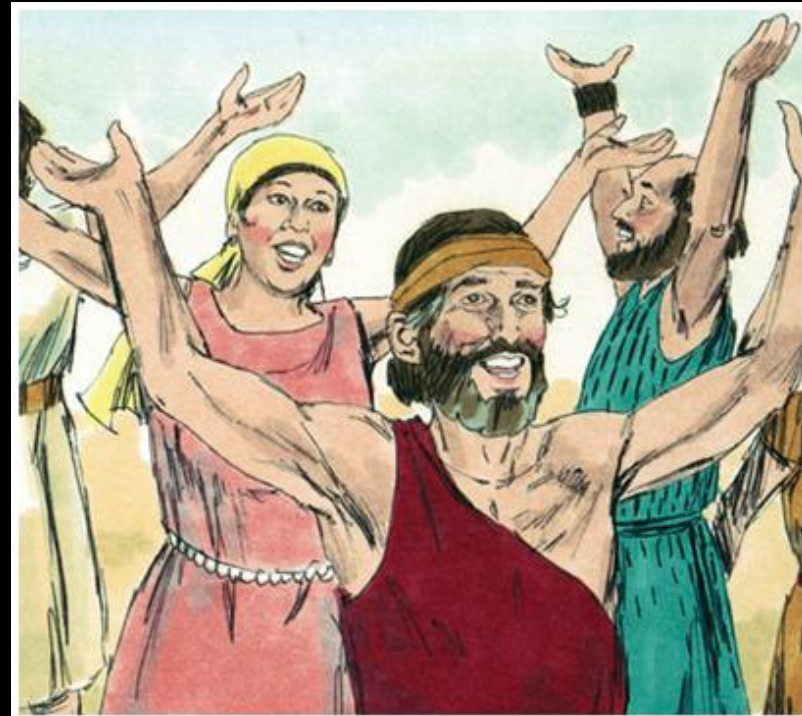
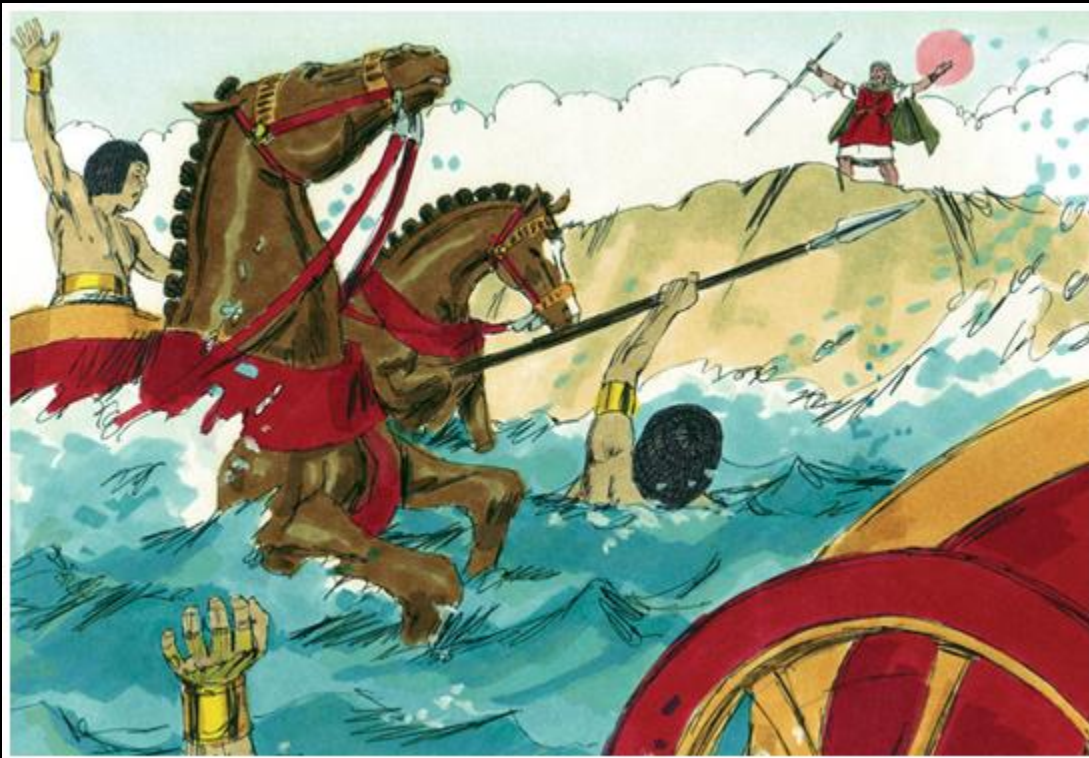


A photograph of a desert landscape at sunset. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the upper left, casting a warm, golden light across the sky and the sand. The sky transitions from a pale yellow near the horizon to a deep blue at the top. In the foreground, the sand is rippled with small, rhythmic waves. In the middle ground, there are several sand dunes, with one prominent dune on the right side. In the far distance, a range of low mountains is visible under the hazy sky.

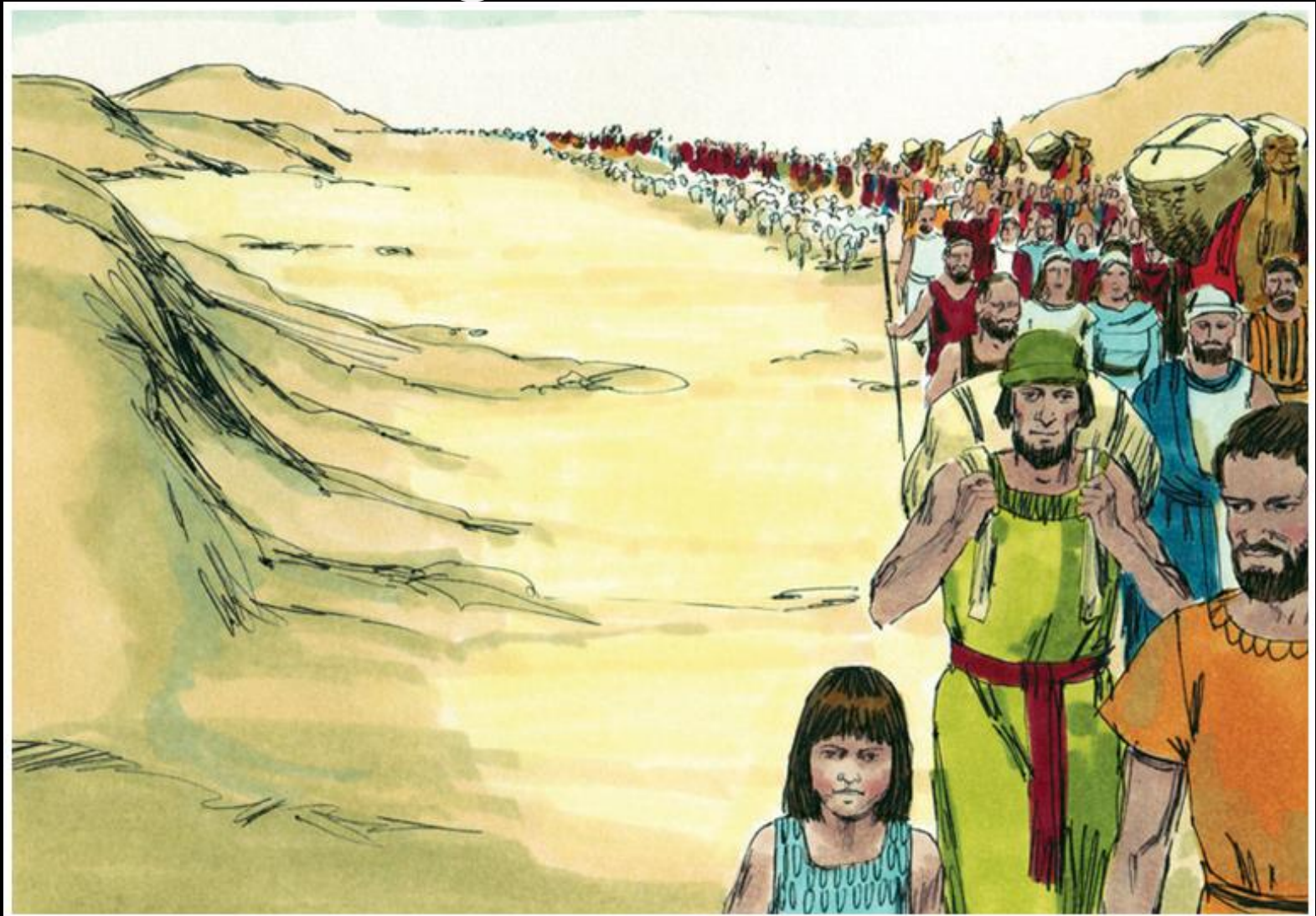
# The Journey to Sinai

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

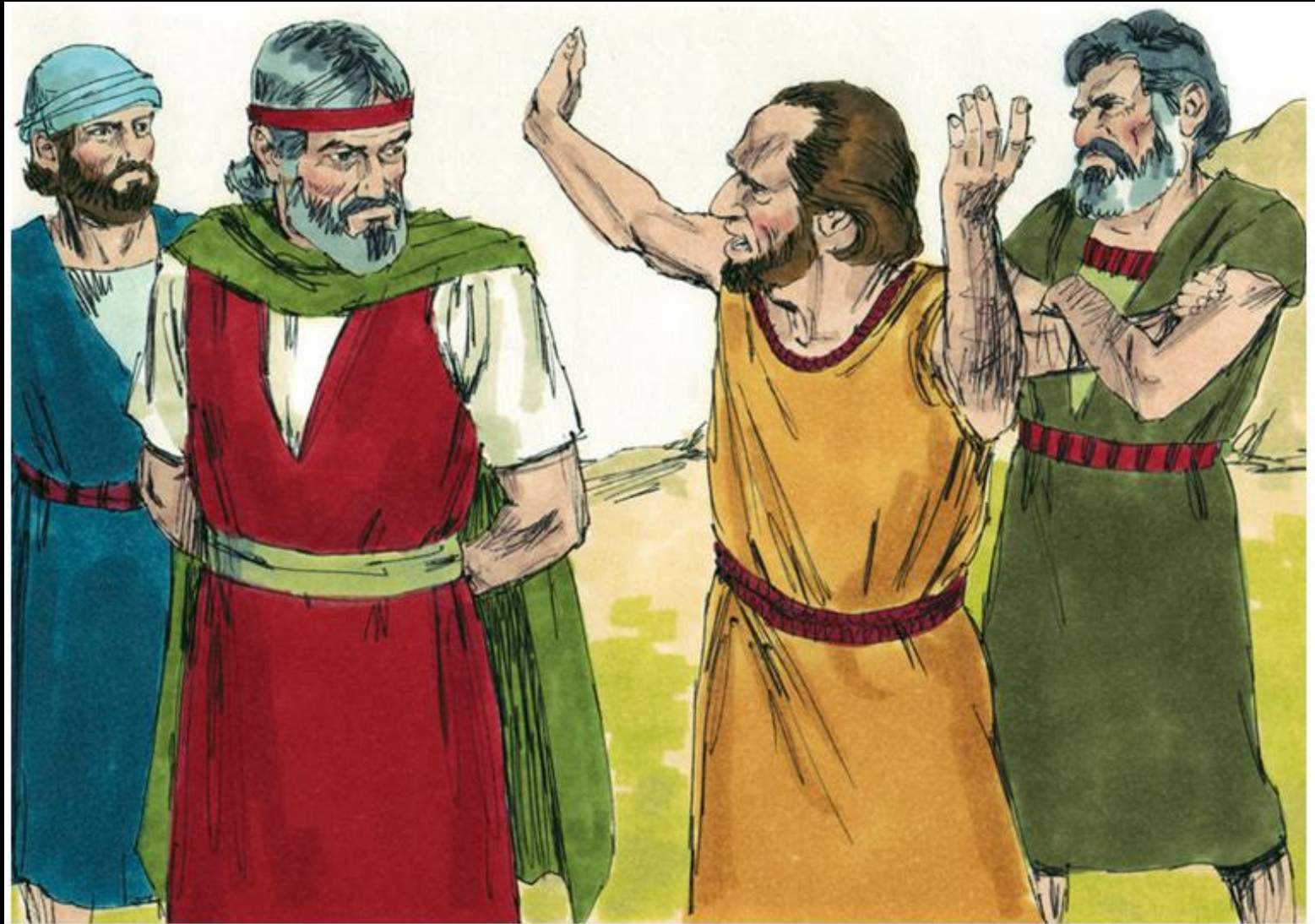




The Israelites soon realized their surroundings in the wilderness...



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**

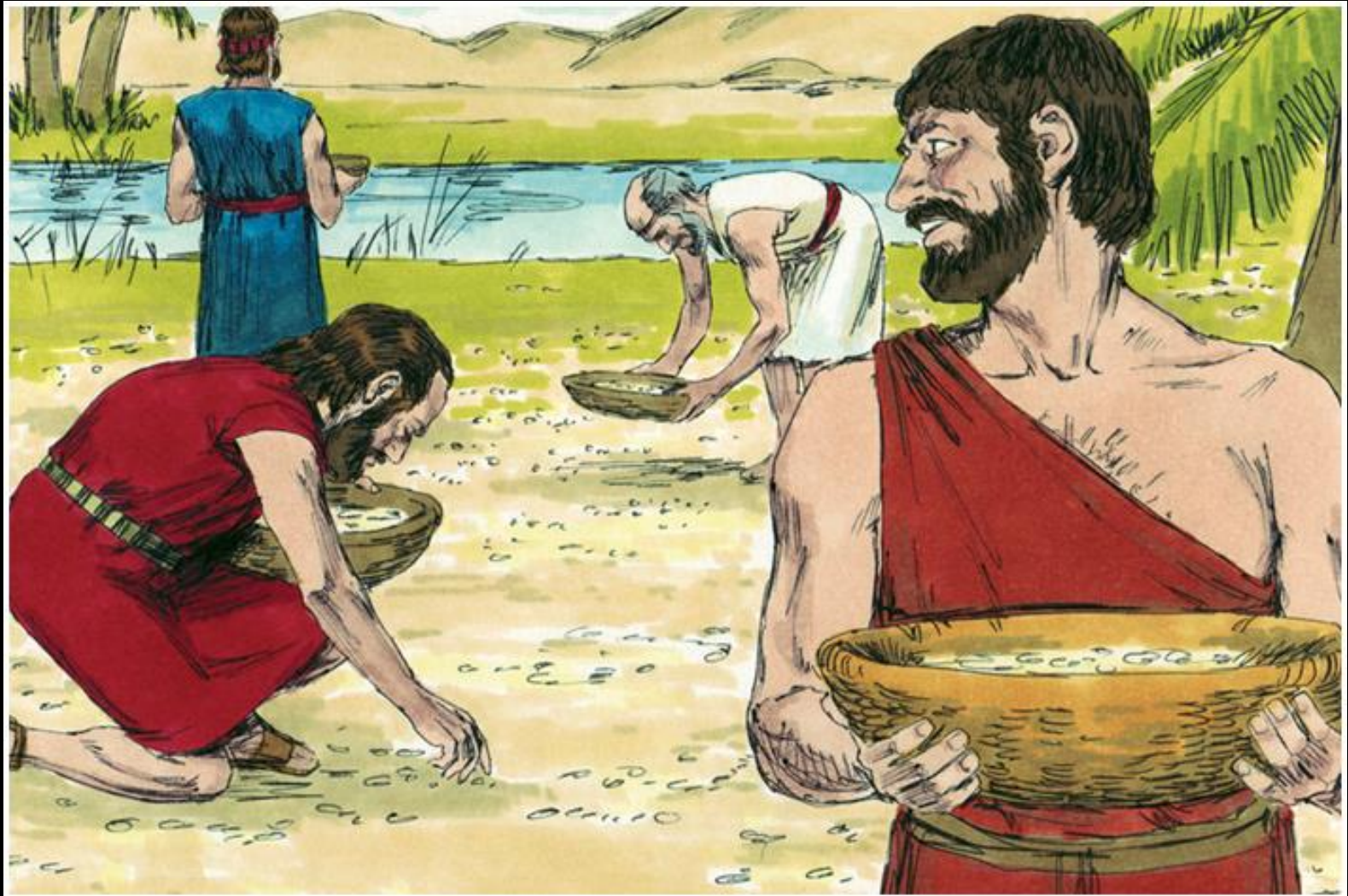
Rather than looking to  
God to help them and to  
ask Him to provide for  
them...**they blamed**  
Moses and God.

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



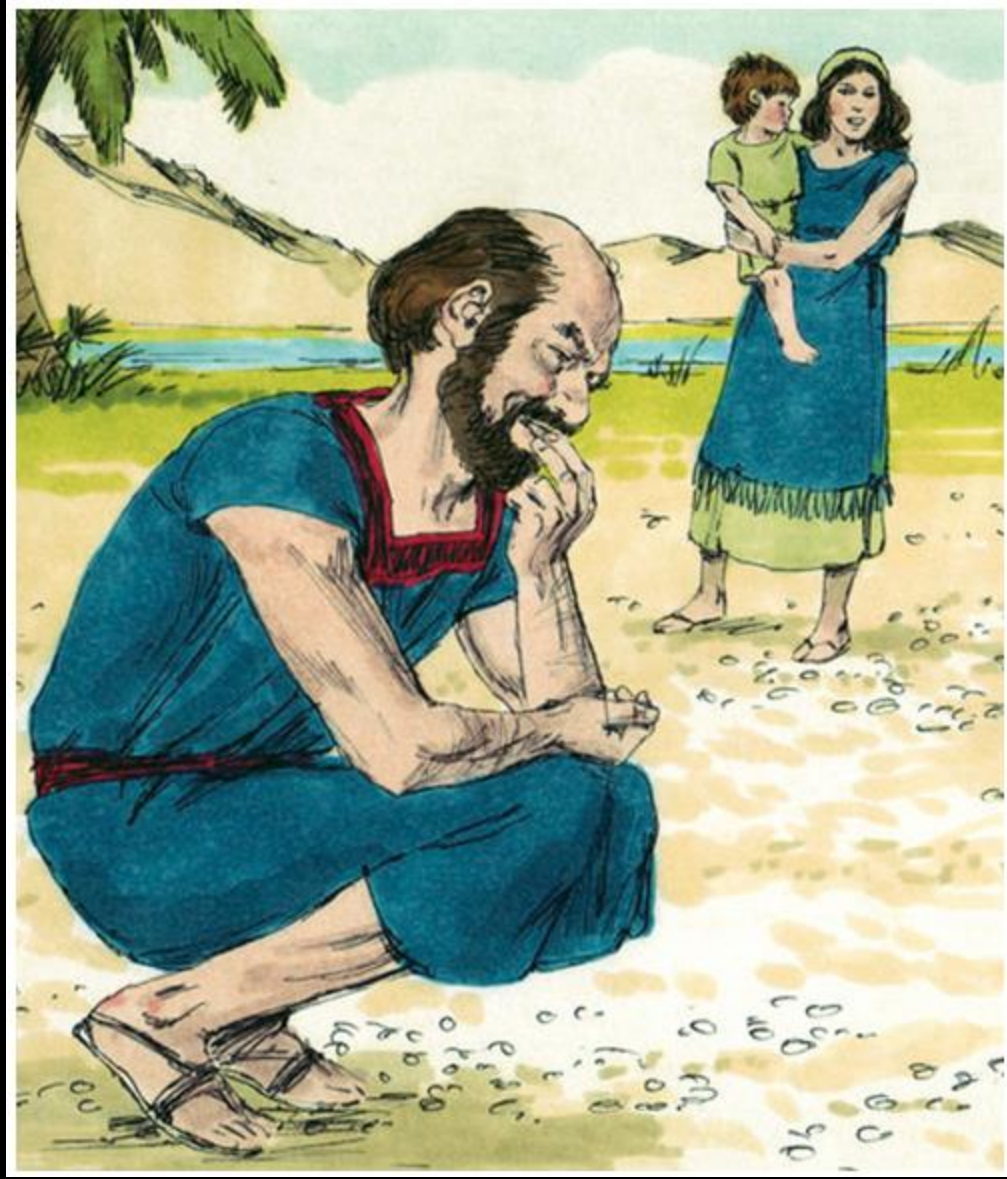
But they doubted Him.  
They have not learned to  
trust God for everything!

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.

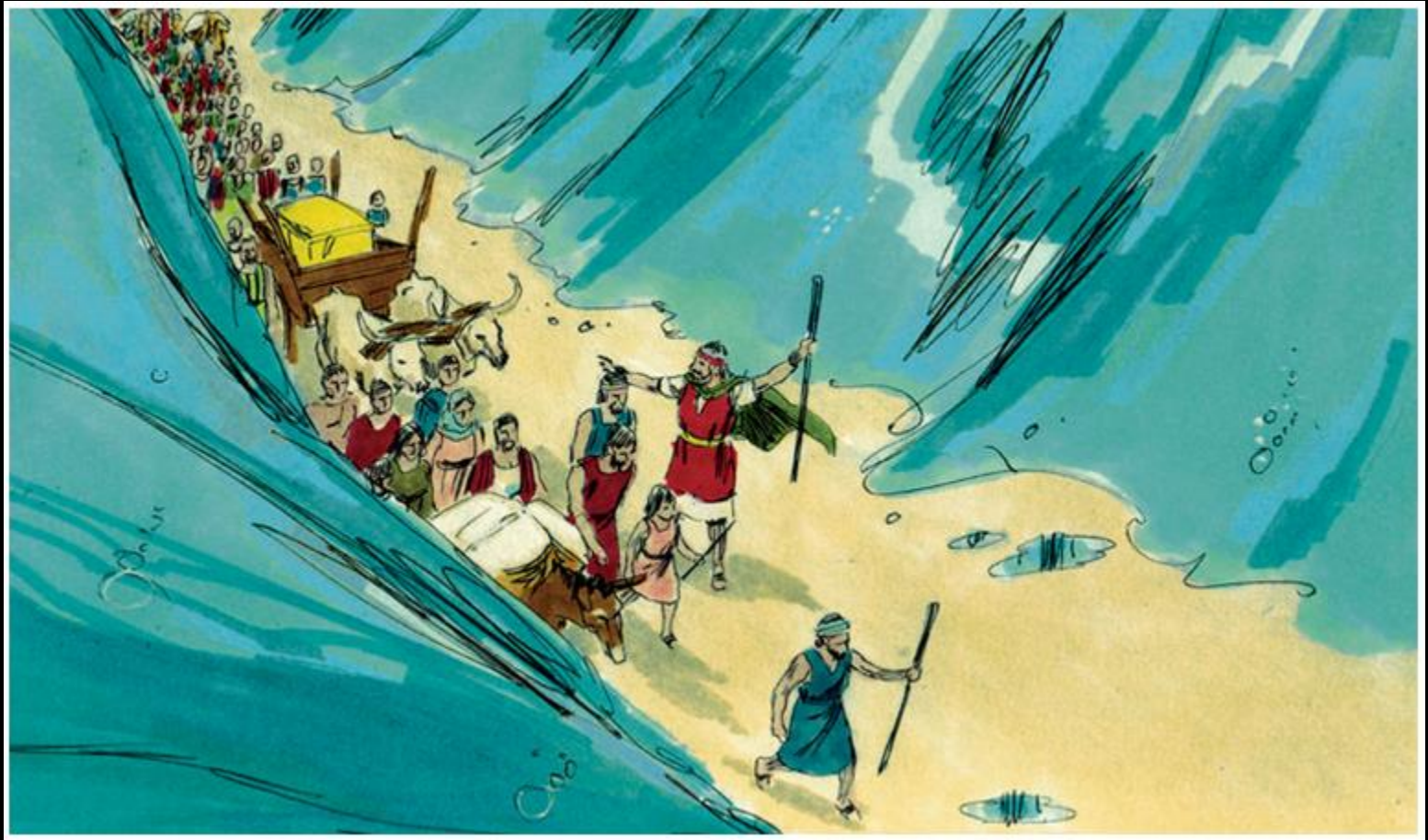
God wanted to prepare  
Israel for the spiritual  
consequences that would  
soon be coming for not  
trusting and obeying God's  
spiritual laws &  
instructions.



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  
**ble**ss**, ac**cept** and pro**te**ct  
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....





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

