



**THE
GOLDEN CALF**

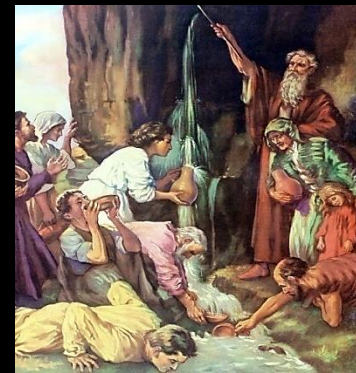


EXODUS
Chapters 32-34

God's presence was made clear to Israel:

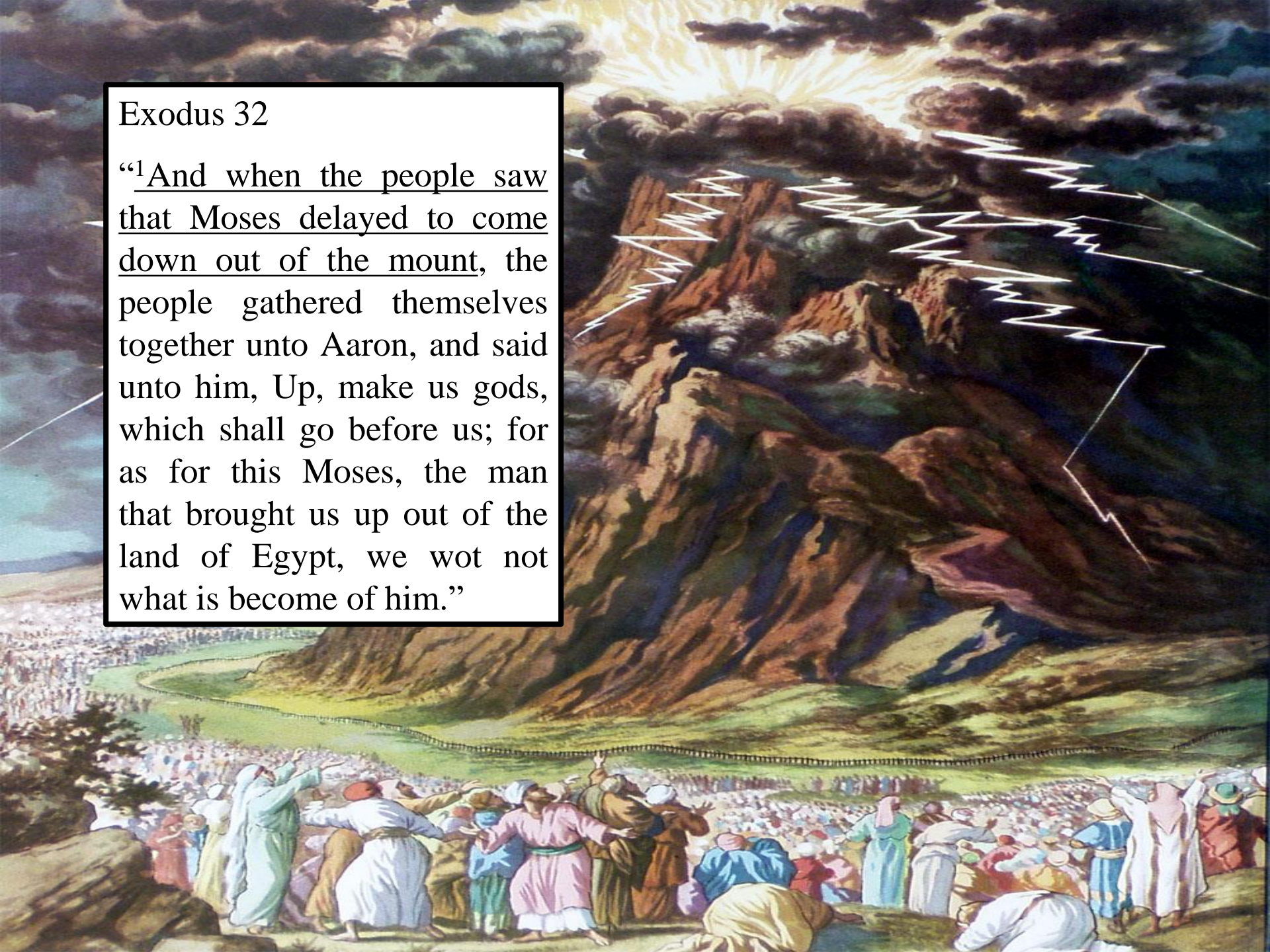
Ten Plagues
Parting of the Red Sea
Cloud / fiery pillar
Egyptian army destroyed
Manna, quail and water provided
Won battle against Amalekites
They heard God speak to Moses
They saw God's presence on Sinai

**Yet they forsook Him
when the presence of
Moses was absent.**



Exodus 32

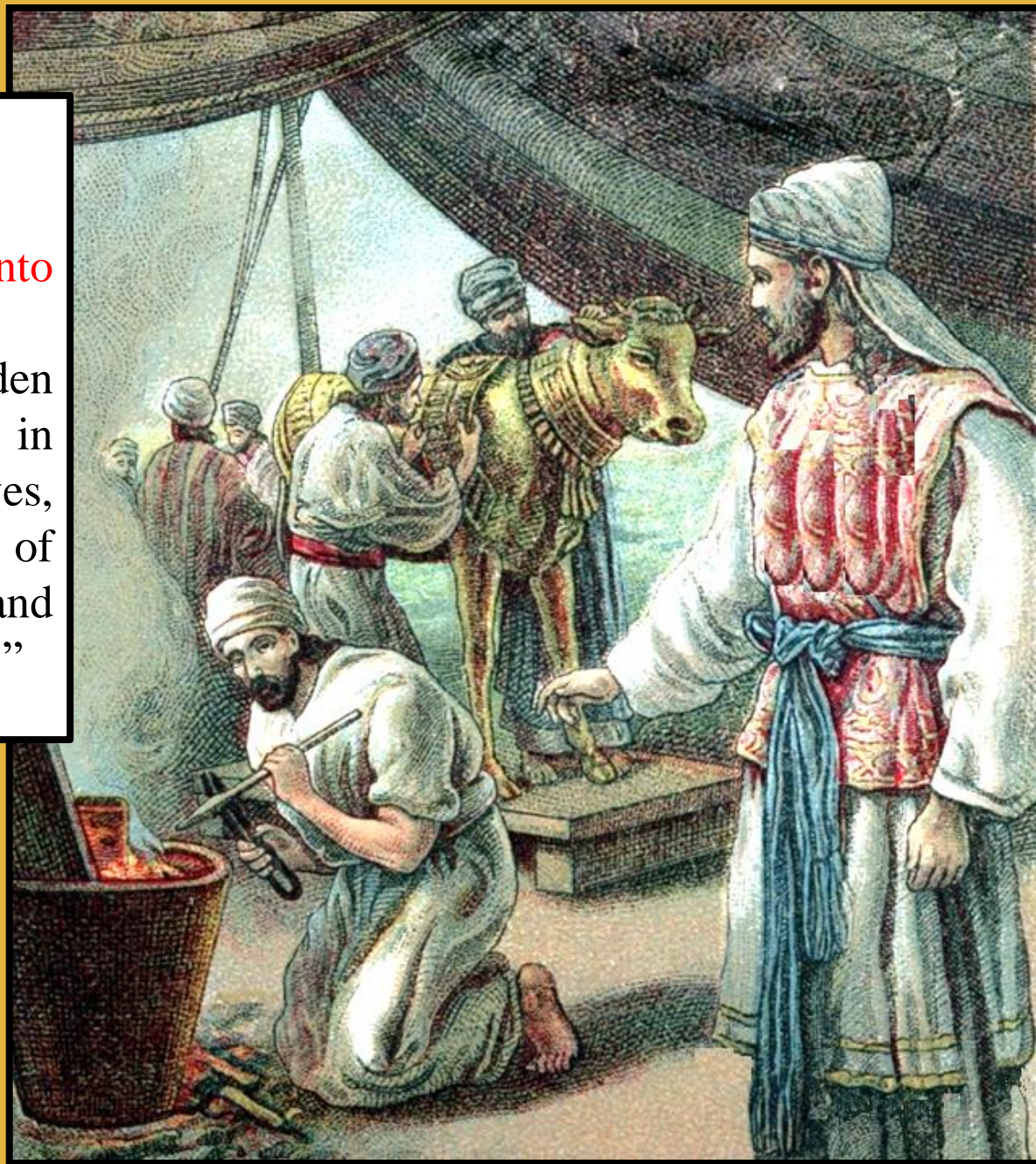
“¹And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.”



Exodus 32

“²And **Aaron** said unto them,

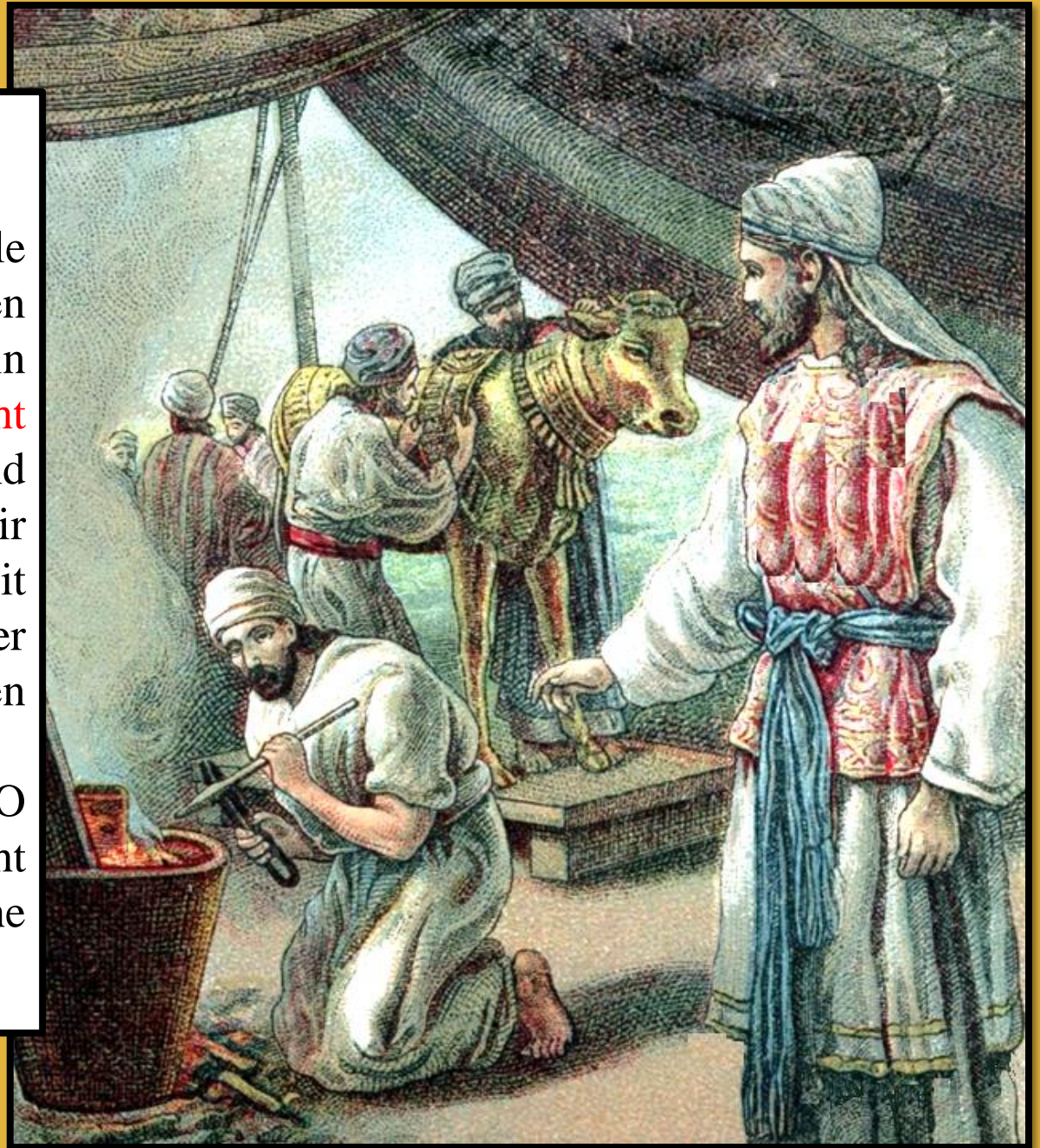
Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.”



Exodus 32

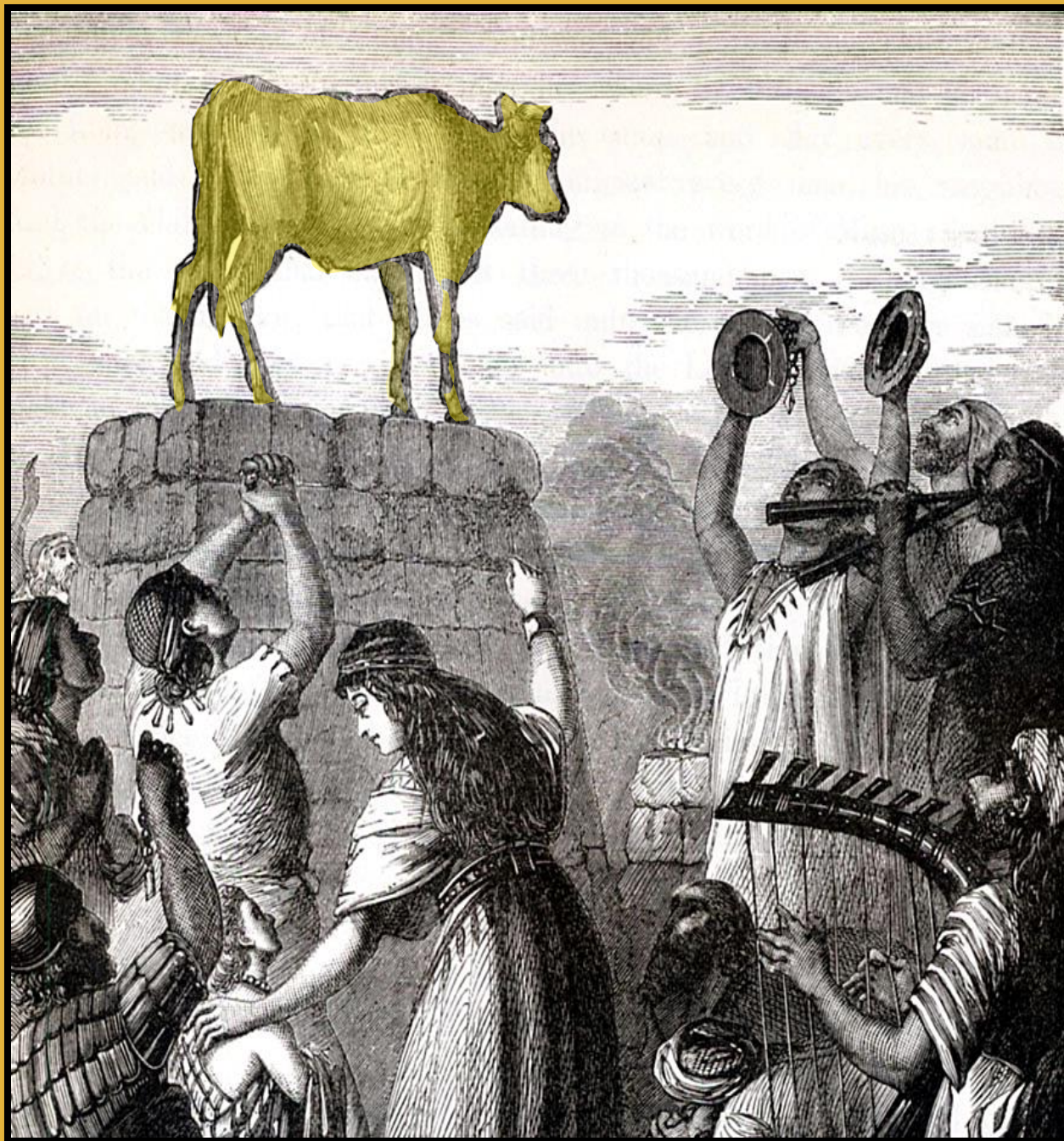
“³And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and **brought them unto Aaron.** ⁴And **he** received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after **he** had made it a molten calf: and they said,

These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.”



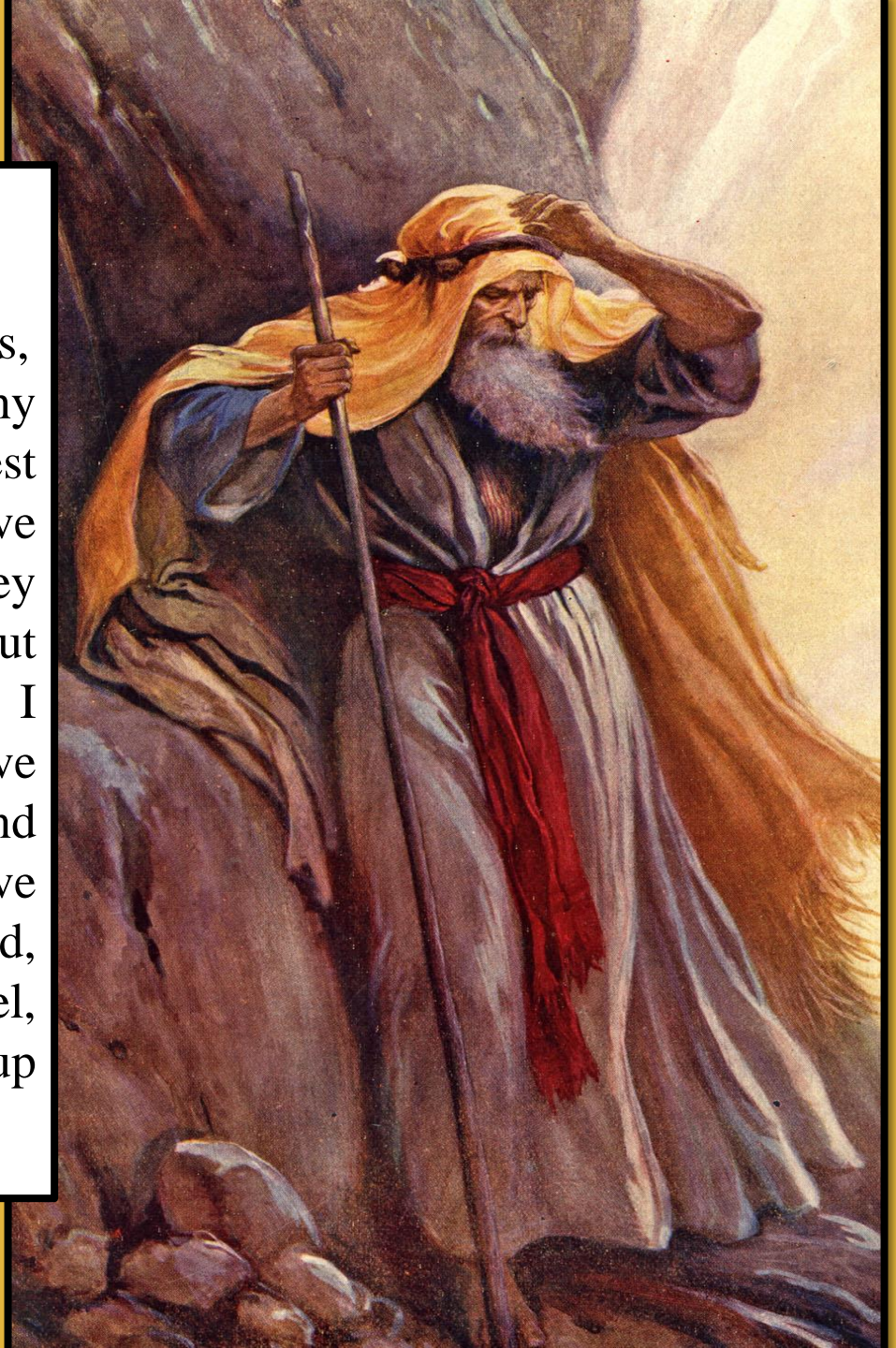
Exodus 32

“⁵And when **Aaron** saw it, **he** built an altar before it; and **Aaron** made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD. ⁶And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.”



Exodus 32

“⁷ And **the LORD said** unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: ⁸ They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.”



Exodus 32

“⁹ And **the LORD** said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: ¹⁰Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.”



Moses pleaded with God to spare the Israelites.

He expressed concern for what their enemies would conclude, and he reminded God of the promise to Abraham.

God set aside his righteous anger.



Exodus 32

“¹⁵And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written. ¹⁶And **the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God,** graven upon the tables.”





Exodus 32

“¹⁷And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp. ¹⁸And he said,

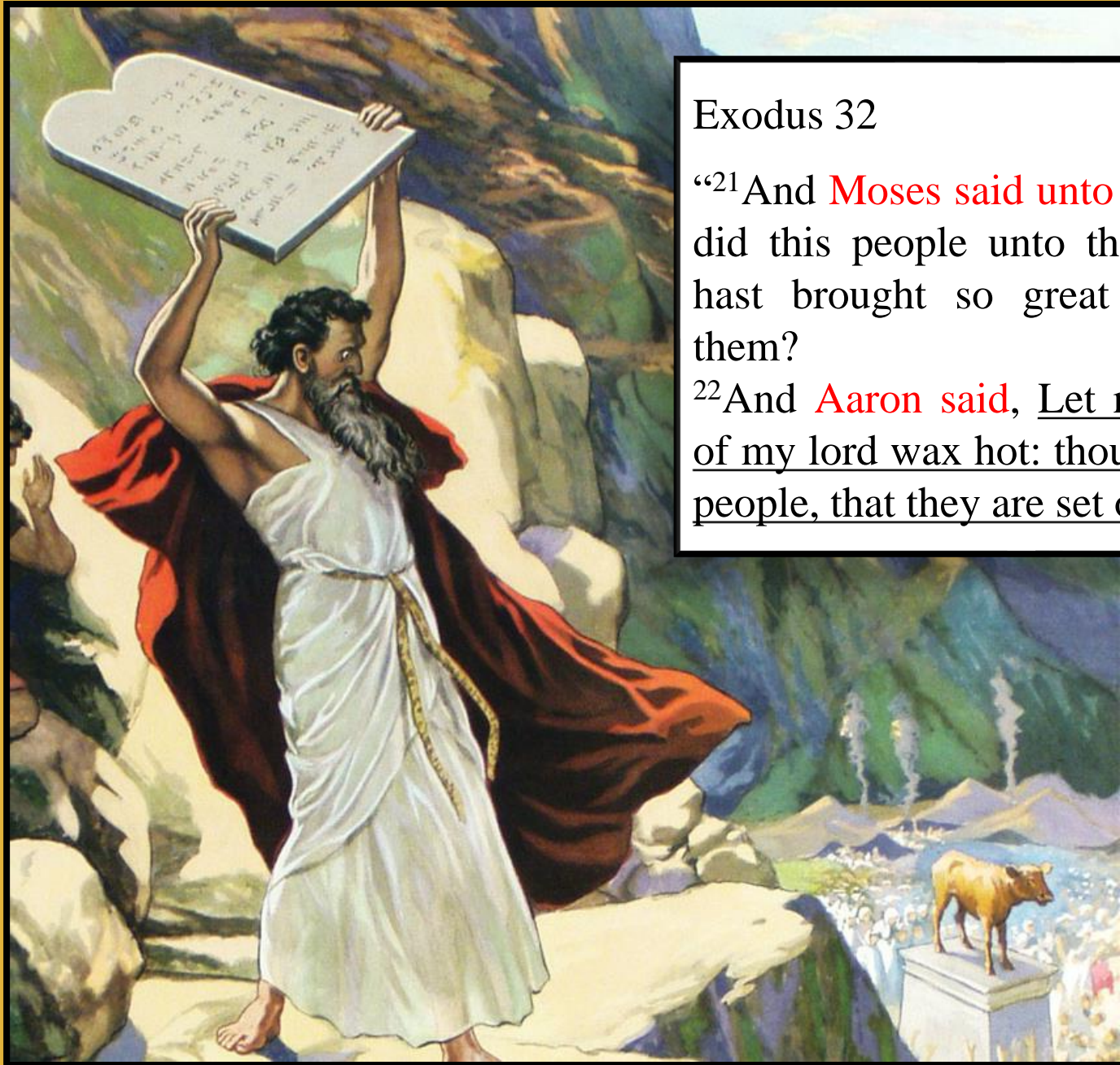
It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear.”



Exodus 32

“¹⁹And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses’ anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.

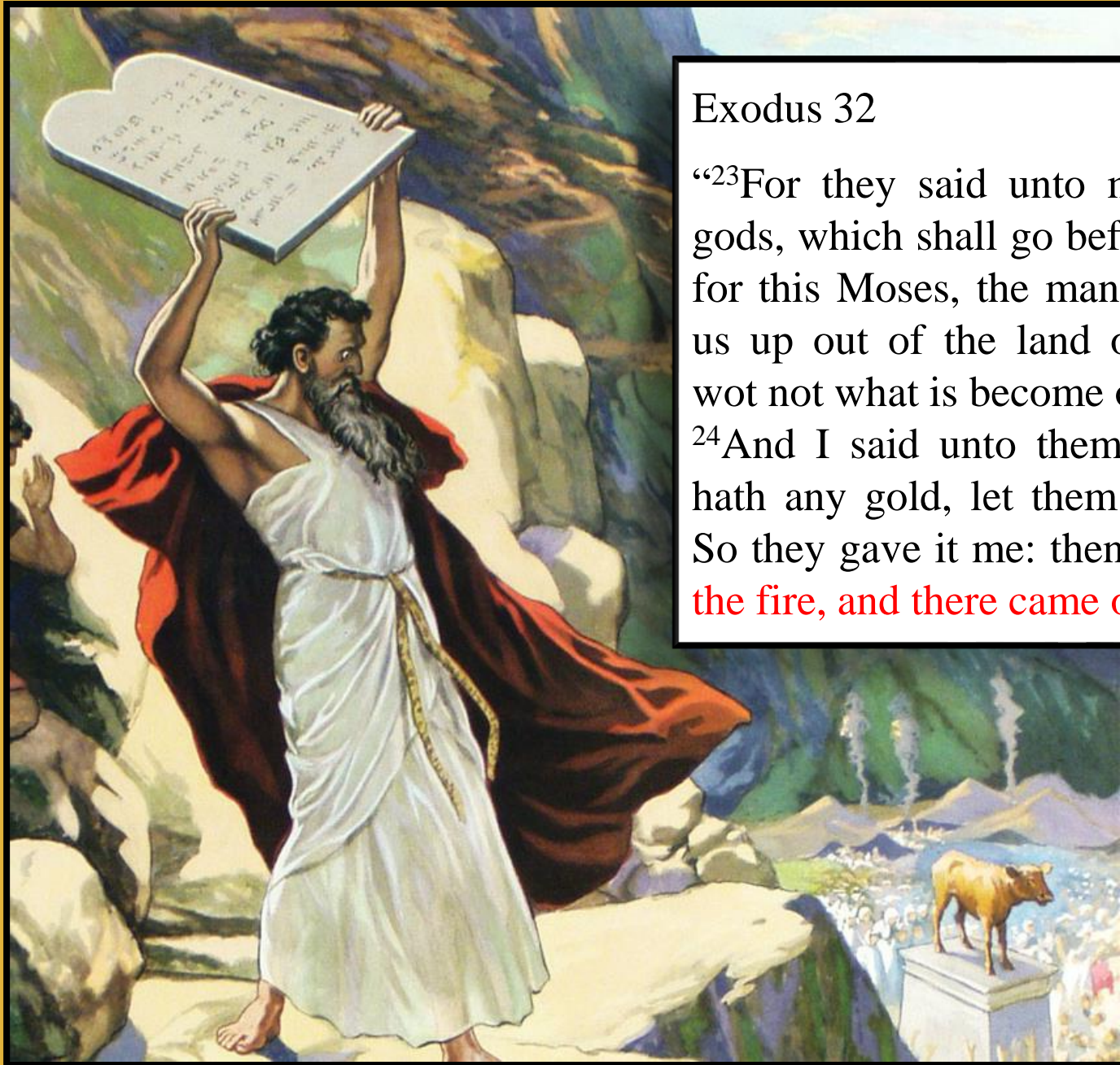
²⁰And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.”



Exodus 32

“²¹And **Moses said unto Aaron**, What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them?

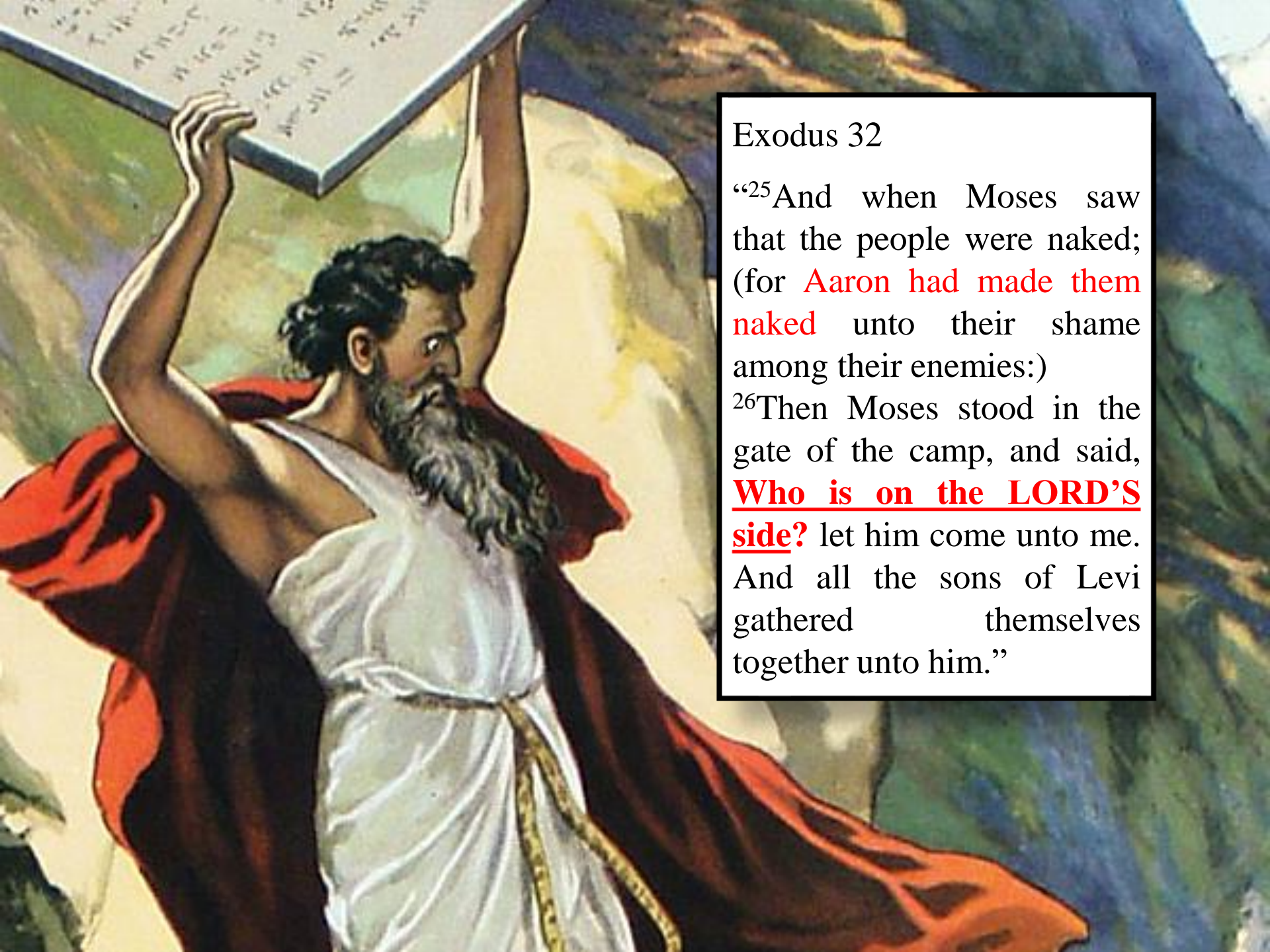
²²And **Aaron said**, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief.”



Exodus 32

“²³For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us: for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

²⁴And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then **I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf.**”



Exodus 32

“²⁵And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for **Aaron had made them naked** unto their shame among their enemies:)

²⁶Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, **Who is on the LORD’S side?** let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.”

Exodus 32

“²⁷ And he said unto them,

Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.”



Exodus 32

“²⁸And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about **three thousand men.**”

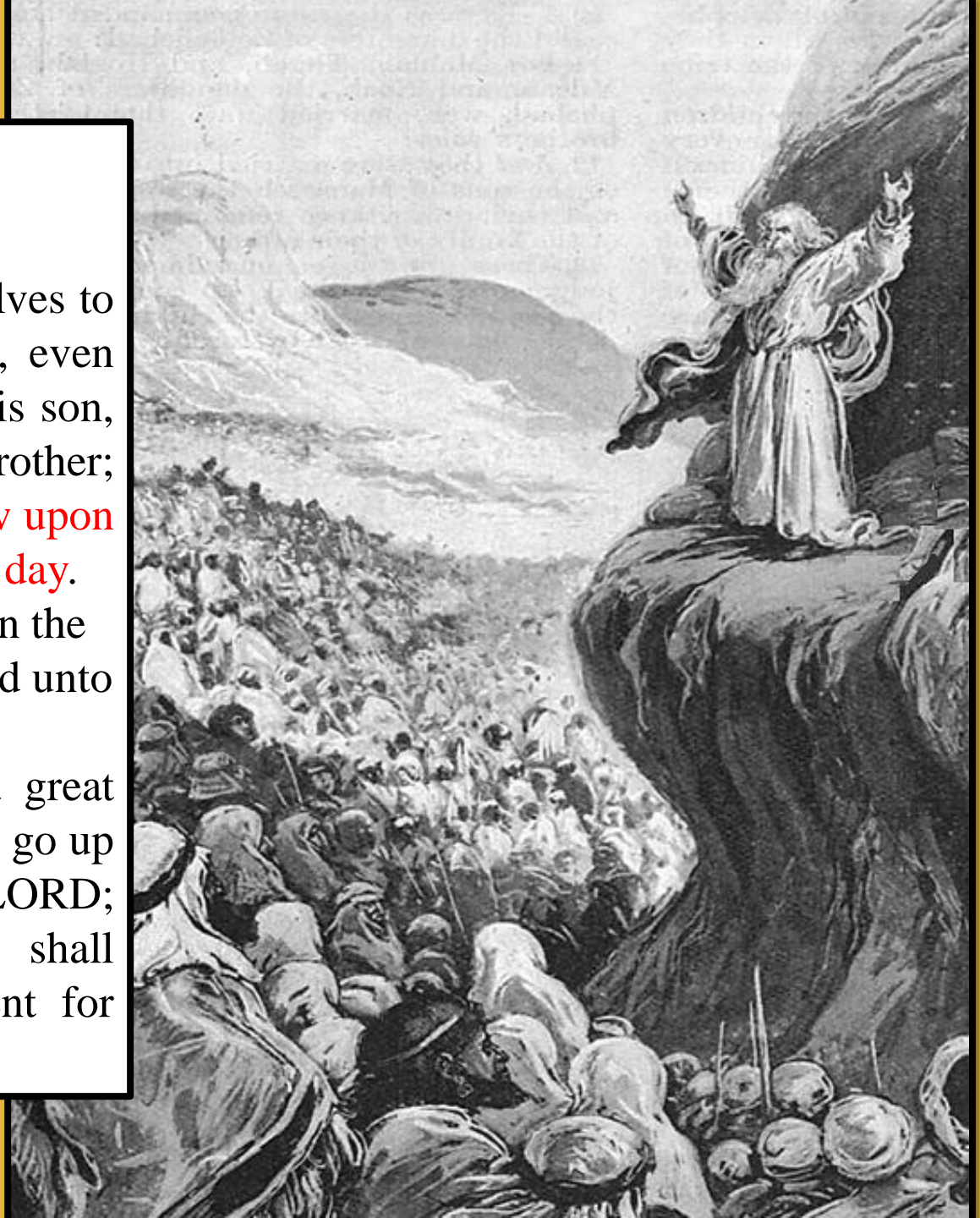


Exodus 32

“²⁹For Moses had said,
Consecrate yourselves to
day to the LORD, even
every man upon his son,
and upon his brother;
that he may **bestow upon
you a blessing this day.**

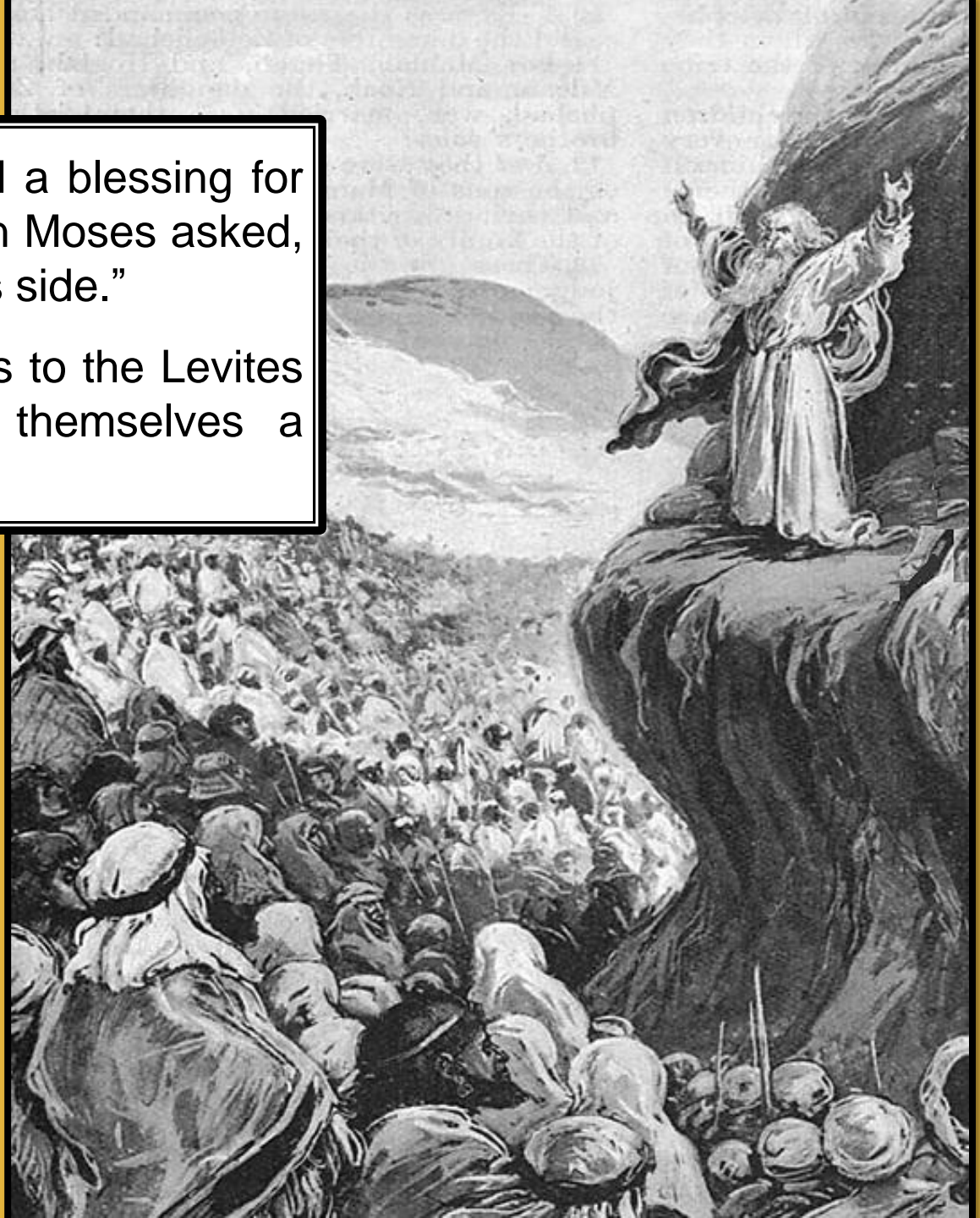
³⁰And it came to pass on the
morrow, that Moses said unto
the people,

Ye have sinned a great
sin: and now I will go up
unto the LORD;
peradventure I shall
make an atonement for
your sin.”



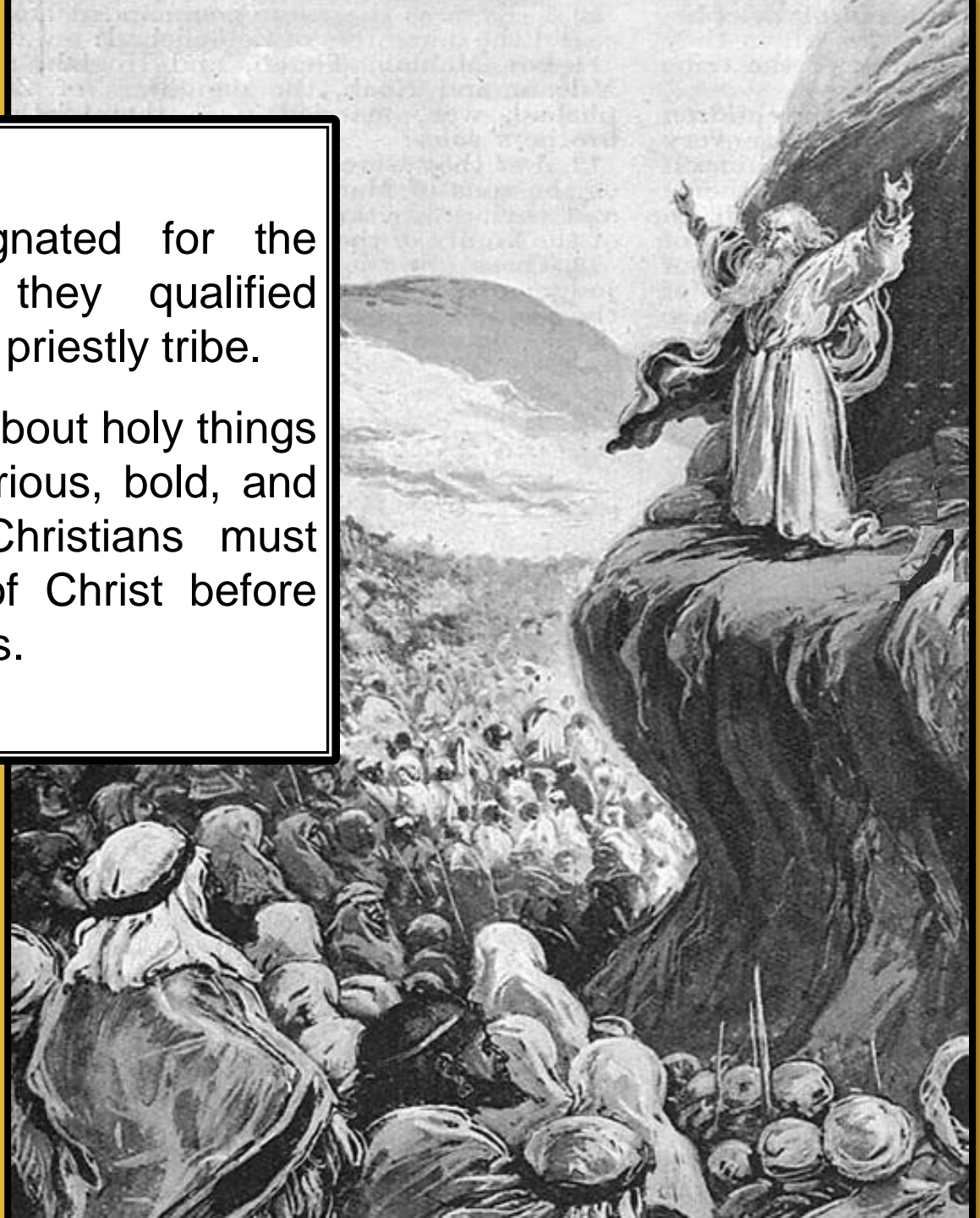
The Levites received a blessing for coming forward when Moses asked, "Who is on the Lord's side."

Moses here intimates to the Levites that they earned themselves a perpetual honor.



The blessing designated for the Levites was that they qualified themselves to be the priestly tribe.

Those that minister about holy things must be sincere, serious, bold, and courageous. All Christians must prefer the service of Christ before their dearest relations.



Exodus 32

“³¹ And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said,
Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods
of gold. ³²Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot
me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.”



Exodus 32

“³³And the LORD said unto Moses,

Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

³⁴Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them.

³⁵And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.” —THE END OF CHAPTER 32





EXODUS
Chapter 33

Exodus 33:1-6

“¹And the LORD said unto Moses, Depart, and go up hence, thou and the people which thou hast brought up out of the land of Egypt, unto the land which I swear unto Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, Unto thy seed will I give it: ²And I will send an angel before thee; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite: ³Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people: lest I consume thee in the way. ⁴And when the people heard these evil tidings, they mourned: and no man did put on him his ornaments. ⁵For the LORD had said unto Moses, Say unto the children of Israel, Ye are a stiffnecked people: I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee: therefore now put off thy ornaments from thee, that I may know what to do unto thee. ⁶And the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by the mount Horeb.”



**In this message God sent by Moses
to the children of Israel—**

He told them what they deserved.

He dealt with them according to their sins.

He told them to depart and go up to Canaan.

He said he would NOT GO to Canaan with them.

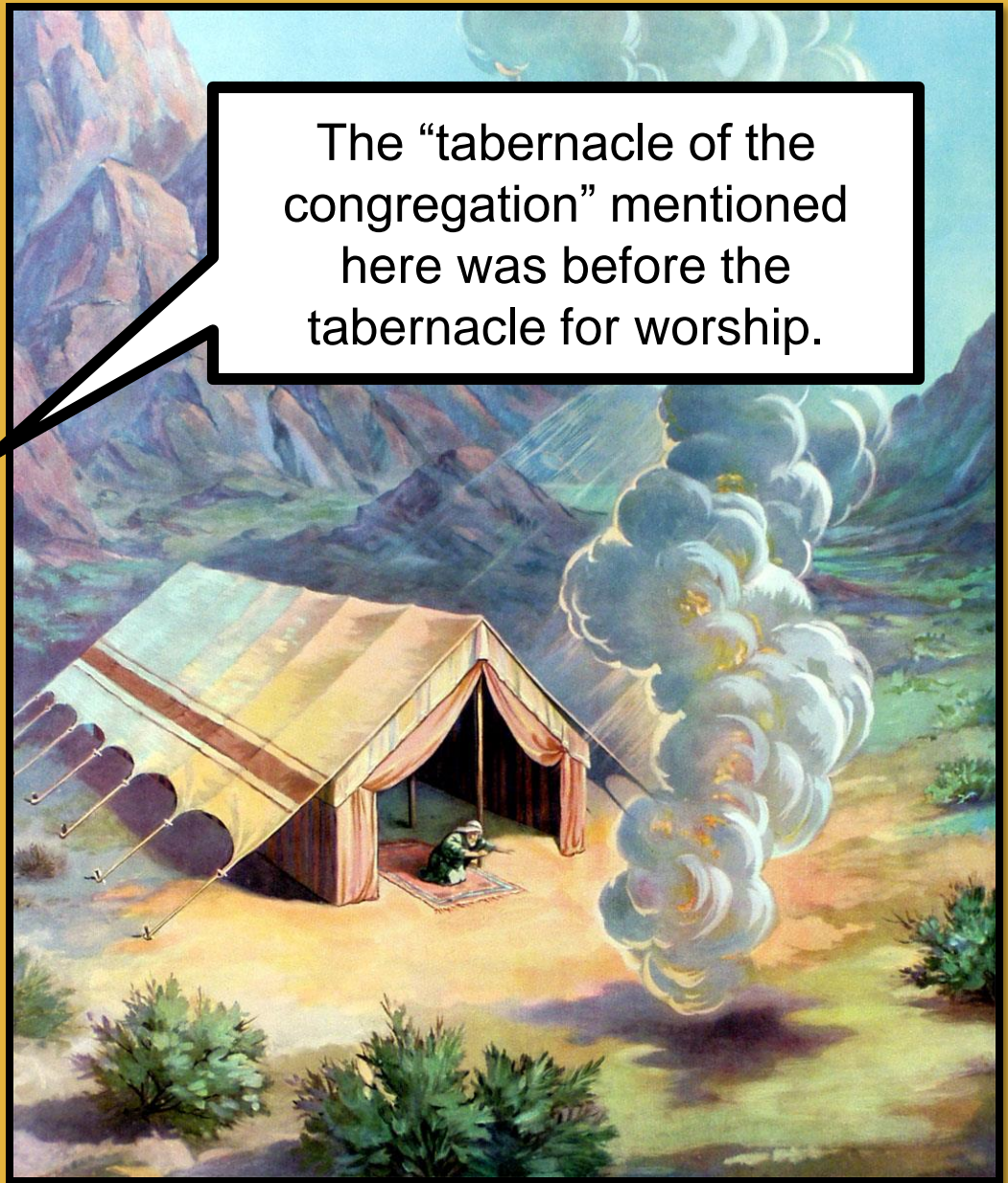
But, He did promise to make good the covenant He had with Abraham, in giving them Canaan by sending an angel to drive out the heathen people from the land.

As stubborn and profane as the people were it is surprising they saw how devastating it would be for God to deny them His presence.

Exodus 33

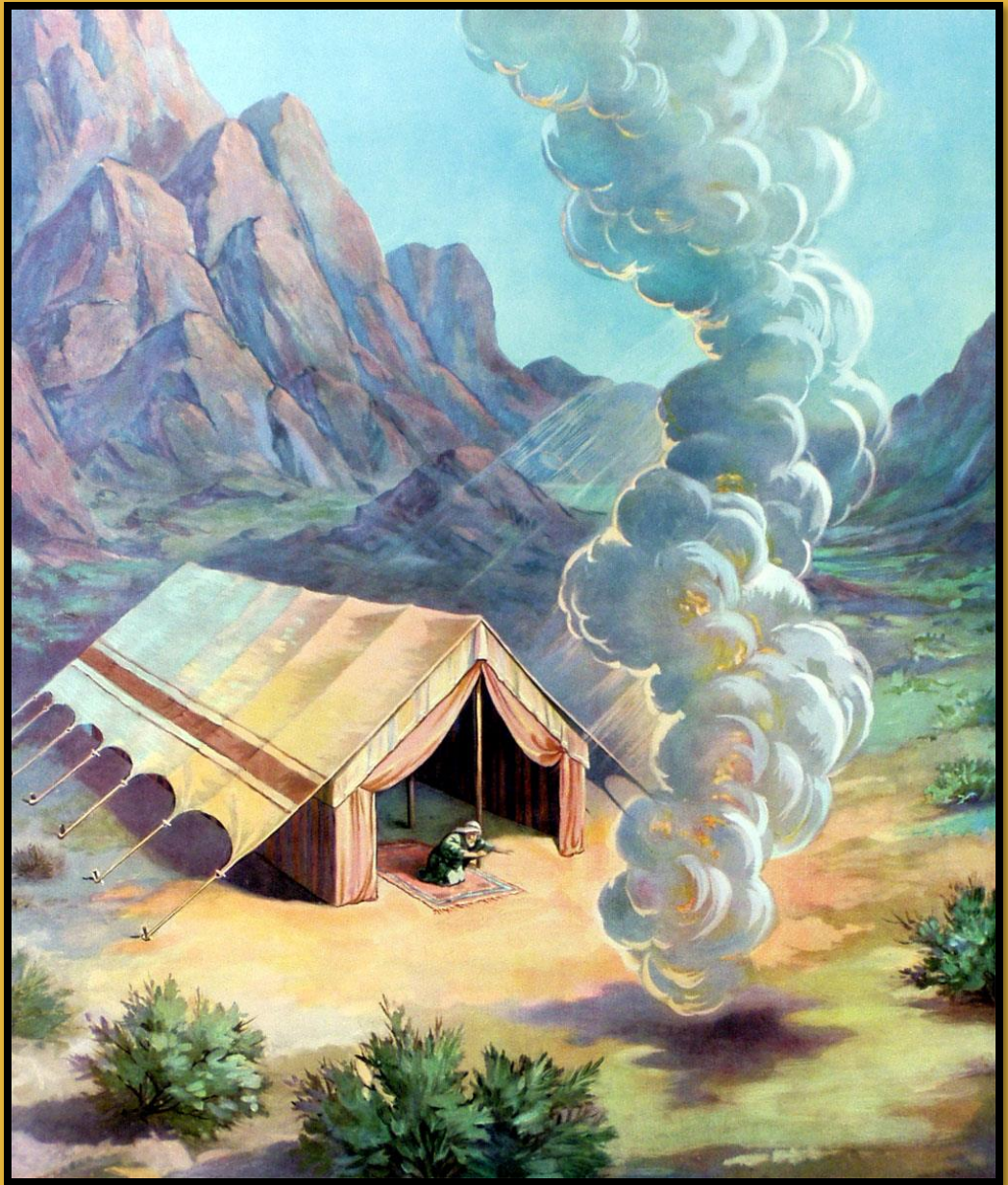
“7And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the **Tabernacle of the congregation**. And it came to pass, that every one which sought the LORD went out unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp.”

The “tabernacle of the congregation” mentioned here was before the tabernacle for worship.



Exodus 33

“⁸And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle, that all the people rose up, and stood every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone into the tabernacle.”



Exodus 33

“⁹And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses.

¹⁰And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door. ¹¹And the LORD

spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.

And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.”



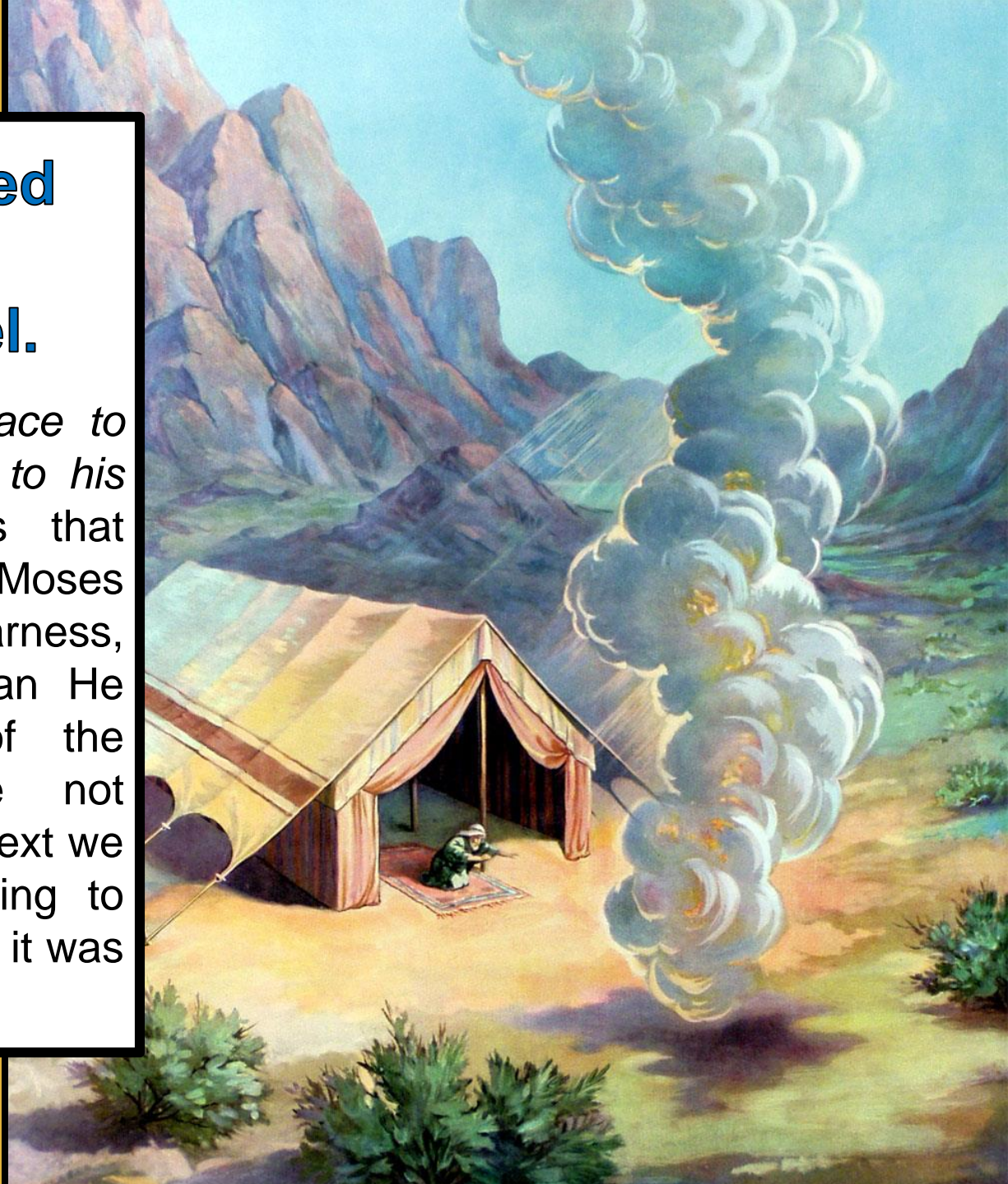
Compare—

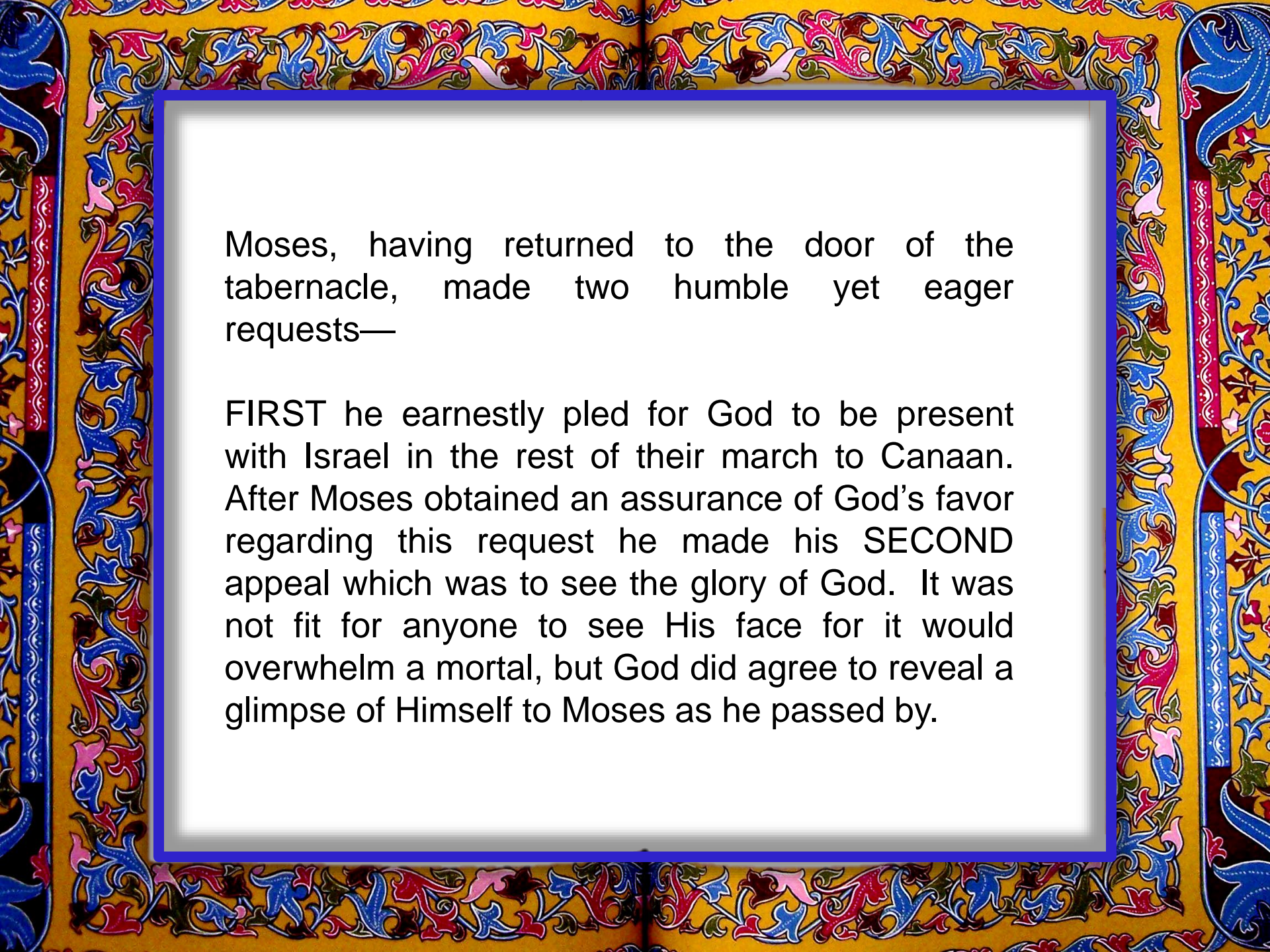
Numbers 12:8

“With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the **similitude** of the LORD shall he behold.”

Moses mediated between God and Israel.

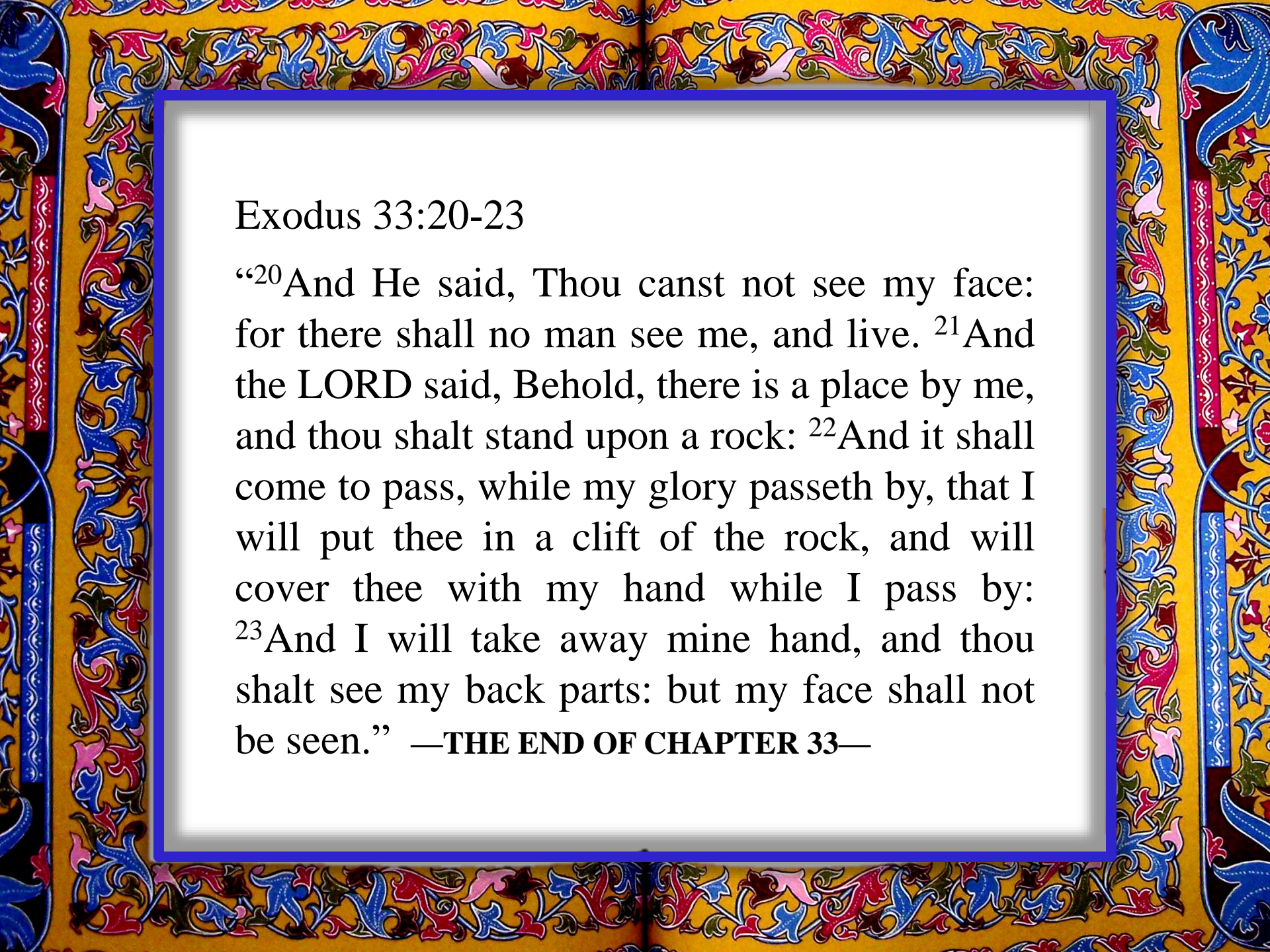
God *spoke to Moses face to face as a man speaks to his friend*, which intimates that God revealed Himself to Moses with greater clearness, kindness and grace than He had to any other of the prophets. They were not literally *face to face* for next we read of Moses requesting to see the glory of God and it was denied.





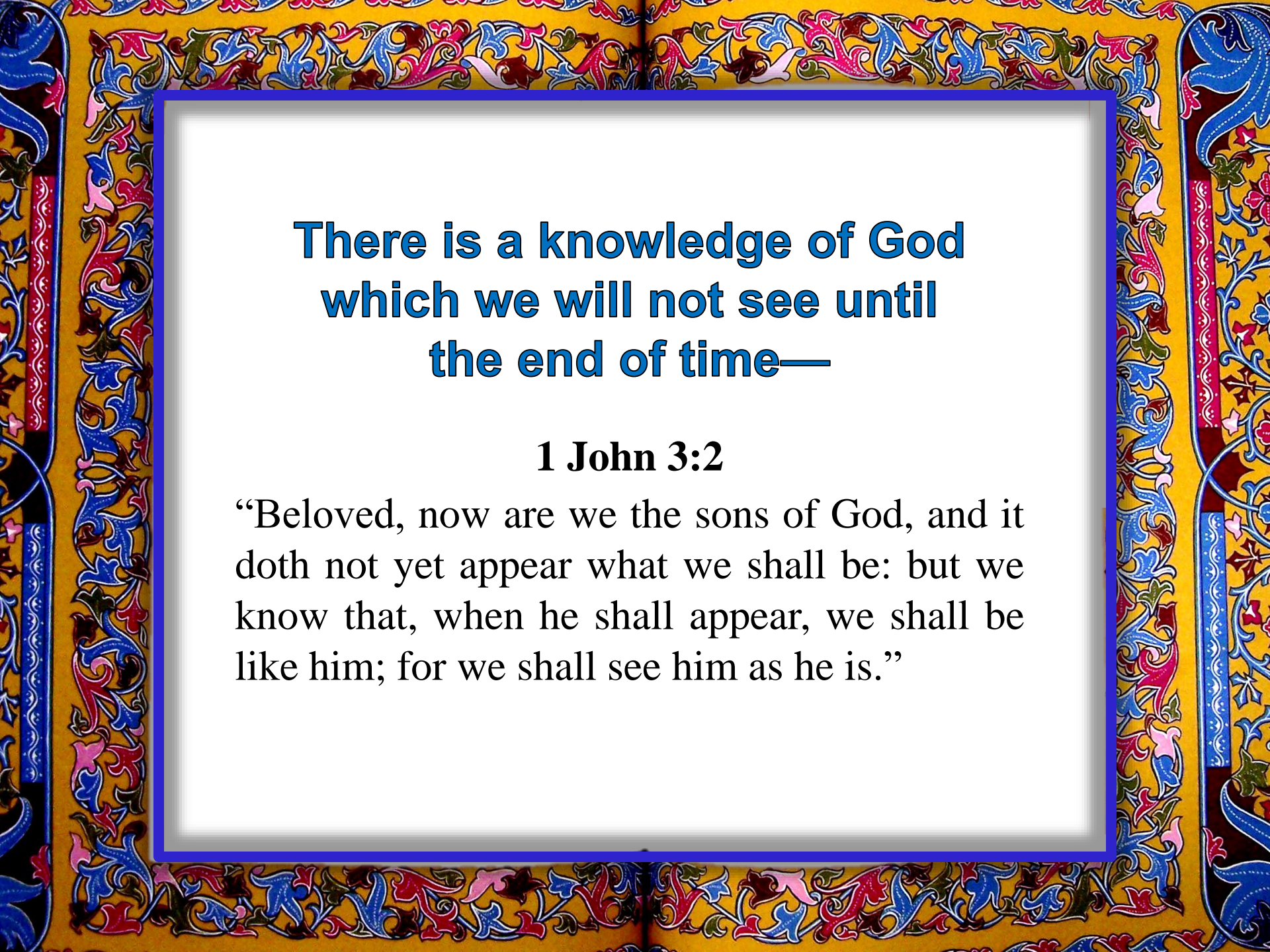
Moses, having returned to the door of the tabernacle, made two humble yet eager requests—

FIRST he earnestly pled for God to be present with Israel in the rest of their march to Canaan. After Moses obtained an assurance of God's favor regarding this request he made his SECOND appeal which was to see the glory of God. It was not fit for anyone to see His face for it would overwhelm a mortal, but God did agree to reveal a glimpse of Himself to Moses as he passed by.



Exodus 33:20-23

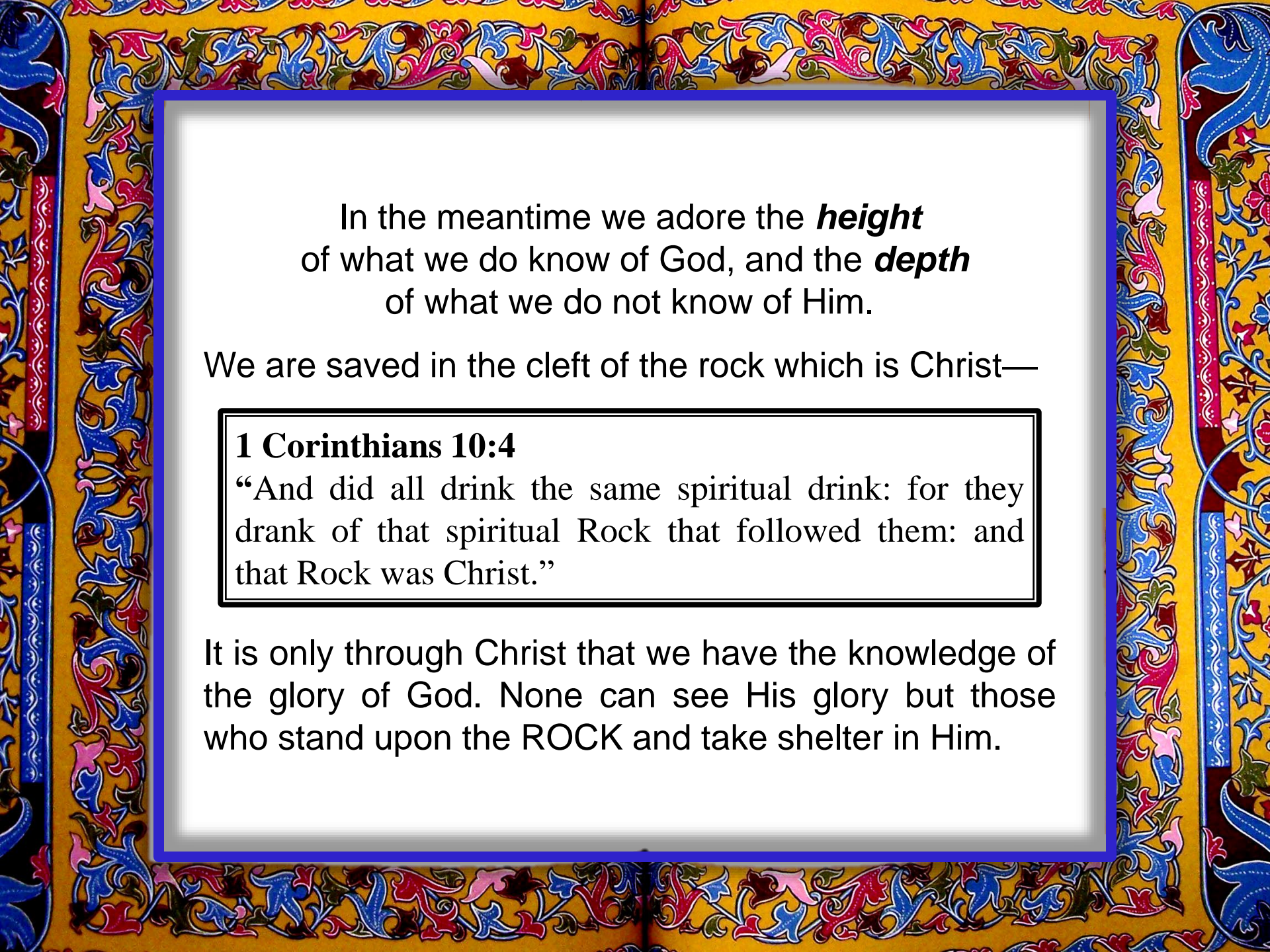
“²⁰And He said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. ²¹And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: ²²And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: ²³And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.” —THE END OF CHAPTER 33—



**There is a knowledge of God
which we will not see until
the end of time—**

1 John 3:2

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”



In the meantime we adore the *height*
of what we do know of God, and the *depth*
of what we do not know of Him.

We are saved in the cleft of the rock which is Christ—

1 Corinthians 10:4

“And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”

It is only through Christ that we have the knowledge of the glory of God. None can see His glory but those who stand upon the ROCK and take shelter in Him.

The

End