

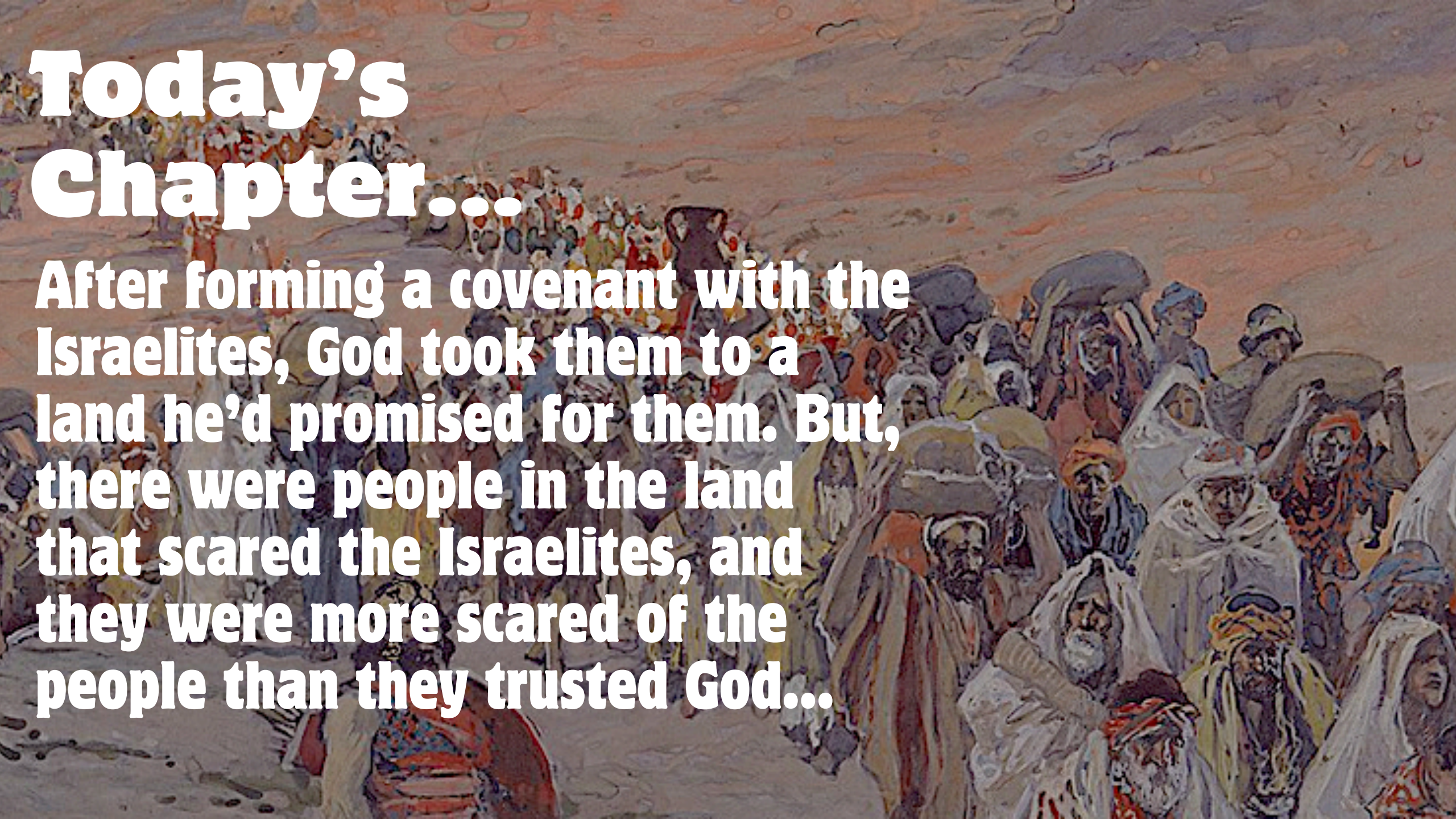


THE BIG STORY CHAPTER 9/25

The Wilderness:
Learning To Trust

Today's Chapter...

After forming a covenant with the Israelites, God took them to a land he'd promised for them. But, there were people in the land that scared the Israelites, and they were more scared of the people than they trusted God...



Today's Scripture:

Deuteronomy 8:2-5

And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you.



The Story: The Wilderness

- **When the Israelites chose to trust their fears more than God, God decided to discipline them.**
- **For forty whole years, the Israelites wandered in the wilderness. During this whole time, God never abandoned them. He kept them fed and safe, made sure they had enough to eat and were never in danger. He even protected their feet from hurting from all the walking!**
- **This wasn't punishment – this was discipline, which means to teach someone something. God wanted to teach the Israelites that He could overcome anything in their lives, no matter how big it seemed.**
- **At the end of the forty years, the Israelites trusted God completely!**

Why it Matters in the Big Story

- Sometimes, we trust ourselves or something else over God.**
- For those who are children of God, God does not punish, but disciplines.**
- He does this in order for us to learn to trust Him above all.**
- This is something God has always done, and will always do. Even when He disciplines us, He is with us.**



GOD IS...

God is patient. That means that God is not quick to punish those who do wrong. He takes His time with us, and prefers to teach us softly and slowly to trust Him.

Reflection Questions

- 1. What did God do when the Israelites disobeyed Him?**
He disciplined them by sending them into the wilderness for 40 years!
- 2. How does God discipline us?**
Like His beloved children.
- 3. What's the point of God's discipline?**
To teach us to trust in Him.

Challenge Question: How will you trust in God this week?