



ELIJAH & ELISHA

Lessons In Faith



LESSON 12

The background of the slide 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, separated by dark, thick leaded glass lines. The pattern is symmetrical and geometric, with the central yellow band being the most prominent feature.

II KINGS 6:1-23

ELISHA'S

miracles, wonders, and deeds of mercy

Divided Jordan River

Healed spring of water

42 children killed by 2 bears

Miracle of water for 3 armies

The widow's oil was increased

The Shunammite's son was raised

Poisonous pottage was healed

Loaves of bread were multiplied

Naaman's leprosy was healed

Struck Gehazi with leprosy

The axe head was made to swim

Predicted military moves of the Syrians

Ring of fiery horses

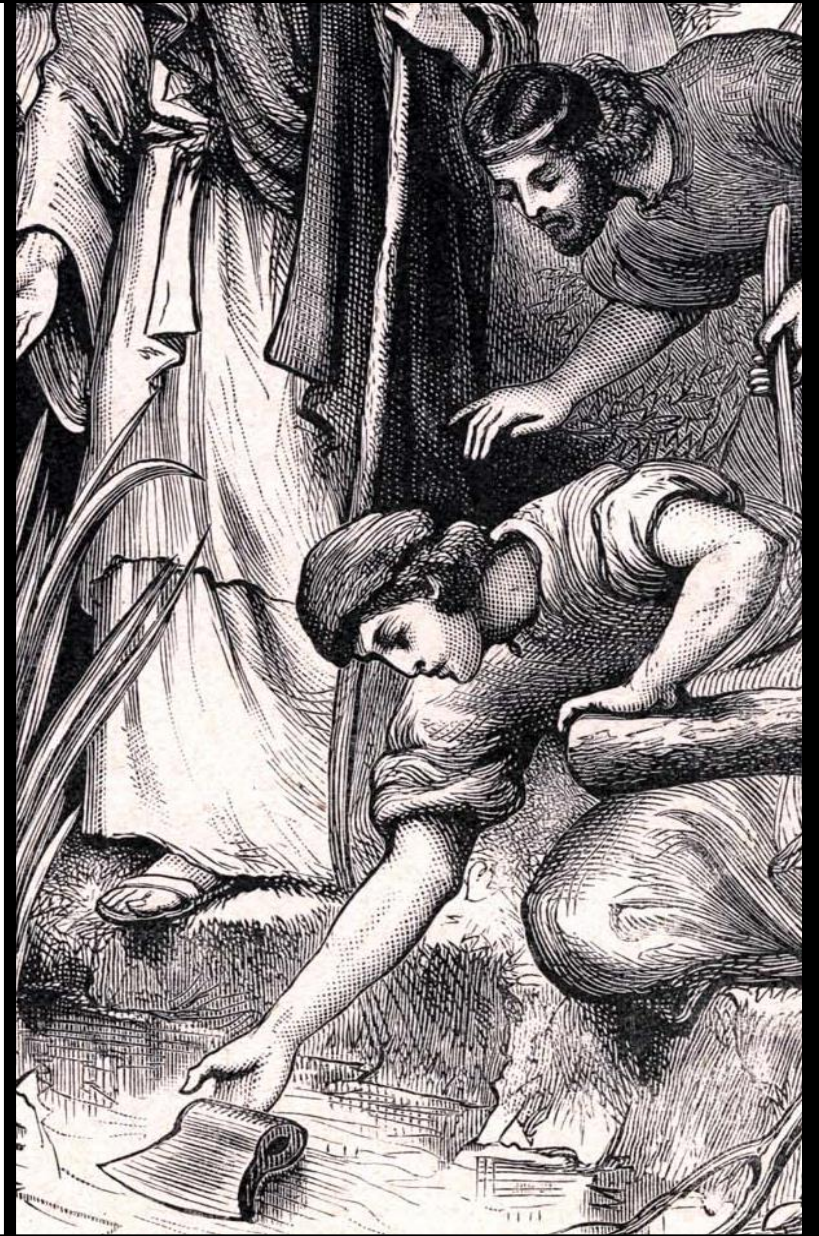
Struck the Syrian army with blindness

Miracle of the arrows

His bones raised a man from the dead

SUMMARY: AXE HEAD SWIMS

This miracle is another example of how close Elisha was to the sons of the prophets and how they depended upon him. A group of the sons of the prophets finding their quarters too small determined to build new quarters near the Jordan River. While felling the timber the ax-head of one of them, a borrowed tool, fell into the water and disappeared. It would have been useless to have attempted to search for it in that swift and muddy stream, so he cried in distress to the prophet. Elisha broke off a stick, cast it in the spot where the ax fell, and made the iron swim on the surface.

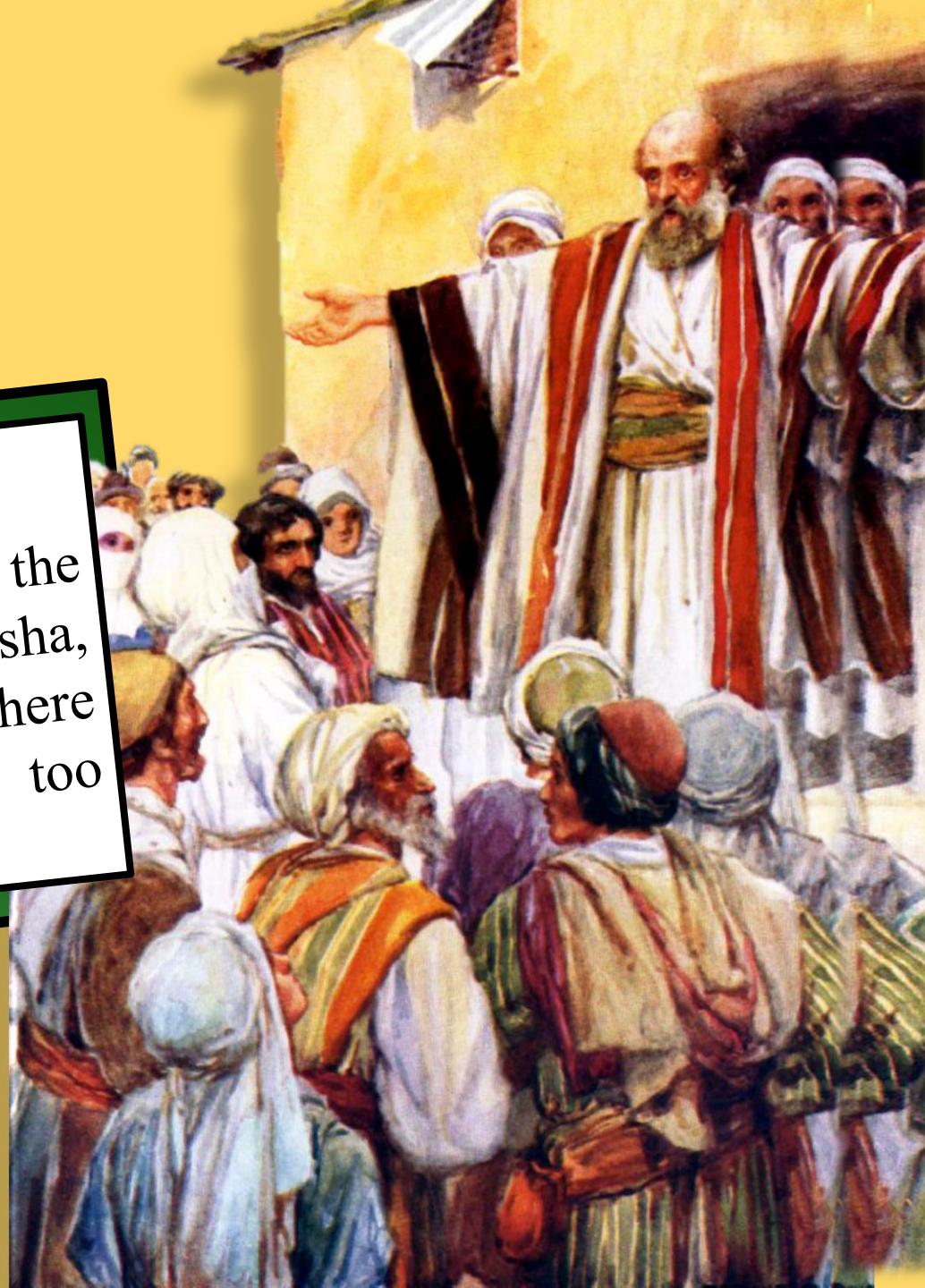


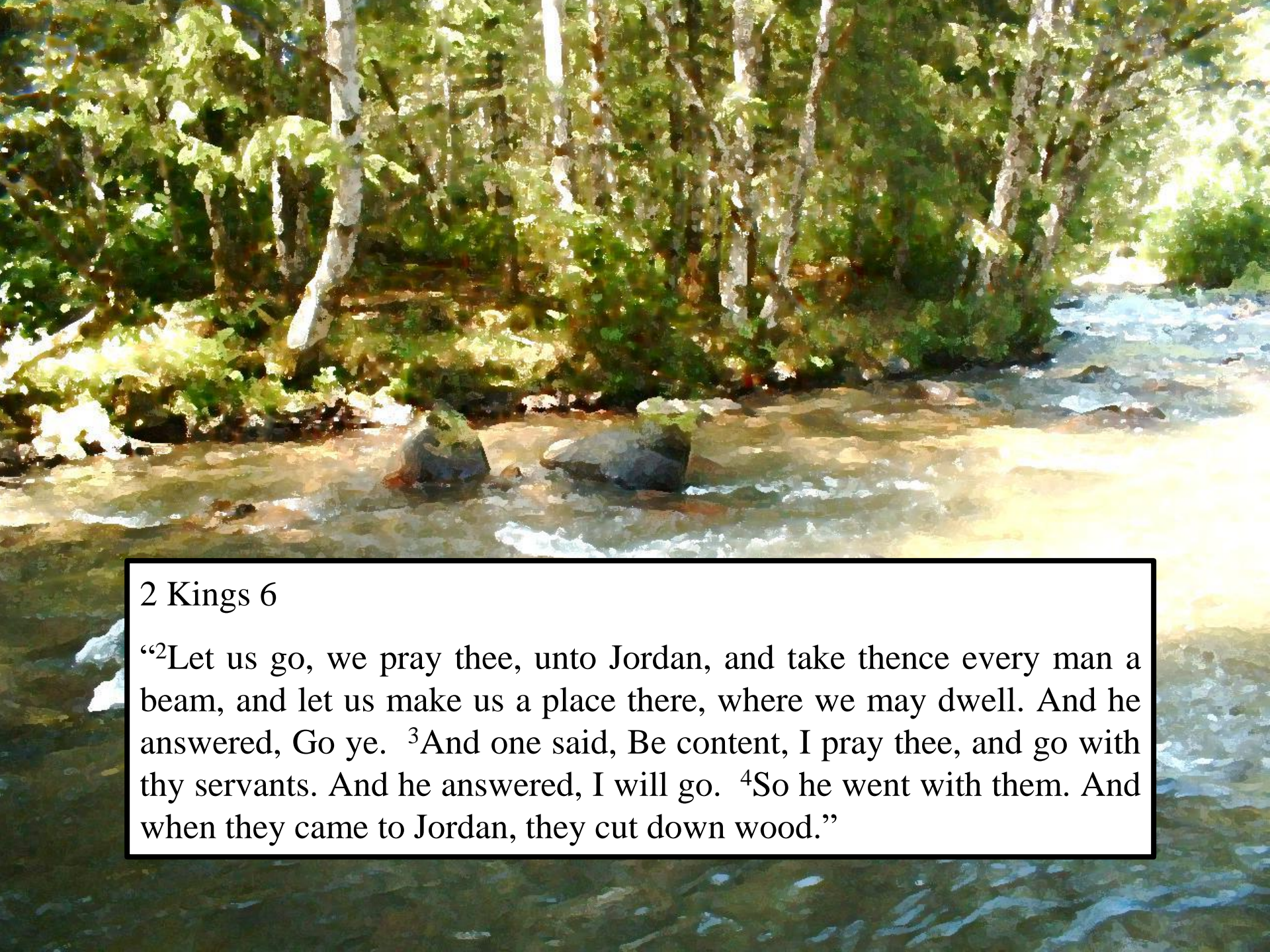
The background of the image is a stained glass pattern. It features a central horizontal band of yellow, flanked by two horizontal bands of green. The top and bottom sections are filled with a repeating diamond or lozenge pattern, outlined in black, with a light brown or tan color fill. The text "THE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

THE TEXT

2 Kings 6

“¹And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha, Behold now, the place where we dwell with thee is too strait [small] for us.”



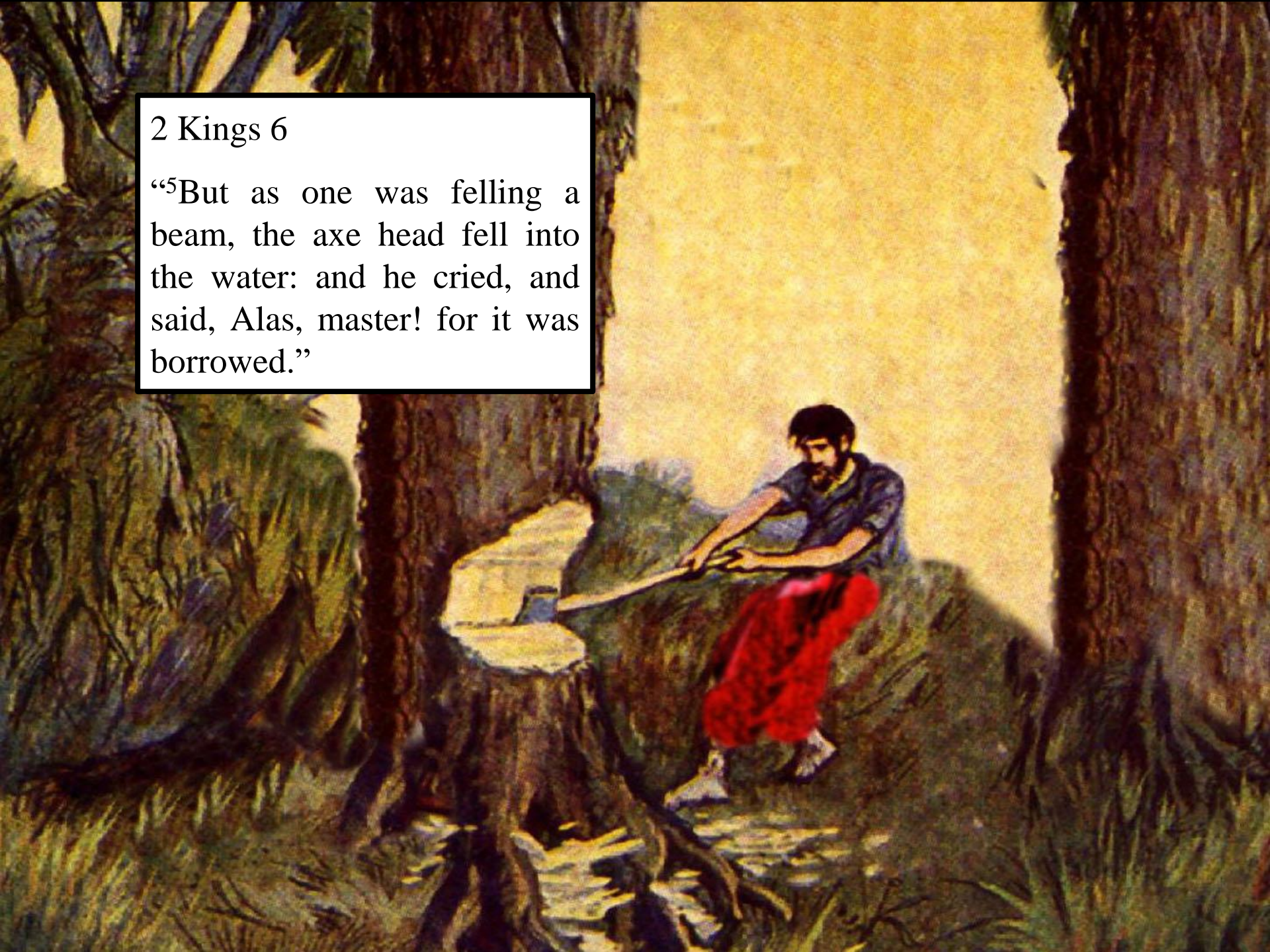


2 Kings 6

“²Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make us a place there, where we may dwell. And he answered, Go ye. ³And one said, Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants. And he answered, I will go. ⁴So he went with them. And when they came to Jordan, they cut down wood.”

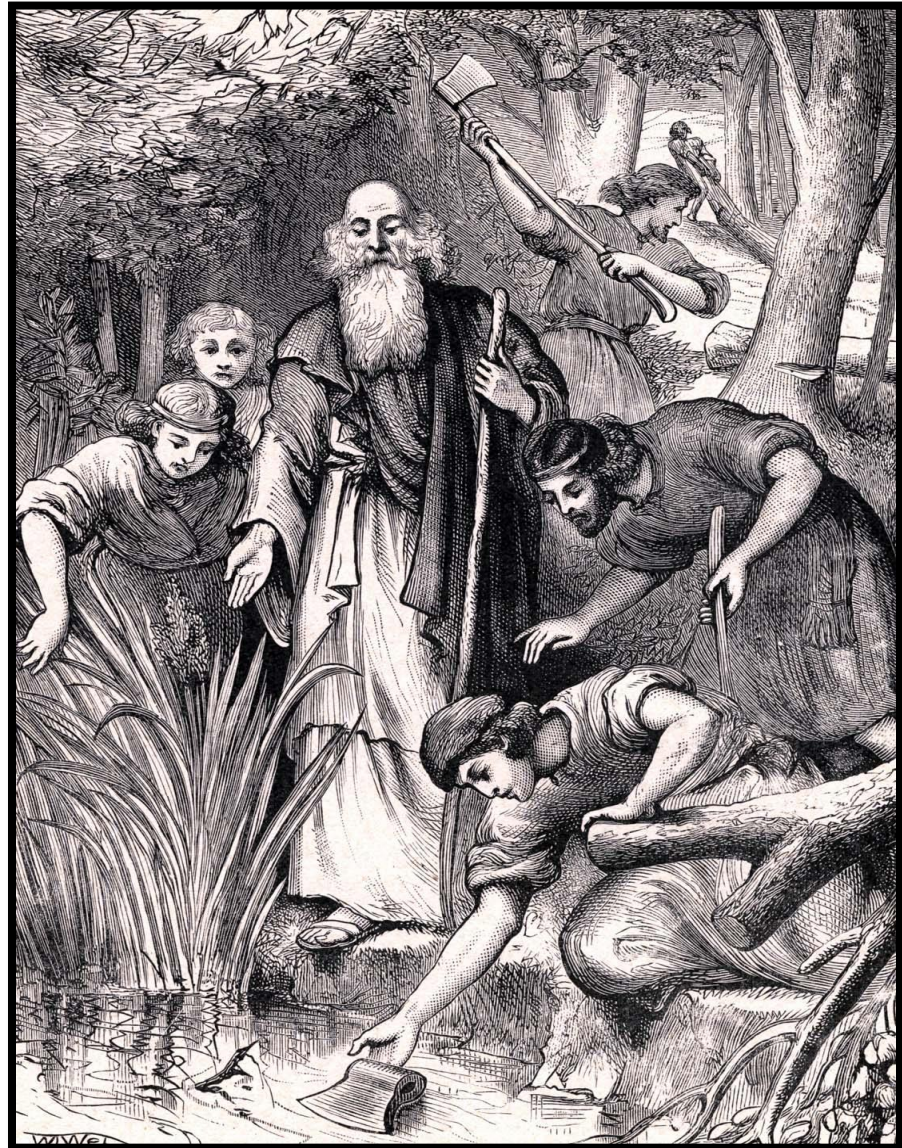
2 Kings 6

“⁵But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed.”



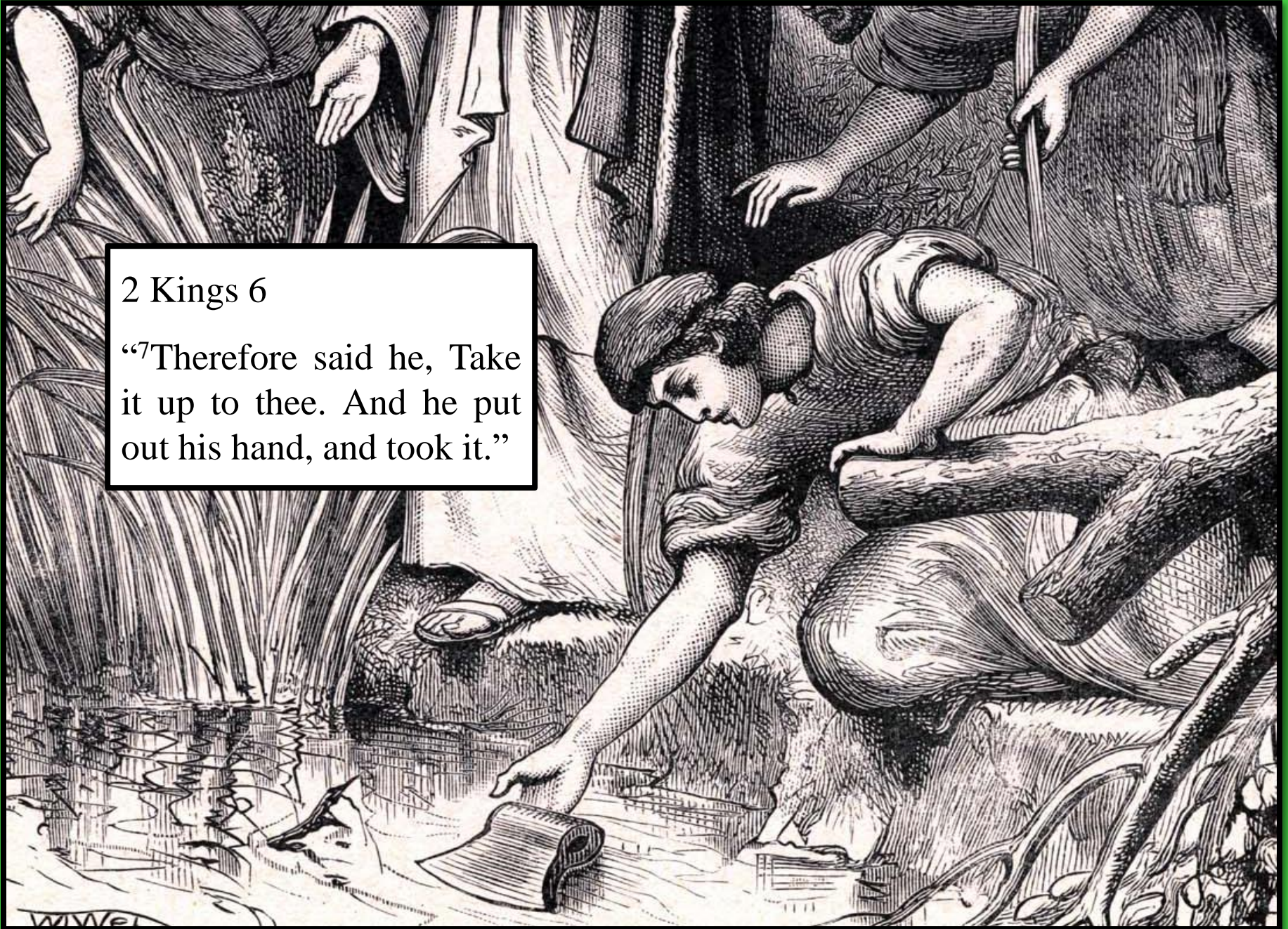
2 Kings 6

“⁶And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim.”



2 Kings 6

“⁷Therefore said he, Take it up to thee. And he put out his hand, and took it.”



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Elisha was counselor to the King.

The Kings of Israel did not heed the warnings of Elisha or any of the prophets against idolatry, but Elisha's warnings regarding the danger from the Syrians was of great interest to the King.



2 Kings 6

“⁸Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp. And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down. ¹⁰And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice.”



2 Kings 6

“¹¹Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel? ¹²And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.”

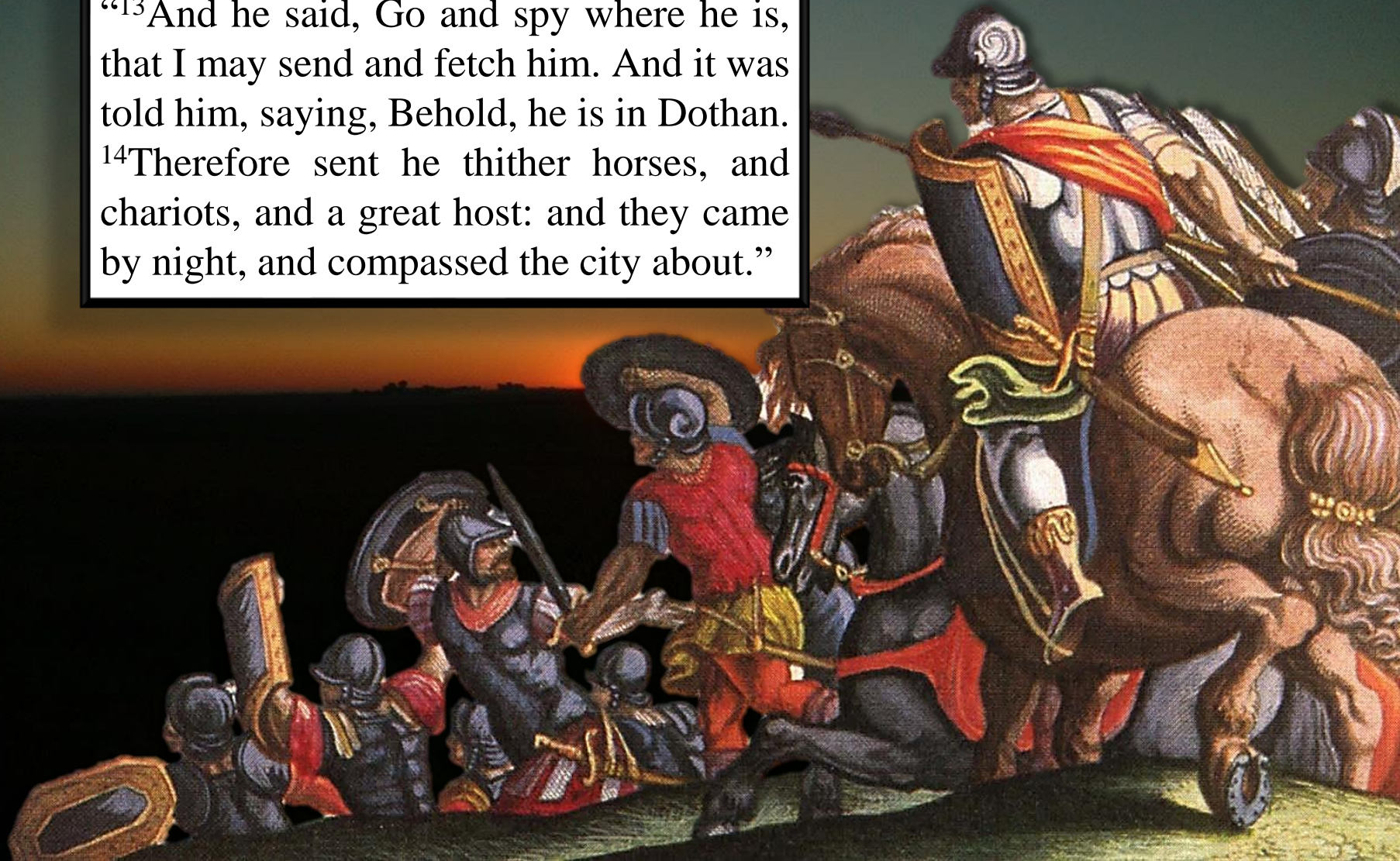


The King of Syria suspected treachery among his senators, but then one of his servants, (possibly Naaman?) remembered the power of Elisha and concluded it had to be Elisha giving their secret intelligence to the king of Israel.



2 Kings 6

“¹³And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan.
¹⁴Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.”



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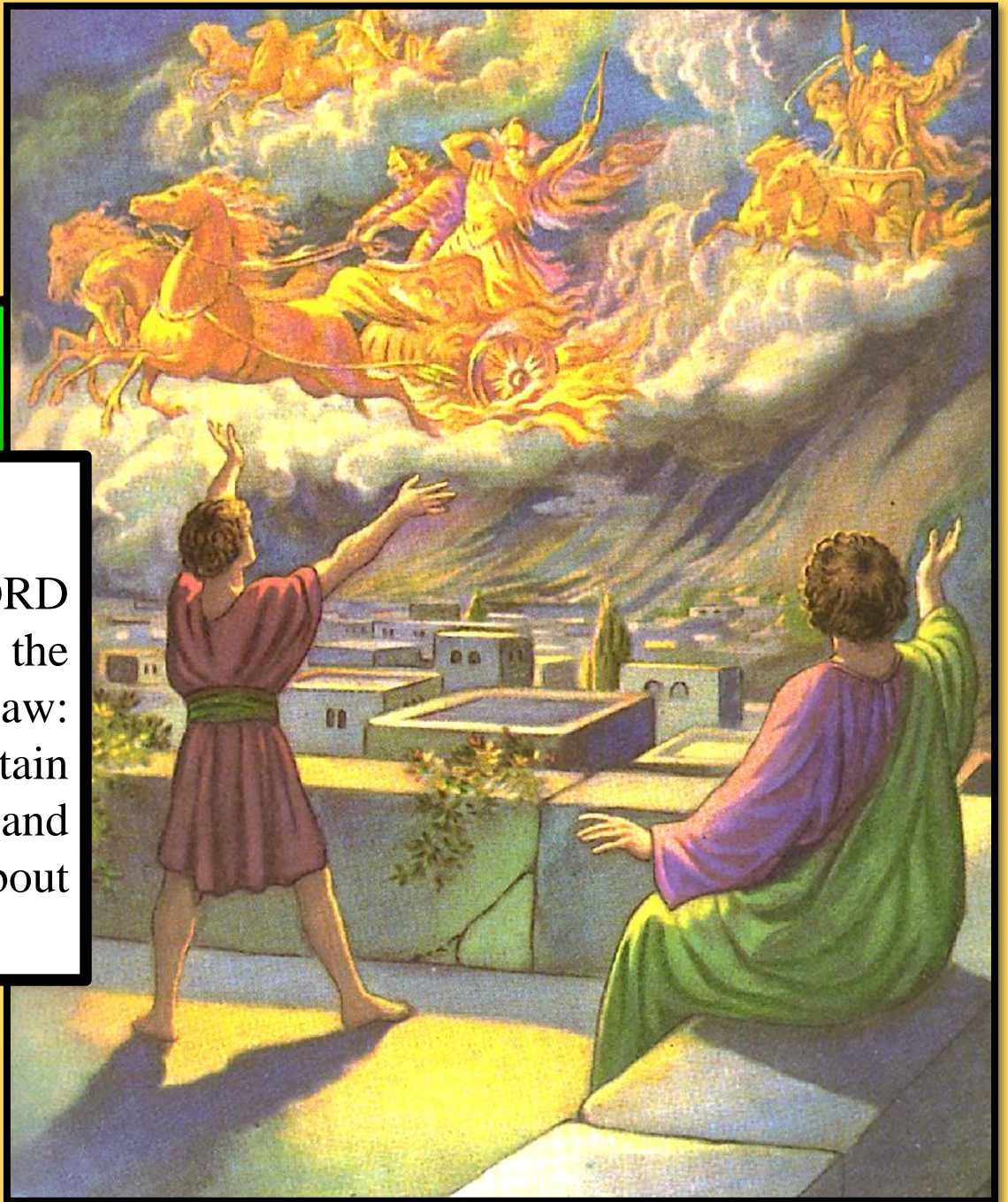
2 Kings 6

“¹⁵And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? ¹⁶And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. ¹⁷And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see.”



2 Kings 6

“17. . . And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.”



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2 Kings 6

“¹⁸And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

¹⁹And Elisha said unto them, This is not the way, neither is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. But he led them to Samaria.”



2 Kings 6

“²⁰And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see. And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.”



2 Kings 6

“²¹And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I smite them? shall I smite them? ²²And he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master.”



The Syrian king failed in his attempt to stop Elisha from revealing the movements of his bands of soldiers through out Israel. The miraculous and clever turn of events regarding King Benhadad's attempt to capture the prophet made Elisha look like a hero and humiliated the Syrian troops who were blinded and lead like children into danger.



Benhadad the Syrian King had to halt his tactic of sending bands of men into the land of Israel, and this did not sit well with him. Elisha's attempt to turn an enemy into a friend by feeding and releasing the captive Syrians only hardened the heart of Benhadad quite like that of Pharaoh when Moses asked him to let God's people go.



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THE END