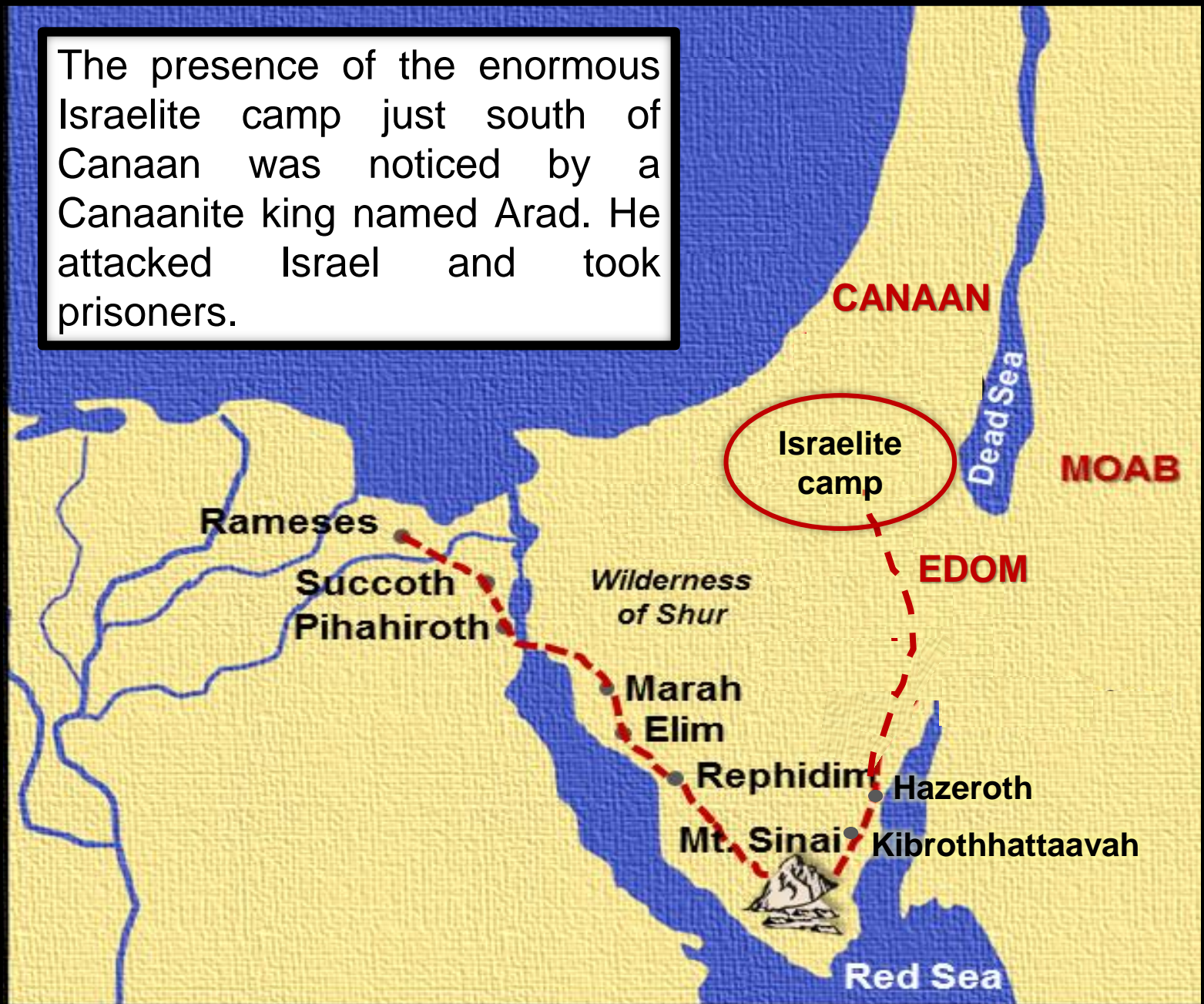




**FIERY
SERPENTS**

Numbers 21

The presence of the enormous Israelite camp just south of Canaan was noticed by a Canaanite king named Arad. He attacked Israel and took prisoners.



Numbers 21

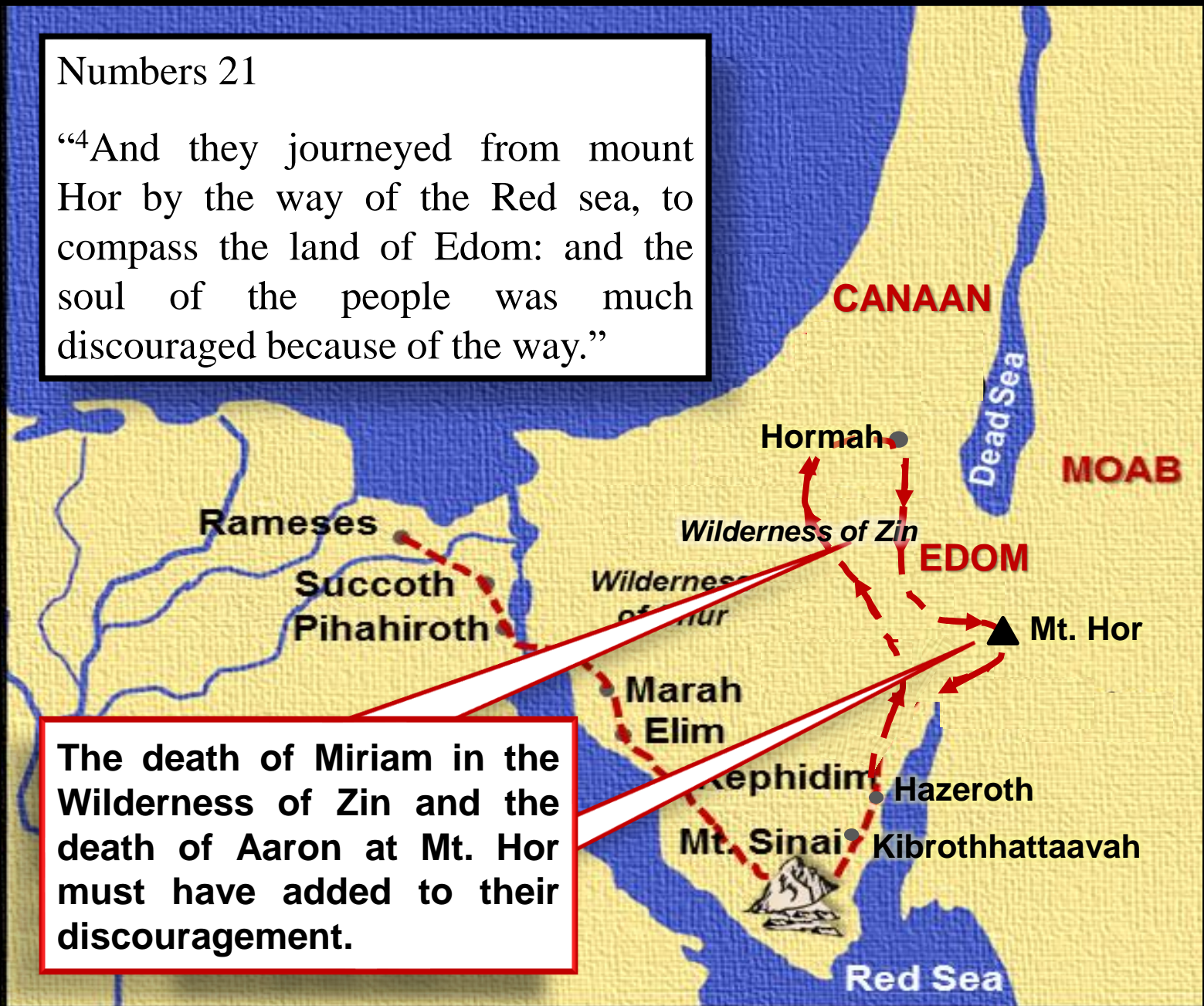
“²And Israel vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou wilt indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities. ³And the LORD hearkened to the voice of Israel, and delivered up the Canaanites; and they utterly destroyed them and their cities: and he called the name of the place Hormah.”



Numbers 21

“⁴And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way.”

The death of Miriam in the Wilderness of Zin and the death of Aaron at Mt. Hor must have added to their discouragement.

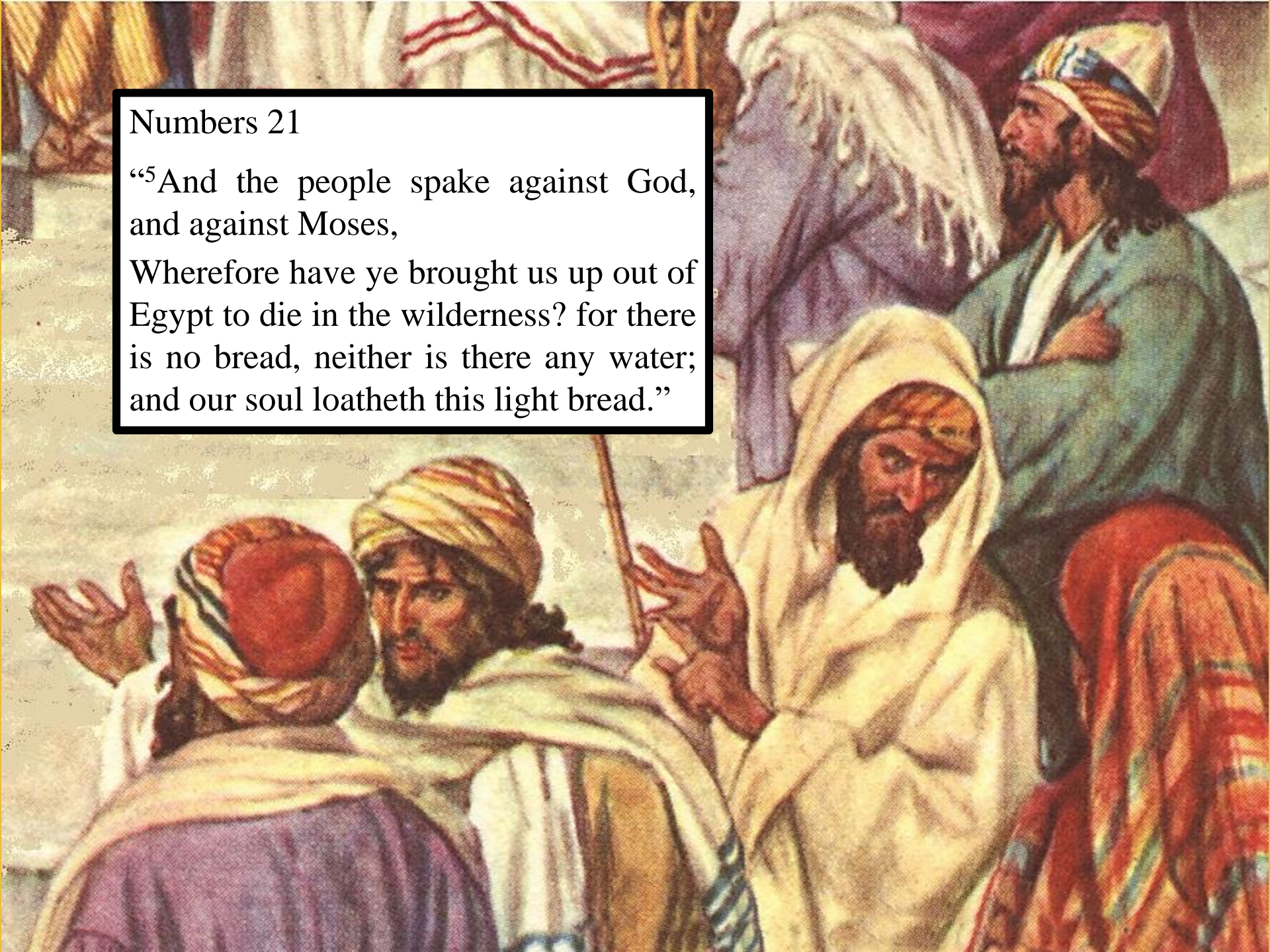


The Israelites' hope of settling into a beautiful new land where they could build new lives was dashed due to their own stubborn, stiffnecked lack of faith. What were they to do now? Where were they to go? When would they settle in a place where they could sow and reap and eat something other than manna?



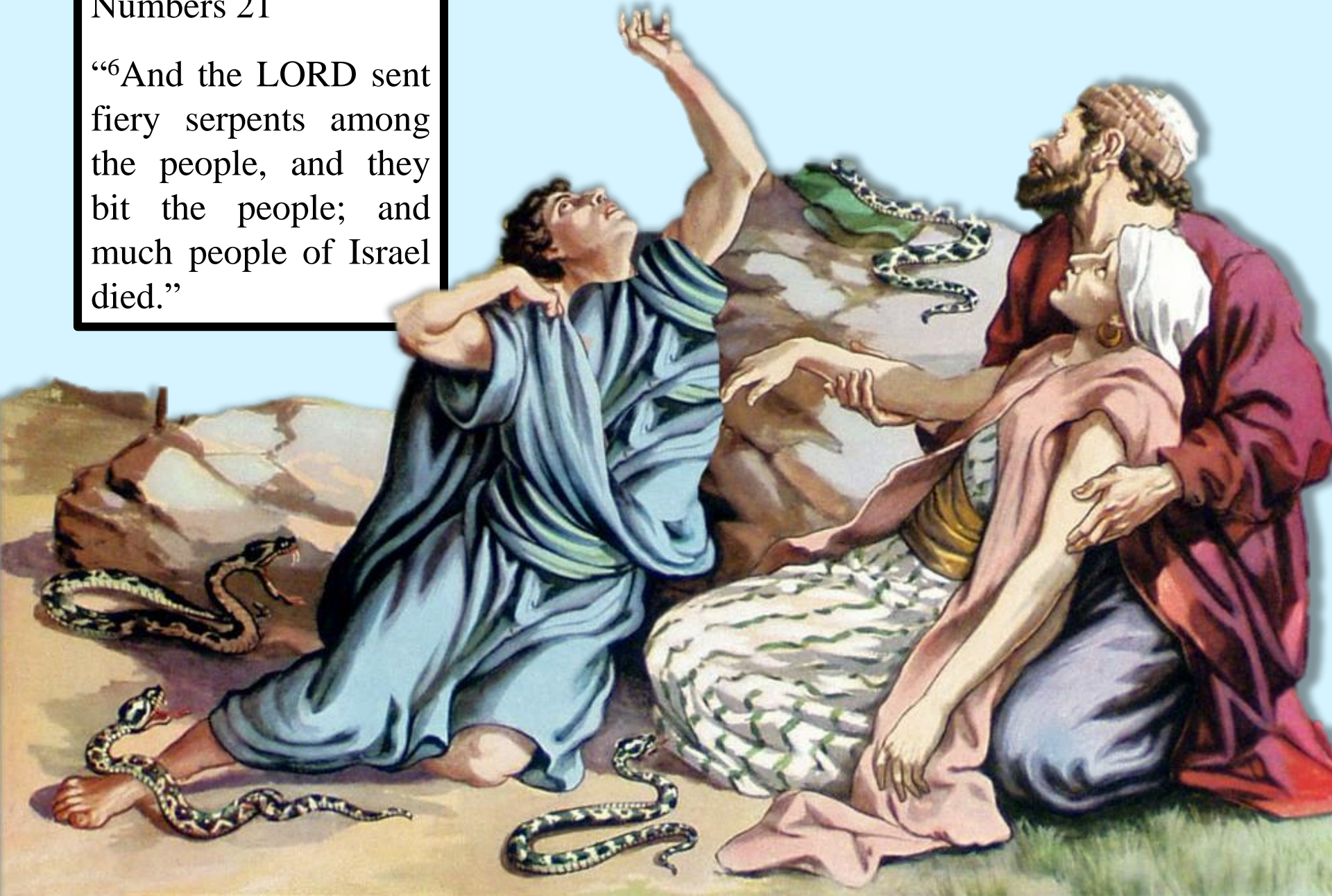
Numbers 21

“⁵And the people spake against God,
and against Moses,
Wherefore have ye brought us up out of
Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there
is no bread, neither is there any water;
and our soul loatheth this light bread.”



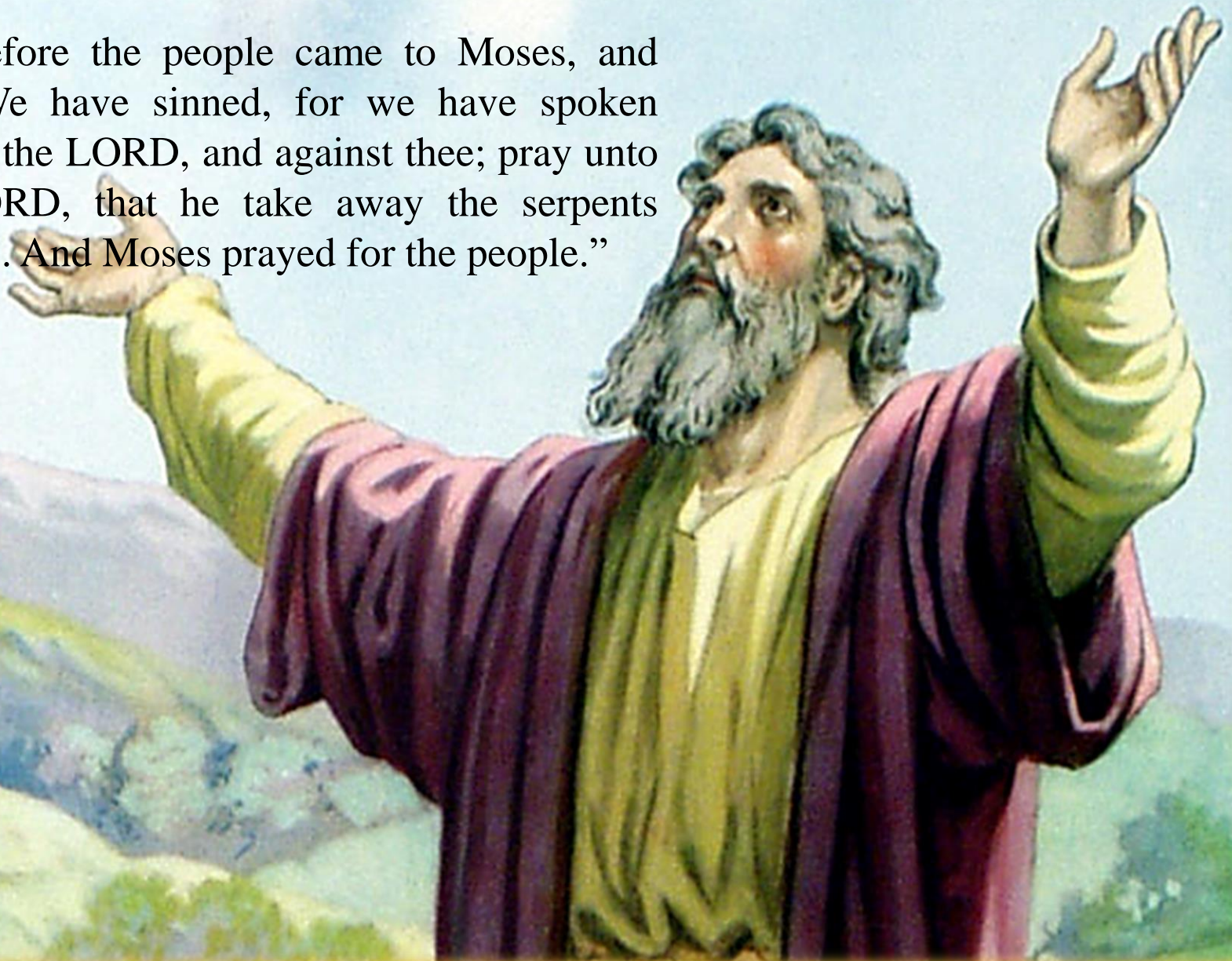
Numbers 21

“⁶And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.”



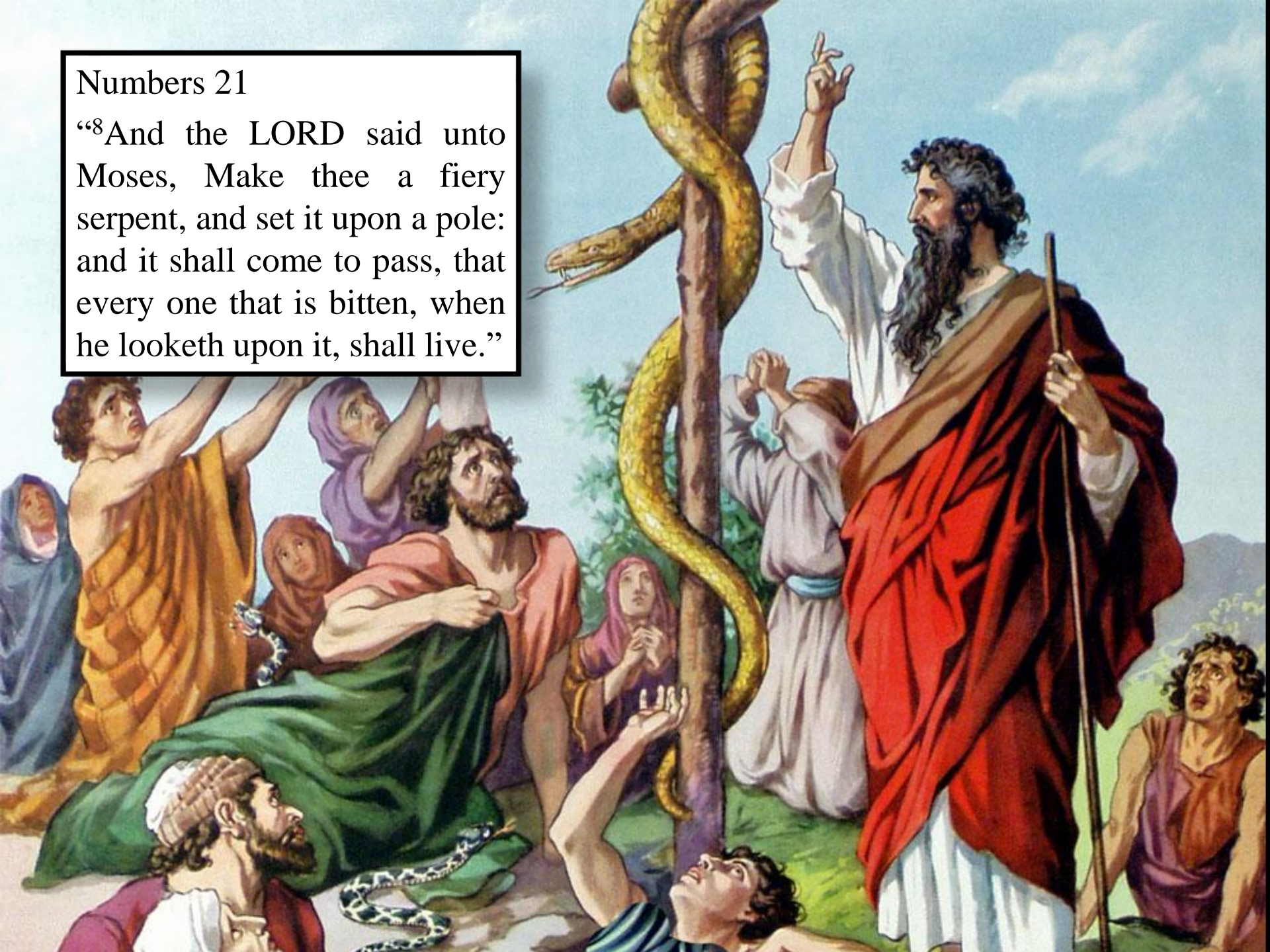
Numbers 21

“⁷Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.”



Numbers 21

“⁸And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.”

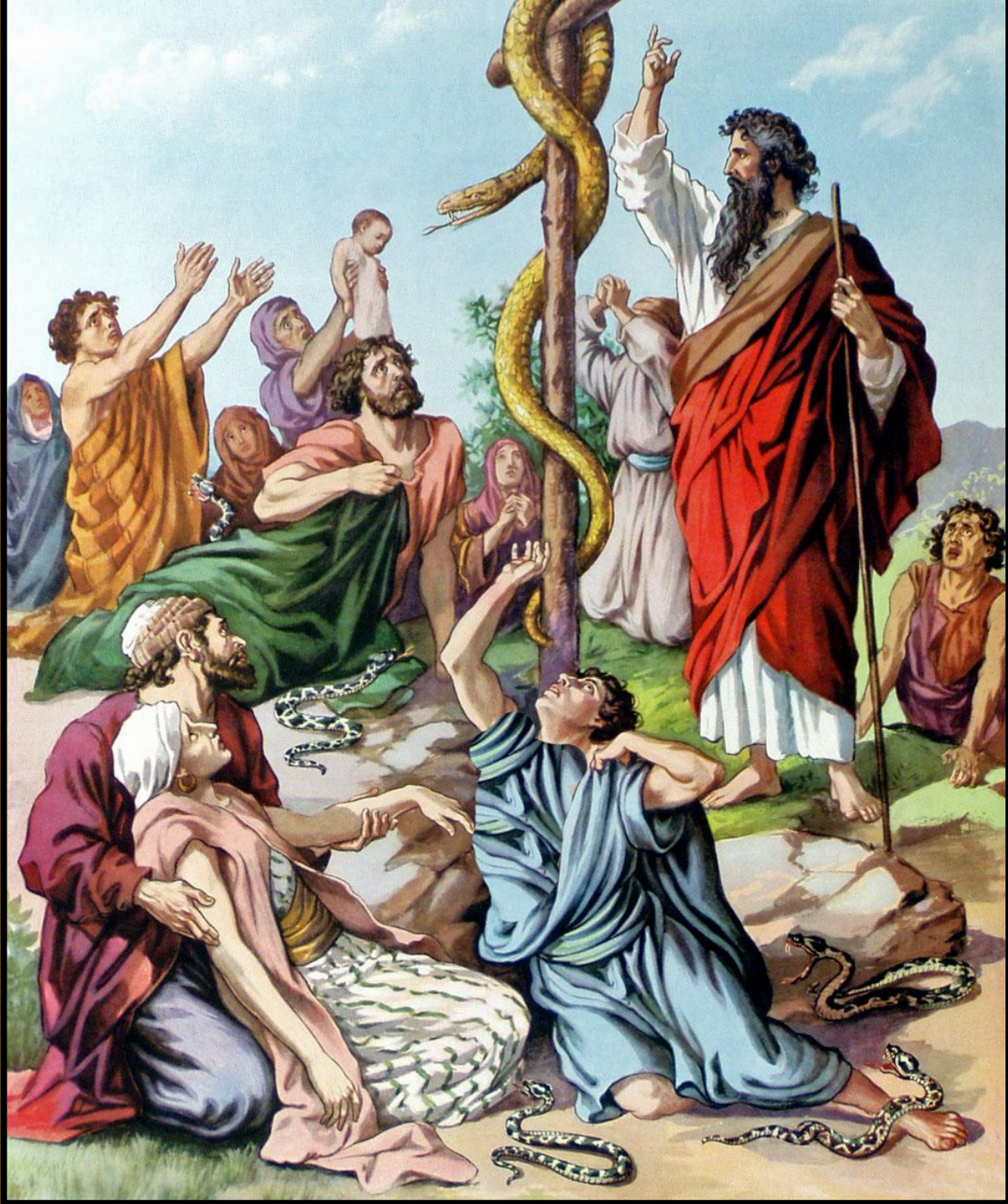


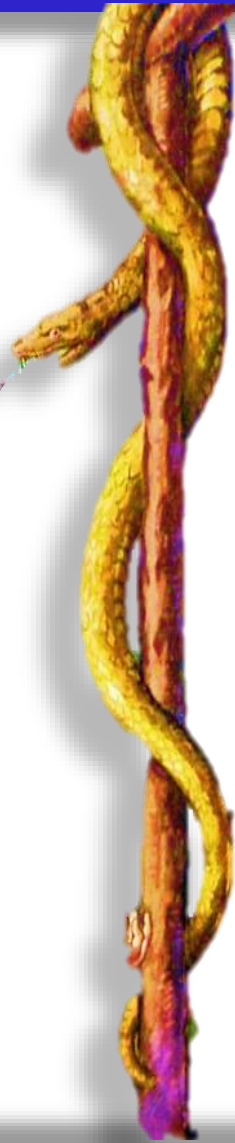
Numbers 21

“⁹And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.”

**WERE THERE THOSE
WHO REFUSED TO
LOOK UPON THE
BRASS SERPENT?**

The Scriptures do not comment on that, nor do we know how many died.





WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BRASS SERPENT?

It is interesting that it *is*
mentioned again in scripture
hundreds of years later . . .

We read again about the **Brass Serpent** In II Kings 18 when Israel was taken into Assyrian captivity.

Adam
Noah
Abraham
Isaac
Jacob & Esau
Job
Joseph

Patriarchal Age

→ **Moses**

Joshua, Judges, Ruth
Samuel
Saul, David, Solomon
Divided Kingdom
Elijah & Elisha
Jonah

Mosaical Age

Northern Kingdom/Israel taken into Assyrian Captivity
Southern Kingdom/Judah taken into Babylonian Captivity
Daniel & Ezekiel in Babylon
Persia takes Babylon – becomes world power
Return to Canaan begins – rebuilding of the temple / Ezra
Esther Persian Queen
More Jews return – rebuilding of the wall / Nehemiah
Malachi

Hezekiah
was
King Of Judah
and
Hoshea
was
King of Israel
when
Israel was taken
into Assyrian
captivity.

KINGS OF ISRAEL

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Jeroboam | 933-911 |
| Nadab | 911-910 |
| Baasha | 910-887 |
| Elah | 887-886 |
| Zimri | 886 |
| Omri | 886-875 |
| Ahab | 875-854 |
| Ahaziah | 855-854 |
| Joram | 854-843 |
| Jehu | 843-816 |
| Jehoahaz | 820-804 |
| Joash | 806-790 |
| Jeroboam II | 790-749 |
| Zechariah | 748 |
| Shallum | 749 |
| Menahem | 738-736 |
| Pekahiah | 738-736 |
| Pekah | 748-730 |
| Hoshea | 730-721 |

KINGS OF JUDAH

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Rehoboam | 933-916 |
| Abijah | 915-913 |
| Asa | 912-872 |
| Jehoshaphat | 874-850 |
| Jehoram | 850-843 |
| Ahaziah | 843 |
| Athaliah | 843-837 |
| Joash | 843-803 |
| Amaziah | 803-775 |
| Uzziah | 787-735 |
| Jotham | 749-734 |
| Ahaz | 741-726 |
| Hezekiah | 726-697 |
| Manasseh | 697-642 |
| Amon | 641-640 |
| Josiah | 639-608 |
| Jehoahaz | 608 |
| Jehoiakim | 608-597 |
| Jehoiachin | 597 |
| Zedekiah | 597-586 |

Hezekiah was a good King. he was determined to rid Judah of idolatry and immorality.

Hoshea was evil and it was during his reign Israel was carried away into Assyrian captivity.

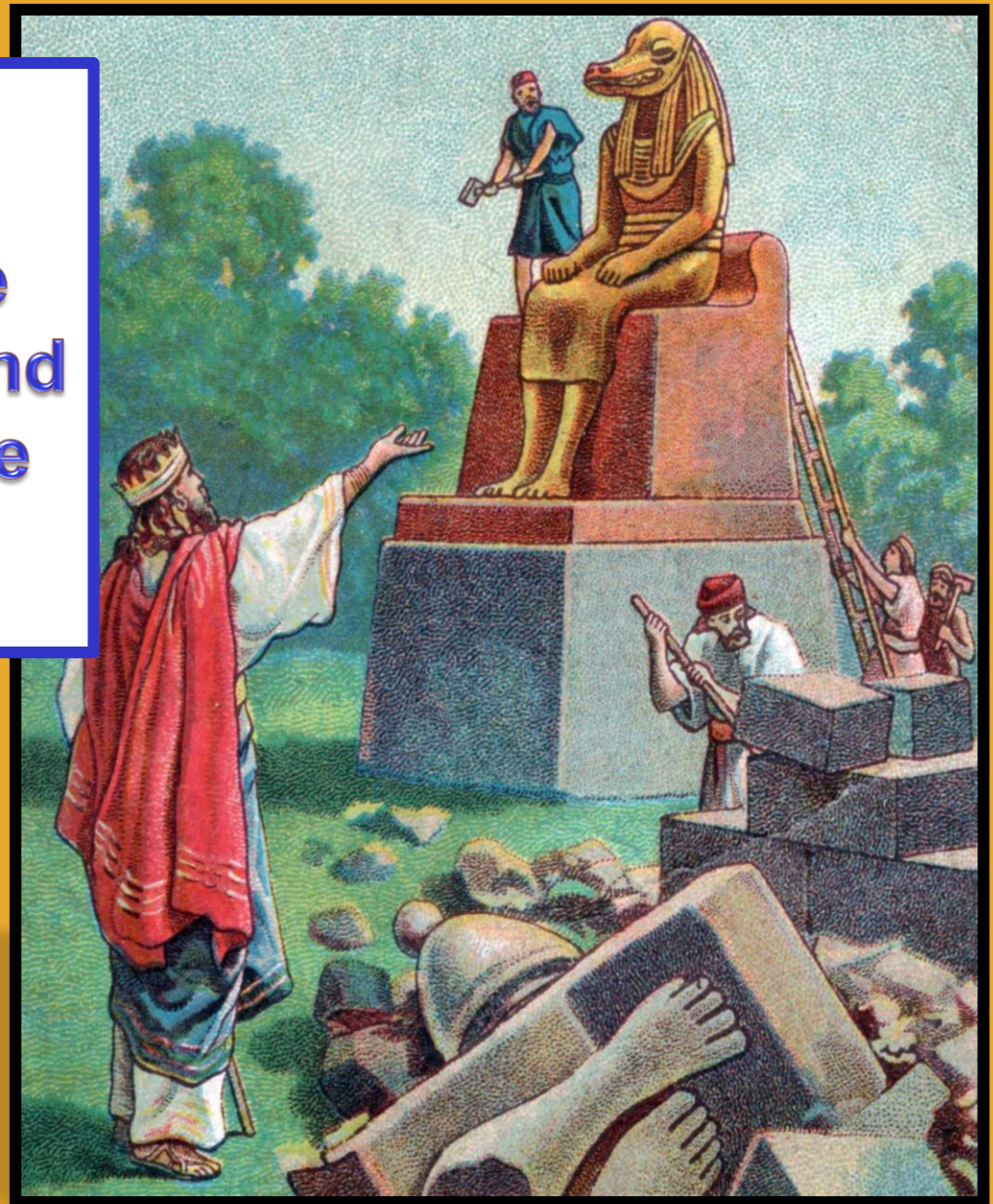
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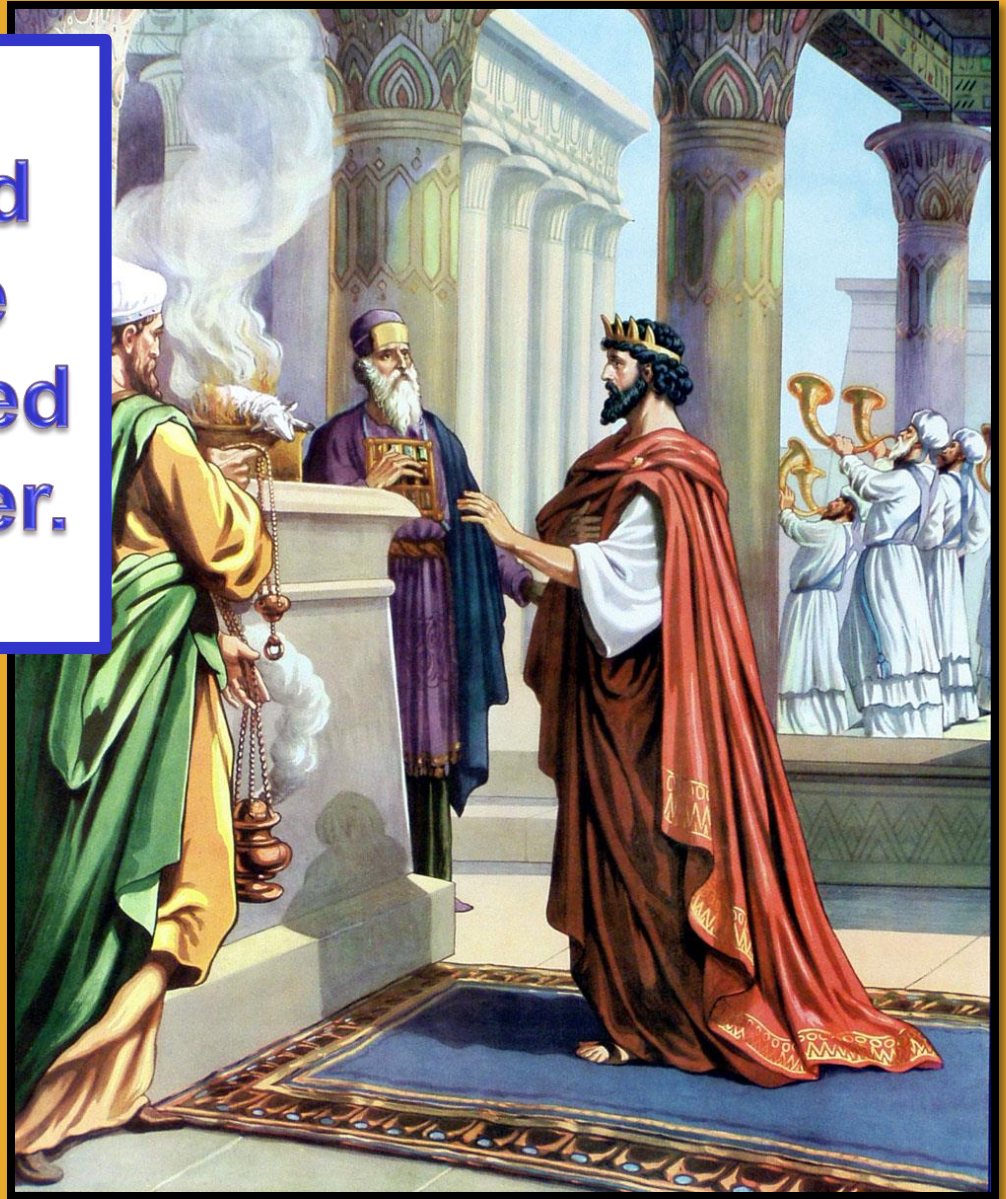
KINGS OF JUDAH

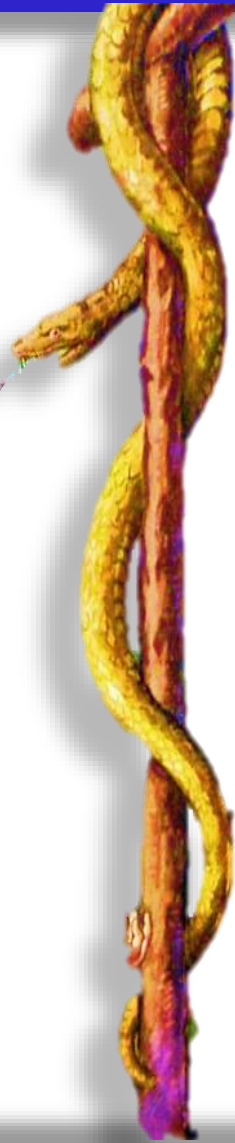
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**Hezekiah
removed the
high places and
tore down the
images.**



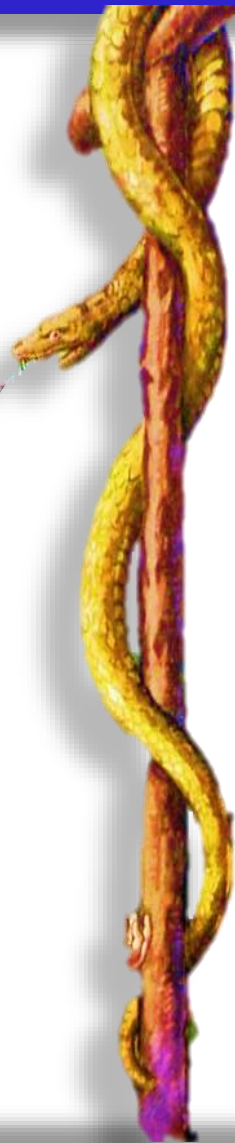
**He restored
the temple
and observed
the Passover.**





And, he broke in pieces the brass serpent that Moses had made, because the people burned incense to it.

**They called it Nehushtan
which means brass
(2 Kings 18:4).**



2 Kings 18:4

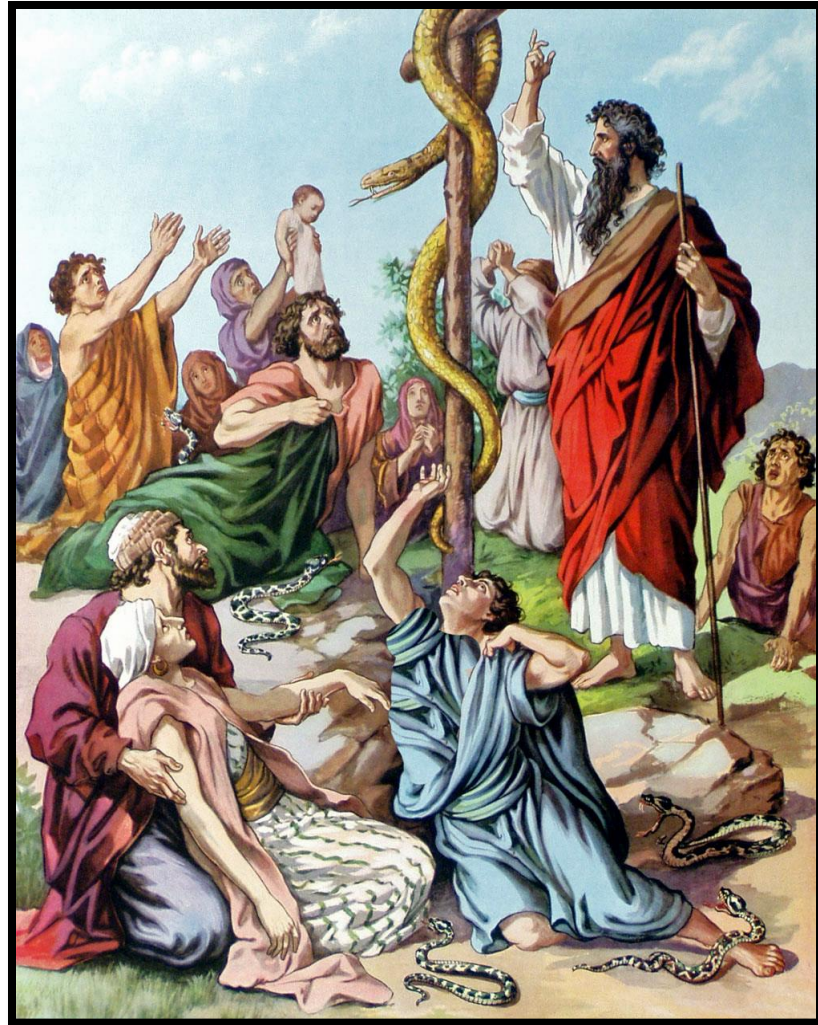
“He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.”

BACK TO OUR LESSON IN NUMBERS 21



MOSES

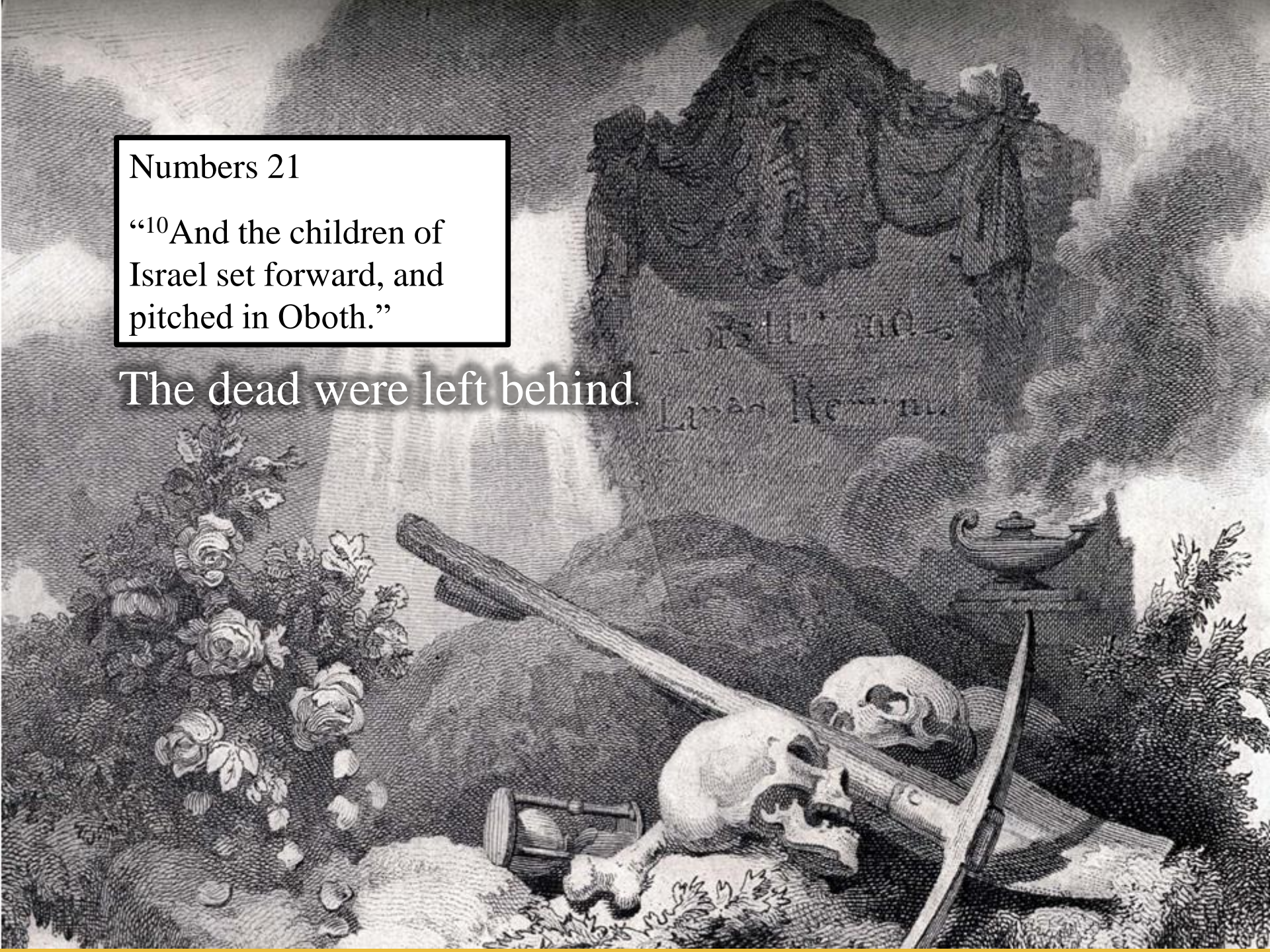
Pled for the
people,
Made the brass
serpent,
The plague was
stayed,
And they
continued on.



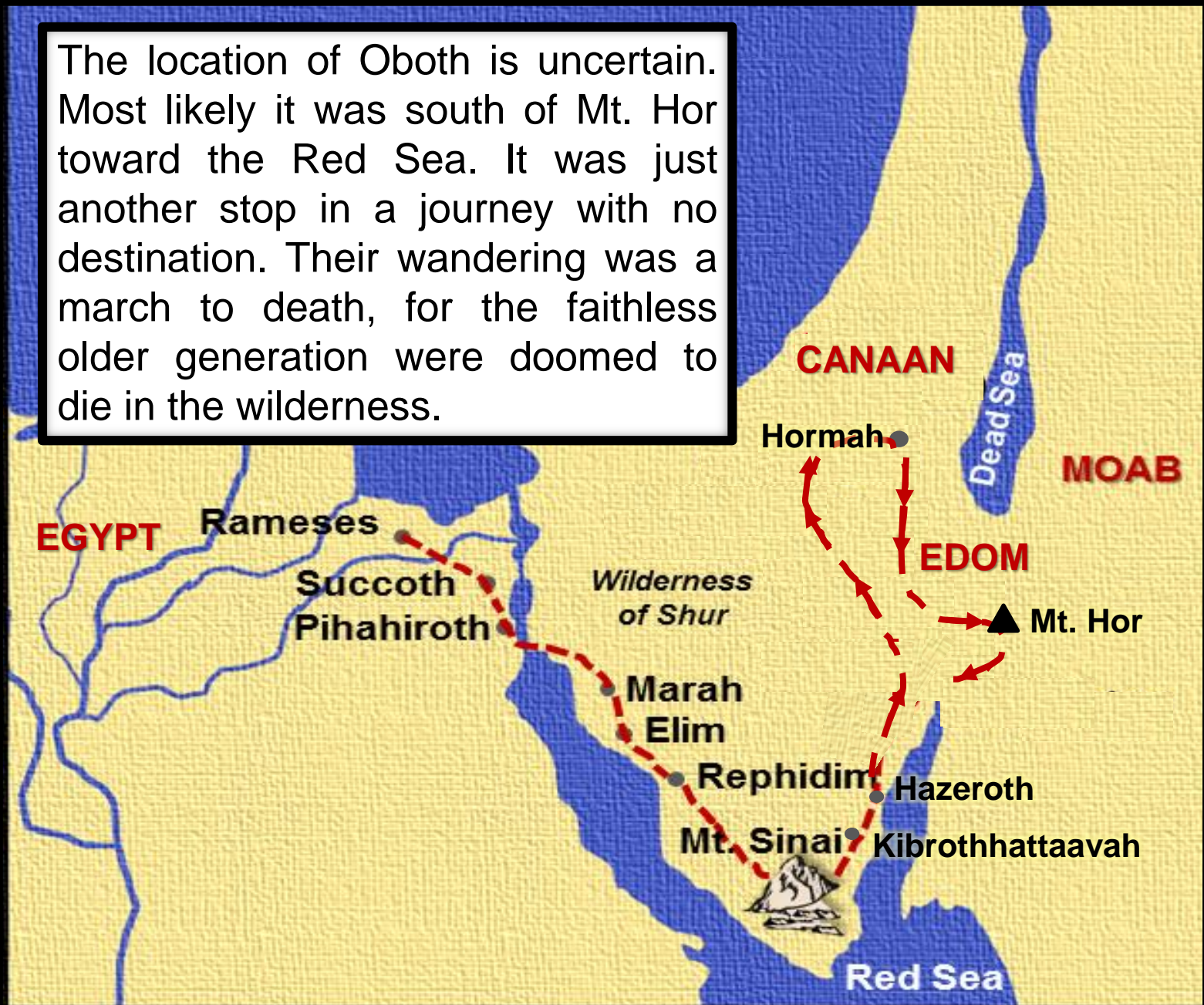
Numbers 21

“¹⁰And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in Oboth.”

The dead were left behind.



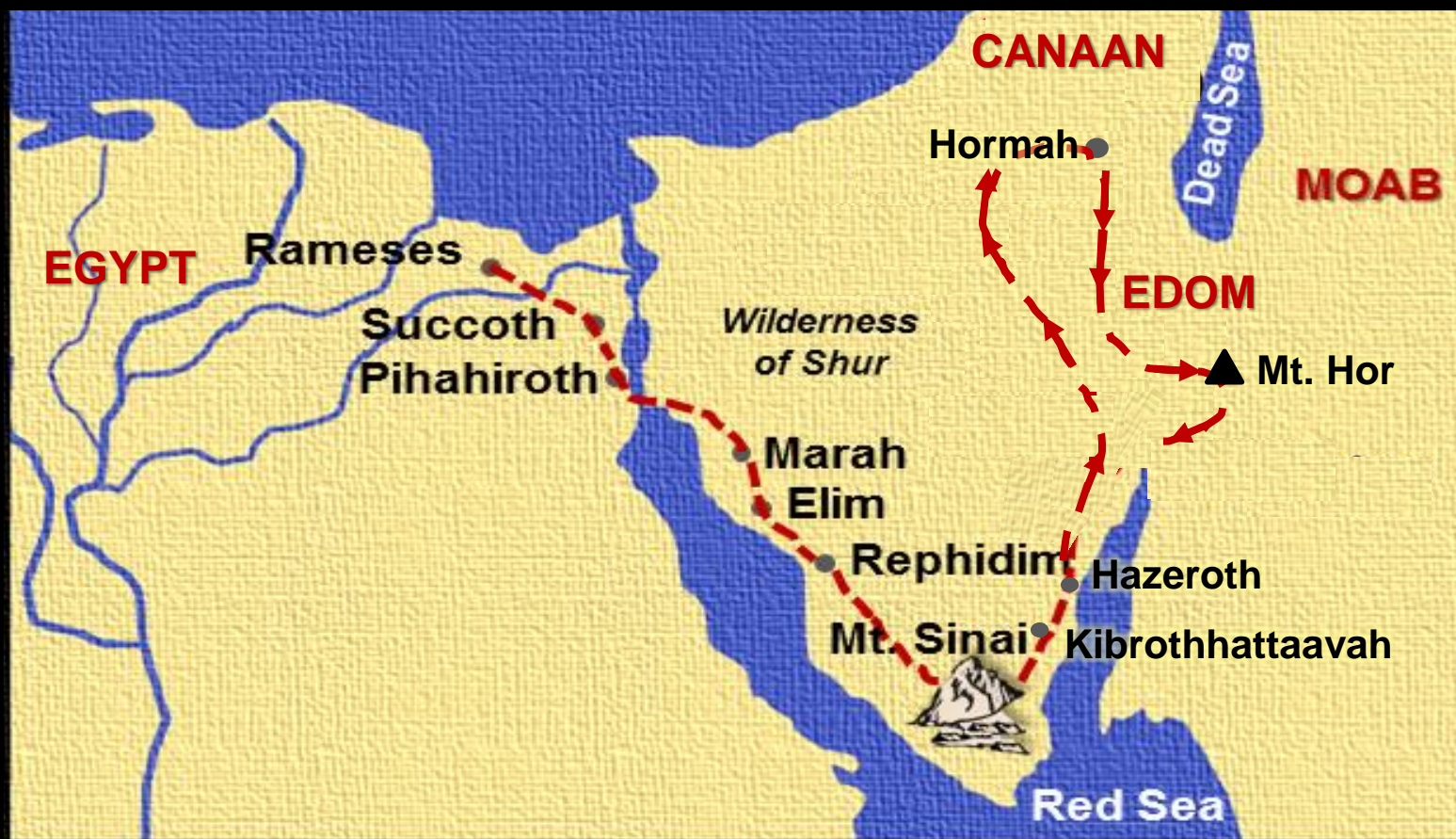
The location of Oboth is uncertain. Most likely it was south of Mt. Hor toward the Red Sea. It was just another stop in a journey with no destination. Their wandering was a march to death, for the faithless older generation were doomed to die in the wilderness.



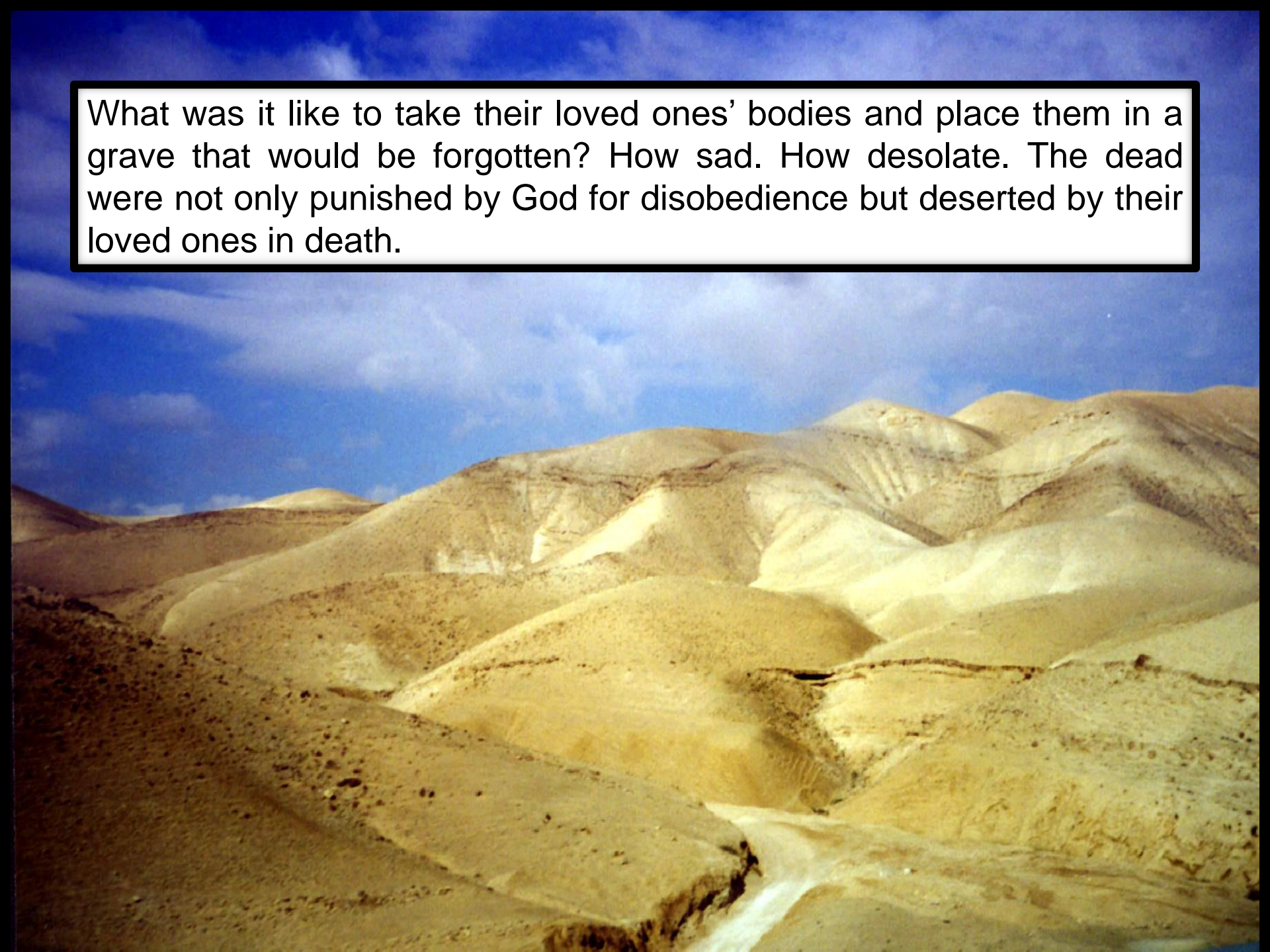
It took 40 years for the older generation to die. Those who were allowed to enter Canaan were—

Joshua & Caleb, the tribe of Levi, the women and the next generation.

Their lives had been spent wandering in the wilderness totally dependent upon God, and now they must trust God to deliver them in Canaan.



What was it like to take their loved ones' bodies and place them in a grave that would be forgotten? How sad. How desolate. The dead were not only punished by God for disobedience but deserted by their loved ones in death.



**There was no dignified
burial, no ceremony or
flowers, no marker or
monument, no grave to
return to.**



Just grief
and a moral

Just learn
from the past

Just hope
for their children

In the promised
land at last.



The

End