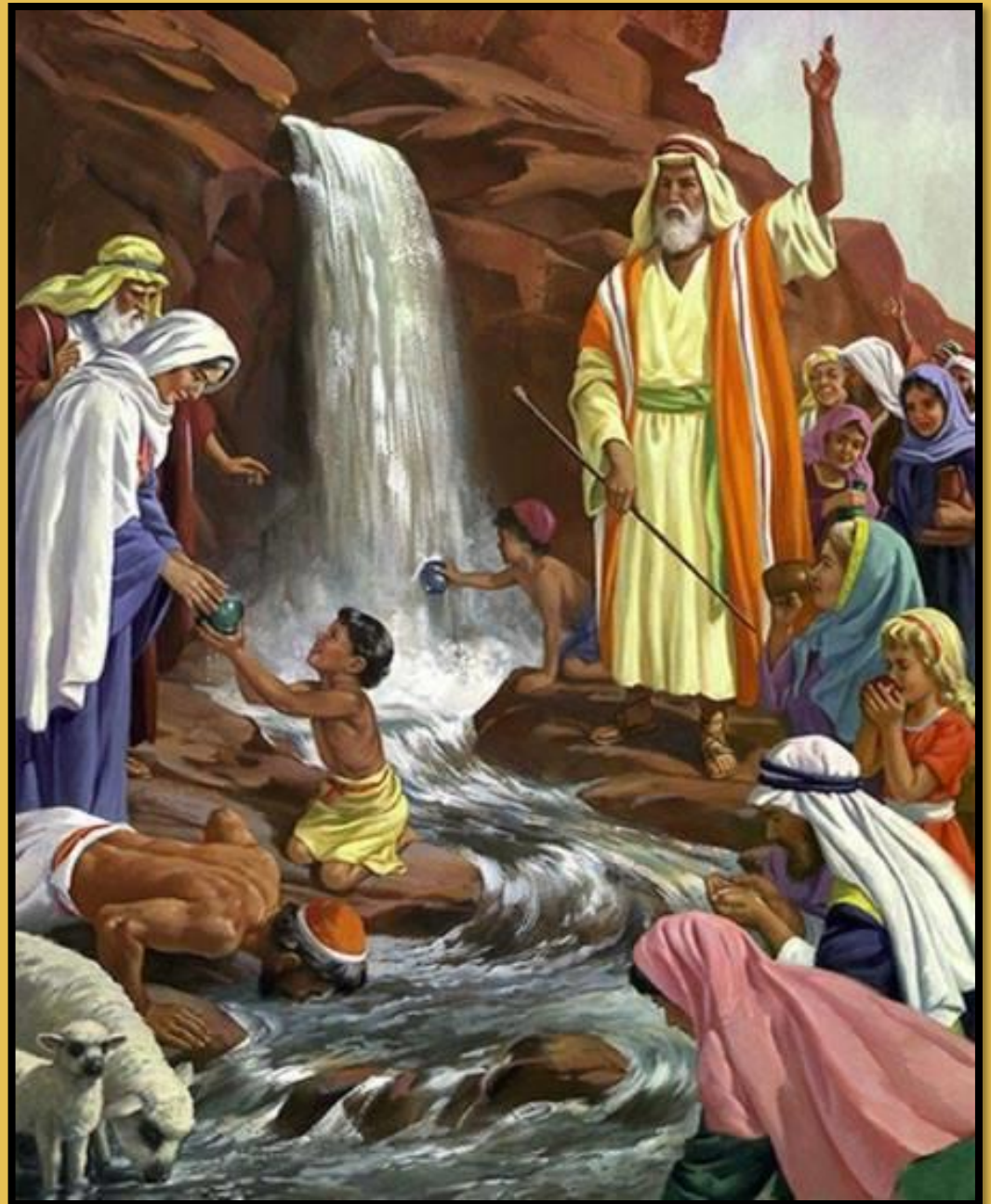




**JOSHUA &
JETHRO**

At Rephidim when they were in need of water their murmuring had come close to violence against Moses, for he told God that he was fearful they might stone him.

After God's impressive miracle of water from a rock slaked their thirst there is no mention of their gratitude, humility, or regret for their confrontational behavior.



The incident that happens next can be seen as retaliation for their lack of repentance regarding their vicious verbal attack upon Moses at Rephidim. God does not take it lightly when the righteous are persecuted.



Text: Exodus 17:8-16 and Deuteronomy 25:17-18

They had not gone very far from Rephidim when a band of Amalekites came upon them and unprovoked attacked them from behind. Their attack was cowardly, for they struck the feeble who straggled at the rear of the host of Israelites.

The Amalekites were descendants of Esau, who had hated his brother Jacob because he stole his birthright. Jacob and Esau eventually reconciled, but the malice that Esau once held for his brother seems to have ran in the blood, and revived when his descendants observed the Israelites (Jacob's children) being favored by God.



This was the first Israelite war.

Moses prepared to respond the next day to the Amalekites' assault. He said to Joshua, "Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand."



Moses hand selected Joshua to be Israel's military commander.



Joshua fought and Moses prayed with the rod of God held up as a banner appealing to God.

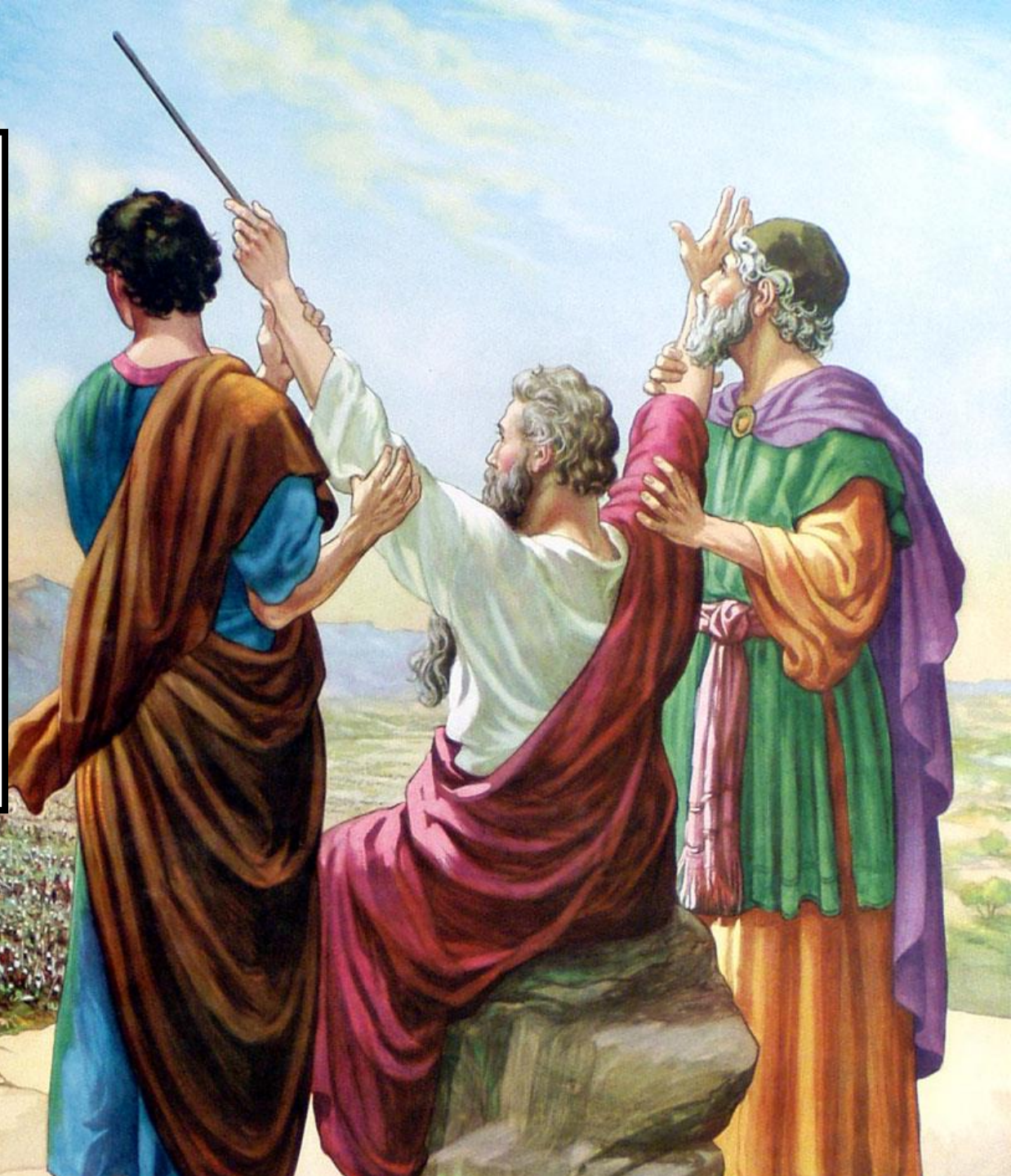
Exodus 17

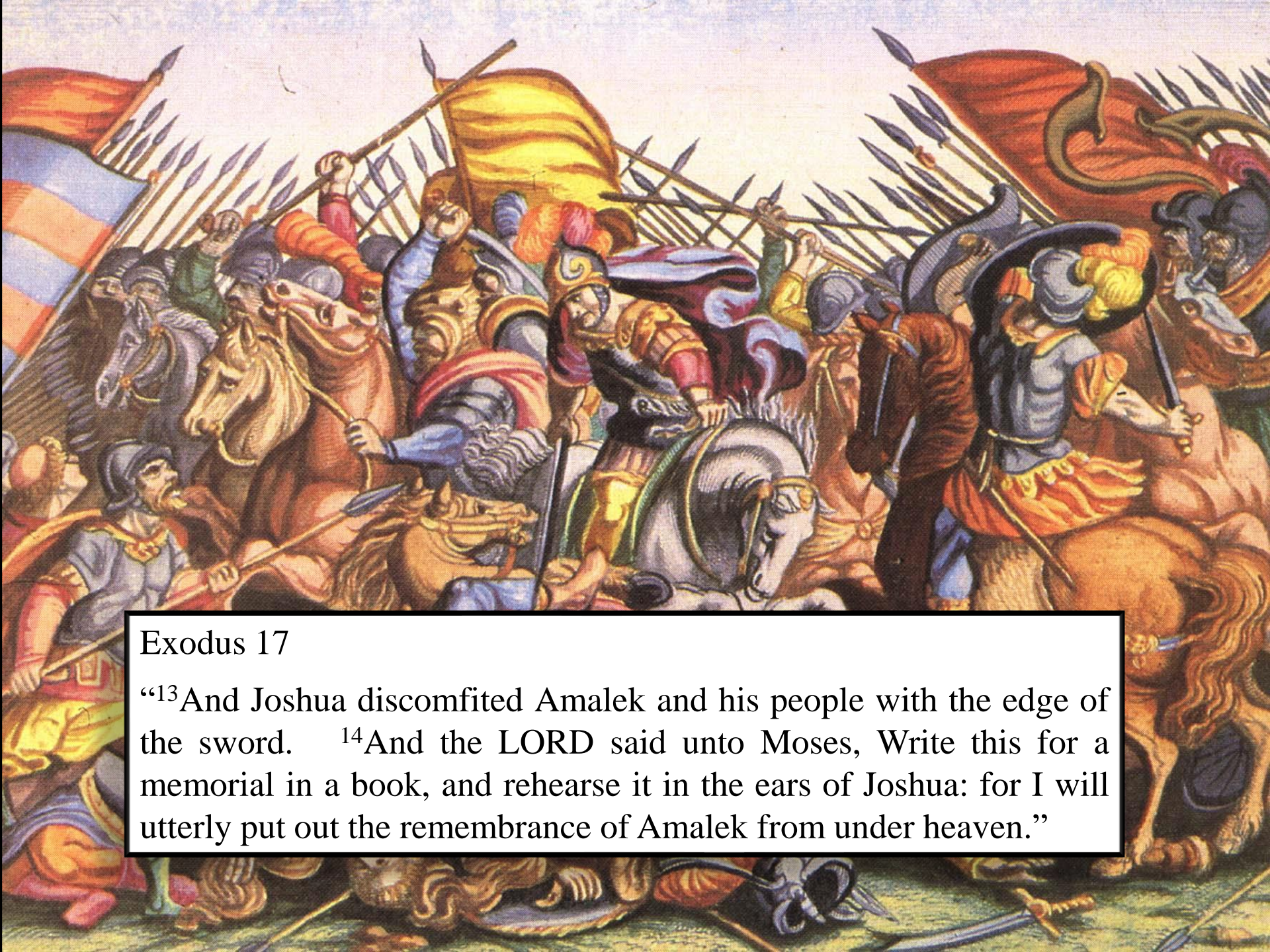
“¹⁰So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. ¹¹And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.”



Exodus 17

“¹²But **Moses hands were heavy**; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and **Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands**, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.”



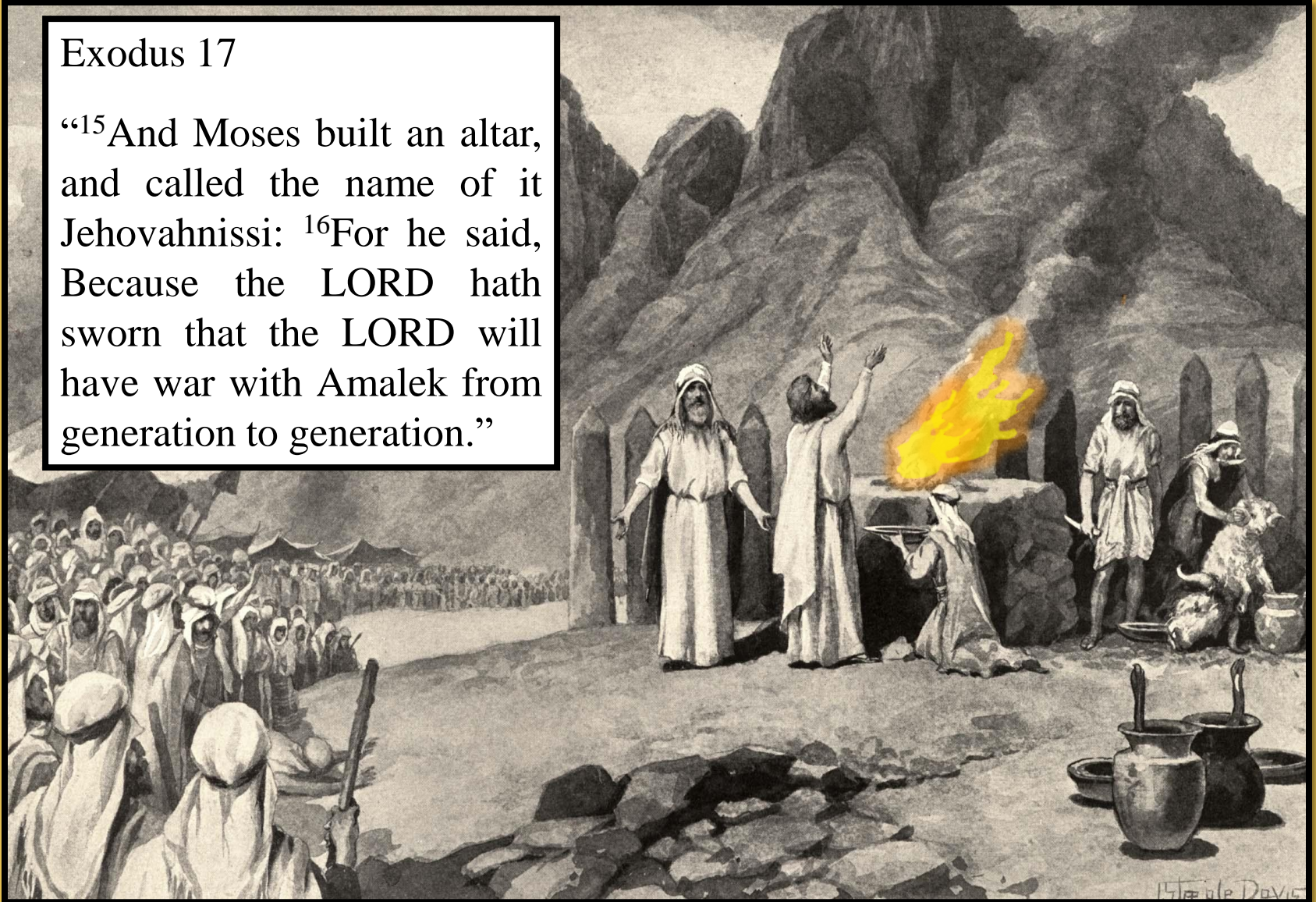


Exodus 17

“¹³And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. ¹⁴And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.”

Exodus 17

“¹⁵And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi: ¹⁶For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.”



Many years later after Saul was anointed to be the first king of Israel God reminded Saul of the Amalekites attack, and told Saul to smite them. Saul sinned in not utterly destroying them, and God took the kingdom away from Saul.

1 Samuel 15

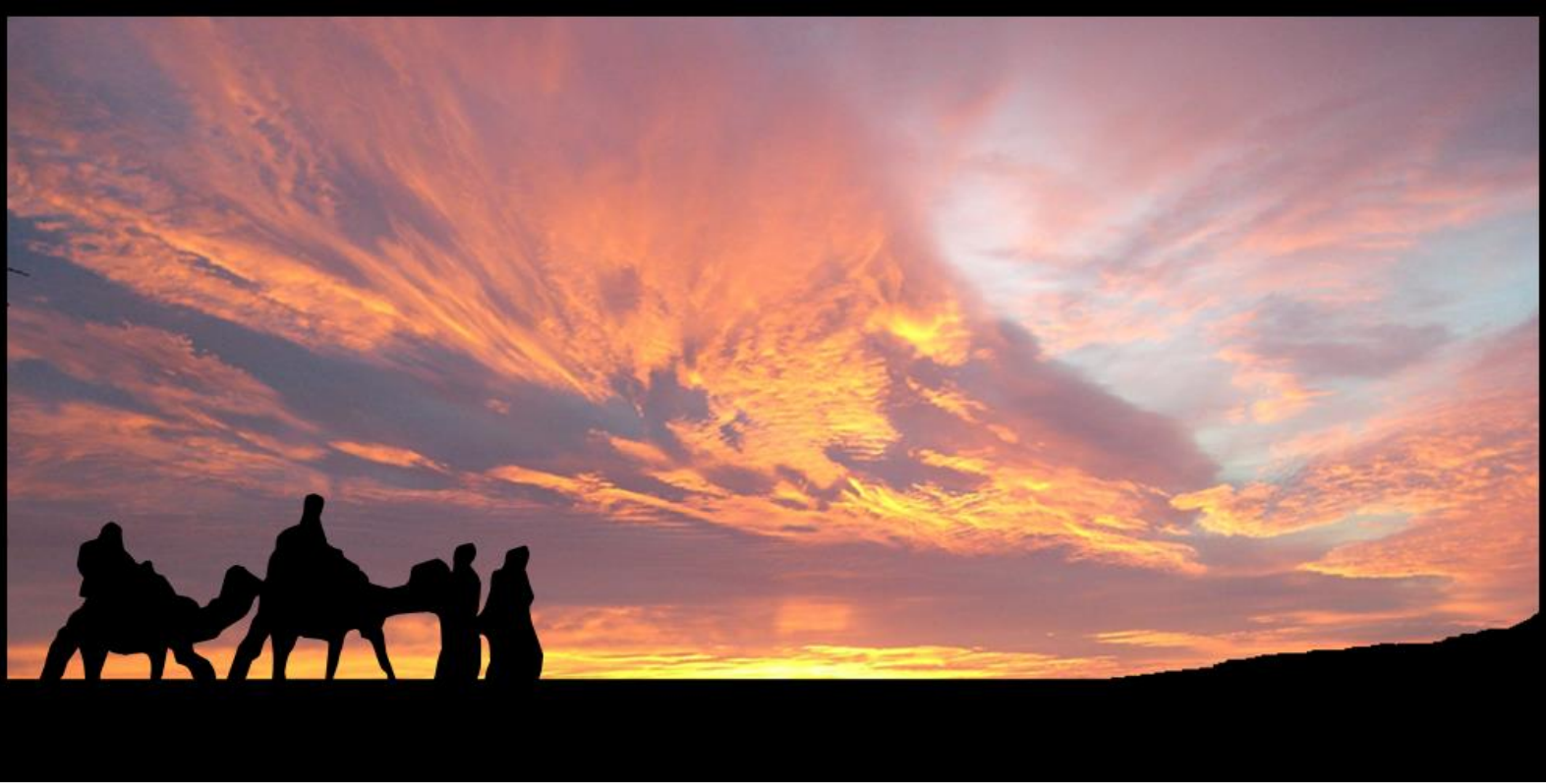
“¹Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD. ²Thus saith the LORD of hosts, **I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.** ³Now go and smite Amalek. . . .”



JETHRO
Moses'
Father-in-law



EXODUS
Chapter 18



Exodus 18

“¹When Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses’ father in law, heard of all that God had done for Moses, and for Israel his people, and that the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt; ²Then Jethro, Moses’ father in law, took Zipporah, Moses’ wife, after he had sent her back, ³And her two sons; of which the name of the one was Gershom; for he said, I have been an alien in a strange land.”



Exodus 18

“⁴And the name of the other was Eliezer; for the God of my father, said he, was mine help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh: ⁵And Jethro, Moses’ father in law, came with his sons and his wife unto Moses into the wilderness, where he encamped at the mount of God.”



Exodus 18

“⁶And he said unto Moses, I thy father in law Jethro am come unto thee, and thy wife, and her two sons with her. ⁷And Moses went out to meet his father in law, and did obeisance, and kissed him; and they asked each other of their welfare; and they came into the tent.”

Exodus 18

“⁸And Moses told his father in law all that the LORD had done unto Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel’s sake, and all the travail that had come upon them by the way, and how the LORD delivered them.

⁹And Jethro rejoiced for all the goodness which the LORD had done to Israel, whom he had delivered out of the hand of the Egyptians.”



Exodus 18

“¹⁰And Jethro said, Blessed be the LORD, who hath delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of Pharaoh, who hath delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians.

¹¹Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them.”



Exodus 18

“¹²And Jethro, Moses’ father in law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God: and Aaron came, and all the elders of Israel, to eat bread with Moses’ father in law before God.”



Exodus 18

“¹³And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening.

¹⁴And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, **What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even?”**



Exodus 18

“¹⁵And **Moses said unto his father in law**, Because the people come unto me to enquire of God: ¹⁶When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws.”



Exodus 18

“¹⁷And Moses’ father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good.

¹⁸Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.”



Exodus 18

“¹⁹Hearken now unto my voice, **I will give thee counsel**, and God shall be with thee . . . ²¹**provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God**, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be **rulers of thousands**, and rulers of **hundreds**, rulers of **fifties**, and rulers of **tens**.”

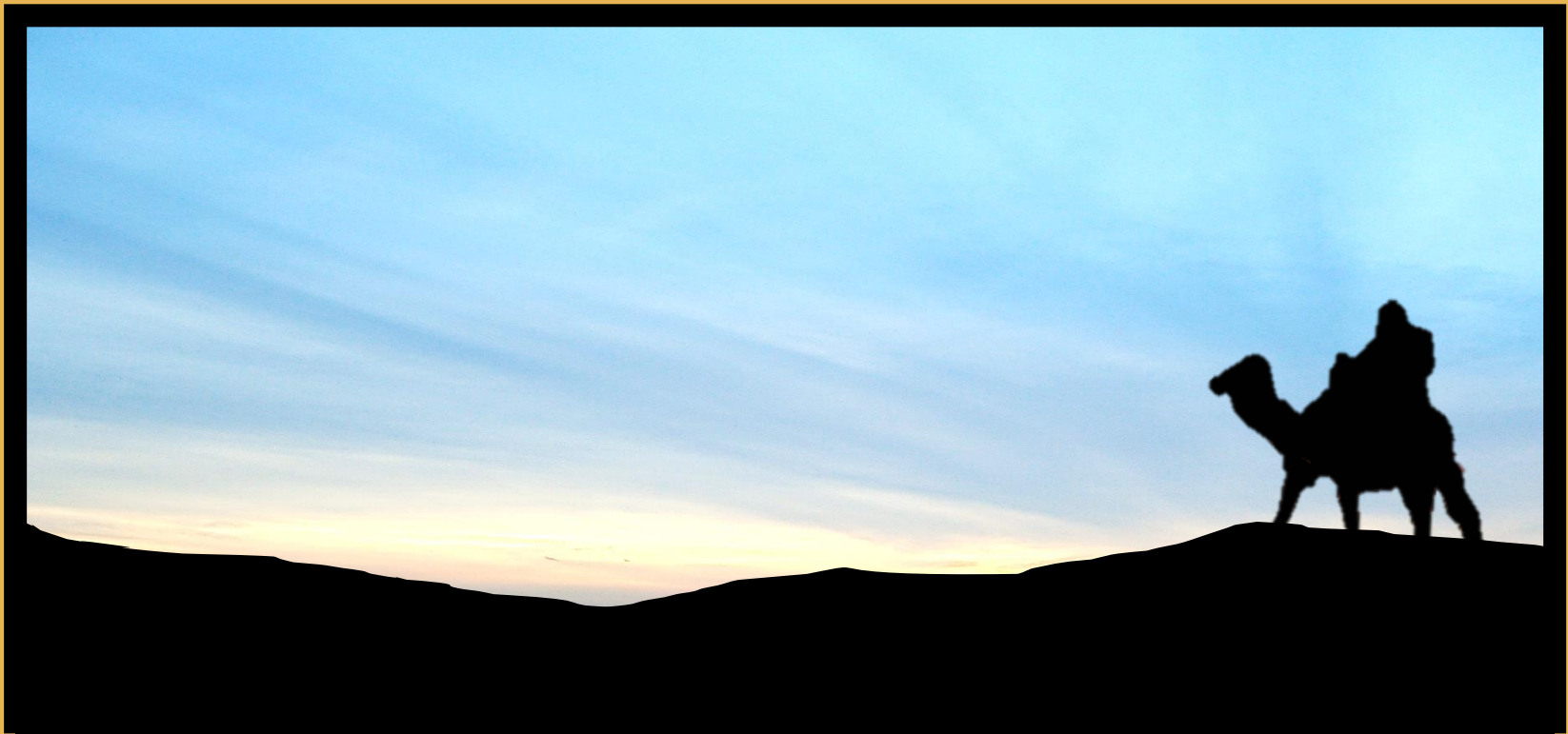




Exodus 18

“²⁴So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said.

²⁵And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.”



Exodus 18

“²⁶And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves.
²⁷And Moses let his father in law depart; and he went his way into his own land.”



SPECIAL NOTE:

Jethro brought Moses' wife, Zipporah, and their two sons with him, but when he arrived the text doesn't say anything about her or their sons. It tells of the warm greeting Moses gave Jethro and omits any reference to Zipporah.



Perhaps there was still a rift because Zipporah had been angry regarding God's law of circumcision and Moses had sent her away. This is the last instance of any record of her. We are left to wonder if she followed her father Jethro back to Midian, or if she died in the wilderness. Later, just before the 12 spies are sent into Canaan we are told about Moses being married to an Ethiopian woman.

Moses' genealogy is recorded and his sons are named in I Chronicles 23:15. He only had the two sons, Gershom and Eliezer. How different would history have been for Gershom and Eliezer if Moses had left God alone in Deuteronomy 32.

DEUTERONOMY 32

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.

⁹ And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:

¹⁰ Now 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.**

The

End