

Did you know that the oldest stories in the Bible are a bit like puzzles? If you look carefully, you can spot some

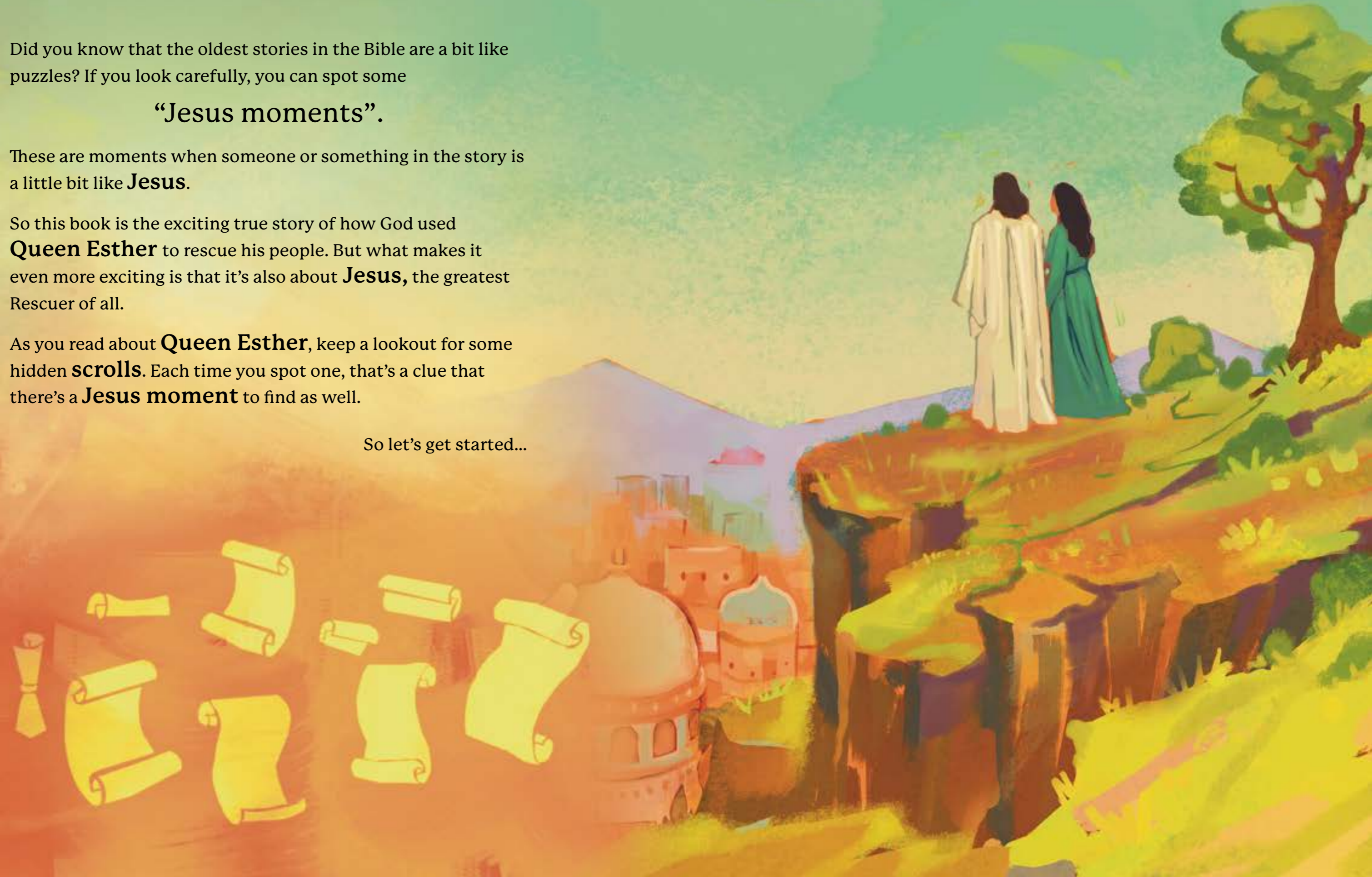
## “Jesus moments”.

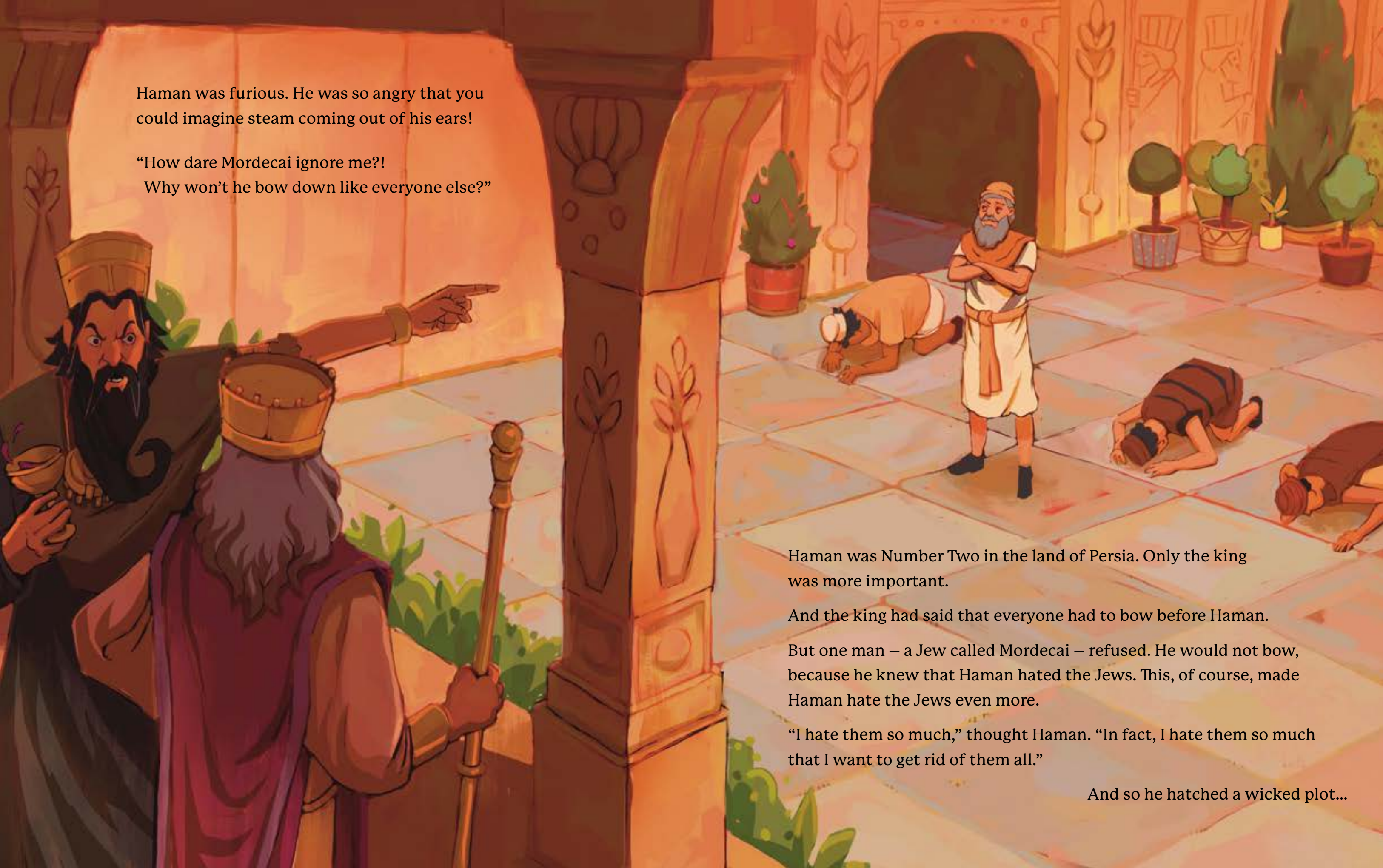
These are moments when someone or something in the story is a little bit like **Jesus**.

So this book is the exciting true story of how God used **Queen Esther** to rescue his people. But what makes it even more exciting is that it’s also about **Jesus**, the greatest Rescuer of all.

As you read about **Queen Esther**, keep a lookout for some hidden **scrolls**. Each time you spot one, that’s a clue that there’s a **Jesus moment** to find as well.

So let’s get started...





Haman was furious. He was so angry that you could imagine steam coming out of his ears!

“How dare Mordecai ignore me?!  
Why won’t he bow down like everyone else?”

Haman was Number Two in the land of Persia. Only the king was more important.

And the king had said that everyone had to bow before Haman.

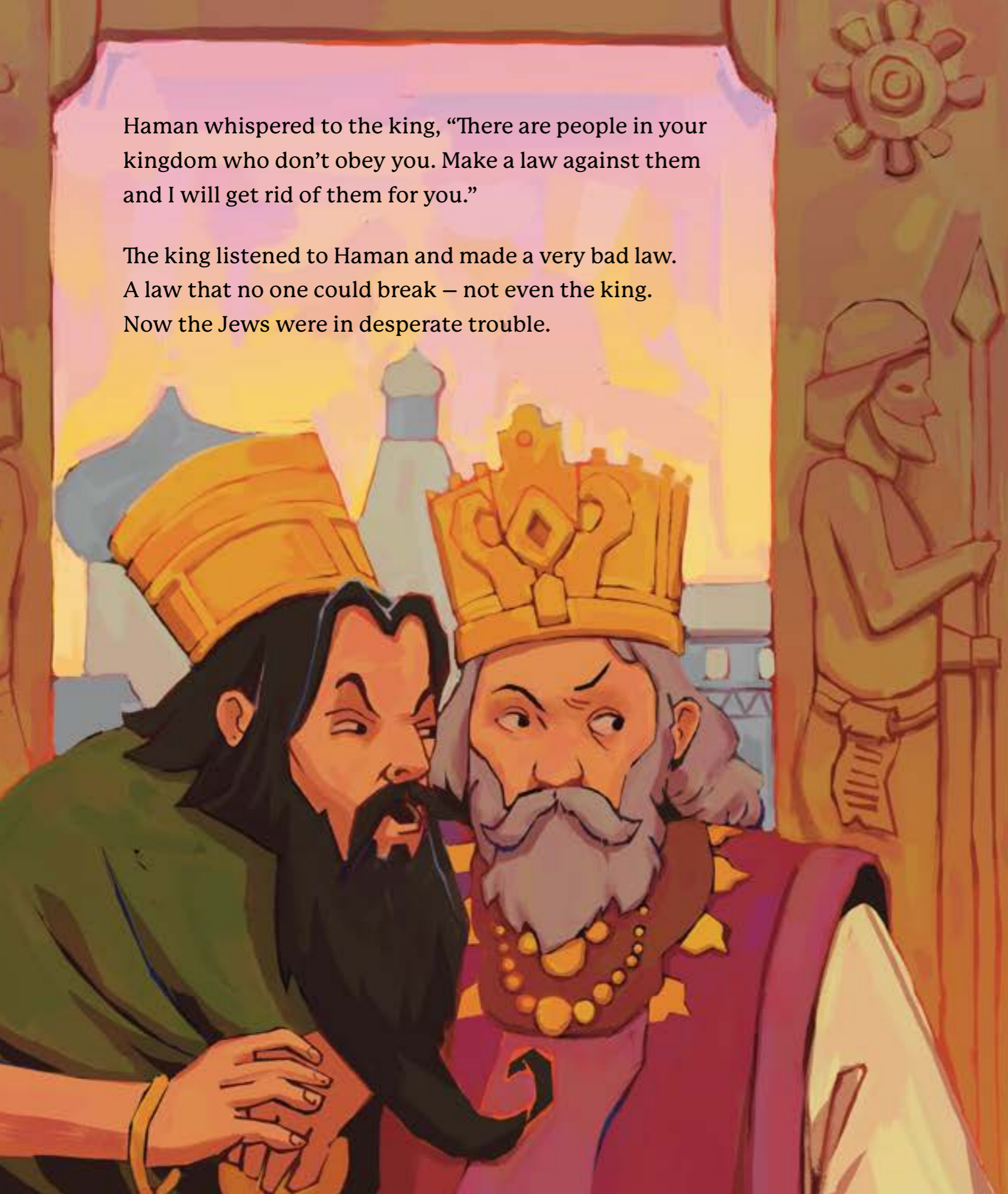
But one man – a Jew called Mordecai – refused. He would not bow, because he knew that Haman hated the Jews. This, of course, made Haman hate the Jews even more.

“I hate them so much,” thought Haman. “In fact, I hate them so much that I want to get rid of them all.”

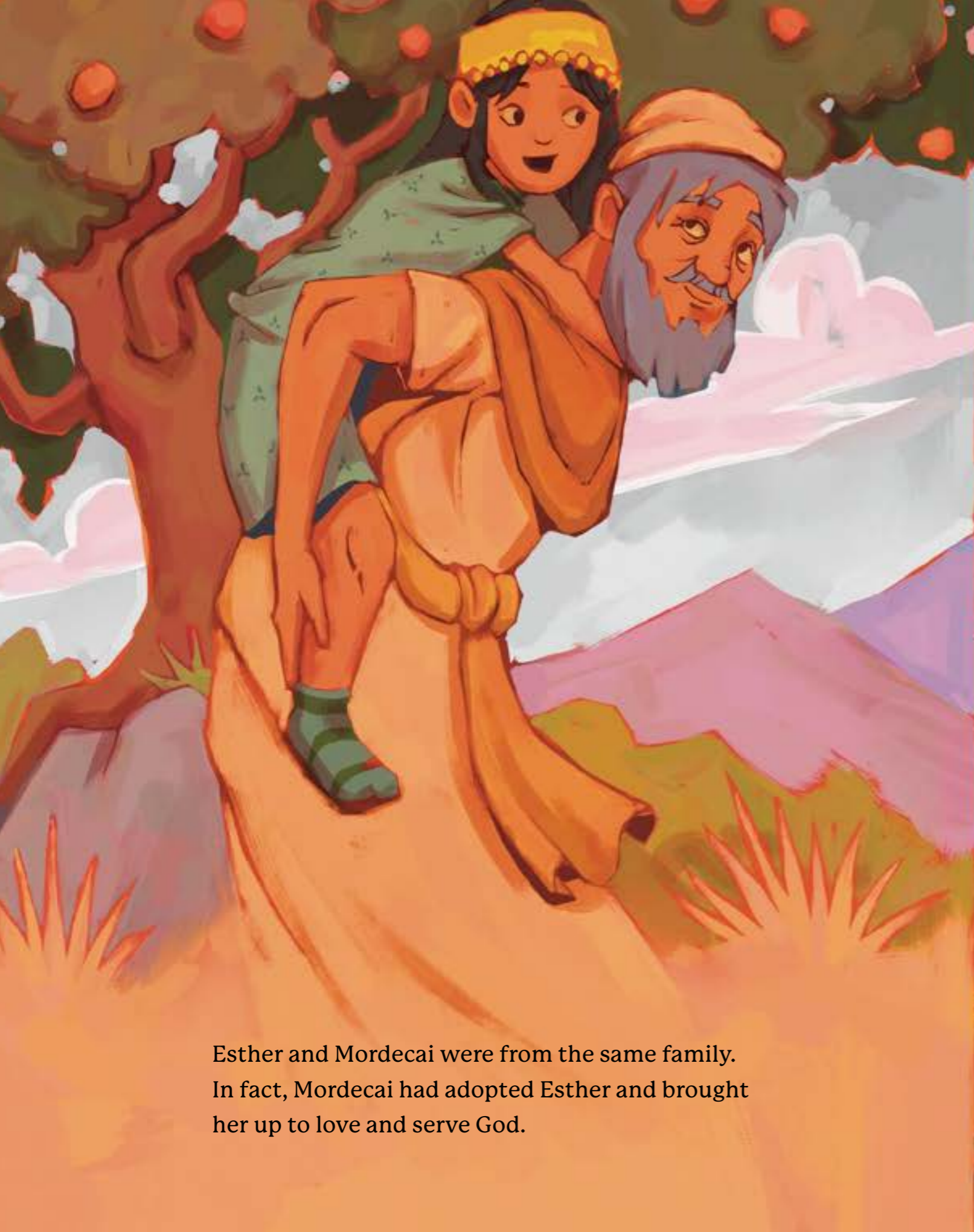
And so he hatched a wicked plot...

Haman whispered to the king, “There are people in your kingdom who don’t obey you. Make a law against them and I will get rid of them for you.”

The king listened to Haman and made a very bad law. A law that no one could break – not even the king. Now the Jews were in desperate trouble.



But the king didn’t know – and neither did Haman – that Esther, the queen, was Jewish.

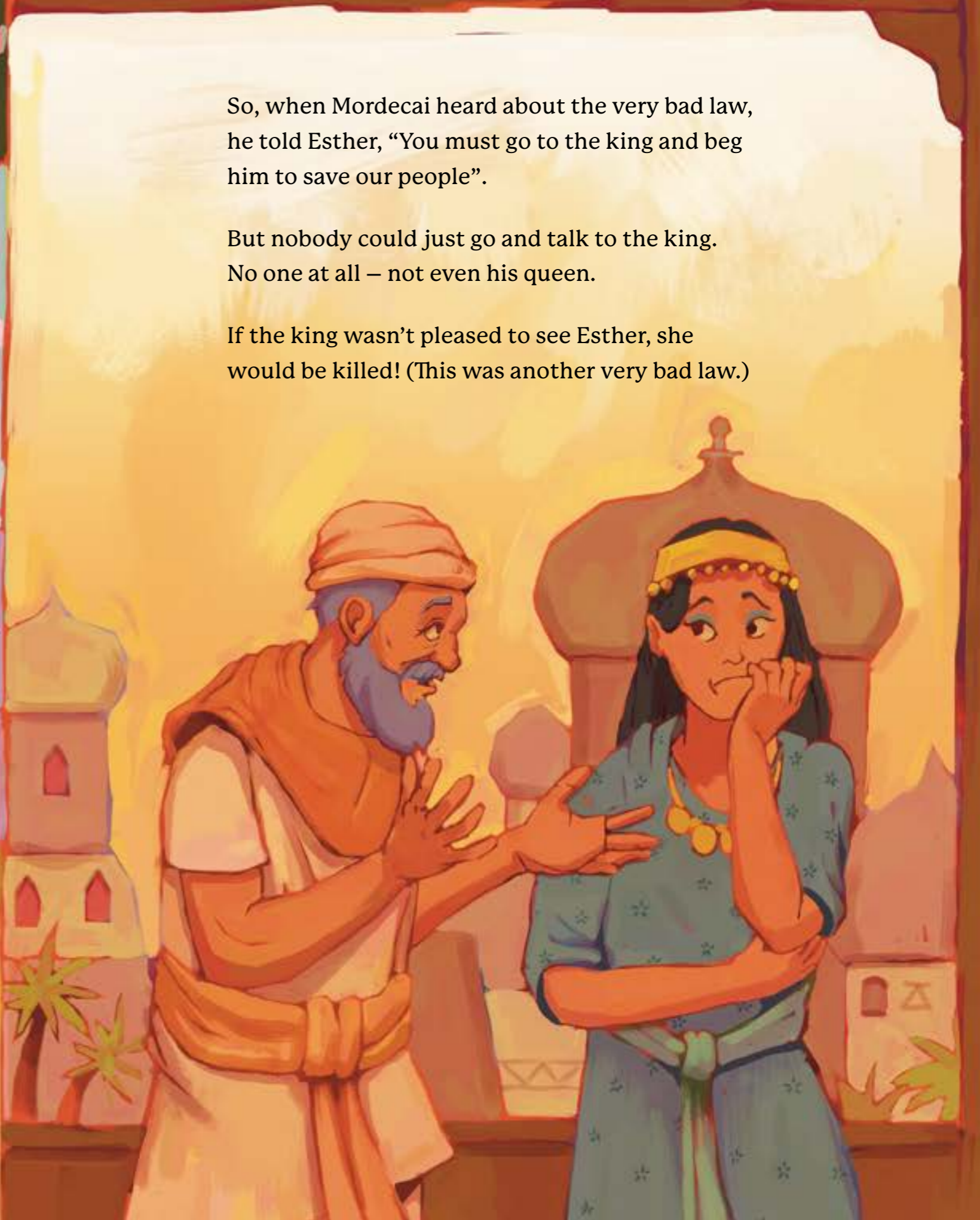


Esther and Mordecai were from the same family. In fact, Mordecai had adopted Esther and brought her up to love and serve God.

So, when Mordecai heard about the very bad law, he told Esther, “You must go to the king and beg him to save our people”.

But nobody could just go and talk to the king. No one at all – not even his queen.

If the king wasn’t pleased to see Esther, she would be killed! (This was another very bad law.)



Esther was very, very scared.  
What would she do?



“I know it’s dangerous,” said Mordecai.  
“But maybe you have become queen of  
Persia for such a time as this.”

