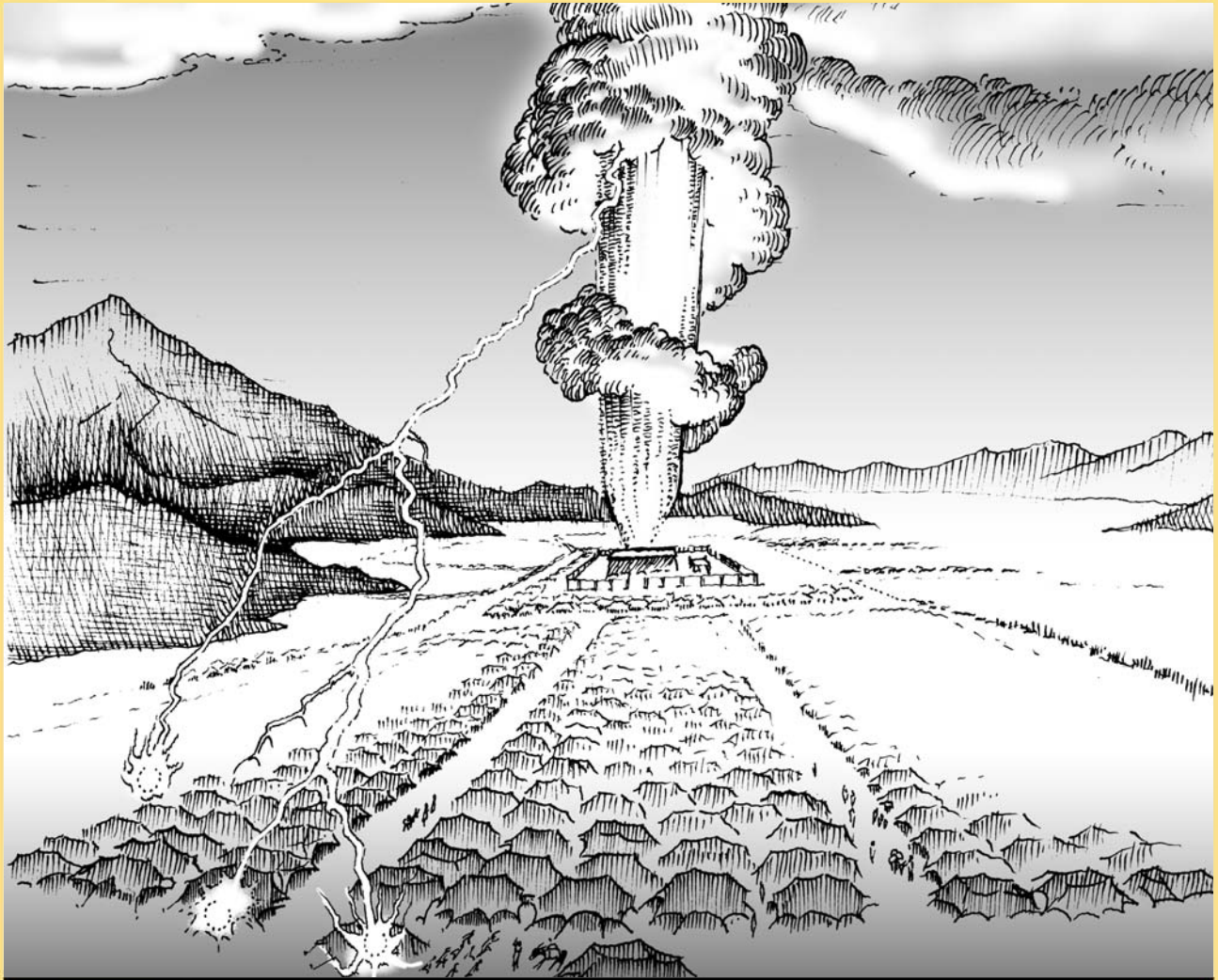
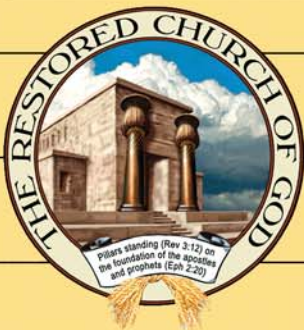


THE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD

CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSONS



Israel Rebels in the Wilderness



LEVEL 2
LESSON 10

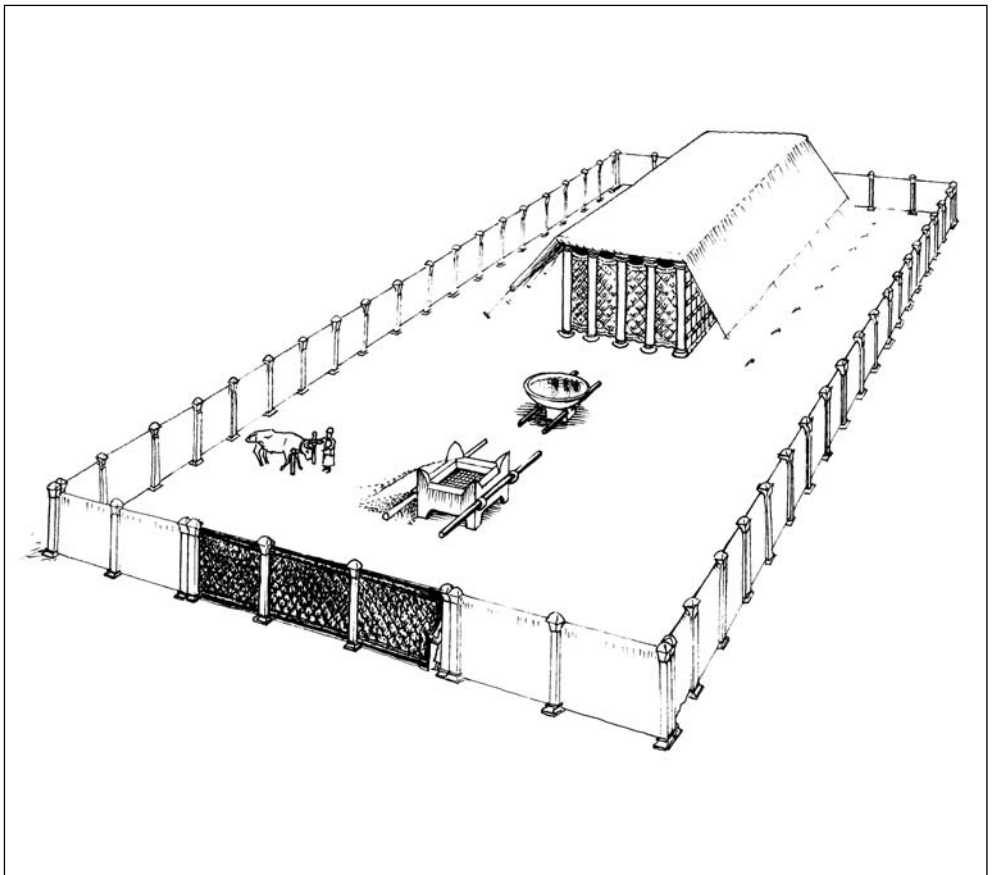
Israel Rebels in the Wilderness

God gave Moses a detailed description of the Tabernacle that the Israelites were to build. Afterward, Moses went to the Israelites and asked them to give wood, precious metals and stones, fine fabrics, animal skins, costly oil and fragrant spices. He requested that all gifted carpenters, weavers, jewelers, woodcarvers and metalworkers come help build the Tabernacle.

Building of the Tabernacle

Soon the Israelites began bringing armfuls of materials to Moses! He was pleased to see

how willingly and cheerfully the Israelites had responded to God's instruction. The workers came to Moses, and said, "The people are bringing more materials than we can use in building the Tabernacle." So Moses had to command the Israelites to stop giving!



After about six months, the Tabernacle was finished. Moses thanked the workers for the extra care that they took in building it, and asked God to bless them.

Moses took oil and anointed the Tabernacle and all that was in it. He also anointed Aaron and his sons as priests. The cloud on Mount Sinai moved down and rested on the Tabernacle.

Deaths of Aaron's Sons

Aaron and his sons began their priestly duties. One of their responsibilities was to sacrifice a healthy lamb or calf twice each day. This pictured the future coming of Jesus Christ, when He would offer His own life for the sins of every person who has ever lived.

One morning, Nadab and Abihu, Aaron's sons, made a terrible mistake. Instead of using hot coals from the altar by the Tabernacle, they carelessly used hot coals from a fire that was close by for their censers. When they walked into the Tabernacle, fire came from the inner room and consumed them.

Aaron was deeply saddened to see his two dead sons when he arrived later that day. Moses did not want the people to think that God had been unfair, so he told Aaron not to show his grief in front of them.

Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's other sons, took the place of Nadab and Abihu.

Clean and Unclean Animals

God told Moses and Aaron which animals are good for food and which are not. You can learn about these animals in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. He gave us these rules because of His love for us.

Since He is our Creator, He knows what our bodies need to stay healthy. He wants us to feel strong and energized so that we can do everything we need to do. Remember, our bodies are made of what we put into them by eating, so it is important that we choose healthy foods.

“Clean” animals are those we can eat; “unclean” animals are those we cannot. Think back to

the Lesson about Noah and the Flood. Remember that Noah and his family took seven pairs of clean animals into the ark, but only one pair of unclean animals. This is because clean animals are used for food, and unclean animals are not.

God created animals for different purposes. Some animals, such as pigs, were made to keep our environment clean. Others were made to look beautiful, such as the fox. And some animals were created for work, such as the horse.

Land Animals

When trying to figure out if an animal is clean or unclean, ask yourself two questions. First, does the animal have a parted (or divided) hoof? Second, does the animal chew its cud? If the answer is yes to both questions, the animal is clean. Some animals do not chew their food for a long time. Instead, they swallow it quickly and later bring back small pieces of this swallowed food and chew it again. In this way, the bad parts

are taken out and the good parts are used for meat and milk.

Cows, sheep, deer and buffalo are examples of clean land animals. Monkeys, squirrels, rabbits and zebras are examples of unclean animals. On a separate sheet of paper, write down more examples of clean and unclean animals.

Sea Animals

When trying to figure out if a fish is clean or unclean, ask yourself two questions: First, does the fish have fins? Second, does the fish have overlapping scales? If the answer is yes to both questions, the animal is clean.



Tuna, salmon, cod and trout are examples of clean fish. Octopuses, turtles, sharks and catfish are examples of unclean animals. Can you think of other clean and unclean sea animals?

You may be surprised to learn that some animals popular in seafood restaurants, such as crabs, lobsters, shrimp and clams are

unclean. They keep the seas and oceans clean by eating dead animals and germs!



Birds

A clean bird does not kill and eat other birds, and does not eat its food while flying.

It *does* have a long middle front toe and back toe. It also has a craw (a bird's first stomach) and double-lined gizzard. Chickens, turkeys, ducks and all songbirds are clean. Can you think of three other clean birds mentioned in the Bible?

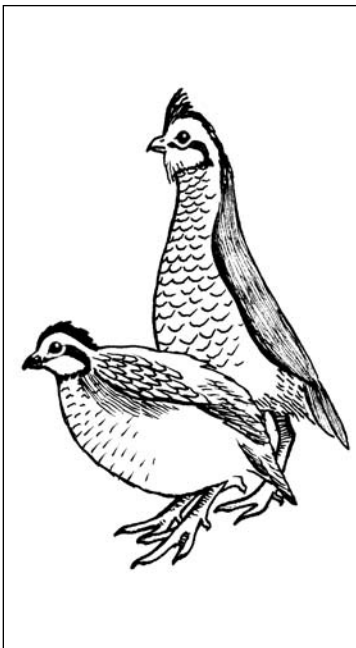
Unclean birds do not have any of the unique features of clean birds. Examples of unclean birds include eagles, owls, crows and penguins. Can you think of others?

The Israelites Are Counted

Shortly after the Tabernacle was complet-

ed, God instructed Moses to count the number of the Israelites. More than 600,000 men were counted. If the number of women and children is added to this total, there may have been two to three million Israelites camped in the wilderness!

The Israelites paid close attention to the pillar of a cloud that was over the Tabernacle. When it rose and began to move, the Israelites packed their belongings and prepared for their journey in an organized way. Read I Corinthians 14, verses 33 and 40. Do you try to do things decently and in order, without confusion, and in peace?



God Sends Quail

Before long, the Israelites became tired of eating only manna. They did not appreciate the many miracles that God had done.

"Give us meat to eat!" the people cried. "In Egypt we ate fish, vegetables and fruit, but now

all we eat is manna and more manna!”

Moses became discouraged. “Why have you laid the responsibility of all these people on me?” he asked God. “Am I to be their father and carry them as a young child into the Promised Land? They are demanding meat from me. Where am I to get meat for all these people?”

“Bring Me 70 elders of Israel,” God said to Moses. “I will take some of



the Spirit that is upon you and give it to them. Then you will not have to care for all the people alone.”

God continued, “Tell the people that I will give them meat. They will have meat not for one or two days, but for a whole month, until they are sick of it and cannot stand the thought of it. I will do

this because they have rejected me and wished they had stayed in Egypt.”

God caused a wind to bring quail from the sea. Soon the camp was surrounded and the ground was covered with quail. The Israelites gathered quail for two days. They became so busy with the birds that they forgot God. As

a punishment, God sent a plague that killed many of the people.

Miriam and Aaron Speak Against Moses

One day, Miriam and Aaron, Moses' sister and brother, said wrong things about Moses. They thought that they should be in charge.

God became very angry. He wanted to speak with them at the Tabernacle. When they arrived, God appeared before them in a pillar of a cloud.

"Now listen to Me!" God said. "I chose Moses to be the leader, and I speak to him. Why were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?"

After God finished speaking, and the pillar of a cloud rose up from the Tabernacle, Miriam's skin became white as snow. Miriam now had leprosy!



Aaron and Miriam were sorry for their foolishness, and asked Moses for help. So Moses cried to God and asked Him to heal her.

Miriam was healed after spending seven days outside the camp. We, too, can learn from Miriam's and Aaron's mistake. Rebellion against God's servants is the same as rebellion against God.

Scouts Sent to Canaan

After Miriam returned to the camp, the Israelites journeyed closer to the land of Canaan.

God told Moses to send 12 men to spy out the land of Canaan. When the men arrived, they were pleased to find lots of different

food growing there, but they were surprised to find men who were double their size!

After scouting for 40 days, the men returned to the camp. They brought home different fruits, including a cluster of grapes that



hung from a pole. It required two men to carry!

Joshua and Caleb, the leaders of the group, told Moses that God had in fact blessed the Promised Land. The other scouts, however, also reported that there were giants living there.

“The people there are stronger. We will be killed if we go there!” they said.

Caleb quieted the people, and said, “Let us leave at once and take the land. We can do it with God’s help!”

“We are not able to go up against the people. They are stronger!” the other scouts said.

The Israelites began to complain again. “If only we had died in Egypt,” they wept. “Let us

choose a leader and return to Egypt.”

Moses and Aaron fell on their faces and prayed to God. Joshua and Caleb told the people to trust in God. But the Israelites would not listen. Some people wanted to throw stones at Moses and Aaron. This made God very angry.

All of a sudden, a bright light appeared in the Tabernacle. “How long will these people reject me? And how long will they not believe Me after all the miracles that I have shown them?” God asked Moses.

God told Moses that He would destroy the Israelites and make a great nation from him instead. But Moses asked God to be merciful and forgive the people.

God heard Moses’ prayer. Instead of destroying the Israelites, God did not allow them to enter the Promised Land. They wandered in the wilderness for many more years. The Israelites would not enter the Promised Land until 40 years had passed since leaving Egypt.

Some of the Israelites tried to enter the Promised Land anyway.

They were attacked by the Amalekites.

Korah's Rebellion

One day, while the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, Korah and other leaders of Israel gathered in front of Moses' tent. They did not want Moses and Aaron to be the leaders.

"We are just as good as you," Korah said to Moses. "Why do you put yourselves above the people as leaders?"

This made Moses sad. He told Korah that, in the morning, God would show him whom He had chosen as leader.

The next morning, Moses told the people to stay away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. Suddenly, the ground opened up, and the three men and their families fell into the hole. Then fire struck and devoured the people who followed Korah.

Water From a Rock

As the years passed during Israel's time of wandering, the

people returned to an area near the land of Canaan. Earlier, there had been an abundance of water, but now it was gone.

The Israelites complained to Moses, saying, "Why have you brought us out of Egypt to bring us to this horrible place?"

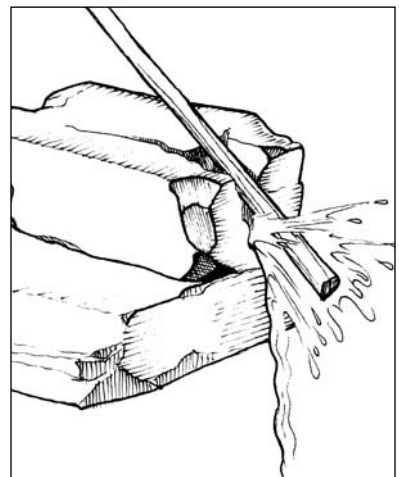
Moses and Aaron went to the Tabernacle to ask God for help.

"Take your rod," God said, "and gather the people together. Speak to the rock in front of them, and then water will flow out."

Moses and Aaron were angry with the people. So instead of speaking to the rock, Moses struck it twice with his rod. God caused water to come out, but Moses and Aaron knew they had disobeyed God.

"Because you did not honor Me in the eyes of the children of Israel," God said, "you will not enter the Promised Land."

Of course, this saddened Moses and Aaron,



but they knew it was a fair punishment for their sin.

Aaron died a few months later. Before he died, God made Eleazar, Aaron's son, the new High Priest.

Snakes in the Camp

Almost 40 years had passed since leaving Egypt, and the Israelites continued to complain. "Why

have you brought us out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?" they said again. "There is no food or water, and we hate this manna!"

This made God angry, and He sent poisonous snakes into the camp. Many of the people died after being bitten.

The Israelites realized they had been wrong in speaking against God and Moses. They asked Moses to pray to God. "Ask God to

take away these snakes from us!" they said.

Moses prayed to God. God instructed Moses to make a bronze snake and put it on a pole. Anyone who looked at the bronze snake would be healed of the snake bites.

A New Leader

Since Moses would not be entering the Promised Land, God had to choose a new leader. Joshua, one of the two scouts who had given a good report of the land, was



chosen. Joshua had been faithful to God and Moses for many years.

Before his death, Moses gave the Israelites God's instructions about what they were to do upon entering the Promised Land. He reminded them to stay close to God and obey His commandments.

God instructed Moses to climb a high mountain. At the top, Moses could see the Promised Land.

"This is the land that the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will inherit. I have let you see it, but you will not enter it," God said.

Moses died soon after at the age of 120, and Joshua became the new leader of the nation of Israel.



BIBLE MEMORY: Exodus 15:26

WORD SEARCH

Here is a word search puzzle containing names of animals that are unclean to eat. We know many of the animals we *can* eat, but if we were very hungry would we know what *not* to eat? Words can be diagonal, forward and backward, up and down. There are 30 animals. Find as many as you can. If there are animals you do not know, look them up in an encyclopedia.

P	K	A	N	G	A	R	O	O	Y	G	R
D	O	G	P	T	A	C	P	N	I	H	A
L	I	O	N	O	C	T	O	P	U	S	T
W	Q	Z	Y	E	R	P	S	O	P	I	G
H	A	T	E	E	H	C	S	W	T	F	O
A	P	E	K	B	K	C	U	L	I	T	H
L	O	C	N	B	R	N	M	P	W	A	E
E	E	L	O	A	L	A	O	K	I	C	G
F	B	A	D	G	E	R	U	M	K	N	D
O	R	M	K	N	U	K	S	E	A	L	E
X	R	H	I	N	O	C	E	R	O	S	H

HEDGEHOG	LION
OSPREY	PIG
SKUNK	KOALA
KANGAROO	MOUSE
CHEETAH	PONY
MONKEY	APE
DONKEY	WHALE
OPOSSUM	OWL
RHINOCEROS	FOX
SEAL	DOG
OCTOPUS	RAT
BADGER	COOT
PORCUPINE	CATFISH
CLAM	CAT
KIWI	ZEBRA