

The Tent of Meeting

BASED ON EXODUS 34:29-40:38

GOD HAS FORGIVEN HIS PEOPLE FOR THEIR FAITHLESSNESS. HE GIVES MOSES MORE LAWS AND WRITES THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ON TWO NEW TABLETS OF STONE. BUT GOD HAS MORE IN STORE FOR THE ISRAELITES TO DO ...

GOD HAS GIVEN ME PLANS FOR A TENT-HOUSE OF WORSHIP. BRING YOUR OFFERINGS AND WE WILL ALL WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE IT.



THE PEOPLE GLADLY BRING JEWELRY, CLOTH, SKINS, RARE METALS, AND WOOD SO THAT GOD'S HOUSE WILL BE BEAUTIFUL.



Sacrifice and Blessing

BASED ON LEVITICUS AND NUMBERS

GOD APPOINTS AARON AND THE REST OF THE TRIBE OF LEVI TO BE HIS PRIESTS. AND HE TEACHES AARON THE WORDS OF BLESSING TO SHARE WITH THE PEOPLE.

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU; MAY THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE SHINE ON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU; MAY THE LORD TURN HIS FACE TOWARD YOU AND GIVE YOU PEACE.

GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE RULES FOR LIVING SO THEY WILL FORGET THE EGYPTIAN WAYS OF LIVING AND THINK ABOUT GOD'S WAYS.

GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE TO BE HOLY BECAUSE HE IS HOLY. HE TELLS THEM HOW TO MAKE SACRIFICES TO SHOW THAT THEY ARE SORRY FOR THEIR SINS.

I WANT TO SACRIFICE TO GOD, BUT ALL I CAN AFFORD IS THIS PIGEON.

DEAR WOMAN, GOD DOES NOT CARE ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE ANIMAL, ONLY THE SINCERITY OF YOUR HEART.

THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT SACRIFICES GOD ASKS THE ISRAELITES TO PERFORM. ONE IS THE OFFERING OF THE SCAPEGOAT. AARON STANDS BEFORE THE CROWD AND CASTS LOTS BETWEEN THE GOATS.

MOMMY, WHY ARE THERE TWO GOATS UP THERE?

ONE GOAT WILL BE A SACRIFICE TO THE LORD.

BUT THE OTHER WILL TAKE ALL OF OUR SINS UPON IT.



I TAKE ALL THE WICKEDNESS AND SINS OF ISRAEL AND PUT THEM ON YOUR HEAD.

NOW GO, BE BANISHED INTO THE DESERT AND TAKE OUR SINS FAR AWAY FROM US.

THROUGH SACRIFICES AND SPECIAL FEAST DAYS, GOD REMINDS THE ISRAELITES OF WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR THEM AND TEACHES THEM HOW THEY SHOULD LIVE.

Counting the Numbers

BASED ON
NUMBERS 10



EXCITEMENT SPREADS THROUGH THE CAMP AS THE PEOPLE TALK MORE AND MORE ABOUT THE PROMISED LAND GOD WILL LEAD THEM TO. ONE DAY, THE BLAST OF TWO GREAT SILVER TRUMPETS FILLS THE AIR ...

THIS IS THE SIGNAL FOR ALL THE PEOPLE TO COME TO THE TENT OF MEETING. SOMETHING IMPORTANT IS GOING TO HAPPEN.

THE PEOPLE DROP WHAT THEY ARE DOING AND HURRY TO THE TENT OF MEETING.

DOES THIS MEAN WE ARE GOING TO MOVE?

I DON'T KNOW. WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE. OUR ORDERS COME FROM GOD.



RISE UP, O LORD! MAY YOUR ENEMIES FLEE BEFORE YOU!

LOOK! THE CLOUD IS LIFTING!

THIS IS THE SIGN! EAGERLY THE PEOPLE LINE UP TO MARCH TOWARD THE PROMISED LAND. THE PRIESTS LEAD THE FORMATION, CARRYING THE SACRED ARK OF THE COVENANT. AND MOSES COUNTS THE NUMBER OF ISRAELITES AS THEY PASS BY, FOLLOWING GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS.



Quail Coming Out of Their Noses

BASED ON NUMBERS 11

HIGH ON A HILLTOP, MOSES WATCHES THE ISRAELITES MARCH TOWARD THE PROMISED LAND.

GOD IS LEADING US, SO WE DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF ANYTHING.

MOSES IS RIGHT. THE PEOPLE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR. EVEN THOUGH THEY MARCH THROUGH A WILDERNESS, GOD CONTINUES TO PROVIDE MANNA FOR THEM TO EAT.

BUT AFTER SEVERAL DAYS, THE PEOPLE BEGIN TO COMPLAIN AGAIN ...

HOW LONG HAVE WE BEEN EATING THIS ... THIS, WHATEVER-IT-IS?

MANNA— I'M GETTING SO TIRED OF IT.

DON'T WE HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO EAT?

NO! REMEMBER THE MELONS AND MEAT WE HAD IN EGYPT? THEY WOULD TASTE PRETTY GOOD RIGHT NOW.

AND THE CUCUMBERS, DADDY! REMEMBER THE CUCUMBERS?

YEAH! I THOUGHT GOD PROMISED TO TAKE CARE OF US.



GOD'S RAGE BURNS AT THE ISRAELITES' PETTY COMPLAINTS—AND THEN SO DO THEIR TENTS. FIRE BREAKS OUT IN THE ISRAELITE CAMP, AND THE PEOPLE ARE FORCED TO PAUSE THEIR COMPLAINING WHILE THEY TRY TO BEAT BACK THE FLAMES.

DID GOD SEND THE LIGHTNING TO BURN OUR TENTS?

MAYBE IT'S A WARNING FOR US TO STOP GRUMBLING ABOUT THE FOOD HE HAS GIVEN US.



HELP US, MOSES! WE'LL LOSE THE WHOLE CAMP!



ONLY GOD'S MERCY CAN HELP YOU NOW. I'LL PRAY FOR YOU.

AND AS MOSES PRAYS, THE FIRE GOES OUT ON ITS OWN.



LOOK!
THE FIRE IS
OUT!

I SAW
IT WITH MY OWN
EYES! WHEN MOSES
PRAYED, THE FIRE
DIED OUT.

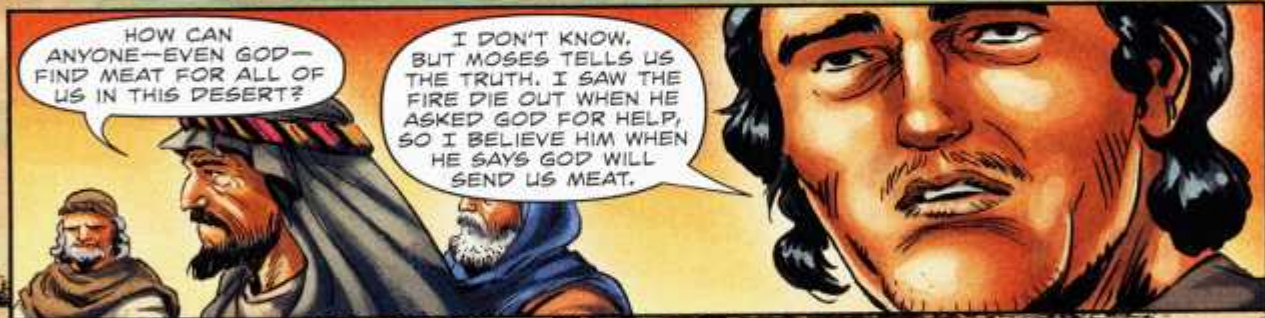
FROM NOW
ON, I WON'T
COMPLAIN ABOUT
ANYTHING MOSES
ASKS US TO
DO.



*BUT THE
UNGRATEFUL
ISRAELITES HAVE
SHORT MEMORIES.
MANY OF THEM
COMPLAIN BECAUSE
GOD HAS NOT
GIVEN THEM MEAT
AS WELL AS MANNA
TO EAT. MOSES
PRAYS AGAIN TO
ASK GOD FOR
HELP.*

YOU WANT MEAT?
THE LORD SAYS YOU WILL
HAVE MEAT SOON ...

... AND PLENTY
OF IT! SO MUCH MEAT
THAT IT WILL MAKE YOU SICK.
SO MUCH MEAT THAT IT WILL BE
COMING OUT OF YOUR NOSES!



HOW CAN
ANYONE—EVEN GOD—
FIND MEAT FOR ALL OF
US IN THIS DESERT?

I DON'T KNOW,
BUT MOSES TELLS US
THE TRUTH. I SAW THE
FIRE DIE OUT WHEN HE
ASKED GOD FOR HELP,
SO I BELIEVE HIM WHEN
HE SAYS GOD WILL
SEND US MEAT.

*SUDDENLY THE WIND
BEGINS TO BLOW IN FROM
THE SEA—AND WITH IT
COME GREAT FLOCKS OF
QUAIL THAT COVER THE
SKY LIKE A CLOUD.*





AS THE QUAIL LAND ON THE DESERT, THE ISRAELITES PICK UP ALL THEY CAN CARRY.

MEAT! ALL WE CAN EAT!

LET'S SAVE ENOUGH TO EAT LATER ON.



HOW MANY MORE BASKETS DO I HAVE TO GATHER?

GET AS MANY AS YOU CAN. AT LEAST WE'LL HAVE ALL THE MEAT WE NEED.



THE PEOPLE STUFF THEMSELVES UNTIL MANY OF THEM ARE SICK.

IT SERVES ME RIGHT. I WAS TOO GREEDY.

SOON AFTER THIS, THE ORDER COMES TO CONTINUE THE JOURNEY. ONCE AGAIN A CLOUD LEADS THE PEOPLE BY DAY AND A PILLAR OF FIRE LEADS THEM AT NIGHT. THEY TRAVEL TO A CAMPSITE CLOSER TO THE HOMETLAND GOD PROMISED THEM.



NO SOONER IS CAMP SET UP THAN MOSES' OWN BROTHER AND SISTER TURN AGAINST HIM.

MOSES ACTS AS IF HE IS THE ONLY SPOKESMAN FOR GOD.

HE SEEMS TO FORGET, AARON, THAT YOU ARE THE HIGH PRIEST.

Sibling Rivalry

BASED ON NUMBERS 12

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, AARON AND MIRIAM ARE TIRED OF ALWAYS FOLLOWING THE COMMAND OF THEIR LITTLE BROTHER, MOSES. WHY DOES GOD FAVOR HIM?



YOU'RE RIGHT, MIRIAM. IT'S TIME WE HAVE A TALK WITH OUR LITTLE BROTHER.

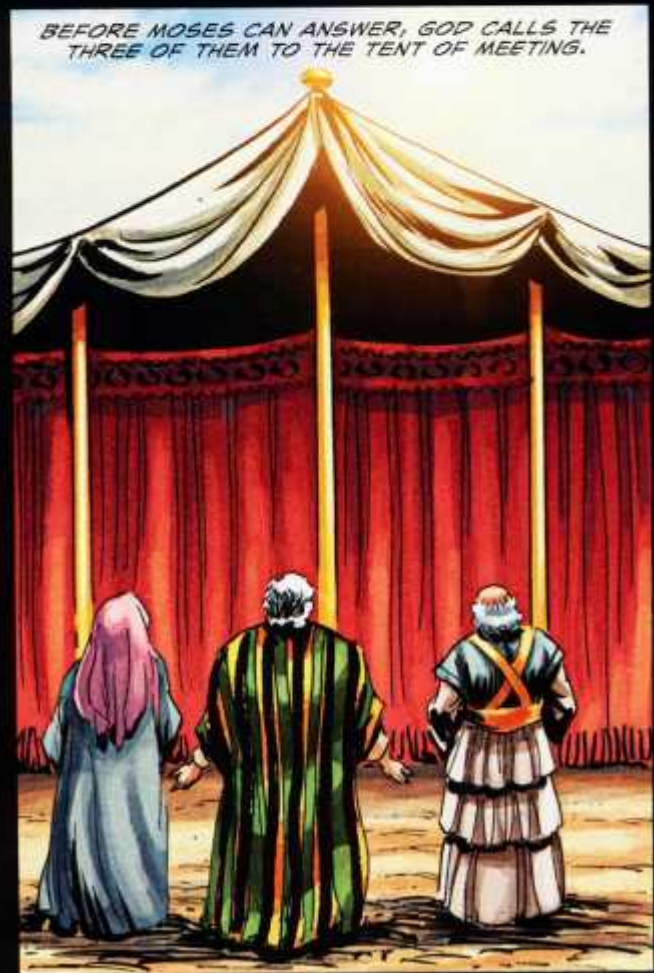


IN ANGER, THEY GO TO MOSES ...

WE'RE TIRED OF HAVING YOU RUN EVERYTHING, MOSES.

DO YOU THINK YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SPEAK FOR GOD? DIDN'T GOD CALL AARON TO BE THE HIGH PRIEST?

AND DON'T FORGET, I'M A PROPHETESS TOO!



BEFORE MOSES CAN ANSWER, GOD CALLS THE THREE OF THEM TO THE TENT OF MEETING.

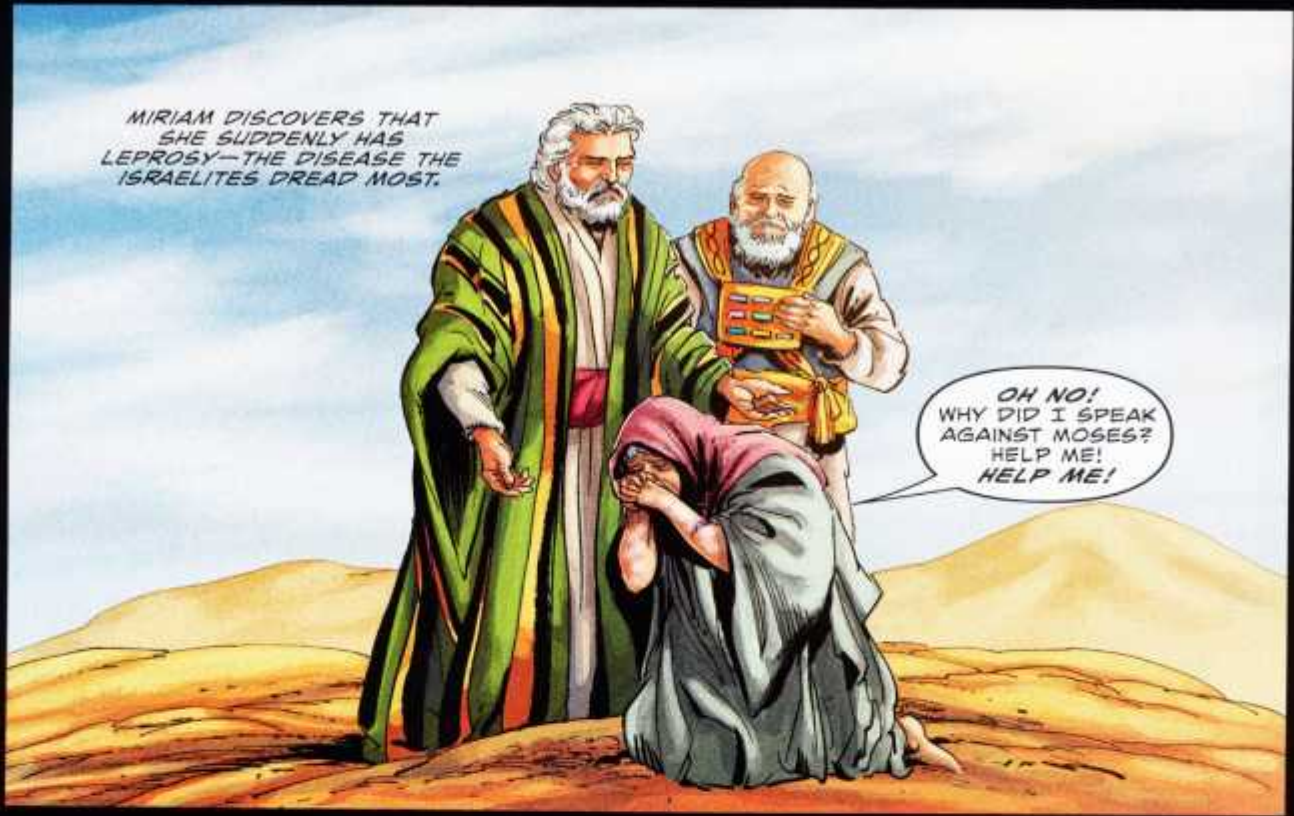


I HAVE ALWAYS SPOKEN TO MY PEOPLE THROUGH DREAMS AND VISIONS.

MOSES IS THE FIRST PROPHET I HAVE EVER SPOKEN WITH FACE-TO-FACE.

DOESN'T THAT TELL YOU SOMETHING? DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD BE AFRAID TO DISRESPECT MY CHOSEN DELIVERER?

THEN THE CLOUD DISAPPEARS. WHEN MIRIAM AND AARON LOOK AROUND, THEY GET THE SHOCK OF THEIR LIVES ...



MIRIAM DISCOVERS THAT SHE SUDDENLY HAS LEPROSY—THE DISEASE THE ISRAELITES DREAD MOST.

OH NO!
WHY DID I SPEAK AGAINST MOSES?
HELP ME!
HELP ME!



WE WERE WRONG, MOSES. BUT DON'T HOLD IT AGAINST US. PLEASE! CAN'T YOU HELP MIRIAM?

ONLY GOD CAN HEAL HER, AARON. BUT I WILL PRAY FOR HER.



HEAL HER NOW, O GOD, I BEG YOU.

GOD AGREES TO HEAL MIRIAM, BUT FIRST SHE IS BANISHED FROM THE CAMP FOR SEVEN DAYS.



ON THE SEVENTH DAY, MIRIAM RETURNS. AS HIGH PRIEST, AARON ACCEPTS HER BACK INTO THE CAMP.

I HAVE LEARNED MY LESSON, AARON. MY SELFISH PRIDE WAS A SIN.

SO WAS MINE. WE SHOULD NEVER QUESTION GOD'S WISDOM AGAIN.

Spy vs. Spy

BASED ON NUMBERS 13:1-14:10

THE ISRAELITES CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY UNTIL THEY REACH THE WILDERNESS OF PARAN. THERE MOSES ORDERS THEM TO SET UP CAMP.



MOSES CALLS ONE MAN FROM EACH TRIBE TO ATTEND AN IMPORTANT MEETING.

WE ARE ON THE BORDER OF CANAAN, THE LAND GOD HAS PROMISED TO US.

BUT BEFORE WE GO INTO IT, WE MUST KNOW WHAT LIES AHEAD.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?

WE NEED TO EXPLORE THE LAND, JOSHUA.

WE MUST FIND OUT WHAT THE PEOPLE ARE LIKE, HOW MANY RIVERS WE WILL HAVE TO CROSS, HOW WELL THE CITIES ARE FORTIFIED.

IT'S A DANGEROUS JOB, BUT IT MUST BE DONE.

EACH MAN HERE CAN ACT AS A SCOUT, AND WE'LL GET STARTED RIGHT AWAY.



LOOK AT THAT CITY!

AND THE SIZE OF THOSE WALLS!



A FEW MILES AWAY ...

LOOK, GIANTS!

NO ONE IN OUR CAMP COULD STAND UP AGAINST ONE OF THESE MEN!



AND IN A RICH VALLEY ...

THIS SOIL MUST BE GOOD, JOSHUA, TO GROW SUCH BIG GRAPES.

YES, CALEB. LET'S GO BACK TO CAMP AND TELL MOSES.



THE WHOLE CAMP WELCOMES THE RETURNING SCOUTS.

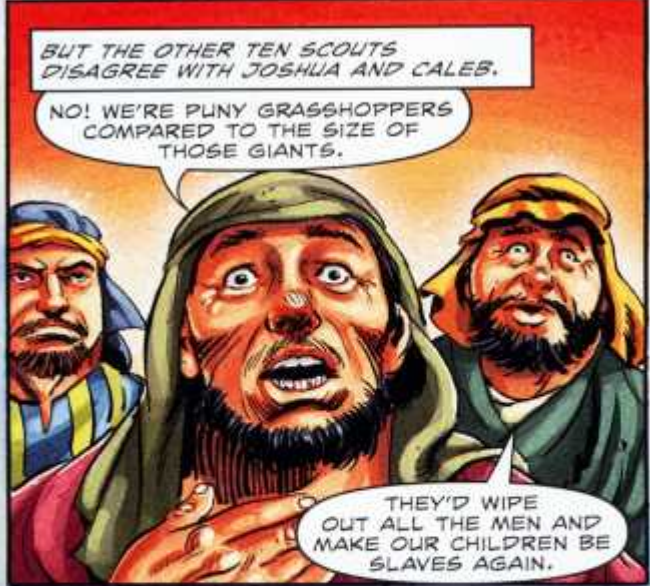
LOOK AT THOSE GRAPES! THEY MAKE ME THINK OF THE FRUIT WE HAD IN EGYPT.

OTHER SCOUTS REPORT WHAT THEY'VE SEEN IN CANAAN ...



IT'S A RICH COUNTRY—GOOD CROPS!

BUT FILLED WITH GIANTS AND WALLED CITIES. I DON'T LIKE IT. WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO CONQUER THEM.



THE PEOPLE ARE FRIGHTENED BY THE TEN COWARDLY SCOUTS WHO TELL ABOUT GIANTS AND STRONG CITY WALLS. ANGRILY, THE PEOPLE TURN AGAINST JOSHUA AND HIS FELLOW SCOUT CALEB.



STONE THEM!

GET RID OF JOSHUA!



BUT SUDDENLY ...

LOOK OVER THERE! THE TENT OF MEETING IS BURNING!



DON'T BE AFRAID. THE TENT OF MEETING IS NOT ON FIRE. IT GLOWS LIKE THAT BECAUSE GOD IS THERE TALKING TO MOSES.

A Rebellious People

BASED ON NUMBERS 14:11-16:34

INSIDE THE TENT OF MEETING ...

O GOD, FORGIVE MY PEOPLE. DON'T DESTROY THEM, EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE DISOBEYED YOU.

MOSES COMES OUT OF THE TENT OF MEETING AND A HUSH FALLS OVER THE CROWD. HE RAISES HIS HAND ...

BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE FAITH TO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND, GOD SAYS YOU MUST GO BACK TO THE WILDERNESS.



GO BACK TO THE WILDERNESS? WE DON'T WANT TO DO THAT!

AWW, MAN! I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT IF WE DON'T TRY TO CONQUER CANAAN WE'D BE FORCED TO GO BACK TO WANDERING IN THE WILDERNESS.

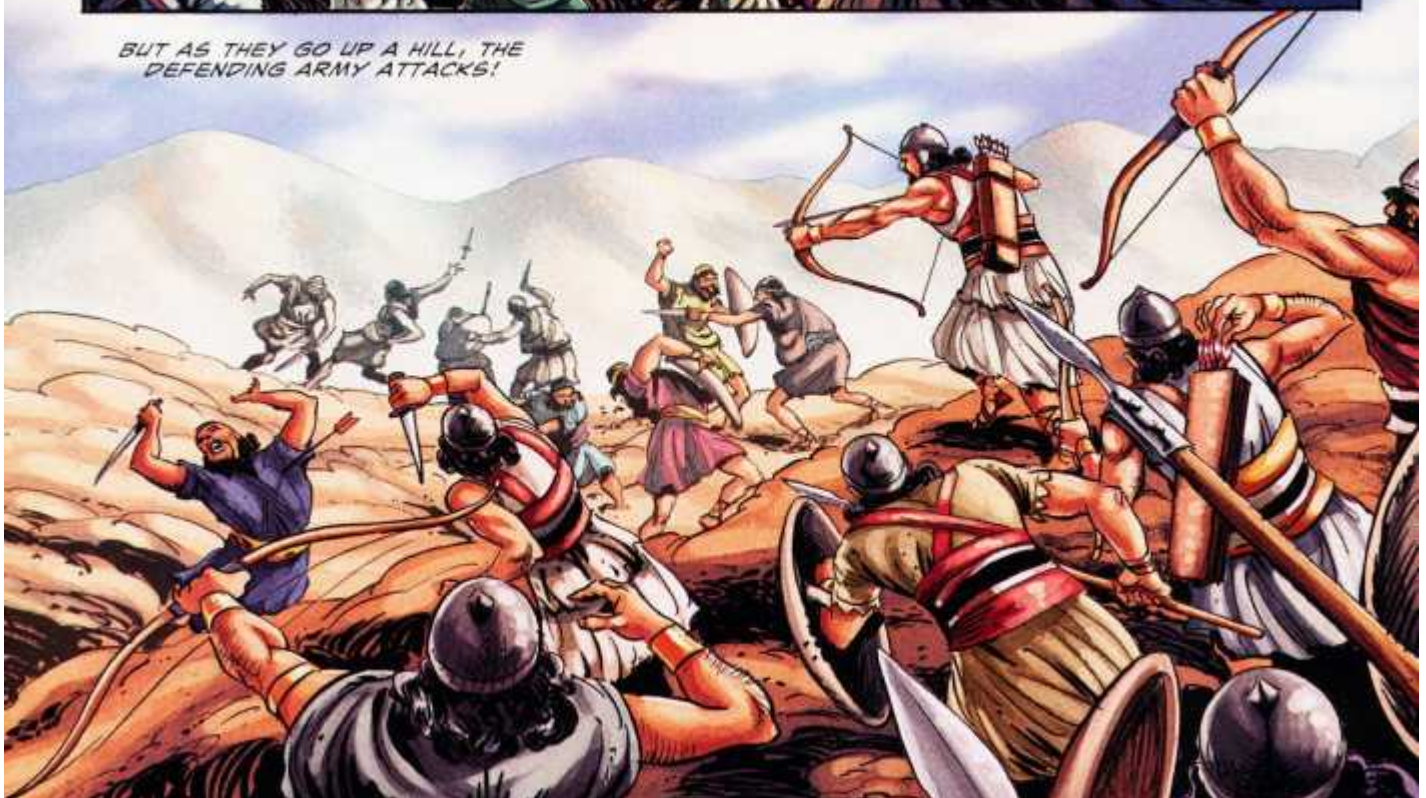


OKAY, IF THOSE ARE OUR ONLY CHOICES, THEN LET'S GO AHEAD AND CONQUER CANAAN OURSELVES.

I'M WITH YOU!

YES! LET'S GO!







THIS IS A MASSACRE! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

IF WE GET BACK ALIVE, I'LL OBEY EVERY WORD MOSES SAYS.



THE BATTLE IS SOON OVER. THE DEFEATED ISRAELITES LIMP BACK TO CAMP.

WHAT HAPPENED?

WE DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE.

THE ENEMY CAME AT US FROM EVERY DIRECTION. OUR LEADERS WERE THE FIRST TO RUN.

THE PEOPLE SEE THE RESULTS OF DISOBEYING GOD—AND FOR A TIME THEY GLADLY FOLLOW MOSES.



BUT THEN A MAN NAMED KORAH AND OTHERS WHO HELP IN THE TENT OF MEETING GROW JEALOUS OF MOSES' LEADERSHIP.

WE ARE AS GOOD AS MOSES! WHY SHOULD HE TELL US WHAT TO DO?

LET'S TELL MOSES WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THINGS OURSELVES.



KORAH AND HIS FOLLOWERS GO TO MOSES, AND MOSES CALLS ALL THE PEOPLE TOGETHER.

TOMORROW THE LORD WILL SHOW US WHOM HE HAS CHOSEN TO LEAD OUR PEOPLE!

THE NEXT DAY MOSES STANDS BEFORE THE ISRAELITES.

GET AWAY FROM KORAH AND THESE MEN WHO WILL LEAD YOU TO EVIL. IF YOU DON'T, YOU'LL LOSE YOUR LIVES. HERE IS PROOF OF MY AUTHORITY: IF GOD HAS CHOSEN ME TO LEAD YOU, THE EARTH WILL OPEN AND SWALLOW THEM UP.



AS MOSES SPEAKS, A GREAT EARTHQUAKE SPLITS THE GROUND OPEN. THE TENTS OF KORAH AND HIS FOLLOWERS FALL INTO A DEEP CRACK IN THE EARTH.



THE FRIGHTENED PEOPLE TURN ONCE AGAIN TO MOSES. AS GOD COMMANDED, MOSES LEADS THEM AWAY FROM THE PROMISED LAND ... TO WANDER IN THE WILDERNESS FOR 40 YEARS.



Two Strikes— You're Out!

BASED ON
NUMBERS 20:1-13

WHEN HARDSHIPS COME,
THE PEOPLE FORGET
THAT IT WAS THEIR FEAR
THAT KEPT THEM FROM
TAKING THE GOOD LAND
GOD HAD PROMISED
THEM. AGAIN AND AGAIN
THEY COMPLAIN ...



NO WATER!
NOW WHAT WILL
I DO?

THE SPRING
IS DRY! HOW
CAN I COOK—
OR WASH?

I'LL HAVE
OUR TRIBAL LEADERS
TAKE THIS UP WITH
MOSES.



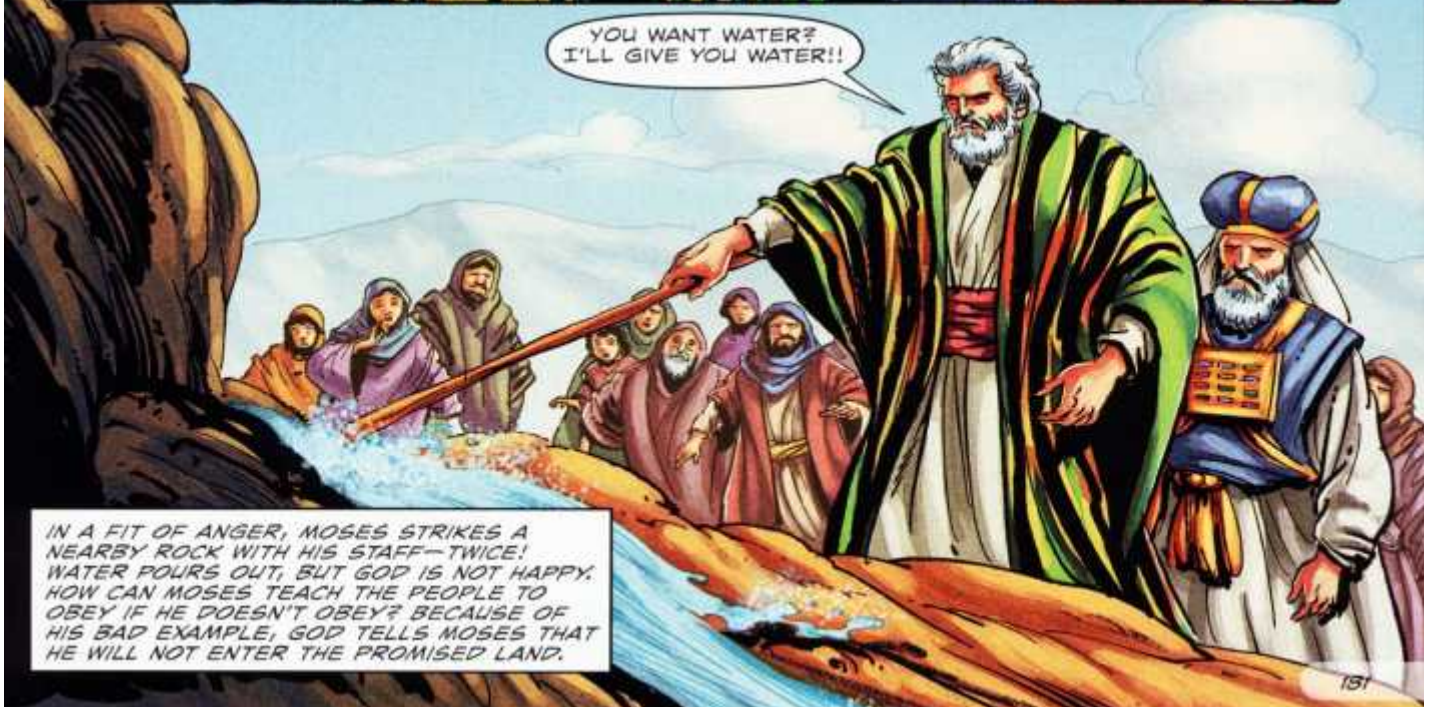
WELL,
MOSES,
WHERE ARE WE
GOING TO GET
WATER?

DID YOU
LEAD US OUT
HERE TO DIE
OF THIRST?

WE'VE HAD
ENOUGH. LET'S GO
BACK TO EGYPT. AT
LEAST THERE WE
HAD FOOD AND
WATER.



YOU WANT WATER?
I'LL GIVE YOU WATER!!



IN A FIT OF ANGER, MOSES STRIKES A
NEARBY ROCK WITH HIS STAFF—TWICE!
WATER POURS OUT, BUT GOD IS NOT HAPPY.
HOW CAN MOSES TEACH THE PEOPLE TO
OBEY IF HE DOESN'T OBEY? BECAUSE OF
HIS BAD EXAMPLE, GOD TELLS MOSES THAT
HE WILL NOT ENTER THE PROMISED LAND.

The Bronze Snake

BASED ON NUMBERS 20:22-21:22

THE ISRAELITES TRAVEL ON. WHEN THEY COME TO MOUNT HOR, GOD TELLS MOSES THAT AARON WILL SOON DIE, AND HE SHOULD TAKE AARON AND HIS SON ELEAZAR TO THE MOUNTAINTOP.



ELEAZAR, TAKE YOUR FATHER'S ROBES. YOU WILL TAKE HIS PLACE AS HIGH PRIEST OF ALL ISRAEL.

AARON DIES ON MOUNT HOR, AND THE ISRAELITES MOURN FOR 30 DAYS. THEN THEY MOVE ON. A CLOUD LEADS THEM BY DAY, AND A PILLAR OF FIRE LEADS BY NIGHT.



BUT THE PEOPLE SOON FORGET GOD'S CARE ... AND AGAIN THEY COMPLAIN ...



THERE'S NOT ENOUGH WATER. I'M ALWAYS THIRSTY.

HASN'T GOD ALWAYS GIVEN US WATER WHEN WE NEEDED IT?

YES, BUT THE FOOD—I'M SICK OF THIS STUFF THAT WE HAVE TO GATHER EVERY DAY AND MAKE INTO BREAD. I WANT FOOD LIKE WE HAD IN EGYPT—MELONS, FRUIT ...



IN EGYPT YOU WERE BEATEN AND FORCED TO WORK AS SLAVES—AND YOU CRIED OUT FOR YOUR FREEDOM!

AND YOU SAID GOD
WOULD GIVE US FREEDOM!
DO YOU CALL THIS FREEDOM?
WANDERING AROUND THE
WILDERNESS?



SUDDENLY, AS PUNISHMENT FOR THEIR
GRUMBLING, THE CAMP COMES ALIVE
WITH POISONOUS SNAKES.

HELP!
I'VE BEEN
BITTEN!



HELP
ME—
OR I'LL
DIE!



MOSES,
WE'VE SINNED AGAINST
GOD AND AGAINST YOU.
FORGIVE US! AND TAKE
AWAY THESE SNAKES!
PLEASE!

I WILL
ASK GOD TO
HELP YOU.



MOSES PRAYS AND GOD TELLS HIM TO MAKE A BRONZE SNAKE AND PUT IT ON A POLE.



LISTEN TO ME, EVERYONE WHO HAS BEEN BITTEN BY THE SNAKES. GOD SAID THAT IF YOU LOOK AT THIS BRONZE SNAKE, YOU WILL BE WELL AGAIN.

I'M WELL! GOD HAS HEALED ME.



EVERYONE WHO LOOKS UP AT THE SNAKE IS HEALED.

MOSES AND HIS PEOPLE CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY. THIS TIME NO ONE COMPLAINS OR QUESTIONS MOSES' RIGHT TO LEAD. WHEN THEY REACH THE BORDER OF THE AMORITES, MOSES SUMMONS TWO MESSENGERS.



GO SPEAK TO KING SIHON. ASK HIM IF WE MAY PASS THROUGH HIS LAND IN PEACE.

The Wonderful Win Against Og

BASED ON NUMBERS 21:21-35

AT KING SIHON'S PALACE ...



O KING, OUR LEADER, MOSES, ASKS IF WE MAY PASS THROUGH YOUR COUNTRY.

WE WILL NOT DRINK FROM YOUR WELLS OR—

NO! GET OUT AND STAY OUT! ALL OF YOU!

MEANTIME, IN KING SIHON'S PALACE ...

ATTACK THE ISRAELITES RIGHT AWAY. WE'LL CATCH THEM OFF GUARD AND DESTROY THEM!



WHY SHOULD HE BE SO ANGRY?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT I'M SCARED. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?



IN THE ISRAELITE CAMP, MOSES AND JOSHUA LISTEN TO THE REPORTS OF THE MESSENGERS ...

THEY MIGHT JUST TRY TO ATTACK US. LET'S GET READY IN CASE THEY COME.



AT DAYBREAK, KING SIHON STRIKES. HE IS SURPRISED BY A STRONG COUNTERATTACK FROM THE ISRAELITES.



THE AMORITES ARE DEFEATED IN A SWIFT BATTLE. THEN JOSHUA GOES ON TO TAKE THE ENEMY'S CAPITAL CITY OF HESHBON.

THE ISRAELITE SOLDIERS ARE EAGER TO PUSH ON AFTER THIS VICTORY. BUT JOSHUA GOES TO MOSES FOR ADVICE.

SHALL WE MOVE NORTH INTO BASHAN? IT'S A POWERFUL COUNTRY AND THEIR KING OG IS A GIANT.

SEND OUT SOME SCOUTS TO EXPLORE THE LAND FIRST. THEN WE'LL DECIDE.

JOSHUA'S SCOUTS ARE DISCOVERED, AND A MESSENGER HURRIES TO TELL KING OG OF BASHAN.

O KING, I SAW SOME STRANGE MEN SPYING OUT OUR LAND.

THEY MUST BE THE ISRAELITES. THEY JUST CONQUERED THE AMORITES, BUT WE'LL TEACH THEM A LESSON ...

BOLDLY, THE GIANT KING OG OF BASHAN SETS OUT TO TEACH THE ISRAELITES A LESSON IN WARFARE. BUT INSTEAD, JOSHUA AND HIS MEN TEACH OG ABOUT DEFEAT. THE ISRAELITES ARE NOW CAMPED JUST ACROSS THE RIVER FROM THE LAND GOD HAS PROMISED THEM!



A Stubborn Mule- and His Donkey

BASED ON NUMBERS 22-24

BUT LITTLE DOES ISRAEL KNOW THAT OTHER COUNTRIES ARE WATCHING THEIR VICTORIES AND SCHEMING AGAINST THEM.

KING BALAK SEES THE DEFEAT OF SIHON AND OG AND KNOWS HE IS NEXT. IN FEAR, HE SENDS FOR A POWERFUL SORCERER NAMED BALAAM.

IF YOU CAN PUT A CURSE ON THE ISRAELITES, KING BALAK WILL GREATLY REWARD YOU.

BALAAM SETS OUT ON HIS FAITHFUL DONKEY TO MEET WITH KING BALAK. BUT GOD SENDS AN ANGEL TO STOP HIM.



BALAAM DOESN'T NOTICE ANYTHING, BUT WHEN BALAAM'S DONKEY SEES THE FEARSOME ANGEL, SHE SCAMPERS INTO THE FIELD TO AVOID ITS FIERY SWORD.

STUPID BEAST!



THEN THE ANGEL OF THE LORD MOVES AHEAD TO A NARROW PATH BETWEEN TWO STONE WALLS.

THE DONKEY PASSES CLOSE AGAINST ONE OF THE WALLS TO DODGE THE ANGEL'S SWORD.

BUT BALAAM'S FOOT IS SMASHED AGAINST THE WALL, AND HE BEATS HER AGAIN.

OW!!
CURSE YOU!



FINALLY, THE ANGEL STANDS IN A NARROW PLACE WHERE THE DONKEY HAS NO PLACE TO TURN.



WITH NO OTHER OPTION, SHE LIES DOWN—RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD!

THAT'S THE LAST STRAW. I'M GOING TO PUMMEL YOU WITHIN AN INCH OF YOUR LIFE!

BUT EVEN AS BALAAM IS YELLING, THE LORD OPENS THE DONKEY'S MOUTH.



WHY, IF I HAD A SWORD RIGHT NOW ...

MASTER! HAVEN'T I ALWAYS BEEN YOUR FAITHFUL DONKEY? HAVE I EVER SERVED YOU POORLY?

YES, BUT NOW YOU ARE MAKING A FOOL OF ME!

THEN THE LORD OPENS BALAAM'S EYES TO SEE THE ANGEL.

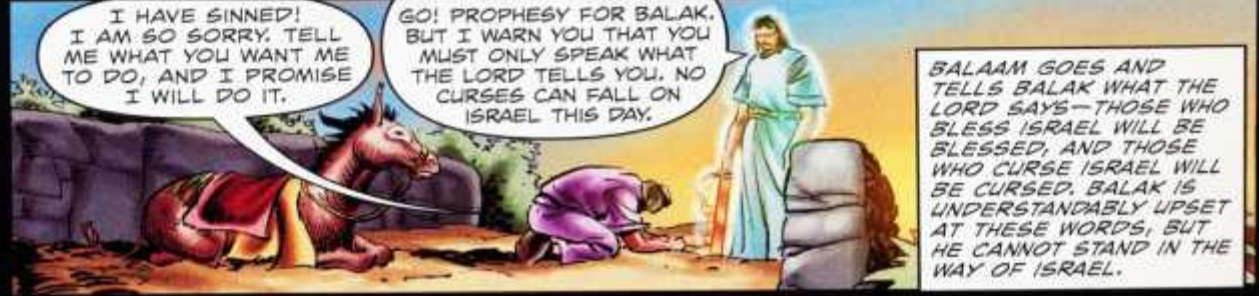


YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED FOR BEATING YOUR DONKEY.

HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR HER, I WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU THREE TIMES BY NOW.

I HAVE SINNED! I AM SO SORRY. TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO, AND I PROMISE I WILL DO IT.

GO! PROPHECY FOR BALAK. BUT I WARN YOU THAT YOU MUST ONLY SPEAK WHAT THE LORD TELLS YOU. NO CURSES CAN FALL ON ISRAEL THIS DAY.



BALAAM GOES AND TELLS BALAK WHAT THE LORD SAYS—THOSE WHO BLESS ISRAEL WILL BE BLESSED, AND THOSE WHO CURSE ISRAEL WILL BE CURSED. BALAK IS UNDERSTANDABLY UPSET AT THESE WORDS, BUT HE CANNOT STAND IN THE WAY OF ISRAEL.