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The wisdom of Solomon

1 Kings 1–10, 2 Chronicles 1–9



For forty years King David had ruled the people of Israel. When the time came for him to die, he called his son Solomon to his bedside, and he gave the rule of the kingdom into his hands.



It was a heavy task for the young prince, for Israel was a great nation, but his father reminded him that the Lord would give him wisdom and understanding.



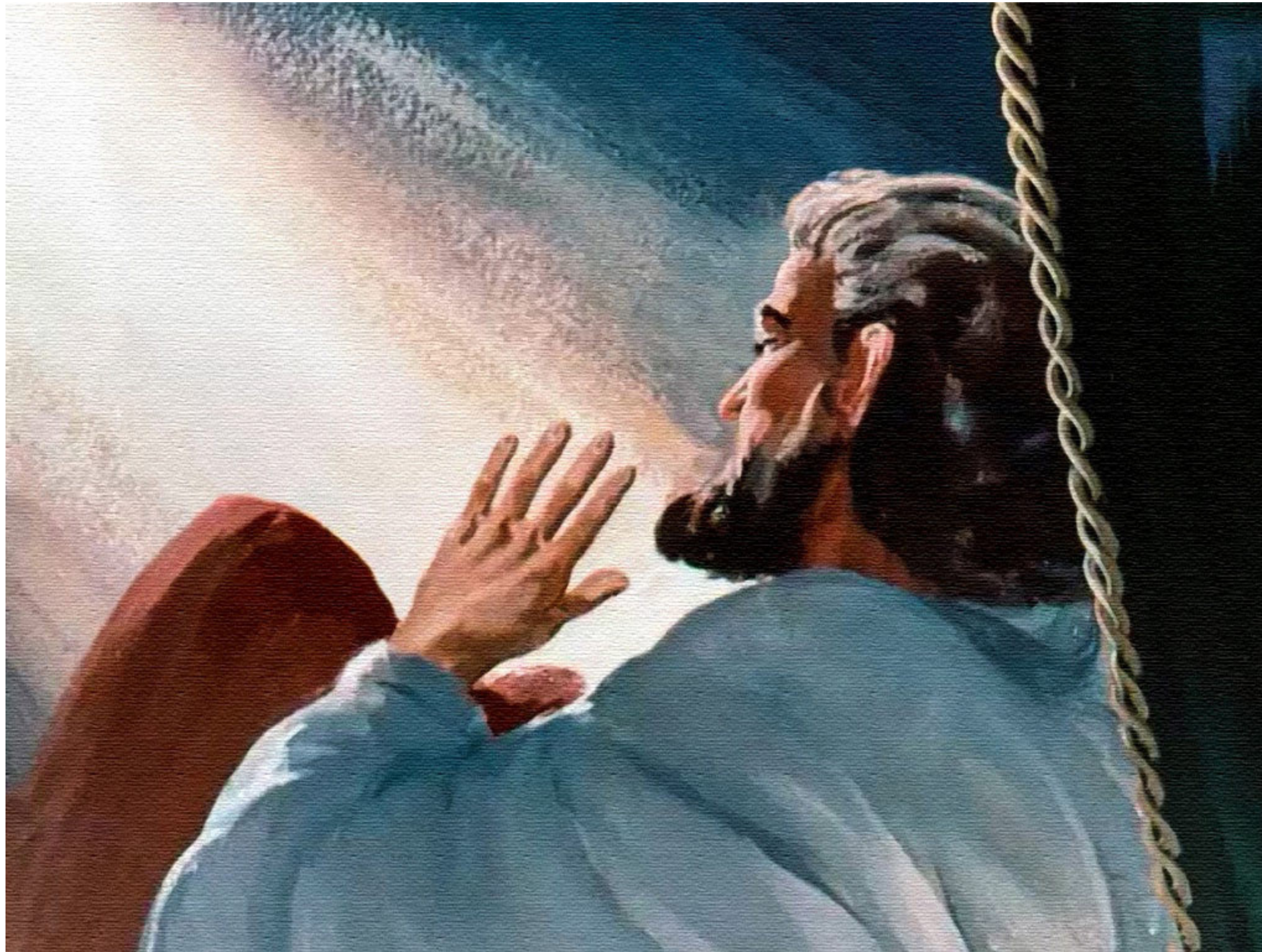
David said, 'There is much work for you to do, my son, but above all don't forget to walk in God's ways and obey His commandments.'



It was a happy day for the people of Israel when Solomon was made king. Trumpets blew and the people shouted. Solomon was a good king, and, remembering his father's words, he asked God to guide him.



One night the Lord appeared to Solomon and said, 'Ask what I shall give you.' Solomon was filled with wonder, but he didn't hesitate.



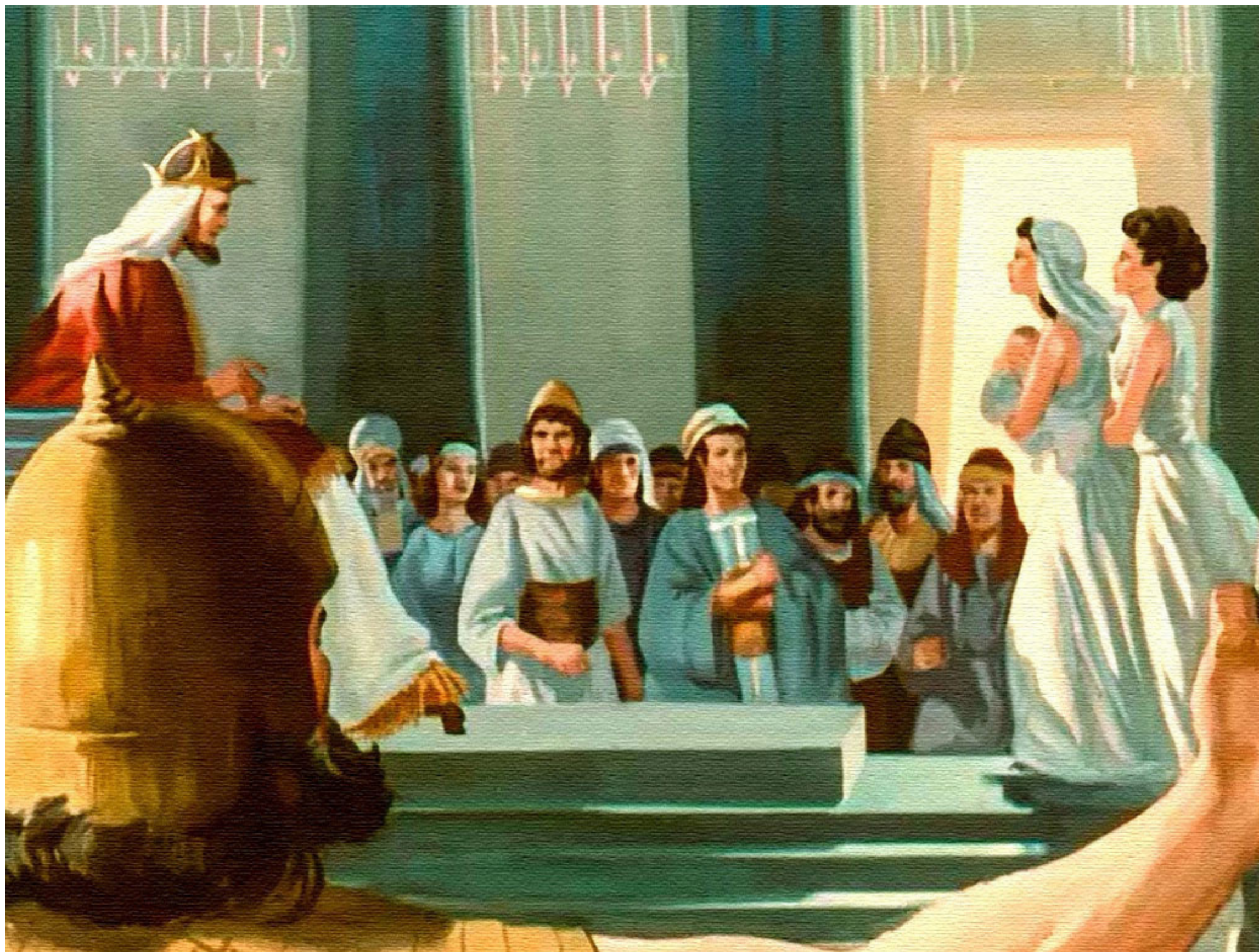
He told the Lord he wanted to be a good, upright king like his father David, but he didn't know how to rule a great nation, so he asked God to give him wisdom to do what was right.



God was pleased when Solomon asked for wisdom rather than riches, and promised him great wisdom and an understanding heart. God also promised to bless Solomon with honour and wealth if he obeyed His commandments.



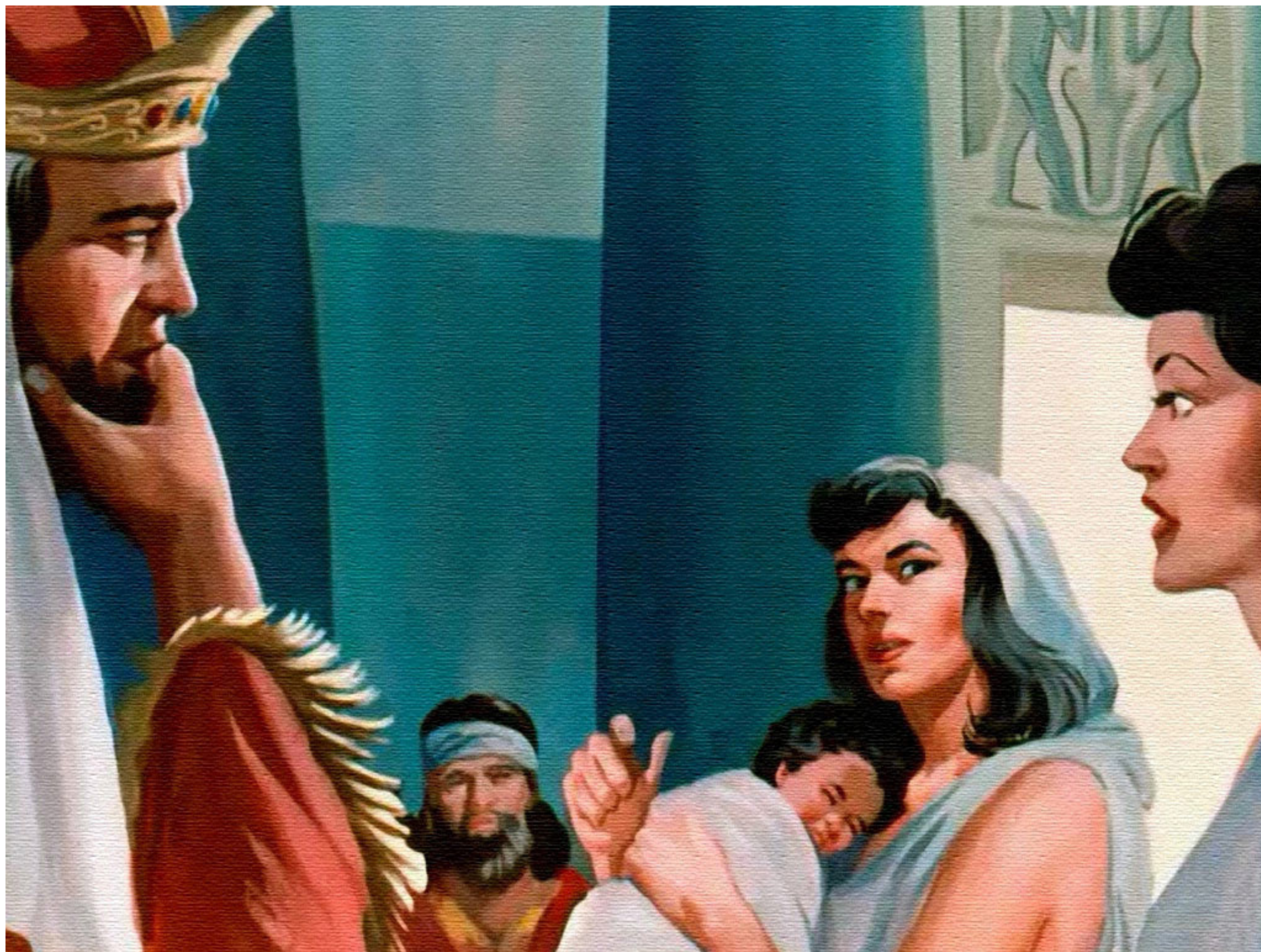
Solomon realised that truly the Lord had spoken to him, and he praised God. 'Happy is the man that finds wisdom and understanding,' he said. Soon Solomon's new wisdom was put to the test.



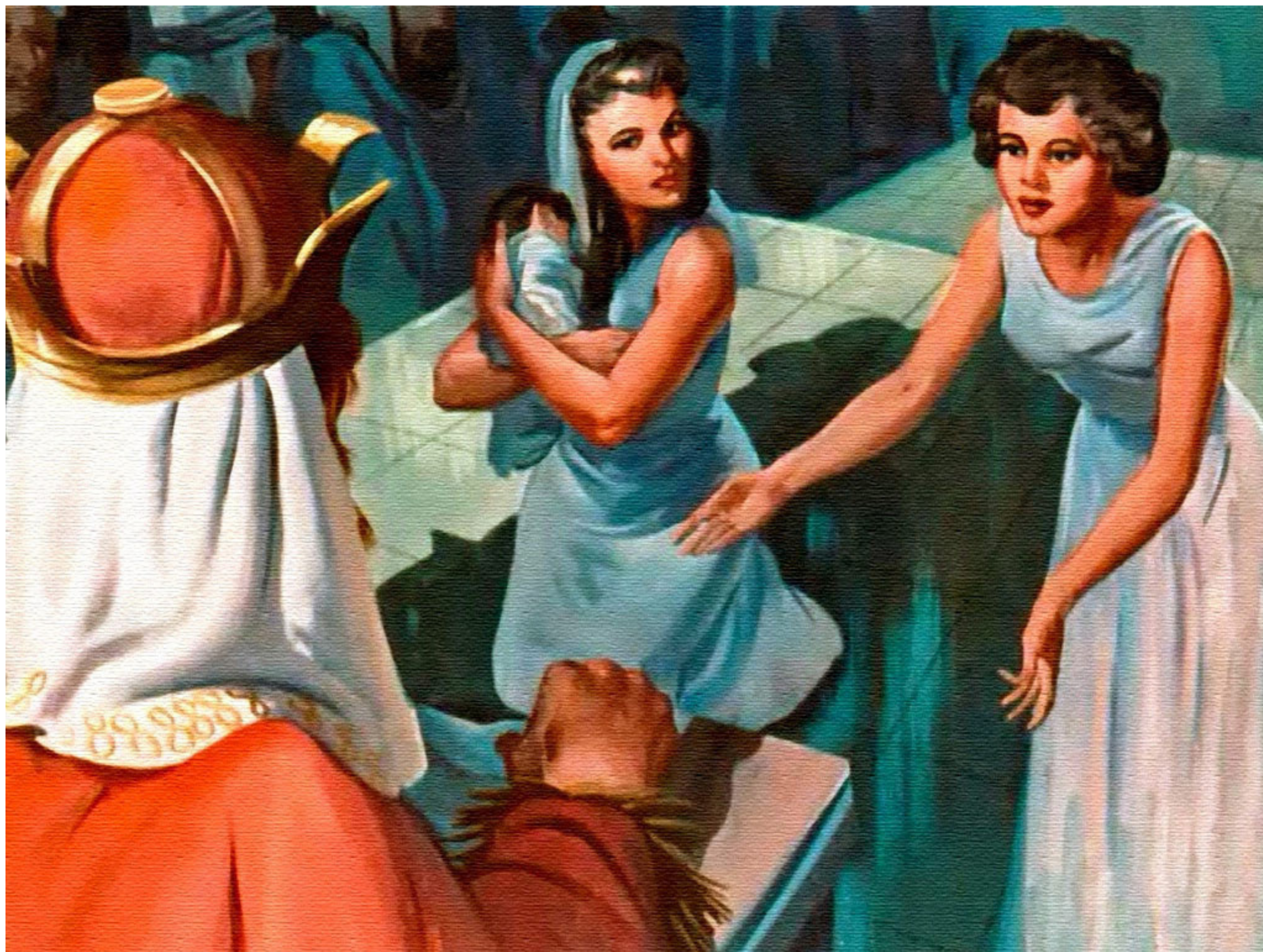
One day two women were ushered into the court and stood before the king. They were crying and quarrelling. One was holding a baby in her arms.



The other woman pointed to her. 'This woman has taken my child!' she said. 'She rolled on her own son in the night and smothered him. Then she took my child and put the dead one beside me.'



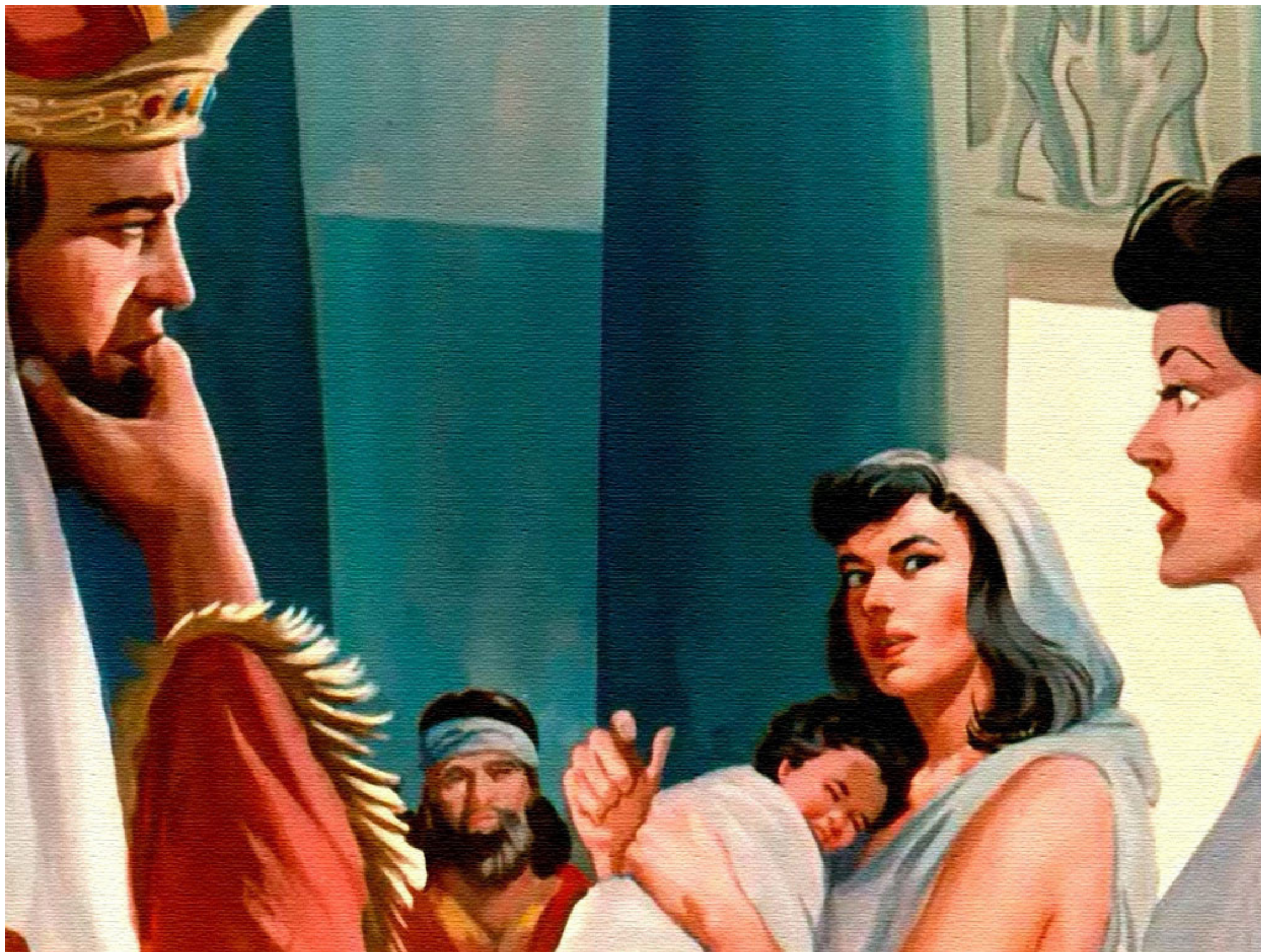
‘That’s not true!’ the second woman said. ‘This child is mine and the dead one is hers.’



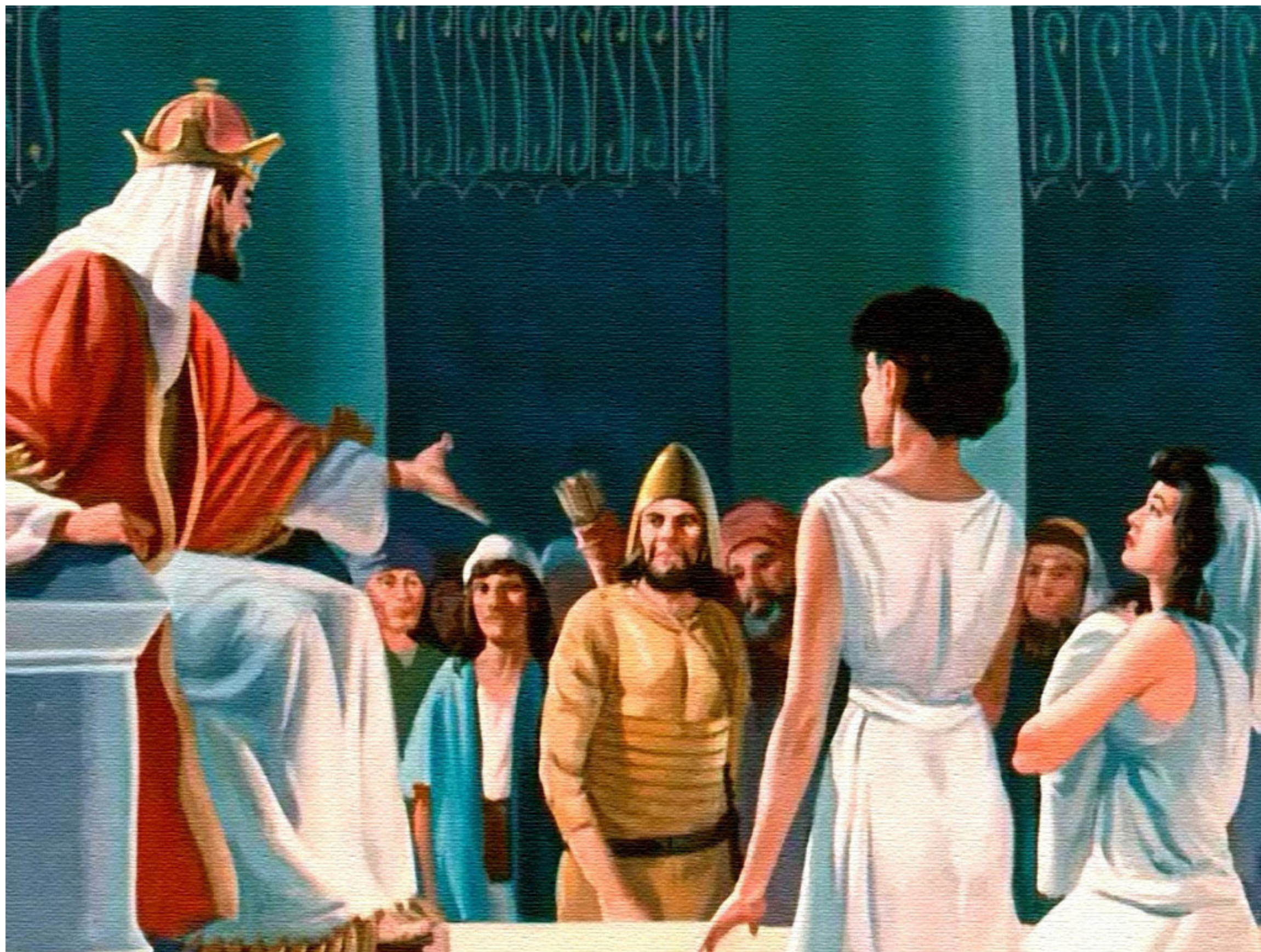
‘No! The child is mine!’ the first woman said to the king.



King Solomon looked at them – and they stopped arguing.



Everybody in the court was quiet, waiting to hear what Solomon would say.



‘Bring me a sword!’ he demanded. The women and all the people looked at him in surprise. Quickly a soldier sprang forward, his sword bared.



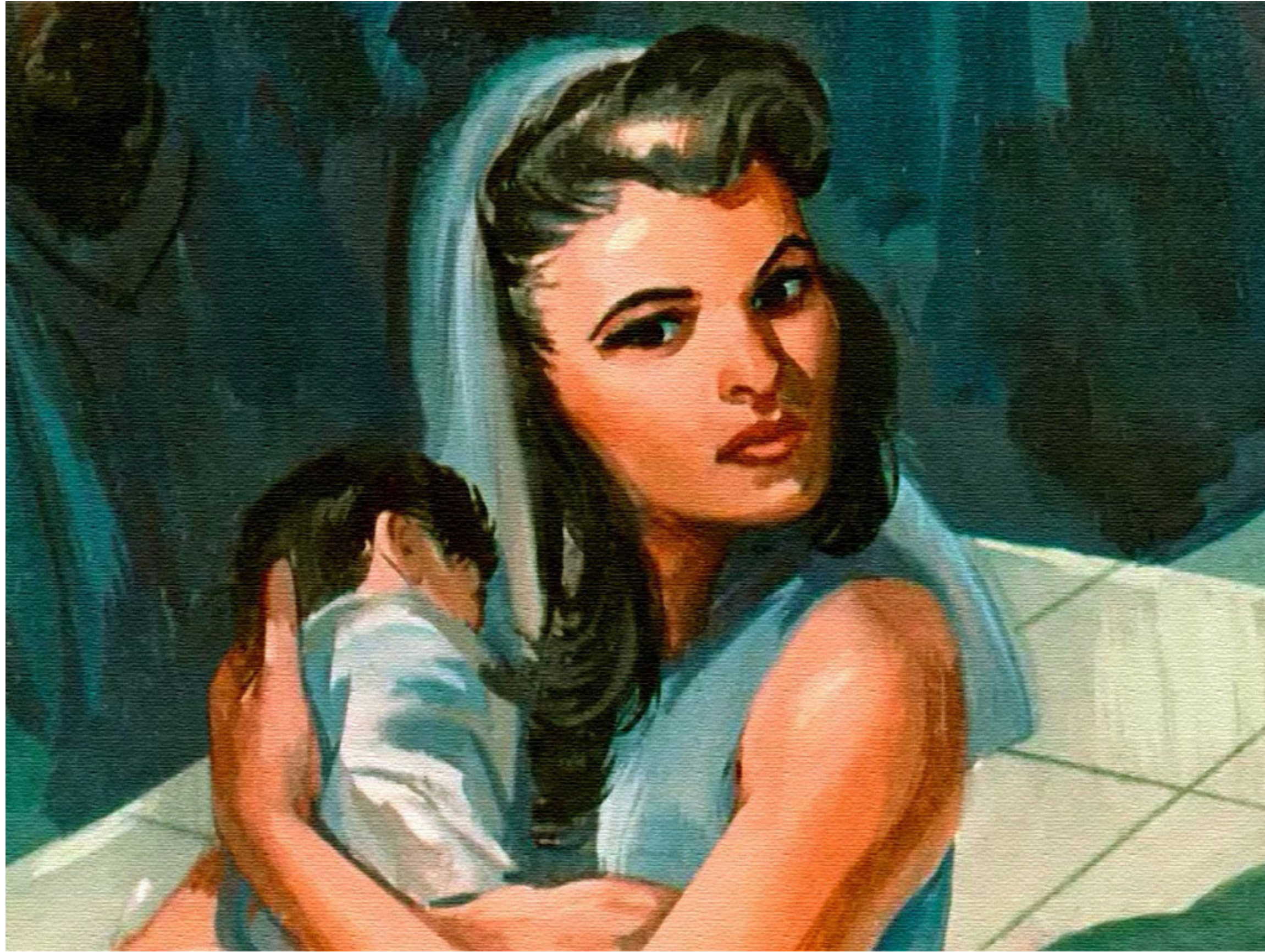
Then the king said, 'Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other' Then he watched the two mothers closely.



The first woman shrugged.
'That's fair enough... then
the child will be neither
mine nor hers.'



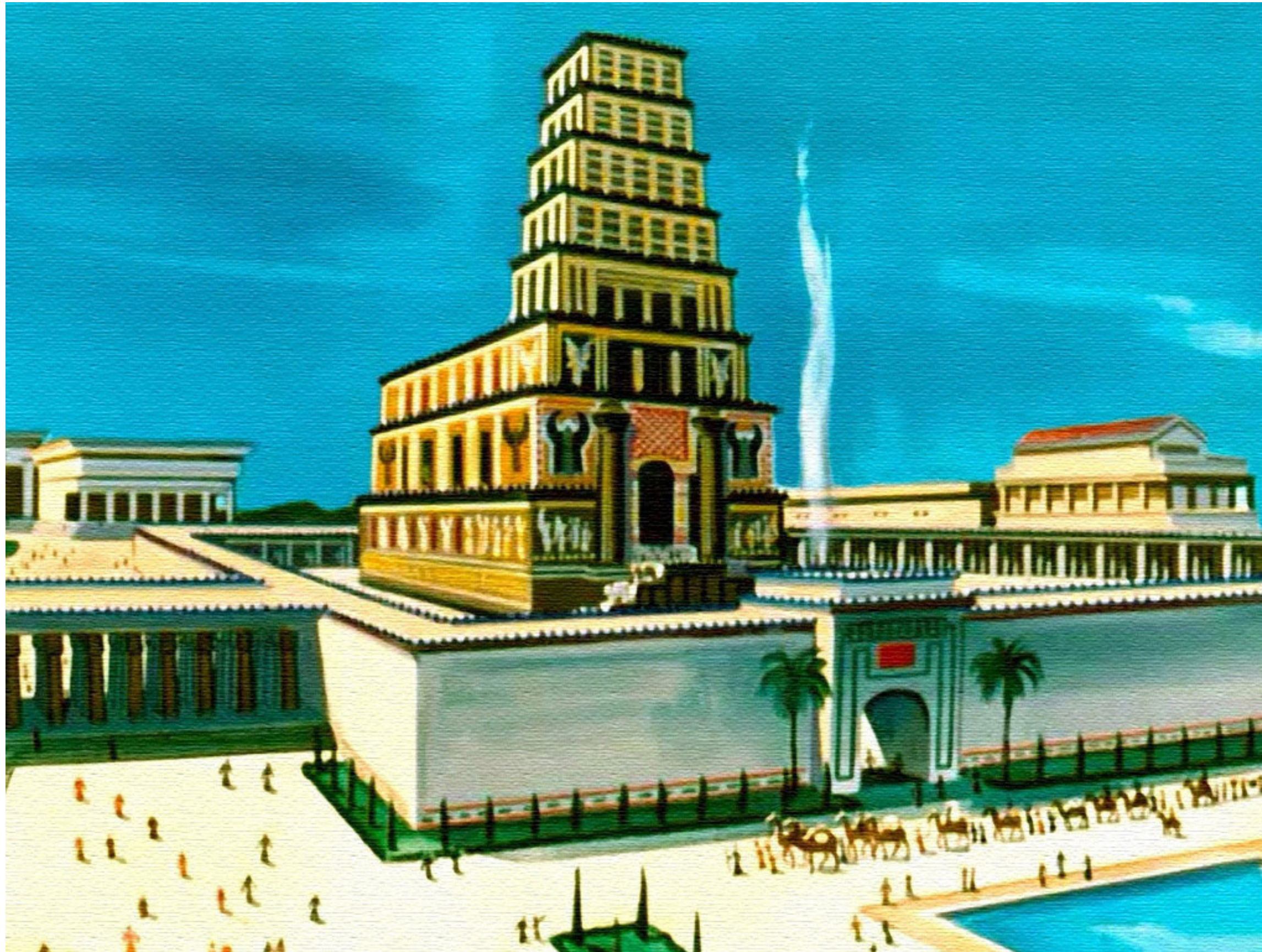
But the other woman threw herself at the king's feet. 'O my lord king, do not kill the child! I'd rather you gave him to the other woman than kill him.' Then Solomon knew the answer.



He said, 'Give her the child!'
For the king knew that she
was the real mother



King Solomon was talked about in all the land, because he was kind and just, wiser than any king before him and all his people were happy.



Solomon built a magnificent temple for the praise and worship of God. He also built courts and palaces in Jerusalem. His fame spread far and wide.

**Let's Talk About
The Story...**

Q

A

**Which son of David's
became king after
David died?**



**Who came to
Solomon in a dream?**



**What did Solomon ask
the Lord to give him?**



When two women were fighting over a baby, why did Solomon say the baby should be cut in half?



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