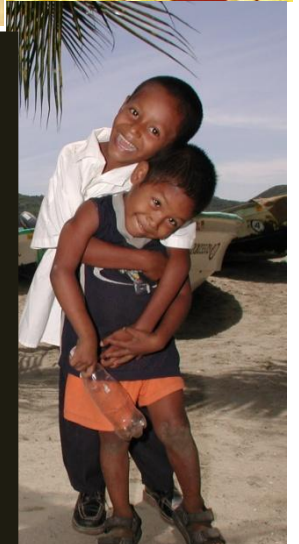




Children's Beautiful Bible Treasures



Children's Beautiful Bible Treasures

—Part 3—

**Written by
Chariane Quille**

**Illustrated by
*Barbara Meinel Jacobs***

Cover photos:

Top: (L & R) Jon Berg

Vertical Left side (T): Angela S., (M) Robin Yamaguchi, (B) Jon Berg

Vertical Right side (T-M-B): Jon Berg

Centre: (T & B) Jon Berg

Bottom: (L) Jon Berg, (R) Angela S.

www.nurture-inspire-teach.com
nurture.inspire.teach@gmail.com/ info@nurture-inspire-teach.com

Bible Story Titles

A Palace, a Prince, and Preparation (Page 4)

The Burning Bush (Page 8)

Brave Brothers (Page 12)

Woeful and Wonderful (Page 16)

A Path to Praise About! (Page 20)

Wilderness, Water and Wells (Page 24)

Amazing Food (Page 28)

Water Out of a Rock (Page 32)

**A Blazing Mountain, a Blasting Trumpet,
and Tablets of Stone** (Page 36)

The Mercy and Light of God (Page 40)

The Cloud of the Lord (Page 44)

Aaron's Almonds and Moses' Song (Page 48)

(These stories and illustrations are also included in the
"Beautiful Bible Treasures" Lessons 25-36: *Moses' Mission*.)



A Palace, a Prince, and Preparation

Many years had passed since Jacob and his 12 sons and their families had moved to Egypt, and things weren't so easy any more.

A new Pharaoh had become the ruler, and he disliked all these people, who weren't Egyptians, living in his country.

He could have told them to move, but he had a different idea. He decided to make them his workers, to build and build many things in his country for him.

The people had to work so very hard, and were not treated well at all. They prayed for God to help them—and He did—but it took some time until it all happened.

God needed to prepare someone to be just the one that would be able to do the very big job of helping the Israelites to leave Egypt and find a new country to live in.

God sent a baby to a good couple, who loved and obeyed Him, and they took good care of their little baby.

Then God had the Princess find him one day, as he slept in a little basket on the river, made like a small boat. His sister Miriam was watching over him.

When the Princess found him, she loved him so much, and wished he could live with her.

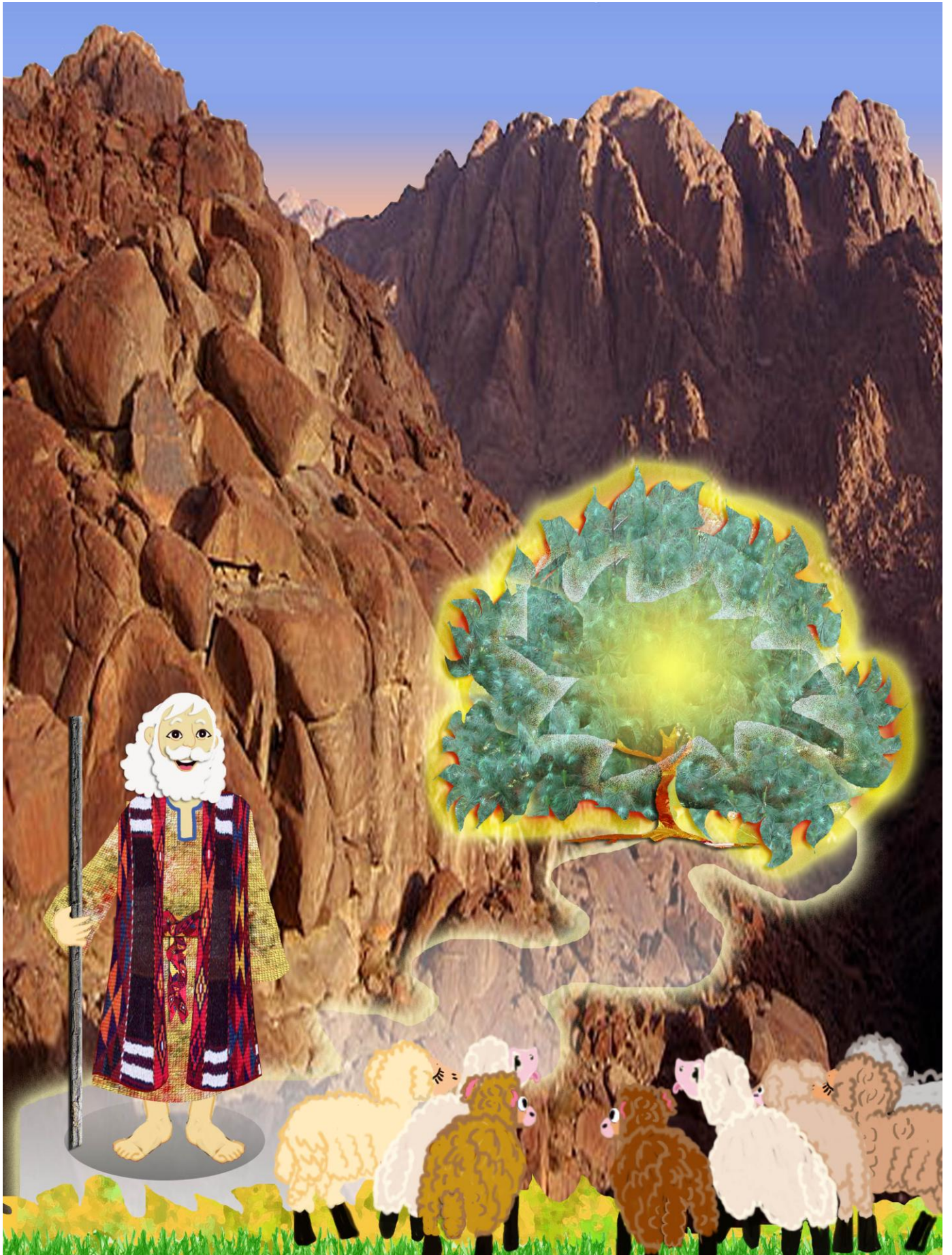


She gave him to his mother to care for, and said that after he grew a bit older that he could come and live in the palace with her.

Moses grew up as a prince in the palace of Pharaoh, learning many things. He didn't know yet that God was preparing him for a very important job in the future.

It would take a lot of time and training and patience until Moses was ready to do the job of helping the Israelites in the way God knew was best.





The Burning Bush

Moses got to live in the palace of Pharaoh where he had all that he needed. There was something that upset him, however, and that was to see the unkind way that Pharaoh and the Egyptians were treating the Israelites—Jacob's many descendants.

Moses wanted to stop them from acting that way, but it made Pharaoh not want to have him around there. So Moses went to live far away in a place called Midian.

Moses became a shepherd while living with a man called Jethro, and his family. He helped with the flocks as a patient shepherd, and married Jethro's grown-up daughter, Zipporah.

God was preparing Moses day-by-day for a big job later on.

Moses was a shepherd for 40 years, learning patience and learning to talk to God and hear from Him.

One day while out with the sheep, Moses was very curious as he saw something he'd never seen or heard of before. There was a bush all brightly lit up! It looked like it was on fire, but for some amazing reason it wasn't burning up into ashes. It just kept on glowing!

As Moses approached it he heard God speaking to him.

Moses then talked with God for a long time, as it was then time for Moses to do the special job that God had been getting him ready for.



God told Moses to go back to Egypt and talk with Pharaoh, telling him to let the people leave Egypt now. God promised to do miracles to show His power to Pharaoh.

Moses knew it would be a very big and difficult job, and would take time, effort, and many miracles too!

Moses' brother Aaron was also called by God to come out and meet with Moses and to help with this job.

Together they'd make a great team, and would do whatever God told them to.

God gave Aaron and Moses the courage to obey and return to Egypt to do what God had asked them to do.





Brave Brothers

Moses and his brother Aaron walked to Egypt, bravely doing what God asked them to. They had the job of helping all the Israelites to leave their difficult life behind, and head out on a very long camping trip!

Moses and Aaron talked with the Israelites about God's plan for them, and showed them the signs of God's power. The people believed what the brothers were saying, and were happy to hear that God would help them to leave soon. But did Pharaoh, who wanted them to work for him, like that idea? Not at all!

Moses and Aaron showed signs of God's power to Pharaoh also—like God turning the staff into a snake, and back into a staff again! They told Pharaoh what God wanted him to do—to allow the people to leave Egypt.

Just hearing about it made Pharaoh worried and upset. He didn't want all his big building plans for a great, elaborate-looking Egypt to come to a halt. If the people left, what would become of Egypt? So Pharaoh made the wrong choice and said, "No!"

Pharaoh made things even tougher for the people and told them to work even harder. He was acting very unkind, and had lots of ugly pride and selfishness in his heart.

It's not a good thing to keep going your own way, when God tells you to do something else. Things were not going to go very well for Pharaoh, as he kept going his own bad way. It was a hard job for Moses and Aaron too. Not only was Pharaoh making



things difficult for them, but the people were losing courage and didn't know if it would be possible to leave Egypt.

Some things just take time, and this was something that would take awhile, and there needed to be people with faith and prayer to make it happen.

Moses just kept praying and asking God what to do. He and his brother Aaron didn't give up and say the job was too hard. They had God helping them and with God nothing is too hard!

Moses gained hope and faith from his time spent with God, that eventually it would all work out. It was God's plan and idea, and God was going to make it all happen, even if it took longer than they all hoped it would.





Woeful and Wonderful

When Pharaoh refused to let the people leave, Moses prayed and asked God what to do next. God said that Pharaoh would have some tough times.

Going your own way instead of God's way doesn't bring good things into your life, as that ruler and all his country found out.

There was one trouble after the other for Pharaoh and all of Egypt too, as a result of his wrong choices.

First there was no fresh water to drink or wash with, as God changed the river water and made it unpleasant and stinky.

When Pharaoh asked Moses to ask God to make the river nice again, he promised to let the people go.

Pharaoh didn't keep his word, however, and as soon as things were the way he liked them, and the trouble was taken away, he once again said, "No!", and refused to let the people leave Egypt.

There were many other difficult things that came—there was something hard each time Pharaoh would not say "yes" to God's plan.

Bothersome flies, sickness, crops not growing well, strong storms and all kinds of bad things came to the land.

If Pharaoh had agreed and done what God had said right at the start, he and his country would not have had all that trouble.



Finally he'd had enough, and agreed to let the people leave.

The Israelites were quick to get moving as soon as they heard it was time to go.

They gathered up all they could, as fast as possible, loaded it on their carts and wagons, led their animals and got going on their trip out of Egypt right away.

Hurray! At last the moment they'd been hoping for had happened!

They were free to follow as God led them.





A Path to Praise About!

Have you ever been stuck somewhere and didn't know what to do or how to get out of the situation?

Maybe your family was travelling and the car broke down, and you were somewhere where it was difficult to get help.

Or maybe you were working on a project and you were missing one of the most important things you needed to complete it?

There are lots of different problems and difficulties that come our way, and people can cause us trouble too, but no matter how tough things seem, nothing is too hard for God.

He can give the help and solutions needed to anyone, anywhere, if they pray and believe that He can.

After the Israelites left Egypt, Pharaoh decided that he wanted the people to come back to work for him again—and not go off taking a trip!

He sent many of his people to get them to return. This seemed to be a problem for the travelling team, because in front of them was the big Red Sea.

They were stuck and couldn't go any further. God had a plan, and told Moses to stretch out his hands and rod over the water.

The amazing miraculous solution began. A strong wind blew and blew, and everyone was in for a surprise.

Can you imagine camping beside a large lake, and after a time of strong wind there is



then a pathway right through it, and you can walk, or bike, or drive over to the other side?

That's the surprise they all got! God had made a pathway straight across the Red Sea with the water standing up on either side of it. The Israelites walked to the other side on the dry sea bed!

God got them safely across the Red Sea, and then closed up the water again. It was so amazing!

It was time to praise God with songs and instruments! They were so happy to see the power of God helping them. They were then able to continue their journey, with a God who could do anything to lead and care for them.





Wilderness, Water and Wells

When you are hungry, tired or thirsty it's hard to be cheerful. It was just the same for the team of travelling Israelites. They were taking a journey through a difficult place.

In some ways it was easier than travelling through areas where there were cities and people living, that wouldn't want this huge band of people passing through.

God knew that at the beginning of their trip it would be better and easier for them to travel through places that weren't developed and made into cities. They could stop and camp wherever God led them, and no one was going to bother them.

The only trouble was that there wasn't enough water or food to eat in some places, until God made these things available by

miracles. The Israelites were on the move, so they couldn't make a big farm to plant crops, nor was there always enough water around to do so.

When there was a problem—like not enough water or food—the people got upset, rather than praying and having faith that God could give them all they needed.

It was something new they had to learn—to have faith in God. Moses would talk to God about their need for food and water, and God always had a solution.

One time, towards the beginning of their travels, they finally found some water but it tasted very bad. God told Moses to throw a certain tree into the water.



After he obeyed and did that, the water tasted good and was fit to drink.

Moses then told the people the message and lesson from God. If they wanted to be healthy and happy, they needed to learn to listen to God and to do whatever He told them to do.

The next place they travelled to had 12 wells of water, and lots of nice trees for shade. It felt great! There was one more thing though: They needed food too. The food they'd brought from Egypt had run out. Where could that come from?

Moses once again prayed, and God said He would send food from heaven for them in the morning.





Amazing Food

God sent the Israelites food, just as He said He would! The food from Heaven was called "manna" by those who noticed it in the morning. They'd never seen anything like it!

Every day this amazing food was all over the ground, and families could collect what they needed for the day. God gave one instruction to them, and that was to not worry about food for the next day.

God wanted them to have faith that He would send more again, and He wanted them to learn to obey what He said to do. They were not to save any for the next day.

Some people didn't obey the instructions God gave them, and found out the next day why they shouldn't have disobeyed.

The delicious manna that smelled good and tasted like honey when they collected it, the next day after being saved, had a very bad smell to it and was filled with bugs. Oh dear!

It would have been better to trust that God would send more food for them each new morning.

God wanted them to have a day to rest each week, a day where they didn't have to work.

To make this day relaxing for them God gave them permission to gather extra manna the day before, and to save it for the next day.



They wouldn't have to work even to gather food for one day each week.

For some amazing reason, that is the only day that it didn't go bad when it was saved overnight.

When the Israelites followed God's instructions, things worked out well and they had all they needed.

God even told Moses to save some of that amazing manna in a special box, and to keep it for years to come. It didn't go bad for so very long!

This little saved sample of the manna reminded them of the miracles that God did for them, and how He cared for them and provided food for them during the many years they were travelling.





Water Out of a Rock

God liked to show His love and care for the travelling Israelites. When they needed fresh drinking water all they needed to do was to ask Him for it. It was hard for the people to be thirsty and to not have water for drinking, cooking and washing, as well as water for their animals to drink.

They often forgot to just pray and ask God in faith for what they needed, as they were just starting to learn about God's amazing power to do anything to help them. They often asked Moses in grumbling ways for what they needed.

Moses was patient and humble, and had faith in God's care. Moses knew the best thing to do was to pray and ask God for help. One time when there was no water anywhere, Moses prayed and God told him to hit a rock with the rod, and water would come out of it.

Moses did as God said, and water came pouring out, and everyone had the water they needed. Another time God wanted to give water out of a rock, but in a new way. He wanted Moses to speak to the rock and the water would come flowing out.

The people were acting very unkind and complaining. That time Moses had a hard time staying patient with the people's unkind words, and lack of faith in God. He got upset and spoke angrily to the people, and hit the rock this time as well, instead of only speaking to it.

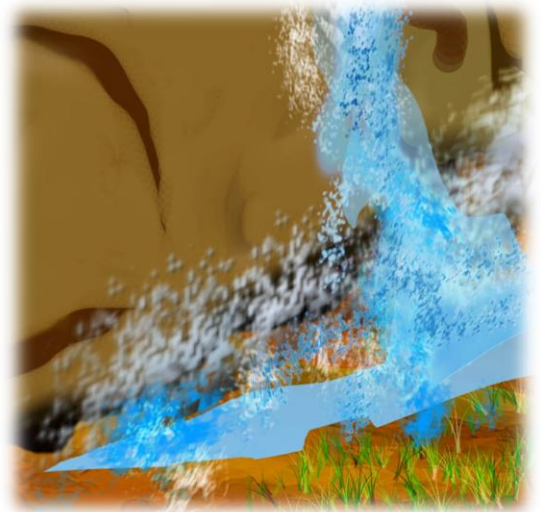
God wasn't glad that Moses got angry and had disobeyed what He said to do. God still sent the water, but it was a lesson to everyone that patience, obedience, and knowing God's love and care were important.



There were many lessons of faith and prayer along the way as they journeyed. There was another time when the people needed water again, and they made the right decision to have faith and obey God's instructions.

God said for some of the important men, the princes, to use their sticks and to dig in the dirt, and He would make water spring up out of the ground.

As the people watched they sang a song, and God sent the water they needed. That was a great way to react.



Singing songs of praise and prayer when in a difficult situation, or when there are things that you need, helps bring faith to your heart. It brings the answers from the Lord too!



A Blazing Mountain, a Blasting Trumpet, And Tablets of Stone

God wanted to show those that He had chosen to follow Him just how real and powerful He was. God loved them and wanted each one to love Him, and obey Him too!

One day He decided to show the Israelites, who were travelling with Moses, something special. It would be like God coming for a visit, in an amazing way.

All the people were to prepare for the event by washing up and putting on clean clothes. It was going to be a very special day.

When the time was right God filled the mountain near them with all sorts of sounds and sights! There were flashes of lightning and booming sounds of thunder. A thick cloud was also on the mountain.

Then there was a very loud sound of a trumpet announcing God's visit. It was so loud that everyone in the area could hear it blasting!

The mountain looked like it was on fire and smoke was billowing up. The ground also shook like it would in an earthquake. It was a very powerful show God put on for them.

The people knew that God was real, and that He was very close to them. God called Moses to come up on the mountain—but said that everyone else, including the animals, shouldn't come up on the mountain. It was just too powerful!

God talked with Moses. When Moses came down from the mountain he told the people the things God had said—important instructions and rules for them to follow.

On another trip up the mountain to talk with God, when the mountain had the



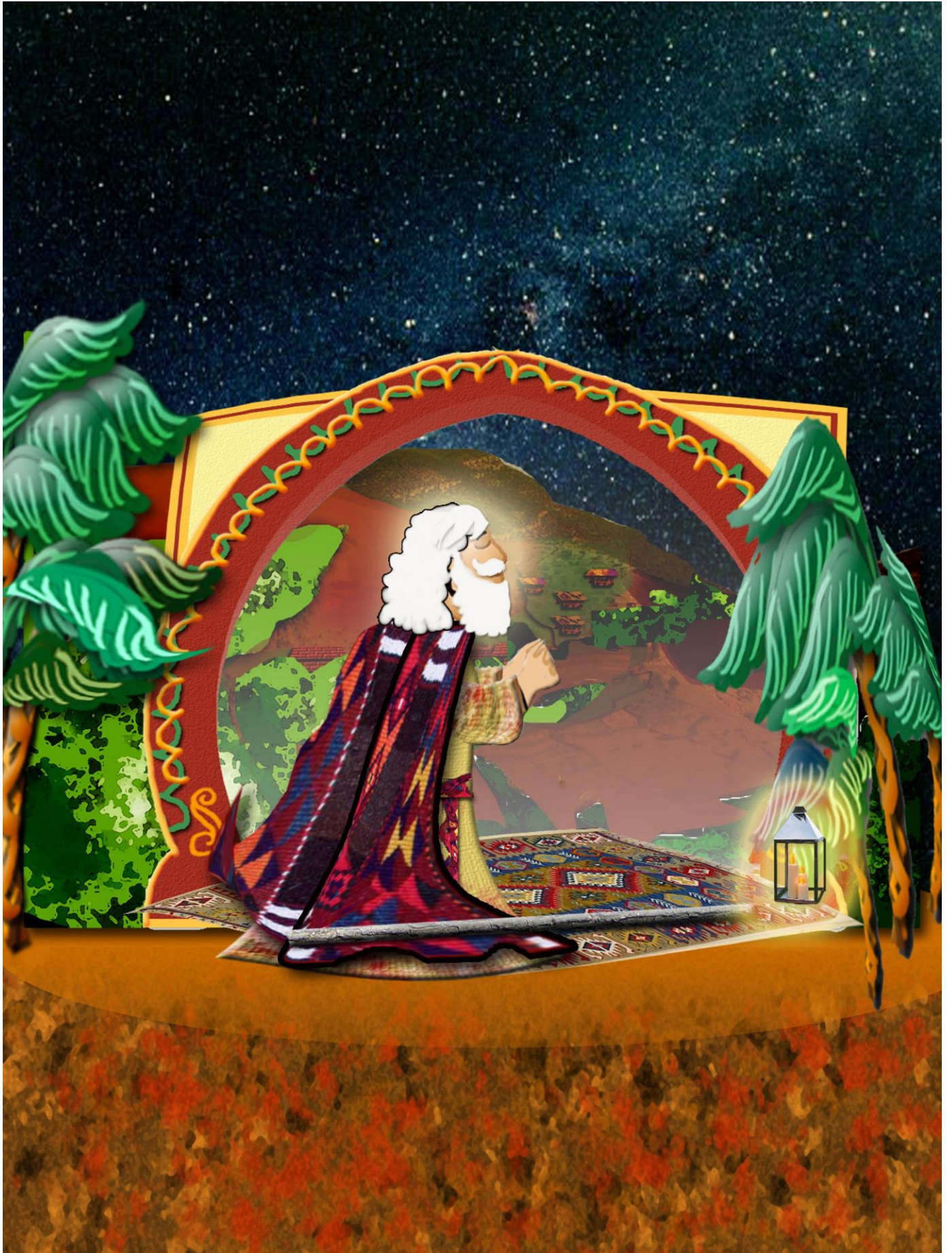
bright fiery cloud of God's presence on it, Moses received something very special from Him. He was with God for 40 days and nights, and it was then that God wrote with His finger onto tablets of stone.



Ten of the most important rules for the people to learn and remember and obey were written in stone. It was hearing God's words and obeying what He said that would make them prosper and do well.

We can also listen to the Lord's words and do what He wants us to do today! We need to believe and obey what Jesus says to do.

He said the most important rules for us to follow today are to love God and to love others. These are the most important things to remember. When we do these two things, we will please God and live happily.



The Mercy and Light of God

Moses had been on the mountain for a long time with the Lord, but when he came down it upset him to see the disobedience of those in the camp.

He was surprised and saddened to find that the people, who he had given God's instructions to, had not followed them.

Moses didn't react in the right way, so rather than first praying and asking God what to do, he felt it was no use trying to teach the people the right way.

He angrily threw the tablets of stone down and they broke. Moses was sorry that he acted in anger. It was a mistake that he regretted.

No matter how difficult things seem, or how wrong people are acting, stopping to pray first instead of acting roughly will bring better results.

God was also sad that the people had so quickly forgotten His words, just because Moses had been on the mountain. Everyone had lessons to learn.

God said that everyone needed to choose whose side they were on. Did they want to be a part of God's team or not?

The people who were sorry for doing wrong and who chose to follow God's words were forgiven. God was merciful and forgiving and gave those people another chance.

The mountain was all ablaze with a fiery cloud of God's presence, and He called Moses to come again up on the mountain, bringing new slabs of stone.

Moses talked with God and stayed on the mountain with Him for another 40 days, receiving the instructions



again, having them written on the tablets of stone.

Moses got to be very close to God and speak to Him as a friend. God even gave Moses a little peek at what He looked like. It was very special!

When Moses came down from the mountain that time, he saw that the people had behaved well. The new stone Ten Commandments were shown to all, and well cared for. God had told Moses to prepare a special wooden box for them, so they could be safely kept for many years.

Everyone who looked at Moses after he had come down from the mountain knew that he had been with God, as Moses' face was so very bright. Moses didn't realise it, but he was shining!

His time alone with God, listening and talking with Him, had filled Moses with God's beautiful light!





The Cloud of the Lord

The way God chose to show the Israelites where to go, and when to move, was by a special cloud in the shape of a pillar which He created as a sign of His presence being there with the people. It was easy for everyone to see and to follow it.

When God wanted the people to move on and travel to a new place, this cloud would begin to move.

It was a reminder to all the people that God was with them, and He was the one in charge, and would help them. At night this cloud was as a pillar of fire, giving light, and everyone could see it.

Whether it was day or night the travellers could tell what they were supposed to do—whether to camp or to move on.

God knew what was best, and He knew what was going on in all the surrounding lands. He led them to the best places for them at the time.

God had a special project for Moses and others to work on. He wanted to keep reminding the people how He was real and near to them, and they could trust in His care.

God gave Moses instructions on how to have some faithful workers build and put up a beautiful, large tent—a tabernacle. It was to be a special place of worship and prayer.

They were to also make a special box too, nicely decorated and shaped. This box was called, the "Ark of the Covenant". It would be kept safely, and would hold things like a sampling of the manna, Aaron's rod when God said to place it there, the tablets of stone, and other things that were added later on.

When the people finally made it to their new land, Joshua, Caleb and others were sent to check it out.



Joshua and Caleb saw it was a good place, and were eager to move there. The others that had also explored the place weren't sure it was safe. They said that some very tall people were living there already, and it seemed impossible for them to move there. They said things that discouraged everyone from entering it.

Because the people didn't have the faith to go into the new land that God had promised them, they weren't ready to live there, and had to keep travelling for many more years.

Forty years passed, and many lessons were learned. At last they were allowed another chance to enter and live in their new land. This time they had faith and courage, and were ready and eager to obediently do what God told them to in order to move in to the new country.





Aaron's Almonds and Moses' Song

God likes to surprise people with little signs of His power. One time God did something very different, as a sign to the people that He was the one who had picked Moses and Aaron to be the leaders.

He told Moses to tell the 12 princes—the heads of each of the 12 tribes—to bring their rods, their walking sticks, and for each one to write their name on their own rod.

Aaron's rod would be the one for the tribe of Levi. They obeyed what God said, and put their rods in the special tabernacle, just for one night.

God said that whoever's rod began to grow leaves and blossom, would be the leader He'd chosen to do that important job of leading the people. The next morning when Moses went into the tabernacle to look at the rods, he saw something very amazing.

Aaron's rod, the one that Moses and Aaron had used to obey God and perform so many miracles and was very old, had buds on it!

The buds blossomed into flowers, and then almonds grew—right from that old walking stick! Can you imagine that? It was a clear sign to everyone that God had chosen Moses and Aaron to be the leaders to point them in God's way.

When the time was right for Moses and Aaron to receive their reward for a job well done and to live with God in Heaven, He called them to Him. Peacefully and instantly each of them went to be with God in the place He told them to be, and at just the right time—first Aaron, and then some time later, Moses.

Before Moses left, God asked him to write a song for the children of Israel to learn and sing. It was to remind them of what God wanted them to remember.



God wanted to make things as easy as He could to help the Israelites follow in His ways. A song is a great way to remember things. Moses wrote down the words to the song in one day and taught it to the people.

God called Moses to go up to a certain mountain to get a look at the land that the Israelites were going to move to soon—the place they had been preparing to go to for so long.

Joshua was called by God to be the new man in charge, helping to lead the people into the new land.

He was a man who wanted to listen to God's words and do whatever He said to do. He had also helped Moses faithfully for many years. Joshua had lots of faith in God, and this made him just right for the job.

