



ACTS
COLORING BIBLE 17-22

8X11 ENGLISH SD

Book Of Acts Full Color Bible

Every Verse - Chapters 17 to 22

=====

A visual verse by verse Bible without skipping any of the verses!

=====

Read all of our books for free at www.MrMacBible.com

=====

Copyright © 2019 Mr. Mac Bible, Inc. All rights reserved.

Authored by D. Scott McNamara (Mr. Mac)

Illustrated by Kirsten Nimwey and Charlene Mae Malonzo

=====

All verses taken from the World English Bible, British Edition
(WEBBE) ® Public Domain

=====

Dedicated to my kids and grandkids!

Mr. Mac Coloring Bibles



This illustrated Bible is unedited!

No verses skipped!

Every section is followed by coloring book pages!

Every page may be copied and shared in any form when given unaltered and free of charge!

All verses are taken from the World English Bible (WEBBE) ® (ebible.org/webbe) which is a Public Domain modern British English version of the 1901 American Standard Version Bible (ASV) which is also Public Domain.

| Book | Sections | Verses |
|---------|------------------------|----------------|
| Acts 17 | To an Unknown God? | 17:23-36 |
| Acts 18 | Alone and Afraid? | 18:1-28 |
| Acts 19 | Fighting Evil Spirits! | 19:1-20 |
| Acts 19 | Riots in Ephesus! | 19:21-41 |
| Acts 20 | Sleeping in Church? | 20:1-15 |
| Acts 20 | Goodbye Ephesus! | 20:16-38 |
| Acts 21 | Praying on the Beach! | 21:1-9 |
| Acts 21 | Please Don't Go! | 21:10-29 |
| Acts 22 | Killing Paul? | 21:30- 22:8 |
| Acts 22 | Arresting Paul? | 22:9-30 |

KN GOD



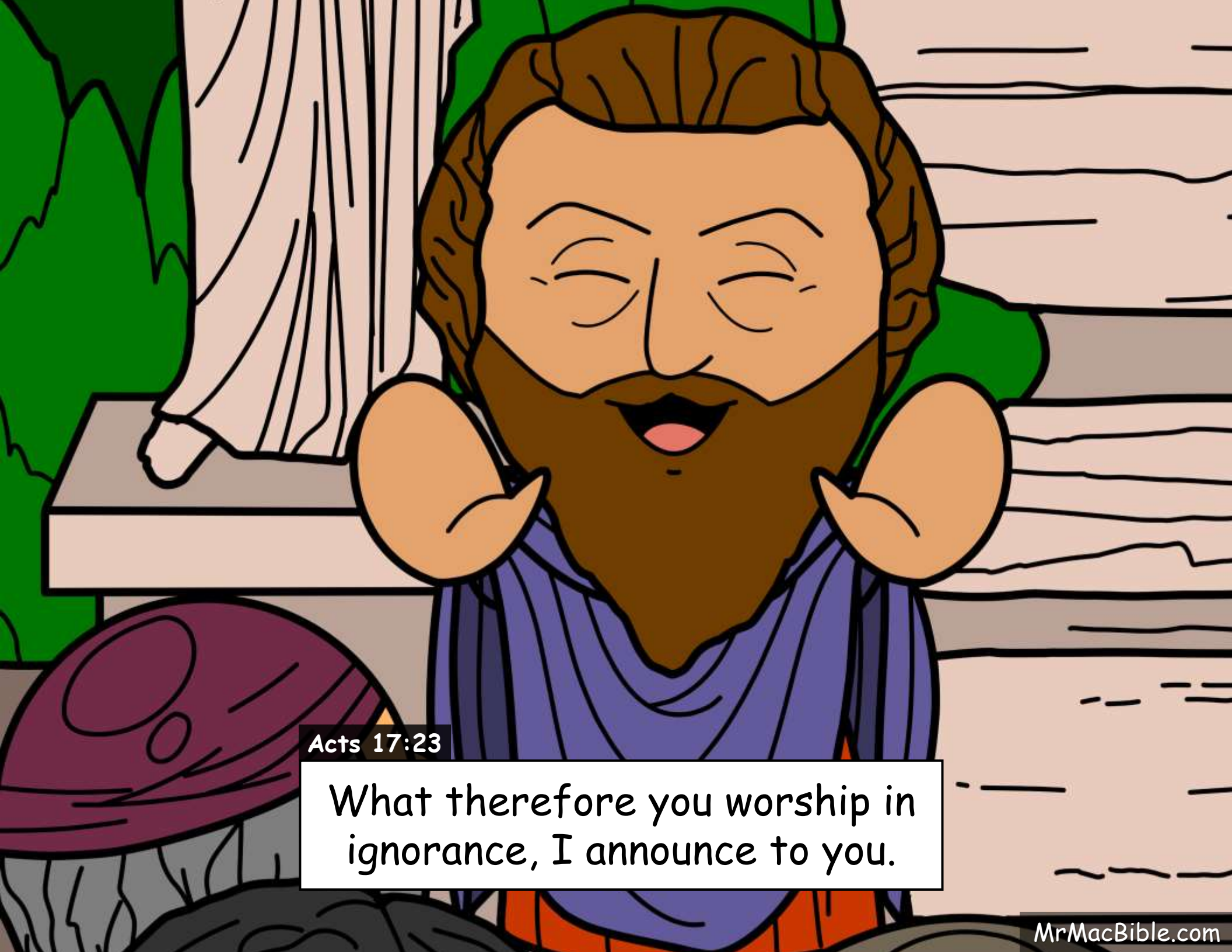
To an Unknown God?

Acts 17:23-36

TO AN UNKNOWN GOD

Background:

Paul is standing in the middle of the Areopagus in ancient Athens... where he finds an altar 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD!'



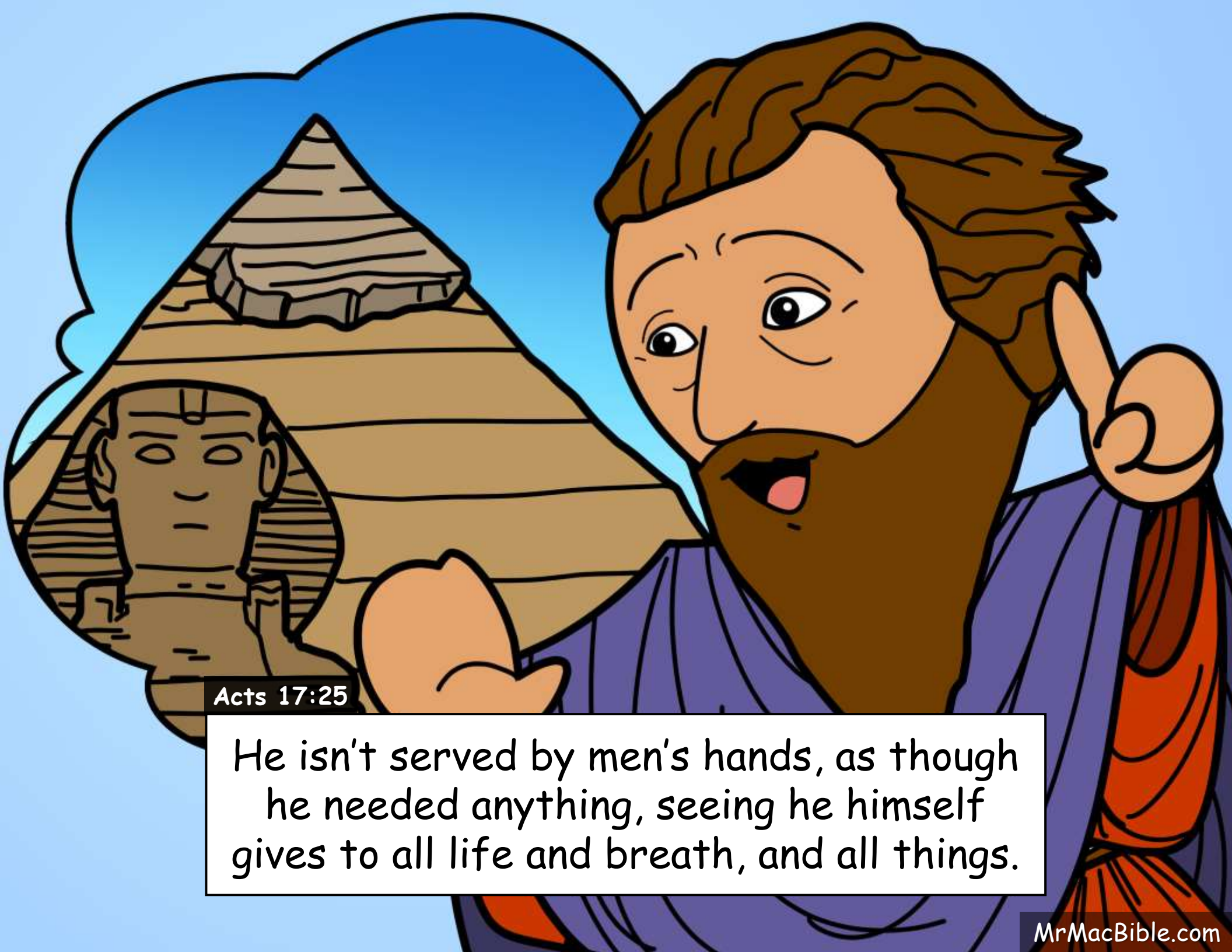
Acts 17:23

What therefore you worship in ignorance, I announce to you.



Acts 17:24

The God who made the world and all things in it, he, being Lord of heaven and earth, doesn't dwell in temples made with hands.



Acts 17:25

He isn't served by men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he himself gives to all life and breath, and all things.



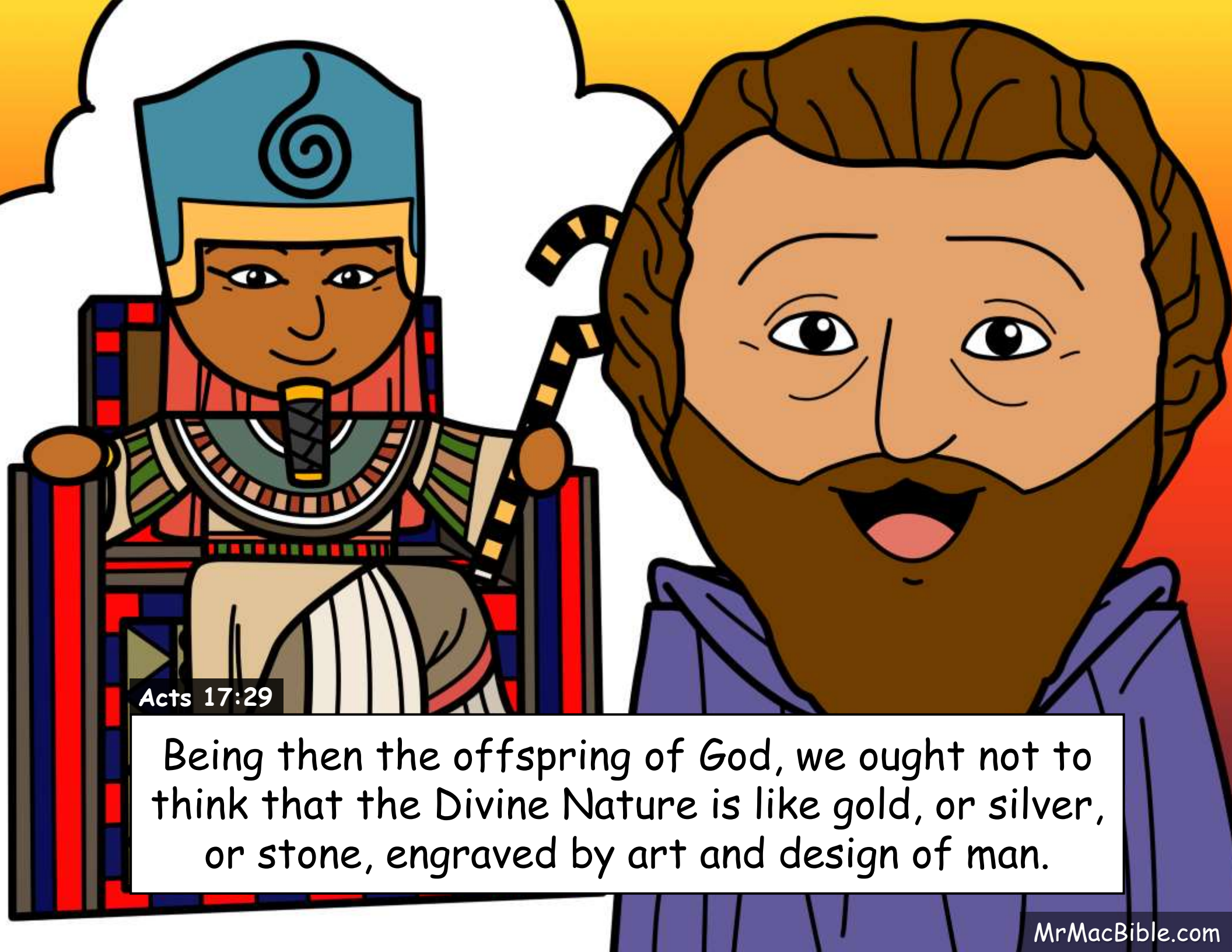
Acts 17:26-27

He made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the surface of the earth, having determined appointed seasons, and the boundaries of their dwellings, that they should seek the Lord, if perhaps they might reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.



Acts 17:28

'For in him we live, move, and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also his offspring.'



Acts 17:29

Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold, or silver, or stone, engraved by art and design of man.



Acts 17:30

"The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked. But now he commands that all people everywhere should repent,



Acts 17:31

...Because he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained; of which he has given assurance to all men, in that he has raised him from the dead."

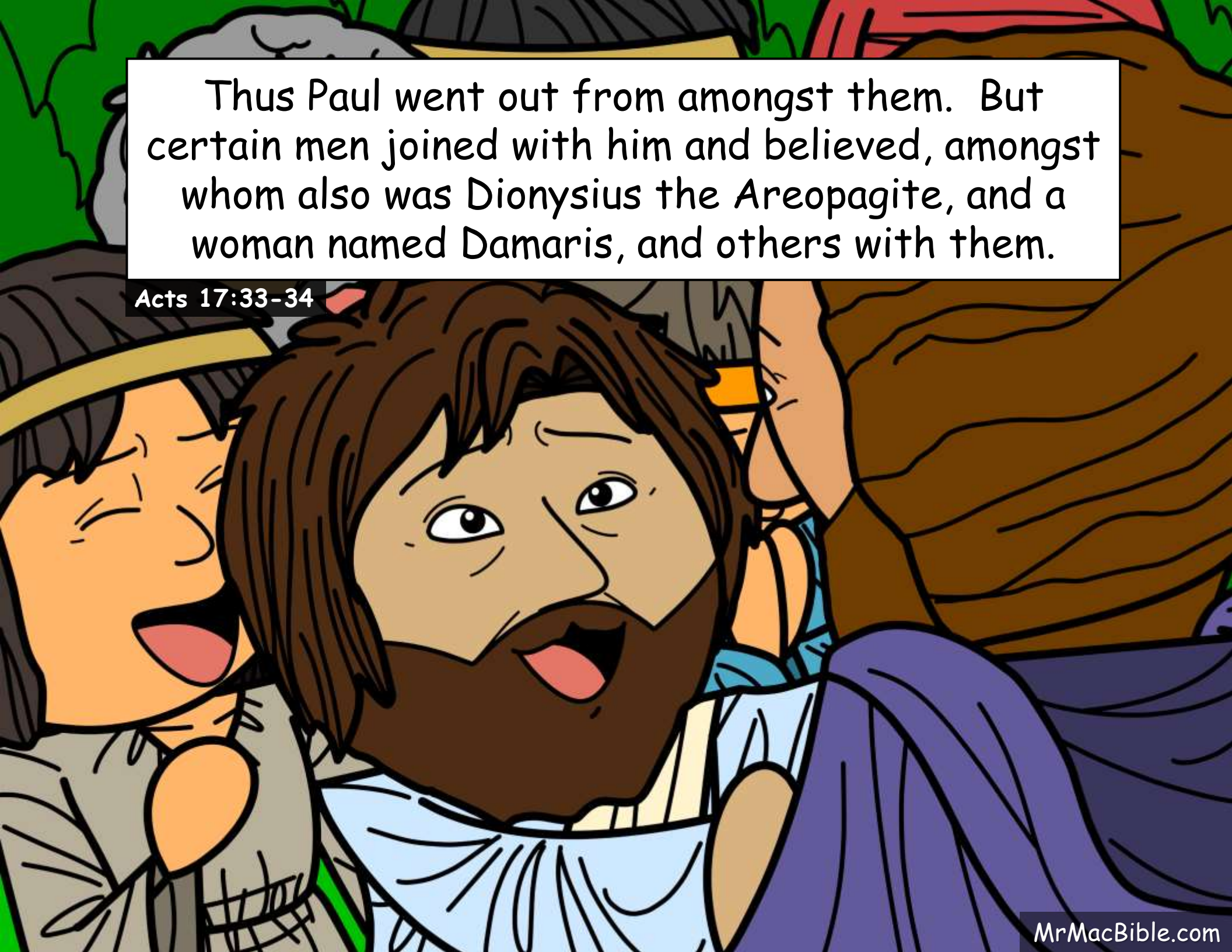


Acts 17:32

Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, "We want to hear you again concerning this."

Thus Paul went out from amongst them. But certain men joined with him and believed, amongst whom also was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Acts 17:33-34



THINK ABOUT IT...

Why does Paul start preaching by talking about the wonders of God in creation? Why not just talk about Jesus?

Paul arrives in Corinth, Greece alone. His enemies may be following, so he has reason to be worn out and afraid. Until the Lord speaks to Paul in a vision and says...

Background:

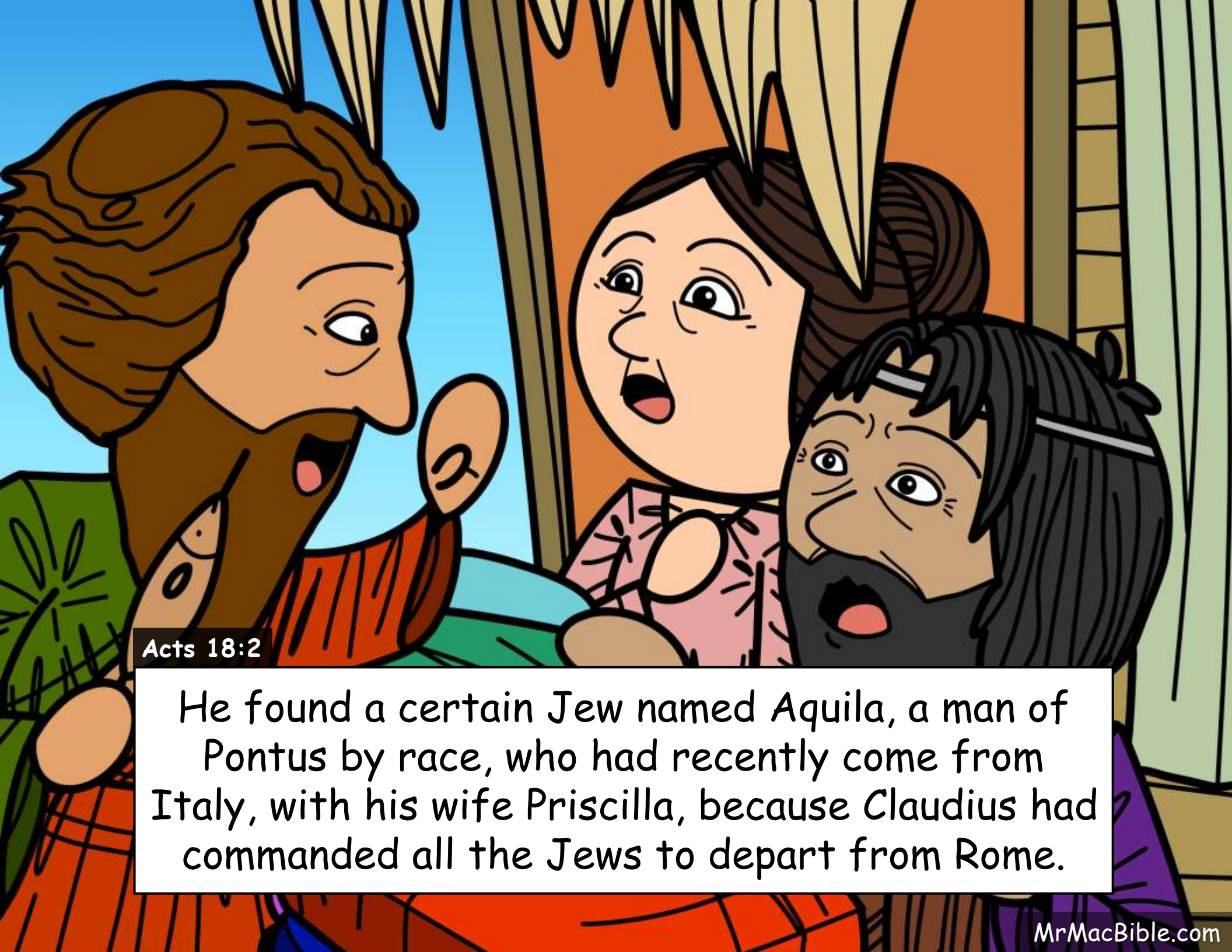


Alone & Afraid?
Acts 18:1-28

After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth.

Acts 18:1





Acts 18:2

He found a certain Jew named Aquila, a man of Pontus by race, who had recently come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome.

He came to them, and because he practised the same trade, he lived with them and worked, for by trade they were tent makers.

Acts 18:3





Acts 18:4

He reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath and persuaded Jews and Greeks.



Acts 18:5

But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.



Acts 18:6

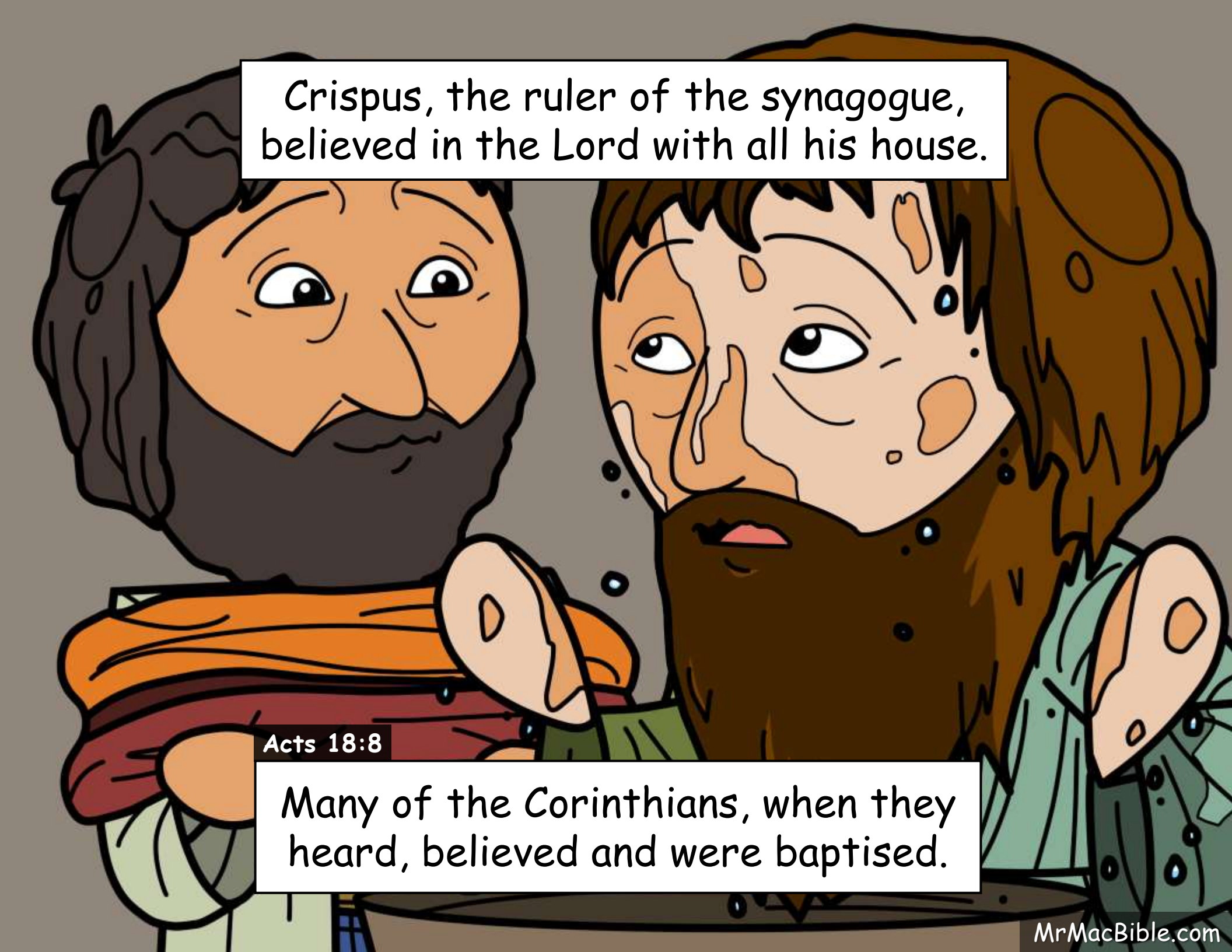
When they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook out his clothing and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. From now on, I will go to the Gentiles!"



Paul's covered in mud!

Acts 18:7

He departed there, and went into the house of a certain man named Justus, one who worshipped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue.



Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue,
believed in the Lord with all his house.

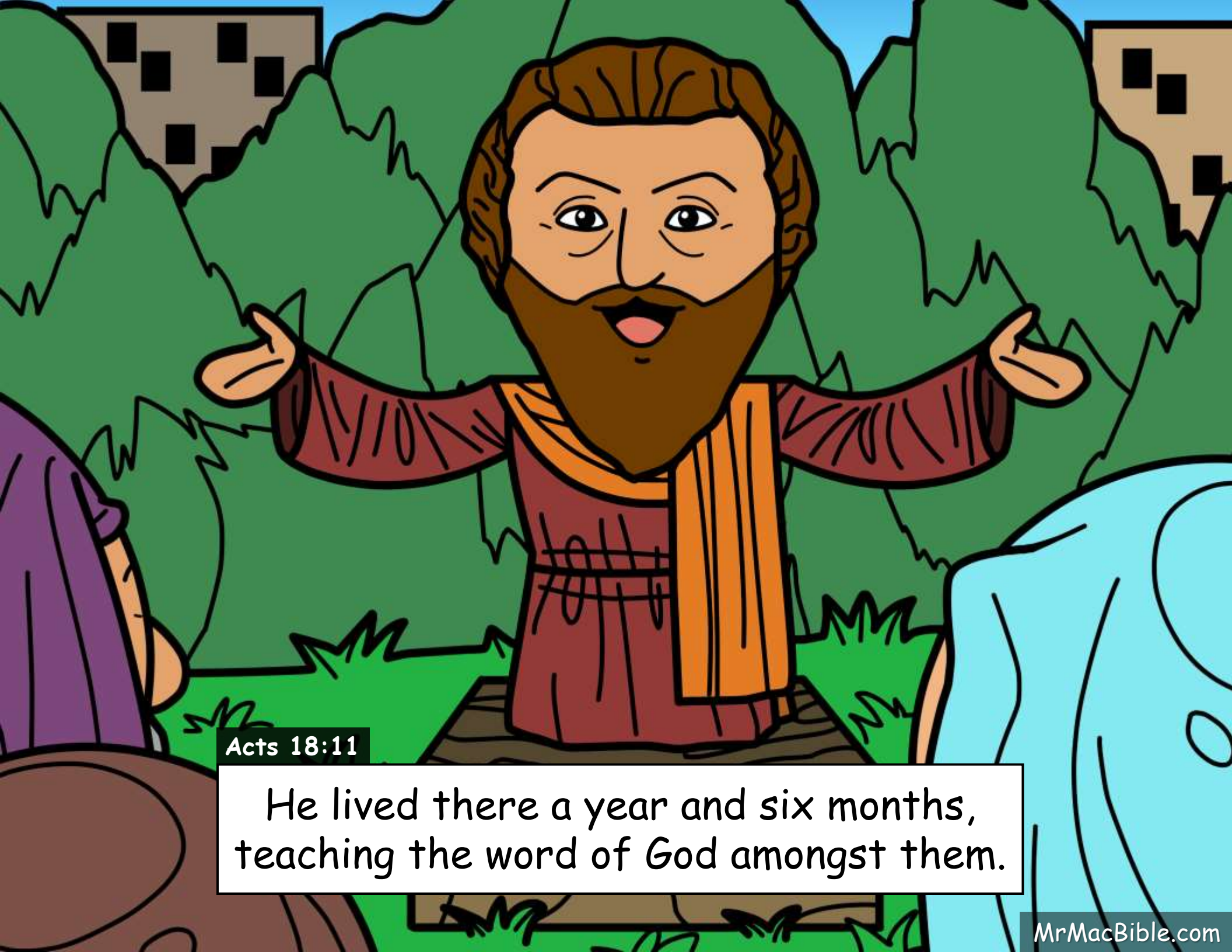
Acts 18:8

Many of the Corinthians, when they
heard, believed and were baptised.



Acts 18:9-10

The Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, "Don't be afraid, but speak and don't be silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many people in this city."




Acts 18:11

He lived there a year and six months,
teaching the word of God amongst them.

But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgement seat,

Acts 18:12-13

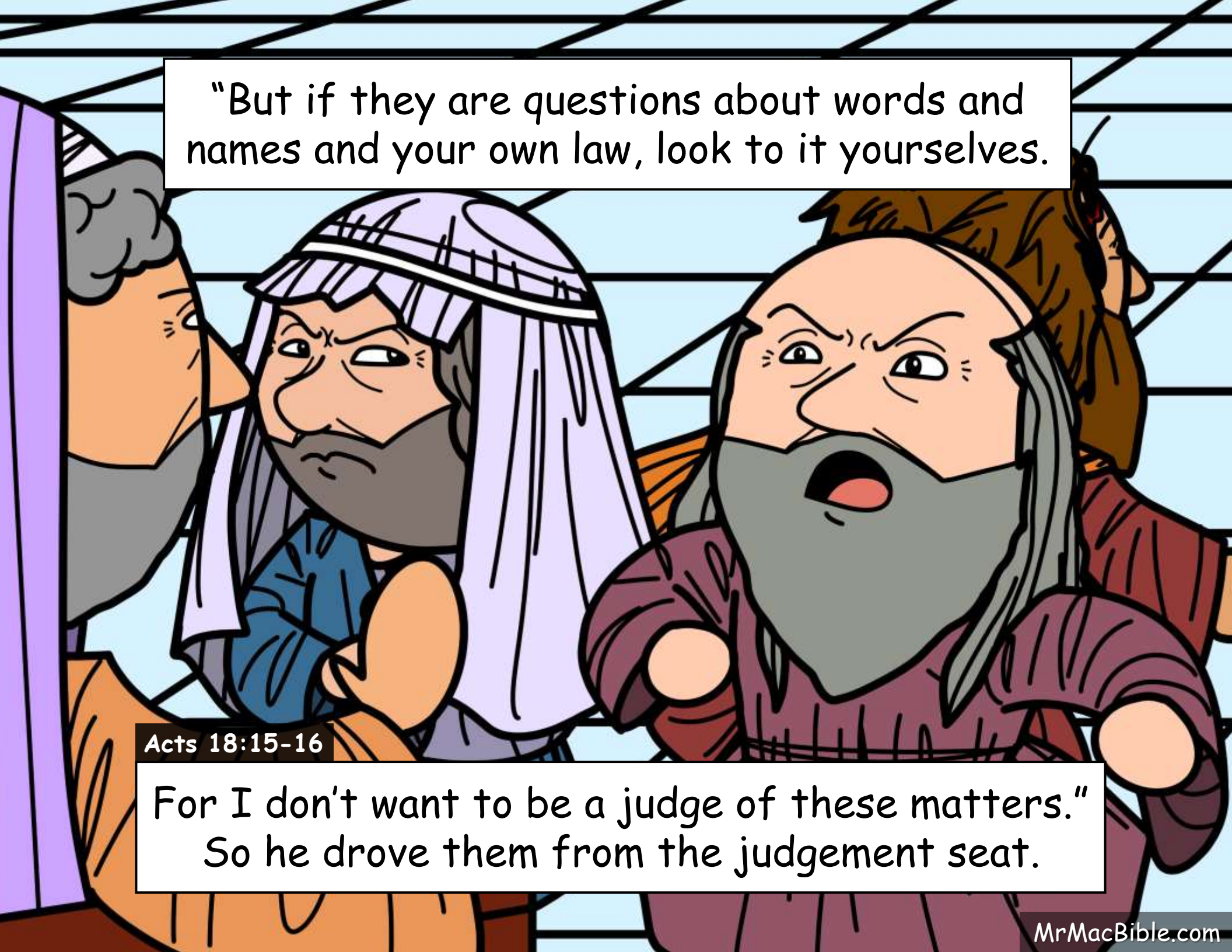
...saying, "This man persuades men to worship God contrary to the law."



But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews,

Acts 18:14

"If indeed it were a matter of wrong or of wicked crime, you Jews, it would be reasonable that I should bear with you;"



"But if they are questions about words and names and your own law, look to it yourselves.

Acts 18:15-16

For I don't want to be a judge of these matters."
So he drove them from the judgement seat.



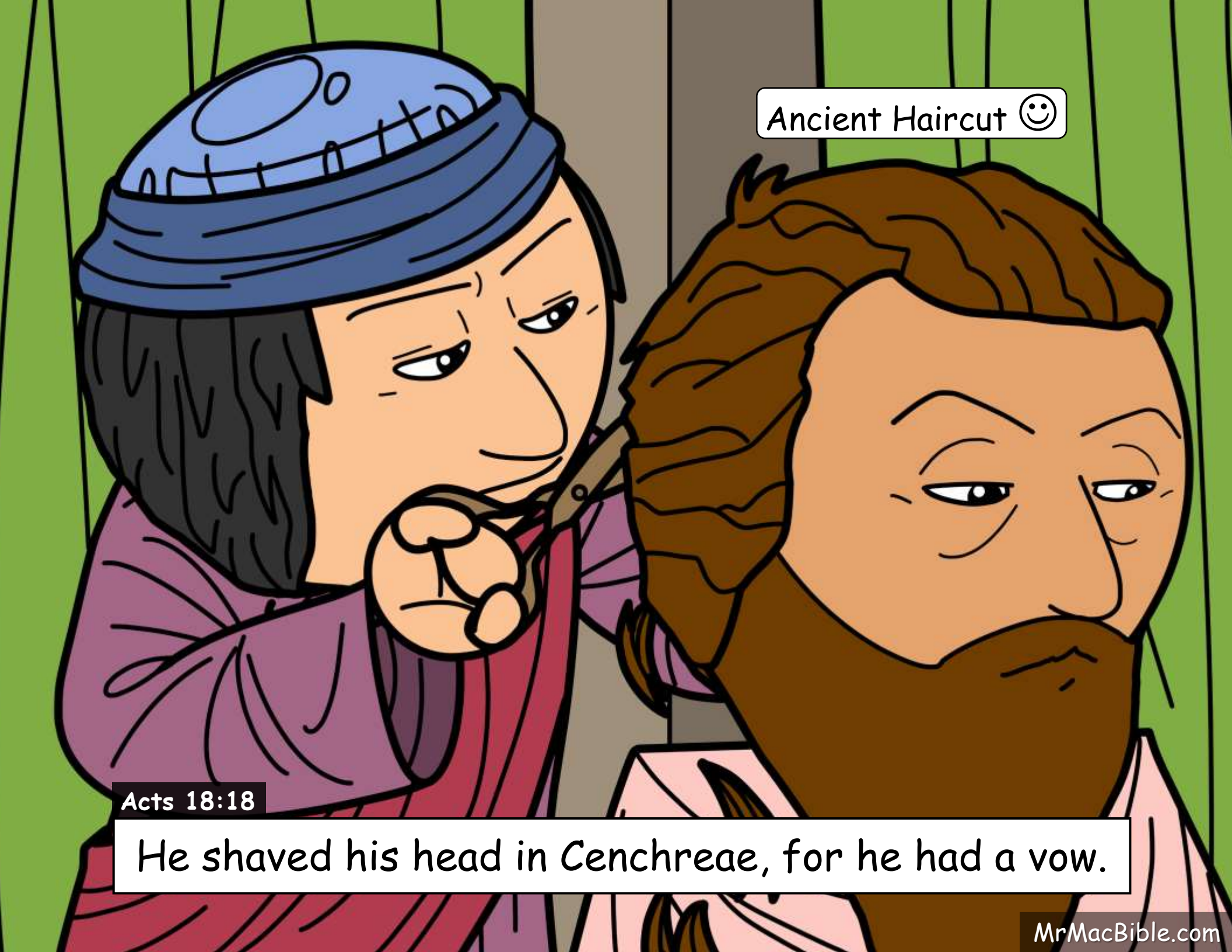
Acts 18:17

Then all the Greeks seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgement seat. Gallio didn't care about any of these things.



Acts 18:18

Paul, having stayed after this many more days, took his leave of the brothers, and sailed from there for Syria, together with Priscilla and Aquila.



Ancient Haircut 😊

Acts 18:18

He shaved his head in Cenchreae, for he had a vow.



Paul's New Haircut!

Acts 18:19

He came to Ephesus, and he left them there; but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.



Acts 18:20

When they asked him to stay with them a longer time, he declined;



Acts 18:21

...but taking his leave of them, he said, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem, but I will return again to you if God wills." Then he set sail from Ephesus.



Acts 18:22

When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the assembly, and went down to Antioch.



Acts 18:23

Having spent some time there, he departed, and went through the region of Galatia, and Phrygia, in order, establishing all the disciples.



Apollos

Acts 18:24

Now a certain Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by race, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus. He was mighty in the Scriptures.

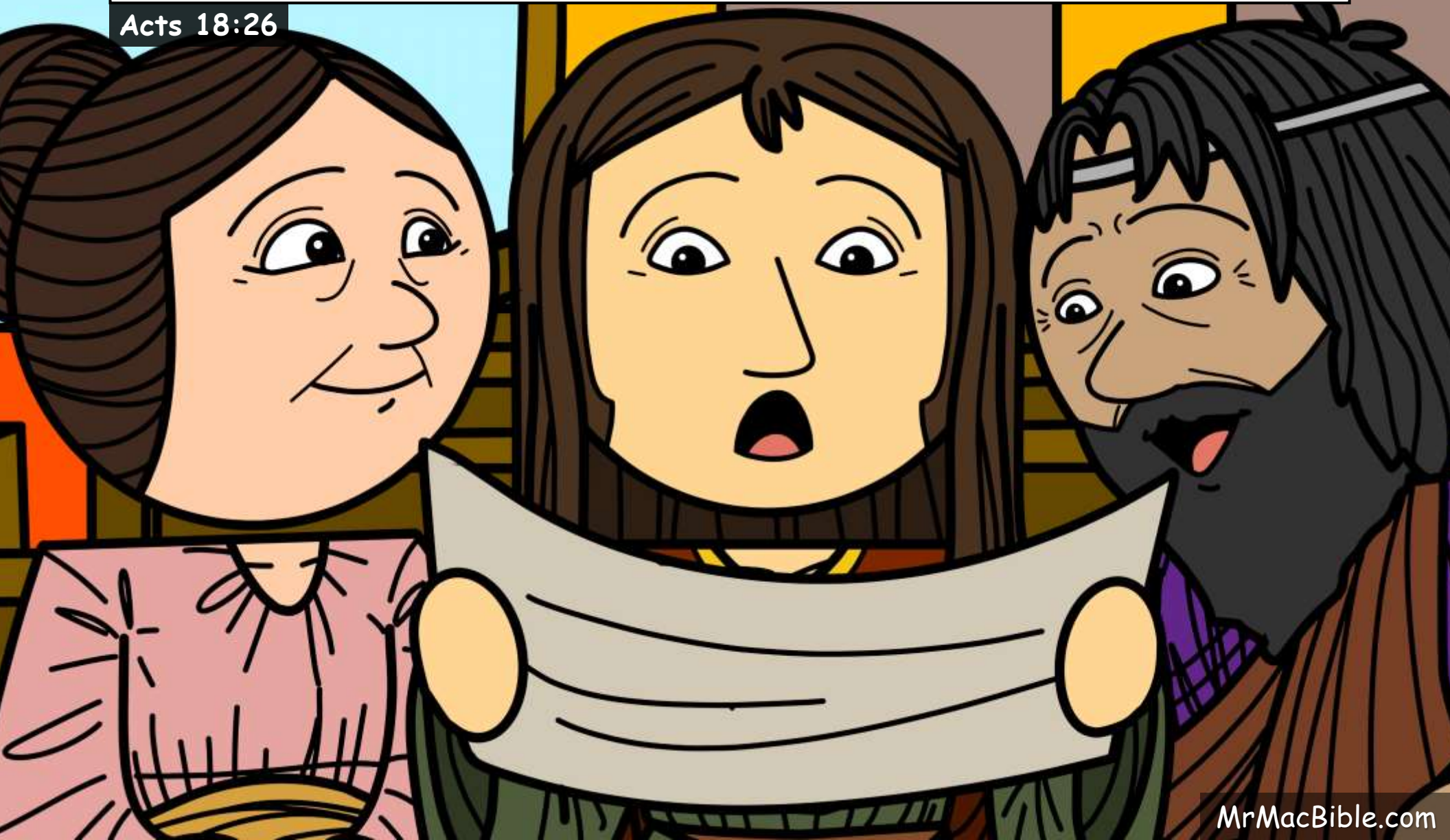


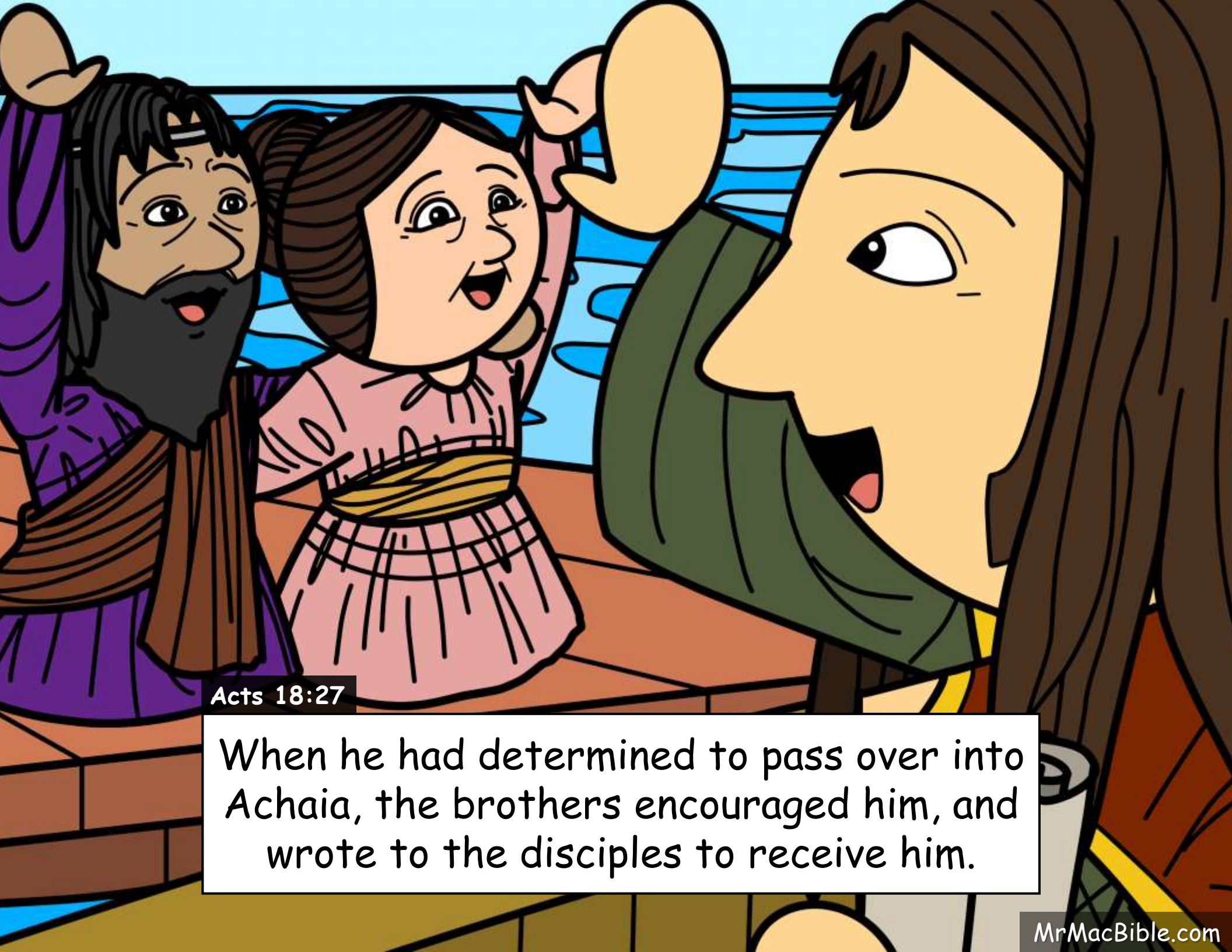
Acts 18:25

This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, although he knew only the baptism of John.

He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside, and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

Acts 18:26





Acts 18:27

When he had determined to pass over into Achaia, the brothers encouraged him, and wrote to the disciples to receive him.



Acts 18:28

When he had come, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; for he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

THINK ABOUT IT...

When you feel alone and afraid, what do wish the Lord would say to you in a vision?



Fighting Evil Spirits!

Acts 19:1-20

Background:


Paul and Timothy are traveling through the cities of Asia minor (modern-day Turkey) until they arrive in Ephesus - a very "Magical City".



← Street Wizard

Acts 19:1

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul, having passed through the upper country, came to Ephesus and found certain disciples.



Timothy: "Is that street wizard watching us?"


Acts 19:2

He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They said to him, "No, we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

He said, "Into what then were you baptised?"
They said, "Into John's baptism."

Acts 19:3





Paul said, "John indeed baptised with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus."

Acts 19:4



The street wizard
is watching!

Acts 19:5
When they heard this, they were
baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus.



Acts 19:6-7

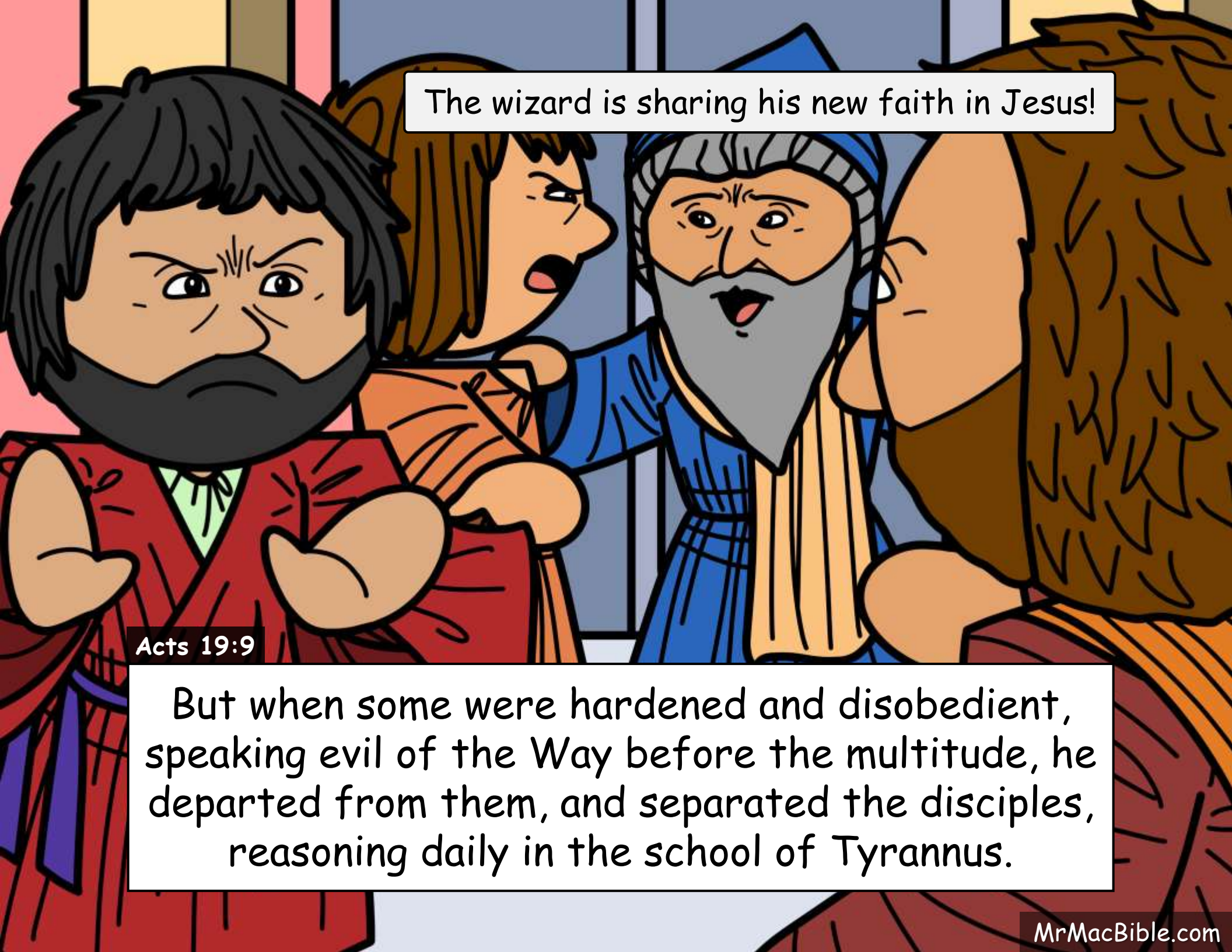
When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke with other languages and prophesied. They were about twelve men in all.



The street wizard is interested
in the good news of Jesus!

Acts 19:8


He entered into the synagogue and spoke boldly for a period of three months, reasoning and persuading about the things concerning God's Kingdom.



The wizard is sharing his new faith in Jesus!

Acts 19:9


But when some were hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.

A cartoon illustration depicting a scene from the Bible. In the foreground, a man with a grey beard and a blue head covering is speaking with an open mouth, looking towards the right. He is wearing a blue tunic with a yellow sash. Behind him, a young boy with brown hair looks on with a concerned expression. To the right, a man with a brown beard and a red tunic is gesturing with his hand, looking towards the speaker. The background shows a city with yellow buildings and a blue sky. A speech bubble is positioned above the man with the grey beard.

The wizard is telling his friends about Jesus!

Acts 19:10

This continued for two years, so that all those who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

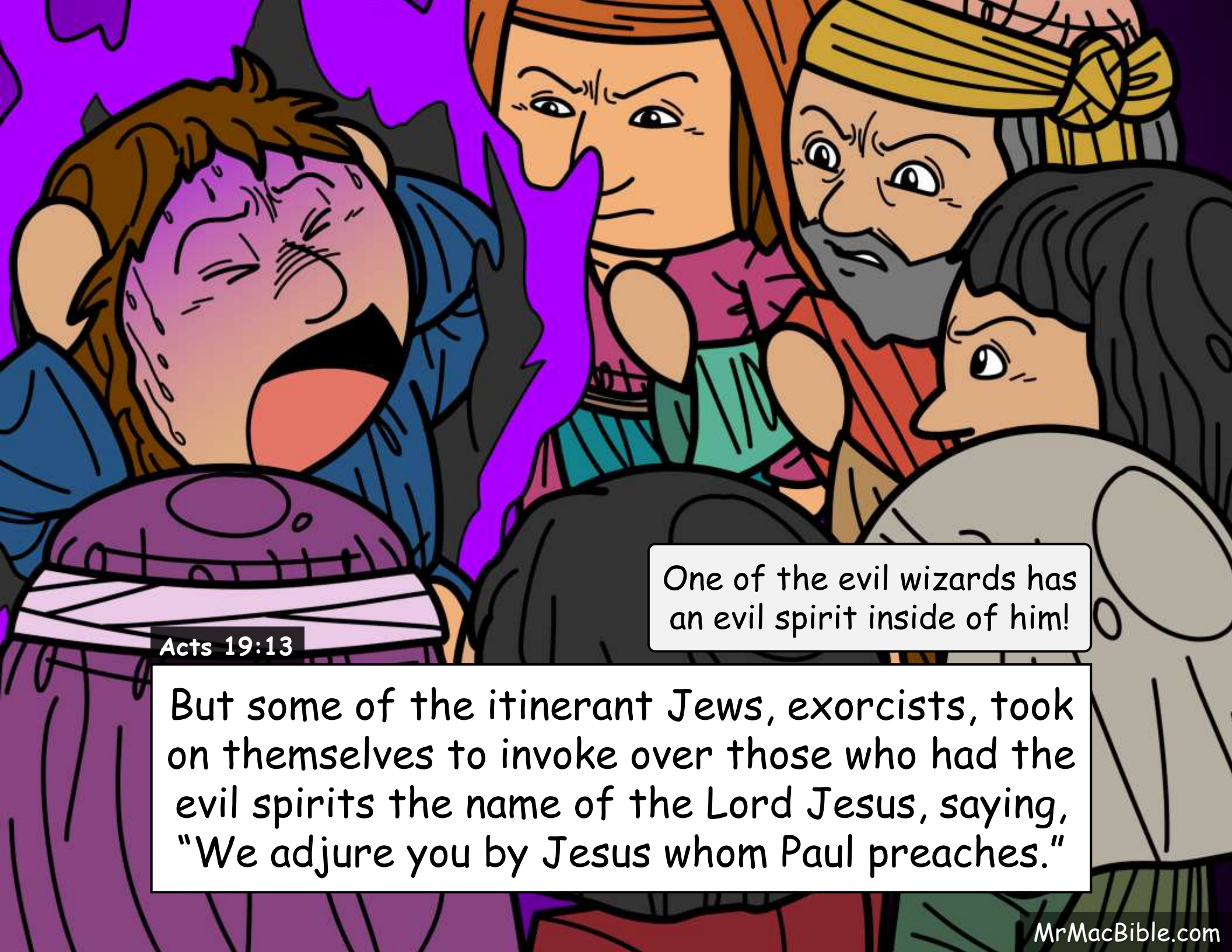


God worked special miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were carried...

The wizard asks for help to leave his life of evil magic

Acts 19:11-12


...away from his body to the sick, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out.



Acts 19:13

One of the evil wizards has an evil spirit inside of him!

But some of the itinerant Jews, exorcists, took on themselves to invoke over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches."



There were seven sons of one Sceva,
a Jewish chief priest, who did this.

Acts 19:14

The evil spirit is
controlling this wizard...



Acts 19:15

The evil spirit answered, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?"



HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!

Acts 19:16


The evil spirit gives the evil wizard super-strength!

The man in whom the evil spirit was leapt on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them,



Acts 19:16


...so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.



Timothy & the new believing wizard hear about the wizard with the evil spirit.

Acts 19:17


This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived at Ephesus.



Many other wizards become
afraid of the evil spirits!

Acts 19:17

Fear fell on them all, and the name
of the Lord Jesus was magnified.



Many also of those who had believed came, confessing, and declaring their deeds.

Acts 19:18

The wizard's now want the real Jesus!

Many of those who practised magical arts brought their books together and burnt them in the sight of all.

Acts 19:19





No more being a wizard!

Acts 19:20

They counted their price, and found it to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord was growing and becoming mighty.

THINK ABOUT IT...

Why do you think the evil spirits inside the evil wizard were not afraid of the seven sons of Sceva?



Riots in Ephesus! Acts 19:21-41

Background:

After 3 years in Ephesus, Paul prepares to return to Jerusalem. Until Demetrius starts a city-wide riot with the silver metal workers... and they want Paul dead!



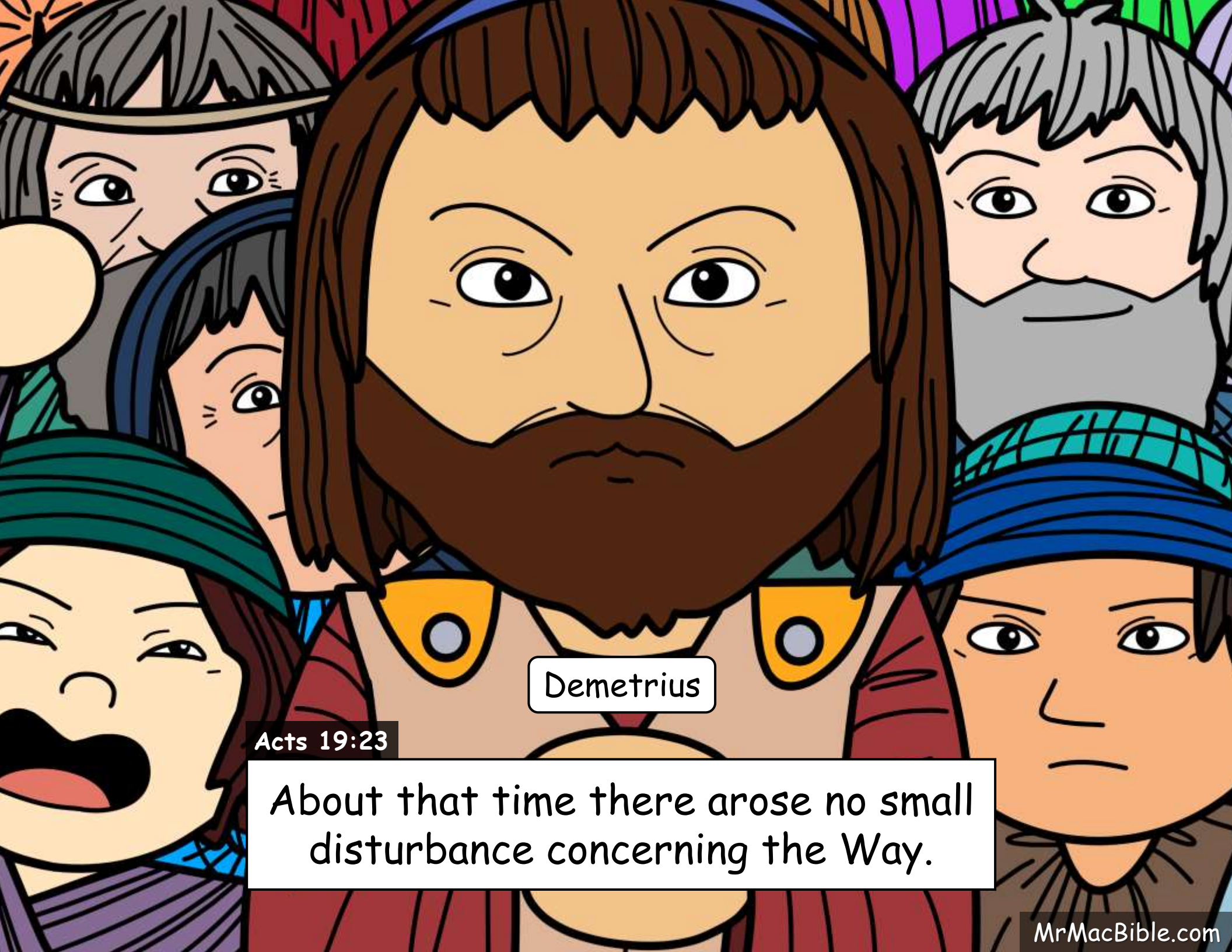
Acts 19:21

Now after these things had ended, Paul determined in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."



Acts 19:22

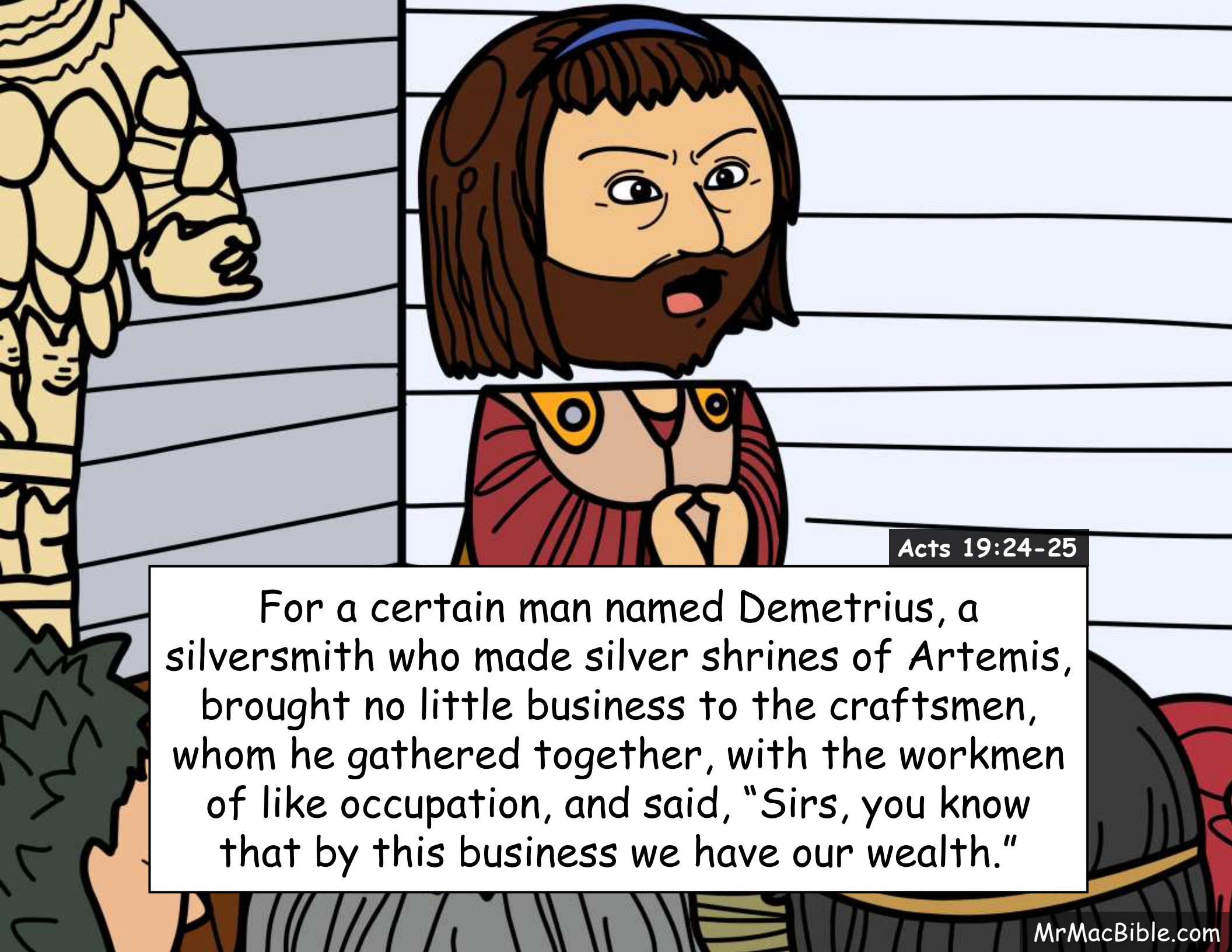
Having sent into Macedonia two of those who served him, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.



Demetrius

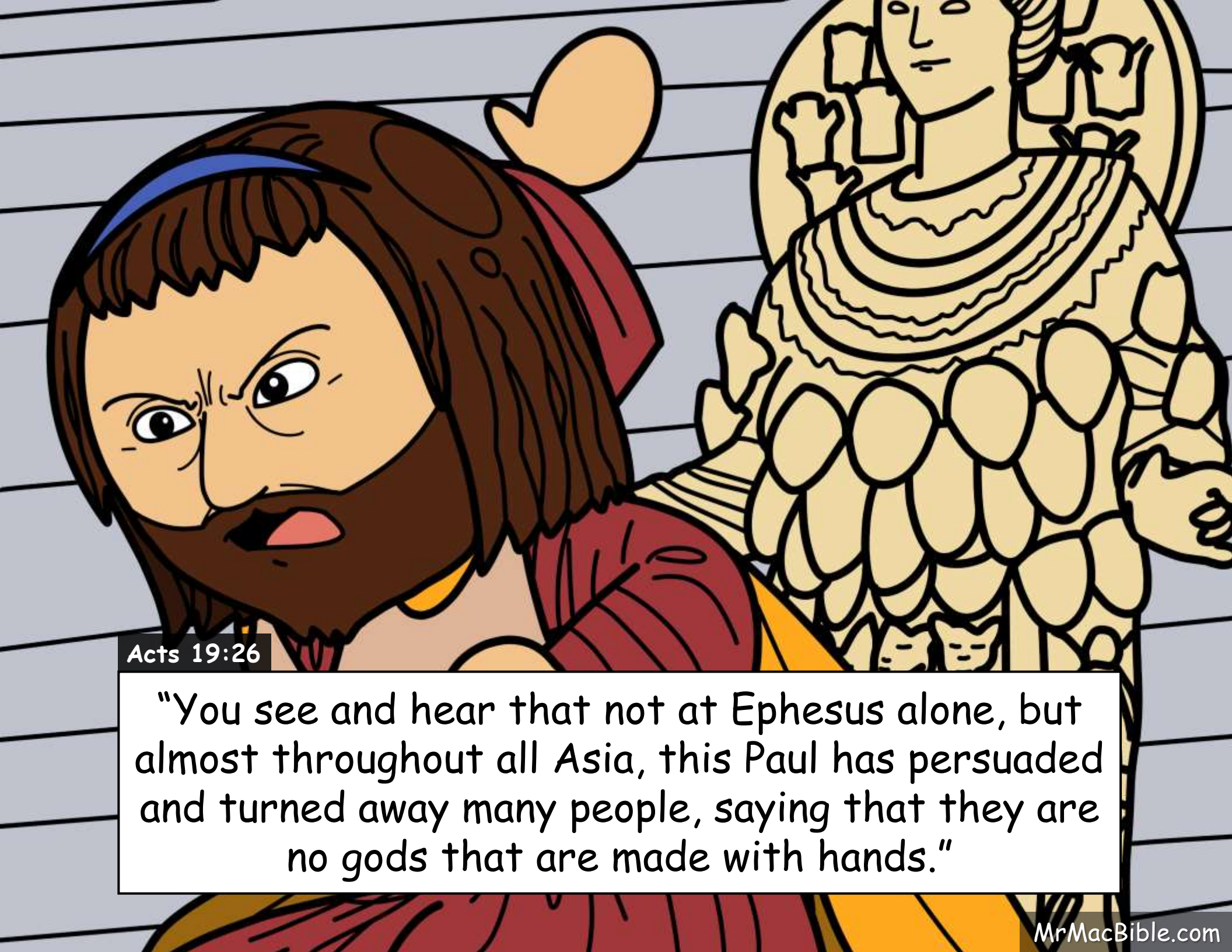
Acts 19:23

About that time there arose no small disturbance concerning the Way.



Acts 19:24-25

For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen, whom he gathered together, with the workmen of like occupation, and said, "Sirs, you know that by this business we have our wealth."



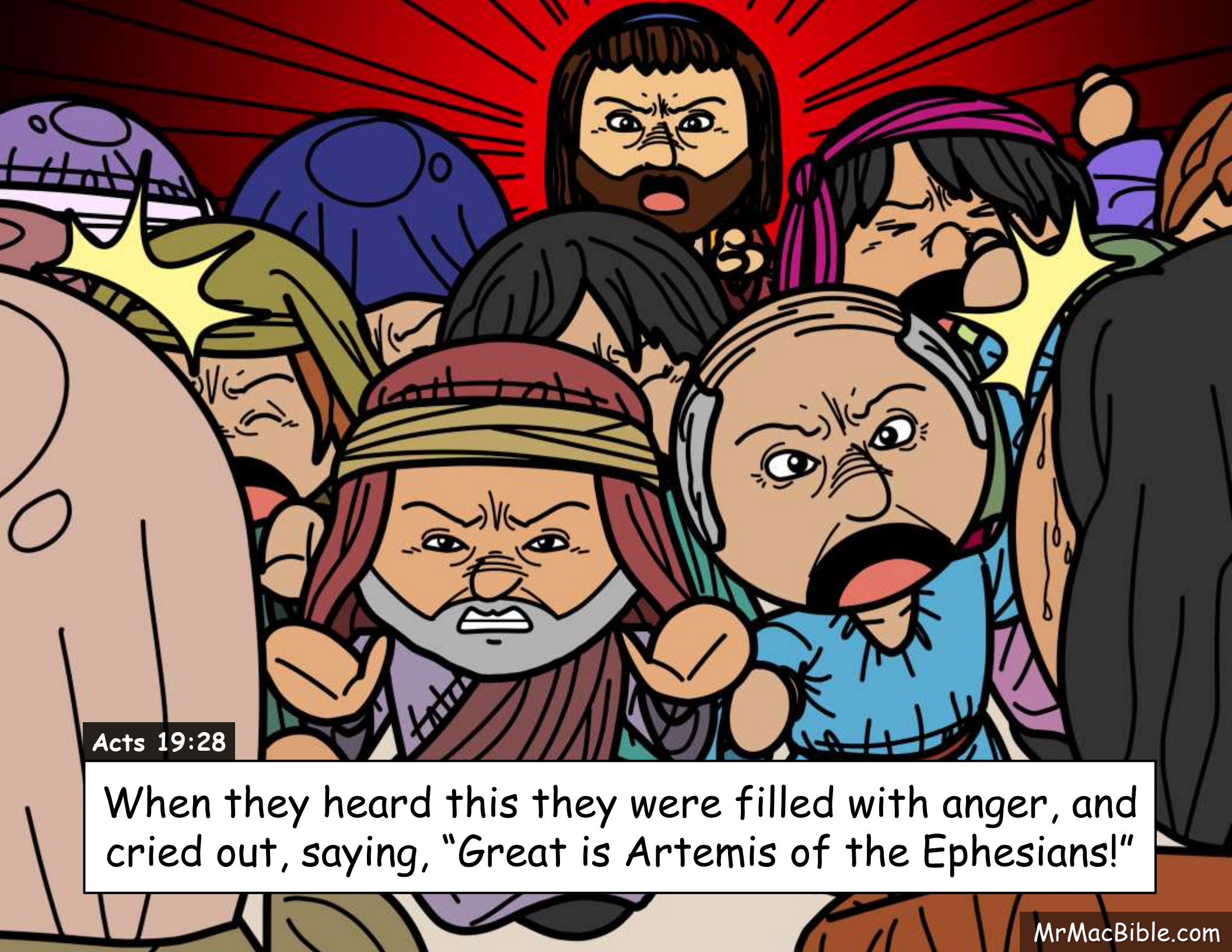
Acts 19:26

"You see and hear that not at Ephesus alone, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are no gods that are made with hands."



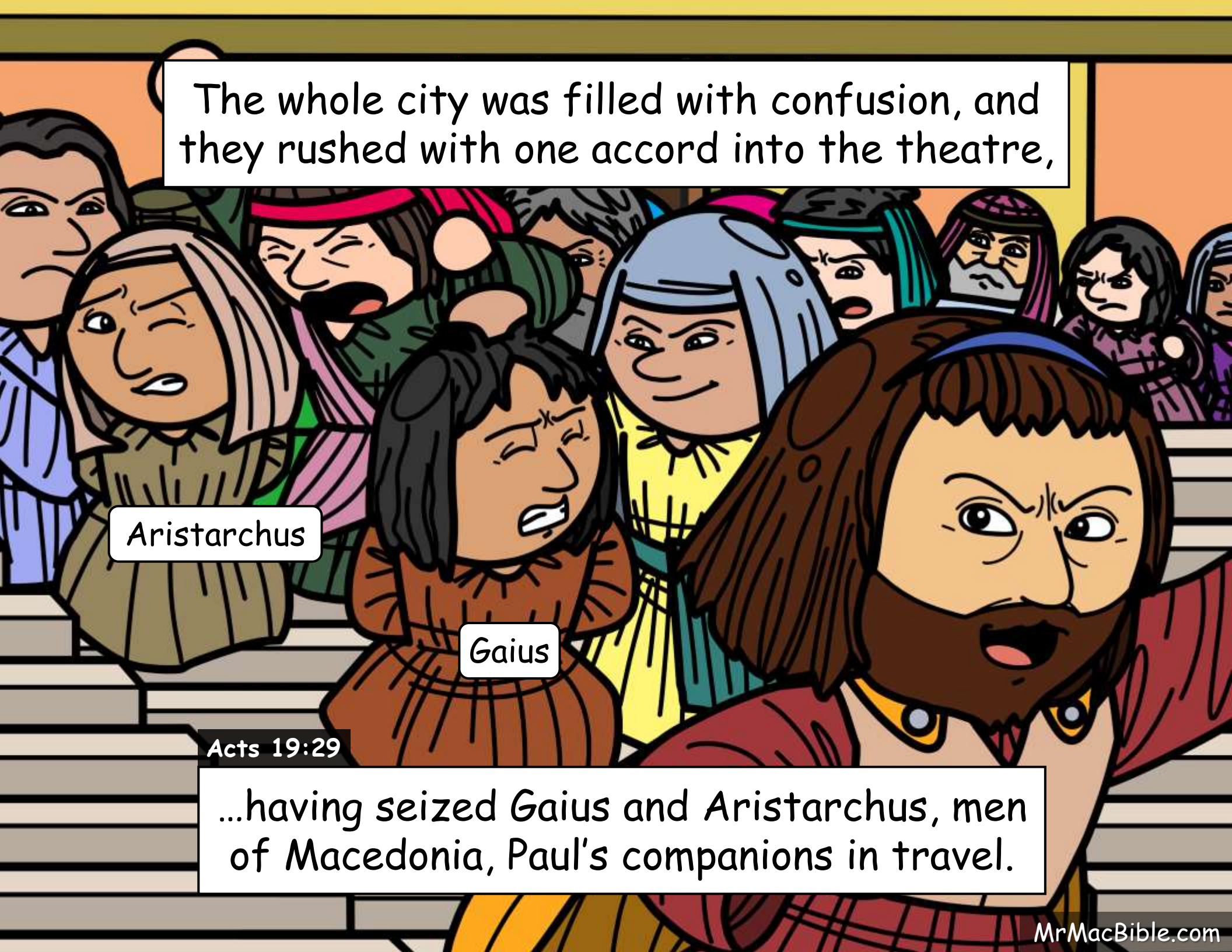
Acts 19:27

"Not only is there danger that this our trade come into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be counted as nothing and her majesty destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worships."



Acts 19:28

When they heard this they were filled with anger, and cried out, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"



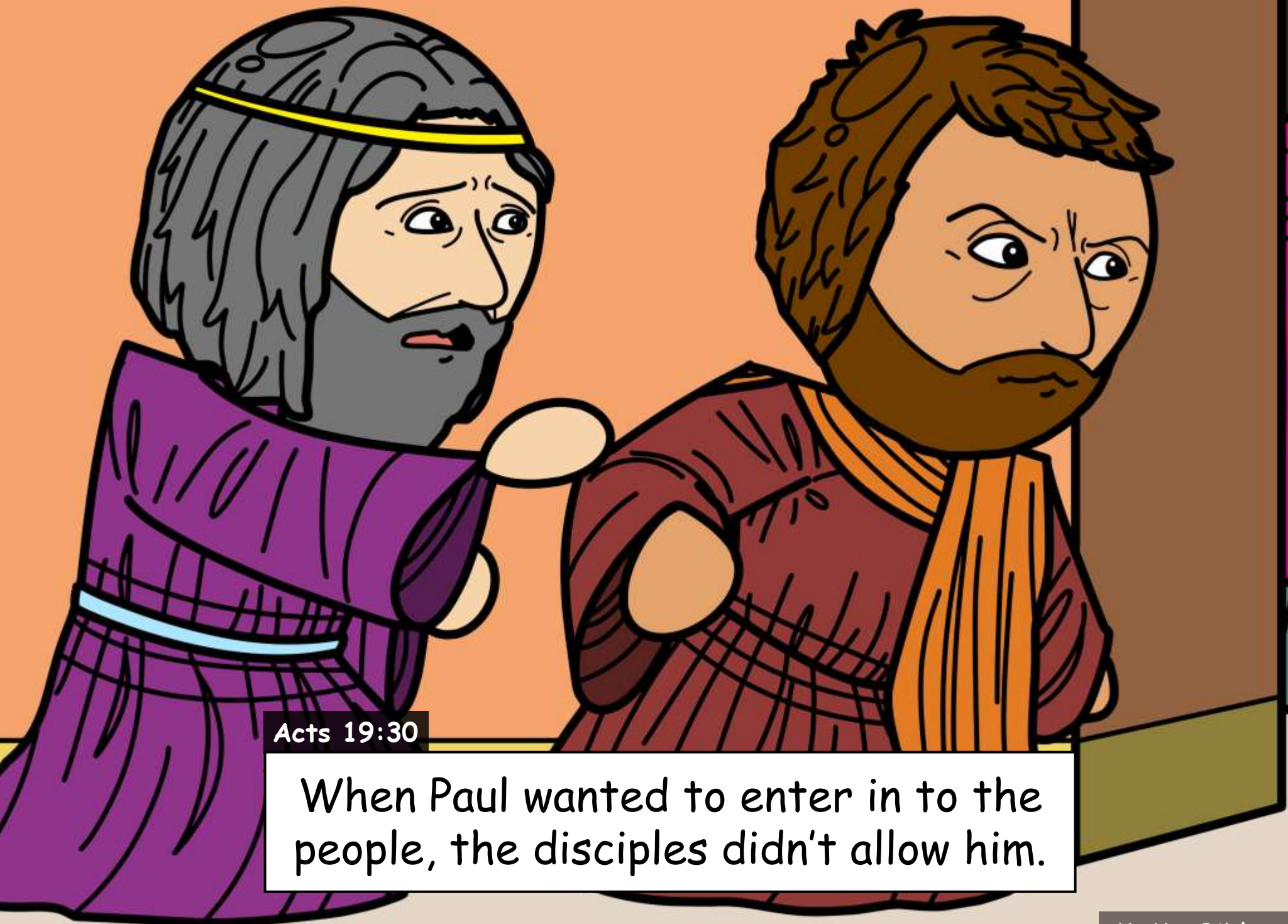
The whole city was filled with confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theatre,

Aristarchus

Gaius

Acts 19:29

...having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel.



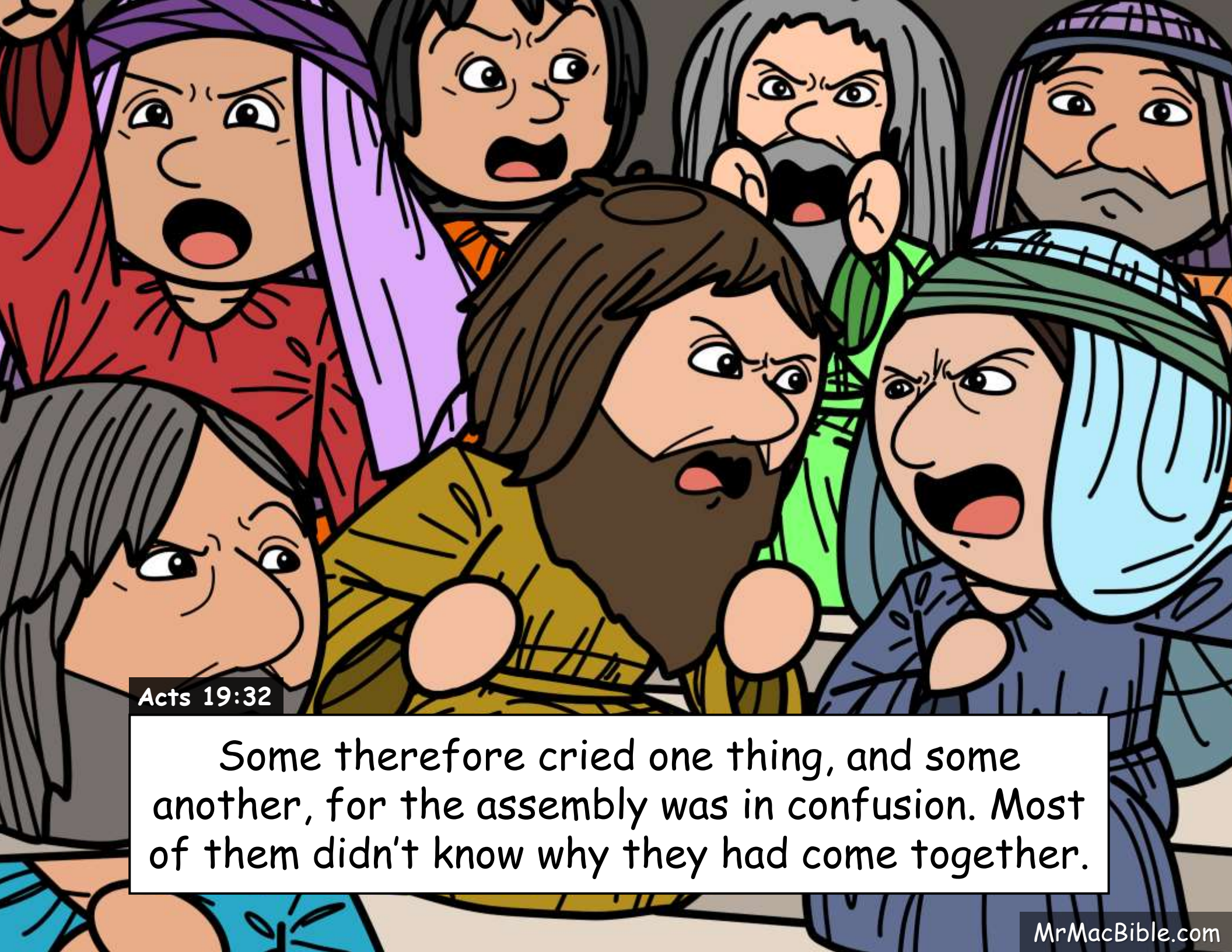
Acts 19:30

When Paul wanted to enter in to the people, the disciples didn't allow him.



Acts 19:31

Certain also of the Asiarchs, being his friends, sent to him and begged him not to venture into the theatre.



Acts 19:32

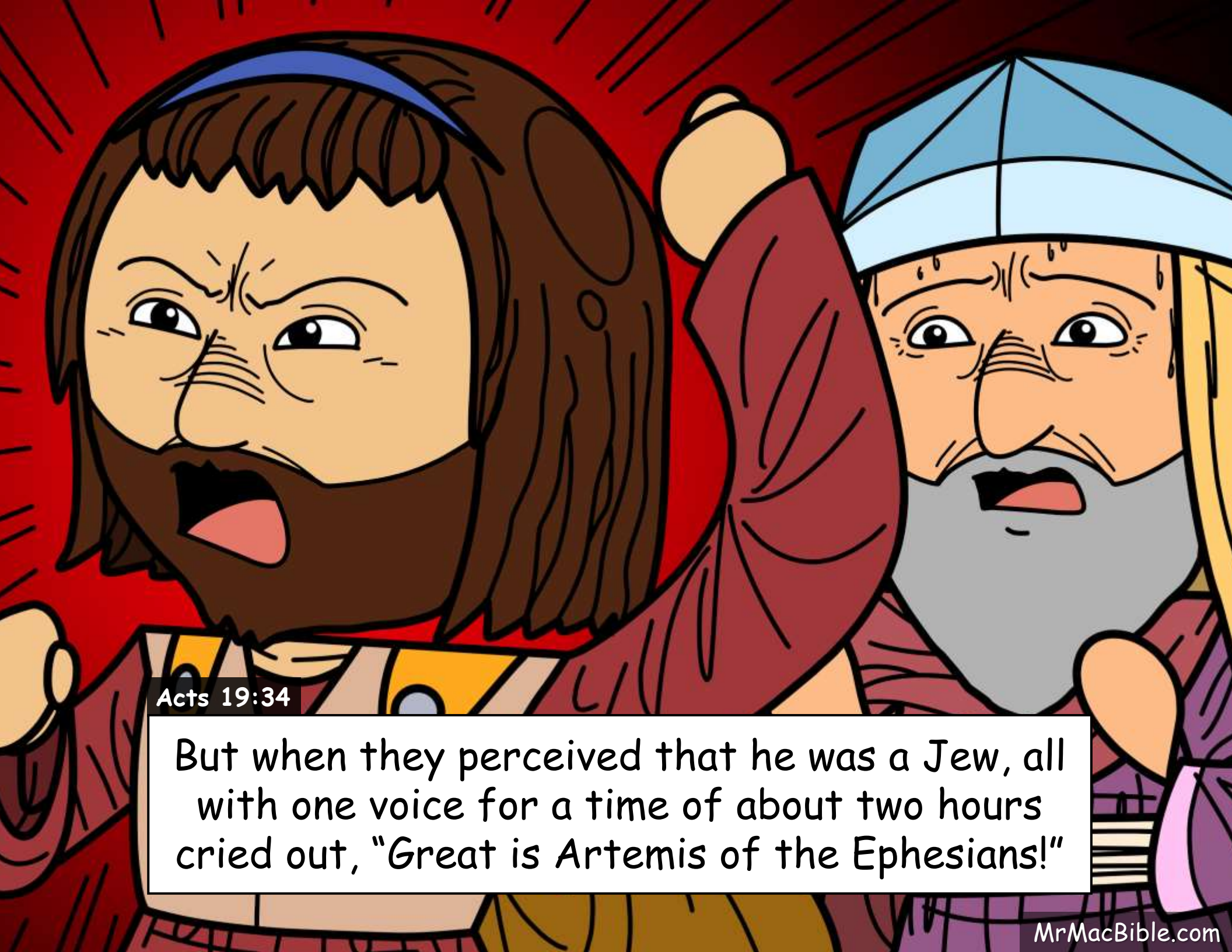
Some therefore cried one thing, and some another, for the assembly was in confusion. Most of them didn't know why they had come together.



They brought Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward.

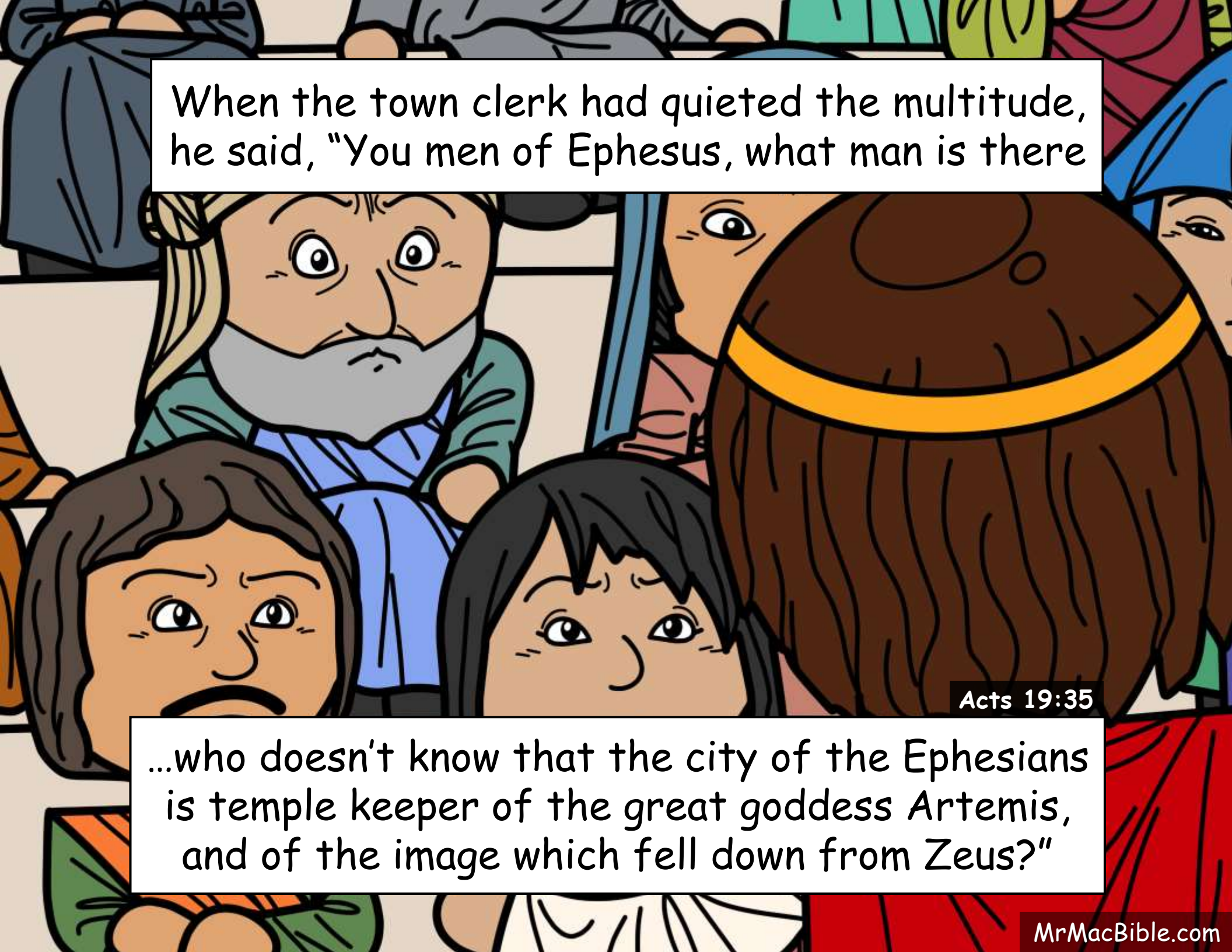
Acts 19:33

Alexander beckoned with his hand, and would have made a defence to the people...



Acts 19:34

But when they perceived that he was a Jew, all with one voice for a time of about two hours cried out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"



When the town clerk had quieted the multitude, he said, "You men of Ephesus, what man is there

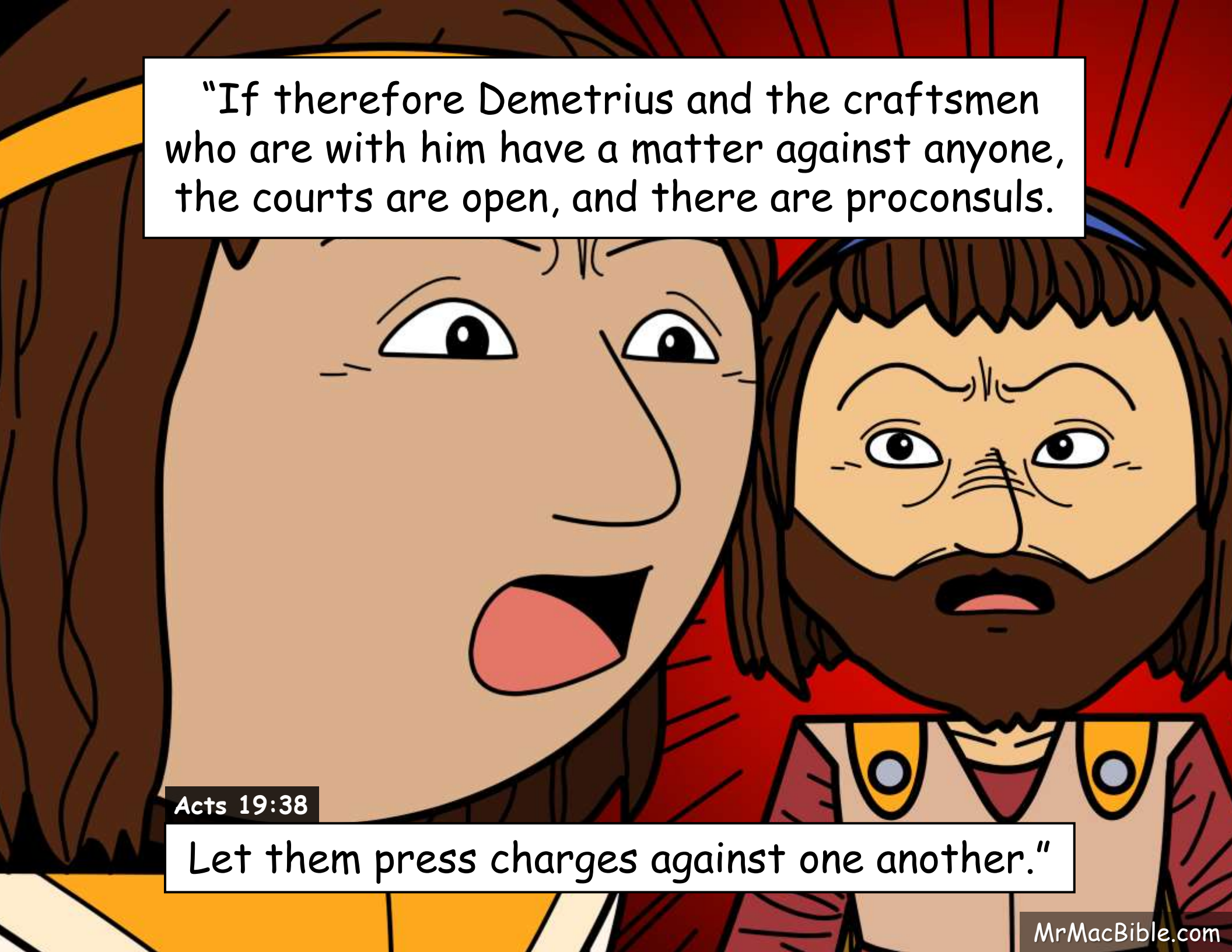
Acts 19:35

...who doesn't know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great goddess Artemis, and of the image which fell down from Zeus?"



Acts 19:36-37

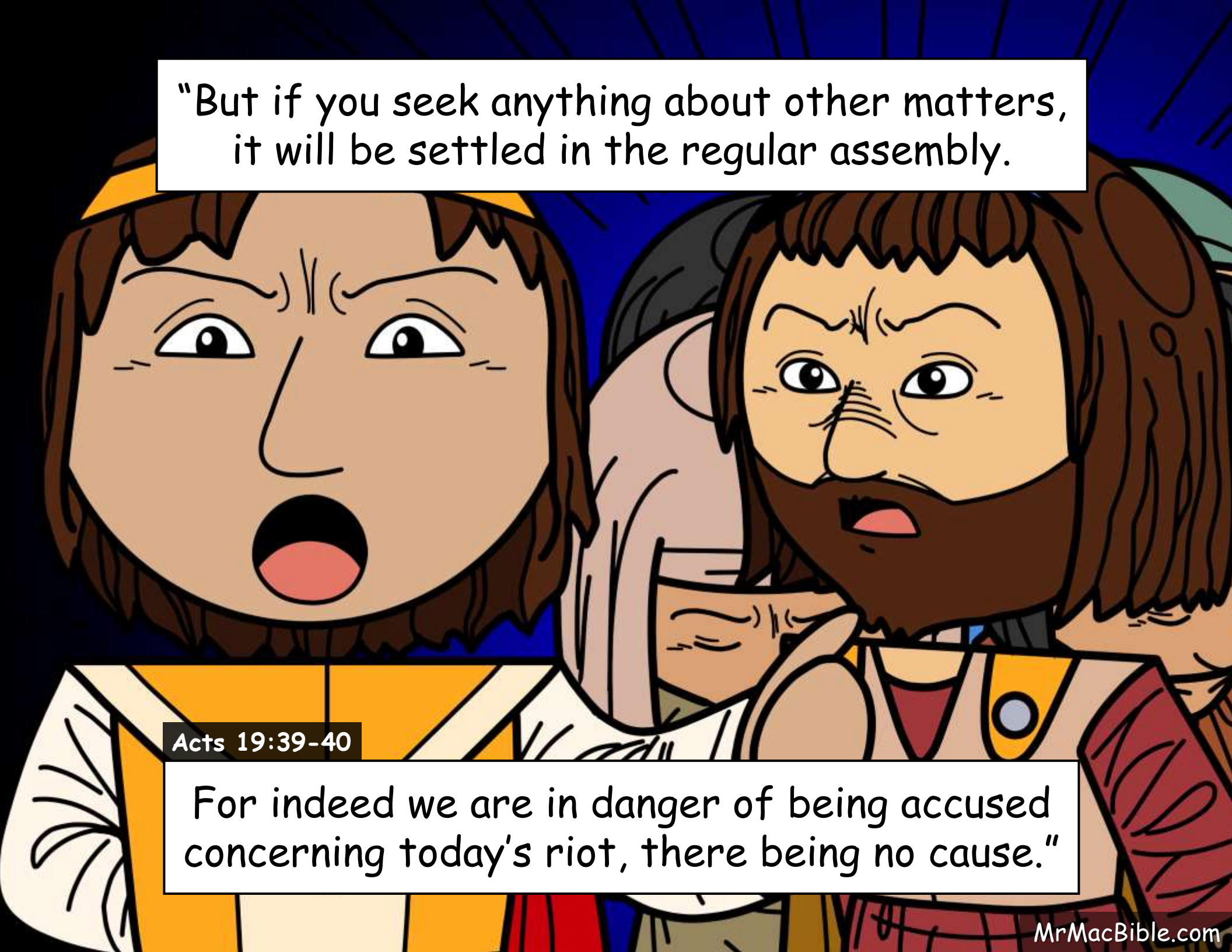
"Seeing then that these things can't be denied, you ought to be quiet and to do nothing rash. For you have brought these men here, who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of your goddess."

A cartoon illustration featuring two men. The man on the left has long brown hair and a wide-eyed, open-mouthed expression of surprise or shock. The man on the right has a beard and a stern, somewhat angry expression. They are both wearing simple, earth-toned clothing. The background is a solid red color with radiating lines, suggesting a dramatic or intense scene.

"If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a matter against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls.

Acts 19:38

Let them press charges against one another."



"But if you seek anything about other matters, it will be settled in the regular assembly.

Acts 19:39-40

For indeed we are in danger of being accused concerning today's riot, there being no cause."



"Concerning it, we wouldn't be able to give an account of this commotion." When he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly.

Acts 19:41

Aristarchus and Gaius are free!

THINK ABOUT IT...

**What motivated Demetrius,
the silversmith to promote
the religion of Artemis?...and
why was he so angry?**




Sleeping in Church?

Acts 20:1-15

Background:

Paul is traveling through the cities of Greece to teach the believers... but then tragedy strikes a young boy who falls asleep in church.



After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, took leave of them, and departed to go into Macedonia.

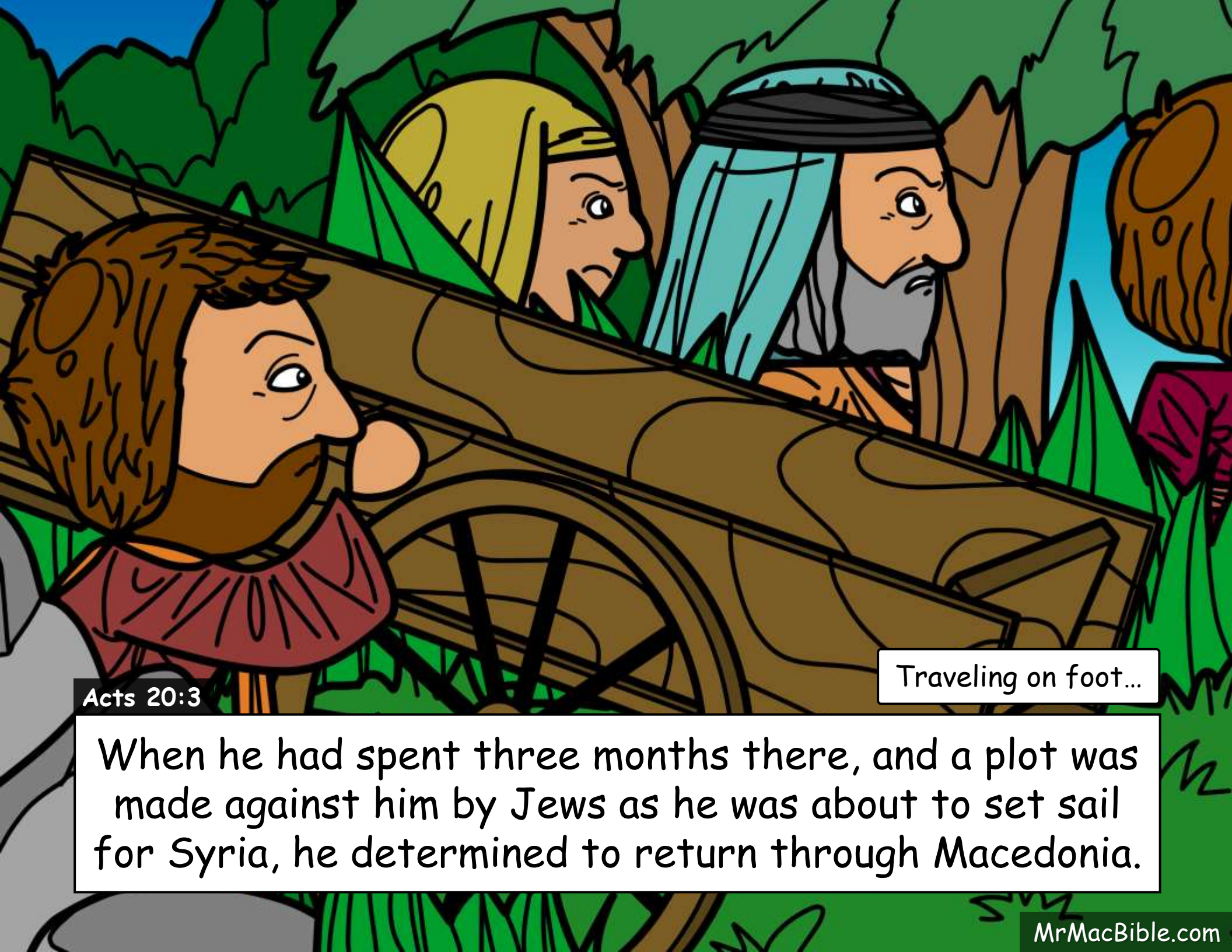
Acts 20:1

Gaius is feeling better!

When he had gone through those parts, and had encouraged them with many words, he came into Greece.

Acts 20:2





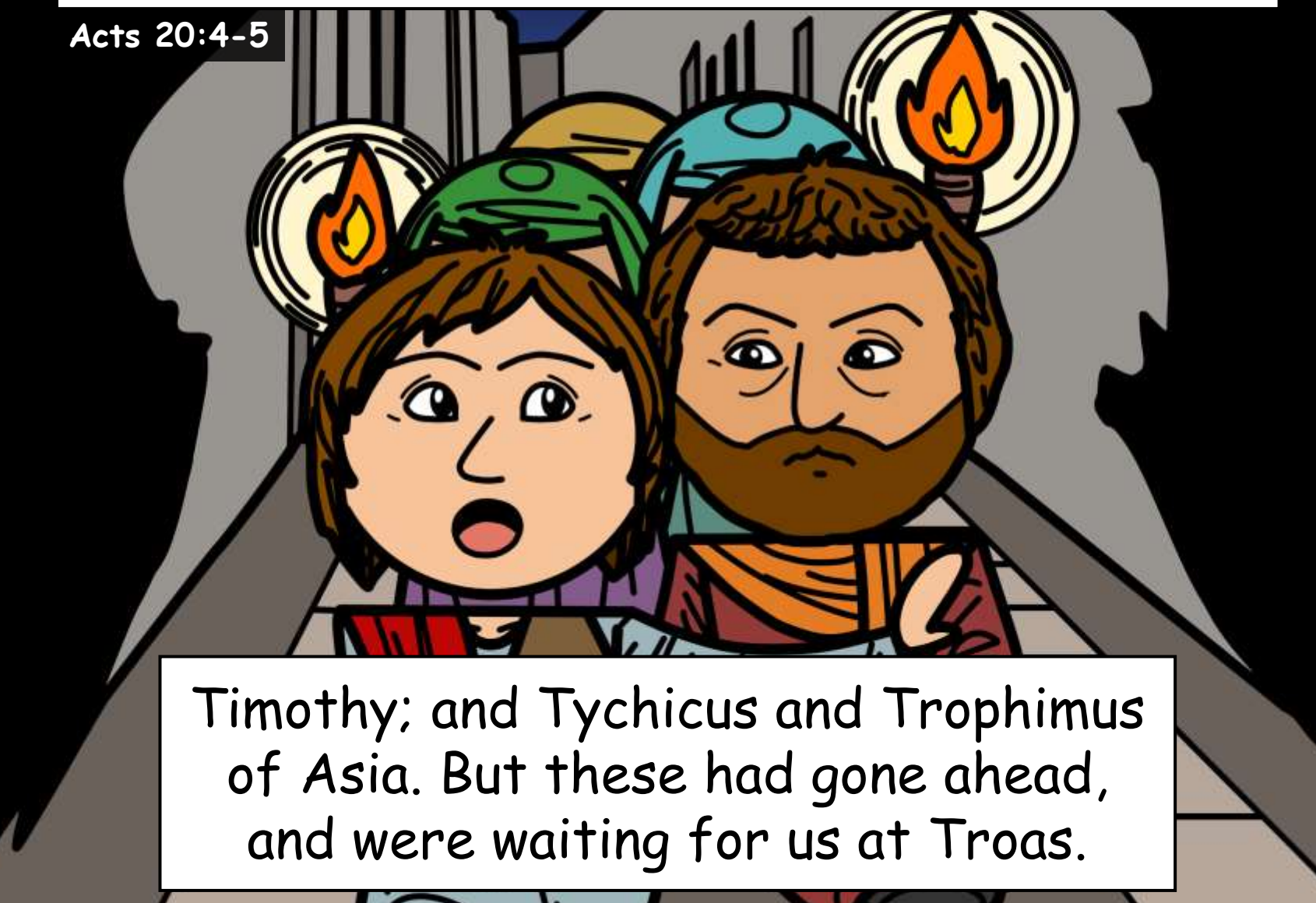
Acts 20:3

Traveling on foot...

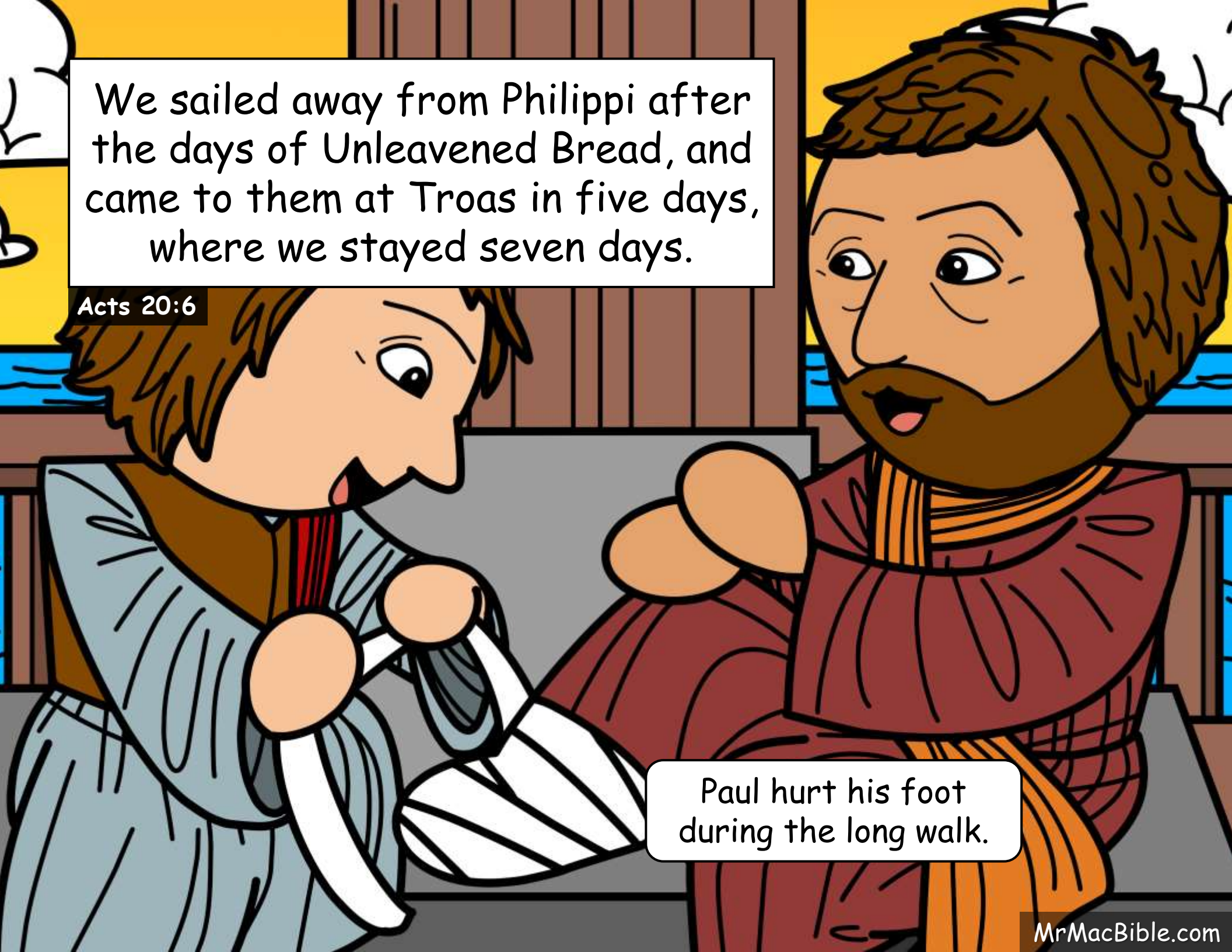
When he had spent three months there, and a plot was made against him by Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he determined to return through Macedonia.

These accompanied him as far as Asia:
Sopater of Beroea; Aristarchus and Secundus
of the Thessalonians; Gaius of Derbe;

Acts 20:4-5



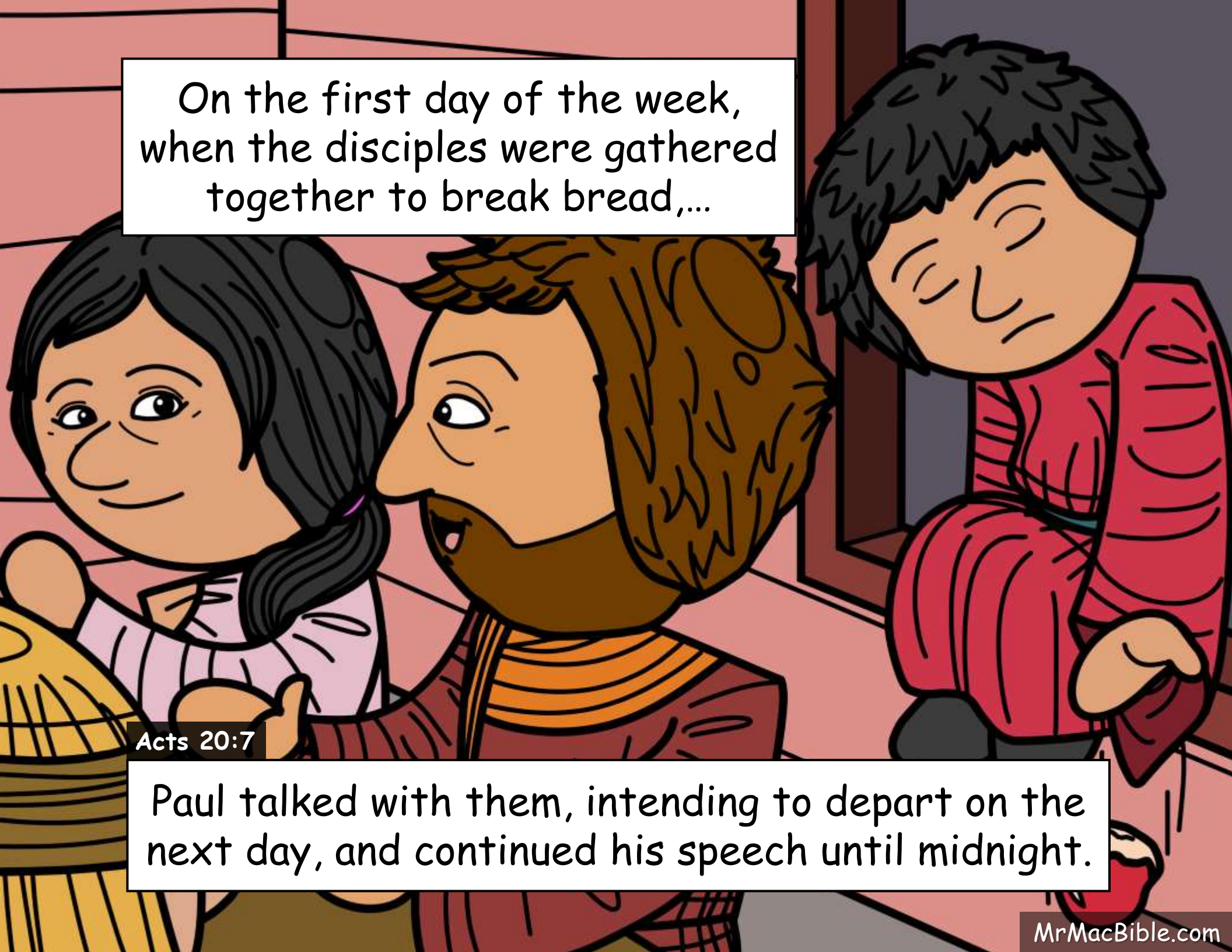
Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus
of Asia. But these had gone ahead,
and were waiting for us at Troas.



We sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and came to them at Troas in five days, where we stayed seven days.

Acts 20:6

Paul hurt his foot during the long walk.



On the first day of the week,
when the disciples were gathered
together to break bread,...

Acts 20:7


Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the
next day, and continued his speech until midnight.



There were many lights in the upper room where we were gathered together.

Acts 20:8

A certain young man named Eutychus sat in the window, weighed down with deep sleep.




As Paul spoke still longer,
being weighed down by his
sleep, he fell down from
the third floor and was
taken up dead.

Acts 20:9

Paul went down and fell upon him, and embracing him said, "Don't be troubled, for his life is in him."

Acts 20:10






When he had gone up, and had broken bread and eaten, and had talked with them a long while, even until break of day, he departed.

Acts 20:11-12

They brought the boy in alive, and were greatly comforted.



But we, going ahead to the ship,
set sail for Assos, intending to
take Paul aboard there;

Acts 20:13-14

...for he had so arranged, intending himself
to go by land. When he met us at Assos, we
took him aboard, and came to Mitylene.



Acts 20:15

Washing up...

Sailing from there, we came the following day opposite Chios. The next day we touched at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium, and the day after we came to Miletus.

THINK ABOUT IT...

Eutychus fell asleep during Paul's sermon and fell to his death. Write a list of possible reasons that God saved the young man's life:



Goodbye Ephesus!

Acts 20:16-38

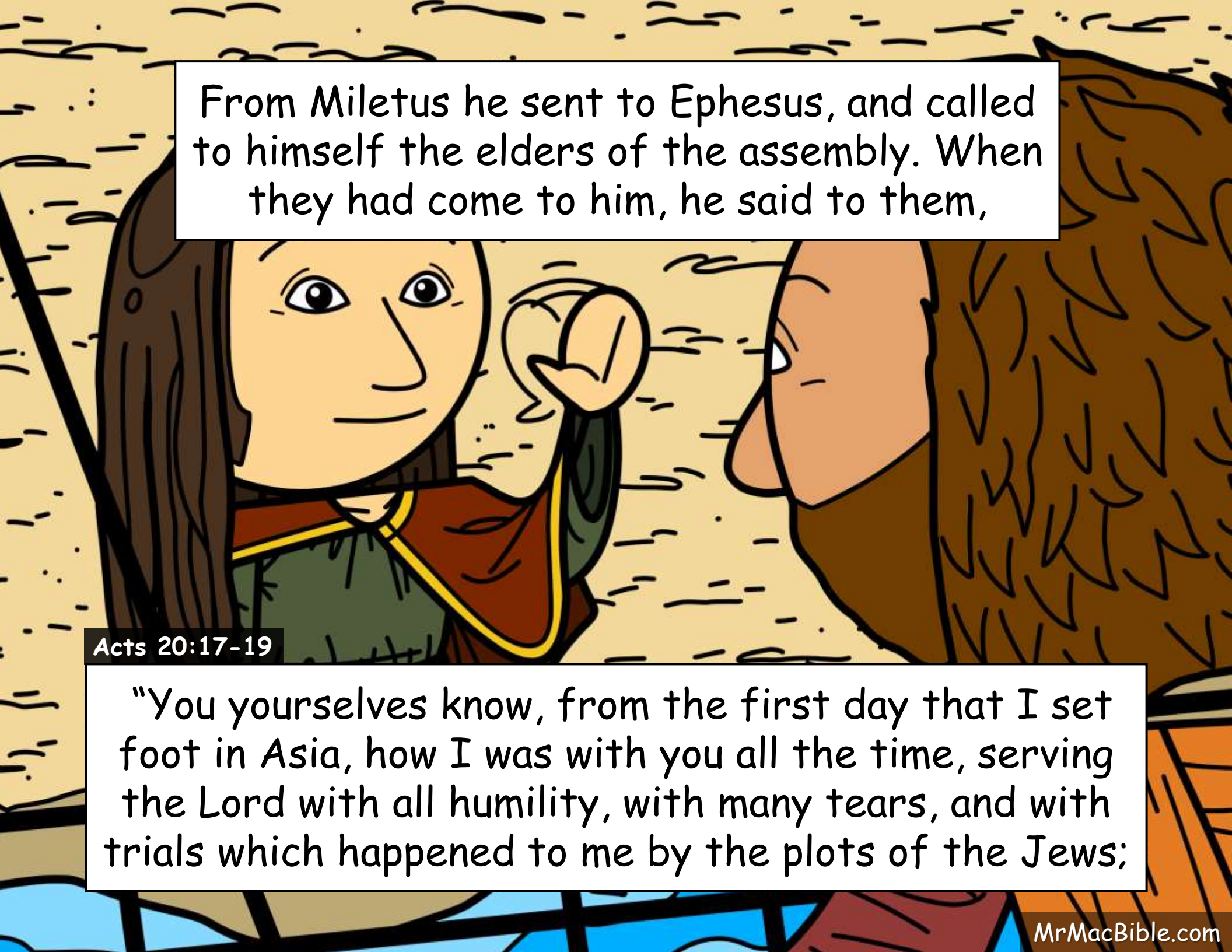
Background:

Paul gets off the ship at Ephesus to spend one more day with his closest friends. He has good news, he has very sad news, and he has very scary news to give them!

For Paul had determined to sail past Ephesus, that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening, if it were possible for him, to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

Acts 20:16





From Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called to himself the elders of the assembly. When they had come to him, he said to them,

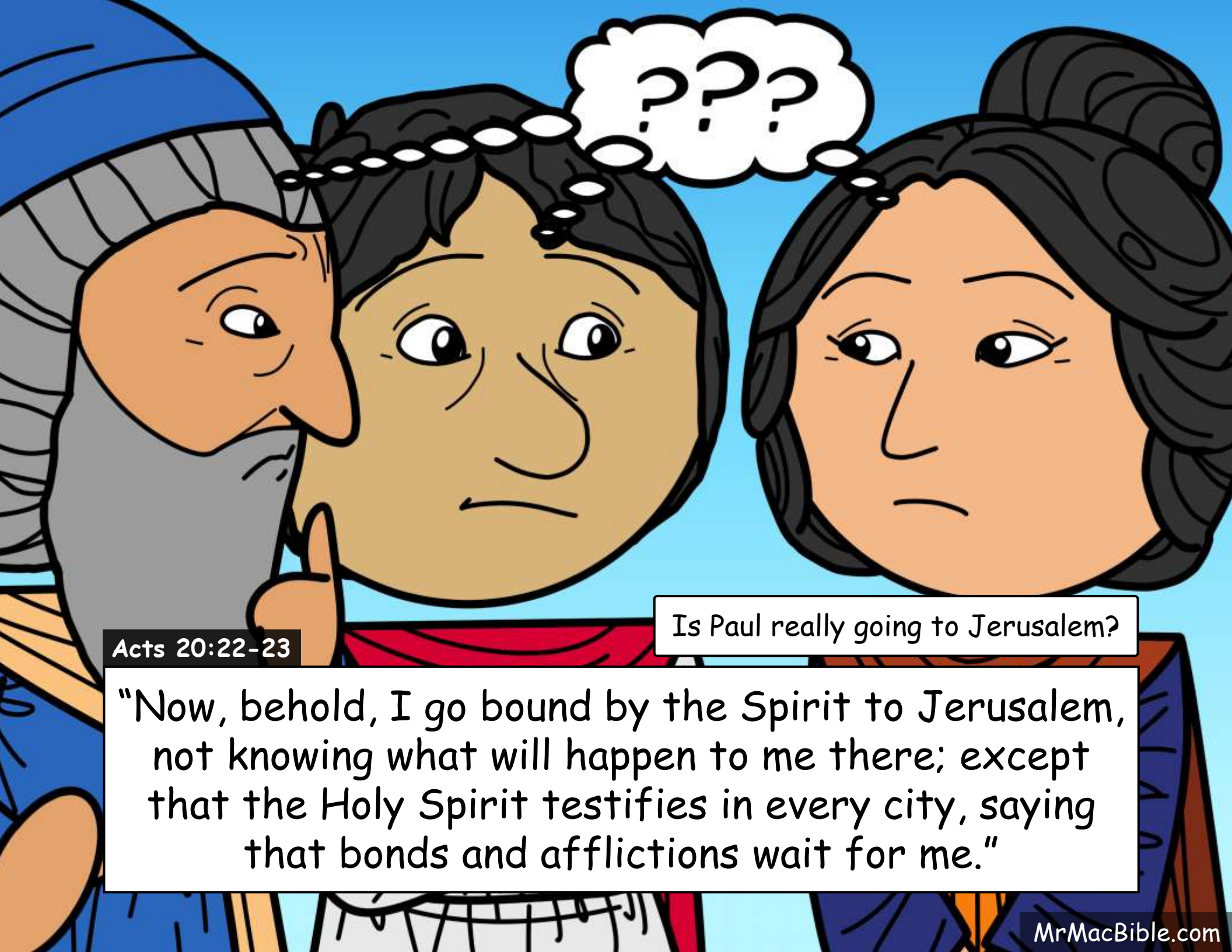
Acts 20:17-19

"You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you all the time, serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears, and with trials which happened to me by the plots of the Jews;



Acts 20:20-21

"How I didn't shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, teaching you publicly and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks repentance towards God, and faith towards our Lord Jesus."



Acts 20:22-23

Is Paul really going to Jerusalem?

"Now, behold, I go bound by the Spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there; except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions wait for me."



Acts 20:24

"But these things don't count; nor do I hold my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to fully testify to the Good News of the grace of God."



Acts 20:25

"Now, behold, I know that you all, amongst whom I went about preaching God's Kingdom, will see my face no more."

"Therefore I testify to you today that I am clean from the blood of all men, for I didn't shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God."

Acts 20:26-27

Wolves approaching!



Acts 20:28

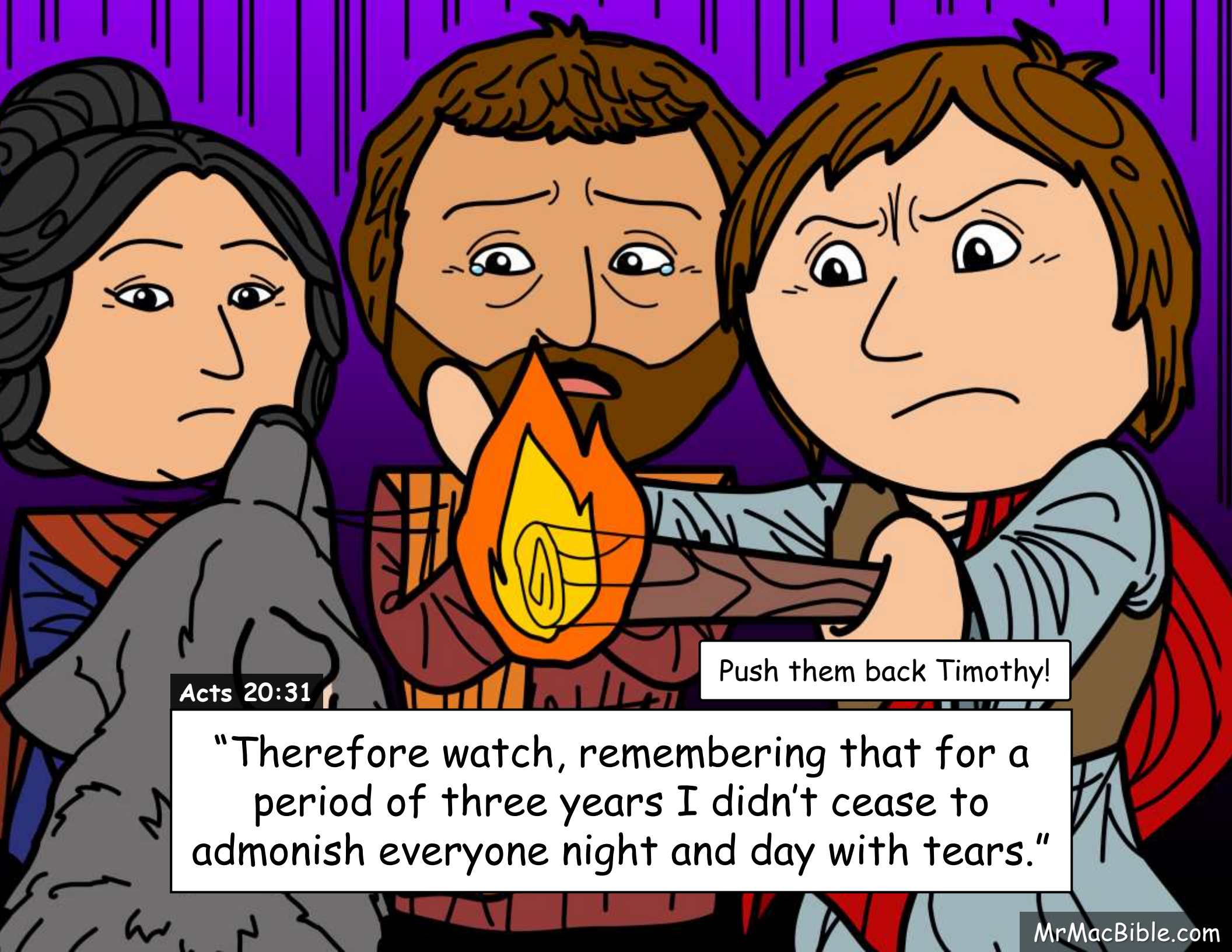
“Take heed, therefore, to yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the assembly of the Lord and God which he purchased with his own blood.”



Acts 20:29-30

Wolves will pretend to be church leaders!


“For I know that after my departure, vicious wolves will enter in amongst you, not sparing the flock. Men will arise from amongst your own selves, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.”



Acts 20:31

Push them back Timothy!

"Therefore watch, remembering that for a period of three years I didn't cease to admonish everyone night and day with tears."



"Now, brothers, I entrust you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build up, and to give you the inheritance amongst all those who are sanctified.

Acts 20:32-33

I coveted no one's silver, gold, or clothing."



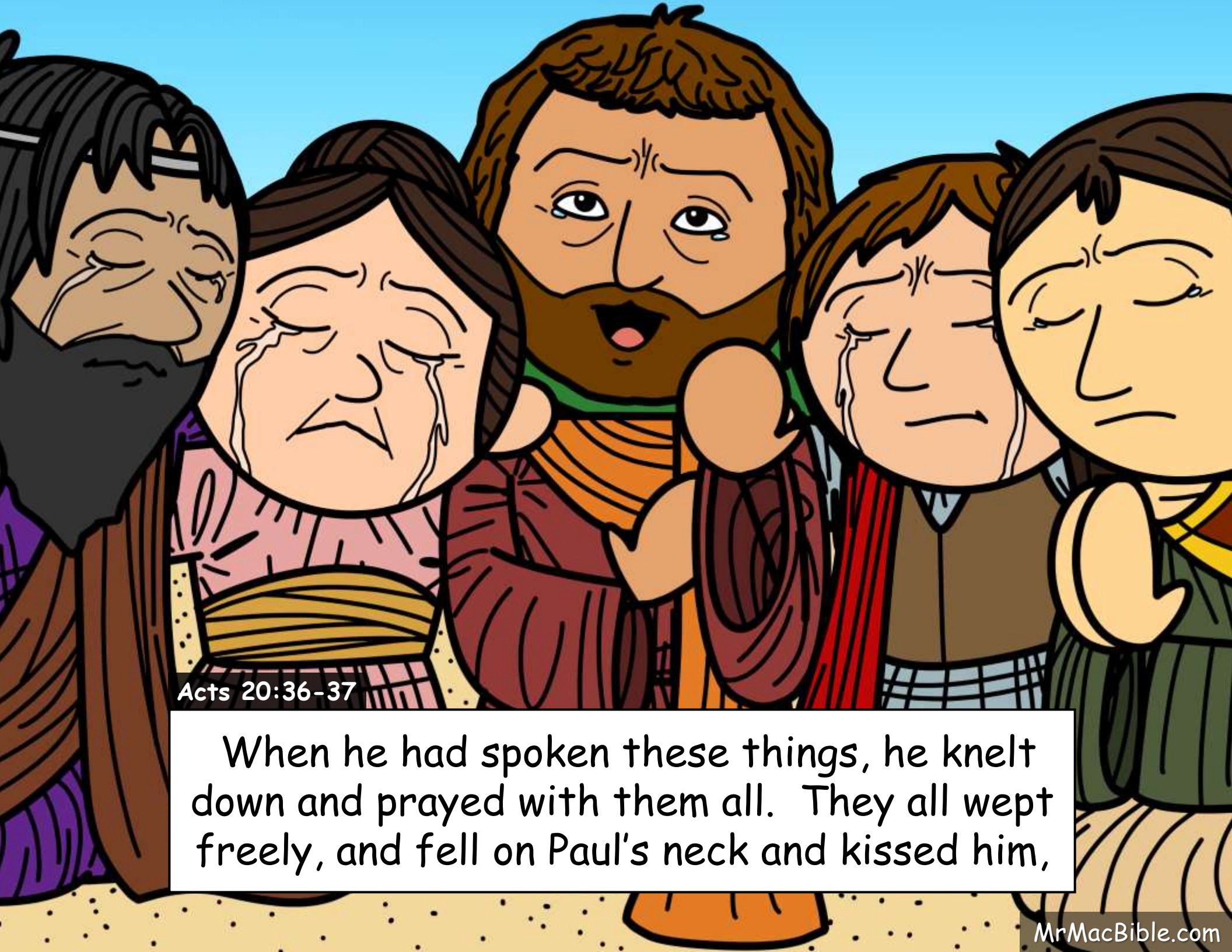
Acts 20:34

"You yourselves know that these hands served my necessities, and those who were with me."



Acts 20:35

"In all things I gave you an example, that so labouring you ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"



Acts 20:36-37

When he had spoken these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. They all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him,




Acts 20:38

Sorrowing most of all because of the word which he had spoken, that they should see his face no more. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

THINK ABOUT IT...

Paul cared more about his mission for God than about protecting his own life?

Do you have a mission that God has given you?



Praying on the Beach!

Acts 21:1-9

Background:

God continues to warn Paul about the dangers he will face when he gets to Jerusalem. But Paul is determined to complete his mission no matter what. Paul's friends are praying for his safety.



Acts 21:1

Dr. Luke (who is writing this Book Of Acts) is traveling with Paul

When we had departed from them and had set sail, we came with a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara.

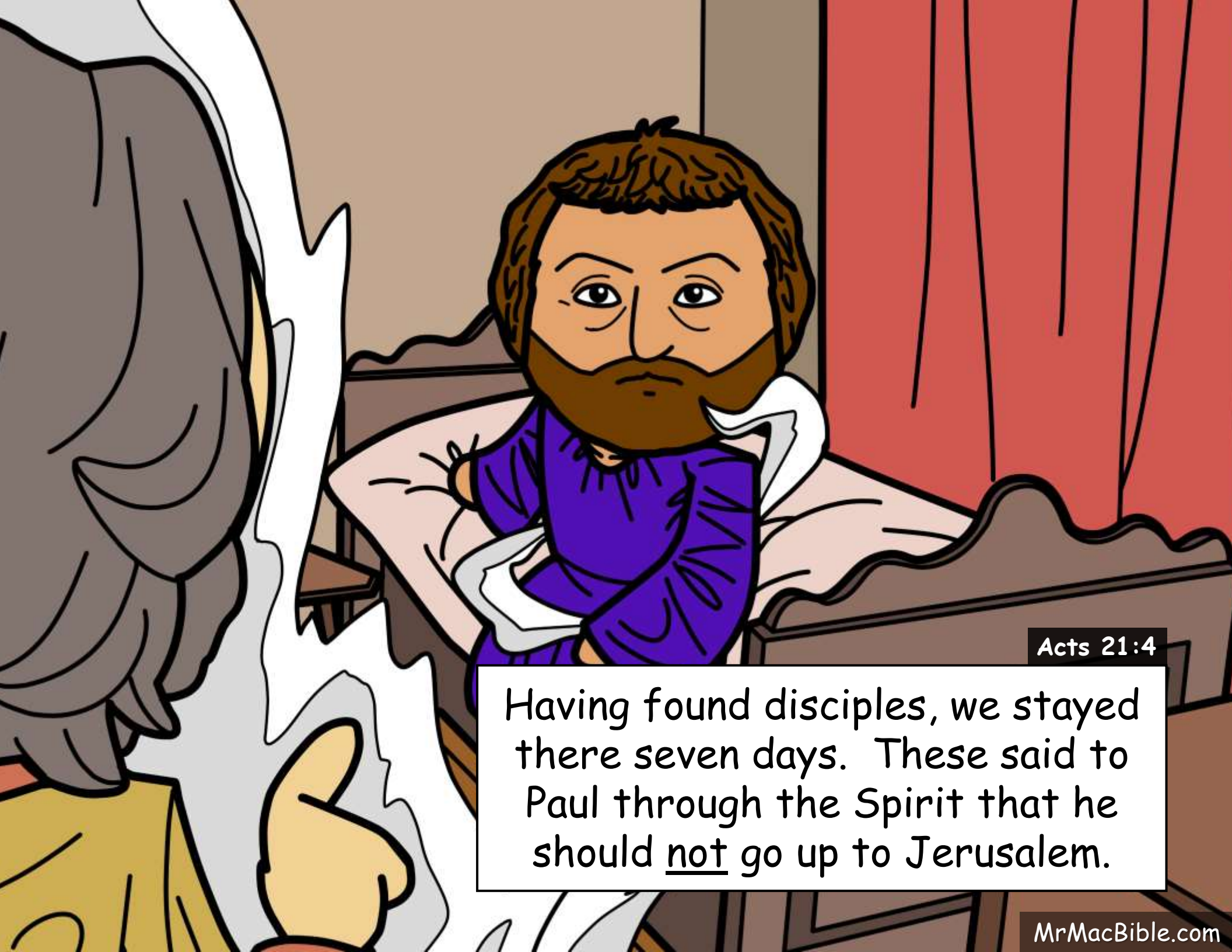


Paul

Luke

Acts 21:2-3

Having found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard, and set sail. When we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left hand, we sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, for the ship was there to unload her cargo.



Acts 21:4

Having found disciples, we stayed there seven days. These said to Paul through the Spirit that he should not go up to Jerusalem.



Acts 21:5

When those days were over, we departed and went on our journey. They all, with wives and children, brought us on our way until we were out of the city.

Kneeling down on the beach, we prayed. After saying goodbye to each other, we went on board the ship, and they returned home again.

Acts 21:6





Philip

Paul

Luke

Acts 21:7

When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais. We greeted the brothers and stayed with them one day. On the next day, we who were Paul's companions departed, and came to Caesarea.



Acts 21:8-9

We entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied.

THINK ABOUT IT...

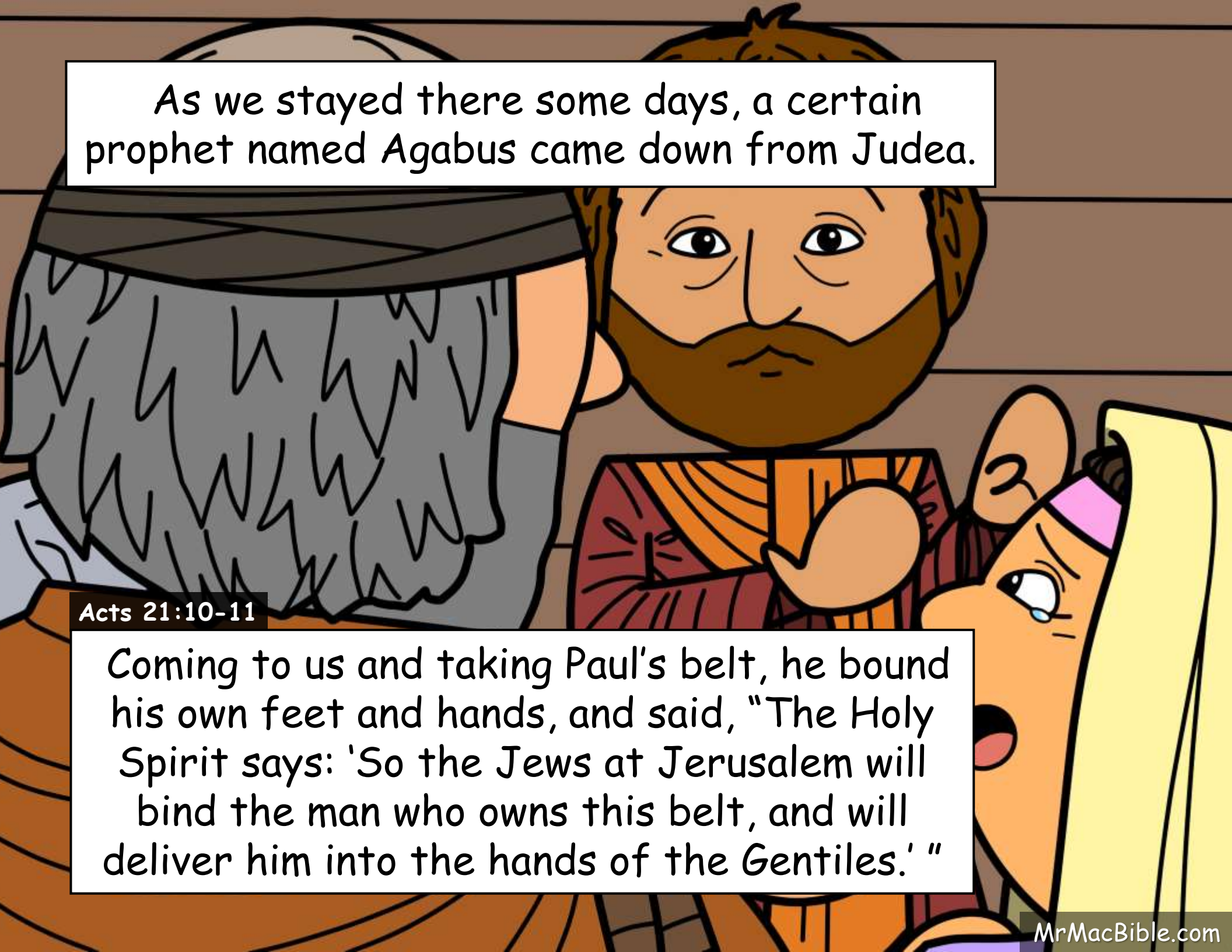
Paul's friends walked and prayed with him as he traveled toward his difficult and dangerous mission. Have you ever done that for a friend or family member?



Please Don't Go!
Acts 21:10-29

Background:

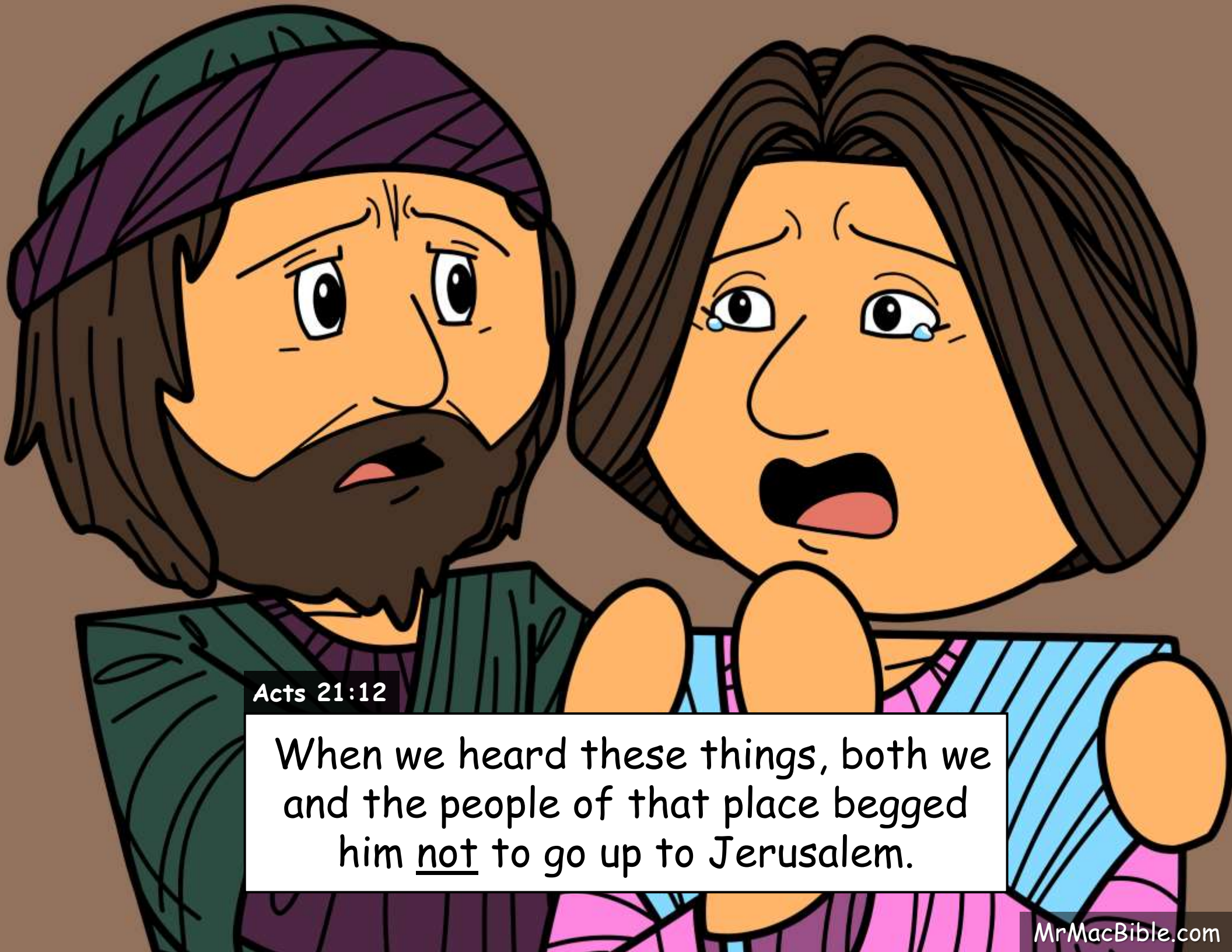
As Paul travels toward Jerusalem, his friends are warning him of the dangers ahead. But Paul is determined to go!



As we stayed there some days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.

Acts 21:10-11

Coming to us and taking Paul's belt, he bound his own feet and hands, and said, "The Holy Spirit says: 'So the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt, and will deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.' "



Acts 21:12

When we heard these things, both we and the people of that place begged him not to go up to Jerusalem.



Acts 21:13

Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."



Acts 21:14

When he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, "The Lord's will be done."

After these days we took up our baggage and went up to Jerusalem. Some of the disciples from Caesarea also went with us, bringing one Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we would stay.

Acts 21:15-16





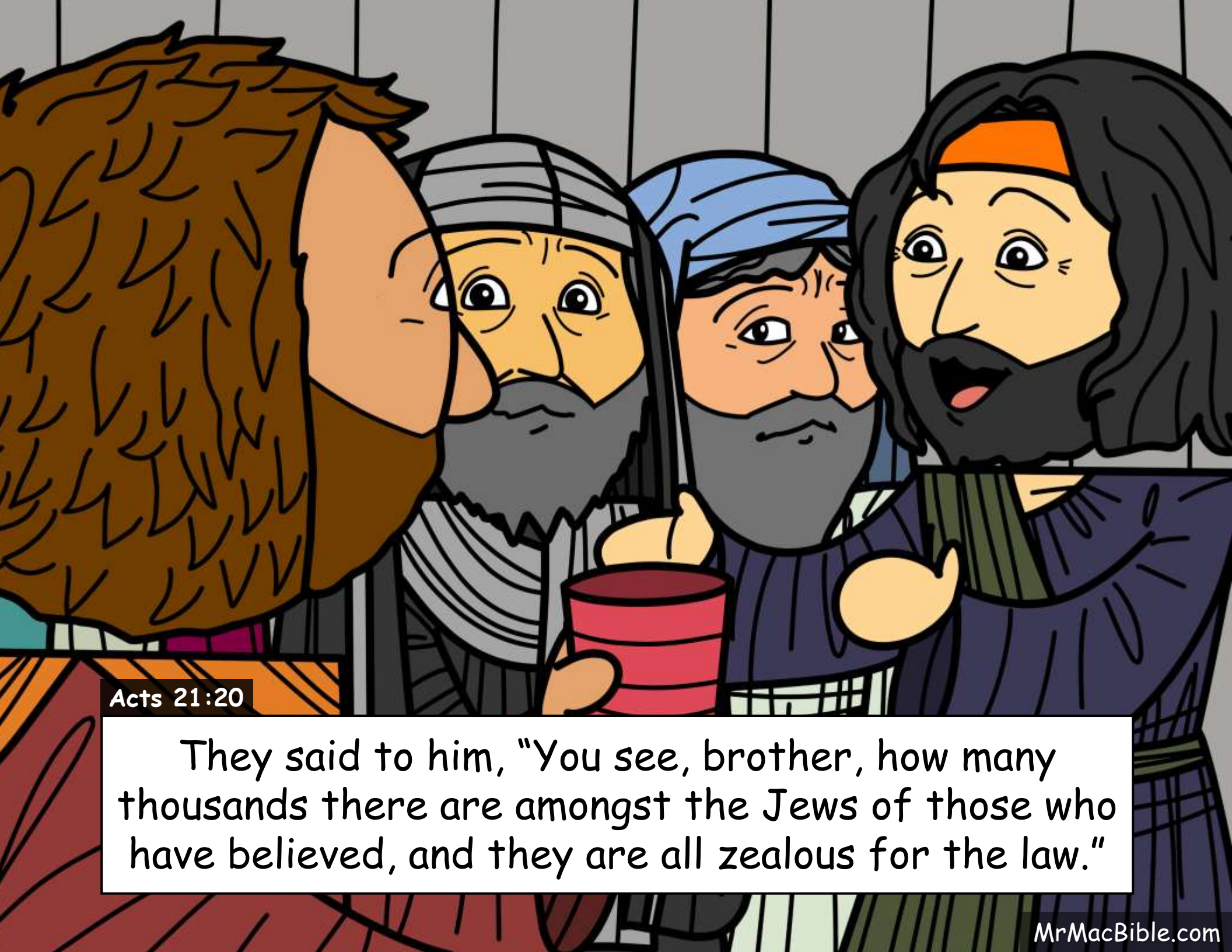
Acts 21:17-18

When we had come to Jerusalem, the brothers received us gladly. The day following, Paul went in with us to James; and all the elders were present.



Acts 21:19

When he had greeted them, he reported one by one the things which God had worked amongst the Gentiles through his ministry. They, when they heard it, glorified God.




Acts 21:20

They said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are amongst the Jews of those who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law."



Acts 21:21


“They have been informed about you, that you teach all the Jews who are amongst the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children and not to walk after the customs.”



"What then? The assembly must certainly meet, for they will hear that you have come.

Acts 21:22-23

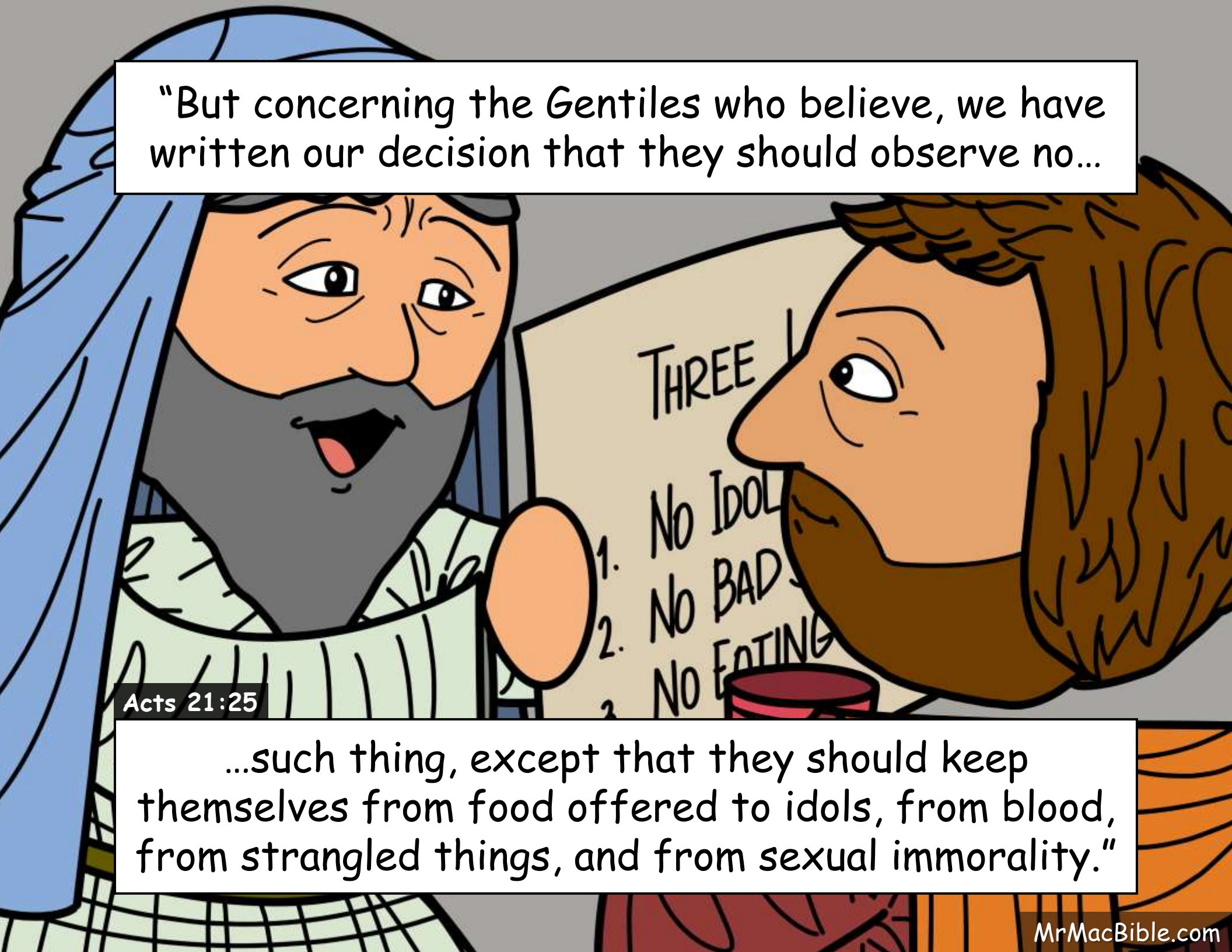
Therefore do what we tell you. We have four men who have taken a vow."



"Take them and purify yourself with them, and pay their expenses for them, that they may shave their heads."

Acts 21:24

"Then all will know that there is no truth in the things that they have been informed about you, but that you yourself also walk keeping the law."



"But concerning the Gentiles who believe, we have written our decision that they should observe no...

Acts 21:25

...such thing, except that they should keep themselves from food offered to idols, from blood, from strangled things, and from sexual immorality."



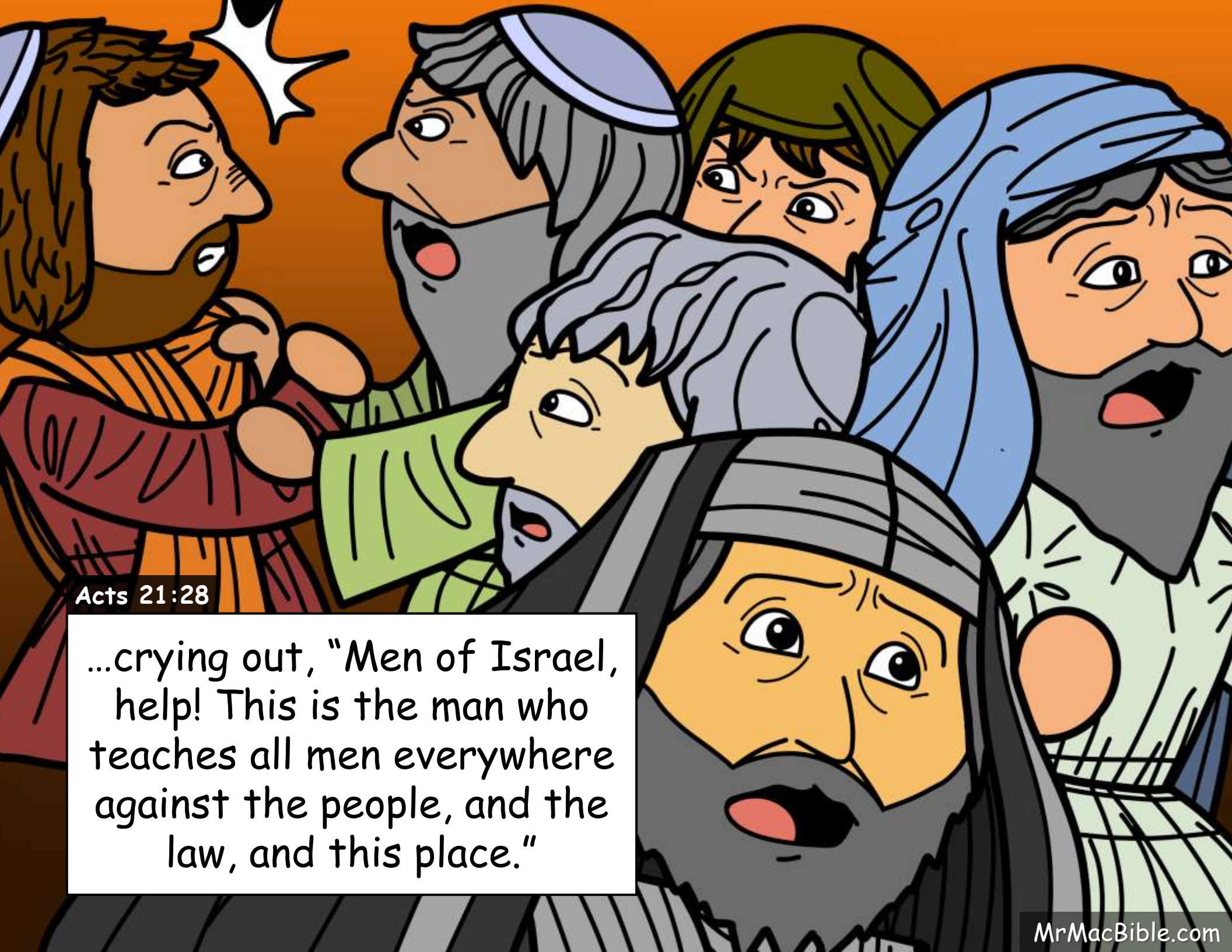
Acts 21:26

Then Paul took the men, and the next day purified himself and went with them into the temple, declaring the fulfilment of the days of purification, until the offering was offered for every one of them.



Acts 21:27

When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the multitude and laid hands on him,



Acts 21:28

...crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the people, and the law, and this place."



Acts 21:29

Moreover, he also brought Greeks into the temple, and has defiled this holy place!" For they had seen Trophimus, the Ephesian, with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.

THINK ABOUT IT...

Many of Paul's friends told Paul not to go to Jerusalem, since it was so dangerous for him. Why was Paul so determined to go?



Killing Paul?

Acts 21:30-22:8


Background:

Paul is in front of the Temple in Jerusalem, where a rioting mob is trying to kill him in the streets. Luke has escaped, but Paul is in great danger!

All the city was moved and the people ran together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple. Immediately the doors were shut.

Acts 21:30





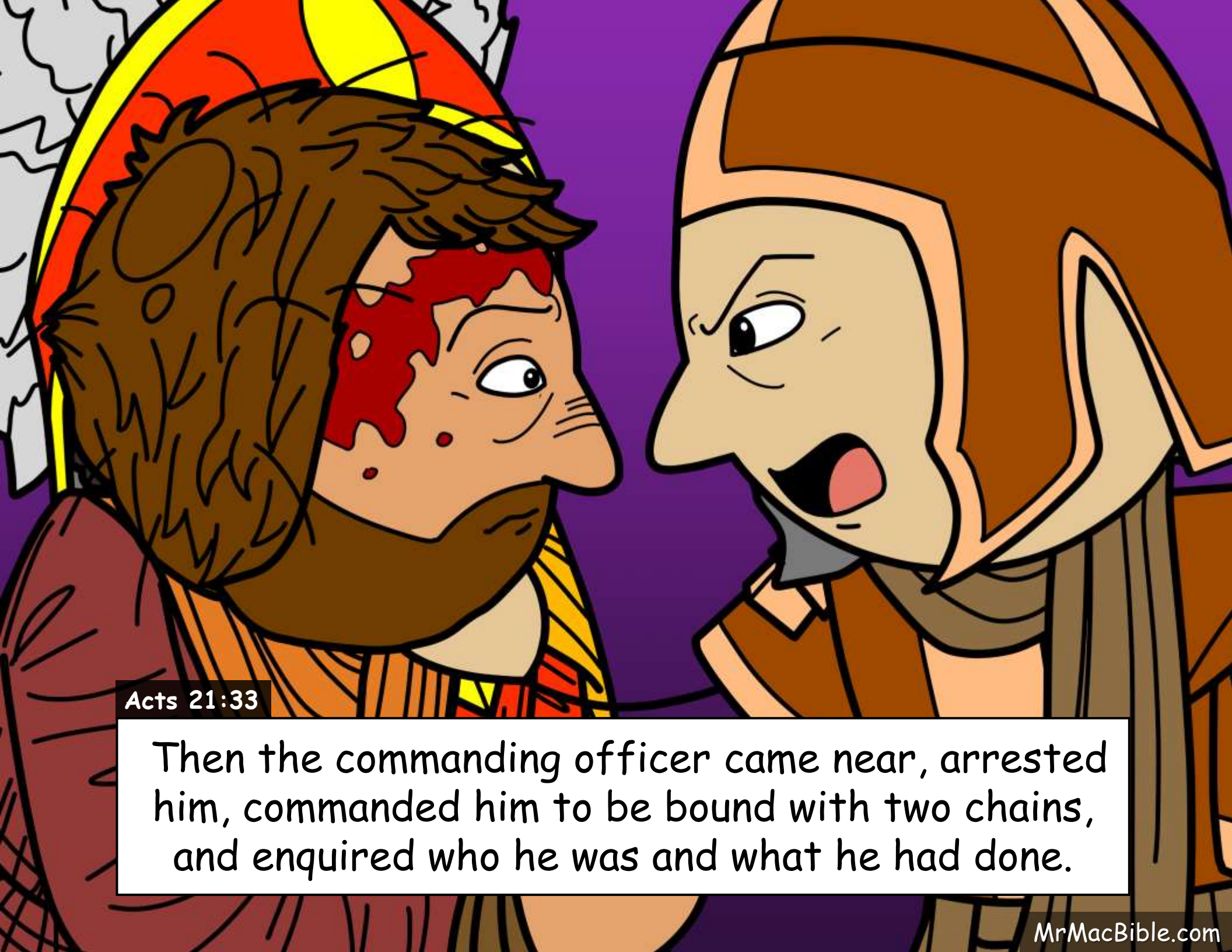
Acts 21:31

As they were trying to kill him, news came up to the commanding officer of the regiment that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.



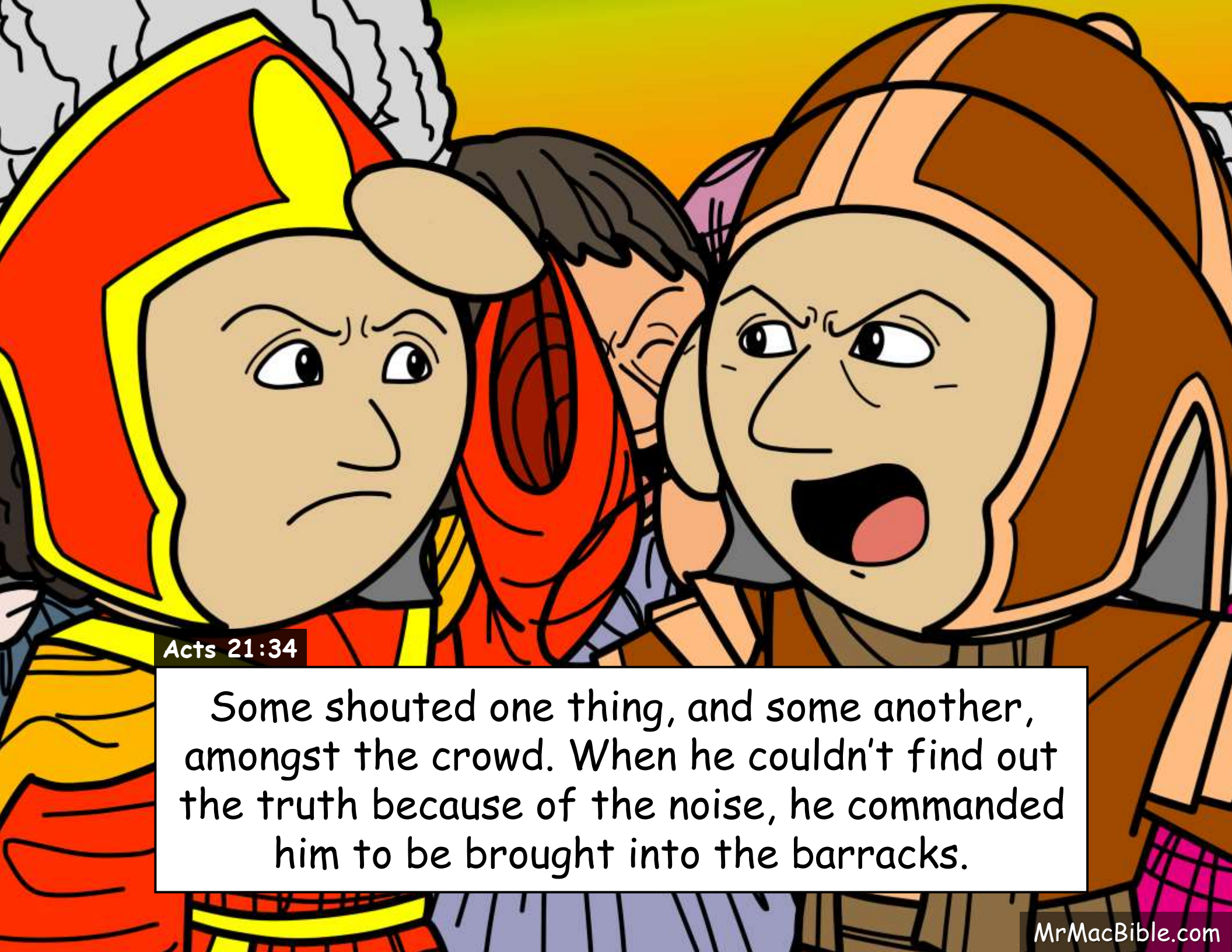
Acts 21:32

Immediately he took soldiers and centurions and ran down to them. They, when they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, stopped beating Paul.




Acts 21:33

Then the commanding officer came near, arrested him, commanded him to be bound with two chains, and enquired who he was and what he had done.



Acts 21:34

Some shouted one thing, and some another, amongst the crowd. When he couldn't find out the truth because of the noise, he commanded him to be brought into the barracks.



When he came to the stairs,
he was carried by the soldiers
because of the violence of the
crowd; for the multitude of
the people followed after,
crying out, "Away with him!"

Acts 21:35-36




Acts 21:37

As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he asked the commanding officer, "May I speak to you?"



Acts 21:38

He said, "Do you know Greek? Aren't you then the Egyptian, who before these days stirred up to sedition and led out into the wilderness the four thousand men of the Assassins?"



But Paul said, "I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no insignificant city. I beg you, allow me to speak to the people."

Acts 21:39

When he had given him permission, Paul, standing on the stairs, beckoned with his hand to the people.

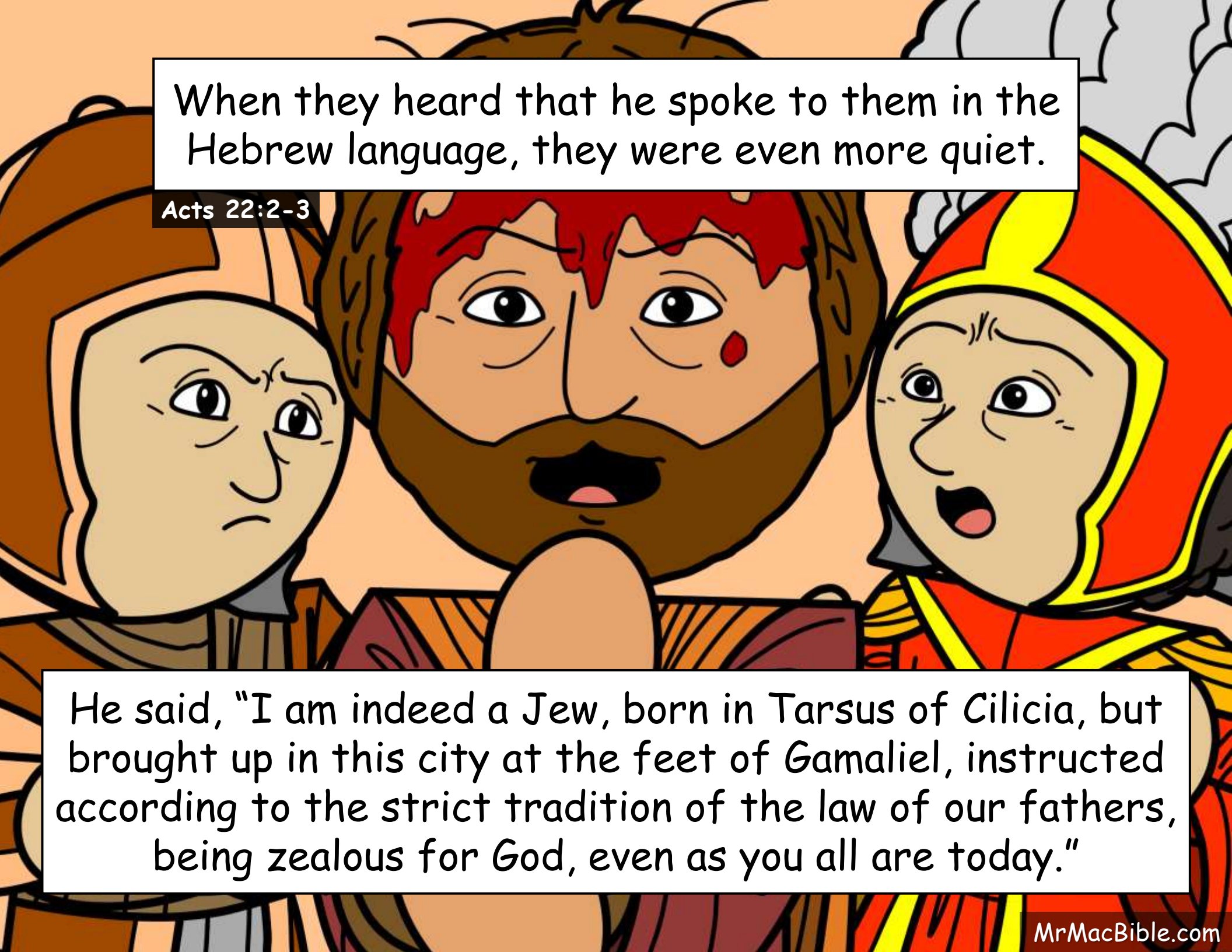
Acts 21:40



When there was a great silence, he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, saying, "Brothers and fathers, listen to the defence which I now make to you."

Acts 22:1





When they heard that he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, they were even more quiet.

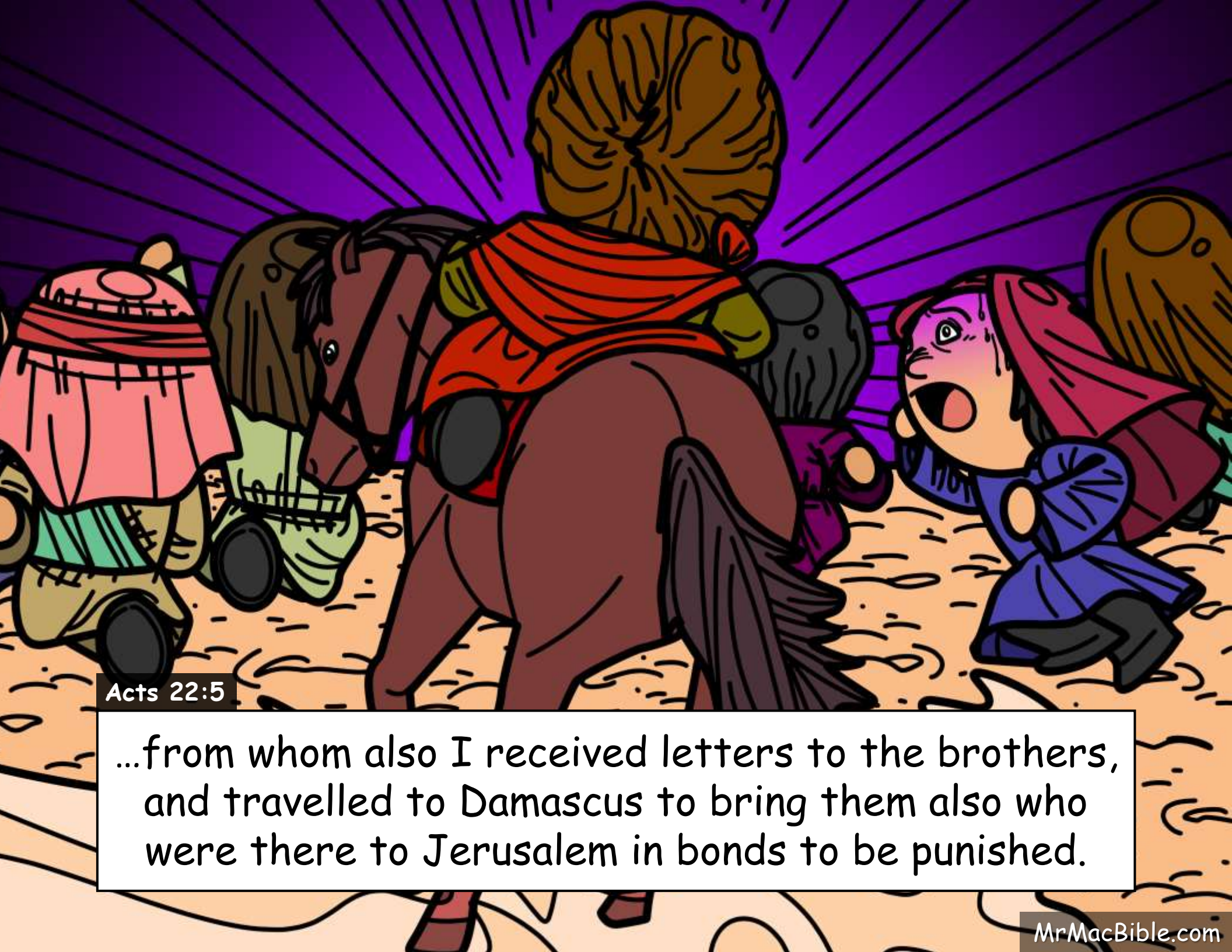
Acts 22:2-3

He said, "I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, instructed according to the strict tradition of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God, even as you all are today."



Acts 22:4

"I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women, as also the high priest and all the council of the elders testify,



Acts 22:5

...from whom also I received letters to the brothers, and travelled to Damascus to bring them also who were there to Jerusalem in bonds to be punished.



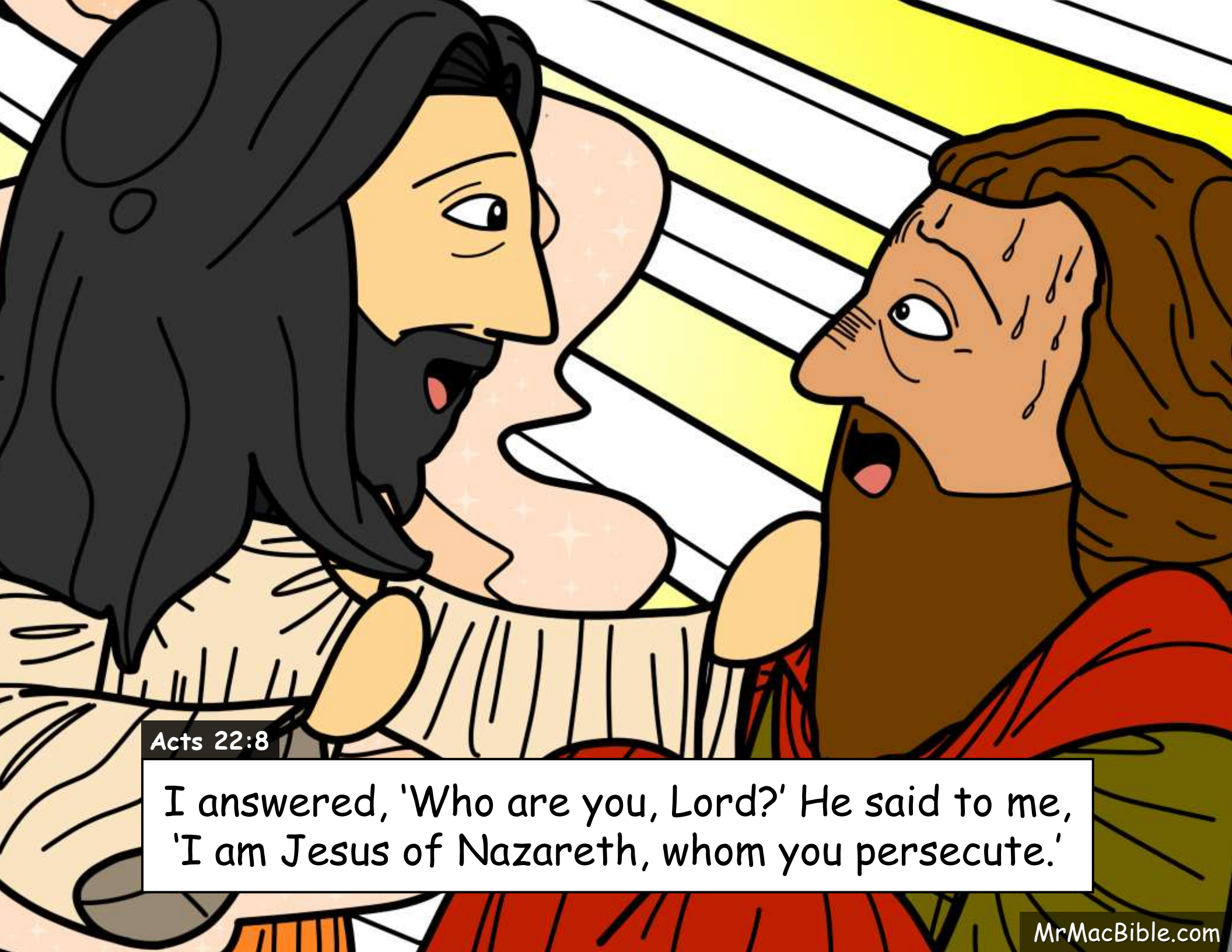
Acts 22:6

As I made my journey, and came close to Damascus, about noon, suddenly a great light shone around me from the sky.



Acts 22:7

I fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'



Acts 22:8

I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you persecute.'

THINK ABOUT IT...

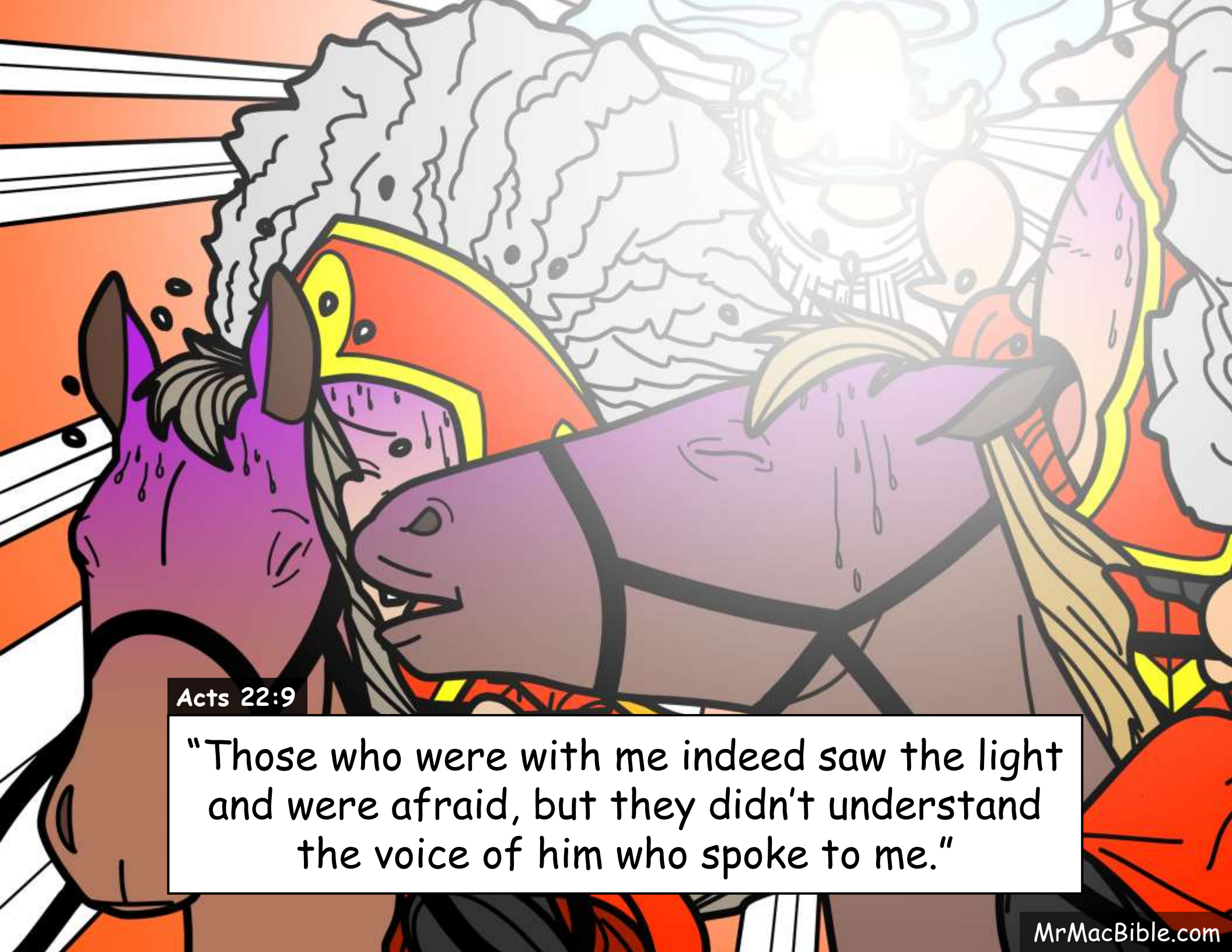
Paul has been arrested and almost killed, why would he immediately try to get permission to share his faith story with everyone that is attacking him?

Arresting Paul?

Acts 22:9-30

Background:

Paul is using his arrest as a chance to share his personal story of faith in Jesus with the people of Jerusalem. But will they listen?



Acts 22:9

“Those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they didn't understand the voice of him who spoke to me.”

I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' The Lord said to me, 'Arise, and go into Damascus. There you will be told about all things which are appointed for you to do.'

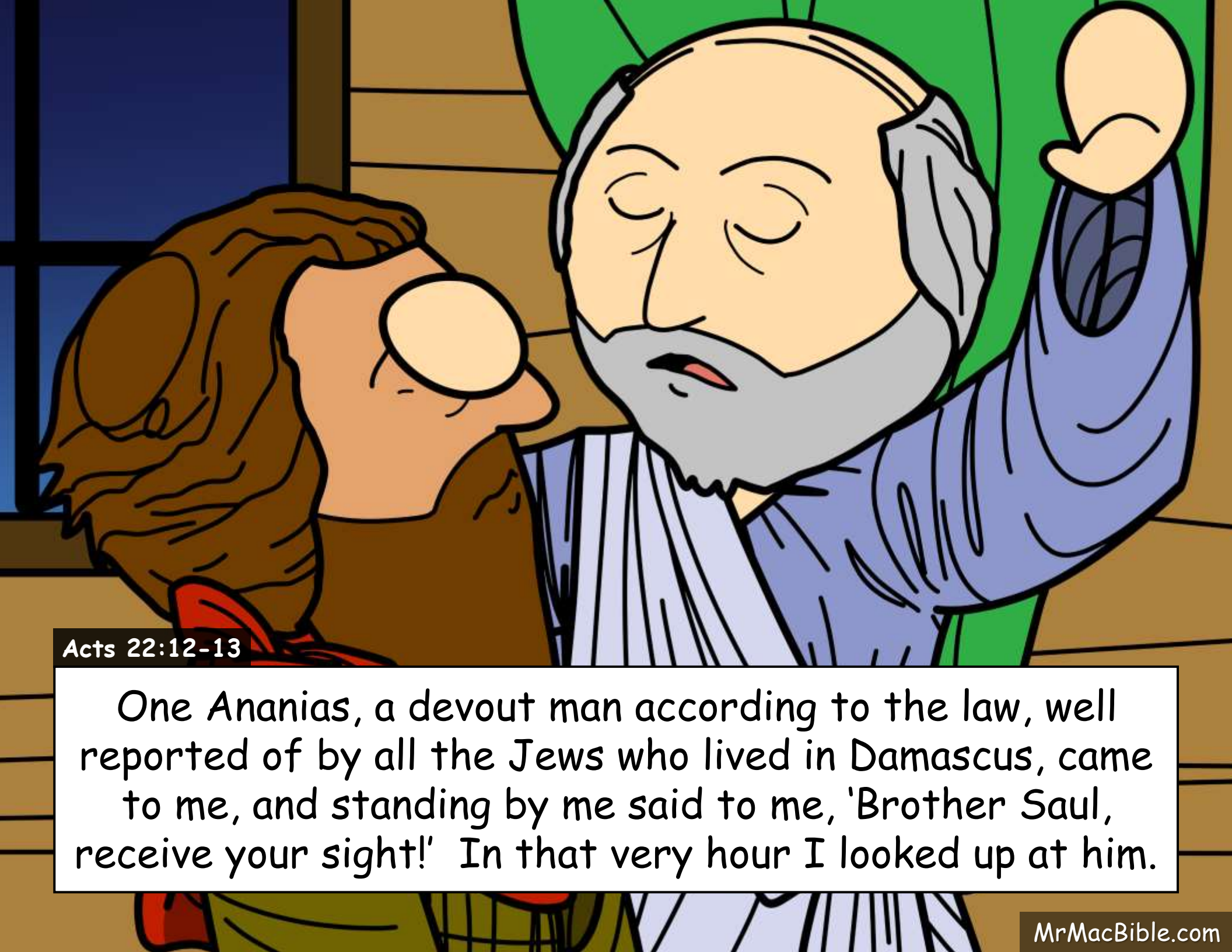
Acts 22:10





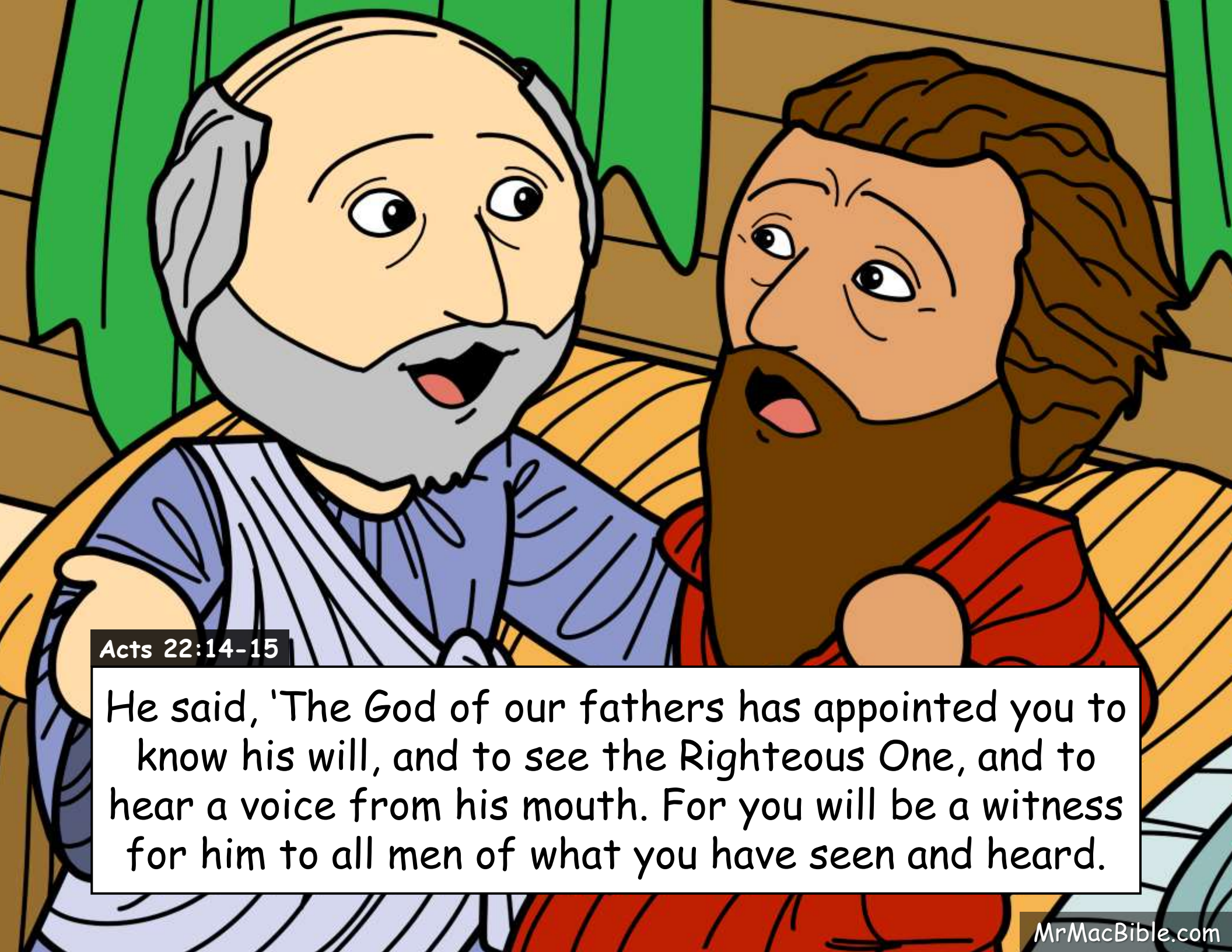
Acts 22:11

When I couldn't see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of those who were with me, I came into Damascus.



Acts 22:12-13

One Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well reported of by all the Jews who lived in Damascus, came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' In that very hour I looked up at him.

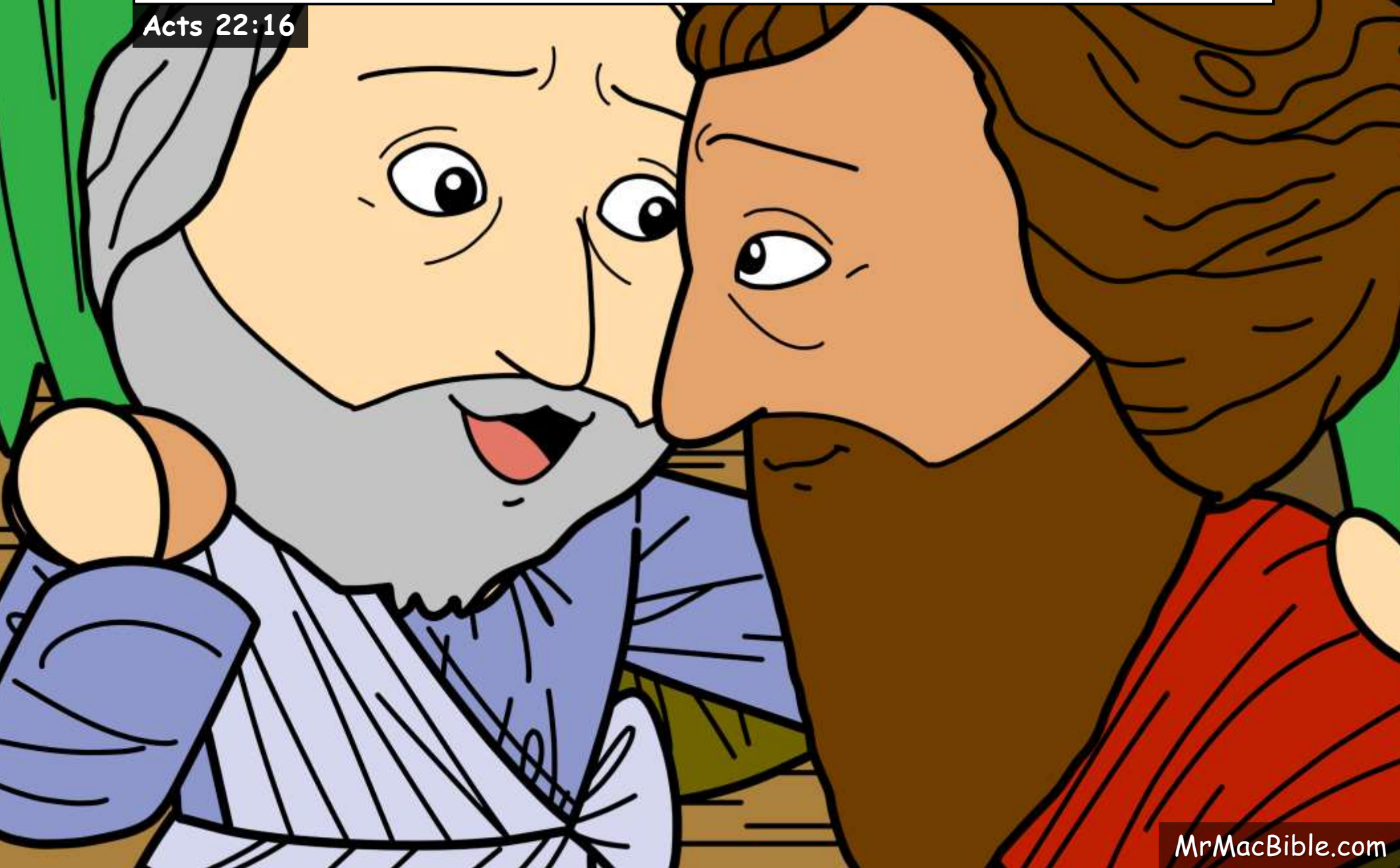


Acts 22:14-15

He said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know his will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear a voice from his mouth. For you will be a witness for him to all men of what you have seen and heard.'

Now why do you wait? Arise, be baptised, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

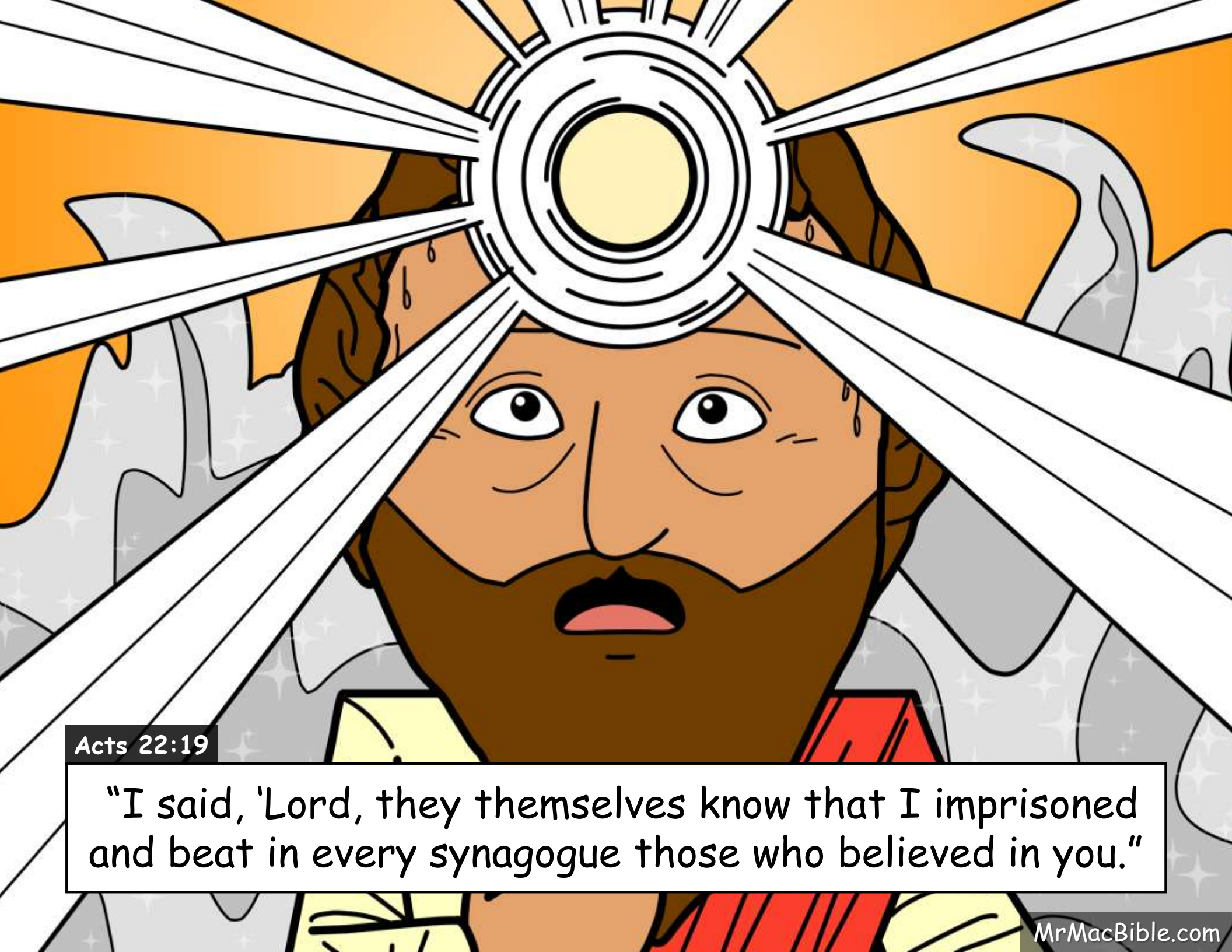
Acts 22:16






Acts 22:17-18

“When I had returned to Jerusalem, and while I prayed in the temple, I fell into a trance, and saw him saying to me, ‘Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not receive testimony concerning me from you.’ ”



Acts 22:19

"I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue those who believed in you.'"



When the blood of Stephen,
your witness, was shed,...

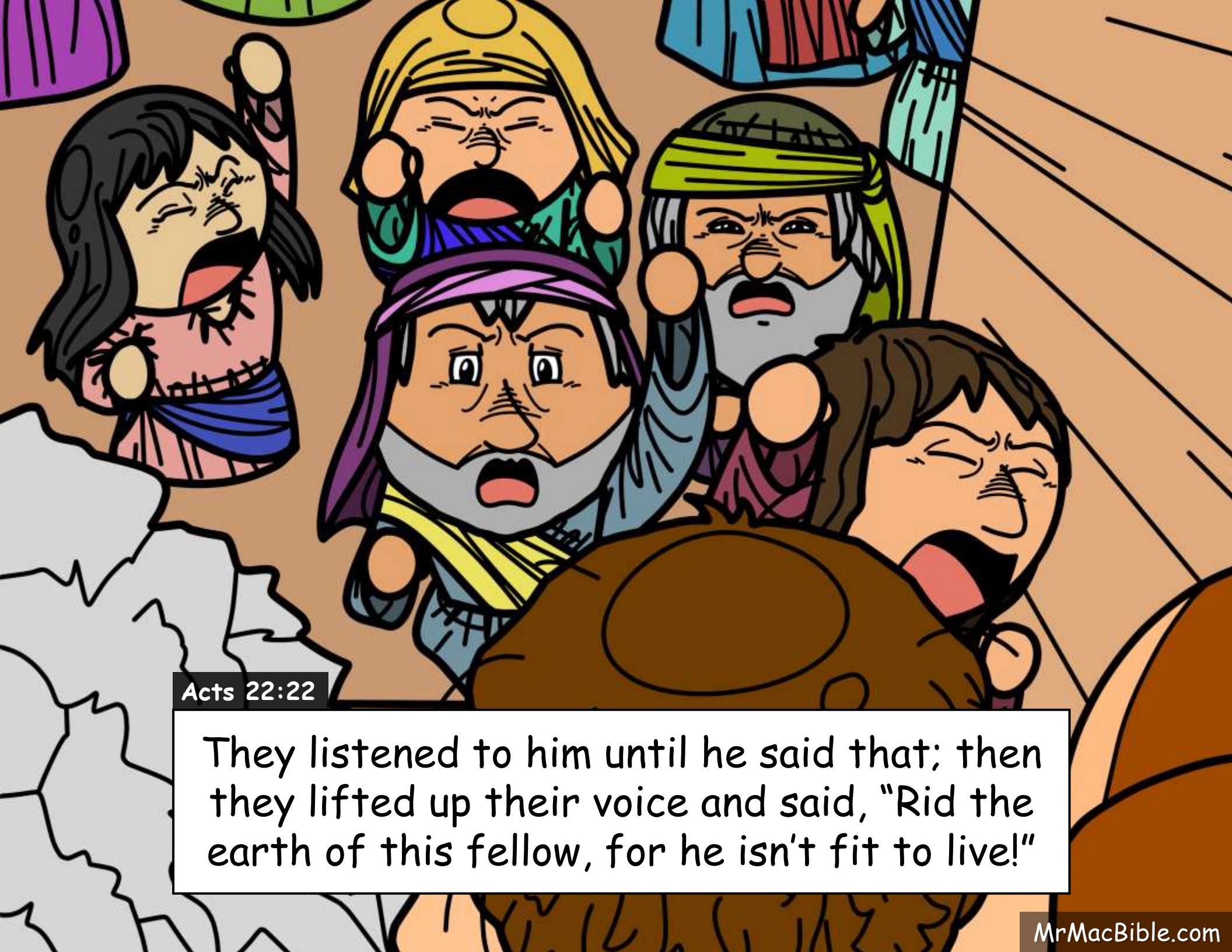
Acts 22:20

I also was standing by, consenting
to his death, and guarding the
cloaks of those who killed him.'



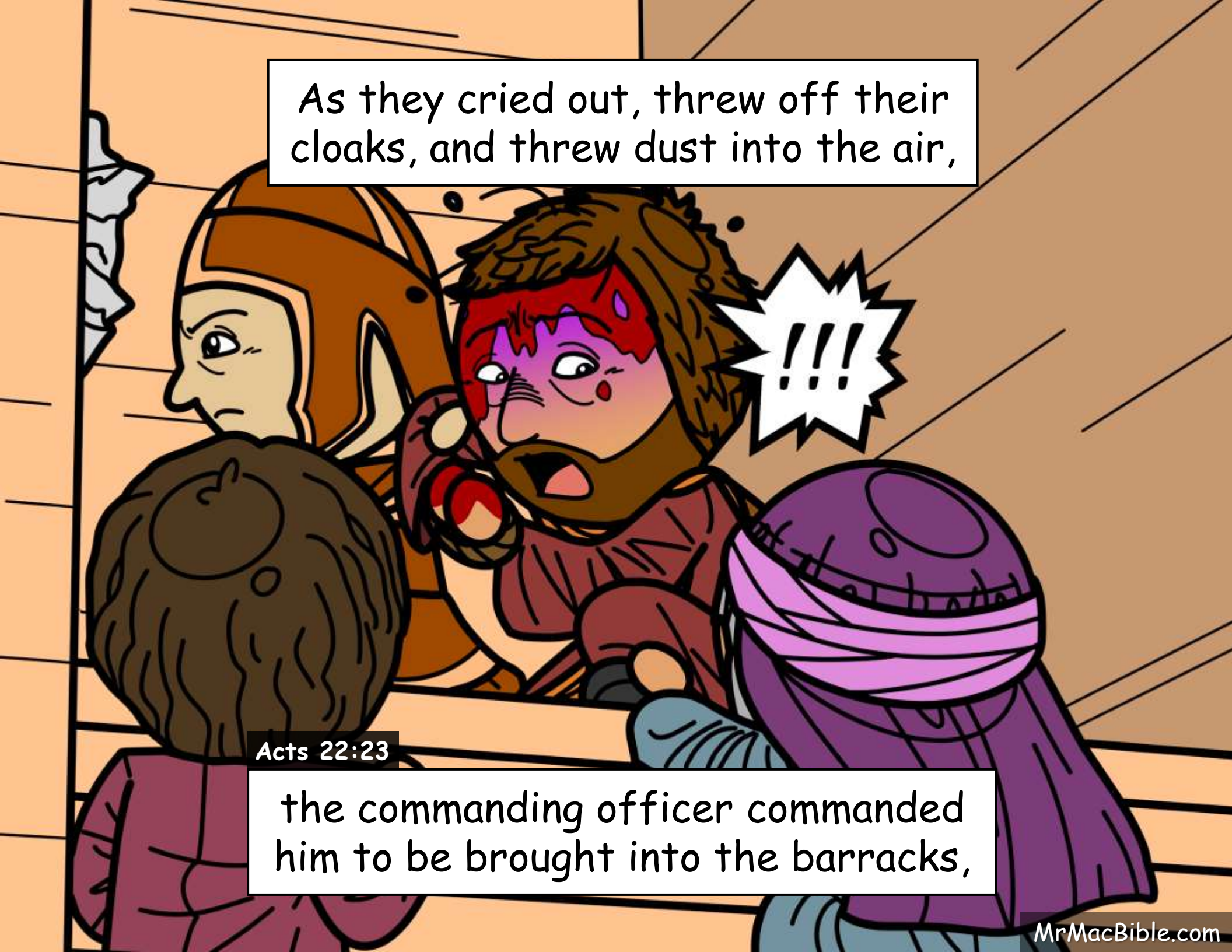
Acts 22:21

He said to me, 'Depart, for I will send you out far from here to the Gentiles.'



Acts 22:22

They listened to him until he said that; then they lifted up their voice and said, "Rid the earth of this fellow, for he isn't fit to live!"



As they cried out, threw off their cloaks, and threw dust into the air,

Acts 22:23

the commanding officer commanded him to be brought into the barracks,

...ordering him to be examined by scourging,

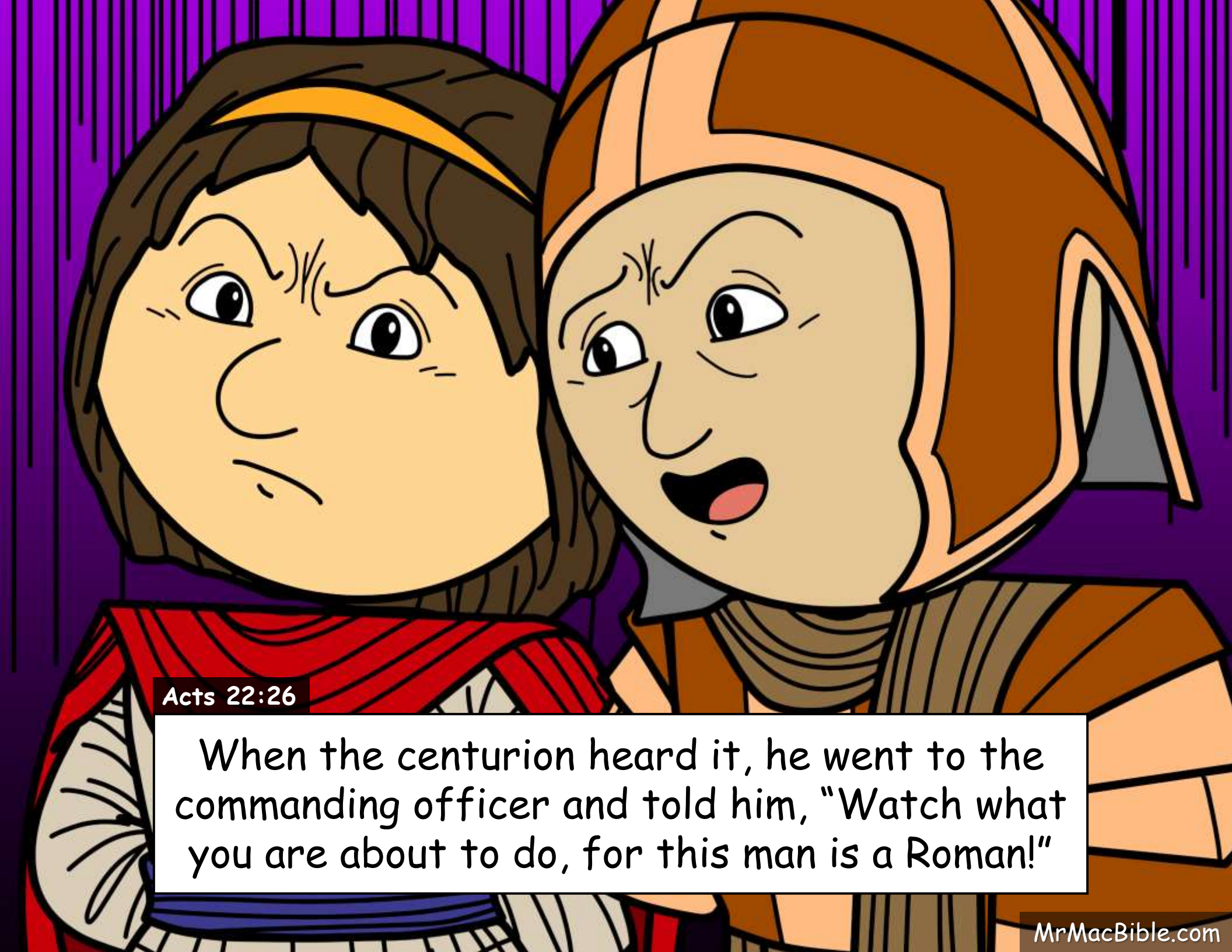
Acts 22:24

...that he might know for what crime they shouted against him like that.



Acts 22:25

When they had tied him up with thongs, Paul asked the centurion who stood by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and not found guilty?"



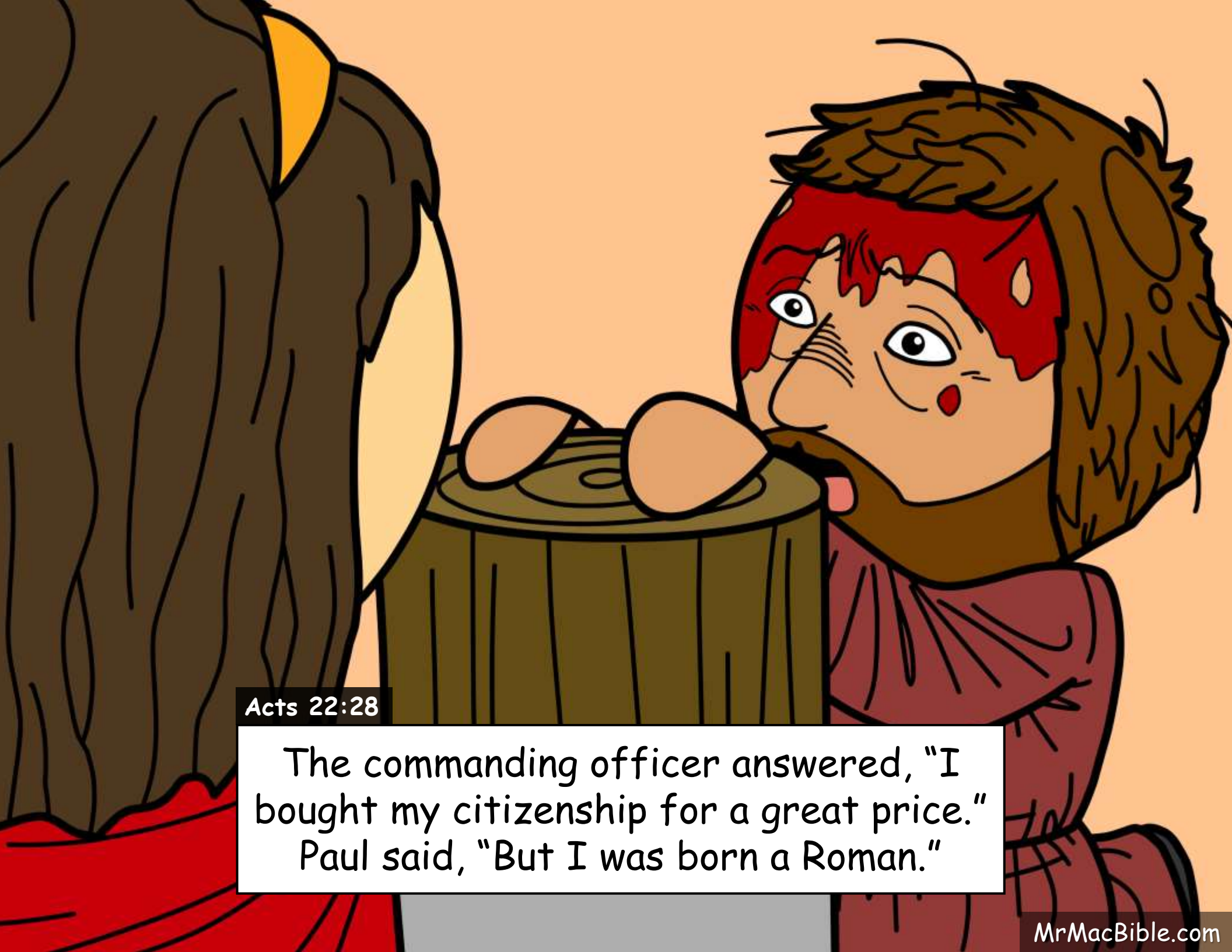
Acts 22:26

When the centurion heard it, he went to the commanding officer and told him, "Watch what you are about to do, for this man is a Roman!"



Acts 22:27

The commanding officer came and asked him, "Tell me, are you a Roman?" He said, "Yes."



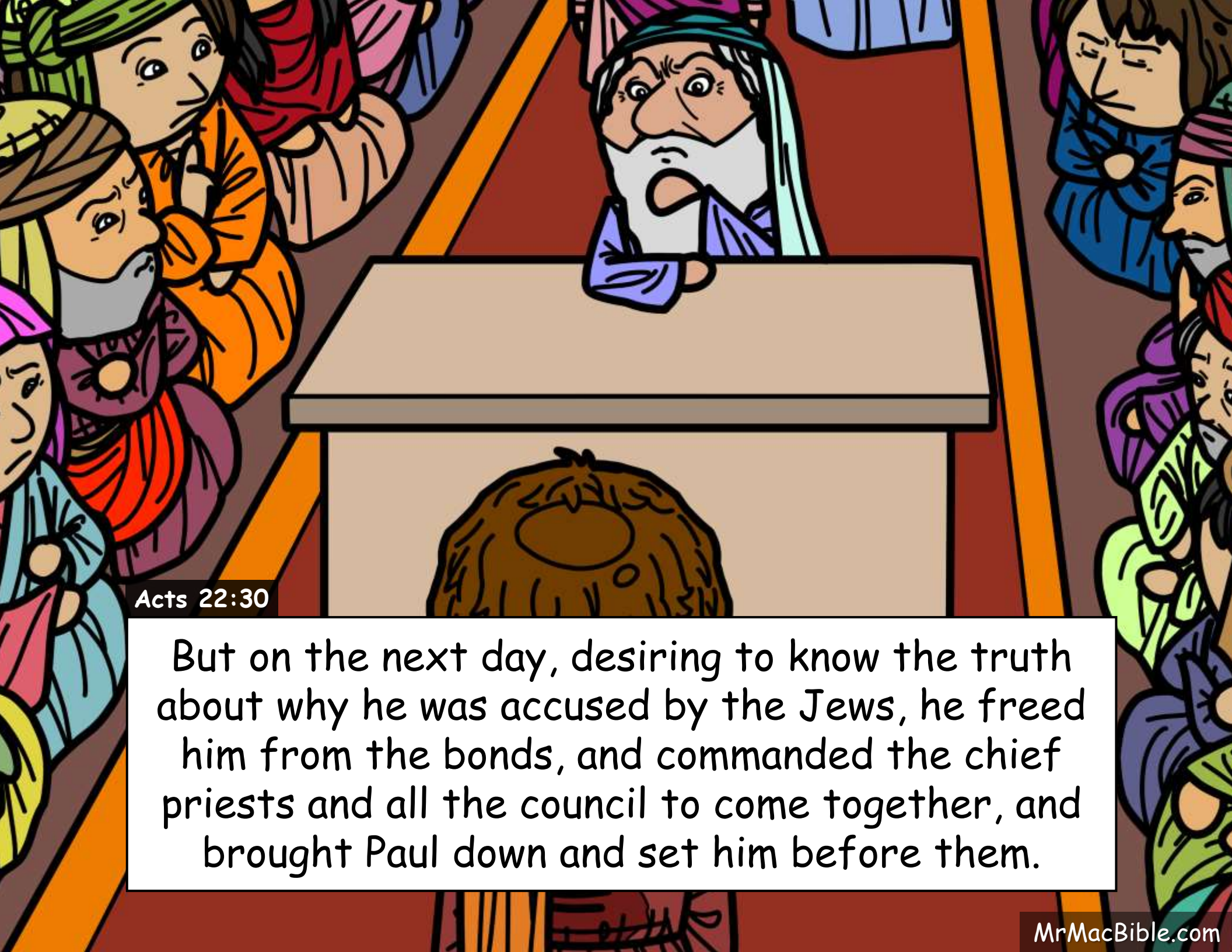
Acts 22:28

The commanding officer answered, "I bought my citizenship for a great price."
Paul said, "But I was born a Roman."

Immediately those who were about to examine him departed from him, and the commanding officer also was afraid when he realised that he was a Roman, because he had bound him.

Acts 22:29





Acts 22:30

But on the next day, desiring to know the truth about why he was accused by the Jews, he freed him from the bonds, and commanded the chief priests and all the council to come together, and brought Paul down and set him before them.

THINK ABOUT IT...

Paul continues to tell the people his personal story.

Do you have a personal story that brought you to Jesus?

BIBLE: Acts 17:22-31

17:22 - Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus, and said, "You men of Athens, I perceive that you are very religious in all things.

23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription: 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' What therefore you worship in ignorance, I announce to you.

24 The God who made the world and all things in it, he, being Lord of heaven and earth, doesn't dwell in temples made with hands.

25 He isn't served by men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he himself gives to all life and breath, and all things.

26 He made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the surface of the earth, having determined appointed seasons, and

...the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 that they should seek the Lord, if perhaps they might reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

28 'For in him we live, move, and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also his offspring.'

29 Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold, or silver, or stone, engraved by art and design of man.

30 The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked. But now he commands that all people everywhere should repent,

31 because he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained;"

Acts 17:31-18:7 "...of which he has given assurance to all men, in that he has raised him from the dead."

32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, "We want to hear you again concerning this."

33 Thus Paul went out from amongst them. 34 But certain men joined with him and believed, amongst whom also was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

18:1 After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth.

2 He found a certain Jew named Aquila, a man of Pontus by race, who had recently come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome.

He came to them, 3 and because he practised the same trade, he lived with them and worked, for by trade they were tent makers.

4 He reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath and persuaded Jews and Greeks.

5 But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

6 When they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook out his clothing and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. From now on, I will go to the Gentiles!"

7 He departed there, and went into the house of a certain man named Justus, one who worshipped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue.

Acts 18:8-19 Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his house. Many of the Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptised.

9 The Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, "Don't be afraid, but speak and don't be silent; 10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many people in this city."

11 He lived there a year and six months, teaching the word of God amongst them.

12 But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgement seat, 13 saying, "This man persuades men to worship God contrary to the law."

14 But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If indeed it were a matter of

...wrong or of wicked crime, you Jews, it would be reasonable that I should bear with you; 15 but if they are questions about words and names and your own law, look to it yourselves. For I don't want to be a judge of these matters."

16 So he drove them from the judgement seat.

17 Then all the Greeks seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgement seat. Gallio didn't care about any of these things.

18 Paul, having stayed after this many more days, took his leave of the brothers, and sailed from there for Syria, together with Priscilla and Aquila. He shaved his head in Cenchreae, for he had a vow.

19 He came to Ephesus, and he left them there; but he himself entered into the synagogue,

Acts 18:19-19:1 ...and reasoned with the Jews. 20 When they asked him to stay with them a longer time, he declined; 21 but taking his leave of them, he said, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem, but I will return again to you if God wills." Then he set sail from Ephesus.

22 When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the assembly, and went down to Antioch.

23 Having spent some time there, he departed, and went through the region of Galatia, and Phrygia, in order, establishing all the disciples.

24 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by race, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus. He was mighty in the Scriptures.

25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being

...fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, although he knew only the baptism of John.

26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside, and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

27 When he had determined to pass over into Achaia, the brothers encouraged him, and wrote to the disciples to receive him. When he had come, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace;

28 for he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

19:1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul, having passed through the upper country, came to Ephesus and found certain disciples.

Acts 19:2-12 2 He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

They said to him, "No, we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

3 He said, "Into what then were you baptised?" They said, "Into John's baptism."

4 Paul said, "John indeed baptised with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus."

5 When they heard this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke with other languages and prophesied. 7 They were about twelve men in all.

8 He entered into the synagogue and spoke boldly for a period of three months, reasoning and persuading about the things concerning God's Kingdom.

9 But when some were hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.

10 This continued for two years, so that all those who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

11 God worked special miracles by the hands of Paul,

12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were carried away from his body to the sick, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out.

Acts 19:13-23 But some of the itinerant Jews, exorcists, took on themselves to invoke over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying,

"We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches."

14 There were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did this.

15 The evil spirit answered, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?"

16 The man in whom the evil spirit was leapt on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

17 This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived at Ephesus. Fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

18 Many also of those who had believed came, confessing, and declaring their deeds.

19 Many of those who practised magical arts brought their books together and burnt them in the sight of all. They counted their price, and found it to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord was growing and becoming mighty.

21 Now after these things had ended, Paul determined in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."

22 Having sent into Macedonia two of those who served him, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

23 About that time there arose no small disturbance concerning the Way.

Acts 19:24-34 For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen, 25 whom he gathered together, with the workmen of like occupation, and said, "Sirs, you know that by this business we have our wealth.

26 You see and hear that not at Ephesus alone, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are no gods that are made with hands.

27 Not only is there danger that this our trade come into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be counted as nothing and her majesty destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worships."

28 When they heard this they were filled with anger, and cried out,

...saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" 29 The whole city was filled with confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theatre, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel.

30 When Paul wanted to enter in to the people, the disciples didn't allow him. 31 Certain also of the Asiarchs, being his friends, sent to him and begged him not to venture into the theatre.

32 Some therefore cried one thing, and some another, for the assembly was in confusion. Most of them didn't know why they had come together.

33 They brought Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. Alexander beckoned with his hand, and would have made a defence to the people. 34 But when they perceived that he was a Jew,

Acts 19:34-20:3 ...all with one voice for a time of about two hours cried out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

35 When the town clerk had quieted the multitude, he said, "You men of Ephesus, what man is there who doesn't know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great goddess Artemis, and of the image which fell down from Zeus?"

36 Seeing then that these things can't be denied, you ought to be quiet and to do nothing rash.

37 For you have brought these men here, who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of your goddess.

38 If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a matter against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls.

Let them press charges against one another.

39 But if you seek anything about other matters, it will be settled in the regular assembly.

40 For indeed we are in danger of being accused concerning today's riot, there being no cause. Concerning it, we wouldn't be able to give an account of this commotion."

41 When he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly.

20:1 After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, took leave of them, and departed to go into Macedonia.

2 When he had gone through those parts, and had encouraged them with many words, he came into Greece.

3 When he had spent three months there, and a plot was made against him by Jews as he was about to set...

Acts 20:3-13 ...was about to set sail for Syria, he determined to return through Macedonia.

4 These accompanied him as far as Asia: Sopater of Beroea; Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians; Gaius of Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.

5 But these had gone ahead, and were waiting for us at Troas. 6 We sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and came to them at Troas in five days, where we stayed seven days.

7 On the first day of the week, when the disciples were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and continued his speech until midnight.

8 There were many lights in the upper room where we were gathered

...together.

9 A certain young man named Eutychus sat in the window, weighed down with deep sleep.

As Paul spoke still longer, being weighed down by his sleep, he fell down from the third floor and was taken up dead.

10 Paul went down and fell upon him, and embracing him said, "Don't be troubled, for his life is in him."

11 When he had gone up, and had broken bread and eaten, and had talked with them a long while, even until break of day, he departed.

12 They brought the boy in alive, and were greatly comforted.

13 But we, going ahead to the ship, set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there; for he had so arranged, intending himself to go by land.

Acts 20:14-25 When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard, and came to Mitylene. 15 Sailing from there, we came the following day opposite Chios. The next day we touched at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium, and the day after we came to Miletus.

16 For Paul had determined to sail past Ephesus, that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening, if it were possible for him, to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called to himself the elders of the assembly.

18 When they had come to him, he said to them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you all the time,

19 serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears, and with

...trials which happened to me by the plots of the Jews; 20 how I didn't shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, teaching you publicly and from house to house, 21 testifying both to Jews and to Greeks repentance towards God, and faith towards our Lord Jesus.

22 Now, behold, I go bound by the Spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there; 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions wait for me.

24 But these things don't count; nor do I hold my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to fully testify to the Good News of the grace of God.

25 "Now, behold, I know that you all, amongst whom I went about...

Acts 20:25-37 ...preaching God's Kingdom, will see my face no more.

26 Therefore I testify to you today that I am clean from the blood of all men, 27 for I didn't shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

28 Take heed, therefore, to yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the assembly of the Lord and God which he purchased with his own blood.

29 For I know that after my departure, vicious wolves will enter in amongst you, not sparing the flock.

30 Men will arise from amongst your own selves, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

31 Therefore watch, remembering

...that for a period of three years I didn't cease to admonish everyone night and day with tears.

32 Now, brothers, I entrust you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build up, and to give you the inheritance amongst all those who are sanctified.

33 I coveted no one's silver, gold, or clothing. 34 You yourselves know that these hands served my necessities, and those who were with me.

35 In all things I gave you an example, that so labouring you ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

36 When he had spoken these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

37 They all wept freely, and fell on

Acts 20:37-21:10 ...Paul's neck and kissed him, 38 sorrowing most of all because of the word which he had spoken, that they should see his face no more. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

21:1 When we had departed from them and had set sail, we came with a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara.

2 Having found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard, and set sail.

3 When we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left hand, we sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, for the ship was there to unload her cargo.

4 Having found disciples, we stayed there seven days. These said to Paul through the Spirit that he should not go up to Jerusalem.

5 When those days were over, we departed and went on our journey. They all, with wives and children, brought us on our way until we were out of the city. Kneeling down on the beach, we prayed.

6 After saying goodbye to each other, we went on board the ship, and they returned home again.

7 When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais. We greeted the brothers and stayed with them one day. 8 On the next day, we who were Paul's companions departed, and came to Caesarea.

We entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. 9 Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied.

10 As we stayed there some days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.

Acts 21:11-21 Coming to us and taking Paul's belt, he bound his own feet and hands, and said, "The Holy Spirit says: 'So the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt, and will deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.' "

12 When we heard these things, both we and the people of that place begged him not to go up to Jerusalem.

13 Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

14 When he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, "The Lord's will be done." 15 After these days we took up our baggage and went up to Jerusalem.

16 Some of the disciples from Caesarea also went with us, bringing

...one Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we would stay.

17 When we had come to Jerusalem, the brothers received us gladly. 18 The day following, Paul went in with us to James; and all the elders were present.

19 When he had greeted them, he reported one by one the things which God had worked amongst the Gentiles through his ministry.

20 They, when they heard it, glorified God. They said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are amongst the Jews of those who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law.

21 They have been informed about you, that you teach all the Jews who are amongst the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children and not to walk after the customs."

Acts 21:22-30 "What then?"

The assembly must certainly meet, for they will hear that you have come. 23 Therefore do what we tell you. We have four men who have taken a vow.

24 Take them and purify yourself with them, and pay their expenses for them, that they may shave their heads. Then all will know that there is no truth in the things that they have been informed about you, but that you yourself also walk keeping the law.

25 But concerning the Gentiles who believe, we have written our decision that they should observe no such thing, except that they should keep themselves from food offered to idols, from blood, from strangled things, and from sexual immorality."

26 Then Paul took the men, and the next day purified himself and went with them into the temple, declaring

...the fulfilment of the days of purification, until the offering was offered for every one of them.

27 When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the multitude and laid hands on him, 28 crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the people, and the law, and this place. Moreover, he also brought Greeks into the temple, and has defiled this holy place!"

29 For they had seen Trophimus, the Ephesian, with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.

30 All the city was moved and the people ran together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple. Immediately the doors were shut.

Acts 21:31-40 As they were trying to kill him, news came up to the commanding officer of the regiment that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.

32 Immediately he took soldiers and centurions and ran down to them. They, when they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, stopped beating Paul.

33 Then the commanding officer came near, arrested him, commanded him to be bound with two chains, and enquired who he was and what he had done.

34 Some shouted one thing, and some another, amongst the crowd. When he couldn't find out the truth because of the noise, he commanded him to be brought into the barracks.

35 When he came to the stairs, he was carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the crowd;

36 for the multitude of the people followed after, crying out, "Away with him!"

37 As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he asked the commanding officer, "May I speak to you?"

He said, "Do you know Greek? 38 Aren't you then the Egyptian, who before these days stirred up to sedition and led out into the wilderness the four thousand men of the Assassins?"

39 But Paul said, "I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no insignificant city. I beg you, allow me to speak to the people."

40 When he had given him permission, Paul, standing on the stairs, beckoned with his hand to the people. When there was a great silence, he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, saying,

Acts 22:1-11 "Brothers and fathers, listen to the defence which I now make to you."

2 When they heard that he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, they were even more quiet. He said,

3 "I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, instructed according to the strict tradition of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God, even as you all are today.

4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women,

5 as also the high priest and all the council of the elders testify, from whom also I received letters to the brothers, and travelled to Damascus to bring them also who were there to Jerusalem in bonds to be punished.

6 As I made my journey, and came close to Damascus, about noon, suddenly a great light shone around me from the sky.

7 I fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'

8 I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you persecute.'

9 "Those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they didn't understand the voice of him who spoke to me.

10 I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' The Lord said to me, 'Arise, and go into Damascus. There you will be told about all things which are appointed for you to do.'

11 When I couldn't see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of those who were with me, I came into Damascus."

Acts 22:12-24 "One Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well reported of by all the Jews who lived in Damascus, 13 came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' In that very hour I looked up at him.

14 He said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know his will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear a voice from his mouth. 15 For you will be a witness for him to all men of what you have seen and heard.

16 Now why do you wait? Arise, be baptised, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

17 "When I had returned to Jerusalem, and while I prayed in the temple, I fell into a trance, 18 and saw him saying to me, 'Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not receive testimony concerning me from you.'

19 I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue those who believed in you.

20 When the blood of Stephen, your witness, was shed, I also was standing by, consenting to his death, and guarding the cloaks of those who killed him.'

21 "He said to me, 'Depart, for I will send you out far from here to the Gentiles.'"

22 They listened to him until he said that; then they lifted up their voice and said, "Rid the earth of this fellow, for he isn't fit to live!"

23 As they cried out, threw off their cloaks, and threw dust into the air, 24 the commanding officer commanded him to be brought into the barracks, ordering him to be examined by scourging, that he might know for what crime they...

Acts 22:24-30 ...shouted against him like that. 25 When they had tied him up with thongs, Paul asked the centurion who stood by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and not found guilty?"

26 When the centurion heard it, he went to the commanding officer and told him, "Watch what you are about to do, for this man is a Roman!"

27 The commanding officer came and asked him, "Tell me, are you a Roman?" He said, "Yes."

28 The commanding officer answered, "I bought my citizenship for a great price."

Paul said, "But I was born a Roman."

29 Immediately those who were about to examine him departed from him, and the commanding officer also was afraid when he realised that he was a Roman, because he had

...bound him.

30 But on the next day, desiring to know the truth about why he was accused by the Jews, he freed him from the bonds, and commanded the chief priests and all the council to come together, and brought Paul down and set him before them.



Acts 23-28
To Be Continued...