

Kralların düşüşü

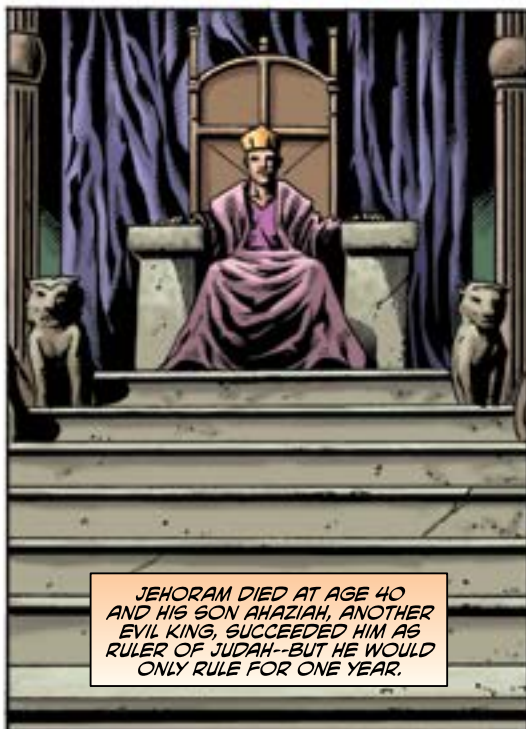


JEHORAM, THE SON OF JEHOSEPHAT, BECAME KING OF JUDAH.

HE MARRIED ATHALIAH, A DAUGHTER OF AHAZ AND JEZEBEL, AND LIKE THEM-- HE DID EVIL IN THE EYES OF THE LORD.

BUT THE LORD WAS NOT WILLING TO DESTROY JUDAH BECAUSE HE HAD PROMISED TO MAINTAIN A LAMP FOR DAVID AND HIS DESCENDANTS FOREVER.

DURING JEHOAM'S BRIEF EIGHT-YEAR REIGN, EDM REBELLED AGAINST JUDAH AND SECEDED.



JEHOAM DIED AT AGE 40 AND HIS SON AHAZIAH, ANOTHER EVIL KING, SUCCEEDED HIM AS RULER OF JUDAH--BUT HE WOULD ONLY RULE FOR ONE YEAR.

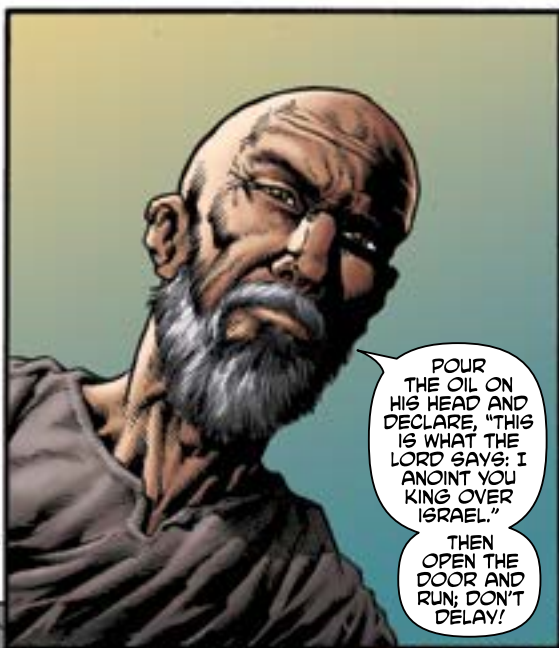


AFTER KING JORAM OF ISRAEL WAS WOUNDED IN A BATTLE WITH THE ARAMEANS, KING AHAZIAH WENT DOWN TO JEZREEL TO VISIT HIM.



RUN AND TAKE THIS FLASK OF OLIVE OIL AND GO TO RAMOTH GILEAD.

FIND JEHU, GET HIM AWAY FROM HIS COMPANIONS AND TAKE HIM INTO AN INNER ROOM.



POUR THE OIL ON HIS HEAD AND DECLARE, "THIS IS WHAT THE LORD SAYS: I ANOINT YOU KING OVER ISRAEL."

THEN OPEN THE DOOR AND RUN; DON'T DELAY!



I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU, COMMANDER.

FOR WHICH OF US?

FOR YOU, COMMANDER JEHU.



THIS IS WHAT THE LORD SAYS: "I ANOINT YOU KING OVER THE LORD'S PEOPLE ISRAEL."

"YOU ARE TO DESTROY THE HOUSE OF AHAB YOUR MASTER, AND I WILL AVENGE THE BLOOD OF MY SERVANTS THE PROPHETS AND THE BLOOD OF ALL THE LORD'S SERVANTS SHED BY JEZEBEL."



"THE WHOLE HOUSE OF AHAB WILL PERISH."

"I WILL MAKE THE HOUSE OF AHAB LIKE THE HOUSE OF JEROBOAM AND LIKE THE HOUSE OF BAASHA."

"AS FOR JEZEBEL, DOGS WILL DEVOUR HER ON THE PLOT OF GROUND AT JEZREEL, AND NO ONE WILL BURY HER."





I SEE
SOME
TROOPS
COMING.

GET A
HORSEMAN;
SEND HIM TO
FIND OUT WHETHER
THEY COME IN
PEACE.



THIS IS WHAT
THE KING SAYS:
"DO YOU COME
IN PEACE?"

WHAT DO
YOU HAVE TO
DO WITH PEACE?
FALL IN BEHIND
ME.



THE
MESSENGER
HAS REACHED
THEM--BUT HE
ISN'T COMING
BACK.

SEND
A SECOND
HORSEMAN.



THIS IS WHAT THE
KING SAYS:
"DO YOU COME
IN PEACE?"

WHAT DO
YOU HAVE TO
DO WITH PEACE?
FALL IN BEHIND
ME.



THE SECOND
MESSENGER HAS
REACHED THEM,
BUT HE IS NOT
RETURNING.

THE DRIVING
IS LIKE THAT OF
JEHU SON OF NIMSHI--
HE DRIVES LIKE A
MADMAN.

HITCH UP MY
CHARIOT.

JORAM KING OF ISRAEL AND AHAZIAH KING OF JUDAH EACH RODE OUT AND MET JEHU AT THE PLOT OF GROUND THAT HAD BELONGED TO NABOTH THE JEZREELITE.

HAVE YOU COME IN PEACE, JEHU?

HOW CAN THERE BE PEACE-- AS LONG AS ALL THE IDOLATRY AND WITCHCRAFT OF YOUR MOTHER JEZEBEL ABOUND?

TREACHERY, AHAZIAH!

ANWH!

THUNK

PICK HIM UP AND THROW HIM ON THE FIELD THAT BELONGED TO NABOTH THE JEZREELITE.

REMEMBER THE LORD'S PROPHECY AGAINST AHAH: "YESTERDAY I SAW THE BLOOD OF NABOTH AND THE BLOOD OF HIS SONS... AND I WILL SURELY MAKE YOU PAY FOR IT ON THIS PLOT OF GROUND, DECLARES THE LORD."

NOW THEN, PICK HIM UP AND THROW HIM ON THAT PLOT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WORD OF THE LORD.



KILL KING
AHAZIAH
TOO!



AHAZIAH WAS WOUNDED
BUT ESCAPED TO MEGIDDO
AND DIED THERE. THEN HE
WAS BURIED WITH HIS
ANCESTORS IN JERUSALEM.



MEANWHILE... QUEEN JEZEBEL
PREPARED TO MEET JEHU.



HAVE YOU
COME IN PEACE,
YOU ZIMRI^[1], YOU
MURDERER OF
YOUR MASTER?

WHO IS
ON MY SIDE?
WHO?

[1] ZIMRI WAS A
PREVIOUS KING
WHO HAD ONLY
RULED SEVEN DAYS
IN A PREVIOUS
PURGE. JEZEBEL
WAS MOCKING
JEHU, SAYING
THAT HIS REIGN
ALSO WOULD
BE SHORT.



BUT WHEN THEY WENT OUT TO BURY HER, THEY FOUND NOTHING EXCEPT HER SKULL, HER FEET AND HER HANDS.

EVEN THE DOGS WOULD NOT EAT THE HANDS THAT HAD DONE SO MUCH EVIL.



THERE IS NOTHING LEFT OF THE WOMAN--JUST HER HANDS, FEET AND SKULL.

THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD THAT HE SPOKE THROUGH HIS SERVANT ELIJAH THE TISHBITE: ON THE PLOT OF GROUND AT JEZREEL DOGS WILL DEVOUR JEZEBEL'S FLESH.



"JEZEBEL'S BODY WILL BE LIKE DUNG ON THE GROUND IN THE PLOT AT JEZREEL, SO THAT NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO SAY, 'THIS IS JEZEBEL.'"



NOW THERE WERE IN SAMARIA SEVENTY SONS
AND GRANDSONS OF THE HOUSE OF AHAB.



SO JEHU WROTE LETTERS AND SENT THEM TO
SAMARIA: TO THE OFFICIALS OF JEZREEL, TO THE ELDERS
AND TO THE GUARDIANS OF AHAB'S CHILDREN.

HE SAYS WE HAVE
OUR MASTER'S SONS,
CHARIOTS, HORSES, A
FORTIFIED CITY AND
WEAPONS.

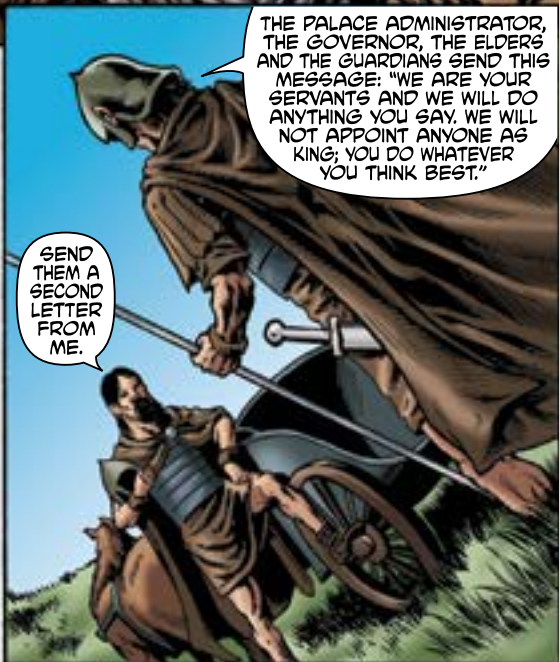
WE ARE
TO CHOOSE THE
BEST OF YOUR
MASTER'S SONS
AND SET HIM ON HIS
THRONE--THEN
FIGHT FOR THE
THRONE.

IF TWO
KINGS COULD
NOT RESIST HIM,
HOW CAN
WE?



THE PALACE ADMINISTRATOR,
THE GOVERNOR, THE ELDERS
AND THE GUARDIANS SEND THIS
MESSAGE: "WE ARE YOUR
SERVANTS AND WE WILL DO
ANYTHING YOU SAY. WE WILL
NOT APPOINT ANYONE AS
KING; YOU DO WHATEVER
YOU THINK BEST."

SEND
THEM A
SECOND
LETTER
FROM
ME.



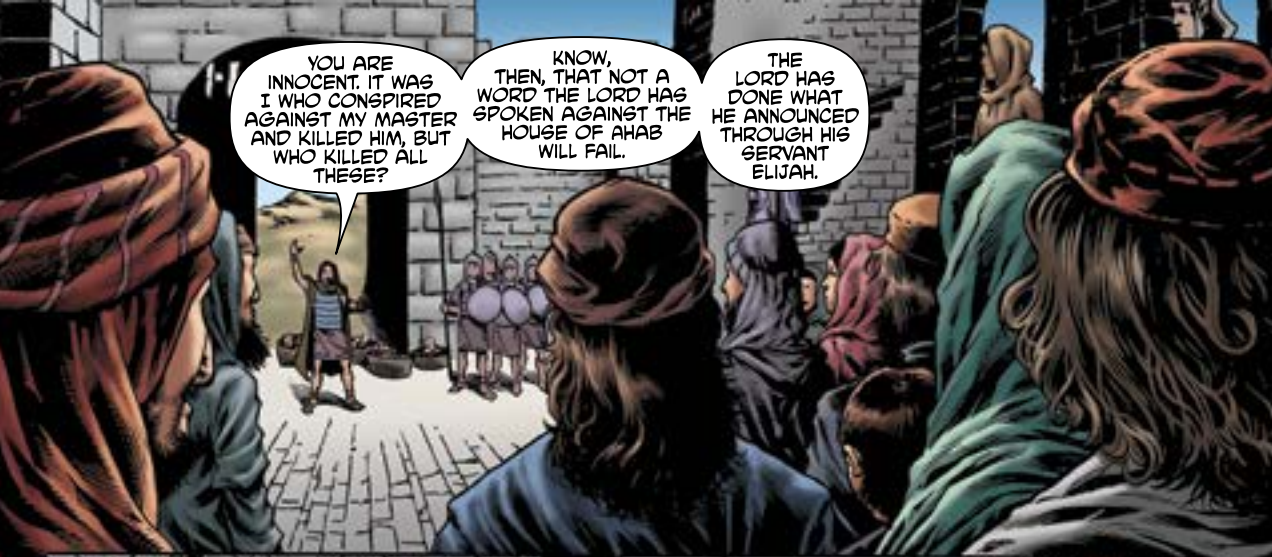
HE
SAYS IF WE ARE
ON HIS SIDE WE ARE
TO BRING THE HEADS
OF AHAB'S SONS AND
GRANDSONS TO HIM IN
JEZREEL BY THIS TIME
TOMORROW.



THEY HAVE
BROUGHT THE
HEADS OF THE
PRINCES.

PUT THEM IN
TWO PILES AT THE
ENTRANCE OF THE
CITY GATE UNTIL
MORNING.





YOU ARE INNOCENT. IT WAS I WHO CONSPIRED AGAINST MY MASTER AND KILLED HIM, BUT WHO KILLED ALL THESE?

KNOW, THEN, THAT NOT A WORD THE LORD HAS SPOKEN AGAINST THE HOUSE OF AHAB WILL FAIL.

THE LORD HAS DONE WHAT HE ANNOUNCED THROUGH HIS SERVANT ELIJAH.

SO JEHU KILLED EVERYONE WHO REMAINED OF THE HOUSE OF AHAB, AS WELL AS ALL HIS CHIEF MEN, HIS CLOSE FRIENDS AND HIS PRIESTS, LEAVING HIM NO SURVIVOR.

NO--I NO LONGER SERVE AHAB--PLEASE SPARE MY LIFE!

ON HIS WAY TO SAMARIA HE RAN INTO RELATIVES OF AHAZIAH AND HAD THEM PUT TO THE SWORD.

AFTER HE LEFT THERE, HE CAME UPON JEHOADAB^[1], WHO WAS ON HIS WAY TO MEET HIM.

ARE YOU IN ACCORD WITH ME, AS I AM WITH YOU?

I AM.

IF SO, GIVE ME YOUR HAND. COME WITH ME AND SEE MY ZEAL FOR THE LORD.

[1] JEHOADAB WAS A RECHABITE AND LIVED A LIFE OF AUSTERITY AND ACCORDING TO STRICT MOSAIC LAW.

AND FROM THERE JEHU SET OUT FOR SAMARIA WHERE HE KILLED THE REMAINDER OF AHAB'S FAMILY--ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF THE LORD SPOKEN TO ELIJAH.



AHAB SERVED
BAAL A LITTLE;
JEHU WILL SERVE
HIM MUCH.

NOW SUMMON
ALL THE PROPHETS OF
BAAL, ALL HIS SERVANTS
AND ALL HIS PRIESTS. SEE
THAT NO ONE IS MISSING,
BECAUSE I AM GOING TO
HOLD A GREAT SACRIFICE
FOR BAAL.



CALL AN
ASSEMBLY IN
HONOR OF BAAL--
ANYONE WHO FAILS
TO COME WILL NO
LONGER LIVE.



ALL THE SERVANTS OF BAAL CAME--
NOT ONE STAYED AWAY THEY CROWDED
INTO THE TEMPLE OF BAAL AND JEHU HAD
ROBES BROUGHT OUT FOR ALL OF THEM.

LOOK AROUND
AND SEE THAT NO
ONE WHO SERVES THE
LORD IS HERE WITH YOU--
ONLY SERVANTS
OF BAAL.



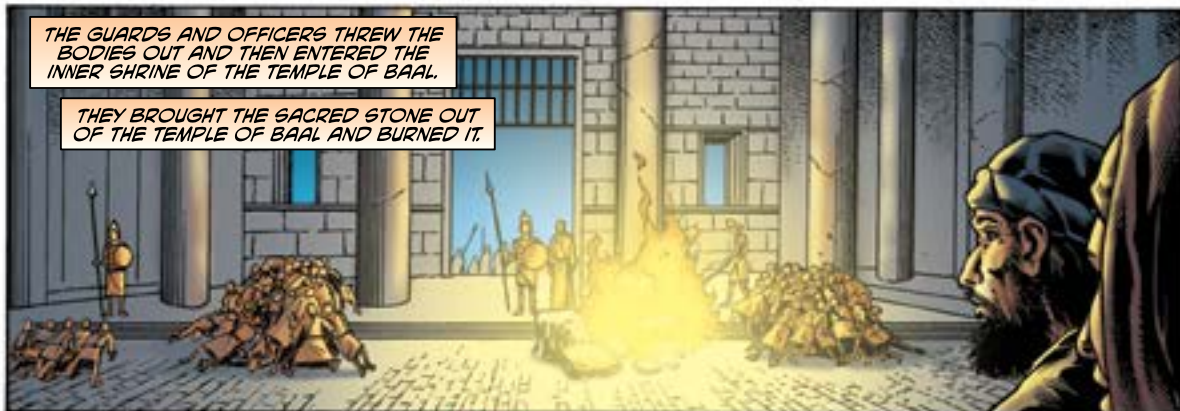
IF ONE OF
YOU LETS ANY OF
THE MEN I AM PLACING
IN YOUR HANDS ESCAPE,
IT WILL BE YOUR LIFE
FOR HIS LIFE.





SAVE
US LORD
BAAL!!

ARRGHH!!



THE GUARDS AND OFFICERS THREW THE BODIES OUT AND THEN ENTERED THE INNER SHRINE OF THE TEMPLE OF BAAL.

THEY BROUGHT THE SACRED STONE OUT OF THE TEMPLE OF BAAL AND BURNED IT.



THEY DEMOLISHED THE SACRED STONE OF BAAL AND TORE DOWN THE TEMPLE OF BAAL, AND PEOPLE OF THE CITY USED IT AS A LATRINE.



THOUGH JEHU DESTROYED BAAL WORSHIP IN ISRAEL, HE DID NOT TURN AWAY FROM THE SINS JEROBOAM HAD CAUSED ISRAEL TO COMMIT--THE WORSHIP OF THE GOLDEN CALVES AT BETHEL AND DAN.

BUT BECAUSE JEHU ACCOMPLISHED WHAT GOD WANTED IN REGARDS THE HOUSE OF AHAB, GOD PROMISED THAT HE WOULD HAVE A DESCENDANT ON THE THRONE OF ISRAEL TO THE FOURTH GENERATION.



AT THIS TIME GOD BEGAN TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF ISRAEL AS SYRIA BEGAN OVERPOWERING ISRAELITES IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THEIR TERRITORY.

JEHU REIGNED IN ISRAEL 28 YEARS AND THEN HE RESTED WITH HIS ANCESTORS.

AFTER HER SON AHAZIAH WAS KILLED, ATHALIAH (THE DAUGHTER OF AHAH AND JEZEBEL), PROCEEDED TO EXECUTE THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY SO SHE COULD REIGN.



BUT JEHOSEBA, THE SISTER OF AHAZIAH, HID JOASH AND HIS NURSE IN A ROOM OF THE TEMPLE PRIESTS.



ATHALIAH RULED JUDAH FOR SIX YEARS, DURING WHICH TIME SHE INSTITUTED BAAL WORSHIP.

AND JOASH REMAINED HIDDEN.

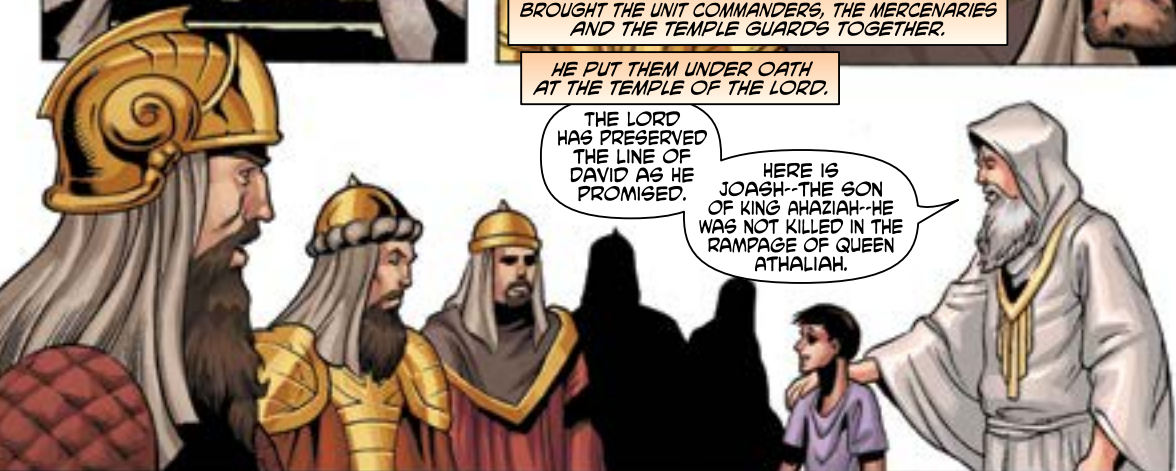


IN THE SEVENTH YEAR THE PRIEST JEHOIADA BROUGHT THE UNIT COMMANDERS, THE MERCENARIES AND THE TEMPLE GUARDS TOGETHER.

HE PUT THEM UNDER OATH AT THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD.

THE LORD HAS PRESERVED THE LINE OF DAVID AS HE PROMISED.

HERE IS JOASH--THE SON OF KING AHAZIAH--HE WAS NOT KILLED IN THE RAMPAGE OF QUEEN ATHALIAH.





AS YOU GO ON DUTY THIS SABBATH--A THIRD OF YOU GUARD THE ROYAL PALACE, A THIRD THE SUR GATE, AND A THIRD GUARD THE TEMPLE.



YOU IN THE OTHER TWO COMPANIES THAT NORMALLY GO OFF SABBATH DUTY, STATION YOURSELVES AROUND THE KING, EACH OF YOU WITH WEAPON IN HAND.

ANYONE WHO APPROACHES OUR RANKS IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.

STAY CLOSE TO THE KING WHEREVER HE GOES.

THE PRIEST PLACED THE CROWN ON THE KING'S HEAD AND GAVE HIM A COPY OF THE LAW OF MOSES--THE COVENANT THE PEOPLE HAD WITH GOD.



LONG LIVE THE KING!

A KING IN THE LINE OF DAVID!



QUEEN ATHALIAH HEARD THE NOISE AND CAME OUT.

TREASON! THIS IS TREASON!



BRING HER OUT BETWEEN THE RANKS AND PUT TO THE SWORD ANYONE WHO FOLLOWS HER.



SHE MUST NOT BE PUT TO DEATH IN THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD.

TREASON-- YOU ARE ALL GUILTY!

LET HER BE EXECUTED IN THE PLACE WHERE THE HORSES ENTER THE PALACE GROUNDS.

KING AND PEOPLE, LET US RENEW OUR COVENANT WITH THE LORD THAT HIS FAVOR WOULD ONCE AGAIN BE ON THIS LAND HE PROMISED OUR FOREFATHERS.



WE WILL!

DOWN WITH BAAL!



ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND WENT TO THE TEMPLE OF BAAL AND TORE IT DOWN.

THEY SMASHED THE ALTARS AND IDOLS TO PIECES AND KILLED MATTAN THE PRIEST OF BAAL IN FRONT OF THE ALTARS.



ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND REJOICED, AND THE CITY WAS CALM, BECAUSE ATHALIAH HAD BEEN SLAIN.

JOASH WAS SEVEN-YEARS-OLD WHEN HE BEGAN TO REIGN.

IN 836 B.C. JOASH BECAME KING AND ALL THE YEARS JEHOIADA INSTRUCTED HIM HE DID WHAT WAS RIGHT--EXCEPT HE DID NOT REMOVE THE HIGH PLACES WHERE PEOPLE OFFERED SACRIFICES AND BURNED INCENSE.

HE INSTRUCTED THE PRIESTS...

LET EVERY PRIEST RECEIVE THE MONEY FROM THE TREASURERS--THEN USE IT TO REPAIR WHATEVER DAMAGE IS FOUND IN THE TEMPLE.

BUT SEVERAL YEARS LATER, THE TEMPLE REPAIRS STILL HAD NOT BEEN DONE.



WHY AREN'T YOU REPAIRING THE DAMAGE DONE TO THE TEMPLE?

TAKE NO MORE MONEY FROM YOUR TREASURERS, BUT HAND IT OVER FOR REPAIRING THE TEMPLE.

WE WILL TAKE NO MORE MONEY AND WE WILL NOT REPAIR THE TEMPLE OURSELVES.

SO JEHOIADA TOOK A CHEST AND BORED A HOLE IN THE LID.

HE PLACED IT WHERE PEOPLE ENTERED THE TEMPLE.



FROM THESE COLLECTED MONIES WORK-
MEN WERE HIRED TO REPAIR THE TEMPLE.

EVERYONE ACTED WITH COMPLETE HONESTLY
AND NO ACCOUNTING WAS REQUIRED.



JEHOIADA LIVED 130 YEARS AND WAS BURIED WITH
THE KING BECAUSE OF ALL THE GOOD HE HAD DONE.



BUT SOON AFTER HIS DEATH...

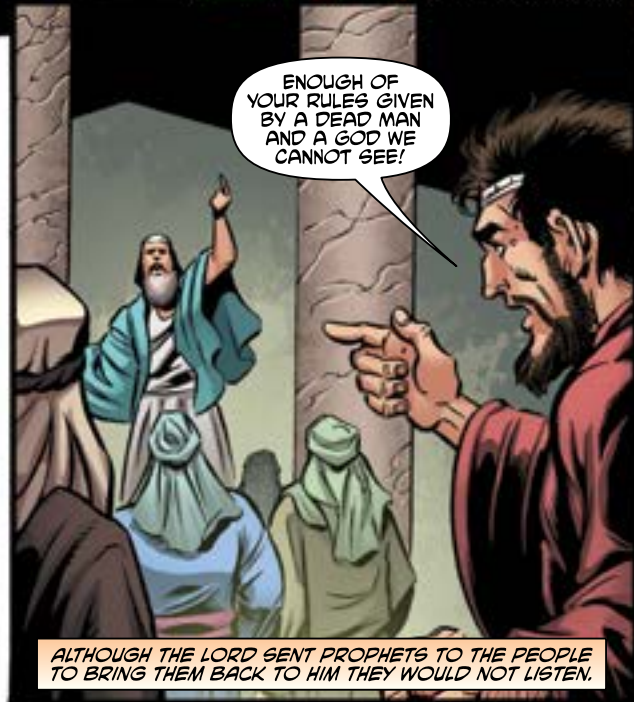


...JEHOIADA'S
RULES WERE
TOO STRICT.

DON'T LET
HIS OLD WAYS
BIND US ANY
LONGER.

LET US
RETURN TO
ASHERAH--
AND TO BAAL.

BECAUSE OF THEIR GUILT, GOD'S ANGER
CAME ON JUDAH AND JERUSALEM.



ENOUGH OF
YOUR RULES GIVEN
BY A DEAD MAN
AND A GOD WE
CANNOT SEE!

ALTHOUGH THE LORD SENT PROPHETS TO THE PEOPLE
TO BRING THEM BACK TO HIM THEY WOULD NOT LISTEN.

THEN THE SPIRIT OF GOD
CAME ON ZECHARIAH--THE SON
OF JEHOIADA THE PRIEST.

GOD SAYS,
"BECAUSE YOU
HAVE FORSAKEN
THE LORD, HE
HAS FORSAKEN
YOU."

THAT WAS HOW KING JOASH REPAID
JEHOIADA FOR HIS LOVE AND LOYALTY--
BY KILLING HIS SON ZECHARIAH.



MAY THE
LORD SEE THIS
AND CALL YOU
TO ACCOUNT.

SOON AFTER...

ARAM INVADED AND PLUNDERED THE
SACRED OBJECTS, AS WELL AS THE GOLD
FROM THE TEMPLE AND ROYAL PALACE.

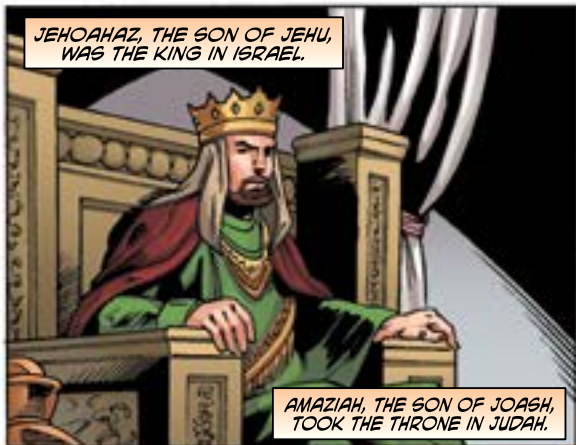


THE KING OF ARAM LEFT--BUT KING JOASH'S
OWN OFFICIALS MURDERED HIM IN HIS BED
FOR KILLING THE SON OF JEHOIADA THE PRIEST.



THEY DID NOT
BURY HIM IN
THE TOMBS
OF THE KINGS.

JEHOAHAZ, THE SON OF JEHU,
WAS THE KING IN ISRAEL.



AMAZIAH, THE SON OF JOASH,
TOOK THE THRONE IN JUDAH.

BECAUSE JEHOAHAZ DID EVIL THE LORD'S
ANGER BURNED AGAINST HIM--AND HE SENT
THE KING OF ARAM TO SEVERELY OPPRESS HIM.



BUT WHEN JEHOAHAZ SOUGHT
AGAIN GOD'S FAVOR, GOD
DELIVERED THE ISRAELITES.



HOWEVER THE ARMY OF ISRAEL WAS LEFT
WITH ONLY FIFTY HORSEMEN, TEN CHARIOTS
AND TEN THOUSAND FOOT SOLDIERS.



KING JEHOAHAZ DIED AND HIS SON
JEHOASH ASSUMED THE THRONE.



JEHOASH, SON OF JEHOHAZ, BECAME KING AND HE CONTINUED TO ALLOW THE WORSHIP OF THE GOLDEN CALVES.



THE KING WENT TO SEE ELISHA THE PROPHET, WHO WAS NEAR DEATH.

MY FATHER!
MY FATHER! THE
CHARIOTS AND
HORSEMEN OF
ISRAEL! [1]

GET A
BOW AND
SOME
ARROWS.

[1] THE KING ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE LORD, THROUGH ELISHA, WAS THE TRUE STRENGTH AND POWER OF ISRAEL AGAINST HER ENEMIES.



TAKE THE
BOW IN YOUR
HANDS.

OPEN
THE EAST
WINDOW.



SHOOT!



THE LORD'S
ARROW OF VICTORY,
THE ARROW OF VICTORY
OVER ARAM! YOU WILL
COMPLETELY DESTROY
THE ARAMEANS AT
APHEK.



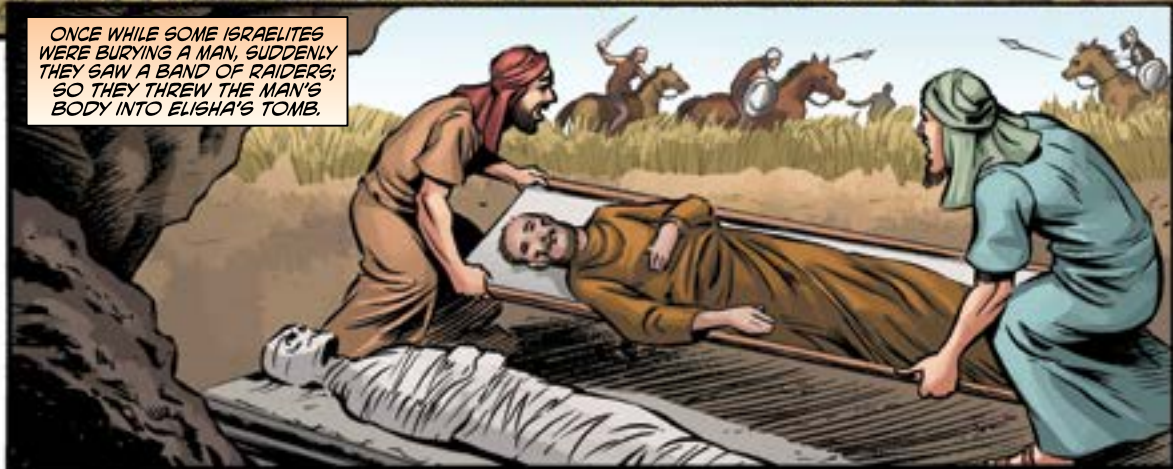
ELISHA DIED AND WAS BURIED.



MOABITES USED TO RAID THE COUNTRY EVERY SPRING.



ONCE WHILE SOME ISRAELITES WERE BURYING A MAN, SUDDENLY THEY SAW A BAND OF RAIDERS; SO THEY THREW THE MAN'S BODY INTO ELISHA'S TOMB.



IT--
IT--IT
CAN'T
BE...



GOD'S
POWER CONTINUES
TO WORK THROUGH
THE PROPHET ELISHA--
EVEN AFTER HIS
DEATH!

HE'S
ALIVE!



AMAZIAH FOLLOWED HIS FATHER'S
EXAMPLE--EXCEPT HE STILL
DID NOT REMOVE THE HIGH
PLACES OF IDOL WORSHIP.



HE EXECUTED THOSE WHO
HAD MURDERED HIS FATHER.



AND DEFEATED TEN THOUSAND MEN
OF EDM IN THE VALLEY OF SALT.



FEELING FLUSH WITH VICTORY HE SENT A
CHALLENGE TO JEHOASH, THE KING IN ISRAEL.



GIVE AMAZIAH THIS
MESSAGE... A THISTLE
IN LEBANON SENT A
MESSAGE TO A CEDAR
IN LEBANON, "GIVE YOUR
DAUGHTER TO MY SON
IN MARRIAGE."

THEN A
WILD BEAST
CAME ALONG
AND TRAMPLED
THE THISTLE
UNDERFOOT.





I WILL
GIVE HIM YOUR
MESSAGE O KING--
TO GLORY IN HIS
VICTORY OVER
EDOM BUT STAY
HOME AND NOT
ASK FOR HIS
DOWNFALL.

AMAZIAH REFUSED TO LISTEN AND WAS
DEFEATED IN BATTLE BY THE KING OF ISRAEL...



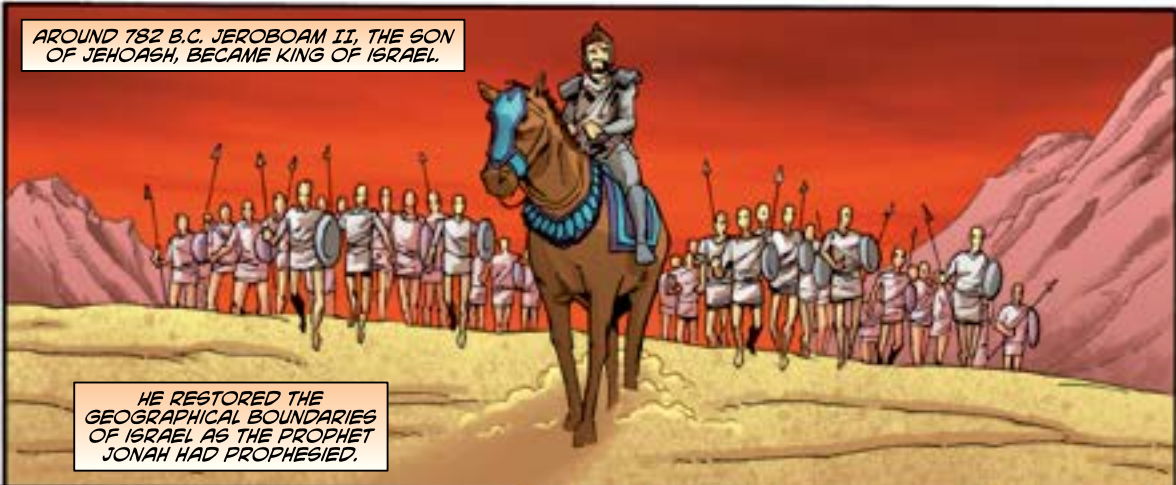
...WHO TOOK THE LITTLE GOLD THAT WAS LEFT AFTER
THE PREVIOUS INVASION BY THE KING OF ARAM.



KING AMAZIAH WAS THEN KILLED BY HIS OWN
PEOPLE AND THEY PUT HIS SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD SON
AZARIAH (ALSO CALLED UZZIAH) ON THE THRONE.



AROUND 782 B.C. JEROBOAM II, THE SON OF JEHOASH, BECAME KING OF ISRAEL.



HE RESTORED THE GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES OF ISRAEL AS THE PROPHET JONAH HAD PROPHESED.

BUT AS THE BOOKS OF HOSEA AND AMOS REVEAL-- THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL DID NOT RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE IN DELIVERING THEM FROM THEIR ENEMIES.

JEROBOAM II AND THE PEOPLE DID EVIL IN THE EYES OF THE LORD.



HE WAS SUCCEEDED BY ZECHARIAH, WHO ALSO DID EVIL-- AND REIGNED FOR ONLY SIX MONTHS.



THEN SHALLUM, WHO WAS NOT OF NOBLE BIRTH, BECAME KING OF ISRAEL BUT HE ONLY REIGNED FOR ONE MONTH.

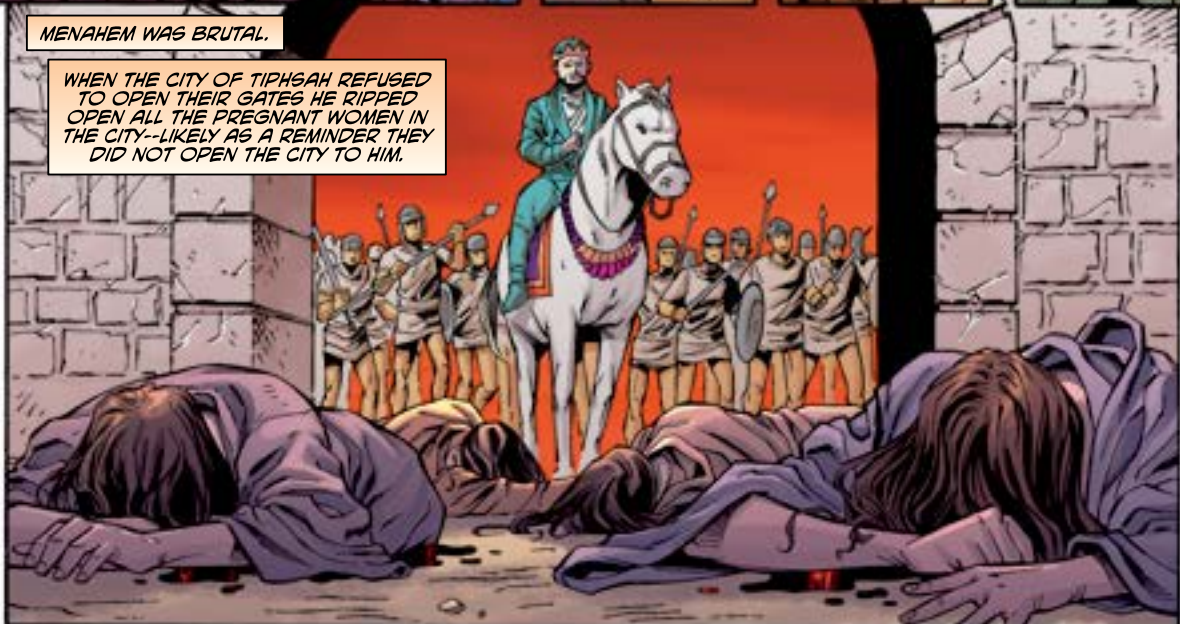


MENAHM, WHO WAS PROBABLY A MILITARY COMMANDER, ASSASSINATED AND REPLACED HIM AS KING.



MENAHM WAS BRUTAL.

WHEN THE CITY OF TIPHSAH REFUSED TO OPEN THEIR GATES HE RIPPED OPEN ALL THE PREGNANT WOMEN IN THE CITY--LIKELY AS A REMINDER THEY DID NOT OPEN THE CITY TO HIM.





IN 743 B.C. TIGLATH-PILESER, KING OF ASSYRIA, INVADDED THE LAND OF ISRAEL.

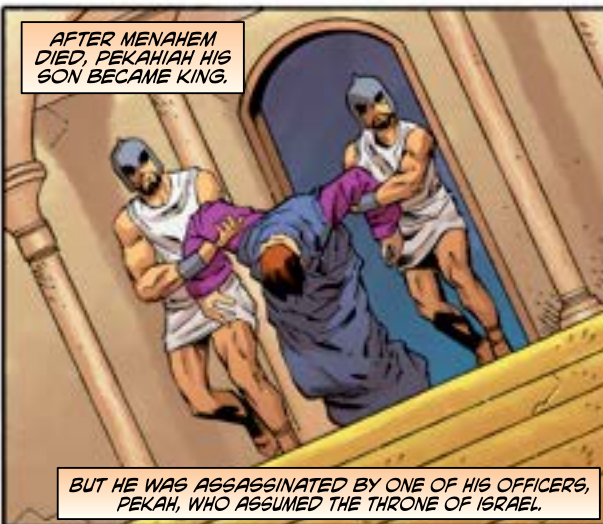
TIGLATH-PILESER DEMANDED TRIBUTE, SO KING MENAHEM EXACTED A LITTLE OVER A POUND OF SILVER FROM EACH OF THE WEALTHY MEN IN ISRAEL.



HE GAVE TIGLATH-PILESER THIRTY-SEVEN TONS OF SILVER.

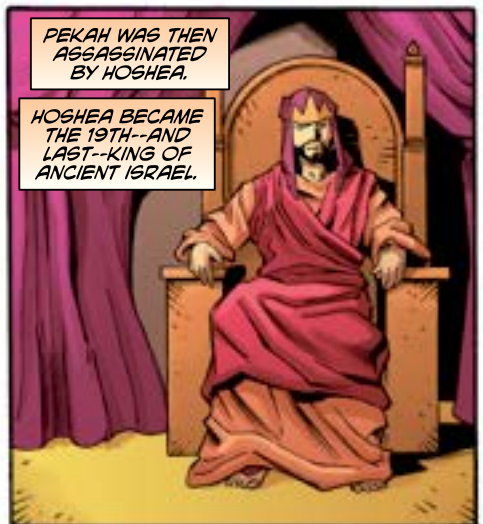


THE ASSYRIAN KING DEPARTED--AND LEFT MENAHEM BEHIND AS THEIR VASSAL.



AFTER MENAHEM DIED, PEKAHIAH HIS SON BECAME KING.

BUT HE WAS ASSASSINATED BY ONE OF HIS OFFICERS, PEKAH, WHO ASSUMED THE THRONE OF ISRAEL.



PEKAH WAS THEN ASSASSINATED BY HOSHEA.

HOSHEA BECAME THE 19TH--AND LAST--KING OF ANCIENT ISRAEL.

AS LONG AS TIGLATH-PILESER WAS ON THE THRONE, HOSHEA REMAINED LOYAL; BUT WHEN SHALMANESER V SUCCEEDED HIS FATHER, HOSHEA MADE AN EFFORT TO REGAIN HIS INDEPENDENCE AND ENTERED INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT.



BASED ON HIS HOPE OF HELP FROM EGYPT, HE STOPPED PAYING TRIBUTE.

THEN SHALMANESER LAID SIEGE TO SAMARIA, THE CAPITAL CITY OF ISRAEL, FOR THREE YEARS.



ONCE CONQUERED, THE ASSYRIAN KING PUT HOSHEA IN PRISON AND DEPORTED THE ISRAELITES TO ASSYRIA.



THE NEW ASSYRIAN KING, SARGON II, BROUGHT IN FOREIGN PEOPLE FROM OTHER AREAS CONQUERED BY ASSYRIA.



BUT THESE NEW PEOPLE DID NOT WORSHIP THE LORD, SO GOD SENT LIONS THAT KILLED SOME OF THEM.

WORD OF THIS REACHED KING SARGON.

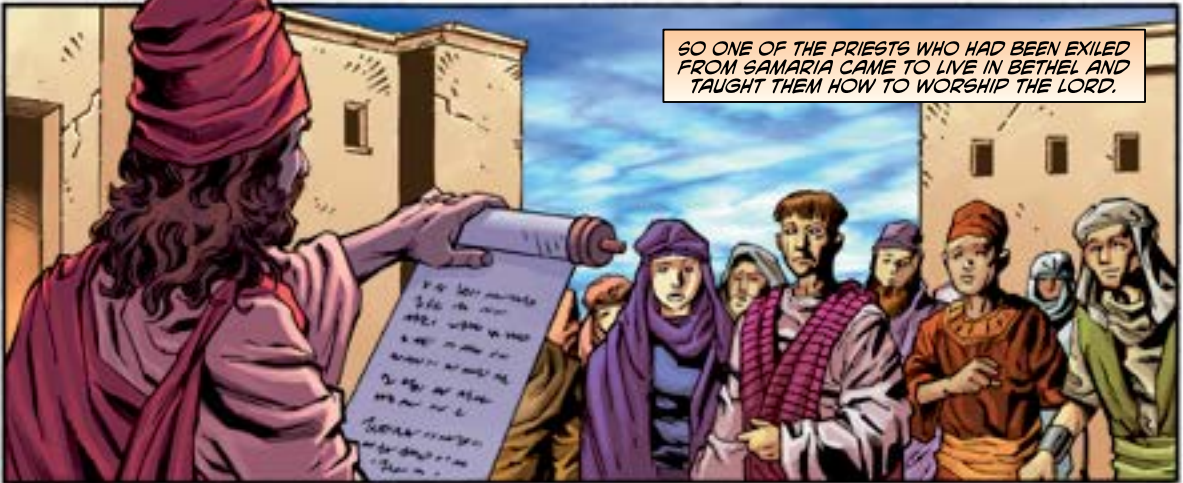




BECAUSE THE PEOPLE YOU DEPORTED TO SAMARIA DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE GOD OF THAT COUNTRY REQUIRES, HE HAS SENT LIONS TO KILL THEM.



HAVE ONE OF THE PRIESTS YOU TOOK CAPTIVE FROM SAMARIA RETURN TO LIVE THERE AND TEACH THE PEOPLE WHAT THE GOD OF THE LAND REQUIRES.

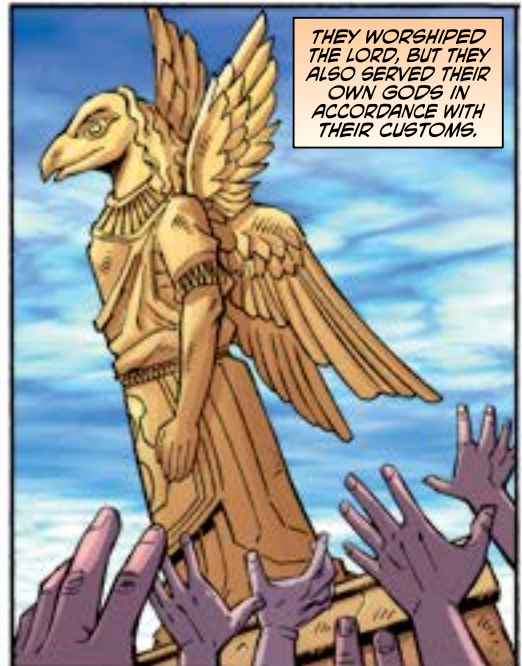


SO ONE OF THE PRIESTS WHO HAD BEEN EXILED FROM SAMARIA CAME TO LIVE IN BETHEL AND TAUGHT THEM HOW TO WORSHIP THE LORD.



BUT EACH NATIONAL GROUP MADE ITS OWN GODS AND SET THEM UP IN THE SHRINES AT THE HIGH PLACES OF SAMARIA.

THE BABYLONIANS WORSHIPPED NERGAL, LORD OF THE UNDERWORLD, AND THE SEPHARVITES BURNED THEIR CHILDREN IN THE FIRE TO THEIR GODS.



THEY WORSHIPPED THE LORD, BUT THEY ALSO SERVED THEIR OWN GODS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR CUSTOMS.

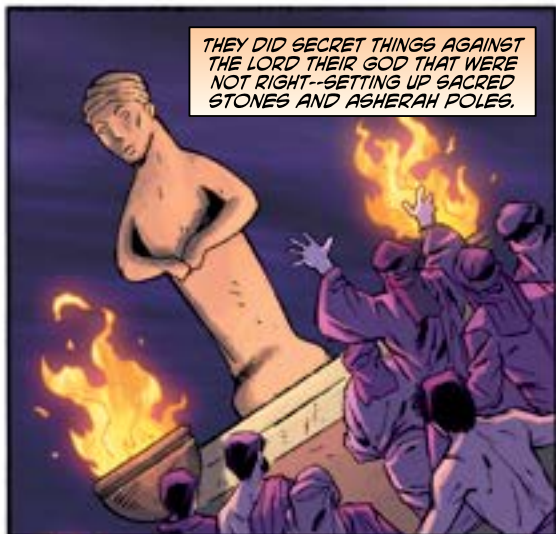
ALL THIS TOOK PLACE BECAUSE THE ISRAELITES HAD SINNED AGAINST THE LORD THEIR GOD AFTER HE HAD BROUGHT THEM UP OUT OF EGYPT FROM UNDER THE POWER OF PHARAOH.



THEY WORSHIPED OTHER GODS AND FOLLOWED THE PRACTICES OF THE NATIONS THE LORD HAD DRIVEN OUT BEFORE THEM--AS WELL AS THE PRACTICES INTRODUCED BY THE KINGS OF ISRAEL.



THEY DID SECRET THINGS AGAINST THE LORD THEIR GOD THAT WERE NOT RIGHT--SETTING UP SACRED STONES AND ASHERAH POLES.



THEY BURNED INCENSE ON THE HIGH PLACES LIKE THE NATIONS THE LORD HAD DRIVEN OUT BEFORE THEM--AND IT AROUSED THE LORD TO ANGER.



THEY REJECTED HIS DECREES AND THE COVENANT HE HAD WARNED THEM TO KEEP.



SO THE LORD WAS VERY ANGRY WITH ISRAEL AND REMOVED THEM FROM HIS PRESENCE.

ONLY THE TRIBE OF JUDAH WAS LEFT--AND EVEN JUDAH DID NOT KEEP THE COMMANDS OF THE LORD THEIR GOD.



THEY FOLLOWED WORTHLESS IDOLS AND THEY THEMSELVES BECAME WORTHLESS.

WHILE JEROBOAM II WAS KING OF ISRAEL, AZARIAH (ALSO CALLED UZZIAH), THE SON OF AMAZIAH, BECAME KING OF JUDAH.

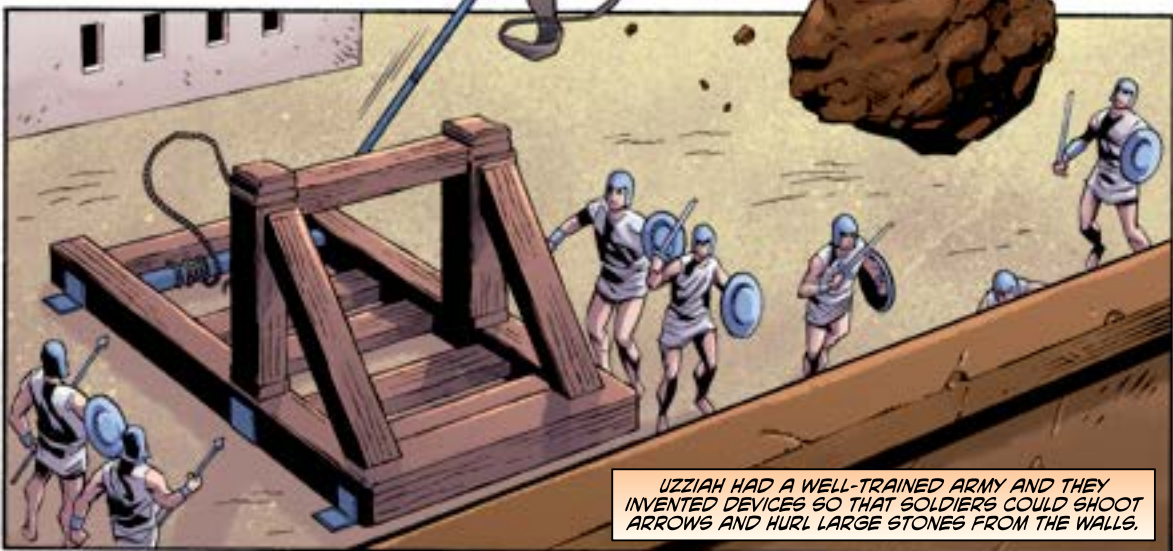


WHEN HE BECAME KING HE DID WHAT WAS RIGHT IN THE EYES OF THE LORD, LIKE HIS FATHER.

HE SERVED GOD DURING THE DAYS OF ZECHARIAH WHO INSTRUCTED HIM IN THE REVERENCE OF GOD.



AS LONG AS HE SOUGHT THE LORD, GOD GAVE HIM SUCCESS.



UZZIAH HAD A WELL-TRAINED ARMY AND THEY INVENTED DEVICES SO THAT SOLDIERS COULD SHOOT ARROWS AND HURL LARGE STONES FROM THE WALLS.

BUT AFTER UZZIAH BECAME POWERFUL, HIS PRIDE LED TO HIS DOWNFALL.

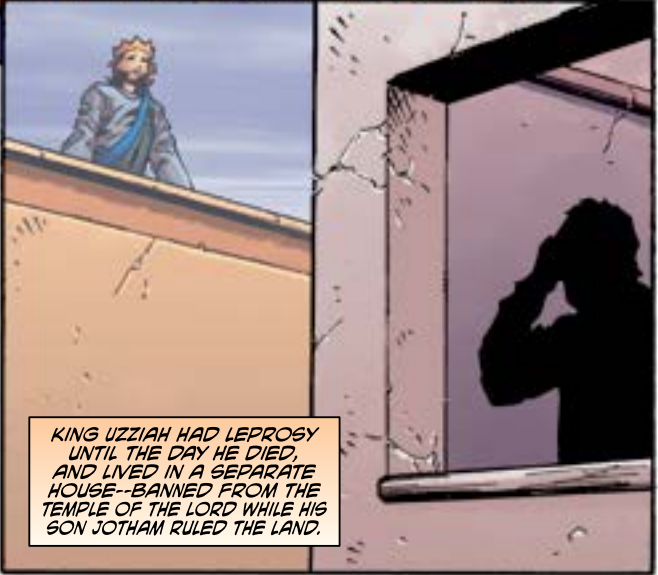


HE WAS UNFAITHFUL AND ENTERED THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD TO BURN INCENSE ON THE ALTAR OF INCENSE.

AZARIAH AND EIGHTY OTHER COURAGEOUS PRIESTS CONFRONTED HIM.



IT IS NOT RIGHT FOR YOU, UZZIAH, TO BURN INCENSE TO THE LORD.



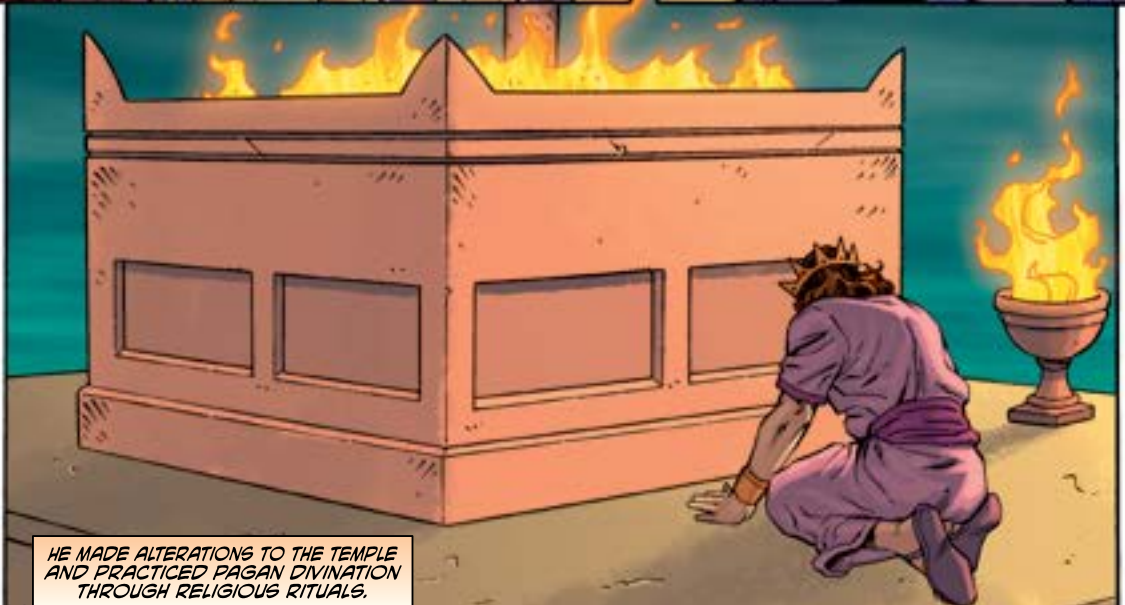


AFTER JOTHAM DIED, HIS SON AHAZ BECAME KING BUT HE DID GREAT EVIL-- EVEN SACRIFICING HIS OWN SON IN THE FIRE.

WAAHH!!!

WHEN THE KINGS OF ARAM AND ISRAEL ATTACKED HIM HE TOOK THE REMAINING GOLD AND SILVER IN THE TEMPLE AND GAVE IT TO THE ASSYRIAN KING TO COME DELIVER HIM.

KING AHAZ BROUGHT IDOLATROUS PRACTICES INTO JERUSALEM--EVEN HAVING THE HIGH PRIEST BUILD A COPY OF AN ALTAR FROM ASSYRIA TO REPLACE THE ALTAR GOD GAVE MOSES.



HE MADE ALTERATIONS TO THE TEMPLE AND PRACTICED PAGAN DIVINATION THROUGH RELIGIOUS RITUALS.

II KINGS 16:1-18

AFTER AHAZ DIED, HIS SON
HEZEKIAH BEGAN TO RULE.

HE TRUSTED IN THE LORD AND CUT
DOWN THE ASHERAH POLES IN THE LAND.

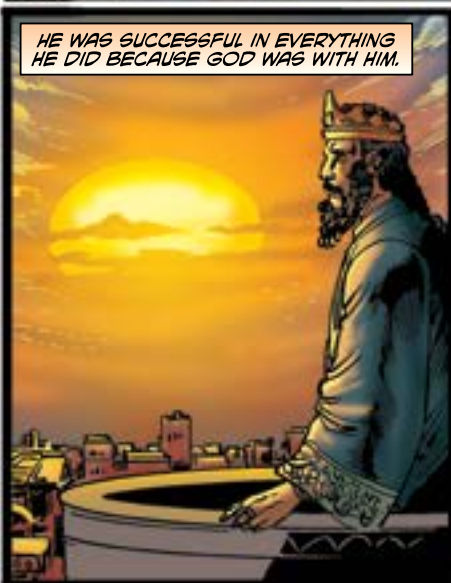


HE SMASHED INTO PIECES
THE BRONZE SNAKE THAT
MOSES HAD MADE.

IT WAS CALLED NEHUSHTAN
AND THE PEOPLE WERE
WORSHIPPING IT.



HE WAS SUCCESSFUL IN EVERYTHING
HE DID BECAUSE GOD WAS WITH HIM.



AFTER 14 YEARS, KING
SENNACHERIB OF ASSYRIA CAPTURED
THE FORTIFIED CITIES OF JUDAH.

HEZEKIAH PROMISED
TO PAY HIM TRIBUTE...



...11 TONS OF SILVER
AND 1 TON OF GOLD--
ALL THE MONEY IN THE
ROYAL TREASURY. HE EVEN
STRIPPED THE GOLD OFF
THE DOORPOSTS IN THE
TEMPLE TO GIVE TO THE
KING OF ASSYRIA.



WHEN HEZEKIAH REBELLED AGAINST ASSYRIA, THE ASSYRIAN KING SENT HIS TOP COMMANDERS WITH A LARGE ARMY TO JERUSALEM.

HEZEKIAH'S OFFICIALS WENT OUT TO MEET THEM.



TELL HEZEKIAH OUR KING ASKS, "ON WHAT ARE YOU BASING YOUR CONFIDENCE?"

"ON WHOM ARE YOU DEPENDING, THAT YOU REBEL AGAINST ME?"



ARE YOU DEPENDING ON EGYPT--THAT SPLINTERED REED OF A STAFF WHICH PIERCES THE HAND OF ANYONE WHO LEANS ON IT?

OR THE LORD YOUR GOD--THE ONE WHOSE HIGH PLACES AND ALTARS HEZEKIAH HAS REMOVED? [1]

[1] IT WASN'T THE LORD'S ALTARS HEZEKIAH SMASHED-- BUT THE HIGH PLACES TO THE FALSE GODS OF BAAL AND ASHERAH.



BARGAIN WITH MY MASTER: I WILL GIVE YOU TWO THOUSAND HORSES-- IF YOU CAN PUT RIDERS ON THEM!

YOU CANNOT DEFEAT THE LEAST OF OUR OFFICERS--AND YOU EXPECT EGYPT TO HELP?





FURTHERMORE,
THE LORD HIMSELF
TOLD ME TO MARCH
AGAINST THIS COUNTRY
AND DESTROY IT.

PLEASE SPEAK
TO YOUR SERVANTS IN
ARAMAIC, SINCE WE
UNDERSTAND IT.

DON'T
SPEAK TO US
IN HEBREW IN THE
HEARING OF THE
PEOPLE.



IS THIS
MESSAGE NOT
ONLY FOR YOUR MASTER
BUT ALSO FOR YOUR
PEOPLE--WHO, LIKE
YOU, WILL HAVE TO EAT
THEIR OWN EXCREMENT
AND DRINK THEIR
OWN URINE?

HEAR THE
WORD OF THE
GREAT KING,
THE KING OF
ASSYRIA!

KING
SENNACHERIB
SAYS, "MAKE
PEACE AND
COME OUT
TO ME."



"YOU WILL
EAT FROM YOUR
OWN VINE AND FIG
TREE AND DRINK WATER
FROM YOUR OWN CISTERN
UNTIL I TAKE YOU TO
A LAND LIKE YOUR
OWN."

"CHOOSE
LIFE AND NOT
DEATH!"



HEZEKIAH
MISLEADS YOU
WHEN HE SAYS,
"THE LORD WILL
DELIVER US."

HAS ANY GOD
DELIVERED HIS
LAND FROM
ASSYRIA?



THE COMMANDER DELIVERED
THESE WORDS FROM SENNACHERIB.



GO TO
ISAIAH WITH THIS
MESSAGE: "THIS IS A DAY
OF DISTRESS... AS WHEN
CHILDBIRTH COMES AND
THERE IS NO STRENGTH
TO DELIVER."

RIPPP

RIPPING THE
CLOAK WAS A
SIGN OF GREAT
DISTRESS AND
MOURNING.



IT MAY BE
THAT THE LORD
WILL HEAR ALL THE
WORDS THIS KING HAS
SENT TO RIDICULE THE
LIVING GOD--AND
REBUKE HIM.

THEREFORE--
PRAY FOR THE
REMNANT THAT
STILL SURVIVES.



THE LORD SAYS TO NOT BE AFRAID OF THOSE WORDS WITH WHICH THE UNDERLINGS OF THE KING OF ASSYRIA HAVE BLASPHEMED ME.

WHEN HE HEARS A CERTAIN REPORT HE WILL RETURN TO HIS OWN COUNTRY-- AND I WILL HAVE HIM CUT DOWN.



SENNACHERIB SENT ANOTHER MESSAGE...

DO NOT LET THE GOD YOU DEPEND ON DECEIVE YOU WHEN HE SAYS JERUSALEM WILL NOT BE GIVEN INTO MY HANDS.

YOU HAVE HEARD WHAT I HAVE DONE TO ALL THE COUNTRIES-- WHERE ARE THOSE KINGS NOW?



LORD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL, ENTHRONED BETWEEN THE CHERUBIM, YOU ALONE ARE GOD OVER ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE EARTH.

GIVE EAR, LORD, AND HEAR; OPEN YOUR EYES, LORD, AND SEE; LISTEN TO THE WORDS SENNACHERIB HAS SENT TO RIDICULE THE LIVING GOD.

IT IS TRUE, LORD, THAT THE ASSYRIAN KINGS HAVE LAIN WASTE THESE NATIONS.

NOW, LORD OUR GOD, DELIVER US FROM HIS HAND, SO THAT ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE EARTH MAY KNOW THAT YOU ALONE, LORD, ARE GOD.

ISAIAH SENT GOD'S
MESSAGE TO HEZEKIAH.

"I HAVE HEARD YOUR PRAYER
CONCERNING SENNACHERIB."

"THIS IS THE WORD THE LORD
HAS SPOKEN AGAINST HIM,"

"YOU HAVE
RIDICULED AND
BLASPHEMED THE
HOLY ONE OF
ISRAEL!"

"IN DAYS OF
OLD I PLANNED IT--
THAT YOU HAVE
TURNED FORTIFIED
CITIES INTO PILES
OF STONE."

"BUT I KNOW
WHERE YOU ARE
AND WHEN YOU COME
AND GO...YOUR INSOLENCE
HAS REACHED MY EARS...
AND I WILL MAKE YOU
RETURN BY THE WAY
YOU CAME."

"OUT OF
JERUSALEM
WILL COME A
REMNANT."

"THE ZEAL
OF THE LORD
ALMIGHTY WILL
ACCOMPLISH
THIS."

"THE KING OF
ASSYRIA WILL NOT
ENTER THIS CITY--BY
THE WAY THAT HE
CAME, HE WILL
RETURN."

"I WILL
DEFEND THIS CITY
AND SAVE IT FOR MY
SAKE AND FOR THE
SAKE OF DAVID
MY SERVANT."



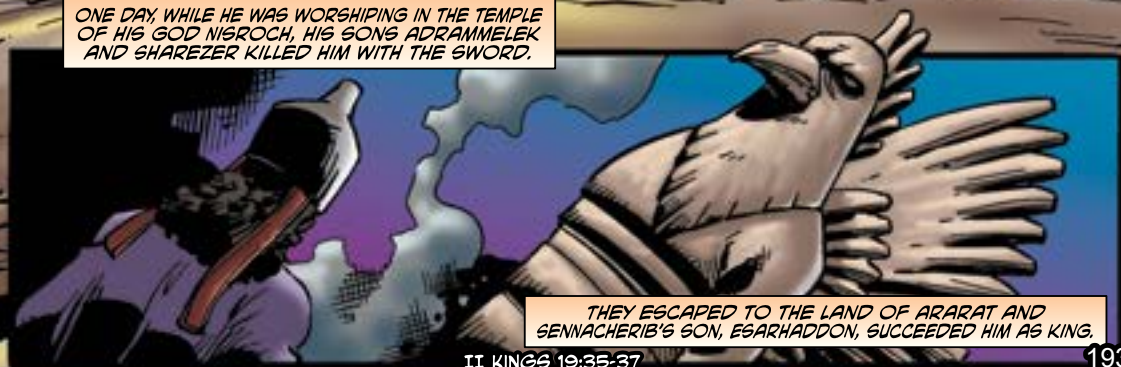
THAT NIGHT THE ANGEL OF THE LORD PUT TO DEATH A HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE THOUSAND IN THE ASSYRIAN CAMP.

WHEN THE HEBREWS AWOKE THE NEXT MORNING--THERE WERE ALL THE DEAD BODIES!

SO SENNACHERIB BROKE CAMP AND RETURNED TO NINEVEH.



ONE DAY, WHILE HE WAS WORSHIPING IN THE TEMPLE OF HIS GOD NISROCH, HIS SONS ADRAMMELEK AND SHAREZER KILLED HIM WITH THE SWORD.



THEY ESCAPED TO THE LAND OF ARARAT AND SENNACHERIB'S SON, ESARHADDON, SUCCEEDED HIM AS KING.

WHEN HEZEKIAH BECAME ILL THE
PROPHET ISAIAH CAME TO HIM.

THIS IS WHAT
THE LORD SAYS: "PUT
YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER,
BECAUSE YOU ARE GOING
TO DIE; YOU WILL NOT
RECOVER."

BEFORE ISAIAH HAD LEFT
THE MIDDLE COURT THE
LORD SPOKE TO HIM.

REMEMBER,
LORD, HOW I HAVE
WALKED BEFORE YOU
FAITHFULLY AND WITH
WHOLEHEARTED DEVOTION
AND HAVE DONE WHAT
IS GOOD IN YOUR
EYES.

GO BACK AND TELL
HEZEKIAH, "I HAVE
HEARD YOUR PRAYER
AND SEEN YOUR TEARS.
I WILL HEAL YOU AND
IN THREE DAYS YOU
WILL GO UP TO THE
TEMPLE OF THE LORD."

GOD
SAYS, "I WILL
ADD 15 YEARS TO
YOUR LIFE, AND I WILL
DELIVER YOU AND THIS
CITY FROM THE HAND
OF THE KING OF
ASSYRIA."

"I WILL
DEFEND THIS
CITY FOR MY SAKE
AND FOR THE SAKE
OF MY SERVANT
DAVID."



PREPARE
A POULTICE
OF FIGS.

WHAT WILL
BE THE SIGN
THAT THE LORD
WILL HEAL
ME?



THIS IS
THE LORD'S
SIGN TO YOU THAT HE
WILL DO WHAT HE HAS
PROMISED: "SHALL THE
SHADOW GO FORWARD
TEN STEPS, OR SHALL
IT GO BACK TEN
STEPS?"



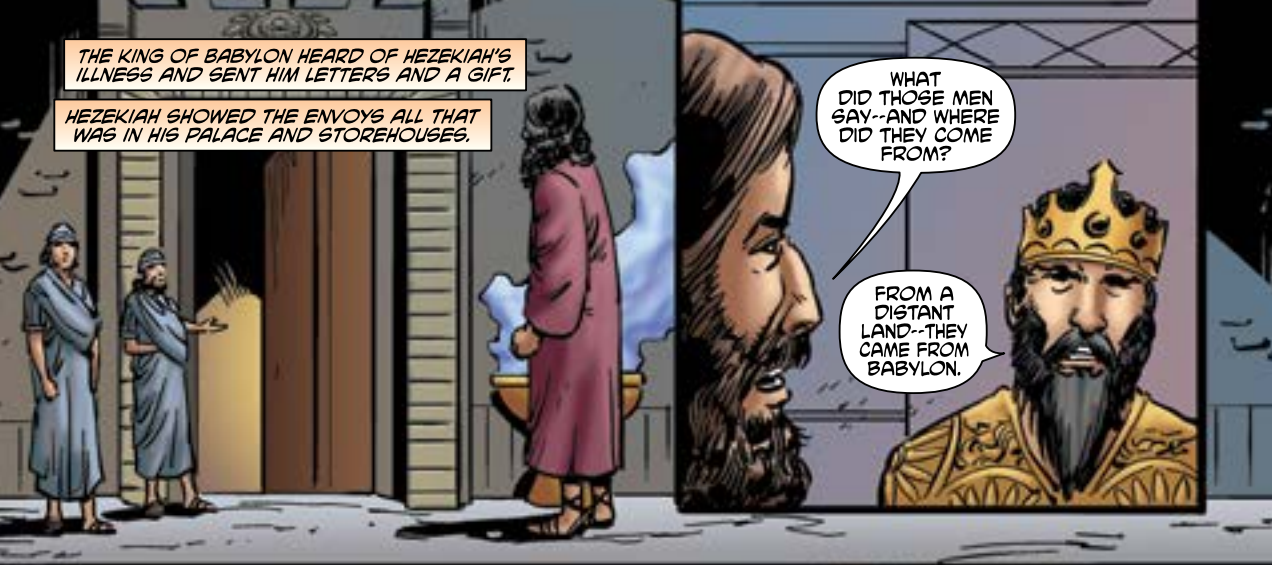
IT IS A
SIMPLE MATTER
FOR THE SHADOW
TO GO FORWARD
TEN STEPS--HAVE
IT GO BACK TEN
STEPS.



THEN THE PROPHET ISAIAH CALLED ON THE LORD, AND
THE LORD MADE THE SHADOW GO BACK THE TEN STEPS IT
HAD GONE DOWN ON THE STAIRWAY AT THE ROYAL PALACE.

THE KING OF BABYLON HEARD OF HEZEKIAH'S ILLNESS AND SENT HIM LETTERS AND A GIFT.

HEZEKIAH SHOWED THE ENVOYS ALL THAT WAS IN HIS PALACE AND STOREHOUSES.



WHAT DID THOSE MEN SAY--AND WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

FROM A DISTANT LAND--THEY CAME FROM BABYLON.



WHAT DID THEY SEE IN YOUR PALACE?

EVERYTHING--THERE WAS NOTHING AMONG MY TREASURES THAT I DID NOT SHOW THEM.



HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD: "THE TIME WILL SURELY COME WHEN EVERYTHING IN YOUR PALACE, AND ALL THAT YOUR PREDECESSORS HAVE STORED UP UNTIL THIS DAY, WILL BE CARRIED OFF TO BABYLON."

"NOTHING WILL BE LEFT," SAYS THE LORD.

"SOME OF YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BECOME EUNUCHS IN THE PALACE OF THE KING OF BABYLON."

THE WORD OF THE LORD YOU HAVE SPOKEN IS GOOD.

WILL THERE NOT BE PEACE AND SECURITY IN MY LIFETIME?

AFTER HEZEKIAH DIED, HIS 12-YEAR-OLD SON MANASSEH TOOK THE THRONE AND RULED FOR 55 YEARS. HE DID EVIL AND NOT GOOD. HE FOLLOWED THE WAYS OF THE NATIONS THE LORD HAD DRIVEN OUT OF THE LAND.

HE REBUILT THE HIGH PLACES HIS FATHER HEZEKIAH HAD DESTROYED AND EVEN PUT A CARVED ASHERAH POLE IN THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD.

THE LORD SENT HIS PROPHETS.

MANASSEH HAS DONE MORE EVIL THAN THE AMORITES WHO PRECEDED HIM. HE HAS LED JUDAH INTO SIN WITH HIS IDOLS.

THE LORD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL, SAYS, "I AM GOING TO BRING SUCH DISASTER ON JERUSALEM AND JUDAH THAT THE EARS OF EVERYONE WHO HEARS OF IT WILL TINGLE."

THIS IS BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE MOST HIGH GOD!

OLD FOOL-- WE LIKE THE WAYS OF KING MANASSEH.

MOREOVER, MANASSEH ALSO SHED SO MUCH INNOCENT BLOOD THAT IT FILLED JERUSALEM FROM END TO END.

AMON, HIS SON, SUCCEEDED HIM AS KING AND FOLLOWED HIS FATHER'S EVIL WAYS. HE WAS ASSASSINATED AFTER TWO YEARS.



THE NEXT KING REIGNED IN JUDAH FROM 640 TO 609 B.C.

DURING THIS TIME FRAME WORLD POWER PASSED FROM ASSYRIA TO BABYLON.



THIS KING, JOSIAH, WAS DIFFERENT.

COMING TO THE THRONE AT THE AGE OF EIGHT HE FOLLOWED THE LORD WHOLEHEARTEDLY.

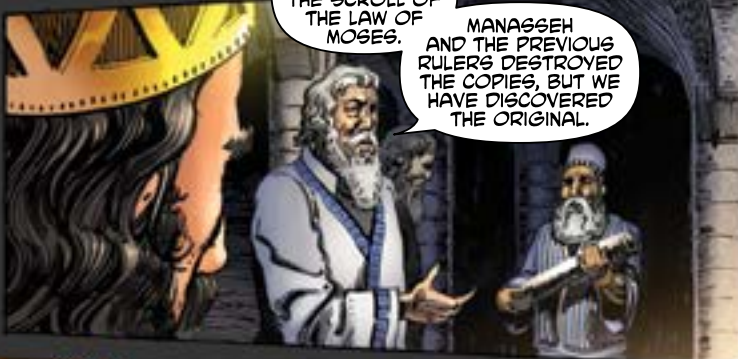


WHEN HE GREW INTO ADULTHOOD HE SENT WORKERS TO RESTORE THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD THAT HAD BEEN IN DISREPAIR.

THERE THEY FOUND SOMETHING THAT CHANGED THE KING FOREVER.

OUR KING--WE HAVE DISCOVERED THE SCROLL OF THE LAW OF MOSES.

MANASSEH AND THE PREVIOUS RULERS DESTROYED THE COPIES, BUT WE HAVE DISCOVERED THE ORIGINAL.



WE HAVE DONE ALL THESE WICKED THINGS THAT GOD SAID WOULD CAUSE HIM TO TURN AWAY FROM US!

RIPPP

RIPPING THE CLOAK WAS A SIGN OF GREAT DISTRESS AND MOURNING.



THE KING GATHERED ALL THE PEOPLE TOGETHER--GREAT AND SMALL.

AND THERE HE READ THEM ALL THE LAWS OF THE COVENANT GOD HAD GIVEN MOSES.



I--AND ALL YOUR PEOPLE--WILL FOLLOW YOUR WORDS SPOKEN THROUGH YOUR SERVANT MOSES.

NO IDOL SHALL STAND BEFORE US.

WE SEEK YOUR BLESSING--AND NOT YOUR CURSE.



HE BURNED ALL THE IDOLS THAT HAD BEEN SET UP IN THE TEMPLE.



HE REMOVED THE ASTROLOGERS FROM THE LAND.

IN THE VALLEY OF TOPHETH^[1] HE TORE DOWN AND DESECRATED THE IDOLS OF CHILD SACRIFICE. HE TORE DOWN THE HIGH PLACES.



[1] TOPHETH MEANS "DRUM." THEY CALLED IT THE VALLEY OF THE DRUMS BECAUSE THE PRIESTS WOULD BEAT DRUMS TO DROWN OUT THE CRIES OF THE INFANTS AS THEY WERE BEING SACRIFICED IN THE FIRE.



HE TORE DOWN THE BOOTHS OF THE MALE PROSTITUTES AND WHERE THE WOMEN DID WEAVINGS FOR ASHERAH.

HE ALSO BURNED THE IDOL SET UP BY JEROBOAM THAT CAUSED THE PEOPLE TO SIN.



GROUND IT TO POWDER AFTER IT FINISHES BURNING.

WHAT IS THAT TOMB-STONE I SEE?

THE TOMB OF THE MAN OF GOD WHO CAME FROM JUDAH AND PRONOUNCED AGAINST THE ALTAR OF BETHEL THE VERY THINGS YOU HAVE DONE TO IT.

THREE HUNDRED YEARS PRIOR...

ALTAR, ALTAR! THIS IS WHAT THE LORD SAYS, "A SON NAMED JOSIAH WILL BE BORN TO THE HOUSE OF DAVID."

"ON YOU HE WILL SACRIFICE THE PRIESTS OF THE HIGH PLACES WHO MAKE OFFERINGS HERE, AND HUMAN BONES WILL BE BURNED ON YOU."



JOSIAH AND HIS PEOPLE CELEBRATED THE PASSOVER LIKE IT HAD NEVER BEEN CELEBRATED IN THE 400 YEARS SINCE ISRAEL HAD COME INTO THE PROMISED LAND.



JOSIAH DIED IN BATTLE BUT THERE HAD NEVER BEEN A KING SO CLOSE TO THE IDEAL AS DESCRIBED IN THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY.

BUT EVEN THIS RIGHTEOUS KING COULD NOT TURN AWAY GOD'S WRATH BECAUSE OF THE GREAT SIN OF MANASSEH.





JOSIAH'S SON JEHOAHAZ DID EVIL
IN THE EYES OF THE LORD AND
REIGNED FOR ONLY THREE MONTHS.



PHARAOH NECO PUT JEHOAHAZ'S
OLDER BROTHER ELIAKIM ON
THE THRONE AS HIS VASSAL.

PHARAOH NECO PUT HIM IN CHAINS
AND HE DIED IN A MILITARY PRISON.

AND AS A SIGN OF HIS
AUTHORITY, PHARAOH CHANGED
HIS NAME TO JEHOIAKIM.



IN 605 B.C.
NEBUCHADNEZZAR,
KING OF BABYLON,
INVADDED THE LAND
AND MADE JEHOIAKIM
HIS VASSAL.



BUT IN 602 B.C. KING JEHOIAKIM DISREGARDED
THE ADVICE OF THE PROPHET JEREMIAH AND
REBELLED AGAINST THE KING OF BABYLON.

THE LORD THEN SENT BABYLONIAN,
ARAMEAN, MOABITE AND AMMONITE
RAIDERS TO DESTROY JUDAH.

BECAUSE OF ALL THE EVIL OF MANASSEH,
INCLUDING THE SHEDDING OF INNOCENT BLOOD,
GOD REMOVED THEM FROM HIS PRESENCE.

JEHOIAKIM DIED AND HIS SON JEHOIACHIN
TOOK THE THRONE AT AGE EIGHTEEN.

HE TOOK CAPTIVES, INCLUDING YOUNG
DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS, TO BABYLON.



JUST LIKE HIS FATHER--
JEHOIACHIN DID EVIL AND
LED THE PEOPLE AWAY
FROM THE WORSHIP
OF THE GOD OF ISRAEL.



IN 597 B.C.
NEBUCHADNEZZAR
INVADED
JUDAH FOR A
SECOND TIME.

HE LAID SIEGE TO
JERUSALEM, AND JEHOIACHIN
AND ALL HIS FAMILY AND
OFFICIALS SURRENDERED
TO THE BABYLONIAN KING.



NEBUCHADNEZZAR REMOVED
ALL THE TREASURES AND
THE GOLD ARTICLES USED
IN THE TEMPLE WORSHIP.

HE CARRIED INTO EXILE THE
OFFICERS AND FIGHTING MEN,
AS WELL AS THE ARTISANS AND
CRAFTSMEN, LEAVING ONLY
THE POOREST OF THE LAND.



HE PLACED JEHOIACHIN'S UNCLE,
MATTANIAH, ON THE THRONE AND
CHANGED HIS NAME TO ZEDEKIAH.



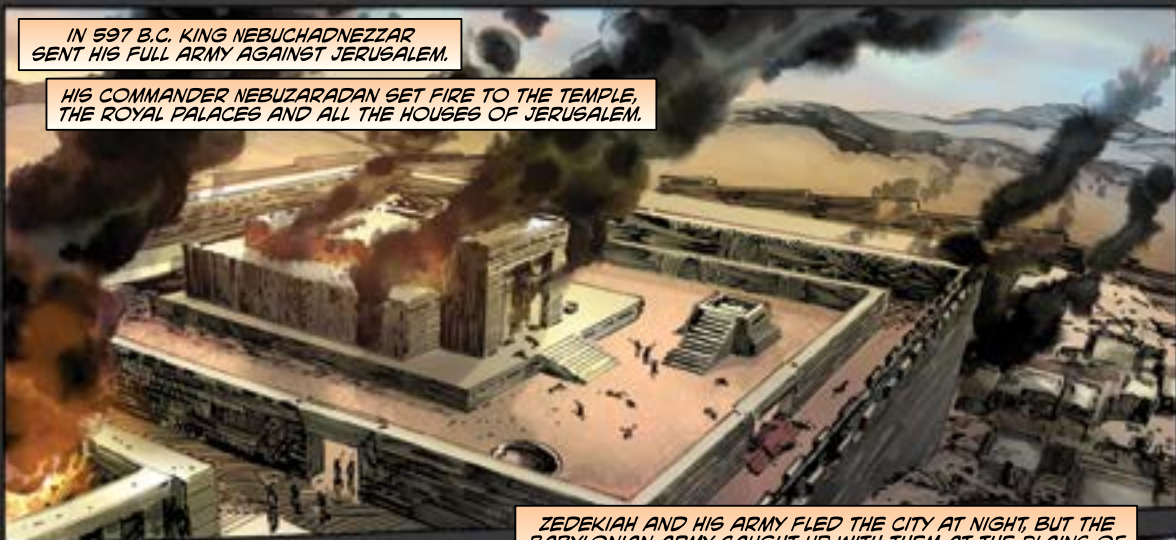
BUT ZEDEKIAH ALSO DID EVIL
AND REBELLED^[1] AGAINST
THE RULE OF BABYLON.

YOU CAN
STOP PAYING
TRIBUTE TO THAT
BABYLONIAN DONKEY--
WITH THE SUPPORT OF
PHARAOH HOPHRA
WE CAN WIN.

[1] HE WAS PROBABLY INFLUENCED TO DO THIS BY
PHARAOH HOPHRA, GRANDSON OF PHARAOH NECO.

IN 597 B.C. KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR
SENT HIS FULL ARMY AGAINST JERUSALEM.

HIS COMMANDER NEBUZARADAN SET FIRE TO THE TEMPLE,
THE ROYAL PALACES AND ALL THE HOUSES OF JERUSALEM.



ZEDEKIAH AND HIS ARMY FLED THE CITY AT NIGHT, BUT THE
BABYLONIAN ARMY CAUGHT UP WITH THEM AT THE PLAINS OF
JERICHO AND TOOK THE KING TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR AT RIBLAH.

KILL HIS SONS
BEFORE HIS EYES
SO THEY DON'T GROW
UP TO REBEL...LET IT BE
THE LAST THING HE SEES
BEFORE YOU PUT OUT
HIS OWN EYES.



AS GOD HAD WARNED THE LEADERS AND THE
PEOPLE REPEATEDLY--IF THEY TURNED FROM HIM--
THEN "THE LAND WOULD VOMIT THEM OUT."



AND SO BEGAN THE BABYLONIAN EXILE--
SEVENTY YEARS OF CAPTIVITY IN BABYLON.