

12.16 Moses and the Seventy on the Mountain (Exodus 24:1-11; 25:1-30:11; 30:12-17; Hebrews 9:18-20)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools

- “Life of Moses” Series 2 Flash-a-Cards from A Beka Book and/or pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- (optional) *Herein Is Love Commentary Series; Exodus, A Commentary for Children*, by Nancy Ganz, Shepherd Press, 2002. In this lesson ideas or quotations from this book will be noted by (*Ganz*).
- (optional) If the teacher wishes to teach each of the Ten Commandments individually, a good resource is “Why Did God Give the Commandments?” Series L¹ and L² (Volumes 1 and 2) Children’s Ministry International, Inc., Tucker, GA, copyright 2000. Each lesson includes a catechism question, a memory verse, a Bible story, a song to teach the memory verse, a review game, and creative expression. All of these elements have printed visual aids that come with separate flocked backing that the buyer attaches.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Tips and terms are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *elders*: men who were leaders of people; probably so named because of their age and experience
- *tribe*: group of people related by a common ancestor; common ancestors of the twelve tribes of Israel were the twelve sons of Jacob: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph (divided into Ephraim and Manasseh), and Benjamin
- *covenant*: an agreement between two or more persons
- *tablet*: sort of like modern-day tablets—flat and thin; God’s tablets might have been larger than a computer tablet, but, of course, they did not have electronic capabilities; they were just flat, thin rocks
- *census*: the counting of the population; in the U. S. A., the population is counted every ten years—in 2020, 2030, *etc.*
- *Sabbath*: the seventh day set apart for worship; the Christian’s Sabbath is the Lord’s Day, the first day of the week (Sunday)

Scripture: (NASB)

Exodus 24:1 Then He said to Moses, “Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and seventy of the elders of Israel, and you shall worship at a distance. 2 Moses alone, however, shall come near to the LORD, but they shall not come near, nor shall the people come up with him.” 3 Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do!” 4 Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. Then he arose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel. 5 He sent young men of the sons of Israel, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as peace offerings to the LORD. 6 Moses took half of the blood and put *it* in basins, and the *other* half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. 7 Then he took the book of the covenant and read *it* in the hearing of the people; and they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!” 8 So Moses took the blood and sprinkled *it* on the people, and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

9 Then Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, 10 and they saw the God of Israel; and under His feet there appeared to be a pavement of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself. 11 Yet He did not stretch out His hand against the nobles of the sons of Israel; and they saw God, and they ate and

drank.

12 Now the LORD said to Moses, “Come up to Me on the mountain and remain there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commandment which I have written for their instruction.” 13 So Moses arose with Joshua his servant, and Moses went up to the mountain of God. 14 But to the elders he said, “Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a legal matter, let him approach them.” 15 Then Moses went up to the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 16 The glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; and on the seventh day He called to Moses from the midst of the cloud. 17 And to the eyes of the sons of Israel the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the mountain top. 18 Moses entered the midst of the cloud as he went up to the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Exodus 25–27—God’s instructions for the tabernacle and its furniture.

Exodus 28—God’s instructions for the priests garments

Exodus 29—consecration of the priests

Exodus 30— more tabernacle instructions; census tax

Exodus 31:1–11—Aholiab and Bezelel, craftsmen

Exodus 31:12 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 13 “But as for you, speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘You shall surely [ESV translates this “above all”] observe My sabbaths; for this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you. 14 Therefore you are to observe the sabbath, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. 15 For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a sabbath of complete rest, holy to the LORD; whoever does any work on the sabbath day shall surely be put to death. 16 So the sons of Israel shall observe the sabbath, to celebrate the sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.’ 17 It is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He ceased from labor, and was refreshed.”

Hebrews 9:18 Therefore even the first covenant was not inaugurated without blood. 19 For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, “This is the blood of the covenant which God commanded you.”

Introduction/Review:

God gave the Ten Commandments to His people amid fire, a thick cloud, a shaking mountain, a loud trumpet, lightning, and thunder. It was a terrifying experience, one designed to make the people fear the Lord forever. They feared, and rightly so, that they might not live after directly hearing the voice of their awesome God. Therefore, they pled that God speak to Moses and Moses relate to them all that God said.

One more thing before we get to today’s story: God said He would send His Angel to guide, guard, and lead His people to the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We know from other Scripture that this Angel is none other than Jesus.

Bible Story:

God told Moses to take Aaron, his brother; Nadab and Abihu, Aaron's sons; and seventy elders of the Israelites up on Mount Sinai so that God could tell Moses His commandments. God said, “Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the seventy elders shall worship at a distance. Moses alone, however, shall come near to the LORD, The others shall not come near, nor shall the people come up.”

Repeated laws

Moses came down off the mountain and told the people all these words of the Lord, repeating His laws. With one voice of unity, the people answered without hesitation, “All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do.” What a great response! This is the second time they have responded so positively to God’s rules.

Will we say those words and mean them while we study and hear God's Word? May it be so!

Then Moses wrote all those words of God down for the people. This writing was called “The Book of the Covenant” (Exodus 24:7).

Covenant

In the morning other preparations needed to be made. Moses built twelve pillars, one to represent each tribe of Israel. In addition, he built an altar at the base of Mount Sinai and called for younger men to offer sacrifices of bulls or oxen. To kill the animals, of course, blood was shed. Moses took half of the blood from the slain animals and put it into bowls. The other half he sprinkled on the altar.

What was going on here? The people of Israel and God were making a covenant—an agreement, promises. The people were promising to obey God, who was giving His Word and His commandments to them.

Moses took the book of the covenant in which he had written all those things that God had already said to him and read the book to the people. Again, the people responded with a hearty, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.” They said, “We will do *and* be obedient.” Did they mean it? Can you say that to the Lord—that you will do what He says *and* be obedient? Will you mean it?

In order to seal the covenant, Moses took the other half of the blood he had put into bowls and sprinkled it on the people, saying, “Look. This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord is making with you about all these words.”

Blood on their bodies; blood on their clothes. Special blood—blood from a covenant made with God. ✓ I wonder if some of those people thought, “I’ll never wash this garment, for it has on it the blood of God’s covenant with us.” The Bible doesn’t say anything about that, but certainly that day was most memorable—a day in which the very spoken words of God were read to them; a day in which they had promised to obey; a day in which they had been sprinkled with the blood of the covenant.

Seeing God

Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up onto the mountain. There something happened that has never again happened: they saw God, our God, the God of Israel. Oh, it was awesome to see God—even more awesome than the fire, cloud, lightning thunder, shaking mountain, and loud trumpet! Under God’s feet they saw a floor that looked like transparent blue sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. It was too much! Surely they would die, for no one can see God Himself and live! Yet, God did not slay the chief men of the people of Israel; even as they had heard God and lived, so now these men saw God and lived, eating and drinking after this amazing experience.

What a confirming thing this must have been for these leaders of Israel. Surely they would never forget the awesomeness of the appearance of the true God of heaven. Surely they would look at the blood on their clothes and remember their promises to this majestic God of creation. Surely this experience would be a part of their lives forever.

Stone tablets

After the seventy-plus-four men descended the mountain, God told Moses, “Come up to Me on the mountain and remain there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commandments that I have written for their instruction.” God was going to give Moses stone tablets upon which He Himself had written His laws.

Moses said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we return to you. Aaron and Hur are here with you. ✓ If someone has a legal matter that I usually handle, speak to them.”

Then Moses and his servant, Joshua, ascended the mountain, still covered with a thick cloud. In fact, from below, in the eyes of the sons of Israel, the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the mountain top.

That's where Moses and Joshua dared to go. And then they waited. That awesome glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days while Moses and Joshua waited. On the seventh day God called to Moses from the cloud. Then He gave instructions—lots of instructions that take up seven chapters in the book of Exodus. We will talk about some of them later, but for now we will summarize.

Exodus 25–27—Instructions for the tabernacle and its furniture. The tabernacle was a tent where sacrifices were to be brought and where worship was to take place. God had specific plans for every part of this tabernacle.

Exodus 28—Instructions for the priests' garments. Their clothing had to be made exactly as God prescribed.

Exodus 29—Consecration of the priests. This was the ceremony by which the priests were set apart for God's service.

Exodus 30—More tabernacle instructions; census tax. When the people were counted, God said they had to pay a small tax.

Exodus 31:1–11—Aholiab and Bezelel, craftsmen. These men were the ones who would actually build the tabernacle and every other item used in worship.

Sabbath observance

At the end of these chapters, God had one more important thing to communicate. He emphasized it by prefacing it with "Above all" or "You shall *surely* observe [it]." If you were to guess what this important thing is, you would likely miss it. This is what God said: "Above all, you shall surely observe *My sabbaths*; for this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations that you may know that I am the LORD who sets you apart from other nations" (emphasis added).

To which of the Ten Commandments was God referring? [The fourth: Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy.] In fact, God was so insistent about observing this commandment that He said any of His people who did any work on that day were to be put to death!

Why was this commandment especially important to God? He gave the reason: "It is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He ceased from labor, and was refreshed. The sons of Israel shall observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant." In other words, doing no work on the seventh day was the people's sign to God and everyone else that the LORD was their God and they were following Him as they had said—"All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!"

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:
"The blood sprinkled on the people at Mount Sinai was but a shadow, pointing to the blood of the Son of God, poured out for God's people on the cross to cleanse them from their sins" (Ganz).
He is our Sabbath—the One in whom we find rest for our souls. Hebrews 4:9 and 10 state, "So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one [Jesus] who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His."
- God expected the people to learn His laws. He expects the same of us.
- Let us say with sincerity, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient."
- One day in seven is not too much to dedicate to the Lord and His church in worship.

Activities:

- Play dough: pillars; altar; oxen; tablets of stone

- Snack: With a double graham cracker in “landscape” orientation, break off the top corners so that it looks like a tablet. Spread frosting on the cracker. With alphabet cereal place letters for “Love God” (from Educational Patterns for Children’s Ministries).
- Play “In/Not In the Ten Commandments” found below (from an unknown internet source).
- Sing “Stop! It’s the Law!” found in Lesson 12:15 or at teachingthebibletokids.org, where an audio and visuals of the song are located.
- Play the Ten Commandments Hangman game found at Lesson 12.15k on the “Lessons” page at teachingthebibletokids.org.
- Review questions: (Game: Print, back with flannel or paper towel (optional), and cut out the Ten Commandment symbols found below. For each correct answer, students place a symbol on a flannel board or in a pocket chart.)
 1. What did the people say when Moses recounted to them all the words and rules of the LORD? [“All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do!”]
 2. What was the book called in which Moses wrote God’s words? [The Book of the Covenant.]
 3. What did Moses build at the base of the mountain? [Twelve pillars and an altar.]
 4. What did Moses sprinkle with the blood of the sacrificed animals? [The altar and the people.]
 5. Why did Moses sprinkle blood on the people? [Because it was the blood of a covenant with God.]
 6. Who went with Moses to see God on the mountain? [Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, 70 elders, Joshua.]
 7. Describe the specific blue thing the men saw? [A floor at God’s feet like a sapphire and clear as the sky.]
 8. What was amazing to the seventy-plus-four men after they had seen God and the blue pavement? [That they had not died but had been able to eat and drink after seeing God.]
 9. What was God going to give Moses when he ascended the mountain with only Joshua? [The tablets on which He would write the law.]
 10. What commandment did God stress “above all”? [The fourth regarding the Sabbath observance.]

Memory Verse[s]: (NIV)

- Exodus 20:1–17 (See the page found below for verses to be memorized with suggested motions.)

Handwork:

- Before doing this activity, be sure to protect the clothing of students by having them wear a waterproof apron, and protect the table surface with newspapers. Print a copy for each student of the clip art of people and an altar found below. Dip an old, clean toothbrush in red tempera or watercolor paint. Rubbing the thumb across the toothbrush’s bristles, spatter paint on the people and altar.

elders

tribe

covenant

tablet

census

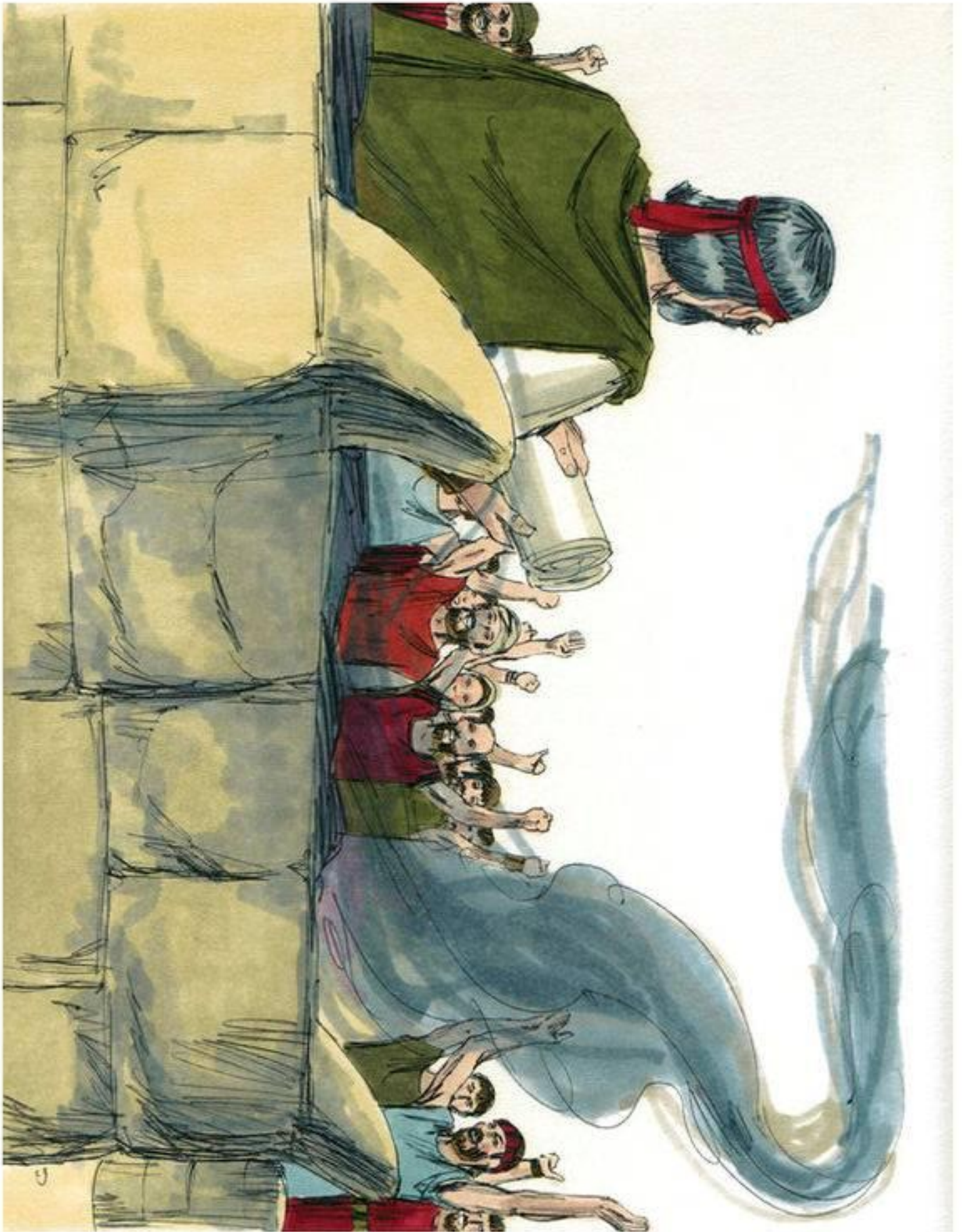
Sabbath

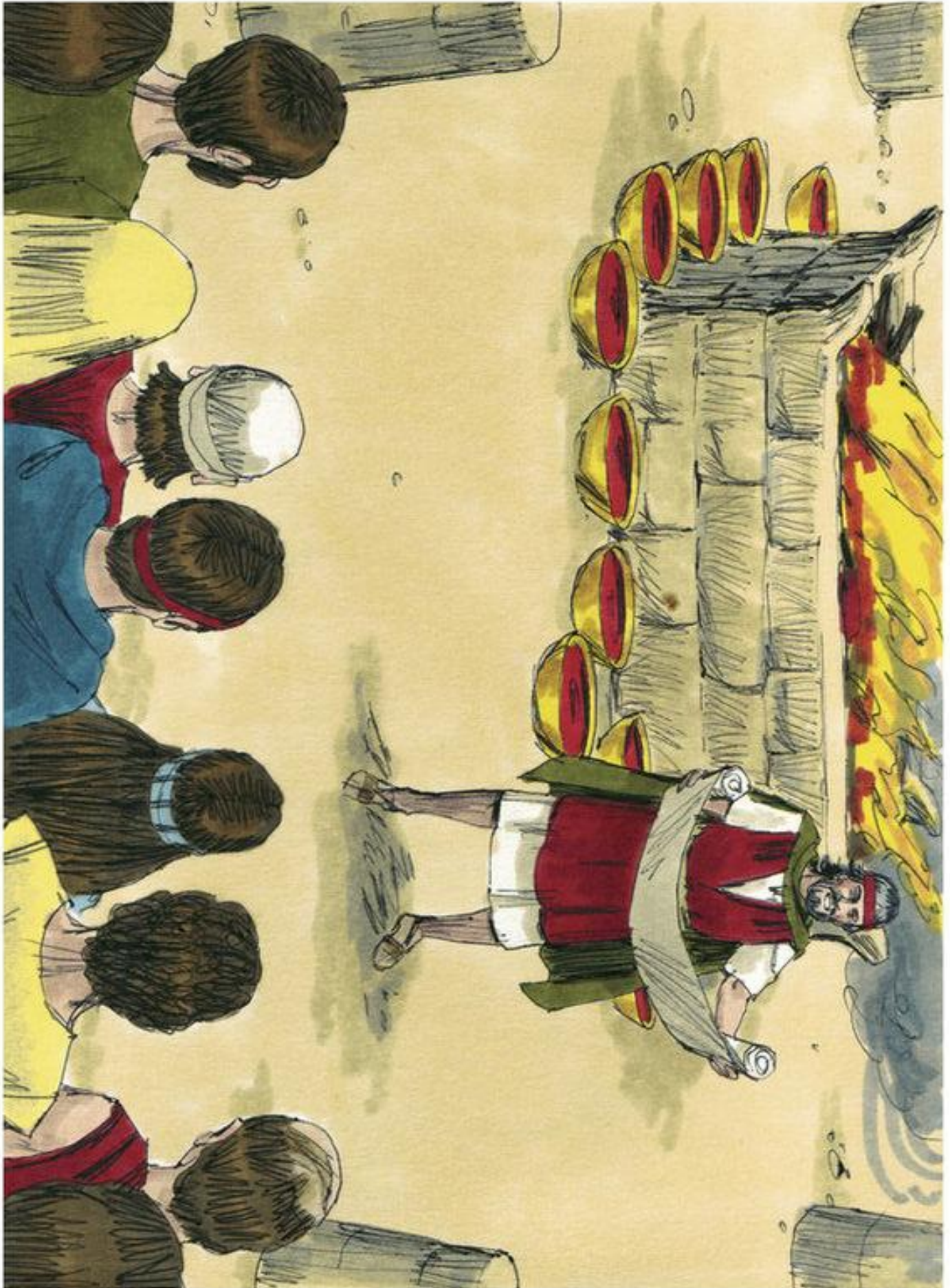


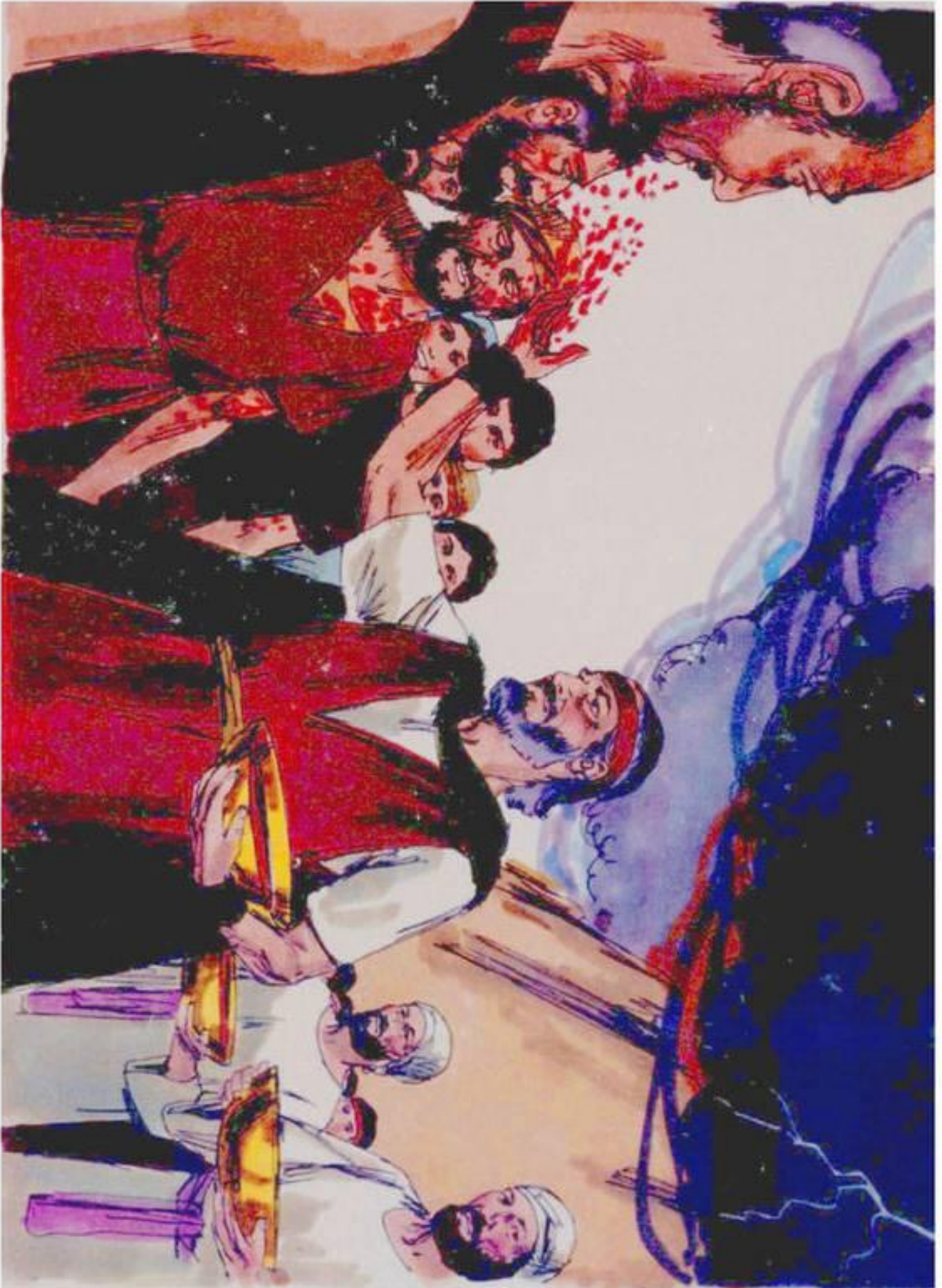
<https://sapphirechronministries.wordpress.com/2013/08/03/the-cubes-of-sapphire/>

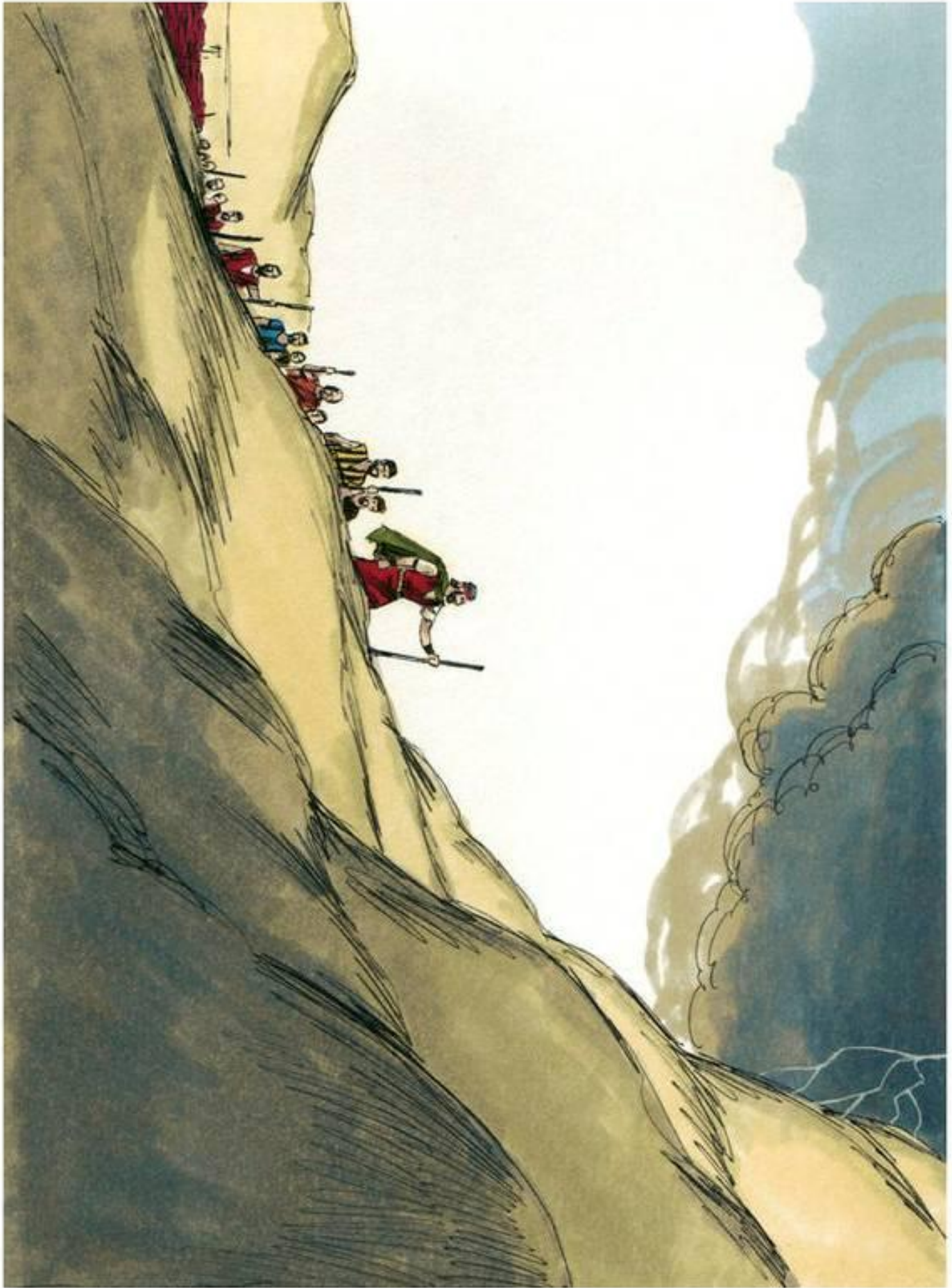


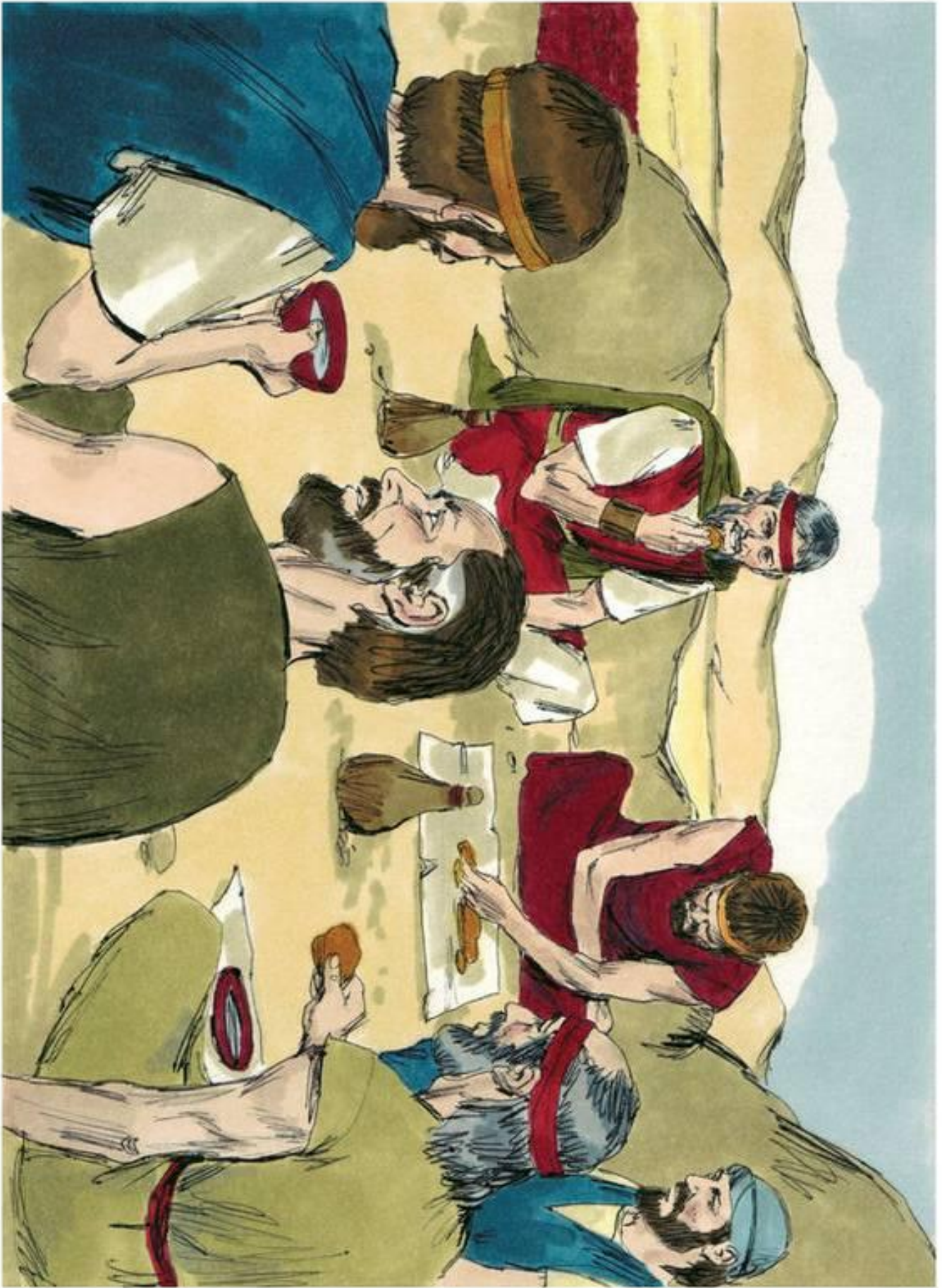
<https://www.indiamart.com/proddetail/natural-blue-sapphire-stone-1286277212.html>











God's Instructions

Exodus 25–27

the tabernacle and its furniture

Exodus 28

the priests' garments

Exodus 29

consecration of the priests

Exodus 30

more tabernacle instructions

census tax

Exodus 31:1–11

Aholiab and Bezealel, craftsmen

“In”/“Not In” the Ten Commandments

Children will decide if a statement is one of the Ten Commandments (In) or not (Not In). Print and cut apart the “commandments” on the next page. Put the slips of paper in a basket. Students will take turns drawing slips and identifying “in” or “not in.” As each commandment is identified, place it in a pocket chart under one of the headings, “In” and “Not In.”

Answer Key:

Remember to pet your dog. - <i>Not in.</i>	Do not tell lies about others. - <i>In.</i>
Obey your parents. - <i>In</i>	Do not cheat in school. - <i>In</i> (if you consider cheating a form of stealing).
Do not ride your bike without a helmet. - <i>Not In.</i>	Do not want anything that belongs to someone else. - <i>In.</i>
Do not worship any god except me. - <i>In.</i>	Remember to exercise every day. - <i>Not In.</i>
Brush your teeth after every meal. - <i>Not In.</i>	Remember to say “please” and “thank you.” - <i>Not In.</i>
Do not make idols. - <i>In.</i>	Do not be mean to other people. - <i>Not In.</i>
Do not take drugs. - <i>Not In.</i>	Do not take things that don’t belong to you. - <i>In.</i>
Remember to make a good first impression. - <i>Not In.</i>	Always wear clean socks. - <i>Not In.</i>
Do not misuse God’s name. - <i>In.</i>	Do not believe everything you hear. - <i>Not In.</i>
Be faithful about doing your homework. - <i>Not In.</i>	Be satisfied with what you have. - <i>In.</i>
Remember the Sabbath Day. - <i>In.</i>	If you and your sister are going to annoy each other, just stop talking. - <i>Not In.</i>
Always eat your vegetables. - <i>Not In.</i>	Sunday is the Lord’s Day. - <i>Not In.</i>
Respect your father and your mother. - <i>In.</i>	Get A’s in school. - <i>Not In.</i>
Remember to fasten your seatbelt. - <i>Not In</i>	Do not cut in line. - <i>Not In.</i>
Do not murder. - <i>In.</i>	Raise your hand before speaking. - <i>Not In.</i>
Be kind to mom and dad. - <i>In.</i>	Do not spend all your money in one place. - <i>Not In.</i>
Be faithful in marriage. - <i>In.</i>	If you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all. - <i>Not In.</i>
Read for 20 minutes a day. - <i>Not In.</i>	
Do not steal. - <i>In.</i>	
Make God more important than sports or TV. - <i>In.</i>	
Read the Bible every day. - <i>Not In.</i>	

Remember to pet your dog.

Obeys your parents.

Do not ride your bike without a helmet.

Do not worship any god except me.

Brush your teeth after every meal.

Do not make idols.

Do not take drugs.

Remember to make a good first impression.

Do not misuse God's name.

Be faithful about doing your homework.

Remember the Sabbath Day.

Always eat your vegetables.

Respect your father and your mother.

Remember to fasten your seatbelt.

Do not murder.

Be kind to mom and dad.

Be faithful in marriage..

Read for 20 minutes a day.

Do not steal.

Make God more important than school, sports or TV.

Read the Bible every day.

Do not tell lies about others.

Do not cheat in school (if you consider cheating a form of stealing).

Do not want anything that belongs to someone else.

Remember to exercise every day.

Remember to say, "please" and "thank you."

Do not be mean to other people.

Do not take things that don't belong to you.

Always wear clean socks.

Do not believe everything you hear.

Be satisfied with what you have.

If you and your sister are going to annoy each other, just stop talking.

Make Sunday a special day.

Get A's in school.

Do not cut in line.

Remember to raise your hand before speaking.

Do not spend all your money in one place.

If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all.

Memory Work: Exodus 20:1–17 (NIV)

<i>Text</i>	<i>Motions</i>
And God spoke all these words:	hands cupped to mouth
“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.	point up; right hand facing side of face pulls down hands facing down and move from left to right; crossed fists facing chest
You shall have no other gods before me	shake head “no”; both little fingers pull down
You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above	shake head “no”; fingertips touch at top and pull down point up
or on the earth beneath	point down
or in the waters below.	palms-down hands move like waves
You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God,	shake head “no”; bow point up; pull hands toward heart
punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations	clap hands once show 3 and then 4 fingers pull hands toward heart
of those who love me and keep my commandments.	pull hands toward heart; point up; clasp hands
“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.	shake head “no”; point to mouth shake head “no”; point out; point to mouth
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God.	wrap right hand around left index finger show 6 fingers; raise a muscle arm show 7 fingers; place right hand palm up on left hand palm up; point up
On it you shall not do any work neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant,	shake head “no”; raise a muscle arm shake head “no”; point to boy; point to girl shake head “no”; point to boy; move palms-up hands back and forth; point to girl; move palms-up hands back and forth
nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns.	shake head “no”; wag hands on head as if ears shake head “no”; right index finger points to open left palm
For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day.	show 6 fingers; right hand facing side of face pulls down palms-out hands wave high once; point down palms-down hands move like waves wrap right hand around left index finger
Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.	right hand facing side of face pulls down; wrap right hand around left index finger; raise left palm as right palm facing out moves away
“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.	nod head; right thumb to center of forehead; right thumb to center of chin fists with thumbs up move from waist to chest; right hand facing side of face pulls down; palms up move out from body
You shall not murder.	shake head “no”; index finger and thumb point (like a gun)
You shall not commit adultery.	shake head “no”; hands sweep from head to knees
You shall not steal.	shake head “no”; right hand grabs and pulls in
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.	shake head “no”; point to lips; point to others
You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.	shake head “no”; fists crossed toward body; finger tips form roof
You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant,	shake head “no”; point to others; right hand comes down to clasp left hand point to boy; point to girl; move palms-up hands back and forth;
his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”	index fingers point out from head; hands wiggle from head move palms-out hands from center out; point to others

