



EXODUS

life in the
wilderness

BEDTIME CHALLENGES

Why do kids get so thirsty?

Where are we at in the Exodus story?

- God delivers Israel from Egypt and brings them to Mount Sinai
- God gives them the law and the people respond:
"All that the Lord has spoken we will do."
- Moses is getting instruction for the tabernacle – where God will dwell among them

The story is suddenly interrupted with one of the darkest moments in Israel's history

When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

EXODUS 32:1

² Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me."
³ So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

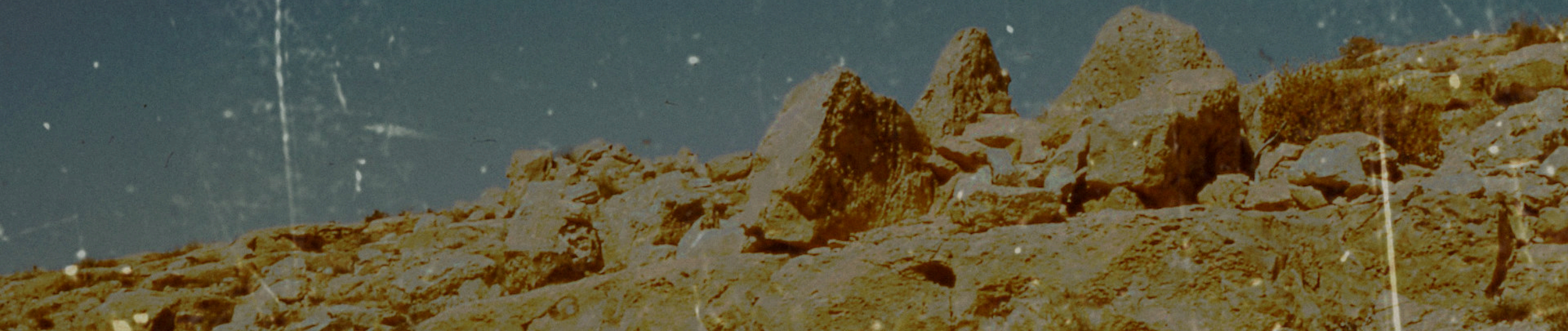
EXODUS 32:2-4

⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord."⁶ So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

EXODUS 32:5-6

THE GOLDEN CALF

- Israel turns back to what is familiar
- fashions a calf from God's own provision
- try to worship the LORD alongside the idol



ACTS 7 Stephen's speech

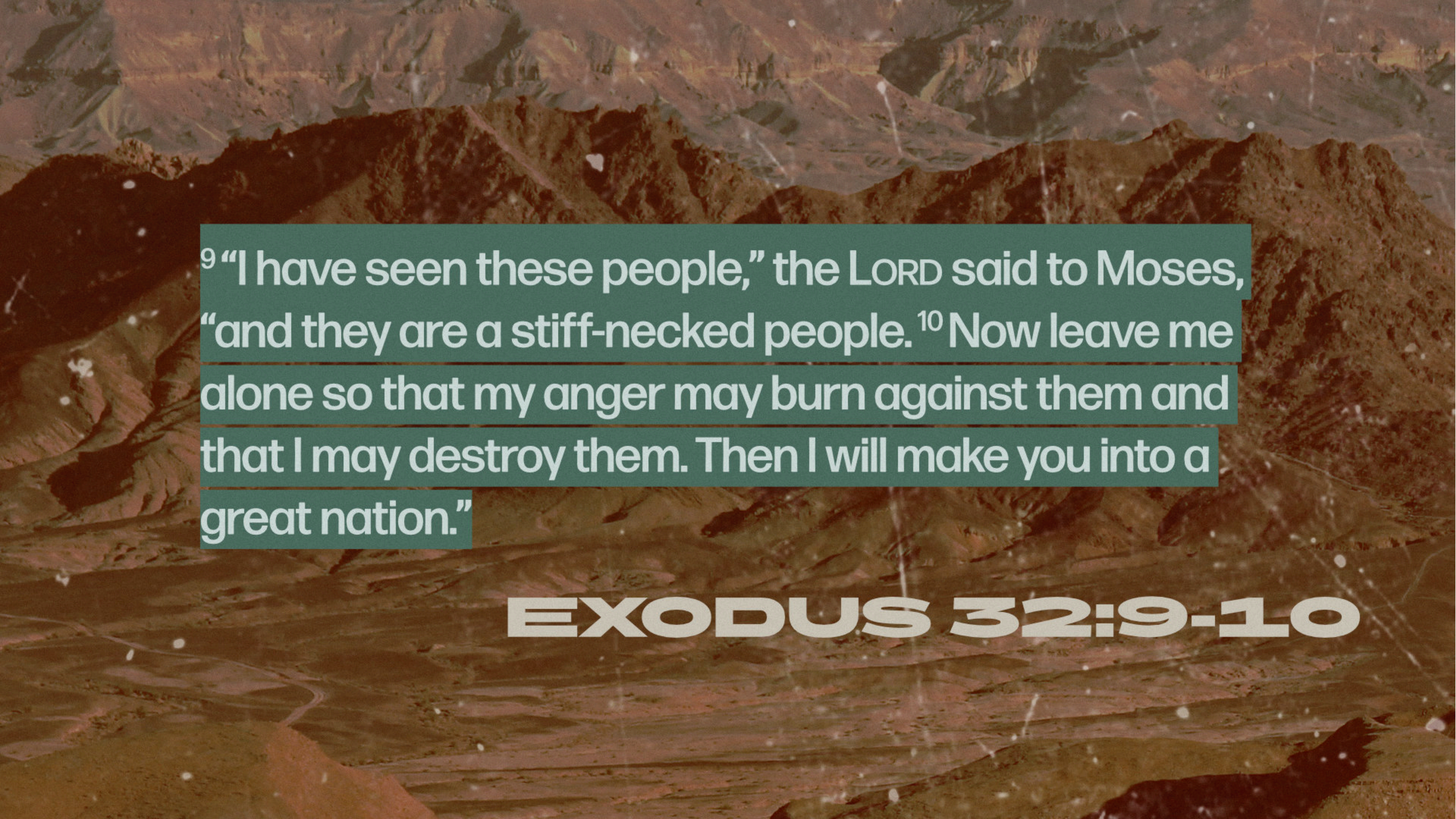
The people "*turned back to Egypt in their hearts.*"

Physically they had left Egypt.

Internally Egypt still had a hold on them.

⁷ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. ⁸ They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ‘These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’”

EXODUS 32:7-8



⁹“I have seen these people,” the LORD said to Moses,
“and they are a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰ Now leave me
alone so that my anger may burn against them and
that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a
great nation.”

EXODUS 32:9-10

¹¹ But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God.
“LORD,” he said, “why should your anger burn against
your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with
great power and a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the
Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought
them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe
them off the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce
anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your
people.

EXODUS 32:11-12

¹³ Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'" ¹⁴ Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

EXODUS 32:13-14

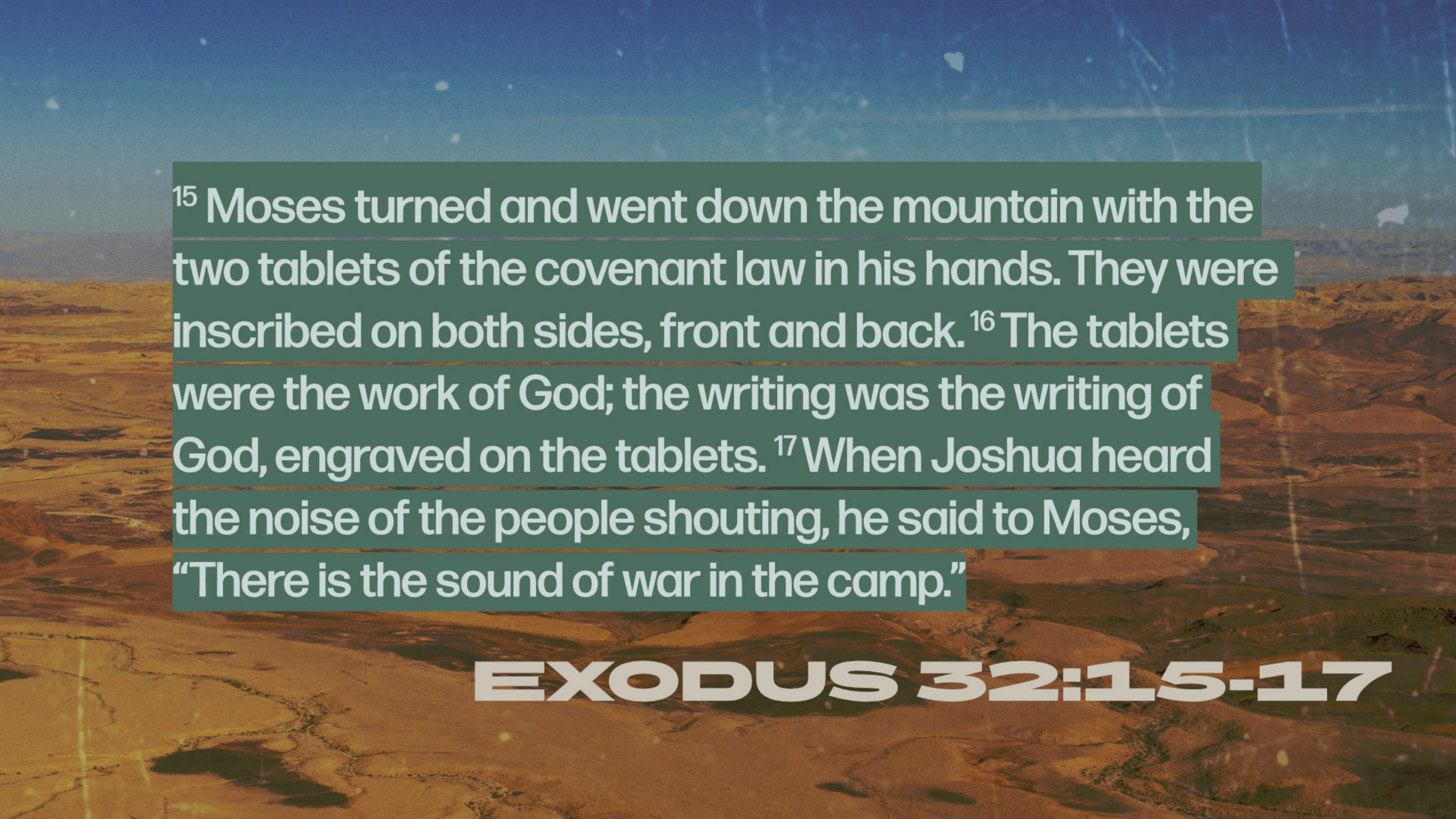
GOD'S DESCRIPTION

"They are a stiff-necked people."

God is saying, *"I keep showing them my compassion, my power, my provision, but they will not turn to me."*

GOD GIVES MOSES AN INVITATION TO INTERCEDE

**The warnings of the Bible
call us to intercede for others.**

An aerial photograph of a vast, arid desert landscape under a clear blue sky. The terrain is a mix of light brown and tan hues, with some darker, possibly rocky or mineral-rich patches. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent green rectangular background.

¹⁵ Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. ¹⁶ The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets. ¹⁷ When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, “There is the sound of war in the camp.”

EXODUS 32:15-17

¹⁸ Moses replied: “It is not the sound of victory, it is not the sound of defeat; it is the sound of singing that I hear.” ¹⁹ When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. ²⁰ And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

EXODUS 32:18-20

Moses is angry!
but this is also symbolic

**The broken tablets reveal the covenant has
been broken by the people.**

**The ground up golden calf reveals the
emptiness of their idol.**

²¹ He said to Aaron, “What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?” ²² “Do not be angry, my lord,” Aaron answered. “You know how prone these people are to evil. ²³ They said to me, ‘Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.’”

EXODUS 32:21-23

²⁴ So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"

EXODUS 32:24

³⁰ The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."

EXODUS 32:30

³¹ So Moses went back to the LORD and said, “Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. ³² But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.”

EXODUS 32:31-32

³³ The LORD replied to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book.³⁴ Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and my angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin.”

³⁵ And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.

EXODUS 32:33-35

The word "atonement" carries the idea of restoring what has been broken

The people have lost their "at-one-ment" with God

⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God
and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,
⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people.

1 TIMOTHY 2:5-6

**Have you been reconciled to God
through Jesus Christ?**

Are we helping others find & follow Jesus?