



THE STORY OF MOSES

PART 10: WILDERNESS

RICHARD BROWN

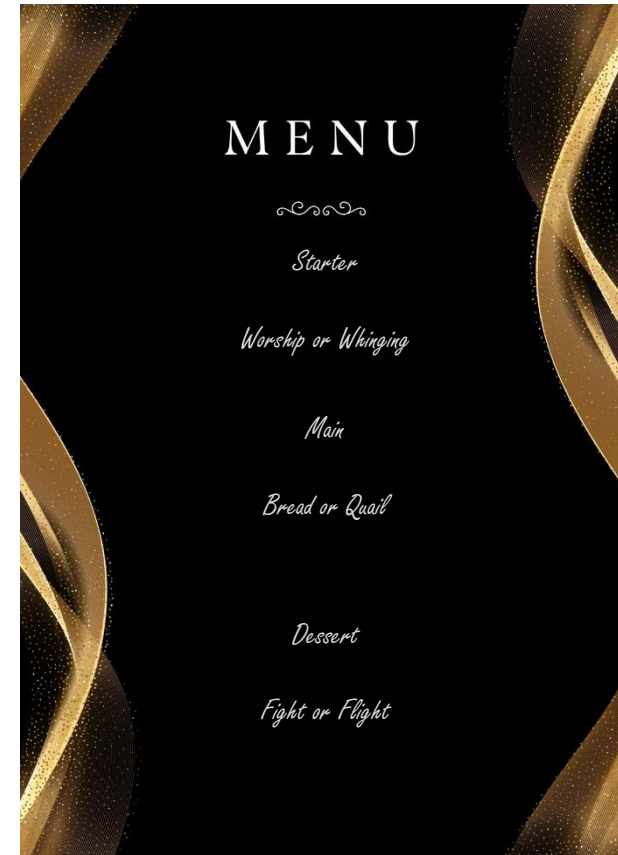
WILDERNESS

- It is not your final destination
- It is a place of testing, training and learning
- Key: *“Fear not, stand firm and see the salvation of the Lord.”*



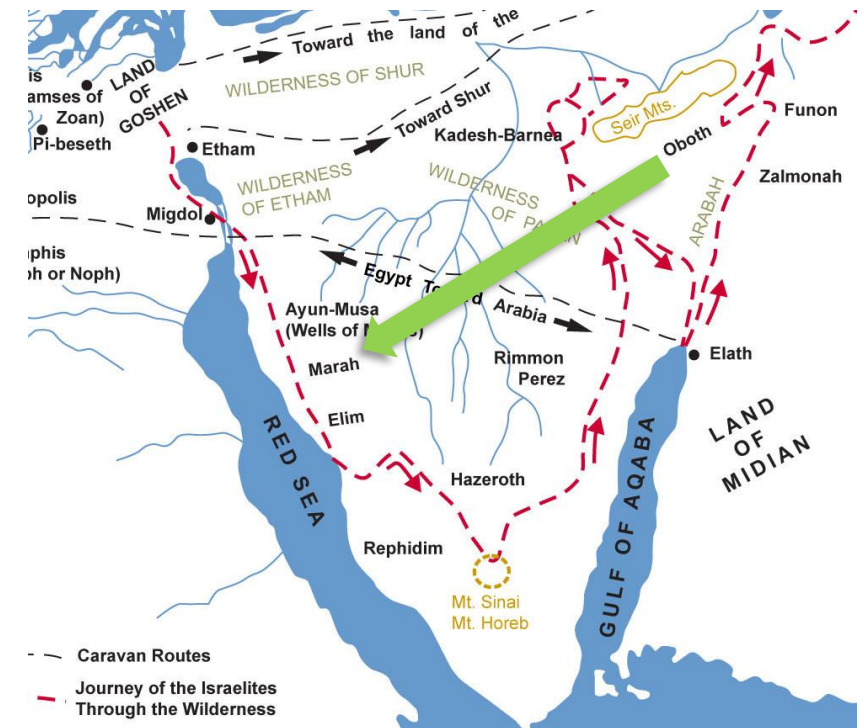
WILDERNESS

- Starter
 - Worship or Whinging
- Main Course
 - Bread or Quail
- To Finish
 - Fight or Flight



WORSHIP OR WHINGING

- Three days into the desert they reach Marah (*bitterness*).
- When the children of Israel tasted the bitter water they grumbled/murmured.



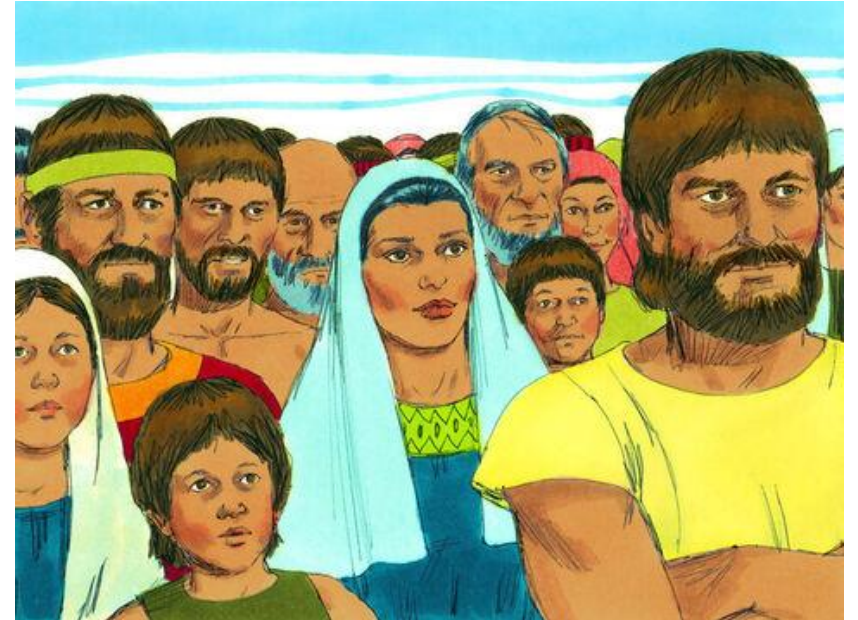
WORSHIP OR WHINGING

- Three days they travelled into the desert (Exodus 15:22)
- This is what God told Moses to do at the burning bush (Exodus 5:3 and 8:27)
- The purpose was to offer sacrifices to God – To Worship



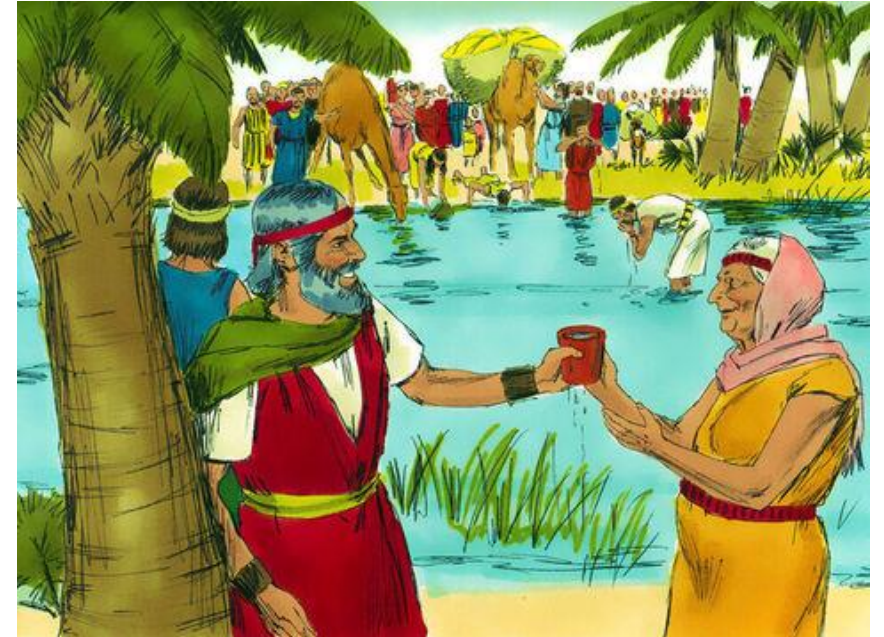
WORSHIP OR WHINGING

- Earlier in chapter 15 everyone is worshipping (songs of Moses and Miriam)
- Now they are whinging!!
- You can't just worship on the highs and grumble in the lows – that's not worship.



WORSHIP OR WHINGING

- They should have worshipped, but instead they whinged
- God in his goodness and grace made the bitter water sweet and then led them to Elim – a place of springs and palm trees.



WORSHIP OR WHINGING

- Today, God has not left us in the desert without water.
- We have the living water of the Holy Spirit – we need never thirst again
- ... though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be your Name.

BREAD OR QUAIL

- God leads his people into the Desert of Sin and again they complain...
- Exodus 16:3 *“If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”*



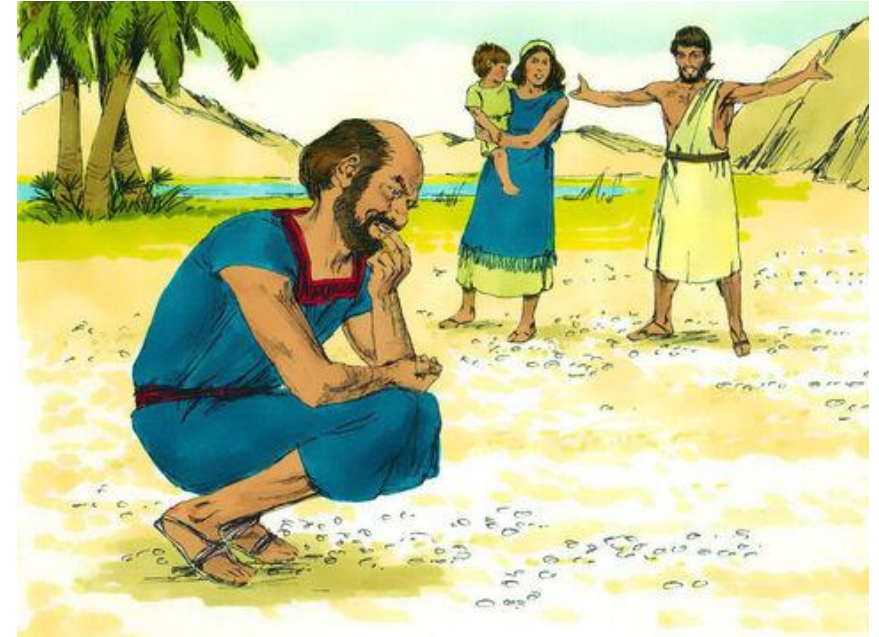
BREAD OR QUAIL

- God again responds with grace saying *“I will rain down bread from heaven for you...”*
- *“...Then you will know that I am the Lord your God*



BREAD OR QUAIL

- The Israelites had to go out every morning to gather manna
- Lamentations 3:22-23 *Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*
- God was teaching his people to walk by faith; sufficiency for each day; the God of the enough

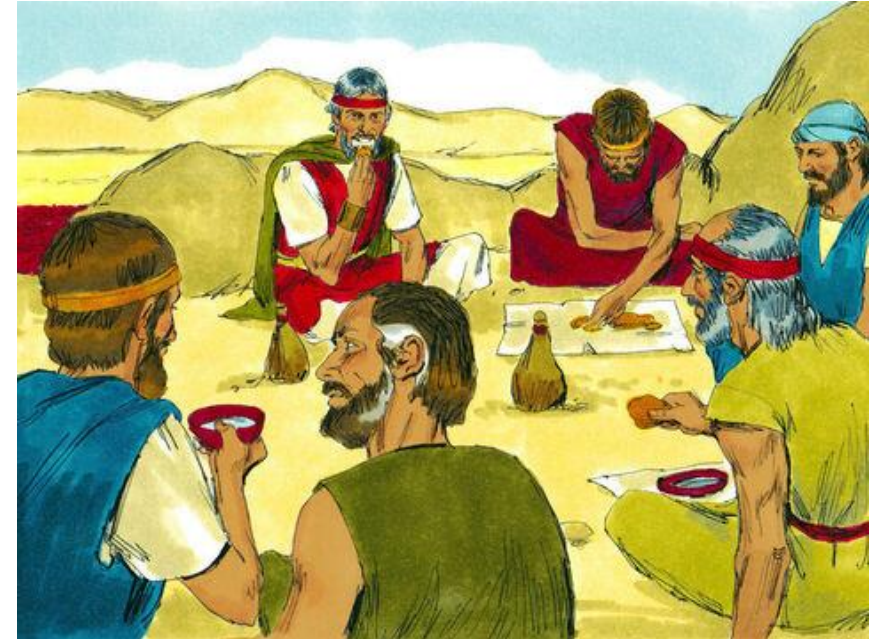


BREAD OR QUAIL

- Jesus is the bread of life; anyone who eats this bread will live forever.
- Deuteronomy 8:3 *3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.*
- We have God's word; do we read it (gather it in) and live by it DAILY?

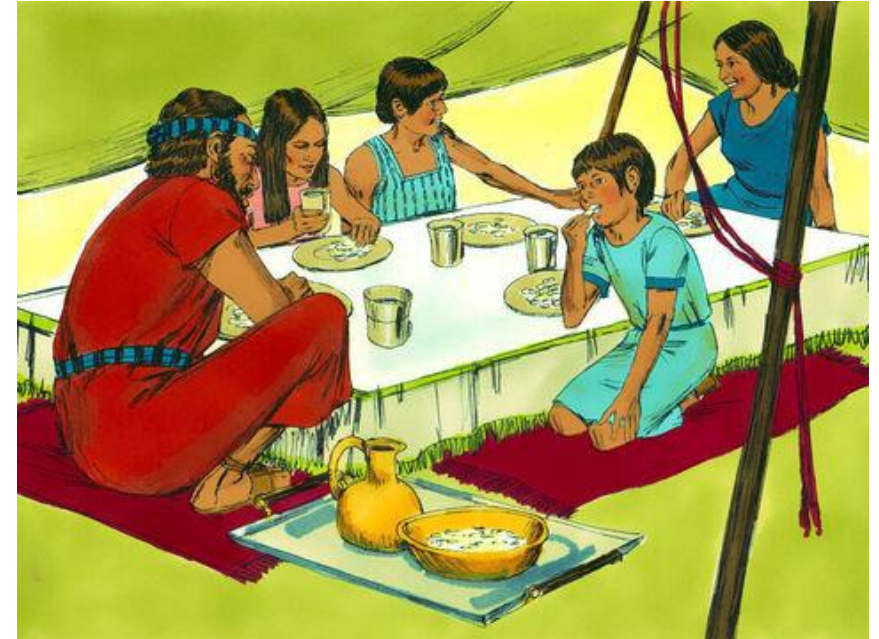
BREAD OR QUAIL

- NOTE: Quail is off the menu?
 - It was only given twice, both times as a result of whinging. It was not God's heart.
 - The second time God gives the quail for a whole month until they loathed it. Why?
 - *“Because you have rejected the Lord, who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, “Why did we ever leave Egypt?””*
(Numbers 11:20).



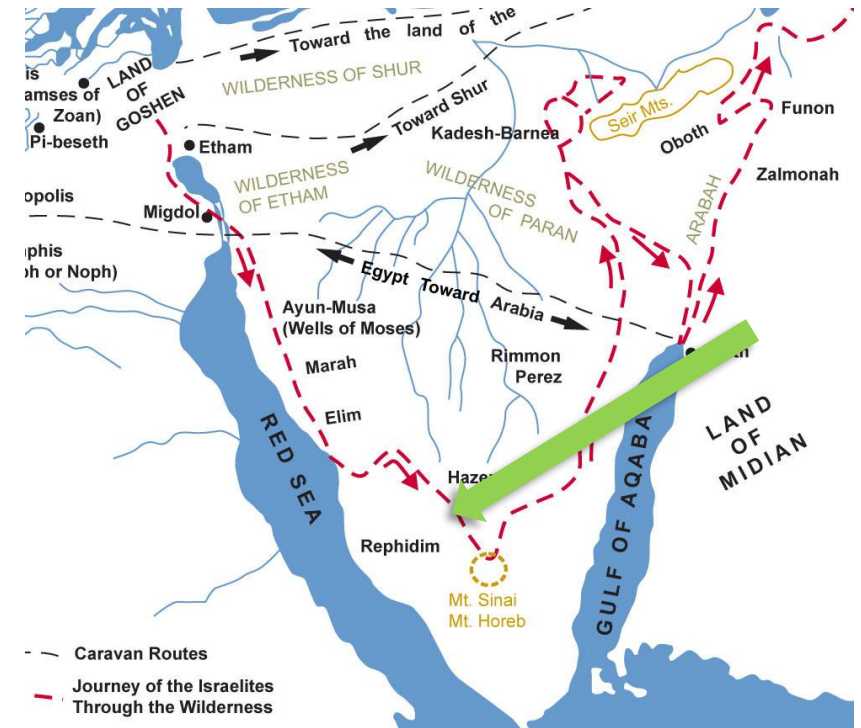
BREAD OR QUAIL

- Don't crave for things that are not on God's menu, especially when what is on the menu is designed to fully satisfy you for life.



FIGHT OR FLIGHT

- If you are going to reach your destination, you are going to experience conflict, warfare, battles...
- It's part of the Christian walk of faith.



FIGHT OR FLIGHT

- Joshua chooses a team of men and goes into the valley to fight the enemy
- Moses climbs to the top of the hill to raise his staff to God
- Aaron and Hur go with Moses to support him.
- In their togetherness they win the battle.



FIGHT OR FLIGHT

- If we don't fight we won't move forward
- We don't have to face these challenges alone
- But fight we must!!



FIGHT OR FLIGHT

EPHESIANS 6 11:17 (NIV)

¹¹ Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

SUMMARY

- We are all travelling the wilderness journey and one day we will reach our final destination.
- Until then choose worship over whinging, bread over quail, and fight over flight.