

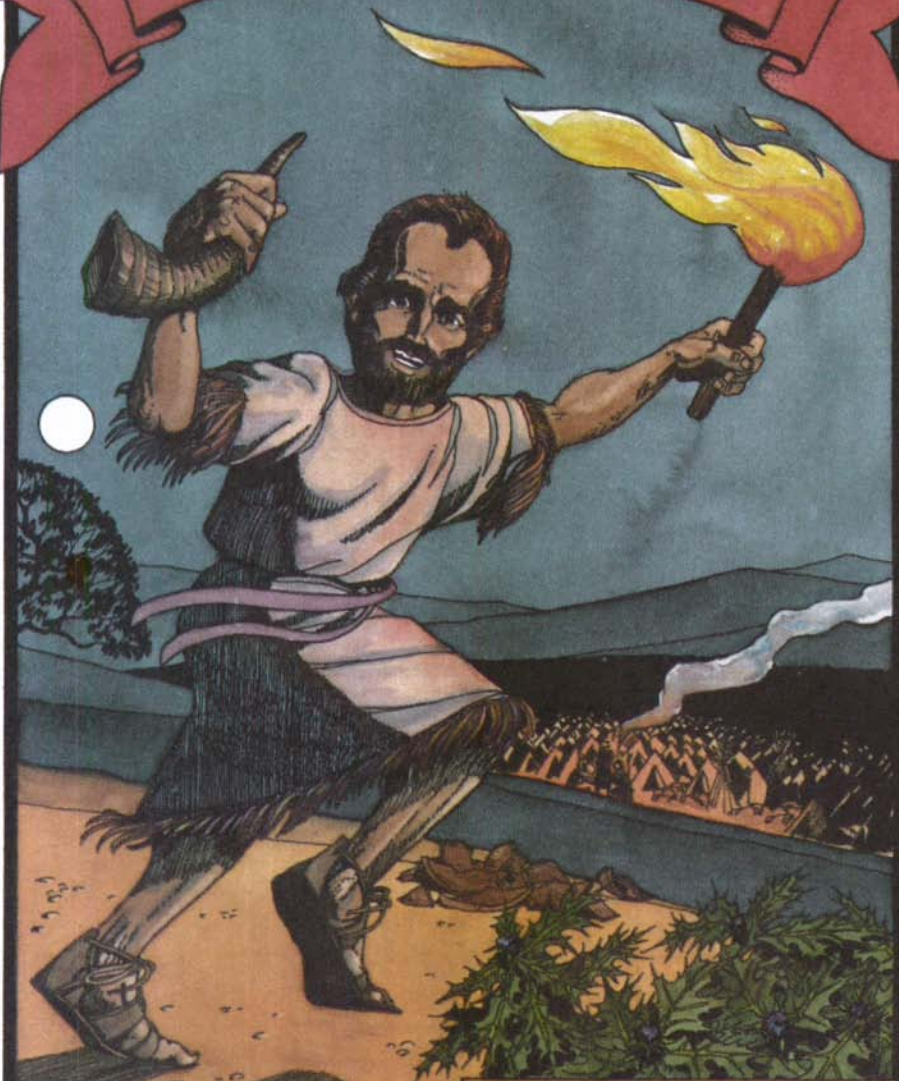
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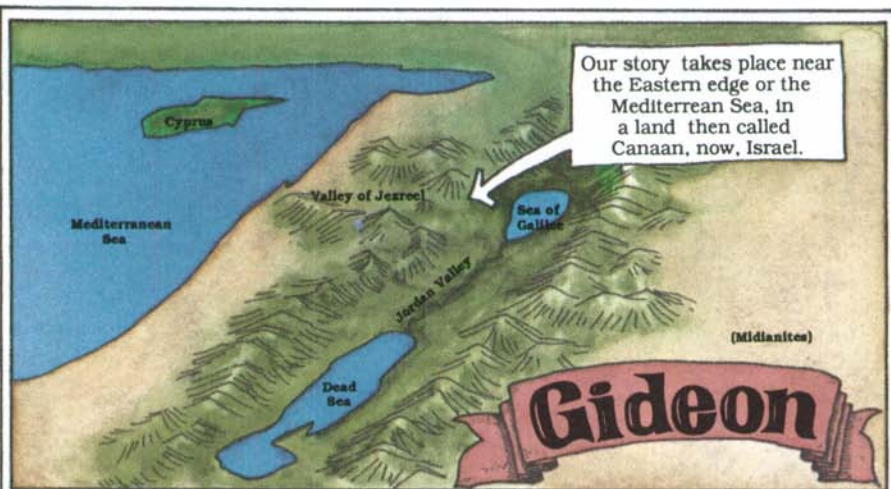


Gideon



Judges, Chapters 6-8

True stories of real people and their exciting lives through the one true God



Our story takes place near the Eastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea, in a land then called Canaan, now, Israel.

Written by Ron Barefield

Illustrated by Jerry and Faith McCollough

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This comic book is based on the story of Gideon which can be found in the Bible in the Old Testament book of Judges, chapters 6 through 8.

After Moses had led the nation of Israel out of Egypt and Joshua led them to victory over Canaan, the Hebrew people adopted the idol worship of the Canaanites. As a result of worshipping idols, the Israelites were allowed by God to fall under the oppression of surrounding tribes.

Over the succeeding years, righteous men and women came forward to lead Israel out of oppression and to a worship of the living God. These individuals were called "judges". Israel had been under siege by the Midianite tribes for seven years when our story took place. It was a time of fear, a time of hunger, a time of despair.

First Edition 1989

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Uncle Rufus sees a group of dejected kids walking down the street.



We **lost** again,
Uncle Rufus.

Haven't **won**
a game in
three years.

I think we'd better give up as a
team. We'll **never** win against
those guys.



Let me tell you a story about a group of people just like you. They hadn't won in a long time either.

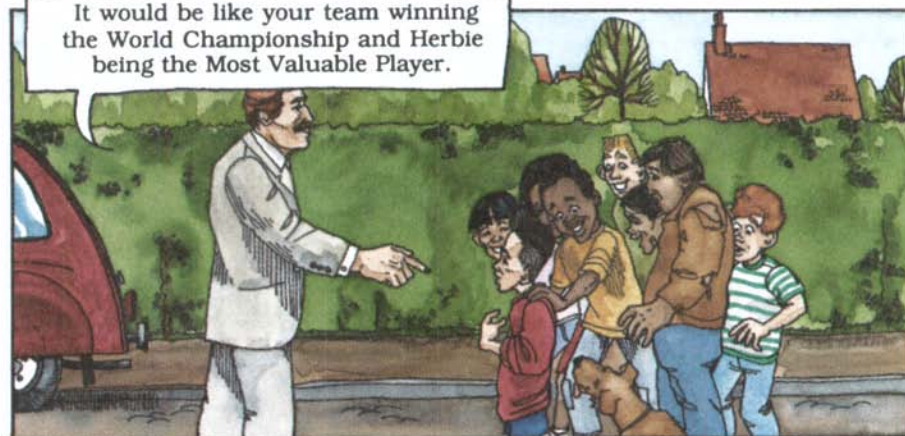
In fact, they had not won in over seven years. They were about ready to give up, too.



But God took the **smallest**, the **weakest**, the **least important** person among them, and that person led them to one of the greatest upset victories in history.



It would be like your team winning the World Championship and Herbie being the Most Valuable Player.

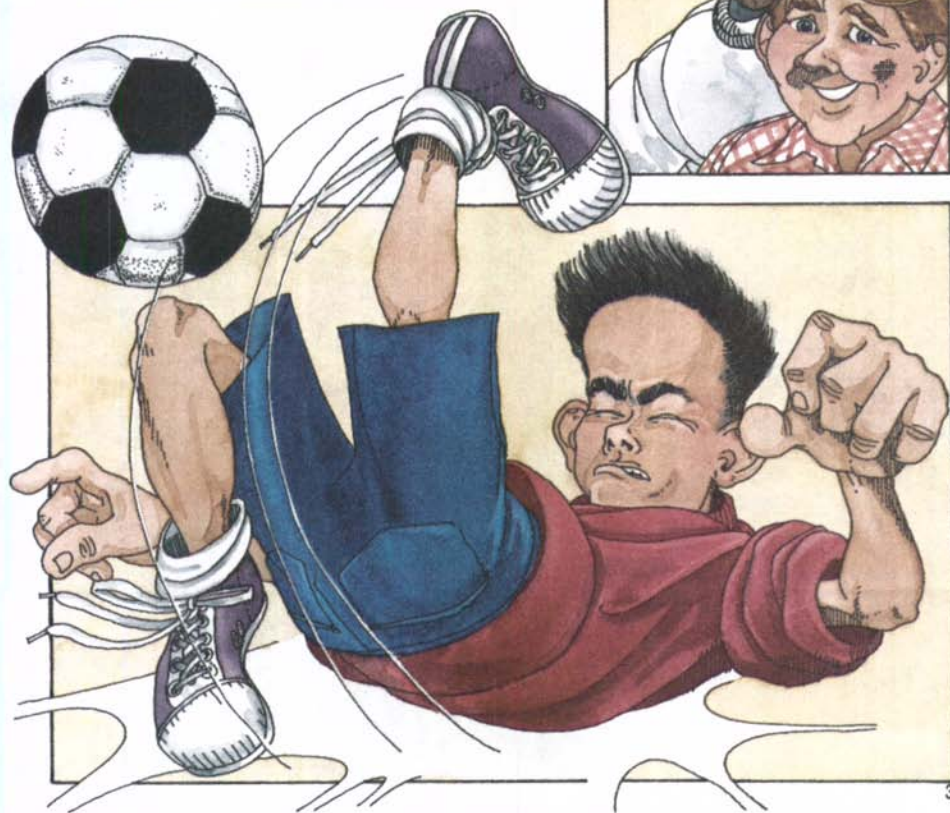




Wait a minute, Uncle Ruf.
You haven't seen Herbie try to play.

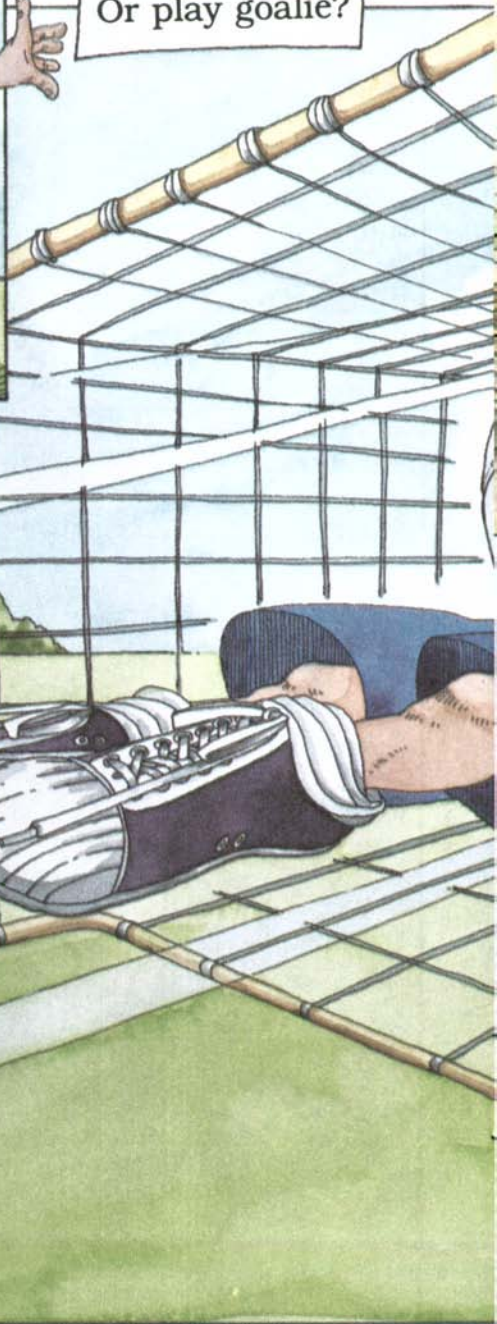


Have you ever seen Herbie try to
kick a ball?



Or run?

Or play goalie?





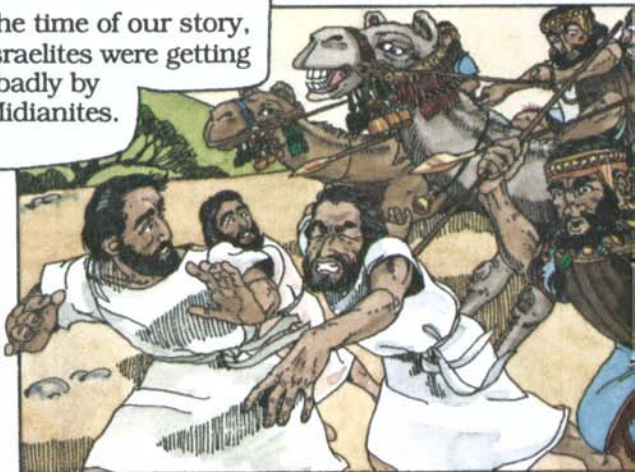
Okay. Okay. But just listen to my story about Gideon and see if you still feel this way.



Gideon was an Israelite.



At the time of our story, the Israelites were getting beat badly by the Midianites.



For seven **loong** years the Israelites had been so afraid of the Midianites they started living in caves in the side of the mountain.



Whenever the Israelites were ready to harvest their crops, the Midianites invaded the country.





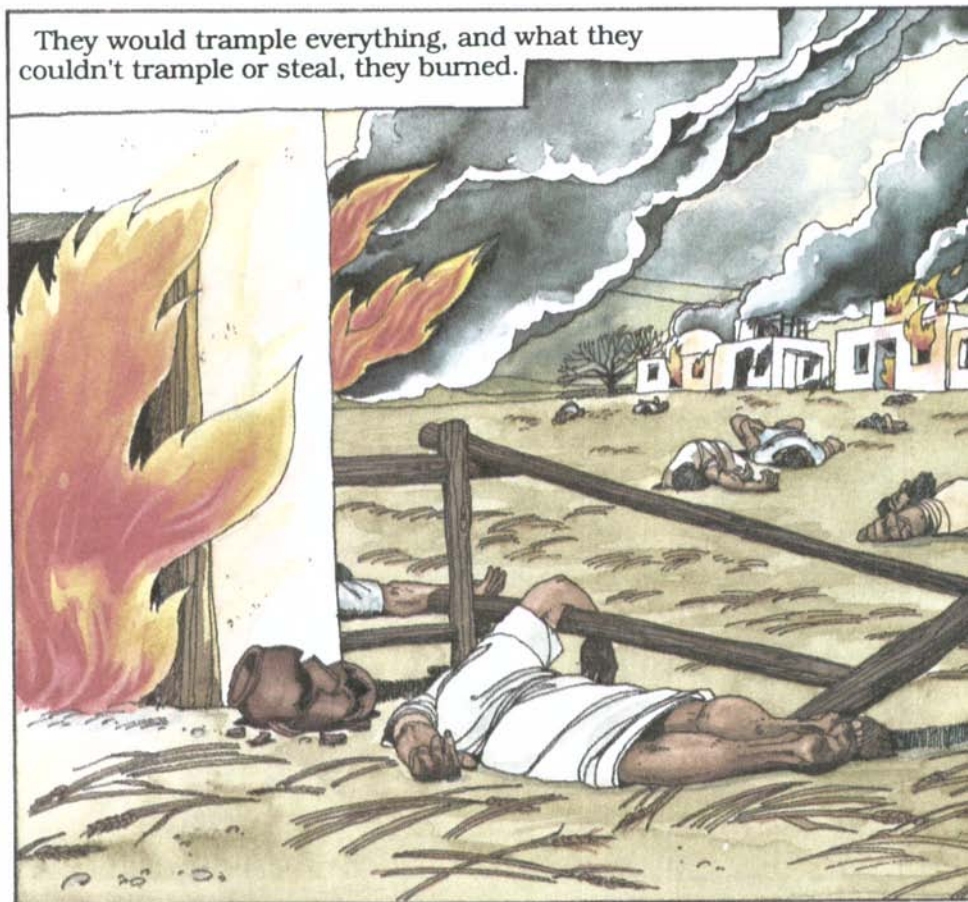
Instead of planting their own crops, it was much easier for the Midianites to invade the frightened Israelites and take their food.



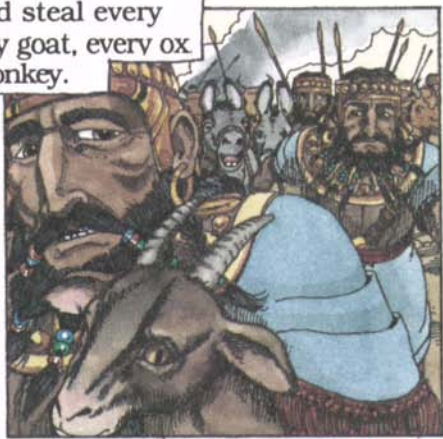
Like a swarm of grasshoppers they would attack the Israelites.

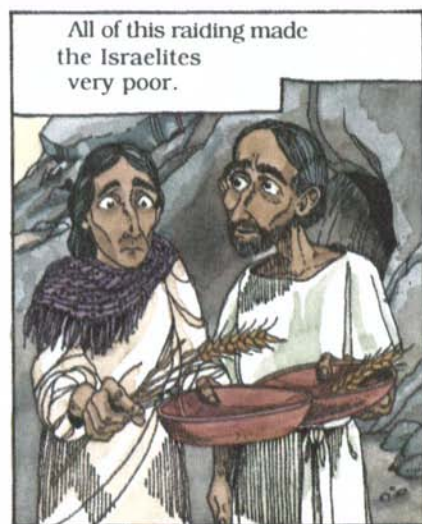


They would trample everything, and what they couldn't trample or steal, they burned.



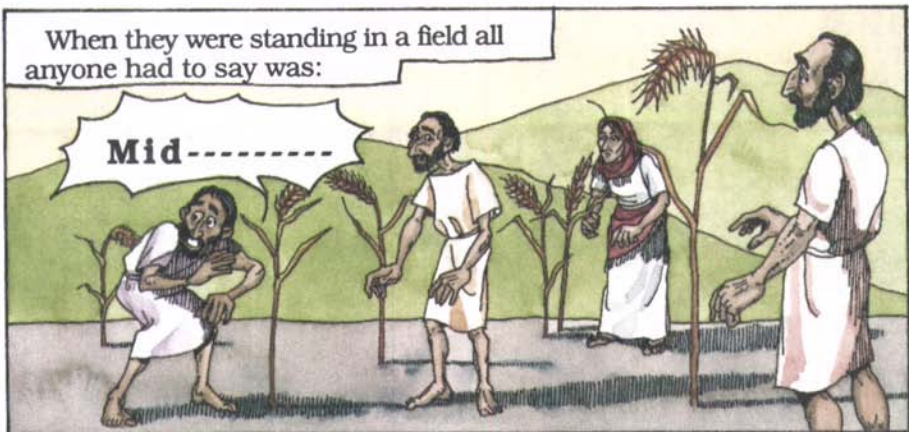
They would steal every
sheep, every goat, every ox
every donkey.





When they were standing in a field all
anyone had to say was:

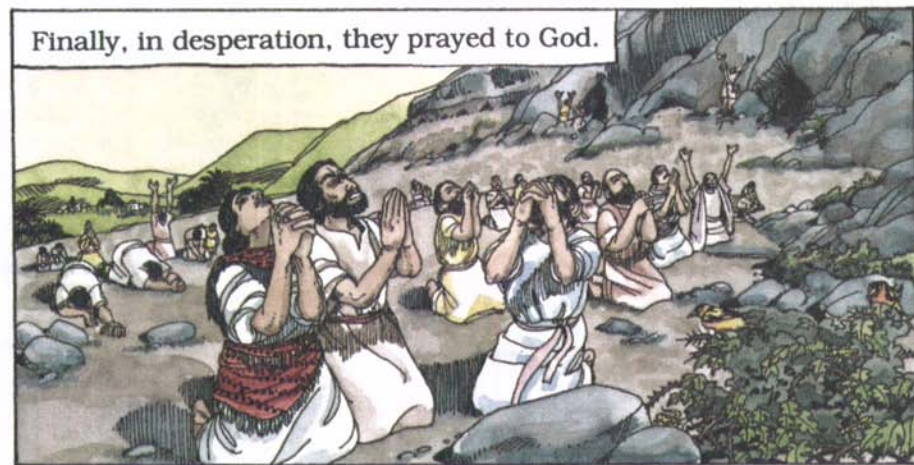
Mid-----



-----ianites.



Finally, in desperation, they prayed to God.



Hey, Uncle Rufus, think if we prayed to God he would help us beat the Bruisers?

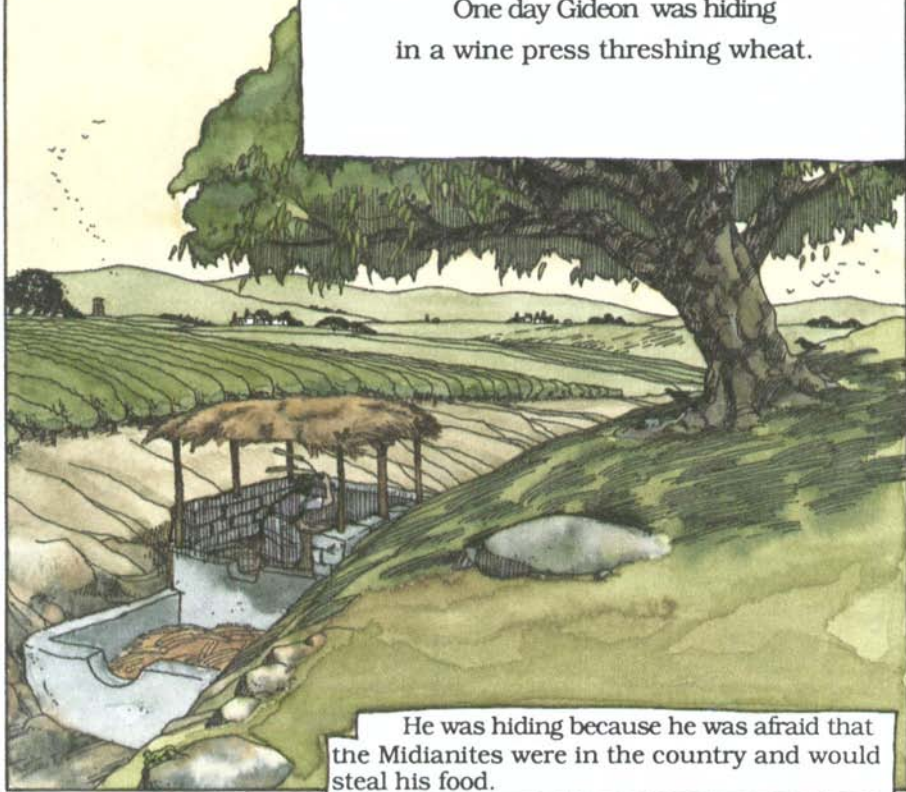
That's the best idea I've heard in a long time!

Well, if your life were in danger or if they were going to hurt you in any way, God would help you. But, I don't think God would choose sides in a game.

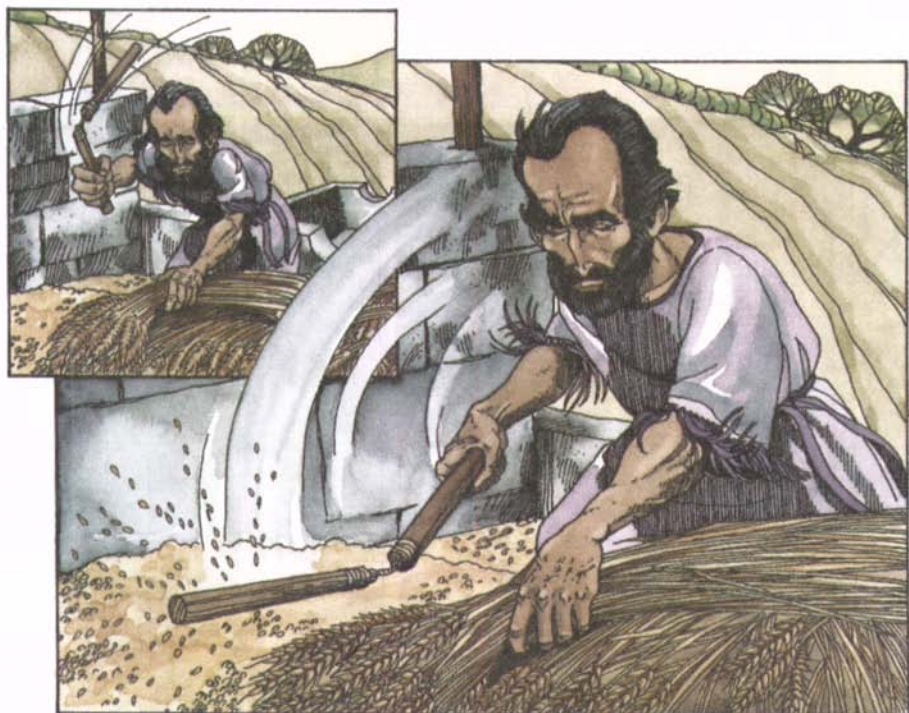


Back to the story.

One day Gideon was hiding in a wine press threshing wheat.



He was hiding because he was afraid that the Midianites were in the country and would steal his food.



**The Lord is with you,
Mighty Warrior.**



Are yuh-yuh-yuh you a
Muh-Muh-Muh Midianite?

Ta-ta-ta take the food.
Ju-ju-ju-just don't hurt me.



Relax, Gideon. I am the angel of the Lord.

He sent me here to tell you that He will use you to deliver the Israelites from the Midianites.



Muh-Muh-Muh Me?

I'm afraid of my own shadow. My tribe is the **poorest** tribe in the nation. My family is the **poorest** in the tribe. I'm the **youngest** and **least important** in my family. This man is a spy. When I say I'll fight the Midianites, he'll just use it as an excuse to kill me.

I WILL BE WITH YOU AND YOU WILL STRIKE DOWN ALL THE MIDIANITES!!!

Wait a minute. God doesn't make mistakes and choosing me to fight the Midianites would be a **b-b-big** mistake.



If you are God's angel give me a sign.
Wait right here.



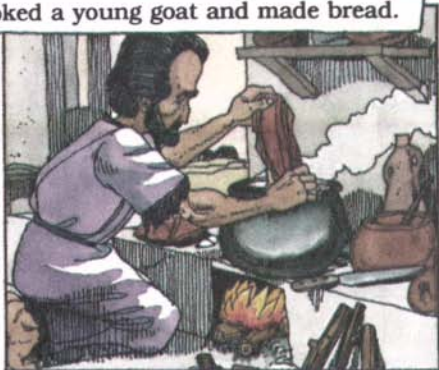
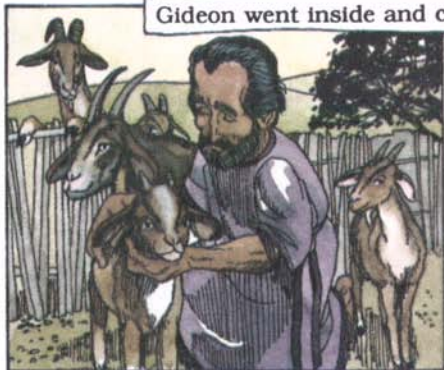
Please don't go away until I come back.

Wait right here.

Don't move. I want to give you a present.



Gideon went inside and cooked a young goat and made bread.



Putting the meat in a basket and its broth in a pot, he took it to the angel.



Take the meat and the bread and place them on that rock.



With the tip of the staff that was in his hand, the angel touched the meat and bread. Fire flared from the rock and consumed the meat and bread.

The angel disappeared.



I have seen an angel of
the Lord face to face.



God:

**Peace!!!!
Do not be
afraid!**

That night God told Gideon to take two bulls and tear down his father's altar to Baal (a false god), and to cut down the Asherah (a false goddess) pole beside it.

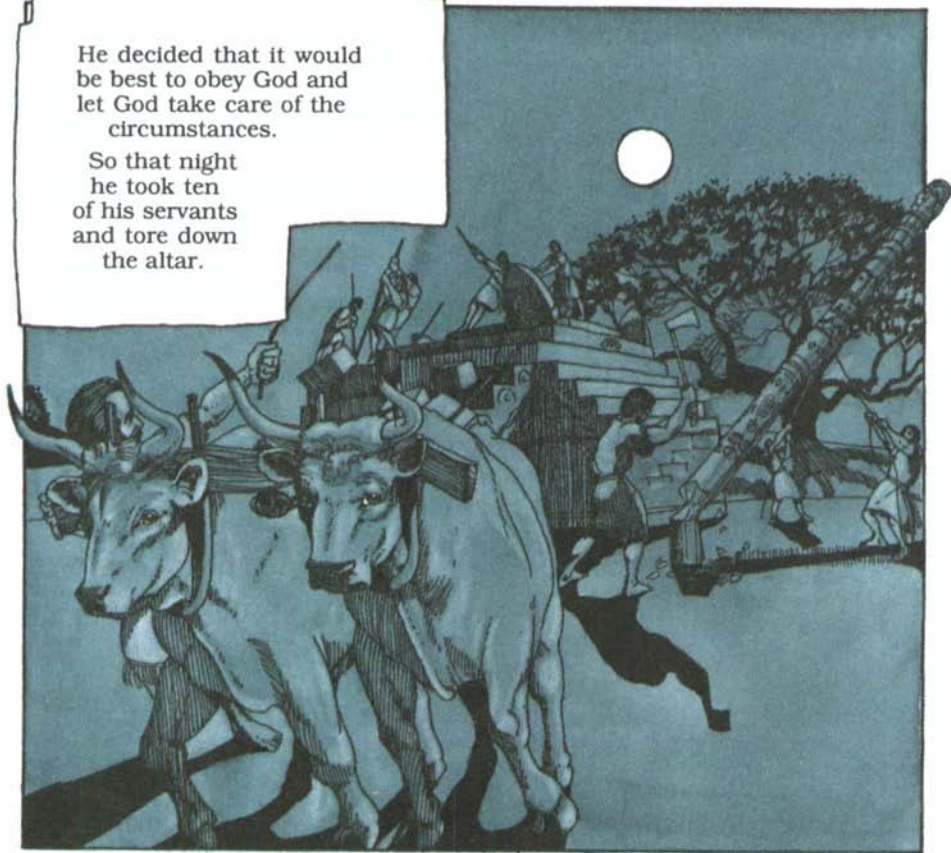
Then God told him to build the proper kind of altar according to His instructions, and to use the wood from the Asherah pole to offer one of the bulls as a burnt offering.

Now Gideon was really scared!

He knew what would happen if he tore down the altar to Baal. The people would be very mad and would want to kill him. But he didn't want to disobey God either.

He decided that it would be best to obey God and let God take care of the circumstances.

So that night he took ten of his servants and tore down the altar.



The people were MAD!!!

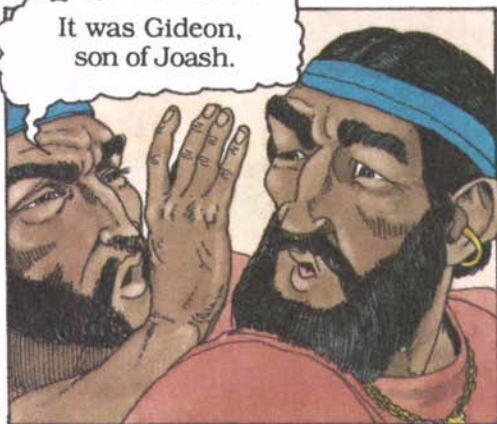
Who did this?

He must die!!!



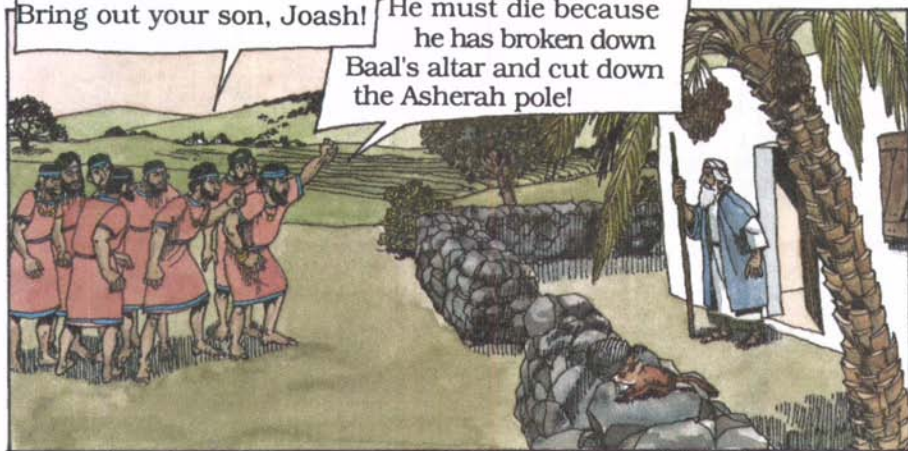
We'll burn him
on the altar !!!!

It was Gideon,
son of Joash.



Bring out your son, Joash!

He must die because
he has broken down
Baal's altar and cut down
the Asherah pole!



Hold on!

If Baal really is a god, he can defend himself when someone breaks down his altar.



So the people let Gideon go unharmed.

About that time the crops were getting ready for harvest.
So you know what that meant.



Here came the Midianites.

God told Gideon it was time.

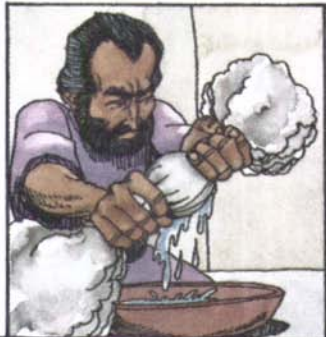
God, I believe it's you. But would you do me one favor as a sign that it REALLY is you.



I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand.



Okay, God. Just one more. Please. Don't be mad at me. But I just want to make sure. This time make the fleece dry and the ground around it covered with dew.



Next morning the threshing floor was dry and Gideon squeezed a bowl full of dew from the fleece.



That night God did so. The next morning the fleece was dry and the ground covered with dew.



**Bring on
the
Midianites!
!!!!**

Gideon called for all the troops he could get to fight the Midianites.



Early one morning, he and his men camped at the spring of Harod.

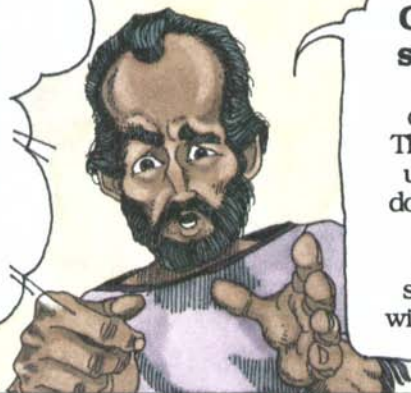


The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh.

God:

You have too many men.

If you win the battle with these men, the Israelites will think it is their strength, not Mine, that delivered them.



God, are you sure?

I mean we're already outnumbered. The odds against us are tremendous. Even with this group of men we don't stand a chance without Your help.



You have too many men. Tell your men that any of them who trembles with fear can turn back and leave Mount Gilead.

Okay, God. But You know how scared they are. I won't have anyone left. I can't stand to watch them leave.



22,000 men left when Gideon told them what God had told him.



Well, at least I have 10,000 men left. We can do a little damage.



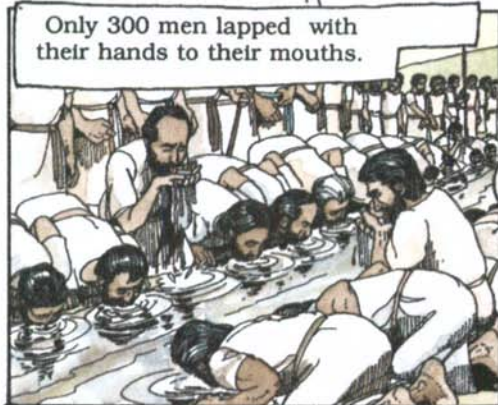
Still too many men.

Are you sure?

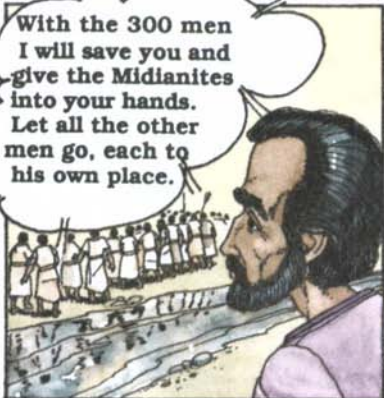


Take the men down to the stream. Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog from those who kneel down to drink.

Only 300 men lapped with their hands to their mouths.



With the 300 men I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the other men go, each to his own place.





Okay. I want **YOU** to tell **ME** how the victory was won.



You have 300 men
about to attack
120,000 men.



I know.
I know.

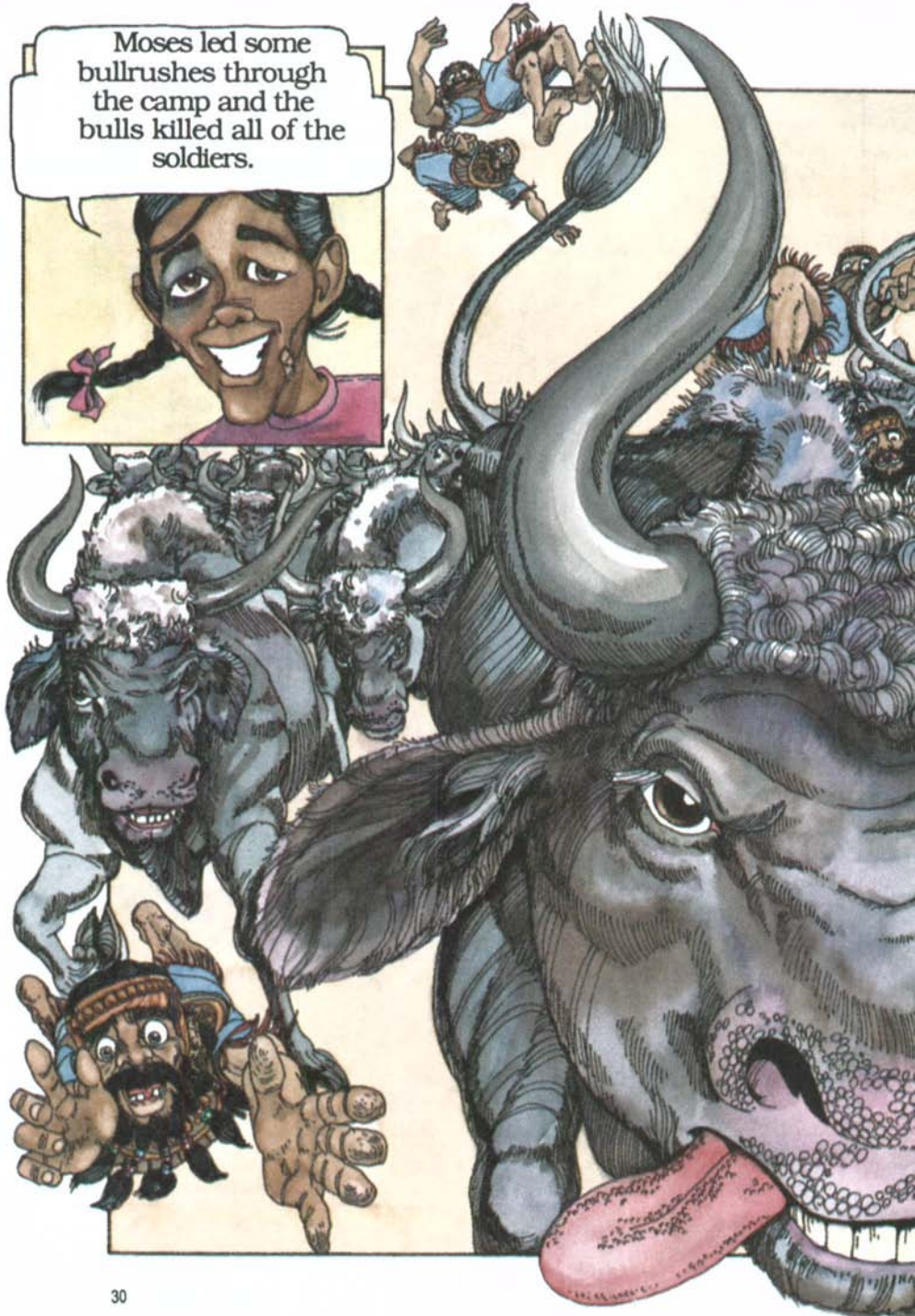
God sent a
huge whale
named Jonah and
it ate them up
in three days.





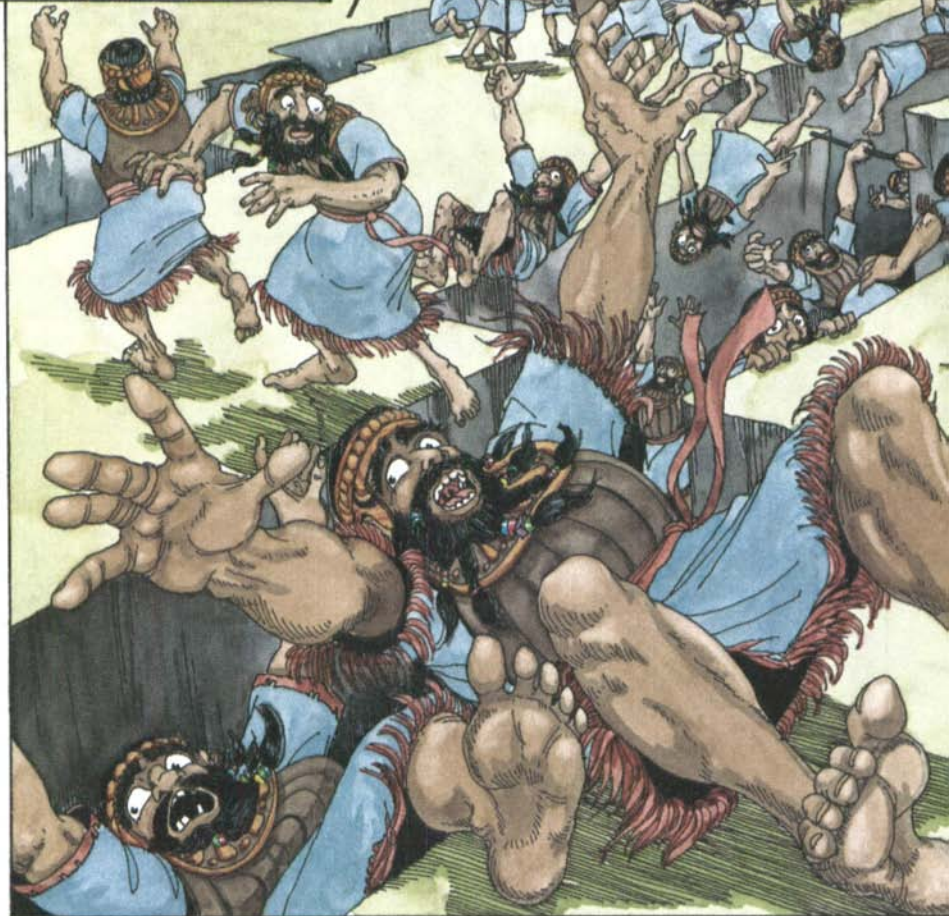
I DON'T think so!

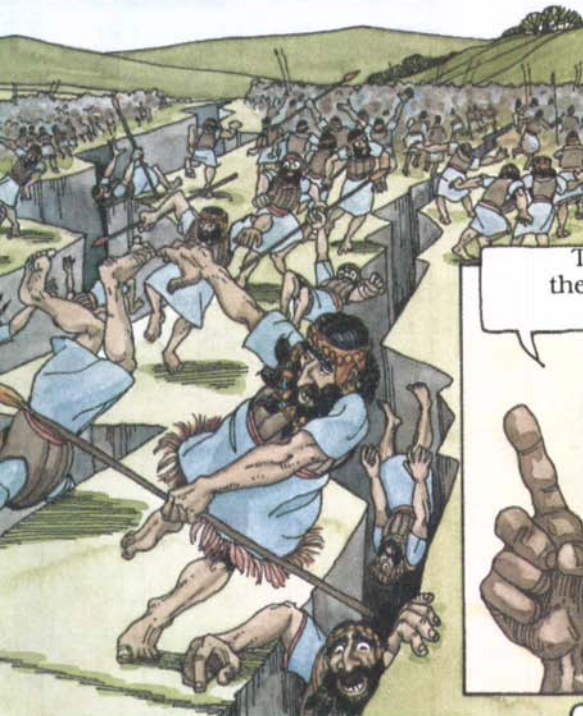
Moses led some bullrushes through the camp and the bulls killed all of the soldiers.





The 22,000 shaking men
caused an earthquake and
it swallowed up the
Midianites.



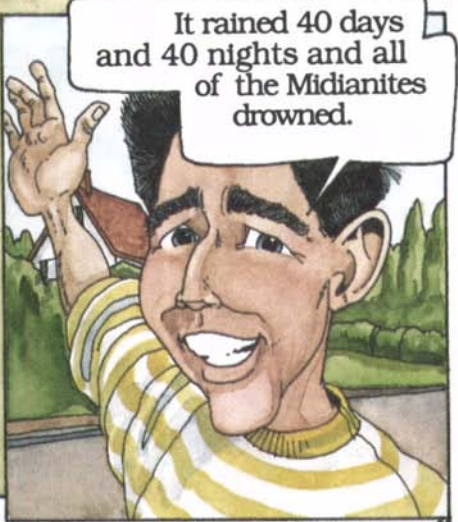


No!

They marched around the mountain seven times and it fell on them.



Sorry!

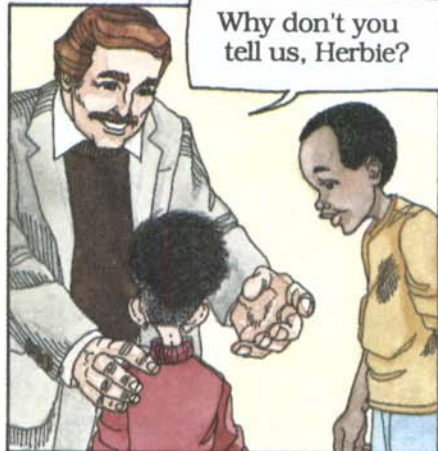


It rained 40 days and 40 nights and all of the Midianites drowned.

Doesn't **anyone** know what happened?



Why don't you tell us, Herbie?

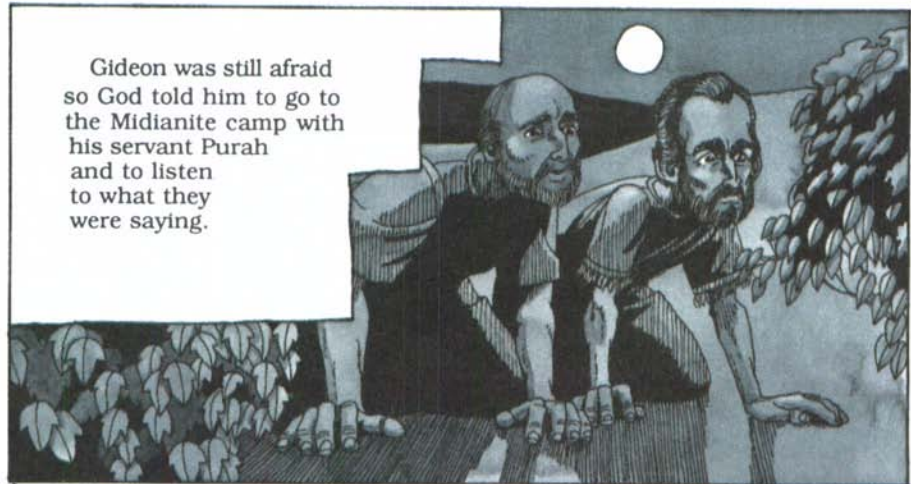


Well, Uncle Rufus, this is your comic book. Do you want **ME** to tell the story?



Sure!!

Gideon was still afraid so God told him to go to the Midianite camp with his servant Purah and to listen to what they were saying.





I dreamed a round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into our camp.



It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed.

This can be no other than the sword of Gideon, son of Joash, the Israelite.



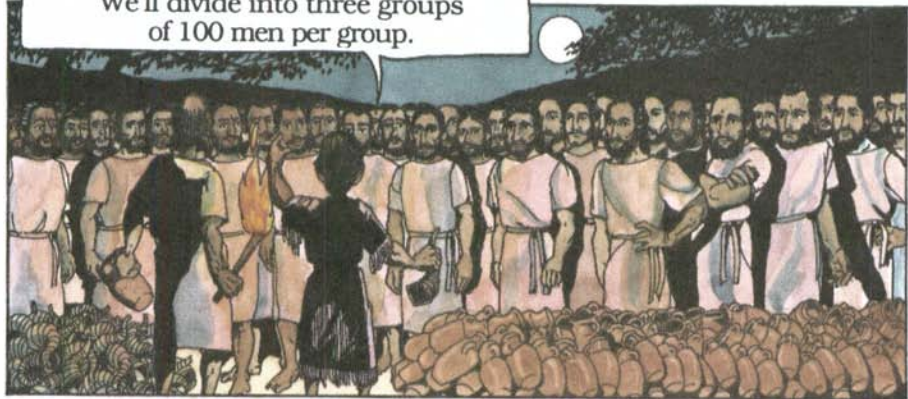
God has given our whole camp into his hands.



Get up!
The Lord has given the Midianite camp into your hands!



We'll divide into three groups
of 100 men per group.



Take these trumpets
and empty jars.



Put the torches inside
the jars.



Watch me.
Follow my lead.



When I get to the edge of the camp
do exactly as I do.



When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets,
then from all around the camp blow yours and shout:



For the Lord and Gideon!!!!

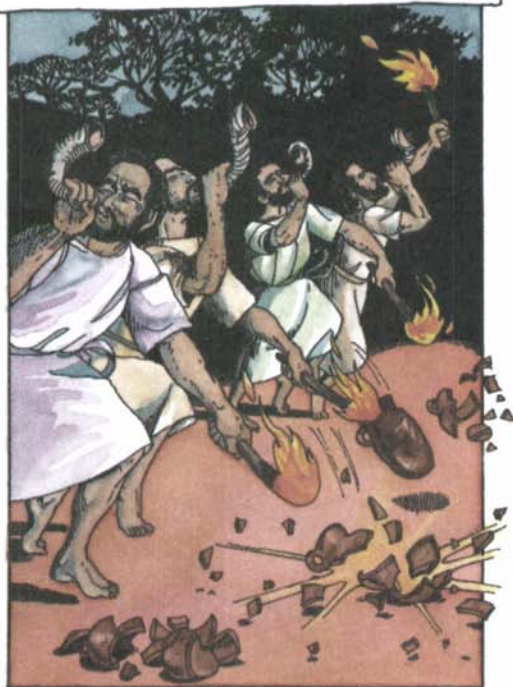
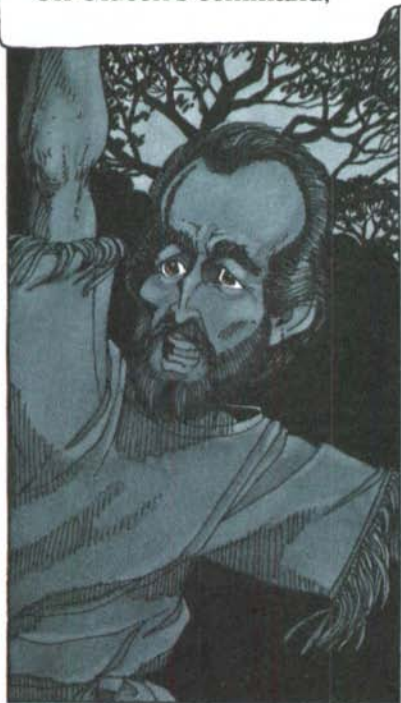


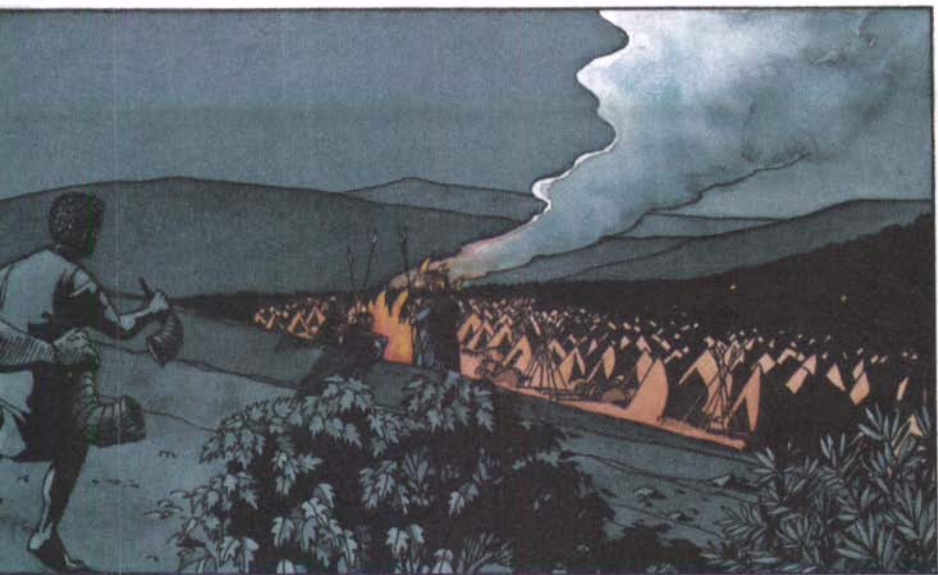
Gideon and his men got to the camp just as they were changing the guard for the middle watch of the night.



On Gideon's command,

they blew their trumpets and broke the jars in their hands.





Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding the trumpets in their right, they blew, and shouted:

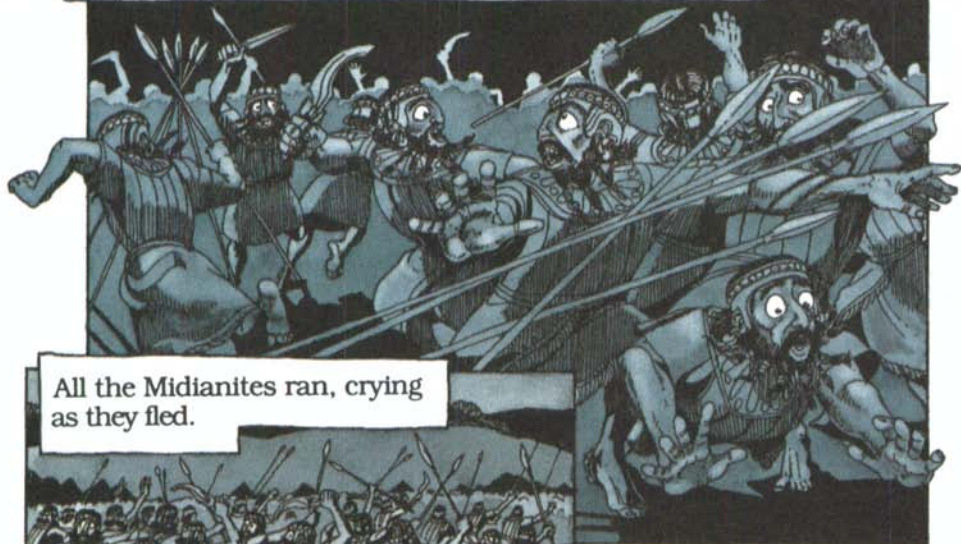
A sword for the Lord



and for Gideon!!!!



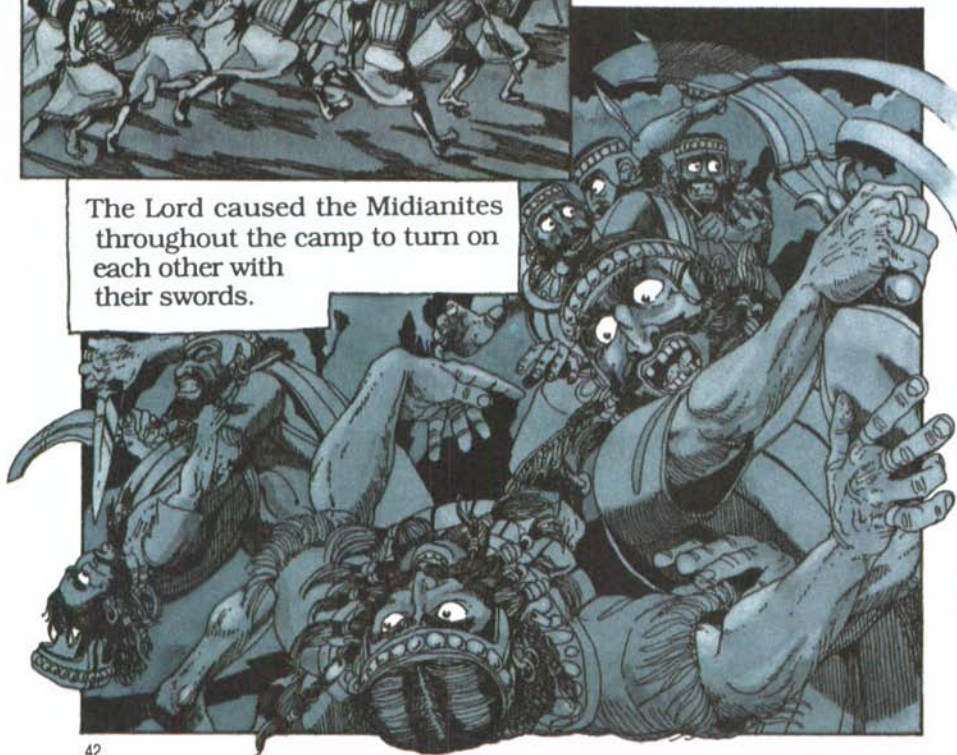
Pandemonium broke loose in the Midianite camp.



All the Midianites ran, crying as they fled.



The Lord caused the Midianites throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords.





The army fled to Beth Shittah towards Zerarah as far as the border of Abel Meholah near Tabbath.

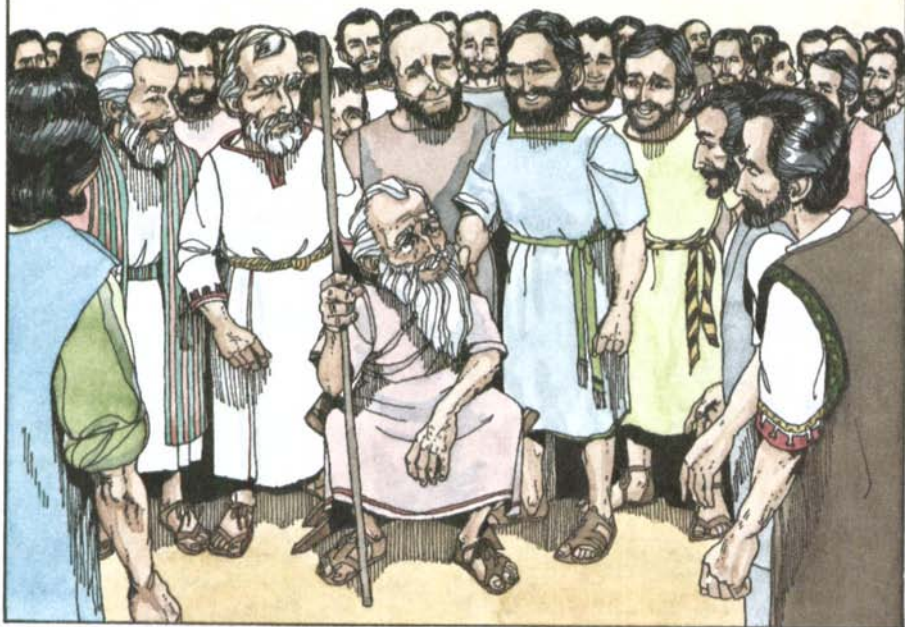


The victory was the Lord's and Gideon's!

And Israel enjoyed peace for the next 40 years until Gideon died.



And God blessed Gideon with 70 sons.





70 sons! Wow!

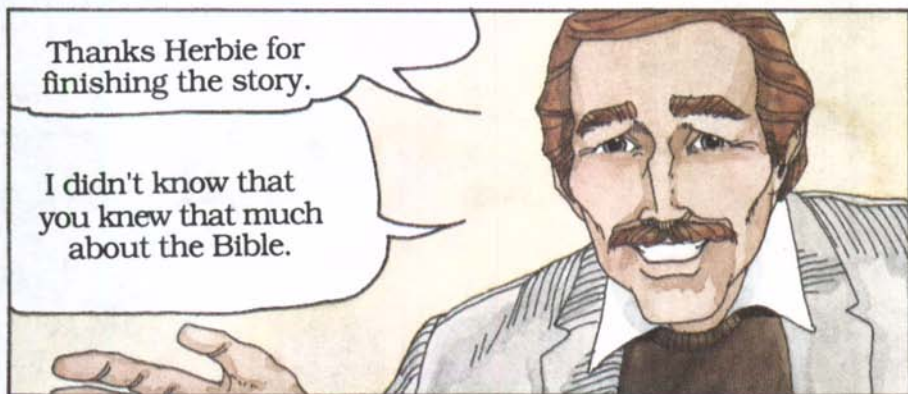


I bet they could play great with that many players!



Thanks Herbie for finishing the story.

I didn't know that you knew that much about the Bible.



Know what Uncle Rufus?
My mother told me something else about that story.



She told me that the Midianites were just like Satan.



She said that we could not defeat Satan by ourselves.

But that if we asked Jesus into our lives, that as God's children we could defeat Satan with words and without a physical fight.



She said we don't have to be afraid of Satan if Jesus is on our side.



That's right, Herbie. I wonder if any of your friends would like to give Jesus a chance to help them through life. With Jesus we can defeat great foes.



If someone comes to us with drugs... if someone wants us to steal or destroy someone else's property... we can say "no" and Jesus will help us.

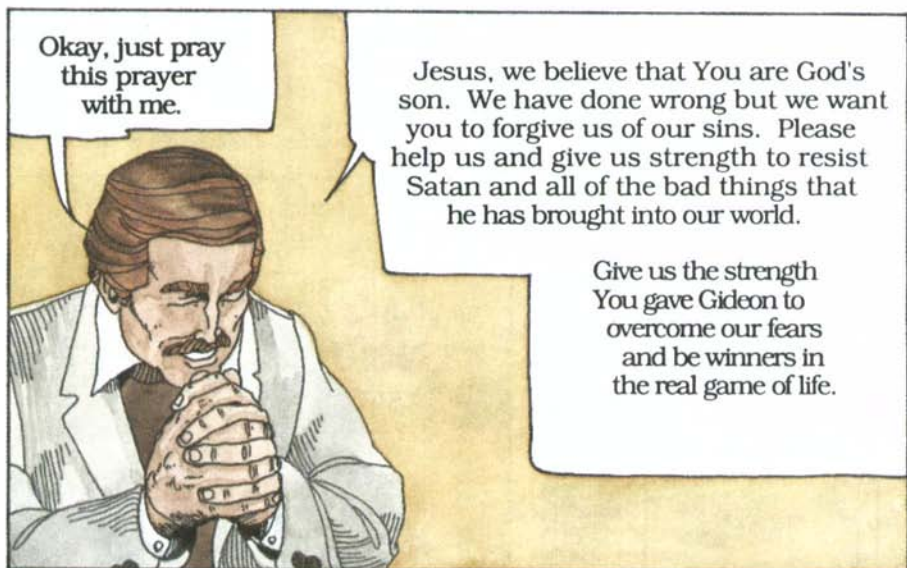
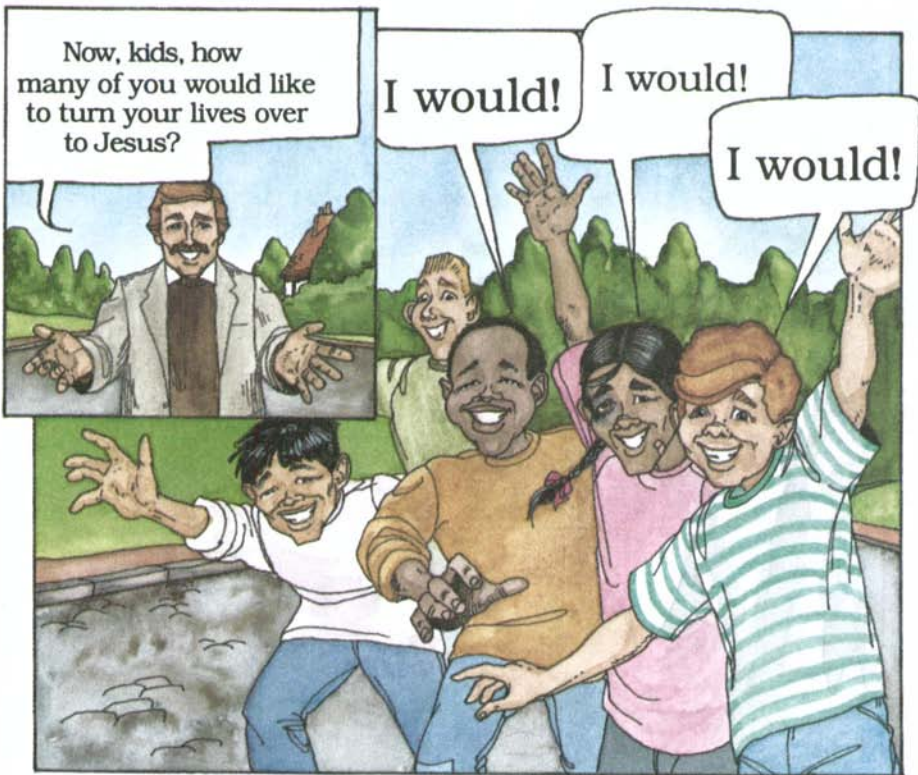


But He won't help us win a game?



No, I'm afraid you're on your own with that.





Thanks, kids. Remember that God loves you just the way you are. You don't have to be big and strong for God to love you and use you.

God bless you,

Uncle Rufus



WHAT DO I DO NOW?

1. Start going to a church that believes the Bible is God's word.
2. Read your Bible every day, or have someone read one to you.
3. Pray to God every day. Praying is talking with God. Do it everyday.

ALSO
AVAILABLE IN THIS SERIES

"David"
"The Christmas Story"
"Esther"



**Conquered
a lion!**



**Killed
a giant!**



**Defeated
a bear!**



This comic book is published by the Center for Evangelism and Discipleship (CED), a division of Global University. To obtain other materials, write to the address of your local ICI representative stamped below.

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