

Lesson 3: Gibeonite Treaty, Conquering the Land Joshua 9-12

4th and 5th Grade Class

Jordan Park church of Christ



Joshua 9: 1-27

THE GIBEONITES DECEIVE JOSHUA



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After the Israelites took the city of Ai, word quickly spread of their victory.

CANAAN

IN THE TIME OF JOSHUA

The kings of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites began planning how they could combine their armies to do battle with the Israelites.





In the city of Gibeon and the nearby towns of Kephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim the people met in fear wondering what to do. They knew God had told the Israelites not to make treaties with anyone in Canaan but destroy all those living in the land because of their wickedness. Instead of joining those gathering to fight the Israelites, the Gibeonites came up with a devious plan to save their lives.

CANAAN

IN THE TIME OF JOSHUA

Gibeon was only a three day walk from the Israelite base at Gilgal. The people of Gibeon and the nearby towns were Hivites.

Gibeon

Ai

Jericho

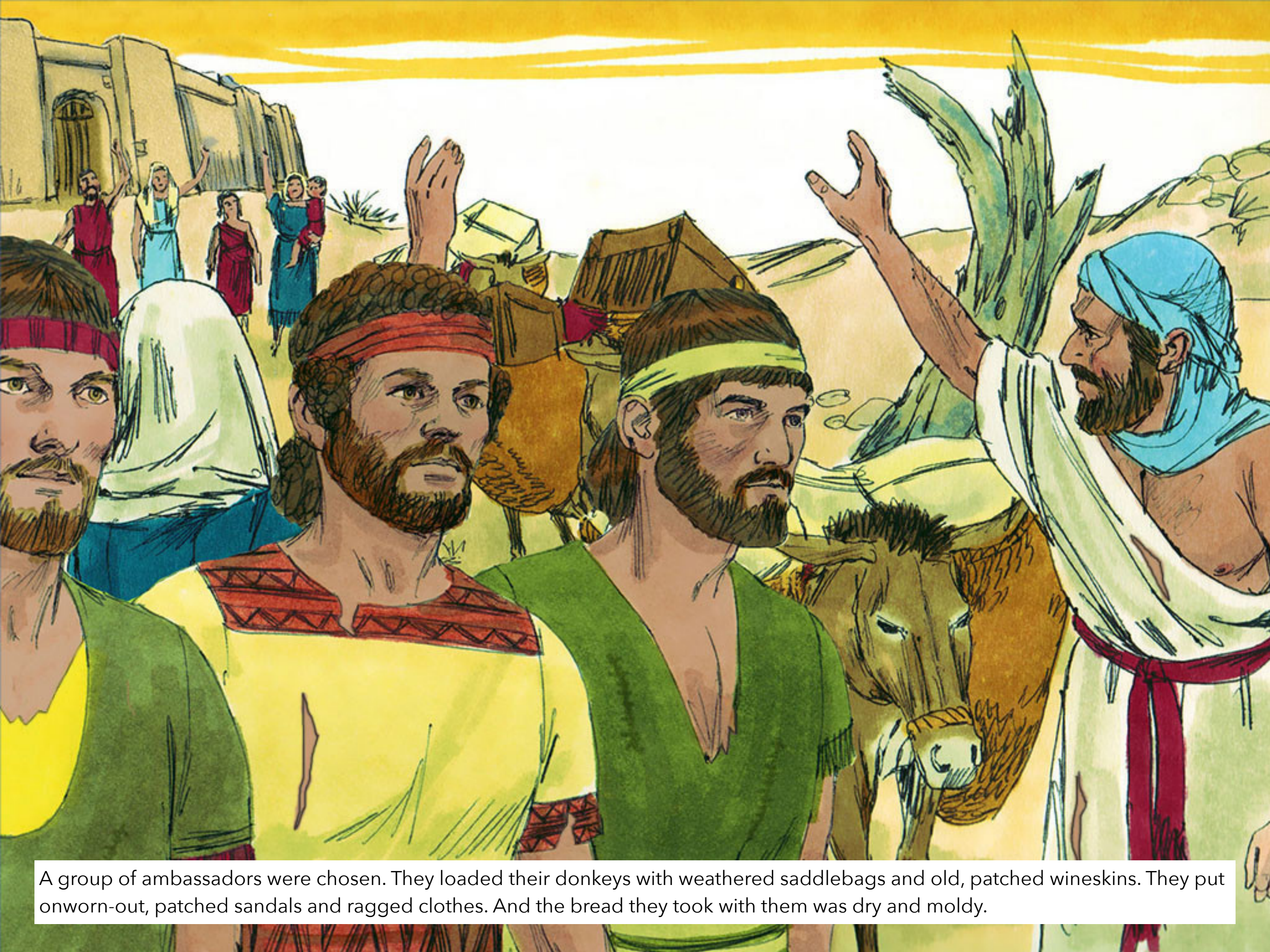
River
Jordan

Gilgal

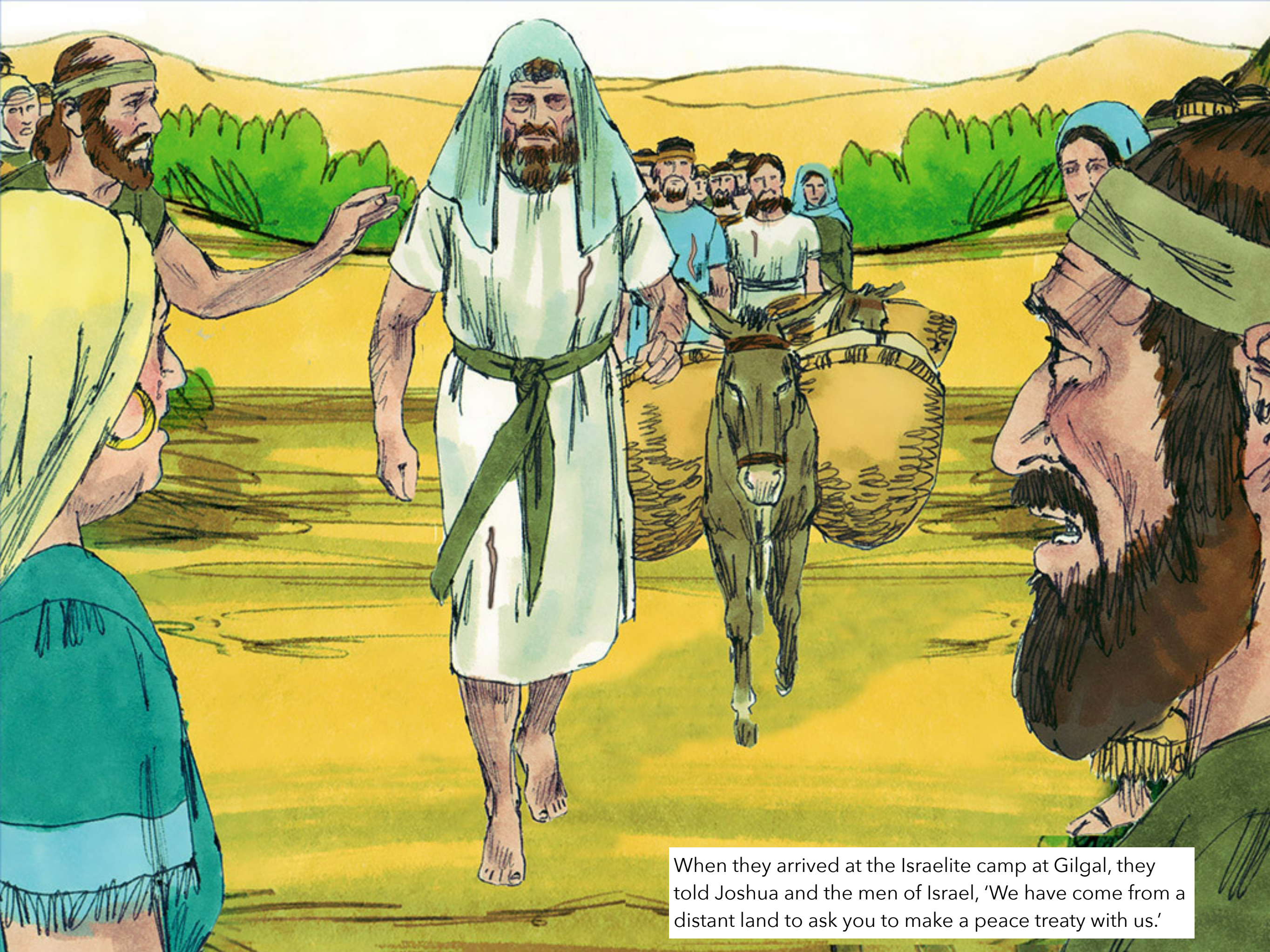
Dead
Sea



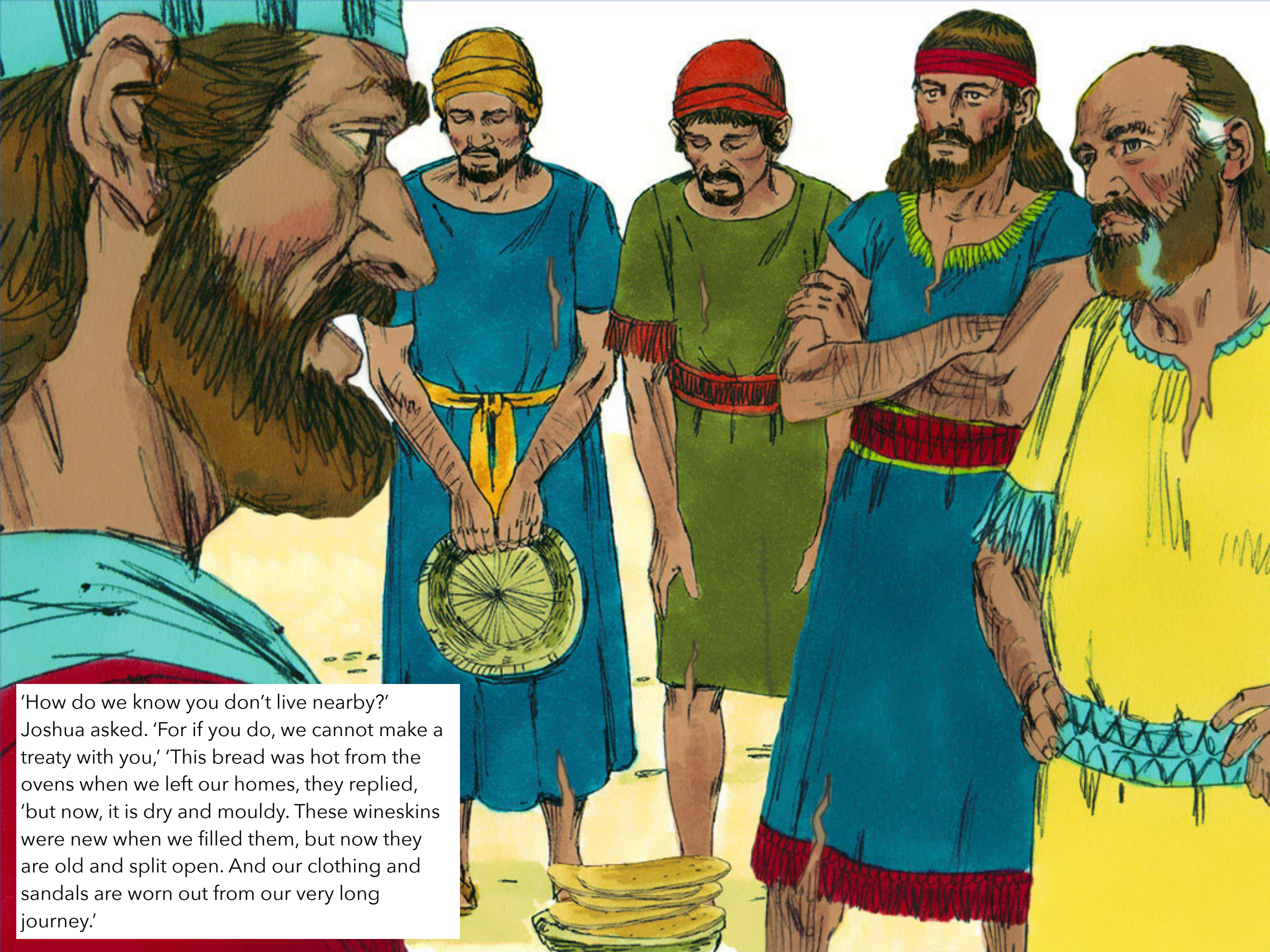
Joshua



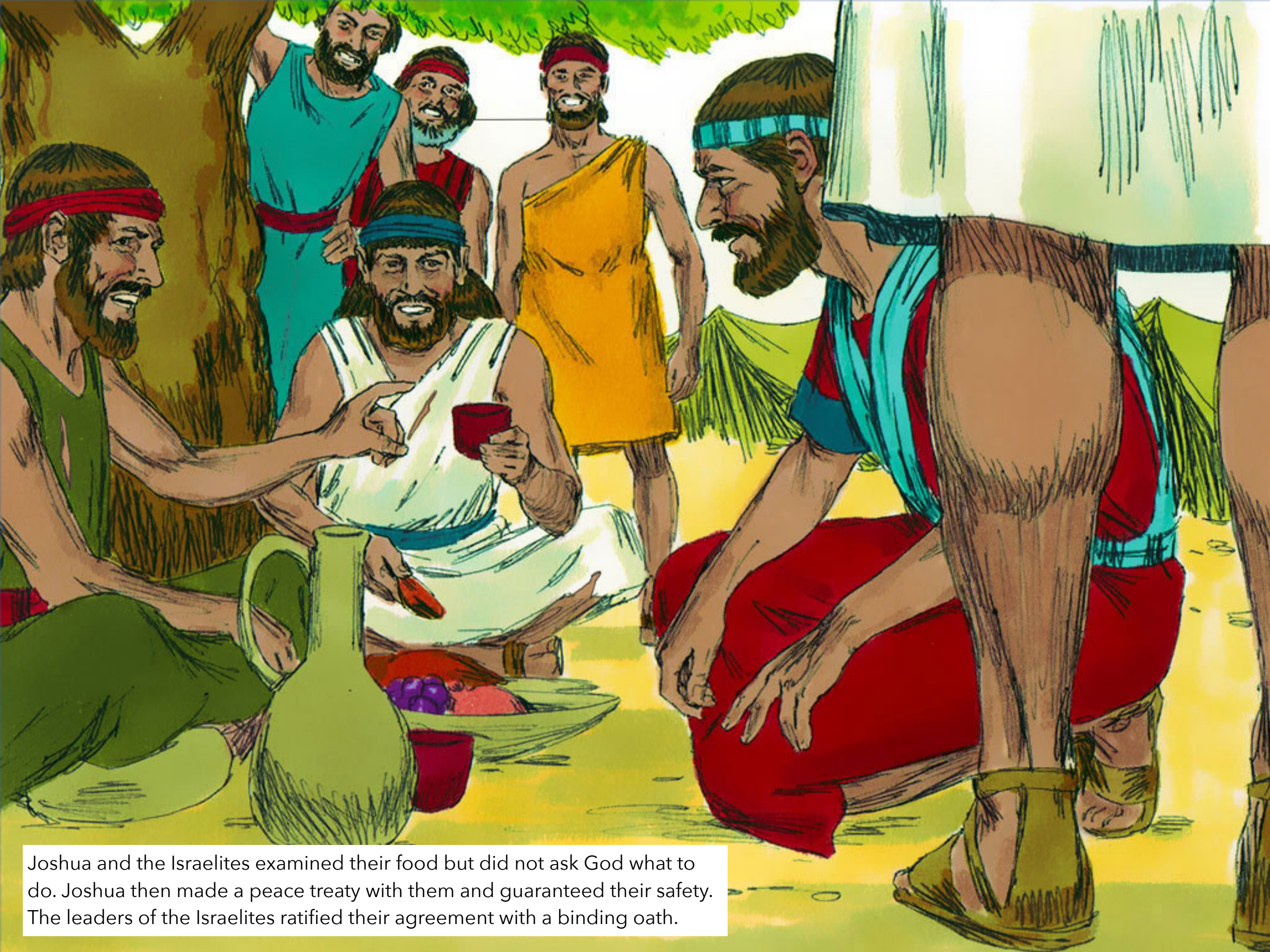
A group of ambassadors were chosen. They loaded their donkeys with weathered saddlebags and old, patched wineskins. They put on worn-out, patched sandals and ragged clothes. And the bread they took with them was dry and moldy.



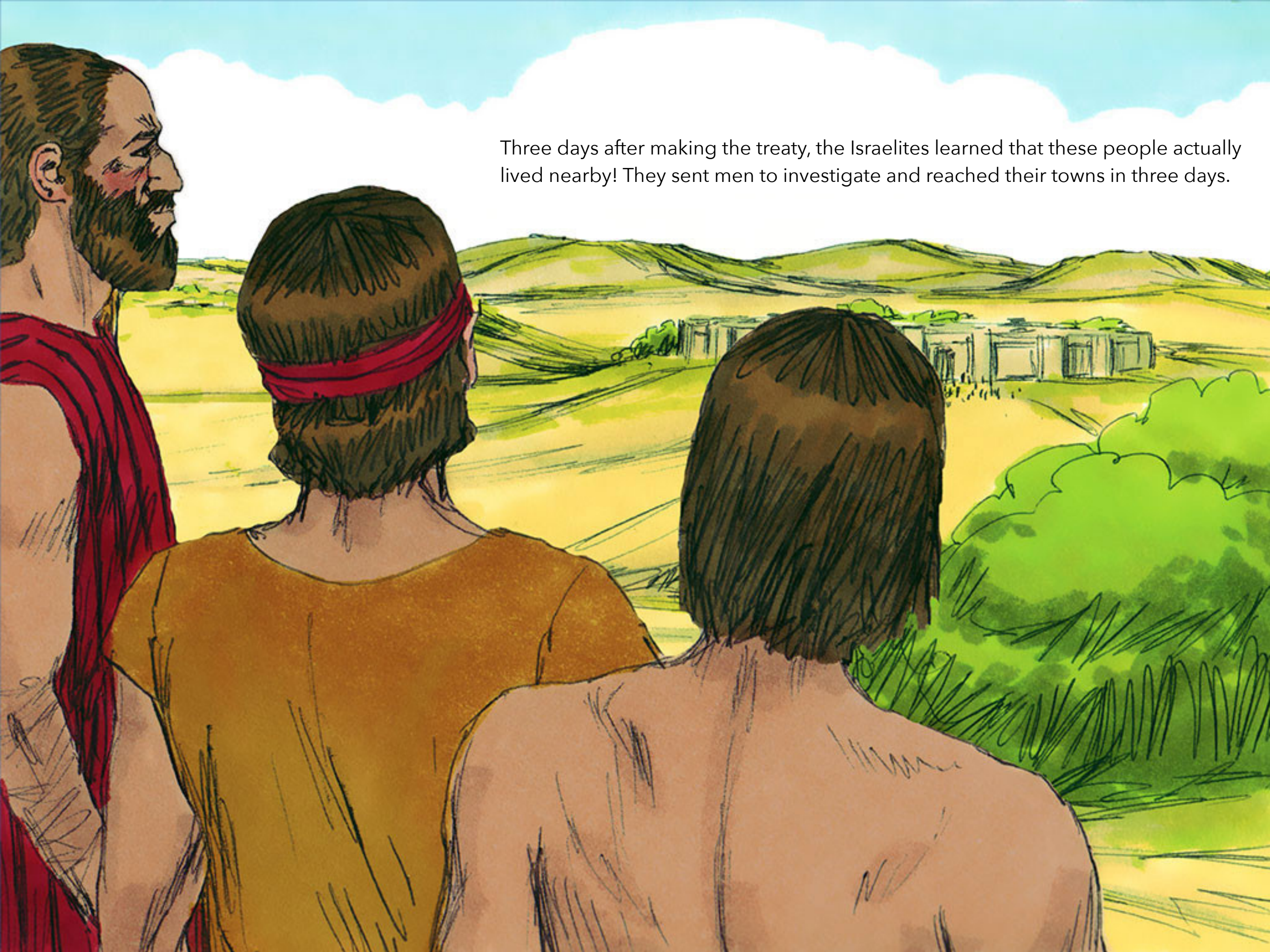
When they arrived at the Israelite camp at Gilgal, they told Joshua and the men of Israel, 'We have come from a distant land to ask you to make a peace treaty with us.'



'How do we know you don't live nearby?' Joshua asked. 'For if you do, we cannot make a treaty with you,' 'This bread was hot from the ovens when we left our homes, they replied, 'but now, it is dry and mouldy. These wineskins were new when we filled them, but now they are old and split open. And our clothing and sandals are worn out from our very long journey.'

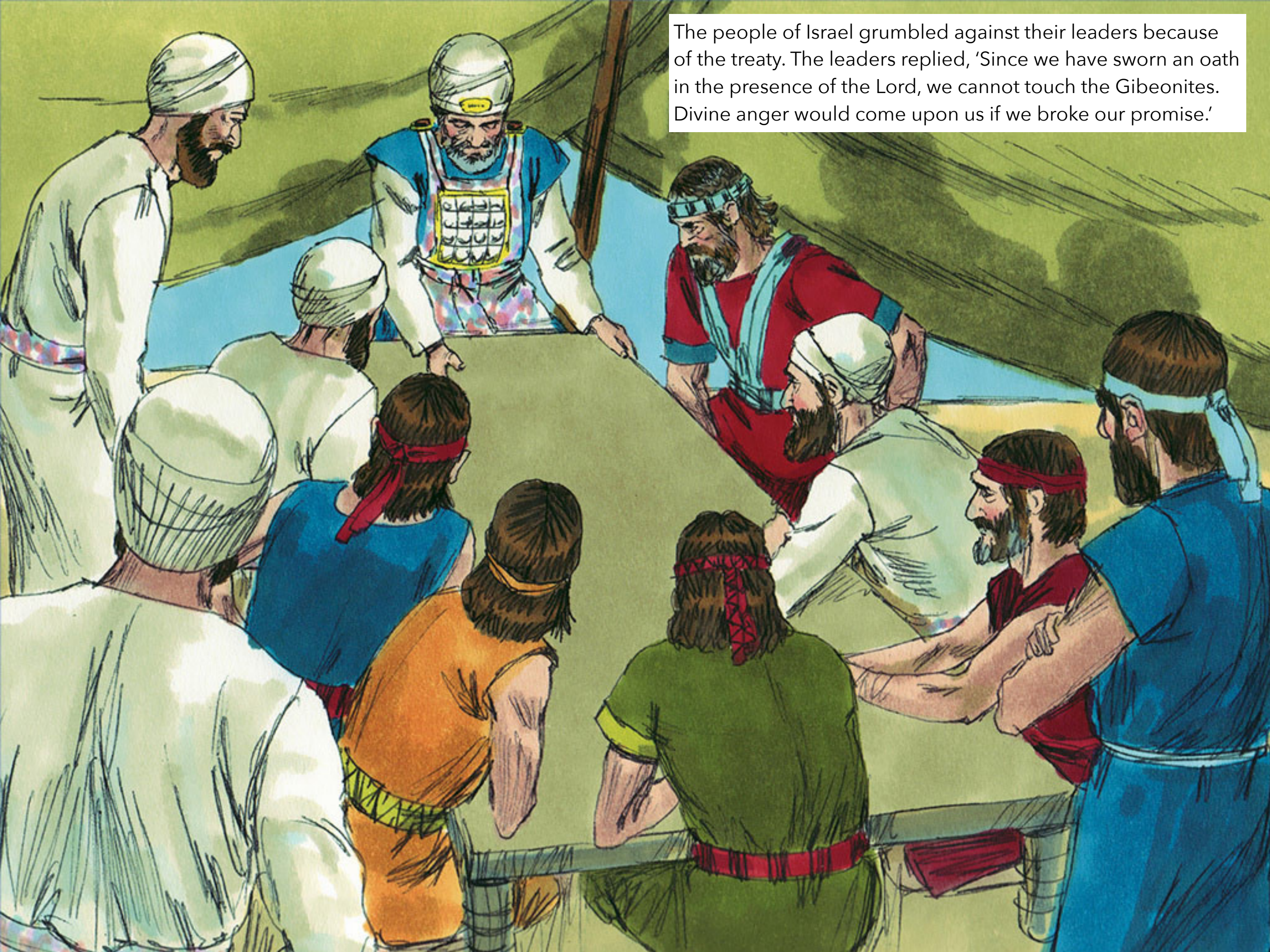


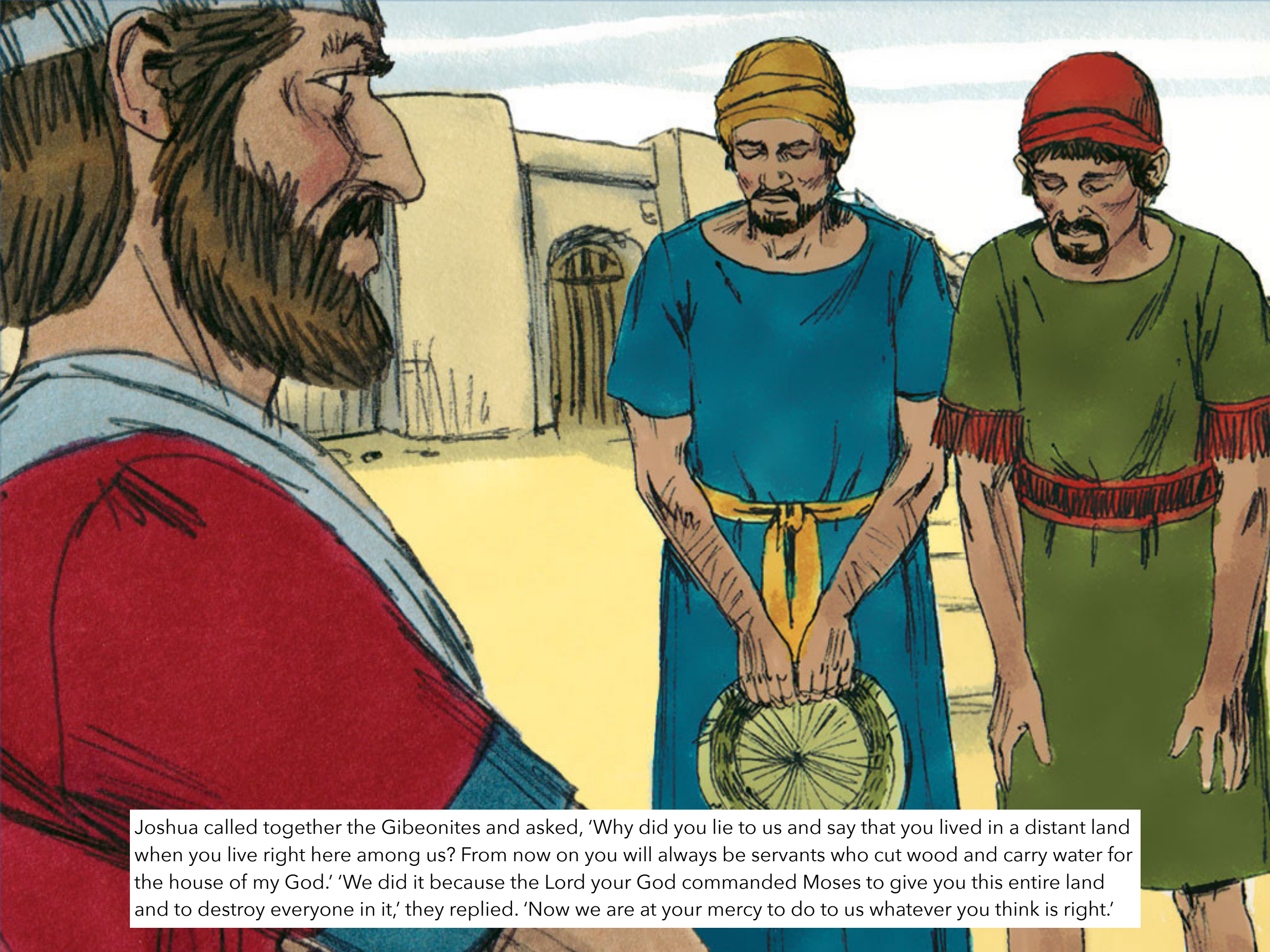
Joshua and the Israelites examined their food but did not ask God what to do. Joshua then made a peace treaty with them and guaranteed their safety. The leaders of the Israelites ratified their agreement with a binding oath.



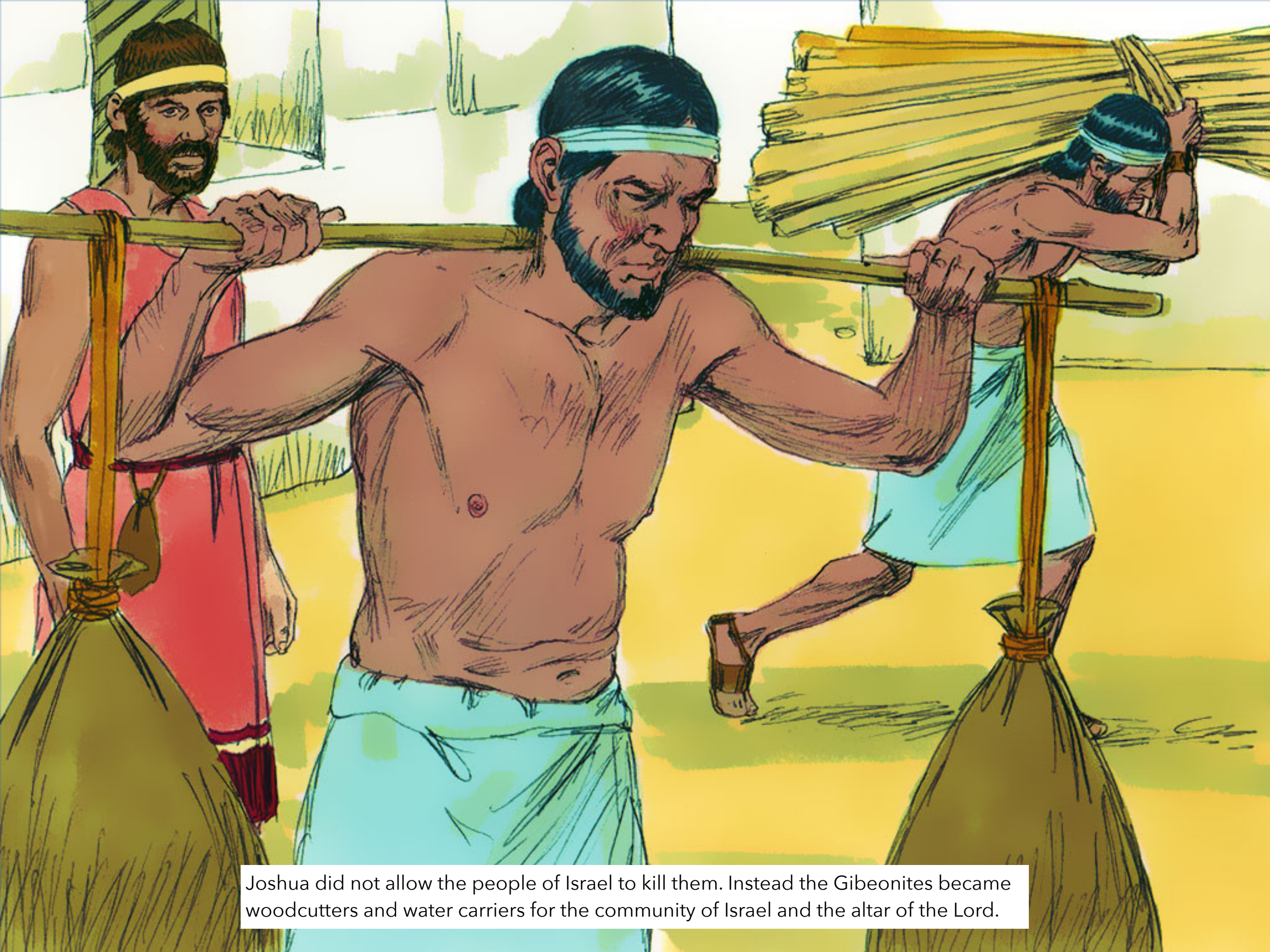
Three days after making the treaty, the Israelites learned that these people actually lived nearby! They sent men to investigate and reached their towns in three days.

The people of Israel grumbled against their leaders because of the treaty. The leaders replied, 'Since we have sworn an oath in the presence of the Lord, we cannot touch the Gibeonites. Divine anger would come upon us if we broke our promise.'





Joshua called together the Gibeonites and asked, 'Why did you lie to us and say that you lived in a distant land when you live right here among us? From now on you will always be servants who cut wood and carry water for the house of my God.' 'We did it because the Lord your God commanded Moses to give you this entire land and to destroy everyone in it,' they replied. 'Now we are at your mercy to do to us whatever you think is right.'



Joshua did not allow the people of Israel to kill them. Instead the Gibeonites became woodcutters and water carriers for the community of Israel and the altar of the Lord.



Joshua 10:1-43

JOSHUA PRAYS FOR THE SUN TO STAND STILL

CANAAN

IN THE TIME OF JOSHUA

Joshua and the Israelites had captured Jericho and Ai. The nearby Gibeonites had deceived Joshua into believing they were from a far away land and made a treaty with him. They were now wood gatherers and water carriers for the Israelites.



Joshua

Gibeon

Ai

Jericho

River
Jordan

Gilgal

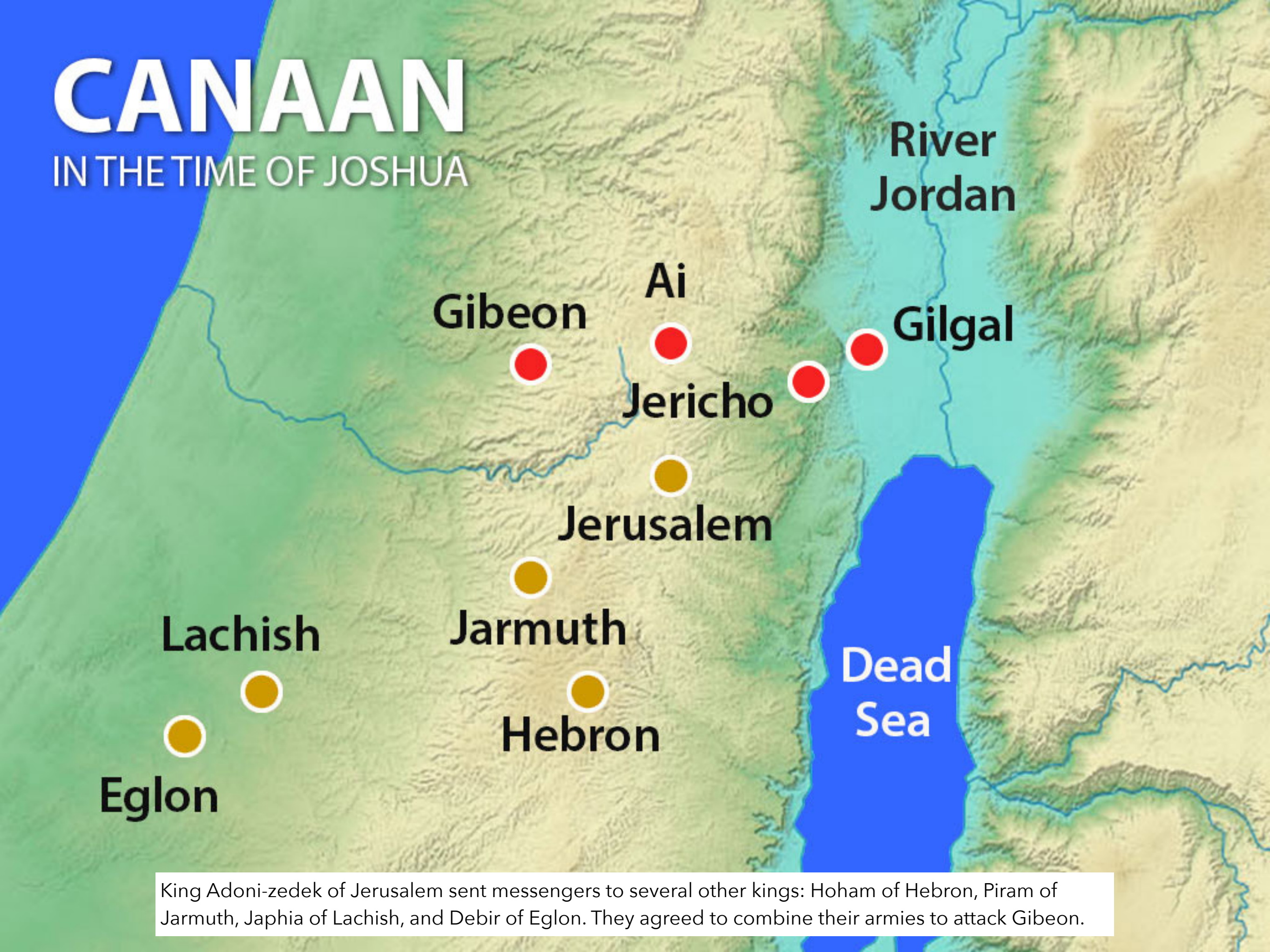
Dead
Sea

The leaders of the tribes in Canaan were dismayed the people of Gibeon were now allies of the Israelites.



CANAAN

IN THE TIME OF JOSHUA



River
Jordan

Gibeon

Ai

Gilgal

Jericho

Jerusalem

Lachish

Jarmuth

Dead
Sea

Hebron

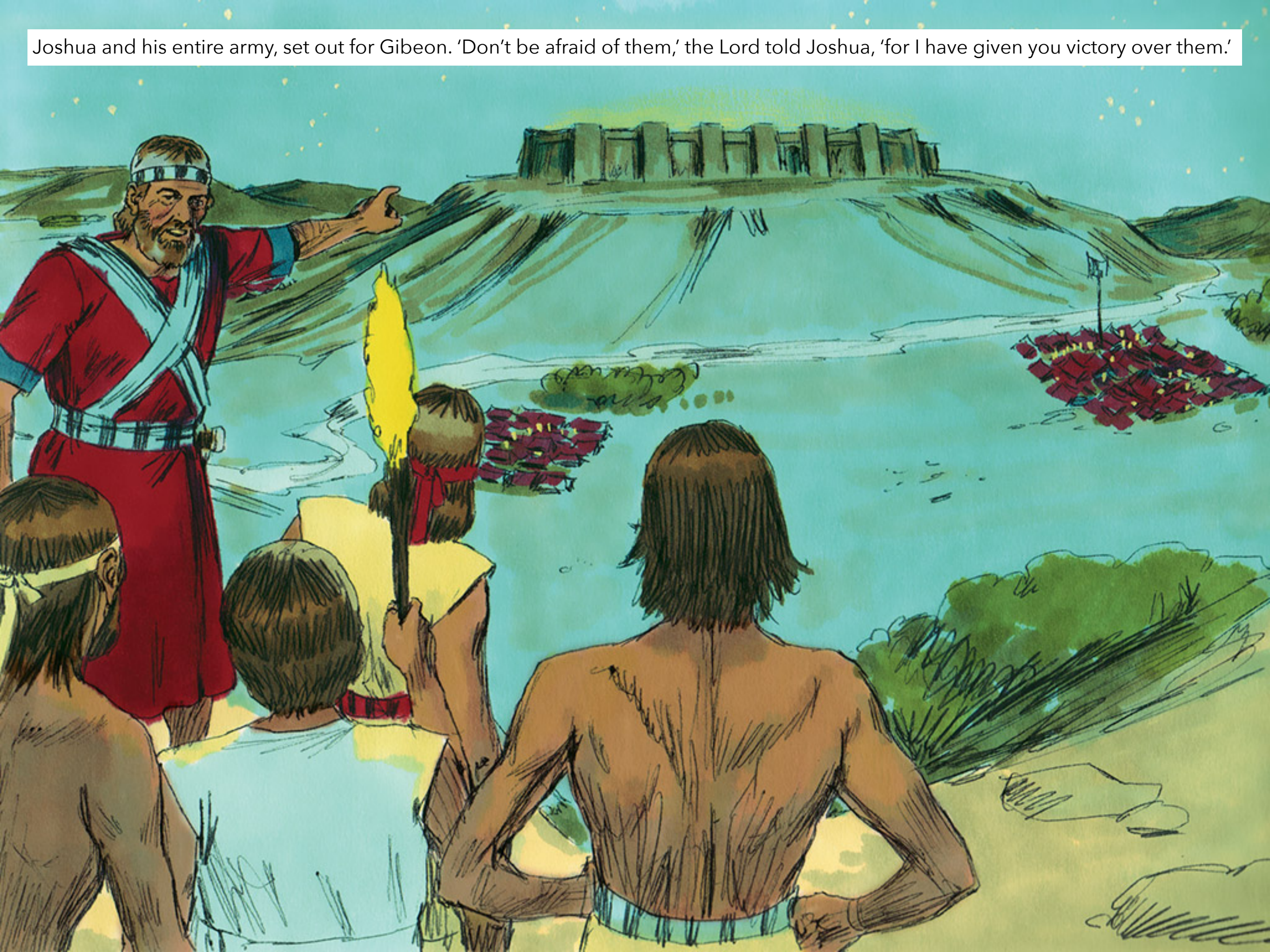
Eglon

King Adoni-zedek of Jerusalem sent messengers to several other kings: Hoham of Hebron, Piram of Jarmuth, Japhia of Lachish, and Debir of Eglon. They agreed to combine their armies to attack Gibeon.

The men of Gibeon sent messengers to Joshua at his camp in Gilgal. 'Come at once! Save us! Help us!' they pleaded. 'All the Amorite kings who live in the hill country have joined forces to attack us.'



Joshua and his entire army, set out for Gibeon. 'Don't be afraid of them,' the Lord told Joshua, 'for I have given you victory over them.'





That night the Israelites took the Amorite armies by surprise and chased them as they fled.



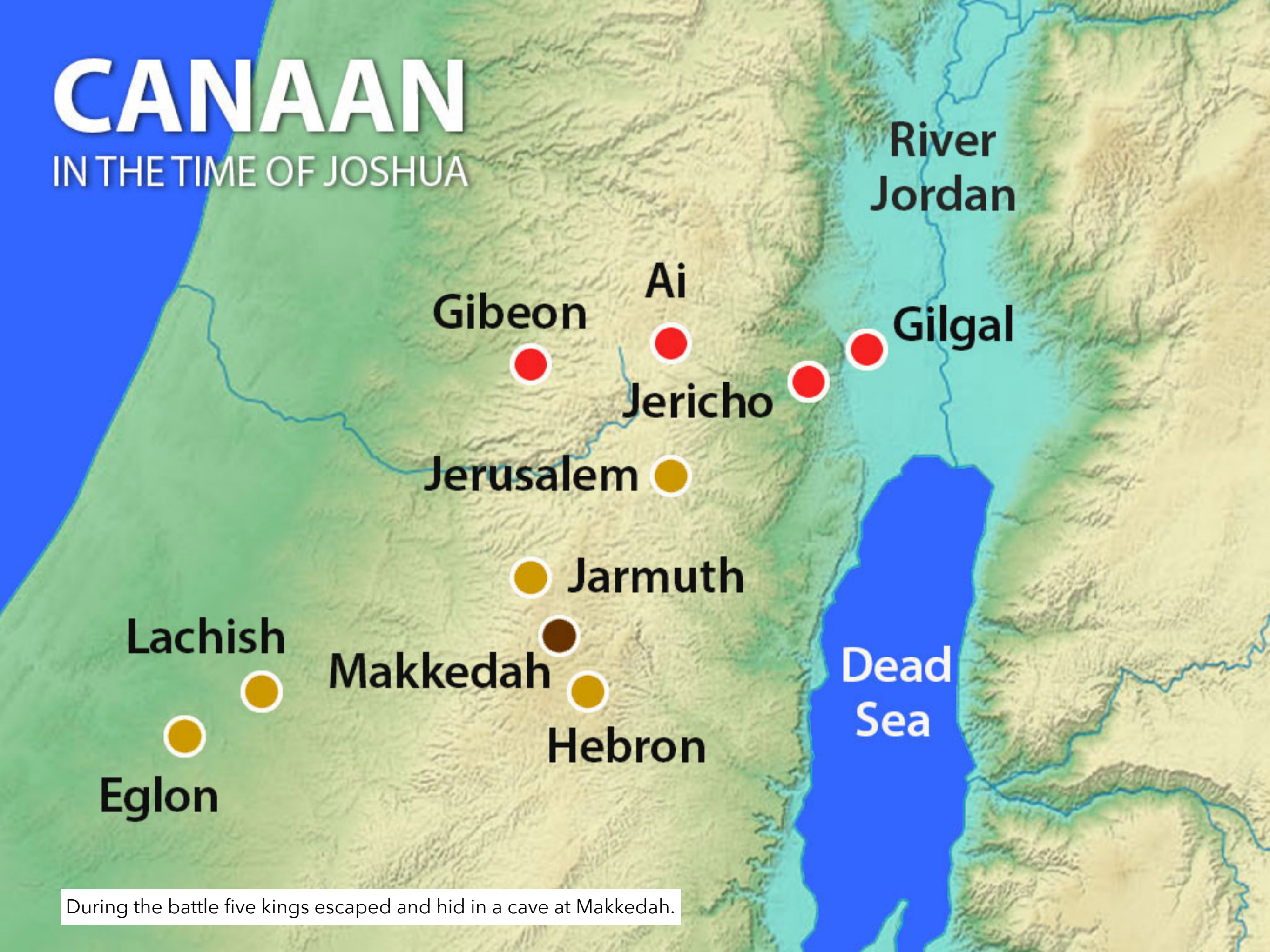
As the Amorites retreated, the Lord sent a terrible hailstorm. The hail killed more of the enemy than the Israelites killed with the sword.



Joshua needed daylight to destroy their enemies. So he prayed to the Lord in front of all the people of Israel. 'Let the sun stand still over Gibeon, and the moon over the valley of Aijalon.' The sun stayed in the middle of the sky, and did not set as on a normal day.

CANAAN

IN THE TIME OF JOSHUA



River
Jordan

Gilgal

Ai

Gibeon

Jericho

Jerusalem

Jarmuth

Dead
Sea

Makkedah

Hebron

Lachish

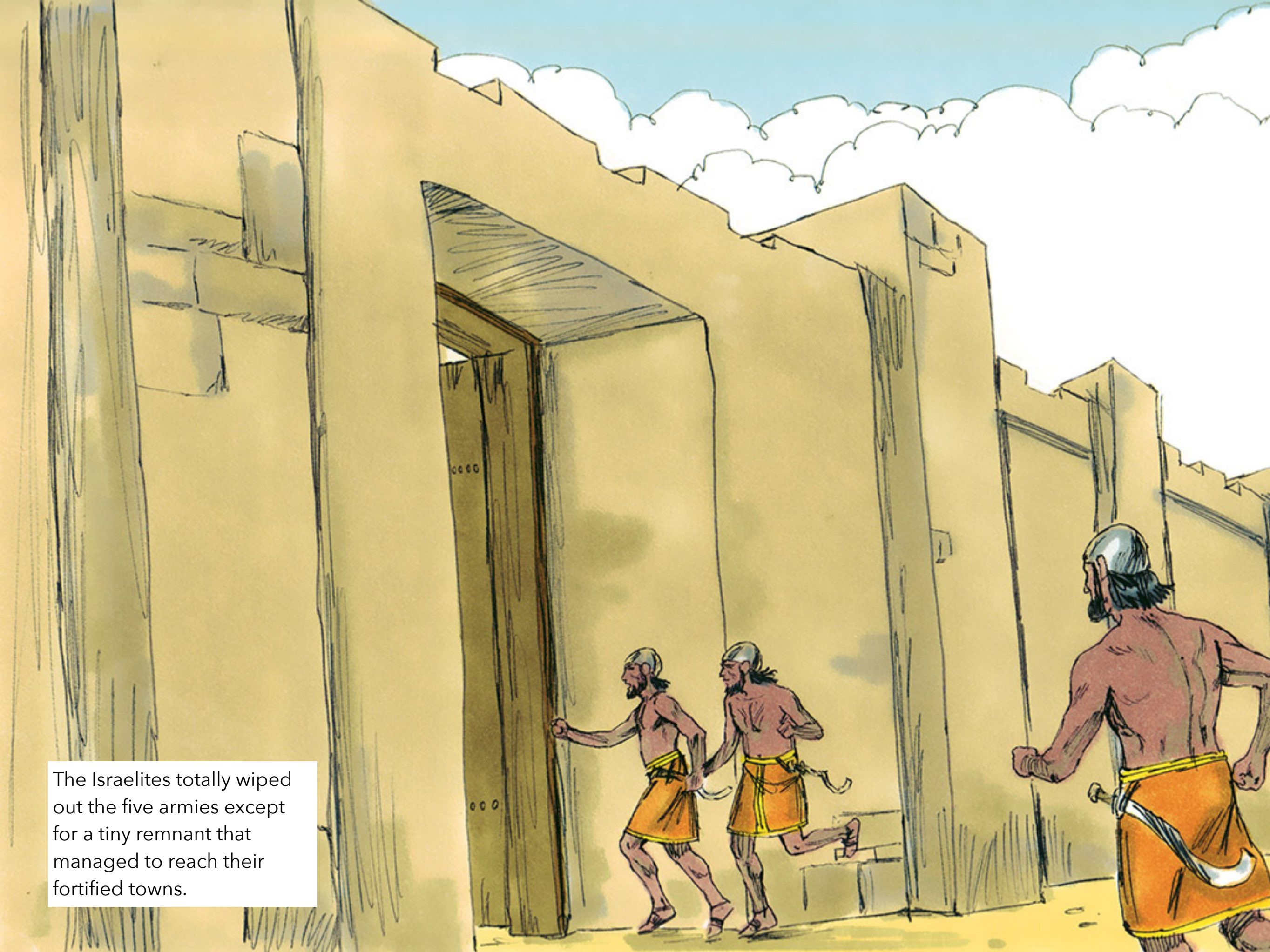
Eglon

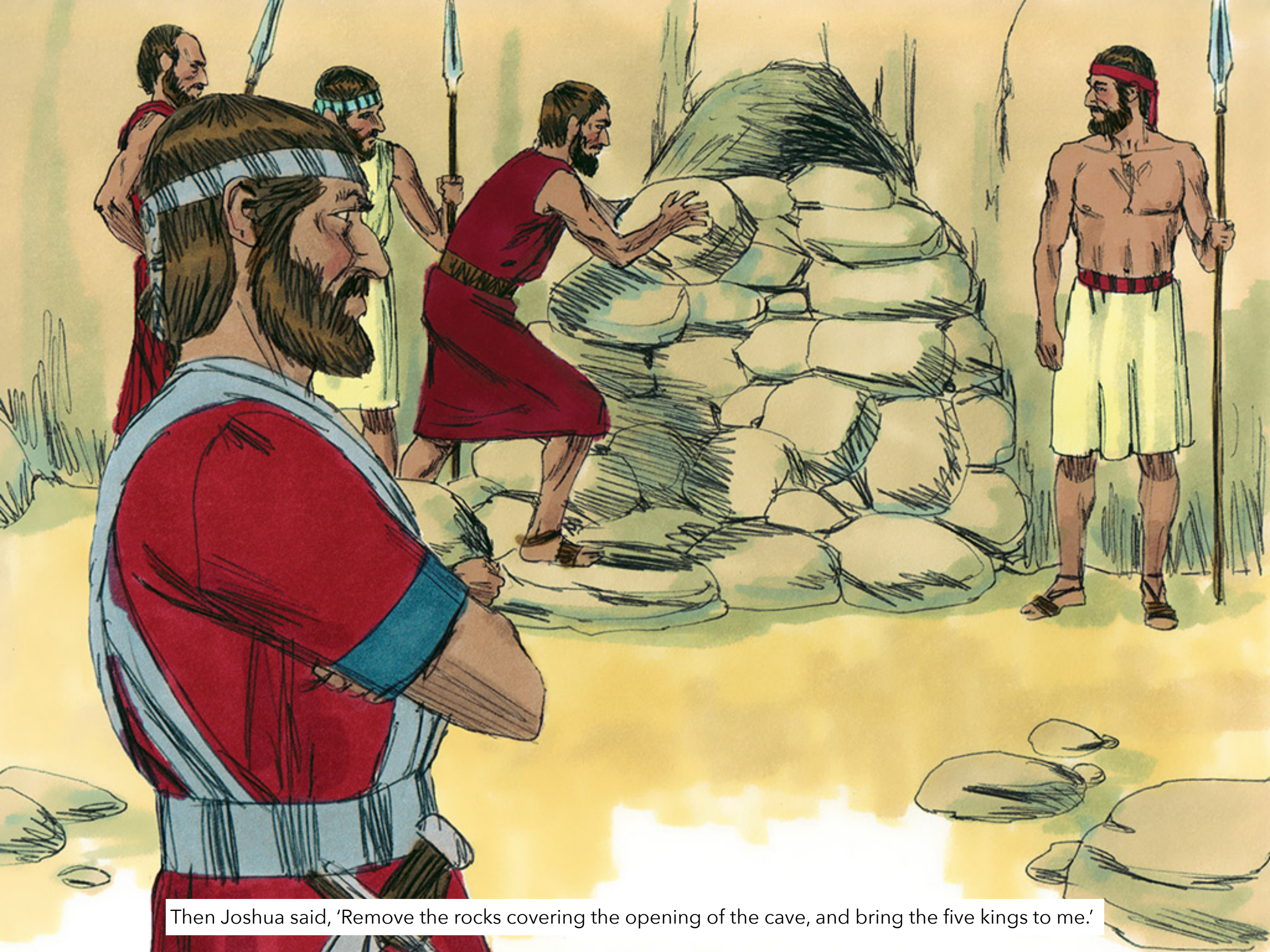
During the battle five kings escaped and hid in a cave at Makkedah.



Joshua commanded, 'Cover the opening of the cave with large rocks, and put guards at the entrance to keep the kings inside. The rest of you continue chasing the enemy and don't give them a chance to get back to their towns. The Lord has given you victory over them.'

The Israelites totally wiped out the five armies except for a tiny remnant that managed to reach their fortified towns.





Then Joshua said, 'Remove the rocks covering the opening of the cave, and bring the five kings to me.'



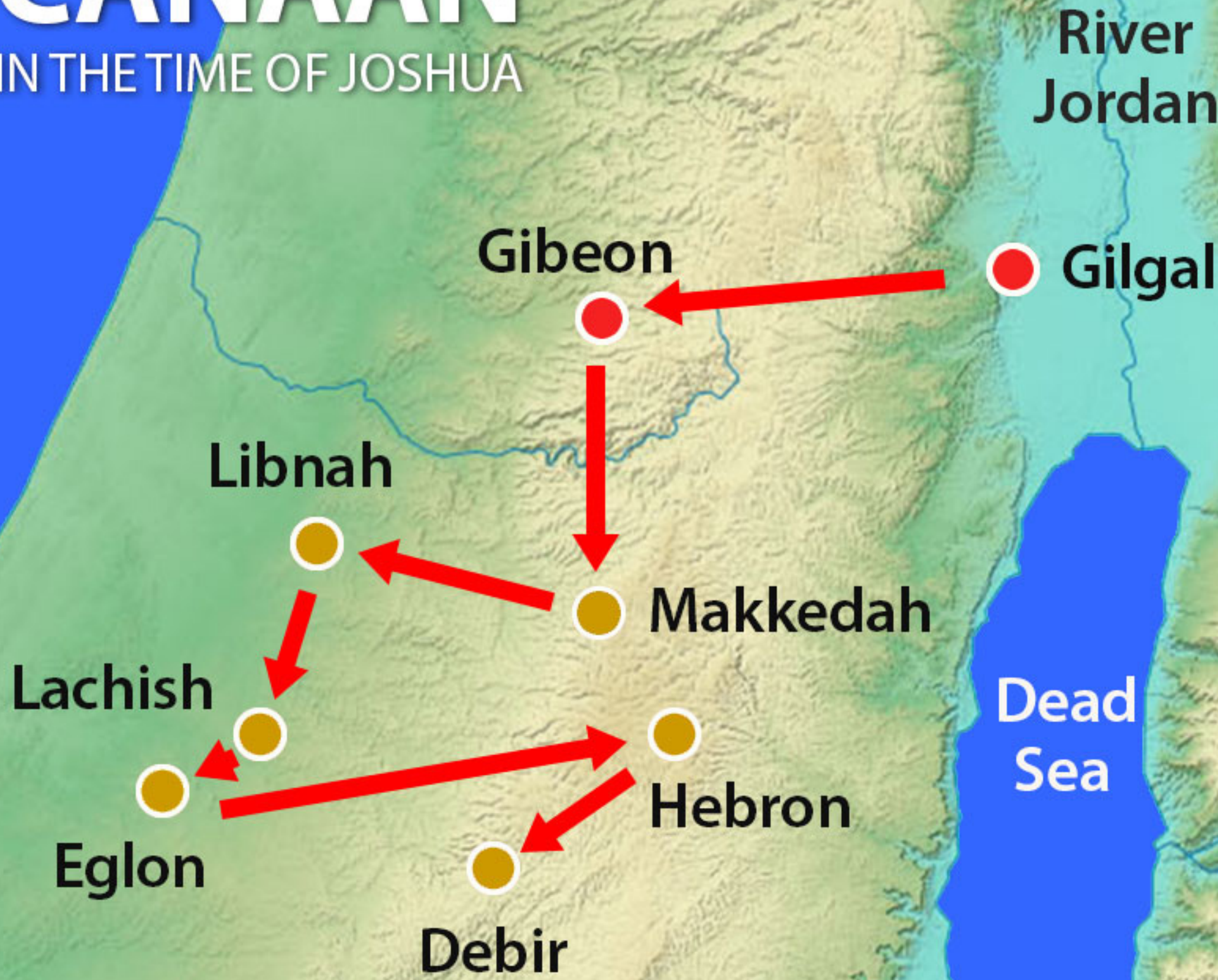
Joshua told the commanders of his army, 'Come and put your feet on the kings' necks. Be strong and courageous, for the Lord is going to do this to all of your enemies.' The kings were then executed.

Joshua then captured and destroyed the town of Makkedah.

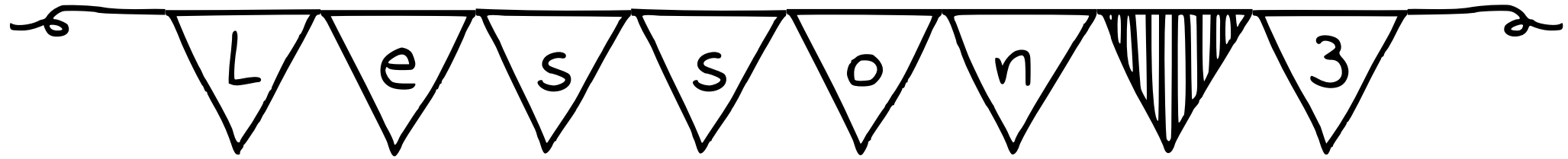


CANAAN

IN THE TIME OF JOSHUA



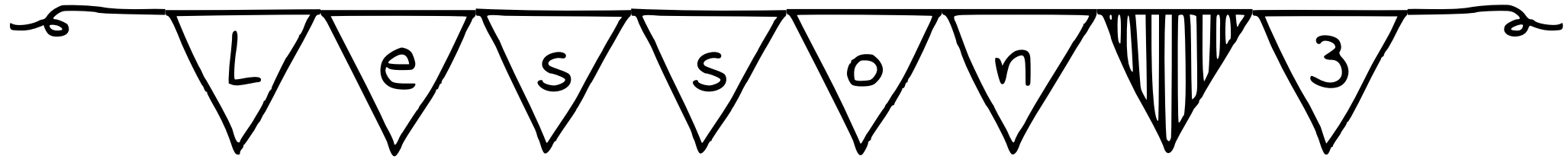
The Israelites went to capture the cities of Libnah then Eglon, Hebron and Debir before returning victoriously to Gilgal.



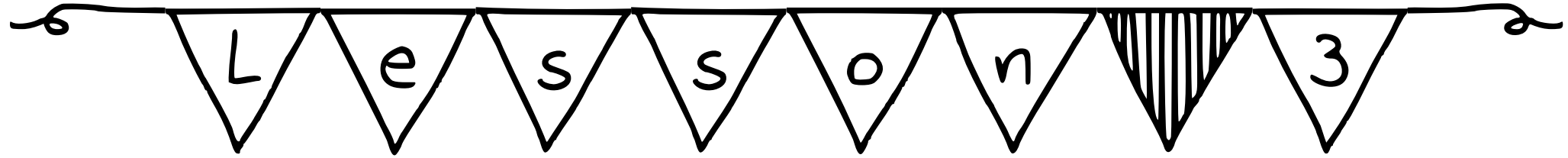
It's important to seek God's counsel before making important decisions. Can you think of decisions in your life that you should ask God about?

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

James 1:5



God is so powerful. Since God has the power to stop the sun from rising and setting, do you think He can help you with your problems?



With God's help, the Israelite "grasshoppers" were able to overcome the Canaanite giants. Remember that with God's help you can overcome temptations and discouragements that seem like giants to you.