

The Ancient Worthies: Effect upon the Development of the New Creation

North Seattle Convention – April 7, 2018

Our Cloud of Witnesses



Our Cloud of Witnesses

Therefore, since we are surrounded by **so great a cloud of witnesses**,

let us also lay aside every weight,

and the sin that clings so closely,

and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

Hebrews 12:1 NRSV

Our Cloud of Witnesses



Paul defines Faith — Hebrews 11:1

Faith is the substance of our hopes,
the conviction of things unseen.

Faith is believing what God says.

Our Cloud of Witnesses = Heroes of Faith

By Faith – the ancient worthies gained God’s approval – Hebrews 11:2

They all died **in faith**,

Hebrews 11:13

not having received the promises, **but**

- 1) having seen them afar off, and
- 2) were persuaded of *them*, and
- 3) embraced *them*.

Through faith in God and His promises, they obtained a good report.

Hebrews 11:39

Heroes of Faith

Abraham

By faith Abraham set out for the promised land, not knowing where he went . . . Hebrews 11:8

By faith Abraham dwelled in the promised land but in tents as if he lived in a foreign land . . . Hebrews 11:9



Heroes of Faith - Abraham

By faith Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice to God.

Hebrews 11:17

By faith Abraham received Isaac from the dead in a figure.

Hebrews 11:19



Heroes of Faith

Moses

By faith Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God.

Hebrews 11:24-25



Heroes of Faith - Moses

Moses esteemed the reproaches of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt. **By faith** Moses forsook Egypt not fearing the wrath of the king, for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

Hebrews 11:28-29



Heroes of Faith - Moses

Through faith, Moses kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land.

Hebrews 11:28-29



What does Faith do?

Faith makes the unseen things real.

Faith overcomes the world.

Difficult Point

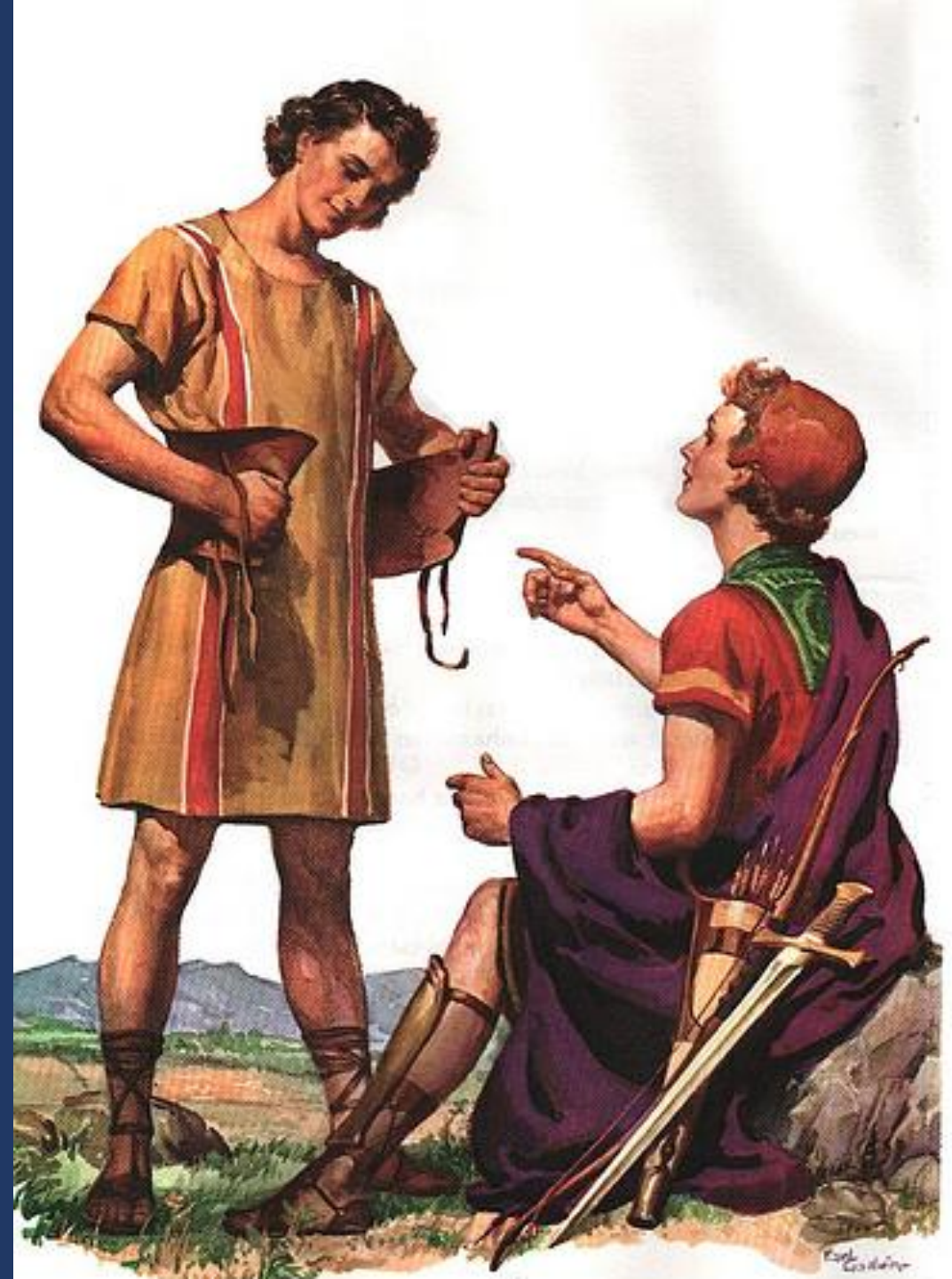
Whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John the Baptist.

Matthew 11:11

God having provided some better thing for the church, that the ancient worthies without us should not be made perfect.

Hebrews 11:40

Ancient Worthies &
Church Pictured
in the
Friendship of
Jonathan and David



Heroes of Faith David's Courage



Heroes of Faith – David's Loyalty

I will not put forth my
hand against my lord;
for he is the LORD'S
anointed.

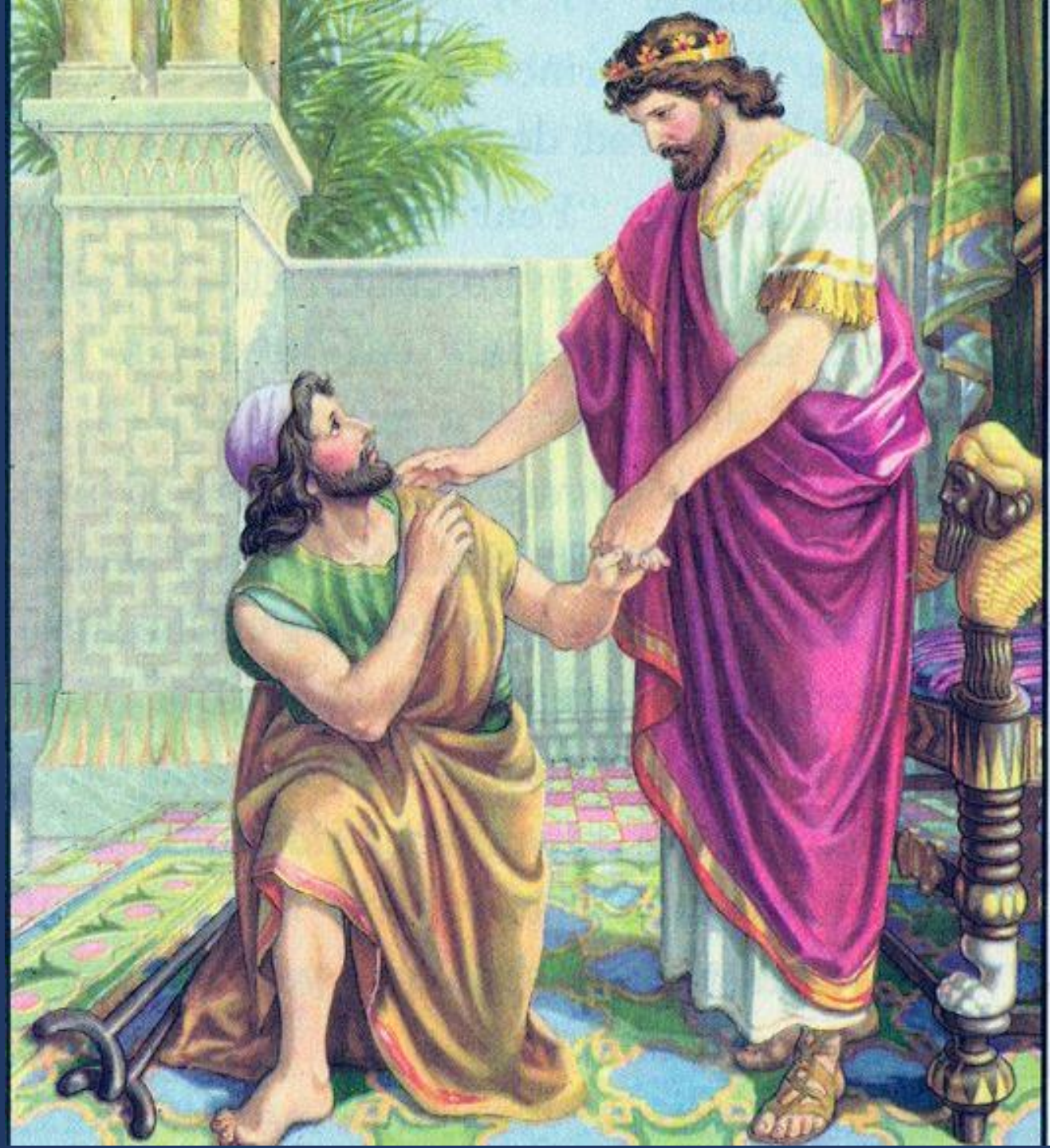
1 Samuel 24:10



Heroes of Faith – David's Kindness

Do not fear, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you shall eat at my table.

2 Samuel 9:3



Heroes of Faith – David's Joy

David brought up the ark of God into the city of David with gladness, David danced before the LORD with all his might

2 Samuel 6:12-15



Heroes of Faith – David's Sorrow for Sin

Nathan said to David,
“You are the man!”

Then David said to Nathan,
“I have sinned against the LORD.”

2 Samuel 12:7, 13



Similar Experiences, Deep Lessons

Joseph

- Taken from the promised land
- Betrayed by his brothers
- Lived rest of his life in Egypt
- Early test – Potiphar's wife
- Interpreted Pharaoh's dream
- Rose to 2nd highest in Egypt
- Personally faithful in all conditions

Daniel

- Taken from the promised land
- Suffered for Israel's unfaithfulness
- Lived rest of his life in Babylon
- Early test – eating the King's meat
- Interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream
- Rose to 3rd highest in Medo-Persia
- Personally faithful in all conditions

Heroes of Faith – Three Hebrews' Courage

Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us
from the burning fiery furnace . . .

But if not, be it known unto you, O king, that
we will not serve your gods, nor worship the
golden image which you have set up.

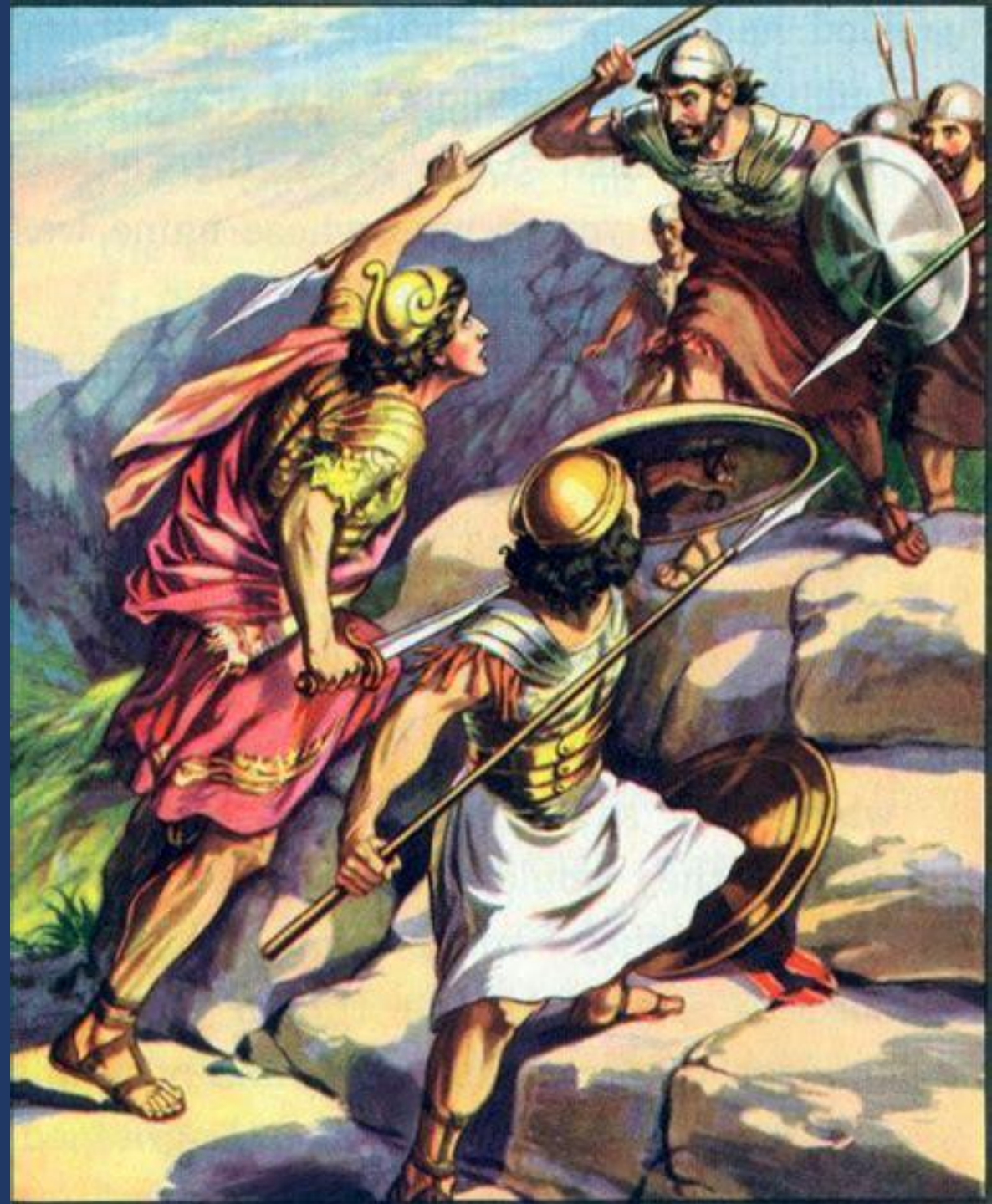
Daniel 3:17-18



Heroes of Faith – Courage and Meekness

For the LORD is not restrained
to save by many or by few.

1 Samuel 14:7



Heroes of Faith – Esther's Courage

So will I go in unto the king,
which is not according to
the law:
and if I perish, I perish.

Esther 4:16



Heroes of Faith – Mordechai's Helpfulness

Who knows whether you
are come to the kingdom
for such a time as this?

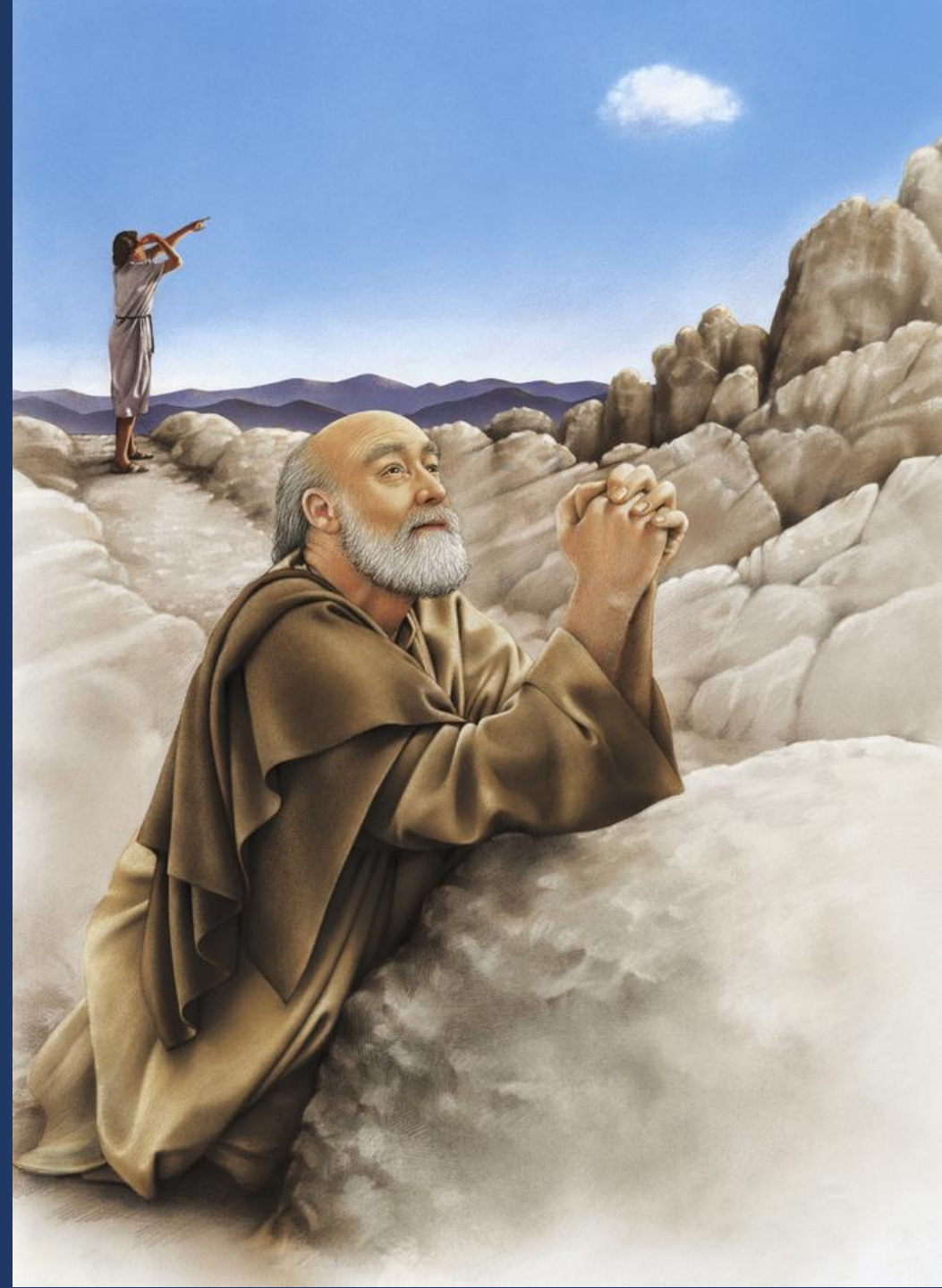
Esther 4:14



Heroes of Faith – Elijah's Prayer

Elijah was a man subject to like
passions as we are,
he prayed earnestly that it might
not rain:
and it rained not on the earth for
three years and six months.

James 5:17



Heroes of Faith Hezekiah's Prayer

Hezekiah spread
the letter before
the LORD

2 Kings 19:14



Heroes of Faith – Elisha's Peace

Fear not,
for they that be with us are more
than they that be with them.

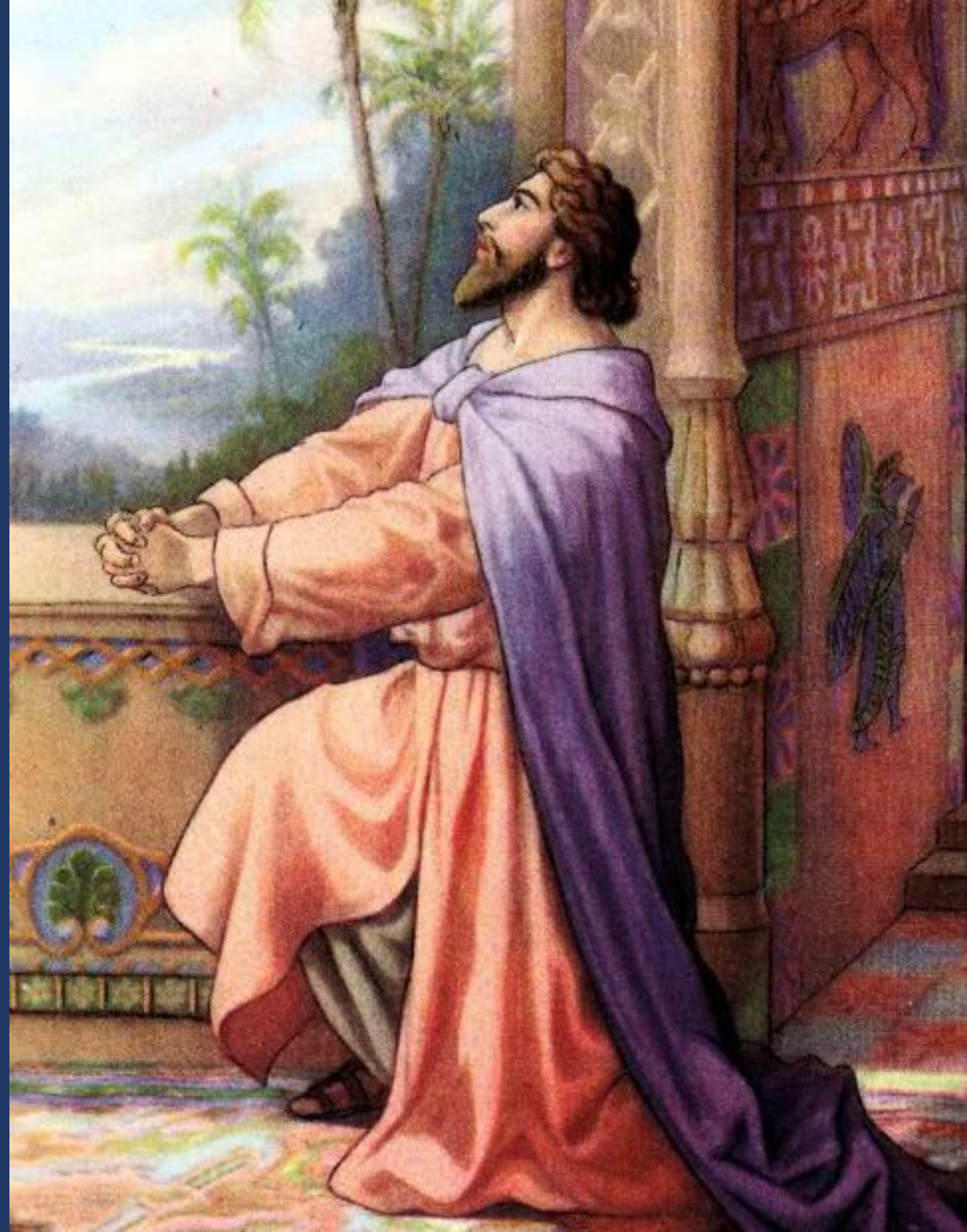
2 Kings 6:16



Heroes of Faith – Daniel's Loving Concern

We do not present our
supplications before You
because of our righteousness,
but because of Your great
compassions.

Daniel 9:18 JPS



Heroes of Faith

—

Samson's Recovery

“Lord GOD,
remember me
and strengthen
me only this
once, O God.

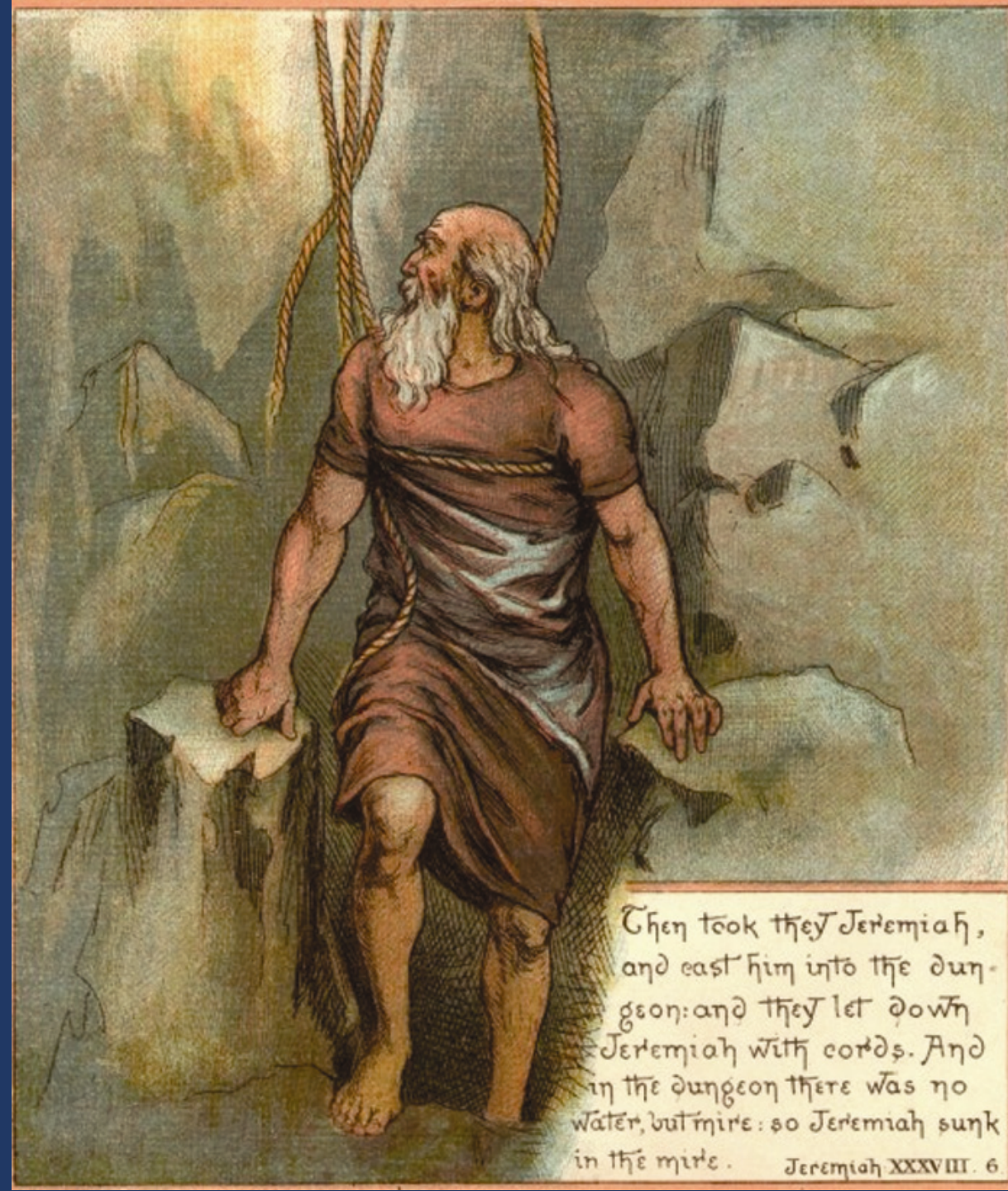
Judges 16:28



Heroes of Faith – Jeremiah's Suffering

I have this day set you over
the nations and over the
kingdoms, to root out, and
to pull down, and to destroy,
and to throw down, to build,
and to plant.

Jeremiah 1:10



Heroes of Faith – Sarah's Joy



Is Anything too Hard for the Lord? — Genesis 18:14



Heroes of Faith – What more shall we say?

- The righteousness of Noah in the midst of a perverse generation
- The patience of Job
- The prompt and loving service of Rebekah
- The gentle meekness of Isaac
- The perseverance of Jacob through deception and discouragement
- The fearless trust of Moses' parents
- The exultant joy of Hannah at Samuel's birth
- The consistent and devoted obedience of Samuel
- The spirit and power of John the Baptist
- and so many more . . .

Heroes of Faith Encourage the New Creation

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

Romans 15:4

Our Cloud of Witnesses

God fulfilled what he had foretold through **all the prophets**, that his Messiah would suffer.

Acts 3:18 - NRSV

Beginning with **Moses and all the prophets**, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

Luke 24:27 - NRSV

