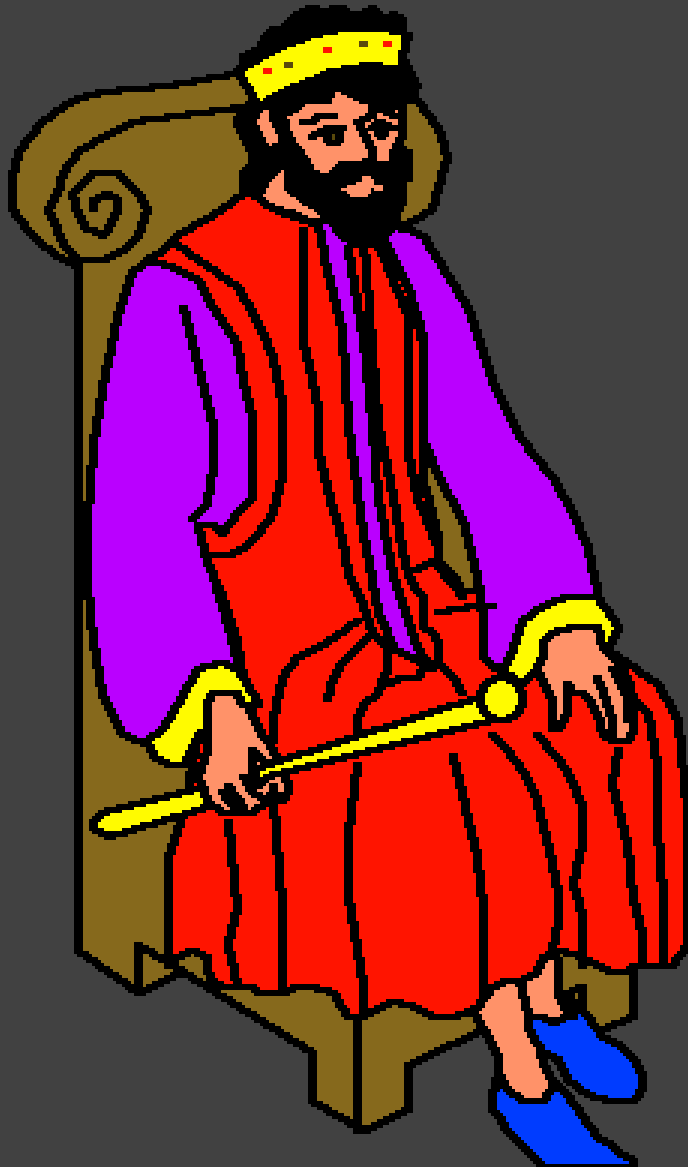


Bible for Children
presents



WISE KING
SOLOMON



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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.





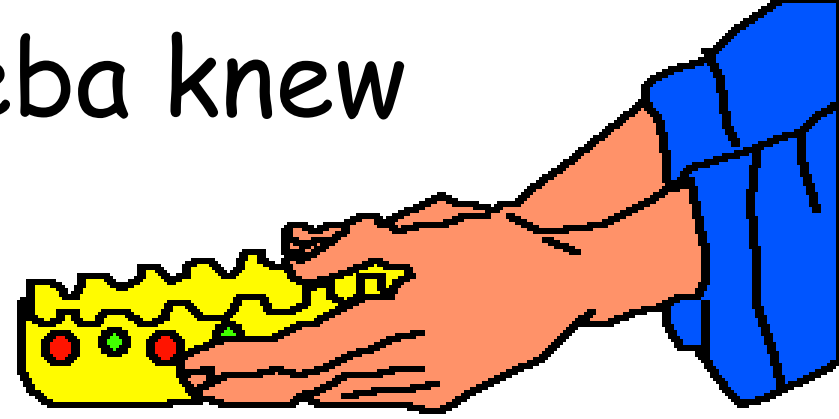
Although his name means "My Lord is God", Adonijah was not a good man. He tried to steal the throne, knowing David was too weak to resist him. But God had other plans!



David's wife Bathsheba knew her son Solomon should be king.

She told David about Adonijah's plans.

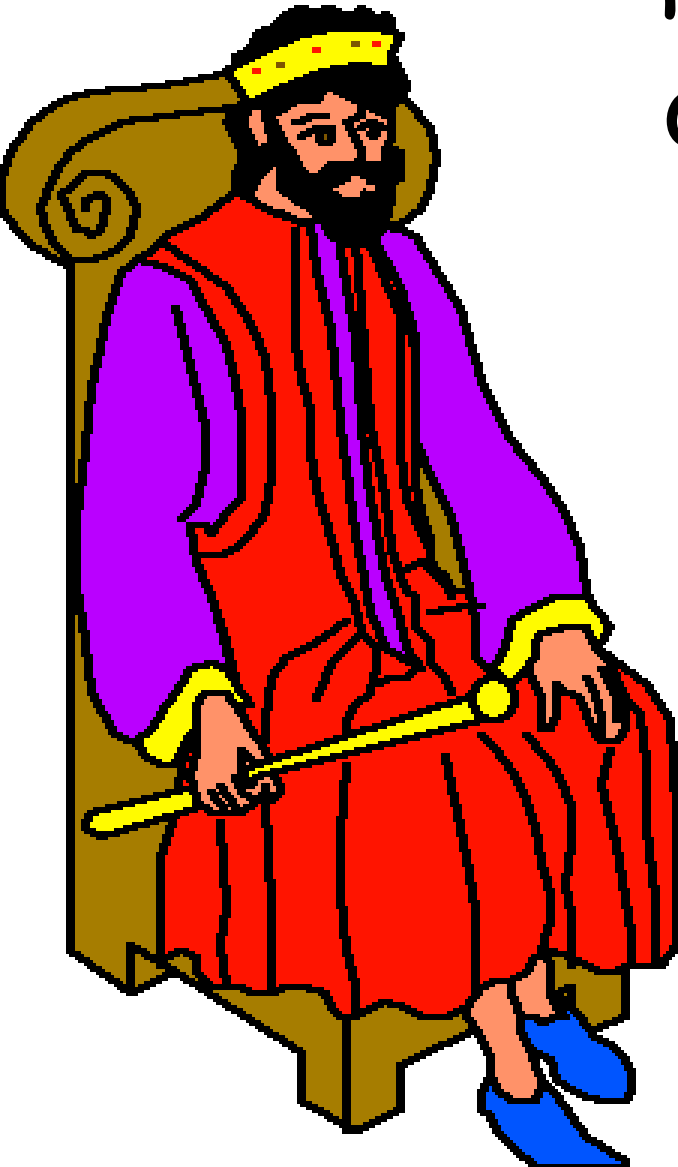
Sick as he was, David gathered his leaders together and publicly made Solomon king of Israel.



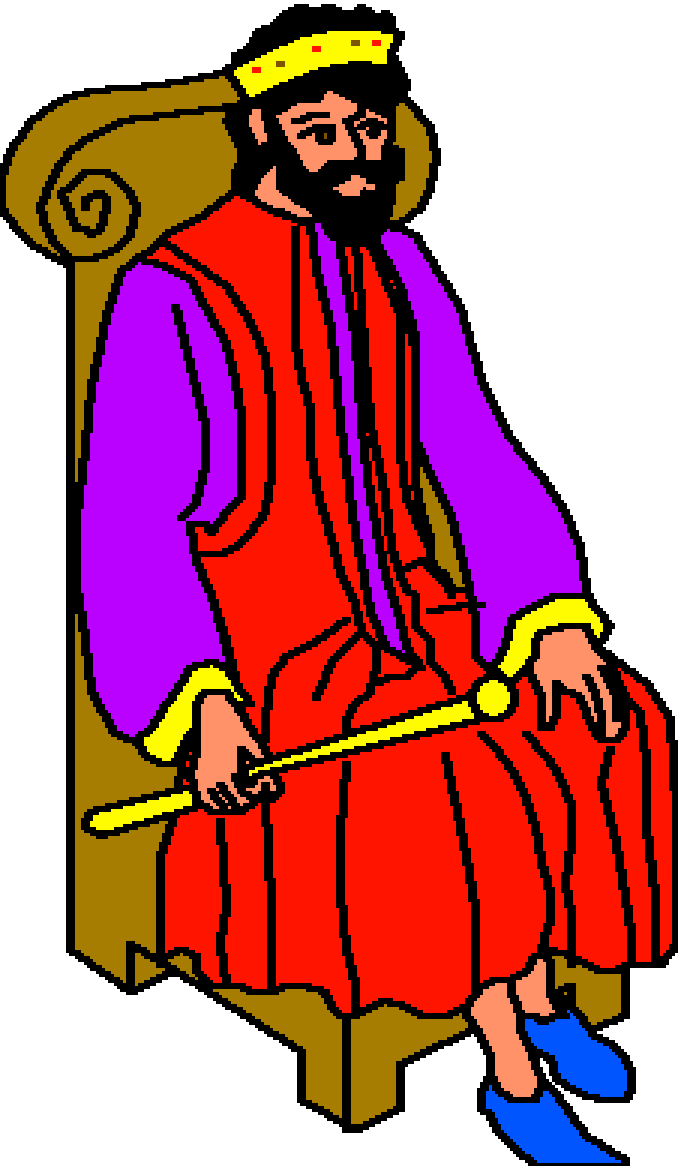
Solomon had no more trouble with Adonijah because the people of Israel believed David. David told them Solomon was the one God had chosen to be their king. Shortly afterwards, David died.



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.



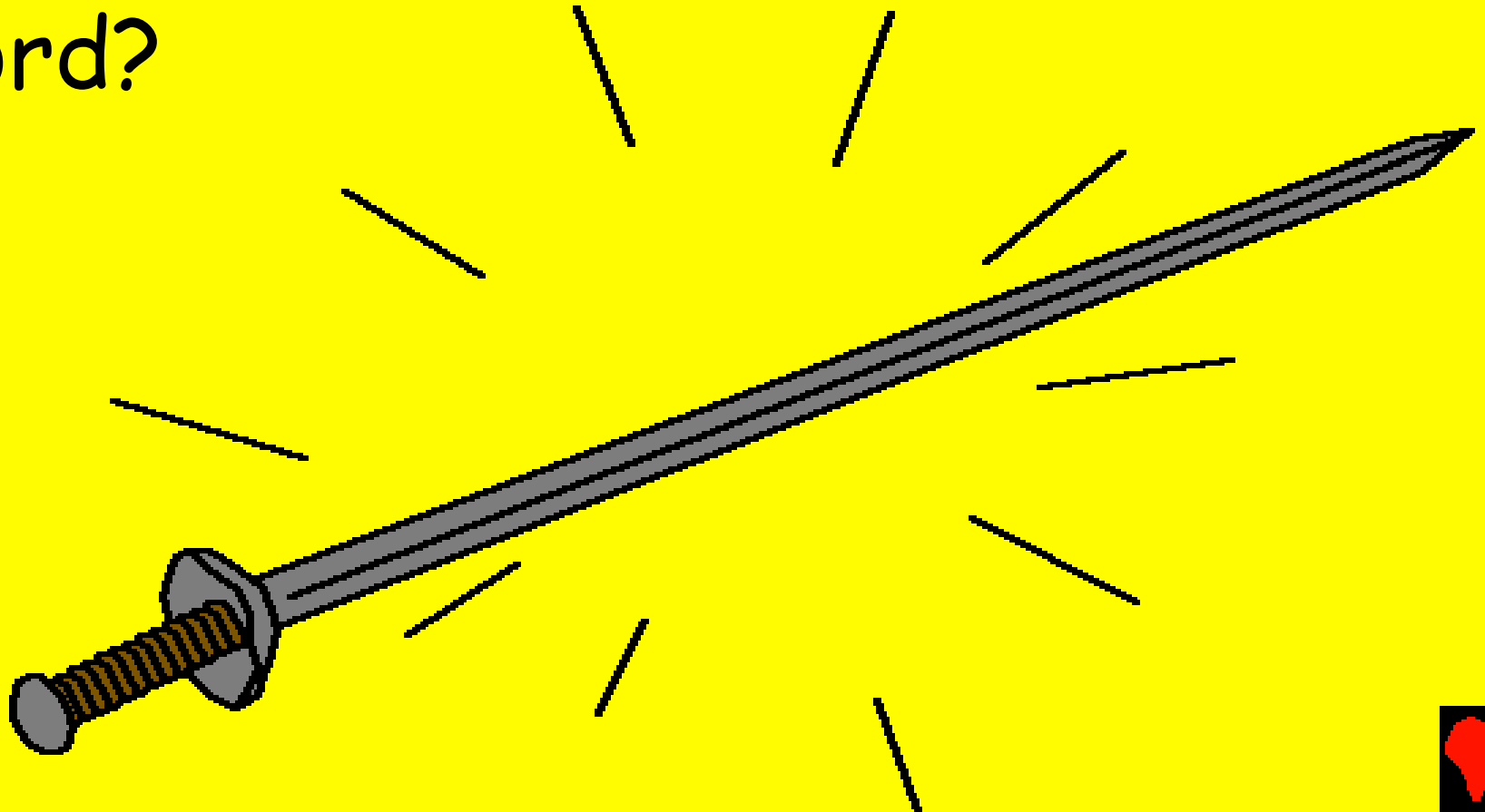
It did not take long for people to discover Solomon's wisdom. One day, two mothers came before him, with one baby. "This woman's son died in the night, and she switched her dead baby for my live one," one lady said.



"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

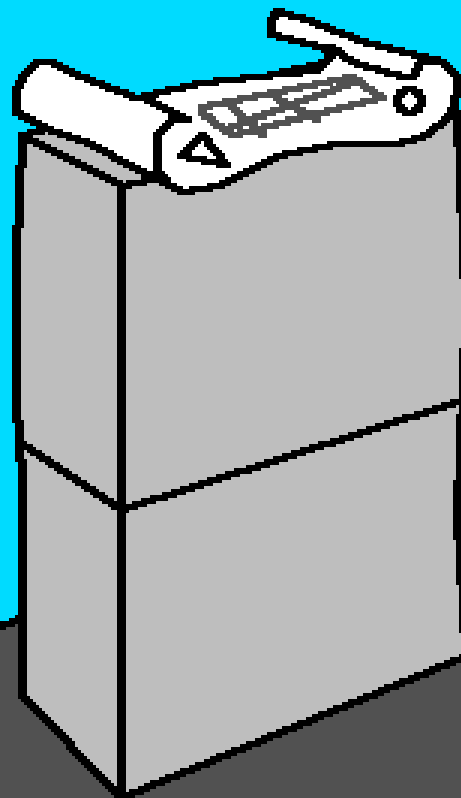




So the king said, "Give the first woman the living child. She is the mother." And all Israel heard of the judgment, and they greatly respected the king. They saw that the wisdom of God was in him.



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."

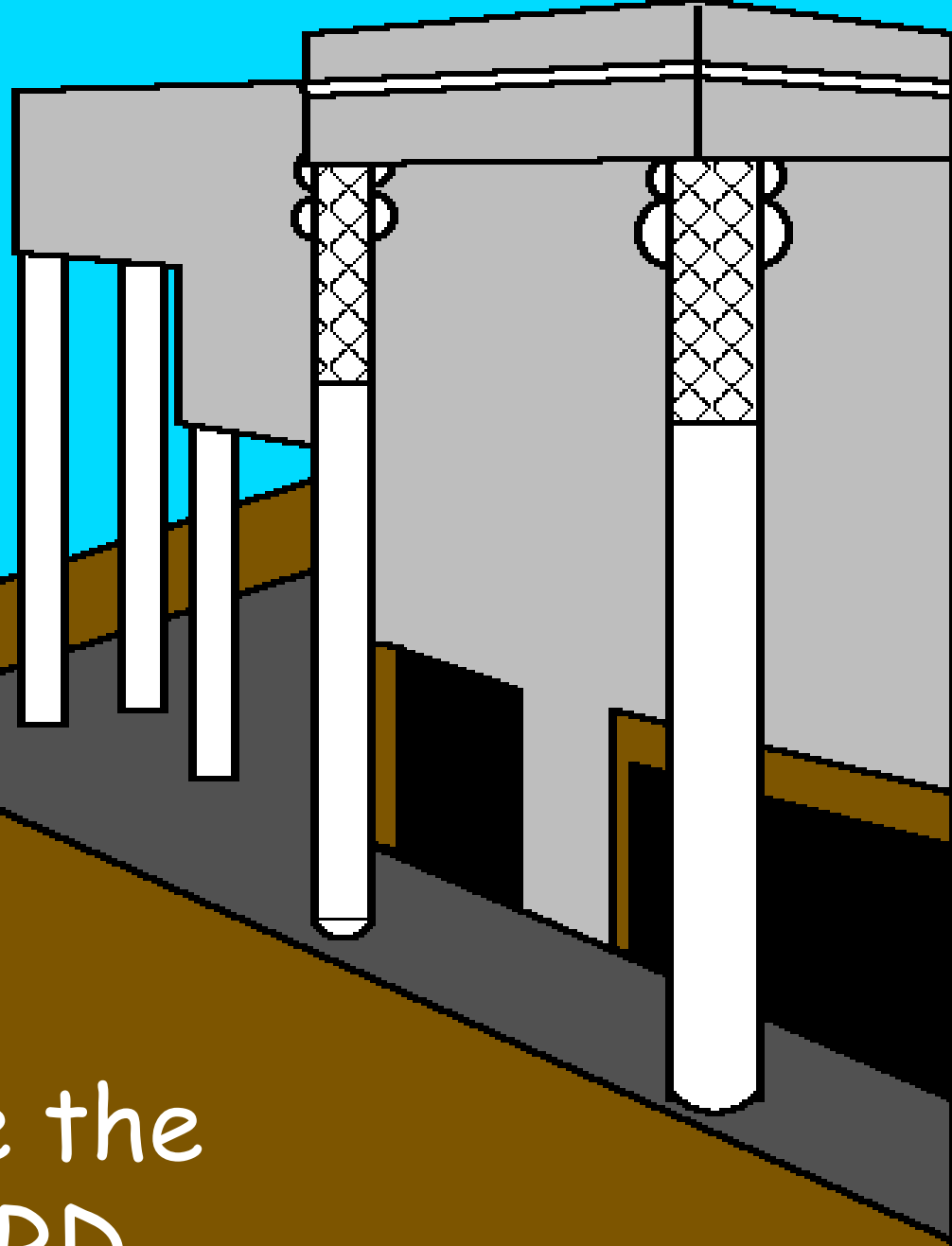


So Solomon began
to build a wonderful
temple at Jerusalem.



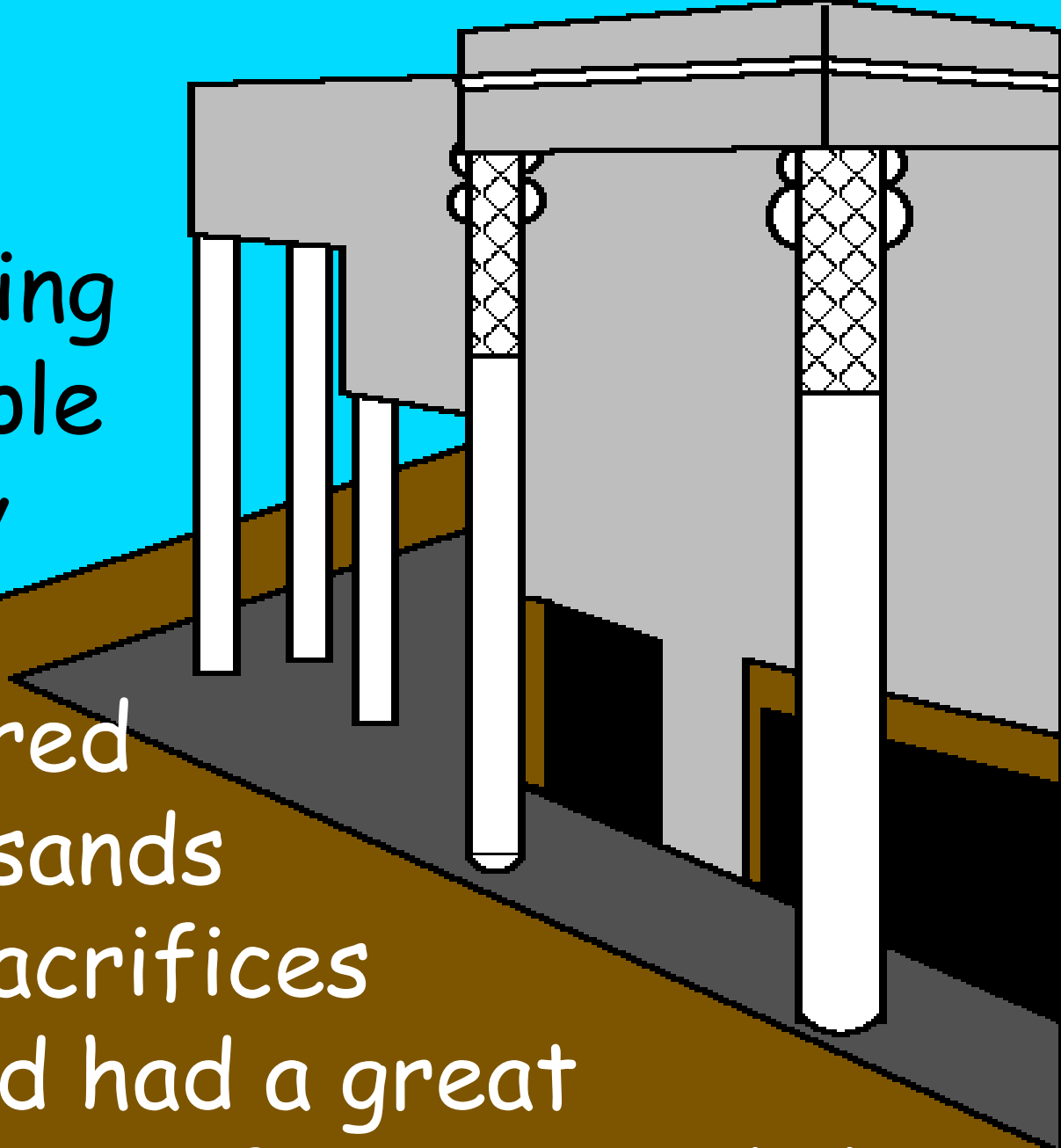
It took seven
long years to
build the temple.
But the great
day came
when

everybody
gathered to hear
Solomon dedicate the
temple to the LORD.

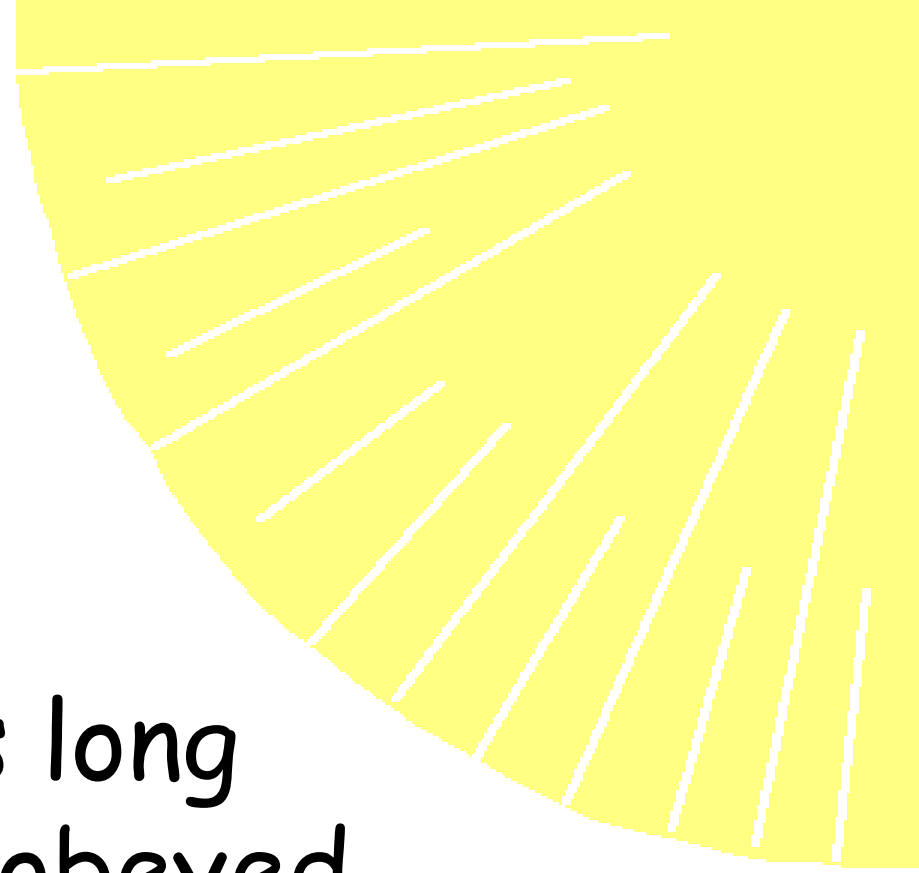


After a
wonderful
prayer, the king
and people
gladly

offered
thousands
of sacrifices
and had a great
feast for two weeks!



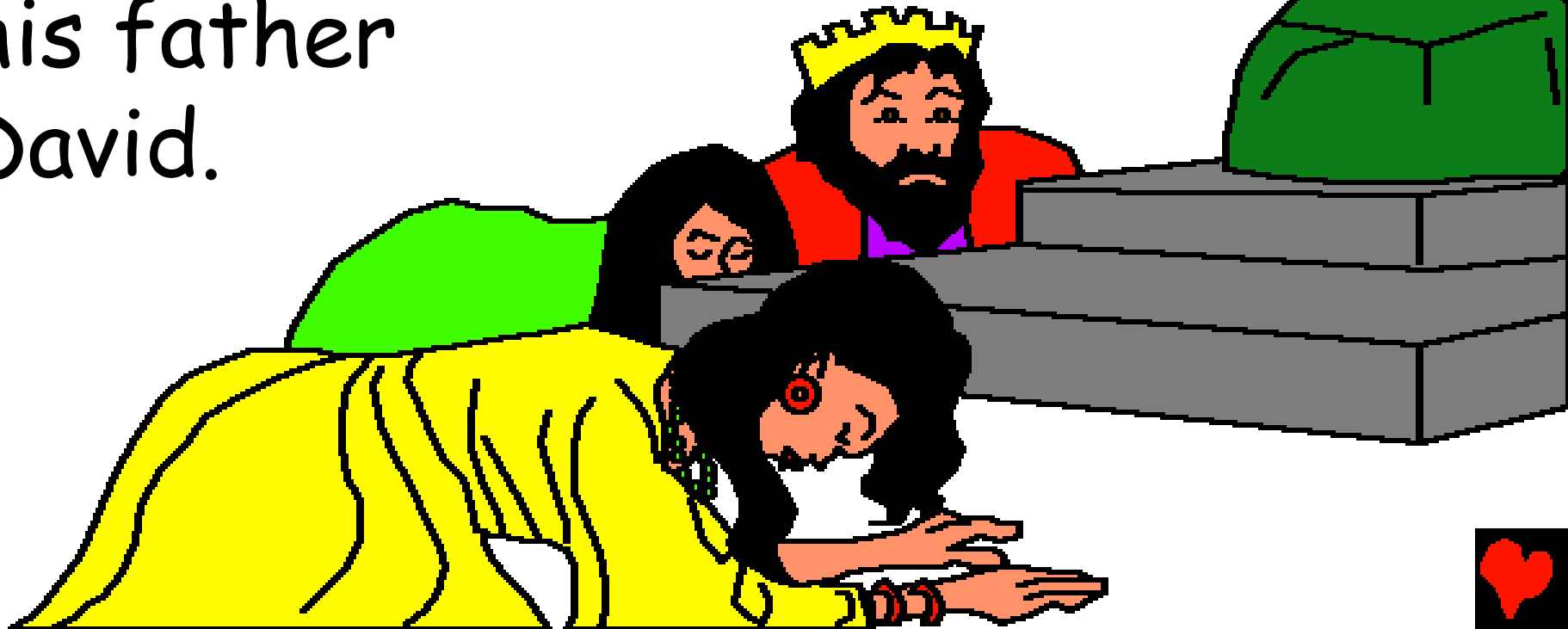
After this, God appeared again to Solomon and promised to bless him and Israel as long as they obeyed the LORD.



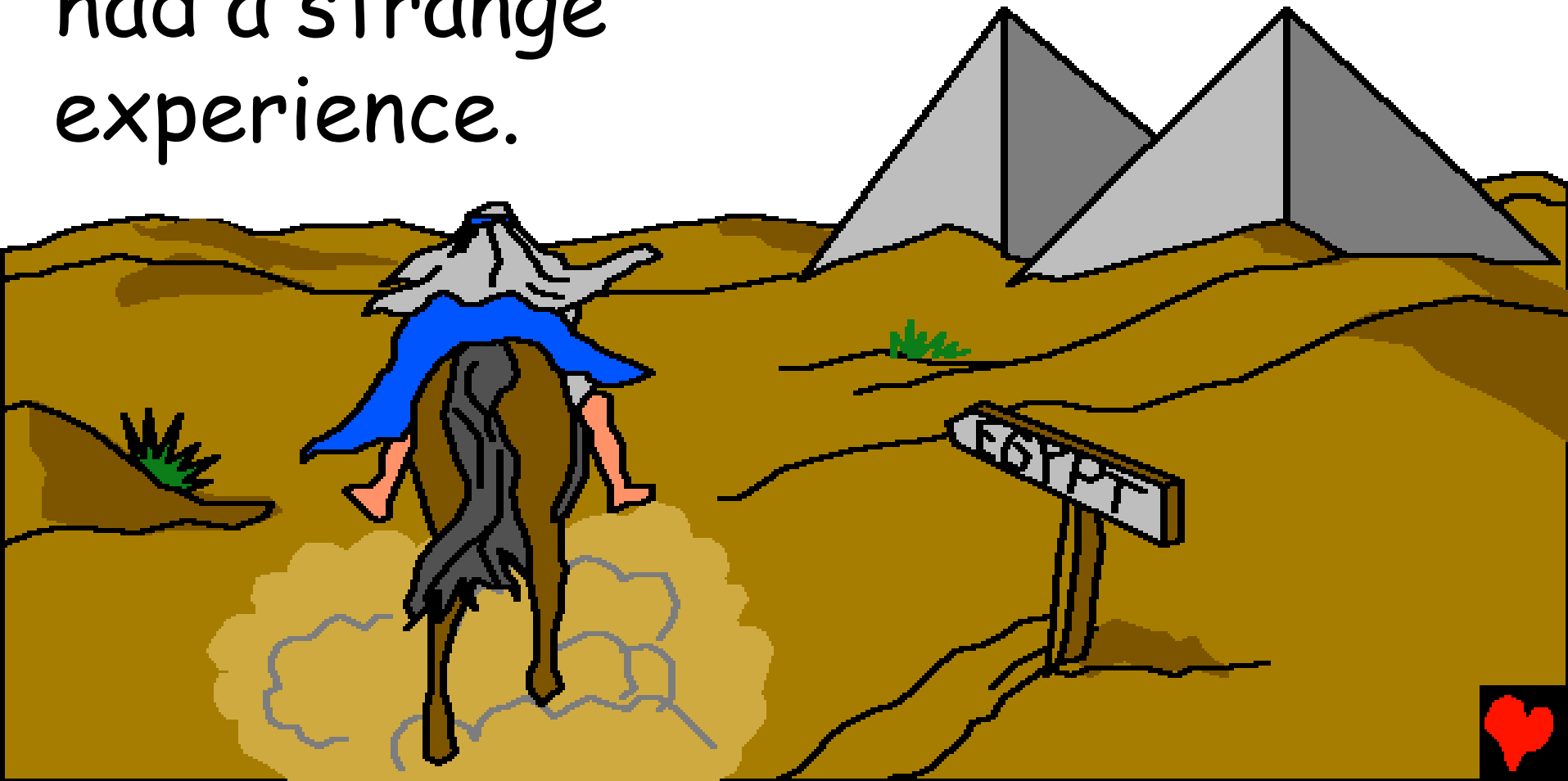
Sadly, neither Solomon nor the people of Israel obeyed God always. The king married many women whom God did not want him to marry.



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.



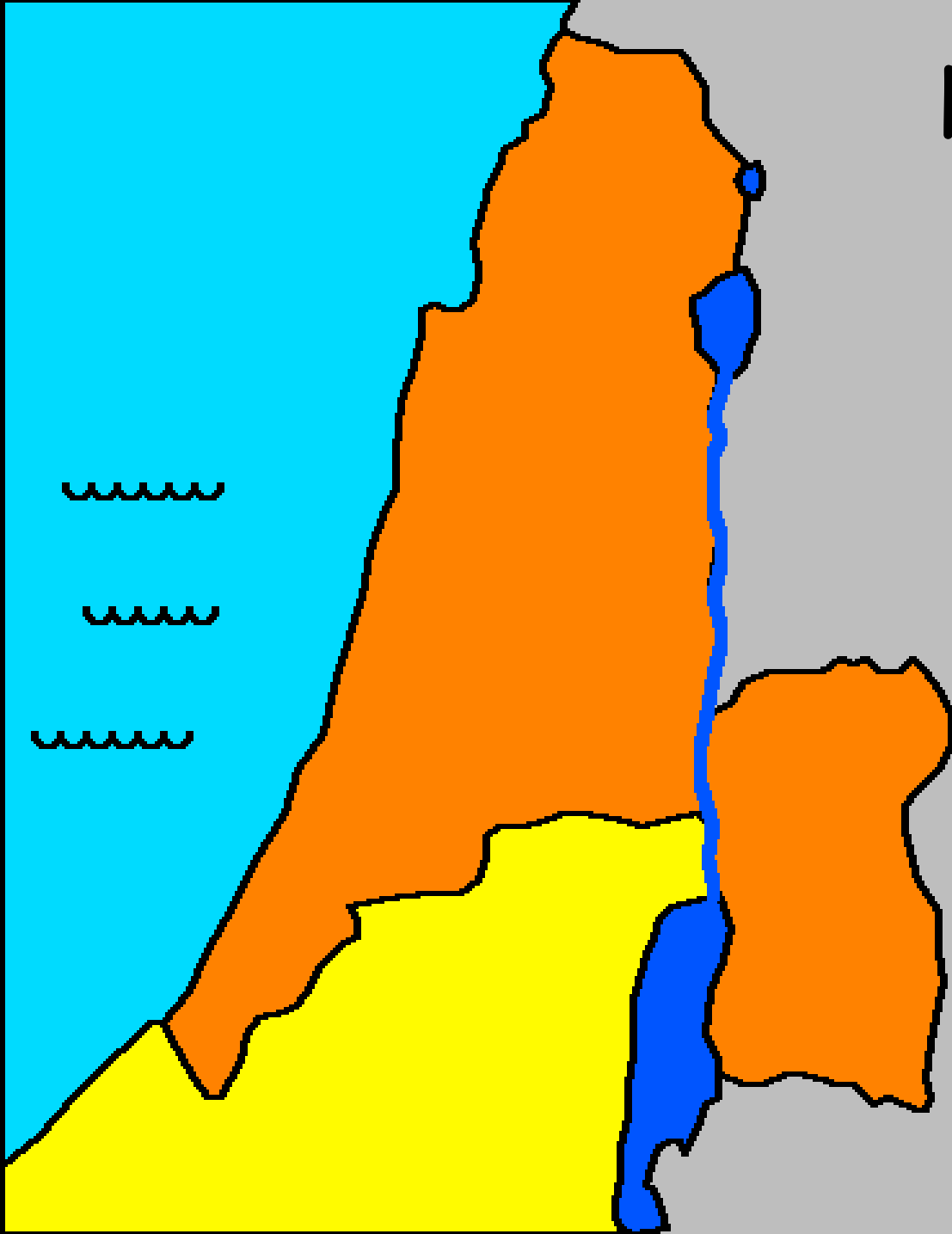
A prophet told him God would divide Solomon's kingdom and Jeroboam would rule over ten of the twelve tribes.



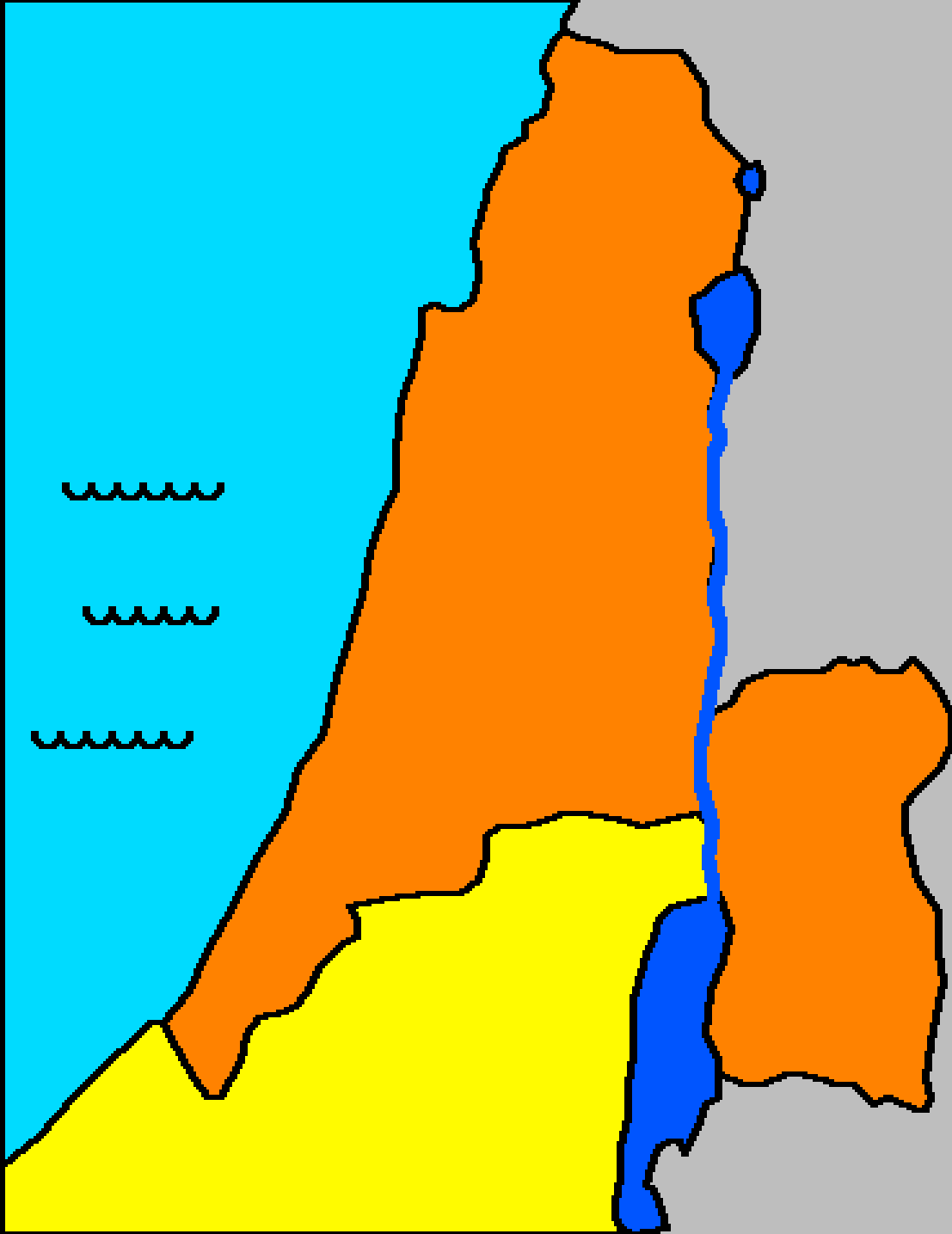
Jeroboam quickly escaped to Egypt. He knew Solomon would kill him if he stayed.



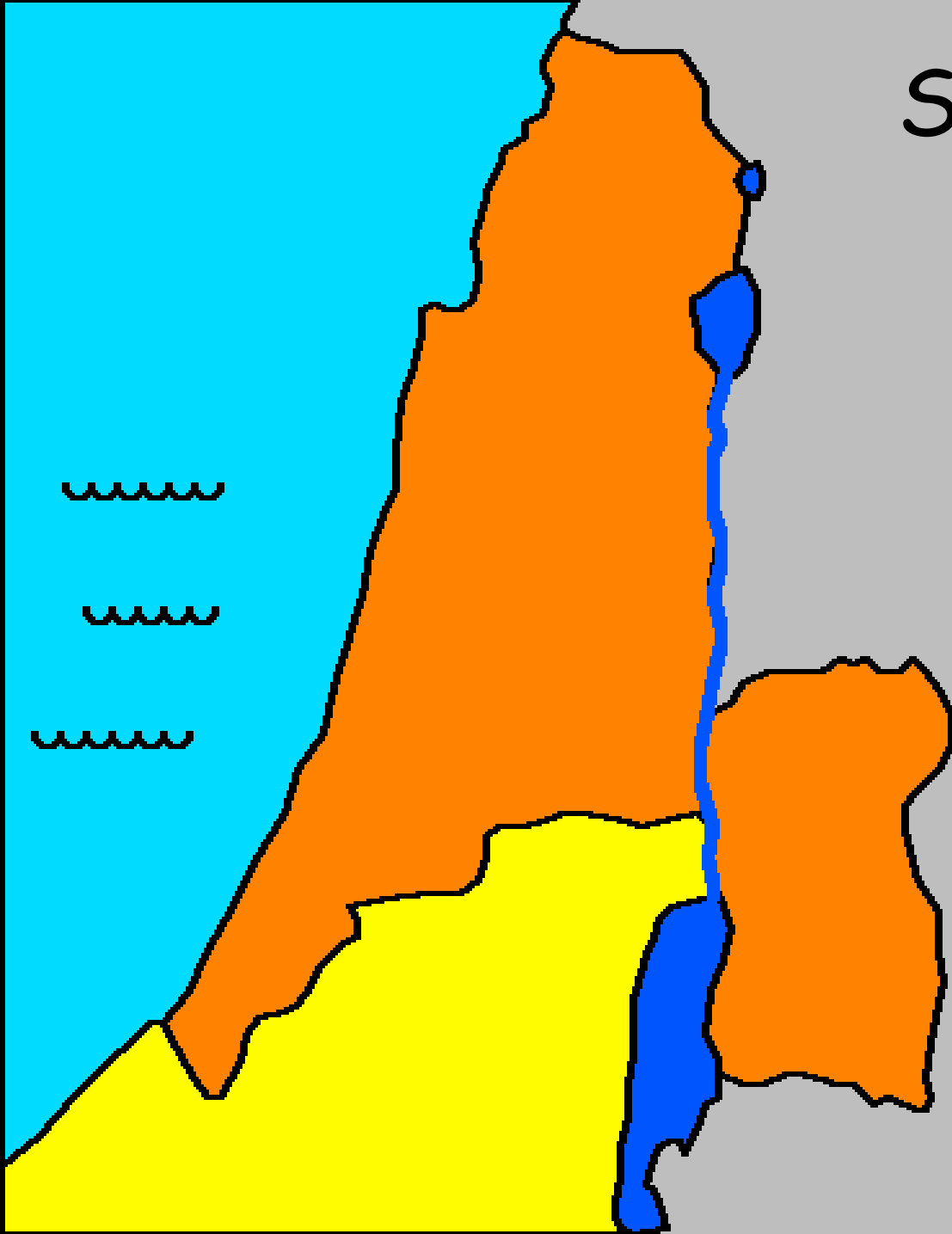
Finally Solomon died. His son, Rehoboam, taxed the people even worse than Solomon had done.



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



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

