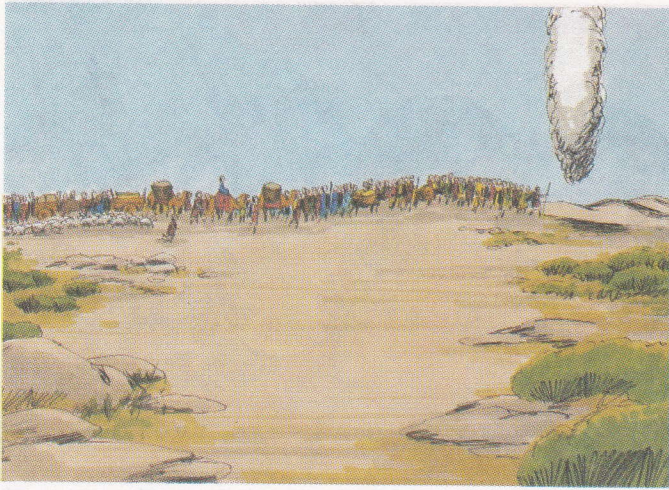


God Provides for His People



1 After the Lord rescued them from the Egyptians, the Israelites traveled on into the desert of Shur. For three days they could find no water at all.



2 Then at Marah they found water, but it was so bitter that they could not drink it. Moses prayed to the Lord, who showed him how to work a miracle that made the water fit to drink.



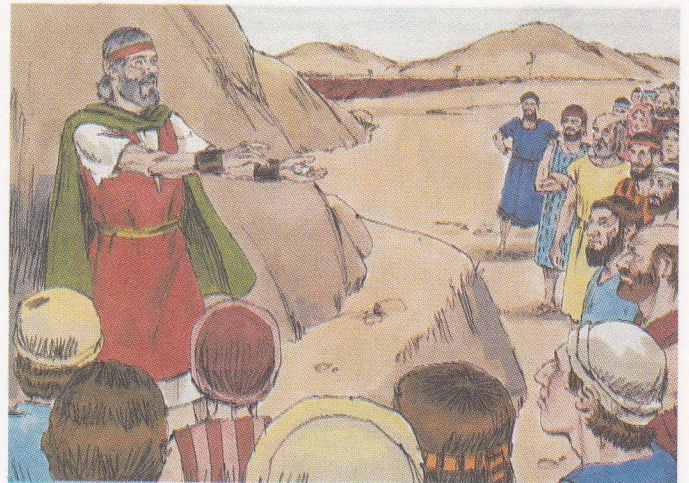
3 The people continued on to the desert of Sin. There they complained to Moses and Aaron because they had nothing to eat. "We wish the Lord had killed us in Egypt. You're letting us starve."



4 The Lord said to Moses, "I am going to cause food to rain down from heaven for all of you. Each day the people must gather enough for that day. On the sixth day, they must gather twice as much."



5 That evening a flock of quails flew into the camp, and in the morning dew was all around. The dew evaporated, leaving something thin and flaky that tasted like cakes made with honey.



6 The Israelites named this food "manna." Moses said, "This is the food that the Lord has given you. Gather two quarts for each member of your family. But don't keep any overnight."



7 Some people paid no attention and saved part of it. In the morning it was full of worms and smelled rotten. From then on, they gathered only what they needed. The rest melted in the sun.



8 Every evening the Israelites had meat from the quails that flew into the camp. In the morning they had manna for bread. On the seventh day of the week, they rested as God had commanded.



9 The extra amount gathered on the sixth day did not spoil or get worms but was fine the next morning. Then Moses said, "Eat this today, for today is a day of rest dedicated to the Lord."



10 Some of the people ignored Moses' command to collect none on the seventh day. They went out to look for manna and found nothing. The Lord was angry with them for not obeying Moses.



11 Later the Lord commanded the Israelites to save some of the manna so that they could show their descendants what God had provided them to eat in the desert.



12 The Israelites ate manna for the next forty years. Later, when they entered the land of Canaan, they could settle down and grow their own food.