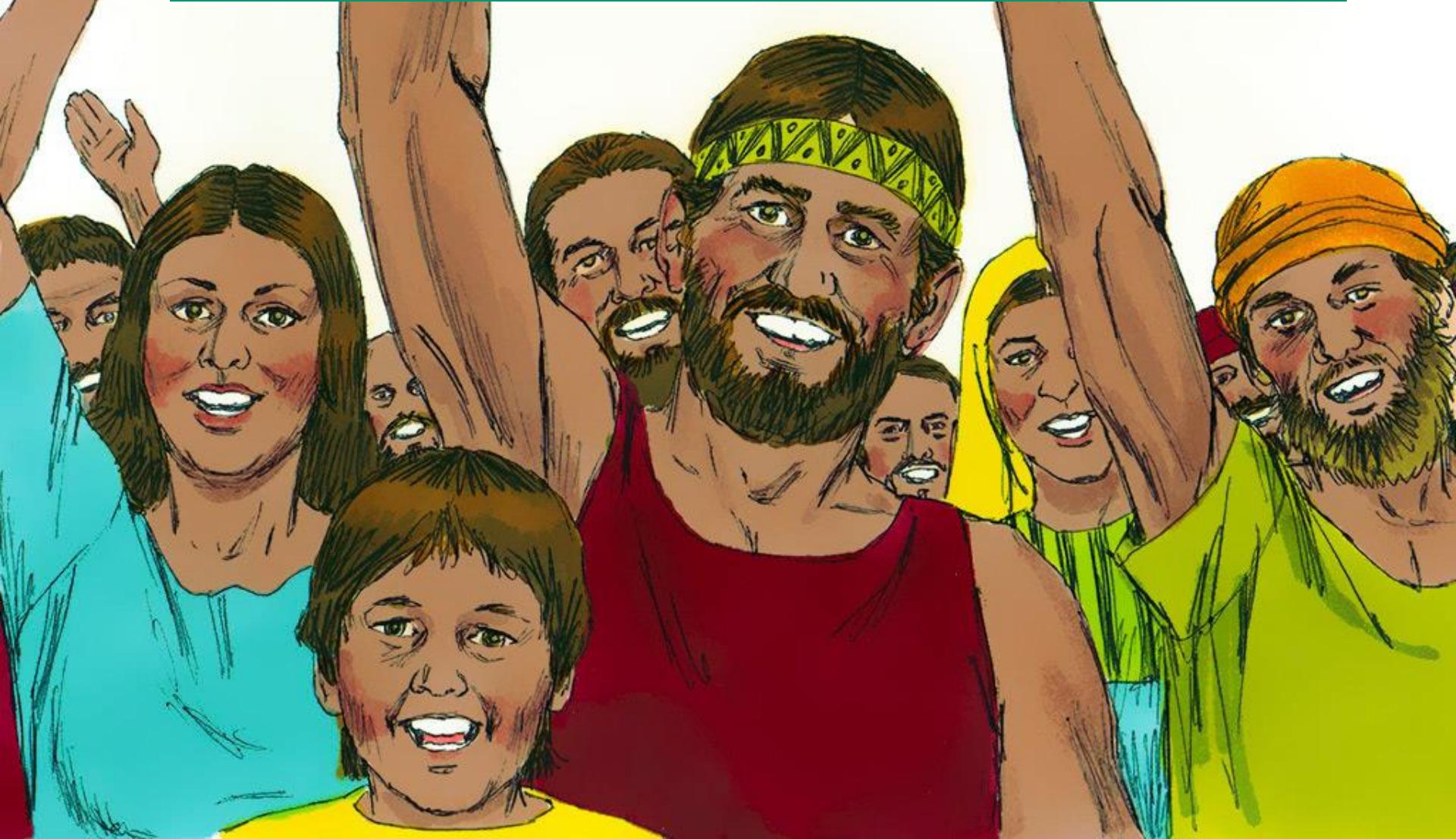




Lesson 6

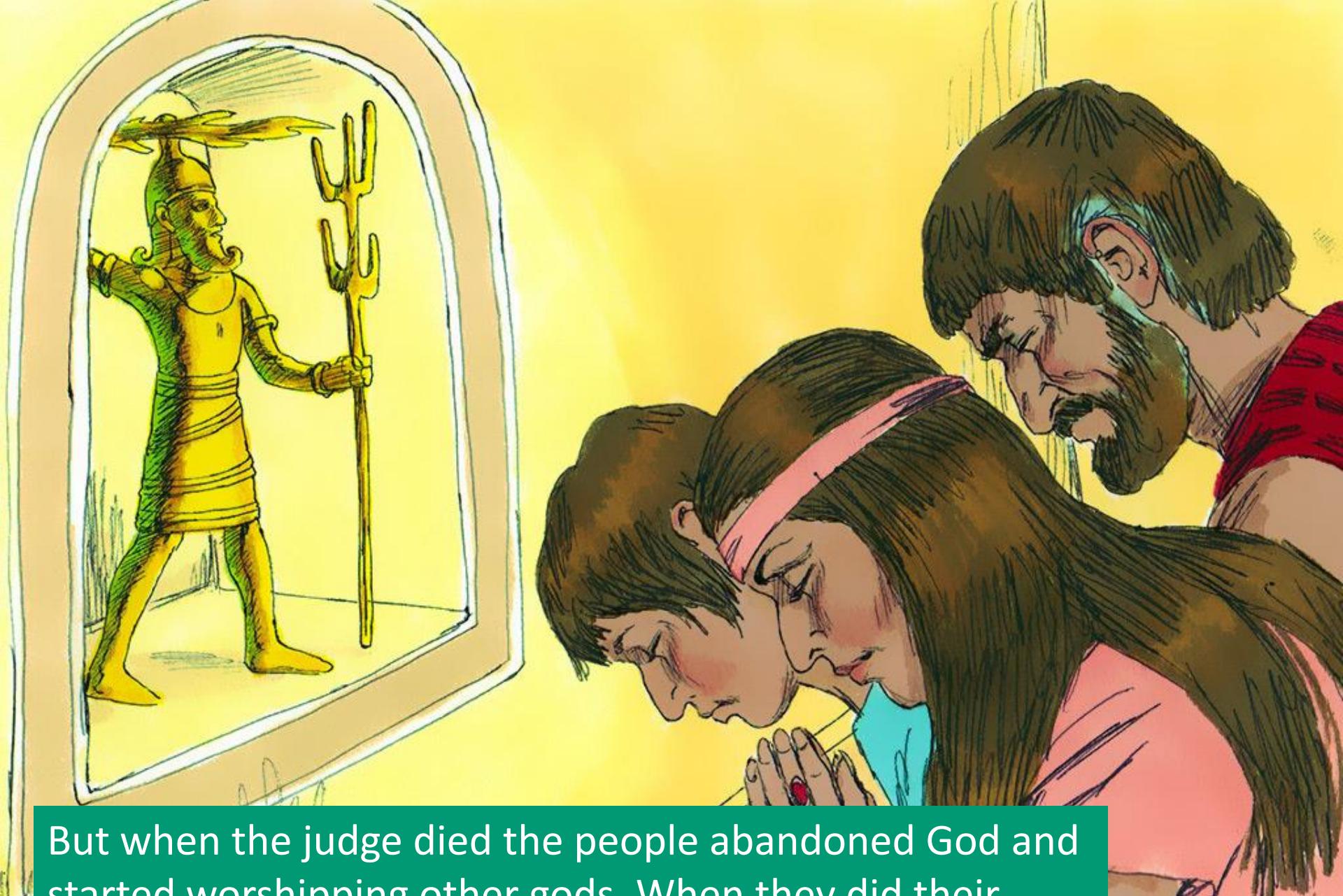
Deborah & Jael Defeat Jabin

The Israelites conquered much of the land that God had promised to them with Joshua but there were still areas controlled by the Canaanites. God raised up judges to lead His people and help them live by His laws.

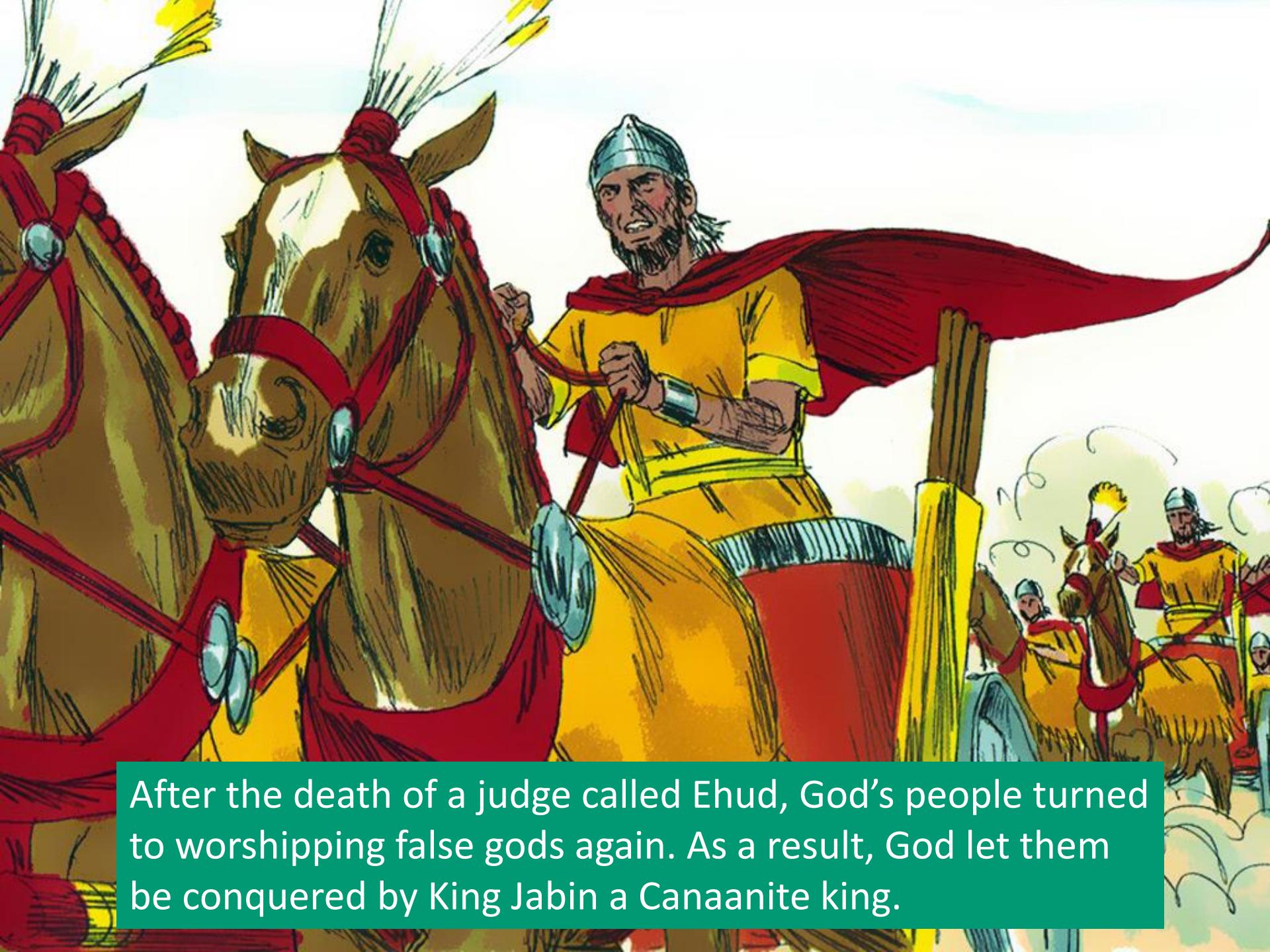


When the Lord raised up a judge
and people obeyed God they
lived in peace and if they went
into battle they were victorious.

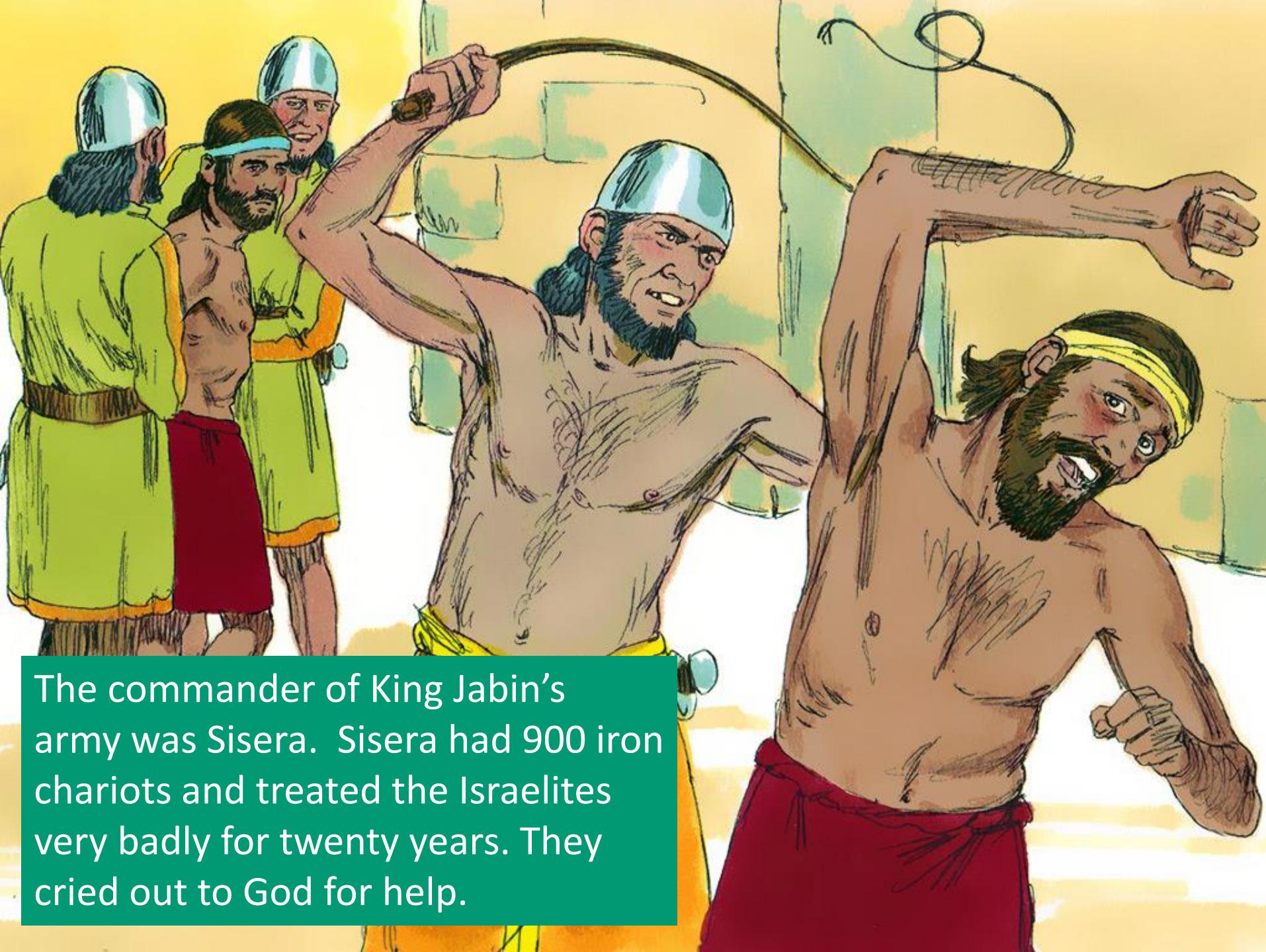




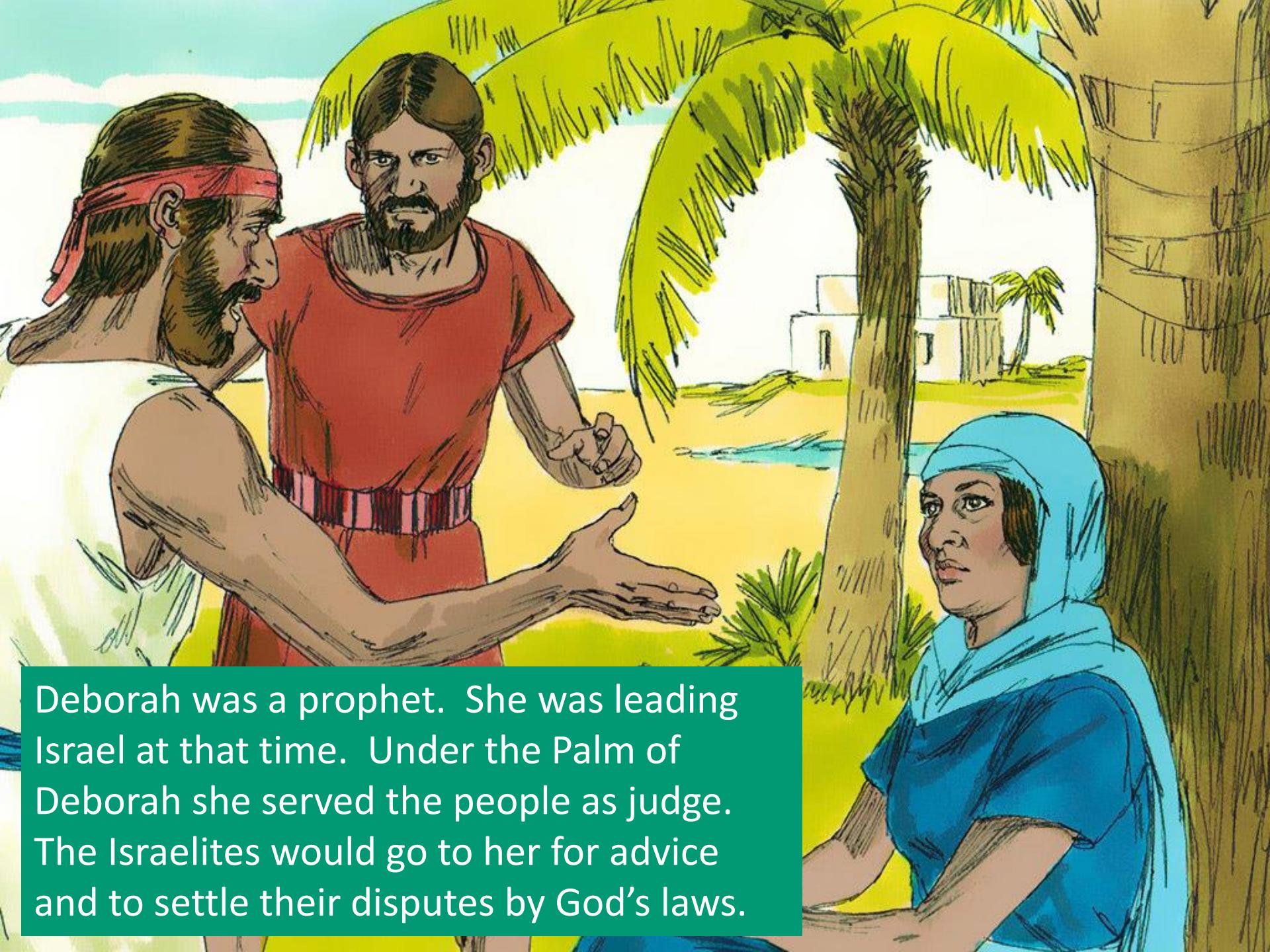
But when the judge died the people abandoned God and started worshipping other gods. When they did their enemies defeated them and they lived in great distress.



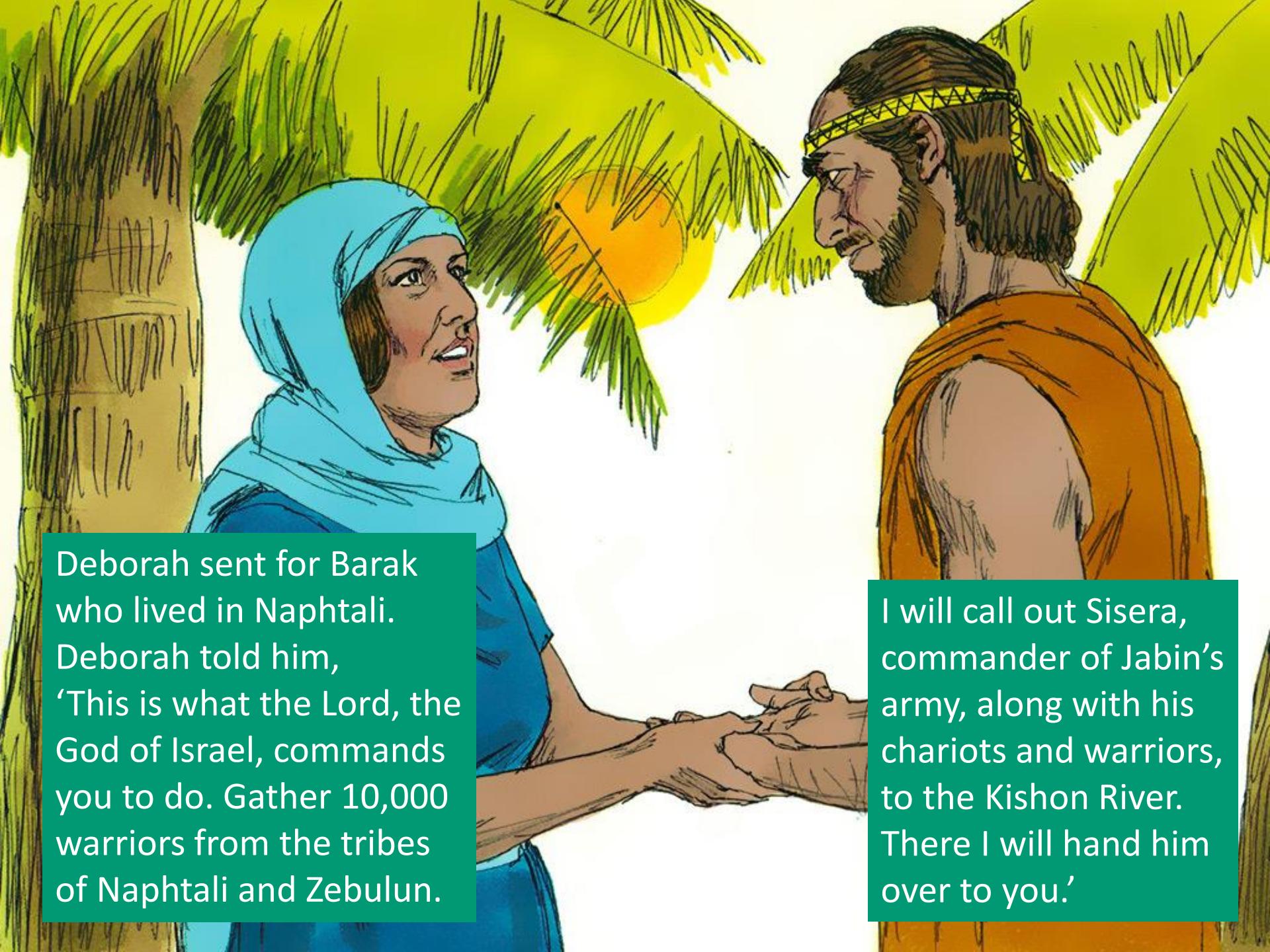
After the death of a judge called Ehud, God's people turned to worshipping false gods again. As a result, God let them be conquered by King Jabin a Canaanite king.



The commander of King Jabin's army was Sisera. Sisera had 900 iron chariots and treated the Israelites very badly for twenty years. They cried out to God for help.



Deborah was a prophet. She was leading Israel at that time. Under the Palm of Deborah she served the people as judge. The Israelites would go to her for advice and to settle their disputes by God's laws.



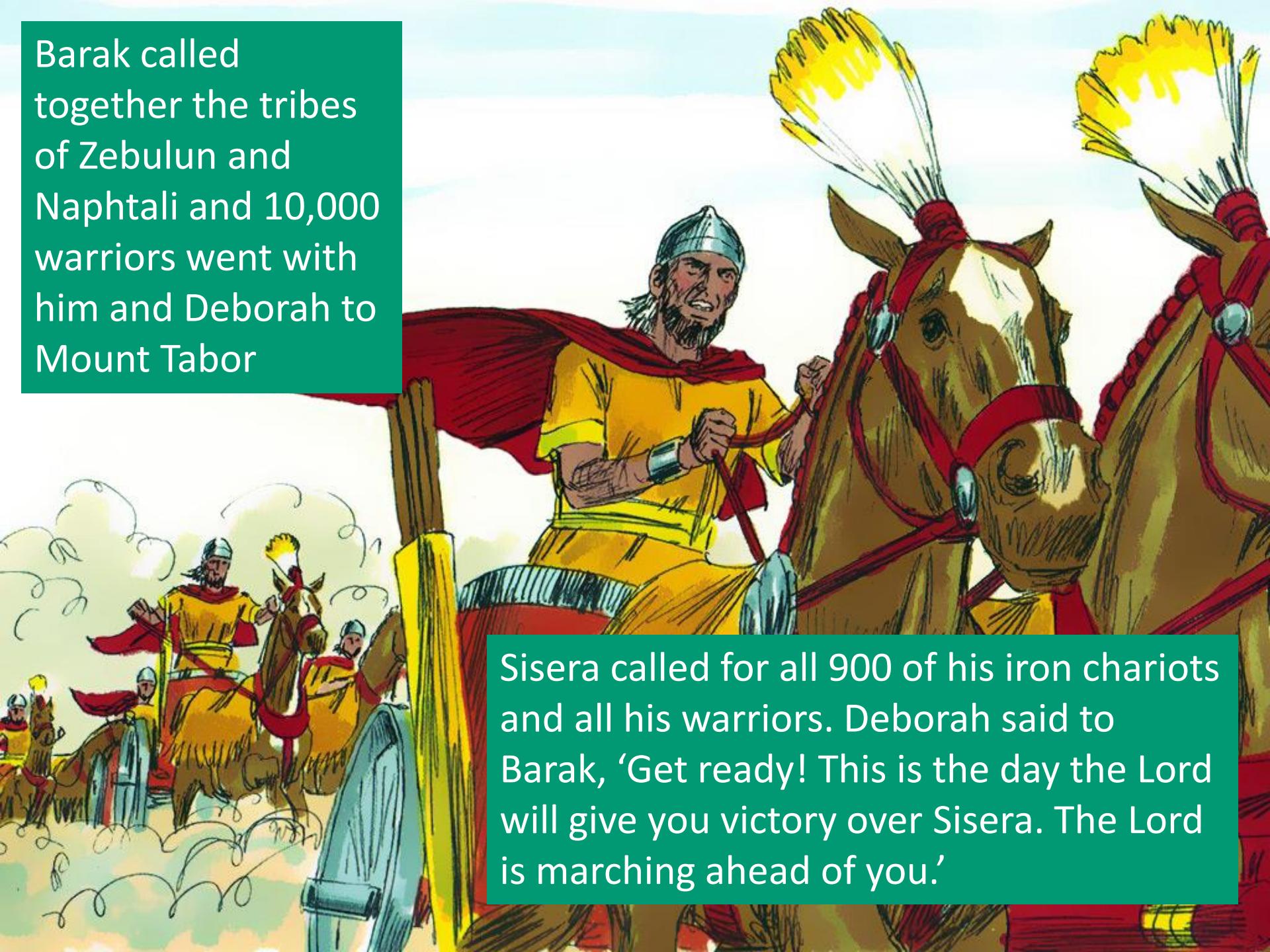
Deborah sent for Barak who lived in Naphtali. Deborah told him, ‘This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, commands you to do. Gather 10,000 warriors from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun.

I will call out Sisera, commander of Jabin’s army, along with his chariots and warriors, to the Kishon River. There I will hand him over to you.’

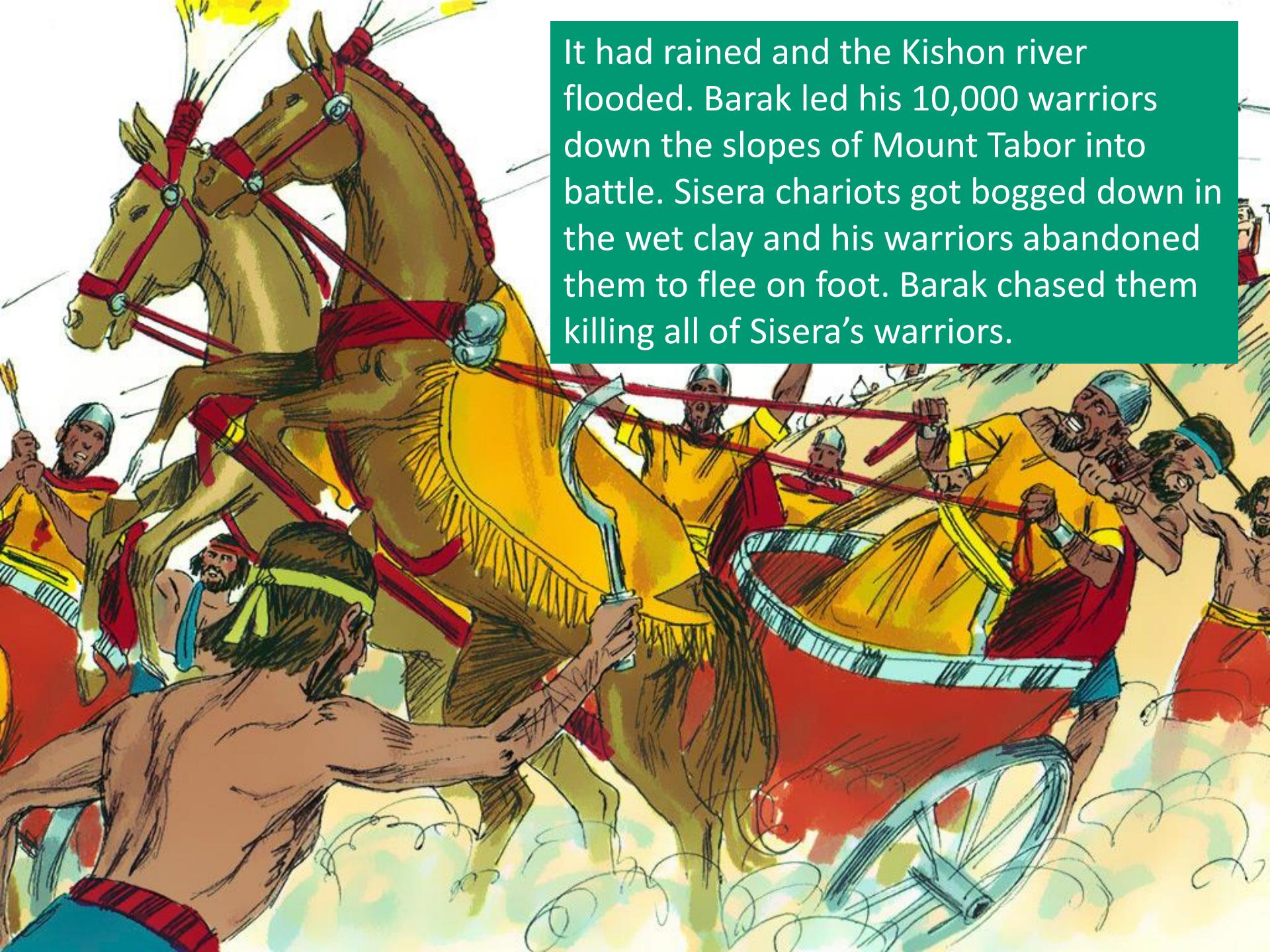


Barak replied, ‘I will go, but only if you go with me.’
‘Very well,’ Deborah replied, ‘I will go with you. But you
will receive no honor in this victory, for the Lord’s
victory over Sisera will be at the hands of a woman.’

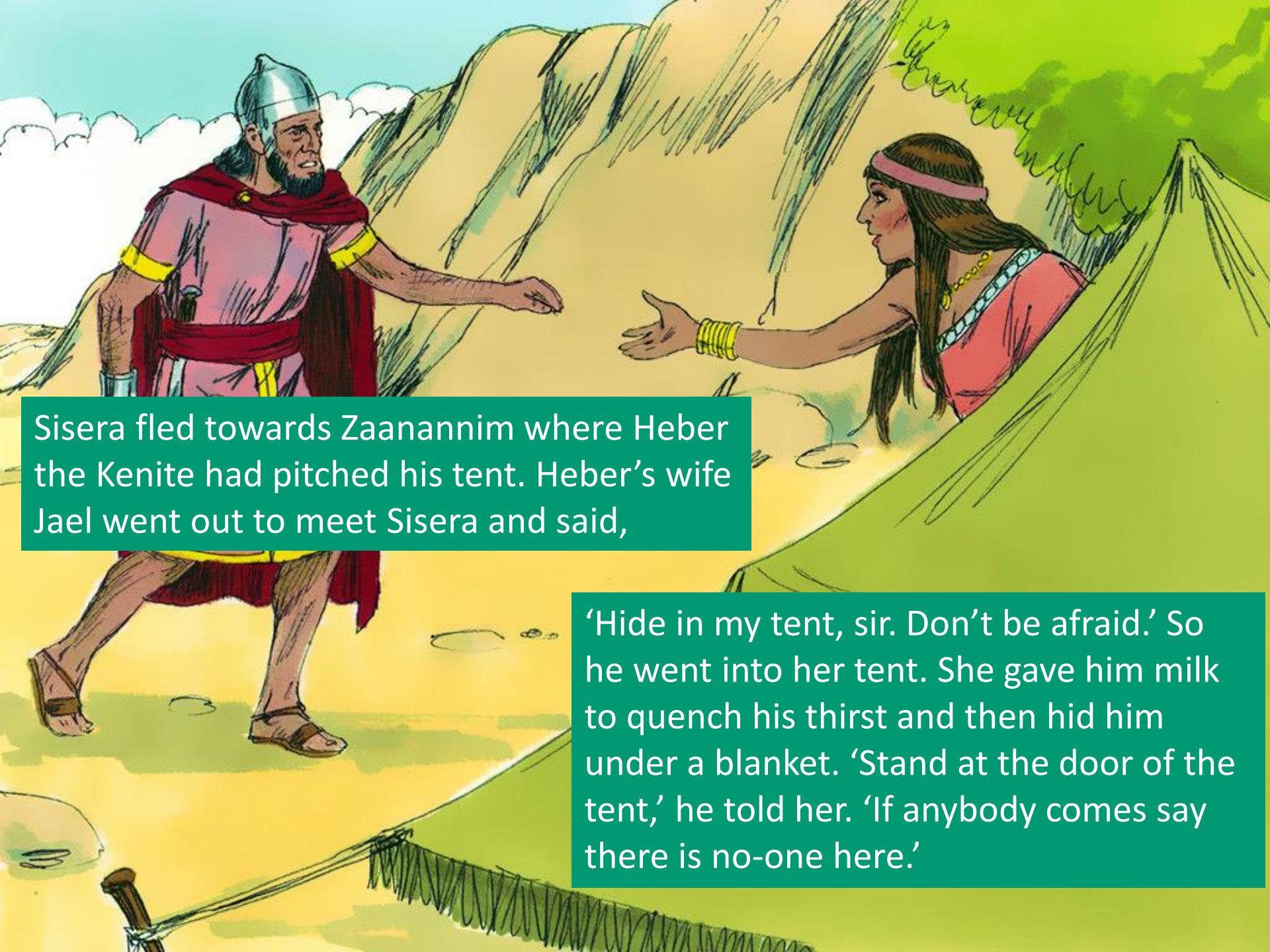
Barak called together the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali and 10,000 warriors went with him and Deborah to Mount Tabor



Sisera called for all 900 of his iron chariots and all his warriors. Deborah said to Barak, ‘Get ready! This is the day the Lord will give you victory over Sisera. The Lord is marching ahead of you.’

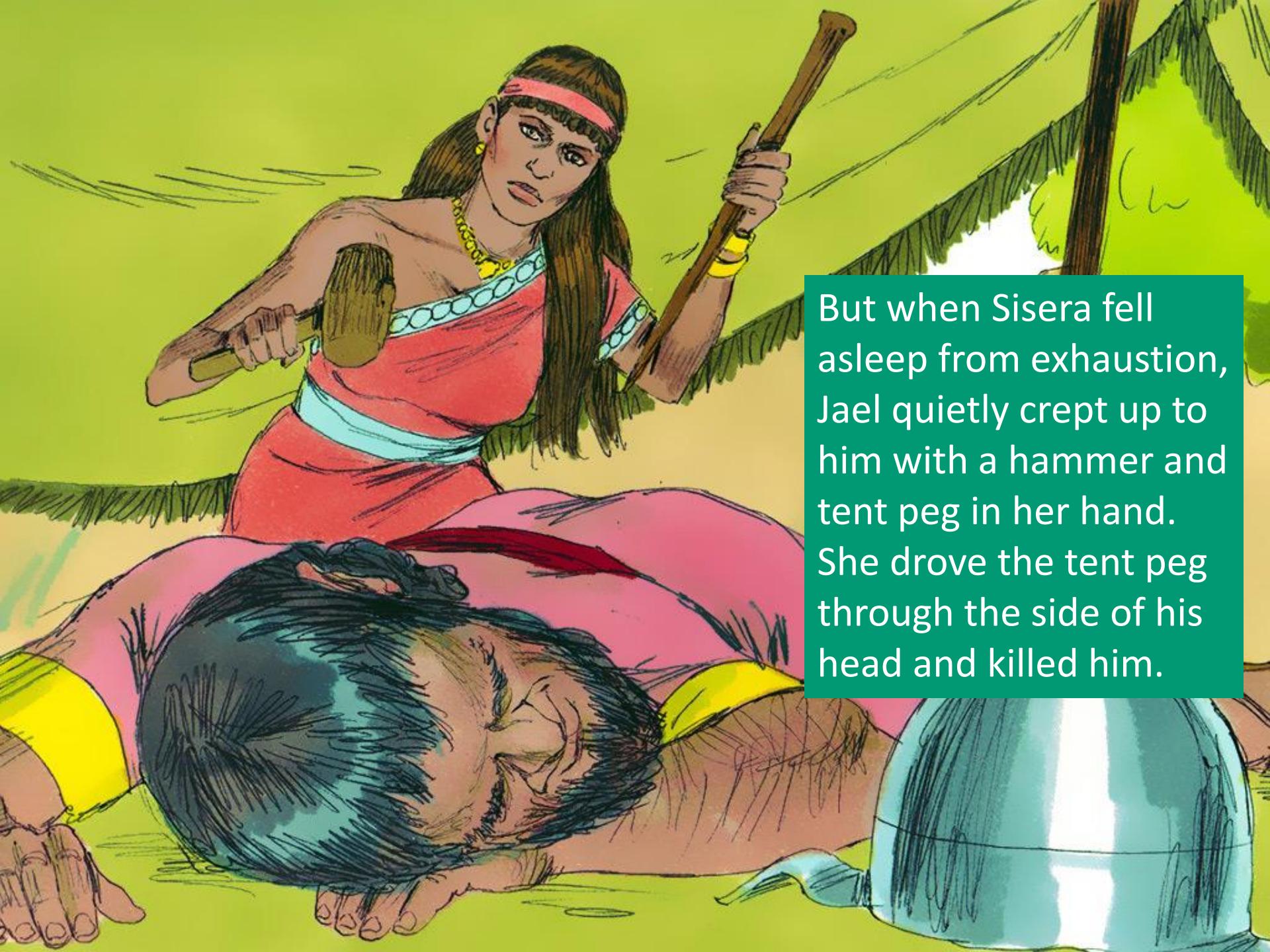


It had rained and the Kishon river flooded. Barak led his 10,000 warriors down the slopes of Mount Tabor into battle. Sisera chariots got bogged down in the wet clay and his warriors abandoned them to flee on foot. Barak chased them killing all of Sisera's warriors.



Sisera fled towards Zaanannim where Heber the Kenite had pitched his tent. Heber's wife Jael went out to meet Sisera and said,

'Hide in my tent, sir. Don't be afraid.' So he went into her tent. She gave him milk to quench his thirst and then hid him under a blanket. 'Stand at the door of the tent,' he told her. 'If anybody comes say there is no-one here.'



But when Sisera fell asleep from exhaustion, Jael quietly crept up to him with a hammer and tent peg in her hand. She drove the tent peg through the side of his head and killed him.



When Barak came looking for Sisera, Jael went out to meet him. 'Come, and I will show you the man you are looking for,' she said. Barak followed her into the tent and found Sisera lying there dead.



From that time on Israel became stronger and stronger until they finally destroyed King Jabin and lived in freedom.