

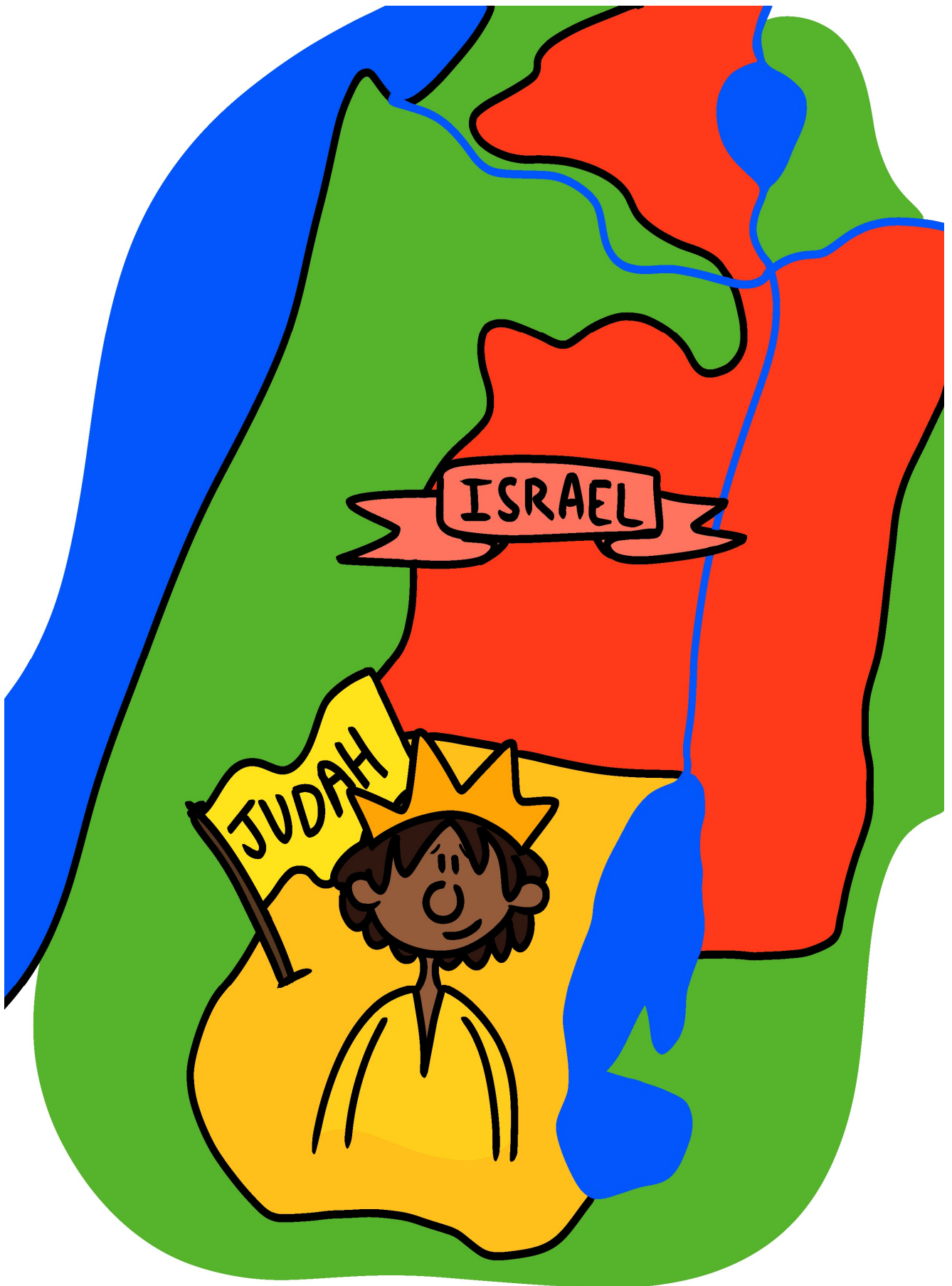
God's Promise to King David



Circa 1000 BC

Shortly after the death of King Saul, the men of Judah anointed David king over them.

Saul's son succeeded Saul and became king over the rest of Israel.



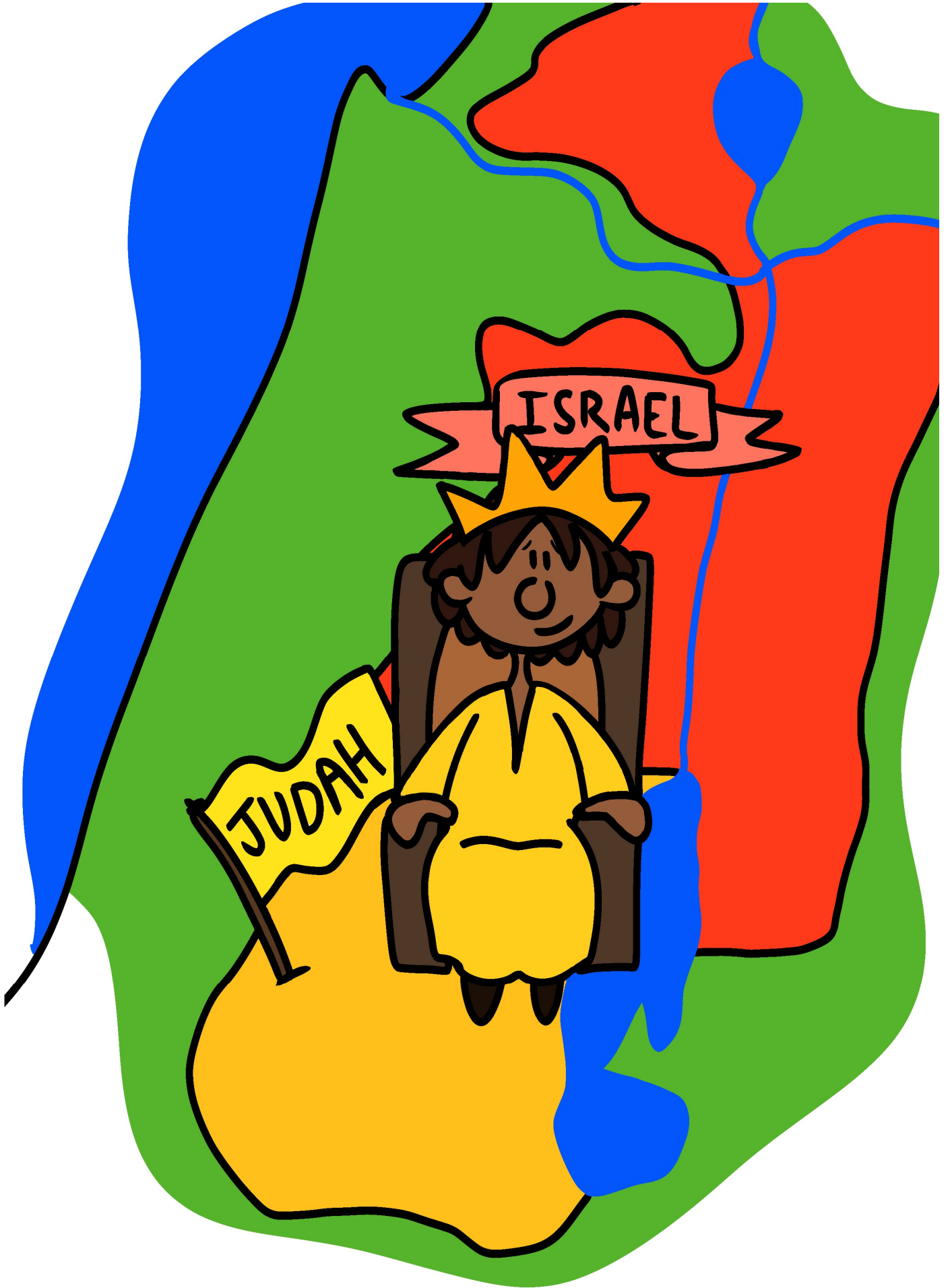
The war between Saul's son and David would last seven years.

During this time David grew stronger and stronger.



When Saul's son died, all the tribes of Israel came to David. They said, "In the past, while Saul was king over us, you led Israel in their battles. And the LORD said to you, 'You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will be their ruler.'" And on saying this, they anointed David king over all Israel.

After King David had settled in his palace, a word from the LORD came to the prophet Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'I will make your name great. I will give you rest from all your enemies. My love will never be taken away, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your kingdom will endure forever before me.'" "



But it was not long before King David defied the living God. He became very proud of his success.

King David said to his commander, "Go and take a census of Israel and Judah so that I may know how many fighting men there are."

But his commander said, "May the LORD multiply the troops and may the king see this. But why do you, the king, want to do such a thing and defy the living God?"

But King David had the army commanders go and count the fighting men of Israel.

After nine months they came back to Jerusalem and reported the number of fighting men to the king. Eight hundred thousand men were counted in Israel, and in Judah, five hundred thousand.



On hearing this, King David was grief stricken. He said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant."

But the LORD was angry with David and sent a plague on Israel.

David cried out to the LORD, "I am the one who sinned and who has done wrong. These people are but sheep. Let your hand fall on me."

Seeking the LORD's mercy, David built an altar to the LORD and sacrificed offerings on it. The LORD answered David's prayer and the plague on Israel was stopped.

King David ruled Judah and Israel for thirty-three years. He was buried in the City of David and his son Solomon succeeded him as king.

2 Samuel 1-7 & 24

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