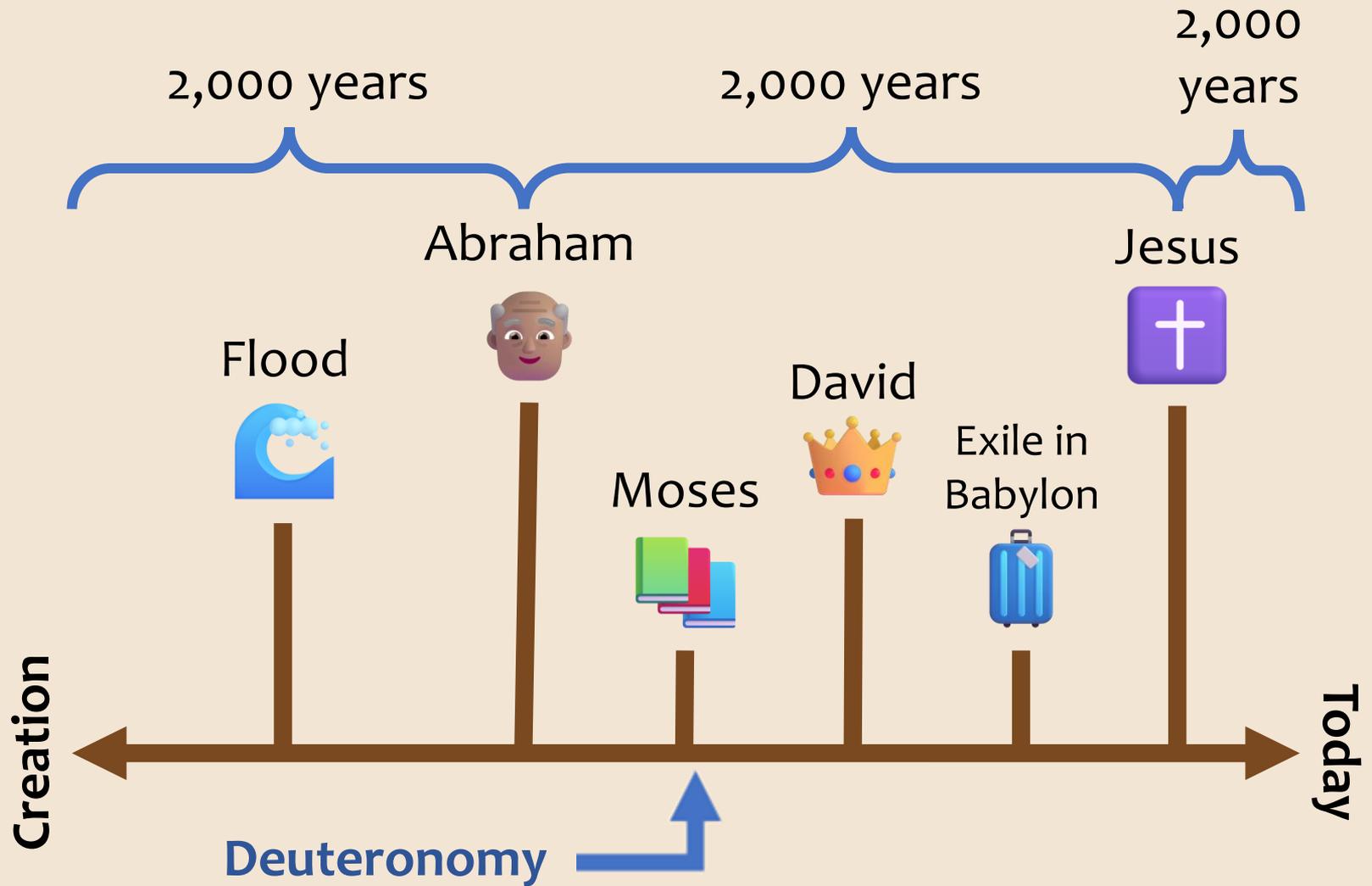


# The Book of Deuteronomy



# Bible timeline





# Summary

## Deuteronomy

- This is the final book of the story of Israel *before* they get their own land
  - The entire book is at the very end of the 40-year journey
  - (Maybe covering only a few weeks; see **Deut. 1:3**)
- Moses takes this time to prepare the people in heart and mind before entering the promised land

# Why Deuteronomy is special

- The point of the Law was **LOVE**
  - Only Psalms and Proverbs use “love” more than Deuteronomy
- “Deuteronomy” means “second law,” and yes, there are many laws here
- But the word “love” appears in the book a LOT
  - We should **love** God (Deuteronomy 6:5, 30:6)
  - God **loves** His people (Deuteronomy 7:7-15)
  - We should **love** the less fortunate and take care of them (Deuteronomy 10:18-19)



# Main characters

-  **Moses**
  - It's mostly just him talking

# Outline of Deuteronomy

- **Chapters 1-11**      Recap and the importance of the laws
  - Chs. 1-3 are retelling stories of the journey
  - Chs. 4-11 illustrate the *attitude* that the people should have
- **Chapters 12-26**      Those laws
  - The section begins. “These are the *statutes* and *rules*...” (12:1 ESV)
  - And ends, “You have declared... that you will... keep his *statutes* and his commandments and his *rules*...” (26:17 ESV)
  - The phrase “*the place the LORD will choose*” (or variations of it) appear 20 times in the Bible, with 18 of them in these chapters alone. There is a theme here.
- **Chapters 27-30**      Choose: blessings or curses
- **Chapters 31-34**      Moses’ death, and Joshua to lead
  - Those events are chapters 31 and 34
  - But in the middle (32 and 33) are two poems

# Theology and doctrine

- Jesus quotes *Deuteronomy* a lot
  - When tempted by the devil *in the wilderness* (ironic!), all three quotes are from *Deuteronomy*
    - **Matthew 4:4** cites **Deuteronomy 8:3**,  
“Man shall not live by bread alone” (KJV)
    - **Matthew 4:7** cites **Deuteronomy 6:16**,  
“You shall not put the Lord your God to the test” (NASB)
    - **Matthew 4:10** cites **Deuteronomy 6:13**,  
“You shall worship the Lord your God” (ESV)
  - The most important commandment
    - **Matthew 22:36-37** cites **Deuteronomy 6:5** as  
“the first and great commandment.” (KJV)
  - Two or three witnesses
    - **Matthew 18:16** cites **Deuteronomy 17:6 and 19:5**,  
“in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established” (KJV)

# Recap of that book

## • Summary

- The final book of the story of Israel before they get their own land

## • Why it is special

- The point of the Law was LOVE

## • Main characters

- Moses

## • Outline

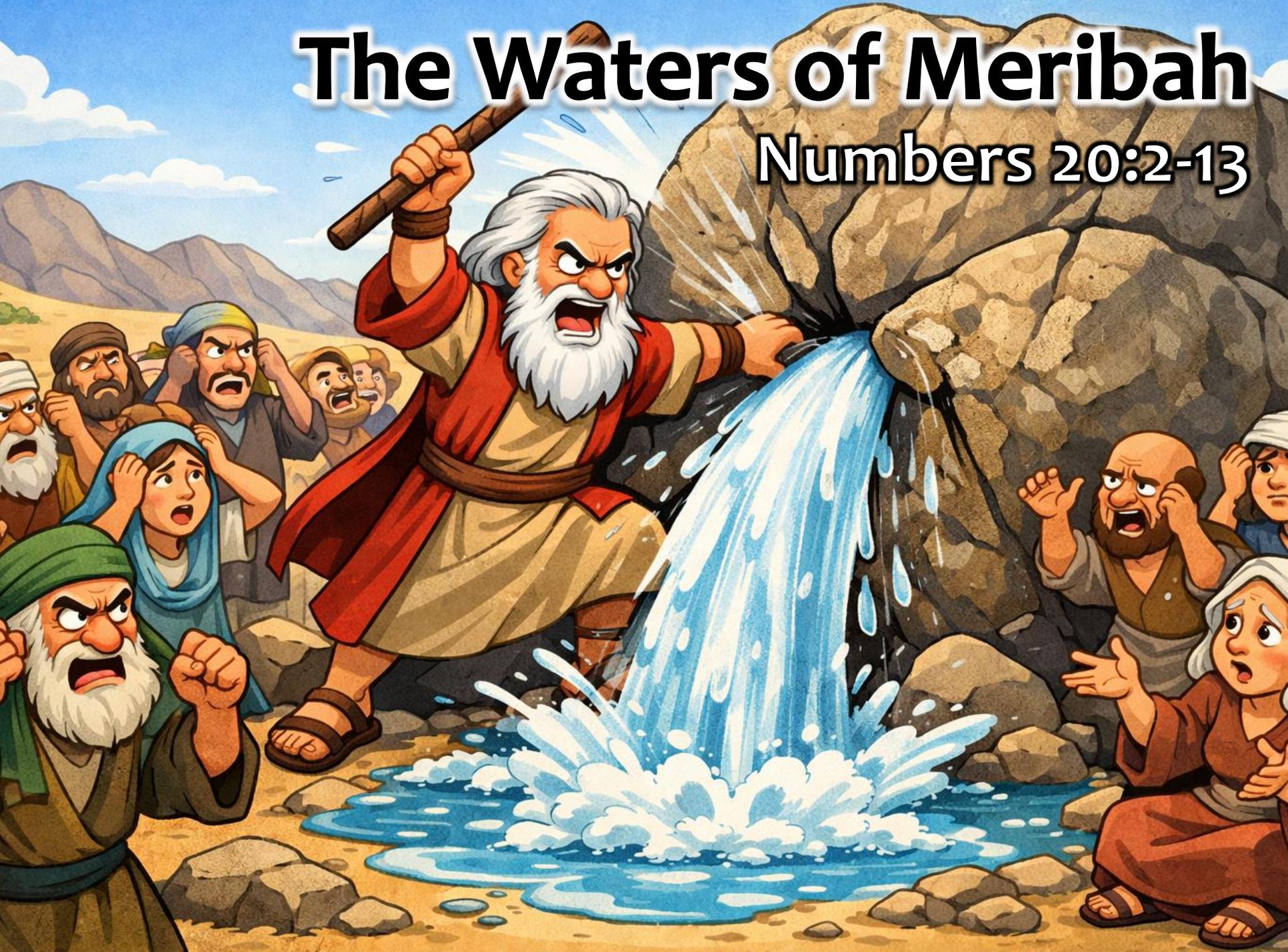
- **Chapters 1-11:** Recap and the importance of the laws
- **Chapters 12-26:** Those laws
- **Chapters 27-30:** Choose: blessings or curses
- **Chapters 31-34:** Moses' death, and Joshua to lead

## • Theology and doctrine

- Jesus quotes Deuteronomy a lot
  - Temptation in wilderness (Matt. 4)
  - Most important command (Matt. 22)
  - 2 or 3 witnesses (Matthew 18)

# The Waters of Meribah

Numbers 20:2-13



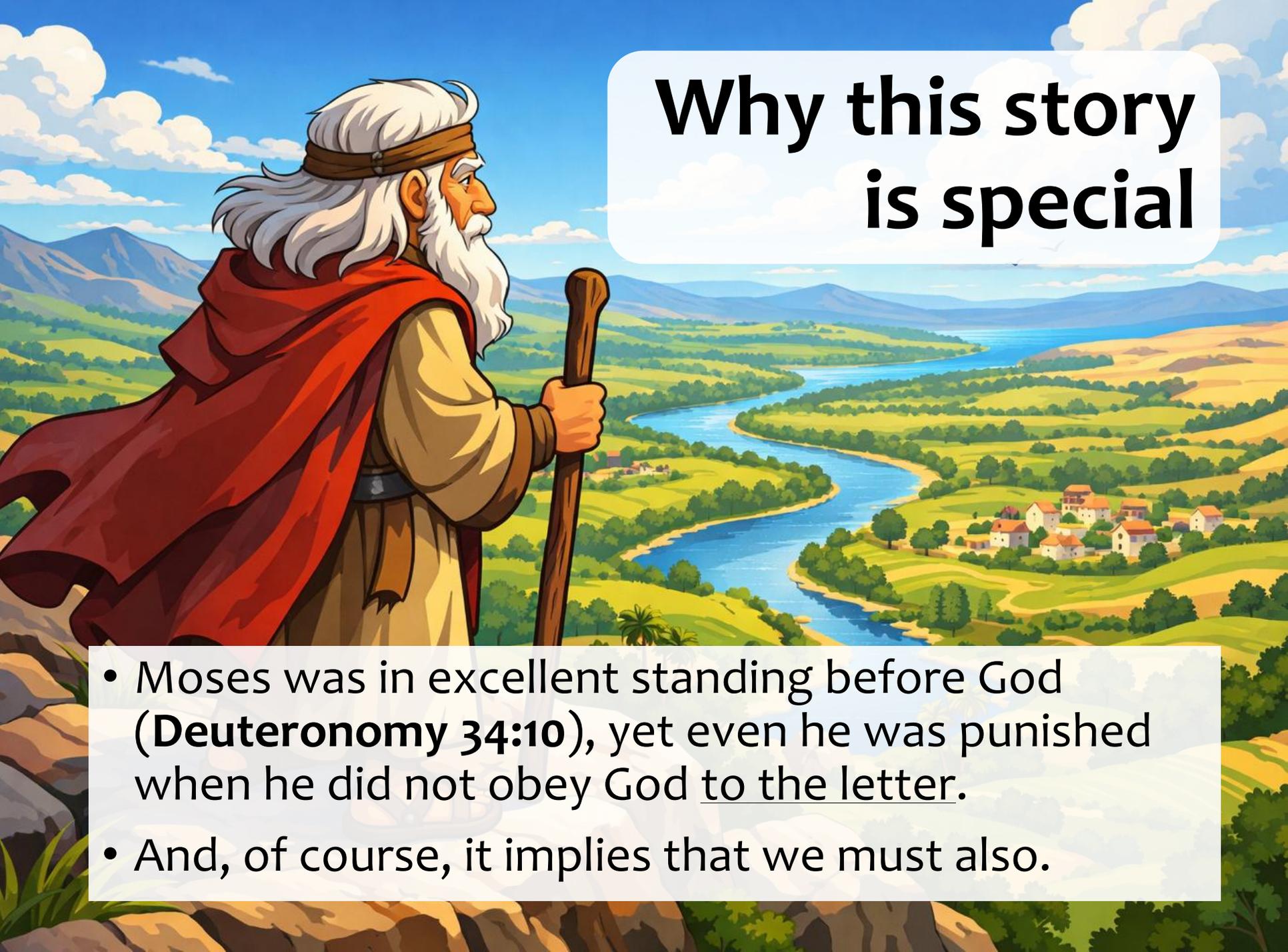
# Summary

Waters of Meribah

Numbers 20:2-13

- Moses is barred from entering the promised land because he hit a rock, disobeying God.





# Why this story is special

- Moses was in excellent standing before God (**Deuteronomy 34:10**), yet even he was punished when he did not obey God to the letter.
- And, of course, it implies that we must also.

# Main characters

-  **Moses**
    - Hit the rock and was punished
  -  **Aaron**
    - Did not hit the rock
    - Was still punished with Moses
- 
- Aaron dies in the same chapter as this story (**Numbers 20:22-29**)
  - Moses dies the same *year* but it's a whole *book* later (**Deuteronomy 34:1-8**)

# Outline of the Waters of Meribah

## Numbers 20:2-13

- Vs. 2-5 The Israelites complain about not having water, and many other things
- Vs. 6-8 Moses and Aaron talk to God and receive instruction: SPEAK to the rock
- Vs. 9-11 Moses HITS the rock and water comes out
- Vs. 12-13 Moses and Aaron are punished to not go into the promised land

# In case you missed it

- This story has happened before... almost
  - In **Exodus 17:1-7**, the Israelites are thirsty and complain, and the LORD tells Moses to strike a rock.
  - That's right, Moses was told then to hit the rock
  - But in this story in *Numbers*, Moses is punished for hitting the rock
  - The two events are about 39 years apart
- Both events have similar names
  - **Exodus 17:7**, “And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD” (ESV)
  - **Numbers 20:13**, “These are the waters of Meribah” (ESV)
  - Not literally the same place though
- Moses hit the rock twice
  - Did it not work the first time?

# Theology and doctrine

- Is God's reaction too extreme?
  - Moses was such a good example otherwise
  - He did what once was authorized!
- No; God is holy.
  - Moses did not try to justify Nadab and Abihu (39 years earlier) for offering strange fire to God (**Leviticus 10**)
  - The tabernacle was built to God's plans (**Exodus 25:9**)
  - Moses cannot claim ignorance here
- Why should we think differently today?
  - David used instruments to praise God, but in the New Testament, we are only instructed to **sing** hymns of praise
  - Tithing was commanded to Jews, but Christians are to give freely and not a set amount

# Recap of The Waters of Meribah

## • Summary

- Moses is barred from entering the promised land because he hit a rock, disobeying God.

## • Why it is special

- Even Moses was punished when he did not obey God to the letter.

## • Main characters

- Moses
- Aaron

## • Outline

- Israelites complain about water
- Moses told to speak to the rock
- Moses hits the rock
- Moses and Aaron are punished to not go into the promised land

## • In case you missed it

- A similar story in Exodus 17
- Hitting was OK then
- Moses hit the rock twice here

## • Theology and doctrine

- Was God's reaction too extreme? No; He is a holy God, and Moses knew better.

# Poem: Deuteronomy 32:1-43

## The Song of Moses

- A warning to Israel
- “Rock” imagery throughout (4, 15, 18, 30-31, 37)
- Outline
  - Vs. 1-5 Intro: Listen to me tell you about the LORD
  - Vs. 6-14 The LORD made Israel special
  - Vs. 15-19 “Jeshurun” worshipped idols  
[*It’s Israel – see Deut. 33:5; Isaiah 44:2*]
  - Vs. 20-33 They will be punished
  - Vs. 34-38 Vengeance is God’s
  - Vs. 39-42 God is the only authority
  - Vs. 43 Conclusion: God defends *His* people