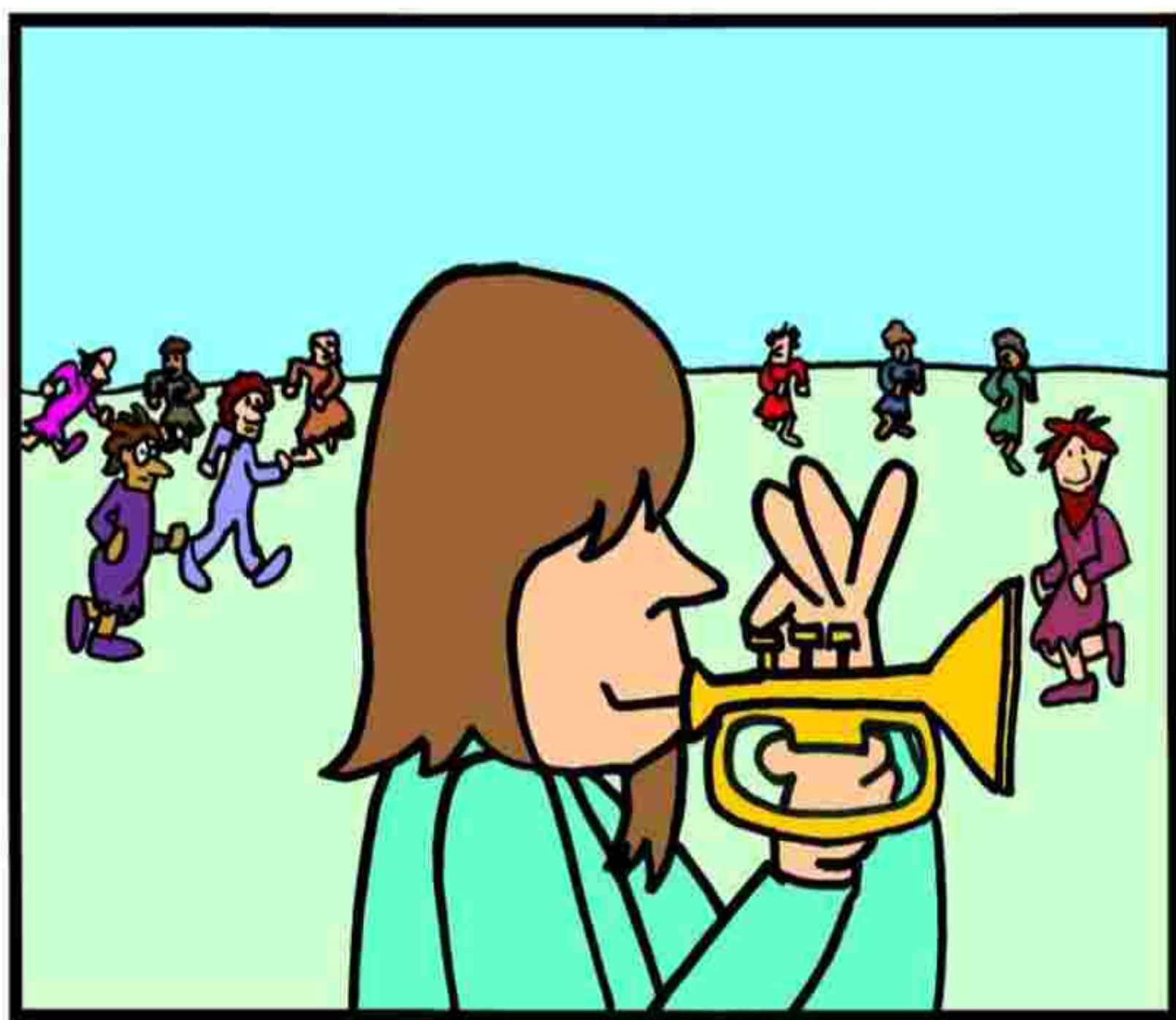


Gideon and his 300 Men

(Based on Judges 6:34-40, Judges 7)

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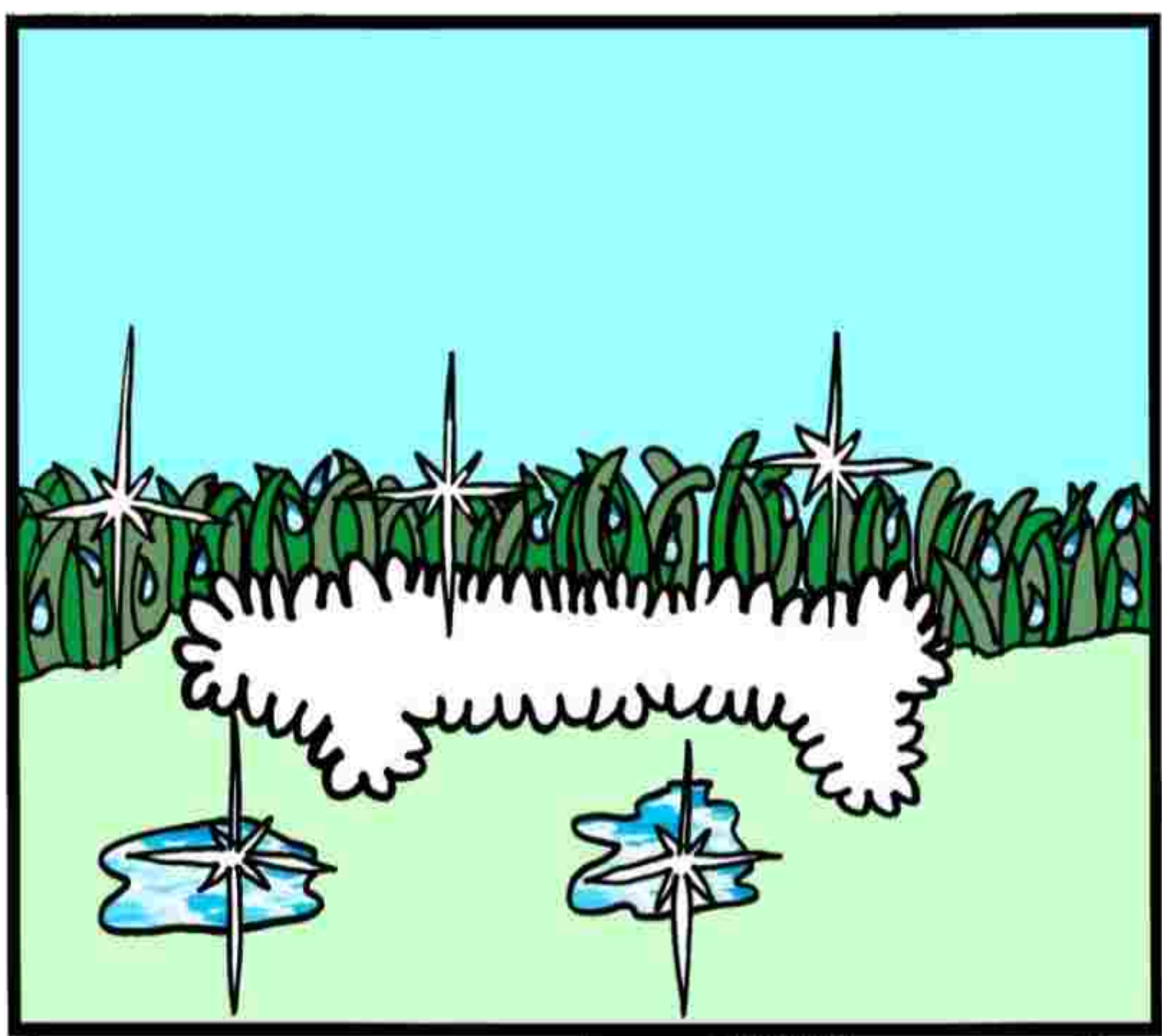
The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon and he blew a trumpet. Many men came to him.



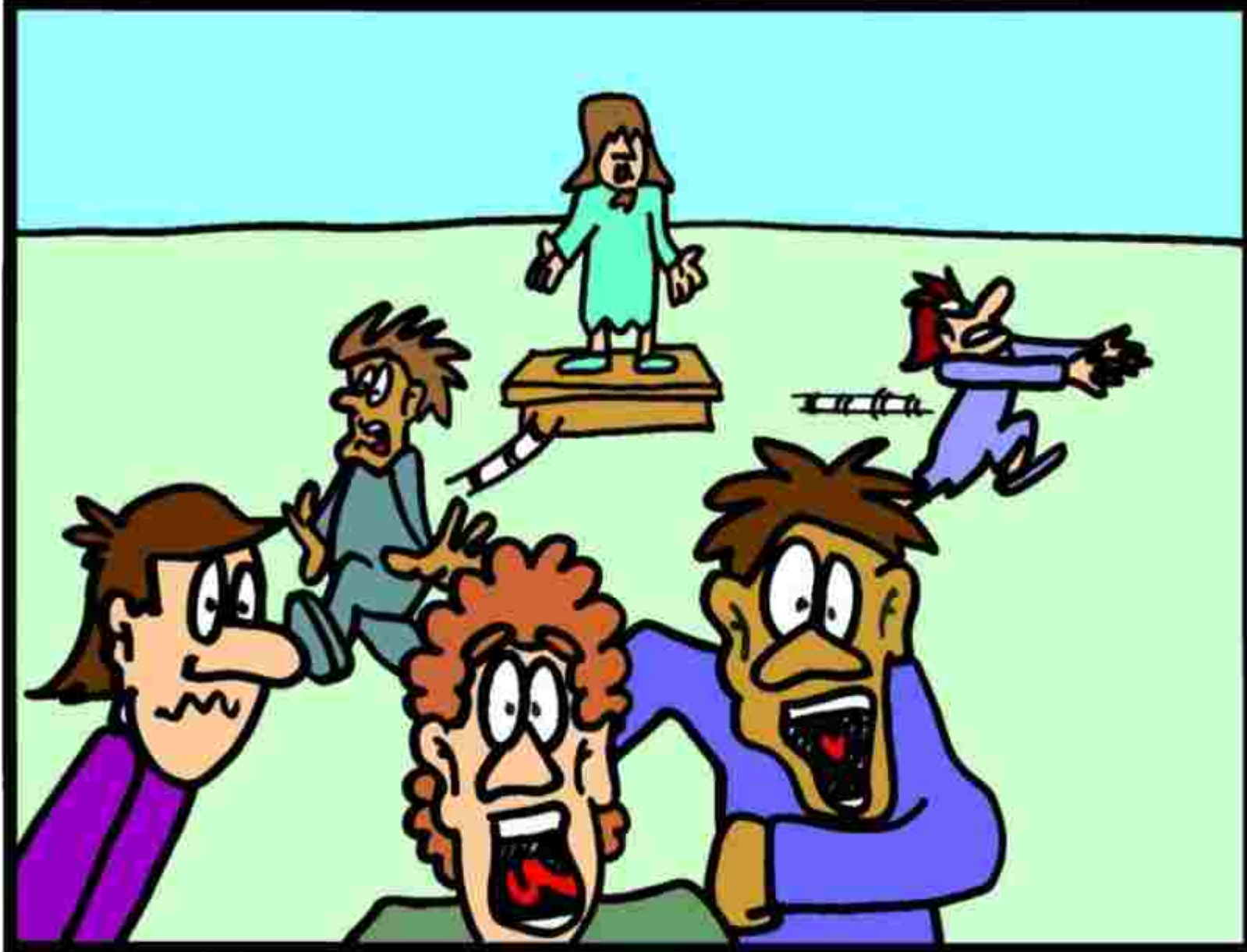
"God," said Gideon. "I'm going to put this sheepskin on the ground and if in the morning the dew is only on the sheepskin but the ground around it is dry then I will know that you are really going to use me to save the people of Israel."



The next morning Gideon wrung a bowl full of water out of the sheepskin but the ground around it was dry. "God," prayed Gideon. "Don't be angry with me but this time let the sheepskin be dry, but the ground be wet."



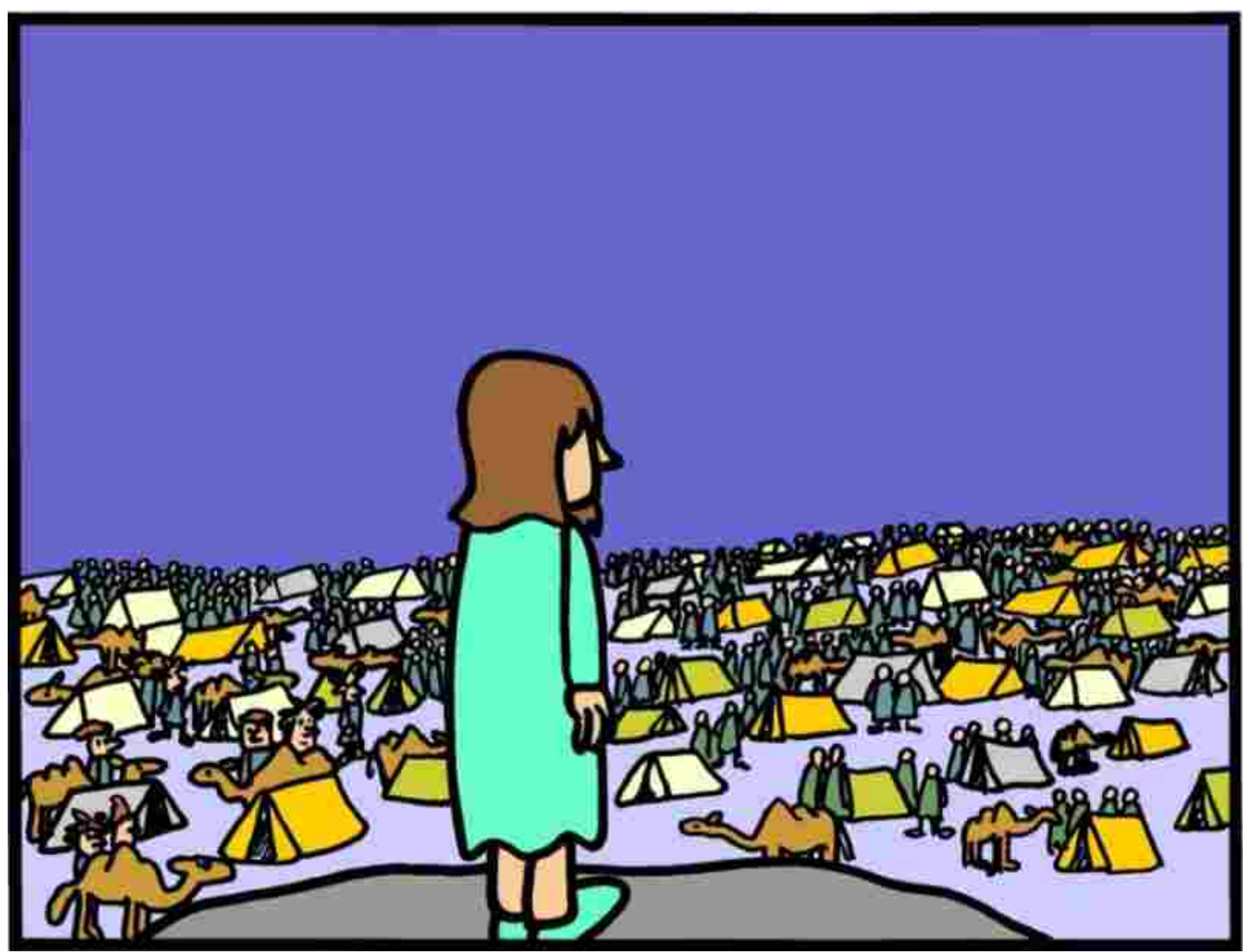
The next morning the sheepskin was dry but the ground around it was wet from the dew.



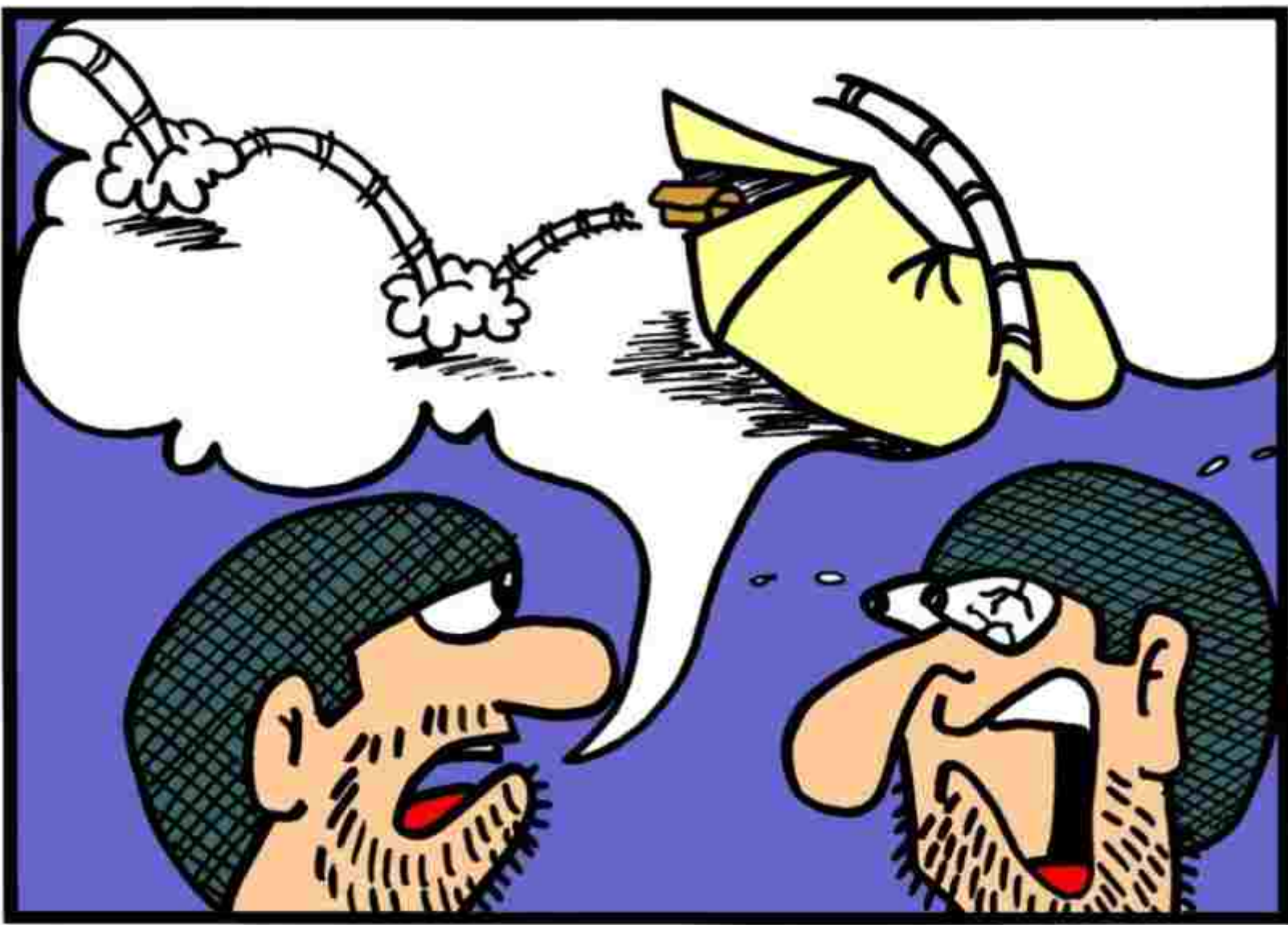
God said, "Gideon, there are too many people with you. They will claim that they got the victory by their own mighty power. Tell the people who are afraid to go home." That day 22,000 people went home.



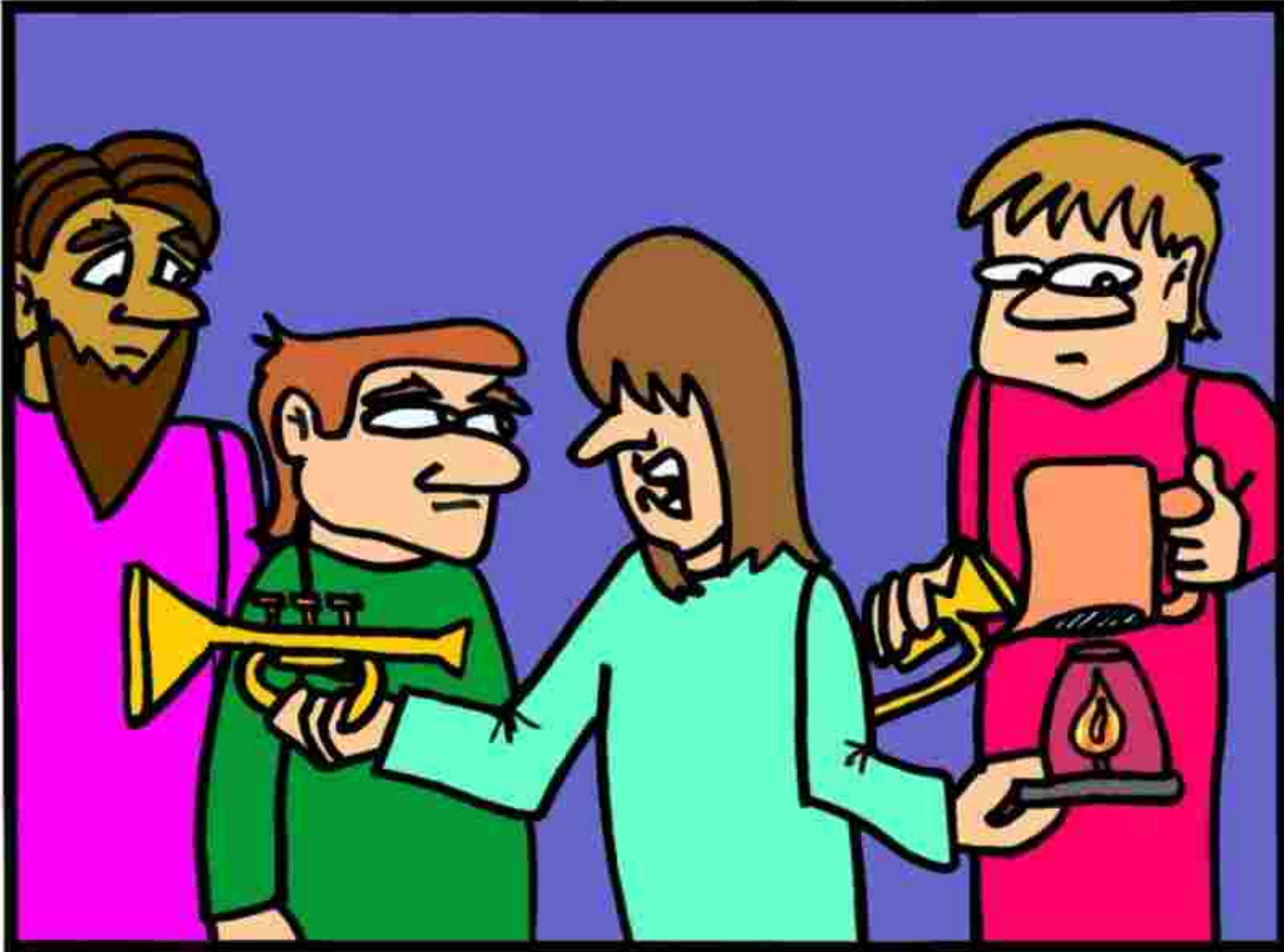
There were 10,000 men left but God said even they were too many. God told Gideon to have the men go to the river to drink. The Lord said, "Only the men who bring up a handful of water and lap it like a dog can go with you." 300 men drank this way.



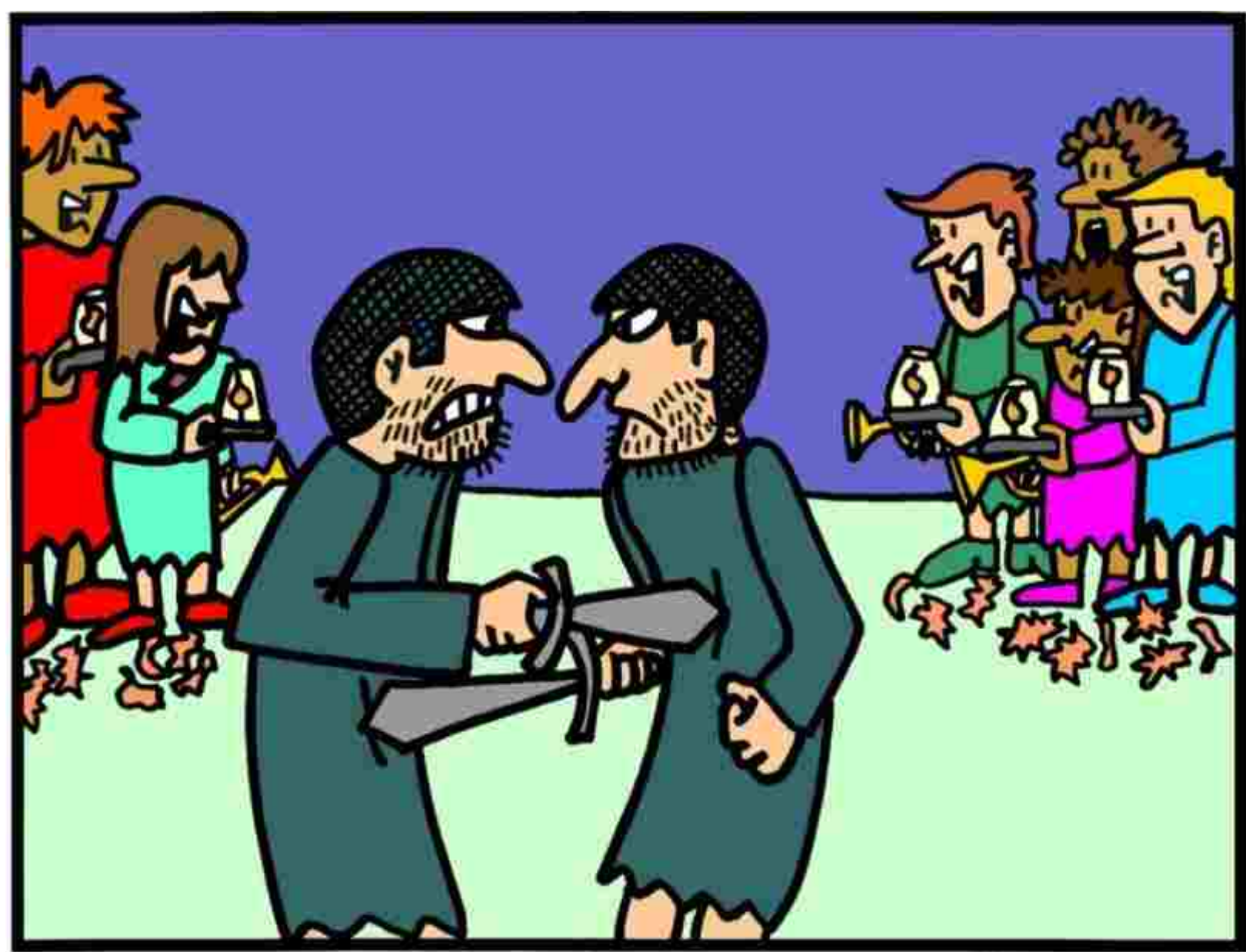
That same night the Lord said to Gideon, "Go down to the Midianite camp. I have turned them over to you. But if you are afraid, sneak down to the camp and hear what they are saying." The valley was filled with people and camels.



As Gideon snuck into the camp, he heard a man talking to his friend. "I dreamed a barley cake tumbled into one of our tents and knocked it over!" "This is the sword of Gideon," said his friend. "God has given the Midianites and all their helpers into his hand."



Gideon made 3 groups of 100 men and gave to each man a trumpet and a lamp inside of an empty water pitcher. "Do what I do," said Gideon. Gideon and the 300 men came to the enemy camp just as they were changing their watch guards.



Gideon and his men blew their trumpets, broke their water pitchers and shouted, "The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon!" The Lord made the enemy so confused they killed each other. The people of Israel captured the territory.



Lord, help me to remember that it doesn't matter how big the odds are against us, if God is on our side, who can be against us?