

Zechariah Story

SUPPLIES NEEDED

You will need the following:

- 12 Sheets of [Cardstock](#) (8.5" x 11")
- 12 3 mil Laminating [Film](#)

DIRECTIONS

- Print the story (pages 2-25) front and back on cardstock paper. Laminate the pages.
- NOTE: There is an alternate picture (pages 26-27) for page 10 that is less graphic for younger kids.
- Hold up the pictures while you read the story during class.

Graphics: Laura Strickland
<http://www.whimsyclips.com/>

Illustrations courtesy of Free Bible Images
<http://www.freebibleimages.org/>

The 2nd year of King Darius, in the 8th month...



Zechariah,
the prophet



All the people



Before holding up the picture:

What did we talk about last time in class? *(Haggai encouraged the Israelites to finish building the Temple)*

How long had it been since the Israelites had started the Temple? *(16 years)*

What had the Israelites been doing during those sixteen years? *(building their own houses; starting to forget God—drifting back into sin)*

Hold up picture:

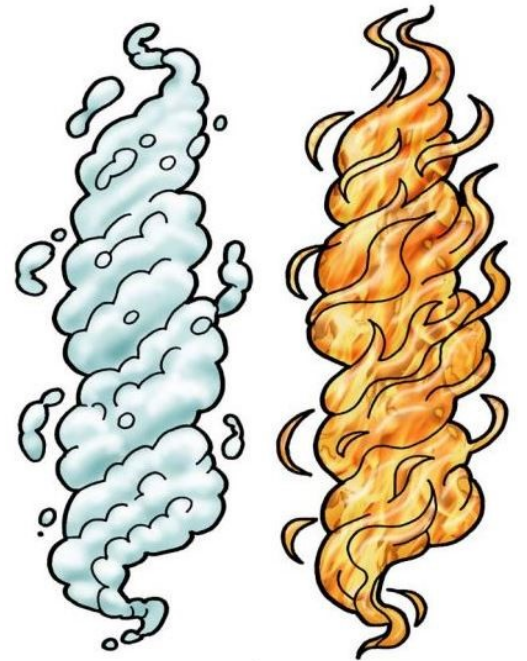
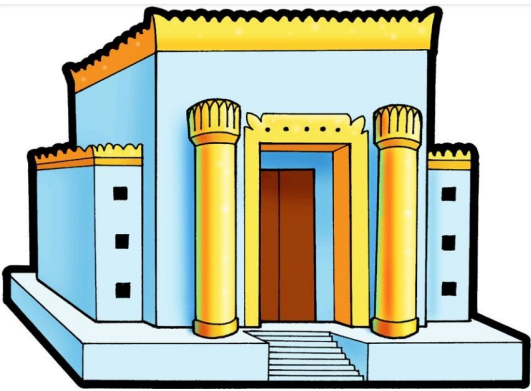
In the 2nd year of King Darius, in the 8th month...

The word of the Lord came to the prophet Zechariah:

Ask / Explain:

Do you remember what a prophet is? *(a messenger from God)* Zechariah's first message from God comes just two months after Haggai's first message, and Zechariah's message is for all the people.

What do you think Zechariah's message will be about? *(answers will vary)*



Hold up picture:

“Return to Me,” says the Lord, “and I will return to you. Do not be like your fathers to whom I sent the former prophets, who warned them saying, ‘Turn from your evil ways.’ But your fathers did not listen to Me,” says the Lord. “And now where are your fathers? I dealt with them according to their deeds.”

Explain / Ask:

God is warning the Israelites. He is reminding them of the consequences of falling away from Him. God had sent prophets like Jeremiah to warn the Israelites to repent, but the people didn't listen. And how did God punish them for not repenting? *(They went into captivity for 70 years)* The Israelites have only been back in the promised land for about 18 years and they are already forgetting to follow God. But God promises them that if they turn back to worshipping Him, He will be with them and make them prosperous again. That's all for Zechariah's first message from God.

The **2nd** year of King Darius, the **11th** month, the **24th** day...

Zechariah,
the prophet



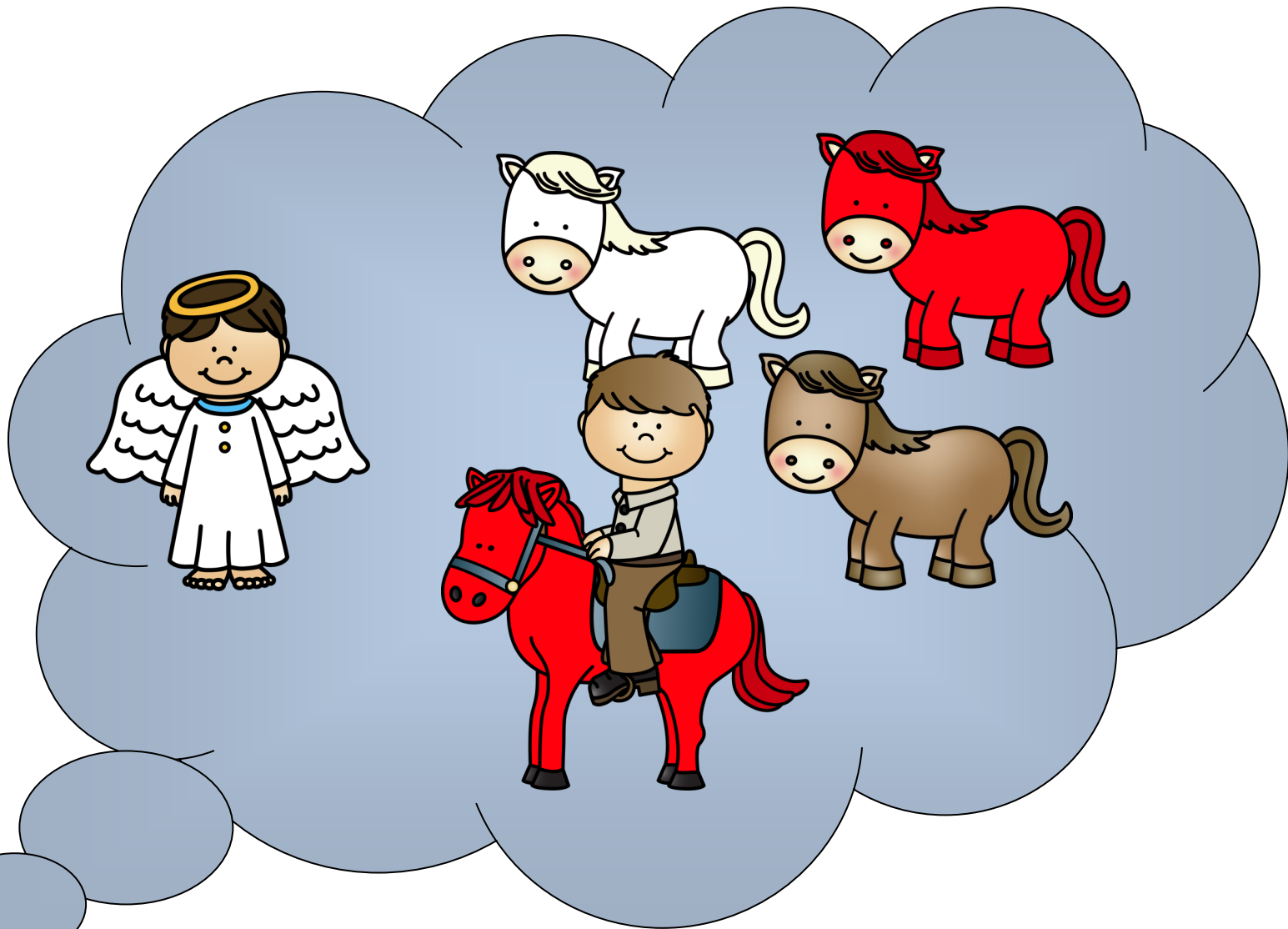
VISIONS



Hold up picture:

Then starting in the eleventh month of Darius's second year reigning, Zechariah had a series of night visions. These visions have a lot of symbolism in them. Symbolism is when one object represents something else. For example, a bald eagle can represent America or the idea of freedom. Let's look at a few of these visions and what they represented.

Zechariah,
the prophet



Hold up picture:

In the first vision, Zechariah saw a man riding a red horse and behind him were three more horses: one white, one brown, and another red horse. And the man said, “These are the ones who have walked throughout the earth and behold, the earth is resting quietly.”

Ask:

What do you think this means? *(Answers will vary)*

Explain:

Zechariah asked the angel of the Lord and the angel explained it to him. The angel told Zechariah that God had used other nations to punish the Israelites, but now all was at rest. There would be no more nations coming to take the Israelites into captivity. In fact, God was returning to Jerusalem with mercy and the Israelites would be prosperous.

Zechariah,
the prophet



Hold up picture:

In another vision, Zechariah saw a man with a measuring line in his hand. So Zechariah asked him, “Where are you going?” And the man said, “To measure Jerusalem, to see what is its length and its width.” Then an angel said, “Tell this young man that Jerusalem can not be measured.”

Then God told Zechariah, “Sing and rejoice, for behold, I am coming and I will dwell among you. And in that day, many nations will be joined to the Lord and they shall become My people.”

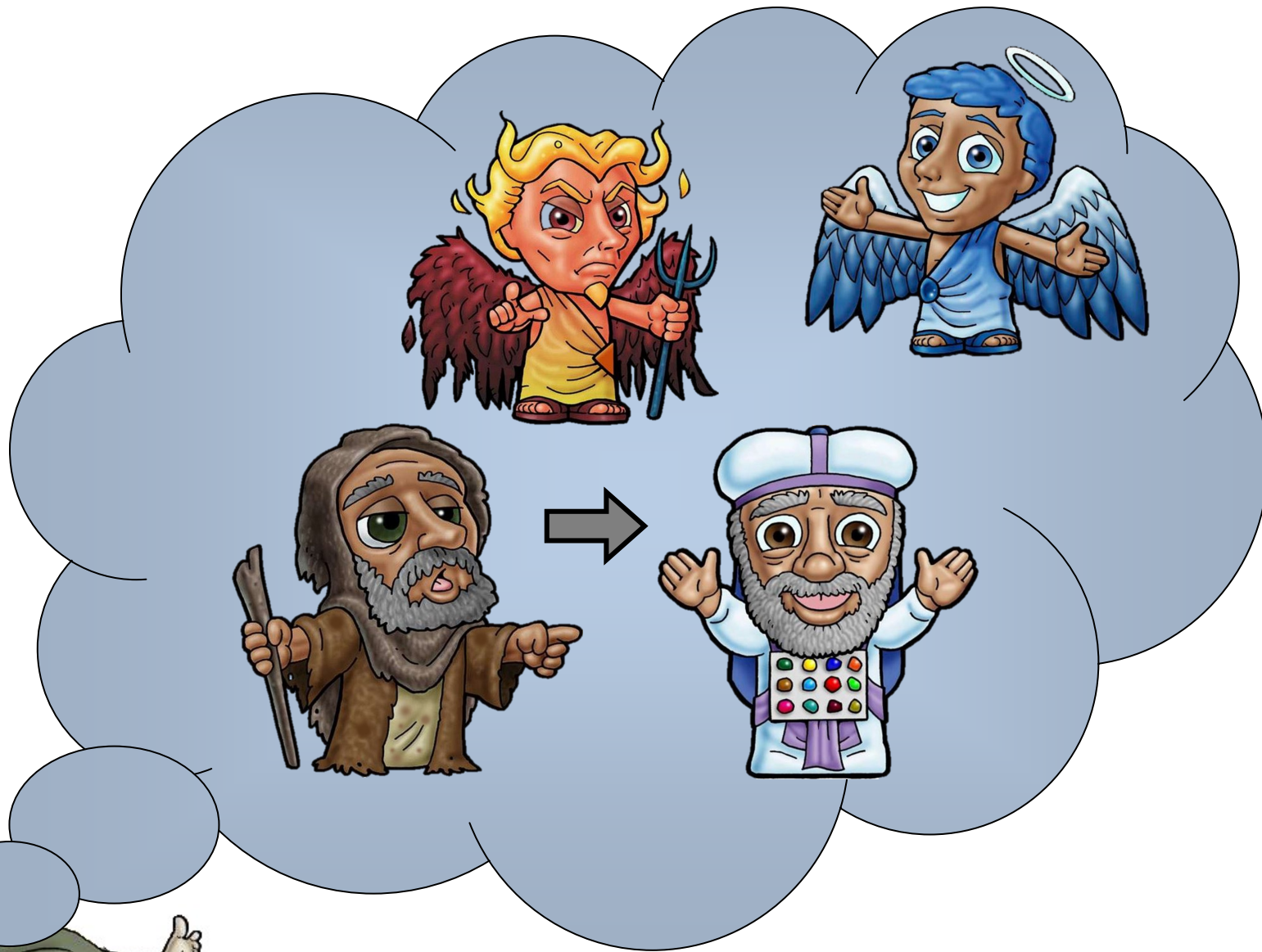
Ask:

What do you think this vision means? *(Answers will vary)*

Explain:

God was going to bless Jerusalem and it would be prosperous and grow so that it could not be measured. But also, there would come a day when God would dwell among them. Who would that refer to? *(Jesus)* And then many nations, not just the Israelites, would become God’s people, the church.

Zechariah,
the prophet



Hold up picture:

In the next vision, Zechariah saw Jeshua, the high priest, clothed in filthy garments. Jeshua was standing before the Angel of the Lord being accused by Satan. And the Angel said, “Take away the filthy garments from him.” And to Jeshua He said, “See I have removed your iniquity from you and will clothe you with rich robes.” So they put a clean turban on his head and rich robes on him.

Ask:

What do you think the filthy garments represent? (*sin*)

What do the rich robes represent? (*righteousness or salvation*)

Explain:

When the Angel of the Lord says, “I will remove your iniquity and clothe you with rich robes,” he is referring to the salvation that will come through Christ. The blood of Jesus washes away our filthy sins and then we are clothed in righteousness. Isn’t that a wonderful image?

The 4th year of King Darius, in the 9th month...



Zechariah,
the prophet



All the people



Hold up picture:

The last few chapters of Zechariah, occurs two years later, in the 4th year of King Darius's reign. Zechariah gives the Israelites clues about the coming Messiah. Let's see if you can recognize any of these clues about Jesus.



Before holding up the picture:

Zechariah 9:9 says:

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you,
righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Does that remind you of any story about Jesus? (*Jesus entering Jerusalem*)

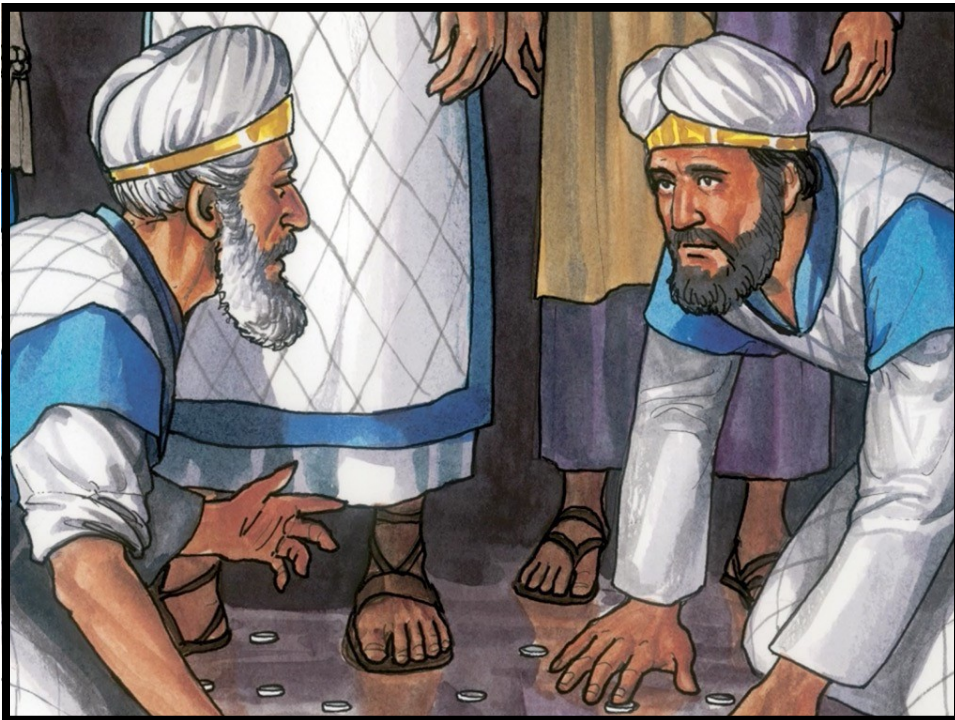
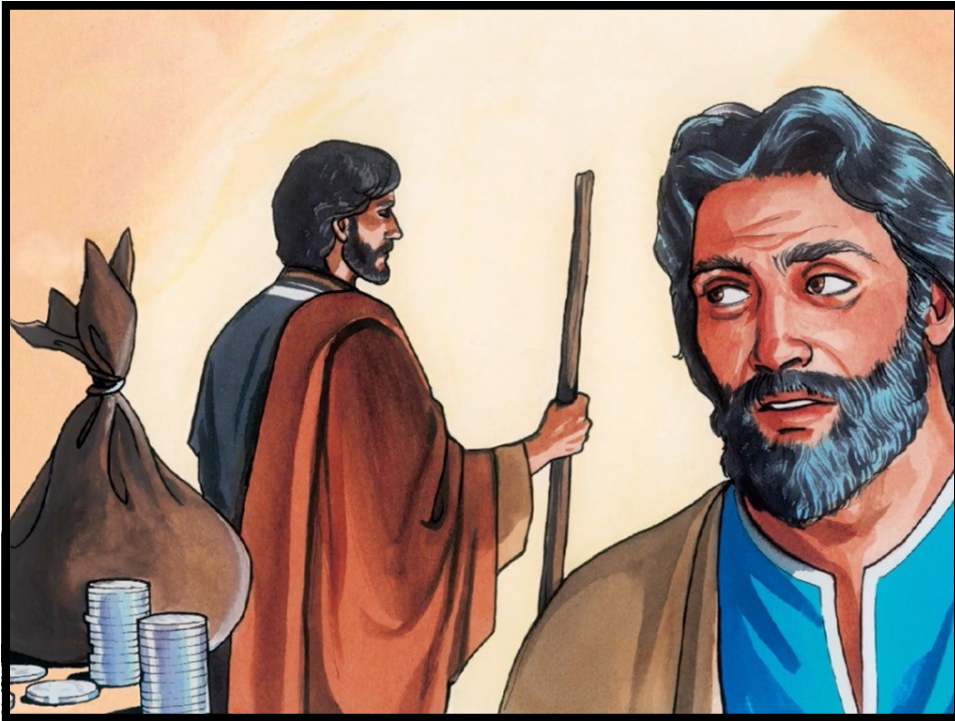
Hold up picture:

Yes! When Jesus entered Jerusalem on the colt and the people laid branches down in front of Him.

Matthew 21:4-5 says:

As they approached Jerusalem...Jesus sent two disciples, saying, "Go to the village ahead of you, and you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me"...This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet [Zechariah]...The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

Do you see how Zechariah prophesied, or predicted, hundreds of years before it happened that Jesus would come to the Israelites riding on a colt?



Before holding up the picture:

Zechariah 11:12-13 says:

I told them, “If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.” So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter”—the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the Lord.

This one might be a little harder for you to remember, but does this remind you about anything concerning Jesus? (*Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver*)

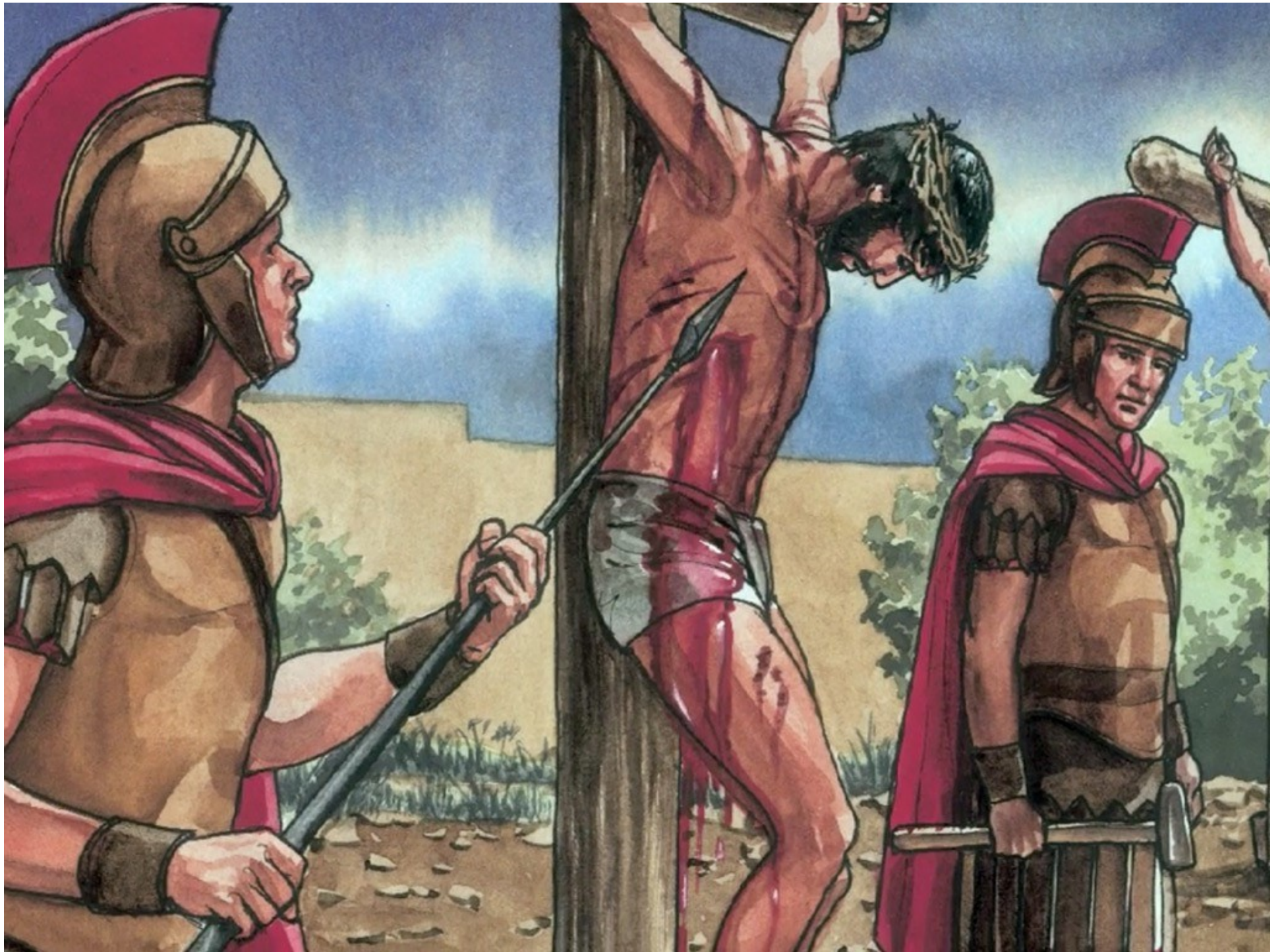
Hold up picture:

Matthew 27 tells us:

When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was remorseful and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, “I have sinned for I have betrayed innocent blood.”...So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

The chief priests picked up the coins and...decided to use the money to buy the potter’s field as a burial place for foreigners...Then what was spoken by the prophet [*Zechariah*] was fulfilled: “They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

Again Zechariah prophesied, or predicted, hundreds of years before it happened that Judas would betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, and that those coins would be used to buy a potter’s field.



Before holding up the picture:

Zechariah 12:10 says:

They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

What does this verse remind you of? *(Jesus's crucifixion)*

Hold up picture:

Yes, Jesus's hands and feet were pierced when he was crucified, but also, His side was pierced after He had died. We read in John 19:31-37:

Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the men who had been crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and found that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water...These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of His bones will be broken," and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

Zechariah prophesied, or predicted, the wounds that Jesus would suffer at His death. Let's look at one more prophesy that Zechariah made about Jesus.



Before holding up the picture:

Zechariah 13:7 says:

Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered

Who does the Bible refer to in the New Testament as being a Shepherd? *(Jesus)*

Who would the sheep be? *(Jesus' disciples)*

Hold up picture:

Did you know that all the disciples fled when Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane? We can read about that in Matthew 26:50-57:

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him...and Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture Me?...But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted Him and fled.

Again Zechariah predicted the events around Jesus' arrest. The disciples (or the sheep) would all scatter and leave Jesus, their Shepherd, when He was arrested. How was Zechariah able to predict all these things about Jesus? *(God revealed it to him)*



Hold up picture:

So Zechariah ends by giving the Israelites hope for the coming Messiah. But how would the people be able to recognize the Messiah when He came? *(answers might vary)* Jesus proved He was the Savior by performing miracles, but also because He fulfilled all of the prophecies (or predictions) the prophets, like Zechariah, made about the Messiah. Each prophecy that Jesus fulfilled in the New Testament was just more proof that Jesus truly was the Messiah.



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**Alternate (less graphic) picture*