

Lesson 24: David as a Fugitive

Part Two

1 Samuel 23-25

4th and 5th Grade Class

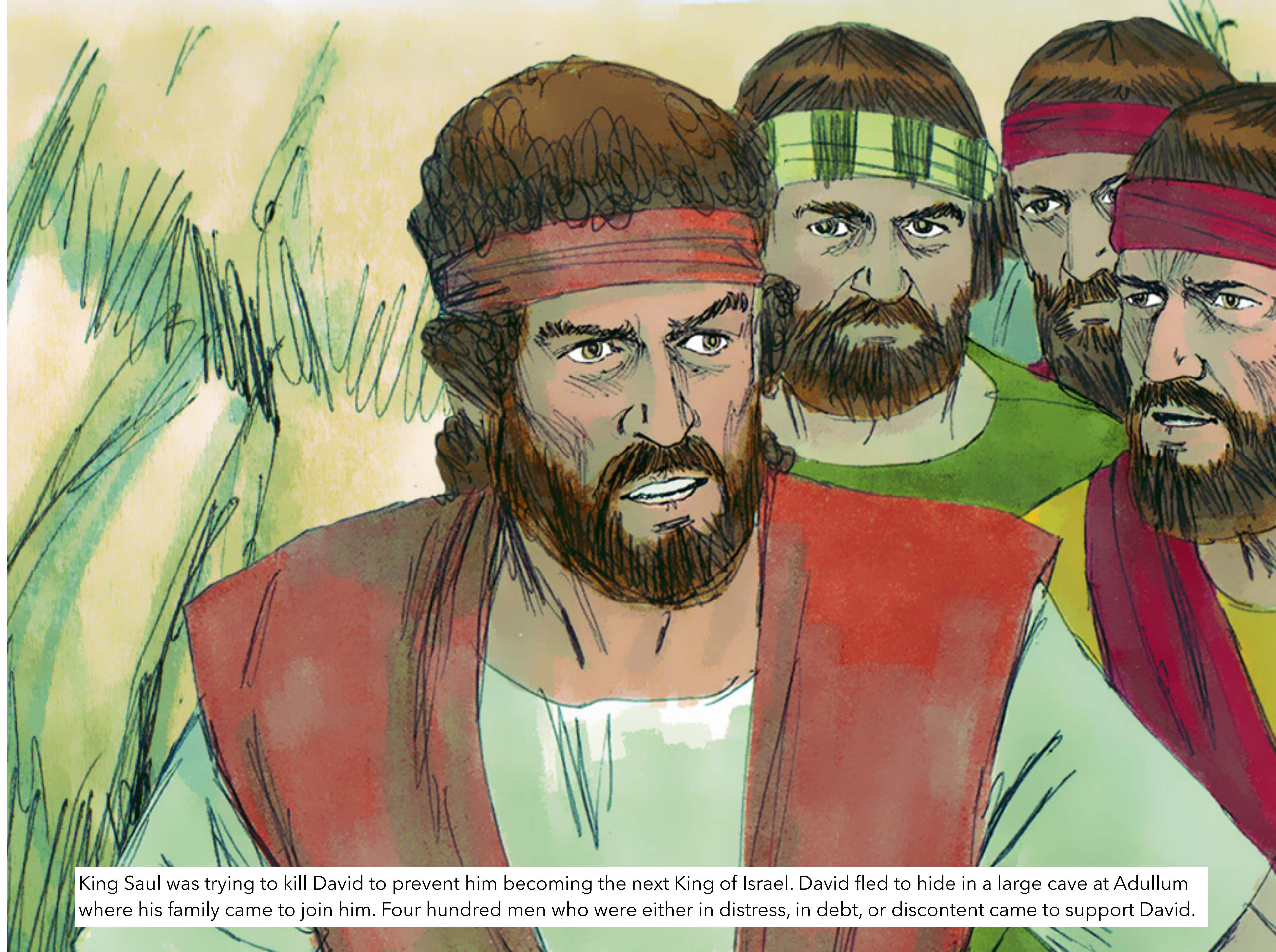
Jordan Park church of Christ



1 Samuel 22:1-2, 23:1 - 24:22

DAVID SPARES KING SAUL'S LIFE

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King Saul was trying to kill David to prevent him becoming the next King of Israel. David fled to hide in a large cave at Adullam where his family came to join him. Four hundred men who were either in distress, in debt, or discontent came to support David.

ISRAEL

IN THE TIME OF KING SAUL

Gilbeah

River
Jordan

Adullam

Forest of
Horesh

Keilah

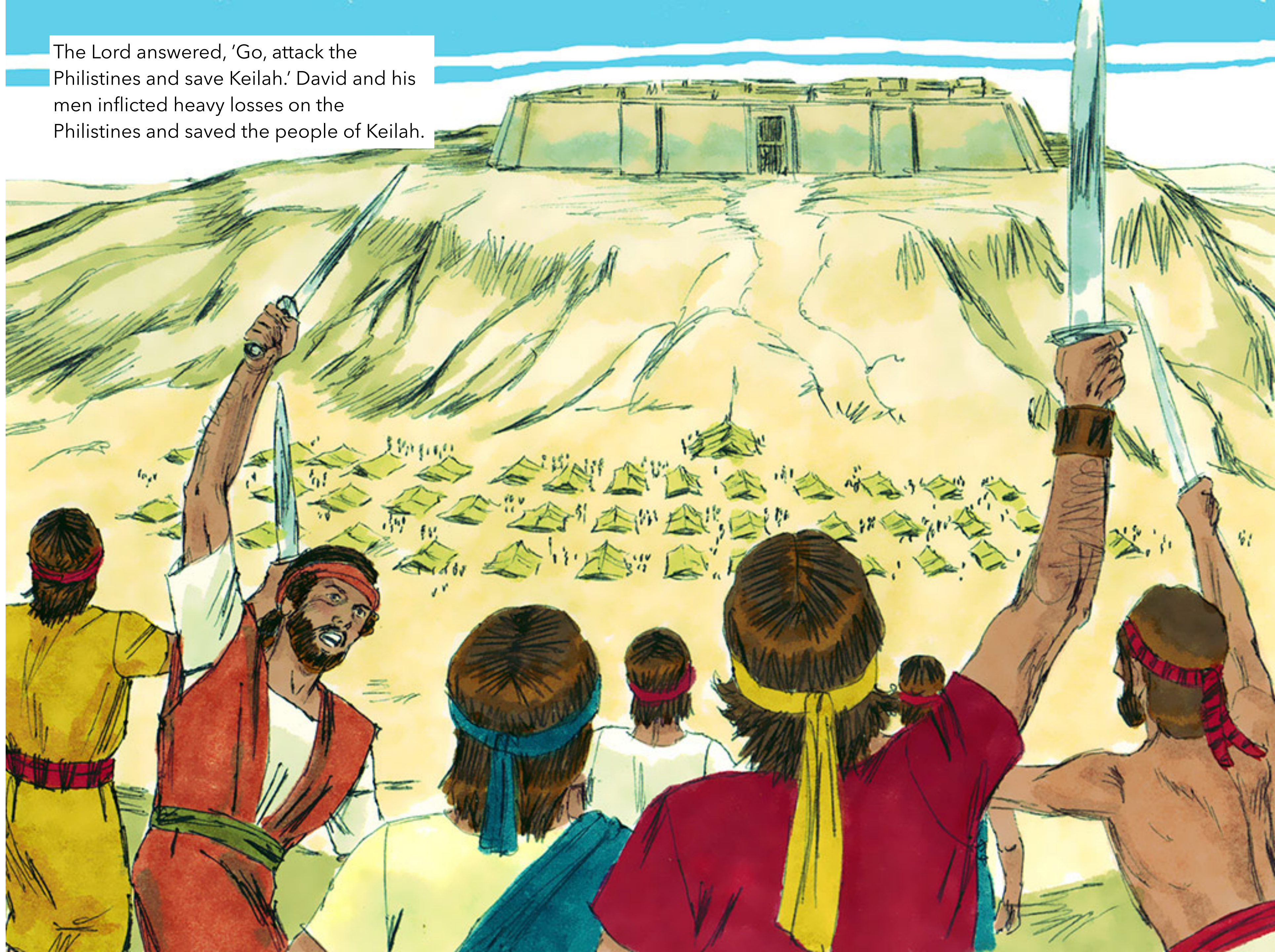
Dead
Sea

Desert of Maon

0 10 miles
0 10 km

Near to Adullam was the town of Keilah. Philistine raiders were attacking the town to steal grain. When David found out he asked God whether he should attack the Philistines.

The Lord answered, 'Go, attack the Philistines and save Keilah.' David and his men inflicted heavy losses on the Philistines and saved the people of Keilah.





King Saul was told that David was in Keilah and he thought he had him trapped. David learned that Saul was plotting against him. He asked Abiathar the priest to enquire from God whether Saul would attack Keilah and whether its citizens would hand him over to Saul.

ISRAEL

IN THE TIME OF KING SAUL

Gilbeah

River
Jordan

Adullam

Forest of
Horesh

Keilah

Dead
Sea

Ziph

Desert of Maon

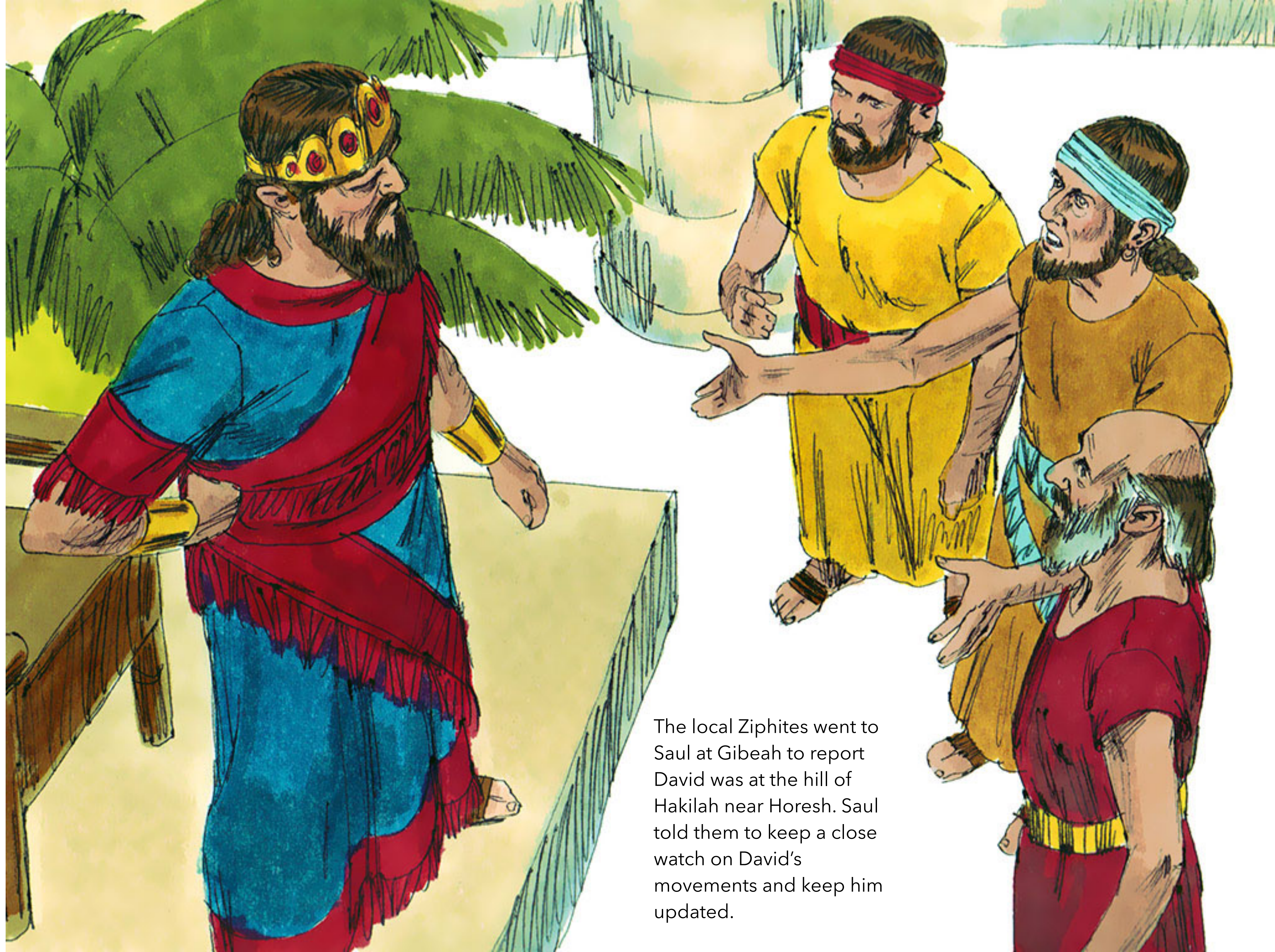
Horesh

The Lord replied that Saul would attack Keilah and David would be handed over to him. So David moved to the wilderness strongholds around Ziph. Saul searched for David but did not find him. While David was at Horesh, Saul's son Jonathan secretly paid David a visit without letting his father know.

0 10 miles
0 10 km

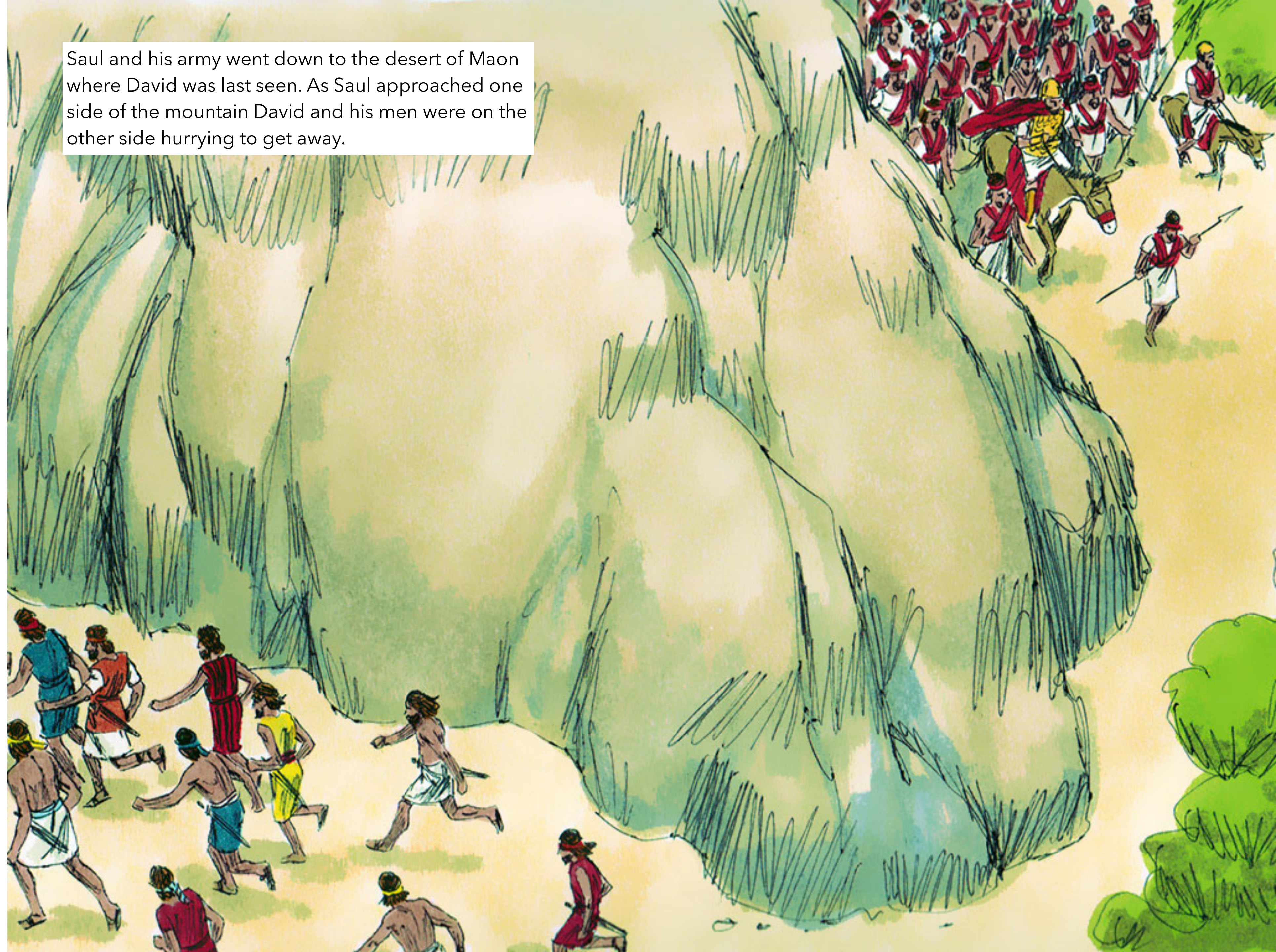


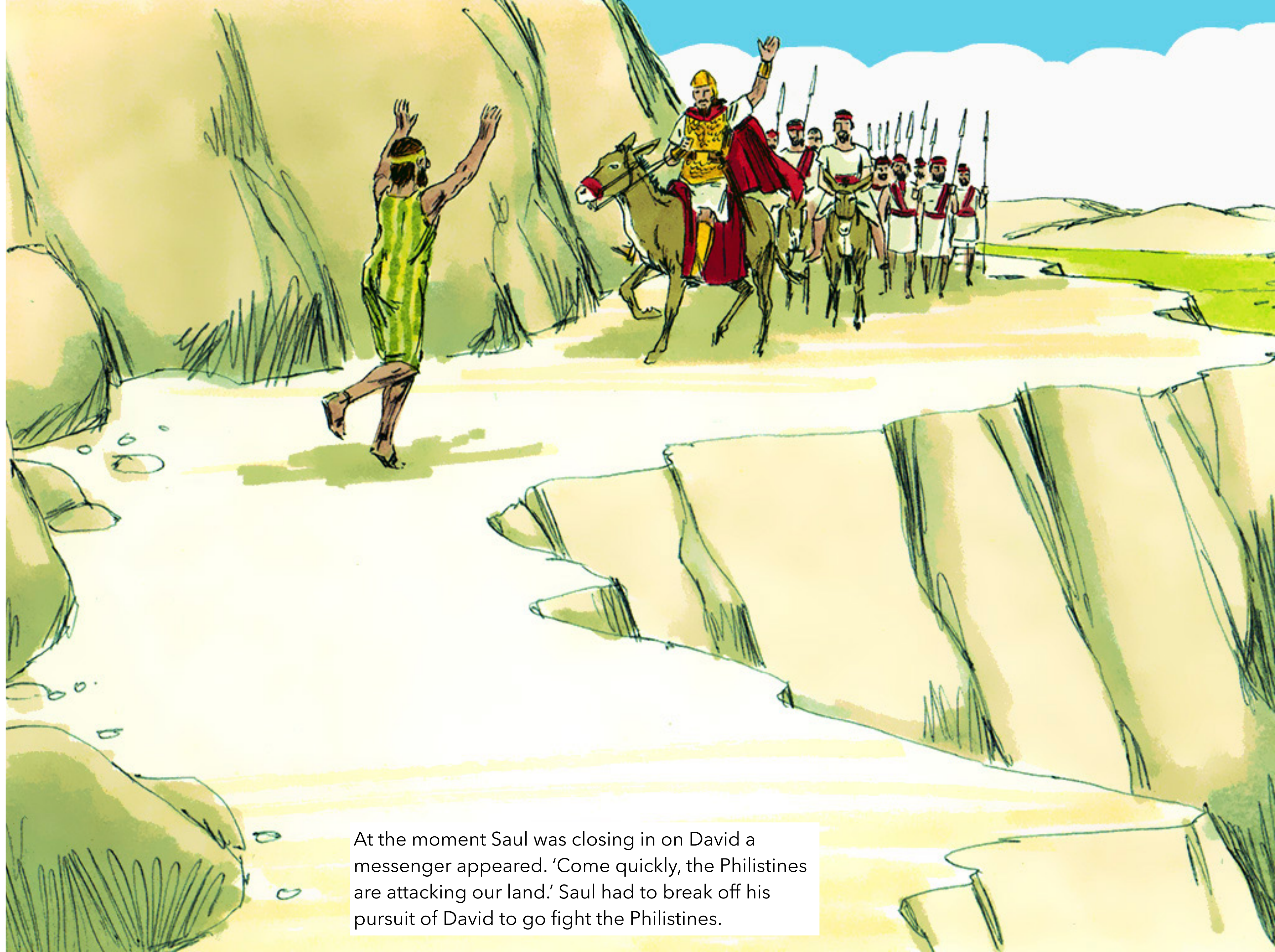
'Don't be afraid,' Jonathan told David. 'My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You shall be king over Israel, and I will be second to you.' The two made a promise before God and went their ways.



The local Ziphites went to Saul at Gibeah to report David was at the hill of Hakilah near Horesh. Saul told them to keep a close watch on David's movements and keep him updated.

Saul and his army went down to the desert of Maon where David was last seen. As Saul approached one side of the mountain David and his men were on the other side hurrying to get away.





At the moment Saul was closing in on David a messenger appeared. 'Come quickly, the Philistines are attacking our land.' Saul had to break off his pursuit of David to go fight the Philistines.

ISRAEL

IN THE TIME OF KING SAUL

David and his men escaped to live in the wilderness hills and caves around En-ge-di near the Dead Sea. King Saul fought against the Philistines then, when told that David was in En-ge-di, he returned with 3,000 men to search for David.

0 10 miles
0 10 km

Gilbeah

River Jordan

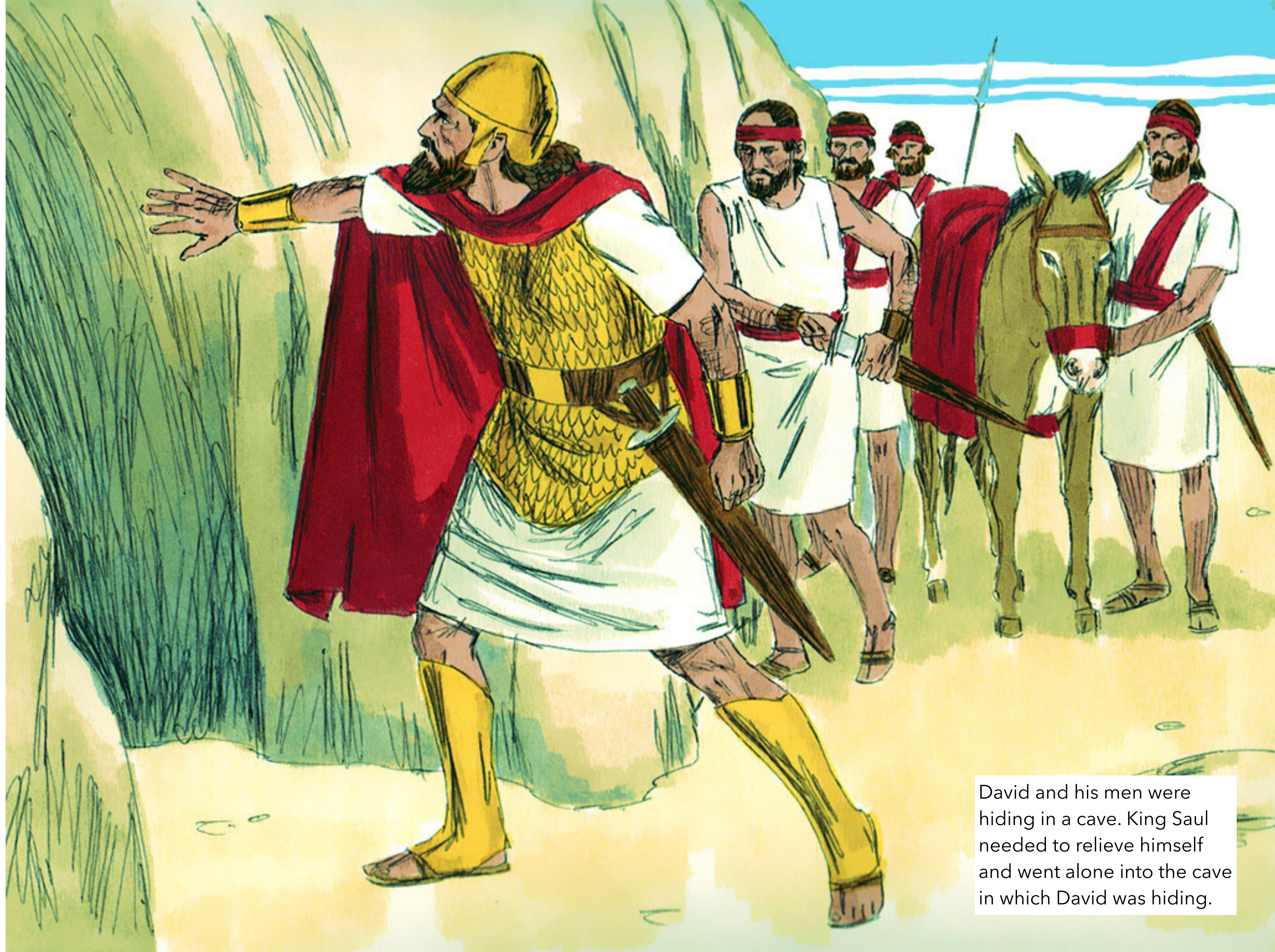
Adullam Forest of Horesh

Keilah

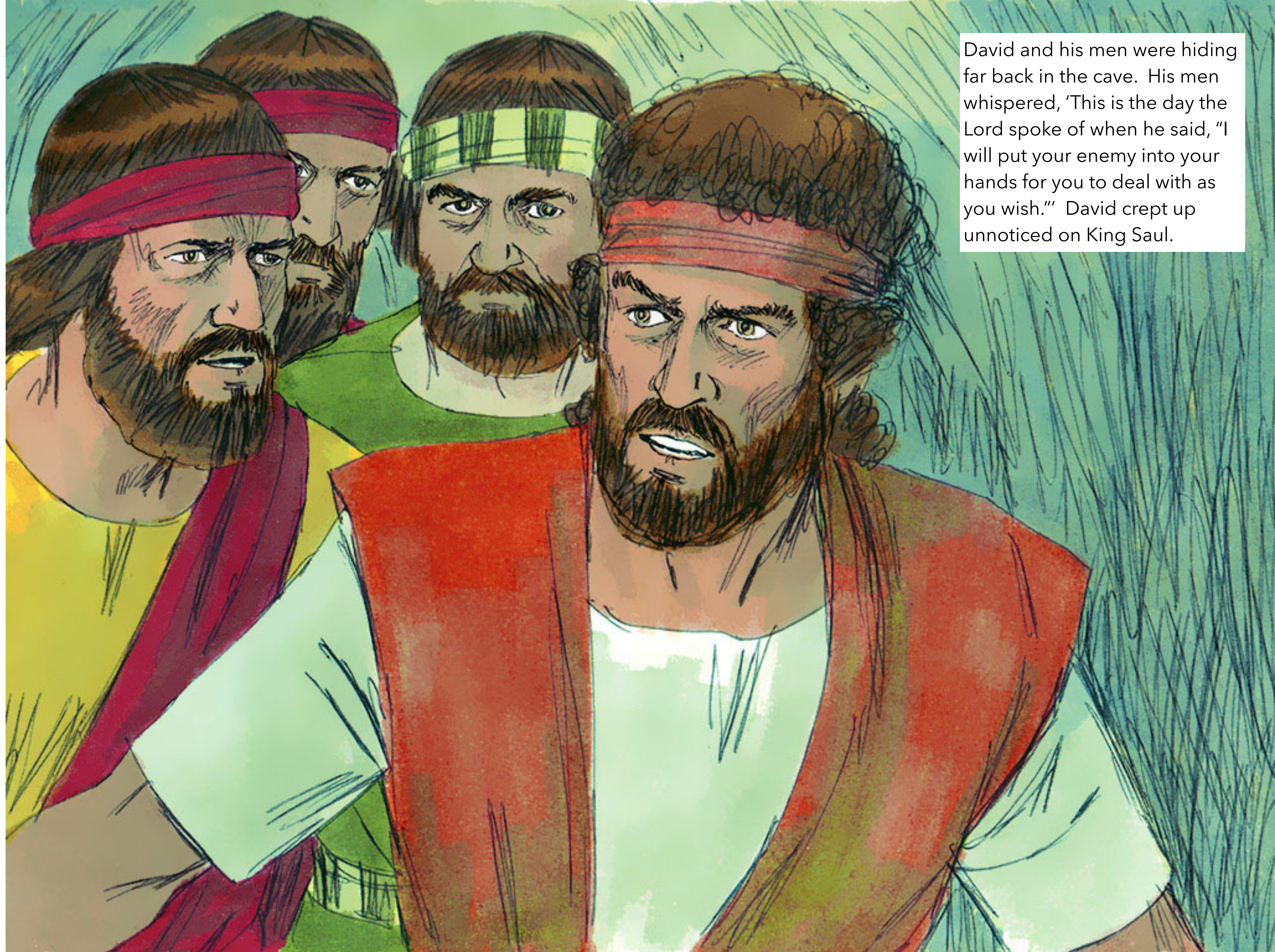
Dead Sea

Ziph

En-ge-di



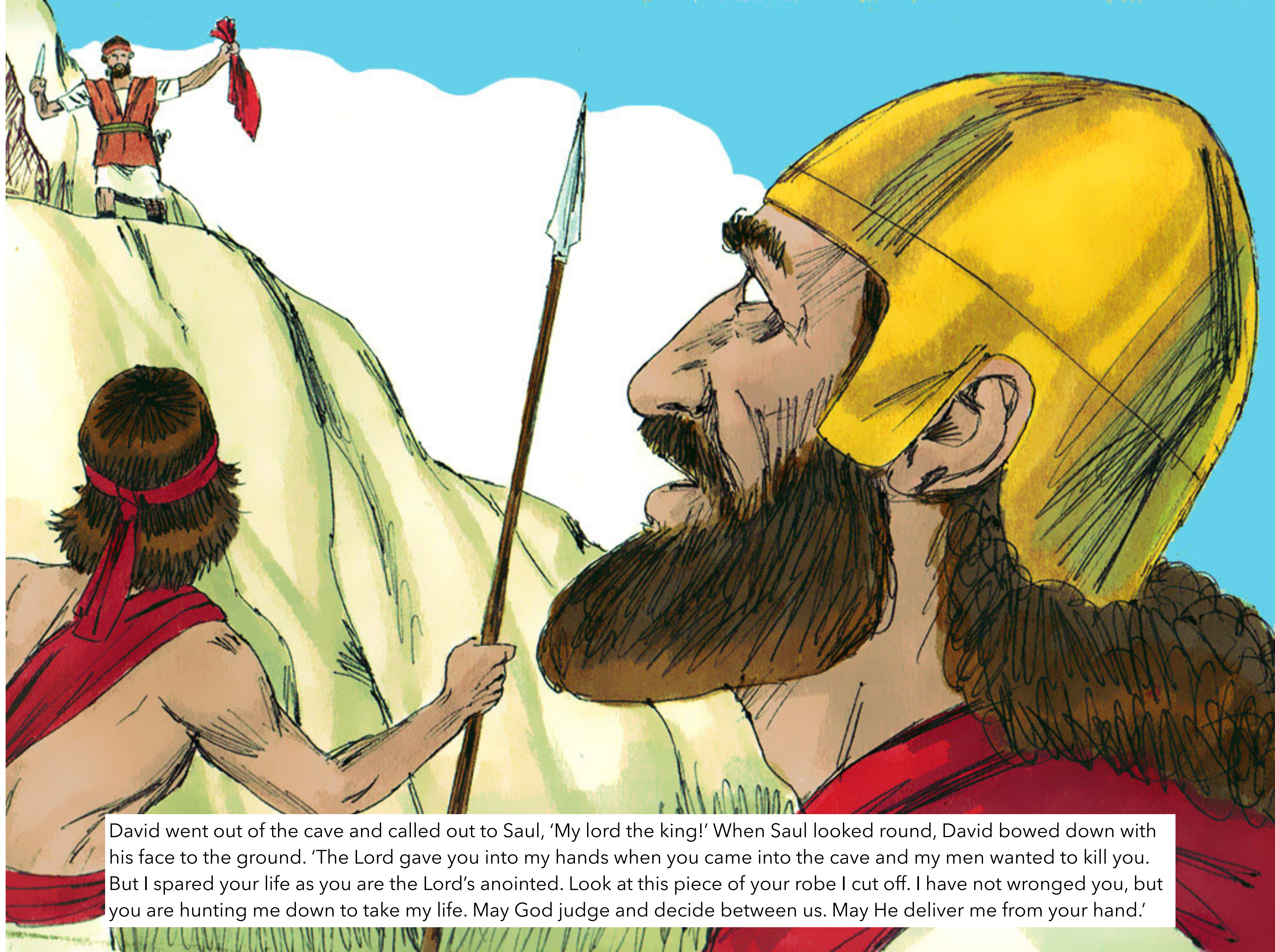
David and his men were hiding in a cave. King Saul needed to relieve himself and went alone into the cave in which David was hiding.




David and his men were hiding far back in the cave. His men whispered, 'This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said, "I will put your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish."' David crept up unnoticed on King Saul.

Instead of killing Saul, David cut off the edge of his robe without his noticing it. 'The Lord forbid that I lay my hands on the King He has anointed,' he told his men. And he stopped them attempting to kill Saul.



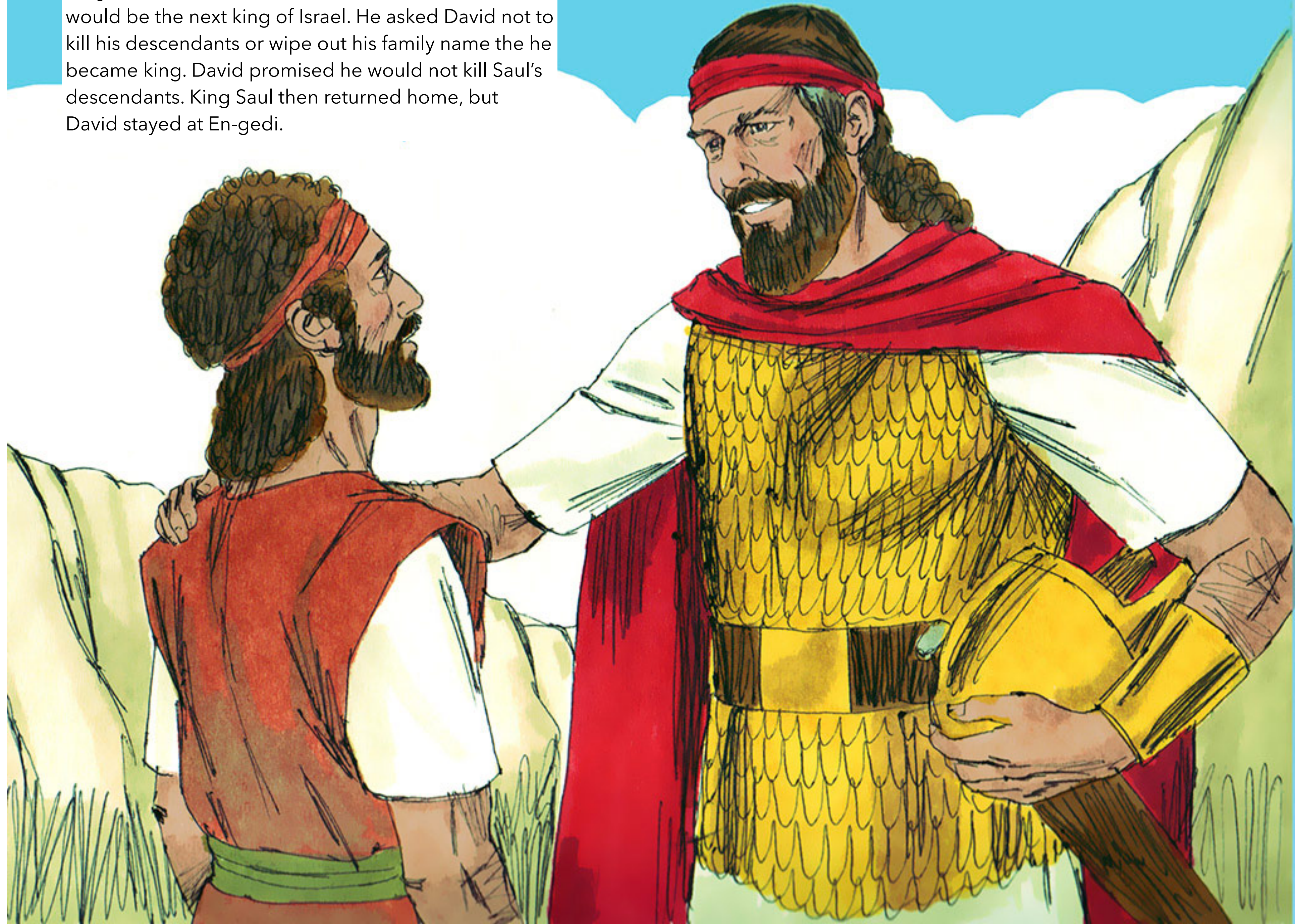


David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, 'My lord the king!' When Saul looked round, David bowed down with his face to the ground. 'The Lord gave you into my hands when you came into the cave and my men wanted to kill you. But I spared your life as you are the Lord's anointed. Look at this piece of your robe I cut off. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. May God judge and decide between us. May He deliver me from your hand.'



Saul asked, 'Is that you, David?' And he wept aloud. 'You are better than me,' he said. 'You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly. The Lord gave me into your hands, but you did not kill me.'

King Saul told David that he now knew that David would be the next king of Israel. He asked David not to kill his descendants or wipe out his family name the he became king. David promised he would not kill Saul's descendants. King Saul then returned home, but David stayed at En-gedi.





DAVID FINDS SAUL IN A CAVE

1 Samuel 24

How should you treat people who don't like you and treat you badly? This story about a jealous King and a forgiving man is found in the Bible in the first book of Samuel.





King Saul was jealous of David. One day he heard where David was hiding, so he took three thousand soldiers and went to catch him.



When David heard the King and his army were coming, he and his soldiers hid in a cave, where they were safe.

But King Saul was very tired and went into the same cave to rest, while his soldiers stood guard outside. David kept very quiet.





But King Saul was very tired and went into the same cave to rest, while his soldiers stood guard outside. David kept very quiet. When King Saul was fast asleep, David's men whispered, 'Here is your chance! Kill your enemy, before he hurts you!'



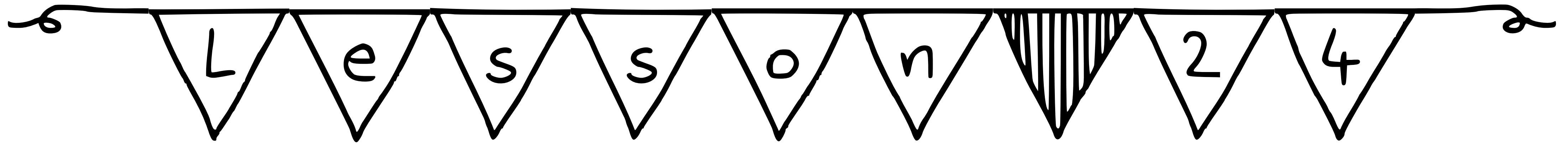
But David didn't want to hurt the King. He just wanted King Saul to stop chasing him. So, he took out his knife and cut a piece of material from the King's clothes.

When the King left the cave David shouted, 'King Saul, I could have killed you, while you were sleeping, but I only cut your coat. See how close I was.'



King Saul knew that David had saved his life and promised not to chase him anymore. David had honored God's chosen King.

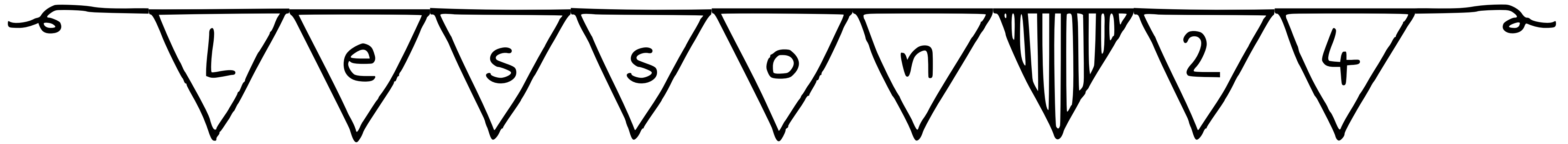




Saul's hatred for David took over his life. Do not let jealousy take over your life.

Fighting at Keilah gave David's position away to Saul but he obeyed God. As a result, God took care of him. How do we ask the Lord for guidance in our lives?

We are to be given to hospitality and we are to be appreciative when someone has done something for us. Nabal was inhospitable and ungrateful.



Saul's obsession to kill David caused Saul to behave uncharacteristic of a good leader.

1. He was willing to besiege Keilah, his own city, until they gave David to him.
2. He neglected his kingdom in order to pursue David. A messenger had to tell him of a Philistine attack.
3. He used people, like the men of Ziph who feared for their lives if they crossed him, to his own ends.
4. He used 3,000 choice fighting men to pursue David when they should have been protecting the home front. David only had 600 men at the time.