

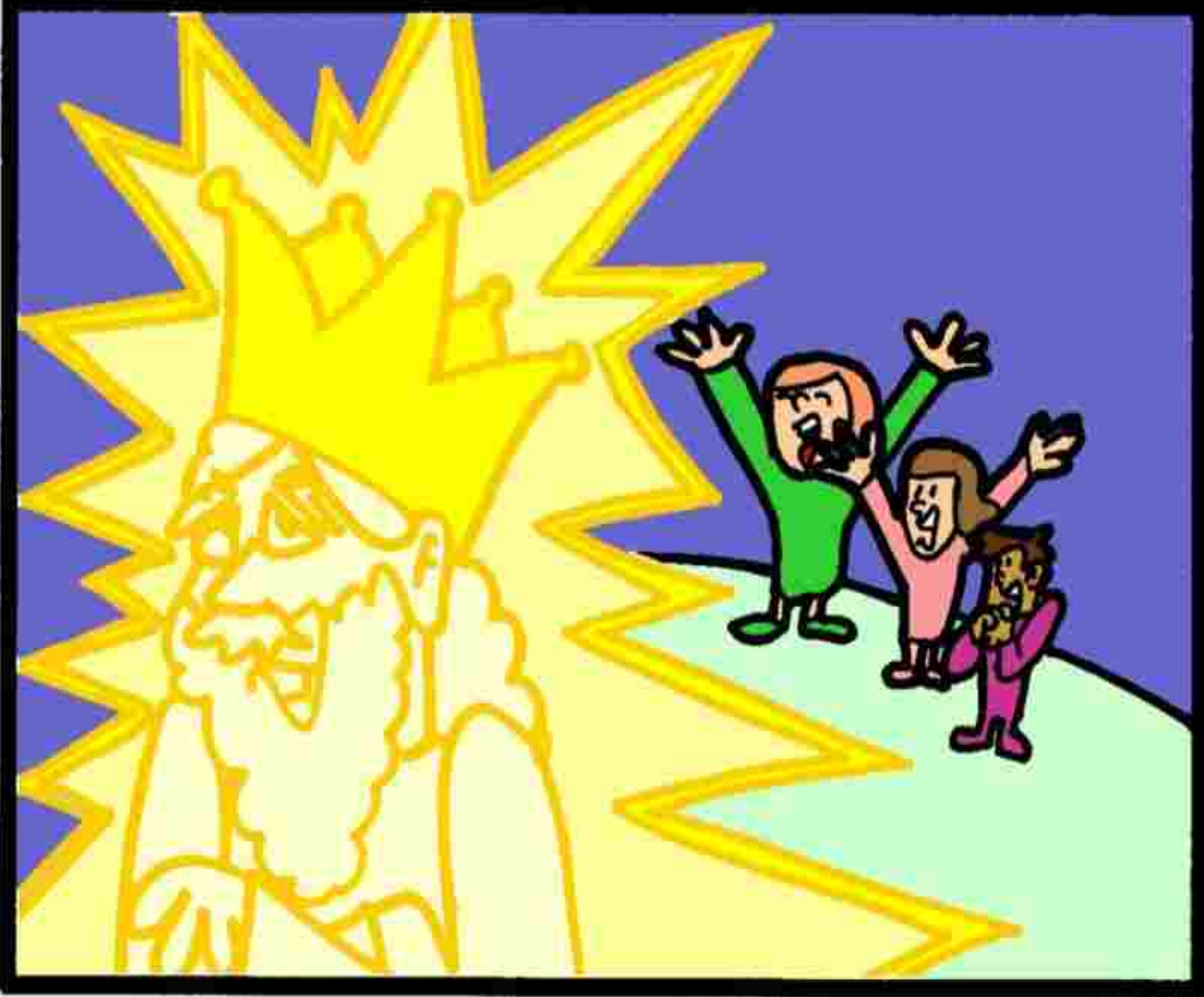
Jephthah and His Vow

(Based on Judges 10:6-12:7)

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The people of Israel once again stopped worshipping God and they worshipped the Baal statue and other idols. God was very angry with them and he let the Philistines be their bosses for 18 years.



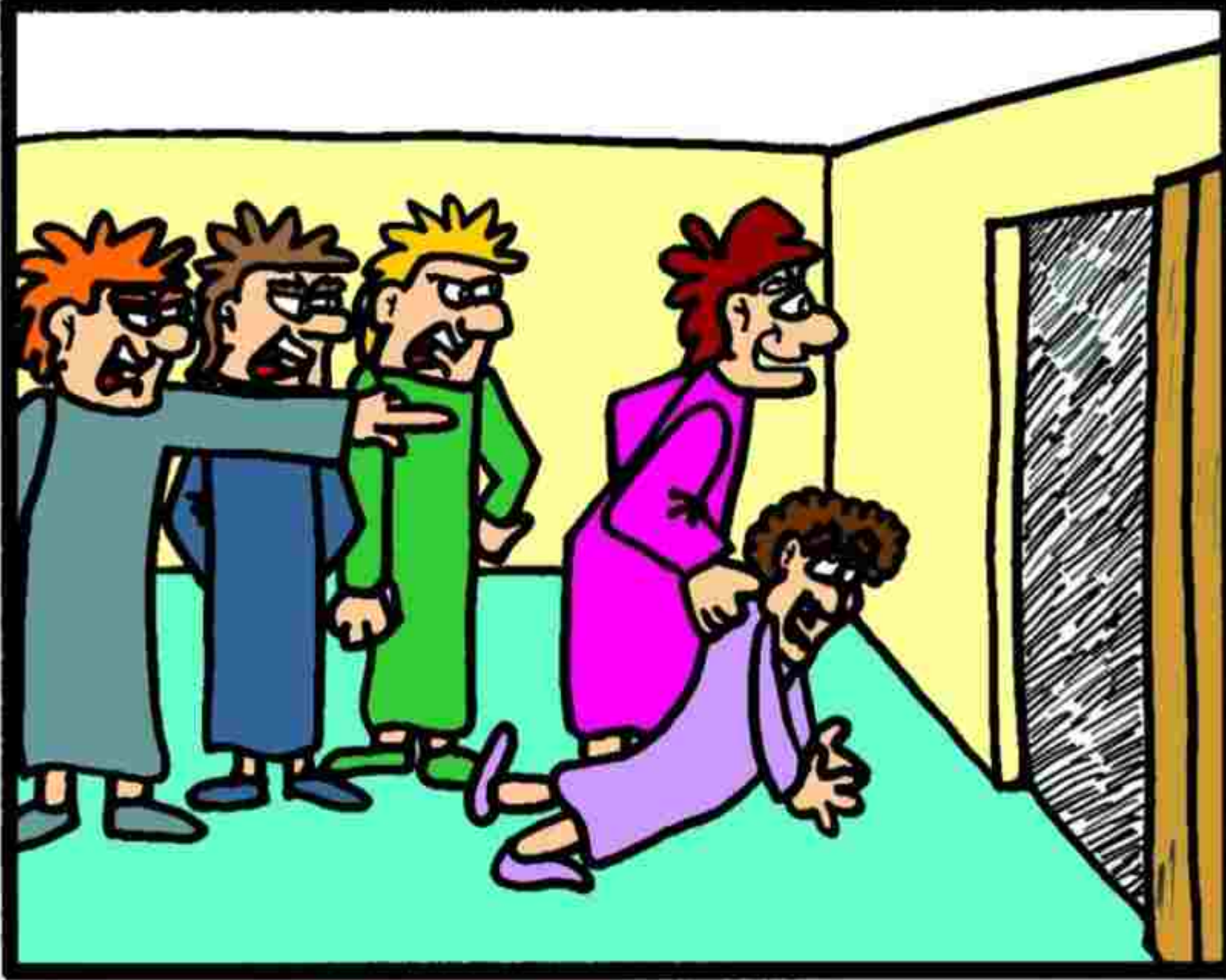
Then the people of Israel cried to the Lord for help. “Let your idol gods rescue you!” answered God.



When they got rid of their idols and served the Lord then God wanted to help them.



Now Jephthah was a brave man who traveled around with a rough group of men.



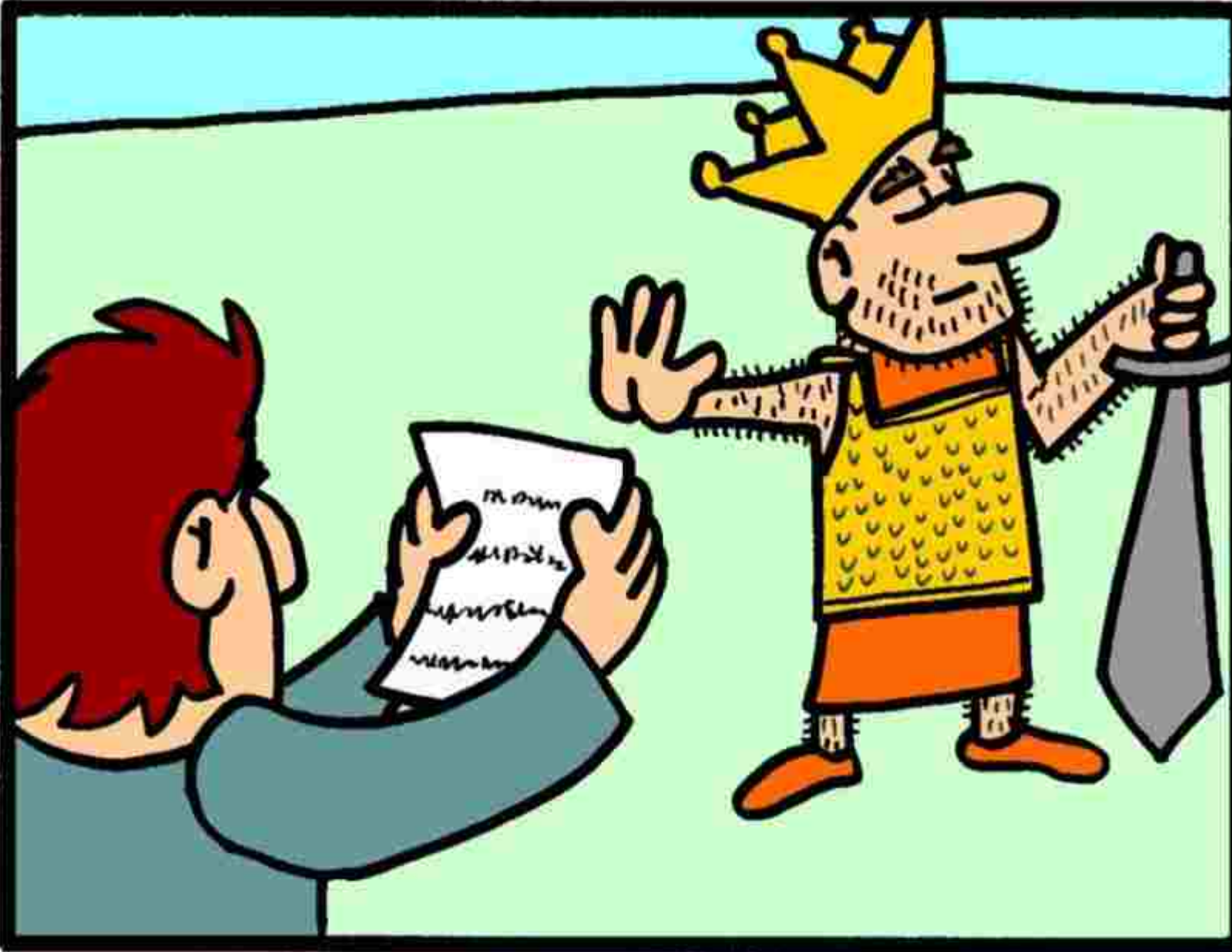
Jephthah had been forced to leave home by his brothers. They had the same dad, but Jephthah had a different mom. “You can’t share in our family stuff!” said the brothers.



A war started against the people of Israel, so they came to Jephthah and asked him to be their leader. "You guys kicked me out of my father's house!" answered Jephthah.



“If the Lord helps us to win the war, will I be the boss?” “Yes,” answered the people of Israel.



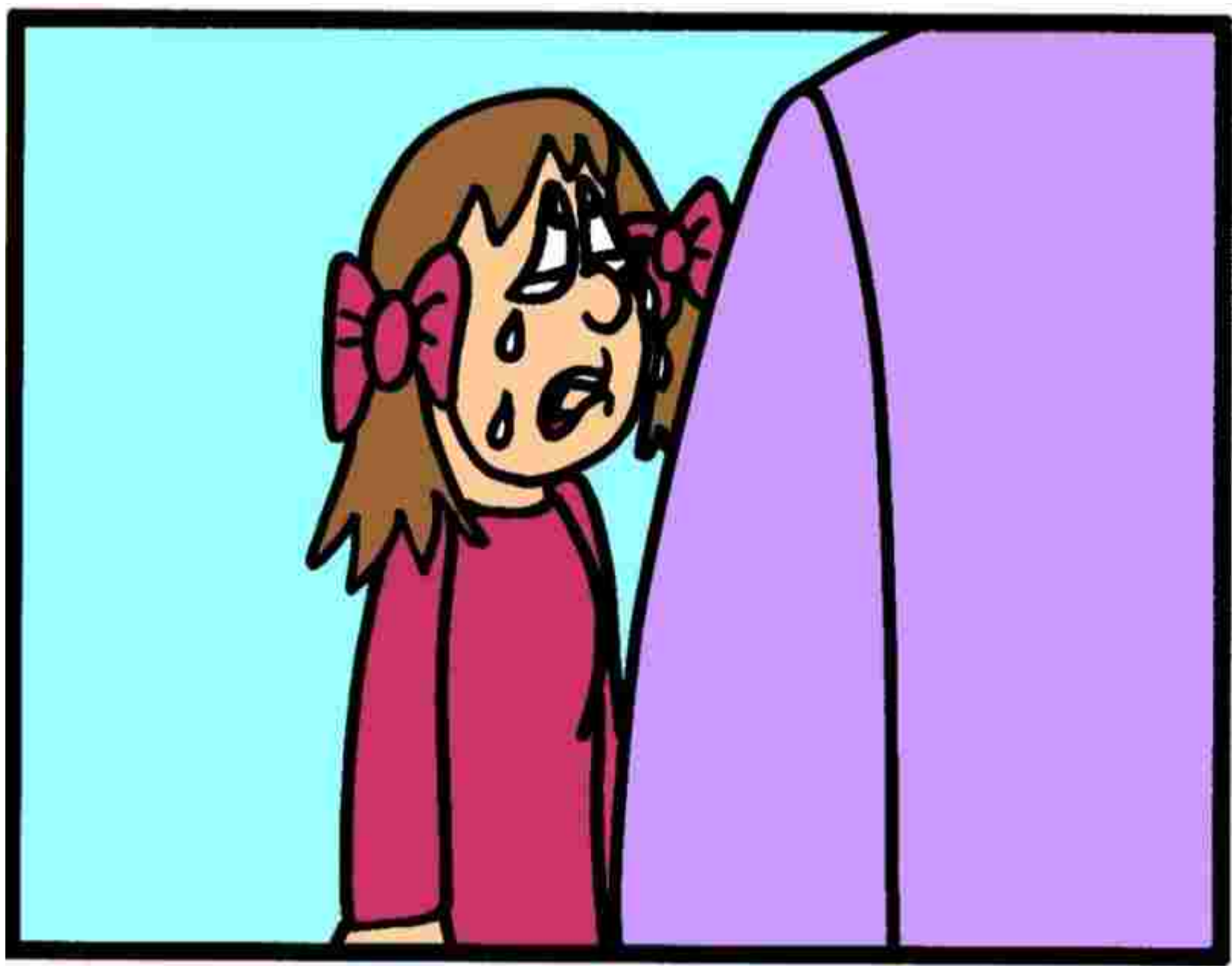
Jephthah sent a message to the enemy king. “Why are you attacking us?” he asked. The enemy king claimed that Israel stole some of their land, but it was not true. The enemy king would not stop the war.



Then Jephthah made a promise, “Lord, if you make us to win, then the first thing that comes out of my house when I return, I will give it as a burnt offering.”



The people of Israel won the war and Jephthah returned home. The door of his house opened and out danced his daughter, his only child. Jephthah was sad when he saw her because he remembered his promise.



Jephthah's daughter asked if she and her friends could go into the mountains and weep for two months because she would never be able to be married. Jephthah gave her permission.



Lord, help to remember that we don't have to make foolish promises to get your help. Thank you for helping us to overcome all our problems.