

***Bible Stories for Young Children***

*part of a curriculum prepared for young children*

***THE JEWS ARE SET FREE /  
STARTING TO BUILD THE TEMPLE***

*by*

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**EZRA 1:1–11; 3:1–4:5; chs 5 & 6**

Isaiah 44:28; 45:1–5, 13; Ezra 2:1, 2, 64–70; 4:24; Haggai 1:1–15

**THE JEWS ARE SET FREE /  
STARTING TO BUILD THE TEMPLE**

File no. 96

**God's people had to live  
in Babylon for a long time.**

**Then one day King Cyrus said,  
'The Lord God of heaven  
has made me king over  
all the lands.  
He has told me  
to let you go home  
and build a temple  
in Jerusalem.  
May God be with you.'**

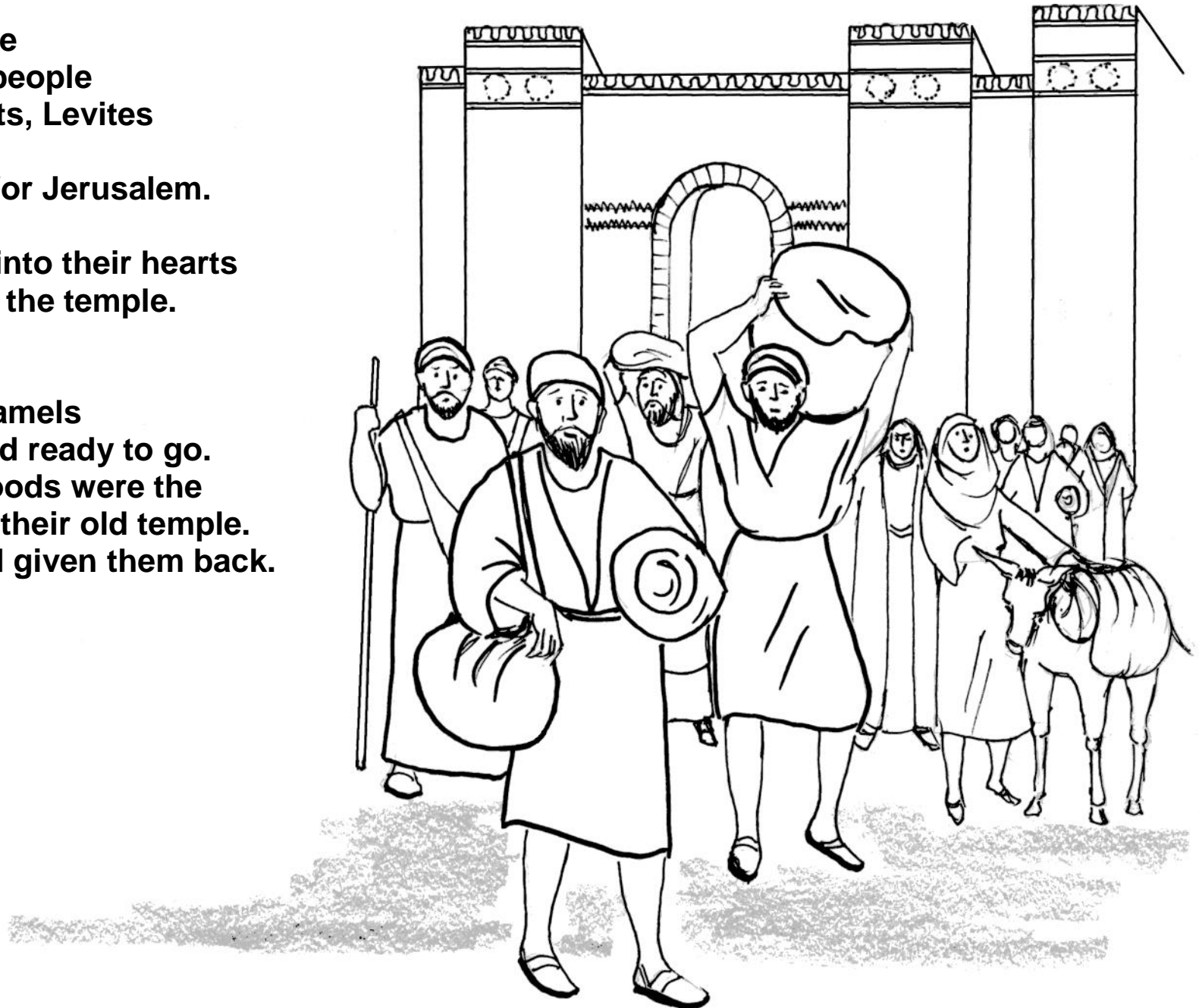
**'Those people  
who do not want to go back  
can help by giving things like  
silver, gold, animals, goods  
and offerings for the temple.'**



**Soon there were  
fifty thousand people  
including priests, Levites  
and servants  
ready to leave for Jerusalem.**

**God had put it into their hearts  
to go and build the temple.**

**Their horses,  
donkeys and camels  
were loaded and ready to go.  
Among their goods were the  
treasures from their old temple.  
King Cyrus had given them back.**

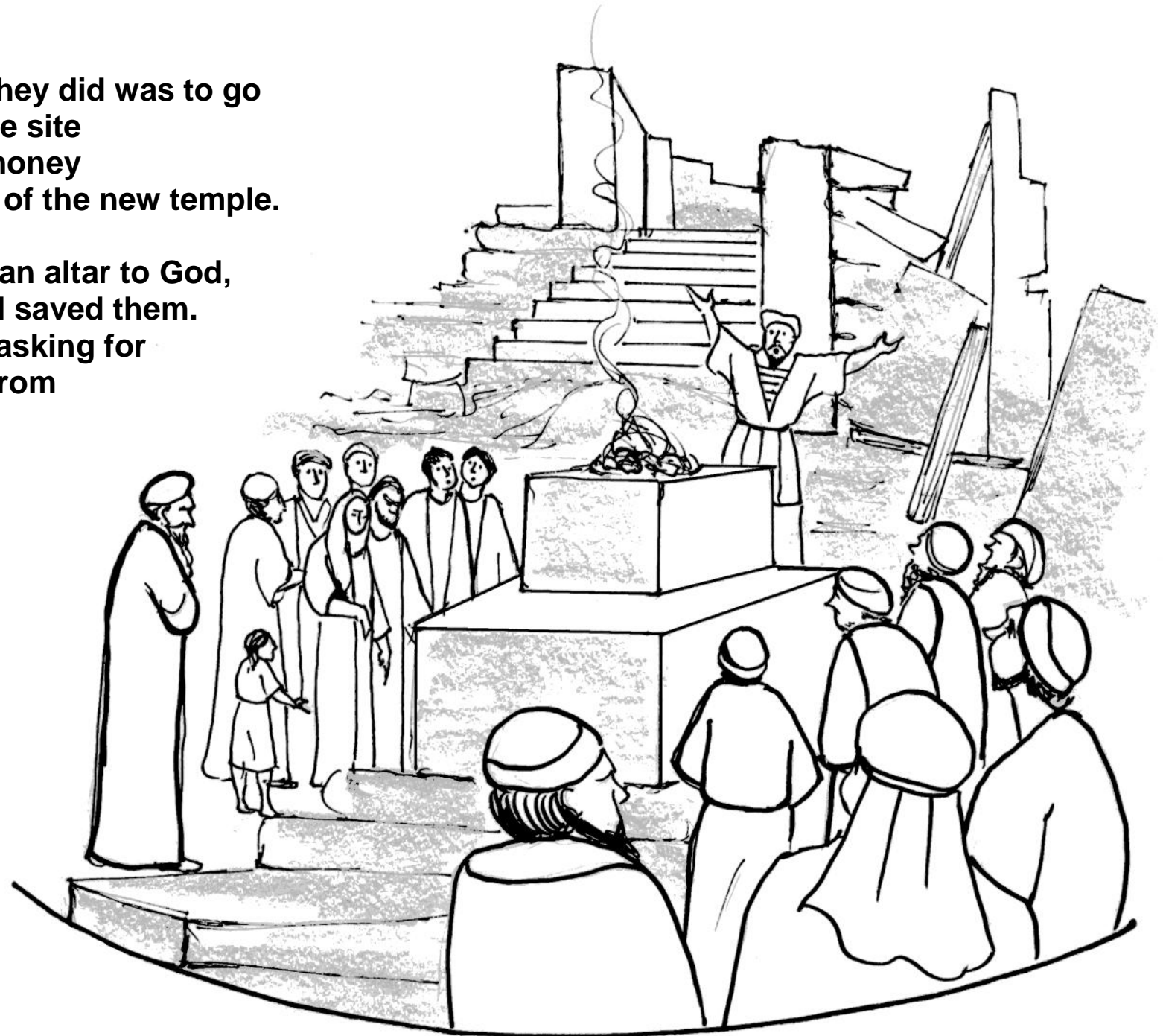


**They walked for many days,  
then one day they saw Judah,  
their homeland!**



**The first thing they did was to go to the old temple site and give their money for the building of the new temple.**

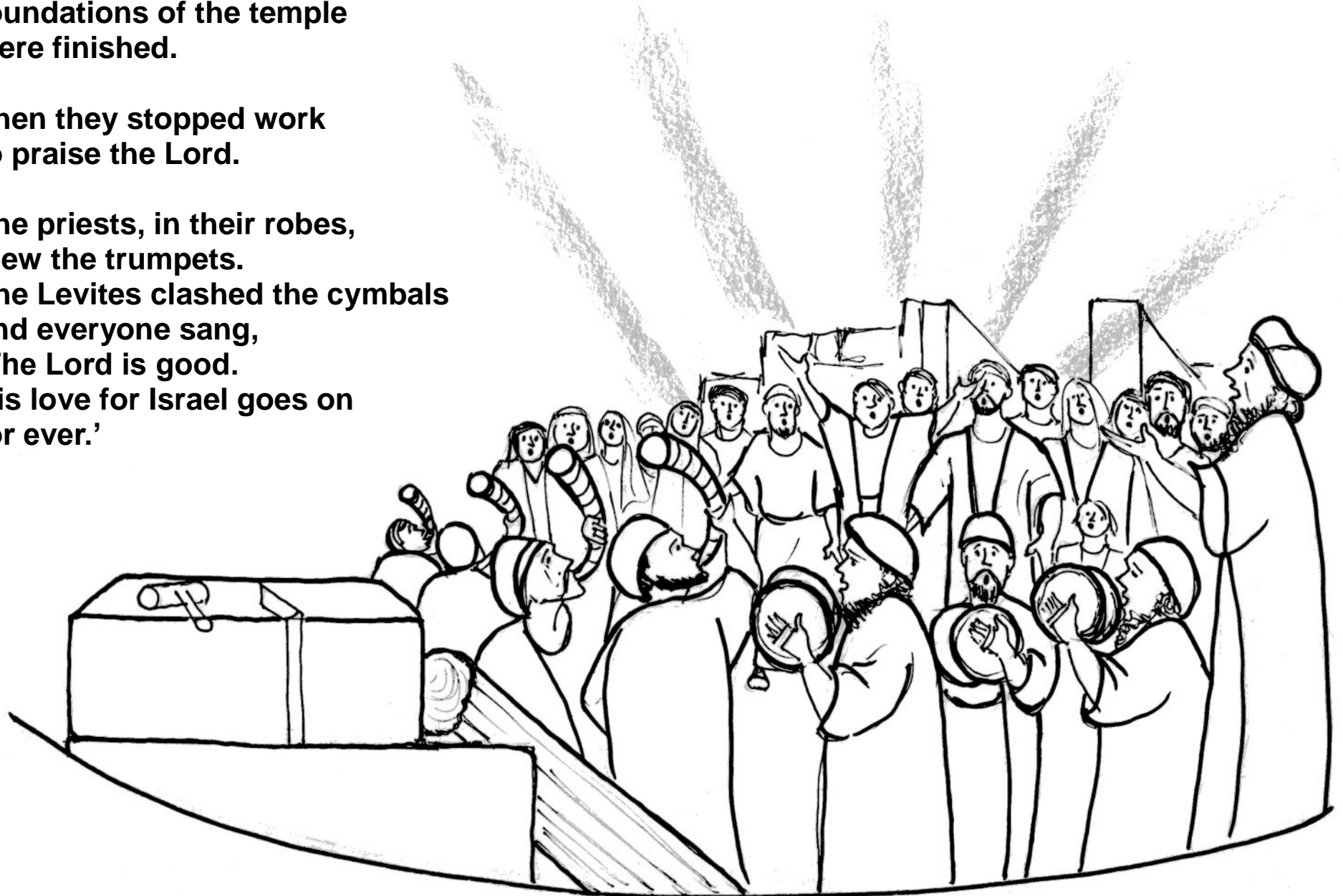
**Then they built an altar to God, because He had saved them. Now they were asking for His protection from their enemies.**



**The people bought wood  
and worked until the  
foundations of the temple  
were finished.**

**Then they stopped work  
to praise the Lord.**

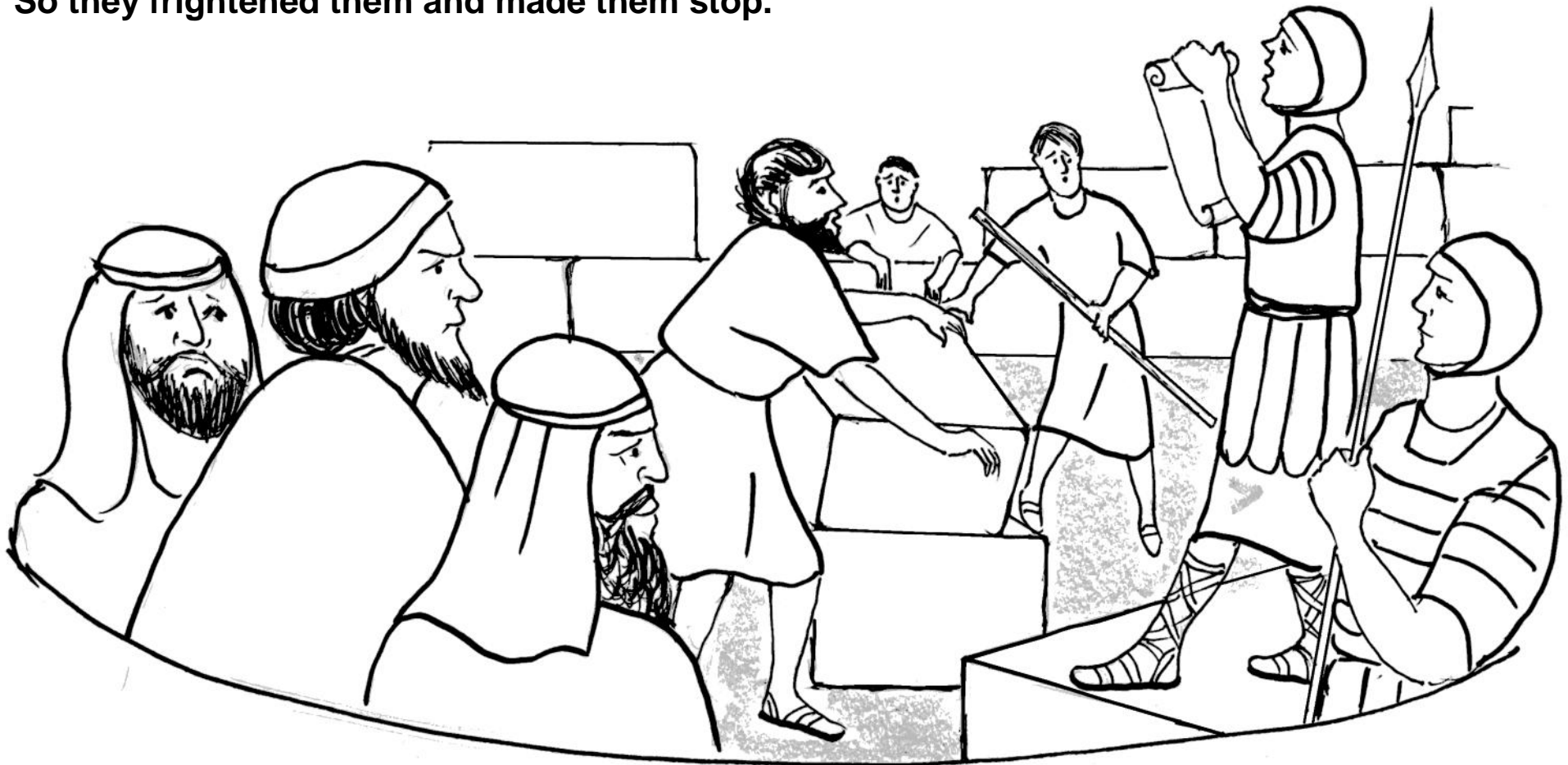
**The priests, in their robes,  
blew the trumpets.  
The Levites clashed the cymbals  
and everyone sang,  
'The Lord is good.  
His love for Israel goes on  
for ever.'**



**So much noise was made that their enemies heard it and came to see what was happening.**

**They saw God's people praising God.  
That was not all.**

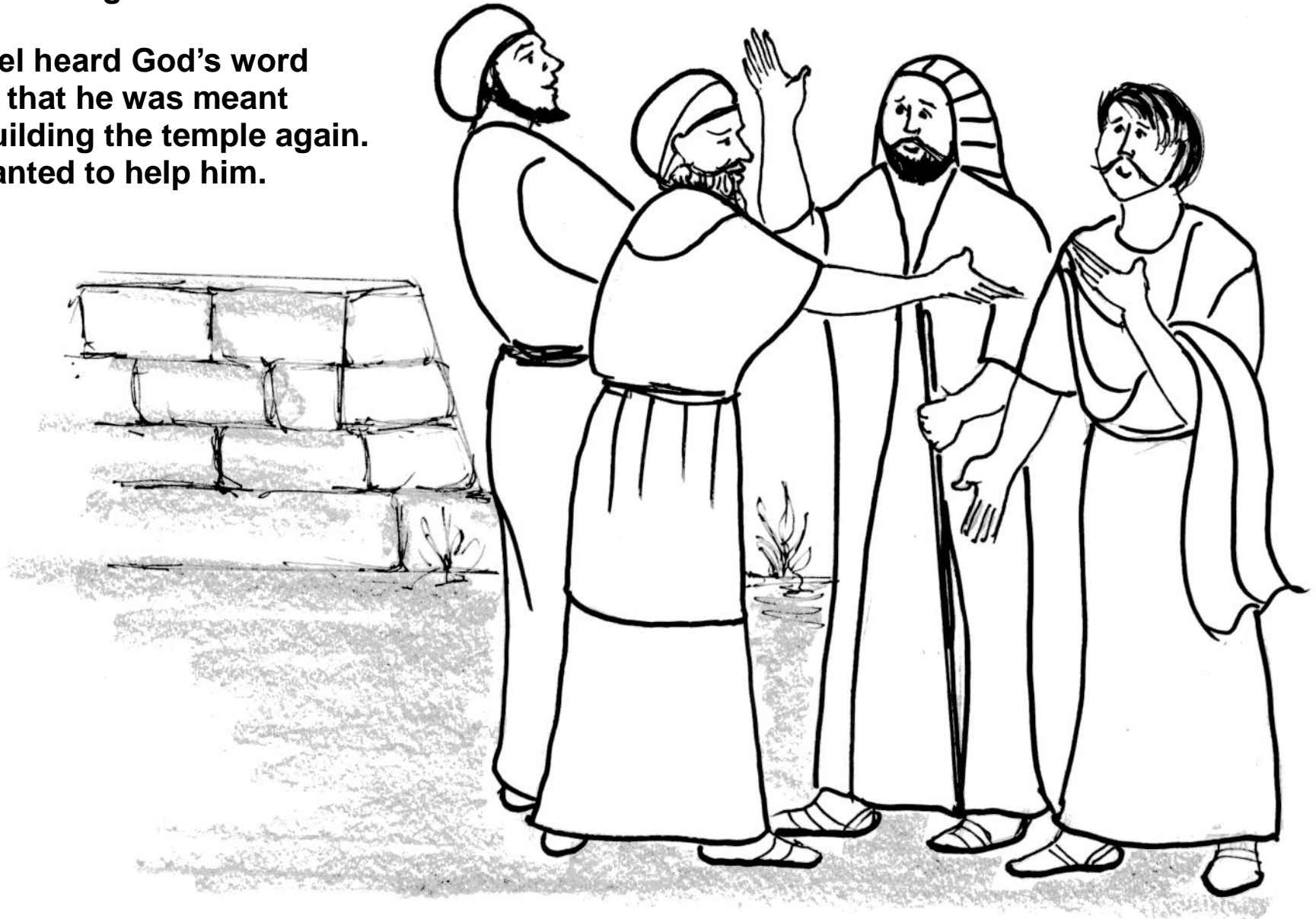
**They saw the foundation of God's new temple.  
They did not want these people  
worshipping God Almighty.  
So they frightened them and made them stop.**





**Some years later two prophets called Haggai and Zechariah started preaching God's word.**

**Zerubbabel heard God's word and knew that he was meant to start building the temple again. Others wanted to help him.**

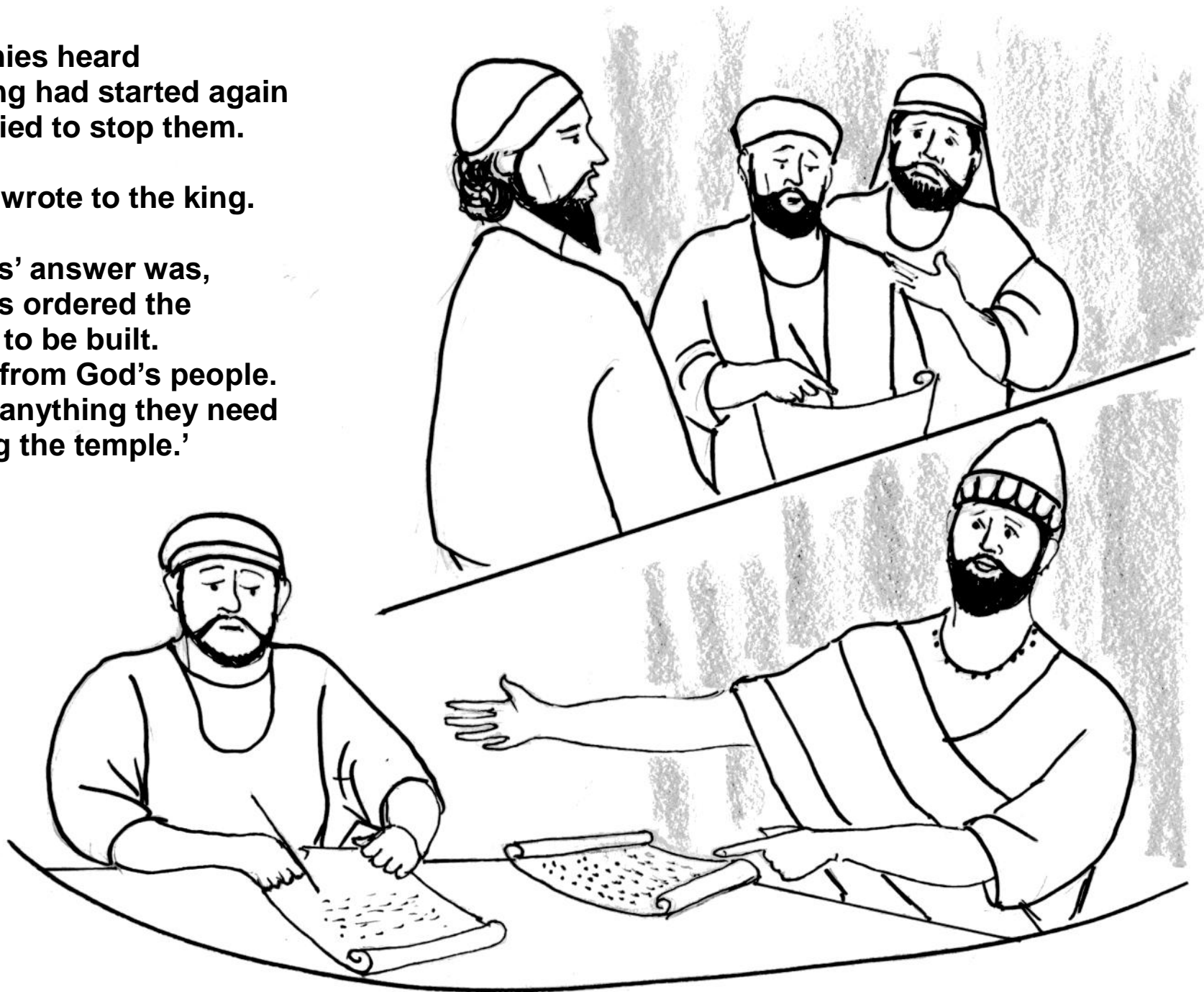




**Their enemies heard  
that building had started again  
and they tried to stop them.**

**They even wrote to the king.**

**King Darius' answer was,  
'King Cyrus ordered the  
the temple to be built.  
Stay away from God's people.  
Give them anything they need  
for building the temple.'**



**Haggai and Zechariah  
helped everyone  
by preaching God's word  
and the temple was finished.**

