



Daniel and the Lions' Den



Jason and Sonya Staben

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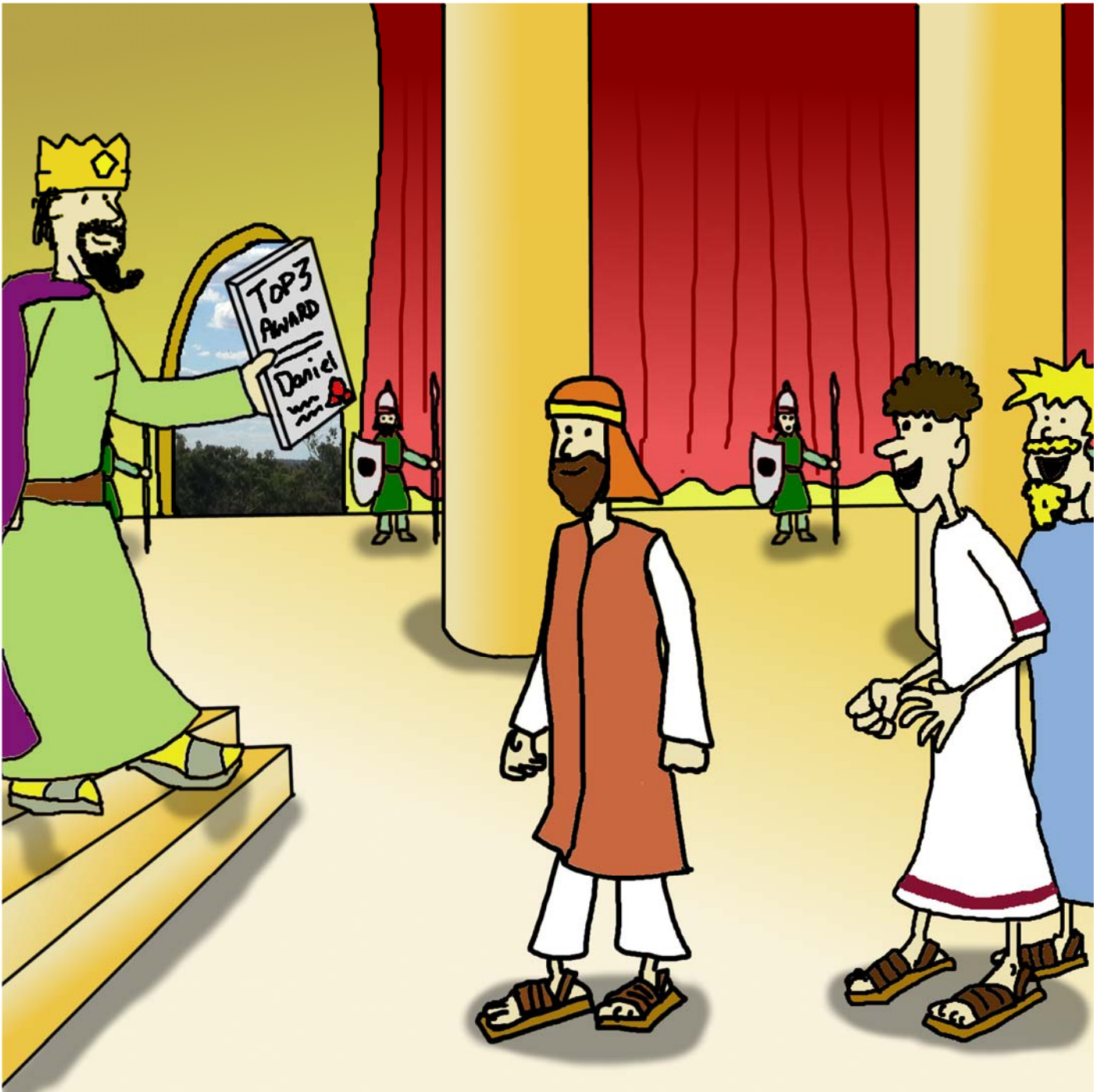
Illustrations by Jason and Sonya Staben © 2013

Bible text from various translations adapted for this story

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Daniel and the Lions' Den



A long time ago, many Israelites (also known as Hebrews) lived in exile in Kingdom of Persia. One such man was Daniel. It just so happened that the King of Persia had appointed 120 leaders to rule over the kingdom. The King then chose three administrators to oversee those leaders. One of these was Daniel.

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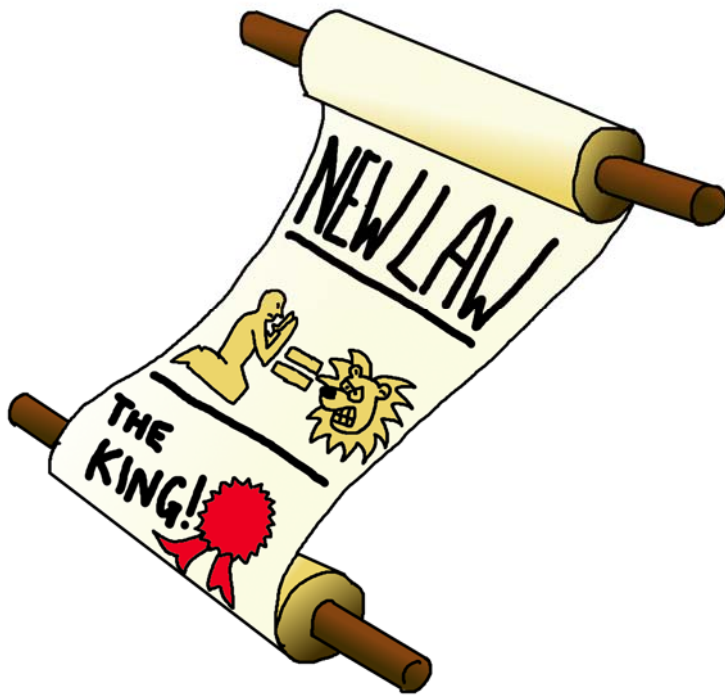
Daniel easily outshone the leaders and administrators, so the King made plans to place him as ruler over all of them. This made the other leaders and administrators very jealous.

Daniel and the Lions' Den



They spied on Daniel and tried to find fault with him. But he never did anything wrong. The only thing that they had to work with was his complete devotion to God.

Daniel and the Lions' Den



They convinced the King to make a new law. The law stated that no one may pray to any other god or man for 30 days, except to the king. The punishment would be that they would be thrown into a den of lions.

They also convinced the king to make the law into an official decree that could not be changed. Not even by the king himself!



When Daniel found out about the new law, he went to his house, knelt in front of an open window and prayed. He continued to do this three times a day as he always did.

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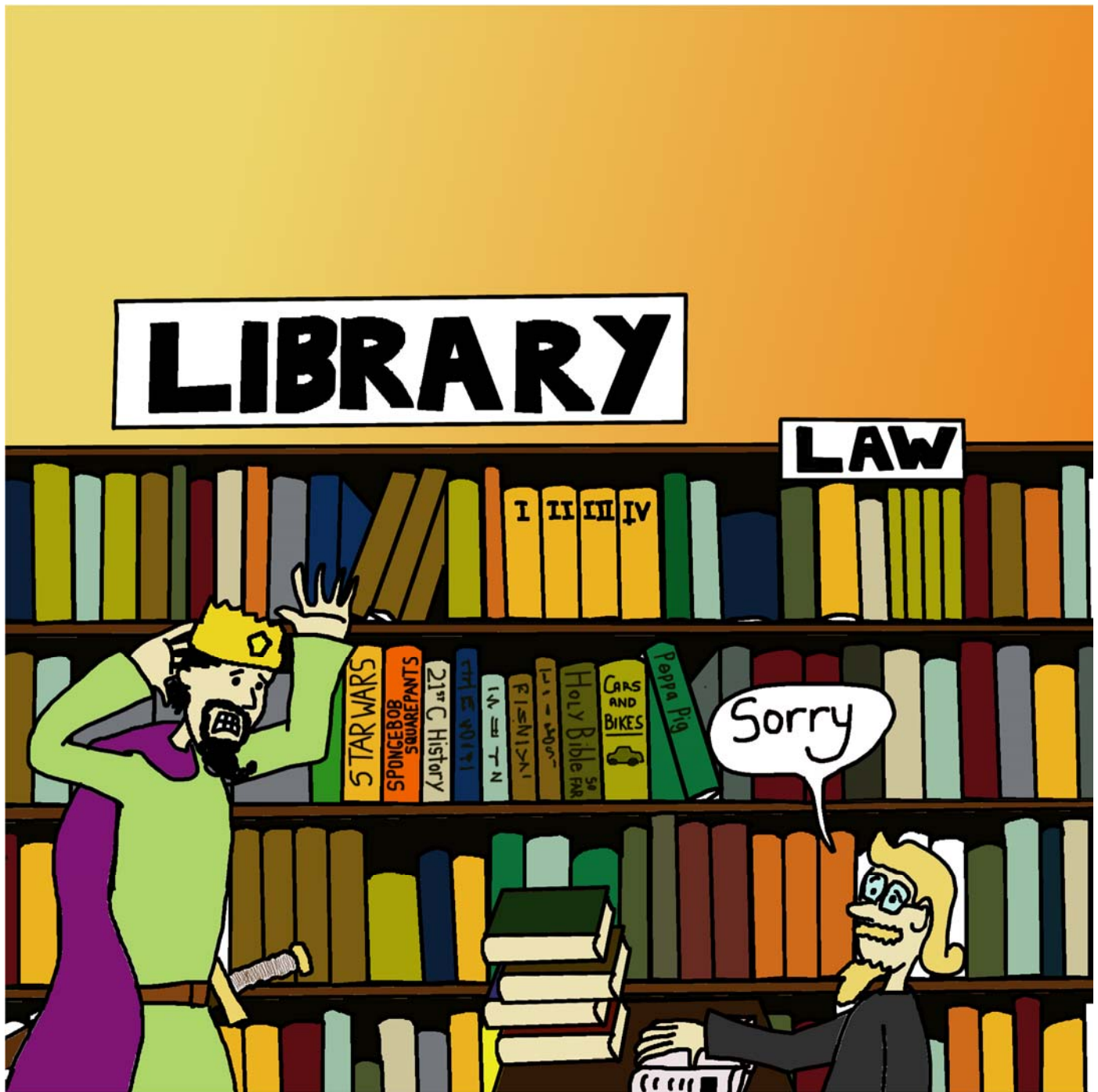


The leaders came to the king and asked “Did you not make a decree that no one may pray to any other god or man except the king?”

“Yes and this law cannot be changed!” answered the King.



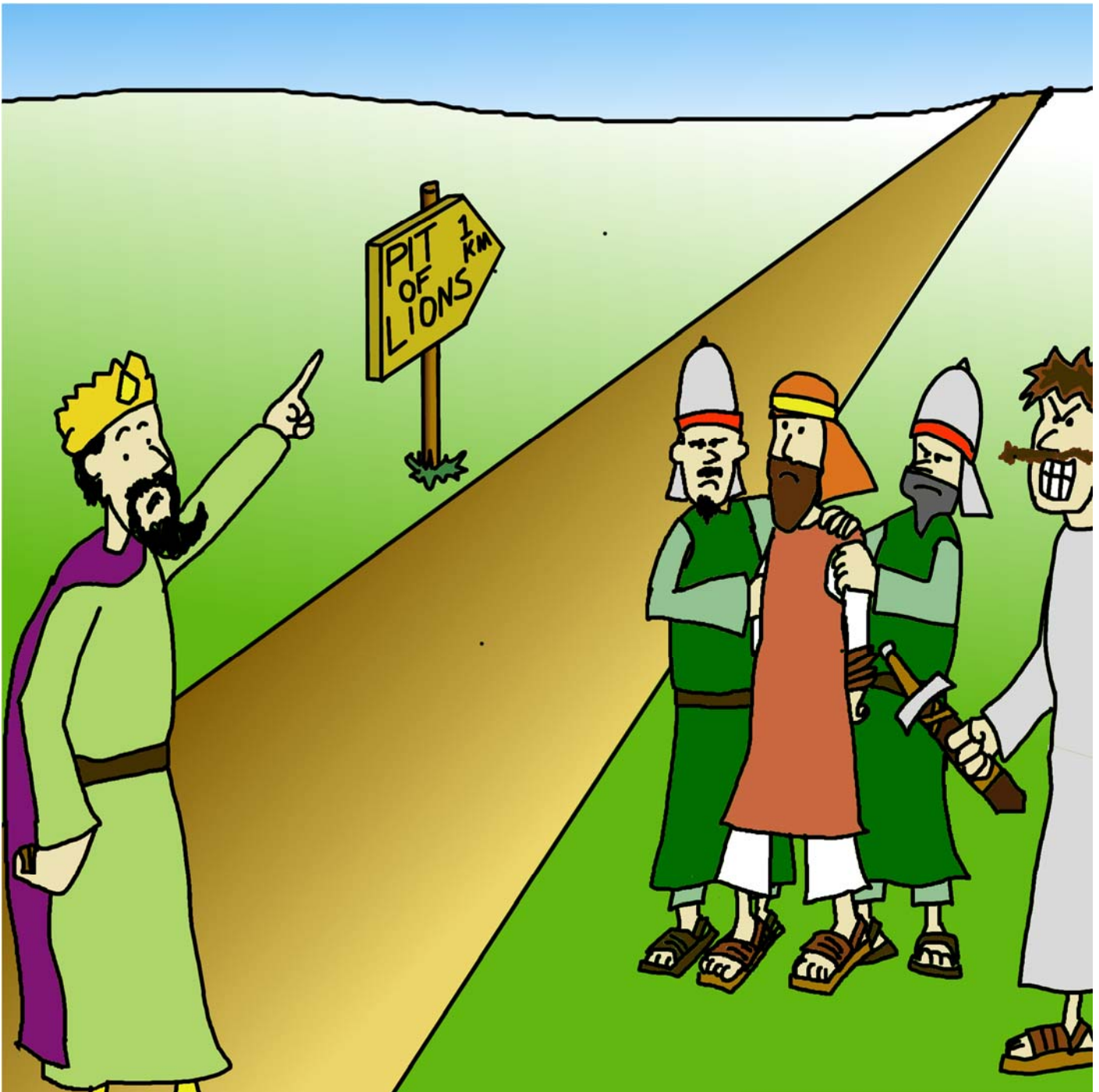
“Well,” they grinned, “Daniel still prays to his God!”



The King was deeply troubled and immediately worked hard to try and find a way around the law to save Daniel.

But there was nothing he could do.

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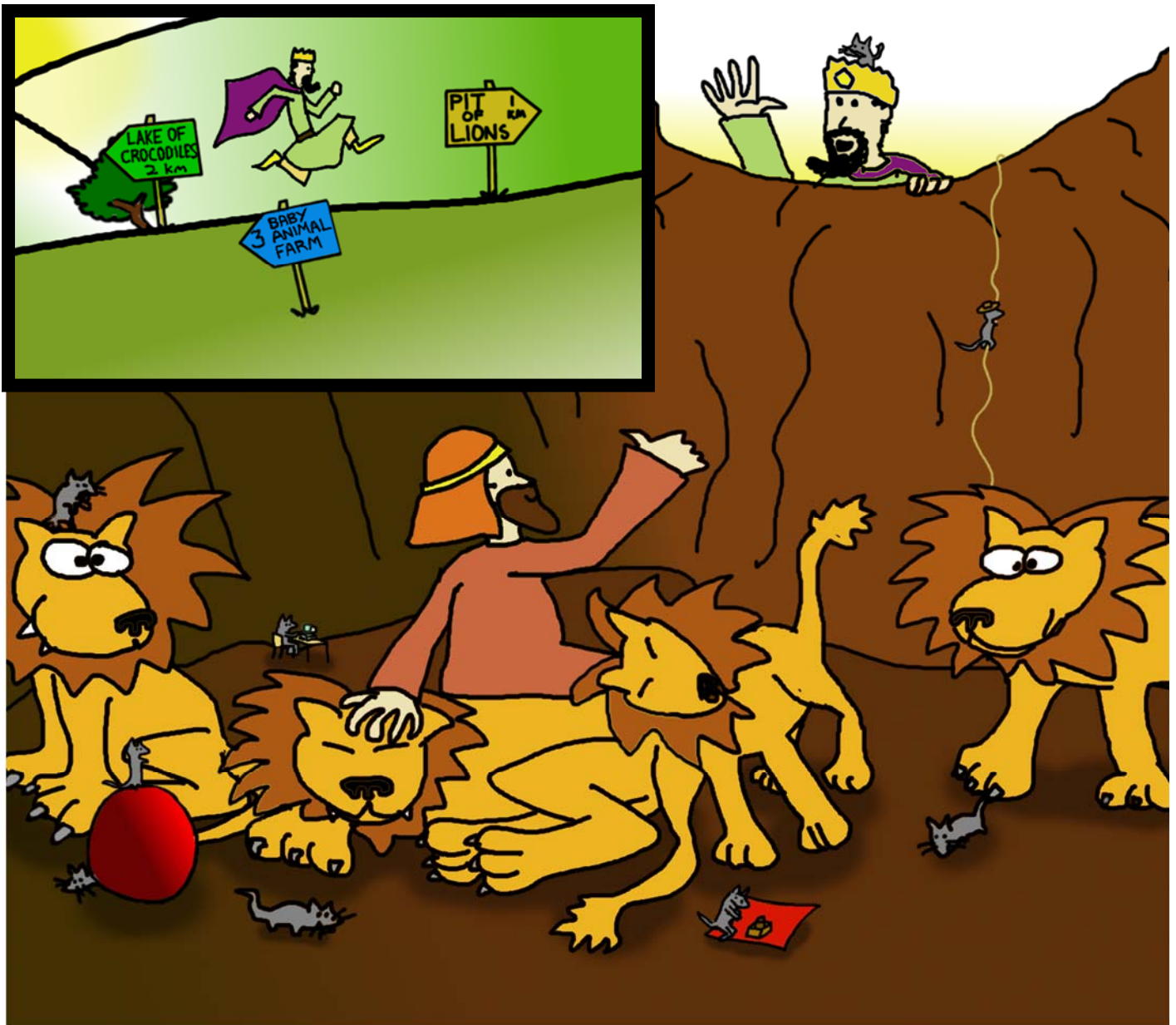
In the end he had no choice but to order Daniel to be arrested and thrown into the lions' den. He called out to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve, save you". A stone was placed over the opening and it was sealed by the king and all the leaders.





The King returned to his palace. He refused to eat or to be entertained and was unable to sleep all night.

Daniel and the Lions' Den



Early the next morning the king rushed to the lions' den and called out in anguish, "Daniel, servant of the living God, did your God rescue you?"

Daniel replied, "Long live the King. My God sent an angel to shut the mouths of the lions for I am innocent in His eyes."

Daniel and the Lions' Den



The King was so happy. He ordered that Daniel be lifted out of the lions' den. There was not a scratch on him. Daniel had trusted God and he was delivered.

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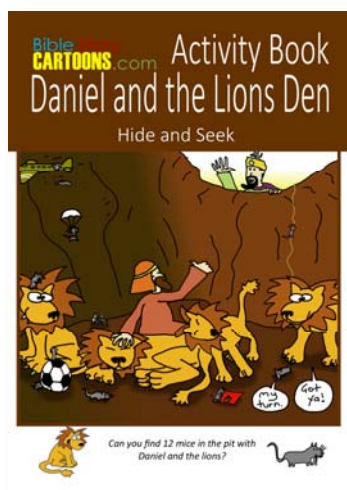
The king then ordered that the leaders who had accused Daniel be thrown into the lions' den instead.

The King sent a message throughout the kingdom, giving praise to God. Daniel prospered under his rule from that day on.



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