



**Moses:  
With God's Help,  
He Leads the  
People toward  
the Promised  
Land.**



After the LORD delivered the Israelites from the Egyptians, he started to lead them toward the promised land... a land flowing with milk and honey that He had promised to give to Abraham and his children and their children forever. He led them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

The people traveled for three days. They began to become afraid because they found no water to drink. Finally, they found water, but they couldn't drink it. The water was bad. The people complained to Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"



Moses cried to the LORD and asked Him what to do. The LORD showed him a tree that would fix the water.

After Moses put the tree in the water, the water was safe to drink. The LORD told the people to remember how he healed the water with the tree. He told them, “If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and will give ear to His commandments, and will keep His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.”



After the children of Israel left the healed waters of Mar'ah, they came to place with called E'lim, with twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees. They stopped and camped there.

Then, they journeyed through a wilderness named, Sin. While in the wilderness, they began to complain that they didn't have enough food. They said that at least, in Egypt they had food to eat. They accused Moses of bringing them out into the wilderness to starve to death.



The LORD told Moses that He would rain bread from heaven for them to eat. He told him they should go out and gather enough for one day every morning, except on the sixth day. He told him on the sixth day that they needed to gather enough for two days because he didn't want them working to gather food on the seventh day, the sabbath day.

The next morning, the ground was covered with dew. Then, as the dew dried up, a small round thing, as small as frost, appeared upon the ground. The people called it Manna. Moses told them that this was the bread from the Lord and to gather one o'mer per man. Then, as the sun became hot, the manna that was left, melted on the ground.



Then, the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin and camped in Rephidim, but there was no water for them to drink. The people came to Moses and said, “Give us water that we may drink!”

However Moses replied. “Why chide ye with me? Wherefore do ye tempt the LORD.”

Then, the people became angry at Moses and said, “Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?”

And Moses cried to the LORD, saying, “What shall I do unto this people? They be almost ready to stone me!”



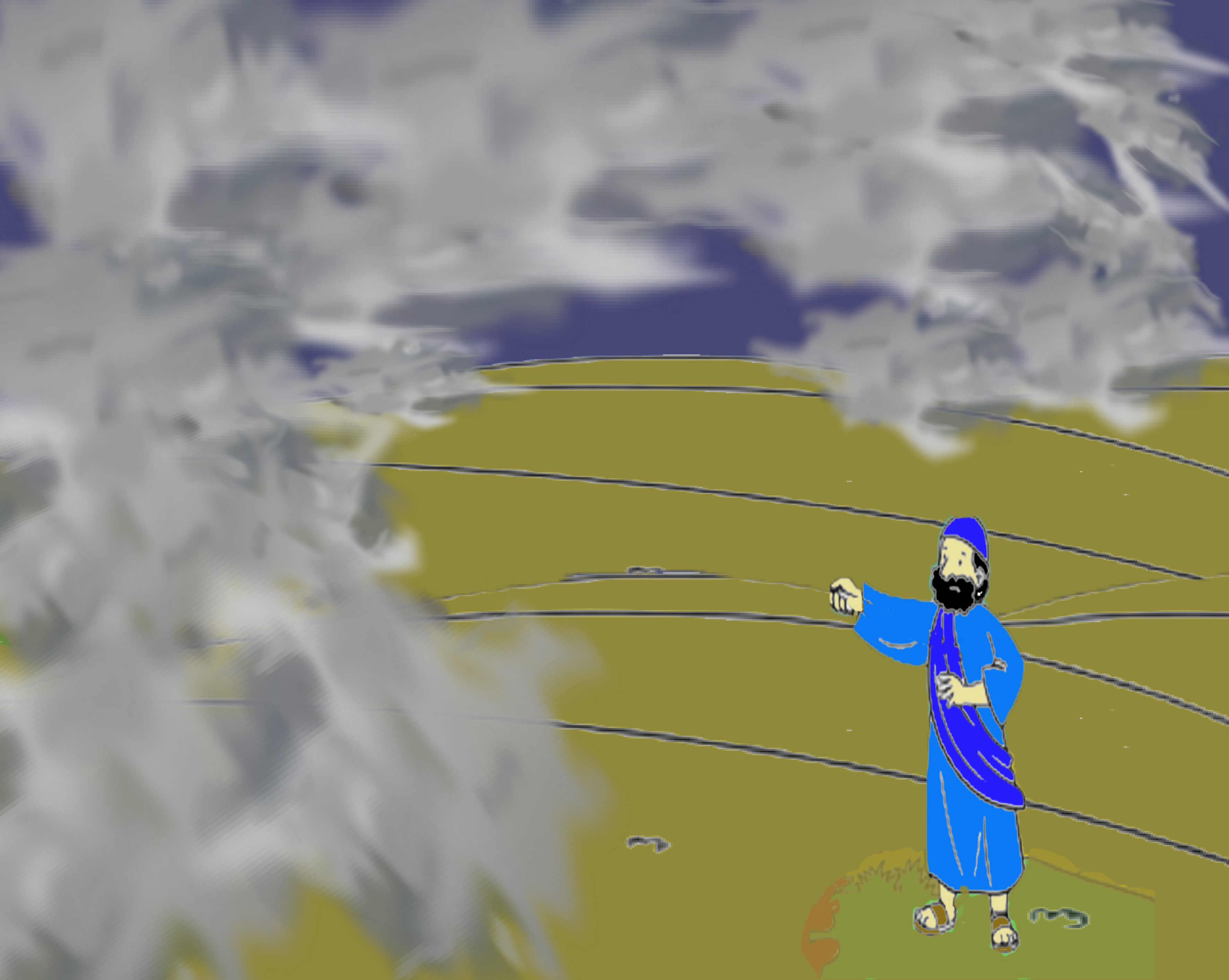
Then, the LORD told Moses to take his rod and go with the elders of Israel to the rock in Hor'eb. He said to hit the rock and water would come out for the people to drink. It did, and they were all satisfied.

After that, Amalek, and his people, came up and fought with the children of Israel. Moses told Joshua to lead the men to battle. While they fought, he went up on the hill with Aaron and Hur and held his hands up before the LORD. While he kept his hands held up the children of Israel won, if he put them down Amalek won. Eventually, Aaron and Hur had to help hold up Moses's hands. The battle went on until the sun went down, but finally, Joshua and the children of Israel won.



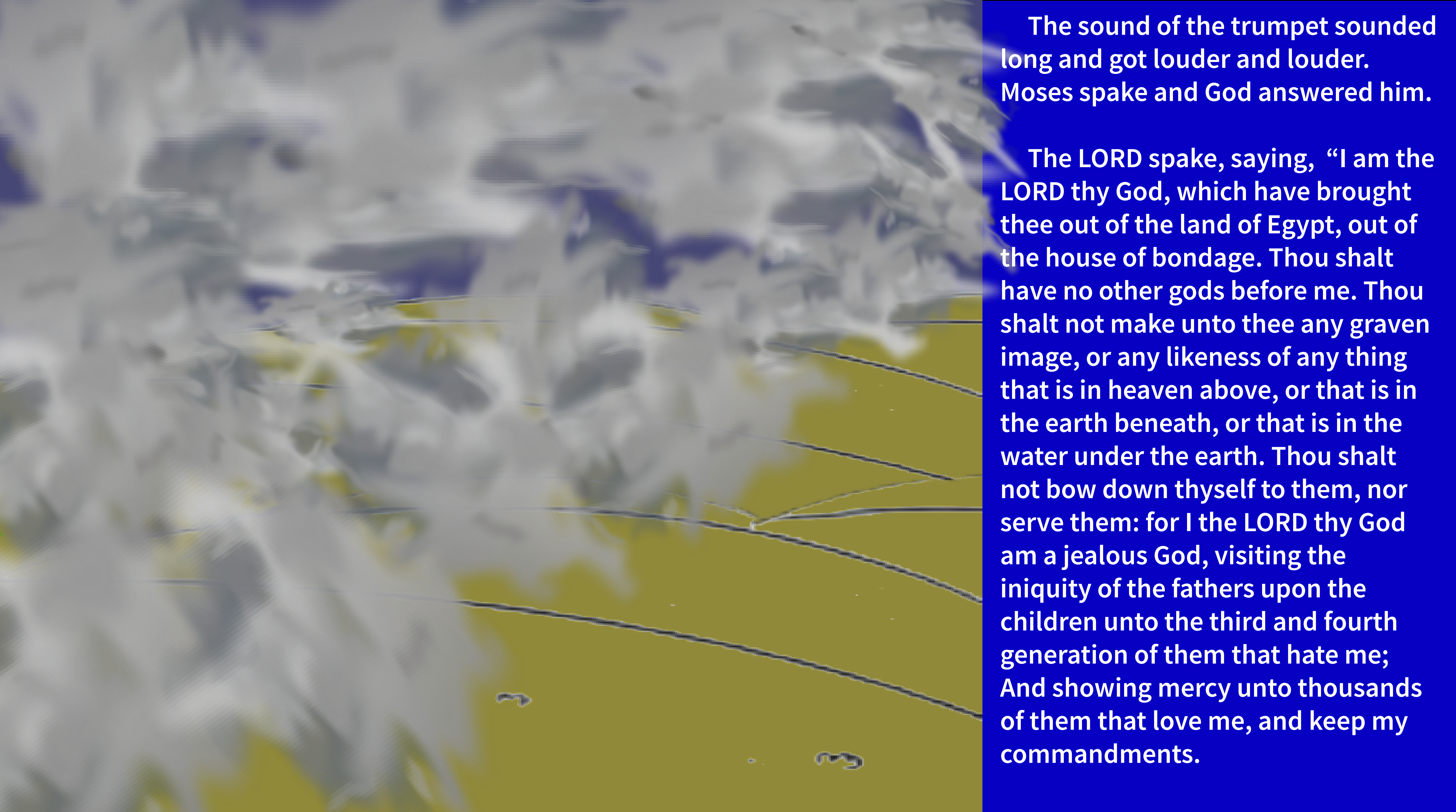
It was, now, the third month since the children of Israel left Egypt and they came to the wilderness of Si'nai. They camped next to the mountain. Moses went up unto God, and God called to him out of the mountain saying, "Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now, therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation."





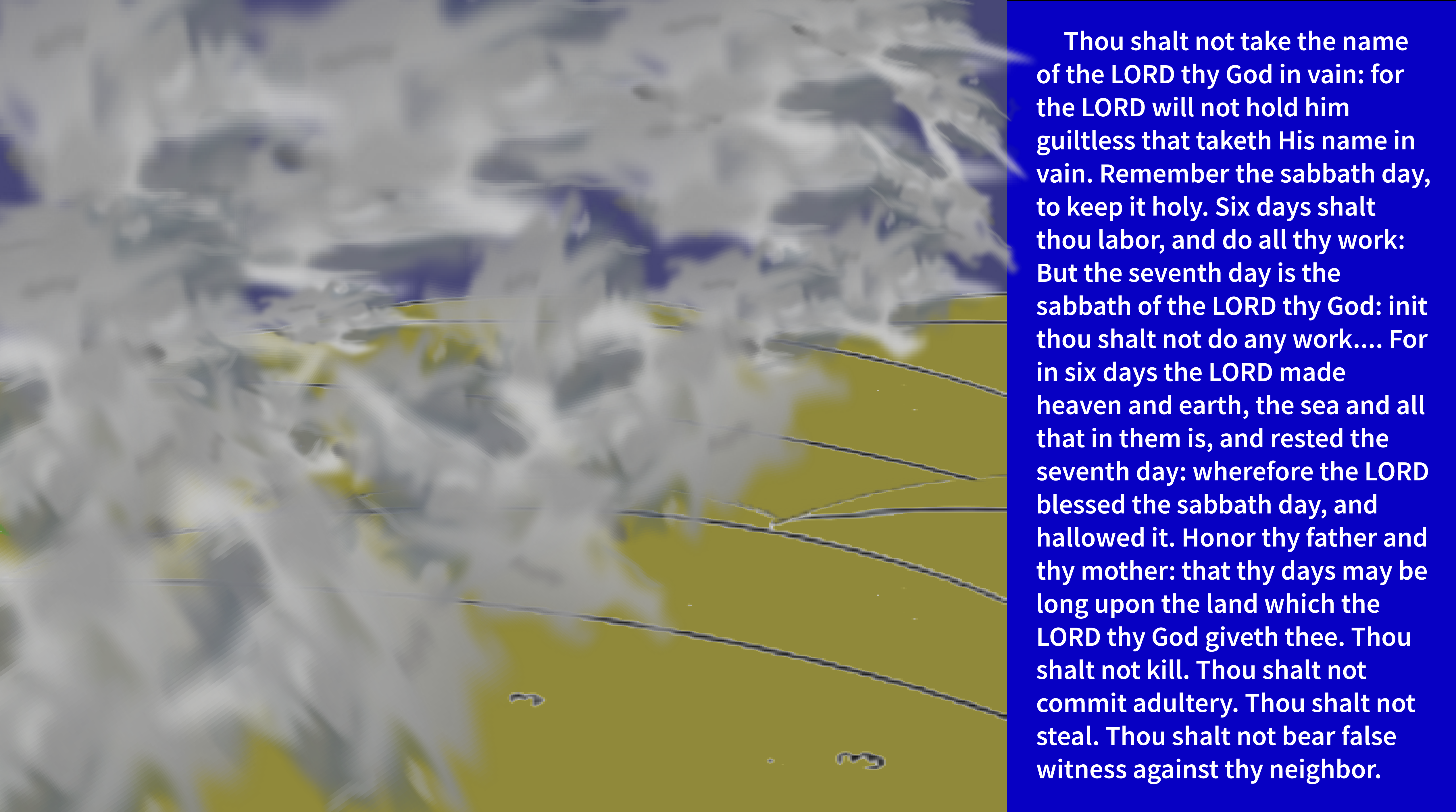
Then, God told Moses to go down and get tell the people to clean themselves up and get ready because in three days he was going to talk to them out of the mountain. He told him to set bounderies around the mountaint that nothing should break through to the mountain. He told him that if anything touched the mountain, person or animal, it was to be killed.

Moses went down and told the people. Then, on the third day, in the morning, there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mount. There was a sound of a trumpet so loud that it made the people shake and tremble.

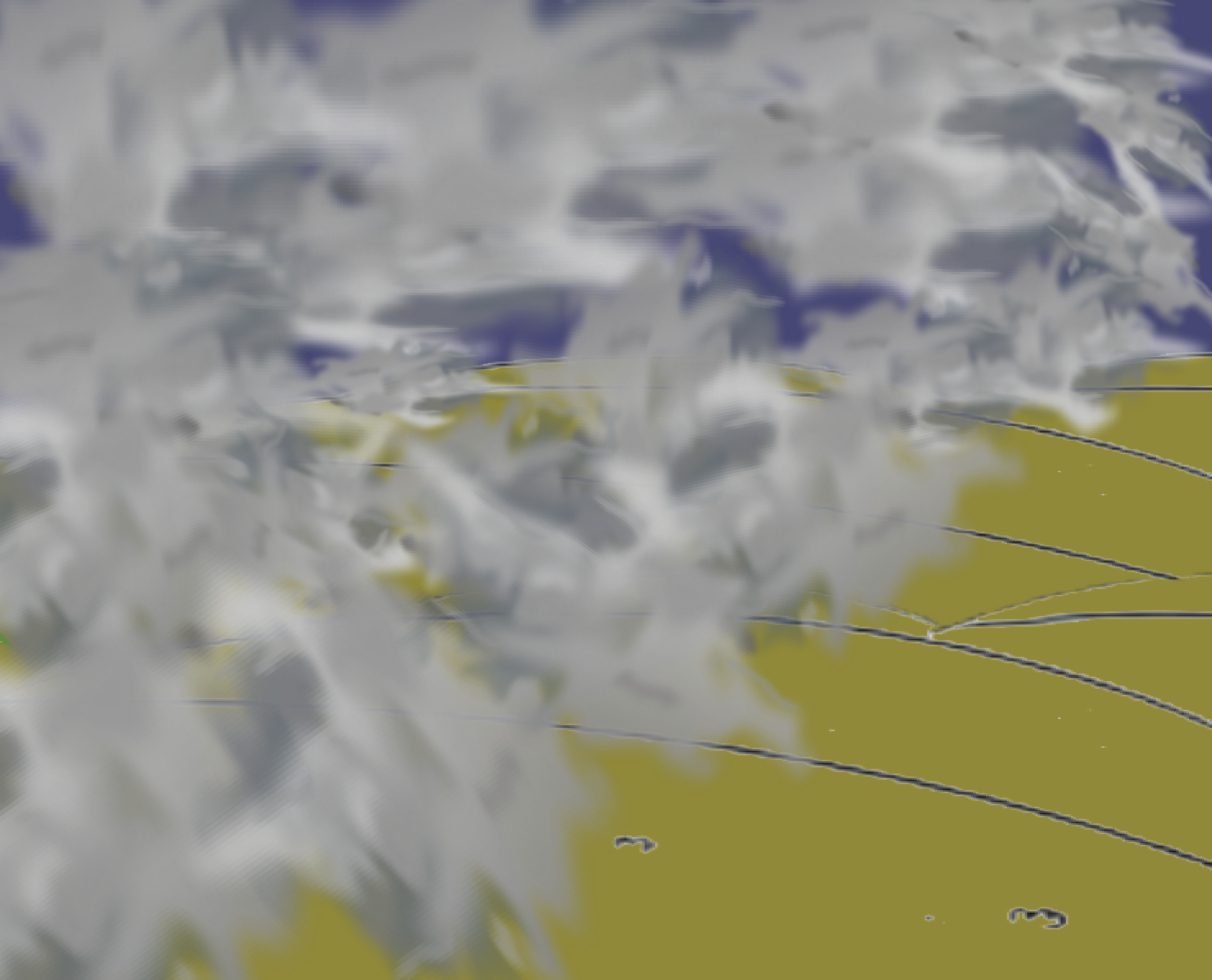


The sound of the trumpet sounded long and got louder and louder. Moses spake and God answered him.

The LORD spake, saying, “I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.



Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work.... For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

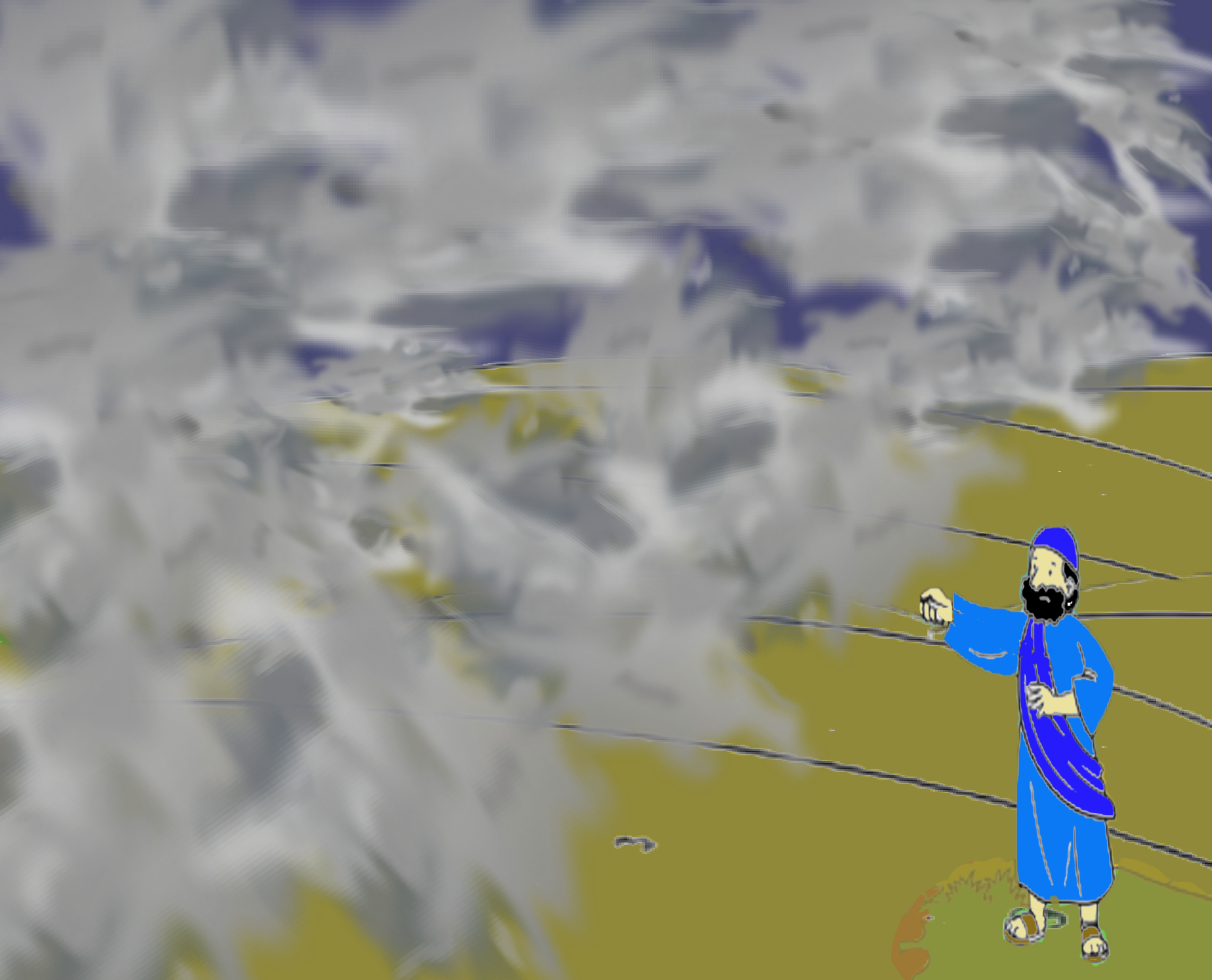


**Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house... nor any thing that is thy neighbor's."**

**The people became afraid of the mountain... of the smoke... of the thunder and the lightning. They stood as far away from it as they could. Then, they told Moses, "Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die."**

**Moses answered. "Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that His fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not."**

**The people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.**



God spoke with Moses and told him many things to tell the people. He was beginning to tell him the laws for the country of Israel. He told him how to build an altar to the LORD. He told him rules about keeping servants. He told him that if an ox killed a person, the ox should be killed. He told him that if a person had an ox that killed another person's ox that they should sell the live ox and split the money. He told them that if any of them loaned money to their neighbor, they were not to charge them interest on it. He said not to take bribes. He told them if they found their enemy's cattle that had wandered off, they were supposed to return it. He told him many things.



The people never came back near the mountain. God told Moses to have seventy-three elders of Israel watch and worship from a ways away, and then, to come up to talk to Him alone.

Moses went and told the people all the words of the LORD. The people answered together and said, "All the words which the LORD hath said will we do."

Then, Moses went and wrote everything down.



Moses woke up early the next morning and built an altar with twelve stones, one for each of the tribes of Israel. Then, with the help of some young men, he offered sacrifices to the LORD and read the LORD's word's again to the people. The people said, again, "All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient."

Then, Moses went with the seventy-three elders back to the mountain.



God said to Moses, “Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.”

Moses told the elders to stay there, and then, he went up into the mountain that was covered by a cloud. To the people below, it looked like a great fire sat on top the mountain. Then, he waited six days. On the seventh day, God called to him from the middle of the cloud. He walked deep into the cloud and was there for forty days and nights.





While Moses was gone, receiving the laws for the children of Israel. The people became impatient. They went to Aaron and told him to make them gods to lead them, because they didn't know what had happened to Moses. Aaron told them to bring him all their golden jewelry. Then, he melted it down, made a golden calf with it, and said tomorrow would be a celebration day.

Knowing what had happened, God told Moses to go down because the people had made themselves corrupt and had made a golden calf and were worshiping it.



On the way down, Moses met up with Joshua, who was waiting for him. Joshua was worried. He thought all the noise from the camp must have meant they were at war.

When they came near to the camp and saw the wild party and the golden calf that the people were worshipping, Moses was so angry that he threw down the stone tables that God had written, breaking them. Then, he ground up their 'cow god' into powder and tossed it in their drinking water. Many people were killed, and the LORD, also, caused a plague to come upon the people because of their sin.



After a while, after things calmed down and God wasn't so angry with His people, God told Moses to carve out two tables of stone to replace the ones he had broken and bring them back to the mountain where He would rewrite them.

Moses had asked God if he could actually see Him, more than in a cloud or a flame of fire. The Lord had told him that no one could see the face of God and live. However, while Moses was up in the mount, the Lord put him in the cleft of a rock and walked in front of him, staying under-cover until He was past, so that Moses could see His back, but not His face.



The children of Israel made a tabernacle for the LORD. The cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night rested on the tabernacle when they were to stay, and it would move to lead them when it was time to leave.

They stayed in the wilderness of Si'nai until the twentieth day of the second month in the second year after they left Egypt. They celebrated their first passover, the anniversary of when they left Egypt in the wilderness of Si'nia.

Then, as the LORD led them, they continued their journey to the promised land.



When they approached the promised land, Moses chose twelve spies, one from each tribe, to go and check out the land. They were gone for forty days.

One of the spies was Joshua. He was Moses' servant. He had gone partway up Mount Si'nai with Moses. He, also, went in the tabernacle with Moses, when he met with God.

Another spy was named, Caleb. He was from the tribe of Judah... the tribe from which, someday, Jesus would be born.

These two spies gave a good report of the land.



They said that the land did, indeed, flow with milk and honey. They said it was a good land. Caleb said he knew that they were well able to process it. They brought back clusters of grapes so big that it took two men to carry them. They also brought back figs and other fruits.

The other spies, however, pointed out that the people that lived there were huge. Some were giants. They said, “We are not able to go up against this people; for they are stronger than we.” They said that they felt like grasshoppers compared to those people.



After hearing the news, the people cried all night. They talked of appointing a new leader and going back to Egypt.

Joshua and Caleb tried to convince them. They said, “The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land, which floweth with milk and honey.” The people, in turn, wanted to stone them.

Then, the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle.



The LORD spoke to Moses. First, He spoke of wiping out the whole nation and starting fresh with Moses and his family, but then, He said that the people would go back and wander in the wilderness for forty years, until everyone twenty years and older had died, except for Joshua and Caleb. However, the ten spies that made the people afraid, became sick and died, right then.

The next morning, the people changed their mind. They said, “We have sinned,” and they came together to go into the land. Moses, however, warned them not to. Some of the people went anyway, and they were beaten by their enemies.





A rebellion started to spread among the people. Some of the people said that Moses and Aaron had not told the truth, that they had said they were going to bring them into a good land, flowing with milk and honey, and now, Moses said they were going to die in the wilderness. They said that they didn't think God was really speaking to Moses and that they were giving Him the opportunity to chose another leader.

God became angry and threatened to destroy the whole group, but Moses pleaded for them, all but the ones who had started the rebellion. He told everyone to get away from their tents. Then, God opened the earth and the ground swallowed them up alive.



The people, however, were not satisfied with God's answer and His judgment on those men. They said that Moses had gotten good men killed for no reason.

At first, GOD responded by sending a plague that killed many people, but then, He told Moses to tell the leaders of all the tribes to take a staff from each tribe into the tabernacle. He said that the man's rod which He had chosen would blossom. So, they put names on all the rods and left them in the tabernacle over night.

The next morning Aaron's rod was blossoming. Moses took it out to show the people. Then, they kept it to remind the people that God had chosen Aaron, and the tribe of Levites after him, to be in charge of the tabernacle of the LORD.



Later, when the Israelites were traveling through a desert. They, again, began to complain to Moses and Aaron that they didn't have any water. They, again, asked why they were brought out of Egypt to die of thirst in the wilderness.

Moses and Aaron went from the angry people and fell on their faces in the door of the tabernacle, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them. The LORD told Moses to go with Aaron and others to the rock and speak to it and water would come out for the people to drink.

They went to the rock, but instead of speaking to the rock, Moses hit the rock twice and water came rushing out.



The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron and said, “Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.”



The people traveled from Kadesh to Mount Hor. There, in the top of the mount, Aaron died. His son became priest.

While there, Arad, king of the Canaanites made war with the Israelites, and there was a great battle. The Israelites won the battle and destroyed their cities.

Then, they traveled from Mount Hor toward Edom, by way of the red sea. However, the people became quite discouraged as they went, and they began to speak against God and against Moses.



The LORD sent fiery serpents among the people. They bit the people, and many of the people of Israel died.

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 the serpents away from us.”

Moses prayed for the people.

The LORD said, “Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that everyone that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.”



Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole. Then, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the serpent of brass, he lived.

Years and years later, Jesus, God's son, would be talking to a leader of the Jews, named Nicodemus. He would say, "If I told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe if I tell you heavenly things? ... as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."



After the curse of the serpents, the children of Israel continued on their journey through the wilderness.

Every day, the young ones grew older, stronger, wiser and more capable to take on the giants that lay in their future. For, someday, they knew, they were destined to take back their promised land... the land of their fathers... the land of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.