



The fast of

**GEDALIAH**



# The fast of gedaliah



THE STORY OF GEDALIAH'S  
MURDER APPEARS BRIEFLY  
AT THE END OF MELACHIM 2,  
CHAPTER 25: VERSES 22-26.

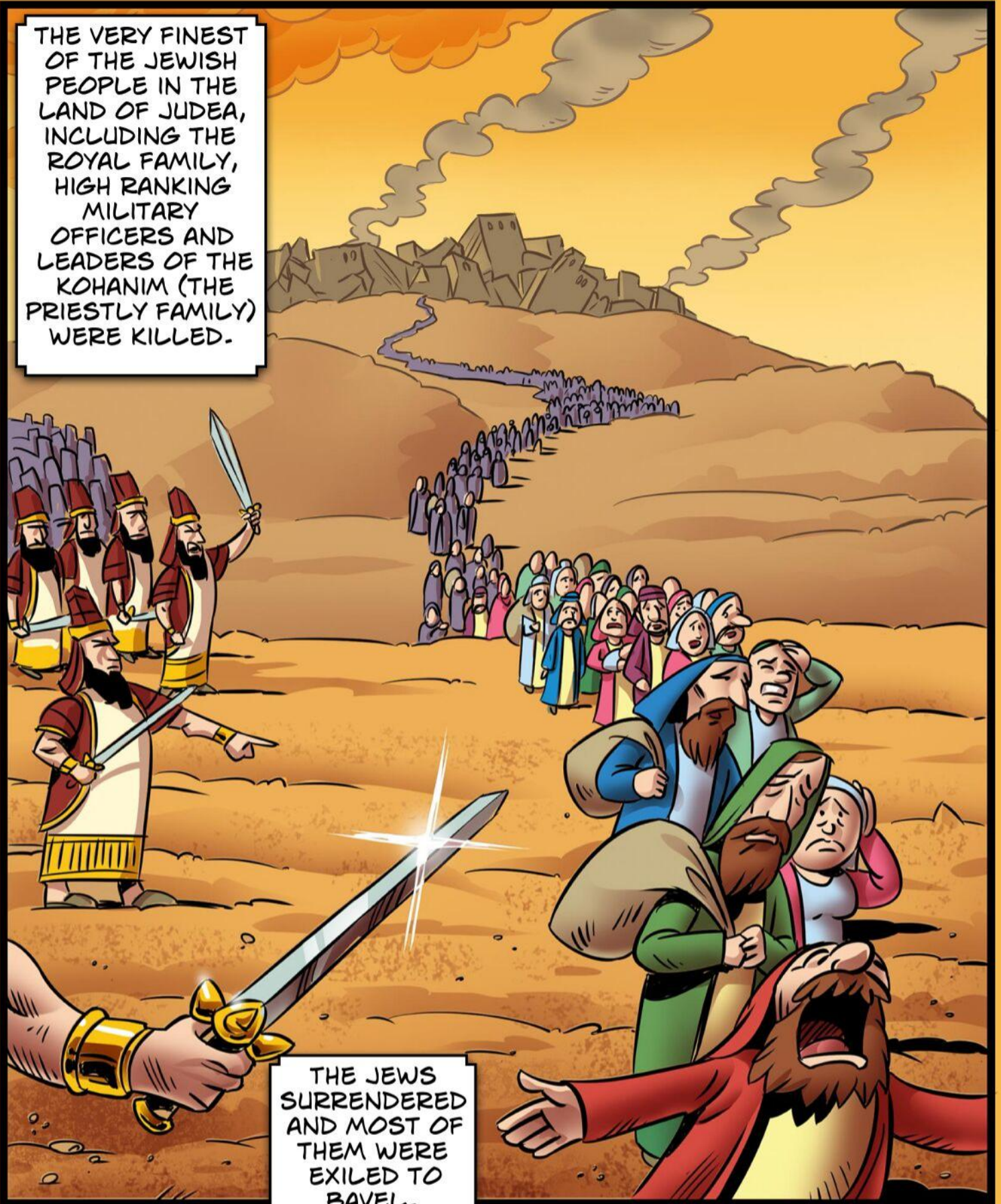
A MORE DETAILED RECOUNT  
IS IN YIRMIYAHU CHAPTER 41.



# Shazak!

ABOUT 2,500 YEARS AGO IN THE HOLY LAND OF ISRAEL, IN THE NINTH DAY OF THE MONTH OF AV, THE EVIL KING NEVUCHADNETZAR OF THE GREAT BABYLONIAN EMPIRE (A-K-A. BAVEL) DESTROYED THE BEIS HAMIKDASH IN JERUSALEM, LOCATED IN JUDEA.

THE VERY FINEST OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE LAND OF JUDEA, INCLUDING THE ROYAL FAMILY, HIGH RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS AND LEADERS OF THE KOHANIM (THE PRIESTLY FAMILY) WERE KILLED.



THE JEWS SURRENDERED AND MOST OF THEM WERE EXILED TO BAVEL.

KING NEVUCHADNETZAR CALLED HIS OFFICERS WITH AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE---

AM I A MEAN,  
NASTY, ROTTEN KING?

NO! OF COURSE NOT! YOU ARE  
KIND, COMPASSIONATE AND  
THOUGHTFUL!



PRECISELY!

AND TO SHOW MY  
KINDNESS AND  
GOODWILL, I HAVE  
DECIDED TO DO  
SOMETHING VERY NICE  
FOR THOSE PATHETIC  
JEWS.



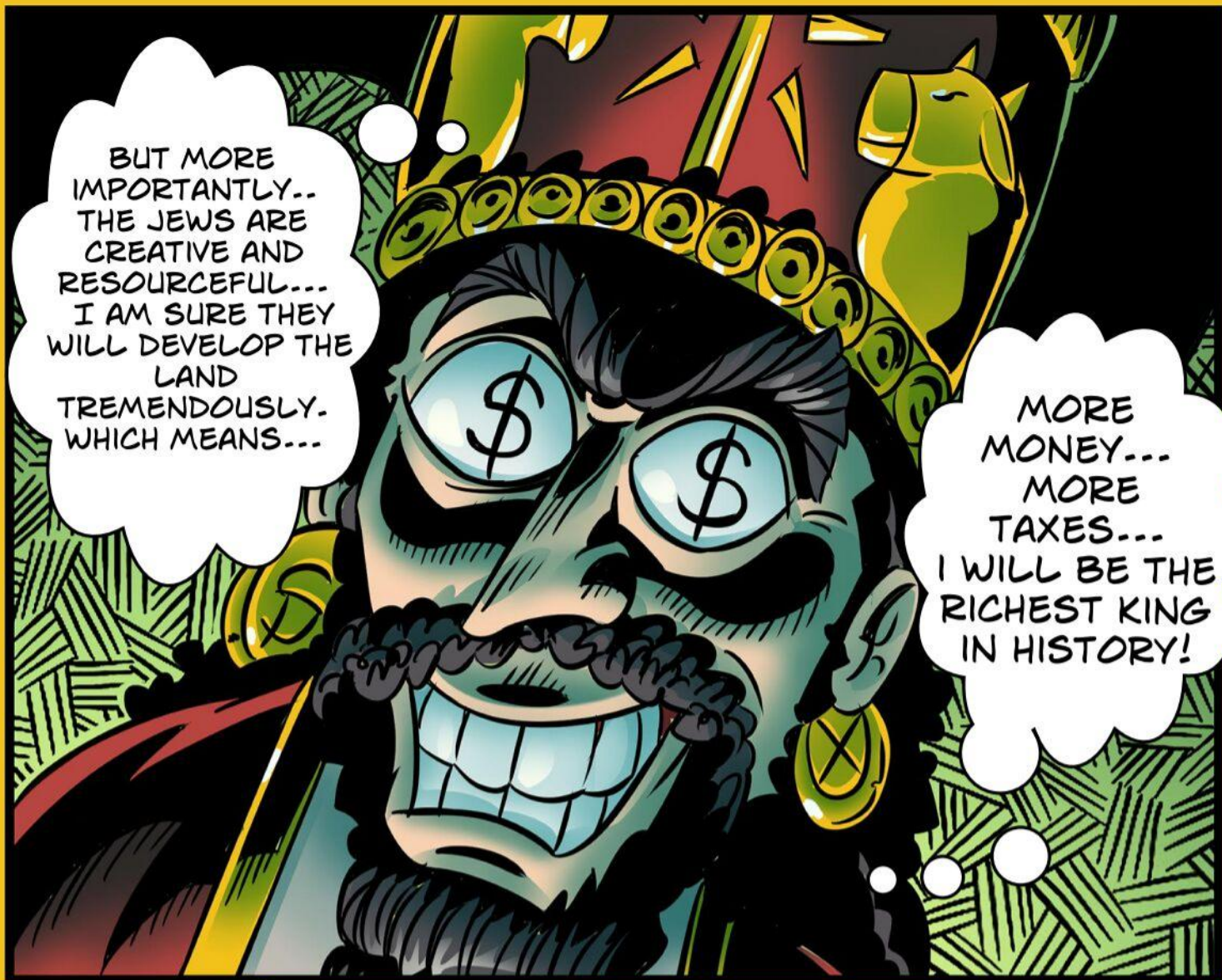
CHOOSE THE VERY POOREST ONES!  
LET IT BE KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE LAND THAT I HAVE  
GRANTED THEM PERMISSION TO STAY IN THEIR LAND.

JEWS WILL  
HEREBY HAVE  
OFFICIAL  
PERMISSION  
TO LIVE  
IN THE  
LAND OF  
ISRAEL.

AND ONE MORE THING!  
I HEREBY PROCLAIM THE  
NEW JEWISH GOVERNOR  
OF JUDEA...

Governor  
Gedaliah  
Son of  
Achikam.

NEW  
GOV.



BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY... THE JEWS ARE CREATIVE AND RESOURCEFUL... I AM SURE THEY WILL DEVELOP THE LAND TREMENDOUSLY. WHICH MEANS...

MORE MONEY... MORE TAXES... I WILL BE THE RICHEST KING IN HISTORY!



NOW THESE POOR DEPRIVED PEOPLE-MEN, WOMEN, CHILDREN- WILL BE FOREVER INDEBTED TO ME, THE POWERFUL KING!  
**YAHOO! SPLENDIFOROUS!**

AND SO, MANY OF THE POOR  
MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN  
BEGAN THEIR LIVES ANEW IN  
THE HILLS OF JUDEA.  
GEDALIAH WASTED NO TIME.  
HE INSPIRED HIS PEOPLE...

KEEP UP THE  
GREAT WORK.

HOPEFULLY OUR  
FELLOW JEWS  
FROM THE EXILE-  
FROM THE  
COUNTRIES OF  
MOAV, AMON AND  
EDOM- WILL  
SOON JOIN US.

JUDEA  
UNDER  
CONSTRUCTION

WELCOME TO  
NEW AND IMPROVED  
JUDEA



LIFE FOR JEWS IMPROVED IN JUDEA. KING NEVUCHADNETZAR WAS T\$H\$R\$I\$L\$L\$E\$D (THRILLED) AND ONCE AGAIN THERE WAS HOPE. BUT NOT FOR LONG...



AN EVIL PERSON BY THE NAME OF KING BA'ALIS OF NEARBY AMON MIXED IN.

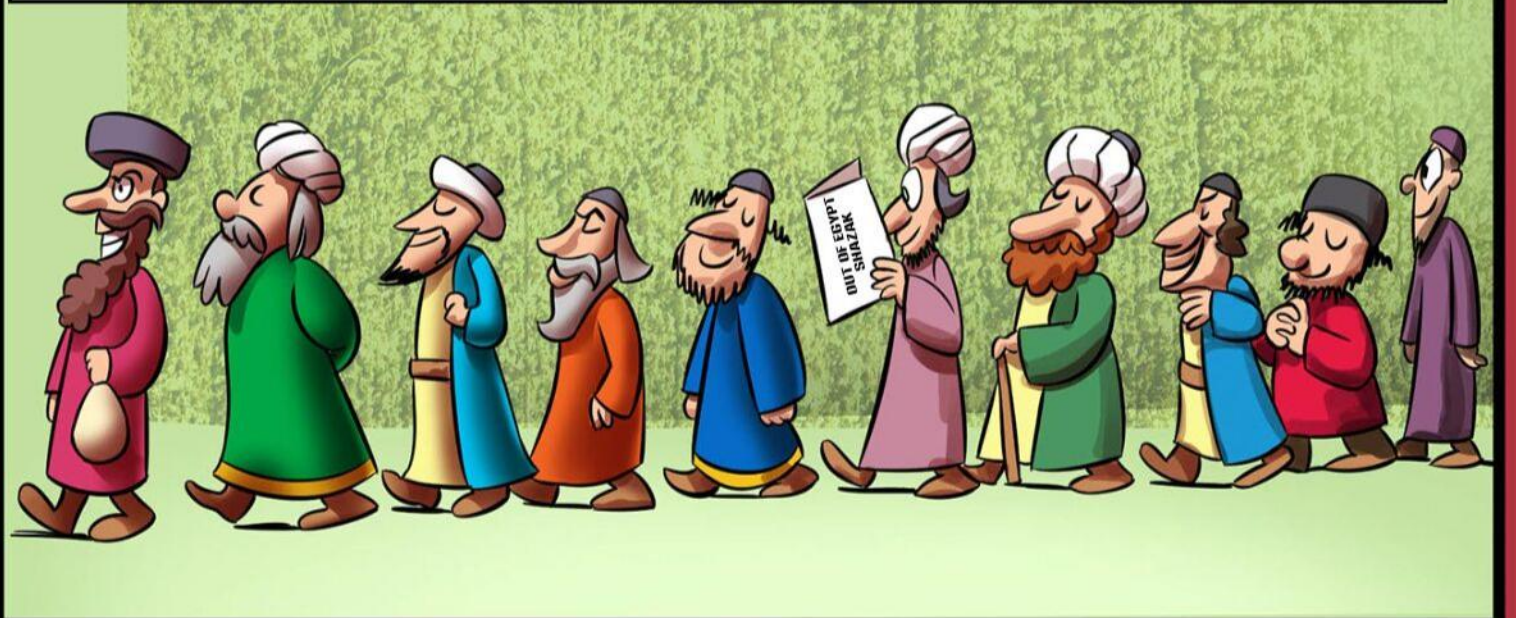


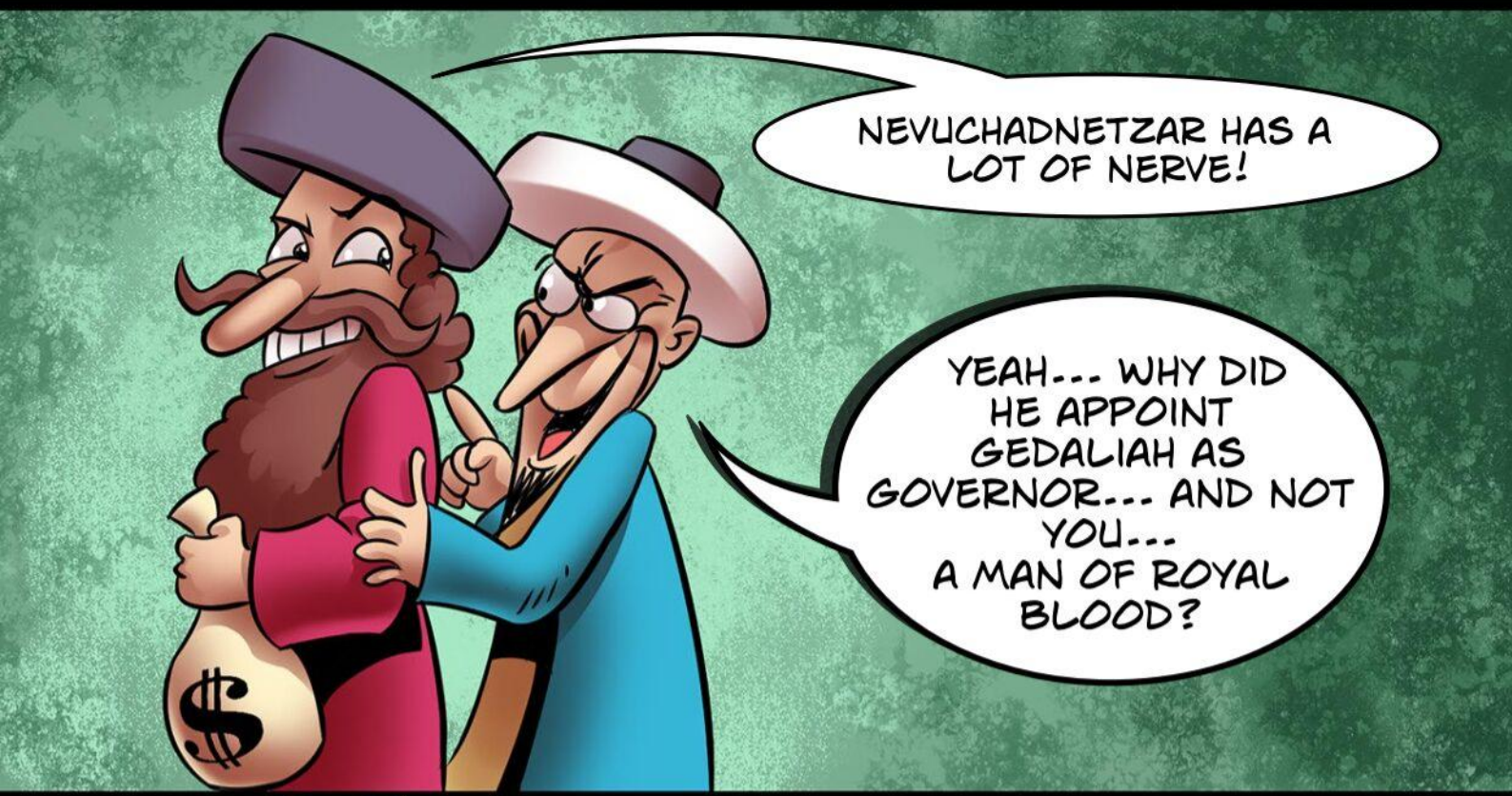
I MUST PUT AN END TO THIS...  
I HAVE AN IDEA!

GUARDS!  
BRING ME THE JEW,  
YISHMAEL SON OF  
NESANIAH... NOW!









NEVUCHADNETZAR HAS A LOT OF NERVE!

YEAH... WHY DID HE APPOINT GEDALIAH AS GOVERNOR... AND NOT YOU... A MAN OF ROYAL BLOOD?



OUTRAGEOUS!

DESPICABLE!



GENTLEMEN! NOT TO WORRY. I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE (WHISPER...ESPECIALLY GEDALIAH). I WILL GET US A LOT OF MONEY, TOO! HA! HA!

BUT ALL WAS NOT LOST. YOCHANAN SON OF KOREACH, WHO WAS PART OF YISHMAEL'S GROUP DECIDED TO WARN GEDALIAH.

PSSST... KING BA'ALIS OF AMON HAS SENT YISHMAEL TO MURDER YOU!

BUT GEDALIAH WOULD NOT LISTEN...

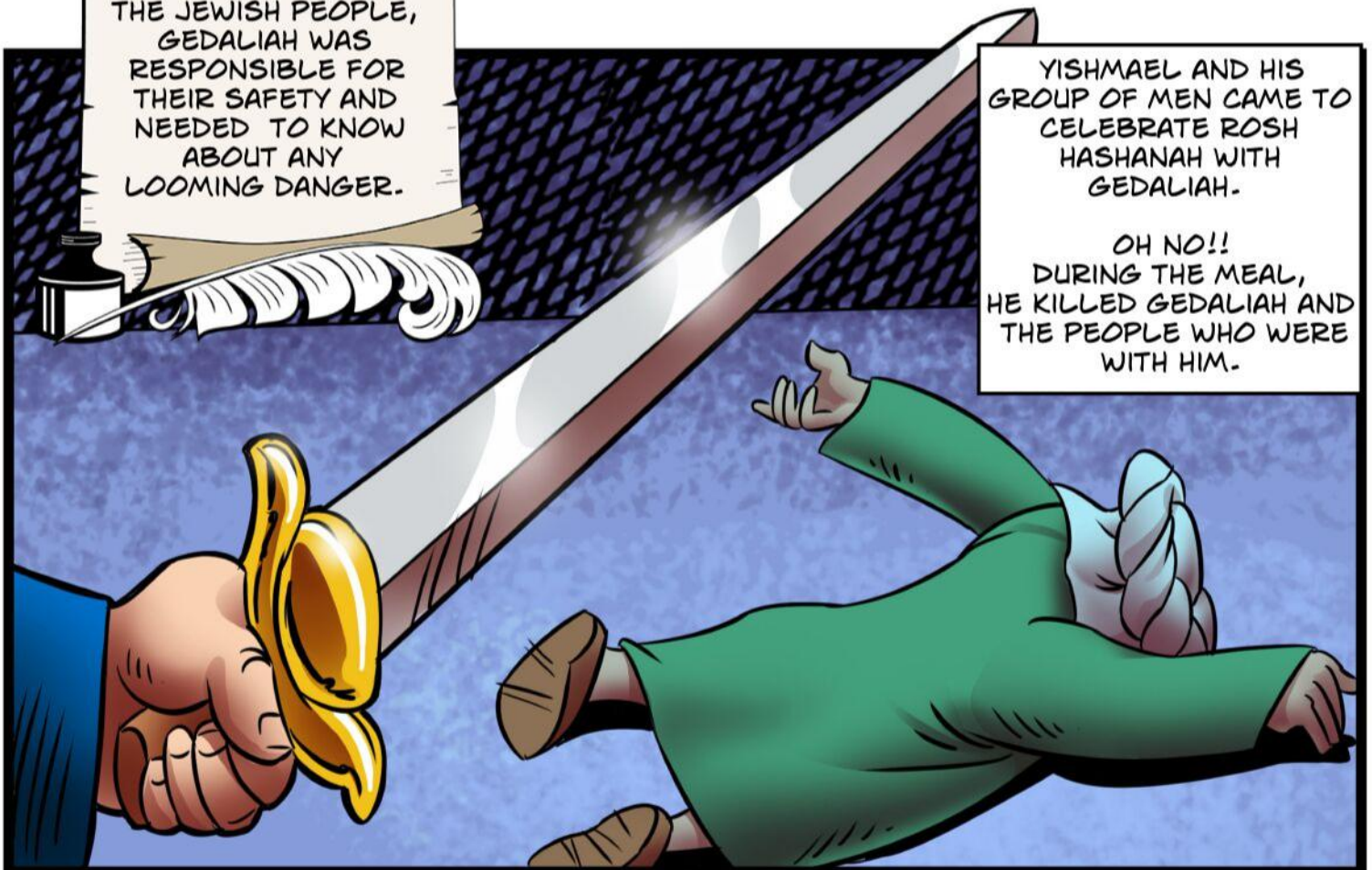
I CANNOT AND I WILL NOT BELIEVE THIS "LASHON HARA," EVIL GOSSIP!

### Insights

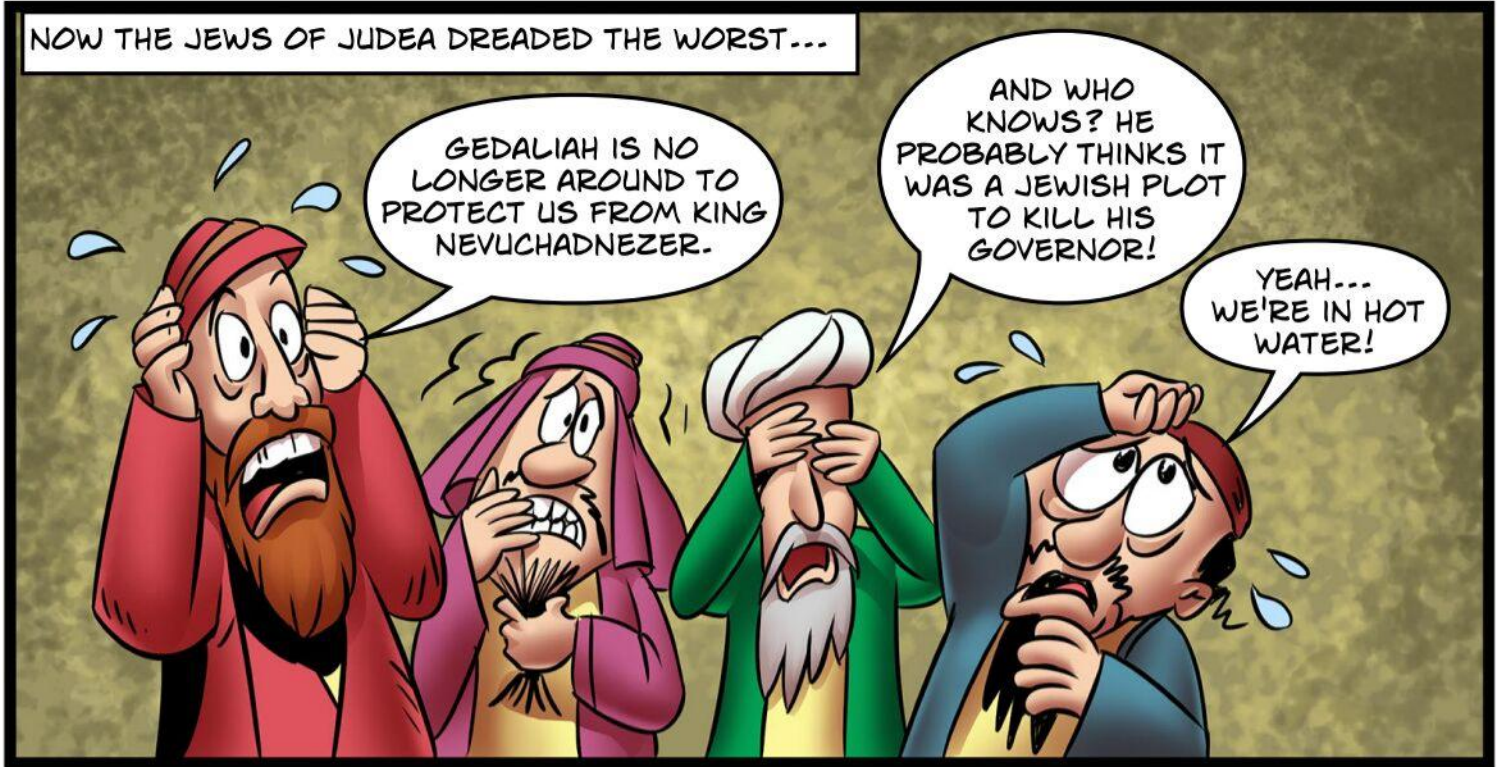
IT'S USUALLY FORBIDDEN TO LISTEN TO LASHON HARA. YET AS LEADER OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE, GEDALIAH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR SAFETY AND NEEDED TO KNOW ABOUT ANY LOOMING DANGER.

YISHMAEL AND HIS GROUP OF MEN CAME TO CELEBRATE ROSH HASHANAH WITH GEDALIAH.

OH NO!! DURING THE MEAL, HE KILLED GEDALIAH AND THE PEOPLE WHO WERE WITH HIM.



NOW THE JEWS OF JUDEA DREADED THE WORST...



GEDALIAH IS NO LONGER AROUND TO PROTECT US FROM KING NEVUCHADNEZER.

AND WHO KNOWS? HE PROBABLY THINKS IT WAS A JEWISH PLOT TO KILL HIS GOVERNOR!

YEAH... WE'RE IN HOT WATER!

BUT THEN...



I HAVE AN IDEA!  
LET'S ESCAPE TO EGYPT.



EGYPT?! NO WAY!  
IT'S CALLED "OUT OF EGYPT"  
NOT "INTO EGYPT"!

NEVERTHELESS THE JEWS WERE DETERMINED TO LEAVE AND THEY SET OUT TOWARDS EGYPT. ON THE WAY THEY MET THE GREAT PROPHET YIRMIYAHU (JEREMIAH), WHO WARNED THEM.



REMAIN HERE, I BEG YOU! DO NOT CONTINUE TRAVELING UNTIL I GIVE YOU GUIDANCE FROM HASHEM!

AND REMEMBER:  
ACCEPT WHATEVER HASHEM SAYS,  
WHETHER YOU THINK IT IS GOOD OR BAD.

10 DAYS LATER...

I HAVE PRAYED TO HASHEM, AND RECEIVED A CLEAR RESPONSE. STAY IN THE LAND OF JUDEA!! DO NOT GO DOWN TO EGYPT. TRUST IN HASHEM!

UNFORTUNATELY, THE PEOPLE DID NOT LISTEN...

WE'D RATHER GO "DOWN TO EGYPT" LET'S GO NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

BUT IF YOU CHOOSE TO GO TO EGYPT, IT WILL BE TERRIBLE!



THEY EVEN KIDNAPPED YIRMIYAHU AND TOOK HIM WITH THEM!



A FEW YEARS LATER, KING NEVUCHADNETZAR CONQUERED EGYPT AND KILLED MANY JEWS. YIRMIYAHU'S PAINFUL PROPHECY HAD COME TRUE.



SAD TO SAY, THE DESTRUCTION WAS COMPLETE; THE LAND OF ISRAEL WAS TOTALLY BARREN, BEREFT OF HER PEOPLE.



THE MURDER OF GEDALIAH - AND THE SUFFERING THAT IT BROUGHT - HAS BEEN COMPARED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BEIS HAMIKDASH.

THE PROPHETS THEREFORE DECLARED THAT THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGEDY - THE 3RD DAY OF TISHREI, RIGHT AFTER ROSH HASHANAH - SHOULD BE A DAY OF FASTING.



## Insights

IT IS NOT CERTAIN EXACTLY WHEN GEDALIAH WAS MURDERED.

SOME SAGES SAY IT WAS THE 3RD DAY OF TISHREI, RIGHT AFTER ROSH HASHANA.

OTHER SAY IT HAPPENED ON THE SECOND DAY OF ROSH HASHANAH, BUT THE FAST WAS "PUSHED OFF" TO THE NEXT DAY, SINCE WE DON'T FAST ON THE THE YOM TOV OF ROSH HASHANAH.

 **Shazak!**

# TISHREI

