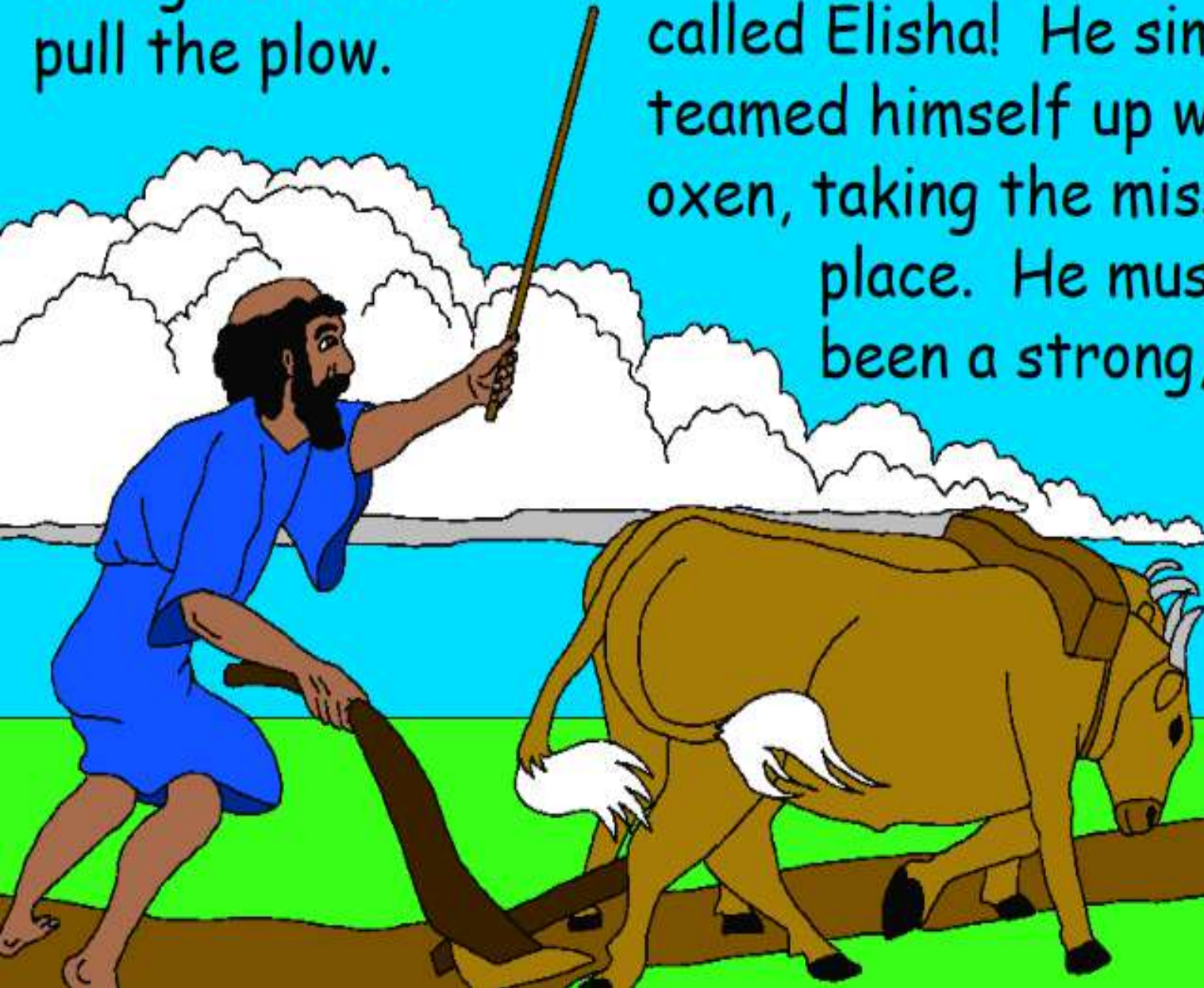


ELISHA, MAN OF MIRACLES

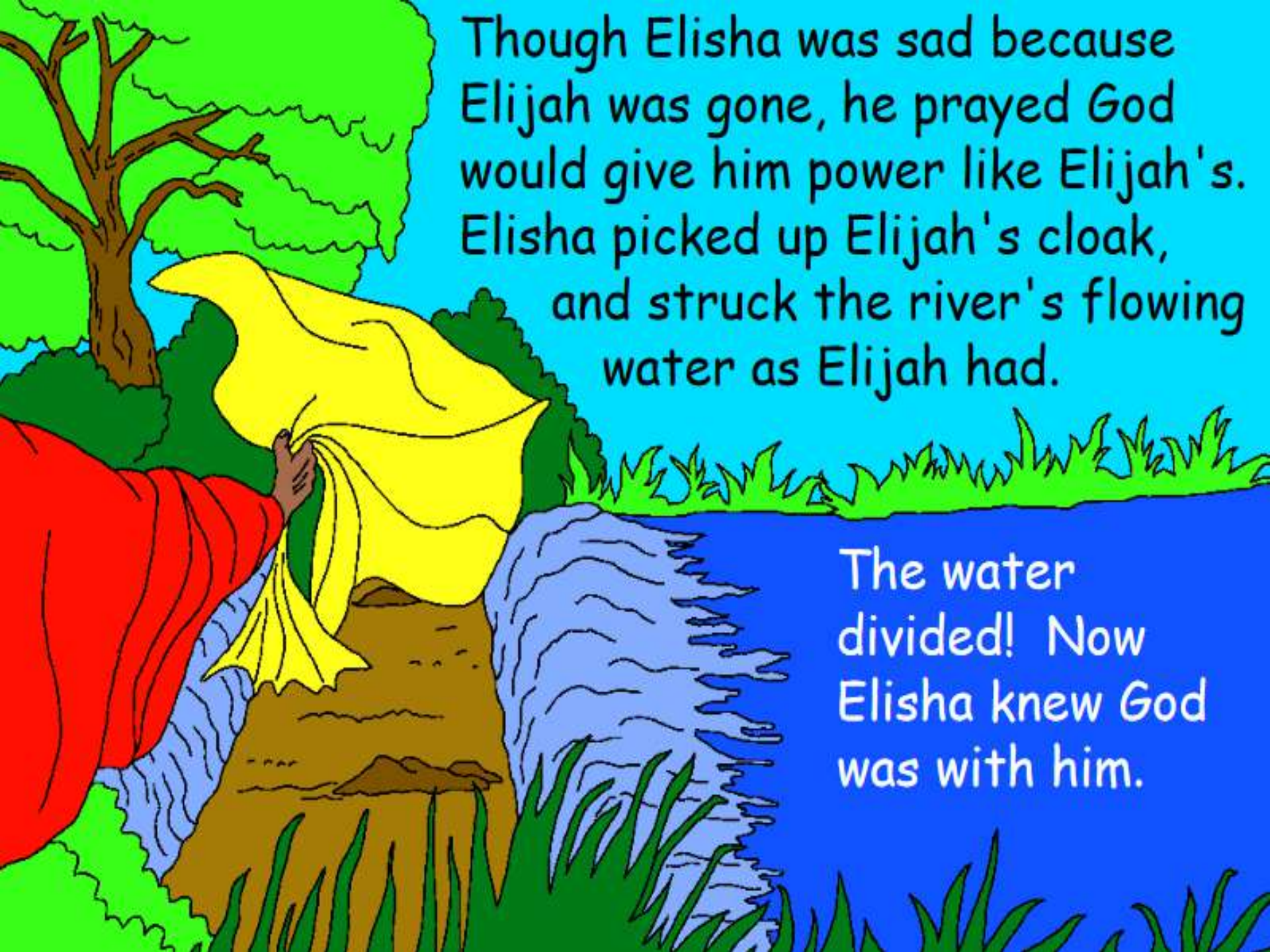
There weren't enough oxen to pull the plow.

One more was needed. That didn't stop a young farmer called Elisha! He simply teamed himself up with the oxen, taking the missing one's place. He must have been a strong, clever hard-working man.





As Elisha was plowing, God's prophet Elijah came by and called him. The young man left his farm to be God's servant. One day, God took Elijah to heaven in a whirlwind. Now Elisha was God's prophet to Israel.



Though Elisha was sad because Elijah was gone, he prayed God would give him power like Elijah's. Elisha picked up Elijah's cloak, and struck the river's flowing water as Elijah had.

The water divided! Now Elisha knew God was with him.



While Elisha was going to a town called Bethel, some youths mocked him, calling out, "Go up, you baldhead!" They didn't care that Elisha was God's servant. A shocking thing happened to them. Two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths.

One day Elisha met a widow who owed money which she couldn't repay.



To get his money, her creditor was going to take the widow's two sons as slaves. "Go, borrow vessels from all your neighbors..... empty vessels," Elisha said. God was going to do something wonderful for that lady.

The widow had only a small jar of oil in the house. But from that small jar she poured enough oil to fill all those vessels! If they had bathtubs in those days, do you suppose God would have filled those, too? The widow sold the oil and saved her sons.



Another lady and her husband made a special room in their home so Elisha could live there when he passed through. In the room they put a bed, a table, a chair, and a lampstand. That room was always reserved for Elisha.



Elisha wondered how he could repay this couple's kindness. When he learned they had no children, he said something the lady could hardly believe. "About this time next year, you shall embrace a son." Sure enough, a year later, the baby was born.



Some years later the same child was in the field with his father. "My head, my head," the boy cried. When they brought the boy to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died. The mother laid the boy on the bed in Elisha's room.

Who do you think could help her?



Did you say Elisha? That's right! She saddled a donkey and went full speed to find him. Elisha came to her house, went upstairs alone and prayed to the LORD. God brought the boy back to life. Elisha called the lady and son." How happy she must have been!



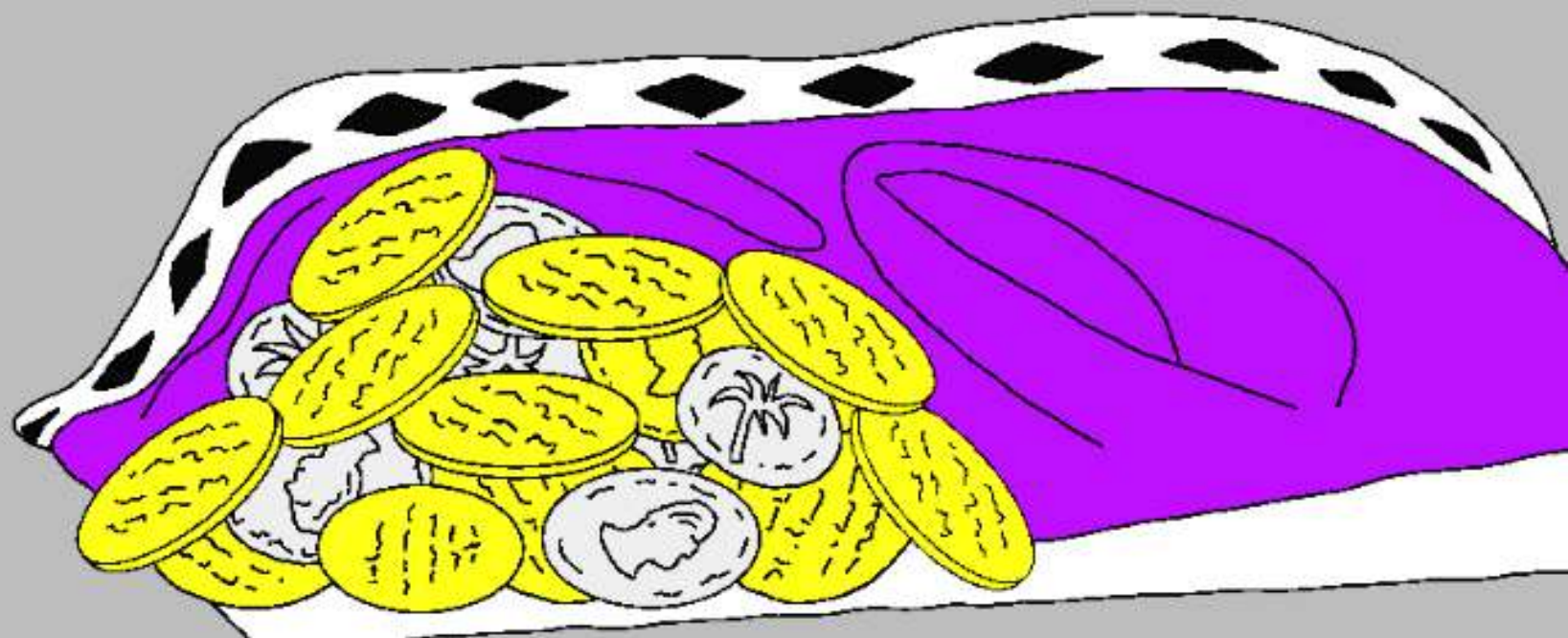


In the nearby land of Syria lived an army commander named Naaman. He was brave and strong, but he had an awful skin disease called leprosy.

Naaman's wife had a little
slave girl who had been
captured from Israel.
This little girl said,
"If only Naaman were
with the prophet who
is in Israel! For he would
heal him of his leprosy."



Naaman set off at once to see the prophet. He took silver, gold, and beautiful clothes as presents.





Elisha's servant came out and said, "Go and wash in the river Jordan seven times and you shall be clean." Naaman was furious. Couldn't he wash in the clean, fresh rivers of his own land, Syria? Angrily, he turned and headed homeward.



Fortunately for Naaman, his servants talked him into obeying Elisha's command.

So Naaman went down and dipped in the Jordan seven times. And Naaman the leper was healed! Then Naaman worshiped the true God, Elisha's God, the LORD Who had healed him of leprosy.



God used His servant Elisha even after he died. One day, a man was buried in the cave where Elisha had been buried long before. When the man's dead body touched the prophet's bones, the man revived and stood on his feet! Truly, God showed His great power through His faithful servant,