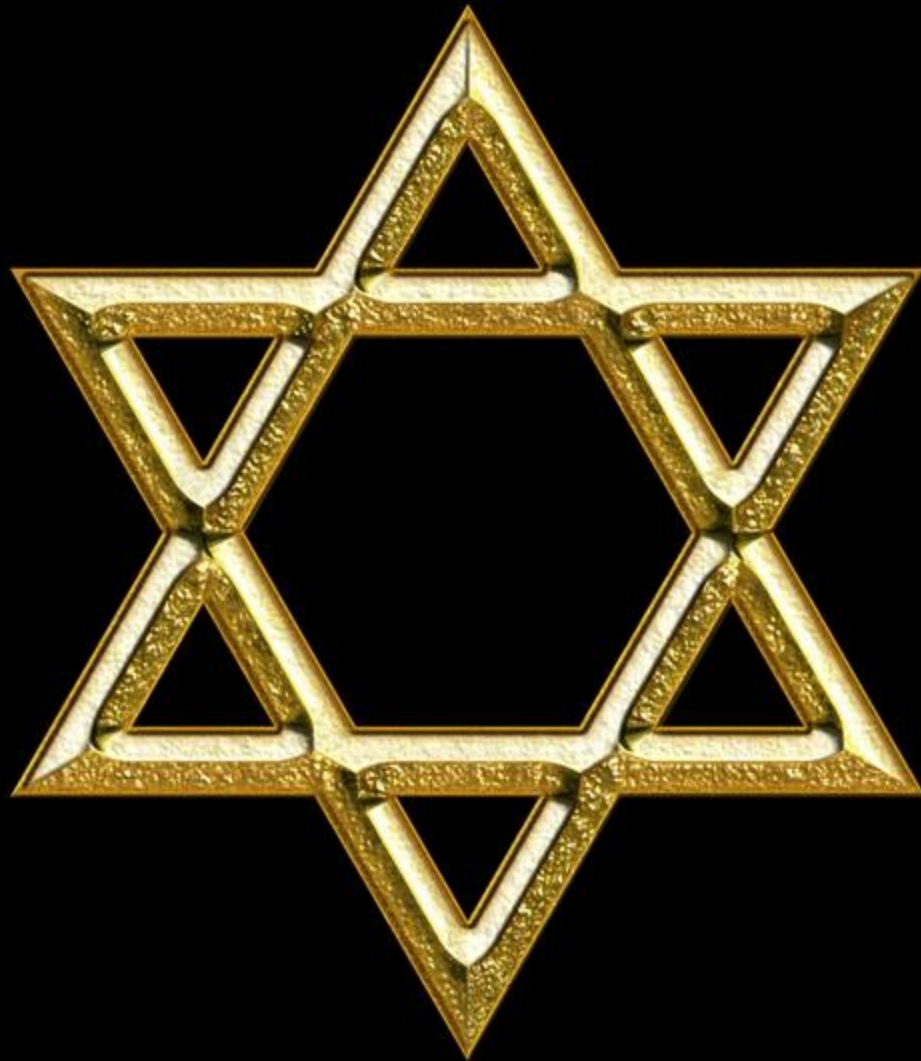
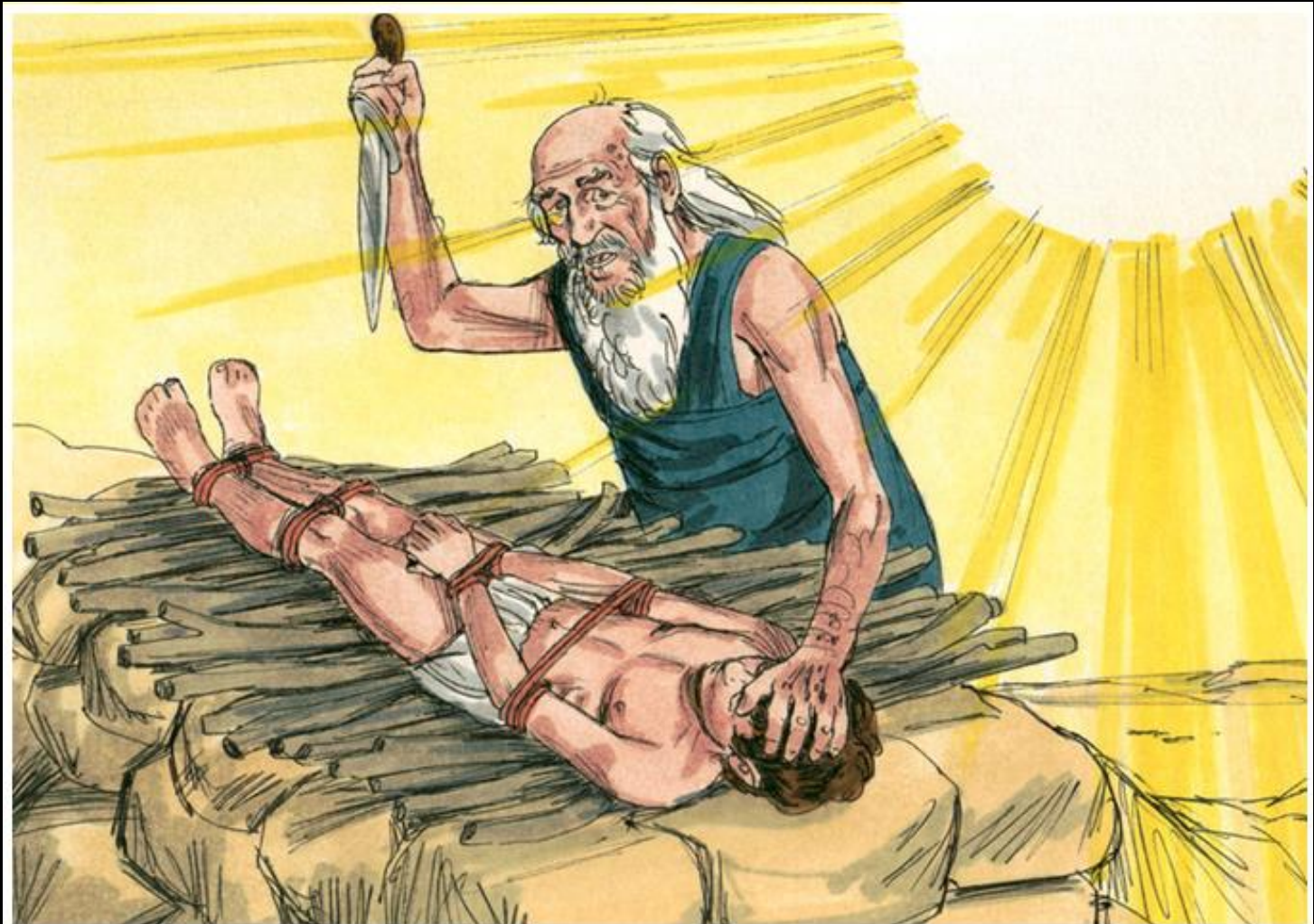


# Isaac to Israel



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





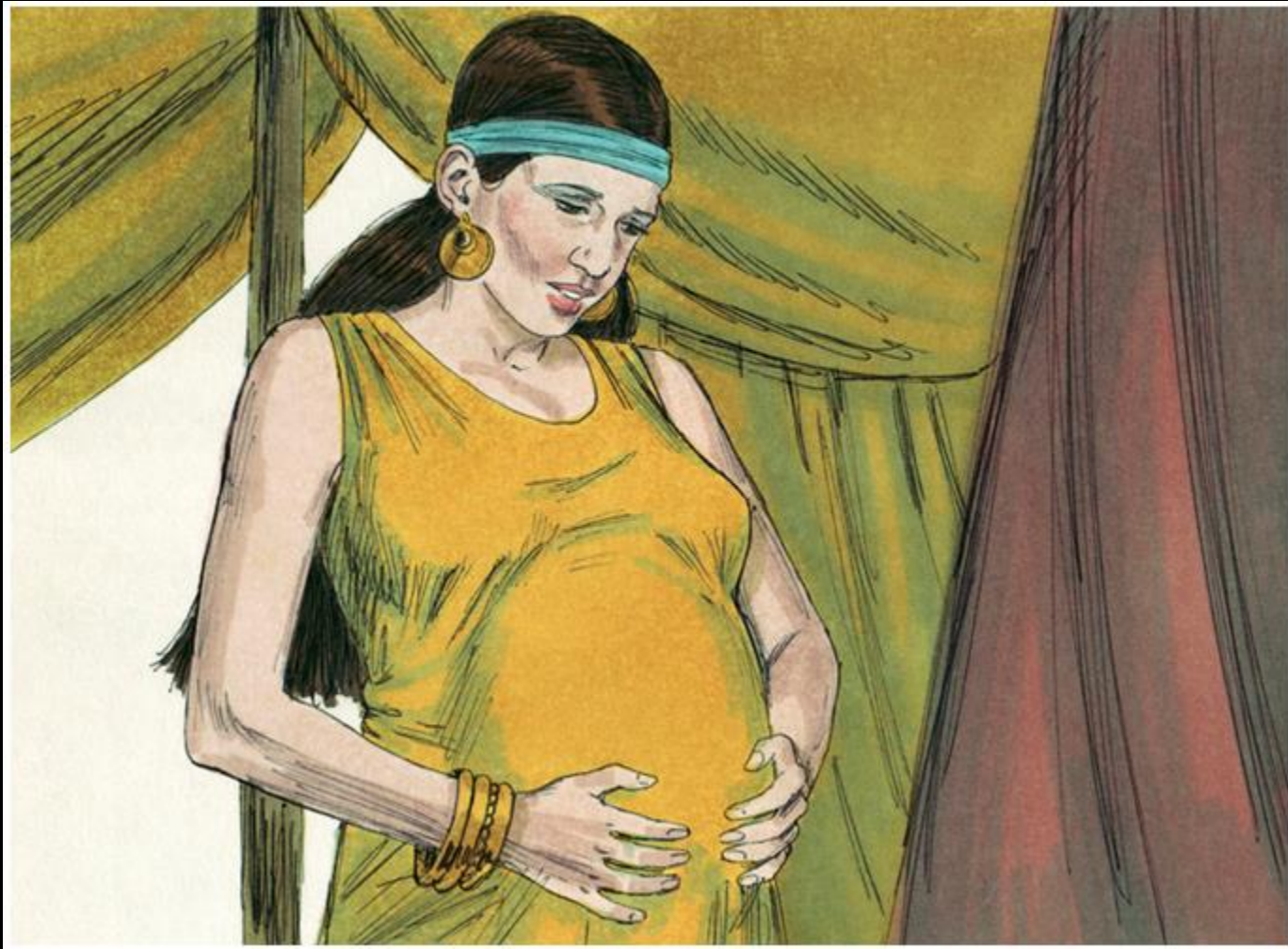
Now Isaac is now a full grown adult. Isaac married Rebekah. She was a woman from where Abraham was originally from.



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

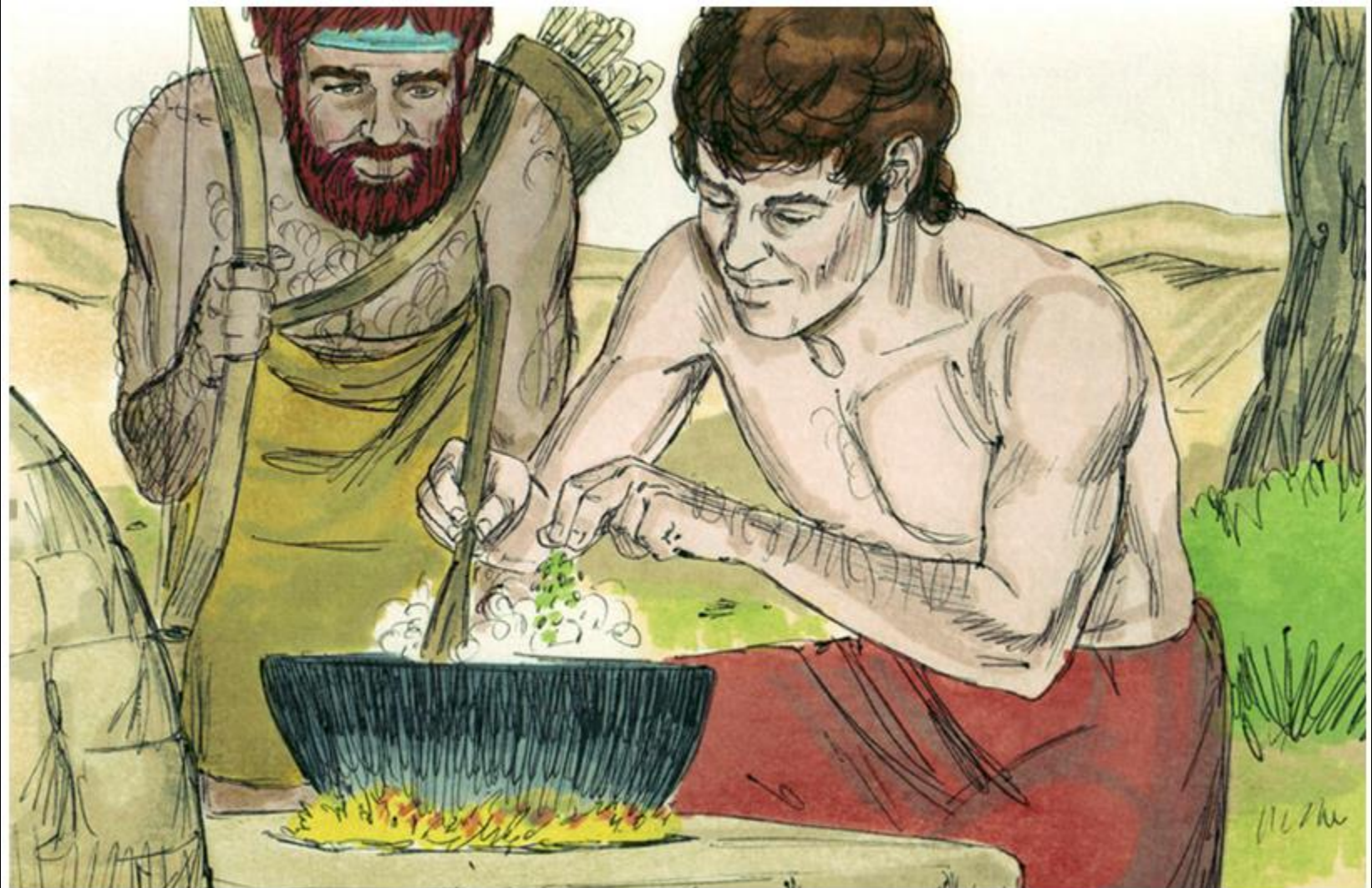
Isaac prayed 'in line' with  
God's promises. God had  
promised to Abraham and  
Isaac to turn them into a  
'great nation' and a  
multitude of people.

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**



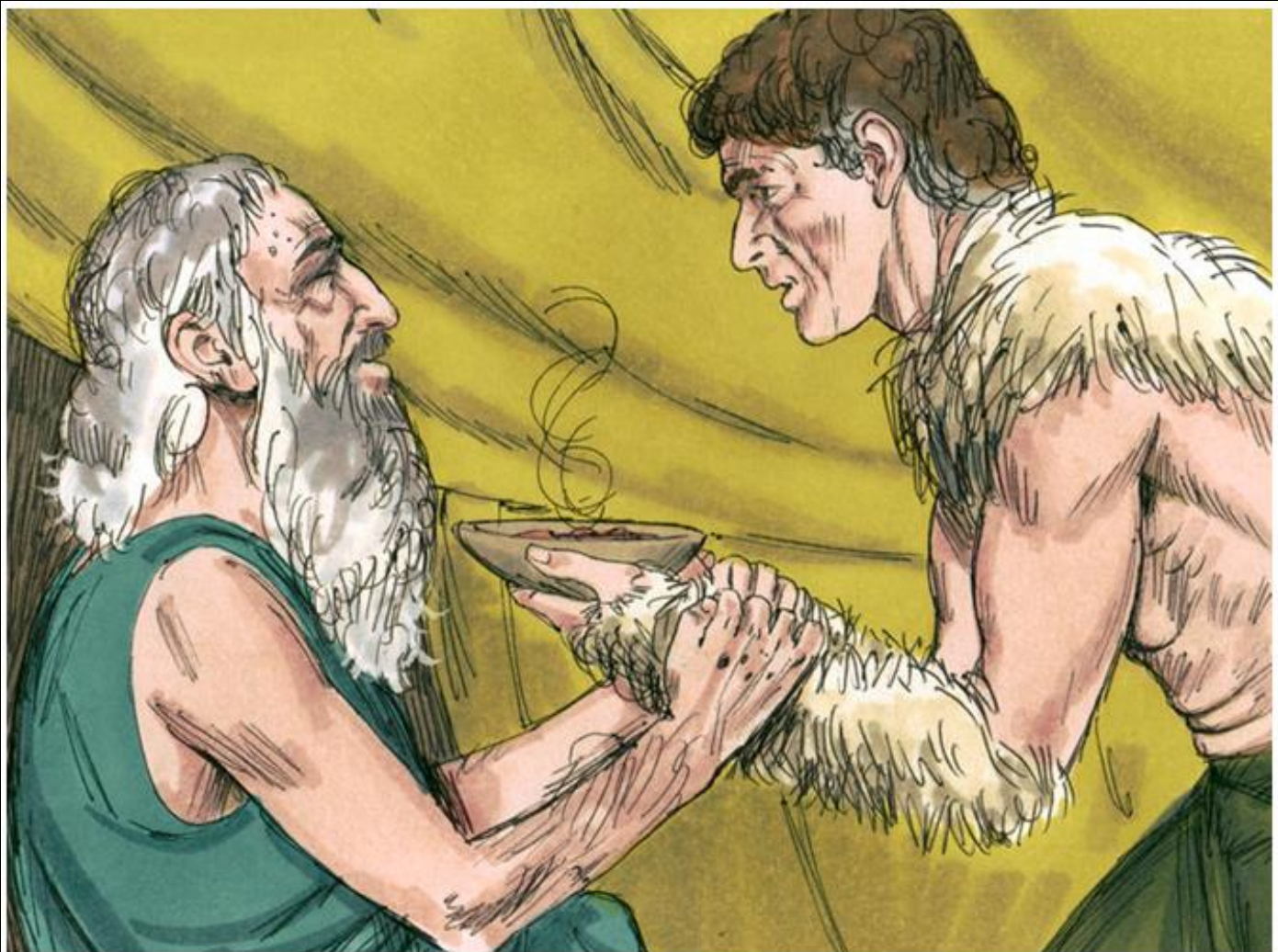


Esau, the older, sold his “birthright” (*his right to the families blessings*) to his brother Jacob, for a bowl of stew.





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!



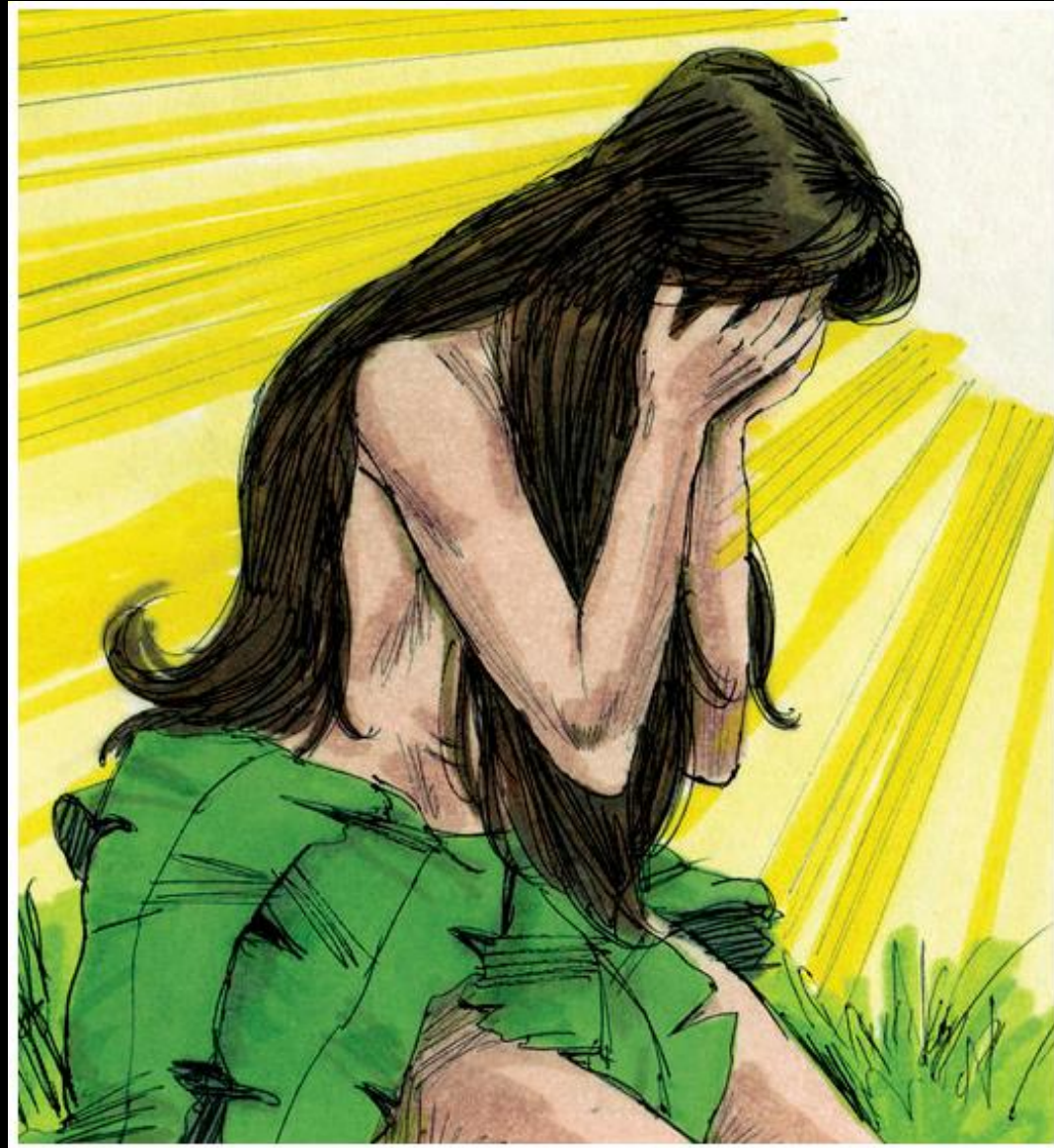


None of this sinful, trickery  
confused God.

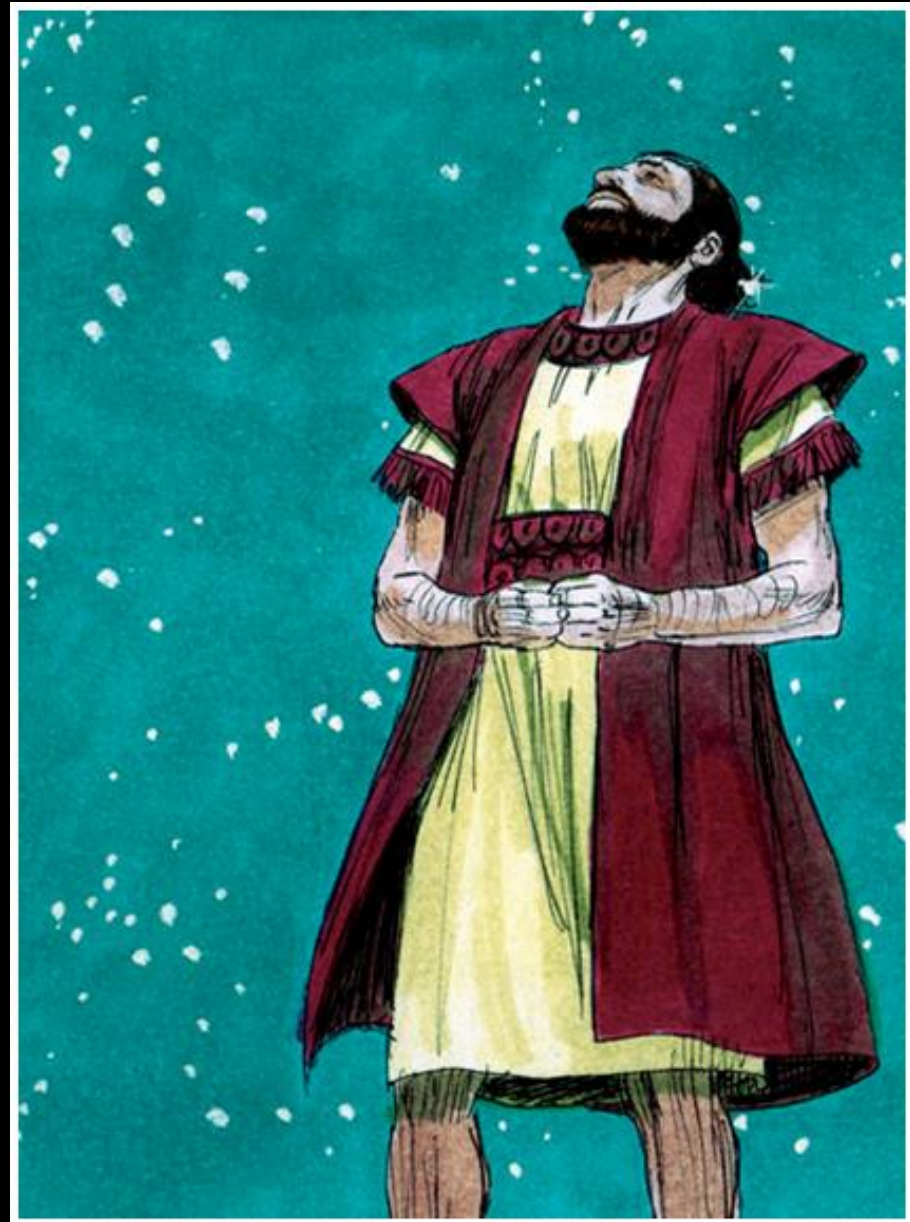
*Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls—she was told, "The older will serve the younger."*

**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.

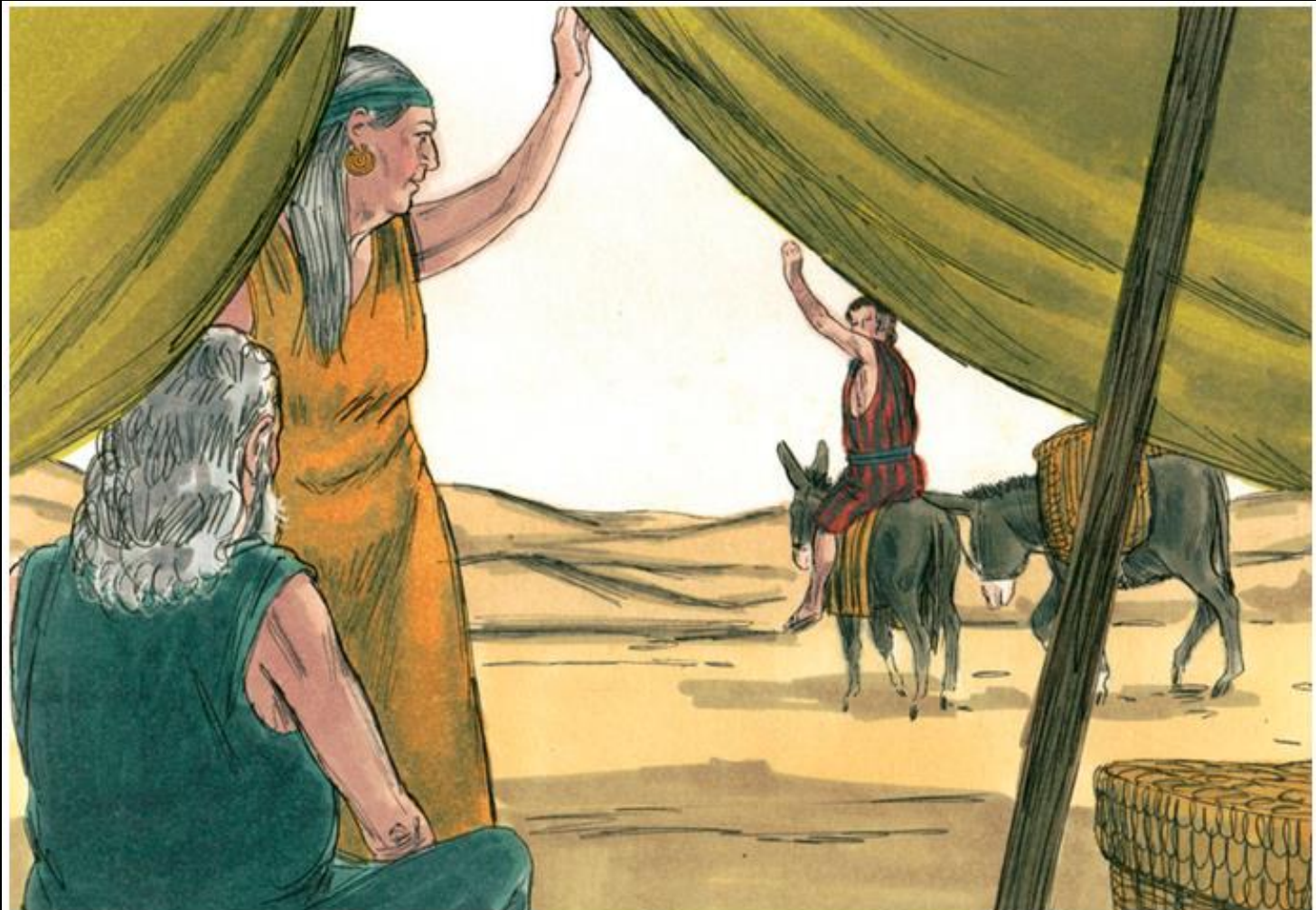




Now God is choosing to use Jacob to bring about the next stages of the promise.



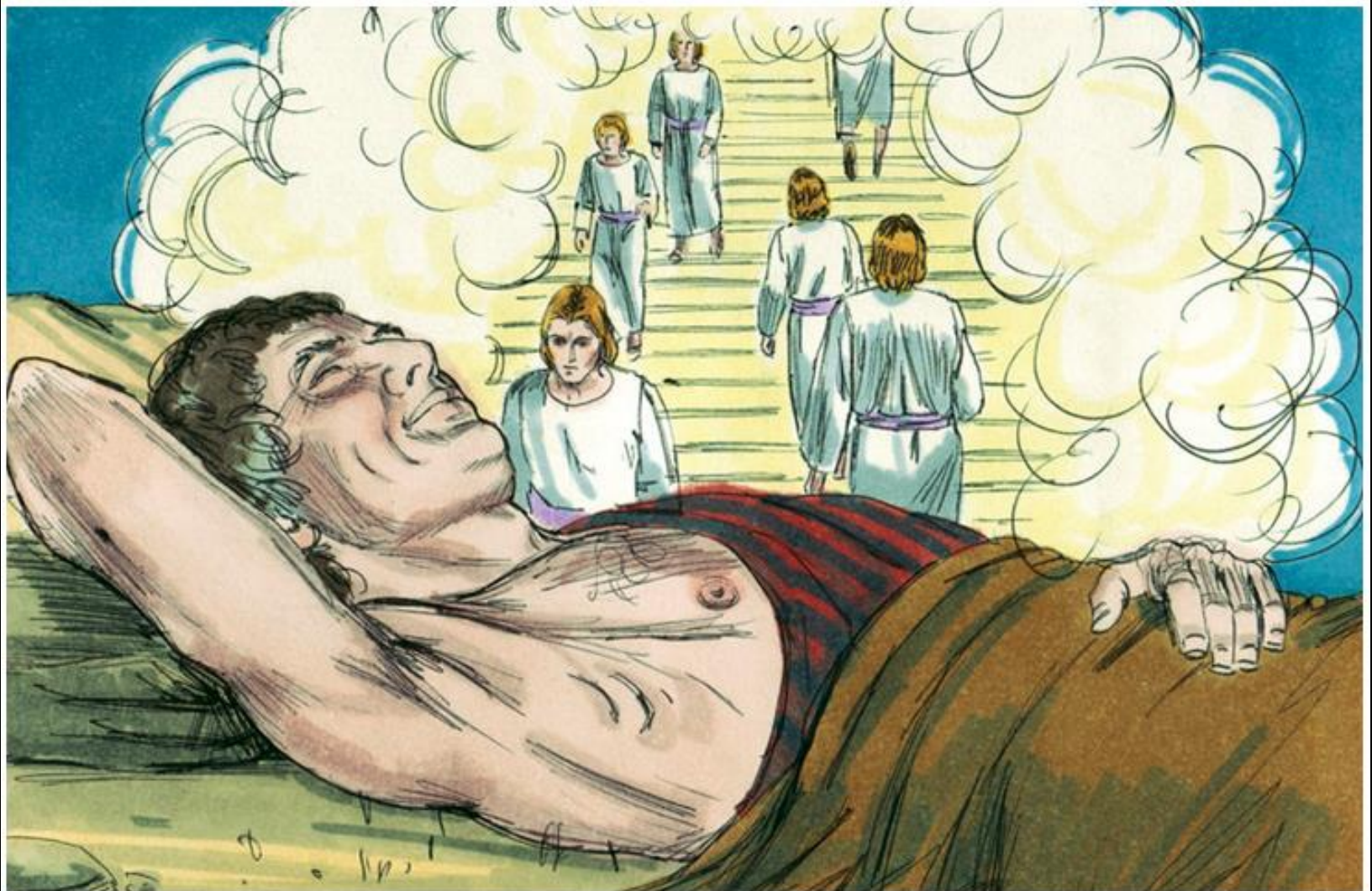
Esau is furious with Jacob and determines to kill him. Rebekah then sends Jacob away to her brother Laban, to hide with him and also to get a wife from the land of her relatives.





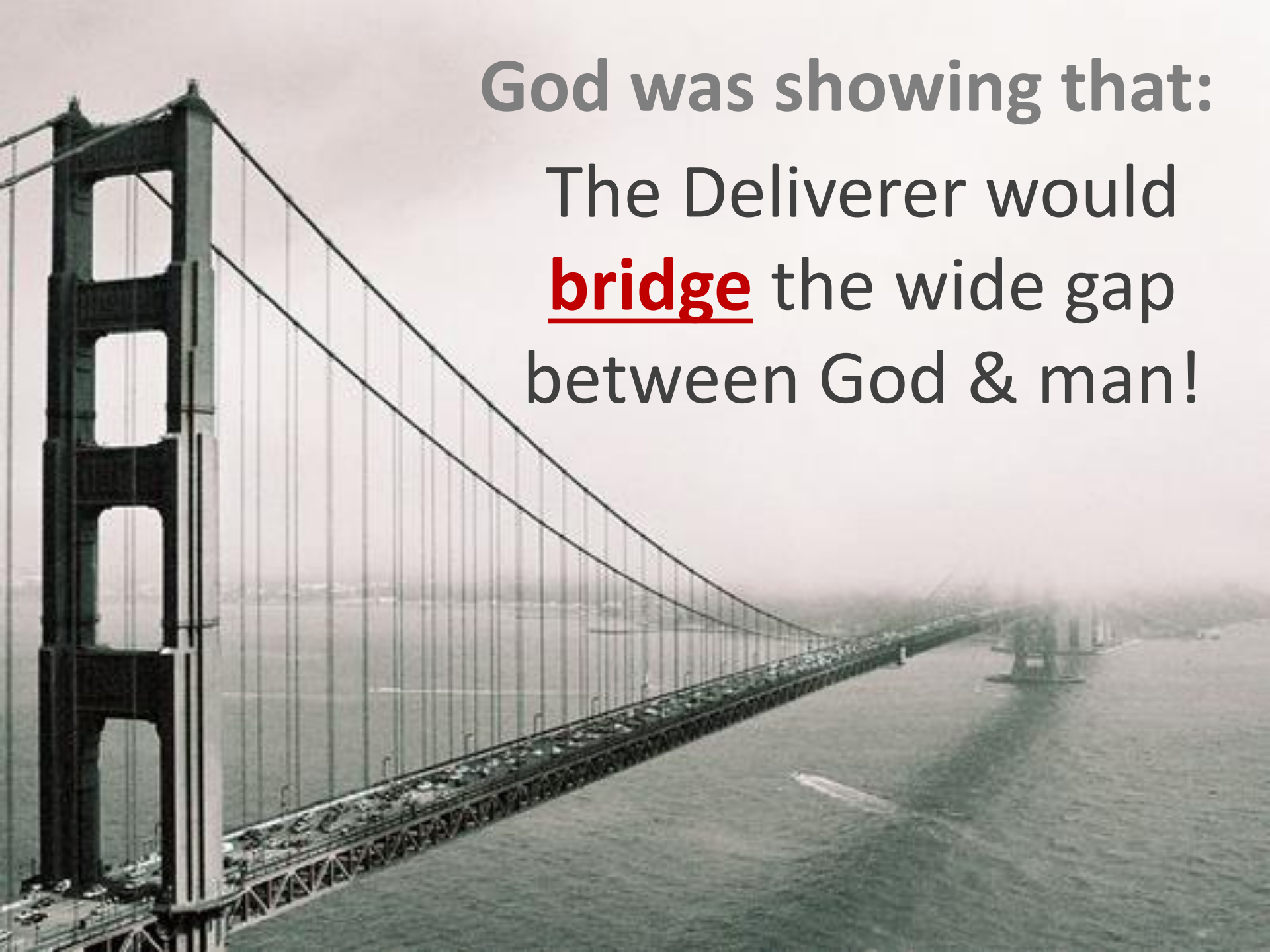
On his long journey to Laban's household,  
Jacob slept and God gave him a dream.

**Gen 28:10-22**



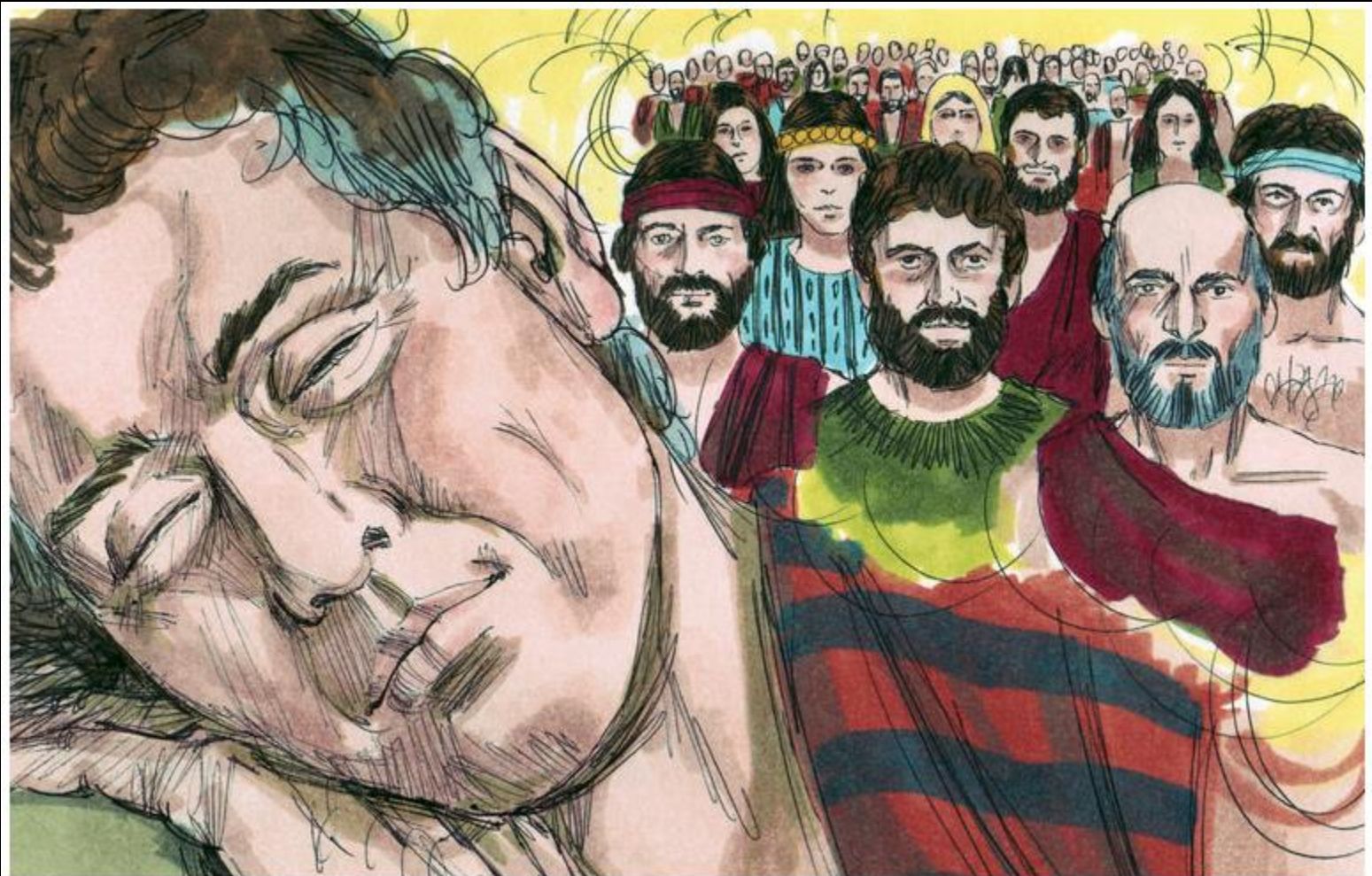


Jacob saw a stairway that  
touched the earth and  
reached all the way to  
heaven and there were  
angels going to and from  
heaven and earth on the  
stairs.

A photograph of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, viewed from a low angle looking down the length of the bridge towards the foggy horizon. The bridge's iconic red-orange towers and suspension cables are visible. The water below is a dark, choppy green. The fog is thick and white, obscuring the distant city and hills.

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.**

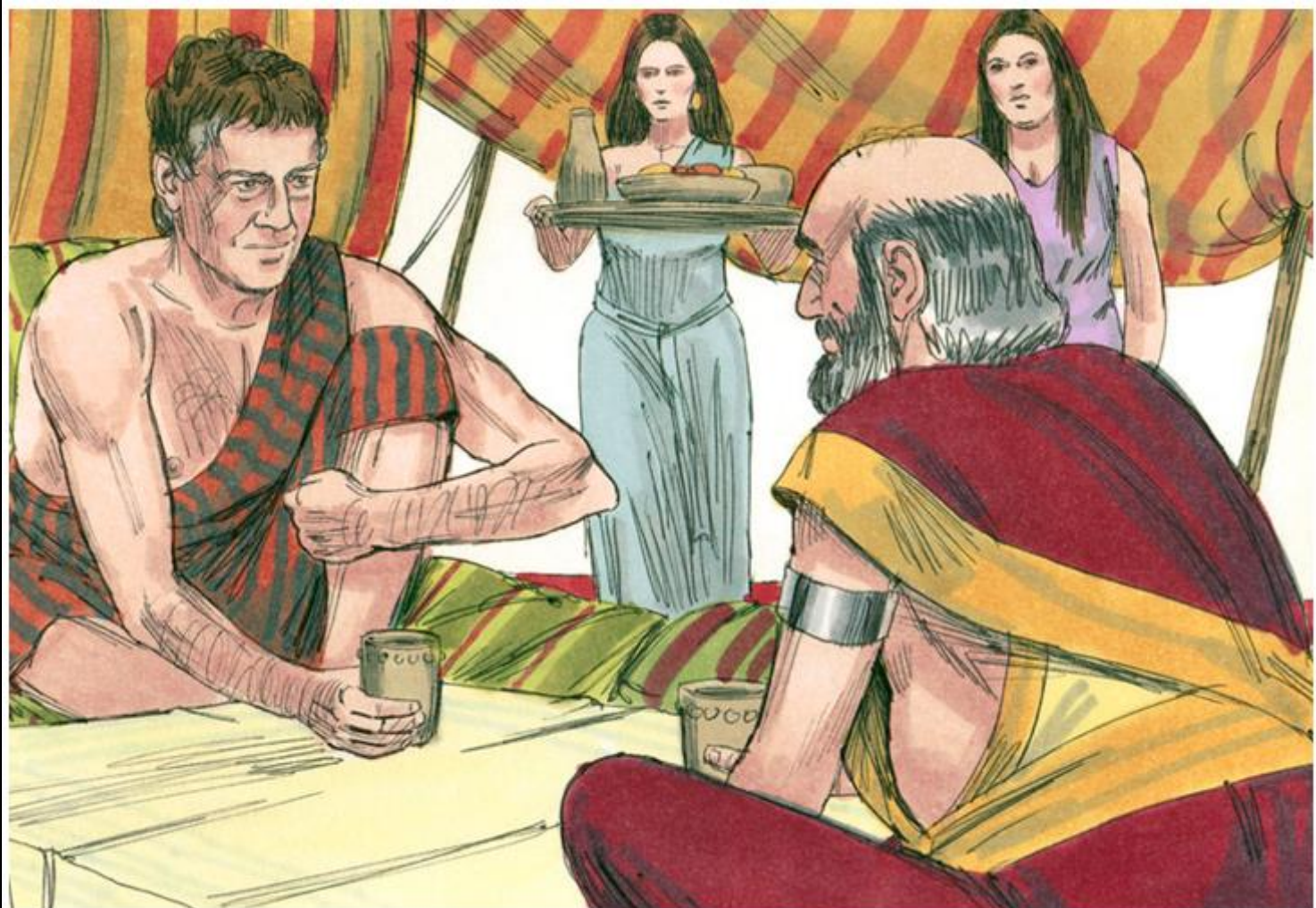
**Gen 28:12-15**

**(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.

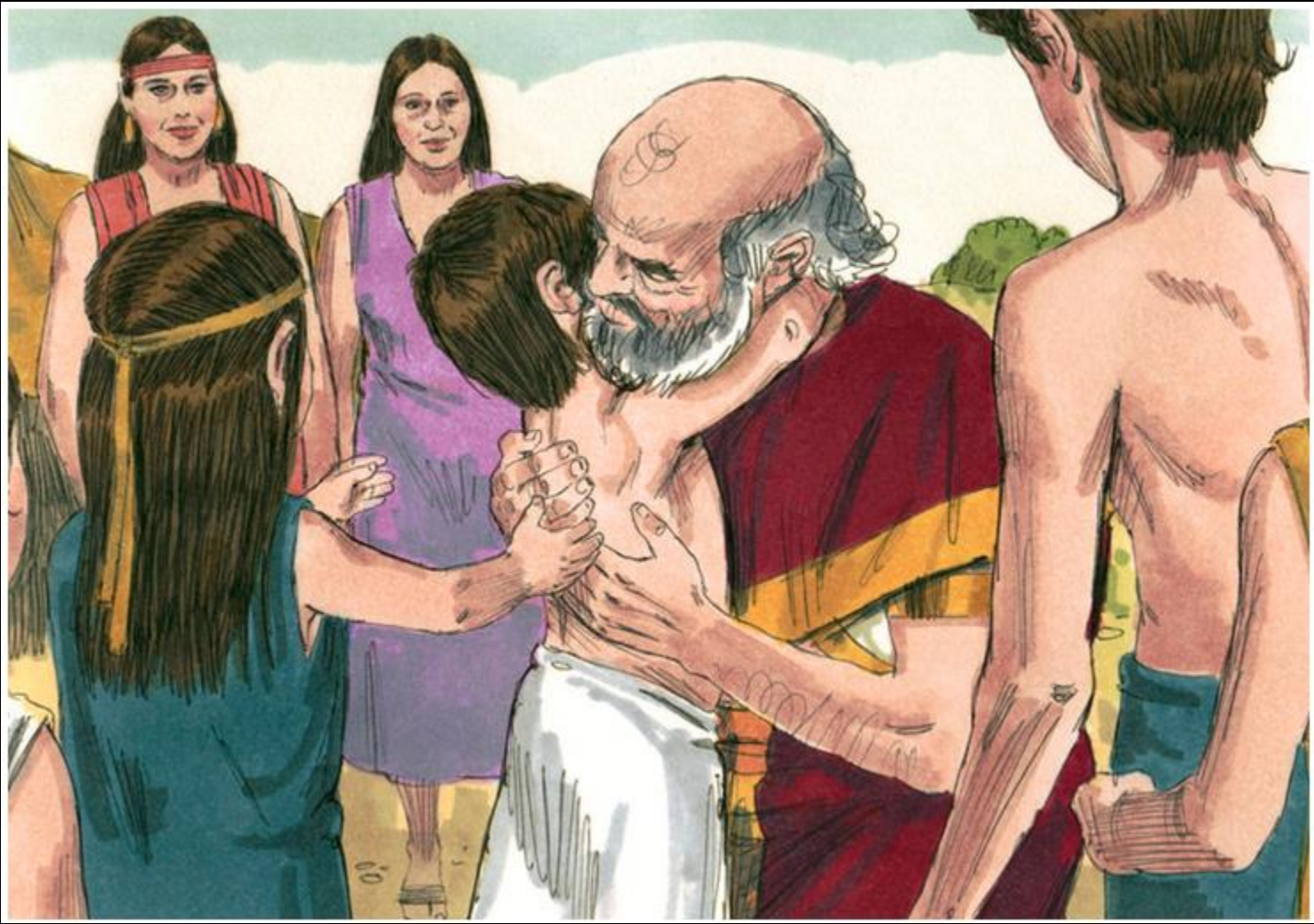
God is striving to win (and will)  
against this one (Jacob, Israel)  
who continually wrestles with  
(resists) God...and through his  
offspring the battle with God  
will be won (the struggle will  
cease).



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

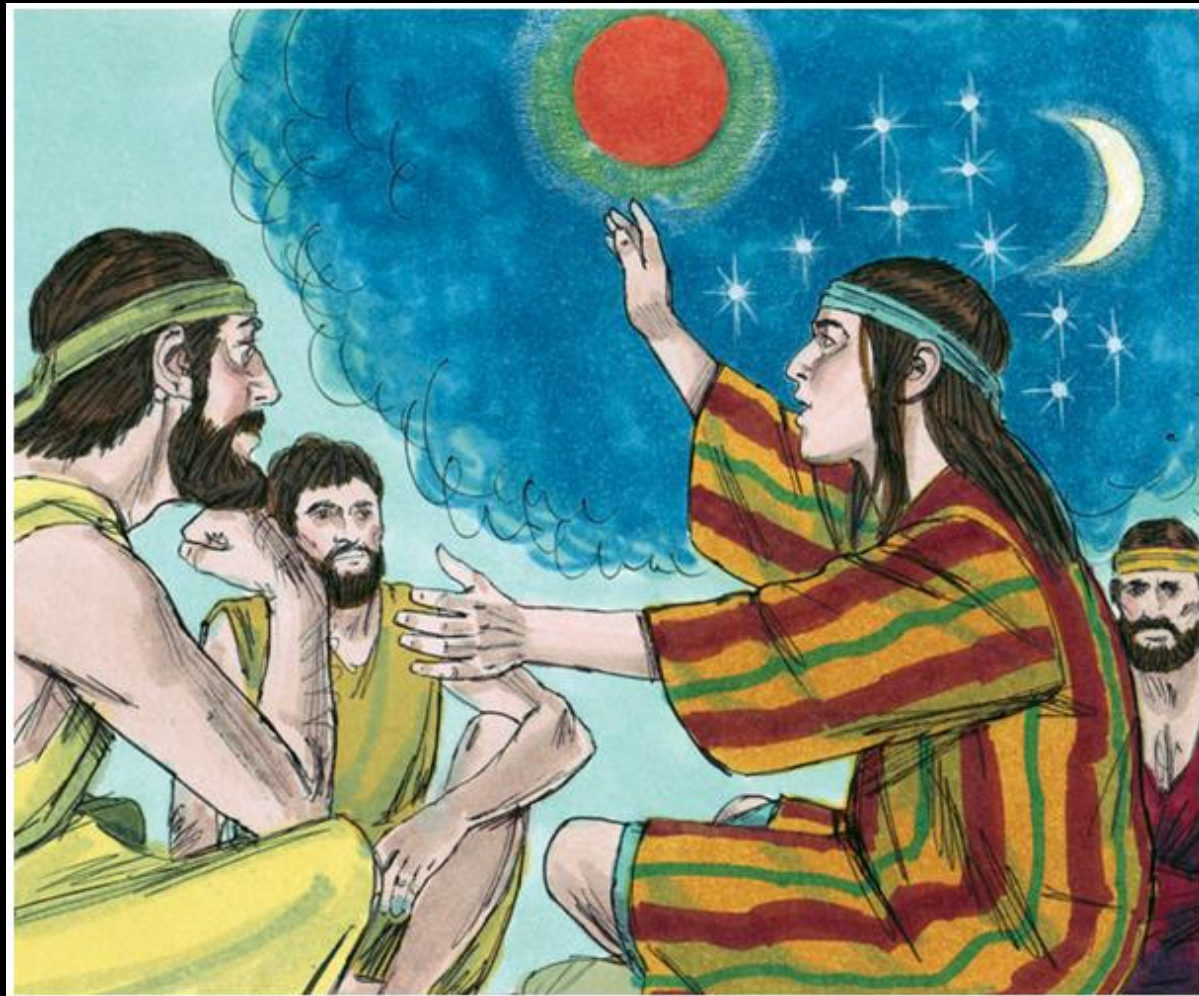
*“And I will put enmity  
between you and the  
woman, and between your  
offspring and hers; he will  
crush your head, and you will  
strike his heel.”*

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



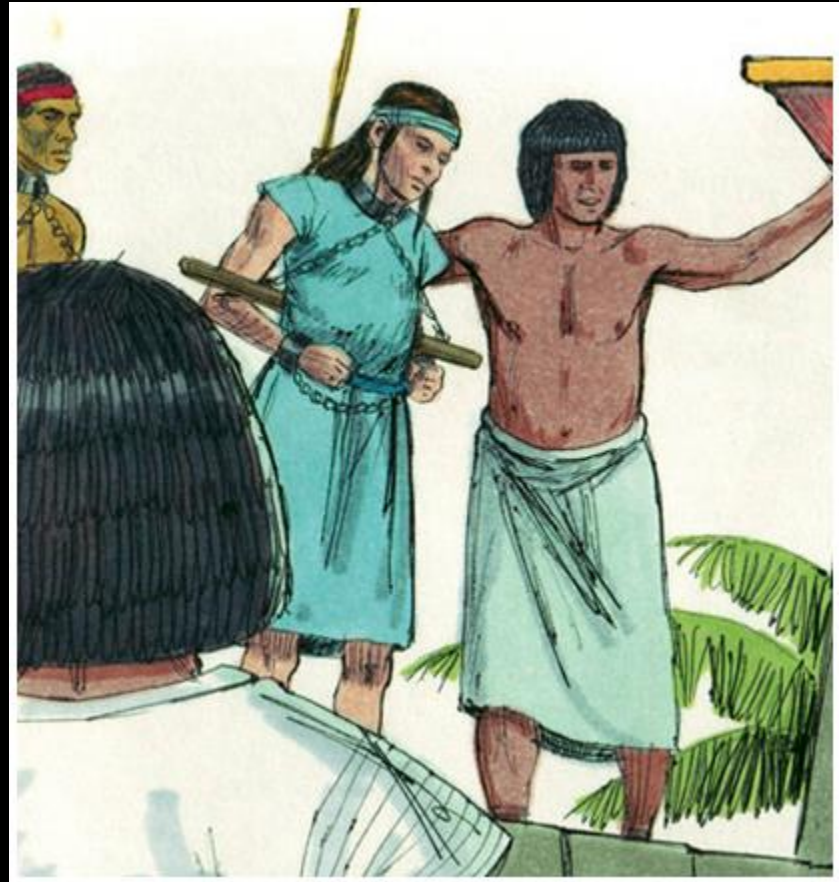


Most of you know that Joseph was Jacob's favorite and that he was given a special gift (coat & dreams) that angered his brothers.

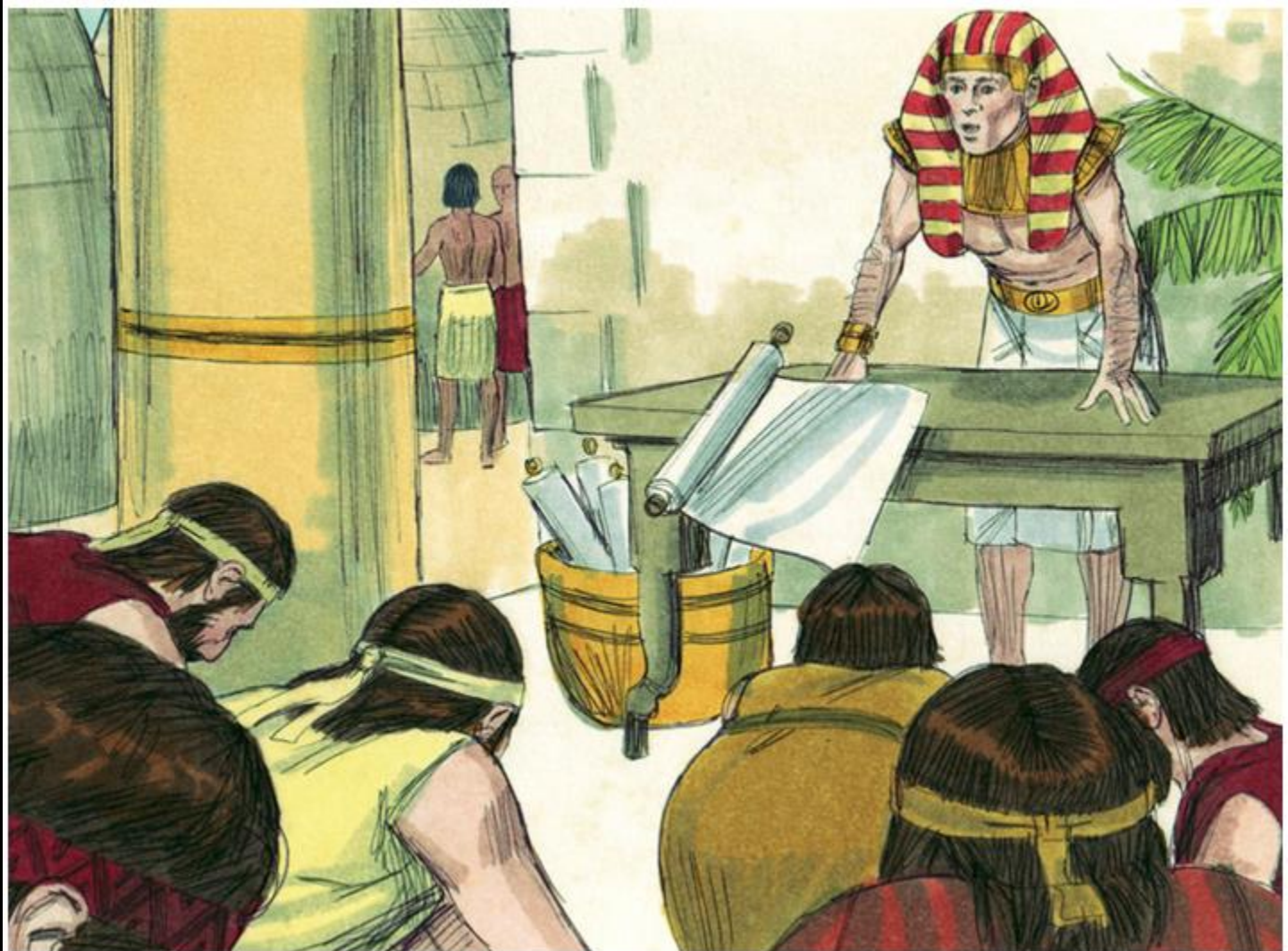




The 'favoritism' and 'future telling' angered the brothers enough to throw him into a pit and sell him into slavery in Egypt.

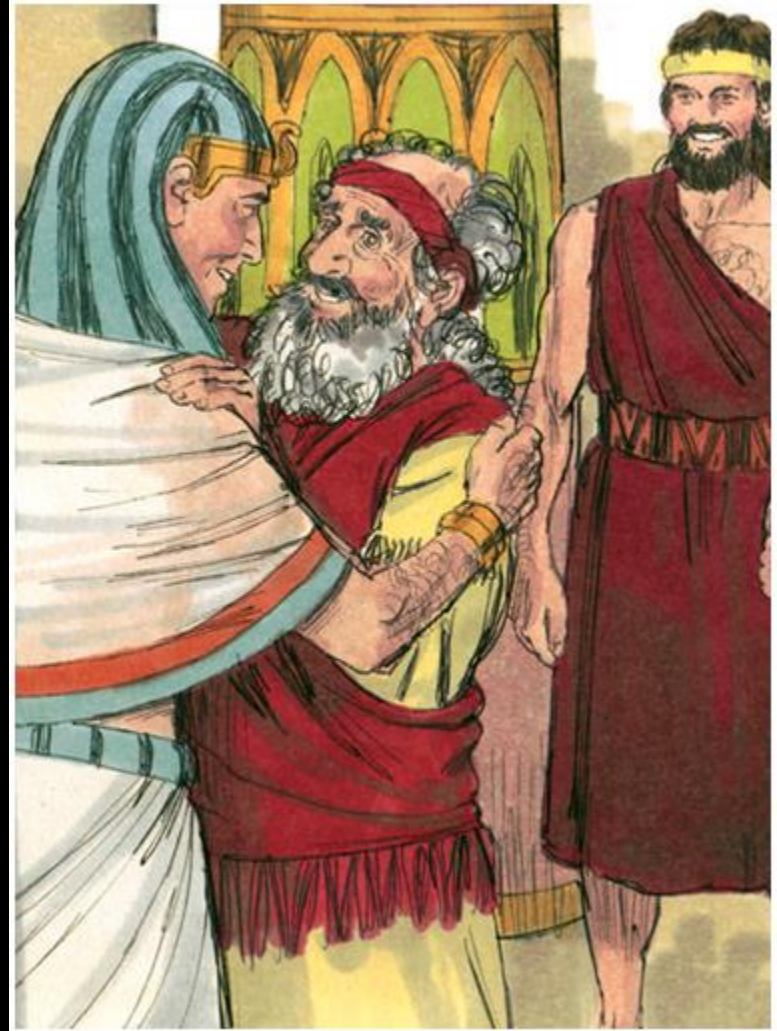


Through a series of events, Joseph was lifted up into the 2nd highest position in Egypt...and his brothers bowed at his feet (as was foretold).

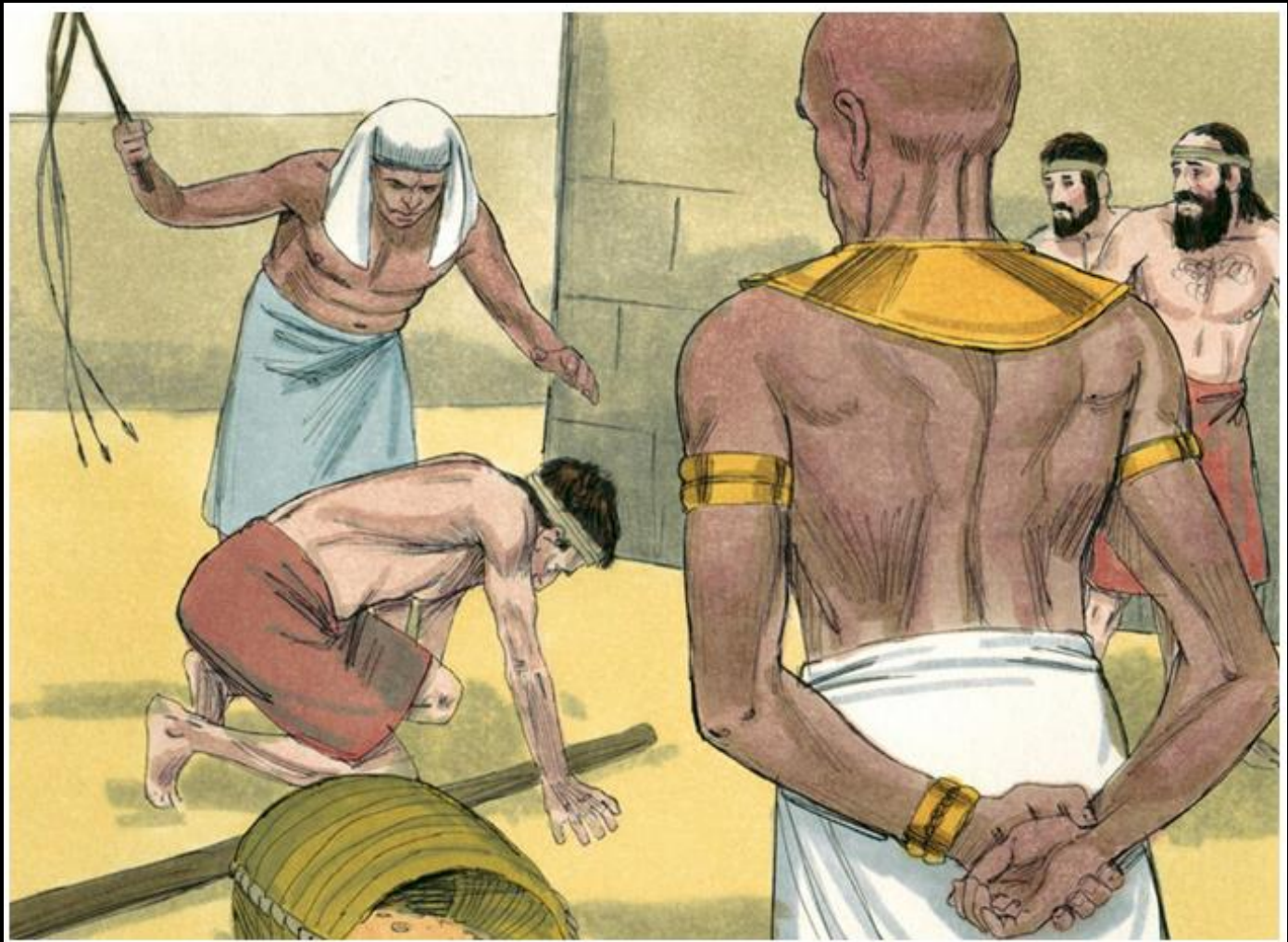




Because of the famine and Joseph's position in Egypt...Israel (Jacob) moves his family to Egypt.

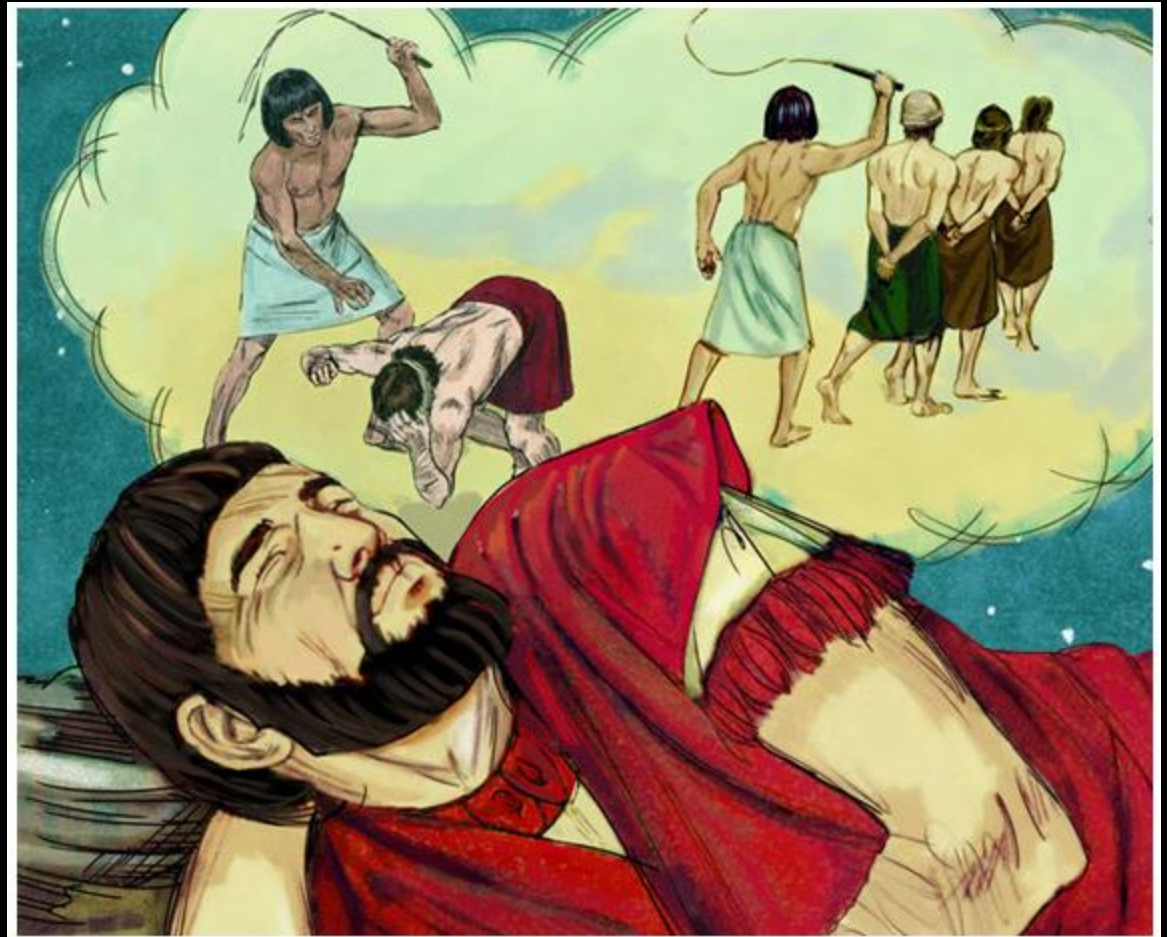


As a result of this move...Israel, the offspring,  
the nation, will eventually become  
enslaved in Egypt.





*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.