



תבדקו

THE HAND OF MIDIAN



Serrano - Abuan - Buenaventura - Dedelis



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THE HAND OF MIDIAN

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Our stories, or “Chronicles” if you will, are a visual retelling of Bible stories. We use our imagination and creativity all while being grounded and rooted to the Biblical account. This mini-comic is an introduction to the story of Gideon as found in chapters 6 - 8 of the Book of Judges.

RootedChronicles.com
SamsonTheRazarite.com

1200 B.C.

Yahweh delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt by his servant Moses. Afterwards Yahweh drove out the inhabitants of the Promised Land by his servant Joshua. The Israelites began to settle in their territories.

After Joshua died, the Israelites soon forgot Yahweh their God. They began to worship other gods and do evil. This was before the days of any of the kings of Israel. In His mercy and faithfulness Yahweh would raise up a Judge. Someone to rescue and shepherd Israel.

Gideon is one of twelve Judges listed in the 'Book of Judges'. This is the beginning of his story.

'THE ISRAELITES DID WHAT WAS EVIL IN THE SIGHT OF YAHWEH, AND FOR SEVEN YEARS HE GAVE THEM INTO THE HANDS OF THE MIDIANITES.'

JUDGES 6:7

THEY WERE THE EIGHTH PLAGUE YAHWEH SENT ON EGYPT.

THEIR STRENGTH IS NOT IN THEIR SIZE...



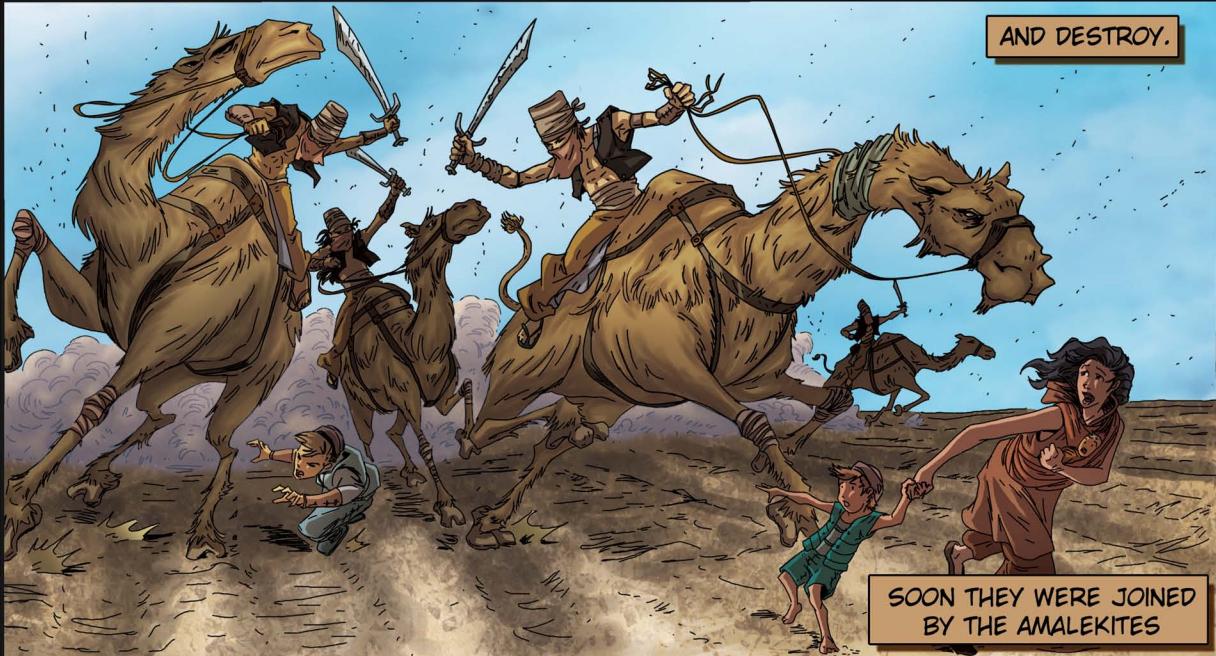
BUT IN THEIR NUMBERS.



MIDIANITES.

THEY COME UP FROM THE SOUTH WITH THEIR TENTS AND LIVESTOCK, AND COVER THE LAND LIKE LOCUSTS. WE PLANT OUR FIELDS AND AT HARVEST THEY COME. THEY CONSUME...





AND DESTROY.

SOON THEY WERE JOINED BY THE AMALEKITES



AND THE SONS OF THE EAST.



WE WEAKENED, THEY GREW STRONGER.

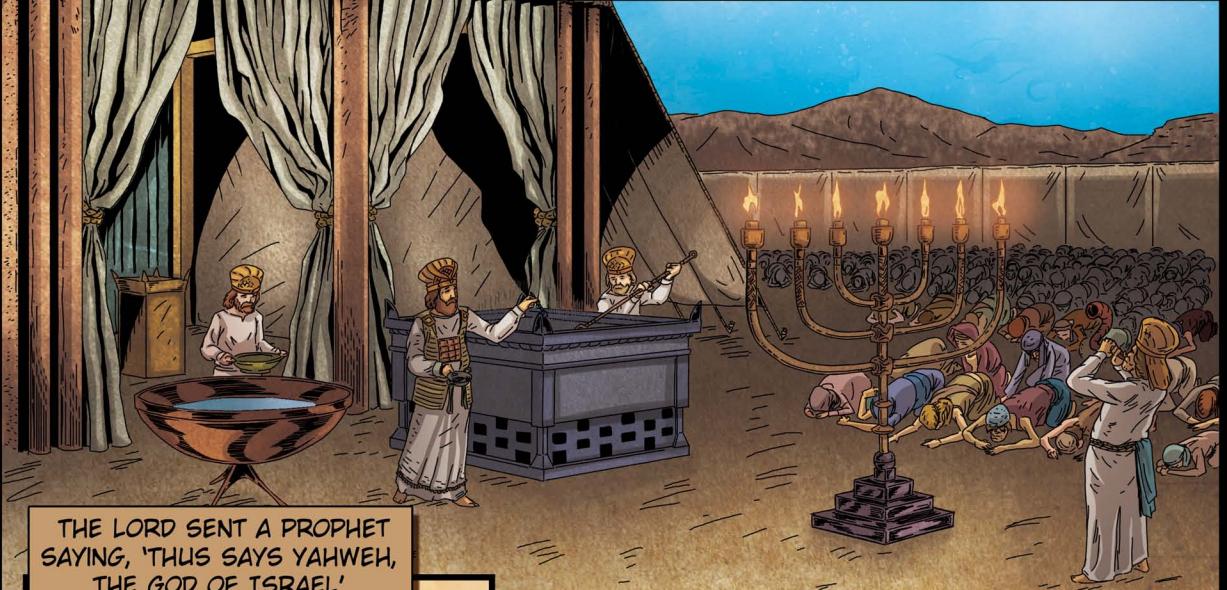


WE DWINDLED, THEY MULTIPLIED.

SOME BUILT STRONGHOLDS FOR REFUGE, SOME FLED TO THE MOUNTAINS. OTHERS TO DENS AND CAVES, BUT THERE IS NO FUTURE IN SUCH PLACES.



BECAUSE OF THE MIDIANITES, THE PEOPLE GATHERED AND CRIED OUT TO YAHWEH FOR HELP.



THE LORD SENT A PROPHET SAYING, 'THUS SAYS YAHWEH, THE GOD OF ISRAEL'



I SAID, 'I AM YAHWEH, YOUR GOD; DO NOT WORSHIP THE GODS OF THE AMORITES, BUT YOU HAVE NOT LISTENED TO ME.'

'IT WAS I WHO BROUGHT YOU FROM EGYPT AND OUT OF SLAVERY. ALL YOUR OPPRESSORS I HAVE DRIVEN OUT AND GIVEN YOU THEIR LAND.'

MY NAME IS GIDEON, SON OF JOASH. I AM A HEBREW OF THE TRIBE OF MANASSEH. I AM THE YOUNGEST OF MY FATHER'S SONS, LEAST IN THE HOUSEHOLD.



I HAVE MY OWN SON NOW, BUT WHEN I WAS LITTLE IT WOULD ALWAYS FALL TO ME TO ASK THE FOUR QUESTIONS DURING PASSOVER.



WHY IS THIS NIGHT DIFFERENT THAN ALL OTHER NIGHTS?



WE WERE SLAVES IN EGYPT, AND YAHWEH, OUR GOD, TOOK US OUT WITH A STRONG HAND.

THE ANGEL WOULD PASS OVER BECAUSE OF THE LAMB'S BLOOD.

I LOVED HEARING THE STORIES, AND LONGED TO WITNESS A MIRACLE.



TODAY WITH MY OWN EYES...



I SAW A MIRACLE OF THE LORD.

I WAS BEATING OUT WHEAT IN THE WINE PRESS TO KEEP IT FROM BEING SEEN BY MIDIANITES. A WINE PRESS MAY BE THE WORST PLACE TO DO THIS, AND I QUICKLY BECAME FRUSTRATED AT WORK AND LIFE UNDER MIDIAN.



A MAN CAME AND SAT DOWN.



YAHWEH IS WITH YOU,

O MY LORD, IF YAHWEH IS WITH US, WHY THEN HAS ALL THIS HAPPENED TO US?



O VALIANT WARRIOR.



AND WHERE ARE ALL HIS MIRACLES WHICH OUR FATHERS TOLD US ABOUT, SAYING, 'DID NOT YAHWEH BRING US UP FROM EGYPT?'

BUT NOW YAHWEH HAS ABANDONED US AND GIVEN US INTO THE HAND OF MIDIAN.





GO IN THIS YOUR STRENGTH AND DELIVER ISRAEL FROM MIDIAN. HAVE I NOT SENT YOU?



O LORD, HOW SHALL I DELIVER ISRAEL?



SURELY I WILL BE WITH YOU, AND YOU SHALL DEFEAT MIDIAN AS ONE MAN.

IF I HAVE FOUND YOUR FAVOR, THEN SHOW ME A SIGN THAT IT IS YOU WHO SPEAK WITH ME. PLEASE DON'T LEAVE UNTIL I COME BACK TO YOU...

AND BRING MY OFFERING BEFORE YOU.



I WILL REMAIN UNTIL YOU RETURN.



I PREPARED A YOUNG GOAT AND RETURNED.



TAKE THE MEAT AND UNLEAVENED BREAD AND LAY THEM ON THIS ROCK,

AND POUR OUT THE BROTH.



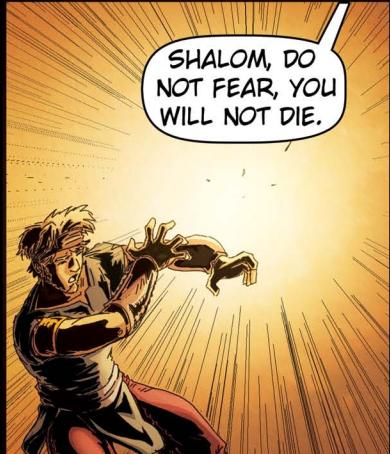
WHEN HE TOUCHED IT WITH HIS STAFF...

FIRE SPRANG UP FROM THE ROCK AND CONSUMED THE OFFERING.



O LORD GOD!

I HAVE SEEN THE ANGEL OF YAHWEH FACE TO FACE.



SHALOM, DO NOT FEAR, YOU WILL NOT DIE.



THE ANGEL OF YAHWEH VANISHED FROM SIGHT.

I BUILT AN ALTAR THERE TO YAHWEH AND NAMED IT 'YAHWEH IS SHALOM'.



YAHWEH IS PEACE, BUT HE WAS PREPARING FOR WAR.



GIDEON, WHY DID YOU SEND ME FOR THIS?



YAHWEH SPOKE TO ME, BUT I FEAR WE'LL BE KILLED IF WE DON'T DO IT AT NIGHT.

KILLED?! WHAT DID YAHWEH SAY TO YOU?



PURAH, MY SERVANT, MY FRIEND, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE IT.

Editor's Note

We hope you enjoyed this prologue into the story of Gideon. The Biblical account is in the following pages for you to read and enjoy. We've also included the beginning of our graphic novel, 'Samson the Nazirite' as a bonus.

In the Biblical account Gideon actually asks, 'How shall I save Israel? My tribe is the least in Manasseh (smaller tribe) and my household is weakest, and I am the youngest and least in my own home.

He's from a small tribe, from a small household, and he is the youngest. So what can one lowly person do? What impact can just one have? Gideon is right that he alone cannot save Israel, but He is not alone.

Upon reading the story of Gideon one of the first things to strike is you the lengths that God goes to ensure that He is given full credit for victory. Yet at the end we hear the people say to Gideon,

'It was you who saved us.' Sadly missing this point entirely.

If we take a second look into this story what emerges is a God who despite the flaws of the ones who are in covenant with him is merciful, long suffering, and faithful. Gideon is a flawed hero, and we can only aspire to be flawed heroes. For all mankind is flawed.

Luis Serrano;
Just a flawed guy;
believing in the Living God.

The Chronicles of Gideon From the Book of Judges

So the land had rest for forty years. Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord.

So the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years, and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves the dens, the caves, and the strongholds which are in the mountains.

So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. Then they would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey. For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as numerous as locusts; both they and their camels were without number; and they would enter the land to destroy it.

So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord.

And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried out to the Lord because of the Midianites, that the Lord sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them,

“Thus says the Lord God of Israel:

‘I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage; and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land.

Also I said to you, “I am the Lord your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell.”

But you have not obeyed My voice.”

Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites.

And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him,

“The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!”

Gideon said to Him, “O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.”

Then the Lord turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?”

So he said to Him, “O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.”

And the Lord said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man."

Then he said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me. Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You."

And He said, "I will wait until you come back."

So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them.

The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so.

Then the Angel of the Lord put out the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the Lord departed out of his sight.

Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the Lord. So Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord God! For I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face."

Then the Lord said to him, "Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die."

So Gideon built an altar there to the Lord, and called it The-Lord-Is-Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

Now it came to pass the same night that the Lord said to him, "Take your father's young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that is beside it; and build an altar to the Lord your God on top of this rock in the proper arrangement, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image which you shall cut down."

So Gideon took ten men from among his servants and did as the Lord had said to him. But because he feared his father's household and the men of the city too much to do it by day, he did it by night.

In the morning when the people of the town got up, there was Baal's altar, demolished, with the Asherah pole beside it cut down and the second bull sacrificed on the newly built altar!

They asked each other, "Who did this?"

When they carefully investigated, they were told, "Gideon son of Joash did it."

The people of the town demanded of Joash, "Bring out your son. He must die, because he has broken down Baal's altar and cut down the Asherah pole beside it."

But Joash replied to the hostile crowd around him, "Are you going to plead Baal's cause? Are you trying to save him? Whoever fights for him shall be put to death by morning! If Baal really is a god, he can defend himself when someone breaks down his altar."

So because Gideon broke down Baal's altar, they gave him the name Jerub-Baal that day, saying, "Let Baal contend with him."

Now all the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples joined forces and crossed over the Jordan and camped in the Valley of Jezreel.

Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him. He sent messengers throughout Manasseh, calling them to arms, and also into Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali, so that they too went up to meet them.

Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised— look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said."

And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of water.

Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece, but this time make the fleece dry and let the ground be covered with dew."

That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.

Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped

beside the spring of Harod. And the camp of Midian was north of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

The Lord said to Gideon, "The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.' Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home and hurry away from Mount Gilead.'"

Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained.

And the Lord said to Gideon, "The people are still too many. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' shall go with you, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' shall not go."

So he brought the people down to the water. And the Lord said to Gideon, "Every one who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set by himself. Likewise, every one who kneels down to drink."

And the number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, was 300 men, but all the rest of the people knelt down to drink water.

And the Lord said to Gideon, "With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand, and let all the others go every man to his home."

So the people took provisions in their hands, and their trumpets. And he sent all the rest of Israel every man to his tent, but retained the 300 men. And the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

That same night the Lord said to him, "Arise, go down against the camp, for I have given it into your hand. But if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah your servant. And you shall hear what they say, and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to go down against the camp."

Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outposts of the armed men who were in the camp. And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the people of the East lay along the valley like locusts in abundance, and their camels were without number, as the sand that is on the seashore in abundance. When Gideon came, behold, a man was telling a dream to his comrade.

And he said, "Behold, I dreamed a dream, and behold, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian and came to the tent and struck it so that it fell and turned it upside down, so that the tent lay flat."

And his comrade answered, "This is no other than the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel; God has given into his hand Midian and all the camp."

When Gideon heard the account of the dream and its interpretation, he bowed in worship.

He returned to the camp of Israel and said,

“Arise, for the Lord has given the camp of Midian into your hands.”

He divided the 300 men into three companies, and he put trumpets and empty pitchers into the hands of all of them, with torches inside the pitchers.

He said to them, “Look at me and do likewise. And behold, when I come to the outskirts of the camp, do as I do. When I and all who are with me blow the trumpet, then you also blow the trumpets all around the camp and say, ‘For the Lord and for Gideon’”

So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, when they had just posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and smashed the pitchers that were in their hands.

When the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers, they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing, and cried, “A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!”

Each stood in his place around the camp; and all the army ran, crying out as they fled.

When they blew 300 trumpets, the Lord set the sword of one against another even throughout the whole army; and the army fled as far as Beth-shittah toward Zererah, as far as the edge of Abel-meholah, by Tabbath. The men of Israel were summoned from Naphtali and Asher and all Manasseh, and they pursued Midian.

Gideon sent messengers throughout all the hill country of Ephraim, saying, "Come down against Midian and take the waters before them, as far as Beth-barah and the Jordan." So all the men of Ephraim were summoned and they took the waters as far as Beth-barah and the Jordan. They captured the two leaders of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb, and they killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and they killed Zeeb at the wine press of Zeeb, while they pursued Midian; and they brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon from across the Jordan.

Judges 5:31b,6:1-27 KJV

Judges 6:28-40 NIV

Judges 7:1-14 ESV

Judges 7:15-25 NASB

The Biblical account of Gideon continues in Judges 8.

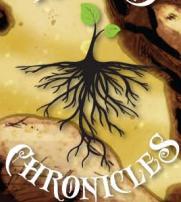
ROOTED CHRONICLES PRESENTS

SAMSON

THE NAZIRITE



ROOTED



Serrano
Balan
Moussa
Buenaventura

BALAN

SAMSON

THE NAZIRITE

Volume 1

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after moSES led the children of israel out of bondage in egypt, they wandered in the wilderness for forty years because of their unbelief.

joshua then led the people in their conquest of the holy Land. the tribes received their allotted portions, and began to settle in their territories.

the people quickly forgot their god, and turned to worship false gods. so the Lord delivered them into the hands of their enemies.

THE
GREAT
SEA



under the harsh rule of their enemies the people cried out to the Lord for mercy. they sought him and turned from their idols. he in his mercy would send them judges to rescue them from their enemies.

but like their forefathers, the people would again forget their god, and turn to the false gods. the cycle continued, over and over. this was before the days of any kings in israel. in those days everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

~1100 B.C.

"Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the eyes of the Lord, so that the Lord gave them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years"

- The Book of Judges





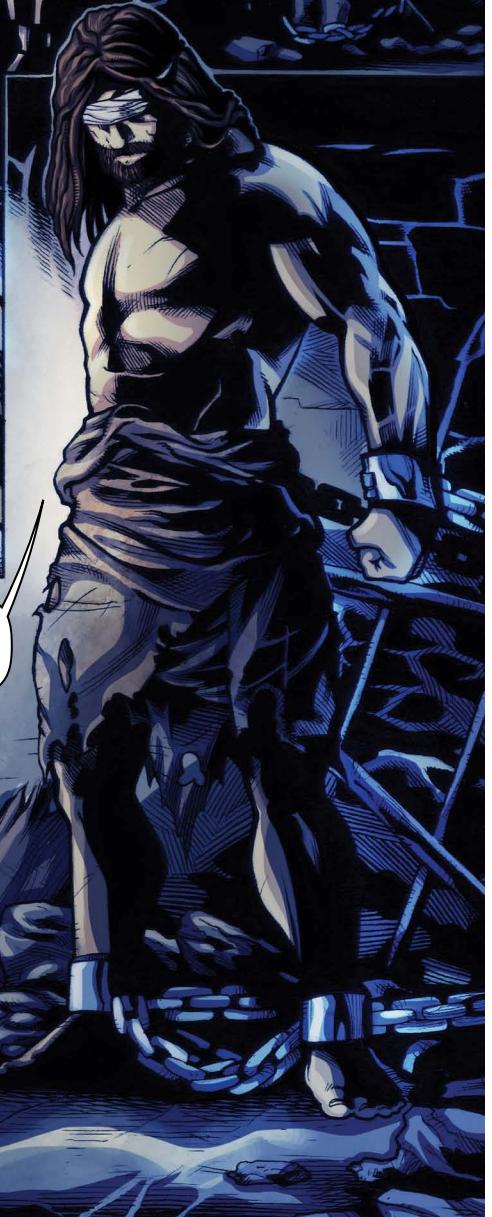
CHING
CHING
CHING



WHO'S
THERE?



CHING
CHING



PEACE,
STRANGER. I
MEAN YOU NO
HARM.



AND PEACE BE WITH YOU.



YOU SPEAK HEBREW, BUT YOUR TONGUE BETRAYS YOU...

...EGYPTIAN?



YES. I AM A SCRIBE IN PHARAOH'S COURT.

MY NAME IS RAMOSE.



YOU ARE A LONG WAY FROM HOME, FRIEND. HOW DID YOU END UP IN A DUNGEON IN GAZA?

I WAS PART OF A DIPLOMATIC PARTY THAT WAS RETURNING HOME AFTER MAKING A TRADE AGREEMENT.

a fierce storm
came upon our
vessel as we
returned to
egypt.



blown off course,
we sought refuge
at this philistine
port.



the philistines
seized our cargo
and slaughtered
the crew.



scribes are
valuable...



...so my life
was spared.



WE'LL
SELL THIS
ONE.





BUT THIS ENTIRE CITY IS **CELEBRATING** SOMETHING TONIGHT, SO I WAS BROUGHT HERE.

THE PHILISTINES ARE PREPARING A GREAT SACRIFICE TO THEIR GOD, **DAGON**.



AS I WAS BROUGHT THROUGH THE CITY, THE **PHILISTINES** WERE DANCING AND SINGING IN THE STREETS SAYING...



OUR GOD HAS DELIVERED **SAMSON**, OUR ENEMY, INTO OUR HANDS.

EVEN THE **DESTROYER** OF OUR COUNTRY, WHO HAS SLAIN MANY OF US.

HAVE YOU **HEARD** OF THIS SAMSON?



...
...YES.



I'M **SAMSON**.



YOU'IZ!
YOU'RE THE
ONE THEY CALL
DESTROYER?



BY MY ENEMIES.
THE **PHILISTINES** AND
HEBREWS HAVE LONG
BEEN ADVERSARIES.



I HAVE BEEN A
JUDGE OF ISRAEL THESE
LAST TWENTY YEARS. I HAVE
FOUGHT TO FREE MY PEOPLE
FROM UNDER THE HAND
OF THE **PHILISTINES**.

HOW DID YOU
ACCOMPLISH ALL
THIS **BEING**
BLIND?



I WAS
NOT ALWAYS
BLIND.



...nothing but my memories.





IT MUST BE A TALE WORTHY OF INSCRIPTION. WILL YOU SHARE YOUR *STORY* WITH ME?



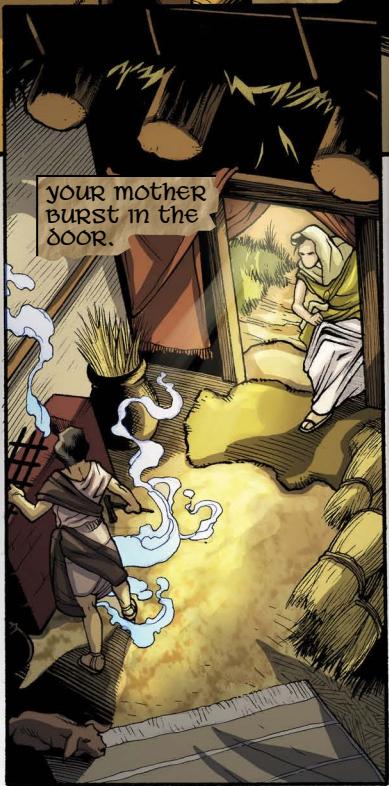
STORIES SUCH AS MINE SOON BECOME MYTHS AND LEGEND, BUT I **ASSURE** YOU MY WORDS ARE TRUE.



one of my earliest memories is listening to my father tell the story of my birth. my mother was barren, and I was their **MIRACLE** child.



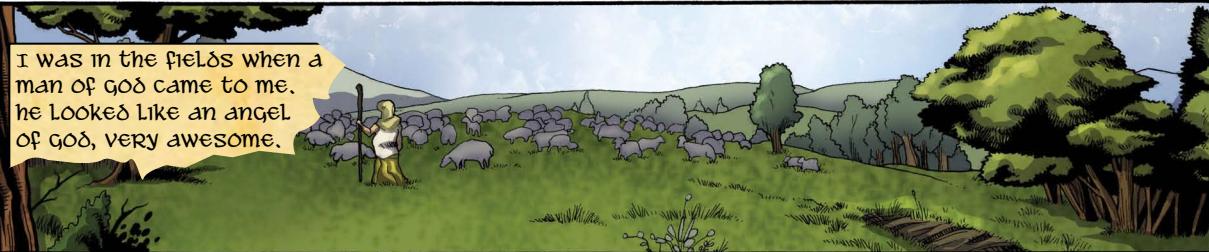
he would begin with...



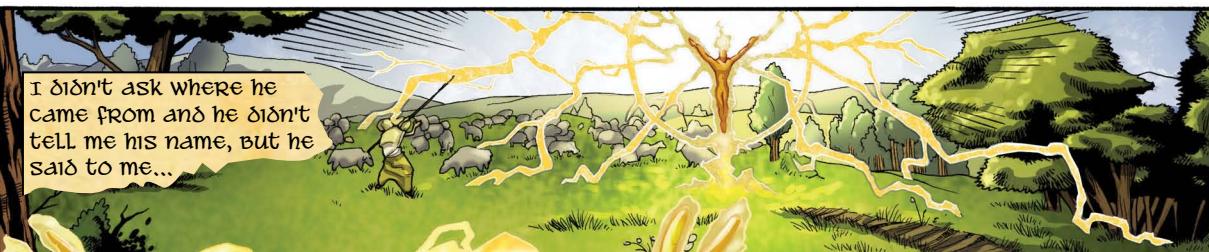
your mother burst in the door.



MANOAH!



I was in the fields when a man of god came to me. he looked like an angel of god, very awesome.



I didn't ask where he came from and he didn't tell me his name, but he said to me...



'you will conceive and give birth to a son, now then, drink no wine or other fermented drink...



...and do not eat anything unclean...



...because the boy will be a nazirite of god from birth to the day of his death'



I RAN THE ENTIRE WAY HERE TO TELL YOU!



I began to hope for that which I had lost hope.



O LORD, I BEG YOU, LET THE MAN OF GOD YOU SENT TO US COME AGAIN TO TEACH US HOW TO BRING UP THE BOY WHO IS TO BE BORN.



god heard me, and the angel of god came again to your mother while she was out in the field, but I was not with her.

HE'S HERE!



THE MAN WHO APPEARED TO ME THE OTHER DAY!



your mother ran ahead of me.



when I reached her...



...I was unsure because she was with an ordinary man.

ARE YOU THE ONE WHO SPOKE TO MY WIFE?

I AM.



WHEN YOUR WORDS ARE FULFILLED, WHAT RULES MUST HE OBEY AND WHAT WILL BE HIS WORK?



YOUR WIFE MUST DO ALL THAT I HAVE TOLD HER.



SHE MUST NOT EAT ANYTHING THAT COMES FROM THE GRAPEVINE, NOR DRINK WINE OR STRONG DRINK NOR EAT ANYTHING UNCLEAN. SHE MUST DO EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED HER.



WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO STAY UNTIL WE PREPARE A YOUNG GOAT FOR YOU.



EVEN THOUGH YOU DETAIN ME, I WILL NOT EAT ANY OF YOUR FOOD. BUT IF YOU PREPARE A BURNT OFFERING, OFFER IT TO THE LORD.



I did not realize that he was the angel of the LORD, and in my folly I asked...

...WHAT IS YOUR NAME, SO THAT WE MAY HONOR YOU WHEN YOUR WORDS COME TRUE?



WHY DO YOU ASK MY NAME?

IT IS BEYOND UNDERSTANDING.



I took a young goat, along with the grain offering.

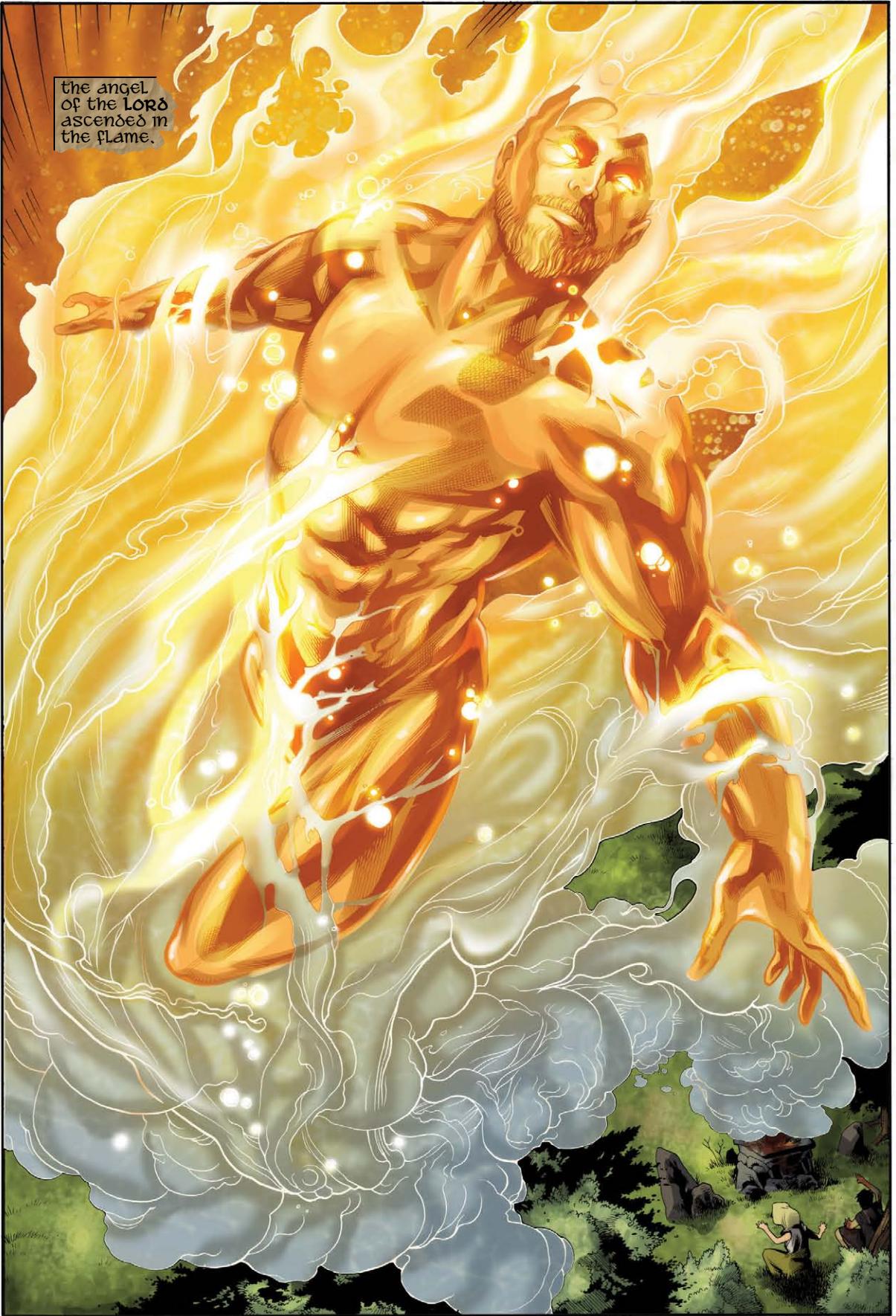


...and offered it on the rock to the LORD.



as the flame blazed up from the altar toward heaven.

the angel
of the LORD
ascended in
the flame.







SAMSON

THE NAZIRITE

WE HOPE YOU'VE ENJOYED READING THE FIRST SEGMENT OF THE GRAPHIC NOVEL 'SAMSON THE NAZIRITE' VOLUME 1.

AS CHRONICLED IN THE BOOK OF JUDGES, CHAPTERS 13 - 16, WE INVITE YOU TO **CONTINUE READING** THE 'AMAZING SERIES OF EVENTS' IN THE STORY OF SAMSON'S LIFE.

THE **FULL PDF** OF 'SAMSON THE NAZIRITE' VOLUME 1 CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.SAMSONTN.COM

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