

David Becomes the King

(Based on 2 Samuel 1 – 5)

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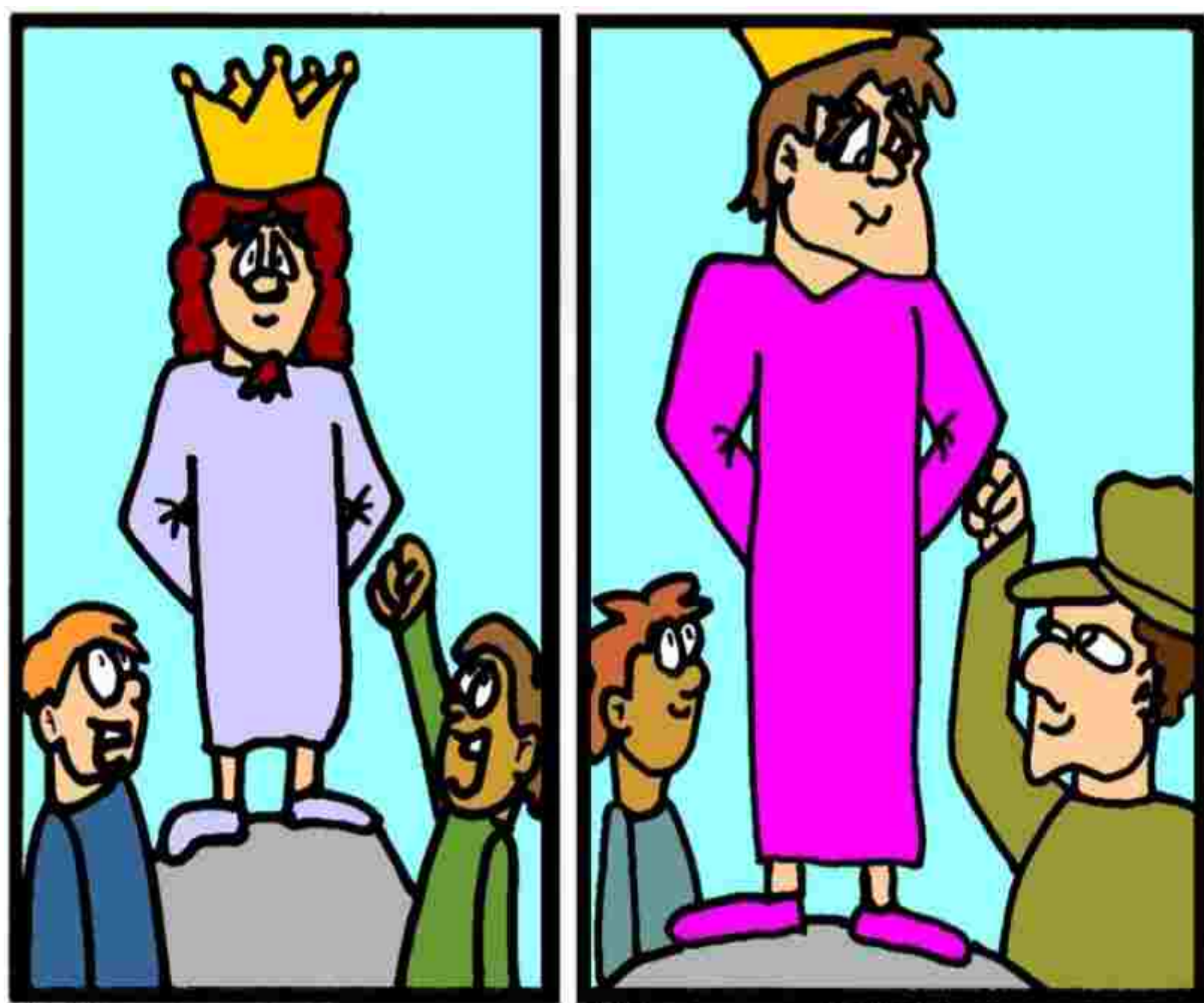
3 days after David and his men returned from rescuing their kidnapped families, a man came to David with the news that King Saul and Jonathan were killed. He had dirt on his head and his clothes were ripped.



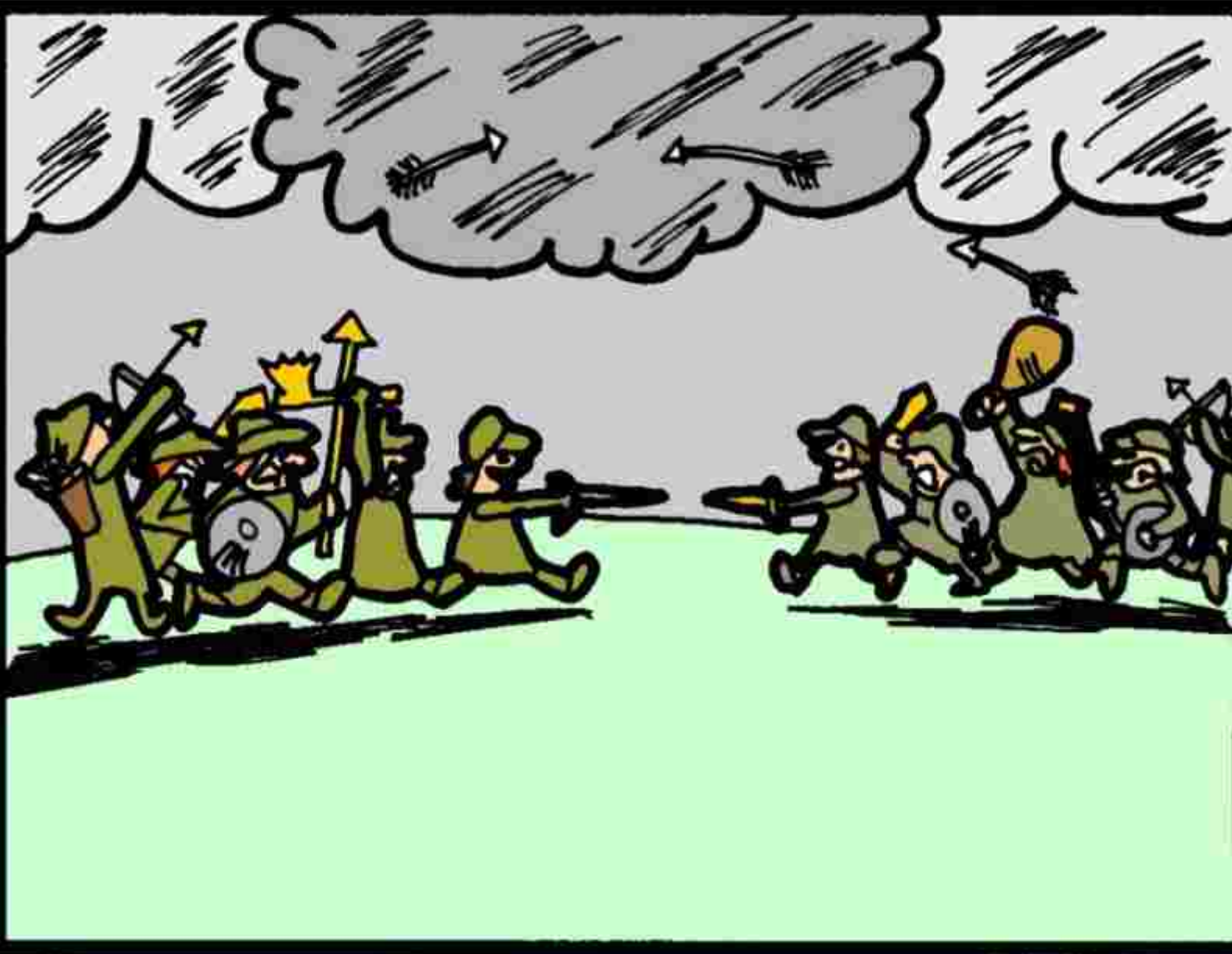
“King Saul begged me to stab him with my sword because he was hurt, so I killed him,” lied the man. “I took his crown and the bracelet from his arm for you.”



David wept bitterly. “Weren’t you afraid to kill God’s anointed?” he asked. Then he ordered one of his young men to kill the man.



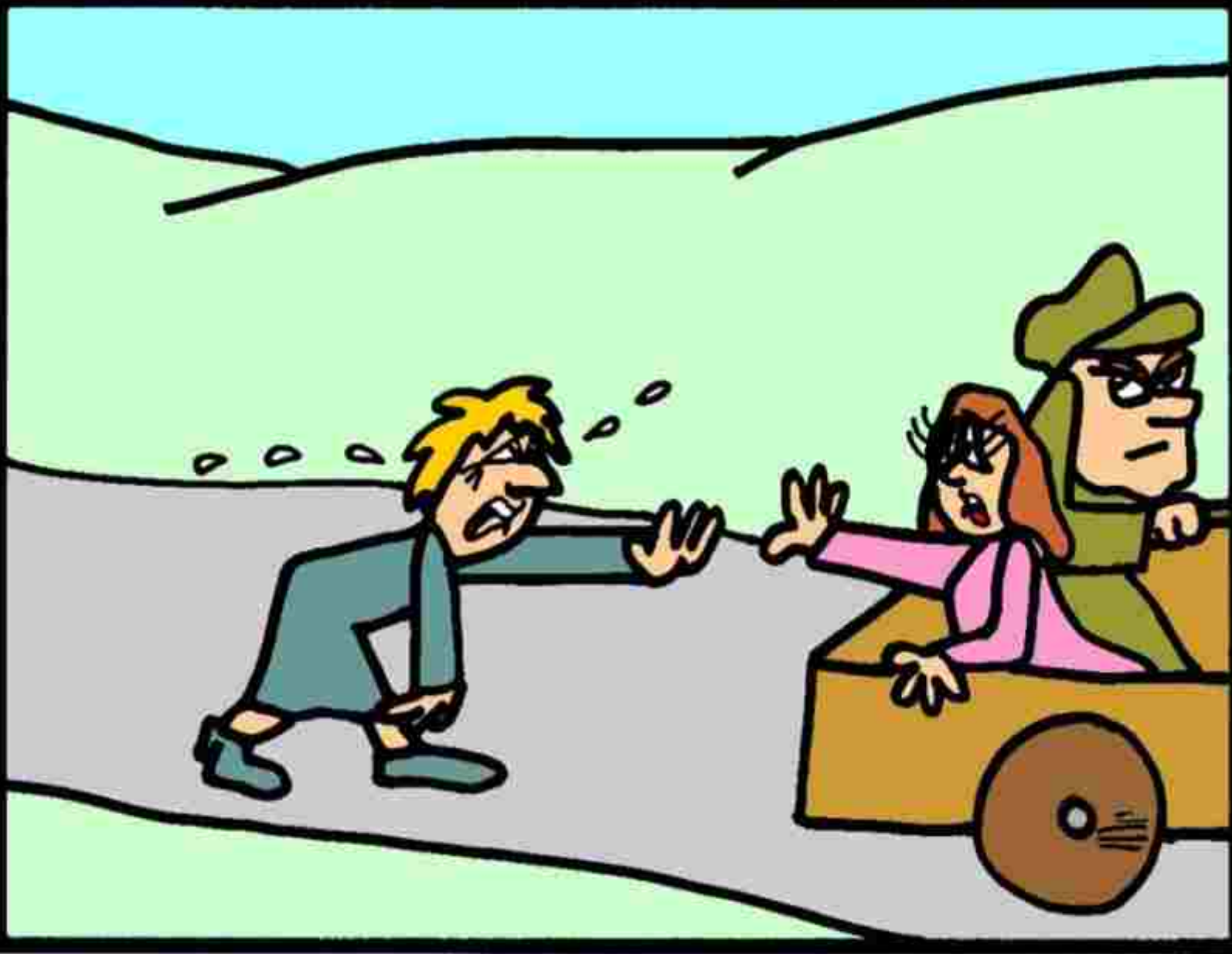
The people from the tribe of Judah made David their king, but the rest of Israel made Ishbosheth, Saul's son their king.



The people that followed Ishbosheth had a long war against the people that followed David. Ishbosheth's side was getting weaker and weaker but David's side was getting stronger and stronger.



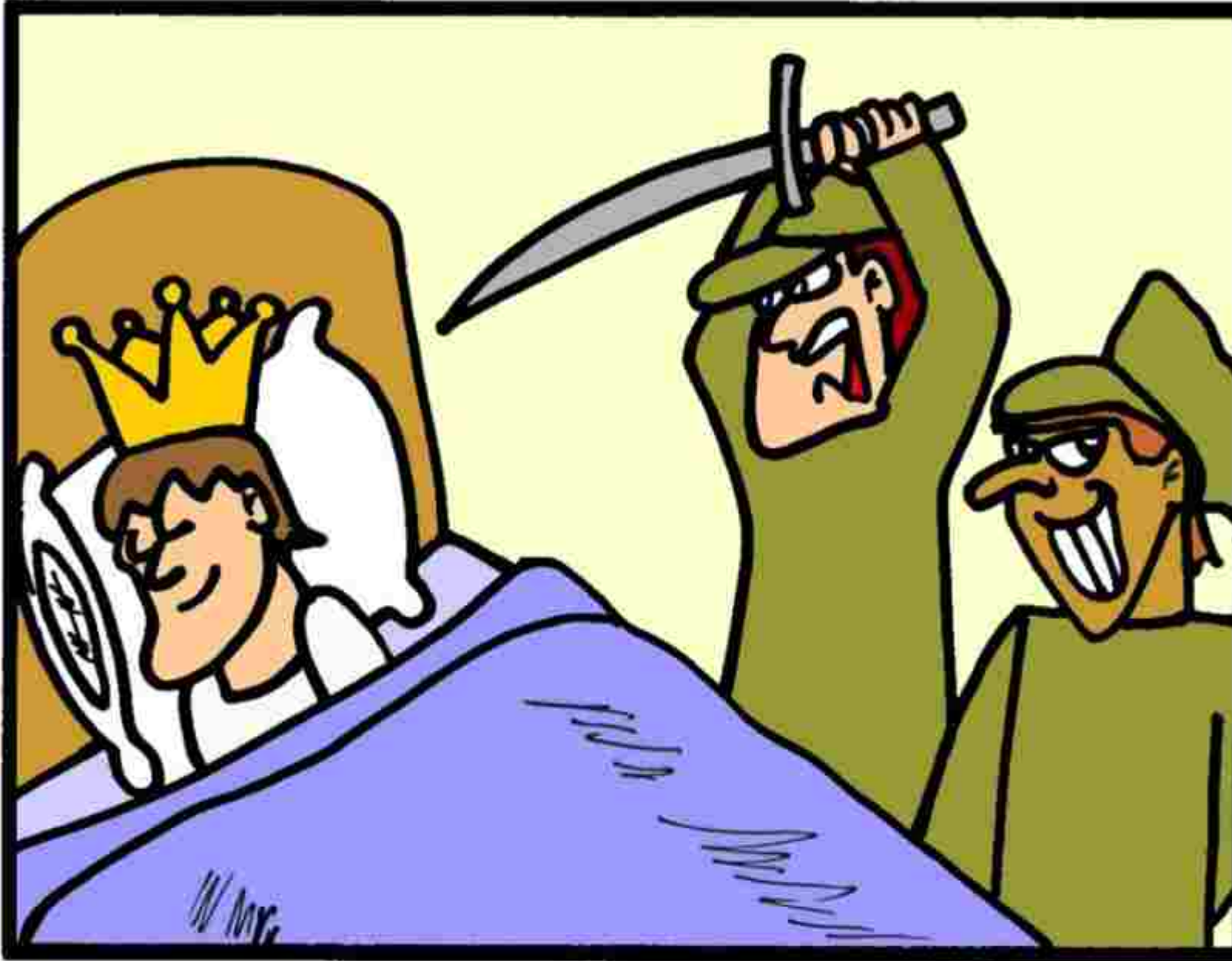
King Ishbosheth had an argument with Abner, the commander of his army. “That’s it! I’m going to help David become the king of Israel!” promised commander Abner.



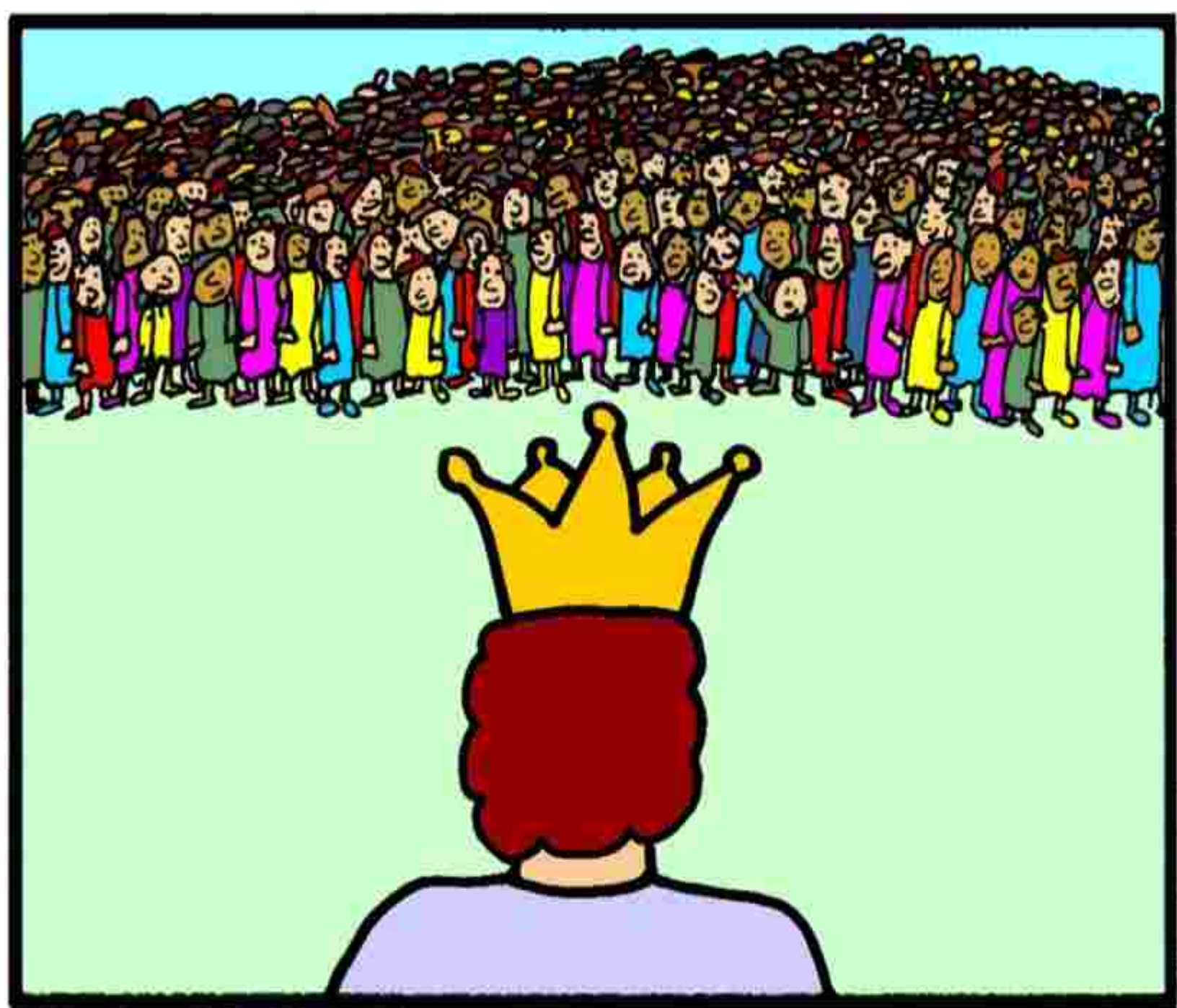
David told Abner that he could join him on one condition, that he send his first wife Michal to him. She had married another man. The new husband followed behind weeping as he watched Michal go away.



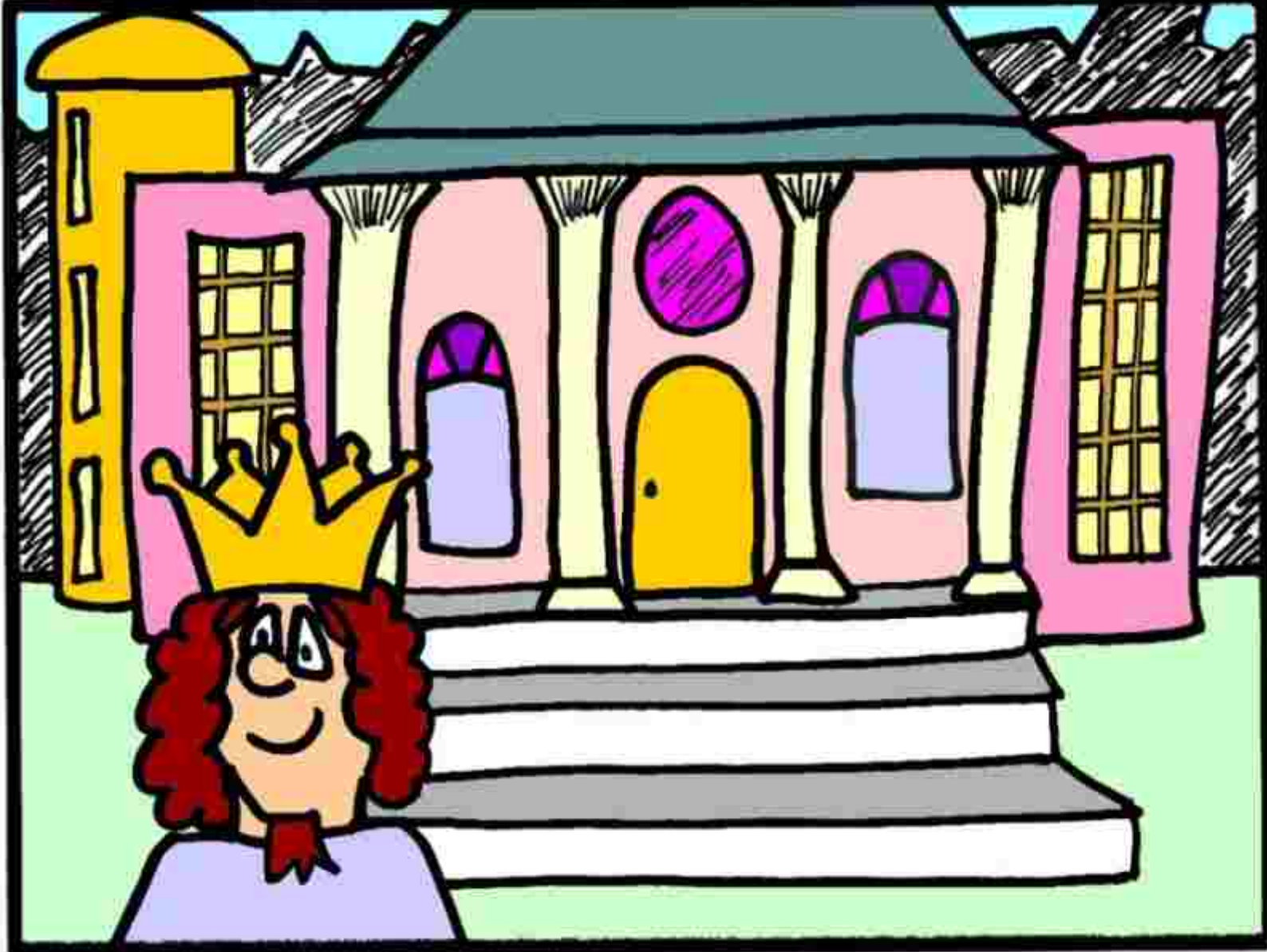
Abner promised that he would persuade all the tribes of Israel to take David as their king, but he never had the chance to keep that promise. David's commander Joab killed Abner as payback for Abner having killed Joab's brother in the long war.



King Ishbosheth was lying on his bed at noon and two of his own soldiers killed him. King David was very angry that they had killed an innocent man. He had those two soldiers put to death.



At long last all the people of Israel came to David and asked him to be their king. David accepted the job.



He made the city of Jerusalem the capital of his kingdom. King Hiram from the country of Tyre sent cedar wood, carpenters and stonemasons. They built a fancy house for King David.



Lord, David was a good example for us because he cared more about people than he did about becoming king. Help me to always care more about people than my position or things.