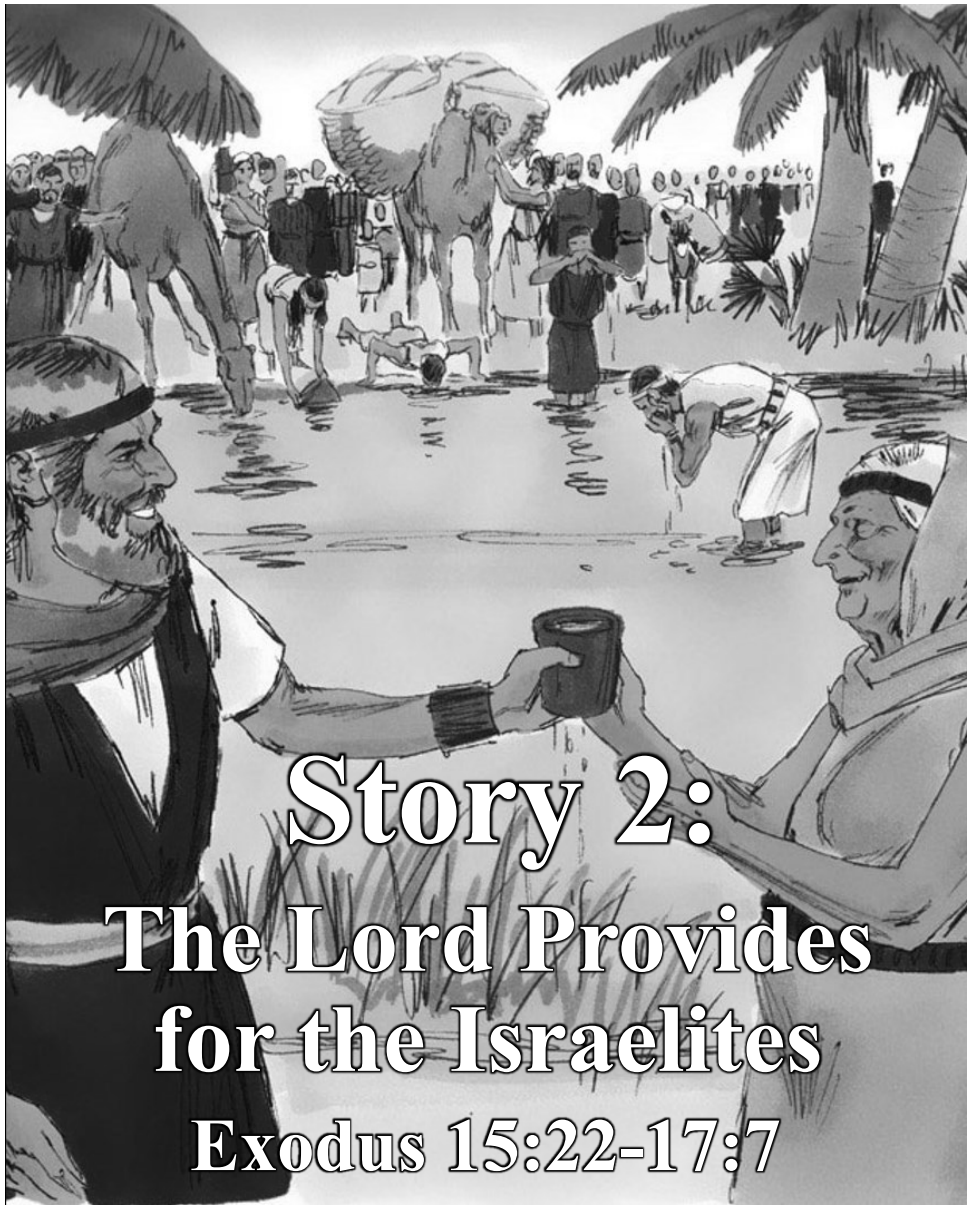


Story 8:

The Lord Provides for the Israelites

Exodus 15:22-17:7



Story 2:
The Lord Provides
for the Israelites
Exodus 15:22-17:7



After the Israelites passed through the Red Sea, Moses led the people into the wilderness of Shur. For three days they traveled without finding any water.



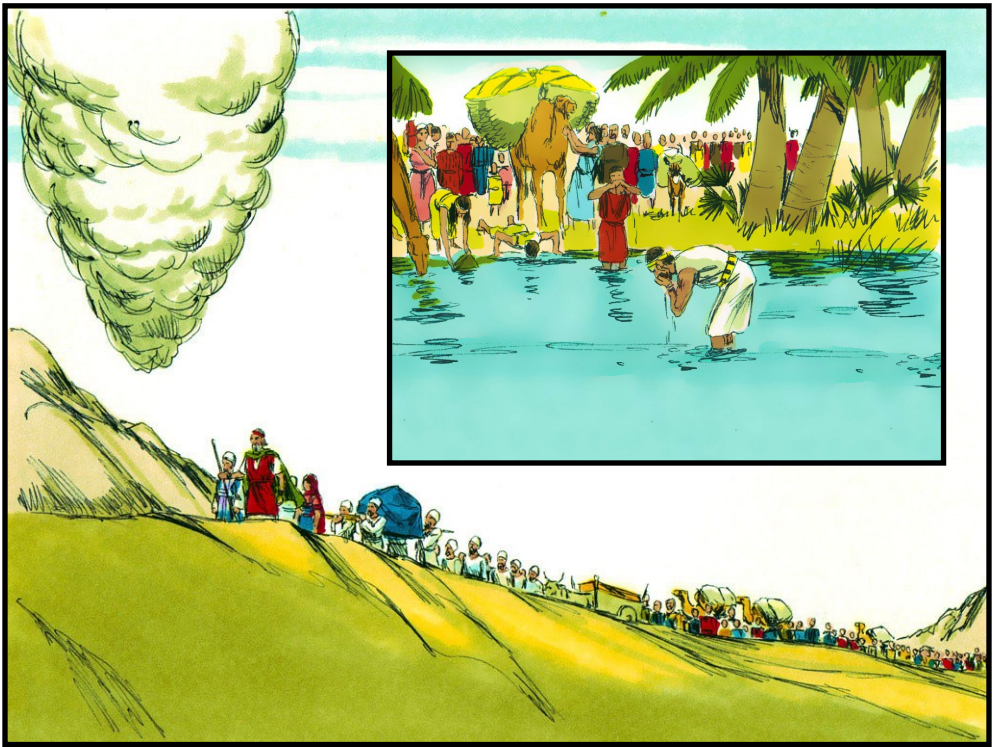
When they came to a place with water they were unable to drink it because it was very bitter. The people grumbled against Moses saying, “What are we going to drink?”



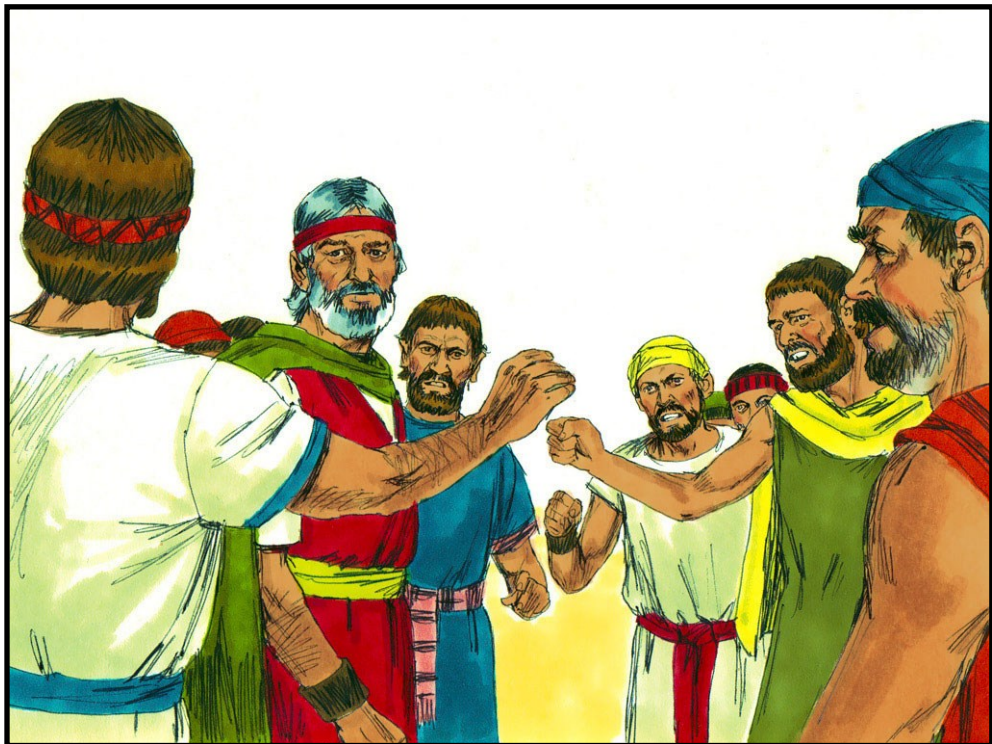
Moses called out to God and asked for His help. The LORD revealed to Moses a piece of wood nearby. He threw it into the water and the water became sweet. All the people and their animals were able to drink it. They named this place Marah, which means “bitter.”



Moses went before the people and said, “If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in His eyes, He will protect you. If you obey His commands He will not bring any of the plagues upon you that He brought upon Egypt. He is the LORD who heals you.”



The Israelites moved on and camped at a place called Elim. Elim had 12 springs of water and was covered with 70 palm trees. From there, the people set out into the Desert of Sin.



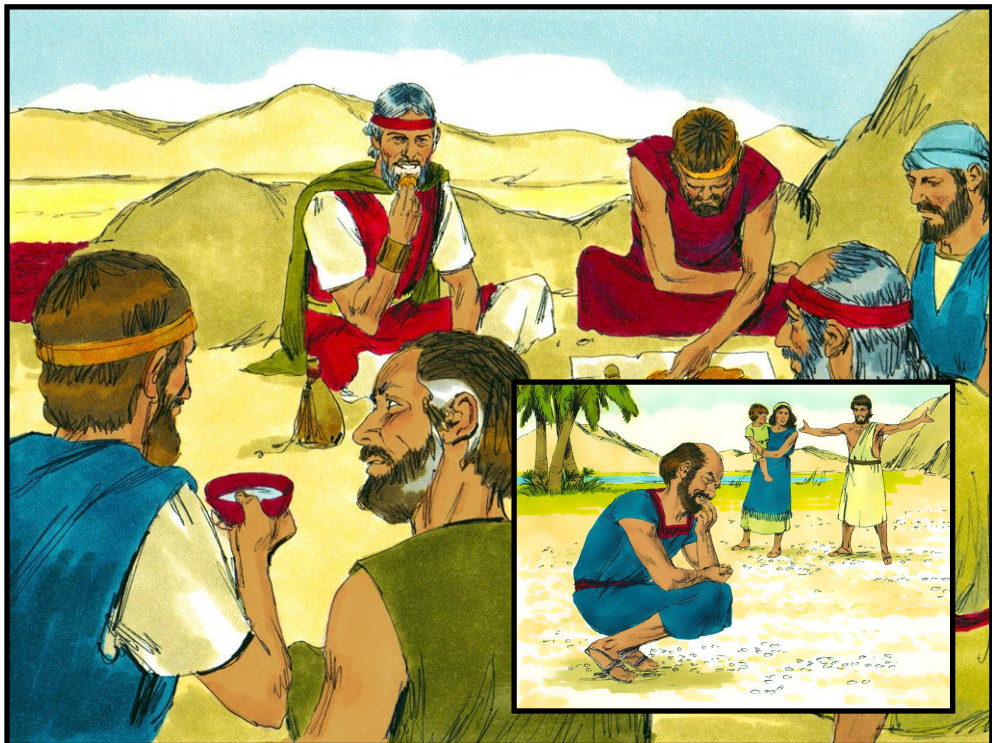
As they traveled through the desert, the Israelites began to grumble against Moses and Aaron. They were tired and began to say mean things.

The people complained saying, “I wish we had all died in Egypt! When we were there, we sat around pots of meat. We ate all the food we wanted. But you brought us out here to starve.”



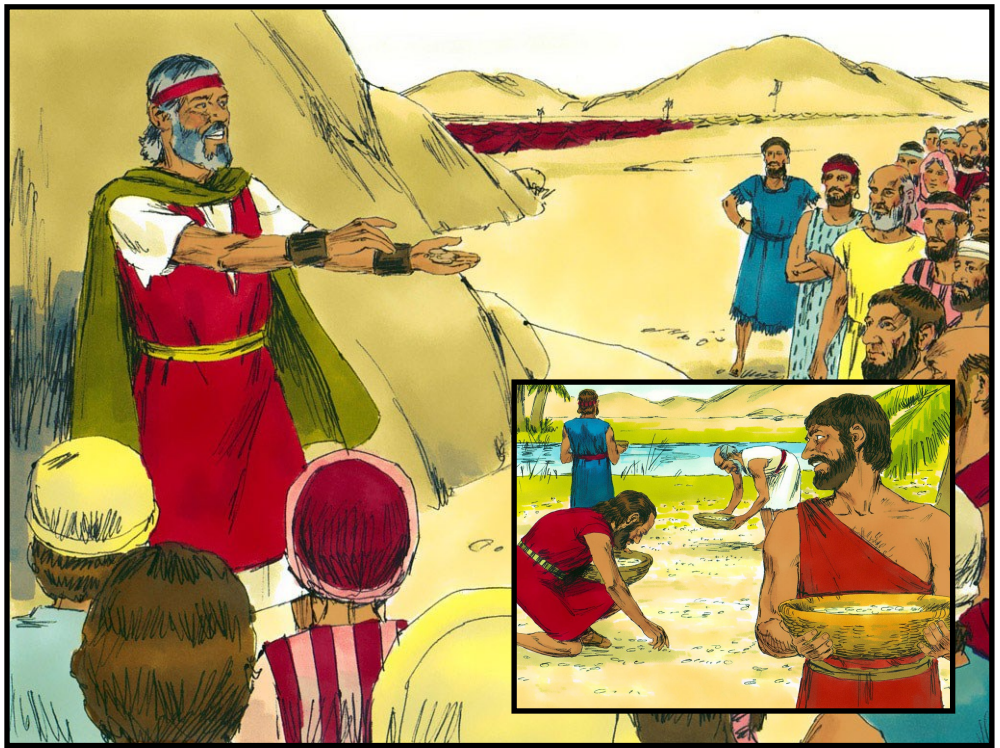
Moses said to the people, “God has heard your grumbling against Him. Tomorrow morning, you will see His glory and know that He is the one who brought you out of Egypt. Tonight, you will eat meat and in the morning you will eat bread.”

As Moses and Aaron were speaking to the people, they looked toward the desert. The glory of the LORD appeared to all the people in the form of a cloud.



That evening, quail came up and covered the camp. The people were able to capture them and eat the tasty meat.

In the morning, when the dew had dried up, little flakes that looked like frost formed on the ground. The Israelites looked at one another and said, “What is it?” So, they named it “manna,” which in Hebrew means “What is it?”



Moses told the people, “It is the bread from heaven. Go and gather as much as you need. You are to gather enough food for your family, but don’t try to keep any of it for tomorrow. The LORD will provide new manna each morning for you.”



Most of the people obeyed Moses, but a few tried to keep their manna until the next day. When they went to eat it, it smelled awful and was full of maggots. Moses was very angry at those who didn't obey the LORD's command.



Each morning, the Israelites went out and gathered as much manna as they needed. Whenever some was left on the ground, the hot sun melted it away.

God told the people that on the sixth day of the week they would need to collect enough manna to last them for two whole days. They did this so that they could rest on the seventh day of the week, which was called the Sabbath day.



When the Sabbath day came, those who had collected extra manna were able to eat it. Their manna did not stink or have maggots in it. However, there were those that did not obey God's command. They did *not* collect extra food for the Sabbath day. They were left with empty bowls and empty stomachs.

Moses told his brother Aaron to take some of the manna and put it in a jar. They saved it and showed it to the people for generations to come.



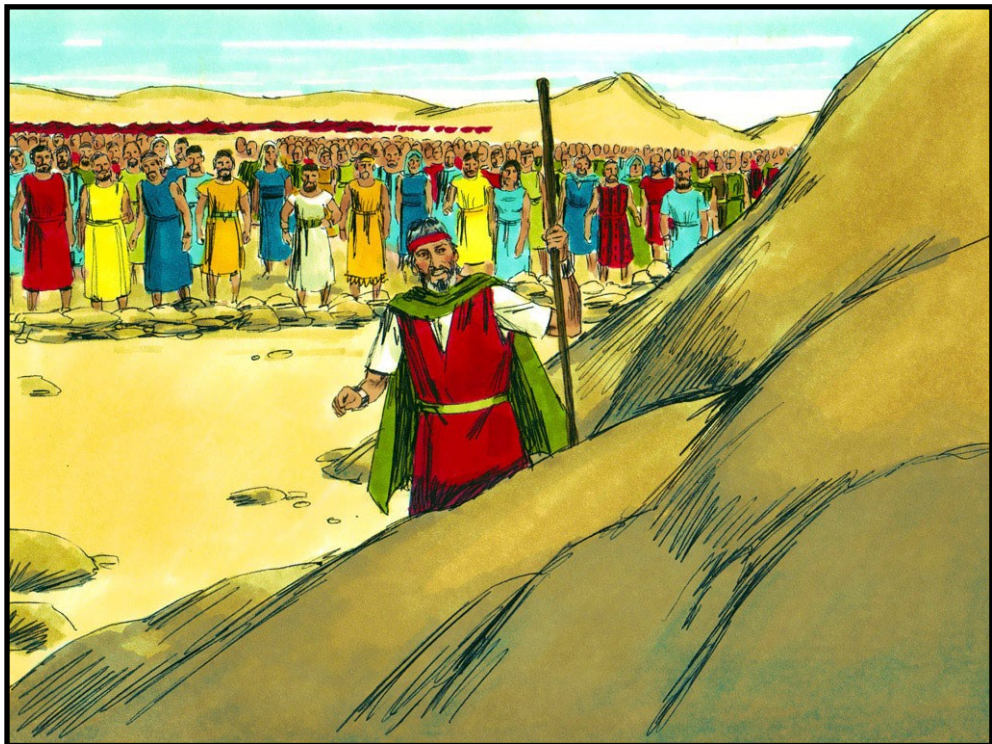
Again, the Israelite people set out from the Desert of Sin and traveled until they came to a place called Rephidim. When they arrived, there was no water for the people to drink.

The people were thirsty and grumbled against Moses. They said to him, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Was it so that our children and livestock could die of thirst?”

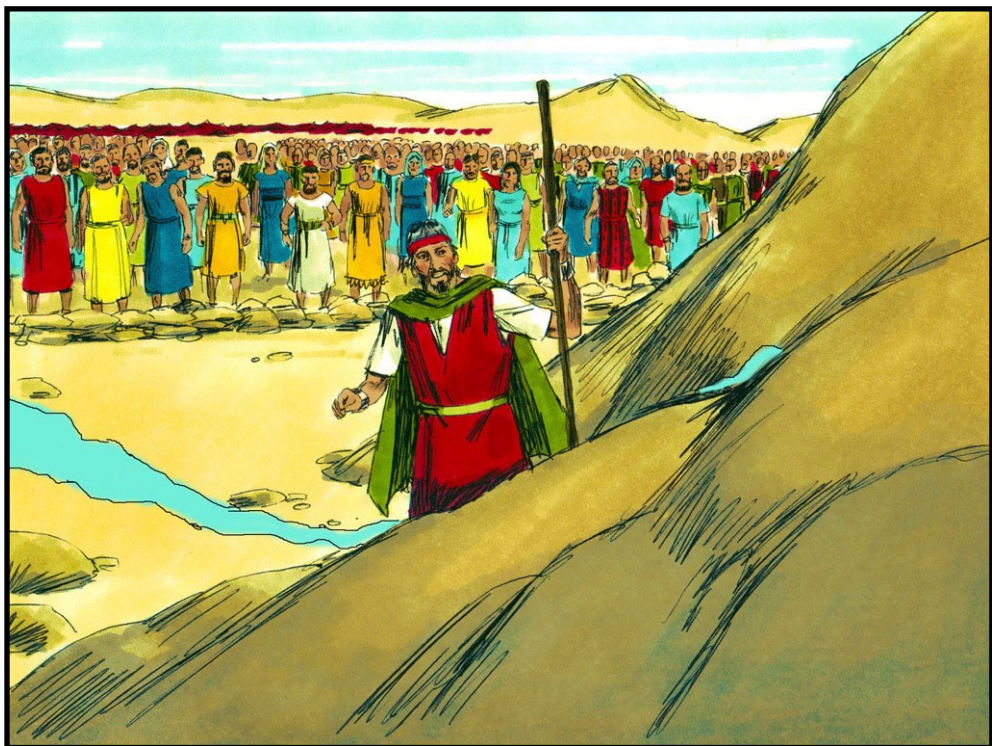


Moses cried out to God, “What am I going to do with these people? They are ready to stone me.”

The LORD answered Moses, “Go take some of the elders of Israel and the staff that you used to strike the Nile River and stand before the people.”



God told Moses, “I will be with you by the rock at Horeb. Take your staff and strike the rock in the sight of all the people.”



As soon as Moses struck the rock, water flowed out for all the people to drink.

Moses named the place Meribah (which means quarreling) and Massah (which means testing). This was because the Israelites quarreled and tested God saying, “Is the LORD with us or not?”

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