Bible for Children

presents

Jeremiah, Man of Tears

Written by: Edward Hughes

Illustrated by: Jonathan Hay

Adapted by: Mary-Anne S.

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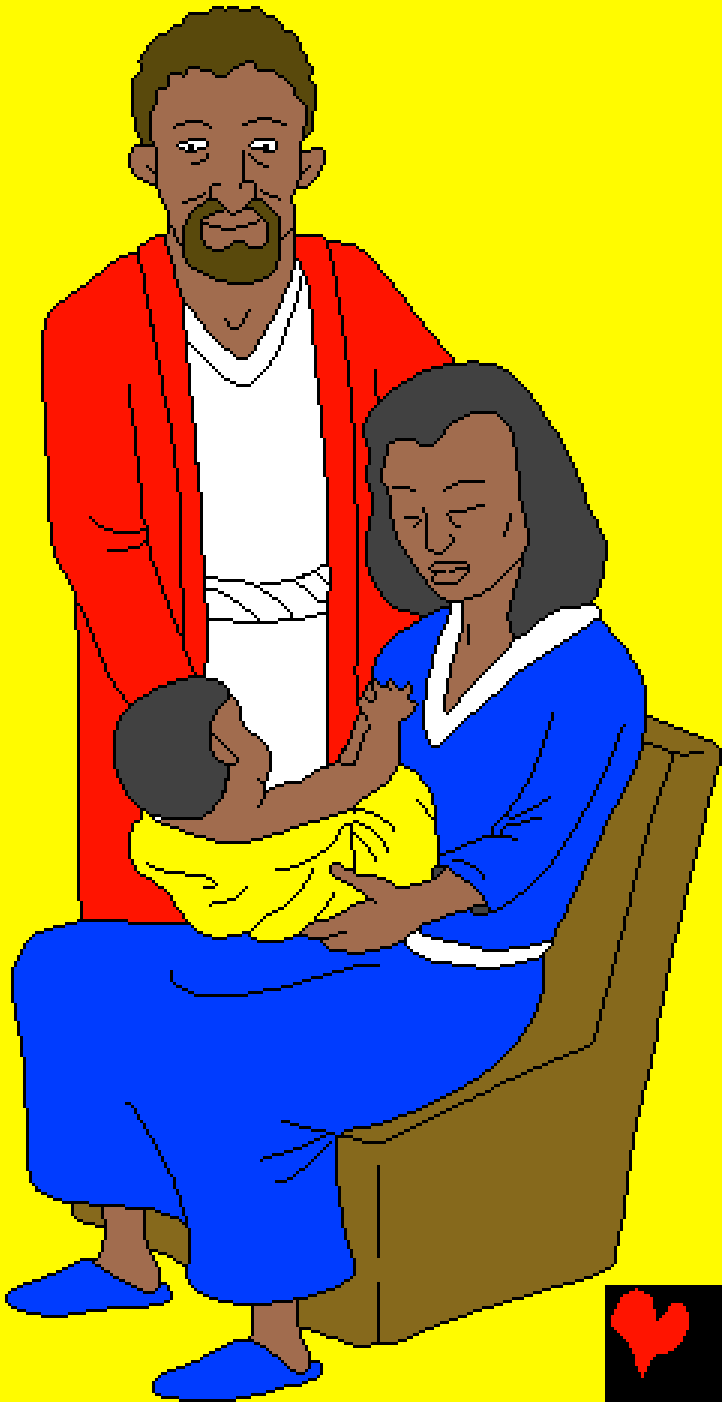
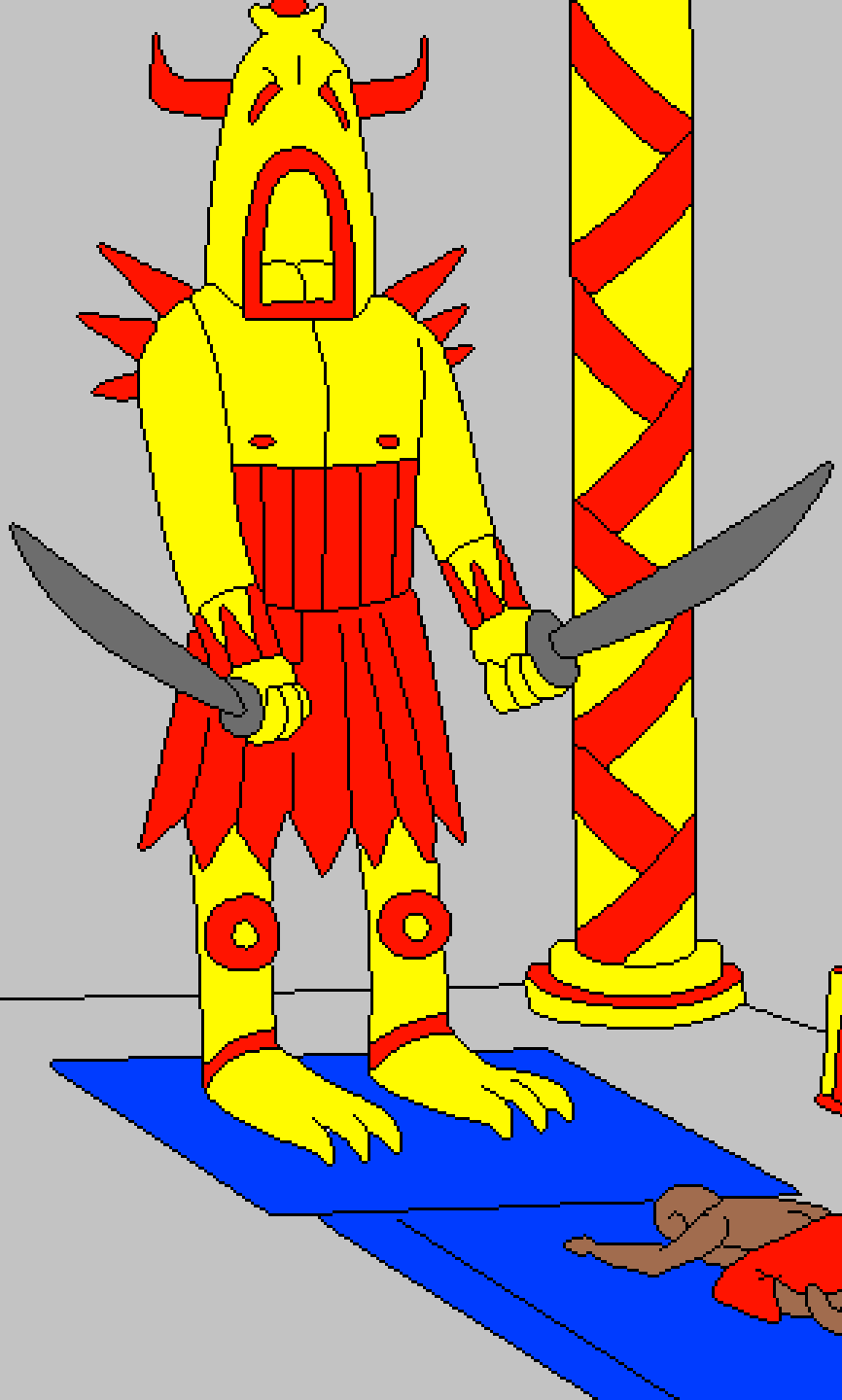
Jeremiah was born into a religious home in the kingdom of Judah. His Dad, Hilkiah, was a priest. The family lived in a town called Anathoth, not far from Jerusalem. Maybe Jeremiah's parents thought he would also become a priest. But God had other plans.

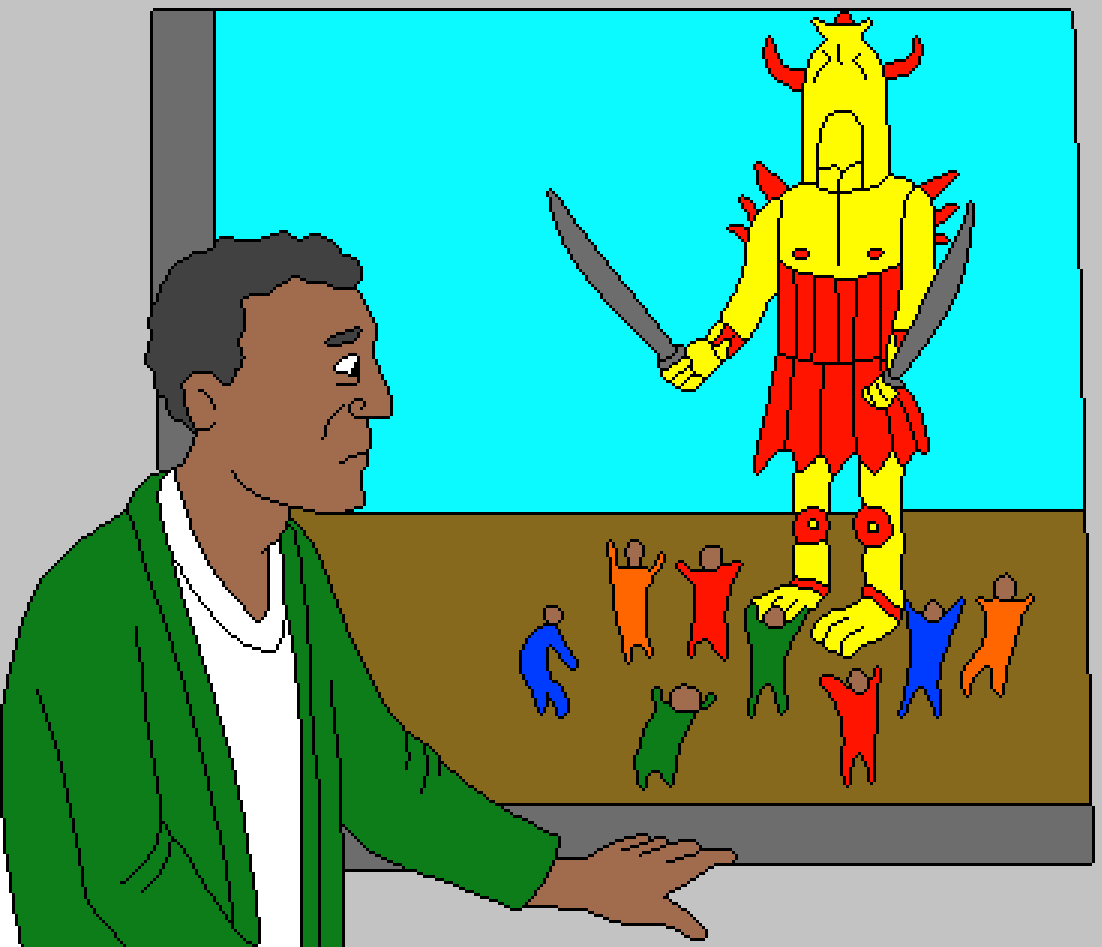


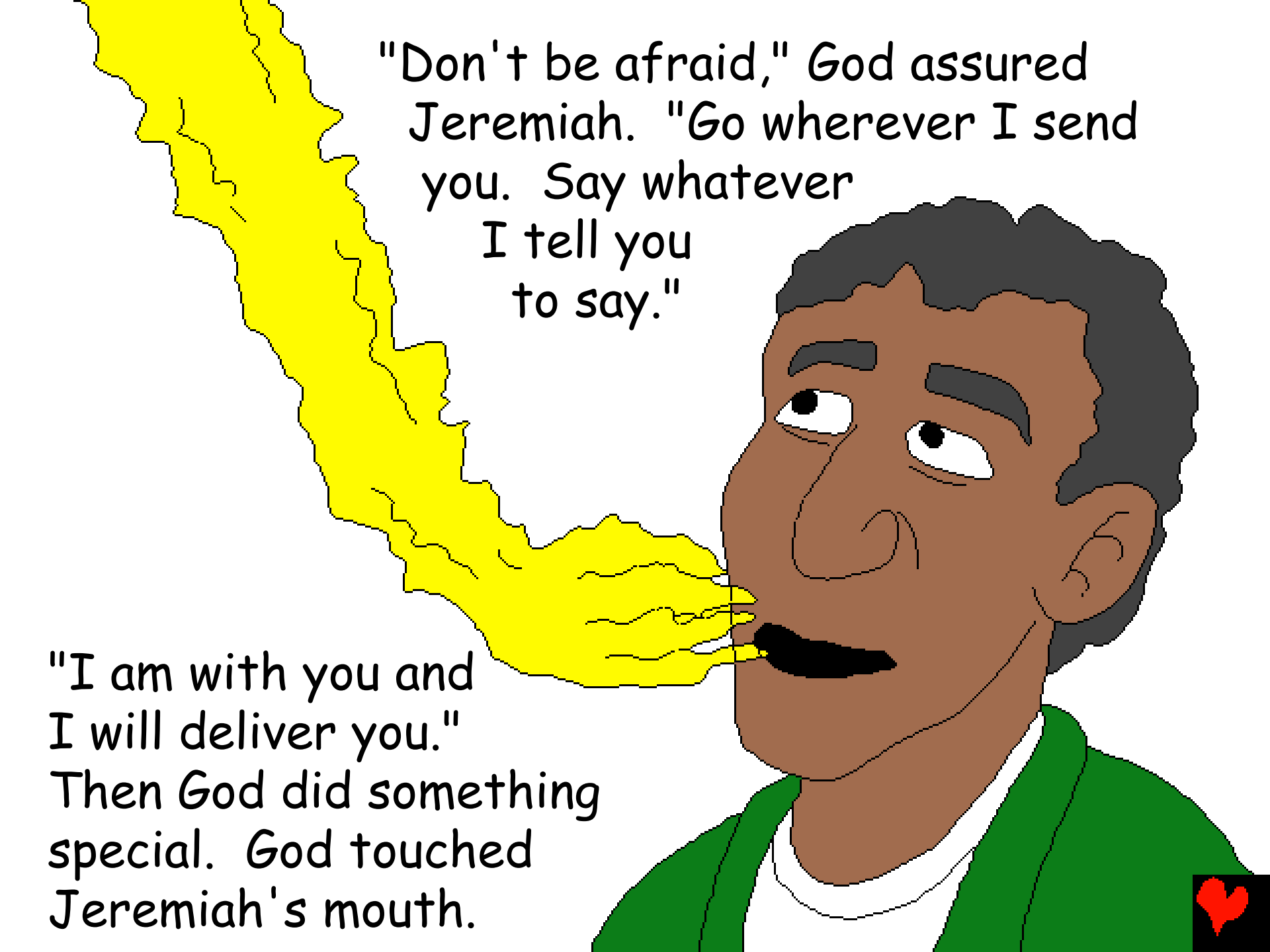


At the time of Jeremiah's birth, God's people were not living according to God's Word. Nearly everybody, from the king down to the most humble worker, worshiped false gods - even in God's own holy Temple!

When Jeremiah was a young man, God spoke to him. "I knew you before you were born," God told Jeremiah, "and I planned then that you will speak for Me."

God's call seemed to scare Jeremiah. "Ah, Lord GOD!" he cried out. "I cannot speak, for I am a child." He was more than a child - he was twenty years old. But Jeremiah didn't think he could speak out for God against the wickedness all around him.

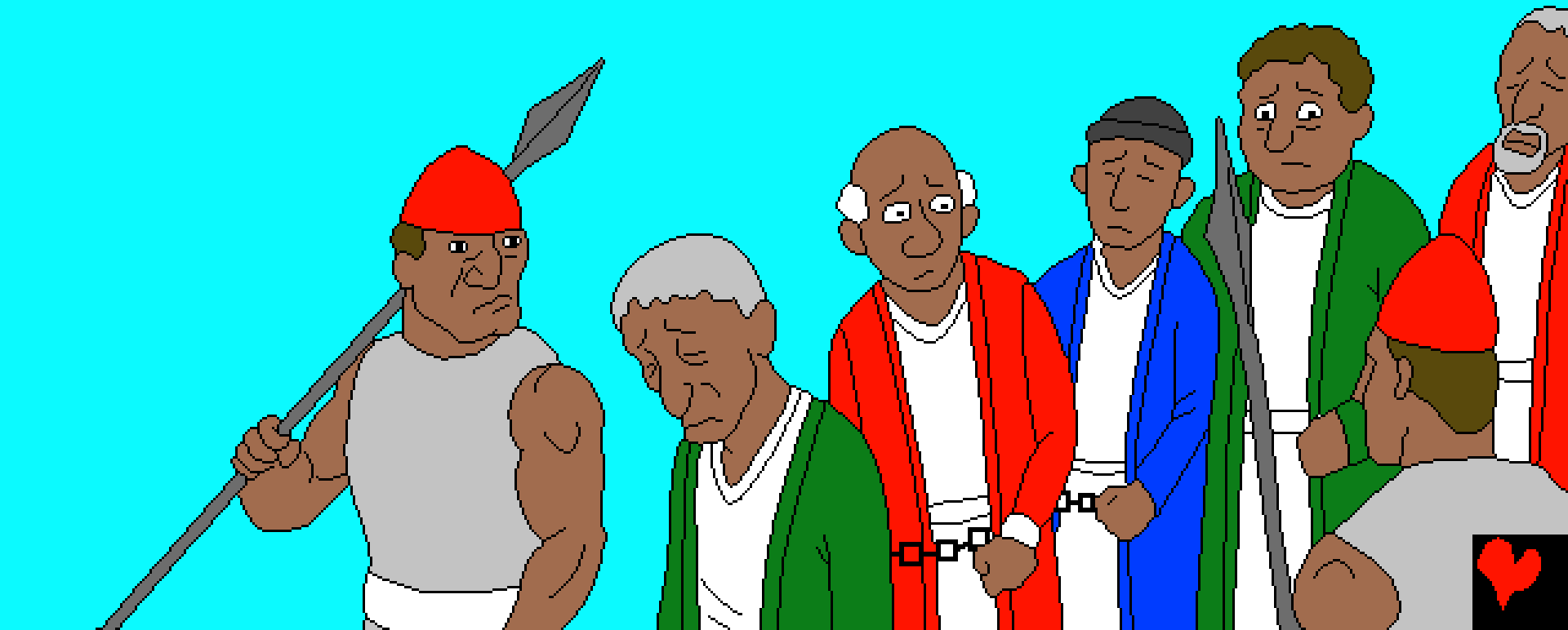


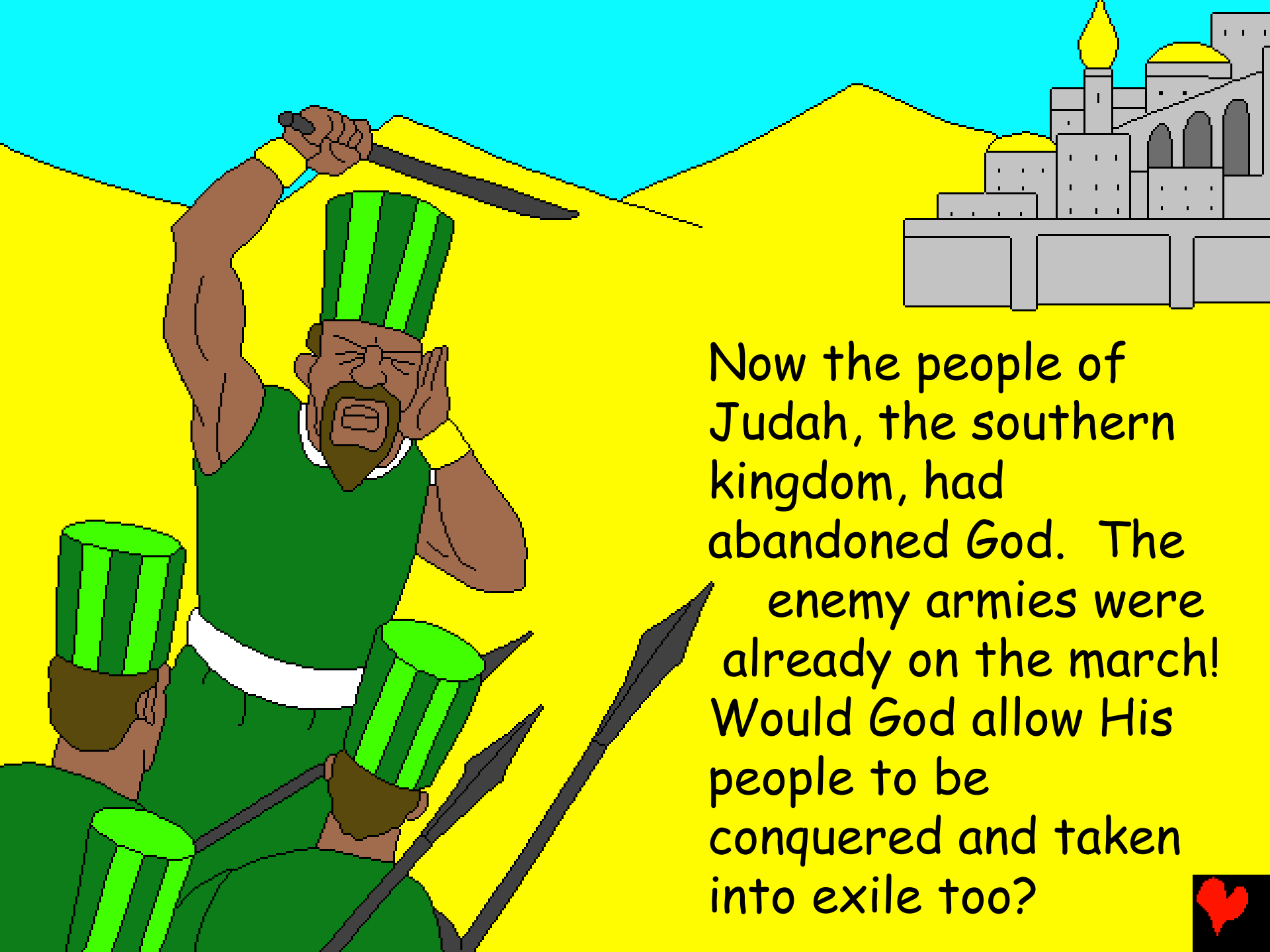

"Don't be afraid," God assured Jeremiah. "Go wherever I send you. Say whatever I tell you to say."
"I am with you and I will deliver you." Then God did something special. God touched Jeremiah's mouth.

God gave Jeremiah strength and courage and wisdom. He spoke out boldly, reminding people that God loved them and wanted to help them. But nobody listened to him. Not even the king.

Even the priests got angry and told him to quit speaking about God. There were also false prophets who said that Jeremiah was not telling the truth.

Jeremiah reminded the people that, about a hundred years before, the northern kingdom of Israel had abandoned God. Their enemies, the Assyrians, conquered them and moved all of the Israelites to distant lands.

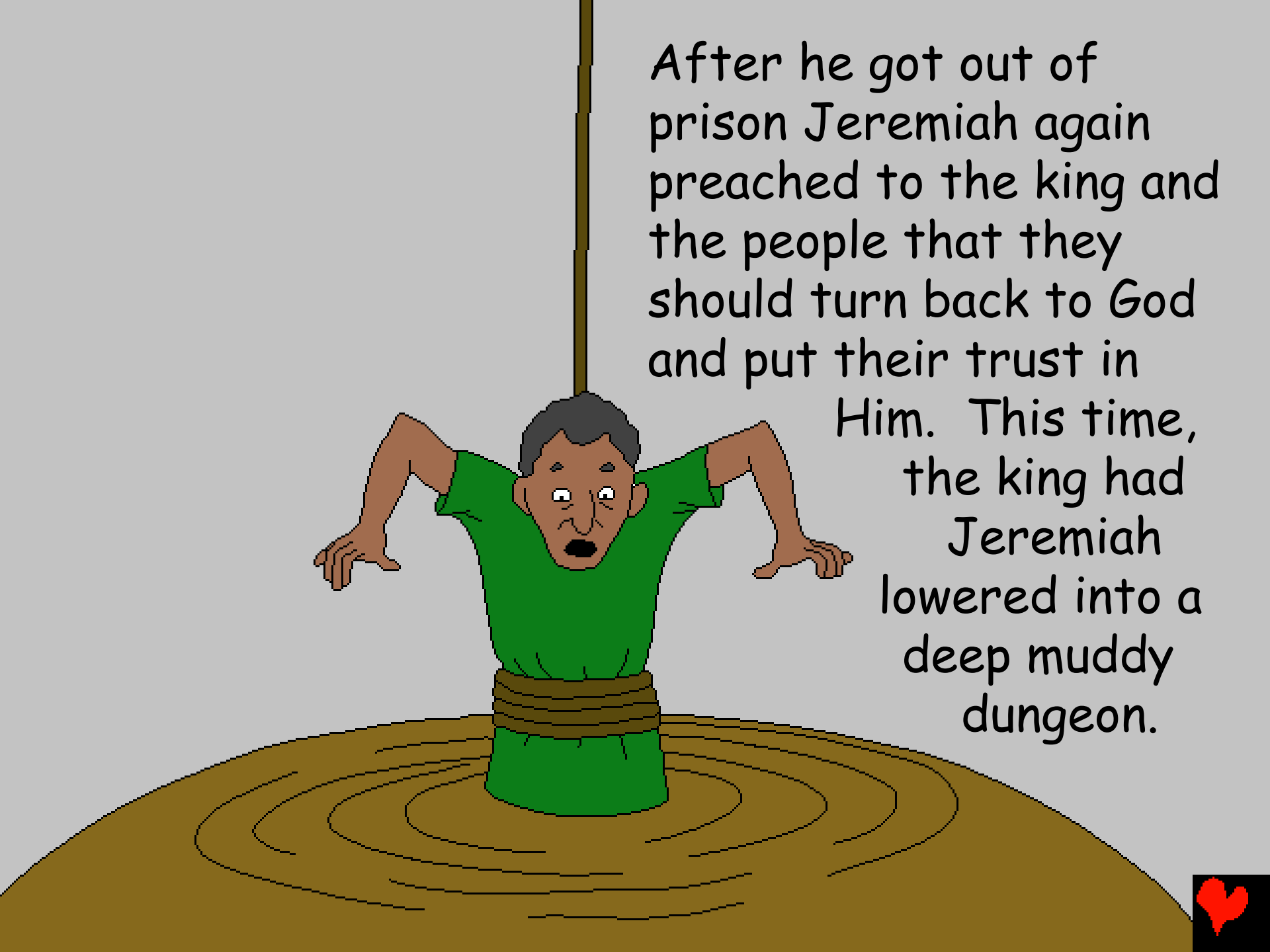



Now the people of Judah, the southern kingdom, had abandoned God. The enemy armies were already on the march! Would God allow His people to be conquered and taken into exile too?

The people trusted their idols. Could idols save them from their enemies? No! Only God could save them. The people got so angry at Jeremiah, they made a plot to kill him. But God protected His servant.

Finally, God said something that must have shocked Jeremiah. God said, "Don't pray for this people. I will not hear them when they cry to me for help."

Jeremiah warned the king he would lose the battle with the army of Babylon. The king was angry and threw Jeremiah in prison. Even in prison, Jeremiah kept on preaching and trusting God.


After he got out of prison Jeremiah again preached to the king and the people that they should turn back to God and put their trust in Him. This time, the king had Jeremiah lowered into a deep muddy dungeon.

But God was at work in the king's heart. He secretly rescued Jeremiah and asked him what God wanted the king to do. "Go into captivity, and God says you will live," was the answer.

The Babylonian army conquered Jerusalem and all of Judah. They pulled down the walls and all the buildings, and burned everything. God said His people would go into captivity for seventy years, and then He would bring them back to the Promised Land.

Jeremiah, Man of tears

A story from God's Word, the Bible,

is found in

Jeremiah

"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