

Online Bible for Children
presents

THE
HANDSOME
FOOLISH
KING



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The Bible text in this story is from:

The New King James Version

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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.



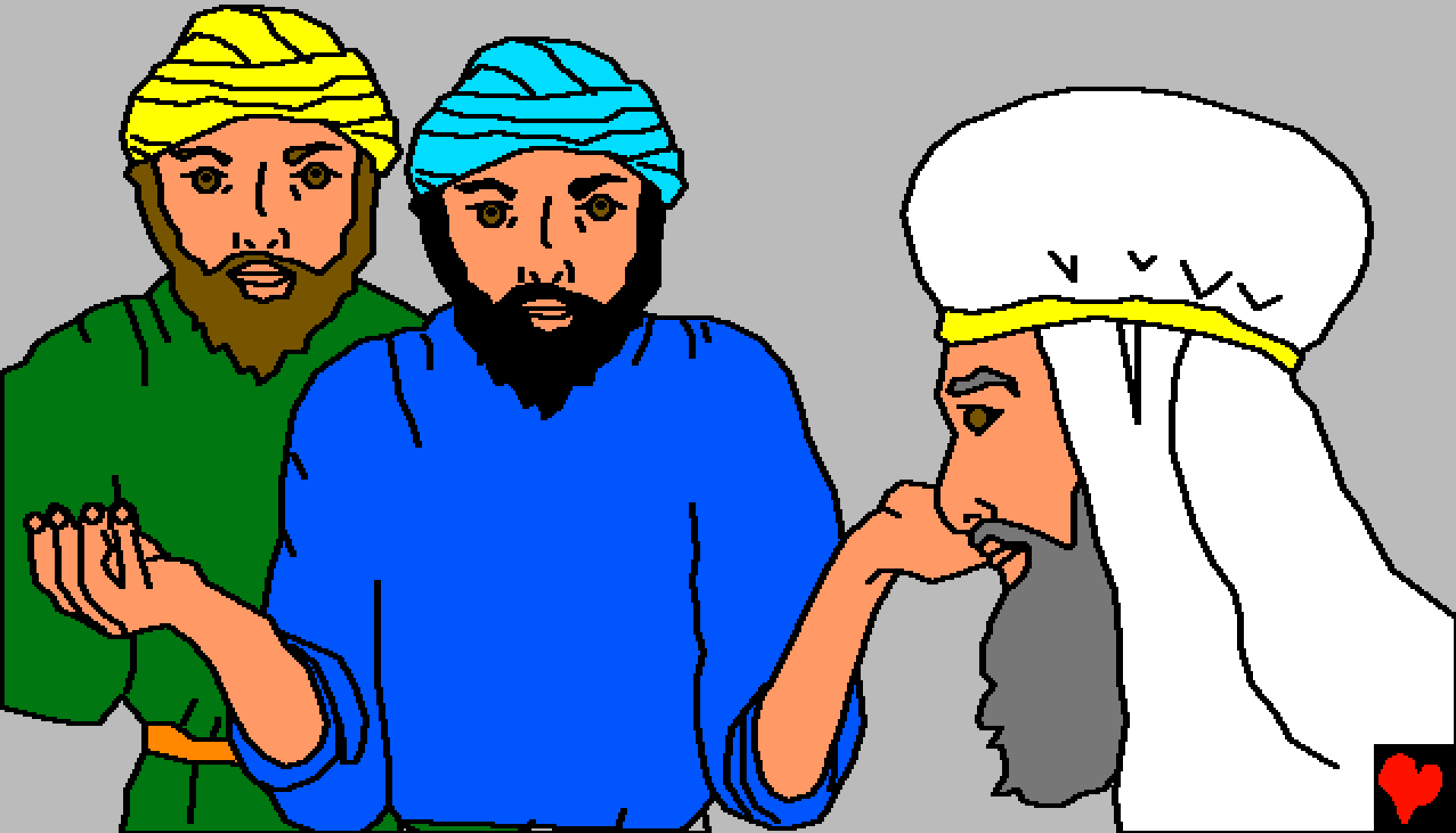
But Samuel's sons were wicked. They loved money and used their power to get money dishonestly.



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



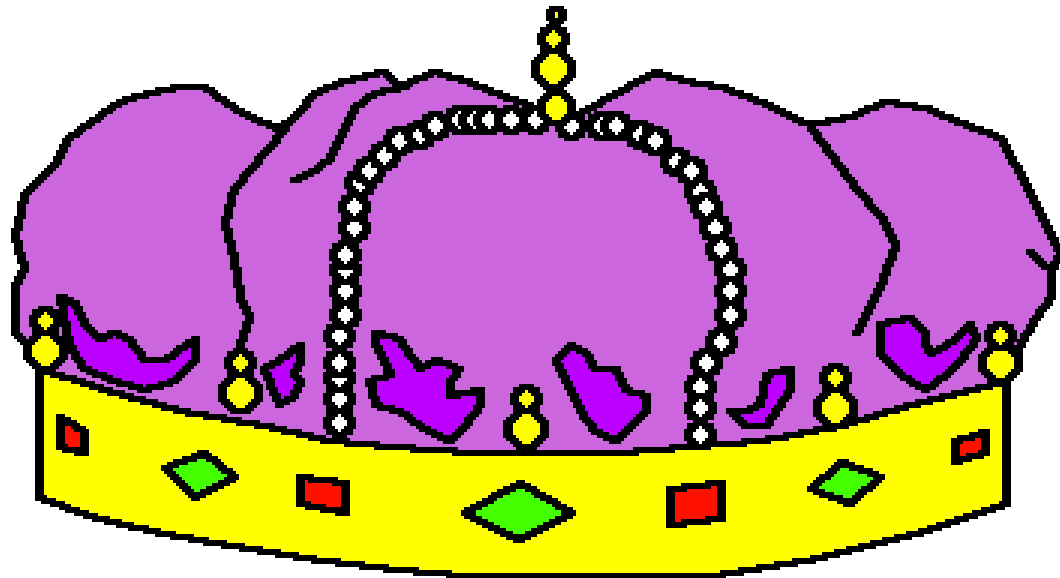
People had to pay Samuel's sons every time they wanted help.



Something had to be done. One day, the elders of Israel gathered together and asked Samuel for help.

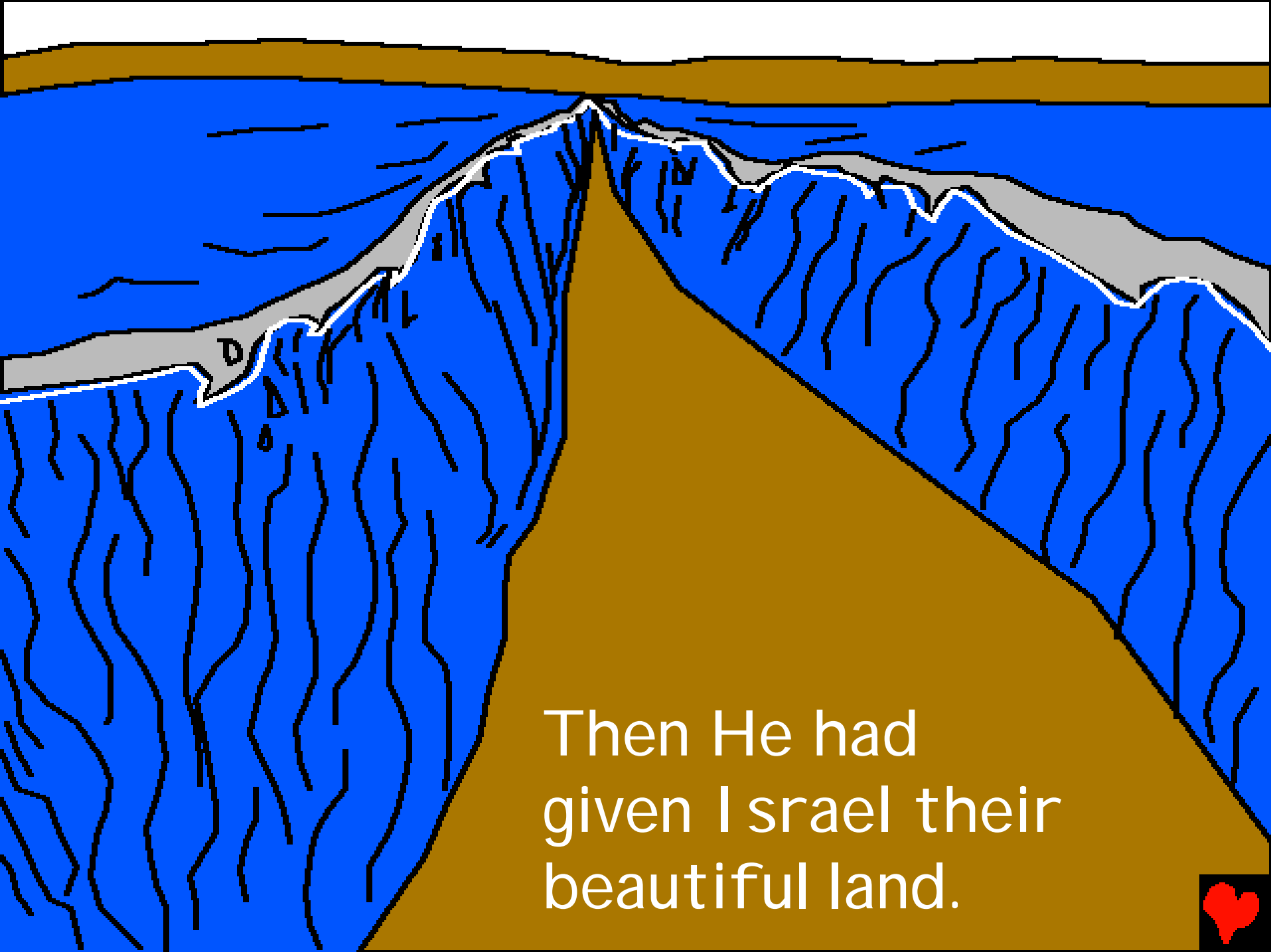


"Give us a king to judge us," the elders demanded. They did not want Samuel's wicked sons to judge them. They wanted a king just like all the nations around them.



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.

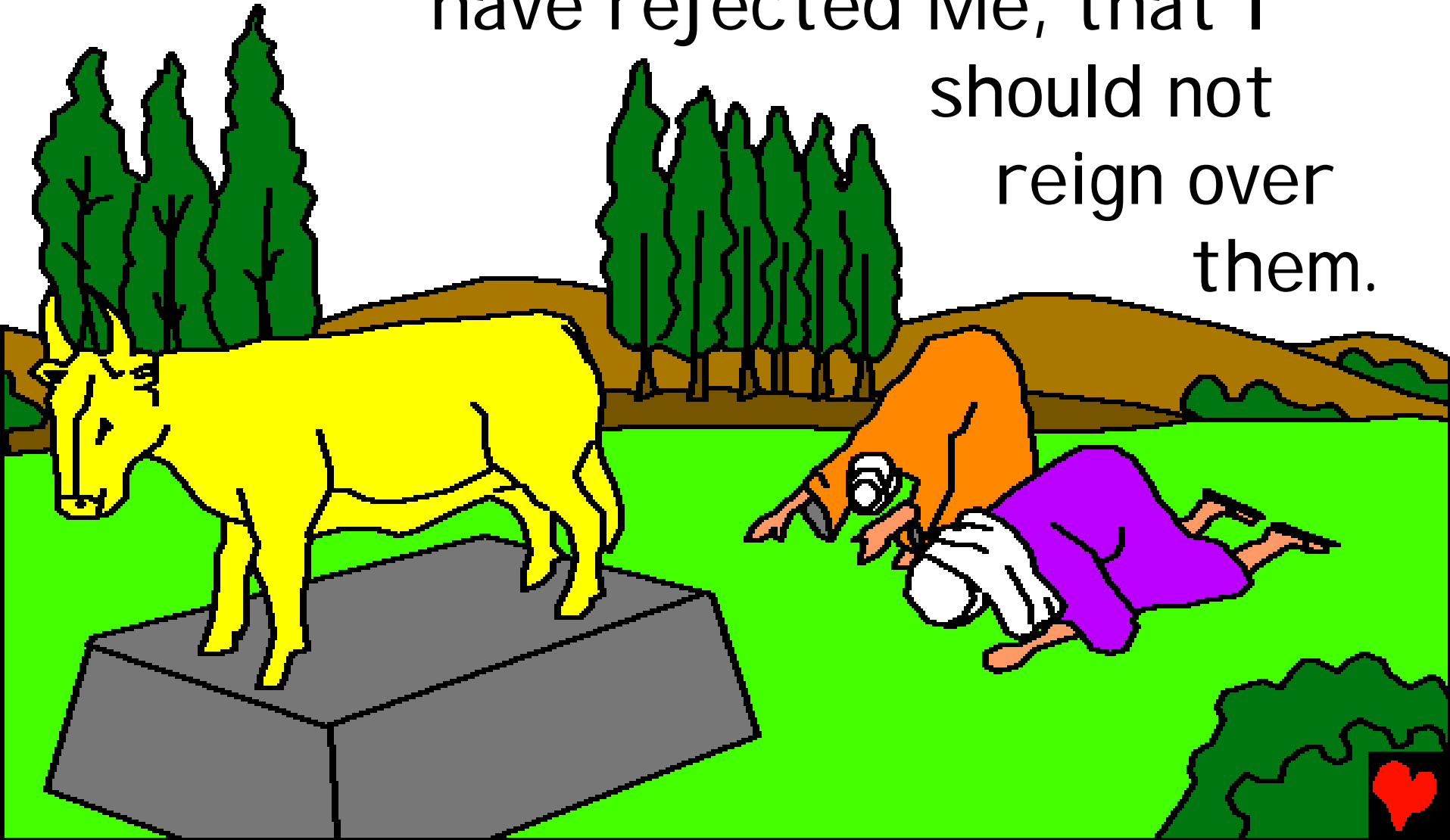




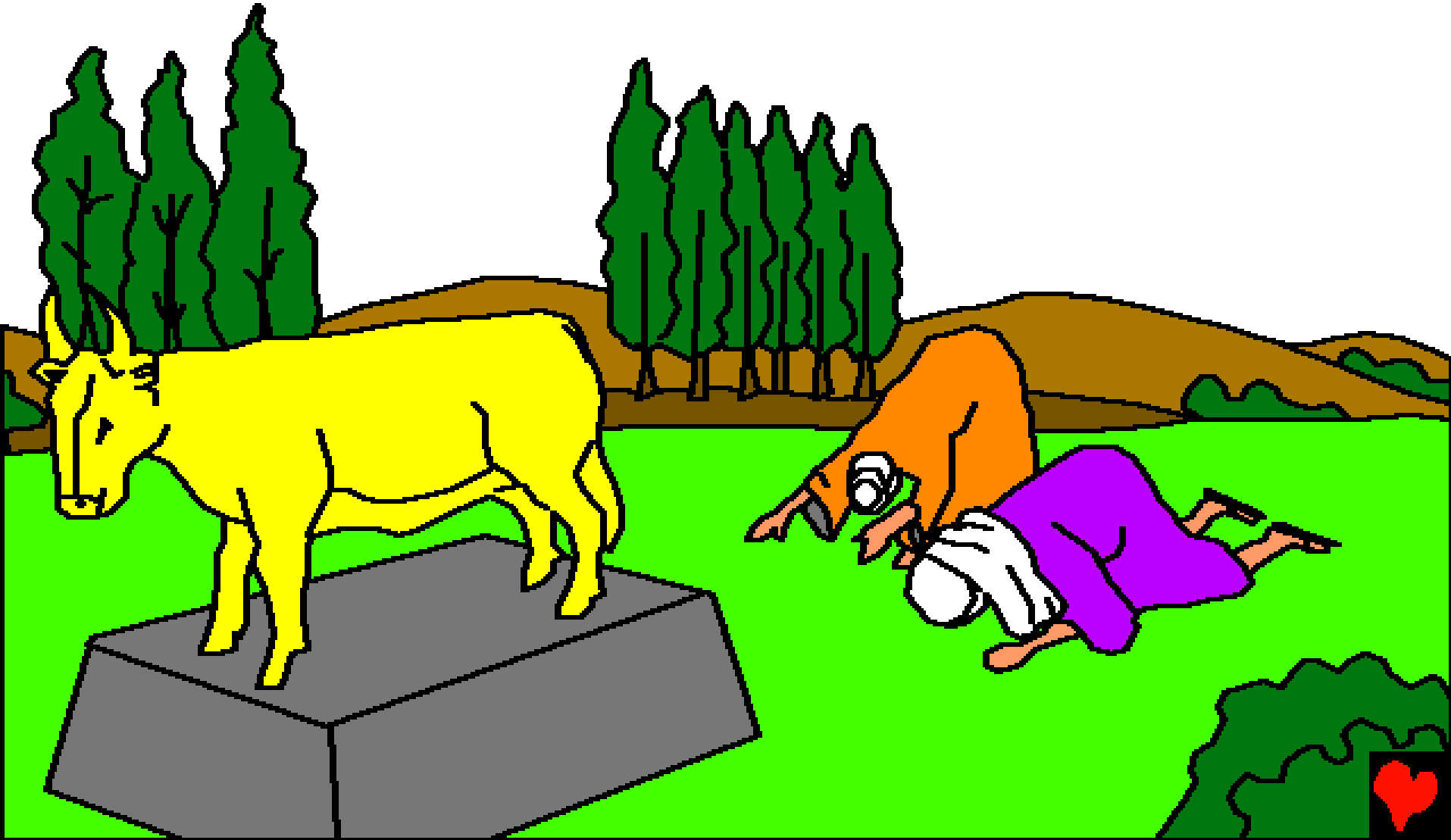
Then He had
given Israel their
beautiful land.



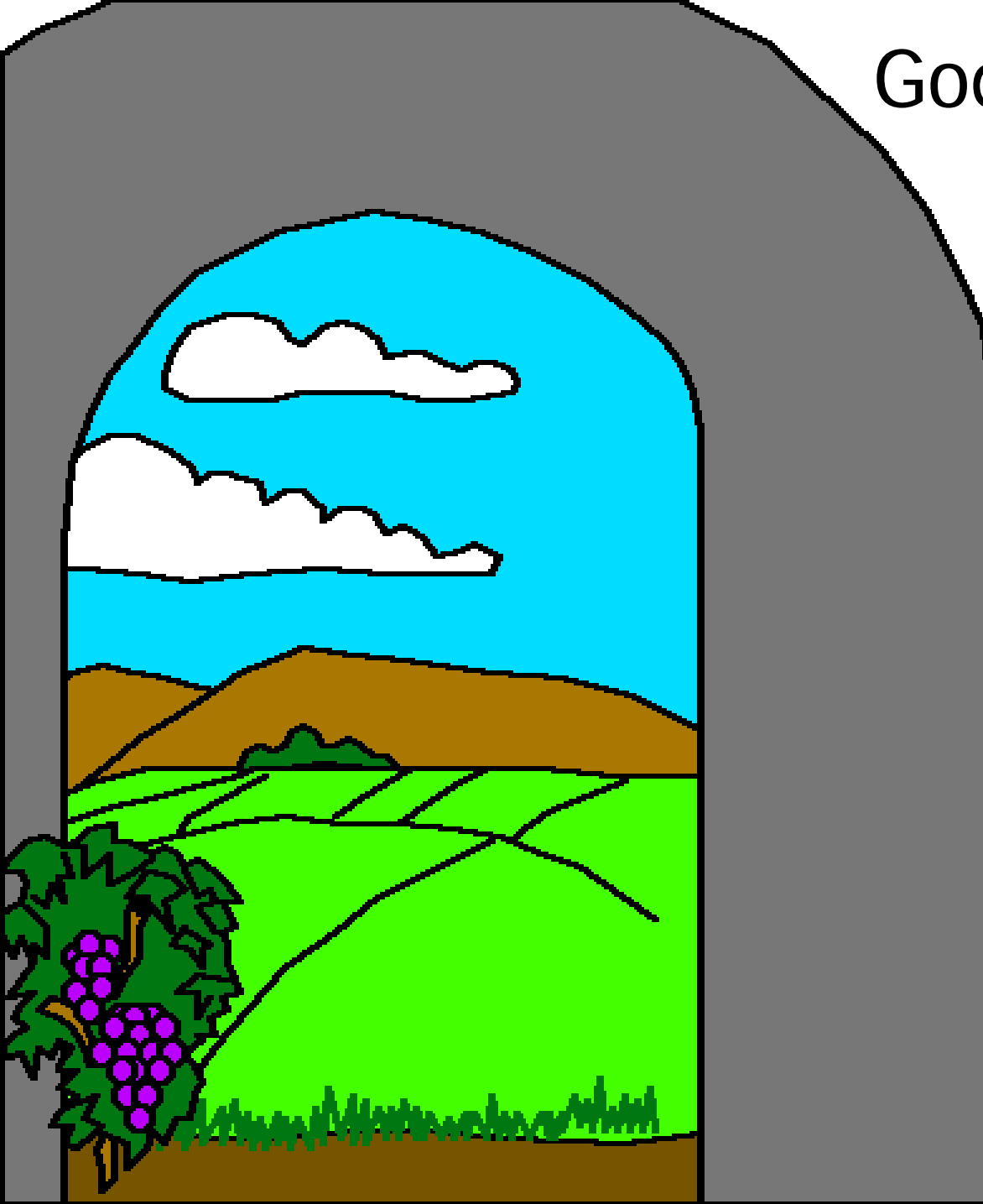
When Samuel prayed, the LORD said,
"They have not rejected you, but they
have rejected Me, that I
should not
reign over
them."

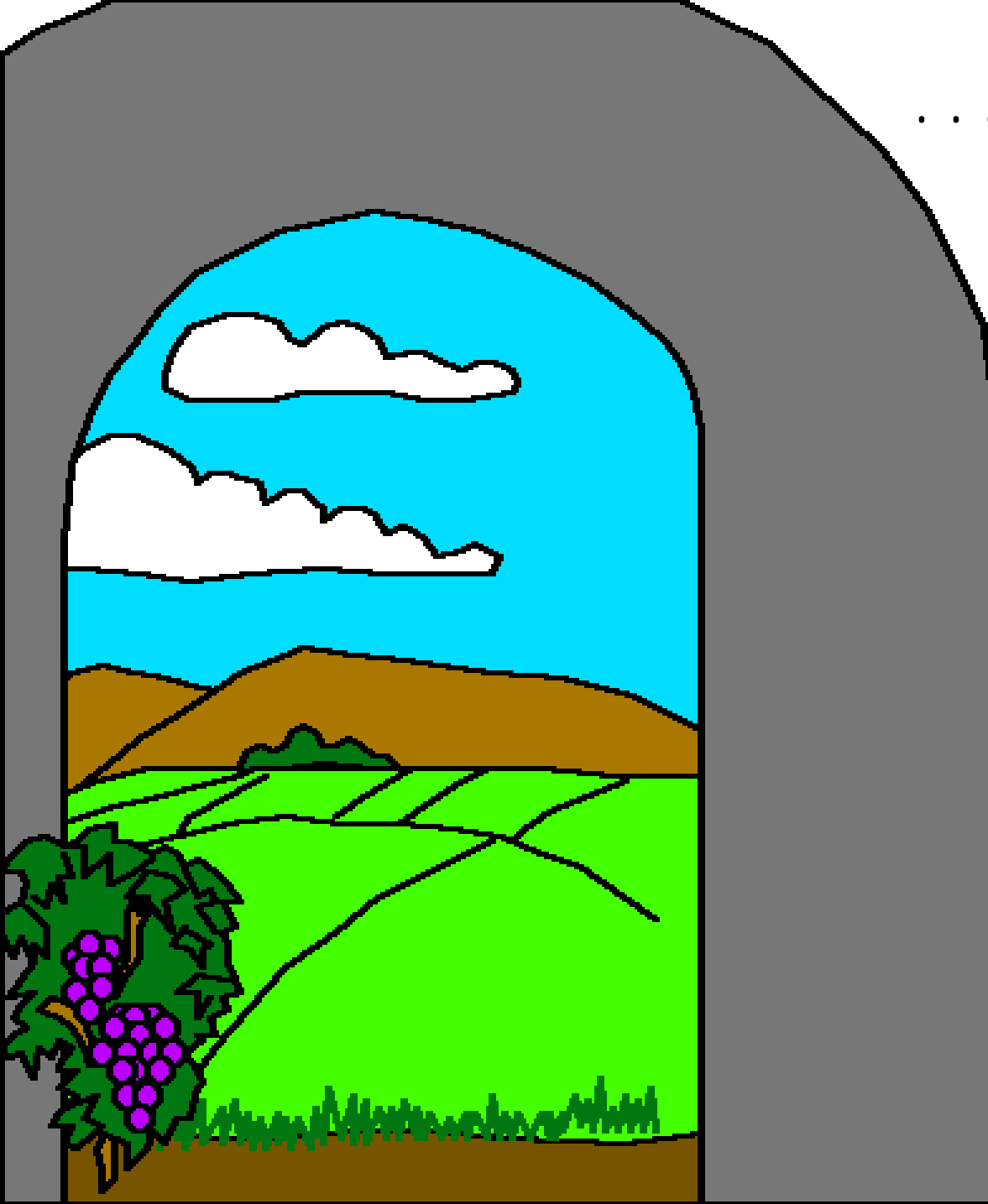


They have served other gods. Heed their voice and make them a king."



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."

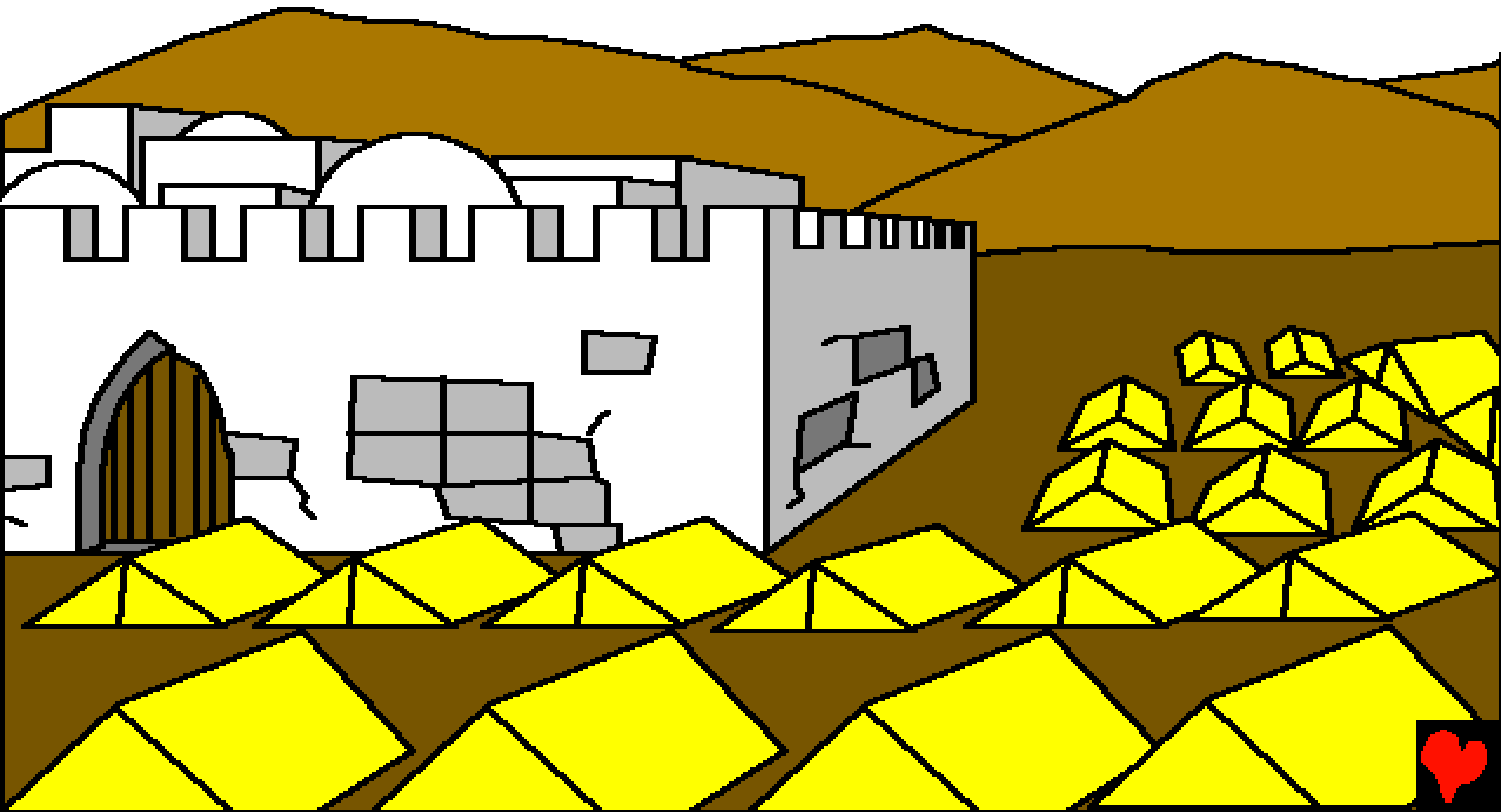




Obediently,
Samuel anointed
Saul as king of
Israel. When he
presented Saul to
the people of
Israel, they cried,
"Long live the
King!"



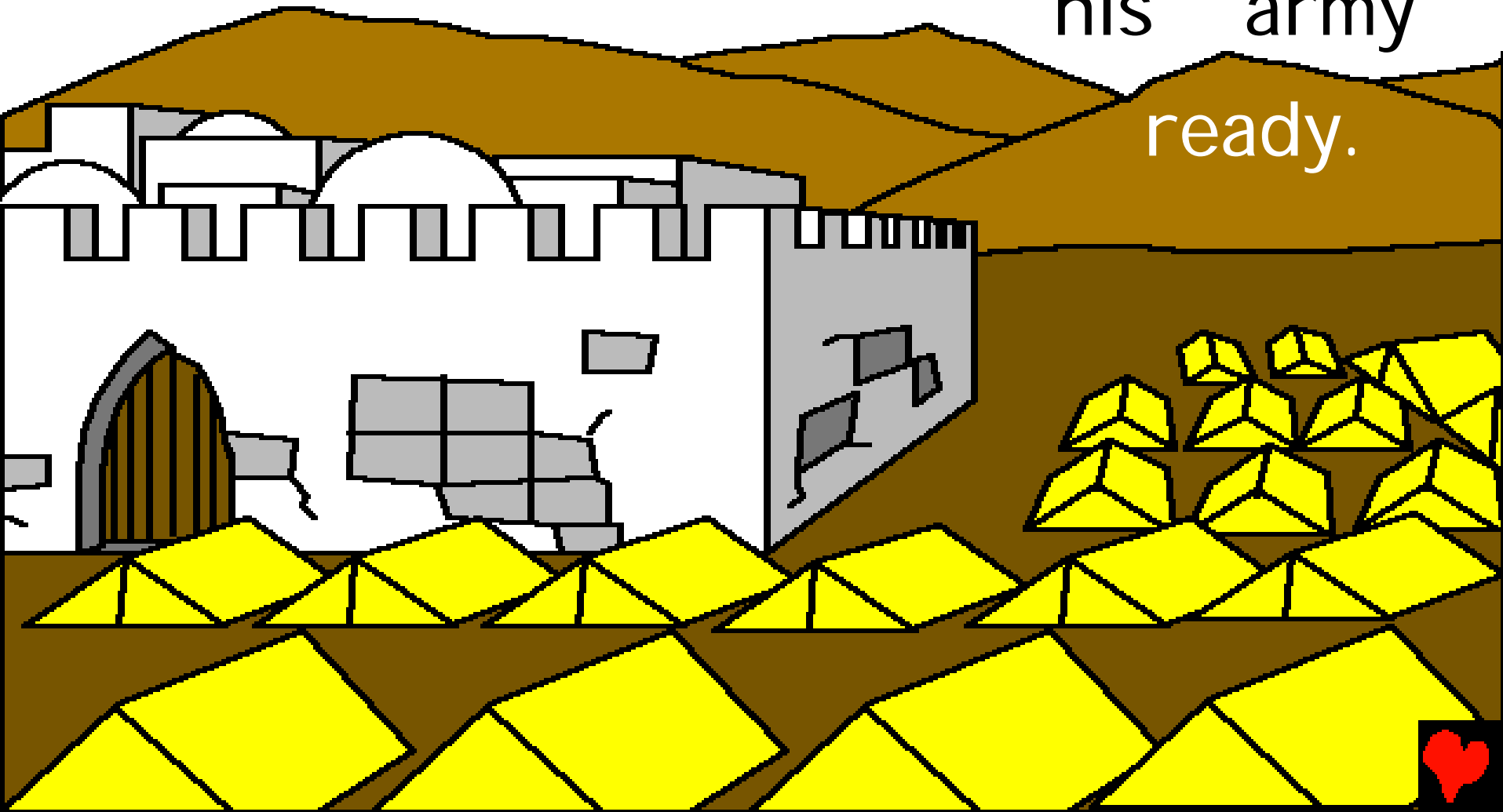
Soon King Saul was tested. The Ammonites, who hated Israel, surrounded an Israelite city and . . .



...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."

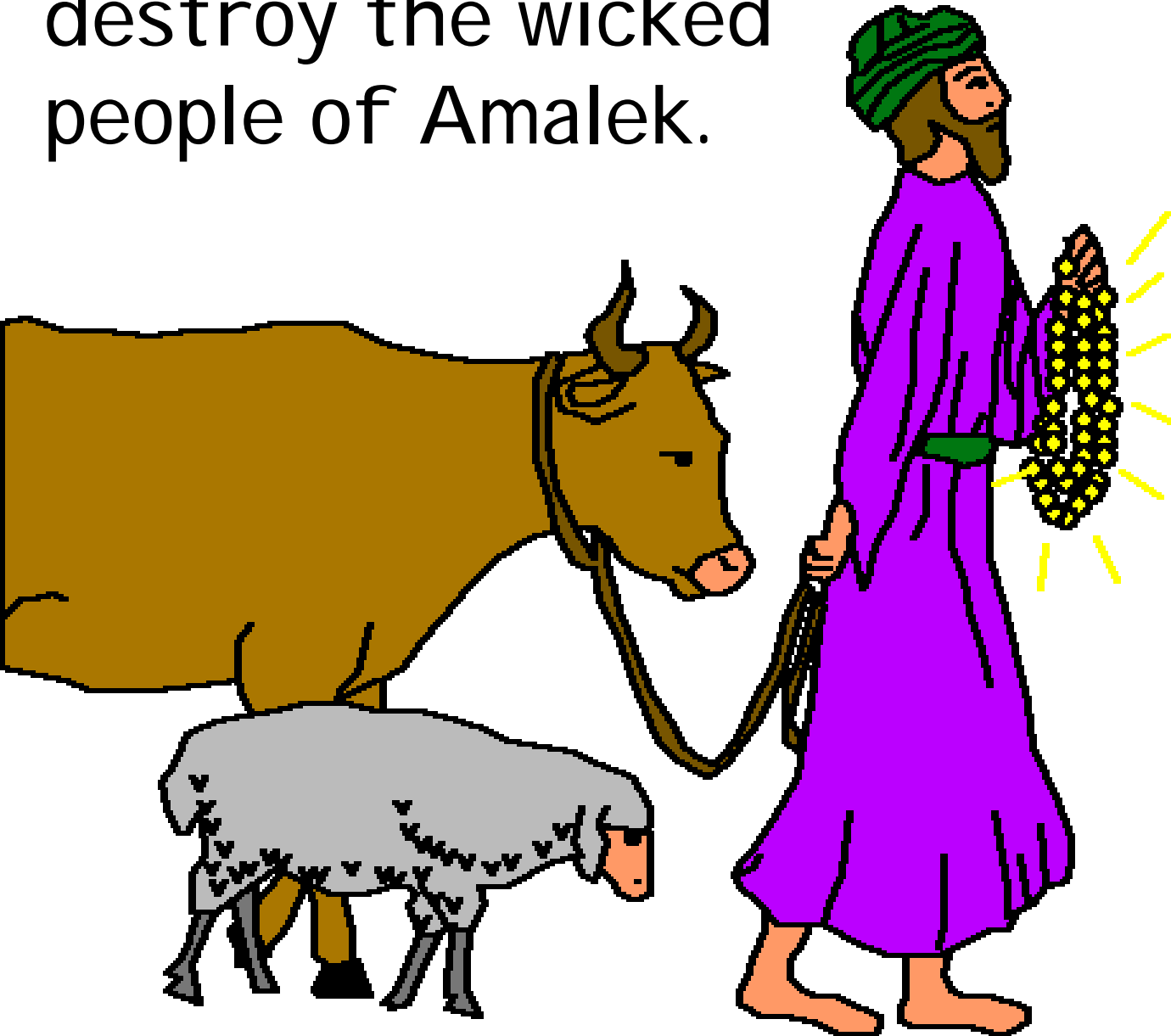
Saul may have thought it was a small sin. But disobedience to

God is

always
ser-
ious.



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



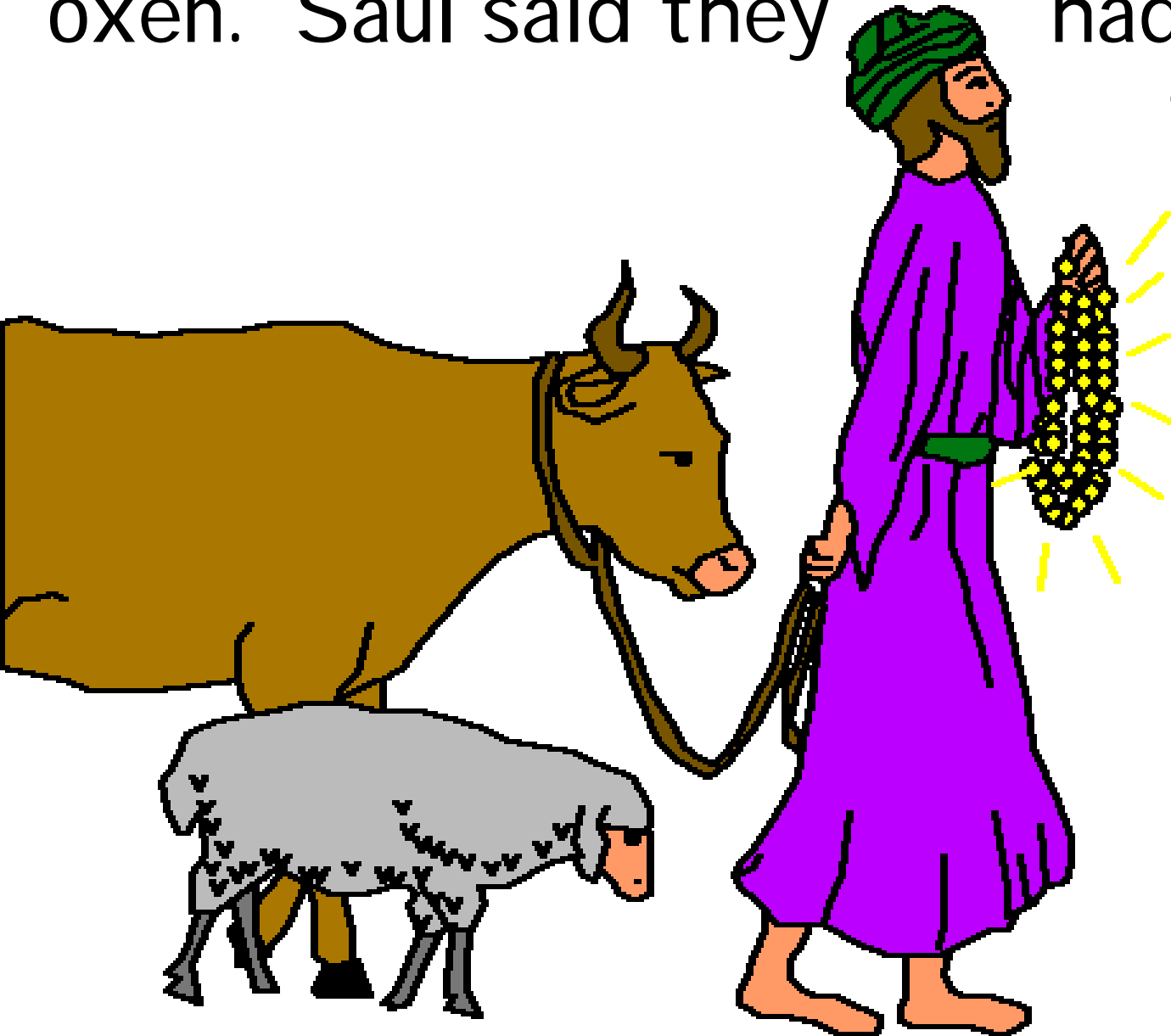
But Saul and the people let King Agag of Amalek live.

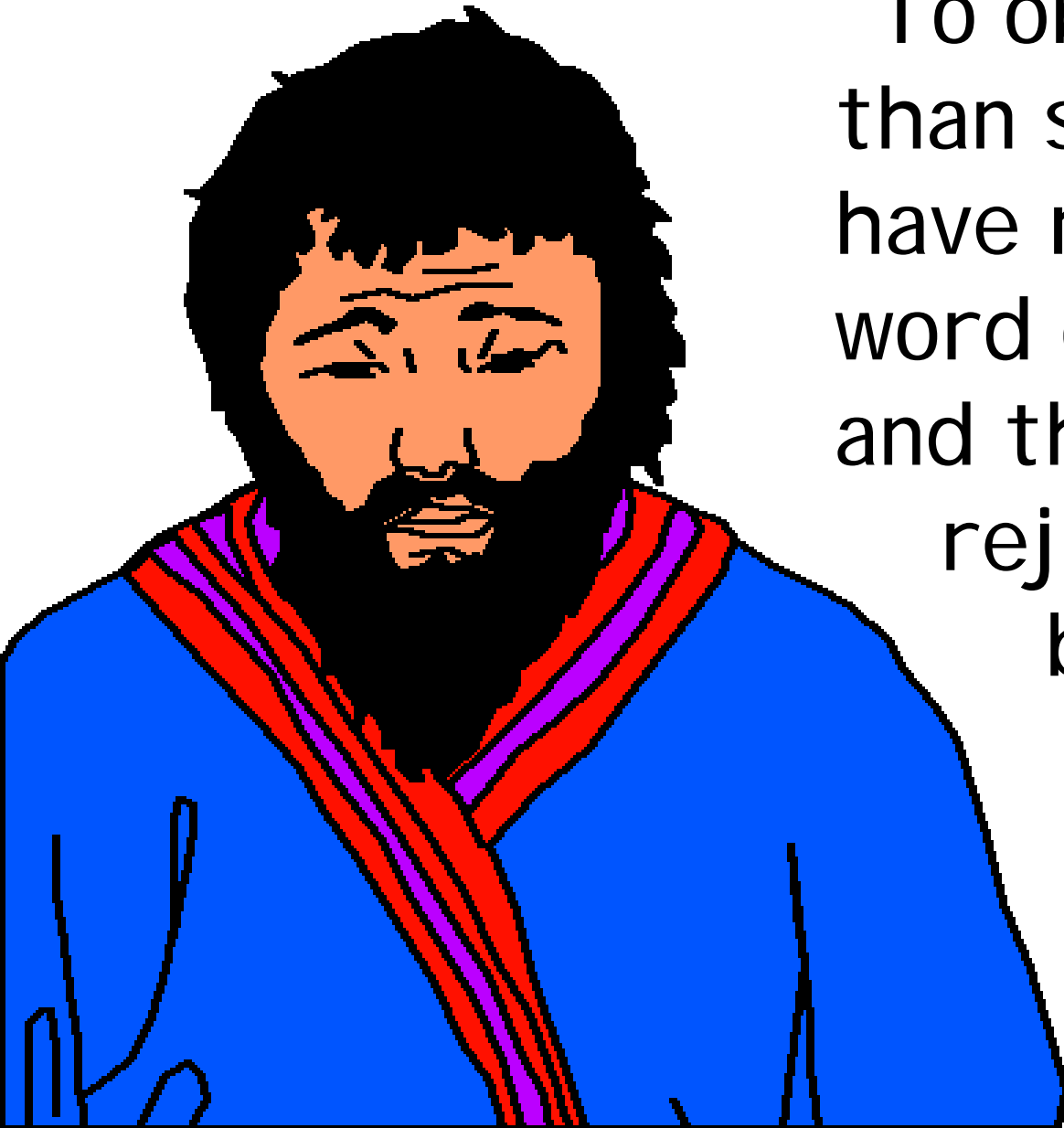


They also kept valuables, sheep and oxen. Saul said they

had kept these

things to sacrifice to the Lord.

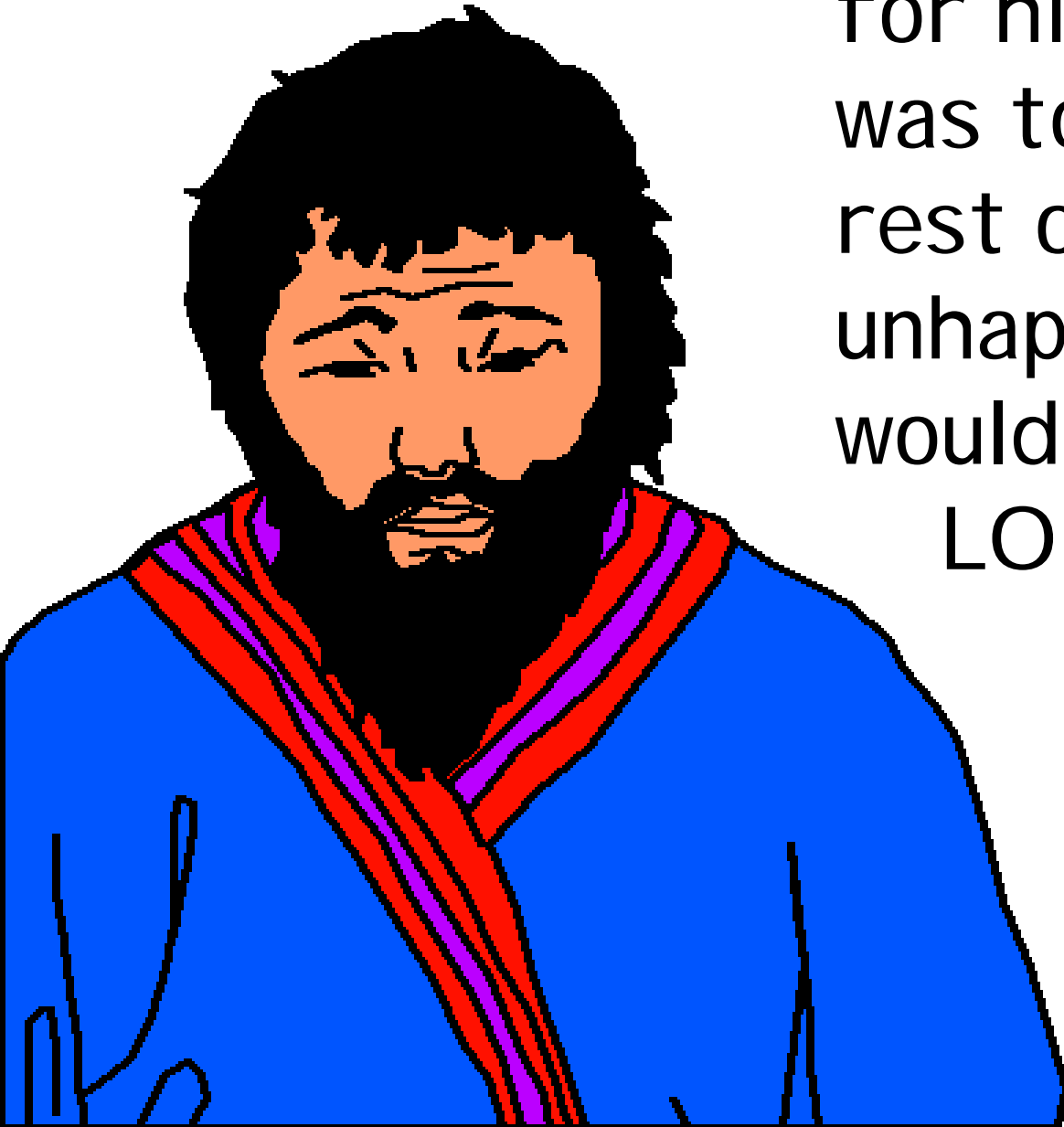




Samuel told Saul,
"To obey is better
than sacrifice. You
have rejected the
word of the LORD,
and the LORD has
rejected you from
being king over
Israel."



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

