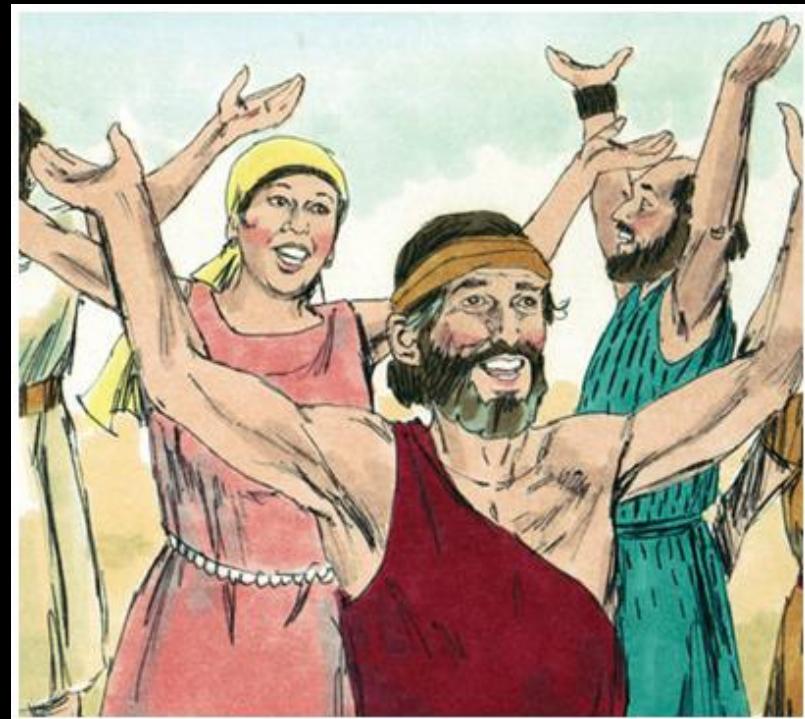
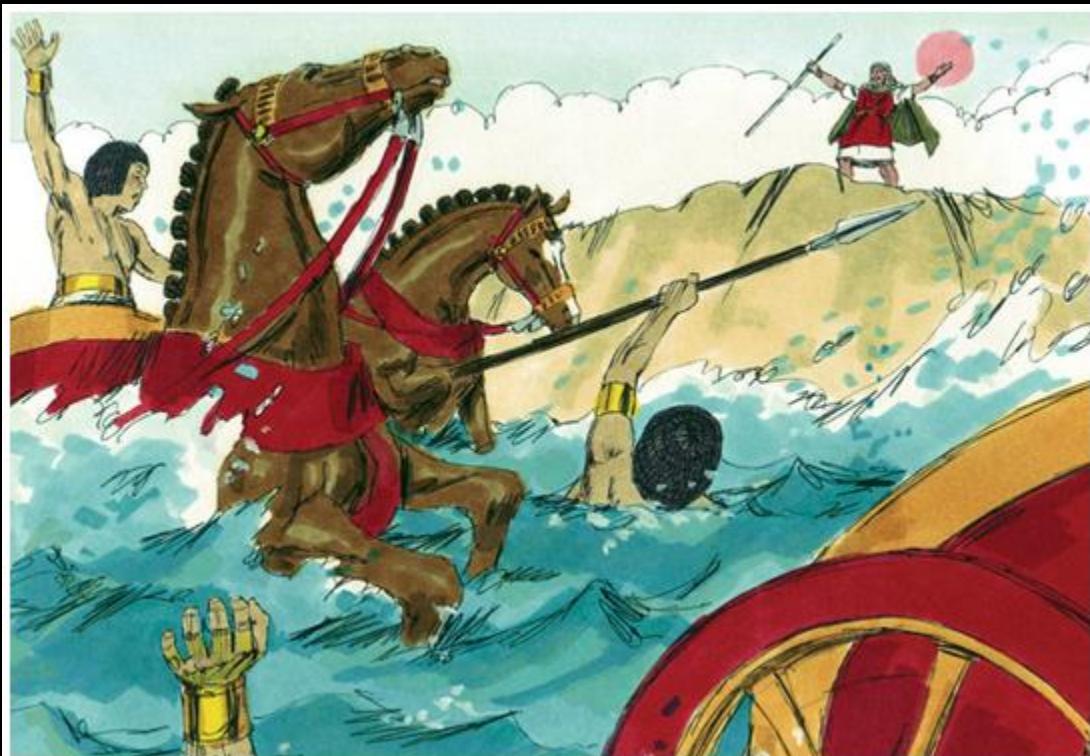


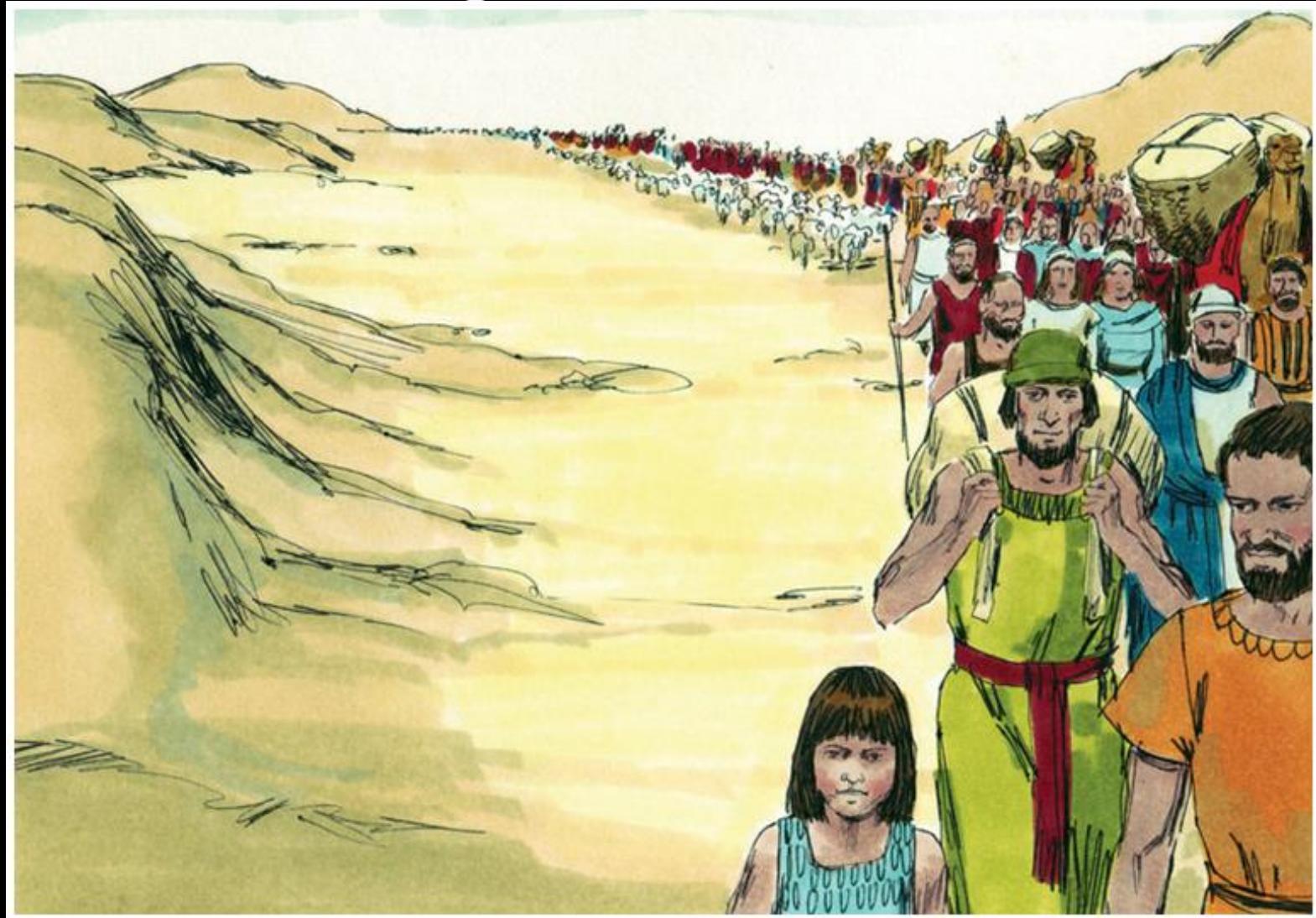
A wide-angle photograph of a desert at sunset. The foreground is filled with the undulating patterns of sand dunes, their surfaces catching the warm, golden light. In the middle ground, several large dunes rise against a backdrop of smaller ones. The sky above is a dramatic gradient, transitioning from a deep blue on the right to a bright, hazy yellow and orange on the left where the sun is low on the horizon. The overall atmosphere is one of tranquility and vastness.

The Journey to Sinai

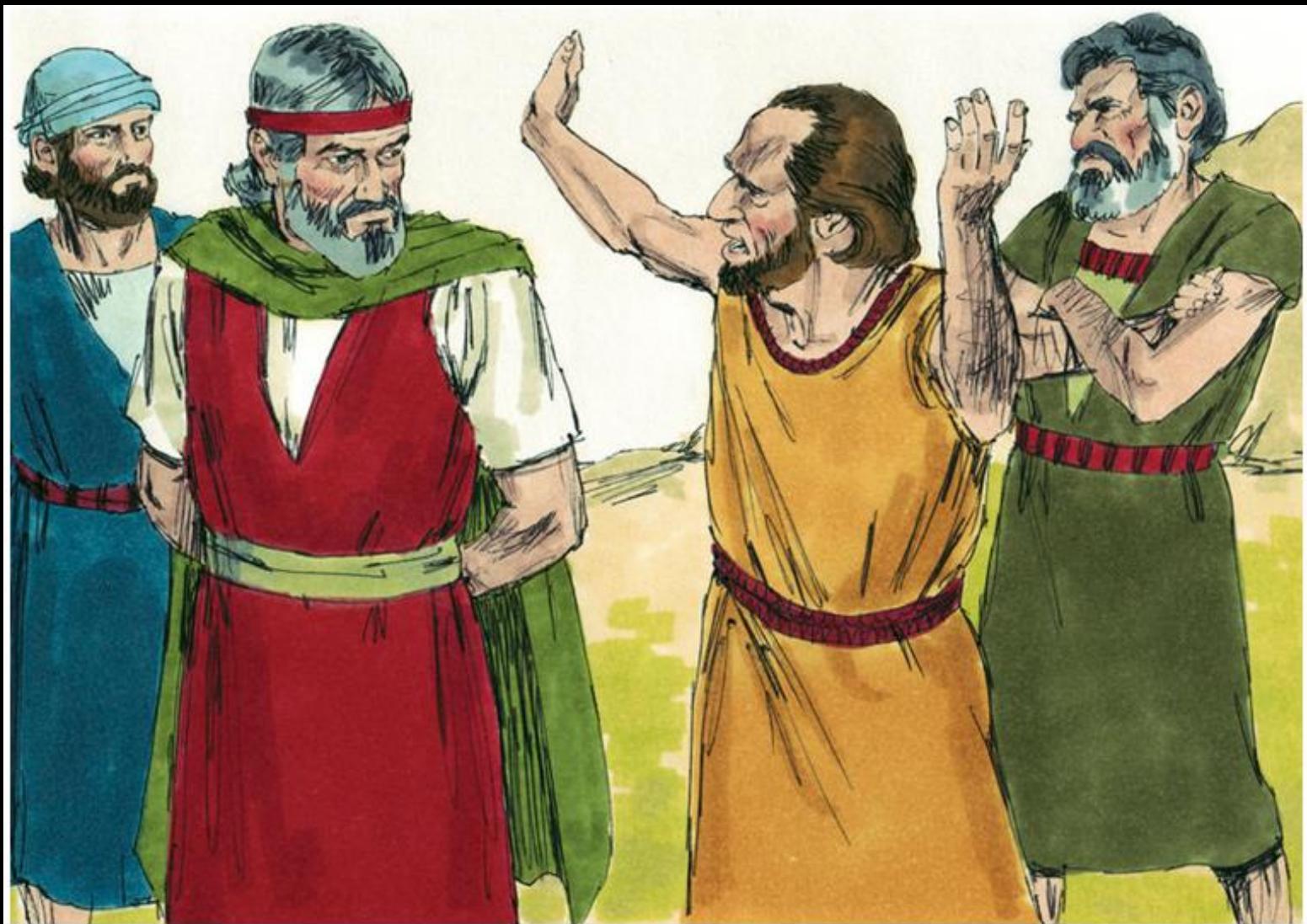
The Israelites are now completely free from their old master, Egypt, and are following God's cloud & fire back to Mount Sinai.



The Israelites soon realized their surroundings in the wilderness...



and began complaining because they had run out of food and water.



In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the LORD’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”

Exodus 16:2-3

The Israelites first grumbled about their food and water only three days after passing through the Red Sea.



3 DAYS

Rather than looking to
God to help them and to
ask Him to provide for
them...**they blamed**
Moses and God.

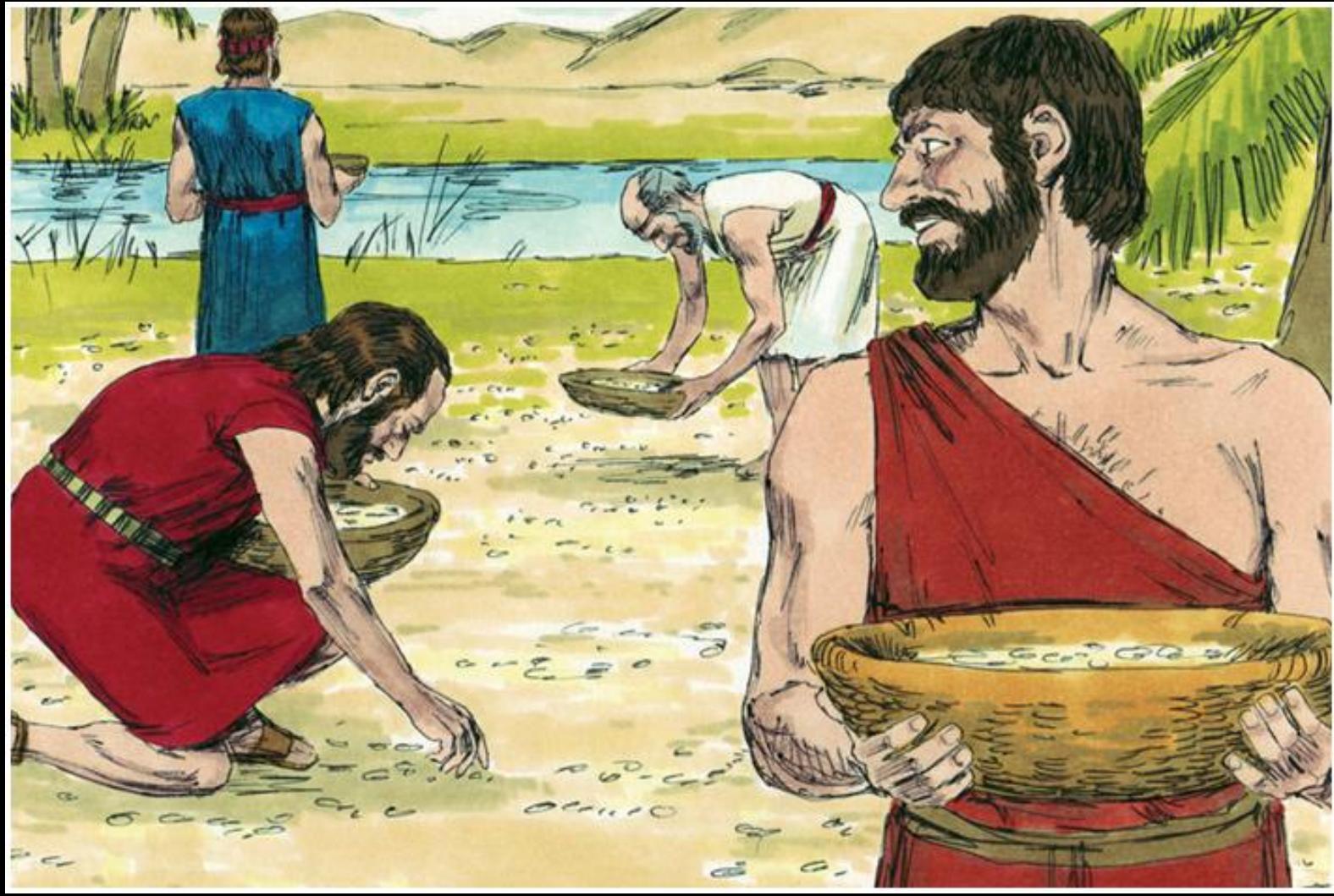
After the Red Sea experience, the Israelites should have known that God would **provide** for them and do something miraculous!

But they doubted Him.

They have not learned to

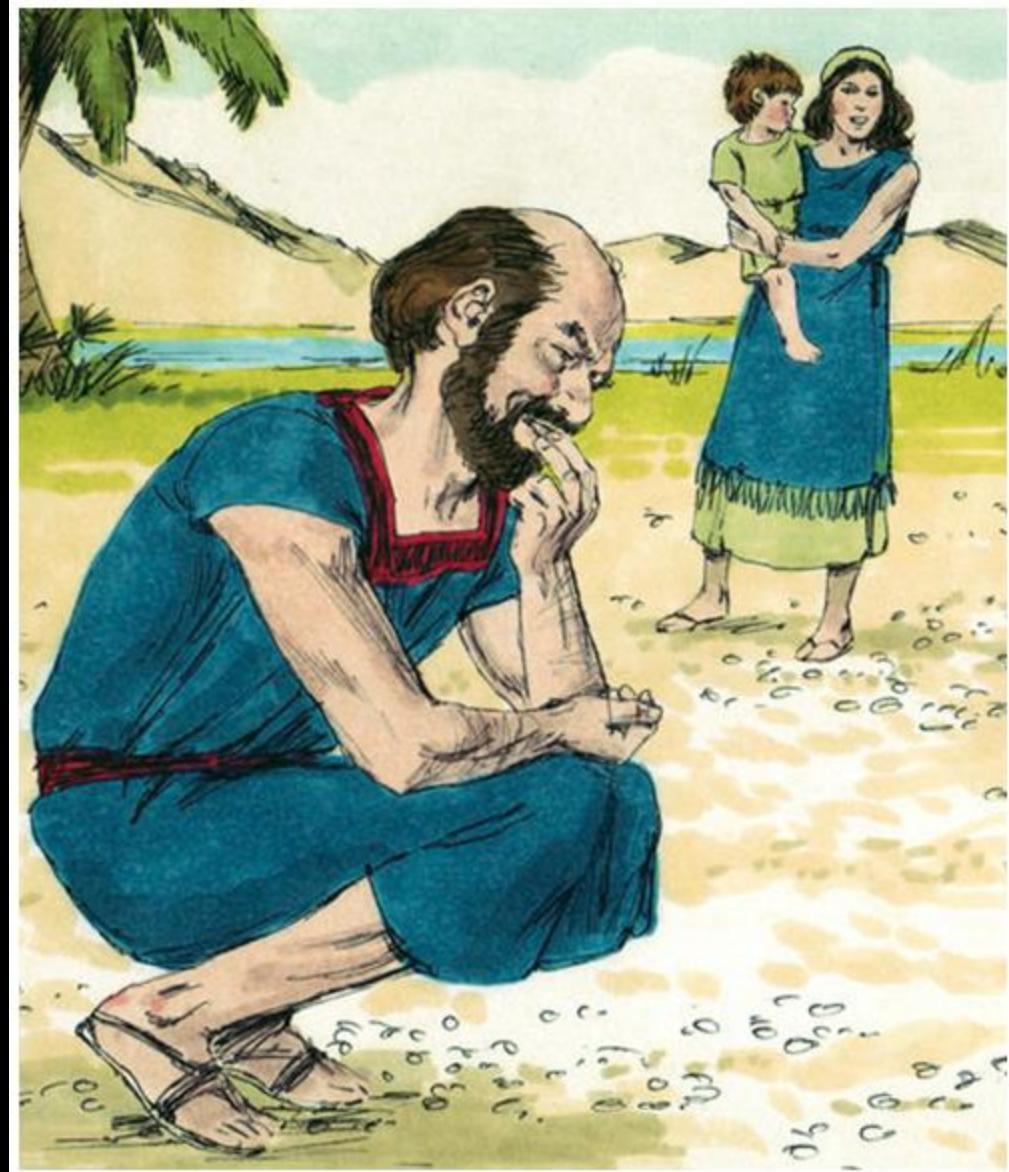
trust God for **everything!**

God provided Manna (bread) & Quail (meat) from heaven and water.



Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day... Then Moses said to them, “No one is to keep any of it until morning.”

Exodus 16:4, 19



In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.

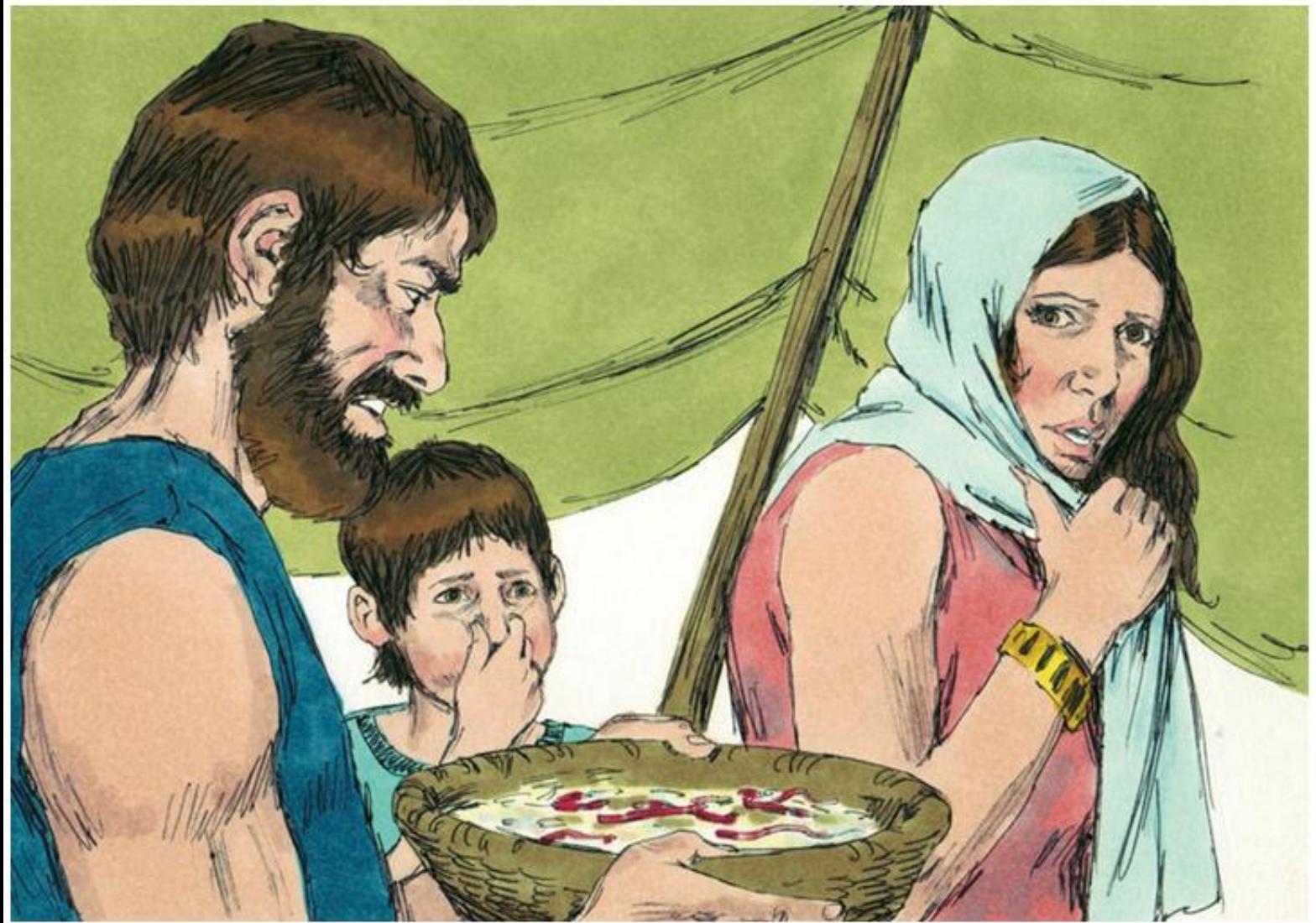
Exodus 16:4-5

The Lord was not trying to cause them to fail. Rather, as an exercise in training and testing. The need for provisions gave the people an opportunity to verify their faith.

In effect, they would be displaying that they trusted the God who delivered them, to also provide for them.

This food came each day—a regular provision to remind them to do what is right and to walk by God's instructions.

However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. Exodus 16:20



Does this instruction regarding food remind you of anything?



“...you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

Gen 2:17

God wanted Israel to
trust that he knew
what was **best.**

God wanted Israel to
know that there were
consequences for not
trusting and obeying.

God wanted to prepare Israel for the **spiritual** consequences that would soon be coming for not trusting and obeying God's spiritual laws & instructions.

God wanted to have the same kind of **Creator-Creature** relationship with them as he wanted with Adam and Eve.

God wanted them to
submit to Him as
their ruler, protector
and provider.

In the plagues and the Red Sea crossing, the Israelites learned about God's unique **power**



In the wilderness, they learned
about God's providential **care**



But they still did not know God's character



The covenant at Sinai was designed
to teach the Israelites about;

**God's nature & character
and Israel's need to
depend on him.**

God planned to make an
agreement with Israel at
Mount Sinai.



The Lord promised to
bless, accept and protect
the Israelites if they
obeyed Him perfectly.

If they did not do
everything as God said.
He would **reject, punish**
and curse them.

This agreement is
historically the
earliest example of a
Suzerain Treaty.

A **Suzerain Treaty** (1) **Identifies** the parties involved in the treaty (*Lord-subjects*) (2) **Lists** the deeds already performed by the Lord on behalf of the subjects (3) **Explains** the terms to be upheld by the subjects for the life of the treaty (4) **Defines** the blessings if the stipulations of the treaty are upheld and the punishments if they are not upheld.

God knew that in a very short time the Israelites would disobey Him, and under the agreement of the Law, he would have to punish them for their sins....



A close-up photograph of two hands, one dark-skinned and one light-skinned, shaking hands. They are wearing white shirts and dark jackets. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with the dark-skinned hand on the left and the light-skinned hand on the right. The background is plain white.

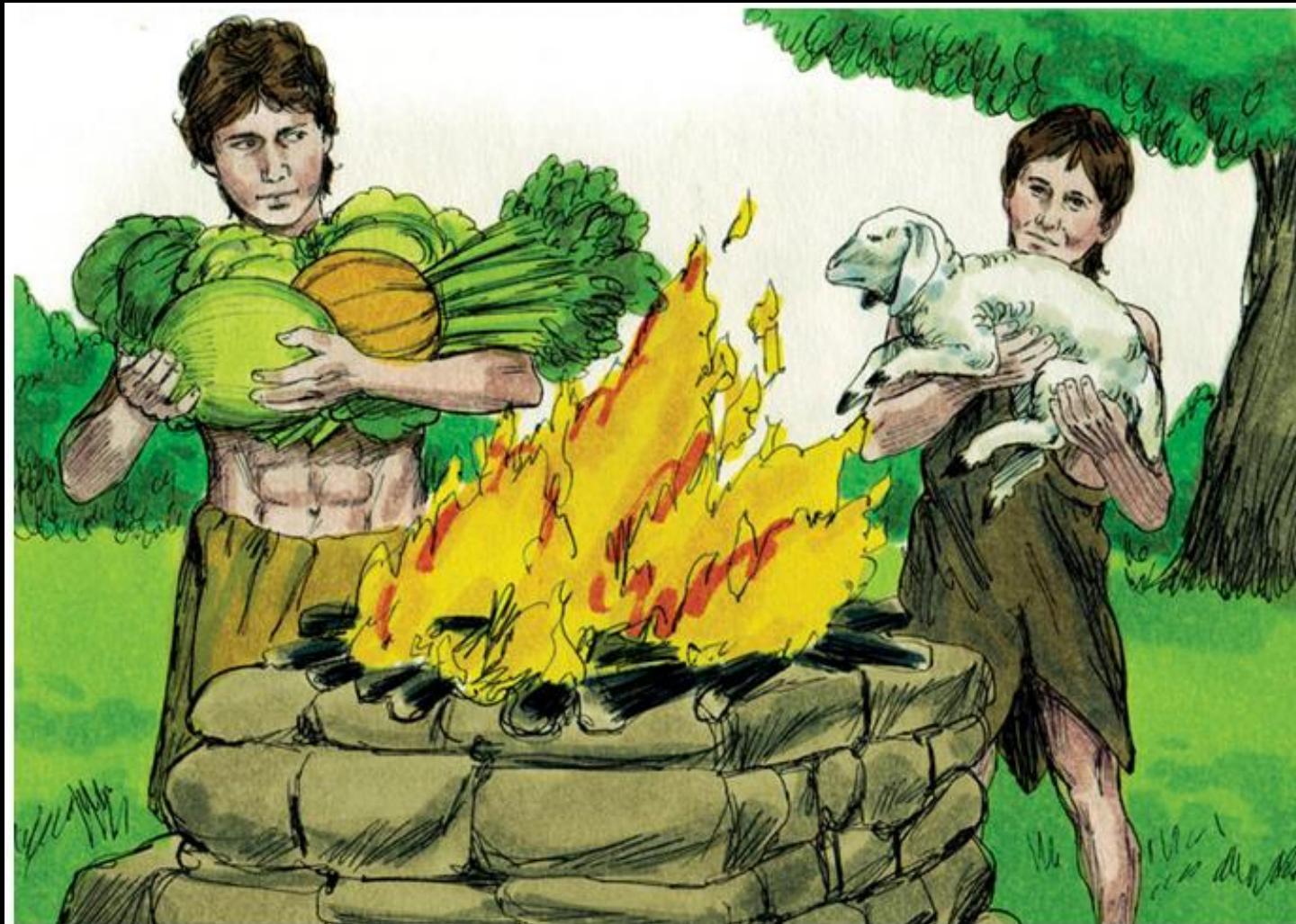
Why did the Lord
make an agreement
with them...

...when He knew that they
were not capable of keeping
their side of the deal?



Currently, Israel has no concept of God's holy character, of their sinfulness or how to relate to God.

Israel was like Cain,
who thought that he could please God in
his own strength and efforts.



God wanted to **teach** them through the Law that they could not become His friends and earn His acceptance and gifts by their own **efforts**.



God did this because He wanted to prove to them that they were **SINNERS** and were **UNABLE** to please Him!



...and to teach them to **live**
by faith in the instruction
and power of God.

*“Men are never duly touched
and impressed with a conviction
of their insignificance, until they
have contrasted themselves
with the majesty of God.”*

RC Sproul

Come discover more next week in: **The Law**

