

Written by: Edward Hughes

Illustrated by: Lazarus; Alastair
Paterson

Adapted by: Ruth Klassen

Produced by: Bible for Children
www.M1914.org

©2021 Bible for Children, Inc.

License: You have the right to copy or
print this story,
as long as you do not sell it.



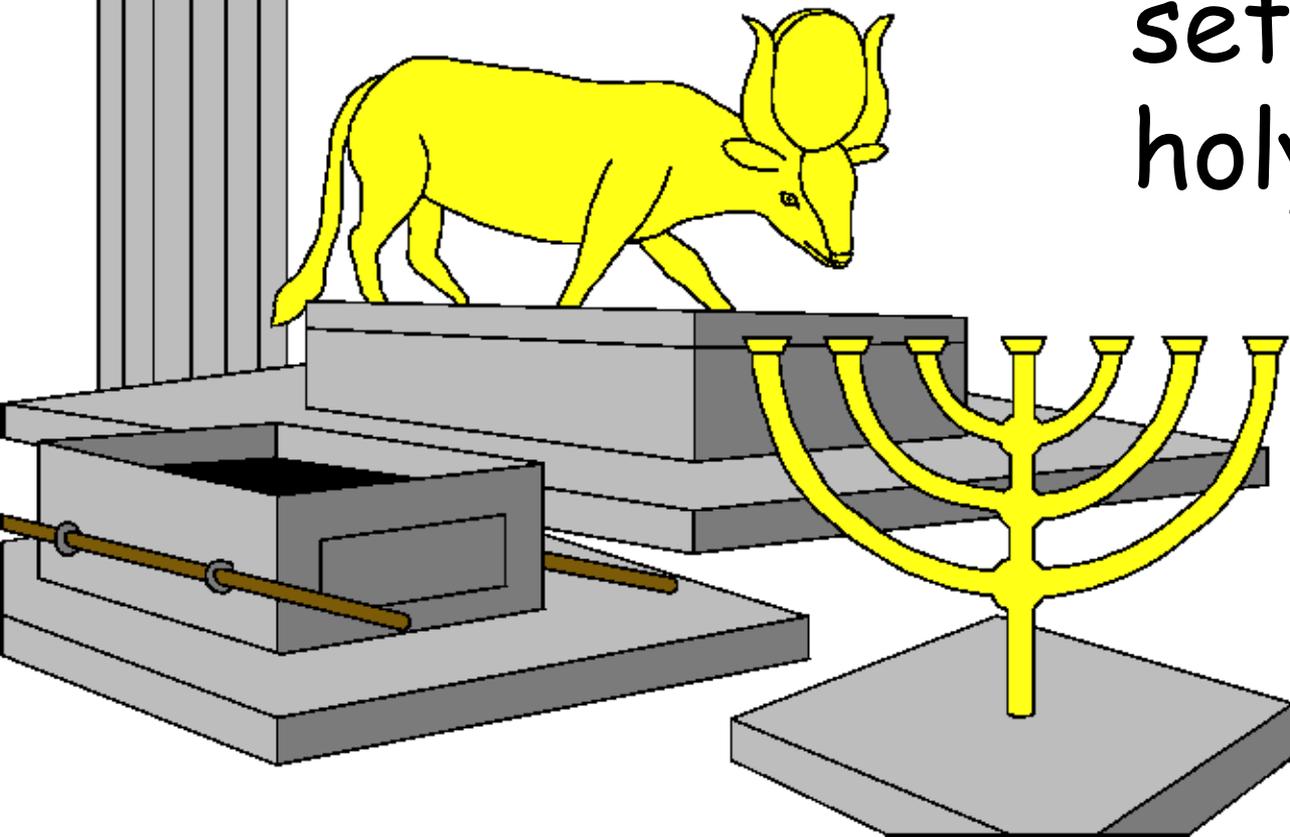
It was a sad day for Manasseh. His dad, King Hezekiah had just died. Now, only twelve years old, Manasseh was the new king over God's people in Judah.



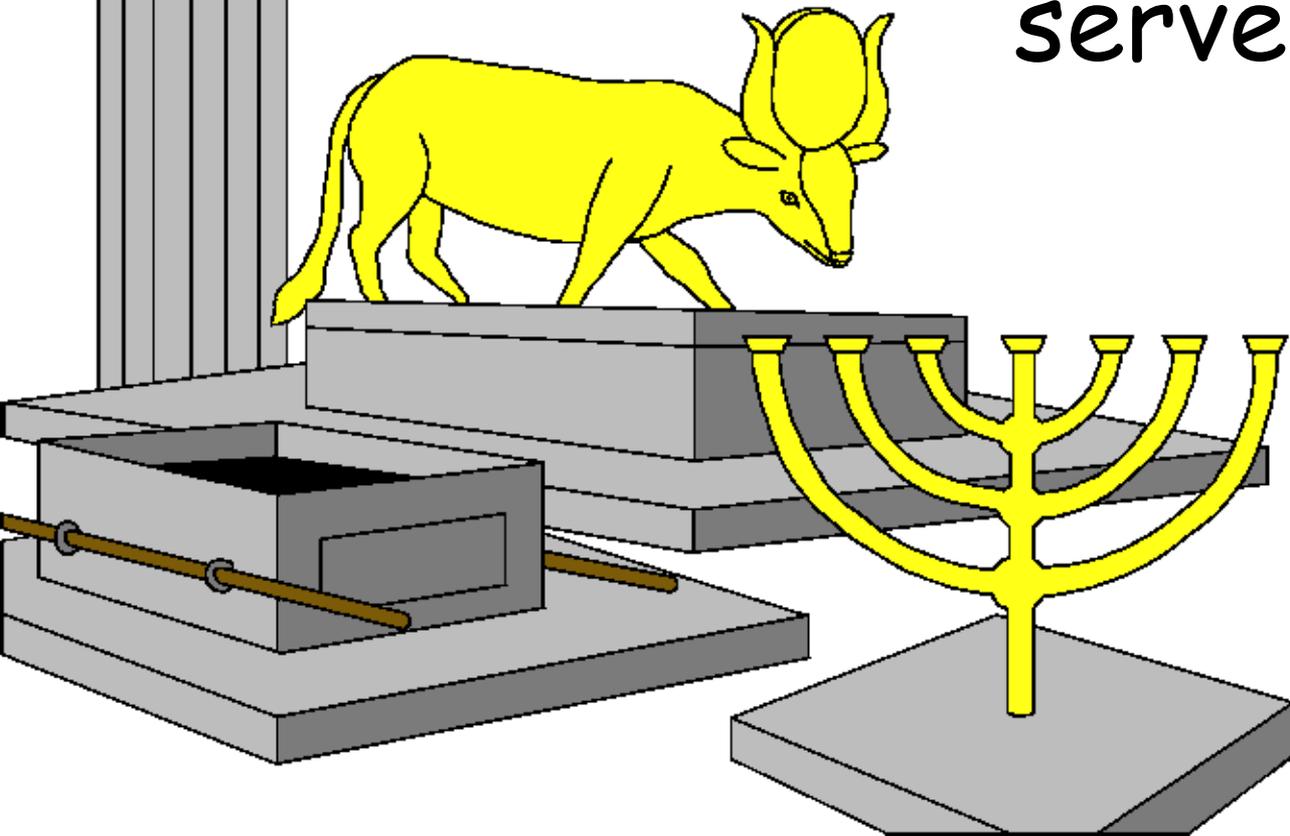
He didn't know it then, but Manasseh would be king for 55 years. Manasseh needed God's help to be a good king.



But Manasseh ignored God and did evil. Manasseh rebuilt altars for idol worship. He even made a carved image and set it in God's holy Temple!

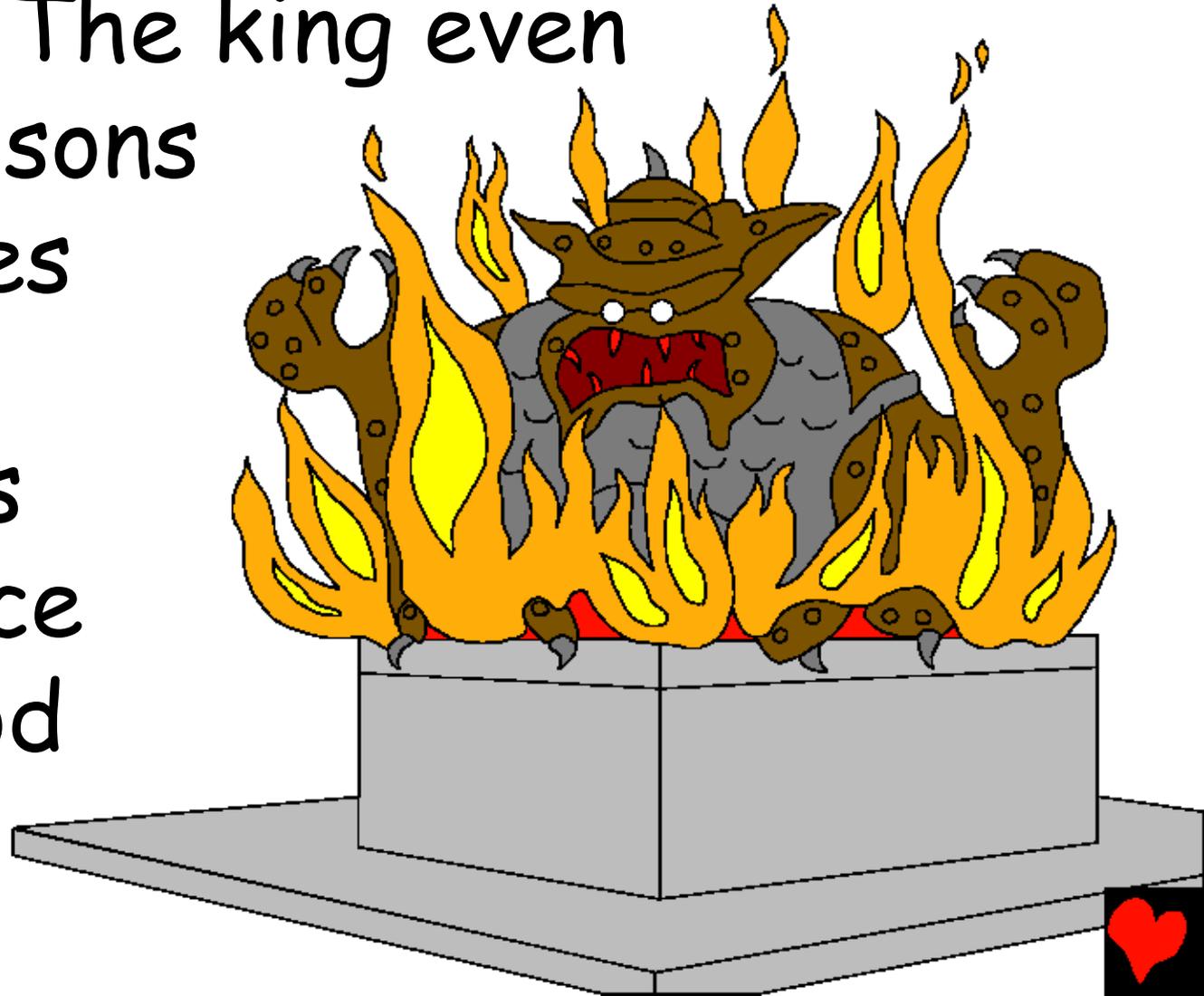


God had said through Moses,
"You shall not make any
carved images. You shall
not bow down to them nor
serve them."



Manasseh practiced witchcraft and sorcery. He led the people away from God. The king even burned his sons as sacrifices to idols.

Manasseh's disobedience angered God greatly.



When His people disobey, God allows them to be punished. That's what happened to Manasseh and the people he ruled. The LORD brought the

Assyrian
army
upon them.

Manasseh was taken
away in chains to Babylon.



Suffering in
Babylon, Manasseh
pleaded with the
LORD, his God. He
humbled himself
greatly before the
God of his fathers,
and prayed to Him.



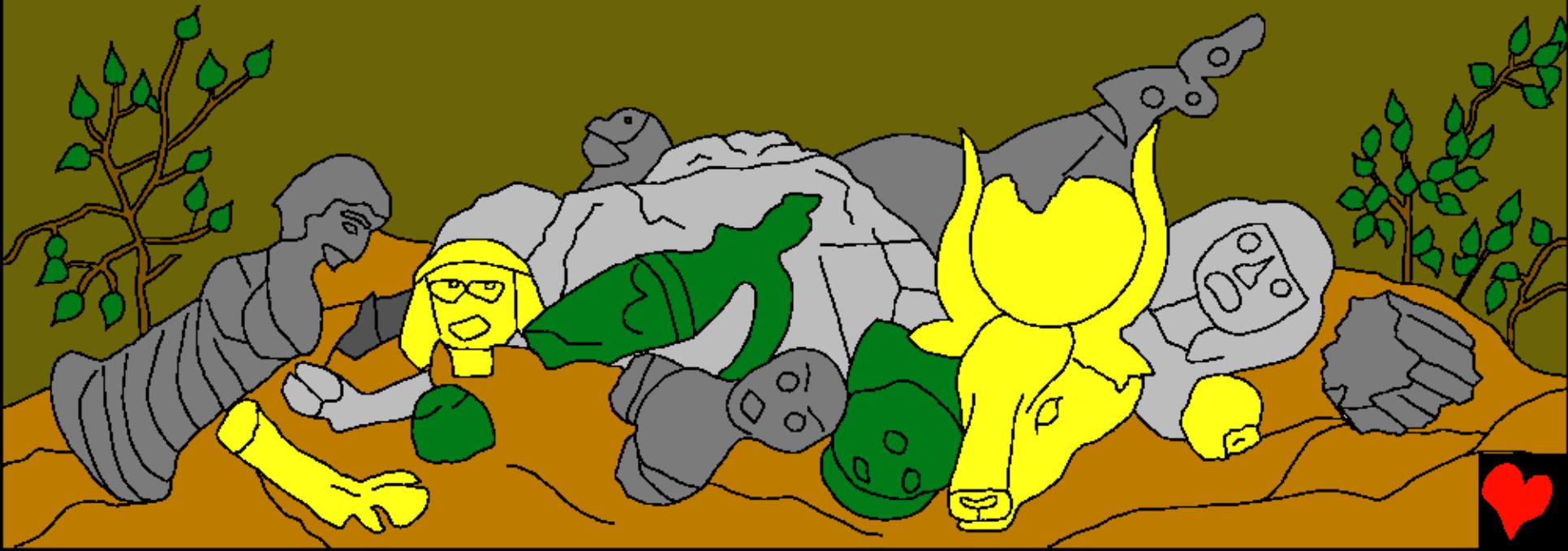
No more praying
to dead idols!
But, would the
living God answer
Manasseh after all
his wickedness?



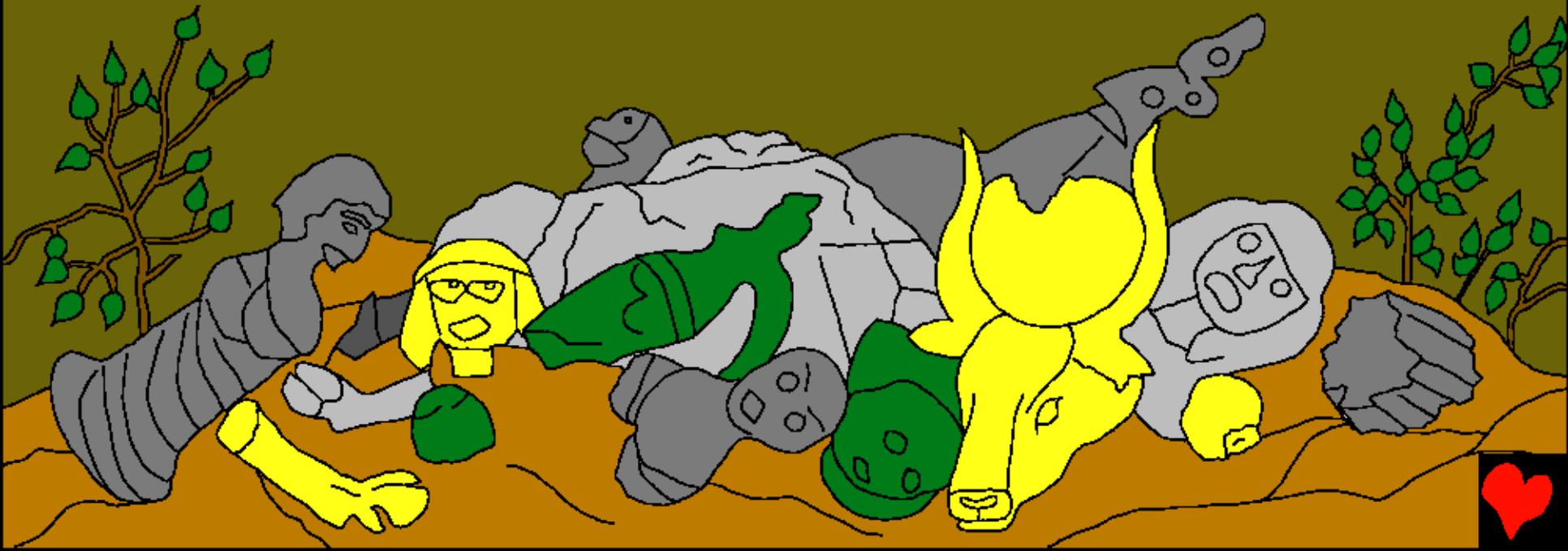
Yes! God heard the king's prayer and brought him back to Jerusalem, back to the throne, back to being king over the people. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.



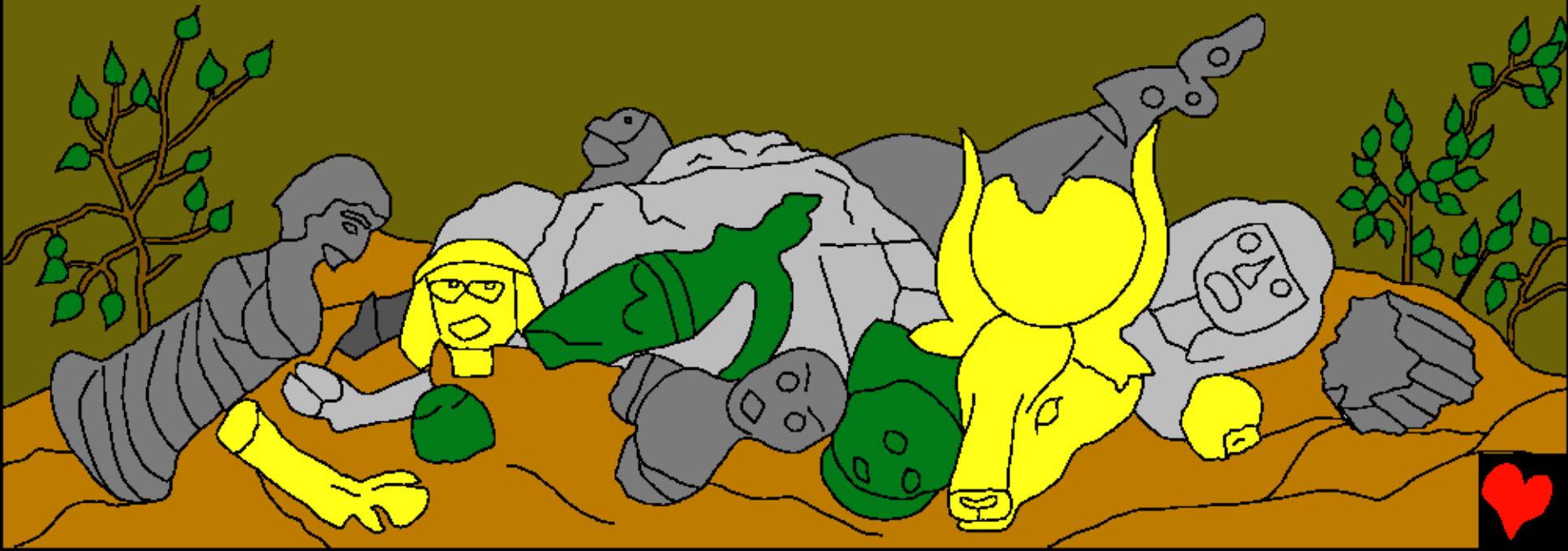
King Manasseh was a new person. He took the image out of God's temple and gathered up all the foreign gods in Jerusalem.



He threw them all away. He repaired the altar of the LORD and offered thank offerings.



Then he commanded his people
to serve the LORD God of Israel.
What a change in Manasseh!



When Manasseh died, his own son, Amon, returned to idol worship. But he did not humble himself before the Lord like Manasseh. As Amon sinned more and more, his servants finally murdered him, in his own

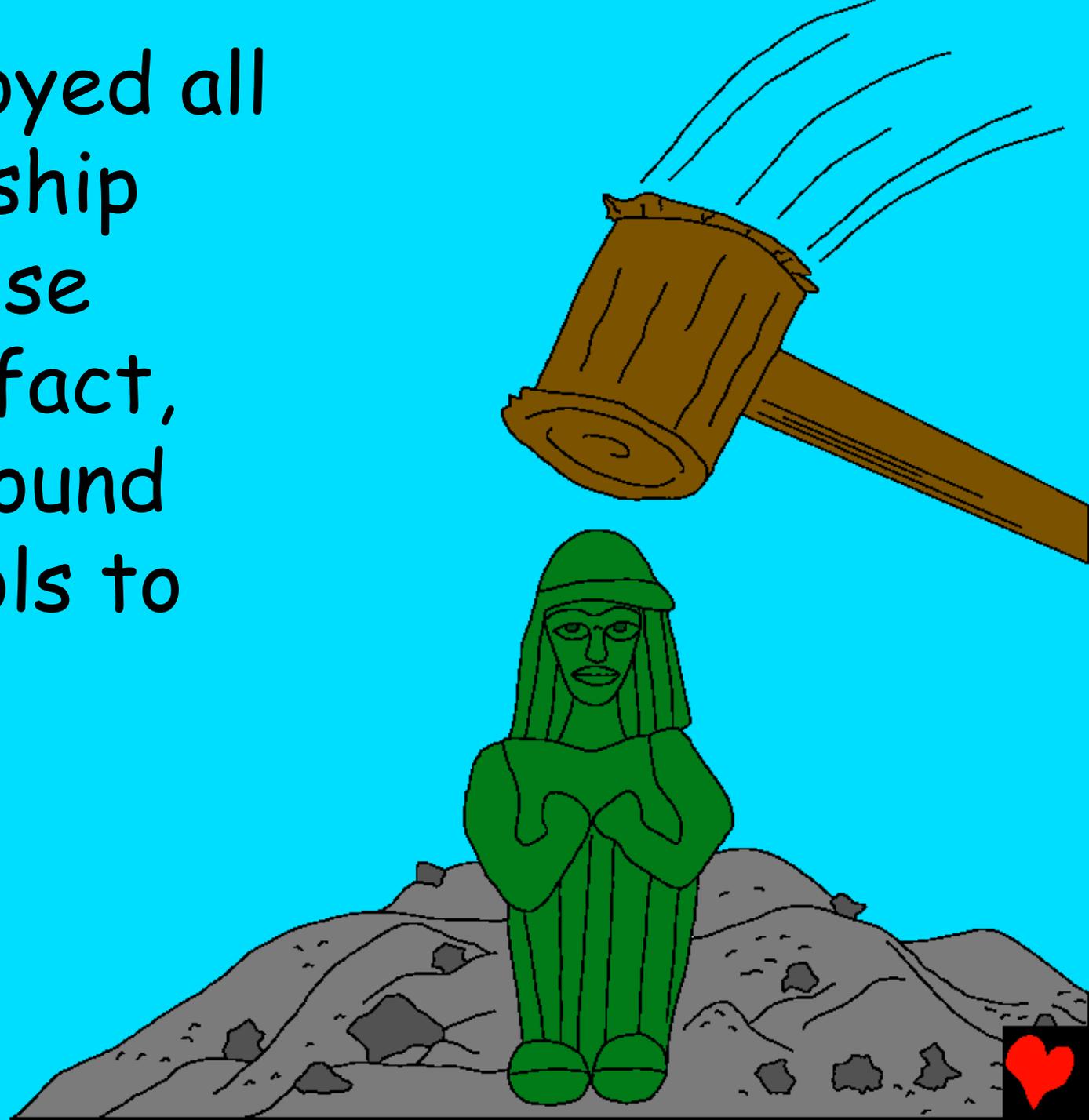
house. He reigned only two years.



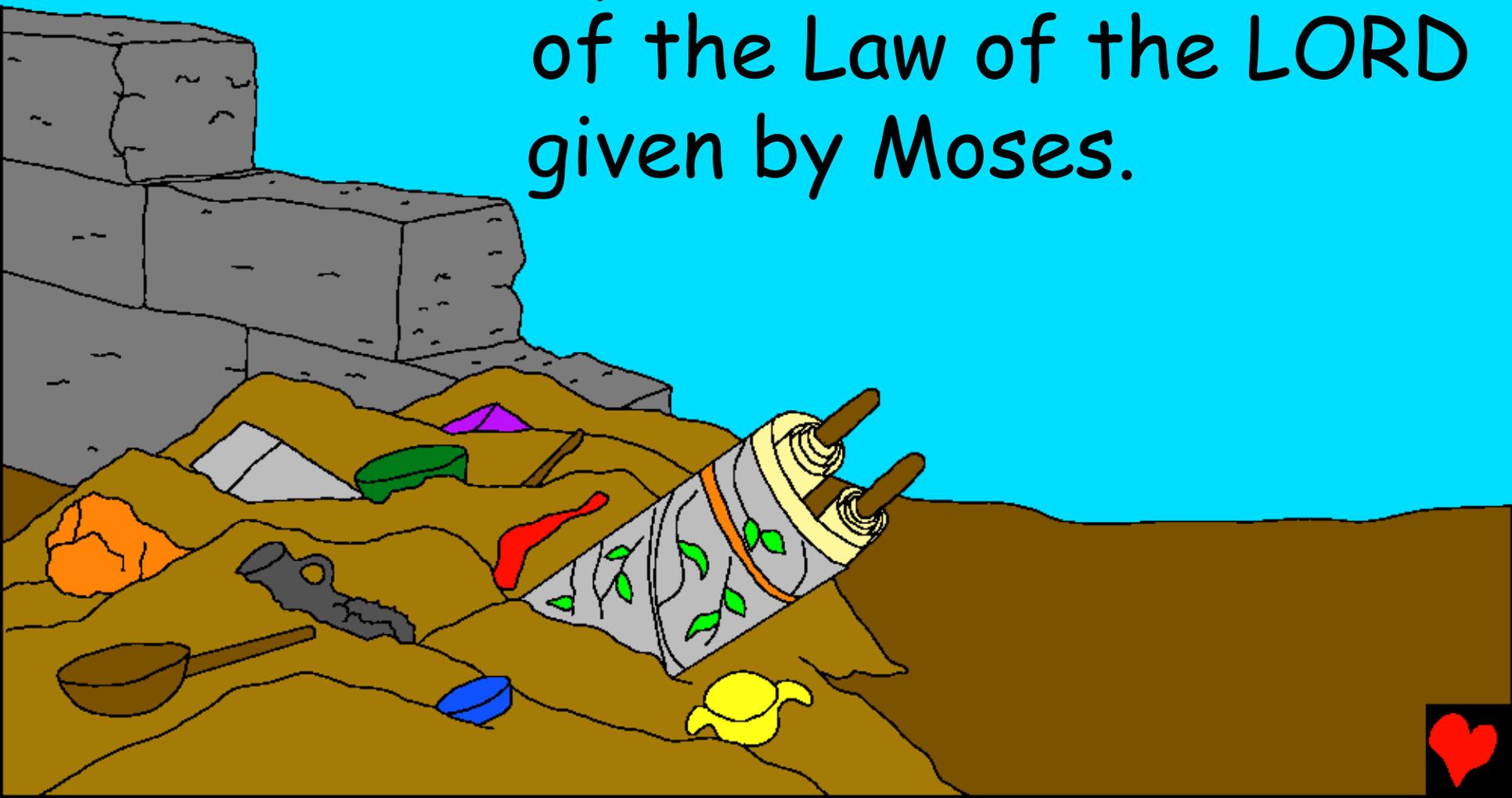
The next king,
Josiah, was only
eight years old.
He reigned 31
years and did
what was right
in God's sight.



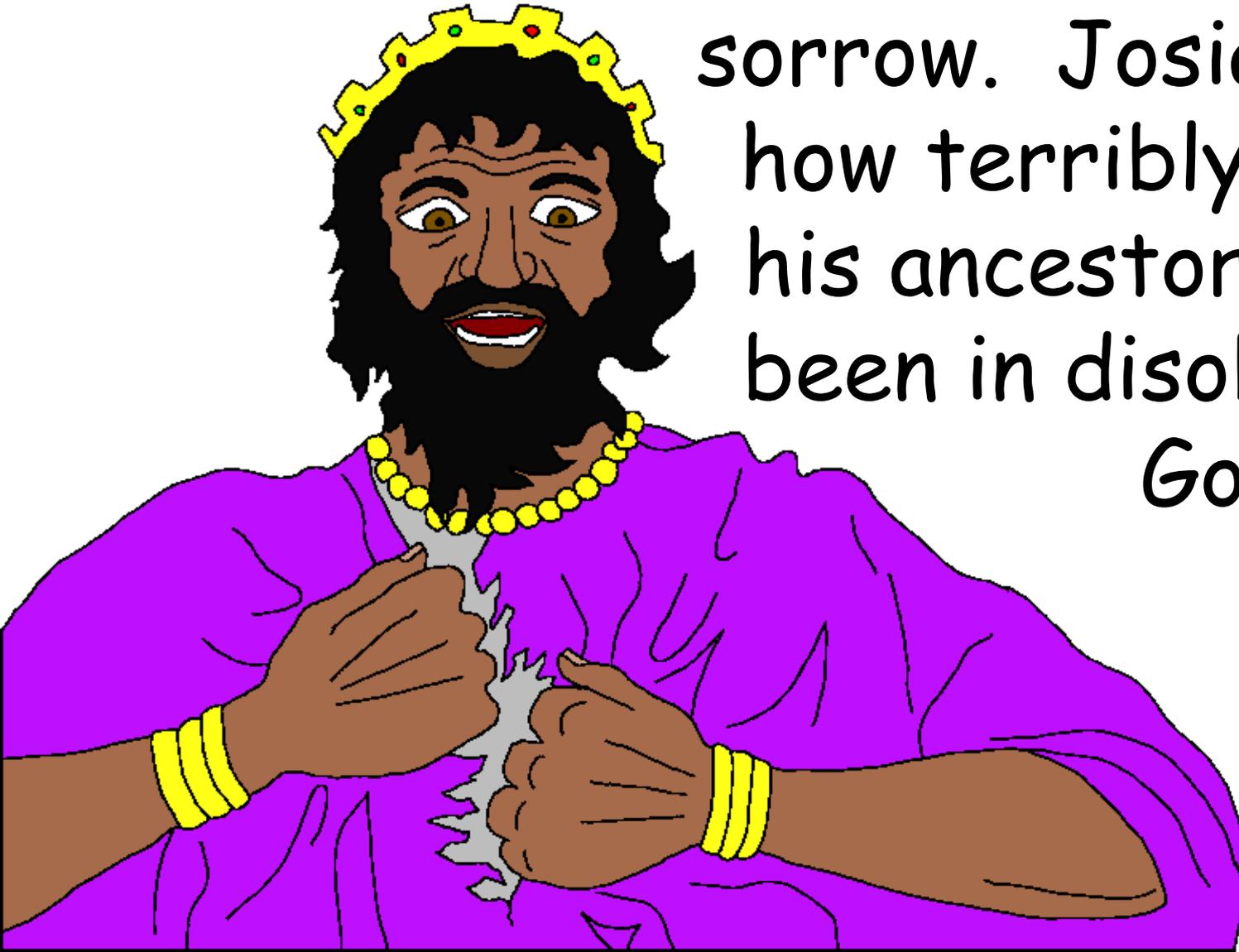
He destroyed all false worship and all false gods. In fact, Josiah ground all the idols to powder.



Good king Josiah also cleaned and repaired the Temple of God. Among the rubbish a priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD given by Moses.



When the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his clothes in sorrow. Josiah knew how terribly wicked his ancestors had been in disobeying God's law.



A prophetess named Huldah gave God's message to Josiah. "Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will bring all the curses in the book upon this place

because they have forsaken Me.'"



But because Josiah was
humble and obedient,
this would not happen
until after he died.

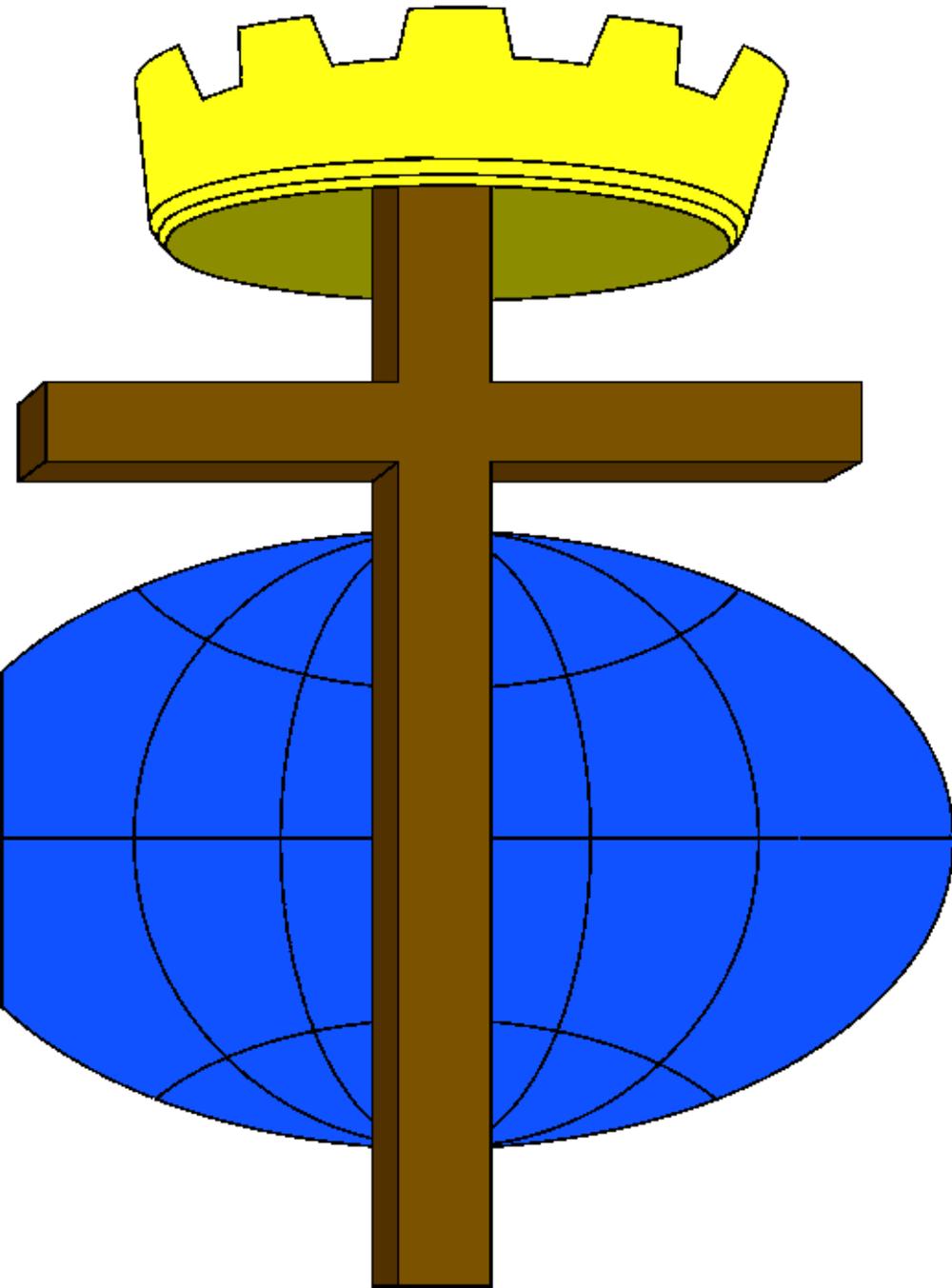


God helped Josiah to lead his people back to the LORD. One day, while leading his army in battle, Josiah was badly wounded by an enemy archer.



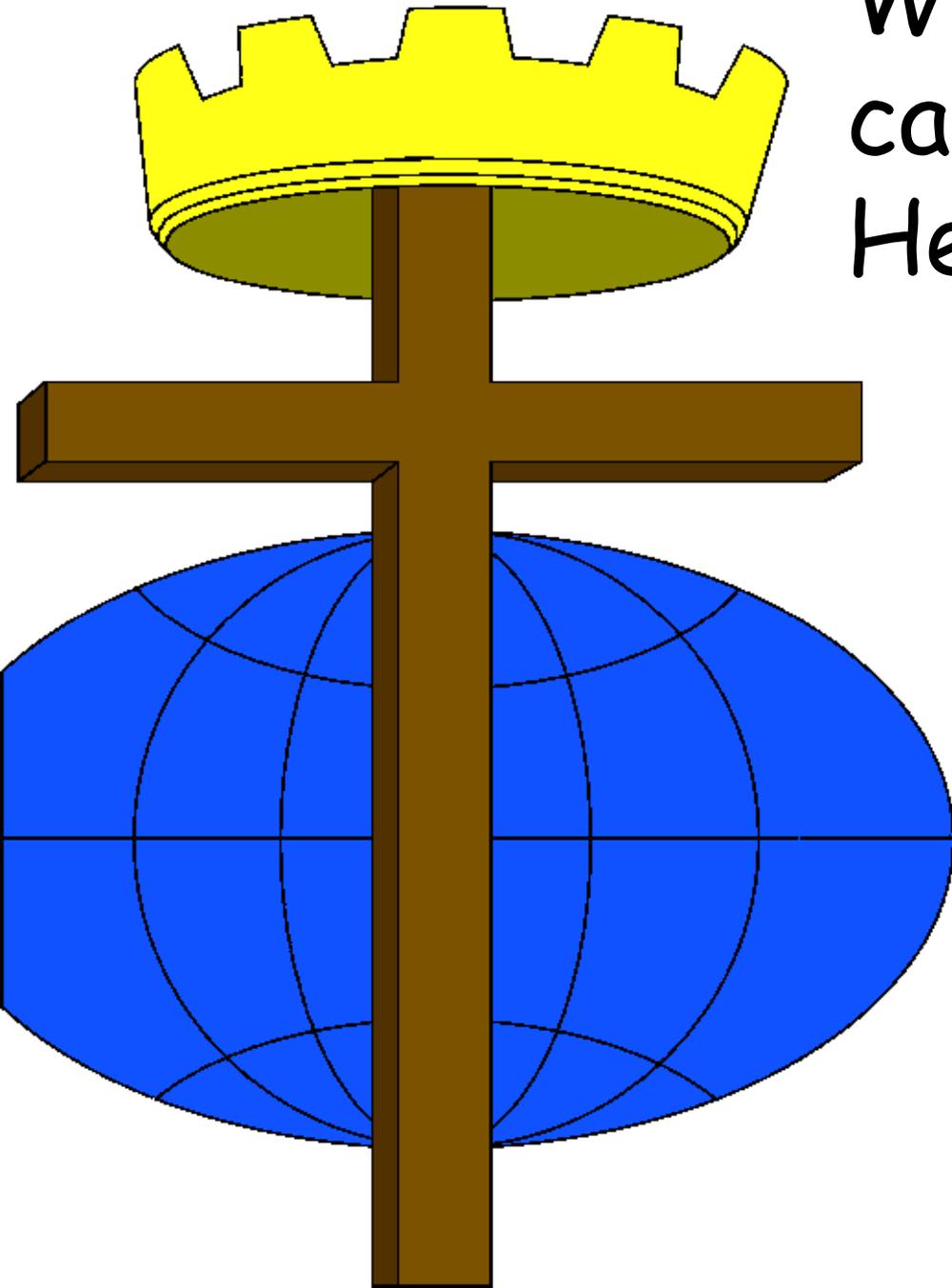
His servants took him home in a chariot to Jerusalem where he died. All his people mourned, and made up songs about good King Josiah.





Soon after, the kingdom ended. But someday, a king will reign again over Israel. His name is **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**





When Jesus Christ came the first time, He was rejected and crucified. When Jesus Christ comes again, He will not only be king over Israel, but over the whole earth.



Good Kings, Bad Kings

A story from God's Word, the Bible,

is found in

2 Chronicles 33-36

"The entrance of Your Words 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

