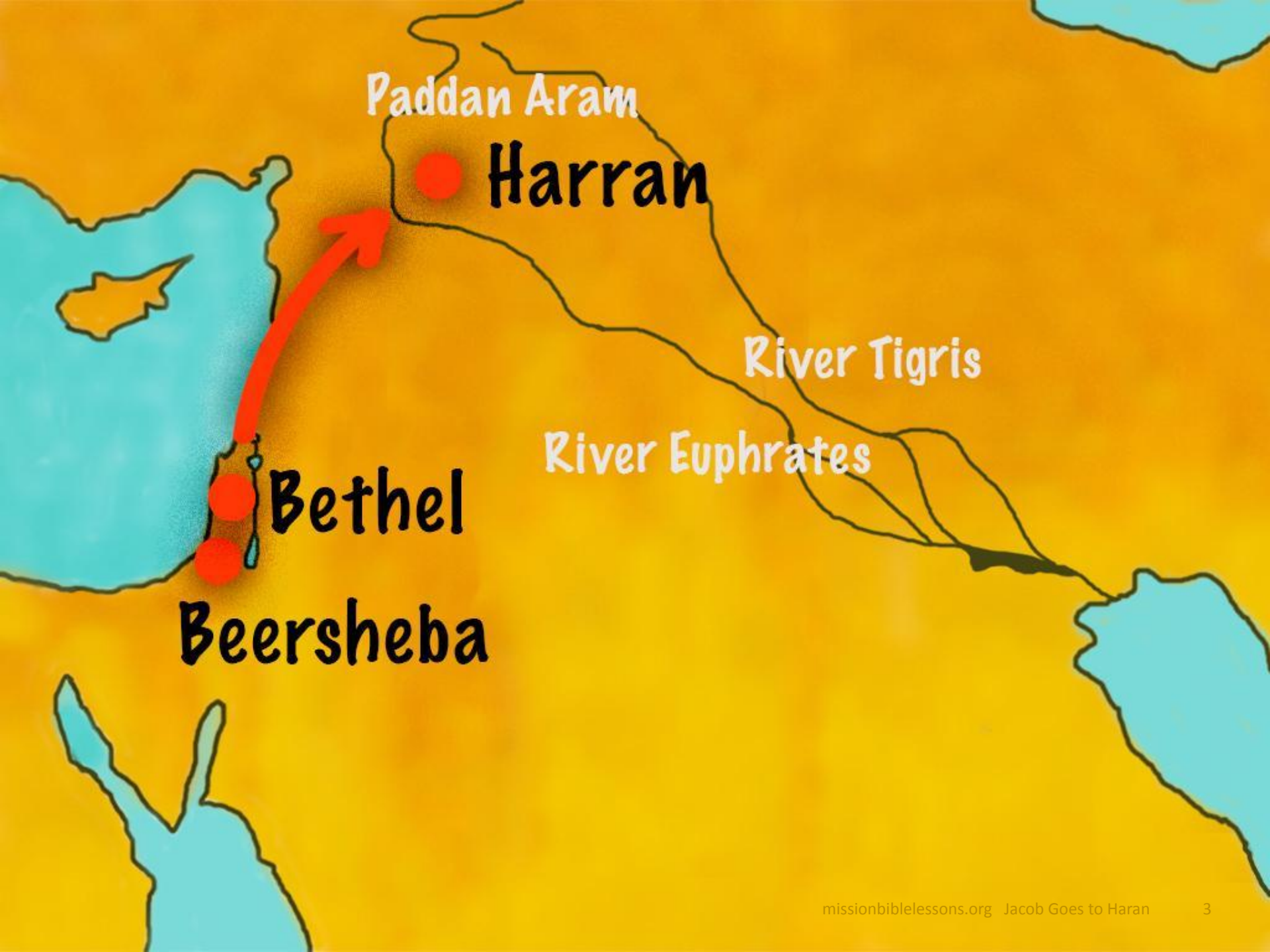




Jacob Goes to Haran

Genesis 28:10-33:20





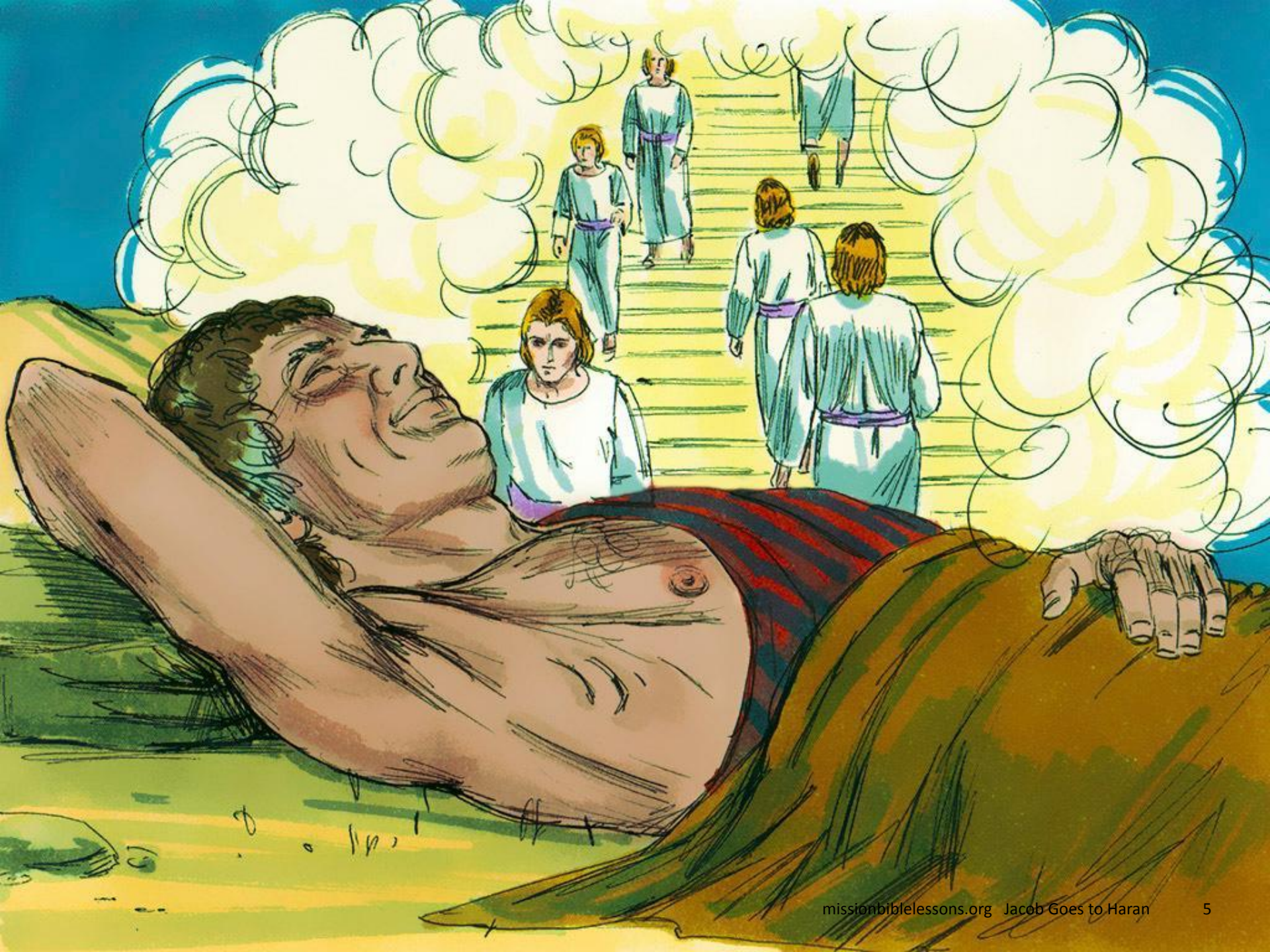
Paddan Aram
Haran

River Tigris

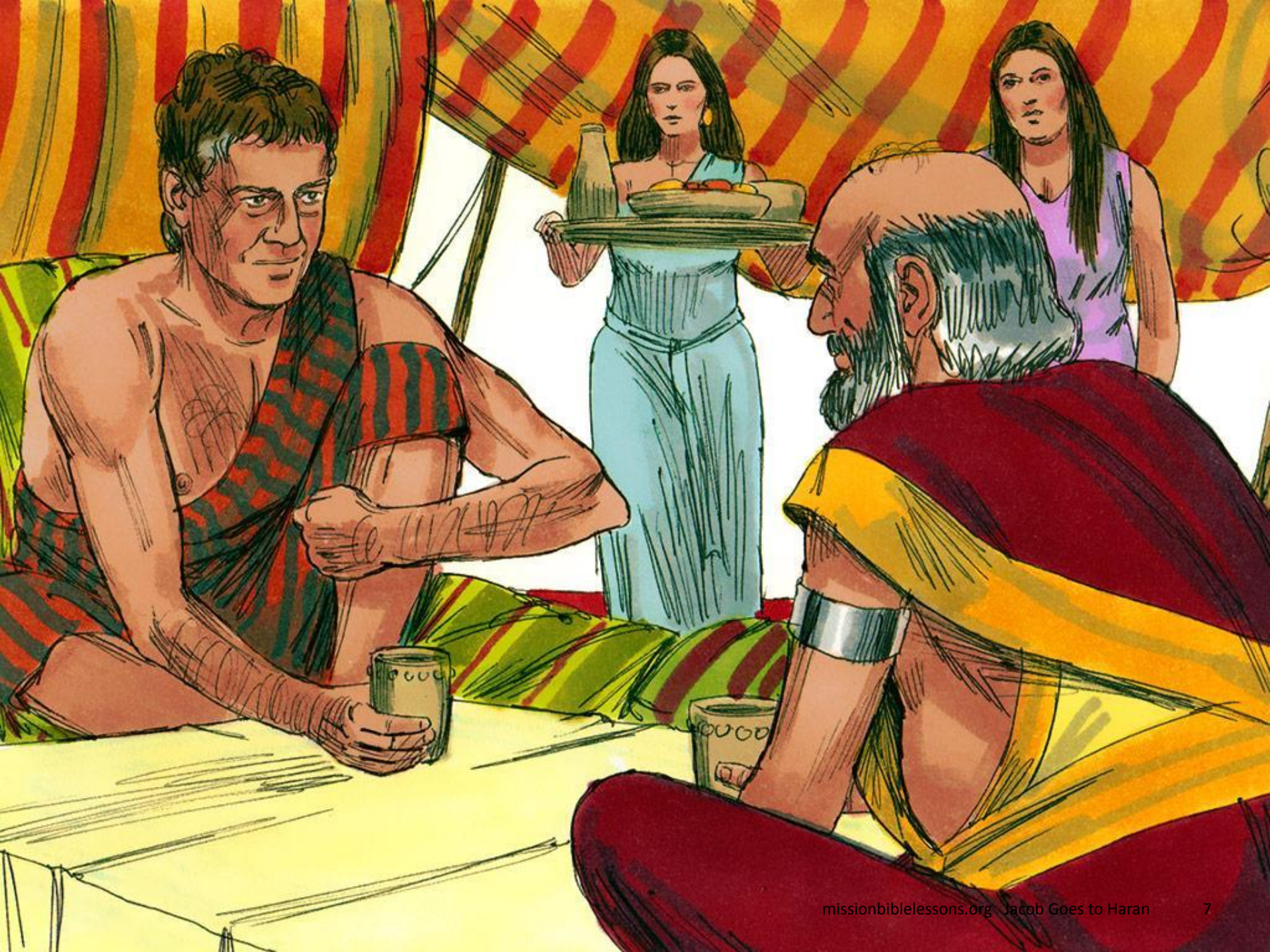
River Euphrates

Bethel
Beersheba

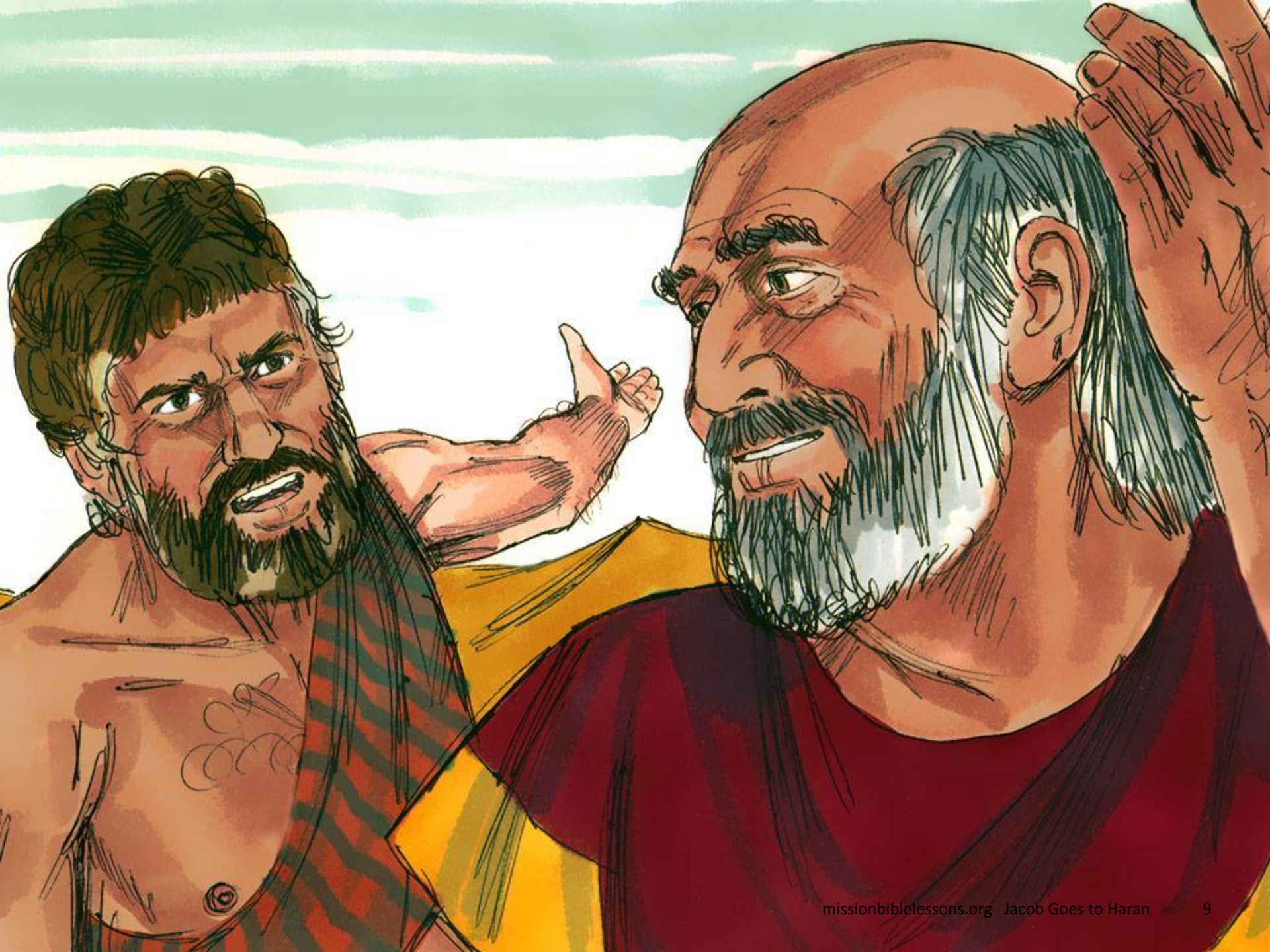
















Jacob's Children

To Leah:

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah,
Issachar, Zebulan, Dinah (daughter)

To Bilhah (Rachel's maidservant):

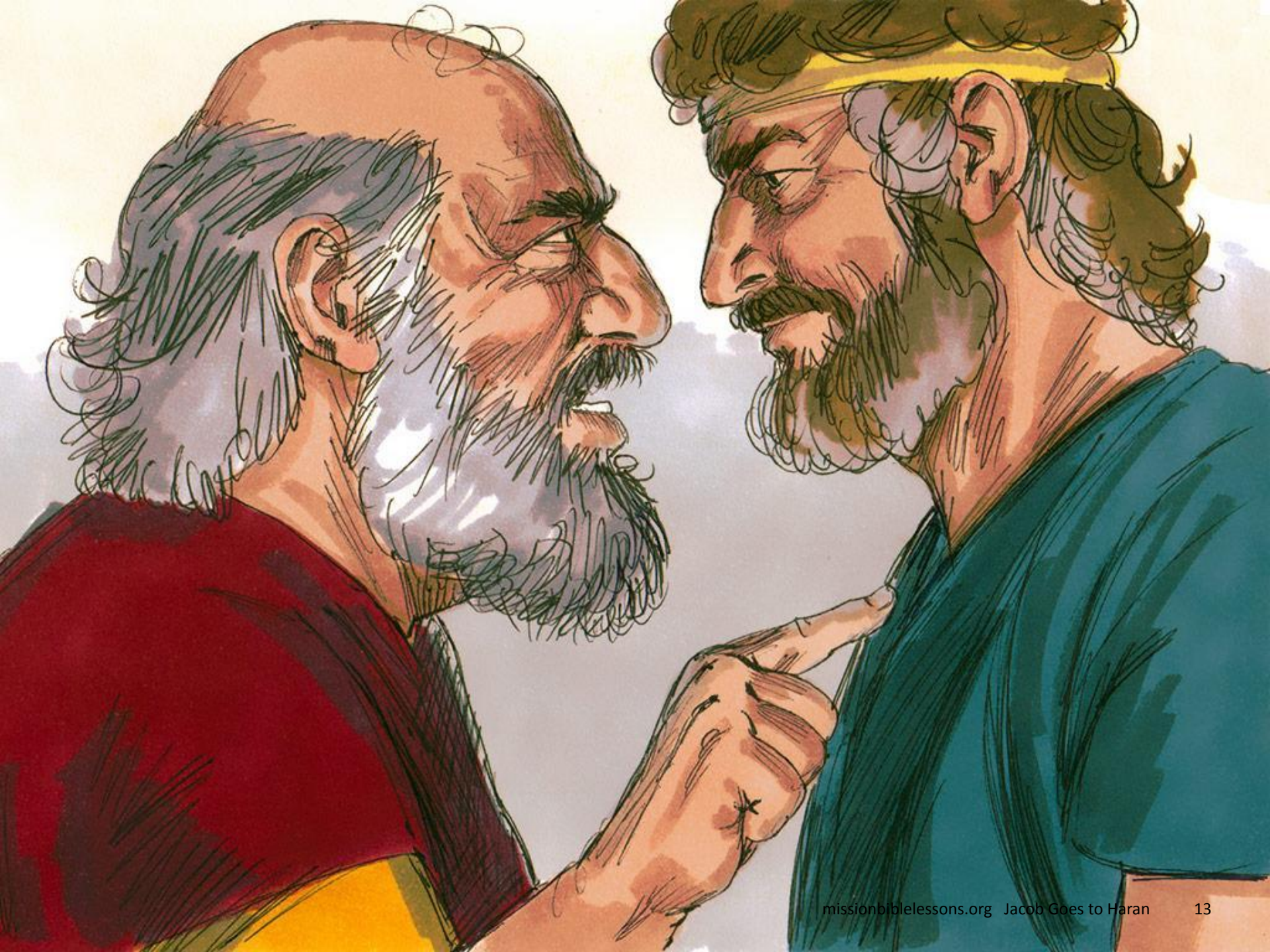
Dan, Naphtali

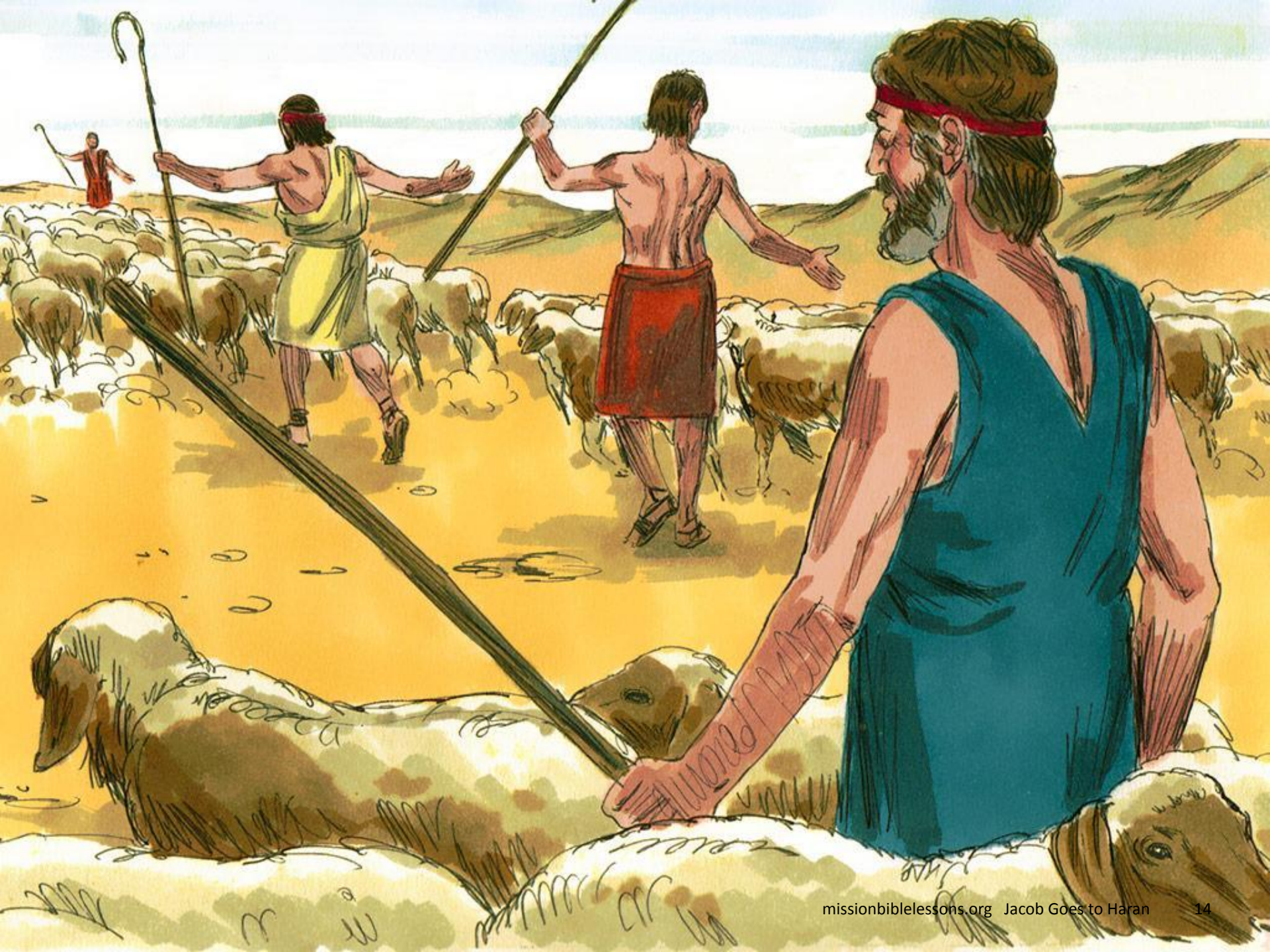
To Zilpah (Leah's maidservant):

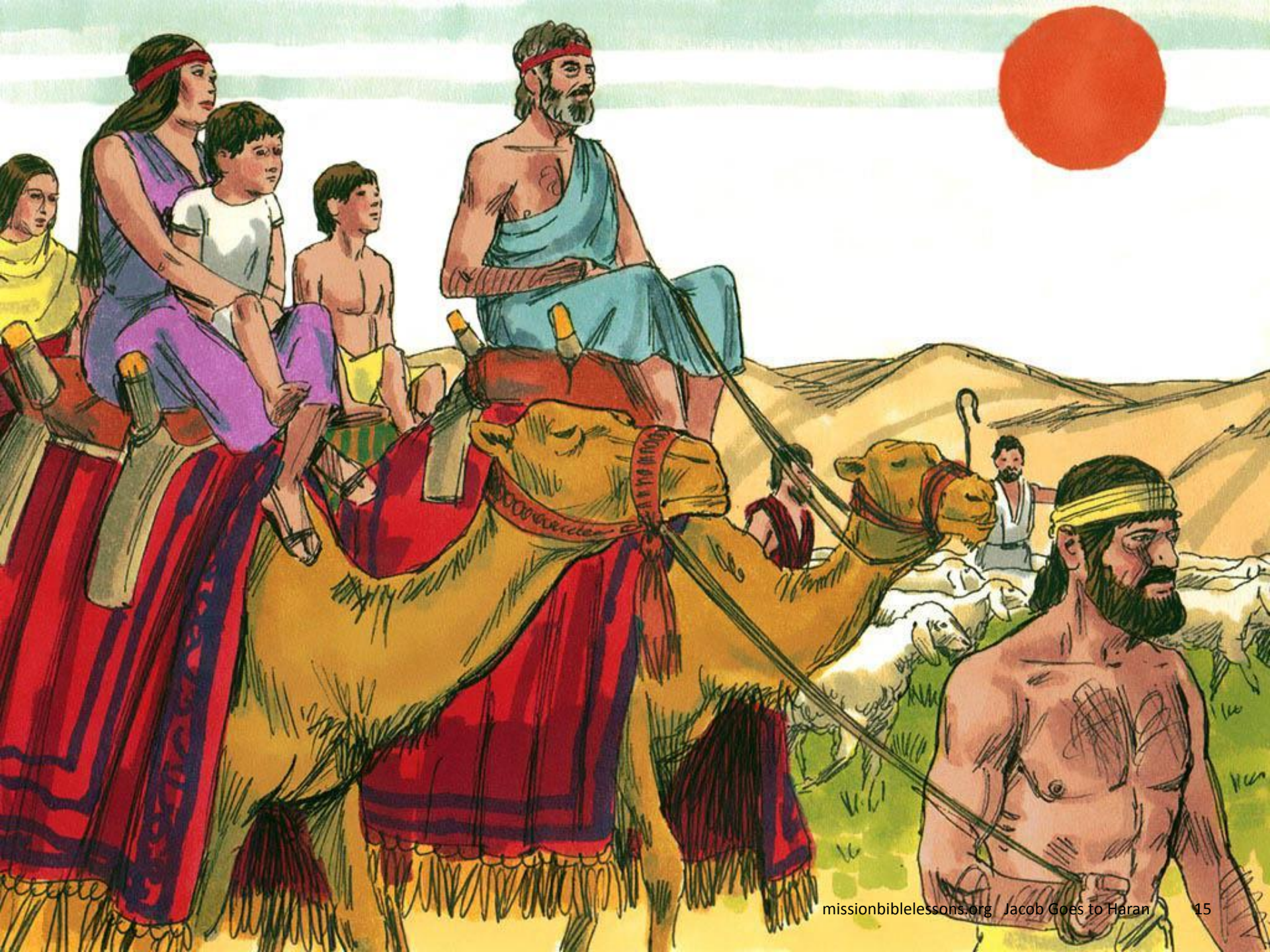
Gad, Asher

To Rachel:

Joseph, Benjamin



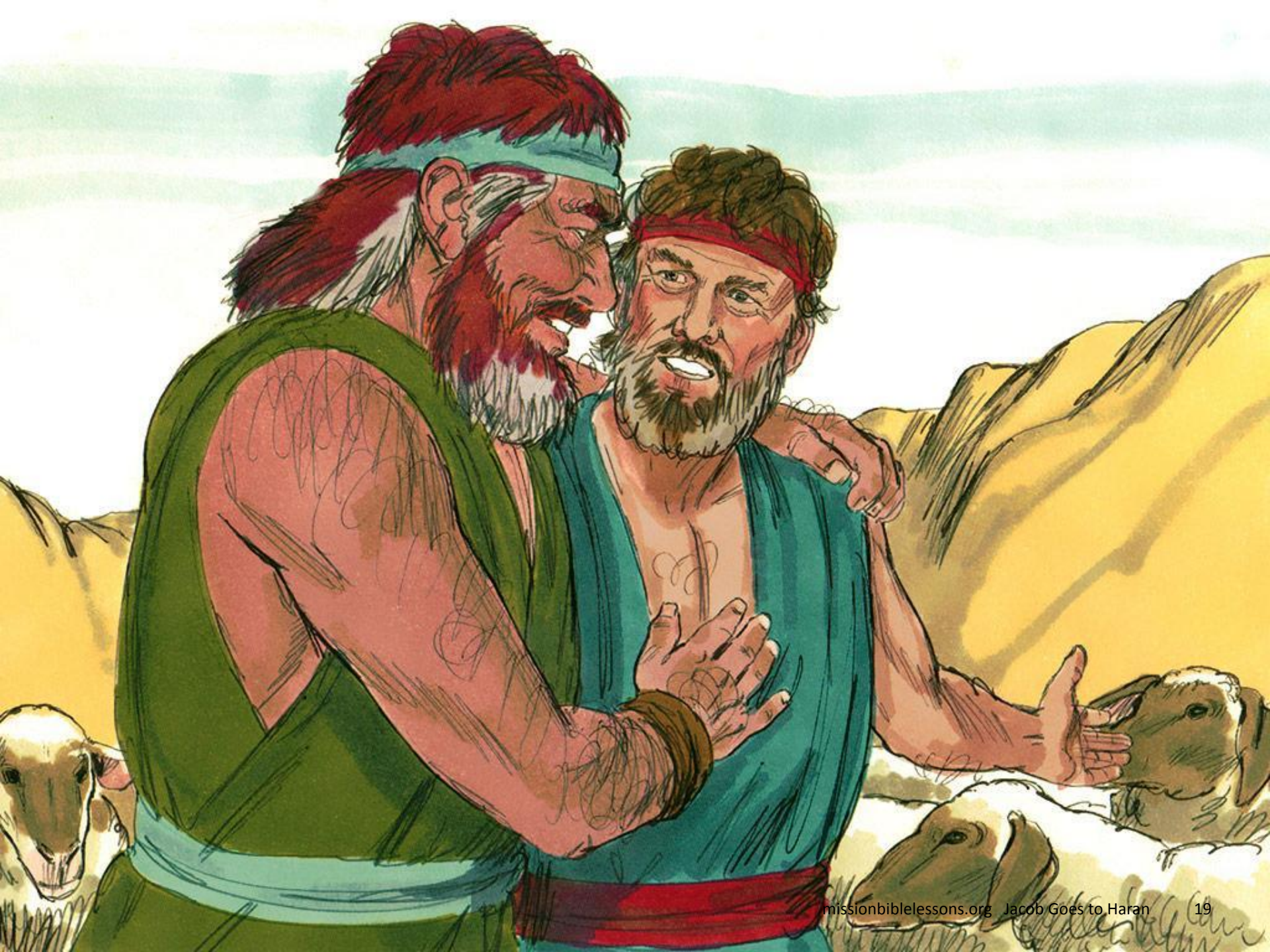














Teacher Notes 1

1. Cover: Jacob goes to Haran (Genesis 28:10-33:20)

2. Jacob had tricked his father and brother. His brother was so angry he wanted to kill him. Jacob's mother told him to leave and visit their family in Haran. He could find a wife there, and someday, when his brother was no longer angry, maybe he could come back

3. Jacob stopped for the night on his way to Haran.

4. He slept on the ground. For a pillow, he laid his head on a stone.

5. When you sleep, do you ever dream? Sometimes, we have good dreams, and sometimes, we have scary dreams. But Jacob had a beautiful dream. He dreamed that a stairway or ladder reached from the ground all the way into heaven! And on that long stairway, he saw angels going up and down! And who do you think was at the top of the ladder? God!

Jacob heard God say, "I am the God of your grandfather Abraham and your father Isaac. The ground you are lying on is yours. I will give it to you and your children and your children's children. You will be the father of a great nation. There will be many children and they will populate this land." God also promised to be with Jacob's family and protect them.

6. The next morning, Jacob got up very early and placed the stone on which he'd been sleeping on its side. He poured olive oil on it and named the special place Bethel. He prayed, "Oh God if you protect me and give me food and shelter on this journey, I will always remember you as the true God. This place will be a special place of remembrance."

Jacob now knew that God wanted him to be good. He would be the leader of a very big family, and someone from his family would bring blessings to the whole world. He knew he was not alone—God was with him.

7. When Jacob finally arrived in Haran, all his relatives were happy to see him. Jacob met his Uncle Laban's beautiful daughter, Rachel, and her older sister, Leah. Rachel was beautiful.

Jacob worked hard helping Laban tend his sheep. After he had been there a month, Laban wanted to know how much to pay Jacob. Jacob had fallen in love with Rachel, so he had an idea. Jacob told Laban that he would work for him for seven whole years, and at the end of that time, Laban could give Rachel to Jacob as a wife. Laban agreed.

8. After seven years, the time came for Jacob and Rachel to get married. Do you remember how Jacob had been deceitful and played a trick on his father, Isaac? Now Jacob was the one who was tricked! Jacob thought he was marrying Rachel, but Laban switched the brides. Instead of Rachel, Laban gave his older daughter, Leah, to Jacob. Jacob could not see Leah, so he thought he was marrying Rachel. The next morning, when the sun rose, Jacob saw that his new wife was Leah!

Teacher Notes 2

9. Jacob was very angry with Laban, but Laban said it was unfair for the younger sister to marry before the older one. Then Laban had an idea. He would let Jacob marry Rachel, too. Men in those days sometimes had more than one wife. Laban said Jacob could marry Rachel now, but he would have to work another seven years in exchange. Jacob agreed.

10. Rachel and Jacob got married, and Jacob always loved Rachel the most.

11. As the years went by, Jacob's family grew. Leah had a number of children, but many years passed before Rachel finally had children.

12. Eventually, Jacob became the father of twelve sons and one daughter. He did not always obey God. Some of the children were born to his wives, and some were born to his wives' servants.

13. Laban did not like it when Jacob said God wanted him to take his family and return to where he had come from.

14. Jacob agreed to stay and work for a few more years. Jacob only had a few sheep, but he tricked Laban and ensured he had many sheep before leaving.

15. God told Jacob it was time to go. Laban was angry, but Jacob and his family left anyway.

16. Before Jacob arrived at his old home, he had a visit from God (in the form of an angel). The angel wrestled with Jacob. The angel told Jacob that he was a fighter, so his name would no longer be "Jacob" but would be changed to a new name that suits a fighter. His new name would be called "Israel."

17. Jacob was very afraid to meet his brother Esau again. Esau had been very angry with him all those years ago.

18. Jacob sent servants ahead of him with many gifts for Esau. Jacob even bowed down to Esau when he saw him.

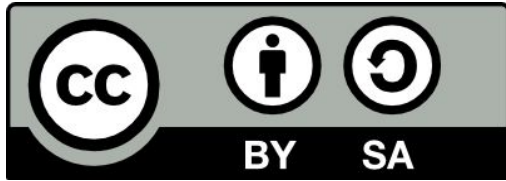
19. But Jacob did not need to be worried. Esau ran up to his brother and hugged him. He was so happy to see Jacob.

Jacob and his family now made their home in nearby Shechem.

20. When Jacob had a dream about the staircase, God told him that He would watch over him.

Sometimes, good things happened in Jacob's life, and sometimes, bad things happened. But God kept his promise and cared for Jacob in good and bad times.

God took care of Jacob, and God can take care of you.



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