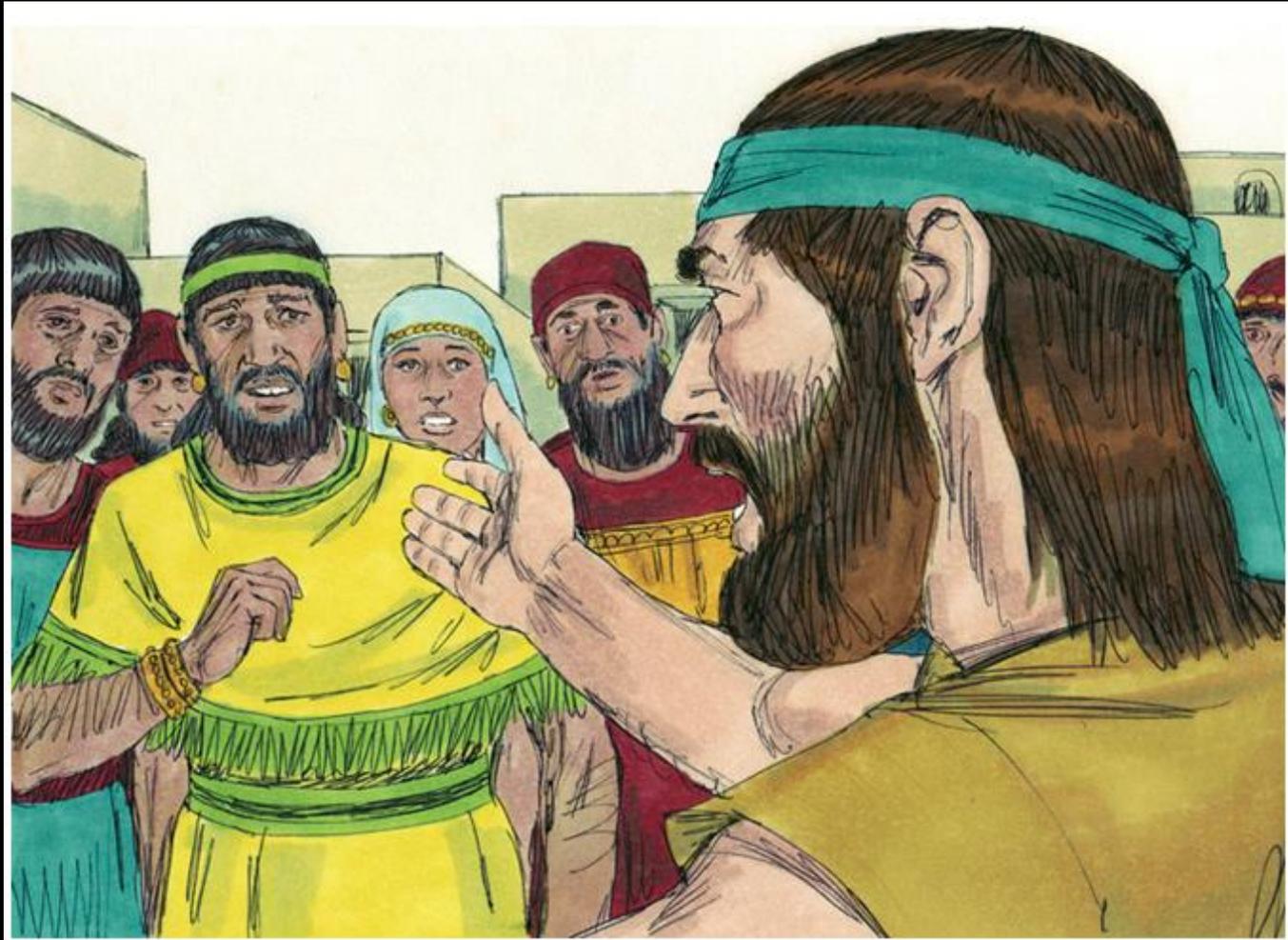


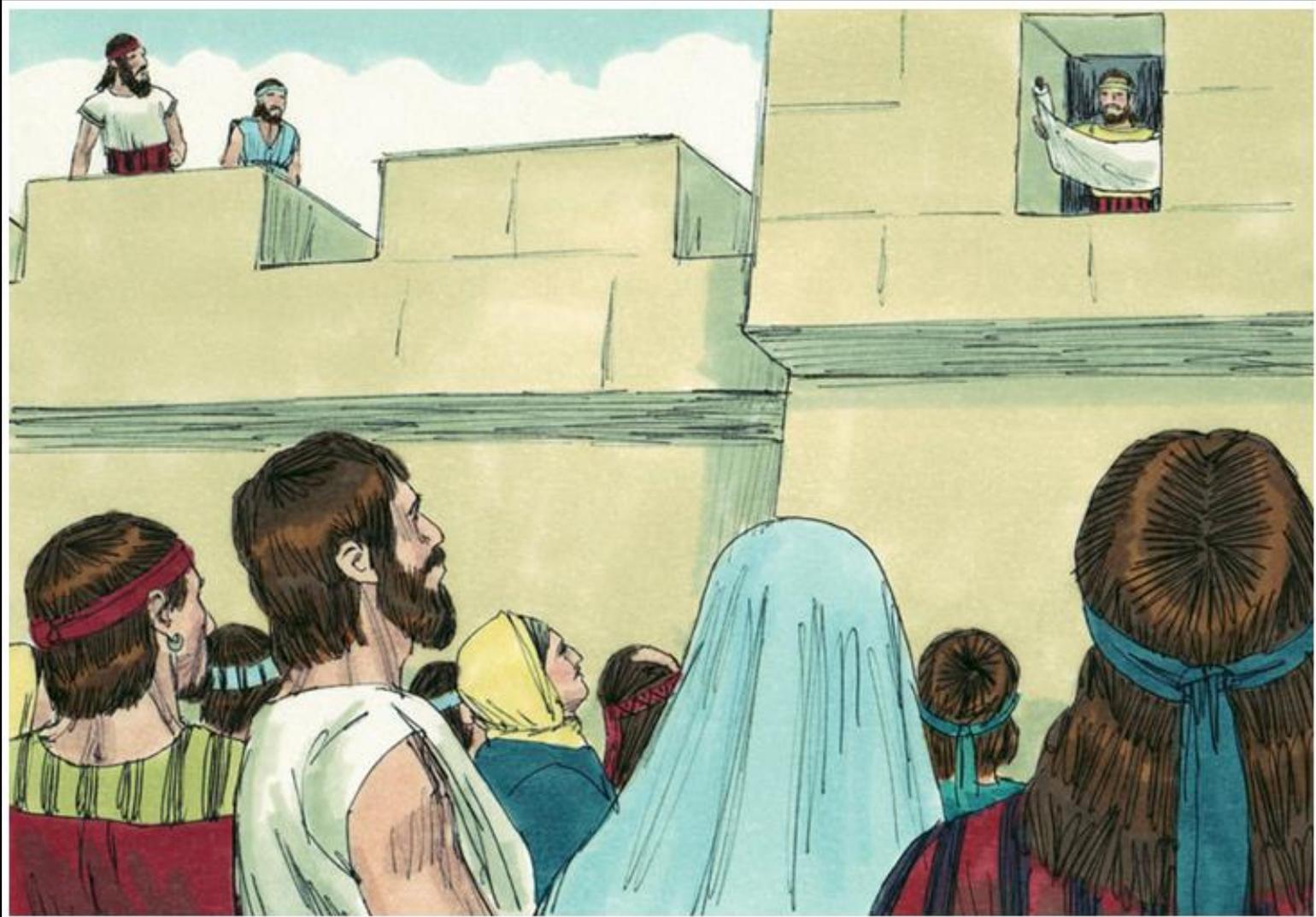
The Prophets



God sent his prophets to tell people the truth about God, their need to repent and come to God, so they could be saved.

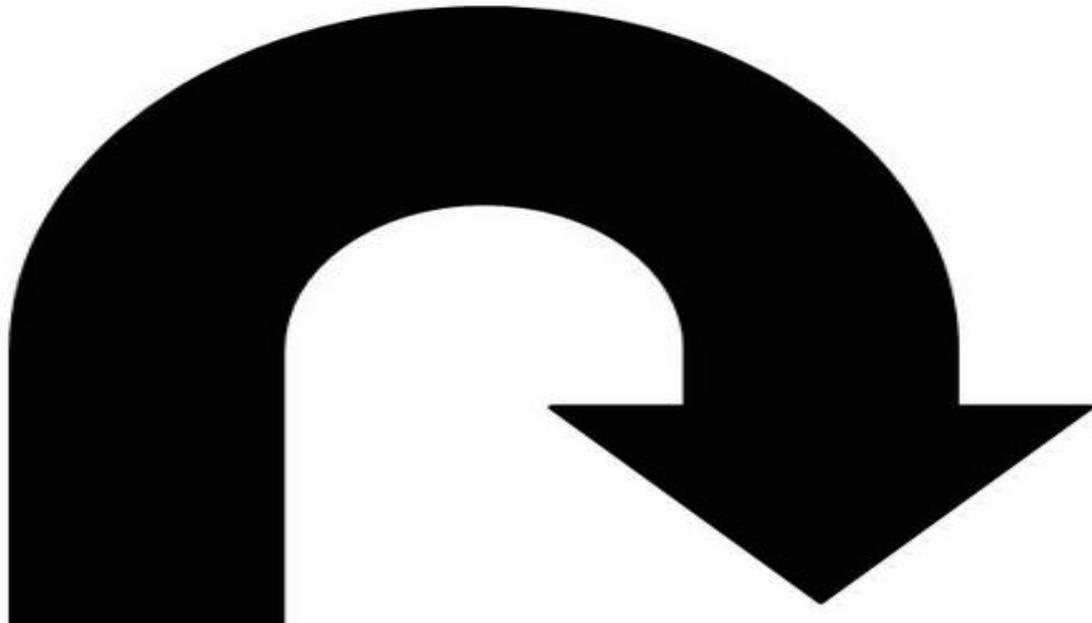


Ezekiel 33:11 sums up the message of God through the books of the prophets:



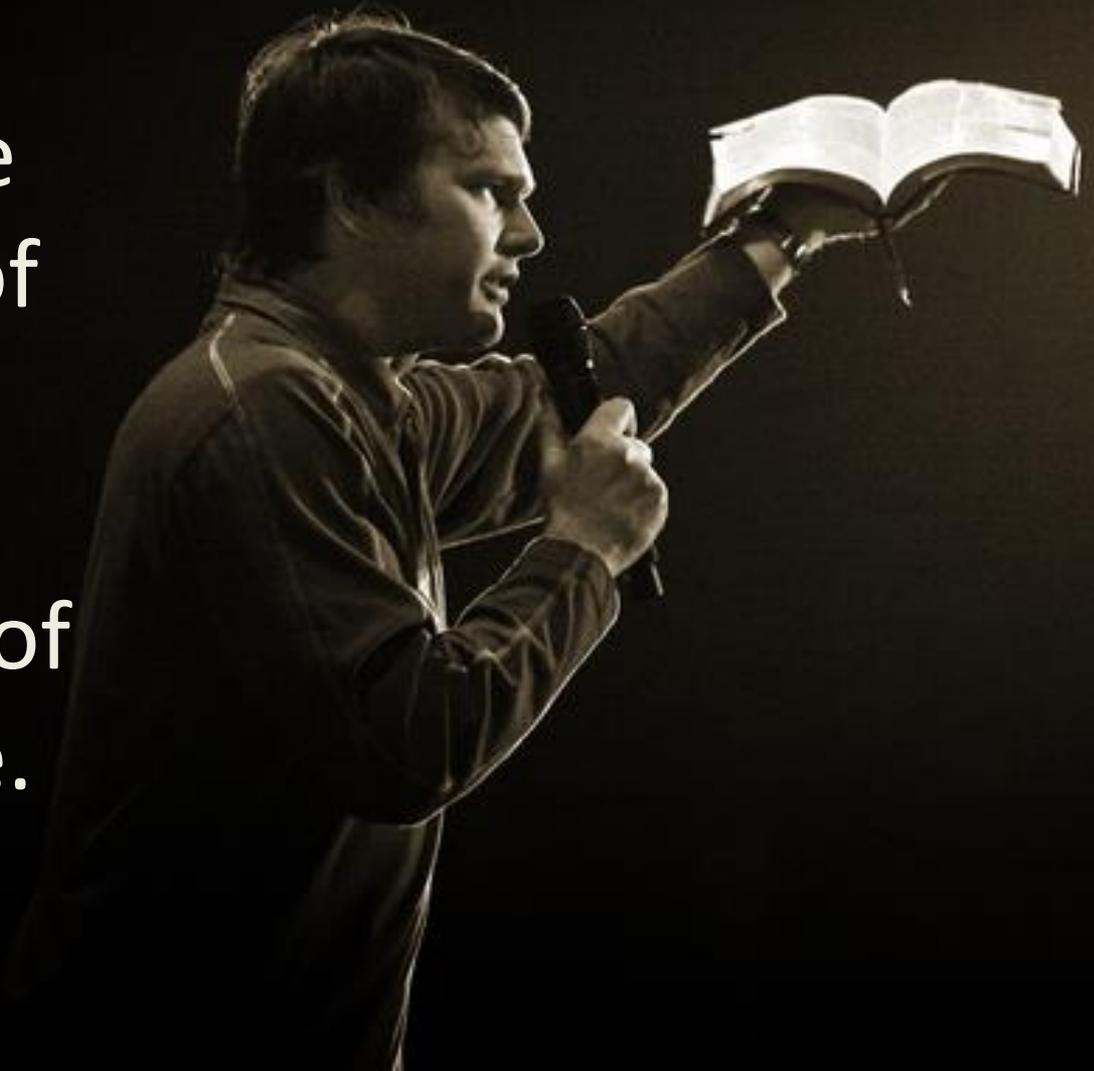
*“As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. **I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live.***

Turn! Turn from your wickedness, O people of Israel! Why should you die?”



There are no prophets now
as there were in the Bible
*(God will send more in the
end times).*

Godly pastors,
preachers and
teachers can be
seen as a type of
prophet...
who warn the
people of today of
what is to come.



God's judgment is much more near
now than it was then and
we need to respond to His warnings!



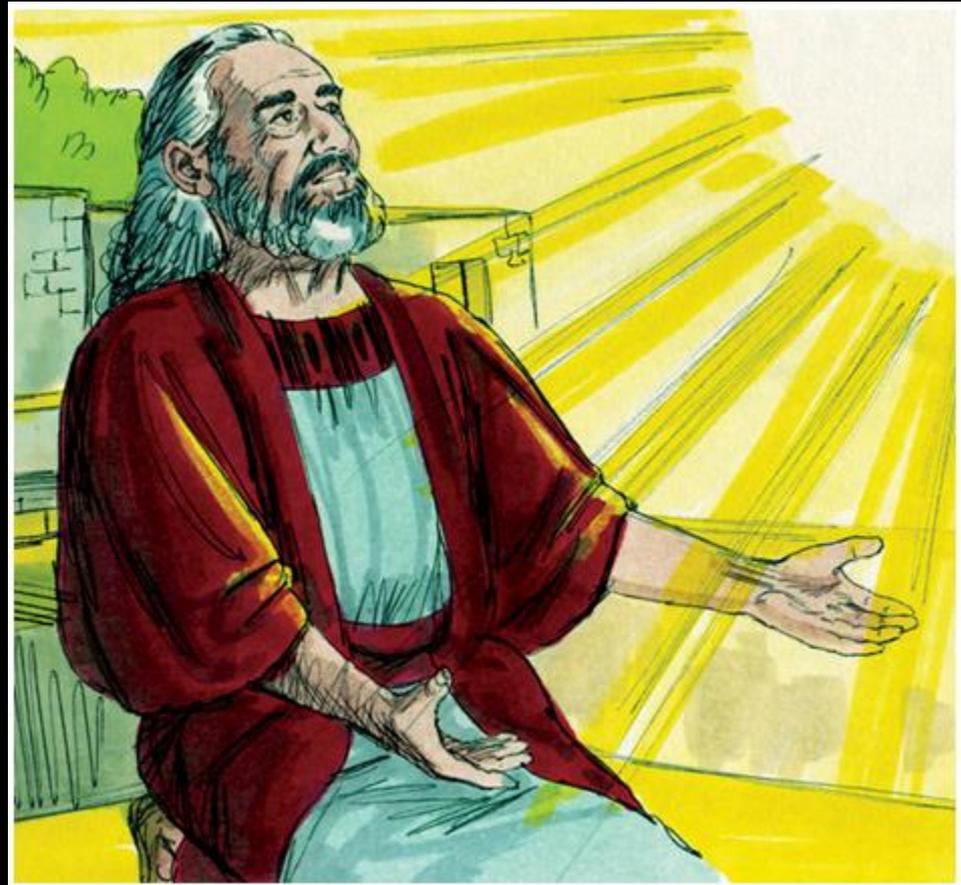
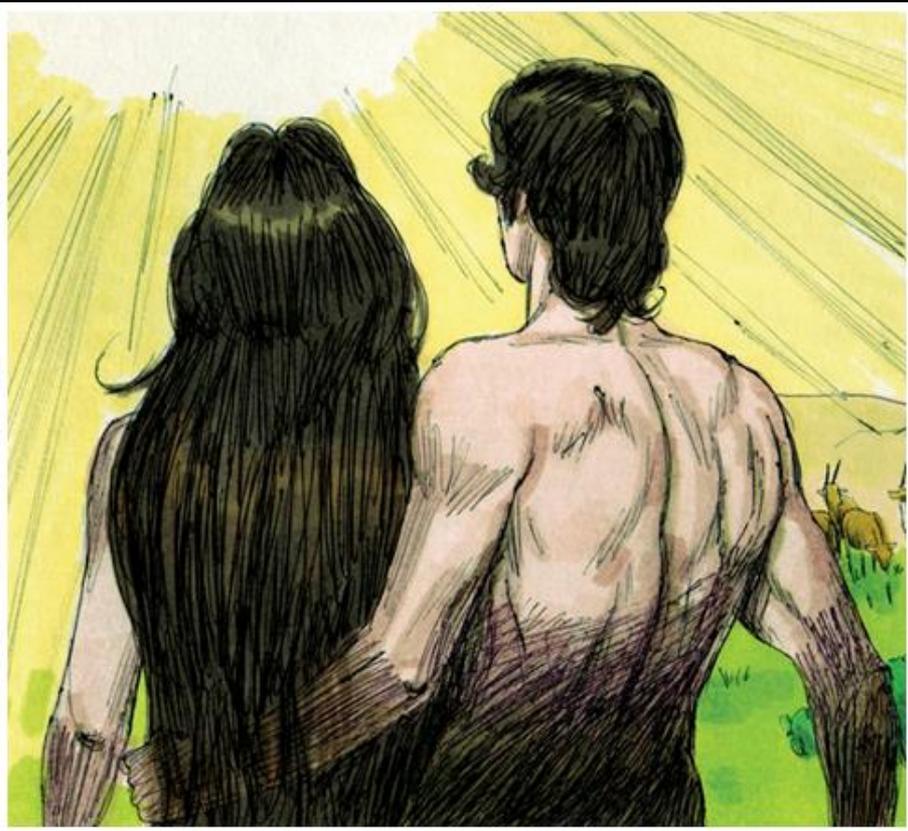
Remember: God has been speaking
to man from the beginning!



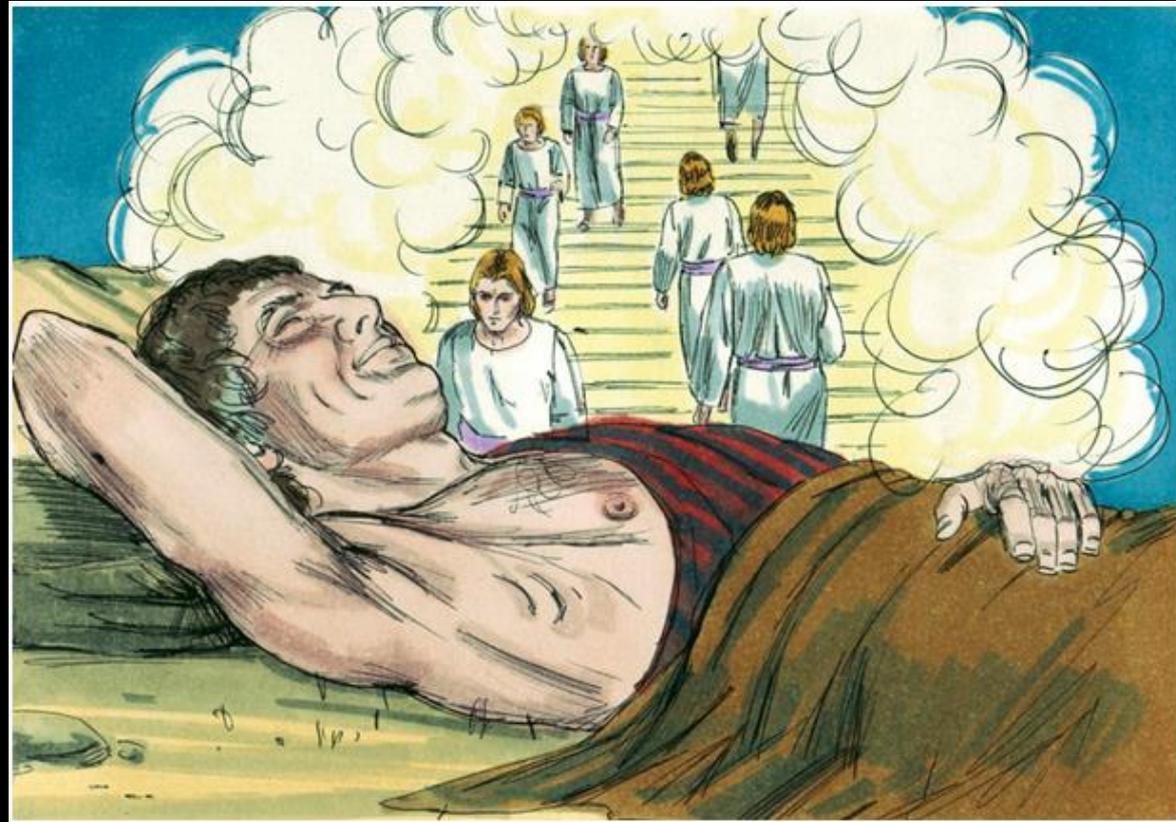
God is the creator of all mankind. He loves all mankind and wants all people everywhere to be delivered from the power of Satan, sin and death.

Therefore, God has been speaking to people so they could know His will!

God spoke to **Adam & Eve, Cain & Abel** and **Noah** and told them what they needed to do to come to Him.



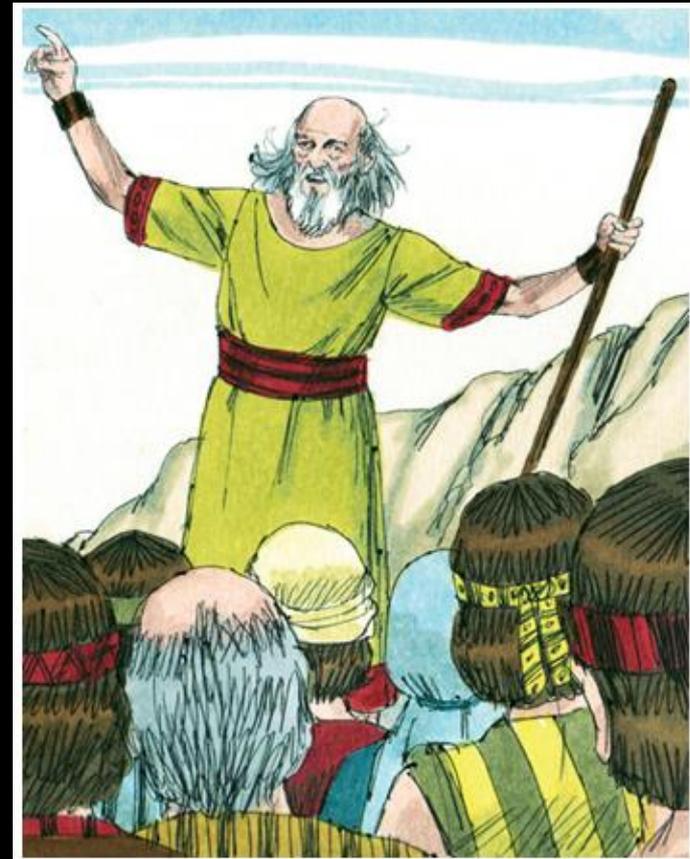
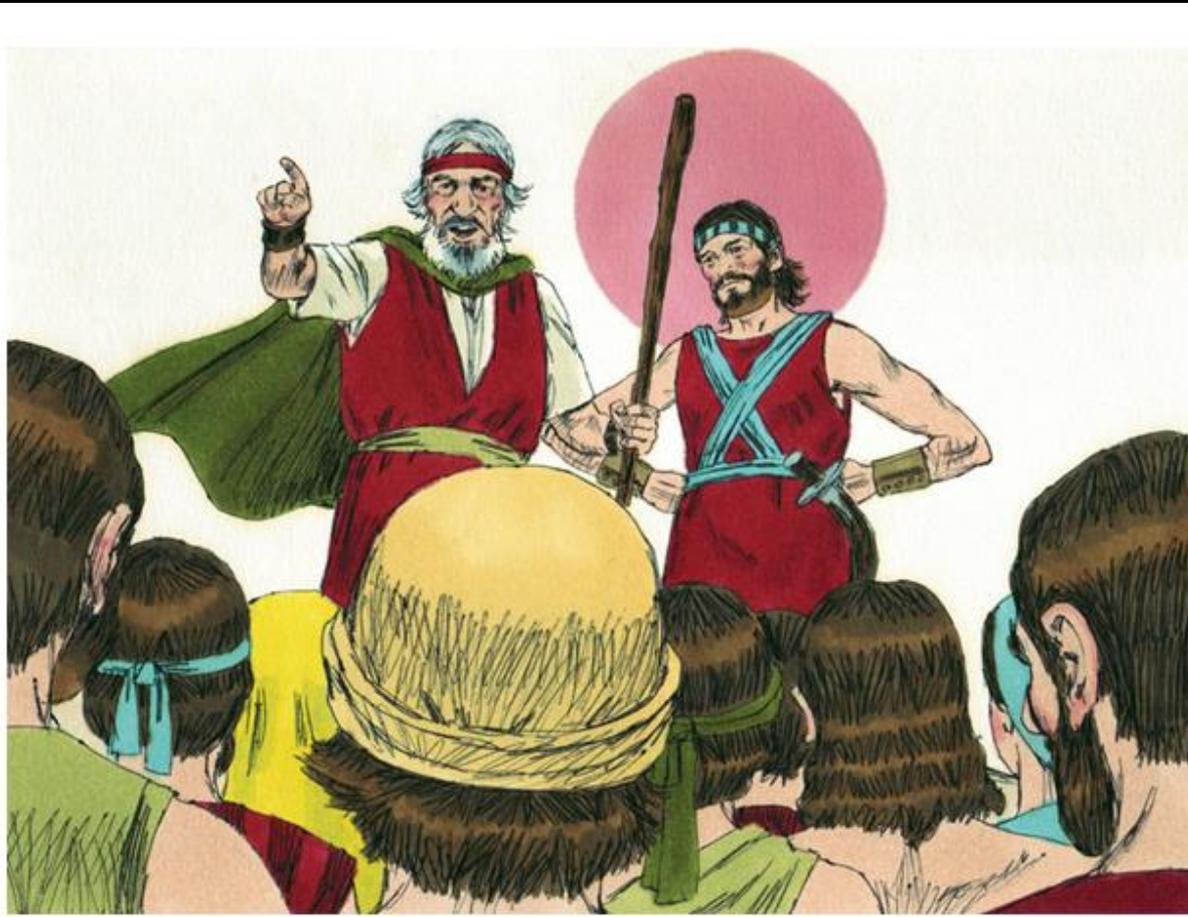
God also spoke to **Abraham**,
Isaac, **Jacob** and **Joseph**.



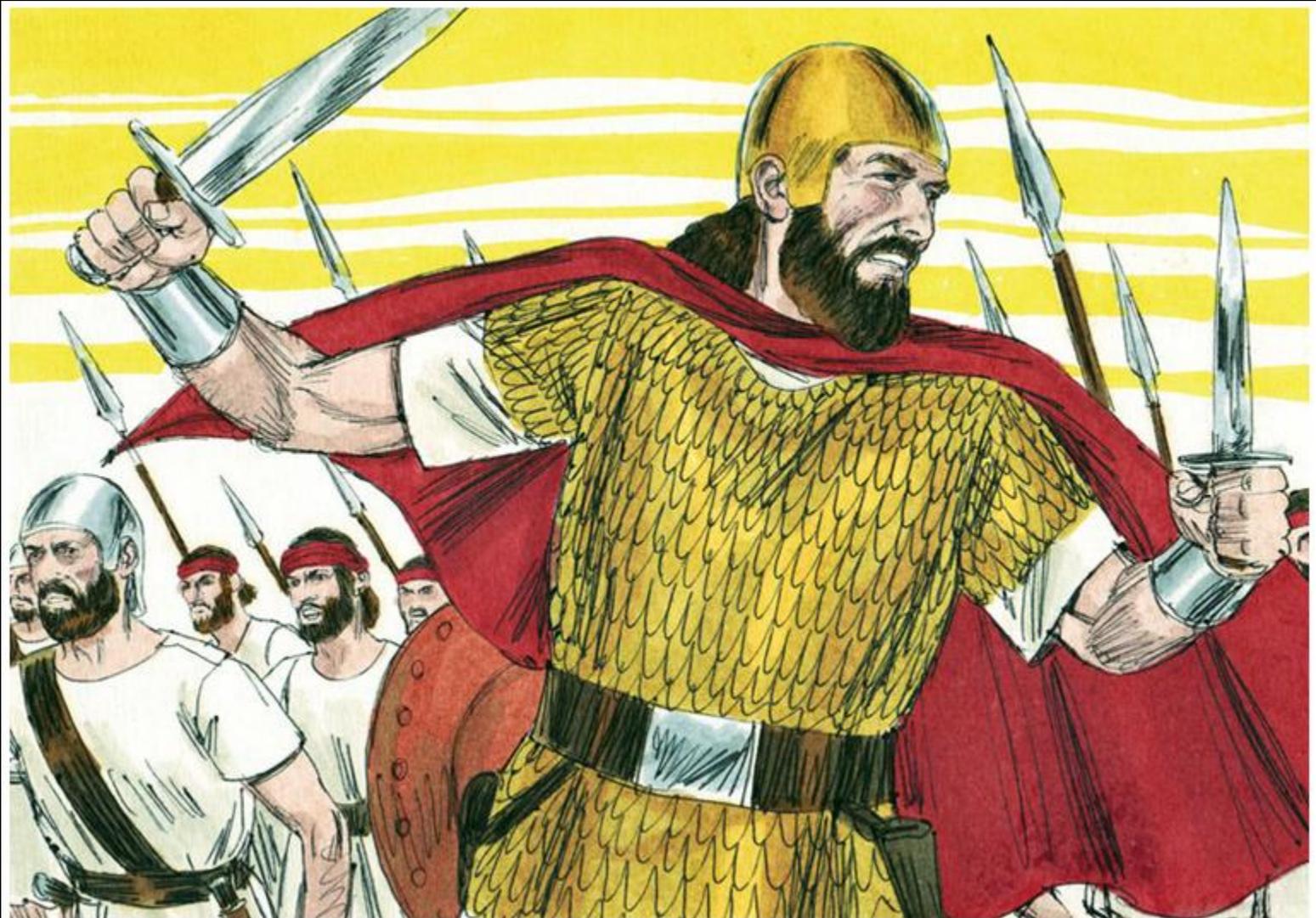
God gave His message to **Moses**, and Moses gave it to Pharaoh and the Israelites.



God continued to speak to Israel through **Moses** and **Joshua** and then the **Judges**.



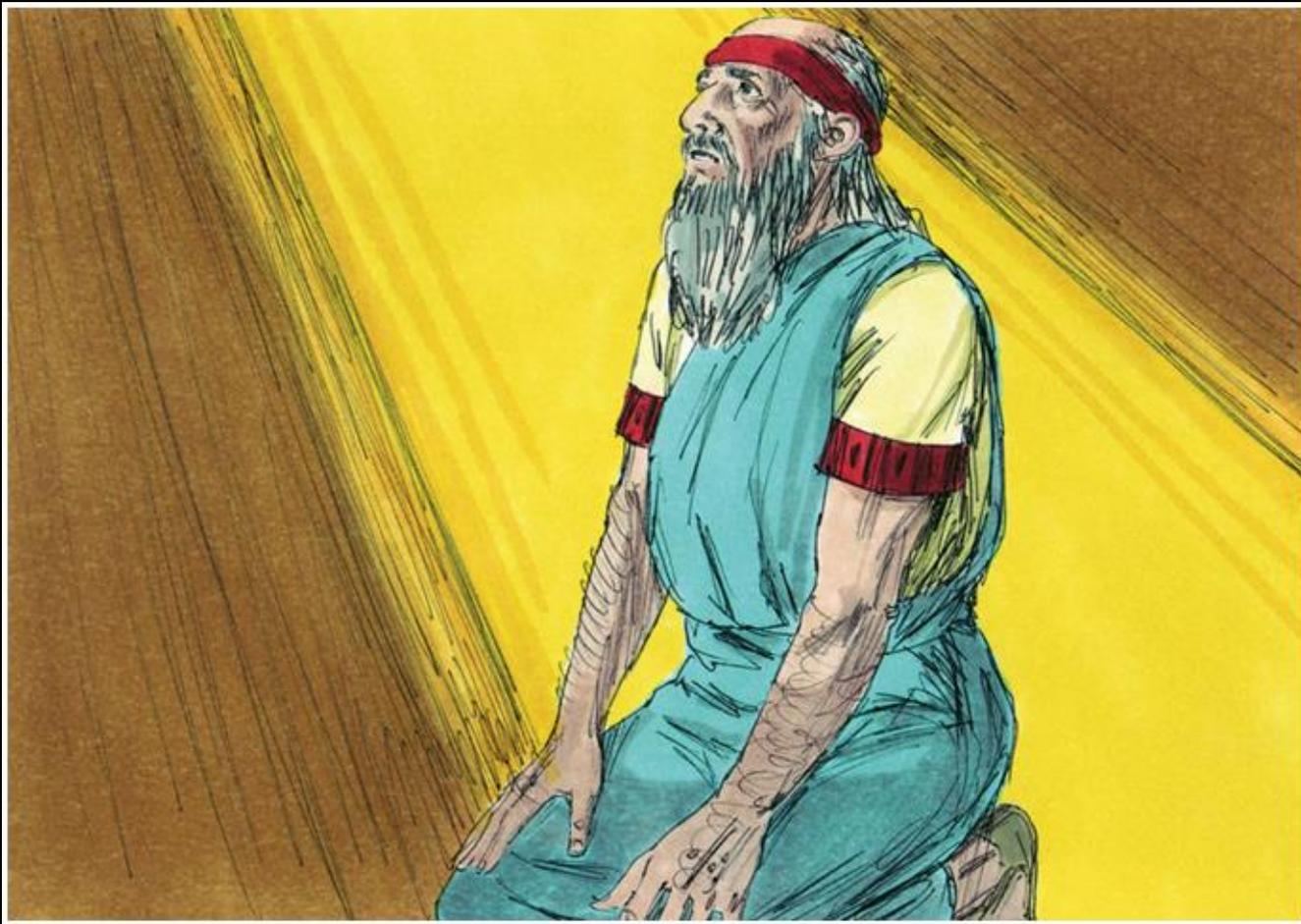
Israel eventually demanded a King
and then went their own way...



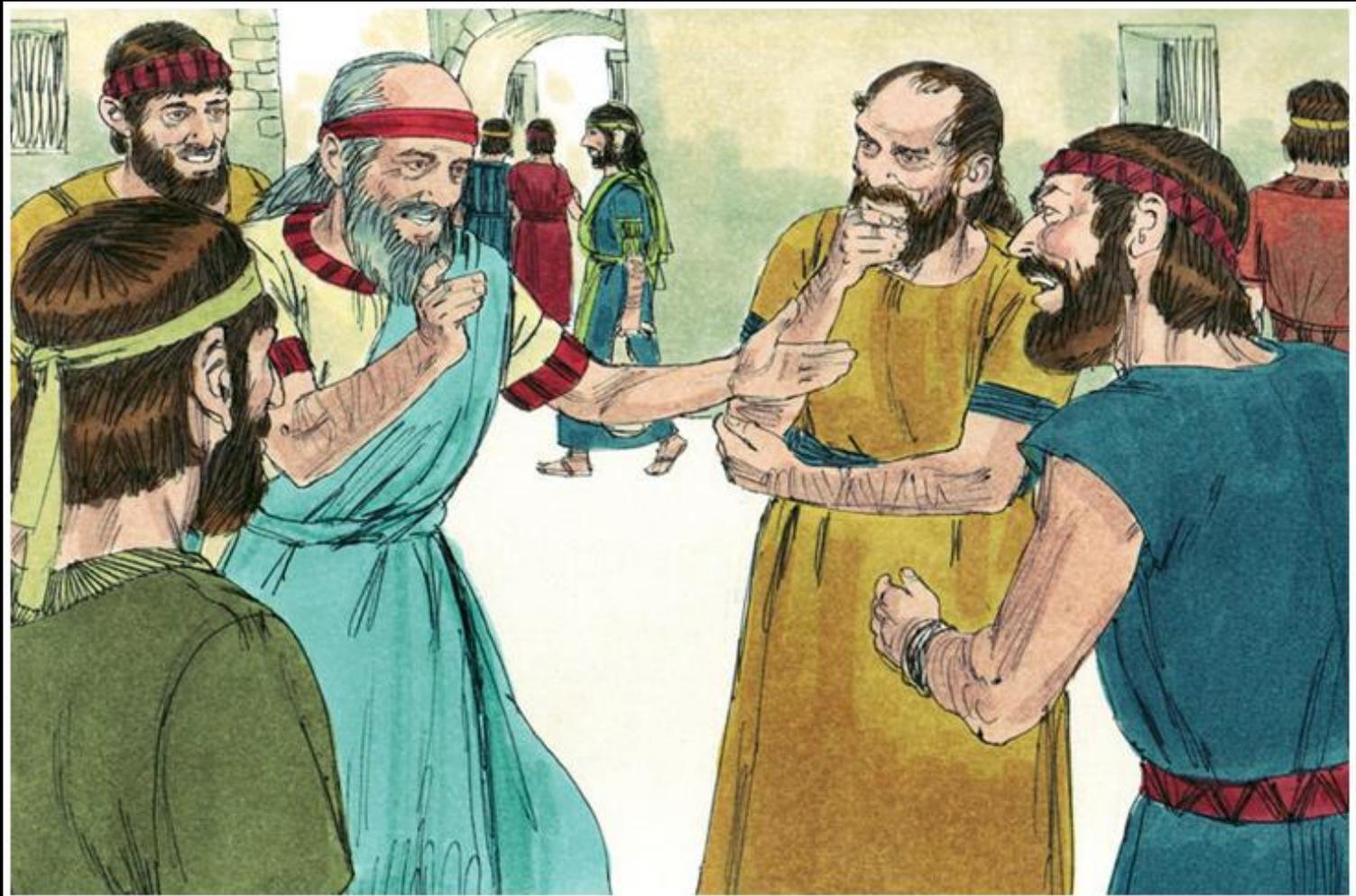
God is now sending the **prophets** to warn them of their fate if they do not come to Him.



God's messengers were called prophets. A prophet is someone who speaks on **behalf** of God.



A prophet has been given a special message by God. Some of the prophets were Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel.



God's prophets told the people to:

Repent

Destroy their idols

Trust only in the Lord

Come back to God

Follow and obey Him

Repentance Means...

“a change of mind”



To repent means that you no longer think you are right, you agree with God about our own sin and actions.

To repent means admitting
that He alone is right...and
because of this, we change
how we live: by basing our
life and actions on what is
true!

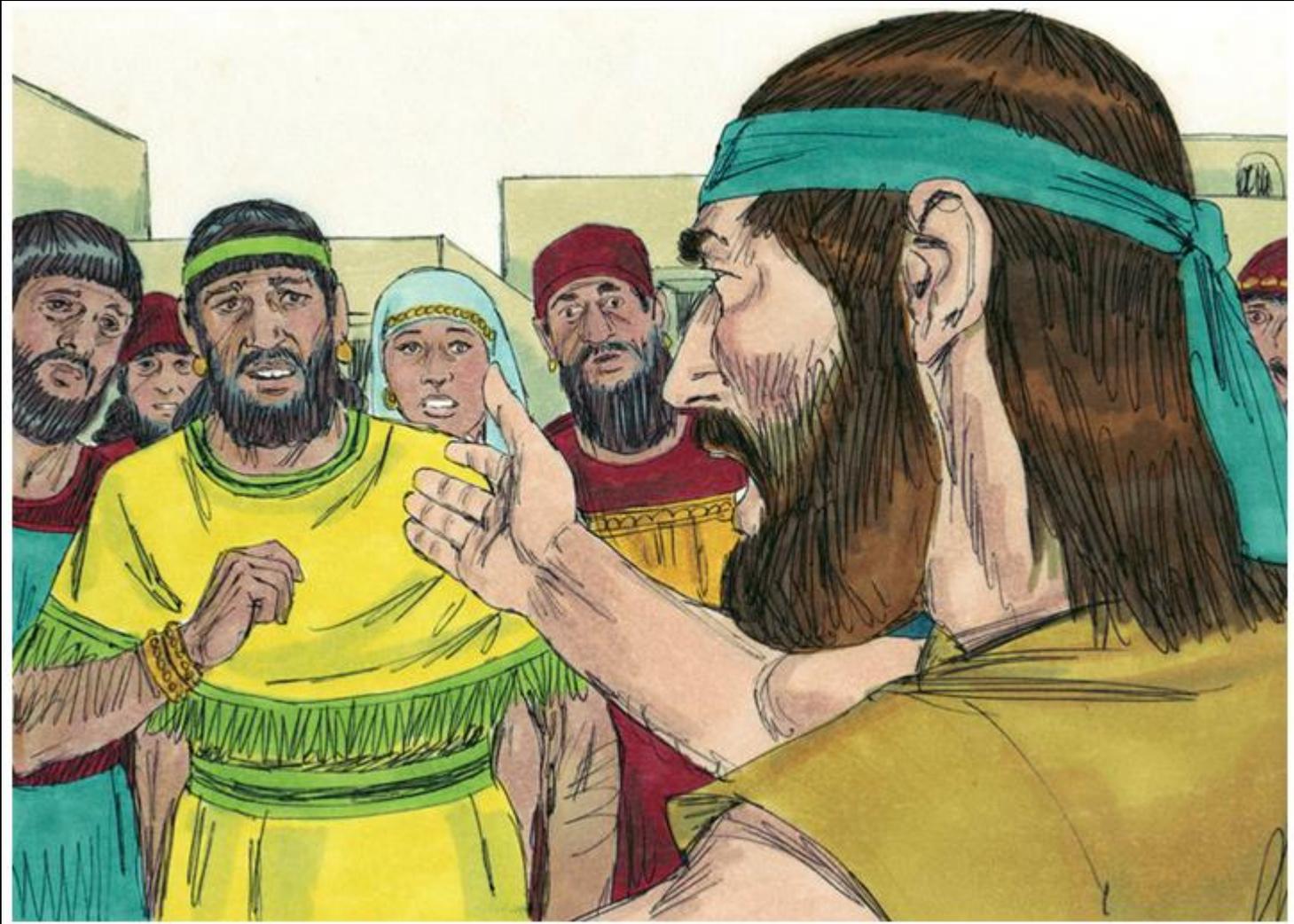
Repentance is admitting
that we are going the



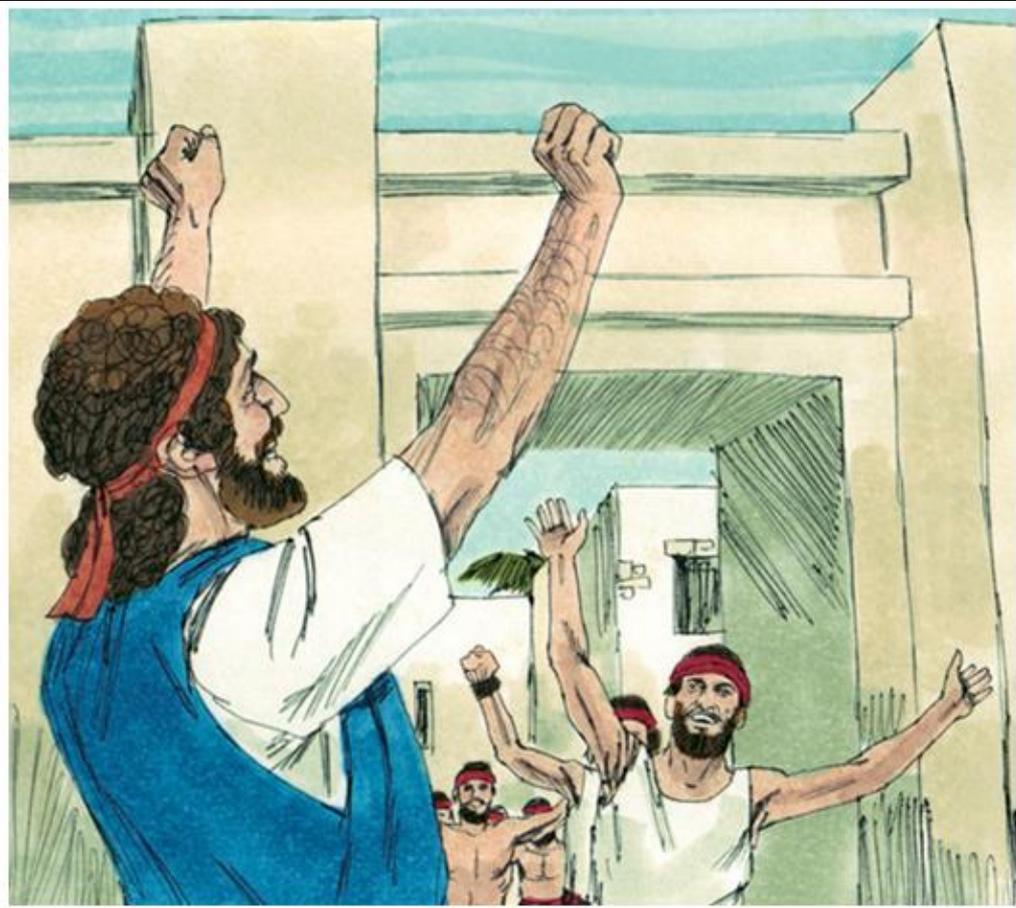
...and turning to God and
accepting what He says.



One of the primary messages from God through the prophets was;



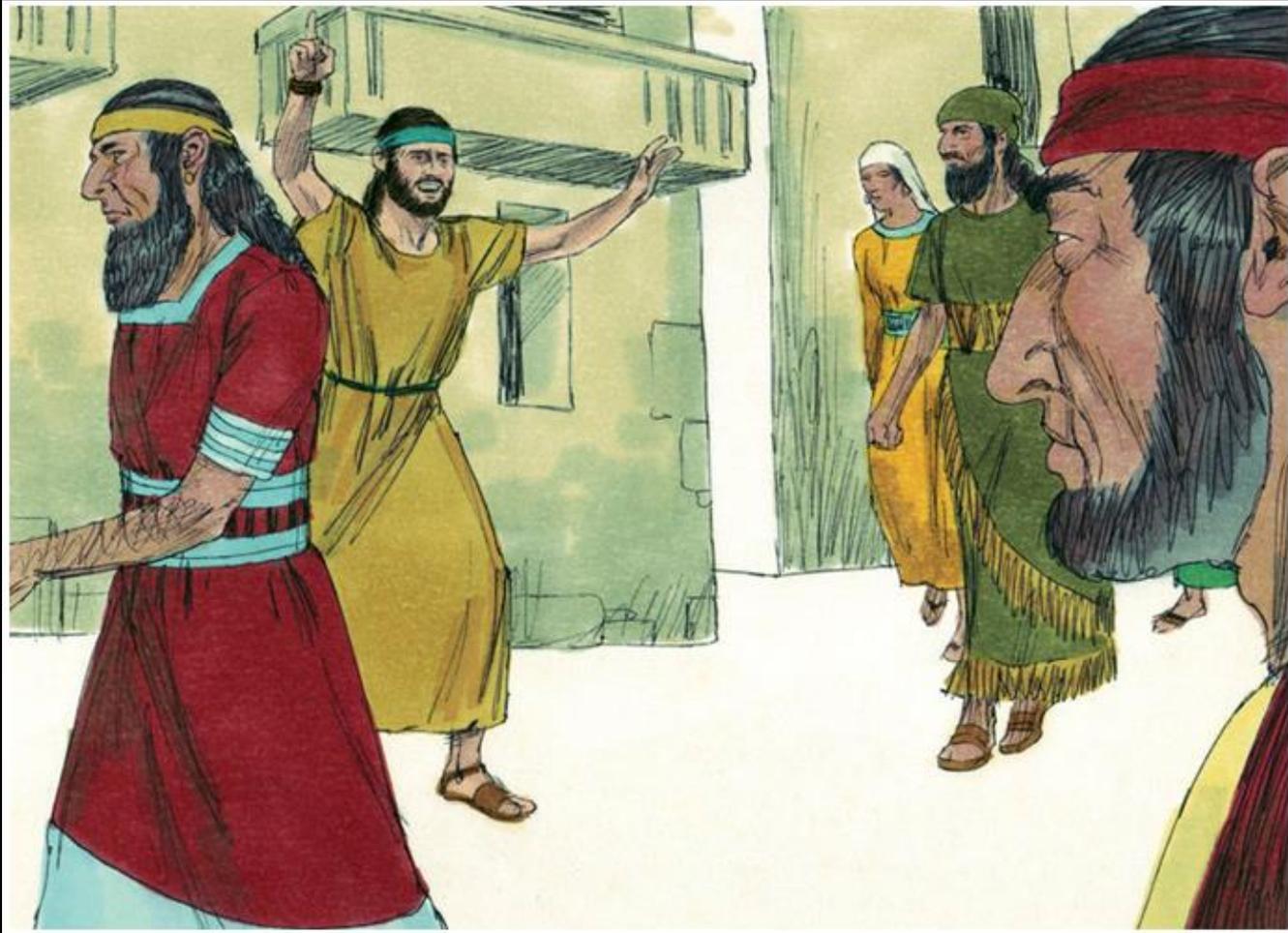
that many of the Israelites who were worshiping in the temple, were also worshiping idols.



God told them that he would not accept worship from anyone who worships anything or anyone else, other than God himself alone.



The prophets finally told the people that the Lord said they must repent or He would **punish** them.



We have to remember, that Israel was God's special, chosen nation to bring salvation to the world. And now this nation was totally rejecting and ignoring God.

God said...

1) He would send their enemies to fight against them

2) Their enemies would conquer them and lead them away as prisoners to foreign lands

3) Israel would be slaves of their enemies in foreign nations

From what we know
about Israel, do you think
they readily accepted
God's message?

NO

Just like in times past, there were always a few people who believed the words of God (*like Noah, Caleb, Joshua*), but the majority of the Israelites refused to obey the words of God and repent.

Instead, they persecuted and killed the prophets, and continued worshipping their idols and followed the ways of the surrounding nations.



Oddly enough, many of them continued to go to the temple and 'worship God', and **performed** all the ceremonies, cleansing and sacrifices...while rejecting the prophets and worshipping idols.



But God did not accept what they did

...because He could see that they
did not mean it in their hearts.

They were only going through the
motions. They did not believe in
what He said!

This can be summarized in Isaiah 29:13

The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men."

And in Isaiah 64:6

*“All of us have become like
one who is unclean, and all
our righteous actions are like
filthy rags.”*

Remind you of anywhere?

2015

The image features the year '2015' in large, bold, 3D-style digits. The '2' is red, the '0' is teal, the '1' is yellow, and the '5' is purple. Each digit has a white outline and a slight shadow, giving it a three-dimensional appearance. The background is dark grey with a white splatter effect, resembling paint or ink, with some white streaks hanging down from the bottom of the digits.

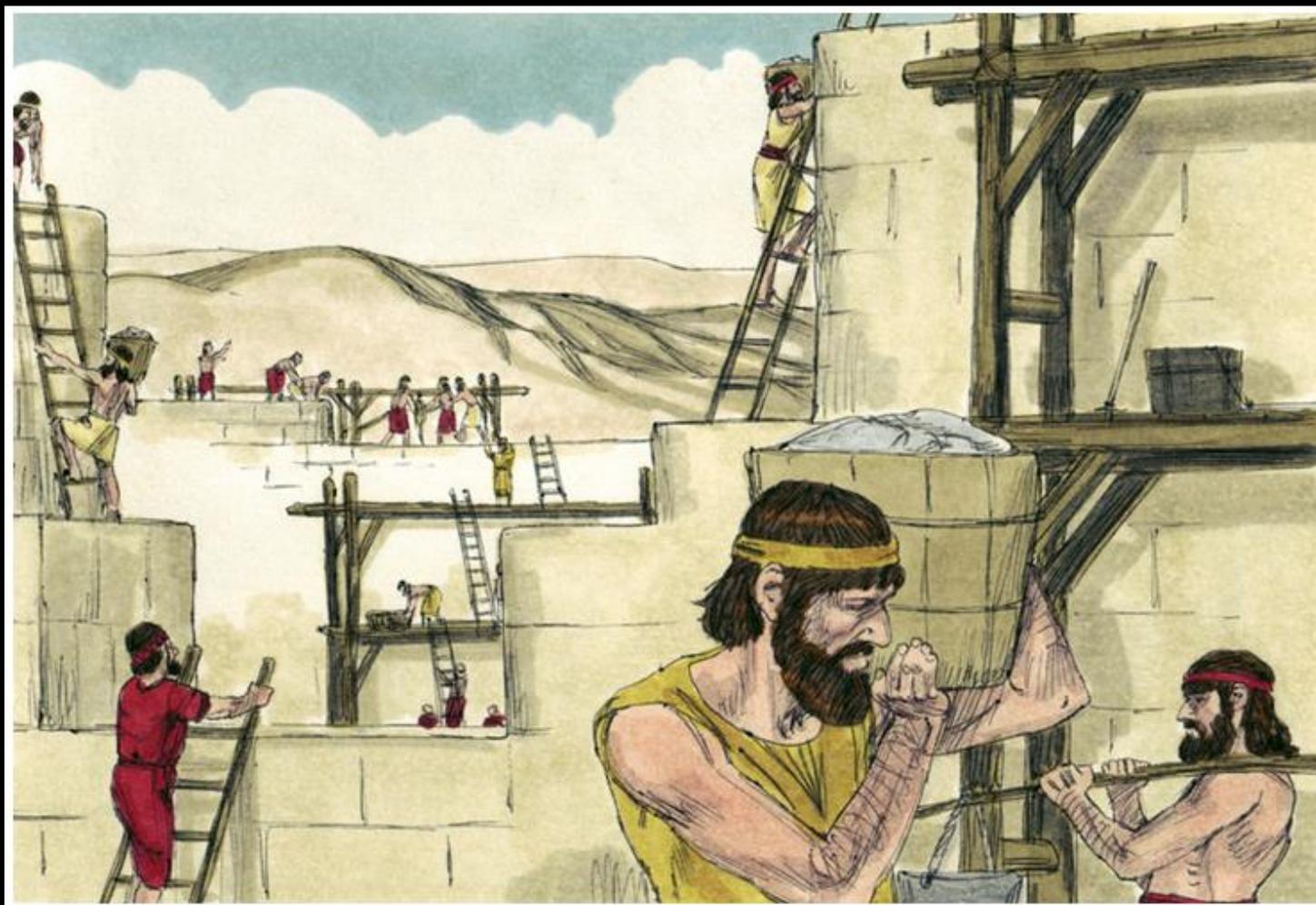
Many of us do the same thing. Singing, giving, attending...but only outwardly. We go through the motions while not having a personal relationship with God or giving any real credibility or time to anything He has to say...



Israel refused to listen and repent...so God allowed their enemies to take their land and take them captive. These nations (*like Babylon*) **destroyed** the temple and the city of Jerusalem (586 BCE).



After many years in captivity and slavery, the people repented and the Lord allowed them the return to Jerusalem. They rebuilt the temple (536 BCE, Zerubbabel, Cyrus) and the city (445 BCE, Nehemiah).



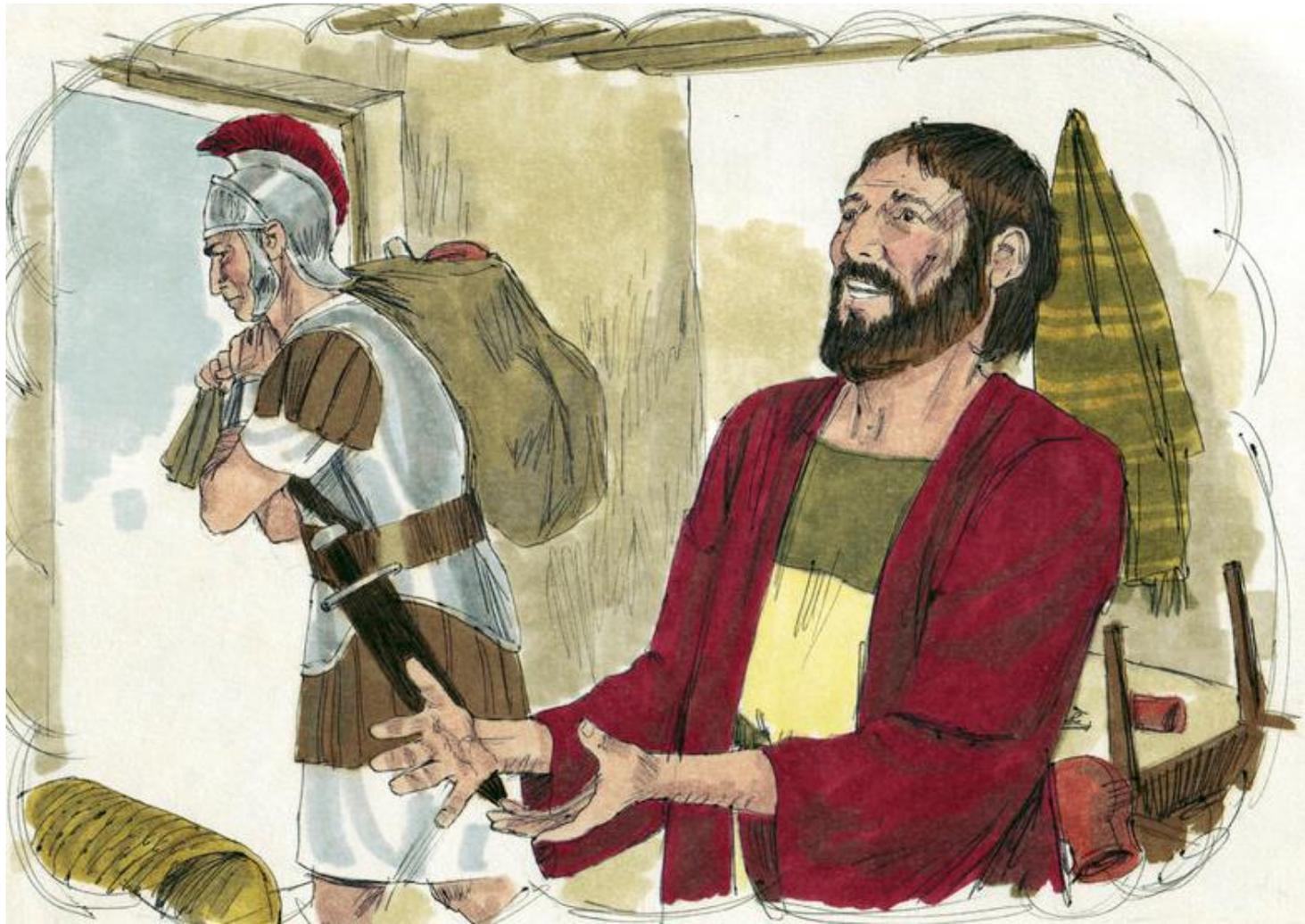
However, the people picked up their traditions and systems of worship and never truly believed God or did what He wanted in everyday life.

They just went by what they thought was right or what they thought God wanted.

So, God punished them once again, and allowed the Greeks (from Greece etc.) to take them over. The Jews even were taught to speak Greek.



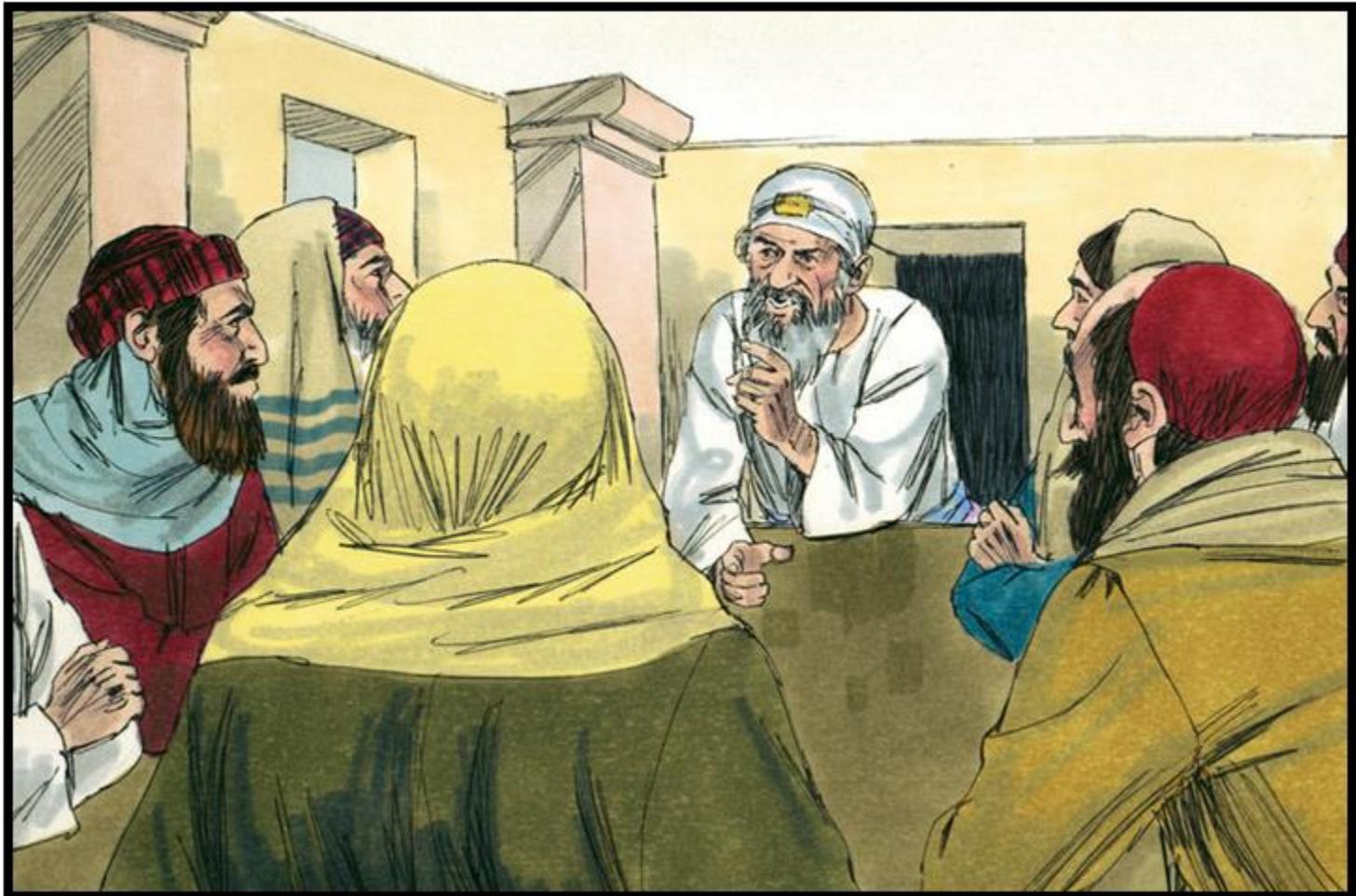
The Romans ruled over Israel, making them follow their laws and pay taxes. If they did not, they would be killed (by sword, crucifixion).



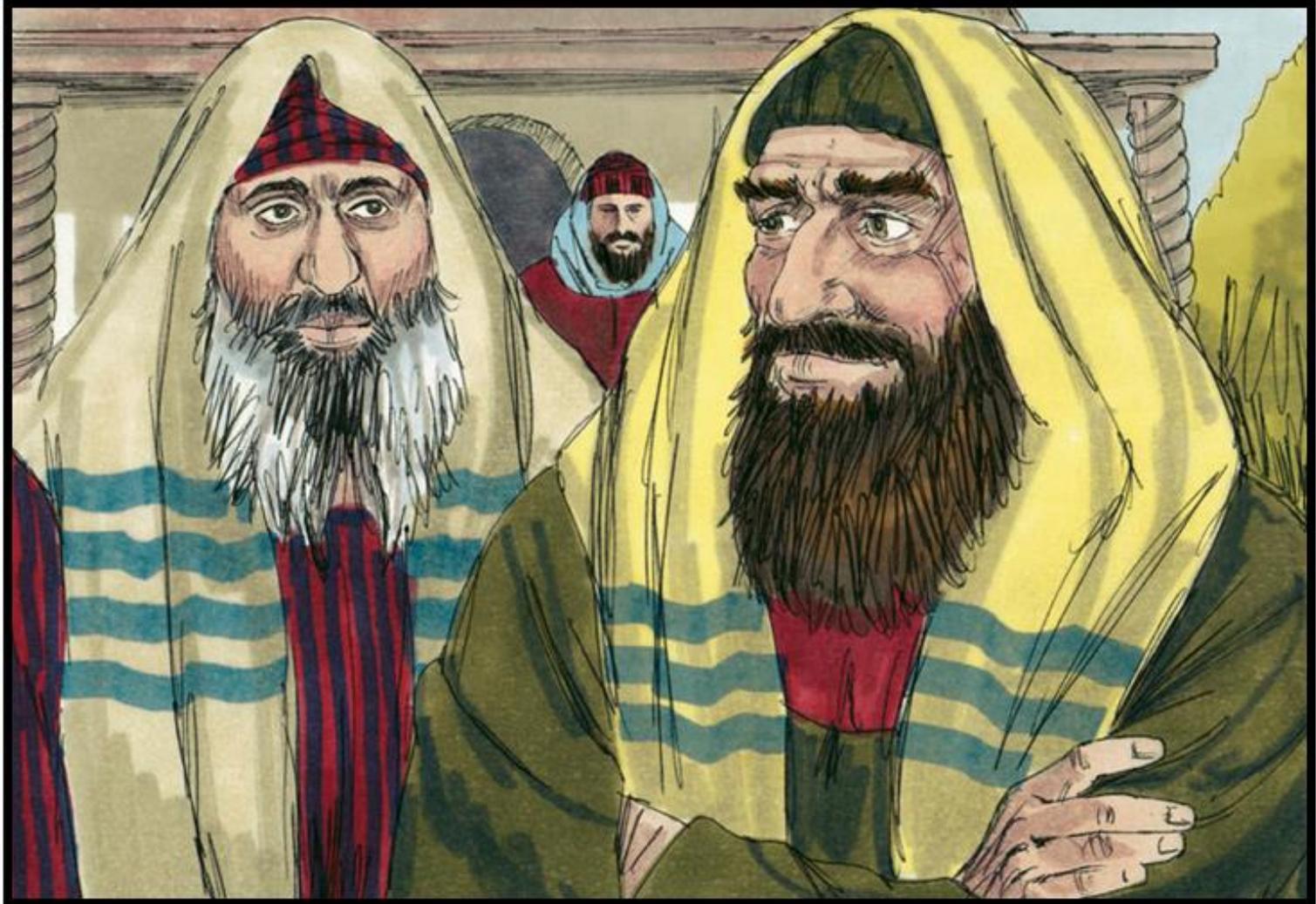
Caesar appointed men to rule for him in the countries he conquered. The Romans worshiped many idols and false gods, including Caesar himself.



The Israelites were still allowed to practice their beliefs and worship in the Temple. The Israelites also built meeting places called synagogues, where they could read and teach the OT.



The majority of the people who went to these meetings did so to fulfill cultural or man made religious duties; not to know and worship God.



The common people did not have much of God's word to them, nor did they know how to come to Him. They simply followed the system of rules and traditions that had been decided and made by the leaders during these meetings.

Overall, Israel thought they were pretty good and was doing what they should, in order to please God. **They didn't know they were lost and wrong.**

This is the **setting** that the deliver will arrive upon.

