the city.

God spoke to Samuel . . .
The actual Hebrew phrase is, “uncovered his ear.”



After the meal Samuel brought Saul to his home.

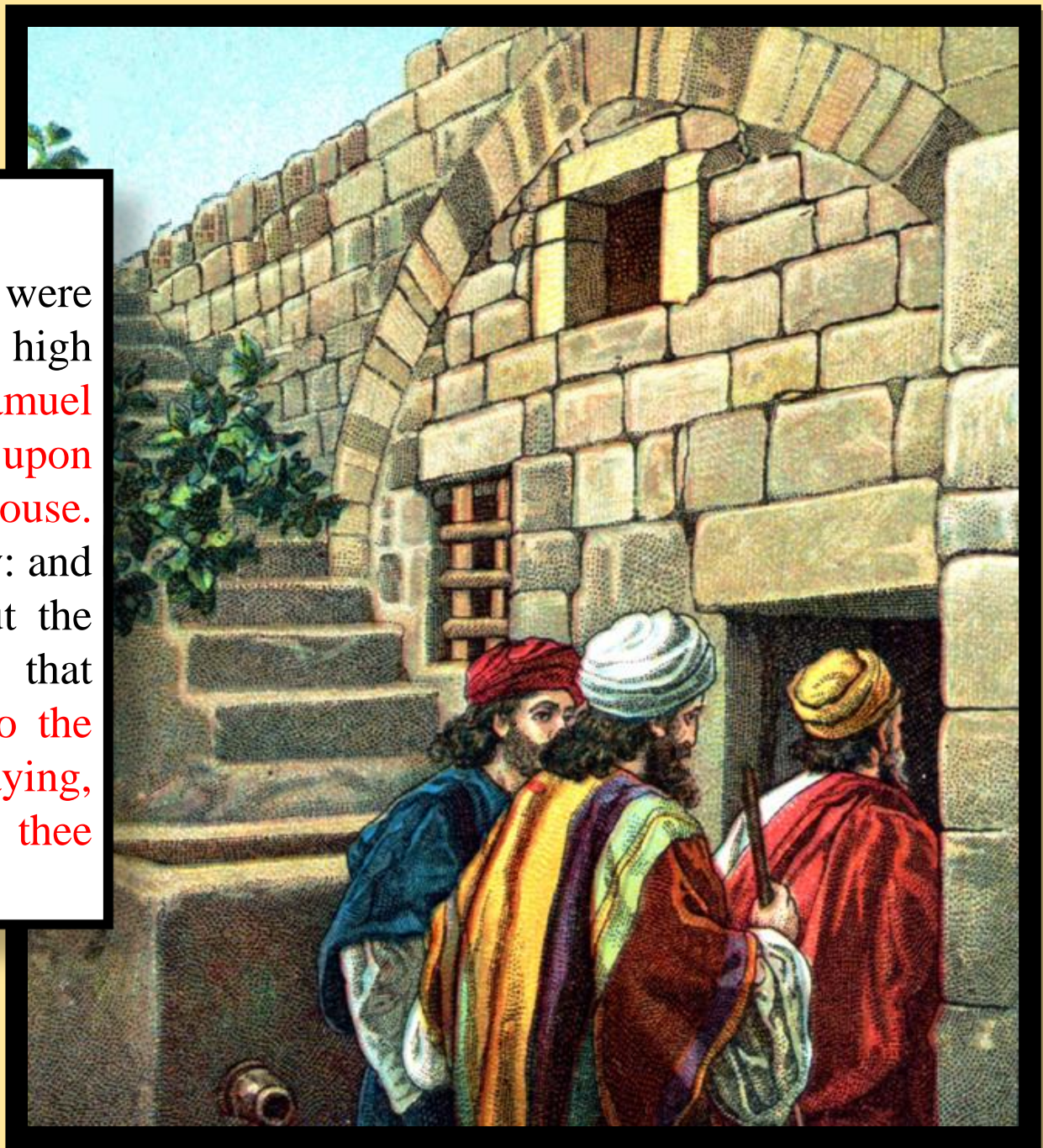
Samuel felt rejected because the people wanted a king, yet he did not bear ill-will toward Saul. He honored him and welcomed him to his table and to his home because it was the will of God.



1 Samuel 9

“²⁵And when they were come down from the high place into the city, **Samuel communed with Saul upon the top of the house.**

²⁶And they arose early: and it came to pass about the spring of the day, that **Samuel called Saul to the top of the house, saying, Up, that I may send thee away.”**



1 Samuel 9

“²⁶ . . . And Saul arose, and they went out both of them, he and Samuel, abroad. ²⁷And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but **stand thou still a while, that I may show thee the word of God.**”



1 Samuel 10

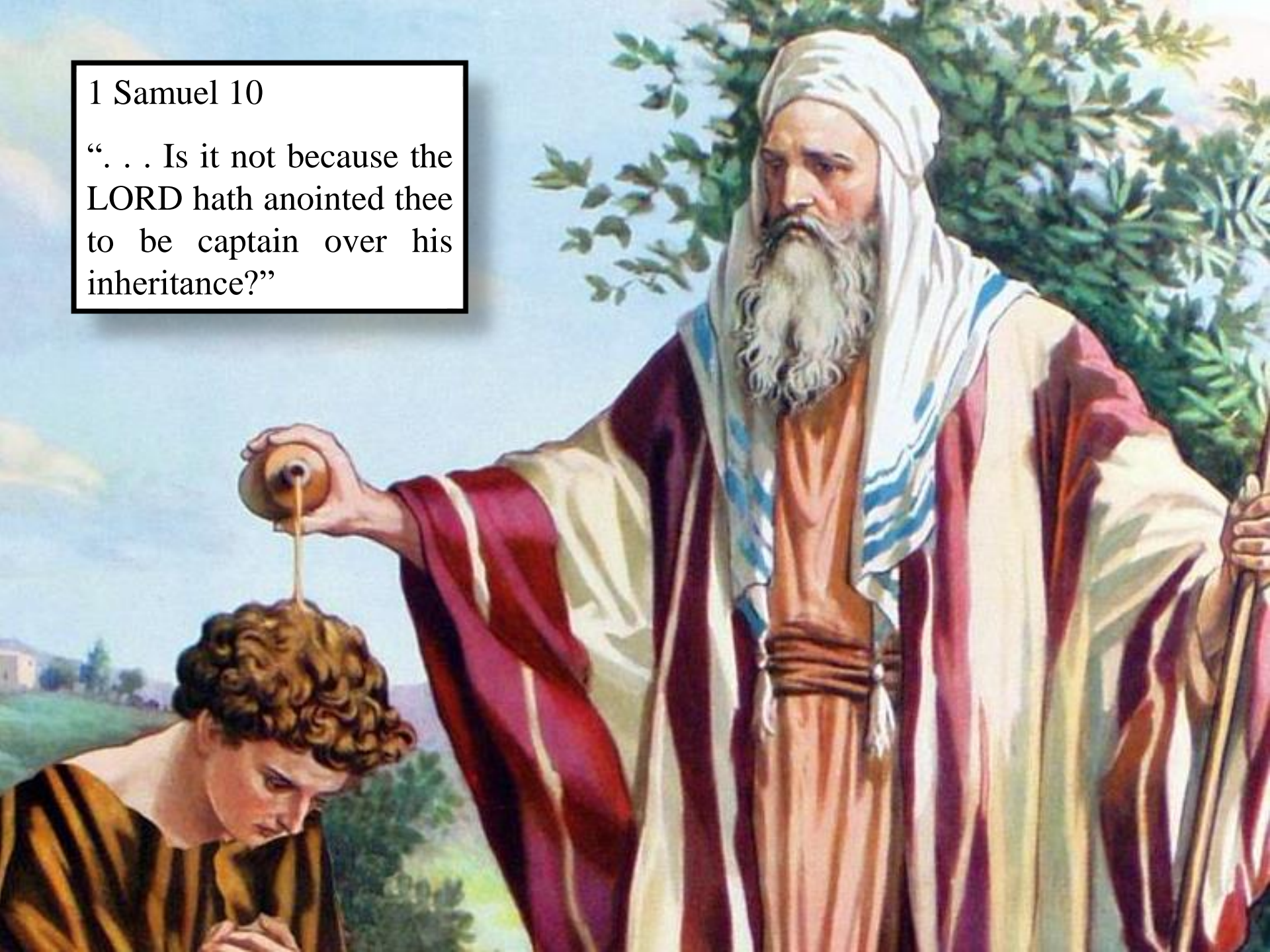
1 Samuel 10

“¹Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said . . .”



1 Samuel 10

“. . . Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?”



SIGNS FROM GOD

Samuel gives Saul signs that will come to pass that day. These signs will show that he is a true prophet and confirm that Saul will be king.



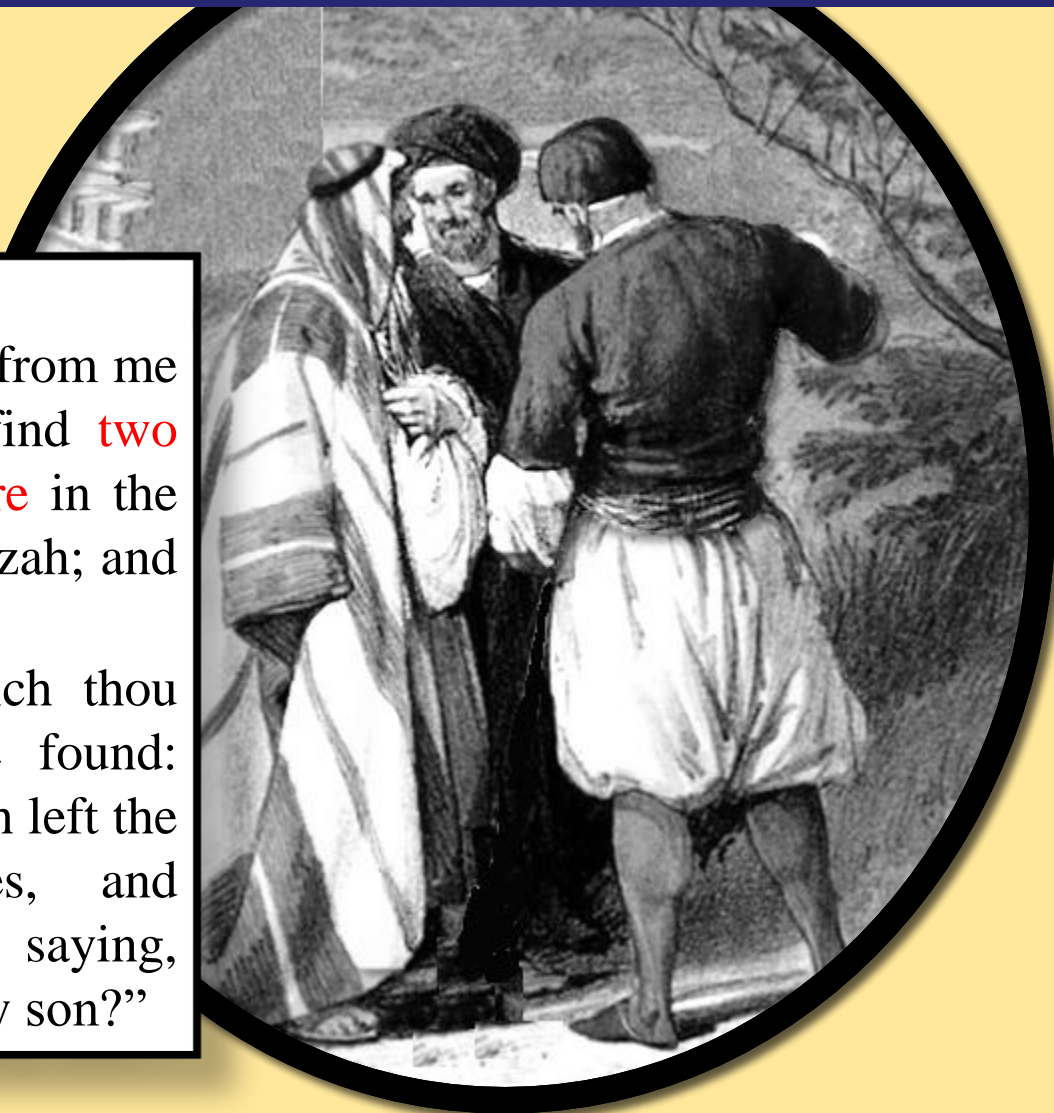


SAMUEL SAID TO SAUL . . .

1 Samuel 10

“²When thou art departed from me to day, then thou shalt find **two men by Rachel’s sepulchre** in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say unto thee,

When the asses which thou wentest to seek are found: and, lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for you, saying, What shall I do for my son?”

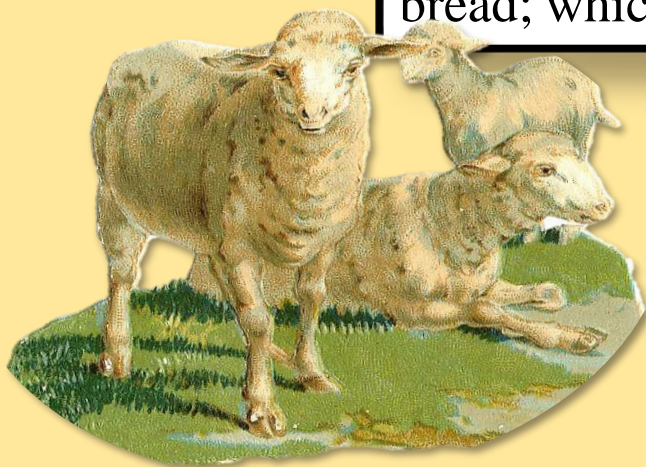




SAMUEL SAID TO SAUL . . .

1 Samuel 10

“³Then shalt thou go on forward from thence, and thou shalt come to **the plain of Tabor**, and there shall meet thee **three men** going up to God to Bethel, one carrying **three kids**, and another carrying **three loaves of bread**, and another carrying **a bottle of wine**: ⁴And they will salute thee, and give thee two loaves of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands.”

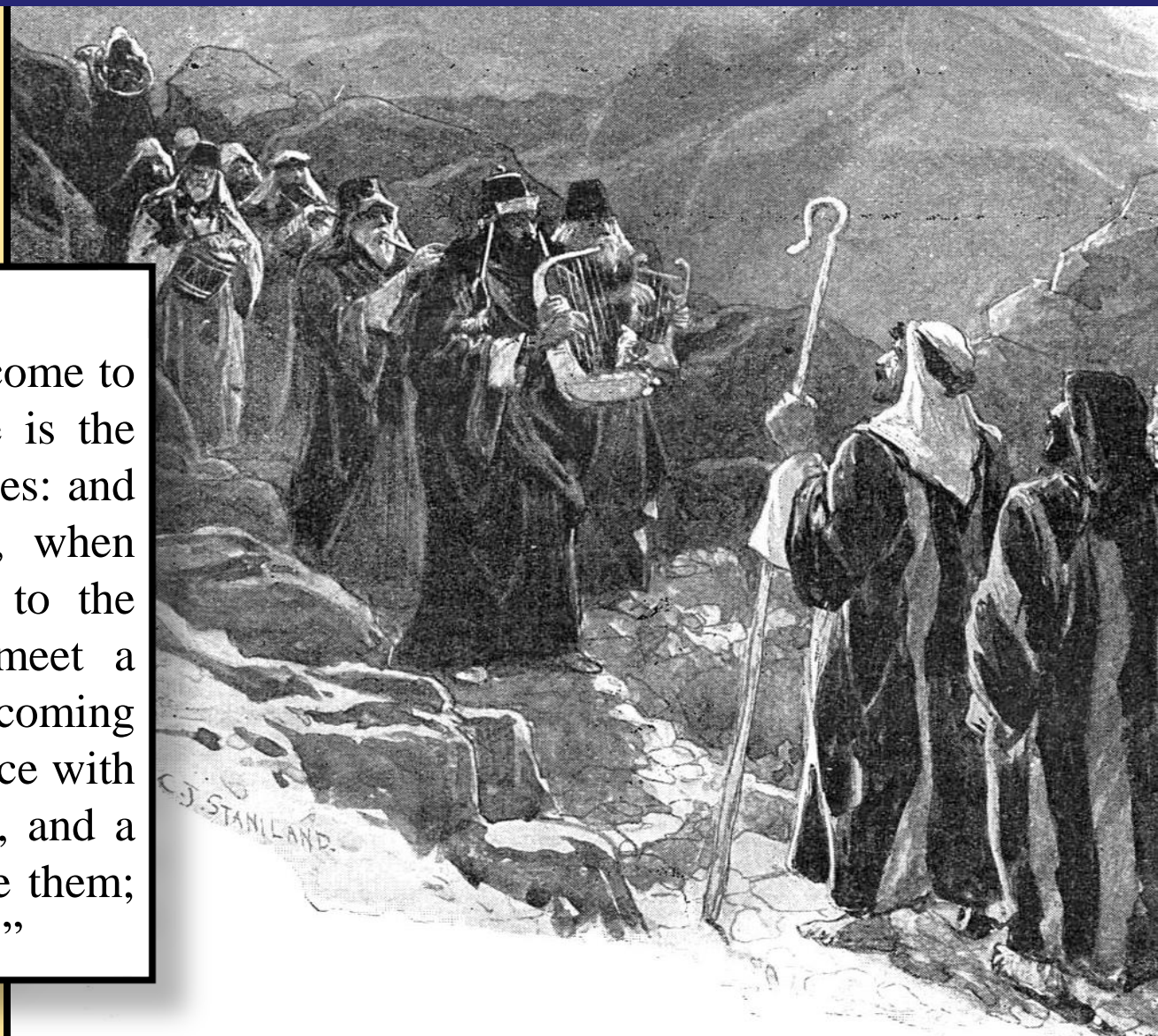




SAMUEL SAID TO SAUL . . .

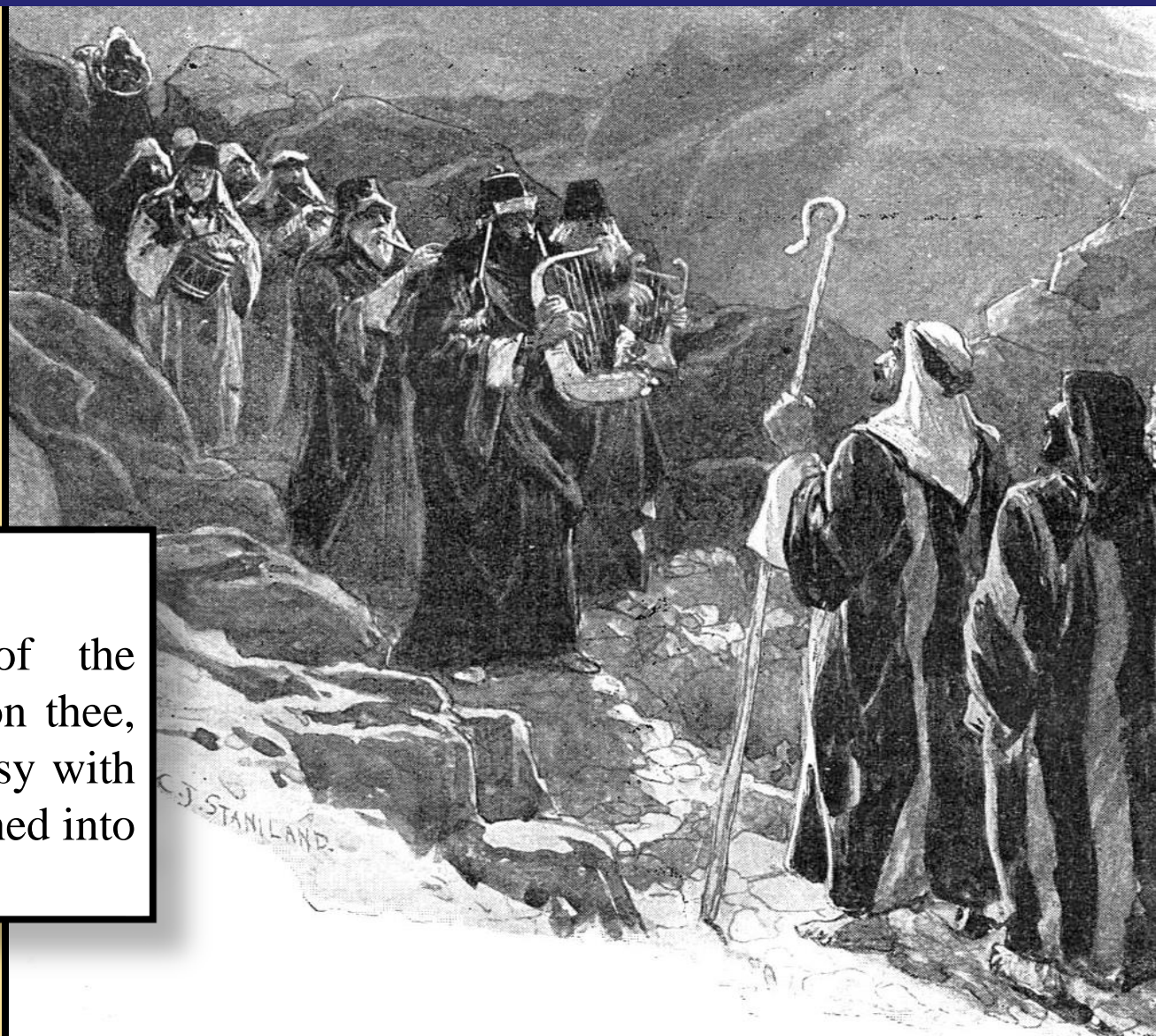
1 Samuel 10

“⁵After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where is the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy.”





SAMUEL SAID TO SAUL . . .



1 Samuel 10

“⁶And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.”

1 Samuel 10

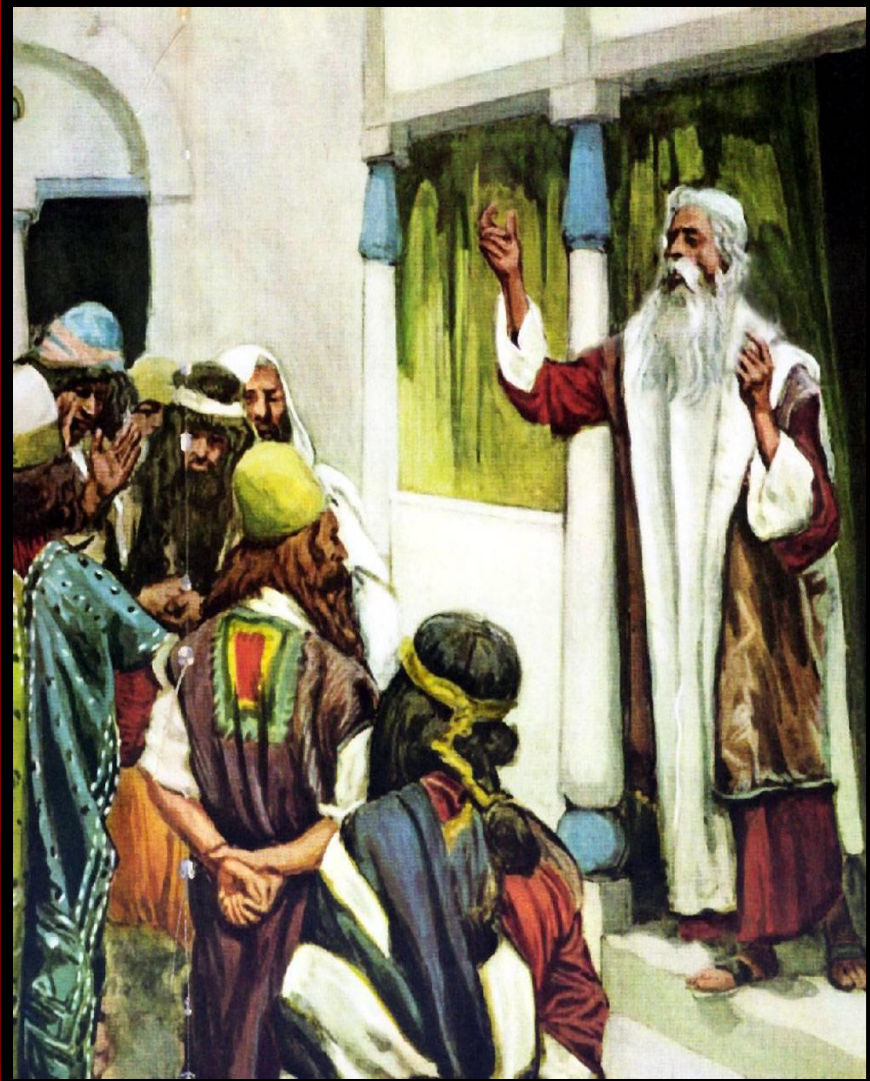
“⁷And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee. ⁸And thou shalt go down before me to **Gilgal**; and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer burnt offerings, and to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings: seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and show thee what thou shalt do. ⁹And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.”

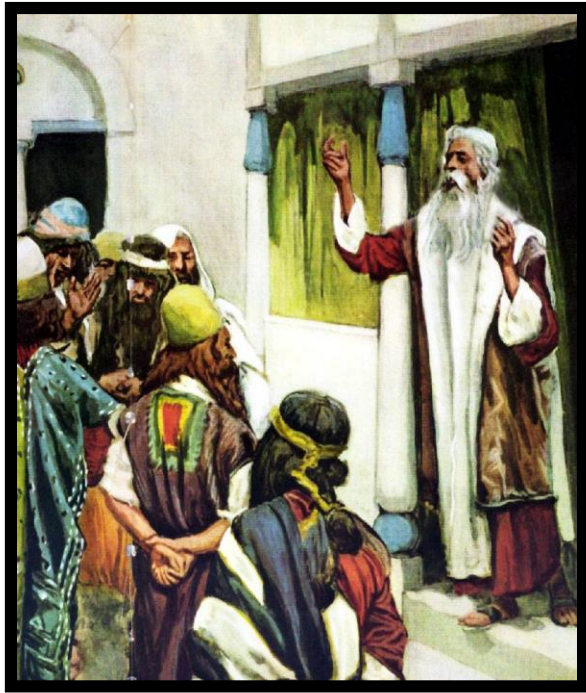


Saul told his family that Samuel told him the asses were found, but he did not tell them Samuel anointed him or the signs he saw on the way home.

Then Samuel called the people together at Mizpeh and told them the king would be from the tribe of Benjamin.

The people asked to see him and he was found hiding among the stuff.





WHY DID HE HIDE?

Did he consider himself unfit to rule? He was not educated or trained in war or politics. Did he fear he would make some fatal blunder?

Was he worried he would not be popular and the people might reject him?

Was he troubled because he understood that the people sinned in asking for a king, and God granted their request in anger?

Or, was he afraid because Israel had such strong enemies? The Philistines were strong, the Ammonites threatening: and he must lead the Israelite army.

1 Samuel 10

“²⁴And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, **God save the king.**”



1 Samuel 10

“²⁵Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and **wrote it in a book**, and laid it up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house. ²⁶And **Saul also went home to Gibeah**; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.”



1 Samuel 10

“²⁷But the children of **Belial** said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he [Saul] held his peace.”

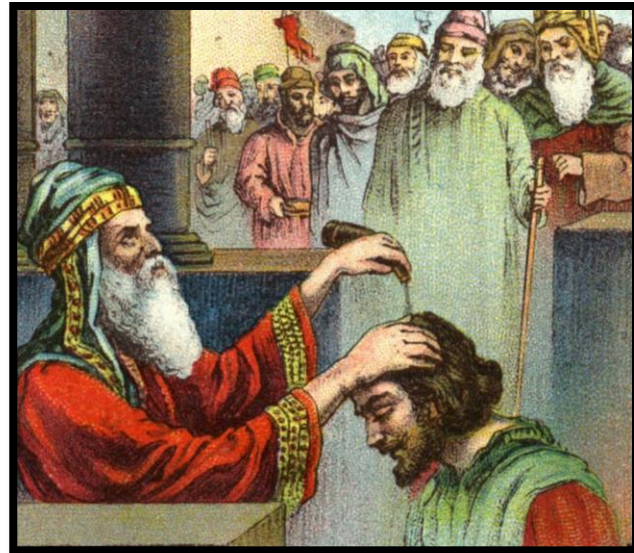
Belial—

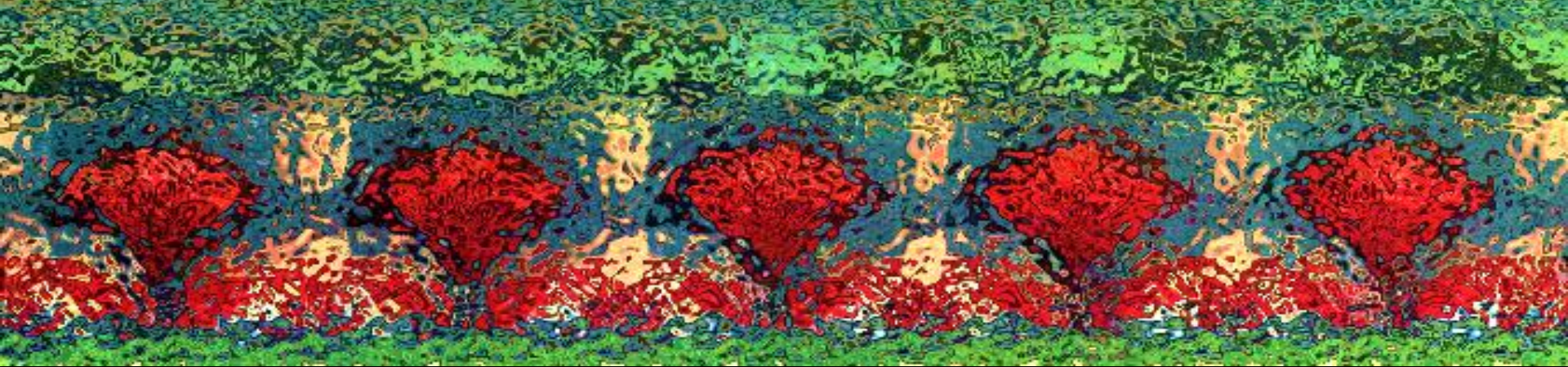
Not a proper noun in the Old Testament but a word meaning “wicked,” “worthless,” and “lawless.”



SAUL KING OF ISRAEL

Saul reacted to those who despised him as though he had been deaf which was evidence of his humility and modesty and that he was well satisfied with his title to the crown.





THE END

