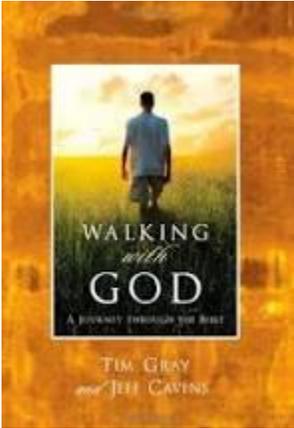
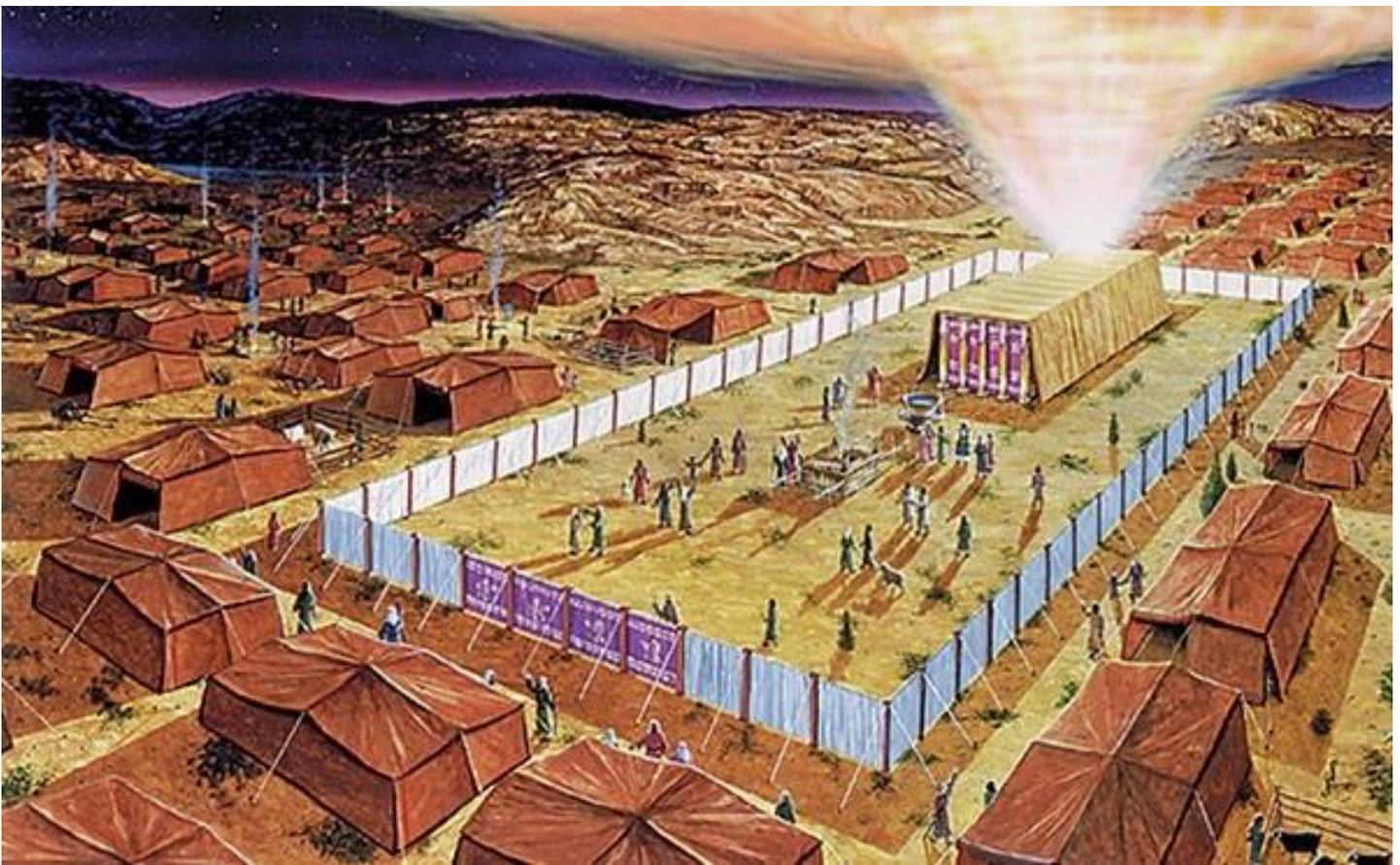


# Walking with God Session Four

## Chapter Four: Desert Wanderings



Recollection: How does God lead His Chosen People? Do you recognize yourself and your relationship with God in the Israelites' wilderness experiences?



### Reflect:

- The Hebrew name for what the Greeks called “The Book of Numbers” is “In the Wilderness.” The “Numbers” are the two censuses taken, one of each generation. The “Wilderness” applies both to the desert in which they wandered for forty years *and* their untamed hearts which tend towards idolatry. Which title do you prefer?
- Do you recognize your inner struggles in the “wilderness” experience of the Israelites?

## Act One: Camping at Sinai

- Psalms 36 and 91 invoke the image of protection under God's wings. Read and pray with these psalms as a spiritual exercise this week.
- Note the placement of the Levites as a buffer between God and the Israelites. They were to be purer and more holy than the sinful people. As you walk with God towards your ultimate destination, do you live up to the standard of a Levite? Or are you more at a distance from purity?
- What is a Nazirite vow and why does it exist?
- What is the Aaronic blessing and who can pronounce it? Who is blessed by it?
- Why did the Israelites spend a year camped at Sinai?



## Act Two: The Travel Narrative

- Why does Moses intercede again for the people after just a few days of travel?
- What is the meaning behind the grumbling against the manna?
- What is the result of their grumbling?
- Why is Miriam afflicted with leprosy?
- What is the deeper meaning of the two crises – the grumbling and the challenge to Moses' authority?
- Which of the spies remained faithful to Yahweh?
- The Israelites grumble and cry out: "Would that we had died in this wilderness!" How did God answer their prayer?
- Describe the vice of acedia or sloth.
- Why is Moses barred from entry into the Promised Land? Does Jesus strike a similar note in His teaching?
- How is God's sense of humor shown in the narrative of Balaam?
- How does King Balak succeed where Balaam failed? What becomes of the Israelites?



## Act Three: Torah

- How do the Israelites prepare to enter the Promised Land? How is this a lesson for us?
- What is the Torah?
- What is the difference between the Law of Moses and the Ten Commandments?
- What are the "two paths" marked out for Israel?

