

A King is Appointed

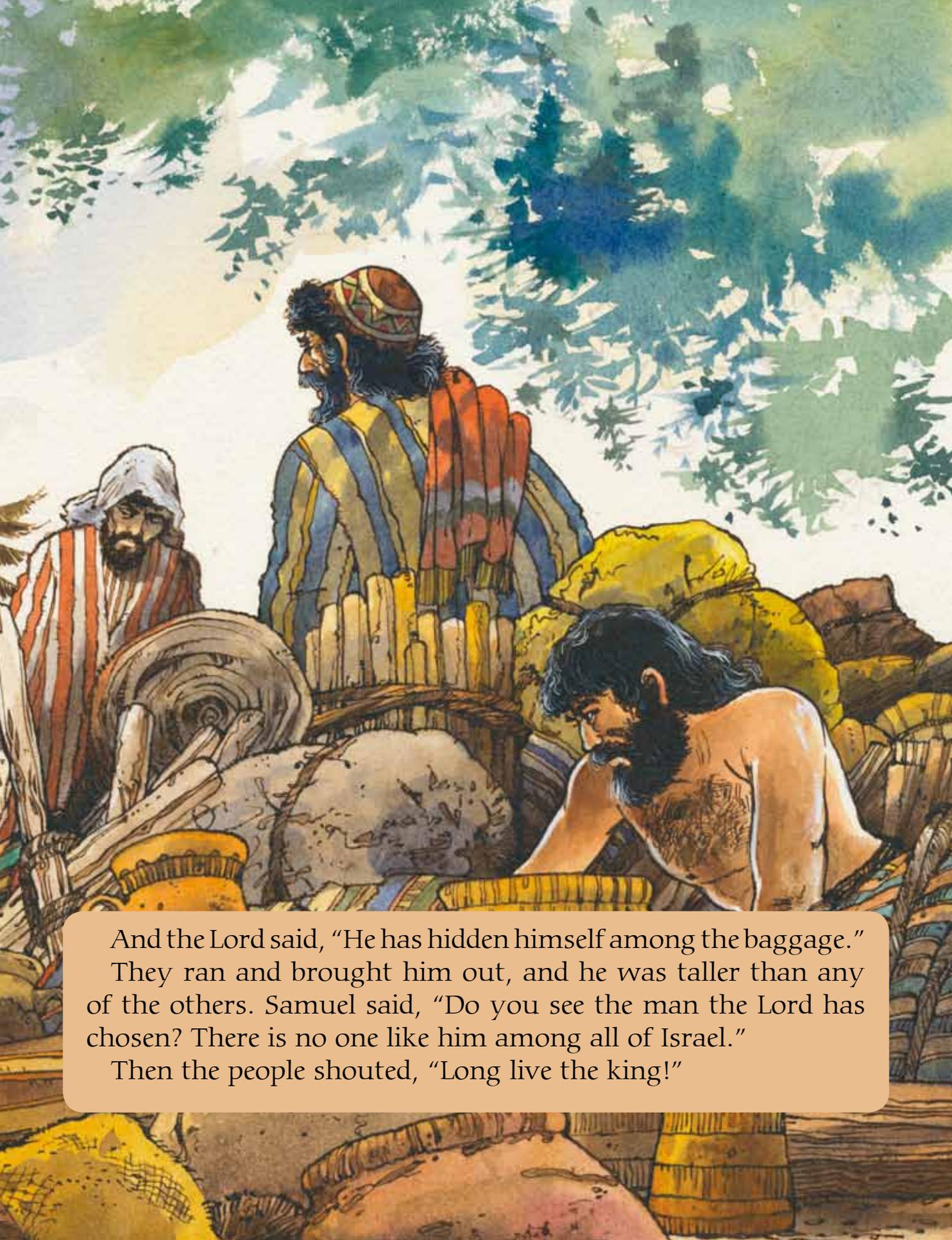
Samuel summoned the people of Israel. The Lord spoke through Samuel, "I brought you up out of Egypt and delivered you. But you have rejected me, your God who saved you. Instead you said, 'Set a king over us.'"

"So now present yourself before me by tribes and clans."

Samuel brought all of the tribes near and Benjamin was chosen. Then Matri's clan was chosen.

Then finally Saul son of Kish was chosen. But when they looked for him, they couldn't find him. So they asked the Lord, "Where is this man? Has he come here yet?"





And the Lord said, "He has hidden himself among the baggage."
They ran and brought him out, and he was taller than any
of the others. Samuel said, "Do you see the man the Lord has
chosen? There is no one like him among all of Israel."
Then the people shouted, "Long live the king!"

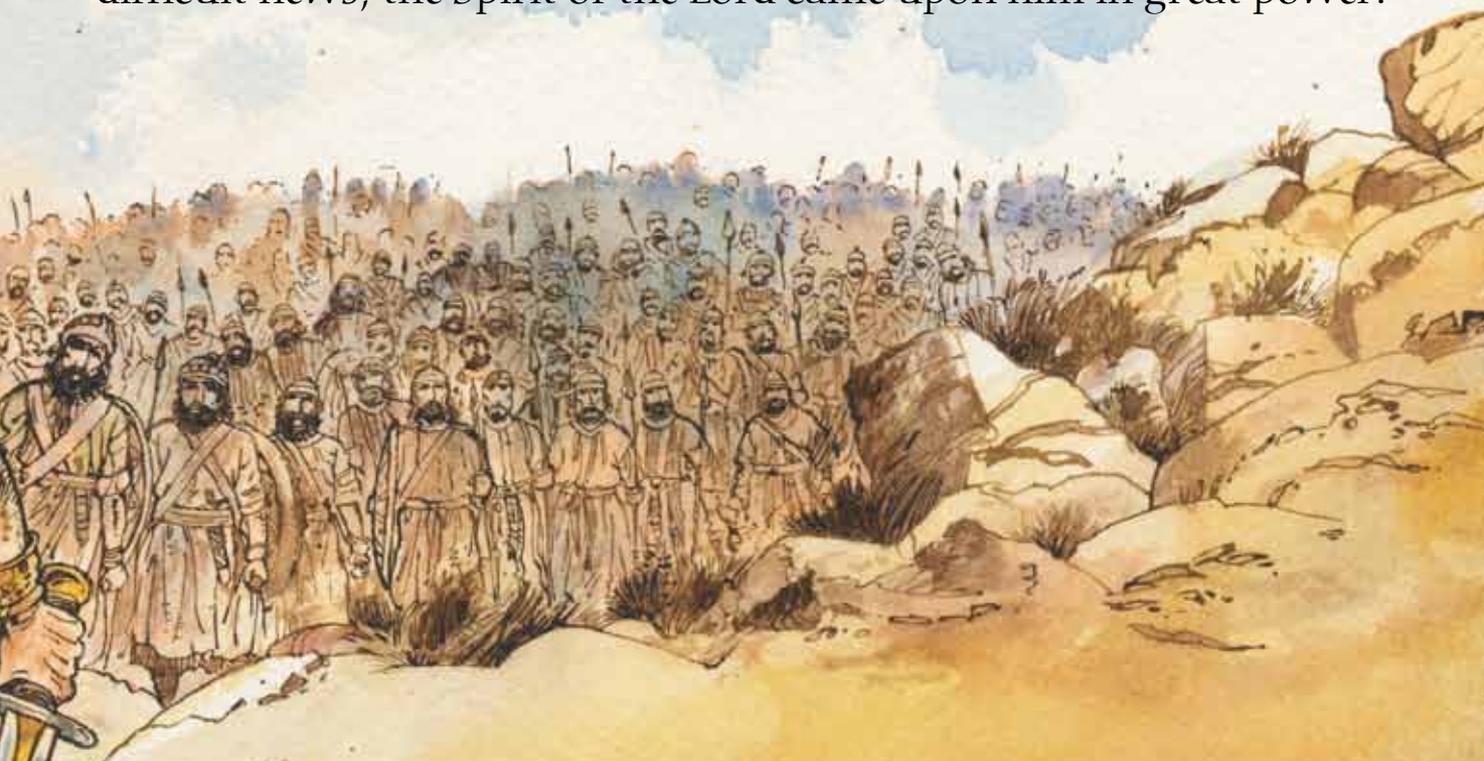


The New King Rescues Jabesh

Nahash the Ammonite and his armies came to attack the city of Jabesh Gilead. The people of Jabesh pleaded with Nahash, "Make a treaty with us and we will serve you."

Nahash replied, "I will make a treaty with you only if I get to gouge out the right eye of every one of you and bring disgrace on all of Israel."

Messengers from Jabesh were sent to Saul. As he was told the difficult news, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him in great power.



He burned with anger, took two oxen, and cut them into pieces. He sent them throughout Israel with a message: "This is what will be done to the oxen of anyone who does not follow Saul and Samuel to fight against the Ammonites."

A great many Israelites came out to meet Saul that day, numbering three hundred and thirty thousand.

Saul sent messengers to the people of Jabesh Gilead, "Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you will be delivered from your enemies."