

Bible Lesson # 28

1.

Exodus 18-19

Moses was very lonely. He had so much to do during the day that he didn't think much about it, but at night Moses missed the excited voices of his little boys and the warm smile of his wife, Zipporah. Zipporah and the boys (Gershom and Eliezer) had stayed in Egypt with Moses for awhile, but later Moses sent them home to their father so they would be safe from the wicked Pharaoh and the plagues. Now Moses was leading the children of Israel near to their home and he hoped that soon he would be able to see his wife and boys again.

As he neared their desert home, Moses saw a cloud of dust in the distance. It was his father-in-law, Jethro riding toward them with servants on camels and donkeys. Moses ran and hugged and kissed Jethro and asked him how he was, then he began to look all around Jethro's group. There behind a camel was his wife Zipporah, shyly smiling at him. "Surprise," yelled Gershom and Eliezer as they dashed out from among the servants. Moses ran to hug and kiss them and they all probably cried a little as they were so glad to be together once again.

That night Jethro gave them a big feast and they sat around the fire to listen as Moses told Jethro all that had happened in Egypt. He told about the hard hearted Pharaoh and the miracles God had caused. He told how God had made a path for them across the Red Sea and how Pharaoh's army drowned when they tried to follow them. He also told Jethro and his family about God giving them a pillar of cloud to lead them by day and the pillar of fire that kept them safe during the night and the manna that kept them alive when their food ran out. Jethro marveled at all the wonderful things God had done. Jethro said, "Now I know that the Lord is greater than all the idol gods of other nations." Moses was very glad that his father-in-law believed in God.

That evening Moses, Aaron and Jethro went to a special place where Jethro had made an altar. Here they bowed down to pray and to offer a sacrifice to God.

When a person makes a sacrifice to God, he offers something precious of his (like a perfect lamb with no diseases or bumps or scars) to show God how much he loves him and how much he thanks God for all he has done for them.



Moses hated to leave his family the next morning. The boys were happily gathering manna for their breakfast, laughing and joking as they worked, while Zipporah was softly singing as she milked their cow. As much as Moses would have liked to spend the day with his family, he was the leader and it was his job to sit and listen to all the problems the Israelites brought to him. There was always a long line of people waiting to see Moses.

Jethro came to see how Moses conducted the business of running such a large camp of people. As he looked on, he saw how tired the people were, standing in the hot sun, waiting and waiting to talk to Moses. Poor Moses was tired too. First he listened to one person with problems, then another with a quarrel with his neighbor, then someone who didn't understand a point of God's laws and wanted Moses to explain it. Often Moses would sigh and look toward the tent where Zipporah and Gershom and Eliezer were, wishing he had more time for them.

That evening Jethro came to Moses with a suggestion. "Why do you sit alone to judge the people? This isn't good, you will surely wear away, you and the people both." Jethro said. "This job is too big to do alone. Why don't you choose some good men who you can trust. Ones who are truthful and who love God and make good judgments. Let the people come to them with the smaller problems and you can judge the more important matters." This sounded like a very good idea to Moses, so the very next day he began picking out some good men who could help him. Moses and Jethro talked often while he was at Jethro's home. Jethro now believed in God and wanted to know as much as he could about God's ways. This made Moses and his family very happy.

Moses was being a leader and a judge, just as one day Jesus will return to earth to be a leader and a judge. He will bring God's word not only to the Israelites, but also to people from all nations in the world. The Bible tells us that many people will go to Jerusalem to see Jesus and be taught about God's ways.

Isa.2:3 "Many peoples will come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."



Zion is a mountain where the city of Jerusalem is located. This is a city that is in the land of Israel today. Jesus will come and be the leader in Jerusalem one day soon and we may be able to travel to Jerusalem and go see him and learn more about God when that day comes. Wouldn't that be wonderful? Right now very few of the Israelites know much about Jesus and God's plan for their land and their capitol city of Jerusalem. God has always loved this land and these people but often they have turned away from God. When Jesus comes he will become their leader and will teach them to love God, to put away their weapons of war, like guns and tanks and bombs and turn their factories into places to make farm tools instead of missiles and bombs. Jesus will bring peace to the land that has many wars going on now. It will be a wonderful time when hurting others and pain and killing are done away with, won't it?

The Bible tells us in Zechariah that Zion and Jerusalem (the mountain in Jerusalem and capitol city of the nation of Israel), will rejoice greatly. Why? Because their King is coming to Jerusalem. Zechariah 9:9 "See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, and in verse 10 God says, "I will take away the chariots and war horses and battle bow" All these are weapons of war, aren't they?

Your memory verse is from the rest of verse 10, see if you can learn in and put a check mark in the gold box, okay?

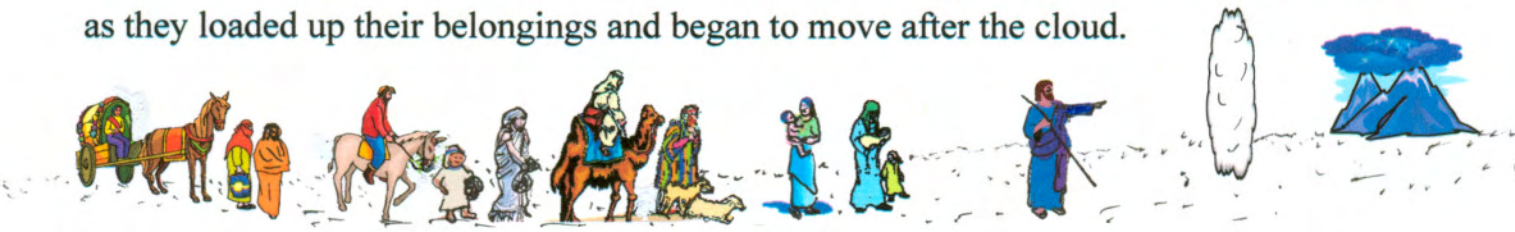


Zech.9:10

"He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the river to the ends of the earth."

This isn't talking about a kingdom in heaven is it? It's talking about a kingdom here on earth with Jesus as the king who will bring peace to the nations.

These are things that may happen in our lifetime, but now lets go back in time to here more about Moses and the children of Israel. Shortly after Moses set up other men to help him judge the people, he was told by God that it was time to move on. The next morning Moses went to Jethro and told him he must leave him now. The pillar of cloud had risen and was moving toward a tall mountain in the distance. Jethro hugged his family and waved goodbye as they loaded up their belongings and began to move after the cloud.



Moses and the Jewish people had been traveling over rough desert country for three months now but as they approached the mountain called Mt. Sinai, Moses told the people they could now stop and rest for awhile. This was good news to everyone. The animals would be able to fatten up on the nearby grasses and there was water here for the animals to drink. It was a time to stop and mend torn clothes and a place where the women could wash their clothes and the children play together. They were very tired of traveling every day and were delighted to stop and rest. They set up their tents and booths in a large, flat plain and would often look over at the rough, red rocks and dark, rumbling, clouds that covered the top of Mt. Sinai.

Mount Sinai was called the mountain of God. It was a very special place where God told Moses he would speak to him and give him some special commandments to take to the people.

One morning after everything in the camp was settled, Moses took his staff and began to climb up the mountain. The sun was shining brightly and Moses had to stop often to catch his breath. As a lizard scampered out of his way, he took time to look over the camp of Israelites. There were so many people with many problems. It was hard to try and teach them God's ways, for they had lived among the Egyptians for many years and quite a few of the Jews had learned to worship idols and follow the ways of the Egyptians. Moses prayed that God would give him some words to try and help these Jewish people called the children of Israel.

Moses climbed higher and soon entered a cloud near the top of the mountain. Suddenly he heard a voice speaking to him. "Tell the Israelites you have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I brought you here. Now, if they will obey me and keep my covenant, then you will be a special treasure to me. I will care for them above all people on earth. If you obey my words I will make you into a kingdom of priests who serve me and a holy nation." Holy is a word that means "set apart" and special).

The Lord continued, "Tell the people I will come to them in a cloud and speak to you so they will know that the words you tell them come from God and they will believe you."



Moses climbed down the mountain and gathered the people together. He told them that God would come and speak to them in three days time and they were to wash themselves and wash their clothes. Why do you suppose they needed to wash before the gathered in front of the mountain to hear God speak?

Being dirty was a symbol of sinning. If we are told to stay out of the mud or the cookie jar, then mom sees us with mud on our shoes or chocolate chips smeared on our jeans, it shows mom we didn't obey her, doesn't it? Washing was a symbol of being clean and free from wicked thoughts and actions. The people knew they sometimes did wrong things and Moses told them they needed to be washed clean before they could come close to God. In the Bible we are told to believe God's words and when we are old enough to choose God's ways, we are to be baptized. Do you know what a person does when they are baptized? They go down under water as a symbol of washing themselves of their sins and coming out of the water, new and clean, ready to follow God's ways. Baptism is also as a symbol of Jesus's death and resurrection to a new, sinless, immortal, life. We are dipped under the water, like Jesus was buried under ground. We come out of the water, washed clean, just like Jesus came out of the grave with new, immortal life. Being clean shows we want to be pleasing to God and to honor him.

On the third day the Israelite people approached the mountain. They were frightened for Moses had warned them, "Do not go too close to the mountain and do not touch it and do not let any of the animals touch the mountain, or you and your animals will die." The earth was shaking, and on the top of the mountain there was a dense cloud and thunder and lightning. A loud noise sounding like a trumpet erupted from the mountain and fire came out of the cloud and smoke rose high in the air. This was like the worse volcano anyone had ever seen. God had said he would speak directly to the children of Israel from the cloud, but they were too frightened. They cried to Moses, "You speak to God and then tell us what he says, we don't want to hear him speaking to us, we are too afraid!" A loud thunderous voice was heard and Moses was told to come up on the mountain and God would tell Moses what to say to the children of Israel.

In our next lesson we'll learn what God told Moses when he climbed up the mountain and approached the fiery, thundering cloud.



Question Page

Draw a circle around the correct answer

1. Who came to visit Moses in the wilderness? (a) Jethro (b) Peter (c) Pharaoh
2. What was the name of Moses' wife? (a) Miriam (b) Jethro (c) Zipporah
3. How many children did Moses have? (a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 5
4. What did Moses do all day long? (a) Gather Manna (b) Judge the people (c) Sew tents
5. Dirty clothes were a symbol of what? (a) Death (b) Sin (c) Baptism

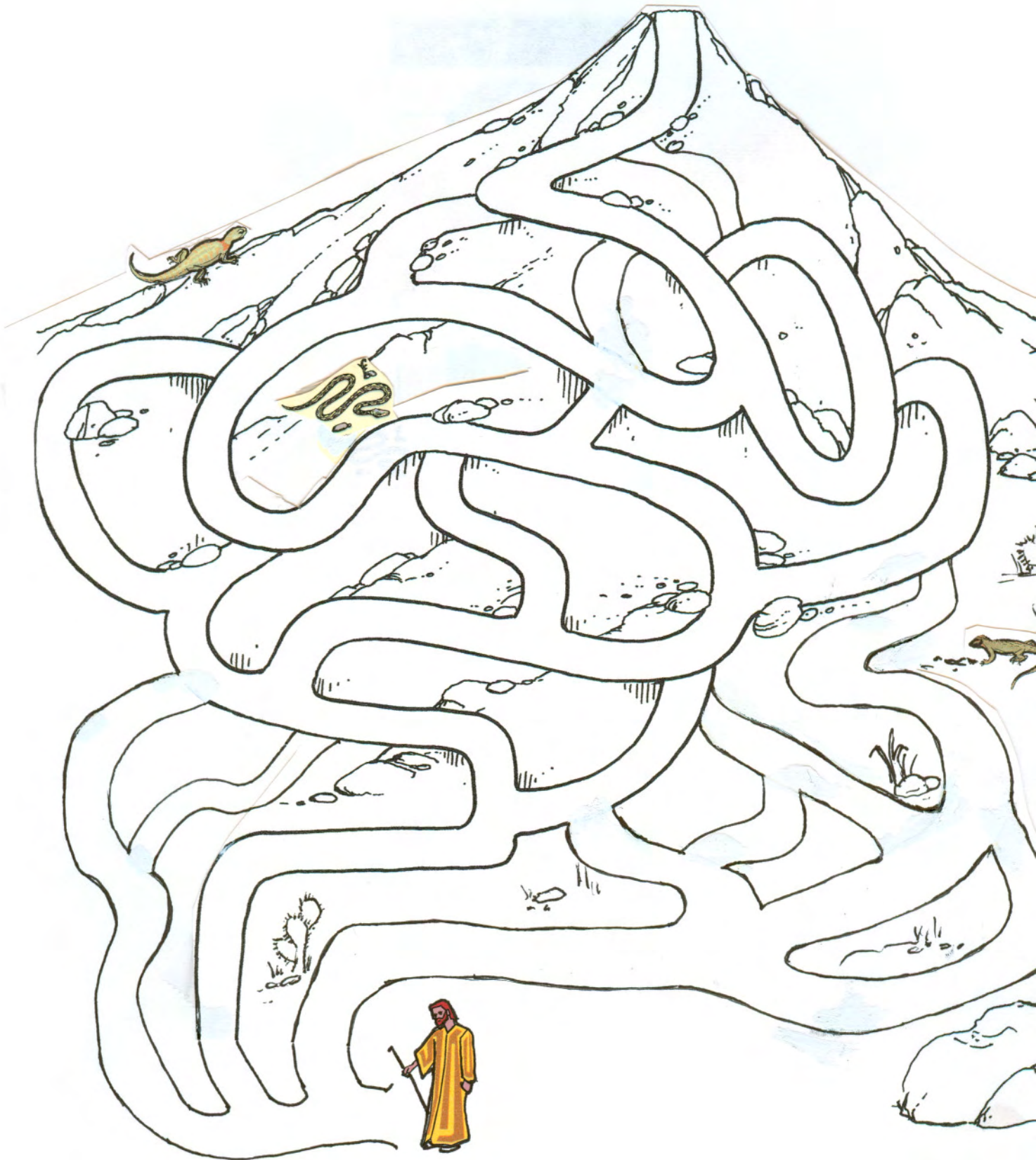
Answer the following in the space below the question

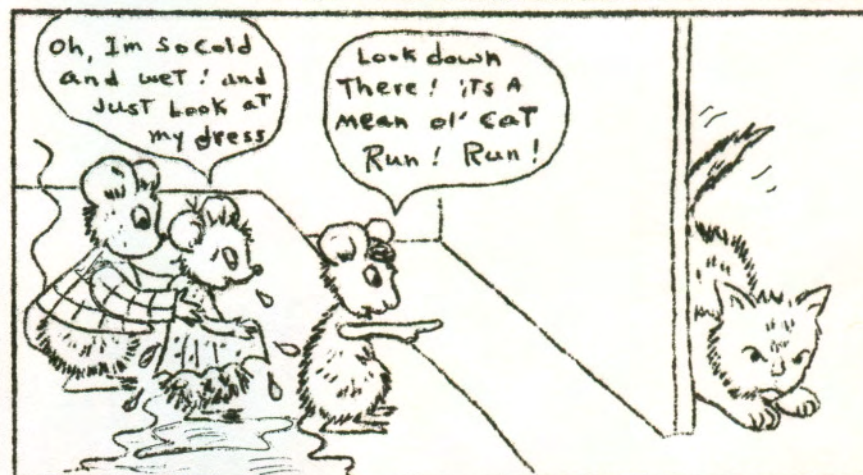
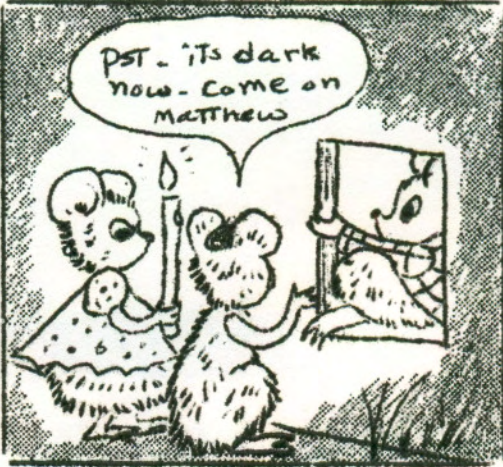
1. Did Jethro believe in God or in idols after he heard all Moses told about life in Egypt?
2. What did Jethro suggest to make Moses' work of judging the people, easier for him?
3. What were God's people called ... Israelites? ... Children of Israel? ... Jews or Jewish people? ... Hebrews? ... Or were they called all of these things at different times?
4. Who died, was buried for three days then rose from the grave and given immortal life?
5. Who is to be the leader of the world and rule from the city of Jerusalem one day?
6. What will Jesus do with all the war weapons (swords, guns, bombs, etc.)?
7. What does one need to do in order to be baptized?
8. What was the name of the mountain that the Israelites camped by?
9. Why were the Jews warned to not touch the mountain or let the animals touch the mount?
10. What did the mountain look like when God told Moses to climb it to talk to him.

True or false?

1. _____ A pillar of fire led the children of Israel to Mt. Sinai
2. _____ The Israelites were to sprinkle water on their heads before approaching the mount.
3. _____ Jesus will rule the world and bring peace to all nations from Mt.Zion in Jerusalem.
4. _____ Jesus said we and our friends could rule the world from heaven.

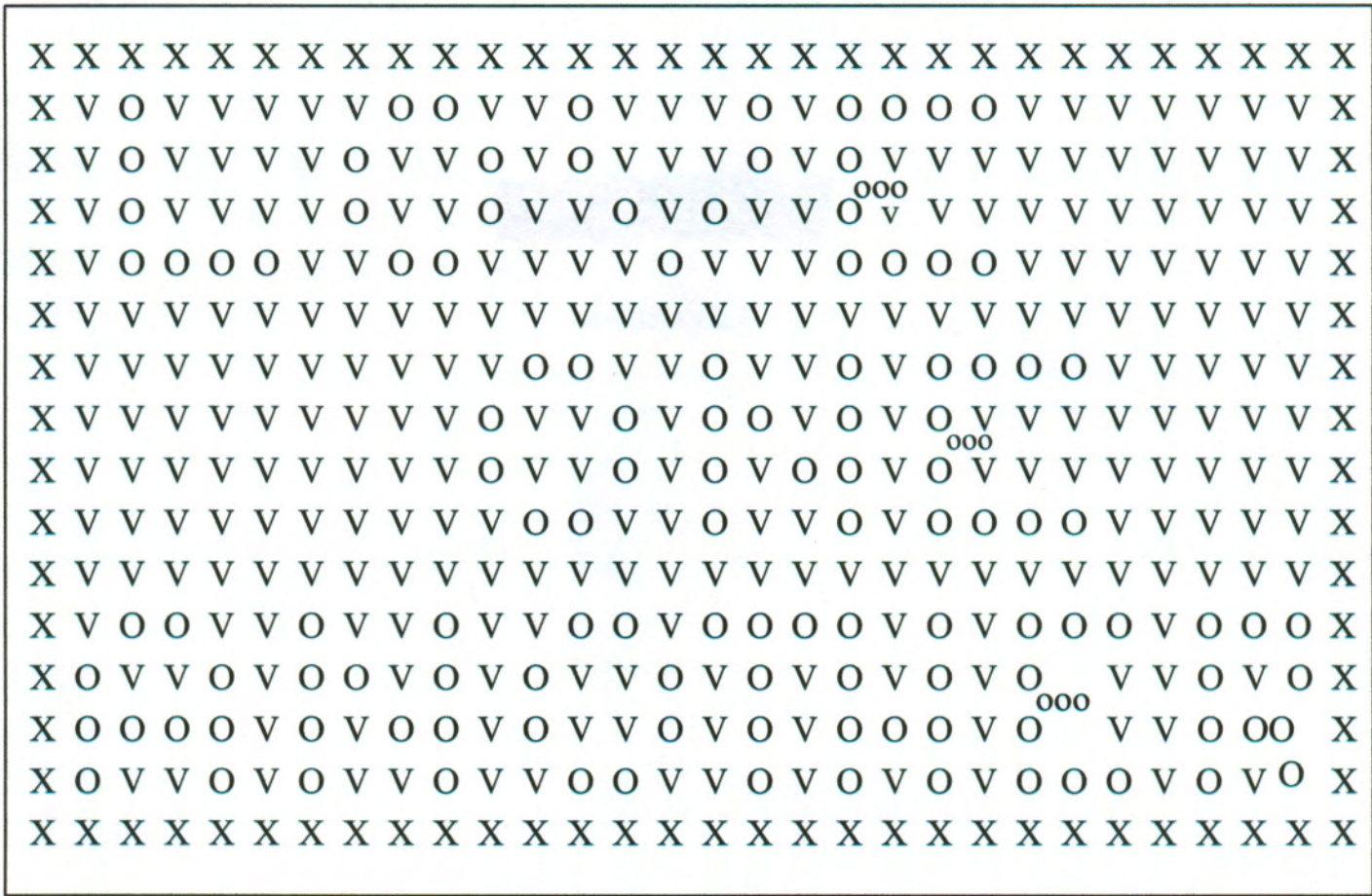
Help Moses choose the right path to the top of Mt. Sinai so he can speak with God.
Draw and color a black cloud with lightning, fire and smoke on top of the mountain.





Find out what God wants us to do

color the X - black ... color the O - red ... color the V- green



Moses led the Jews to Mt. Sinai. Moses and Mountain start with the letter "M."

How many things can you find that start with the letter "M" ? Can you draw some more?

