

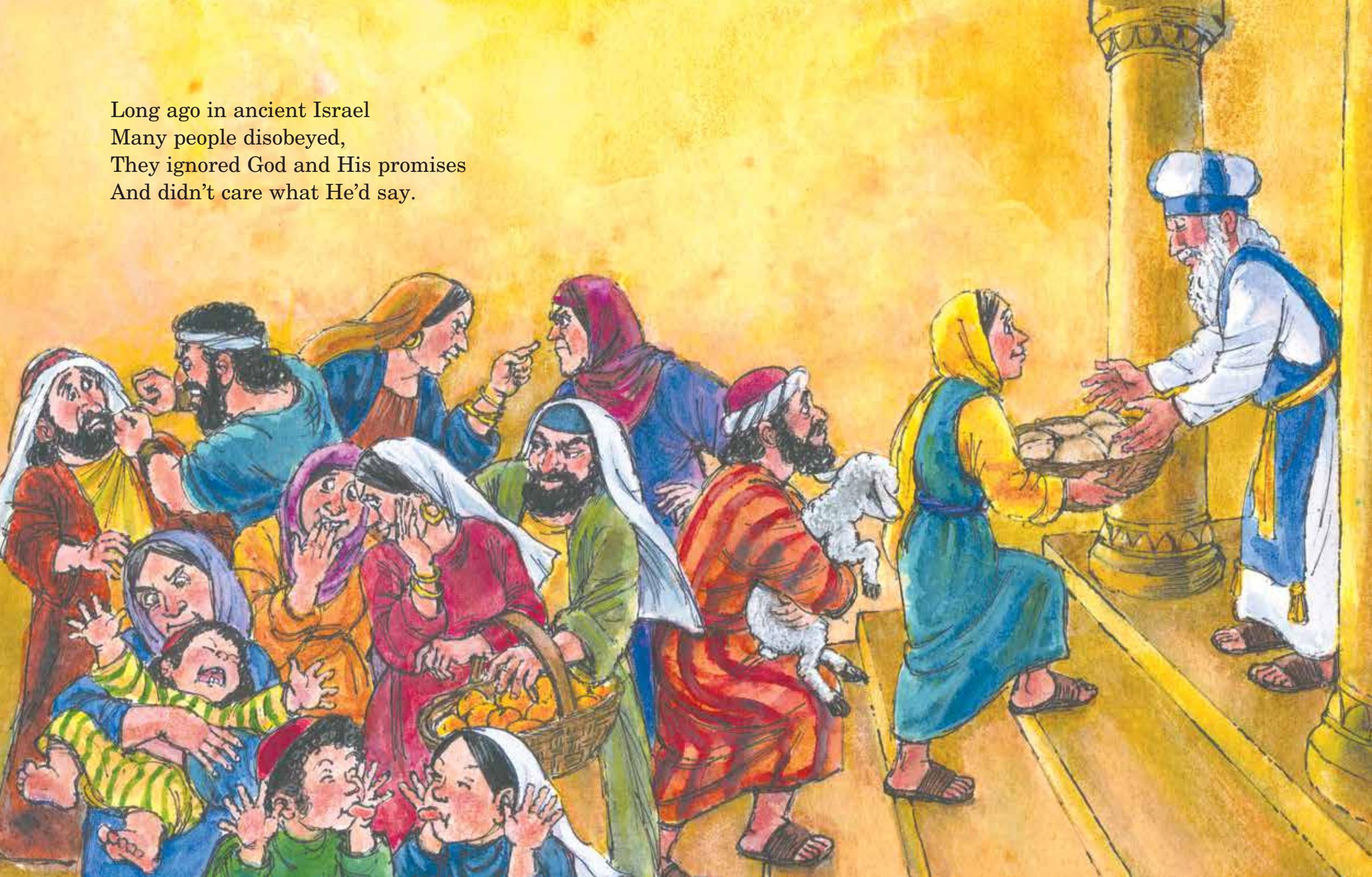
the LORD CALLS SAMUEL

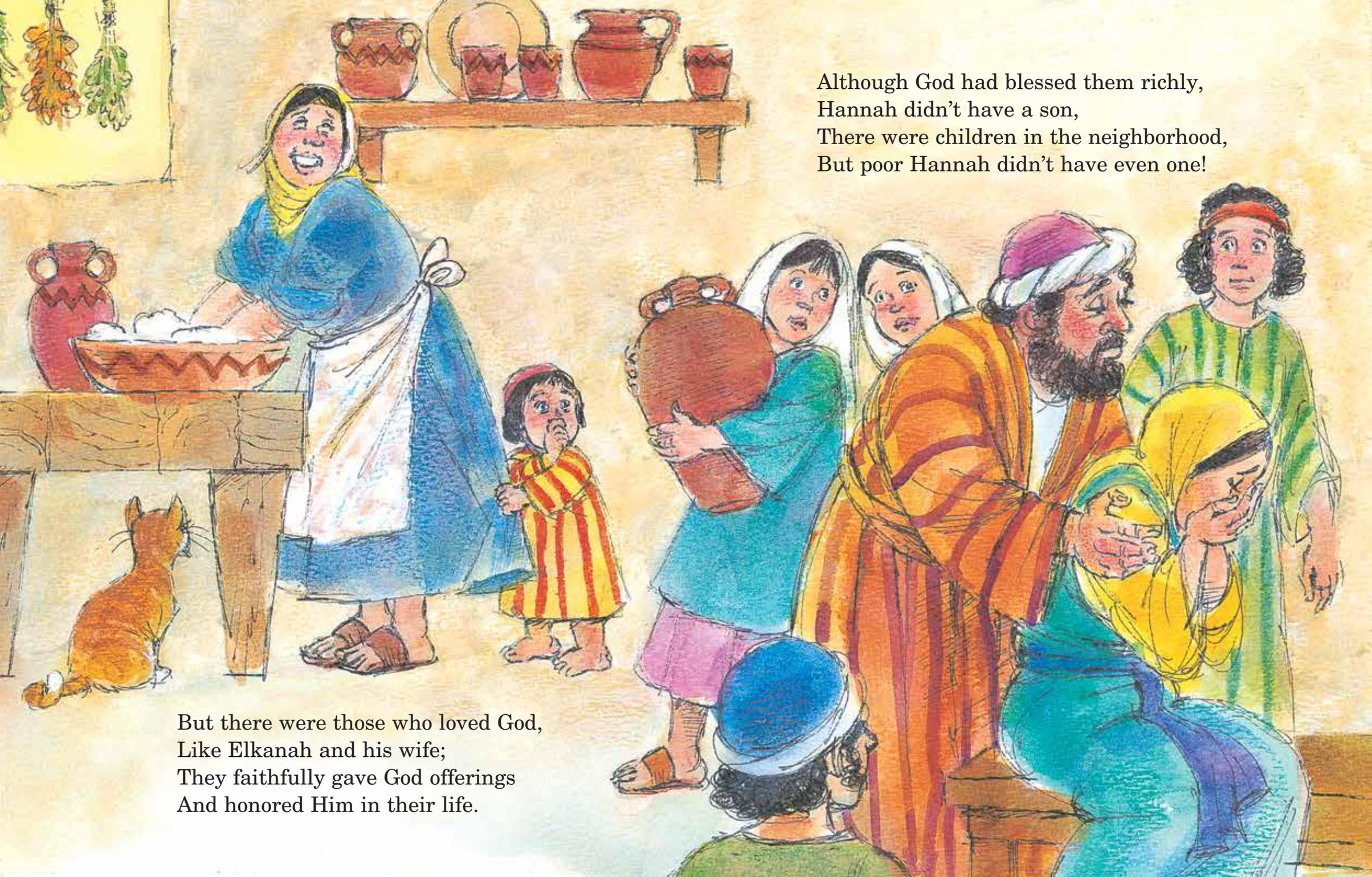


1 Samuel 1–3 for children

Written by Susan Hammond
Illustrated by Elizabeth Swisher

Long ago in ancient Israel
Many people disobeyed,
They ignored God and His promises
And didn't care what He'd say.

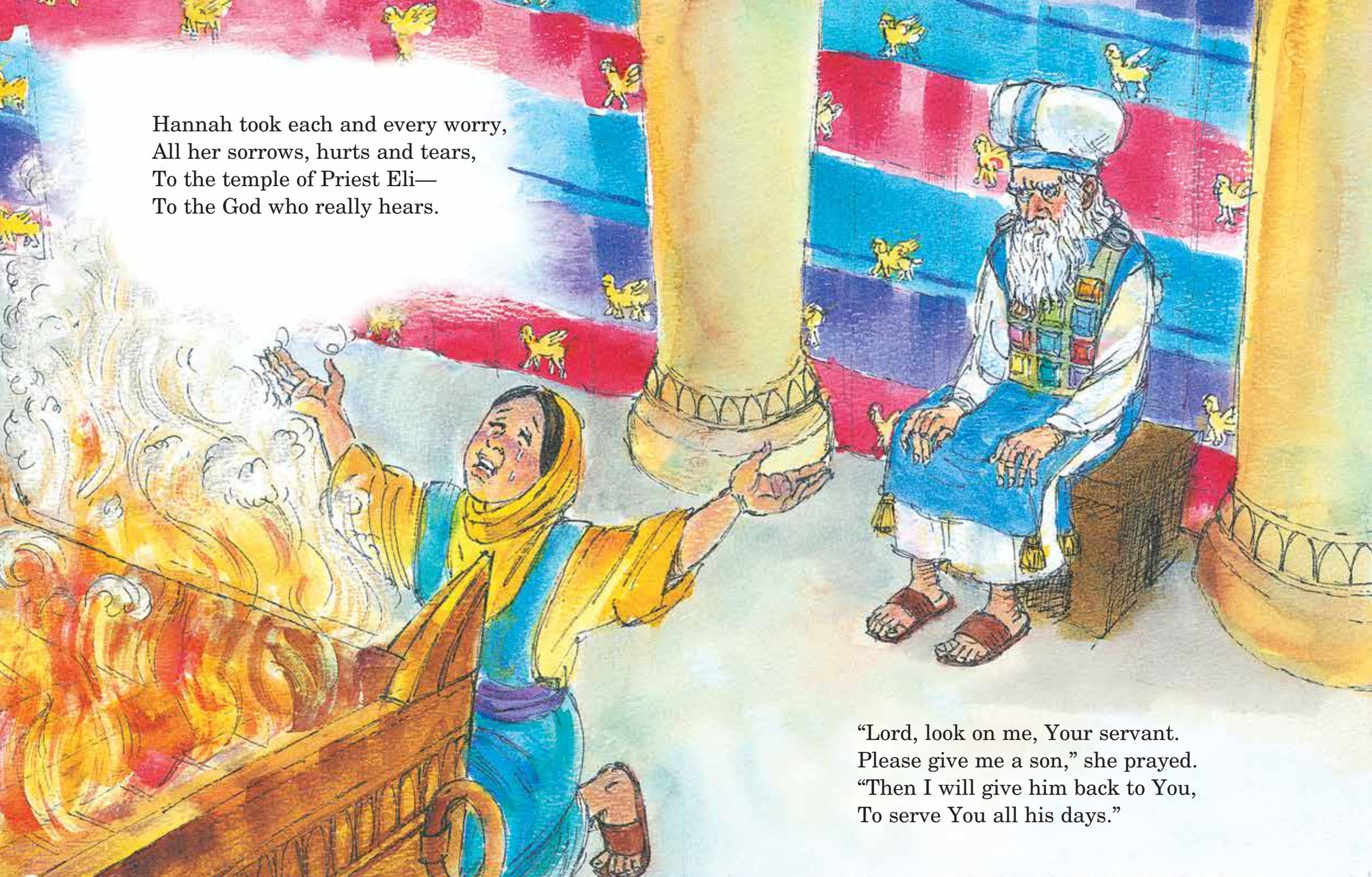




Although God had blessed them richly,
Hannah didn't have a son,
There were children in the neighborhood,
But poor Hannah didn't have even one!

But there were those who loved God,
Like Elkanah and his wife;
They faithfully gave God offerings
And honored Him in their life.

Hannah took each and every worry,
All her sorrows, hurts and tears,
To the temple of Priest Eli—
To the God who really hears.



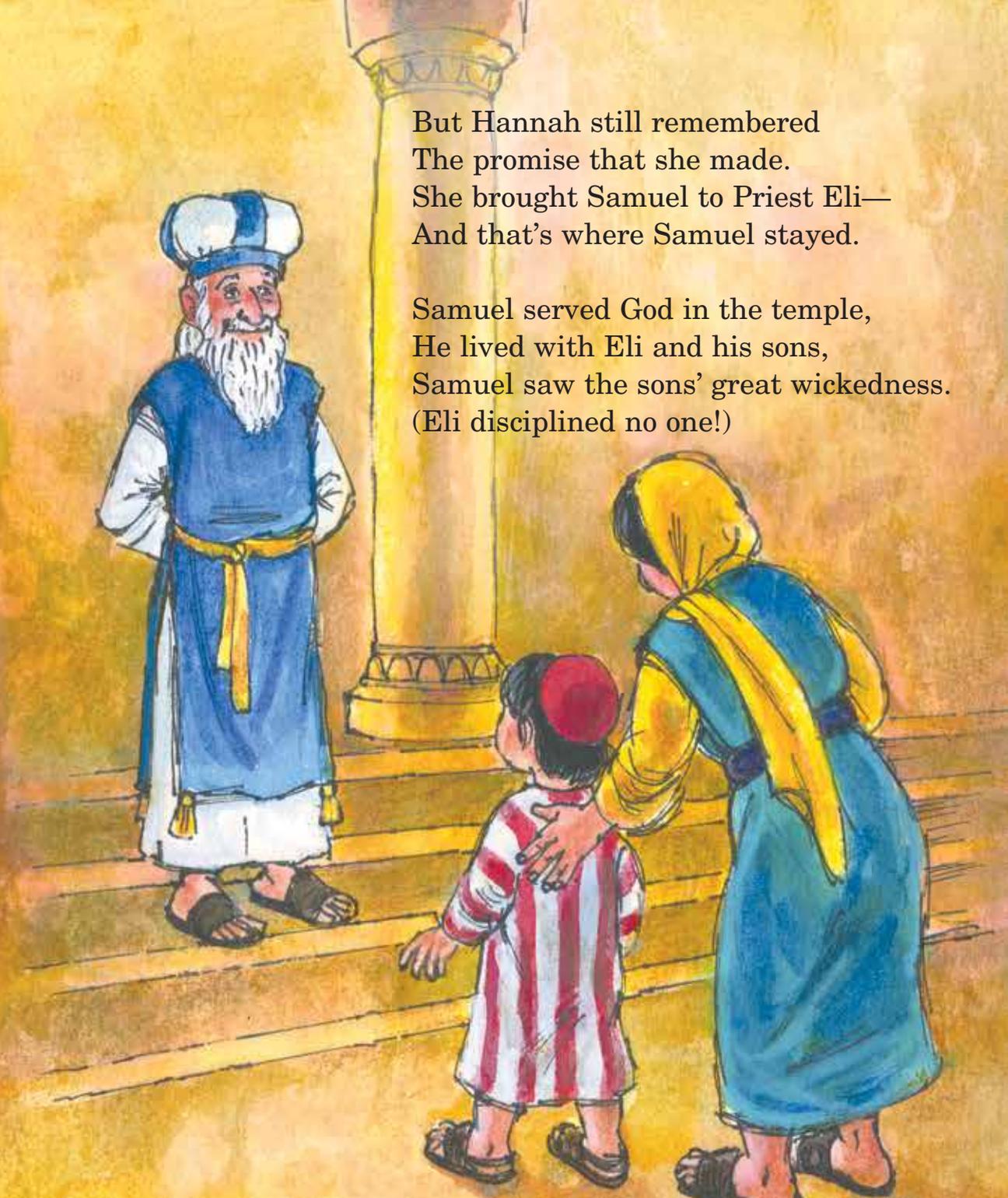
“Lord, look on me, Your servant.
Please give me a son,” she prayed.
“Then I will give him back to You,
To serve You all his days.”

Then Hannah's prayer was answered
With a beautiful baby boy.
She named the baby "Samuel."
He was her pride and joy.



But Hannah still remembered
The promise that she made.
She brought Samuel to Priest Eli—
And that's where Samuel stayed.

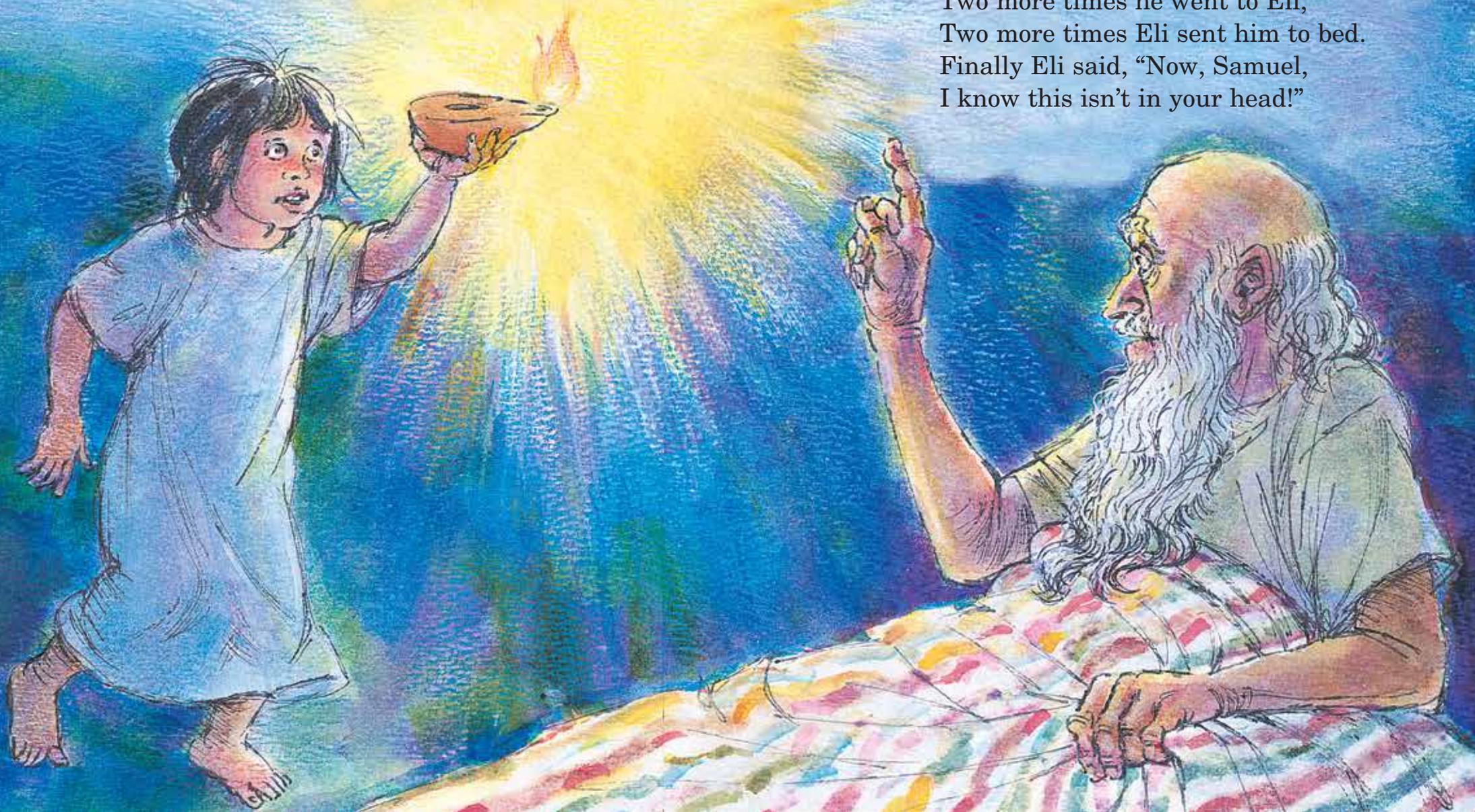
Samuel served God in the temple,
He lived with Eli and his sons,
Samuel saw the sons' great wickedness.
(Eli disciplined no one!)



One night while he lay sleeping,
Samuel heard a voice he knew.
So he went to Eli's room to ask,
"Priest Eli, is that you?"

"Go back to bed now, Samuel.
It wasn't me, that's clear."
Samuel went to bed, but once again
He heard the voice so near.

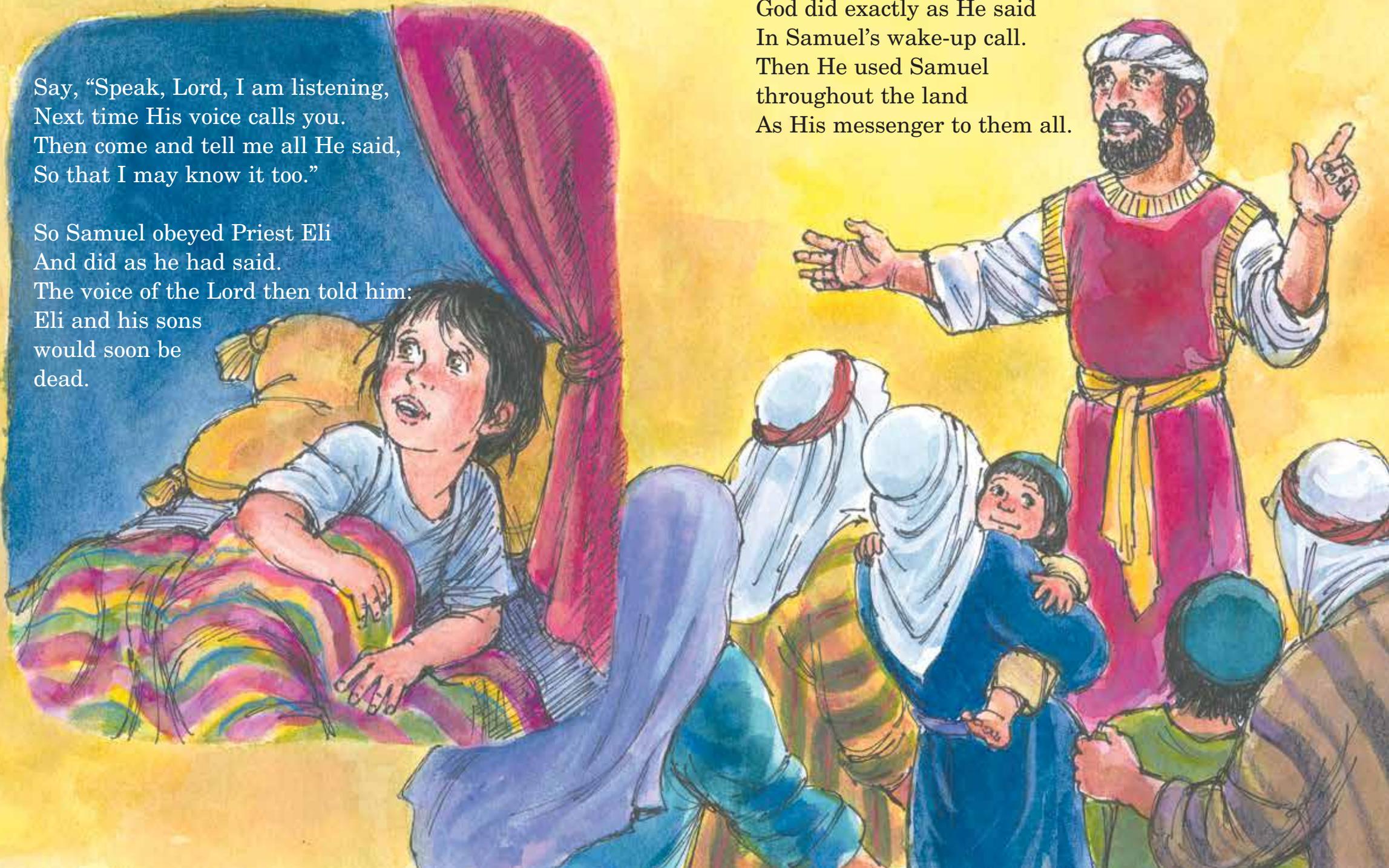
Two more times he went to Eli,
Two more times Eli sent him to bed.
Finally Eli said, "Now, Samuel,
I know this isn't in your head!"



Say, "Speak, Lord, I am listening,
Next time His voice calls you.
Then come and tell me all He said,
So that I may know it too."

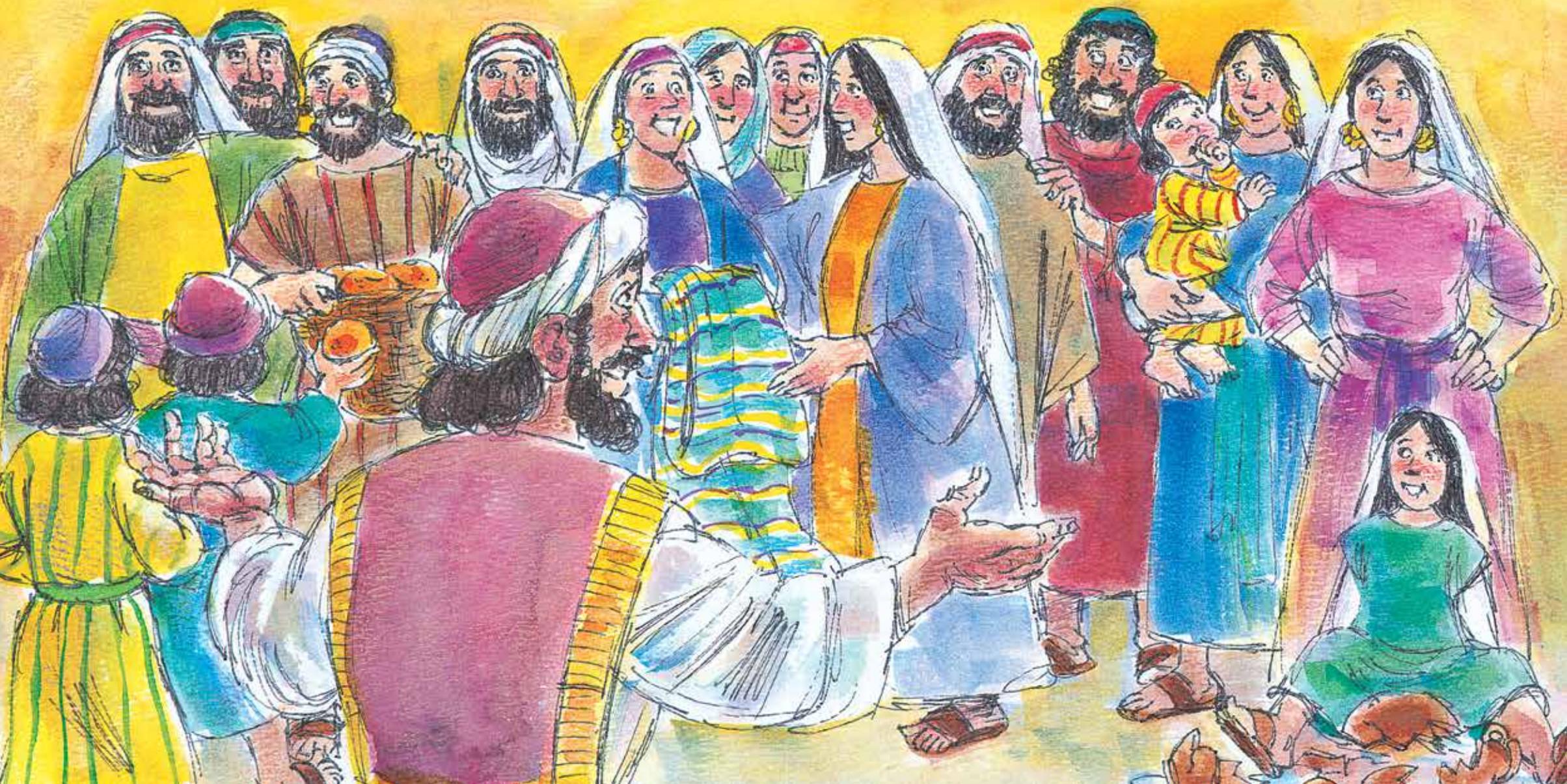
So Samuel obeyed Priest Eli
And did as he had said.
The voice of the Lord then told him:
Eli and his sons
would soon be
dead.

God did exactly as He said
In Samuel's wake-up call.
Then He used Samuel
throughout the land
As His messenger to them all.



Like Samuel, you can hear God speak
In the Bible, God's Holy Word;
His Word tells of our many sins
And the best news ever heard:

God called you and He made you His.
Baptized with His Word and water,
You were brought to God through Christ
And made His precious son or daughter!



Dear Parent,

Children are a gift from God; they are His reward (Psalm 127:3). How wonderful it is when parents and grandparents, aunts, uncles, and teachers recognize children as God's gifts. How much more wonderful still when they remind the children in their care of this fact.

From an early age, Samuel must have heard the story of his birth. From little on, Samuel must have heard Hannah and Elkanah, and perhaps even Eli too, remind him of what a unique and precious gift from God he was.

Are we unique? Are we precious? Look at the cross. Consider the price paid there to rescue us—each one of us—from sin and death. What are we worth? Look at what God paid for us! The life of His only Son.

Samuel saw that cross dimly. He saw it through the mists of the centuries that were yet to come. We see it clearly. Eli's sons died because of their unrepentant sin. No sacrifice would pay for their sin. However, Samuel heard the prophet of the Lord that He would raise up a faithful priest who would endure forever. The fulfillment of the faithful priest is Jesus. He was the priest and the sacrifice at the same time. We see the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross as proof, the once-for-all-time proof of the Father's love for us in the sacrifice of His Son.

Share that love and forgiveness with the children close to you. Share it often. It's the most important thing in life!

