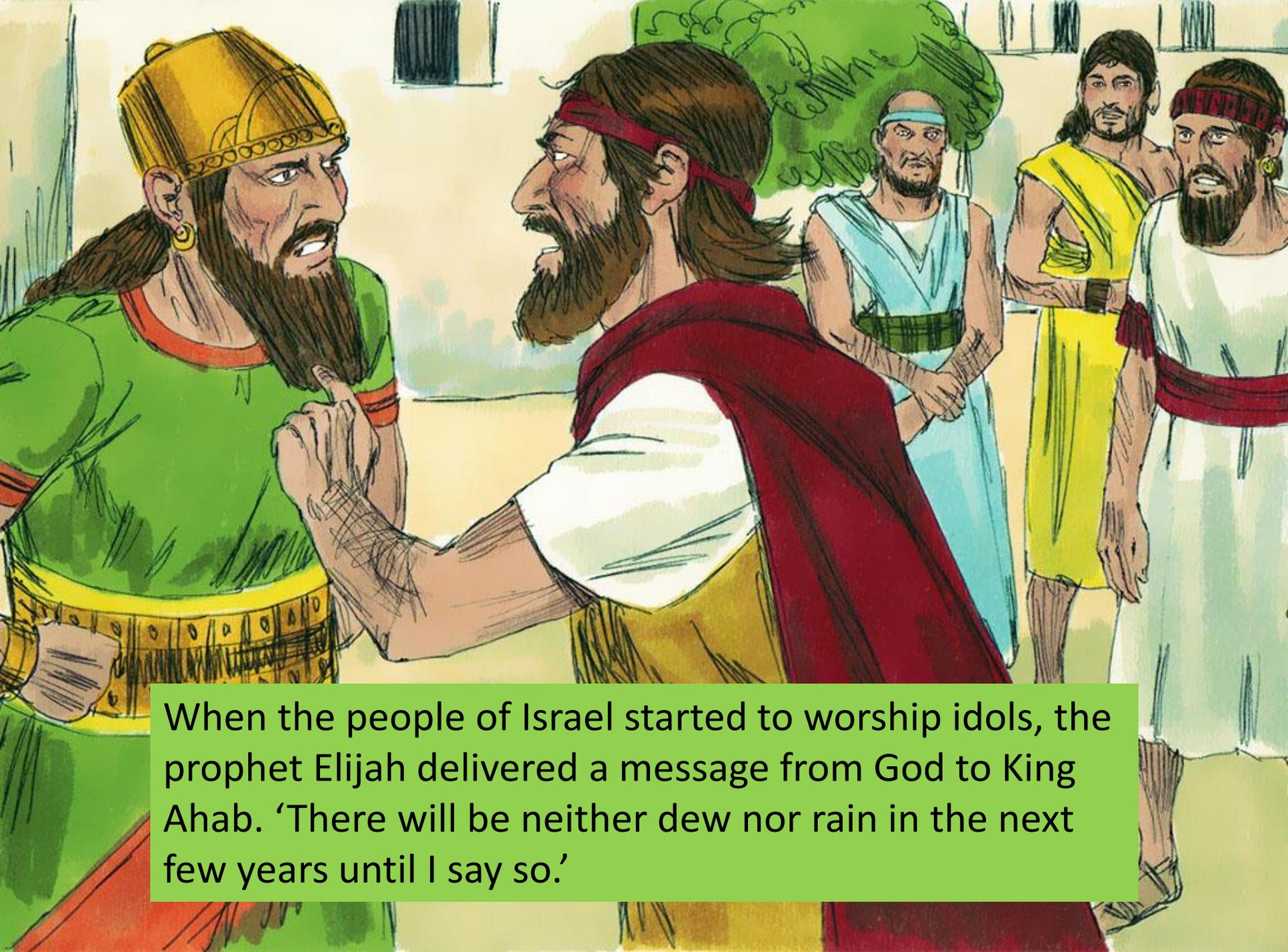


Lesson 11

Elijah Defeats Prophets of Baal

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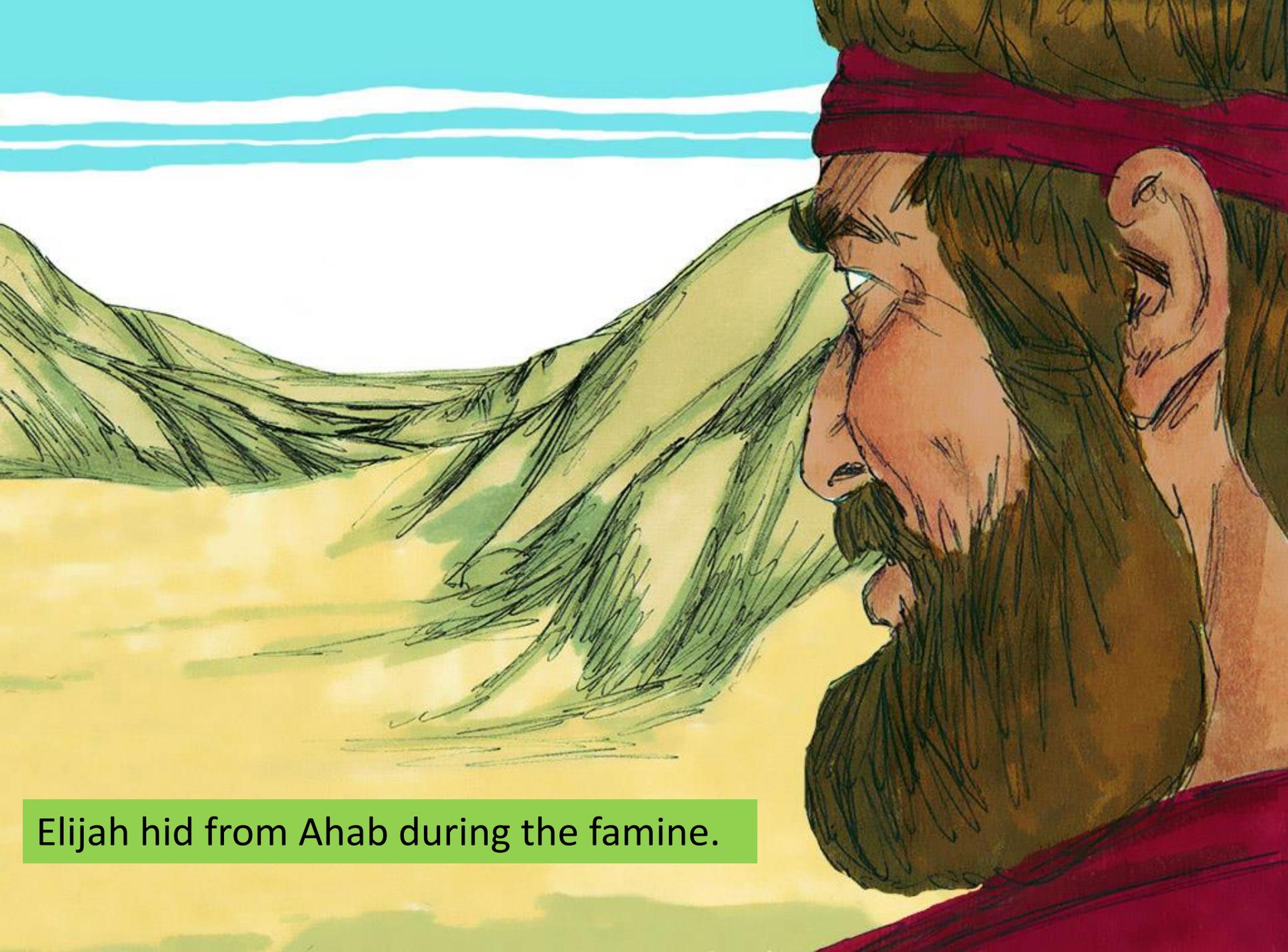




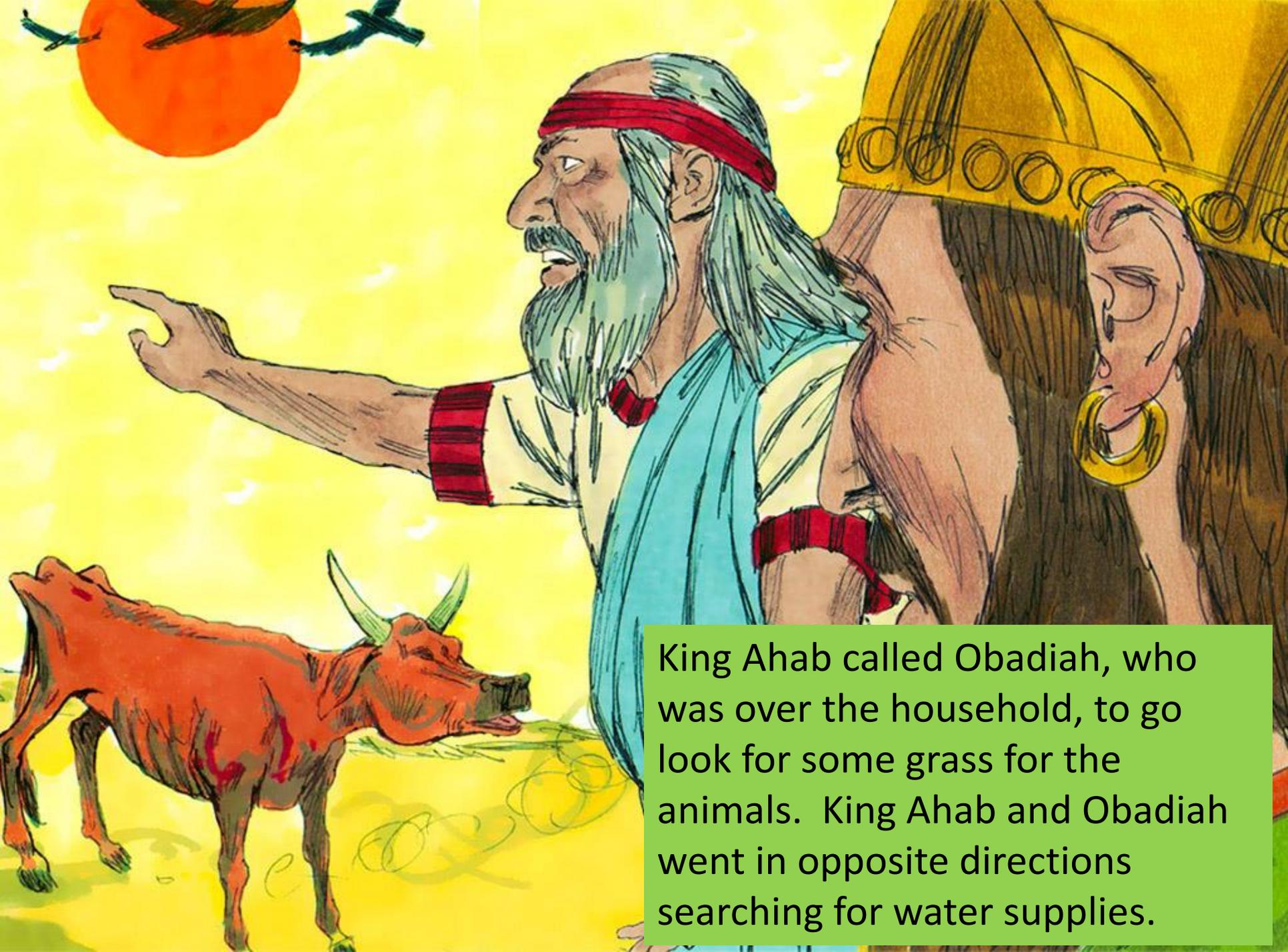
When the people of Israel started to worship idols, the prophet Elijah delivered a message from God to King Ahab. 'There will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years until I say so.'



For the next three years no rain fell. Harvests failed and there was famine everywhere.



Elijah hid from Ahab during the famine.

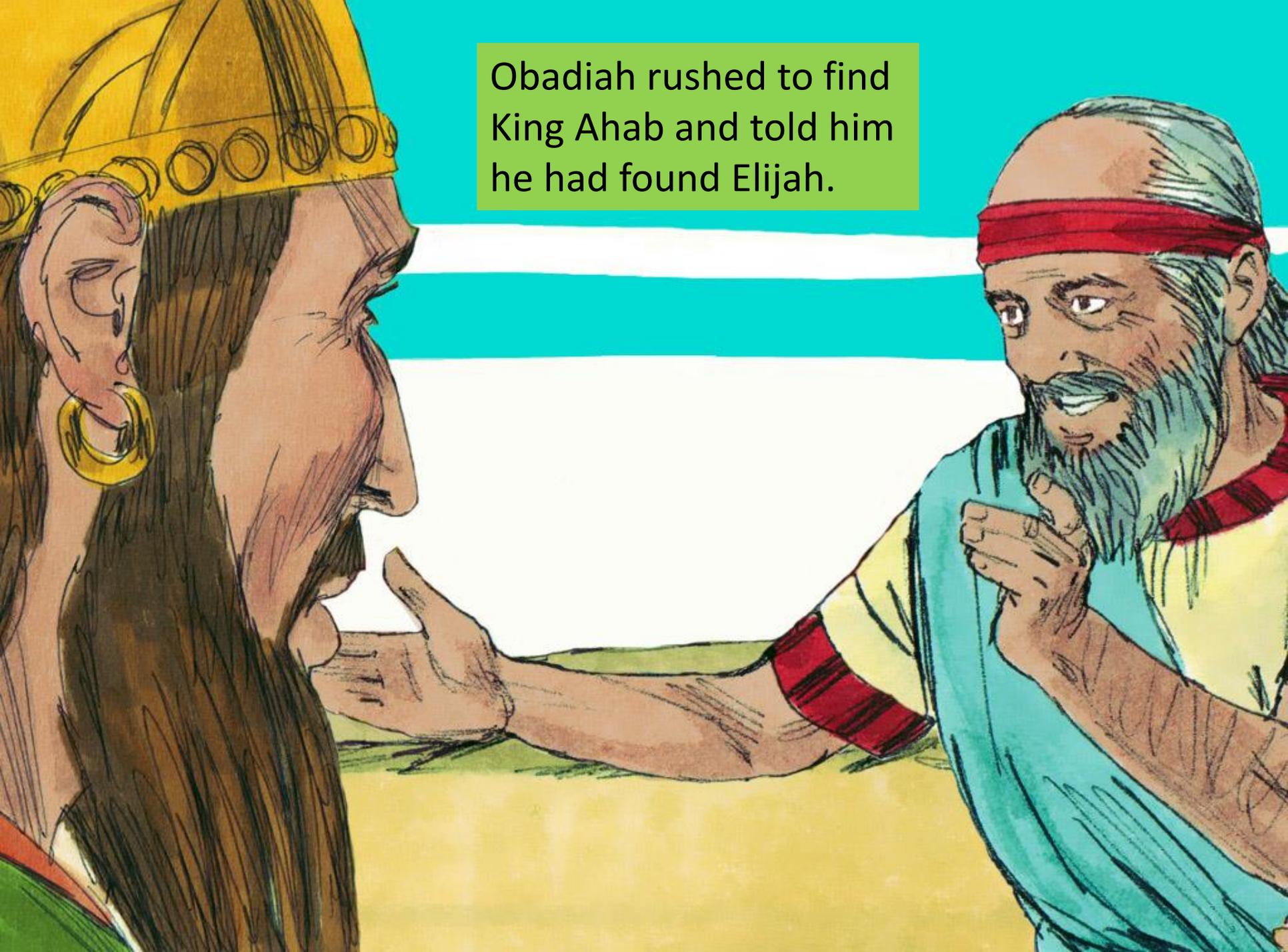


King Ahab called Obadiah, who was over the household, to go look for some grass for the animals. King Ahab and Obadiah went in opposite directions searching for water supplies.



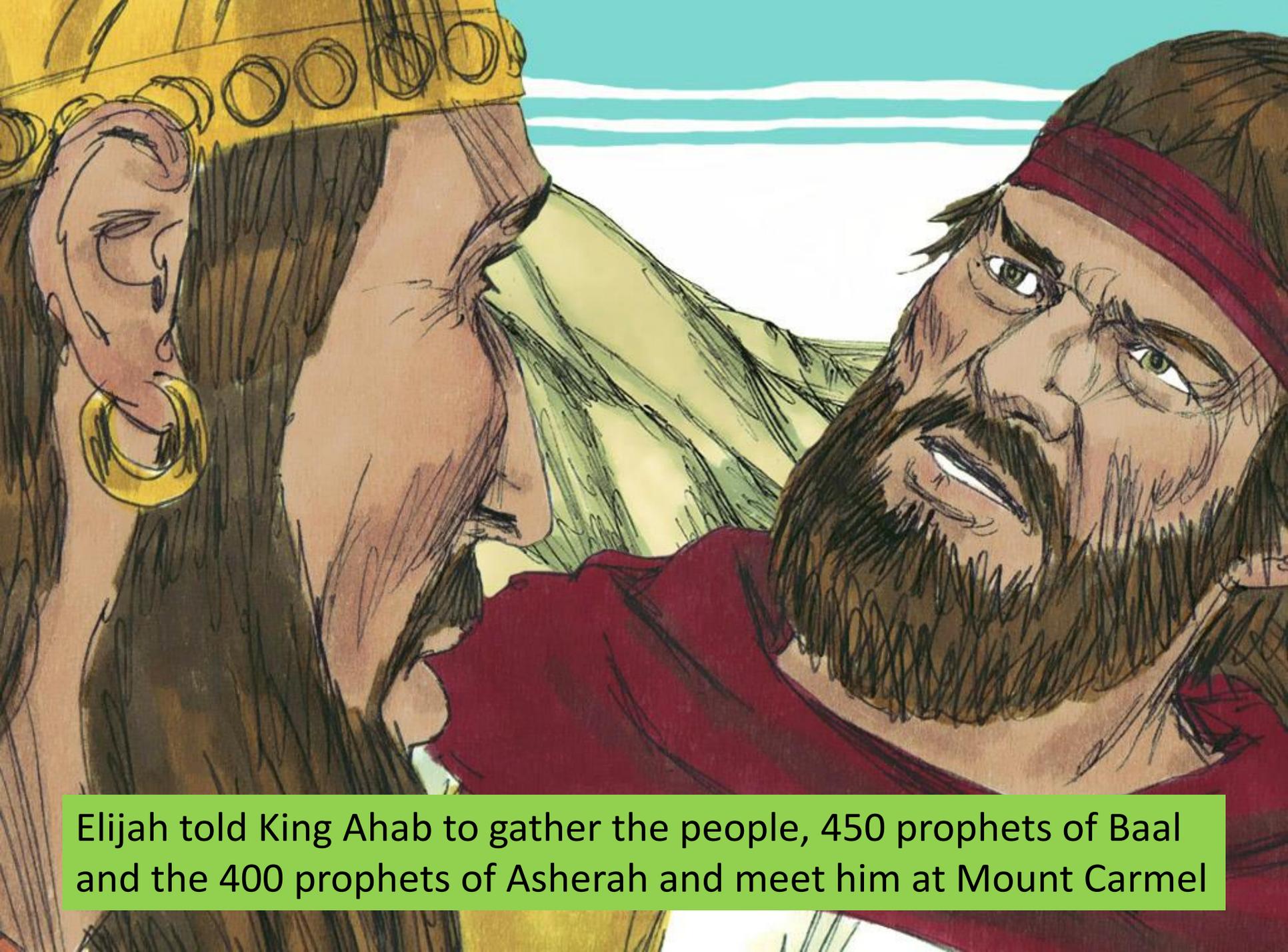
As Obadiah was walking along, he suddenly met Elijah. Elijah told Obadiah to go get King Ahab. Obadiah made Elijah promise to stay where he was while he fetched the King.

Obadiah rushed to find King Ahab and told him he had found Elijah.



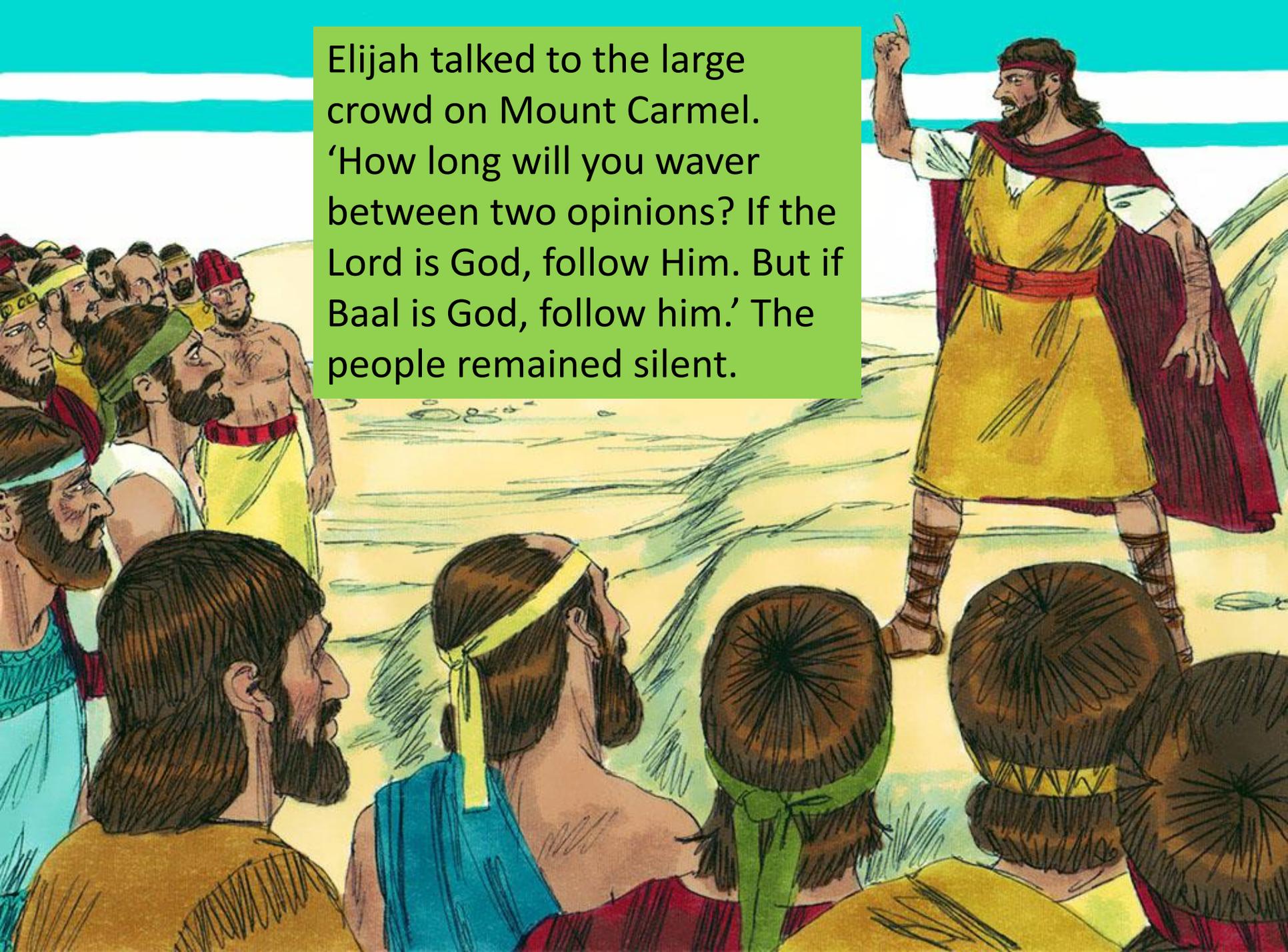


When the King saw Elijah he accused him of being a troublemaker. Elijah replied, 'I have not made trouble but you and your family have caused trouble because you have not been following the Lord's commands and worshipping Baal.'



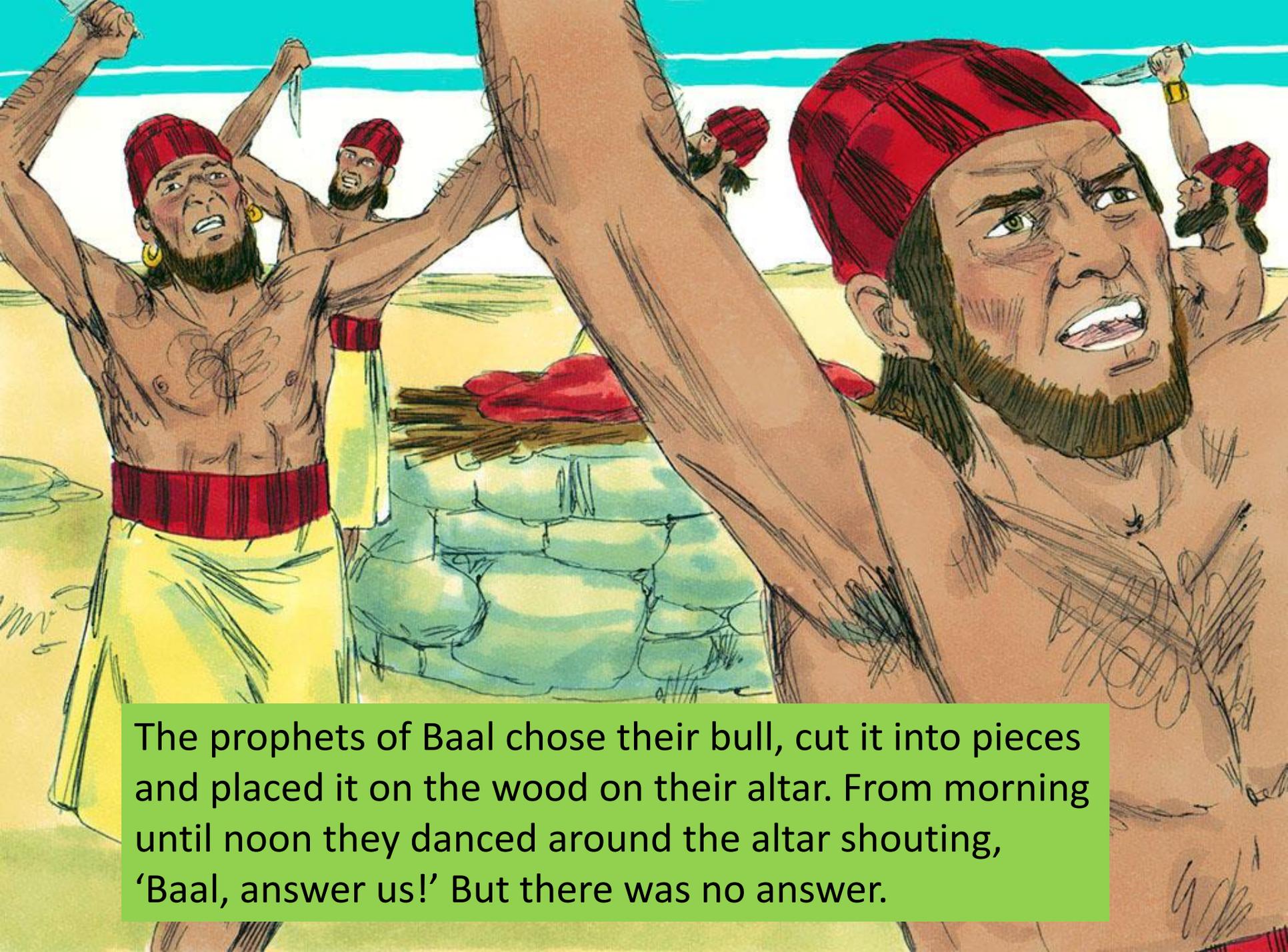
Elijah told King Ahab to gather the people, 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah and meet him at Mount Carmel

Elijah talked to the large crowd on Mount Carmel. 'How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him. But if Baal is God, follow him.' The people remained silent.

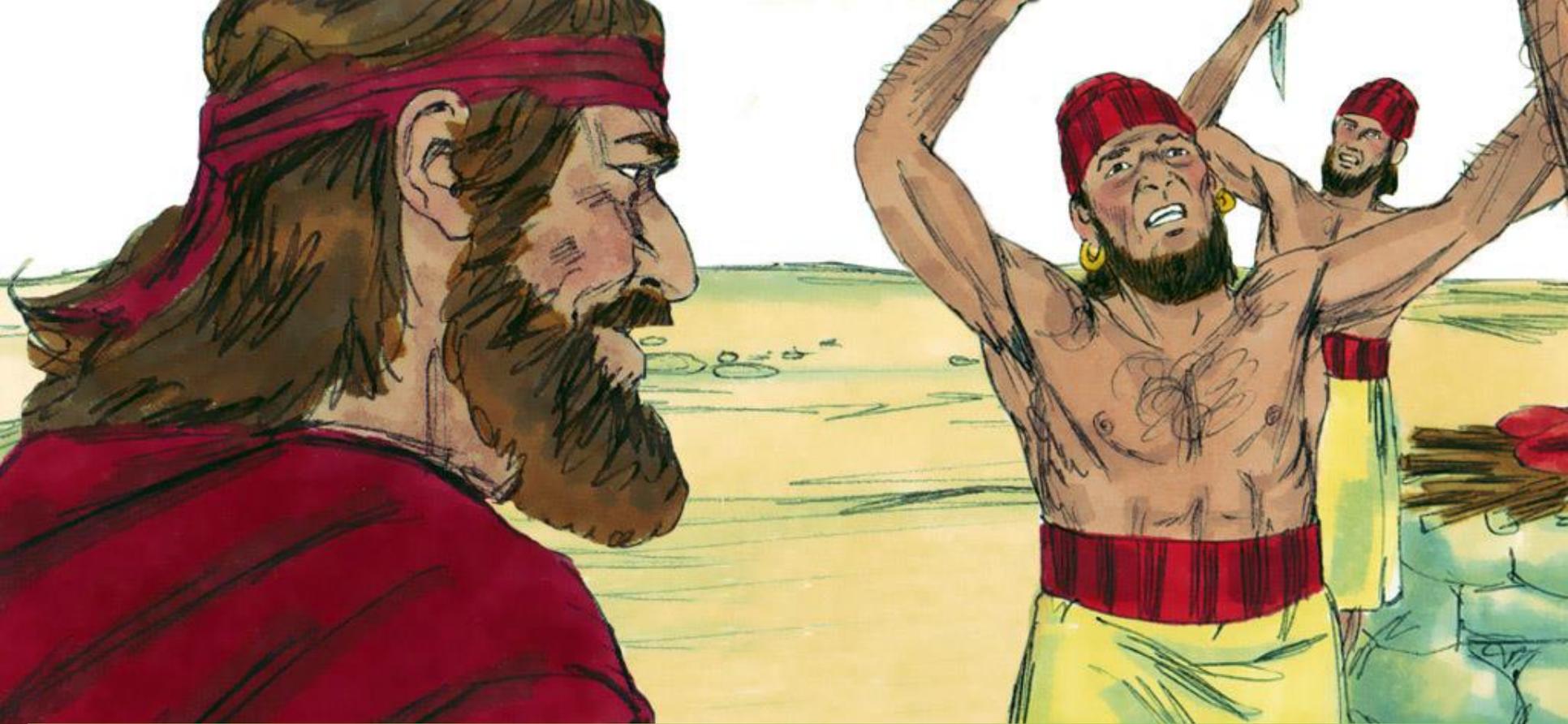




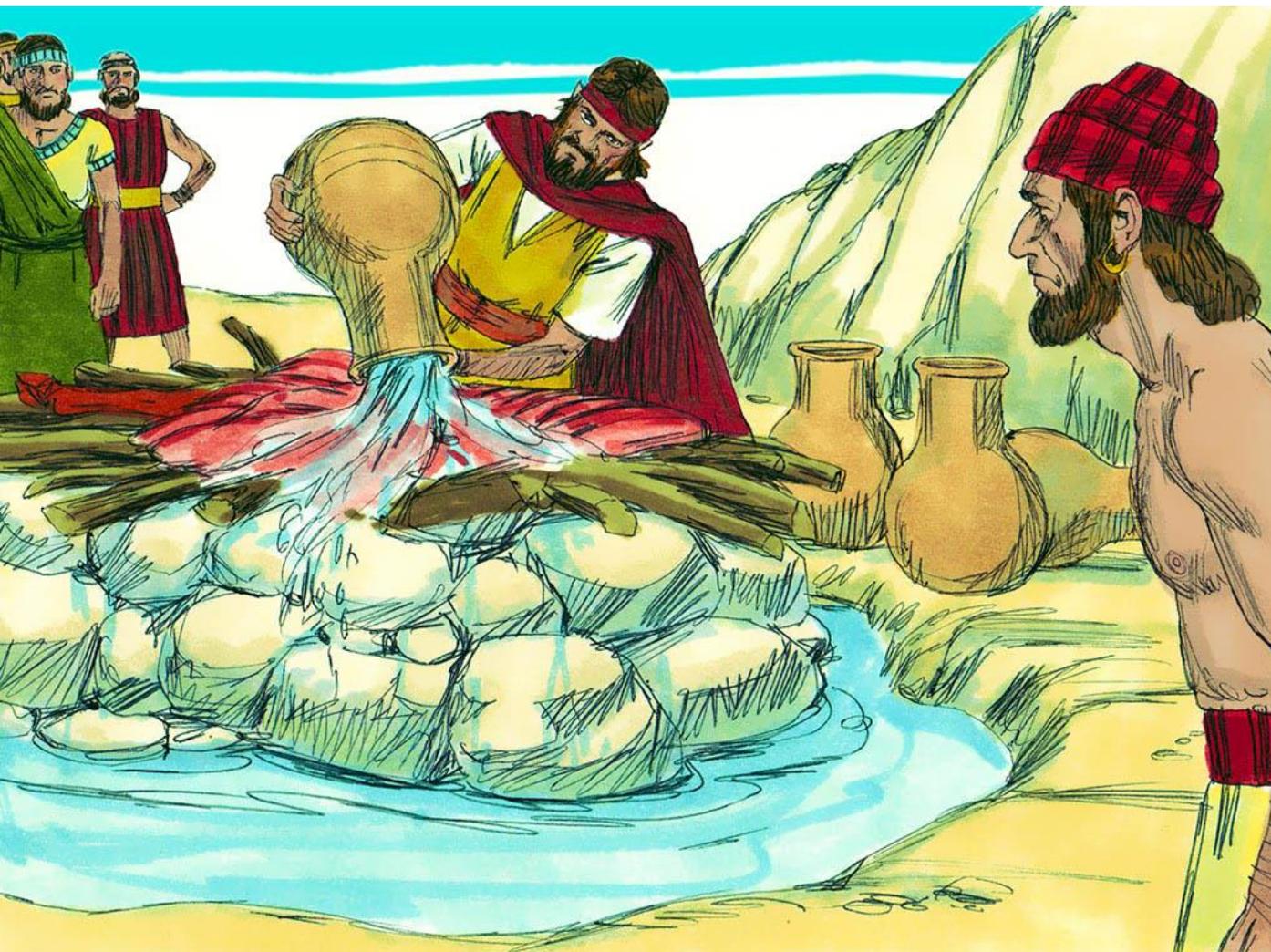
Elijah told the people that he was the only one of the Lord's prophets left, but Baal has 450 prophets. Let's both build an altar of wood and place a cut up bull on each alter but not set fire to the alter. The god who answers by fire—he is God. The people agreed to the contest.



The prophets of Baal chose their bull, cut it into pieces and placed it on the wood on their altar. From morning until noon they danced around the altar shouting, 'Baal, answer us!' But there was no answer.



At noon Elijah told them to shout louder to Baal, maybe he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling or maybe he is sleeping and you need to wake him up. So they shouted louder. Mid-day passed and Baal did not send fire. They became more frantic and continued pleading to Baal until evening. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.



Elijah gathered the people around him and rebuilt an altar of God that had fallen into ruins. He placed 12 stones and dug a trench around it. Elijah cut the bull into pieces and placed it on the wood.

Elijah then told men to fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood. When they had done that, Elijah ordered them to do it again and then a third time. 12 large jars of water were poured over the altar and the water ran down to fill the trench.



Elijah prayed, 'Lord let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant doing what you have commanded. Answer me, so these people will know that you are God and will turn back to You again.'



Suddenly the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil. It also licked up the water in the trench. The people fell face down to the ground and cried, 'The Lord he is God! The Lord he is God!'



Elijah gave orders for the false prophets of Baal to be seized and taken down to the Kishon Valley where they were put to death so they could no longer mislead people into evil ways forbidden by God.