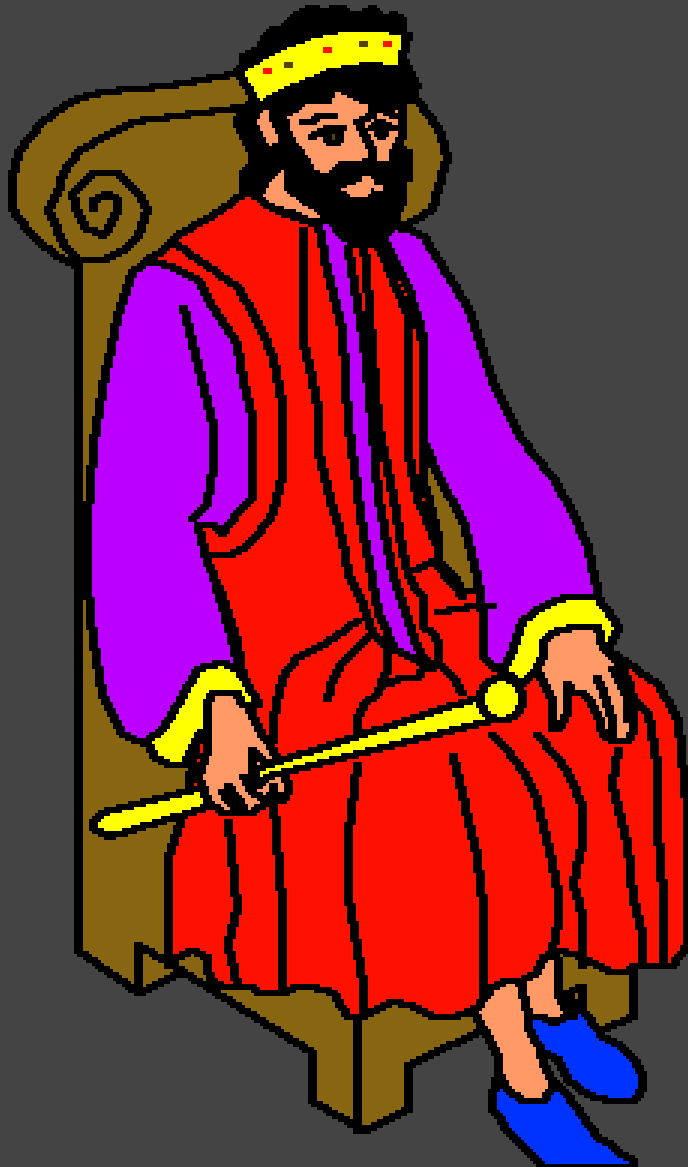


Online Bible for Children

presents



WISE KING SOLOMON



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Illustrated by Janie Forest and Lazarus

Adapted by Lyn Doerksen

The Bible text in this story is from:

The New King James Version

©1979, 1980, 1982, Thomas Nelson, Inc.,
Publishers

Produced by Genesis Research Corporation

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King David was a great man of God.
During his rule, Israel had grown ten
times larger than King Saul's kingdom.

But now
he could
not rule
any
longer.



David was old. And tired! And sick! His life on earth was nearing its end.





One of David's many sons, Adonijah, told the people of Israel he would now be king. Although his name means "My Lord is God", Adonijah was not a good man.

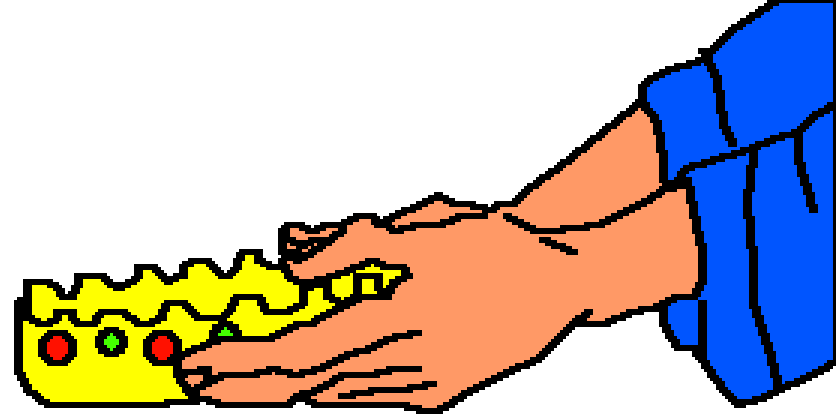




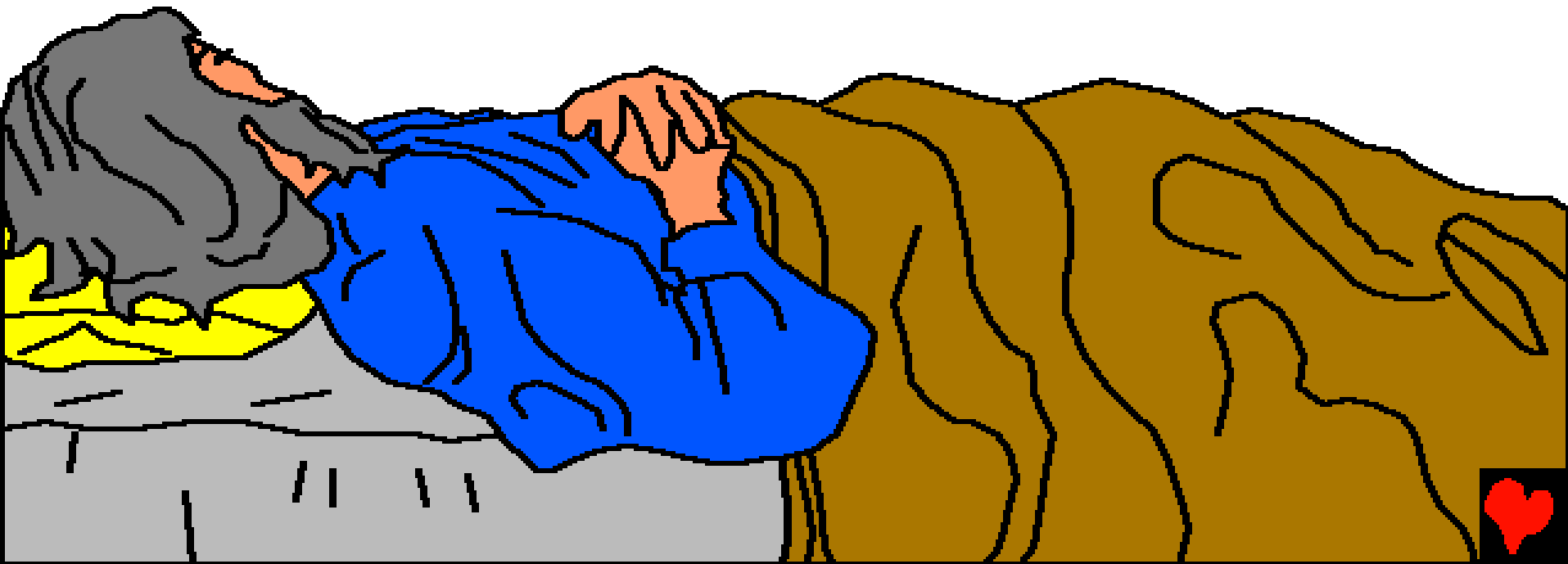
He tried to steal the throne, knowing David was too weak to resist him. But God had other plans!

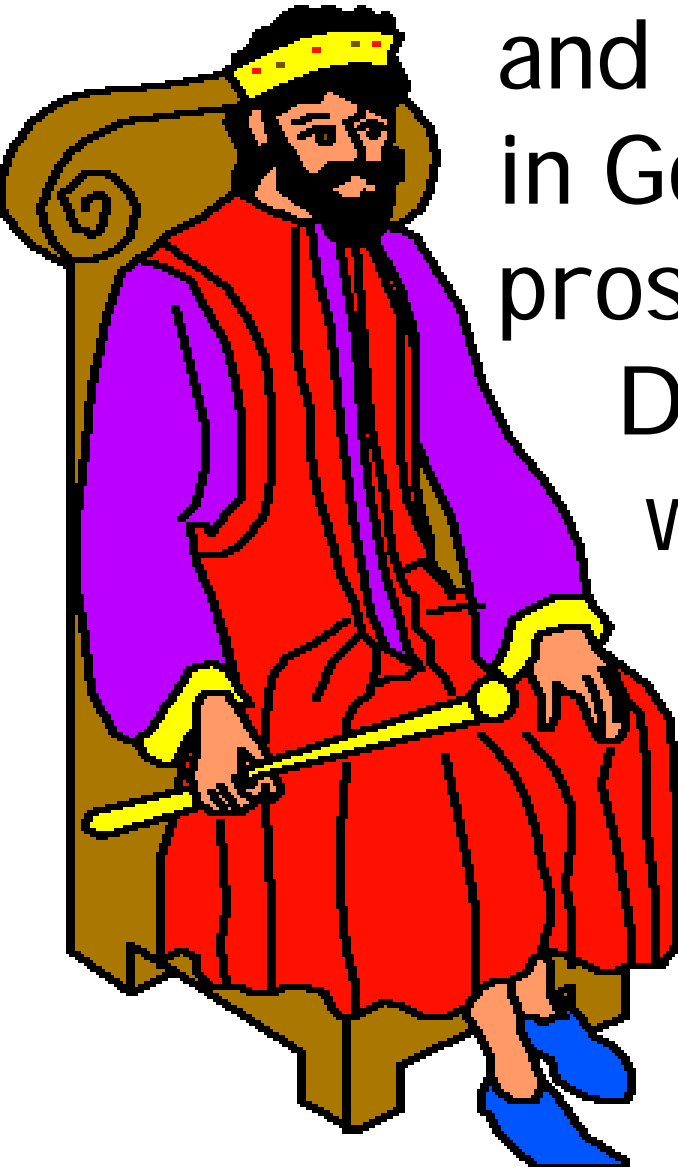


David's wife
Bathsheba knew her
son Solomon should
be king. She told
David about
Adonijah's plans.
Sick as he was,
David gathered his
leaders together
and publicly made
Solomon king of
Israel.



Solomon had no more trouble with Adonijah because the people of Israel believed David. David told them Solomon was the one God had chosen to be their king. Shortly afterwards, David died.





Before David died, he talked to Solomon about obeying God and being a good king. "Walk in God's ways, that you may prosper in all that you do,"

David told his son. That was good advice! Then Solomon sat on the throne of his father, David, and his kingdom was firmly established.



One night, Solomon had a dream.
In his dream, God
appeared to him
and said
"Ask! What
shall I give
you?"
What
would
you have
asked
for?



Solomon asked for wisdom to be a good king. The young king's request pleased God.



Solomon got what he
asked for - but God
also promised
him great
riches and
honor.



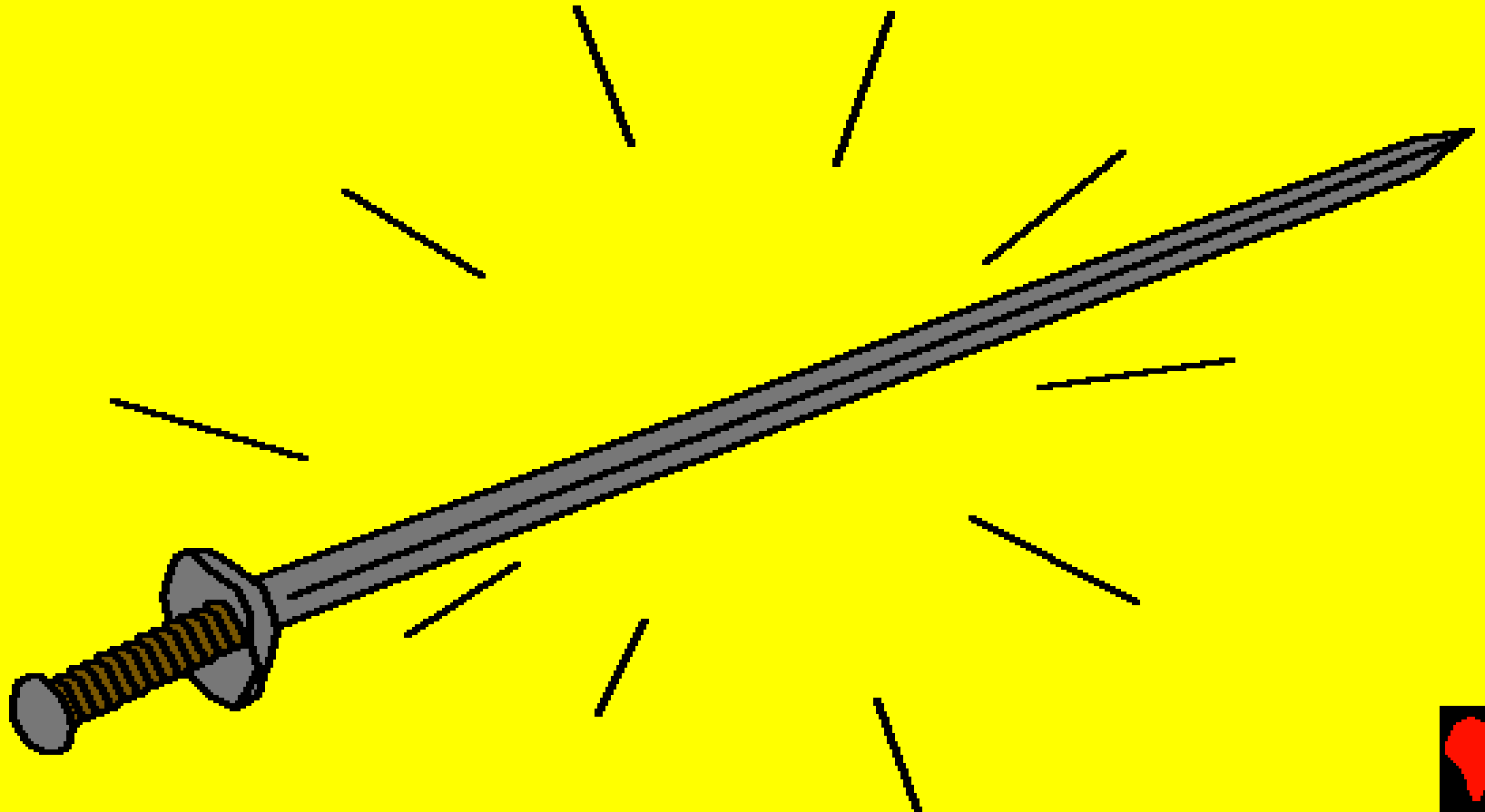
It did not take long for people to discover Solomon's wisdom. One day, two mothers came before him, with one baby. "This woman's son died in the night, and she switched her dead baby for my live one," one lady said.



"No! But the living one is MY son, and the dead one is your son," the other lady said. How could the king tell which was the true mother?



Then the king said, "Bring me a sword."
So they brought a sword before the
king. What do you think the king was
planning to do with a sword?



And the king said, "Divide the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other." Then the mother of the living baby said, "O my lord, give her the living child and by no means kill him."



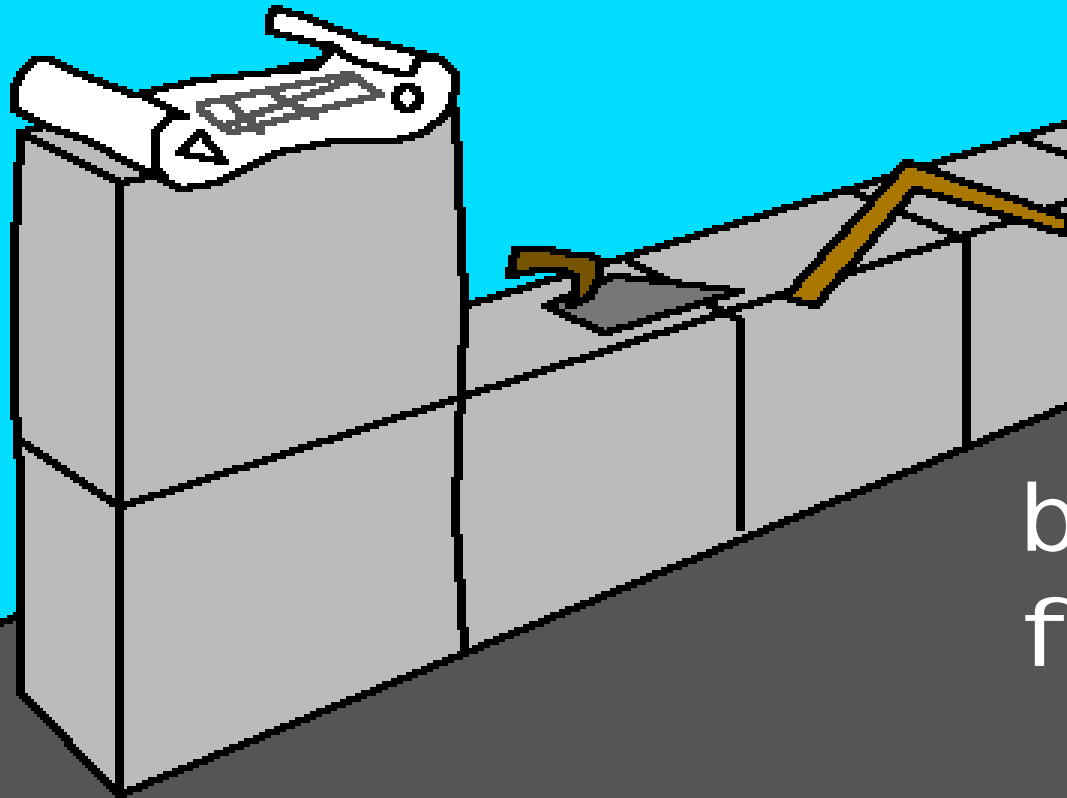
But the other said, "Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him."



So the king said, "Give the first woman the living child. She is the mother." And all Israel heard of the judgment, and they greatly respected the king. They saw that the wisdom of God was in him.



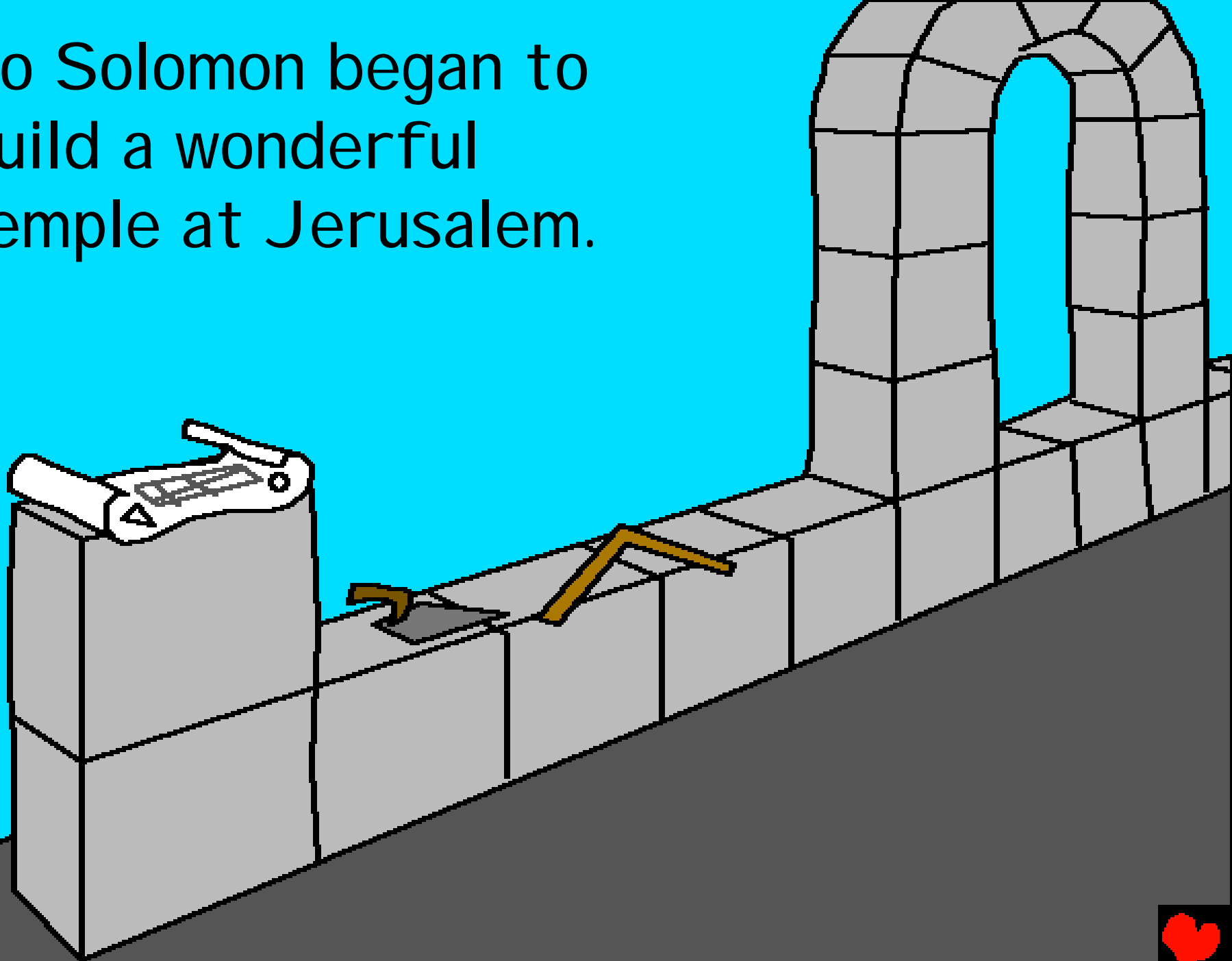
The people of Israel had no temple in which to worship God. When David planned to build one, God had said, "Your son shall



build the house
for My Name."

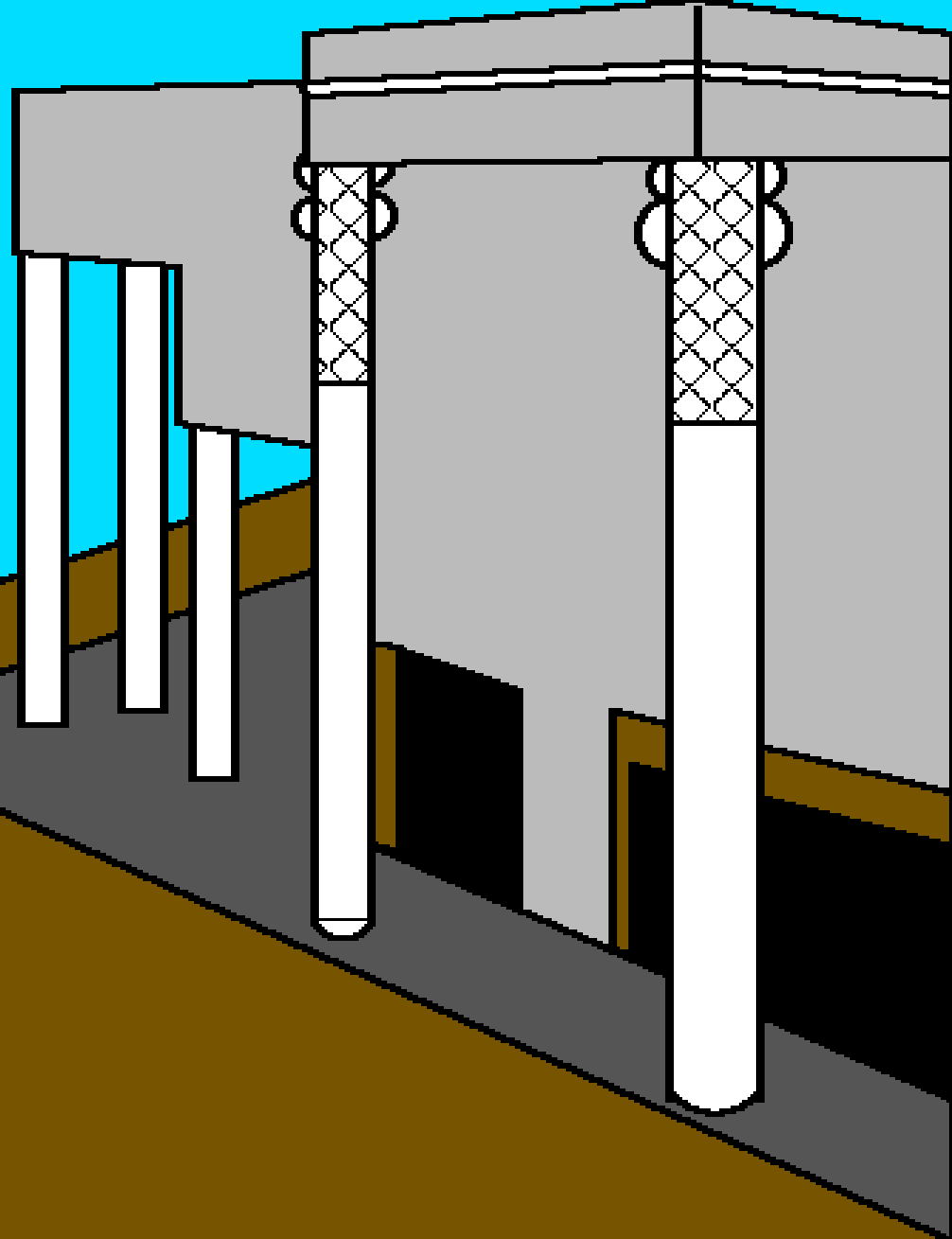


So Solomon began to build a wonderful temple at Jerusalem.



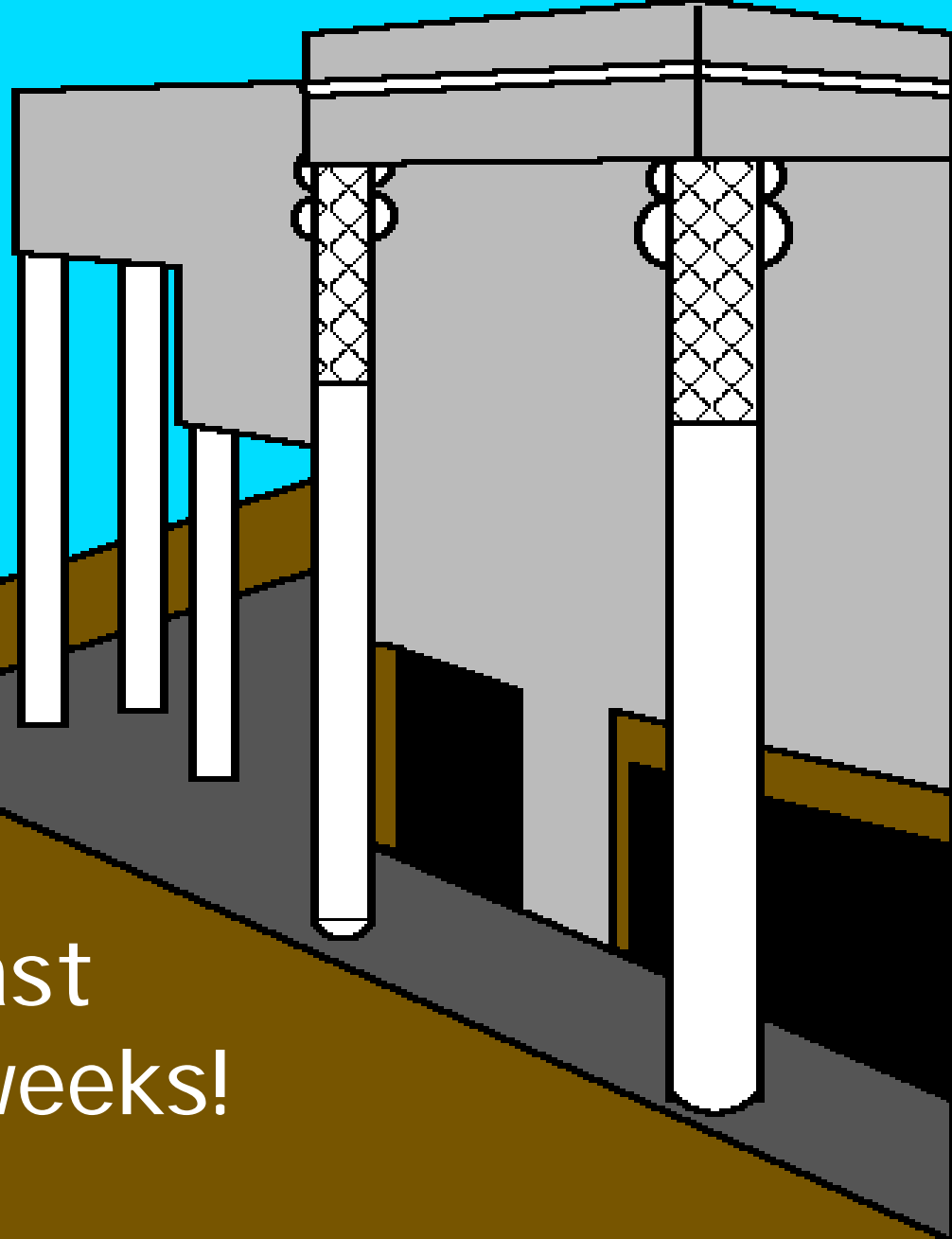
It took seven long years to build the temple. But the great day came when everybody gathered to

hear Solomon dedicate the temple to the LORD.

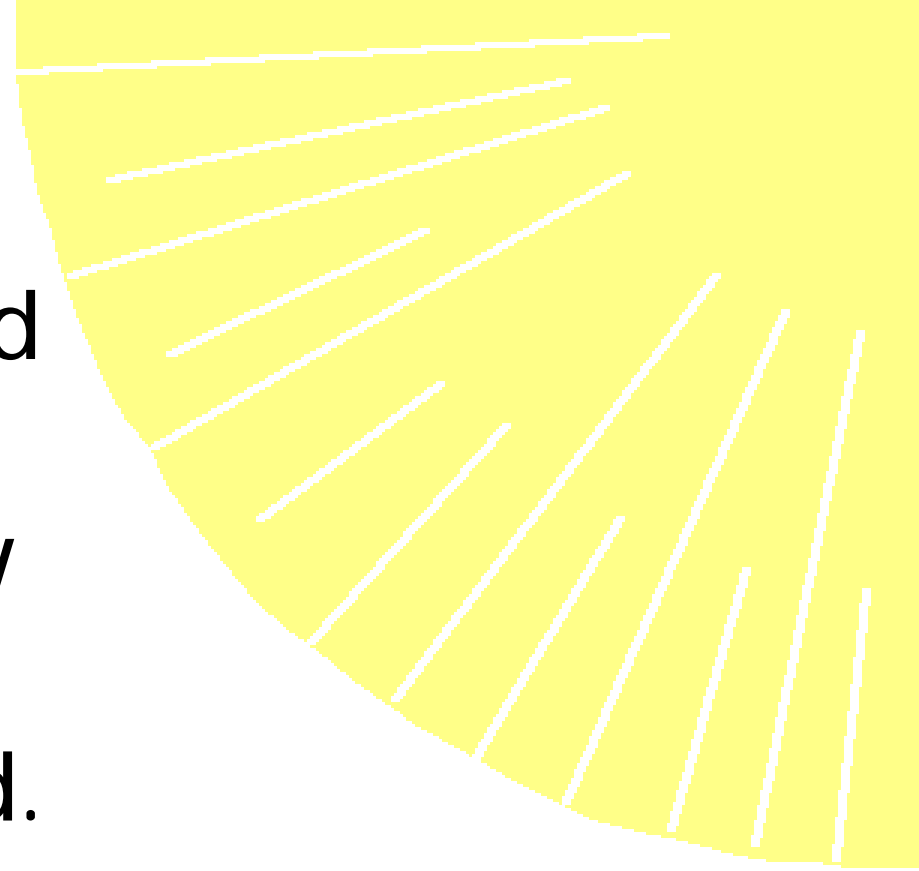


After a wonderful
prayer, the king
and people gladly
offered thousands
of sacrifices
and

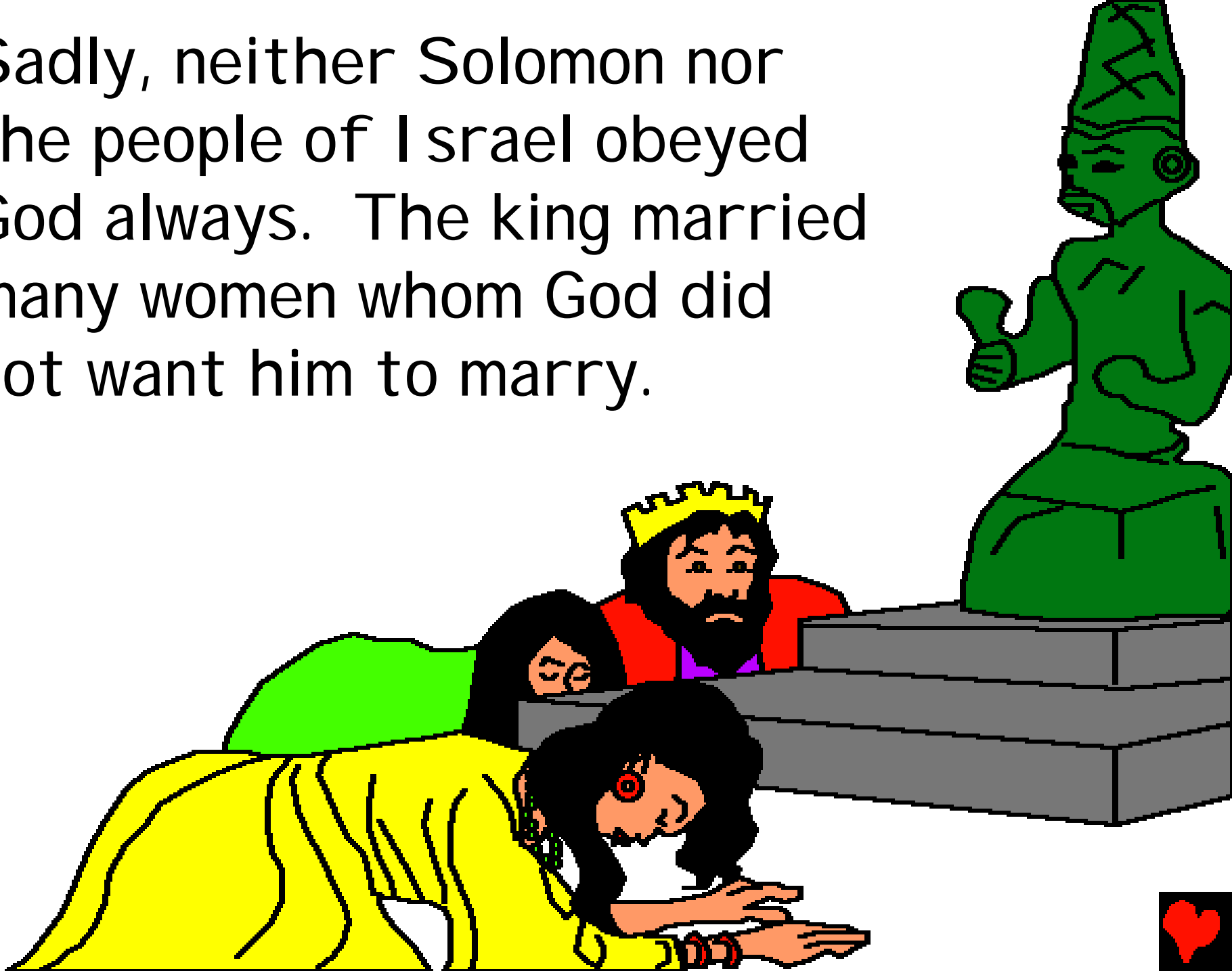
had a
great feast
for two weeks!



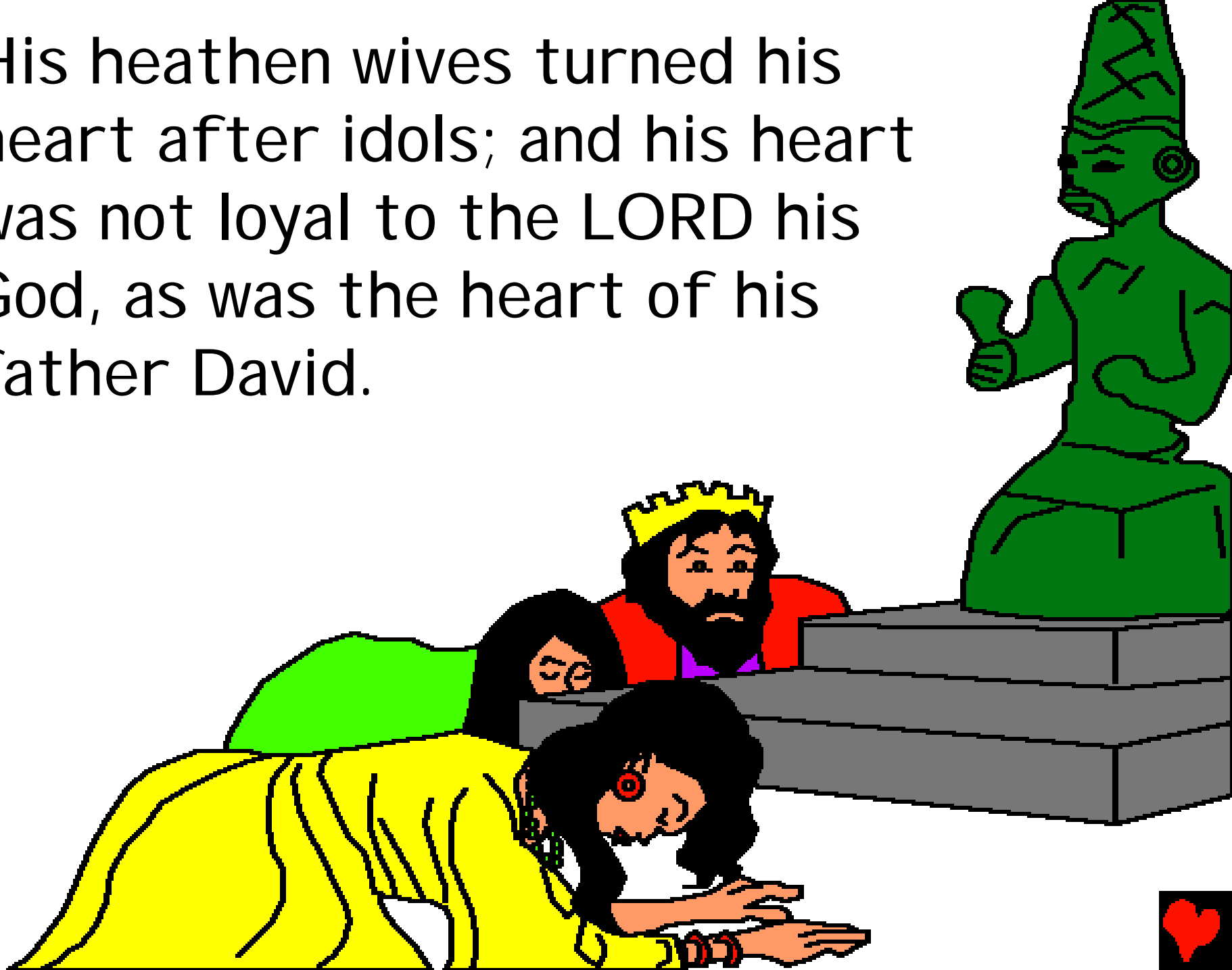
After this, God
appeared again to
Solomon and promised
to bless him and
Israel as long as they
obeyed
the Lord.



Sadly, neither Solomon nor the people of Israel obeyed God always. The king married many women whom God did not want him to marry.



His heathen wives turned his heart after idols; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.



While Solomon wasted his chance to obey God, one of his officers named Jeroboam had a strange experience. A prophet told him God would divide Solomon's kingdom and Jeroboam would rule

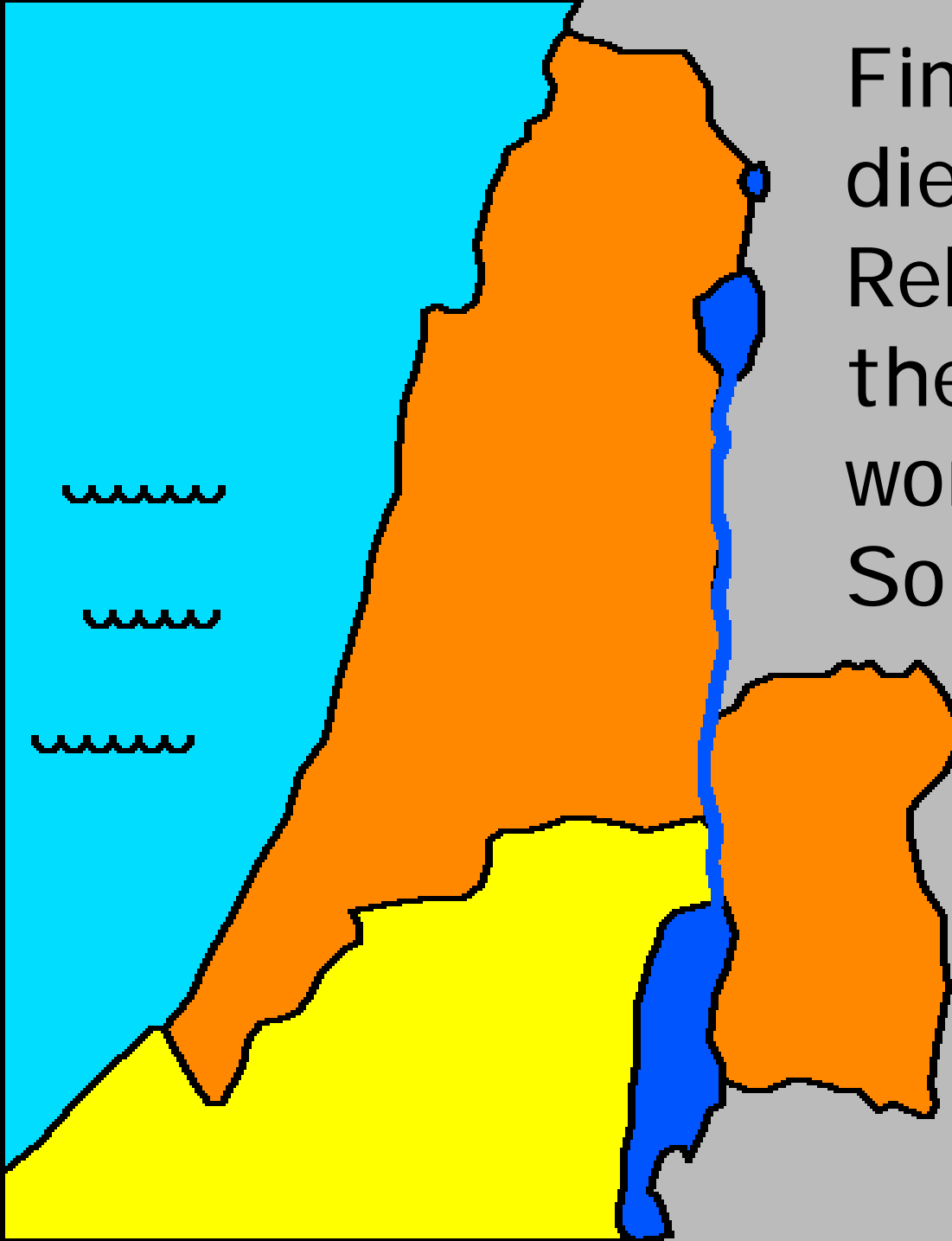


over ten
of the
twelve
tribes.



Jeroboam quickly escaped to Egypt. He knew Solomon would kill him if he stayed.



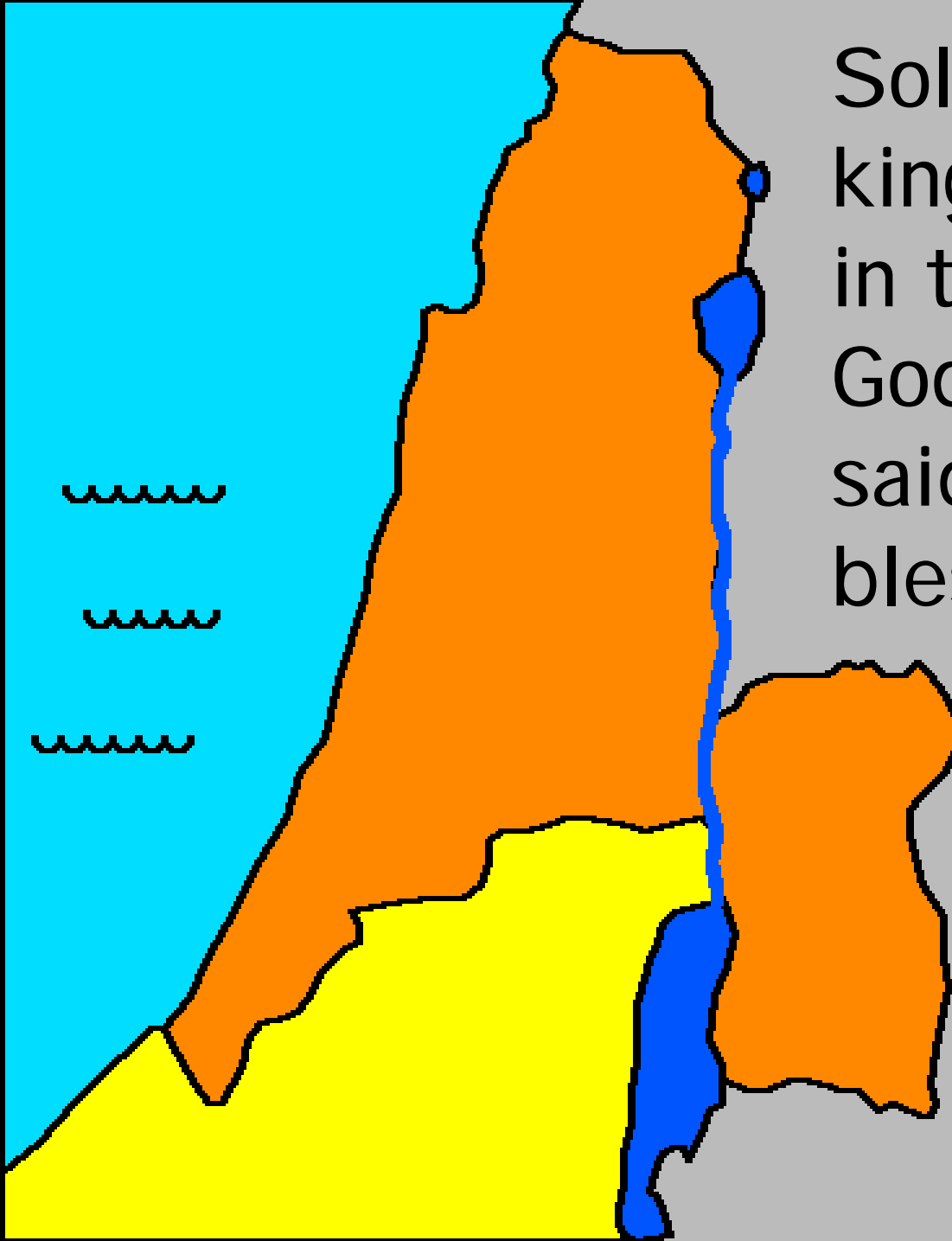


Finally Solomon died. His son, Rehoboam, taxed the people even worse than Solomon had done.

Ten tribes rebelled - and chose Jeroboam to be their leader.



Solomon's great kingdom was divided in two, just as God's prophet had said. God cannot bless disobedience!



Wise King Solomon

A story from God's Word,
the Bible,
is found in
1 Kings 1-12

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



The End

