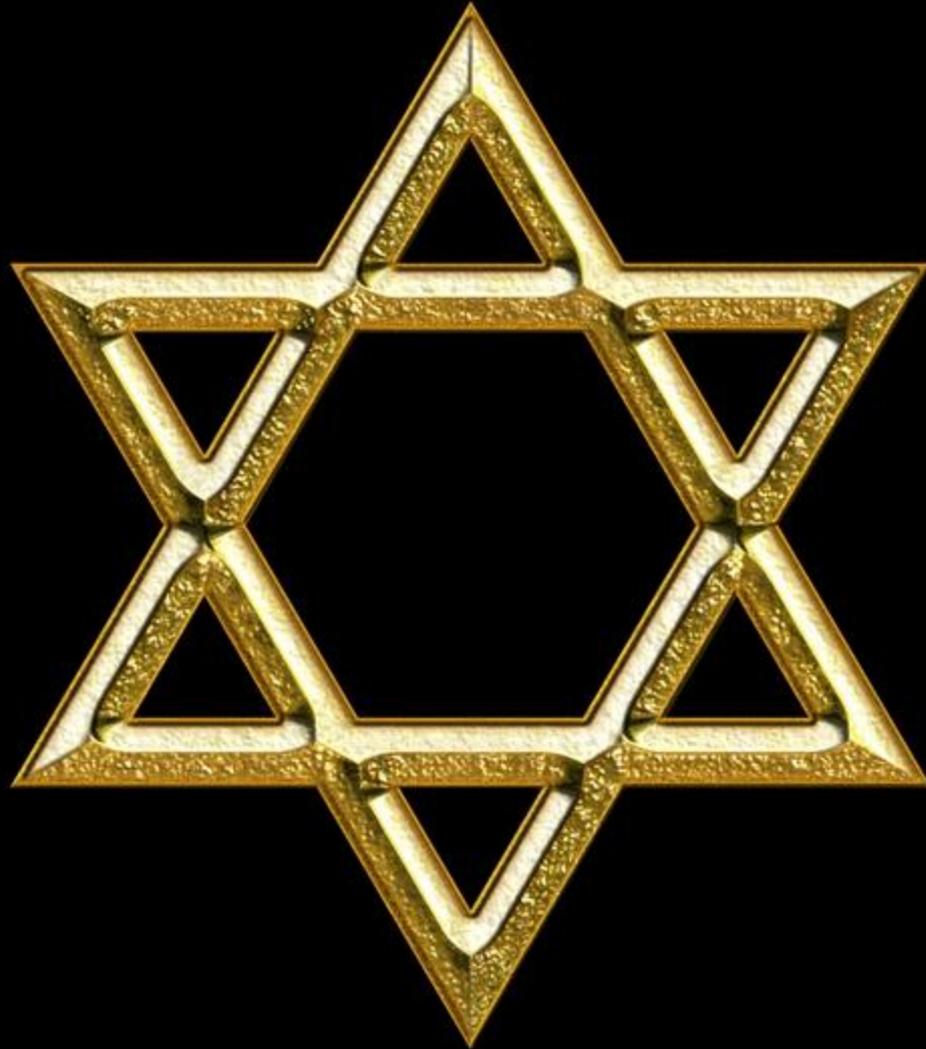
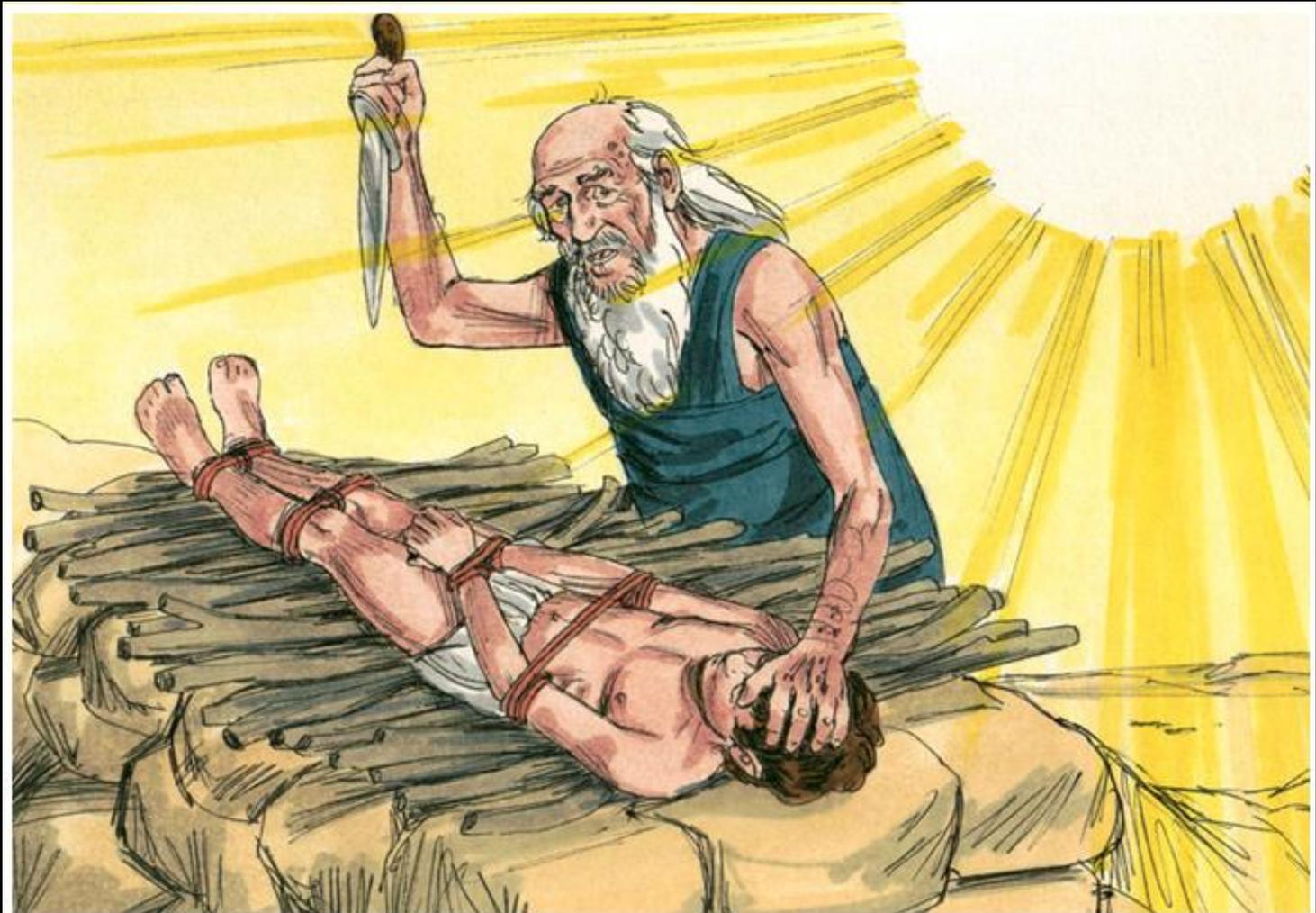


Isaac to Israel



We last discussed Isaac when he was saved from being sacrificed when he was 13-15yrs old.



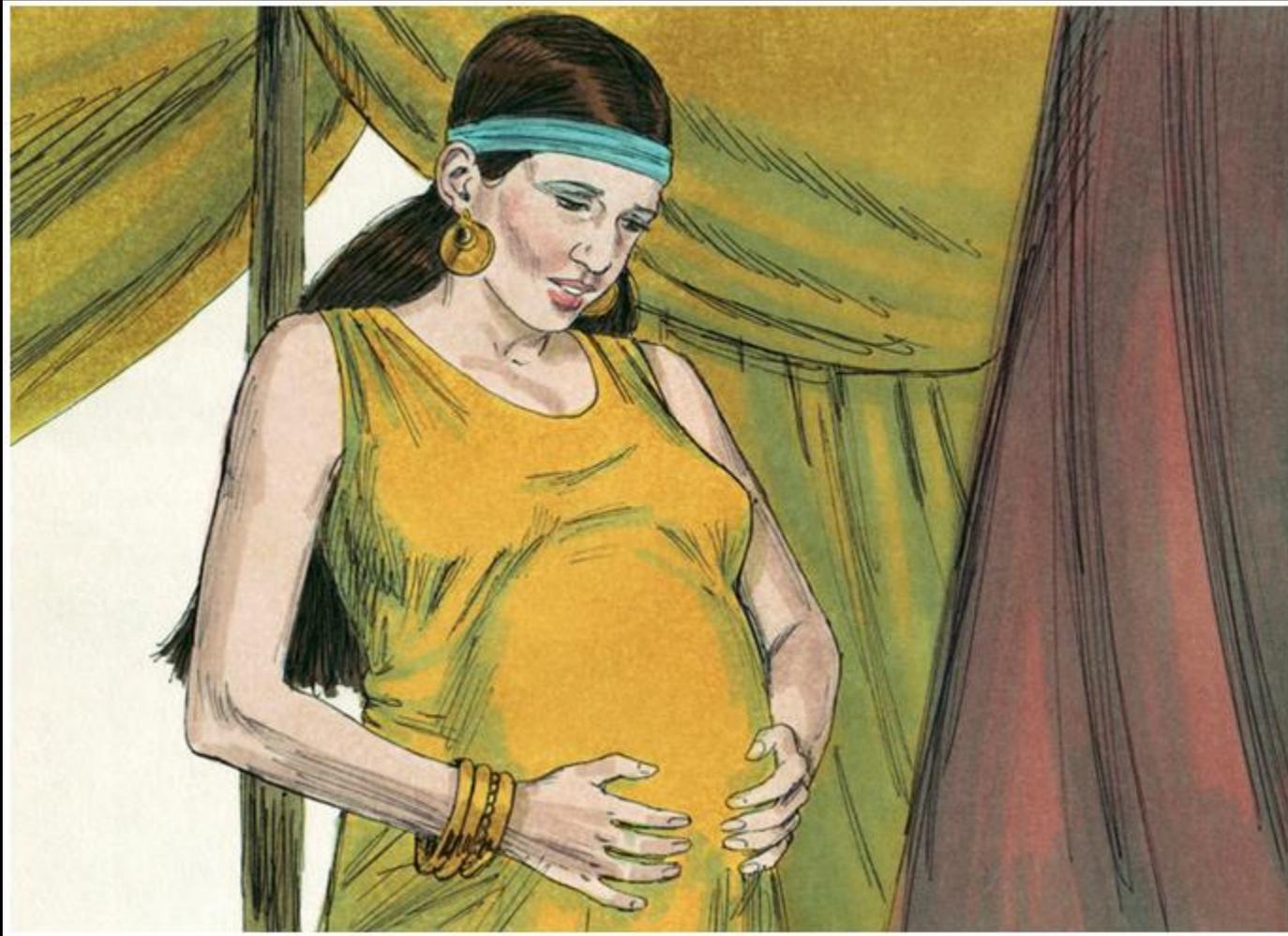
Now Isaac is now a full grown adult. Isaac married Rebekah. She was a woman from where Abraham was originally from.



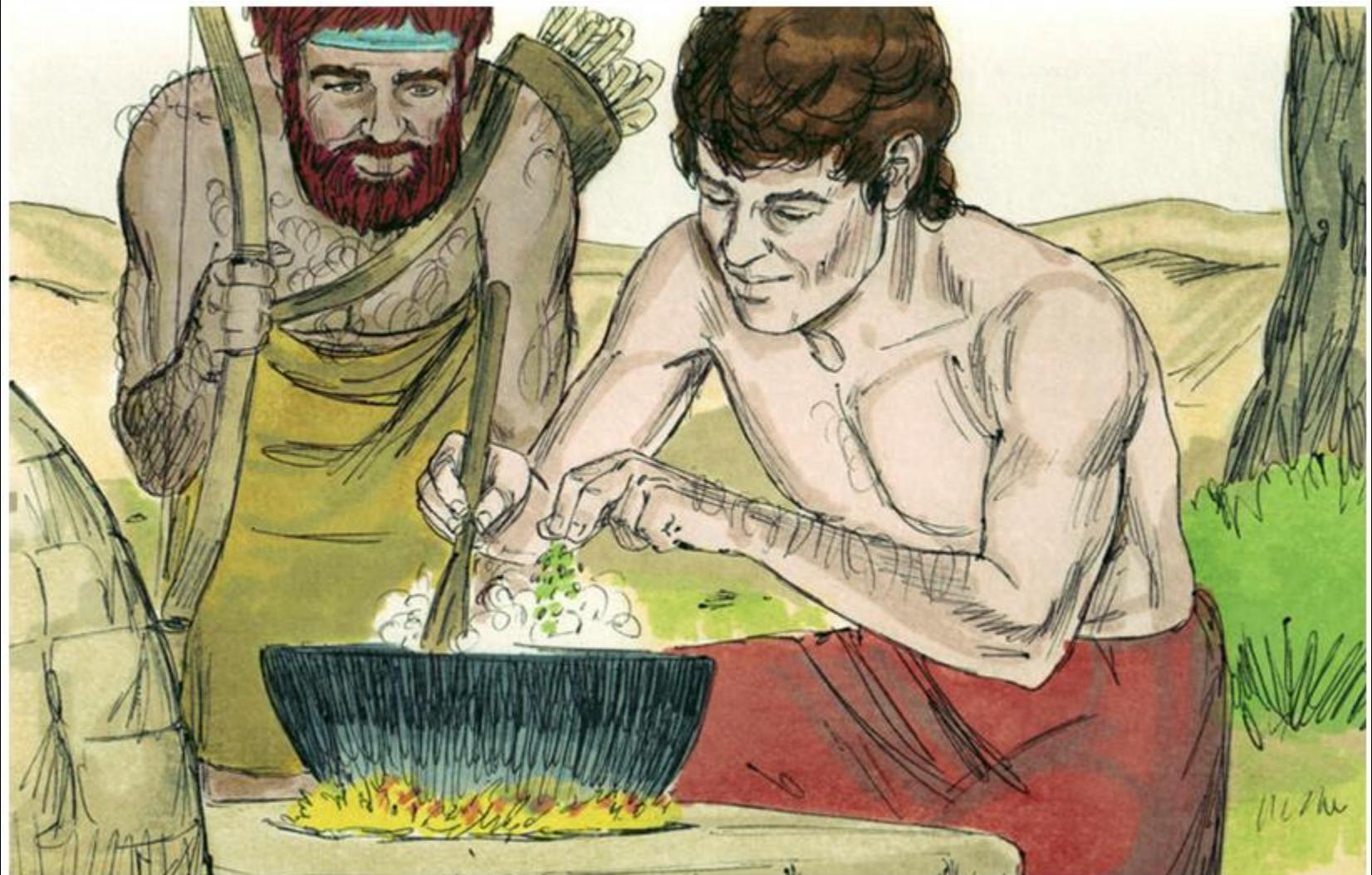
Rebekah, like Sarah, was barren (*not able to have children*). But Isaac prayed to God and God answered his prayers. **Gen 25:19-21**

Isaac prayed 'in line' with God's promises. God had promised to Abraham and Isaac to turn them into a 'great nation' and a multitude of people.

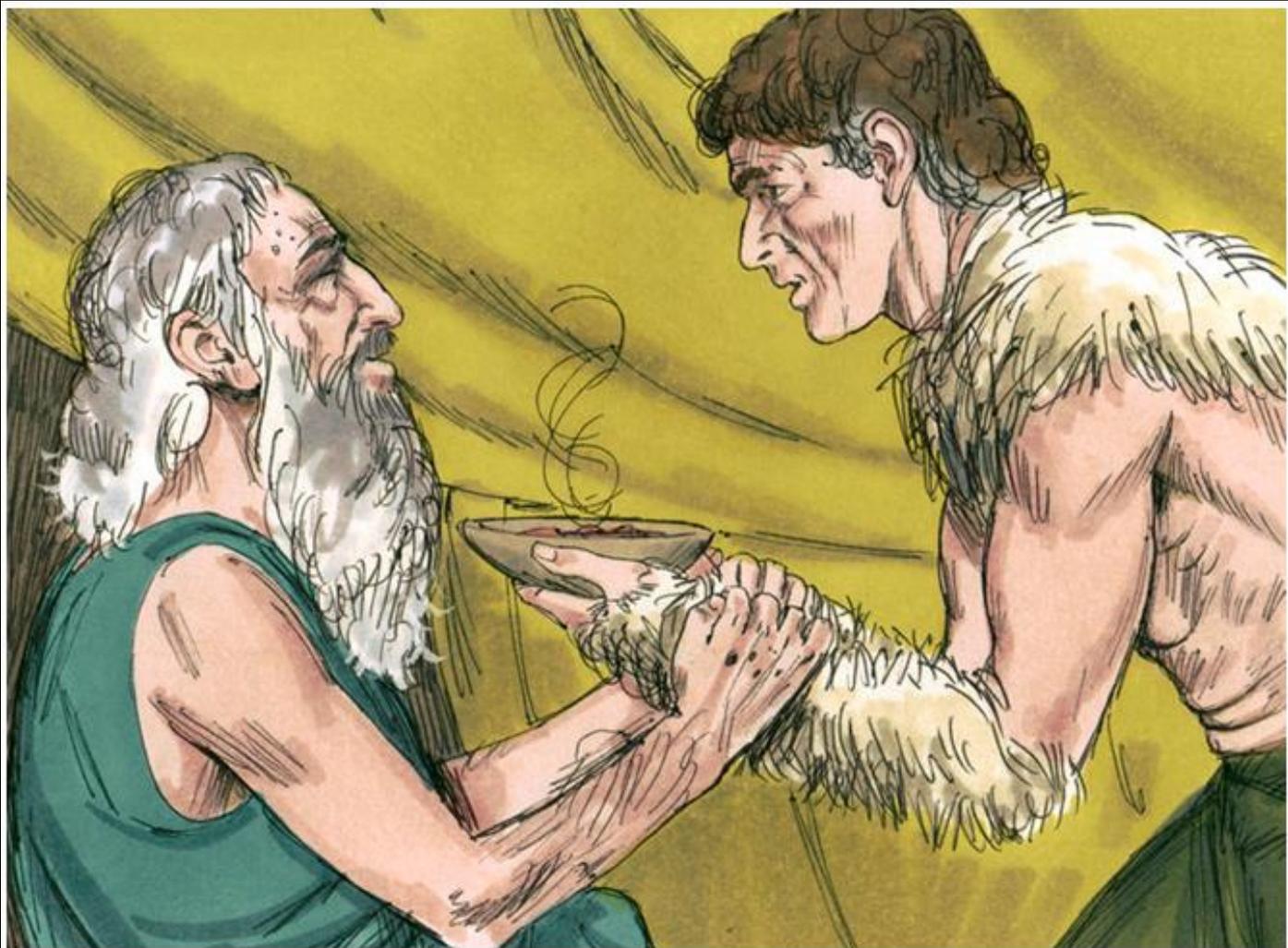
God told her that there were “**two nations**” in her womb and that “two peoples from within you will be separated”...and that “the older would serve the younger”. **Gen 25:22-23**



Esau, the older, sold his “birthright” (*his right to the families blessings*) to his brother Jacob, for a bowl of stew.



Later in life when Isaac, their father, was dying and it was time to pass on the birth right...Jacob tricked old and blind Isaac into believing that he was Esau! And Jacob received Isaac's blessing instead of Esau!

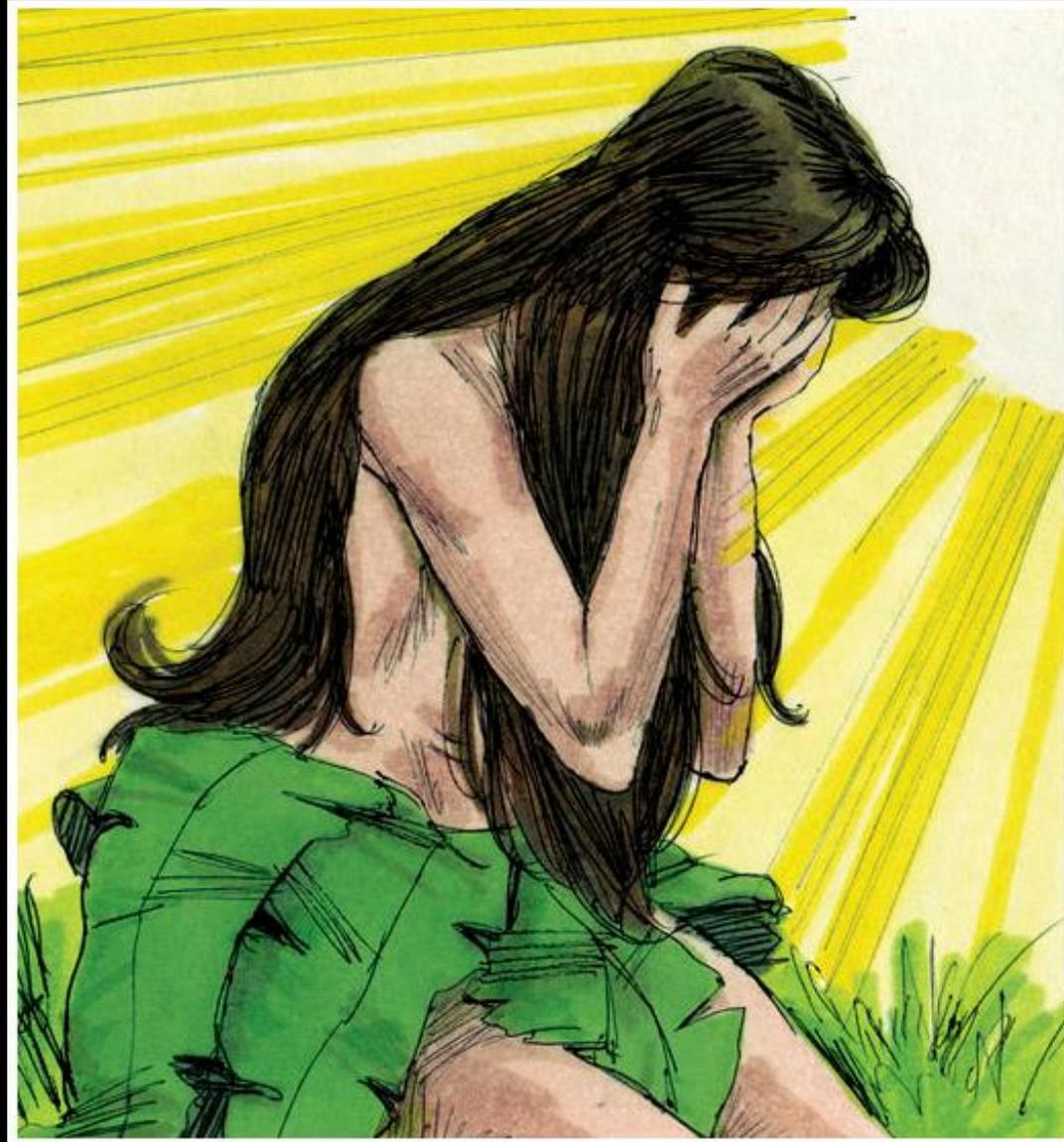


None of this sinful, trickery
confused God.

Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls—she was told, "The older will serve the younger."

Romans 9:10-12

God had made
a promise to
Adam and Eve
to bring about a
male that
would crush
the power of
Satan and make
a way back to
God.



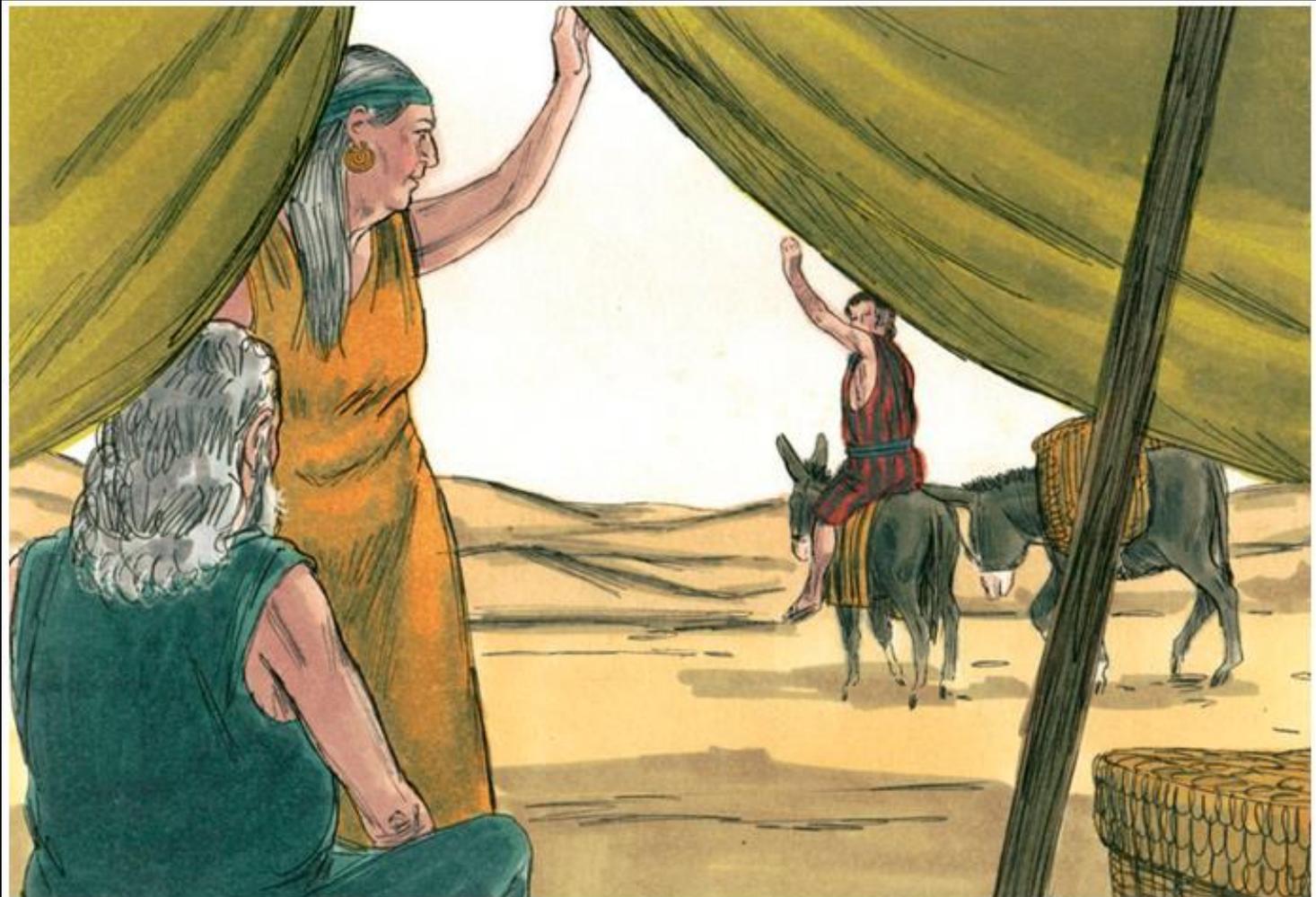
God had made a promise to Abraham to multiply him into a great nation and that one of his offspring would bless all the scattered nations.



Now God is choosing to use Jacob to bring about the next stages of the promise.

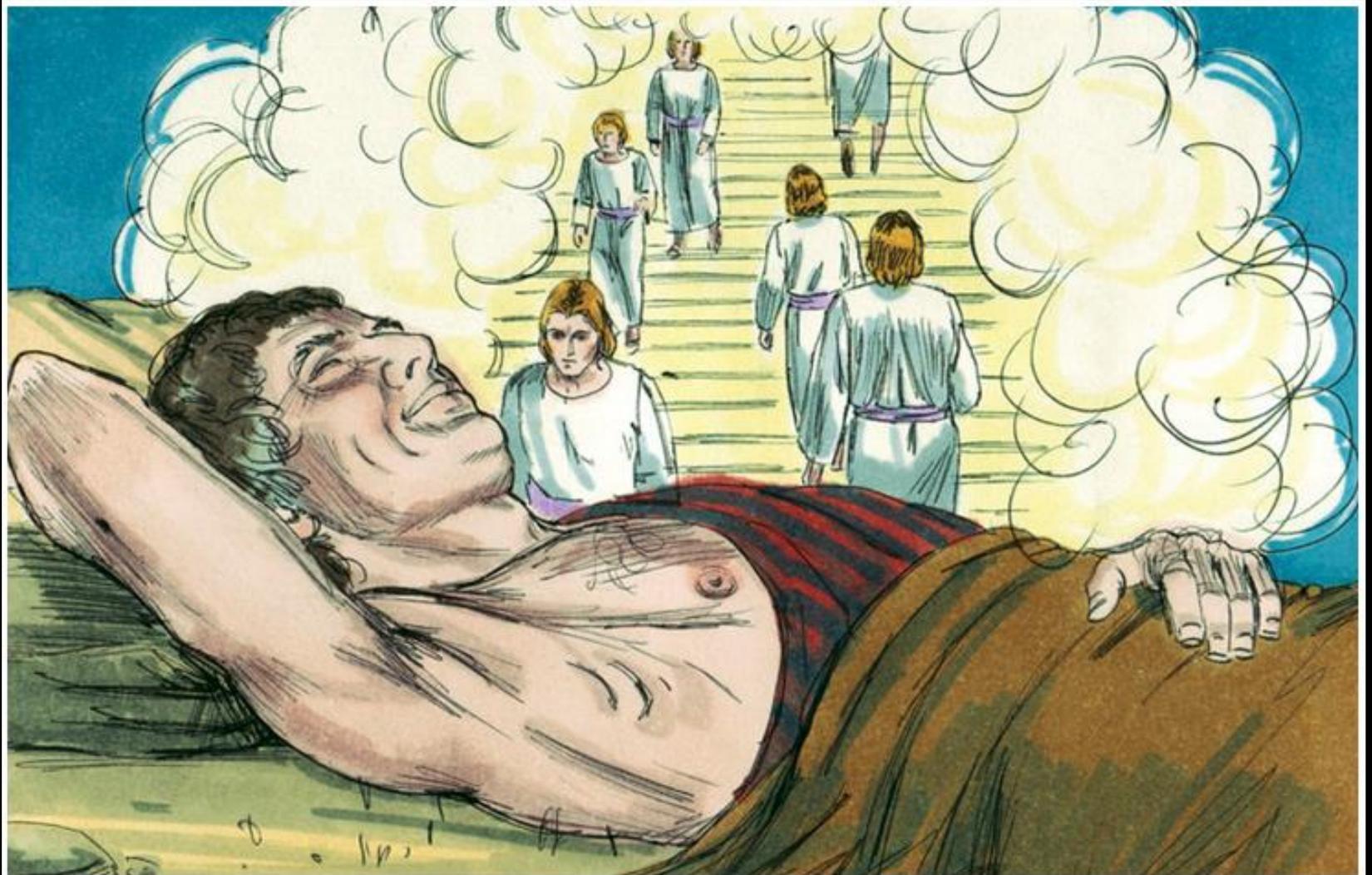


Esau is furious with Jacob and determines to kill him. Rebekah then sends Jacob away to her brother Laban, to hide with him and also to get a wife from the land of her relatives.

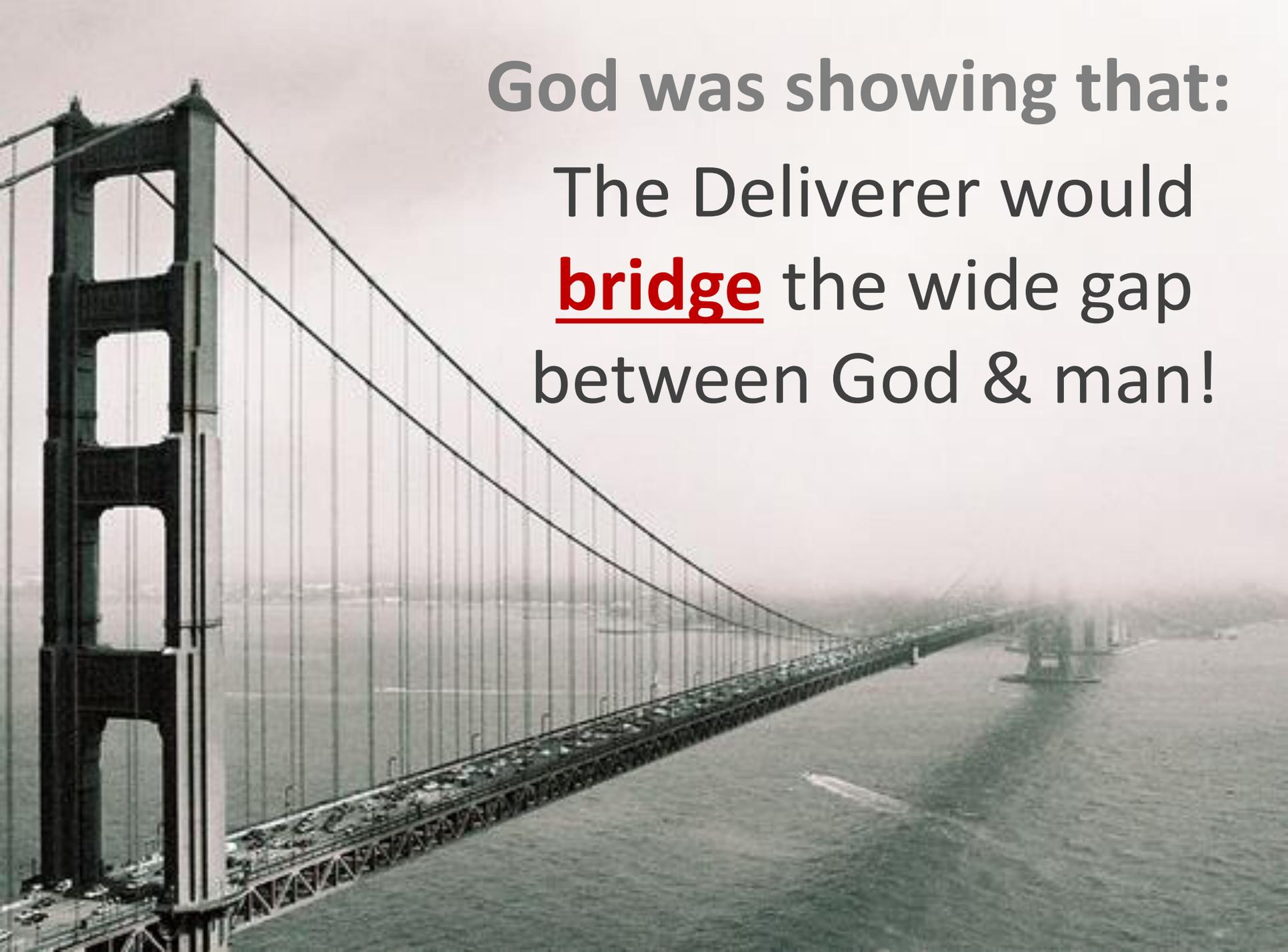


On his long journey to Laban's household,
Jacob slept and God gave him a dream.

Gen 28:10-22

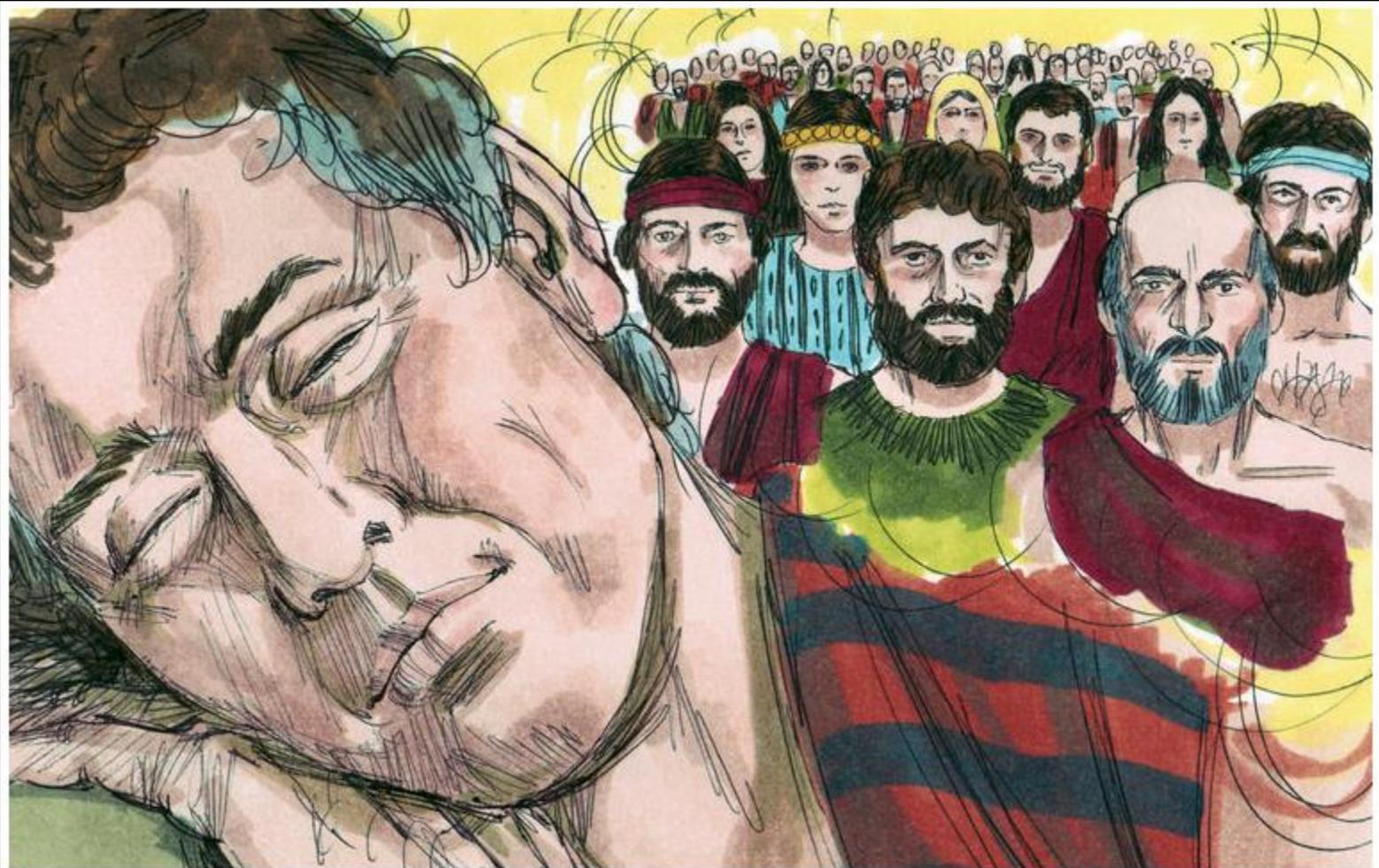


Jacob saw a stairway that touched the earth and reached all the way to heaven and there were angels going to and from heaven and earth on the stairs.



God was showing that:
The Deliverer would
bridge the wide gap
between God & man!

God then passed on the same promises to Jacob that he had given Abraham (Gen 15:4-6) & Isaac (Gen 26:3-6)



God said that he would

(1) multiply Jacob into

a great nation

Gen 28:12-15

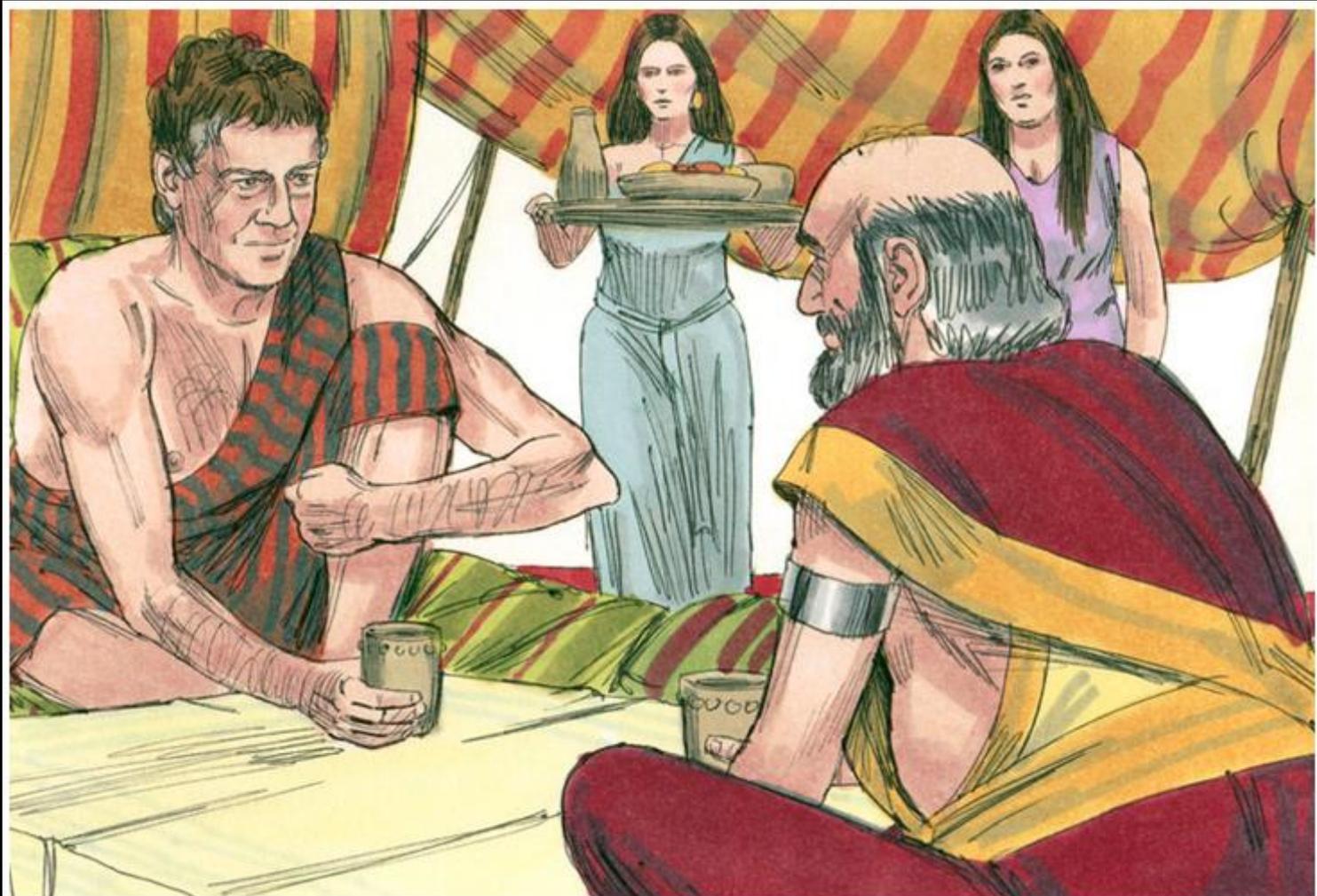
**(2) that one of his
offspring would bless all
the scattered nations.**

Gen 28:12-15

**(3) the land he was
sleeping on would
become the possession
of this nation.**

Gen 28:12-15

Jacob went on to work for his uncle for 7 years and married his eldest daughter Leah. He then married his younger daughter, Rachel, whom he initially wanted to marry, in turn for another 7 years of work.



On one occasion Jacob fought with one of God's angels all night.
His name was changed to 'Israel'



“Your name shall no longer
be Jacob, but Israel; for
you have striven with God
and with men and have
prevailed.”

Gen 32:28

Yisrael

יִשְׂרָאֵל

- **Literally:** “*God strives*”
- **Historically:** “*one who strives with God*”

Yisrael

יִשְׂרָאֵל

“he will rule as God”

From: שָׂרָה (sarah) meaning

To persist, exert oneself, persevere

From: אֱל (el) meaning

God

The struggle signified
is twofold:

- (1) God's struggle with mankind in the darkness of sin...
- (2) God's future struggle with his chosen people, Israel, who will regularly fail to believe the promises.

In the end Jacob prevailed
in the struggle and it's
significance is also
twofold:

(1) Sinful man (sin and Satan)
has the upper hand
(currently) in this struggle
with God...God appears to
be regularly defeated by sin
and Satan via mankind since
the garden.

(2) but that through Jacob's
(Israel's) descendants,
specifically, The Deliverer,
the battle will be forever
won by this 'striving of God'

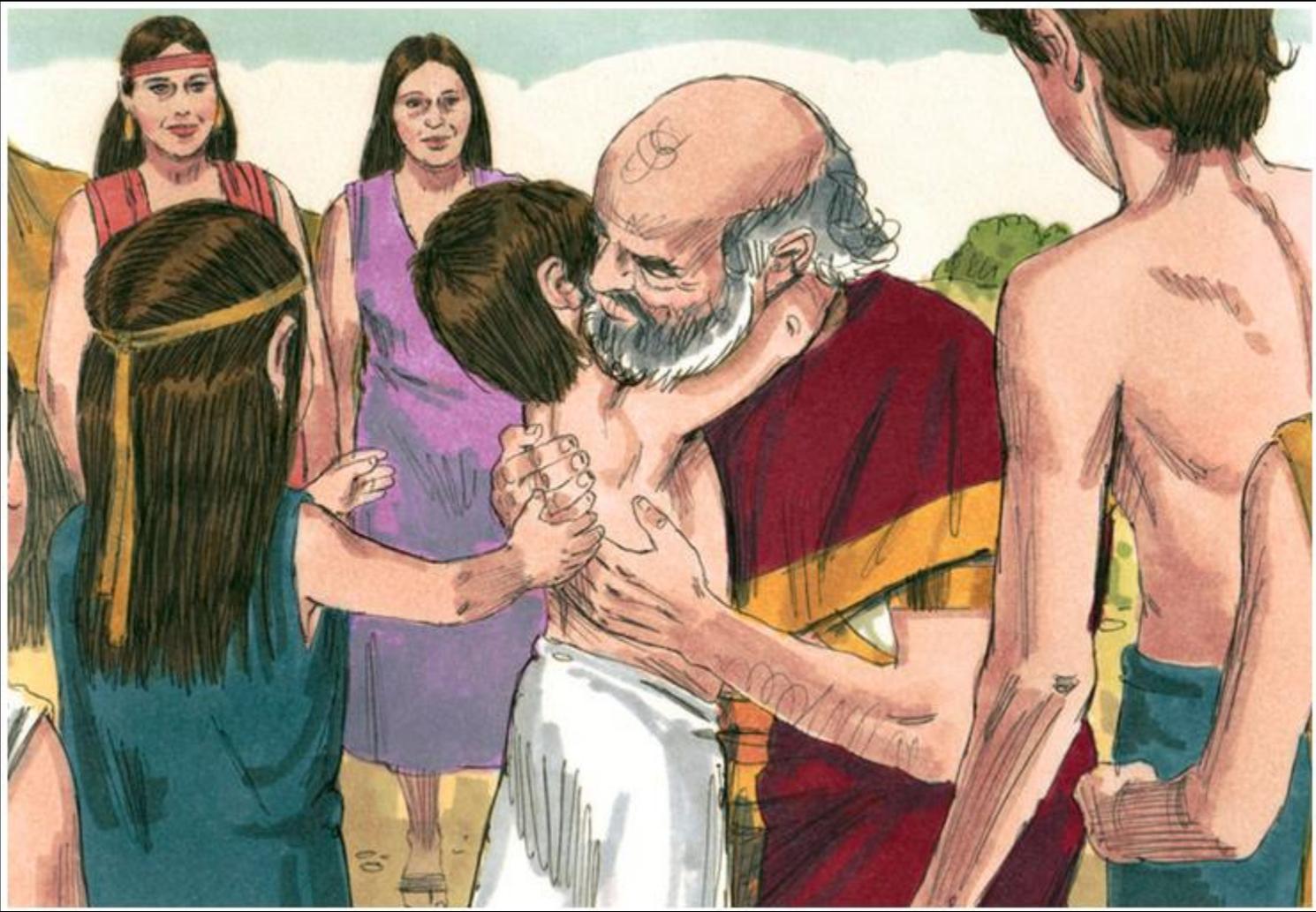
Better put, God will prevail (rule) over (put an end to) this struggle with man, by one of man's own offspring. And through a man as it were, he will win the on-going battle with God.

God is striving to win (and will) against this one (Jacob, Israel) who continually wrestles with (resists) God...and through his offspring the battle with God will be won (the struggle will cease).

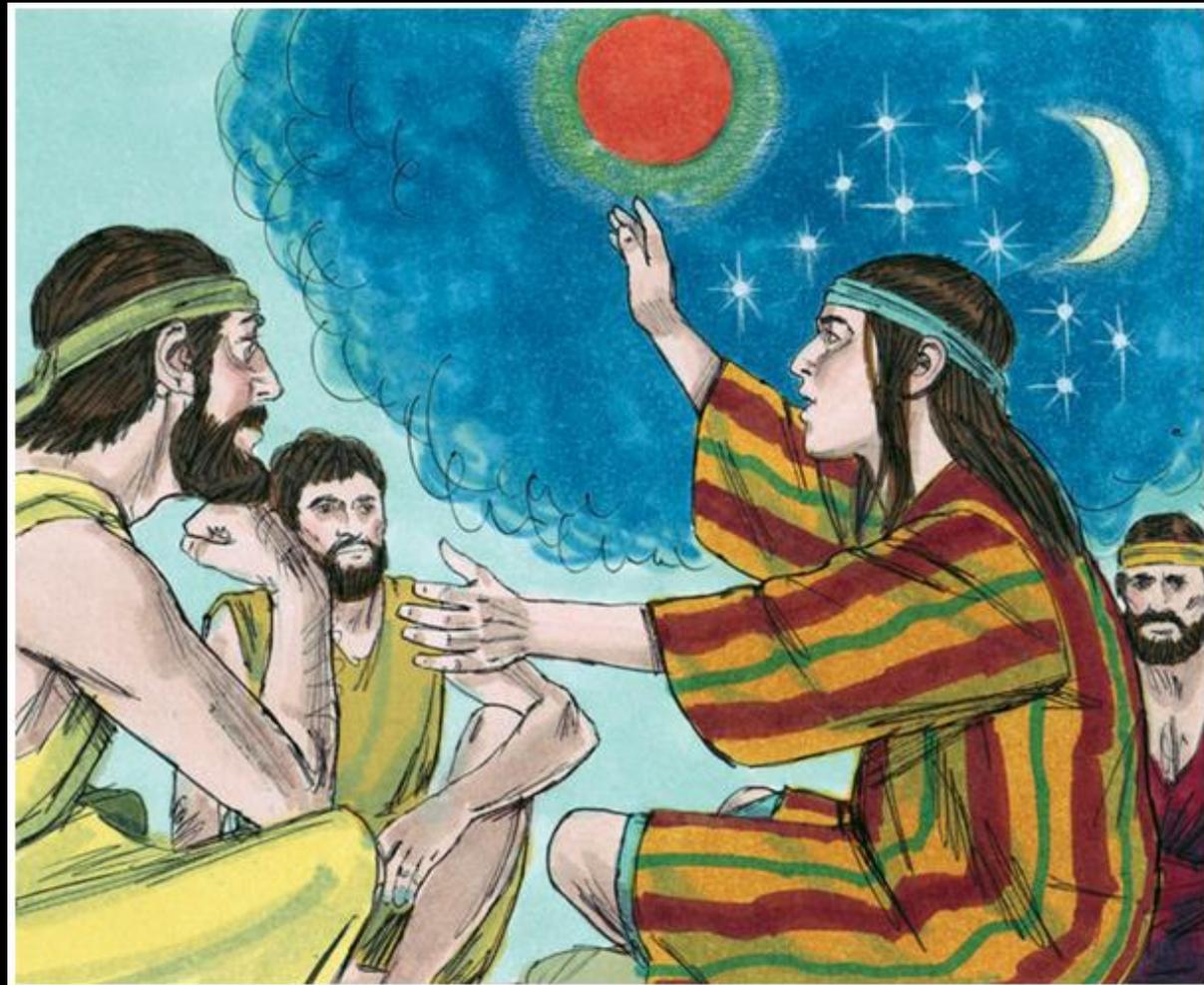
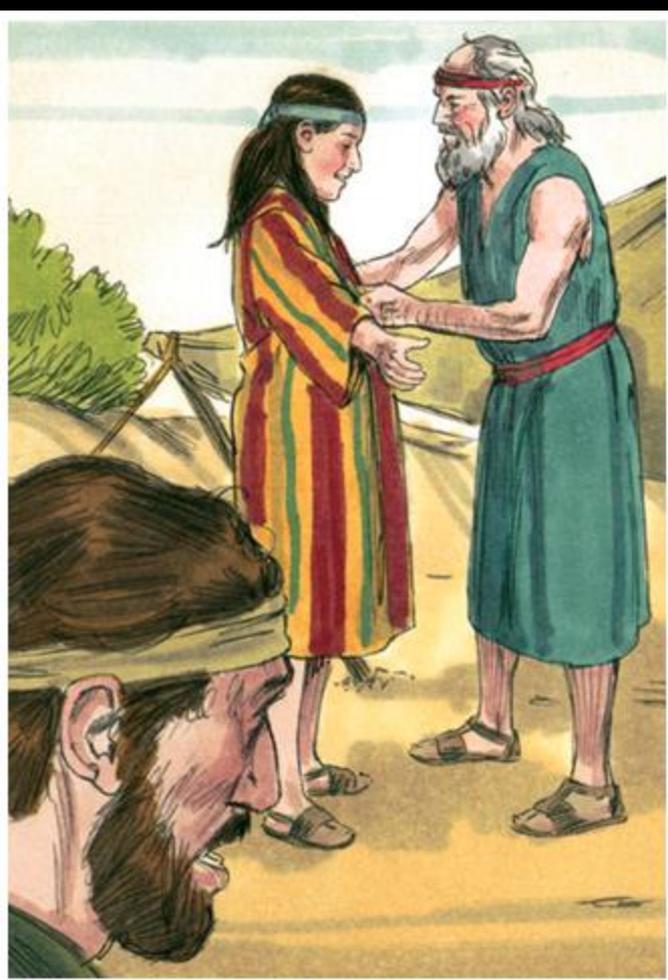
This account is a very clear
illustration of the prophecy and
promise given in Gen 3:15

*“And I will put enmity
between you and the
woman, and between your
offspring and hers; he will
crush your head, and you will
strike his heel.”*

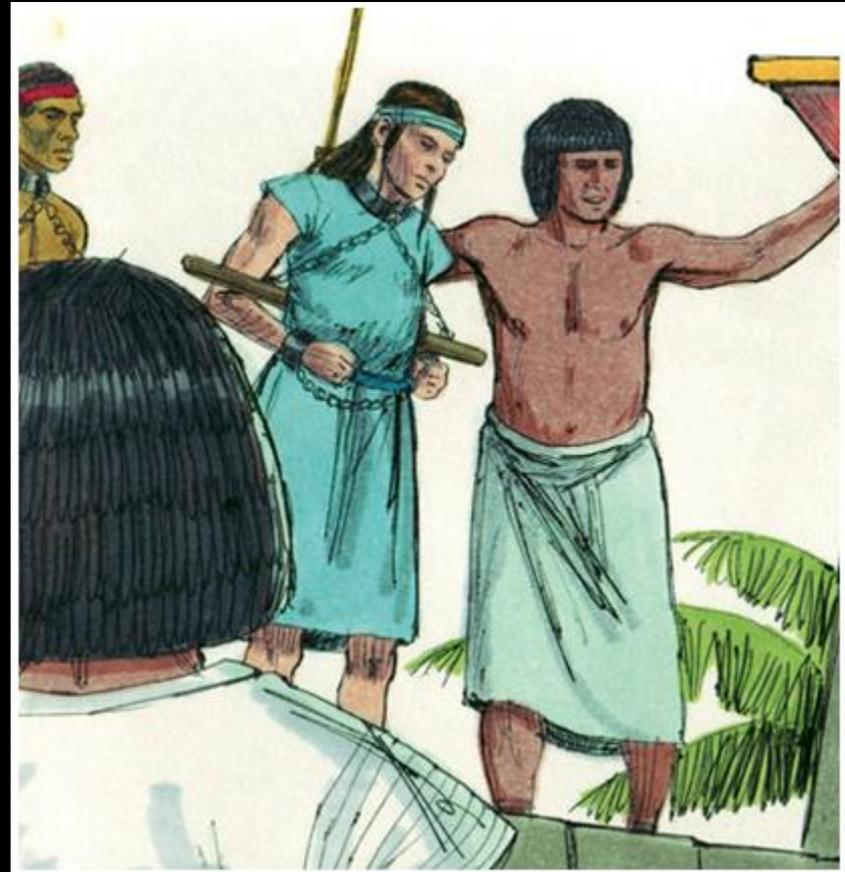
Between Jacob's two wives and his wives servants, Jacob has 12 sons. (2 with his wife Rachel; Joseph and Benjamin).



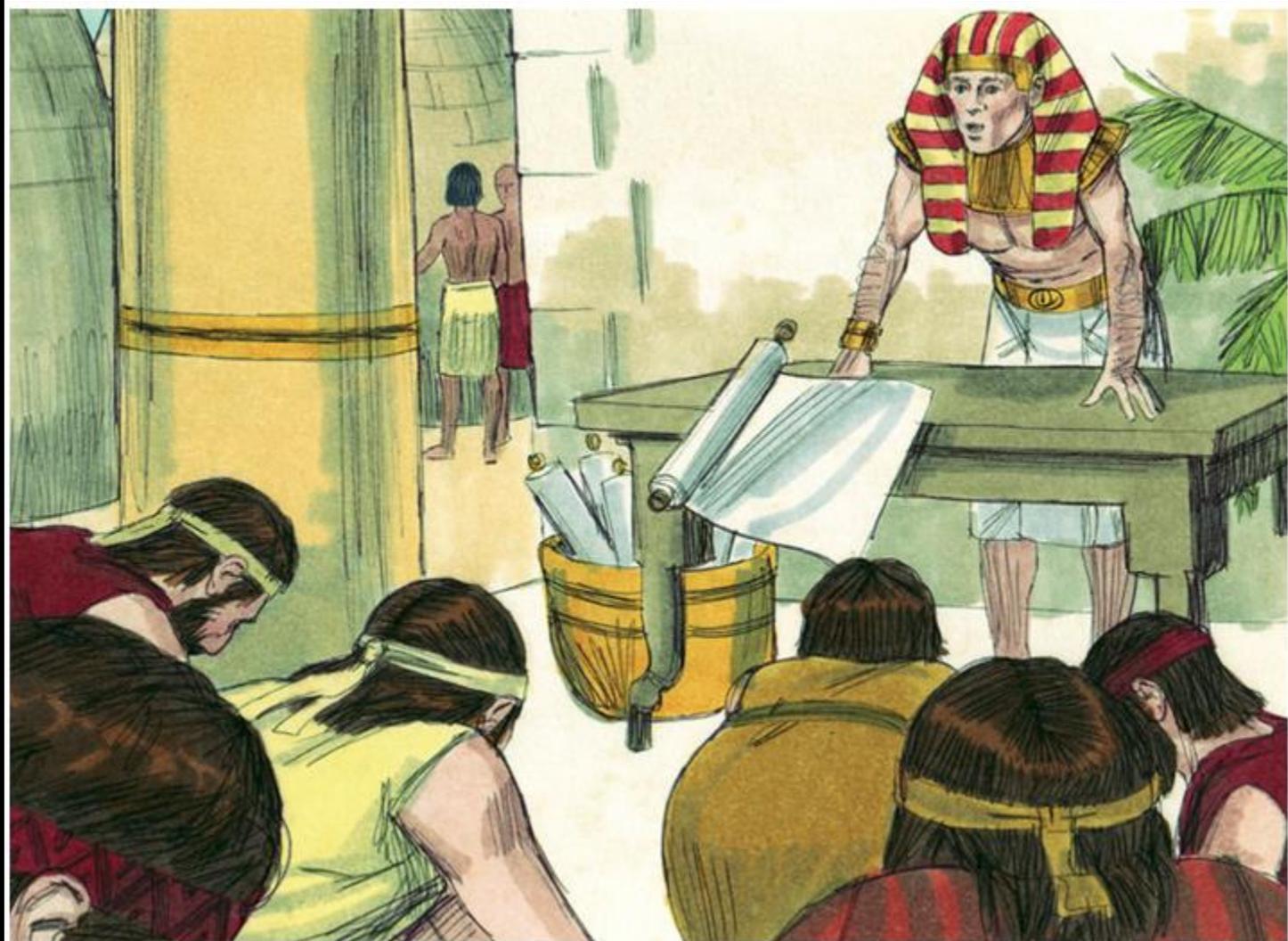
Most of you know that Joseph was Jacob's favorite and that he was given a special gift (coat & dreams) that angered his brothers.



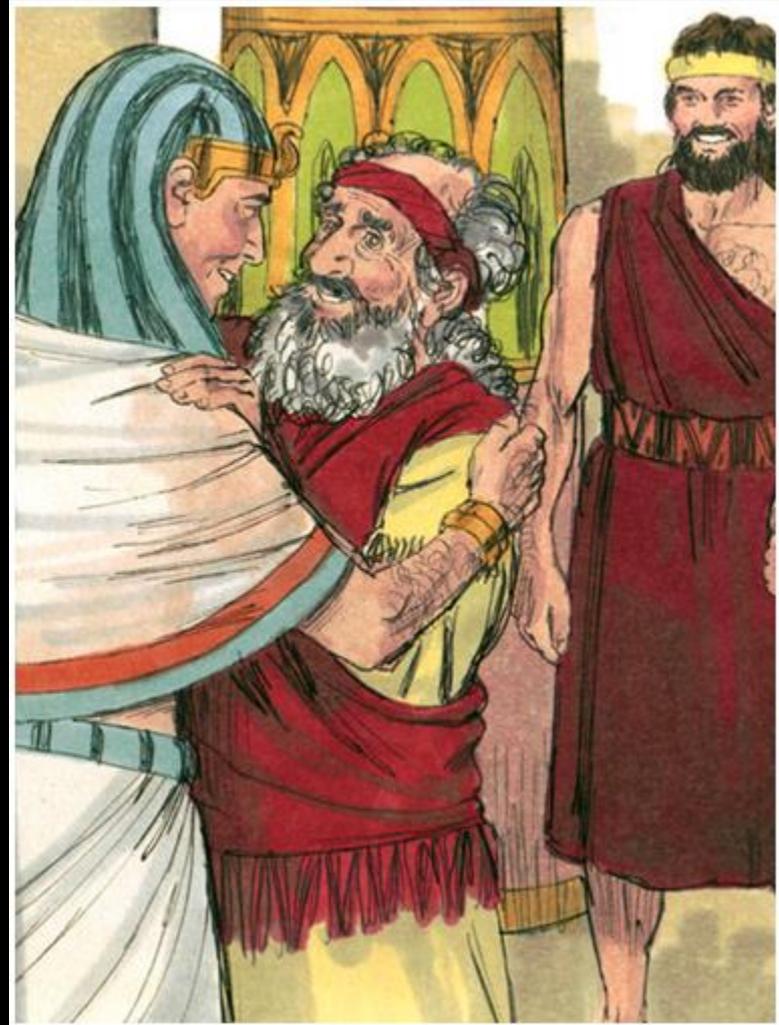
The 'favoritism' and 'future telling' angered the brothers enough to throw him into a pit and sell him into slavery in Egypt.



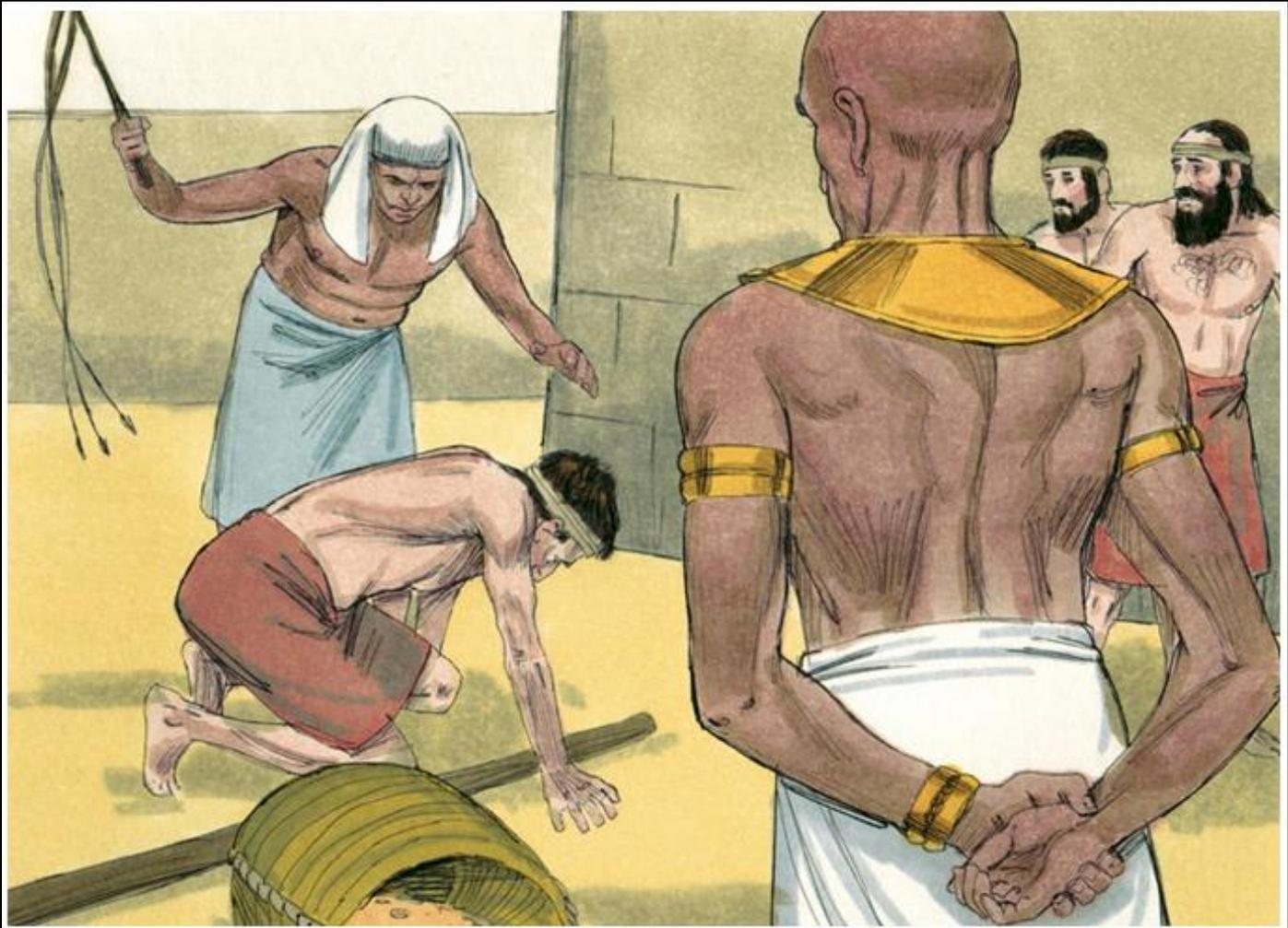
Through a series of events, Joseph was lifted up into the 2nd highest position in Egypt...and his brothers bowed at his feet (as was foretold).



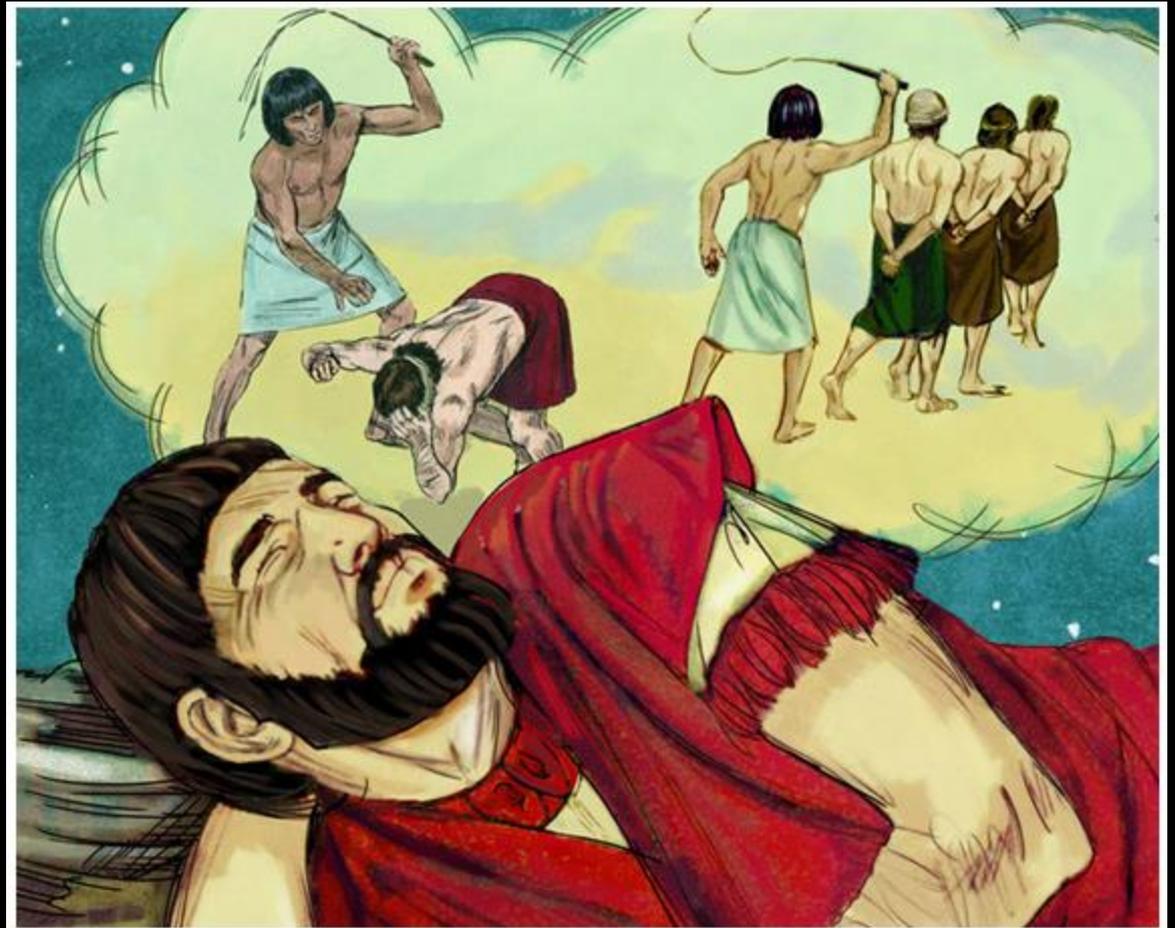
Because of the famine and Joseph's position in Egypt...Israel (Jacob) moves his family to Egypt.



As a result of this move...Israel, the offspring,
the nation, will eventually become
enslaved in Egypt.

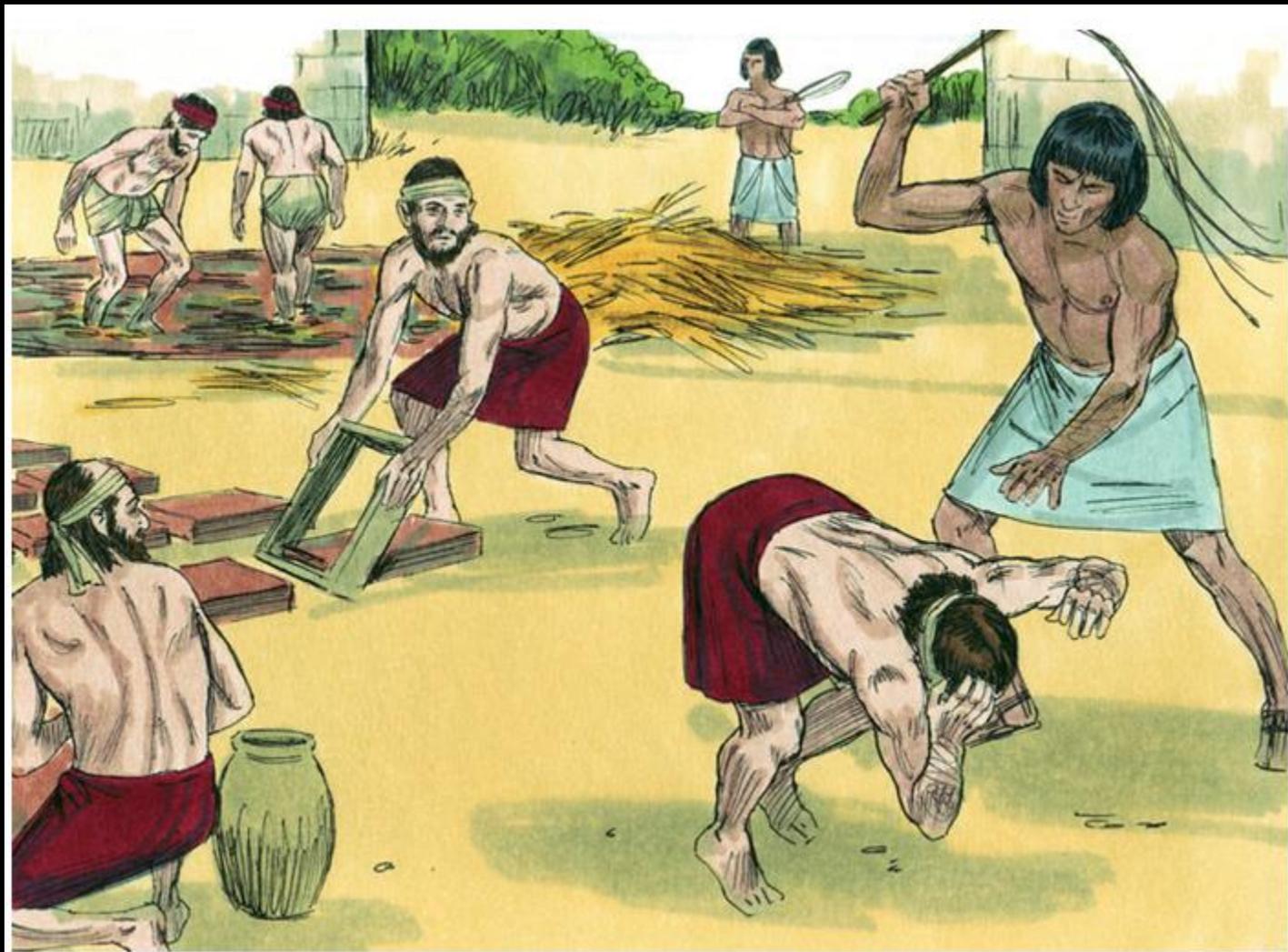


This difficult series of events in the life of Joseph was actually the unfolding of the fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham...



The LORD said to Abram,
“You can be sure that your
descendants will be
strangers in a foreign land,
where they will be
oppressed as slaves for 400
years.” (Gen 15:13)

Why was God leading Israel into Egypt, where they would eventually be enslaved to the Egyptians for 400 years?



(1) To create in them a desperate need for God...so that they would cry out to God and depend on him. To teach their depravity, their inability and reliance on God's provision.

(2) To illustrate true slavery to sin and Satan...so that they (and we) would see our sinfulness, desperation and need for salvation.