

Bible for Children
presents



THE
HANDSOME
FOOLISH
KING



Written by: Edward Hughes

Illustrated by: Janie Forest;
Alastair Paterson

Adapted by: Lyn Doerksen

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Samuel, Israel's judge and leader was old. He made his sons judges over Israel, to take his place in God's service.



But Samuel's sons were wicked. They loved money and used their power to get money dishonestly.



The people of Israel suffered because of the sons' wickedness. The courts were unfair.



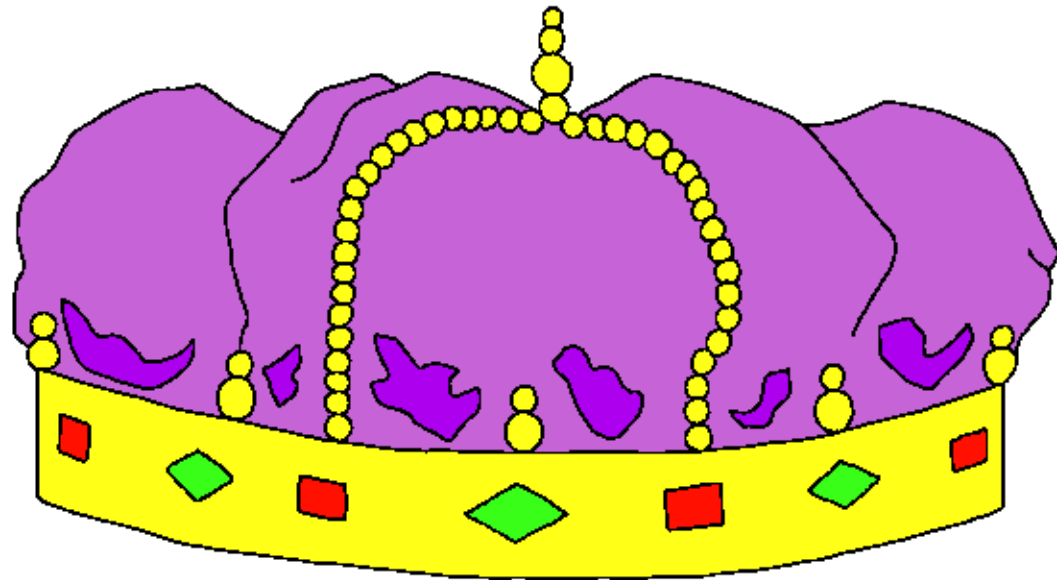
People had to pay Samuel's sons every time they wanted help. Something had to be done.



One day, the elders of Israel gathered together and asked Samuel for help.




"Give us a king to judge us," the elders demanded. They did not want Samuel's wicked sons to judge them. They wanted a king just like all the nations around them.



Samuel was angry. Israel already had a King! God Almighty, the Eternal One, ruled Israel. Long ago, He had set them free from slavery in Egypt, opening the Red Sea for their escape.

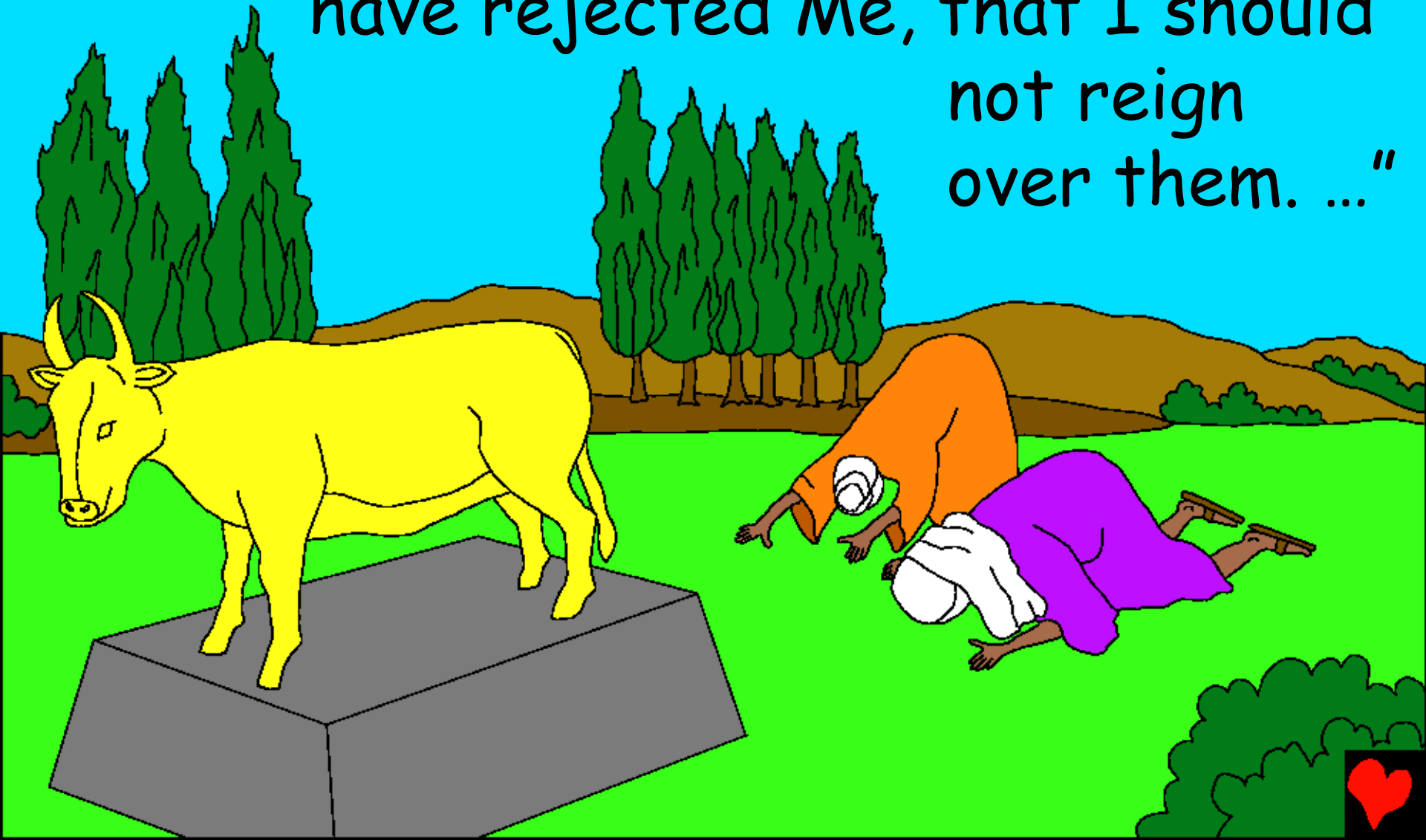




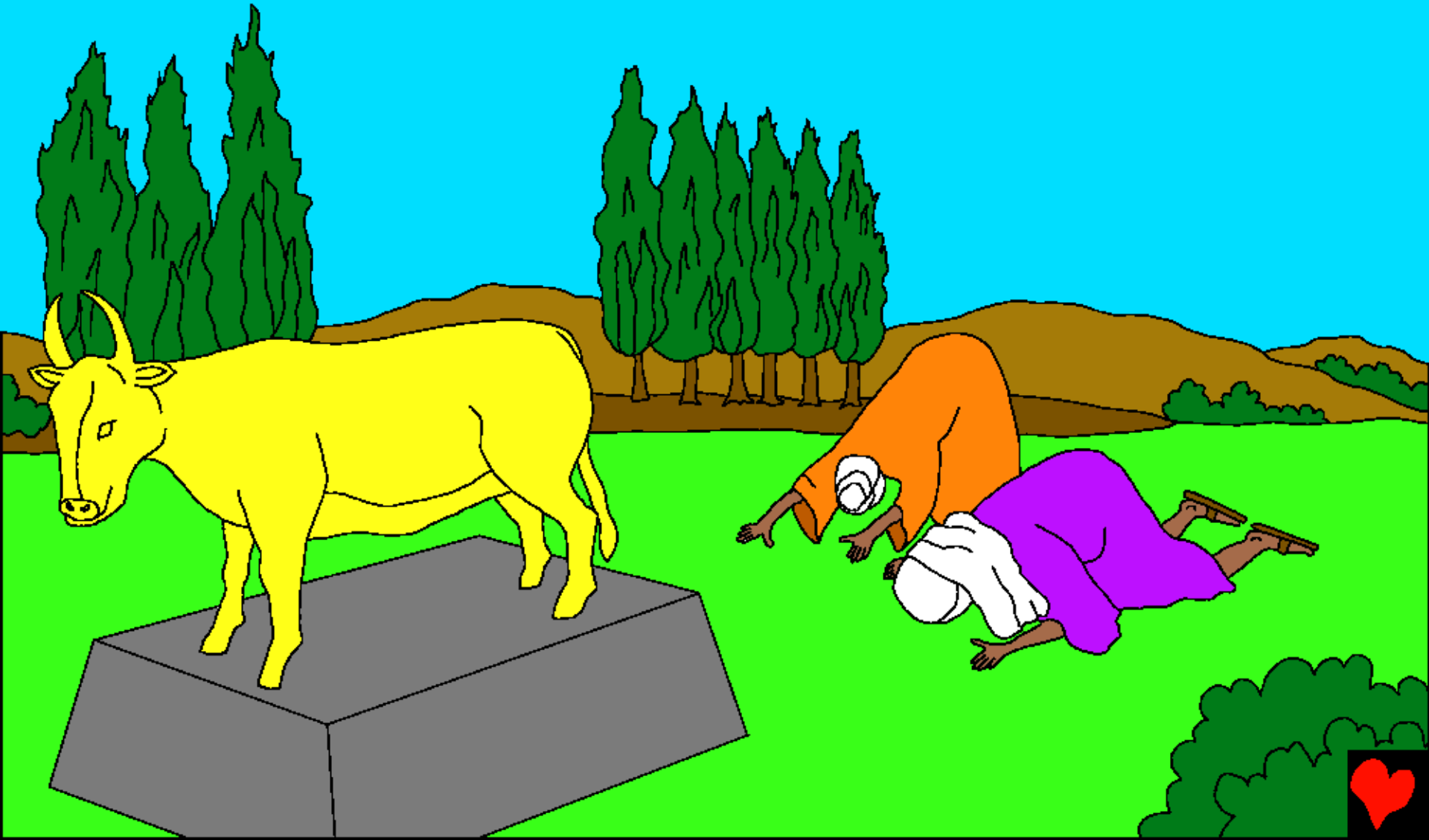
Then He had
given Israel their
beautiful land.

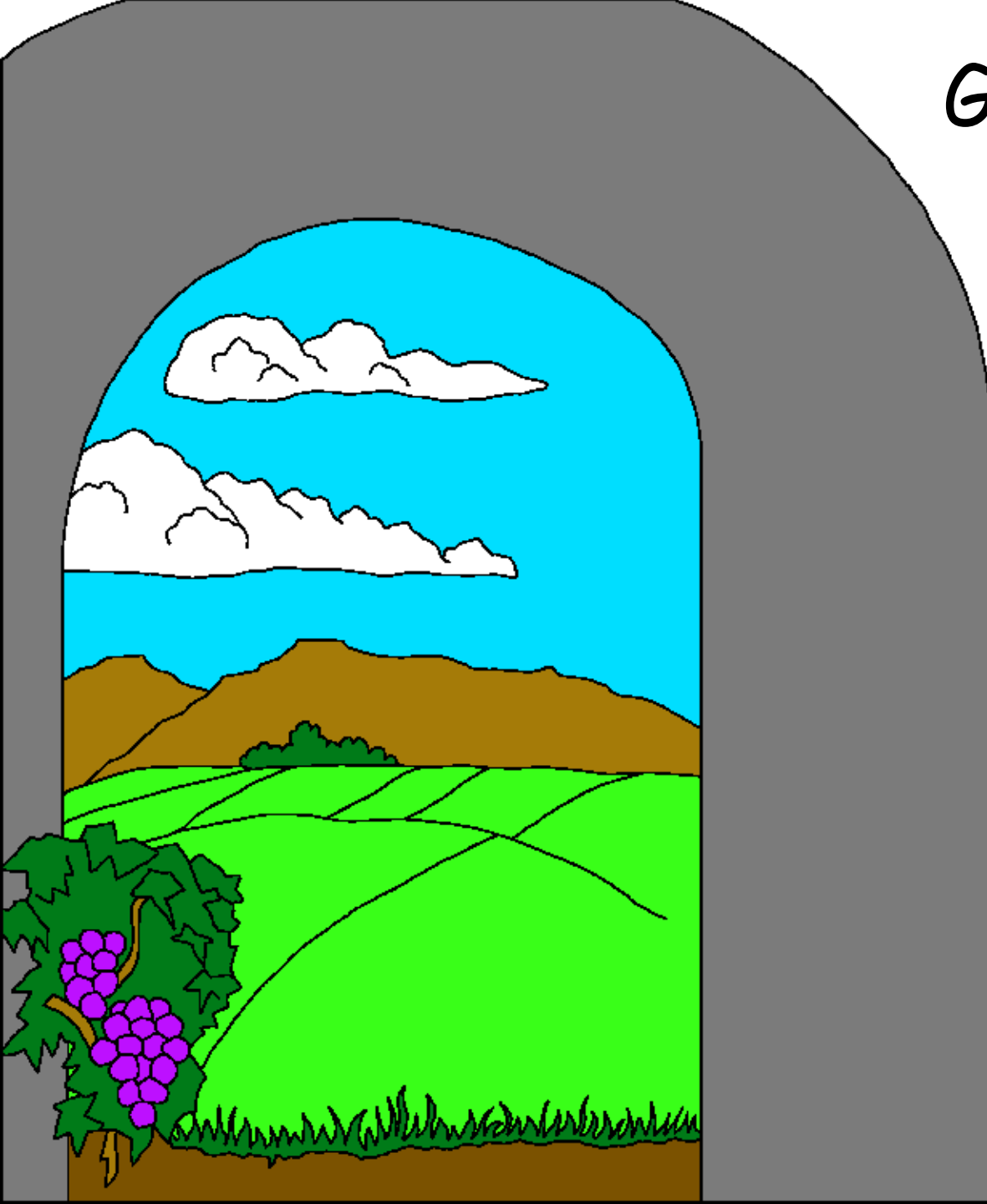


When Samuel prayed, the LORD said,
"They have not rejected you, but they
have rejected Me, that I should
not reign
over them. ..."



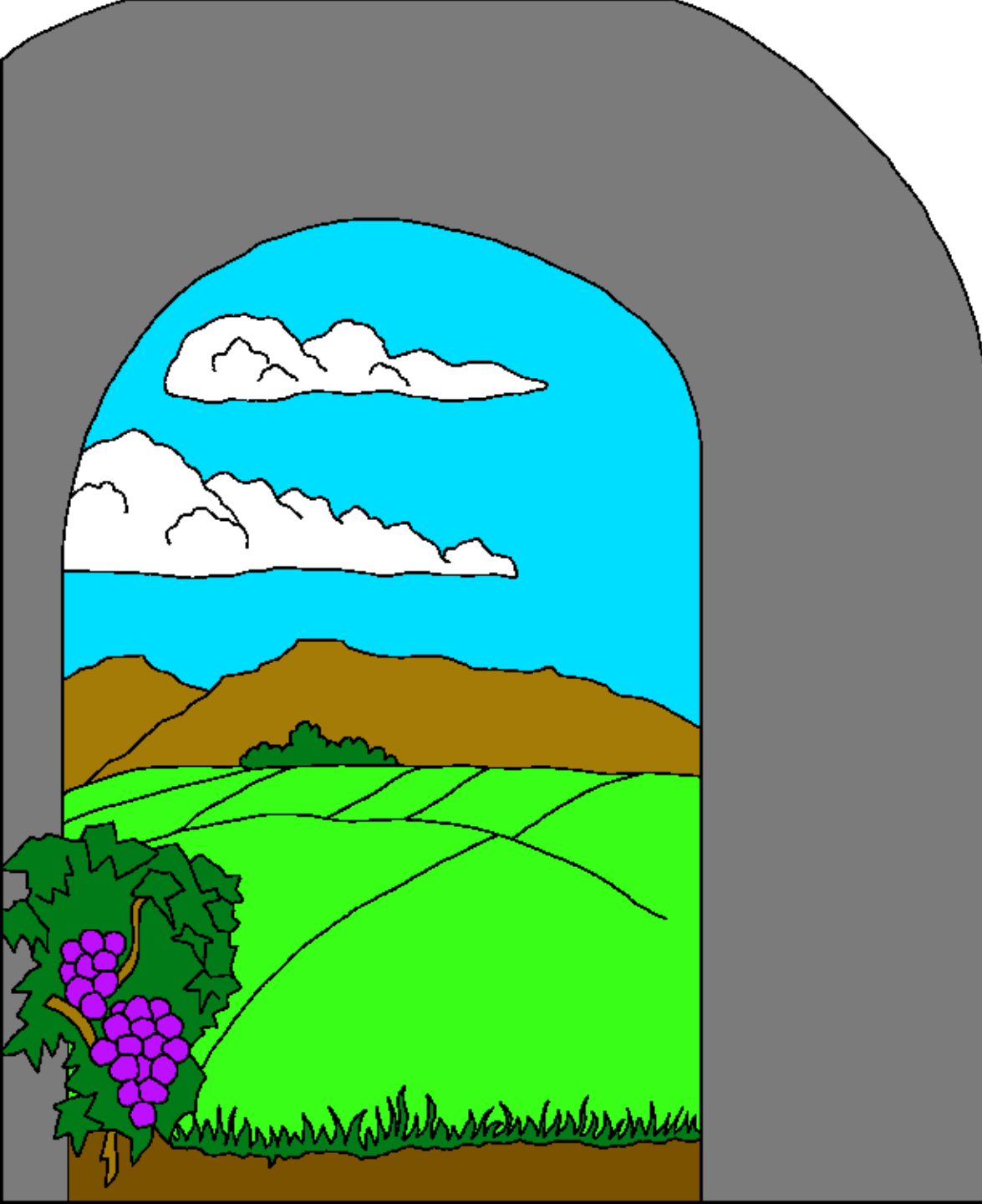
... "They have served other gods. Heed their voice and make them a king."





God told Samuel
to warn the
people that
their earthly
king would
take their
money in
taxes; ...





... help himself
to their best
fields and
vineyards;
order their
sons into his
armies; and
command
their
daughters to
work for him.

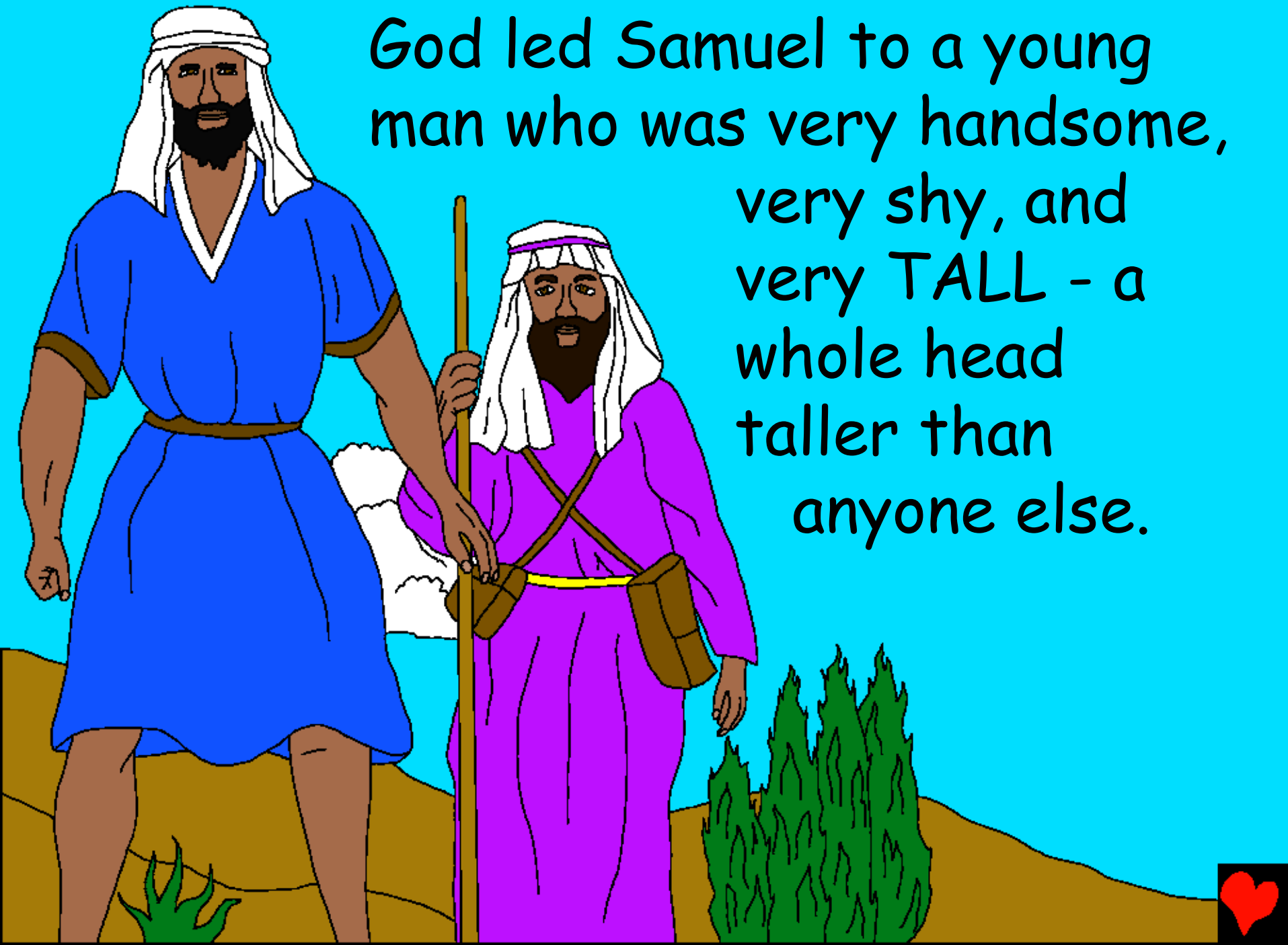




But the people wanted a king anyway.



God led Samuel to a young man who was very handsome, very shy, and very TALL - a whole head taller than anyone else.



His name was Saul. When Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said, "This one shall reign over My people."



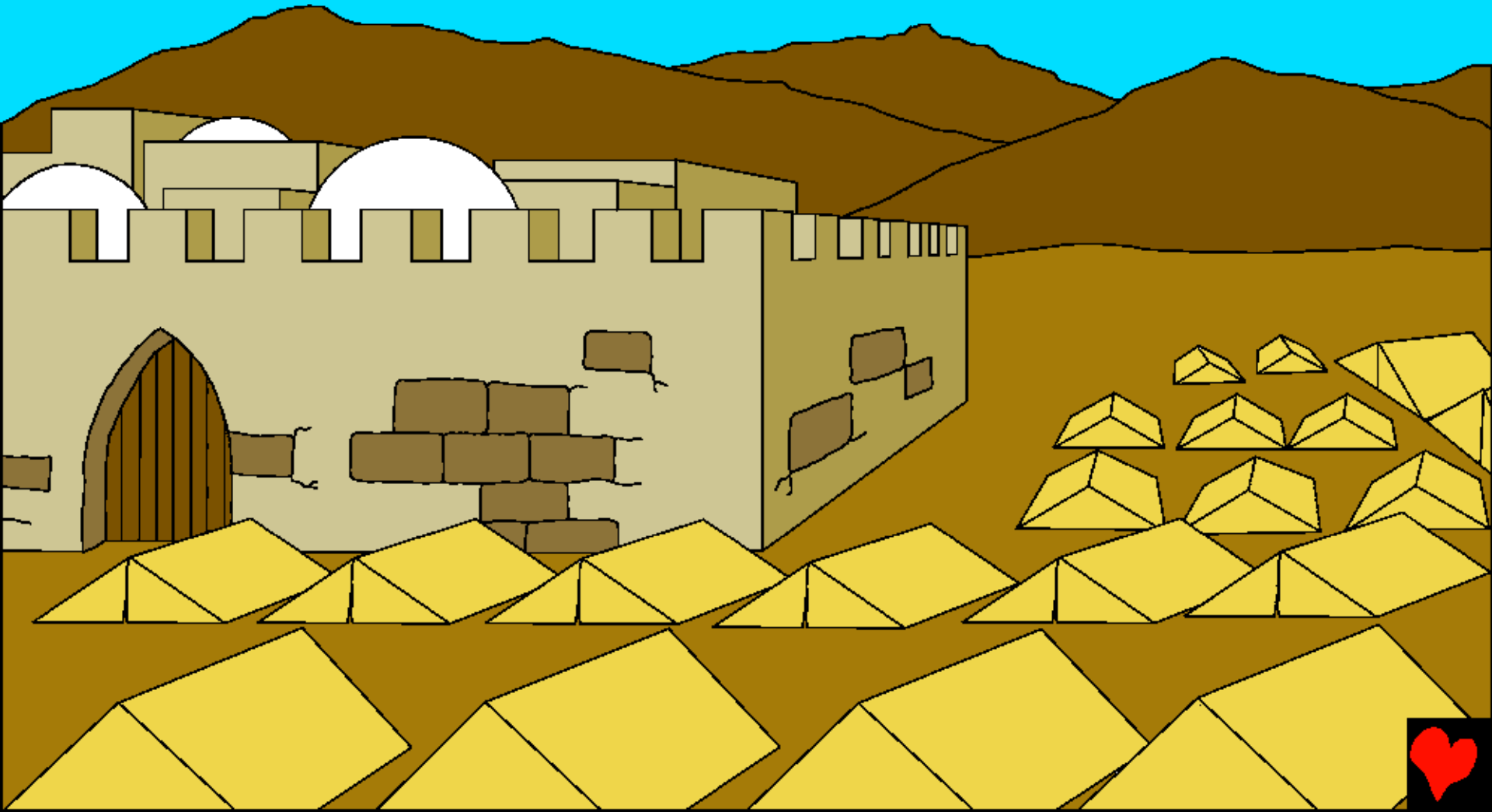
Obediently, Samuel anointed Saul as king of Israel. When he presented Saul to the people of Israel, they cried, "Long live the King!"



Soon King Saul was tested. The Ammonites, who hated Israel, surrounded an Israelite city and threatened to put out every man's right eye.



What a cruel plan! News of the threat reached King Saul. He got his army ready.





When the two
armies met,
Saul destroyed
the Ammonites
and rescued
the city.





King Saul gave
God the glory,
saying "...
today the
LORD has
accomplished
salvation in
Israel!"



God gave Saul a great victory that day.
But Saul did not always honor God. One
day, before fighting the Philistines,

Saul offered a
sacrifice to God.



He knew that was Samuel's job. He knew God wanted him to wait until Samuel came to do it. But Saul disobeyed God!



When Samuel arrived, he told Saul,
"You have done foolishly. You have
not kept the commandment

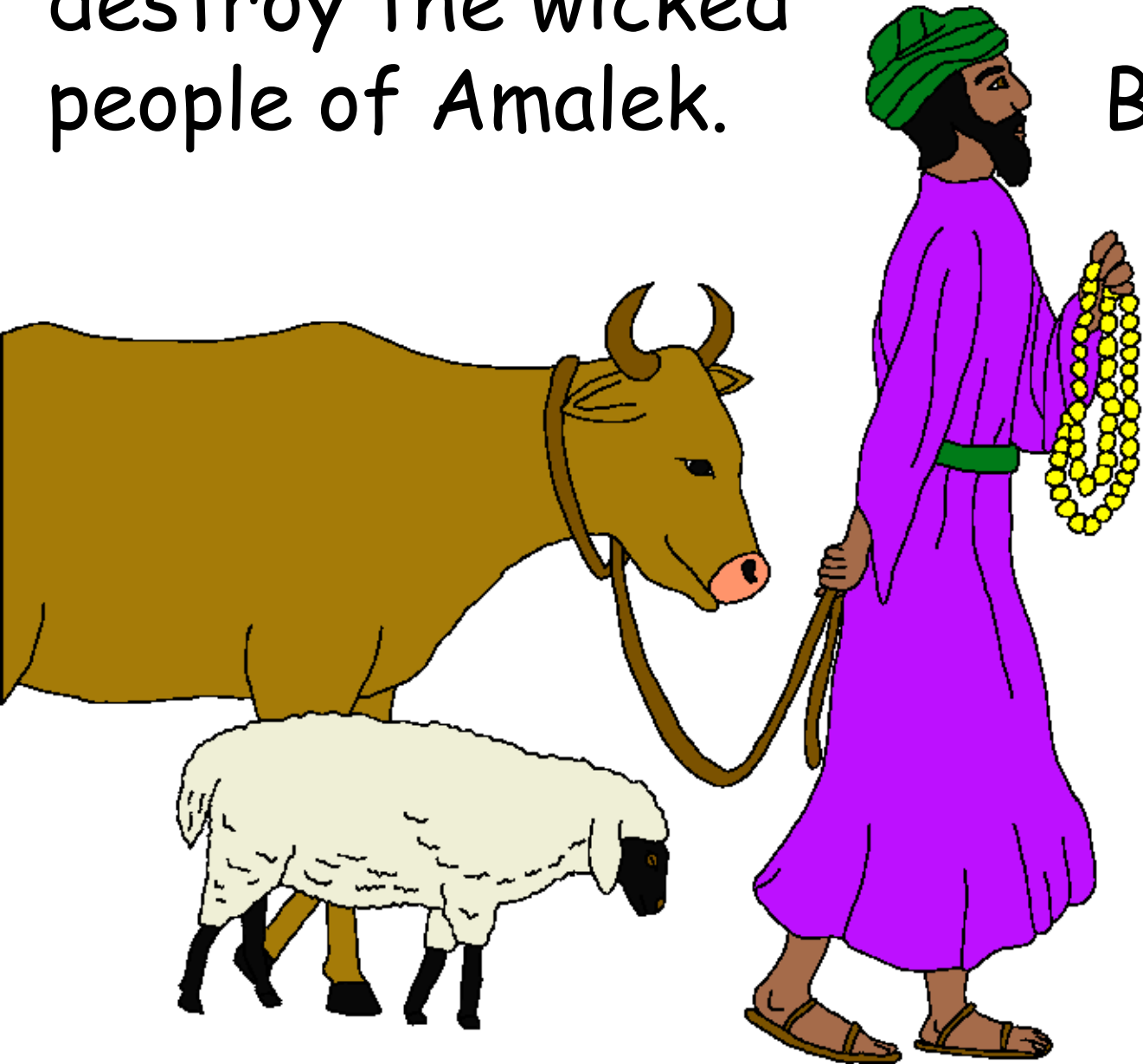
of the
LORD
your
God.



Now your kingdom shall not continue."
Saul may have thought it was a small
sin. But disobedience to God
is always
serious.



Another time, God ordered Saul to destroy the wicked people of Amalek.

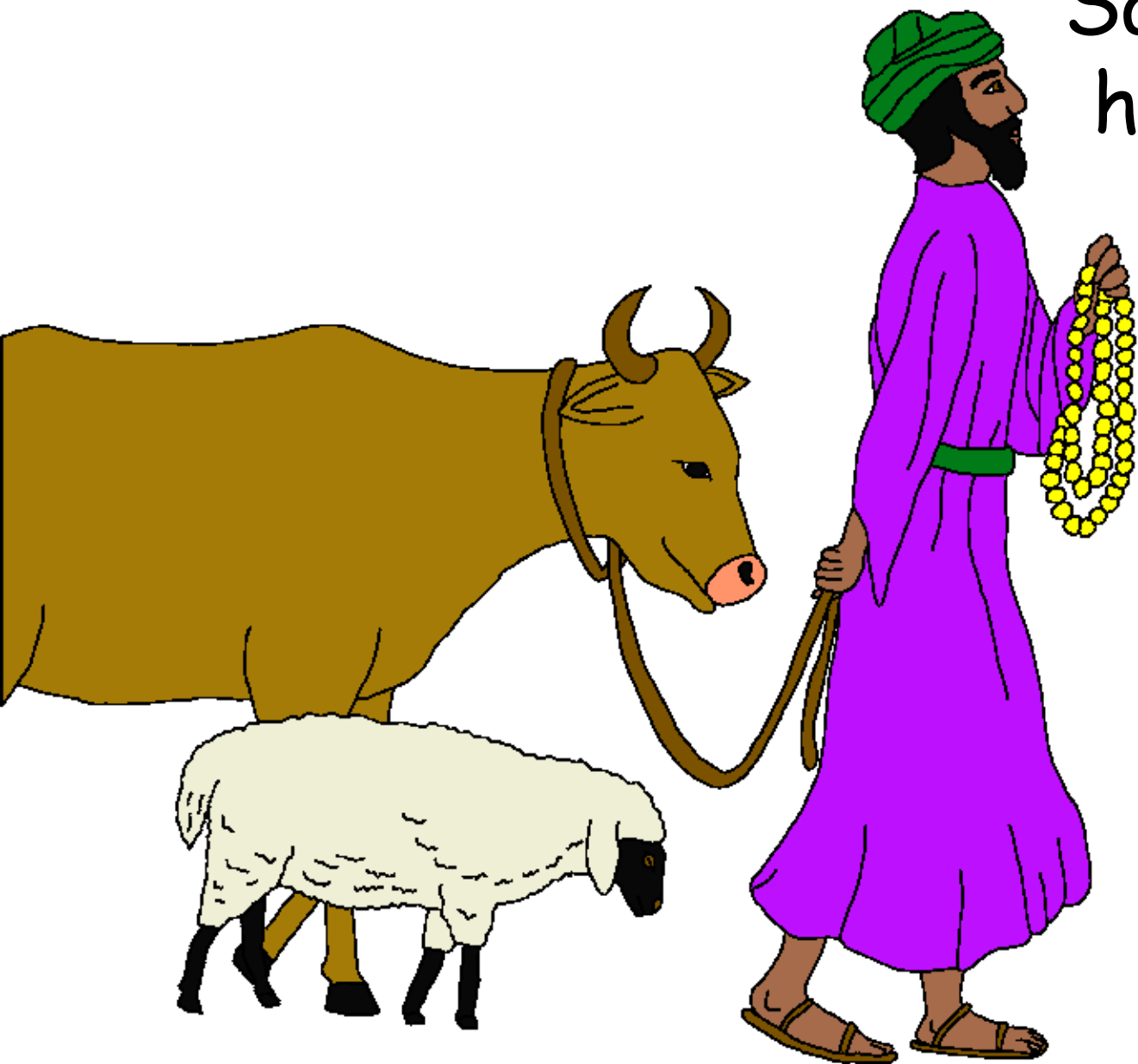


But Saul and the people let King Agag of Amalek live.

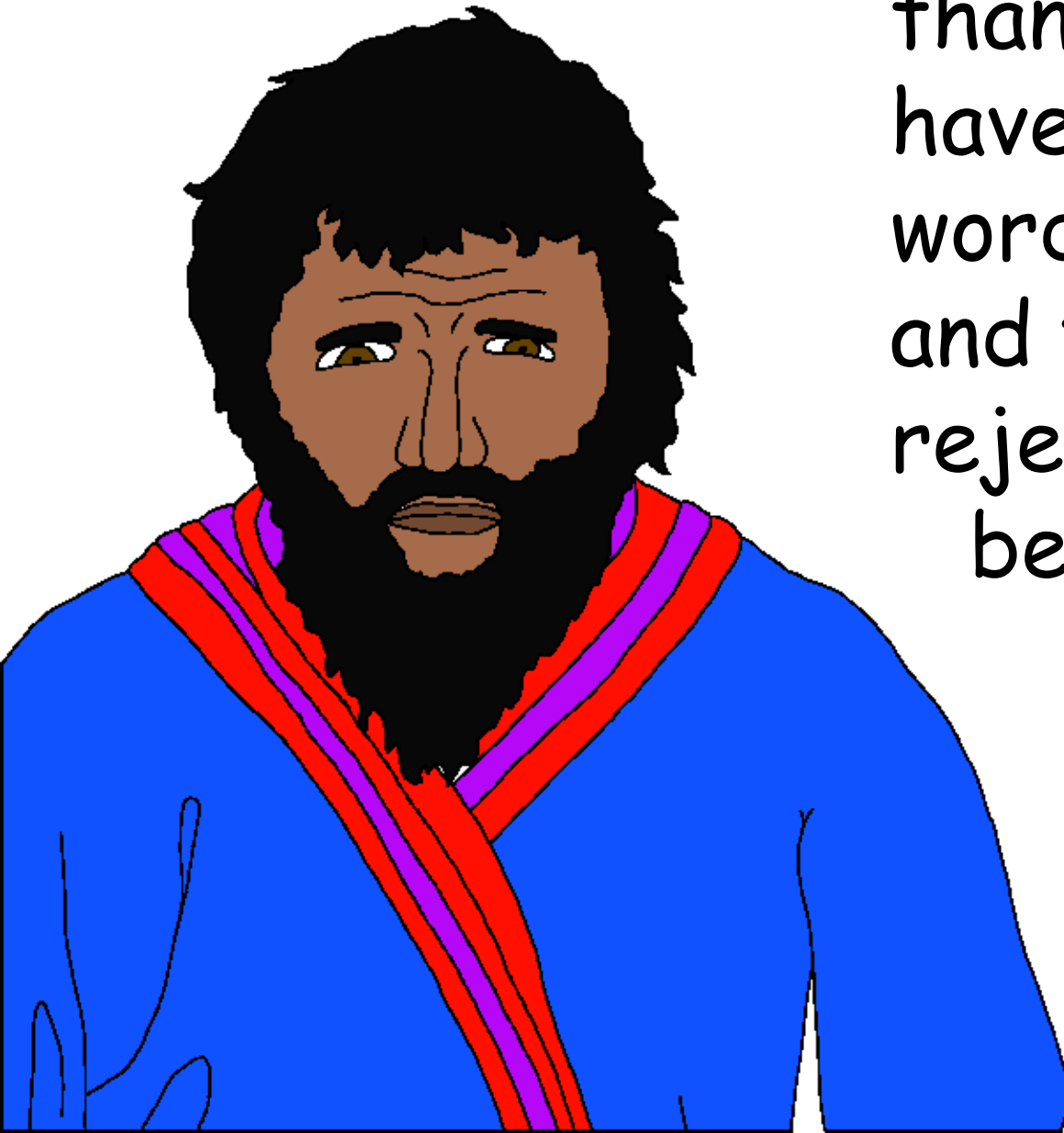


They also kept valuables, sheep and oxen.

Saul said they
had kept
these things
to sacrifice
to the
LORD.



Samuel told Saul, "To obey is better than sacrifice. You have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel."



Saul was very sorry for his sin. But it was too late. The rest of his life was unhappy because he would not obey the LORD.



The Handsome Foolish King

A story from God's Word, the Bible,

is found in

1 Samuel 8-16

"The entrance of Your Word gives
light." Psalm 119:130



The End



This Bible story tells us about our wonderful God who made us and who wants us to know Him.

God knows we have done bad things, which He calls sin. The punishment for sin is death, but God loves us so much He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a Cross and be punished for our sins. Then Jesus came back to life and went home to Heaven! If you believe in Jesus and ask Him to forgive your sins, He will do it! He will come and live in you now, and you will live with Him forever.



If you want to turn from your sins,
say this to God:

Dear God, I believe that Jesus died for me
and now lives again. Please come into my
life and forgive my sins, so that I can have
new life now, and one day go to be with You
forever. Help me to live for You as Your
child. Amen.

Read the Bible and talk with God every
day! John 3:16

