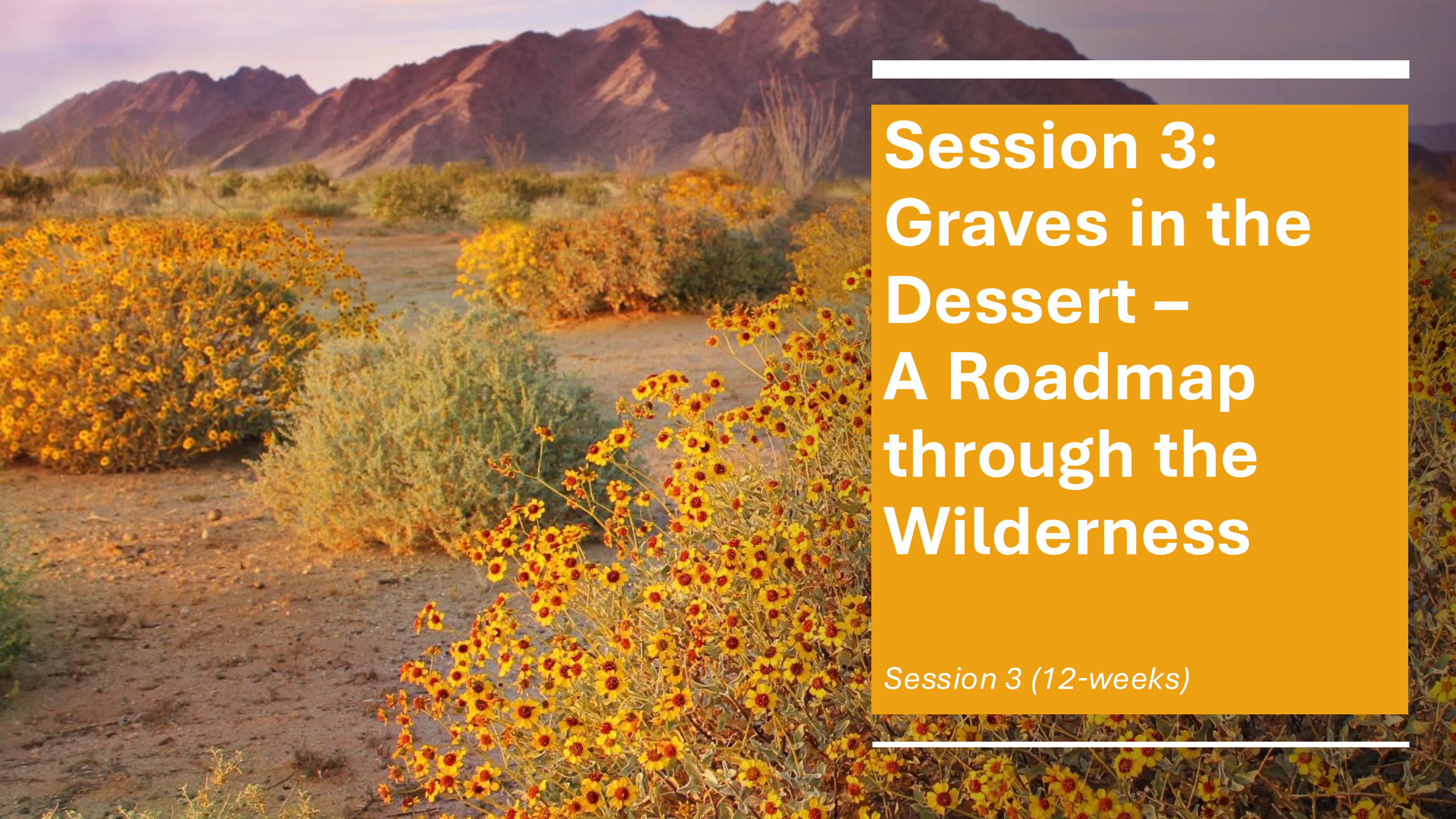


A photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are several large, bushy plants with bright yellow flowers and dark brown centers. The ground is sandy and light-colored. In the background, there are rugged, reddish-brown mountains under a clear sky. A white horizontal bar is visible at the top of the image.

Session 3: Graves in the Dessert – A Roadmap through the Wilderness

Session 3 (12-weeks)

Roadmap through the Wilderness





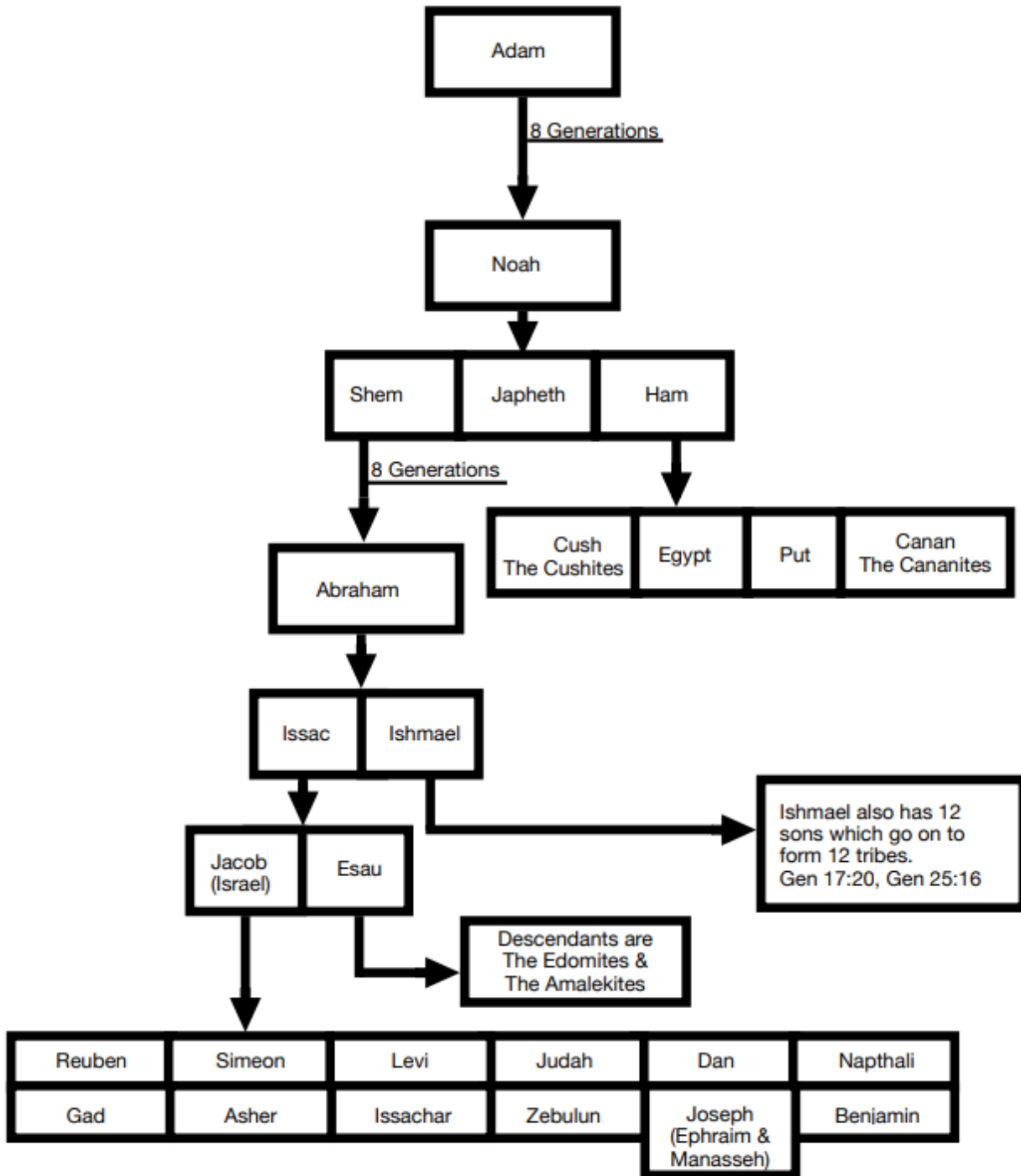
Week 1: How did we get here?

September 15, 2025



What do you know about the ancient Israelites?

(Open Discussion)



Israelite Family Tree

- The Israelites were a nation of people who descended from one man named Jacob
- Jacob (later named Israel) had 12 sons:

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| Reuben | 7. Gad |
| Simeon | 8. Asher |
| Levi | 9. Issachar |
| Judah | 10. Zebulun |
| Dan | 11. Joseph |
| Naphtali | 12. Benjamin |

Israelites

Genesis 12 - 21

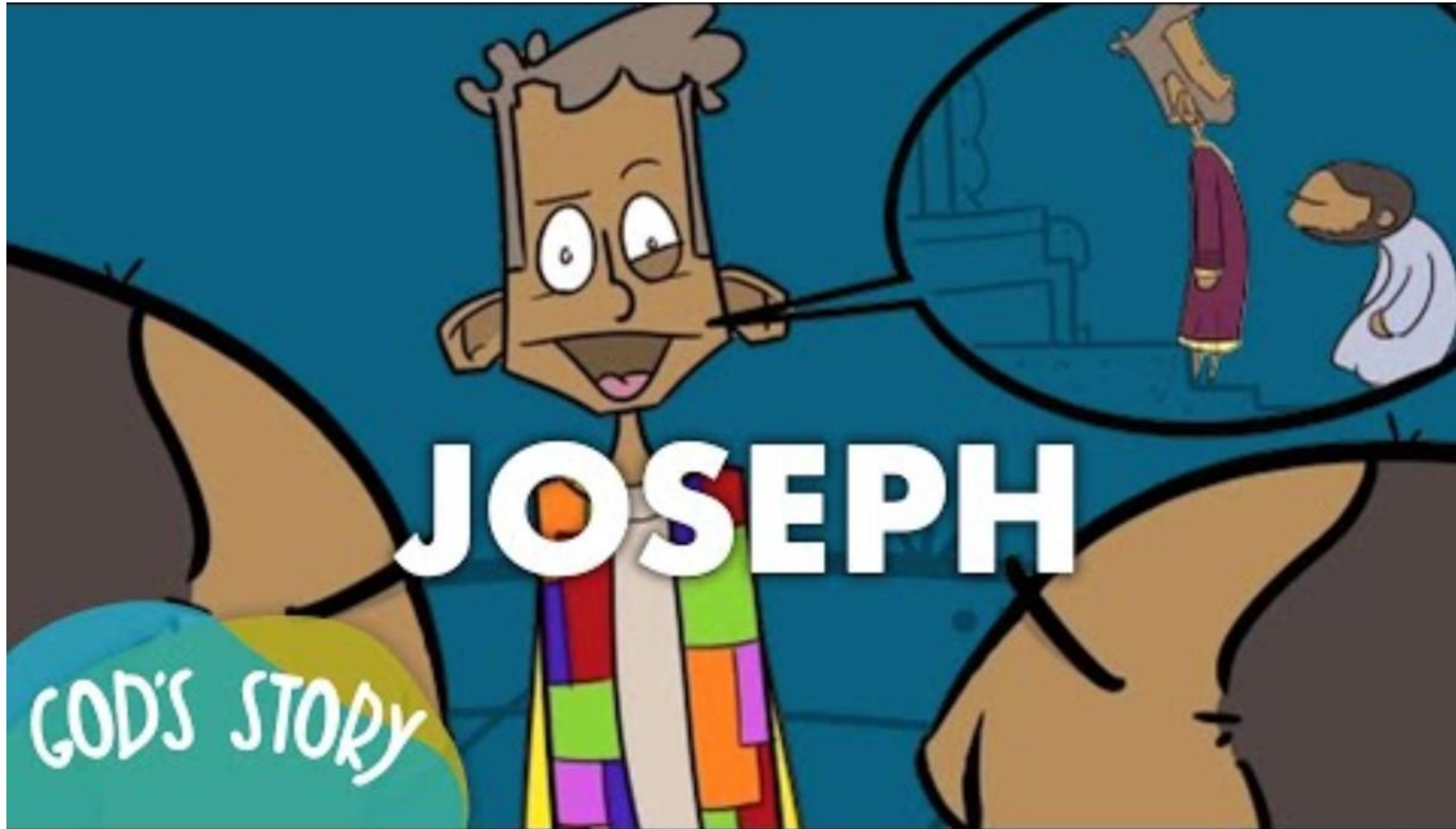


God's Promises to Abraham

- God would make Abraham into a great nation (Genesis 12:2)
- God would make his name great and he would be a blessing (Genesis 12:2)
- God would bless those that bless Abraham and curse those that curse him (Genesis 12:3)
- Abraham would be blessed and would be a blessing to all the people of the world (Genesis 12:3)
- God would give Abraham a specific land for his descendants (Genesis 12:7)



Genesis 37 - 48



From Riches to Rags



- Joseph was leader in Egypt and he had his family (70 people in total) move to Egypt with him (Genesis 46 – 47)
- A few generations later the Israelites are enslaved (Exodus 1: 8 -14)

So what happened?

- Israelite enslavement was told of hundreds of years earlier to Abraham (Genesis 15:13)
“Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there.”

The Questions for Israel's Trials

Why would God allow His people to be slaves?

How can God be good and loving if He allowed that to happen to His people?

Why would God plan for something like this to happen?

Why did it have to be for 400 years?

Why didn't God protect His people?

Why would God bring the Israelites to Egypt if he knew this would happen?

Couldn't God have done this another way?

Why would God allow His people to suffer?

Didn't God care about His people?

The Questions for Our Trials

Why would God allow **me to go through this?**

Why would God plan for something like this to happen **to me?**

Why didn't God protect **me?**

Couldn't God have done this another way?

How can God be good and loving if He allowed that to happen to **me?**

Why did it have to be for **so long?**

Why would God bring **me into this situation** if he knew this would happen?

Why would God allow **me to suffer?**

Didn't God care about **me?**



God's Plan for Israel

God promised Abraham that he would be a great nation – He did that through the Israelites

God gave them a warning that was to come so they would know it was a part of God's plan before it happened

God was protecting the Israelites even if they didn't know it – The Egyptian midwives that protected the Israelite babies

Even though the situation was tough God still blessed them – They continue to grow in numbers

God was raising up a solution even when they couldn't see it – Moses was coming to free His people



God's Plan for Us

God has given us of a promise of a plan for our lives –
Jeremiah 29: 11

God gave us a warning about what would happen so that we would know it was a part of God's plan before it happened - John 16:33

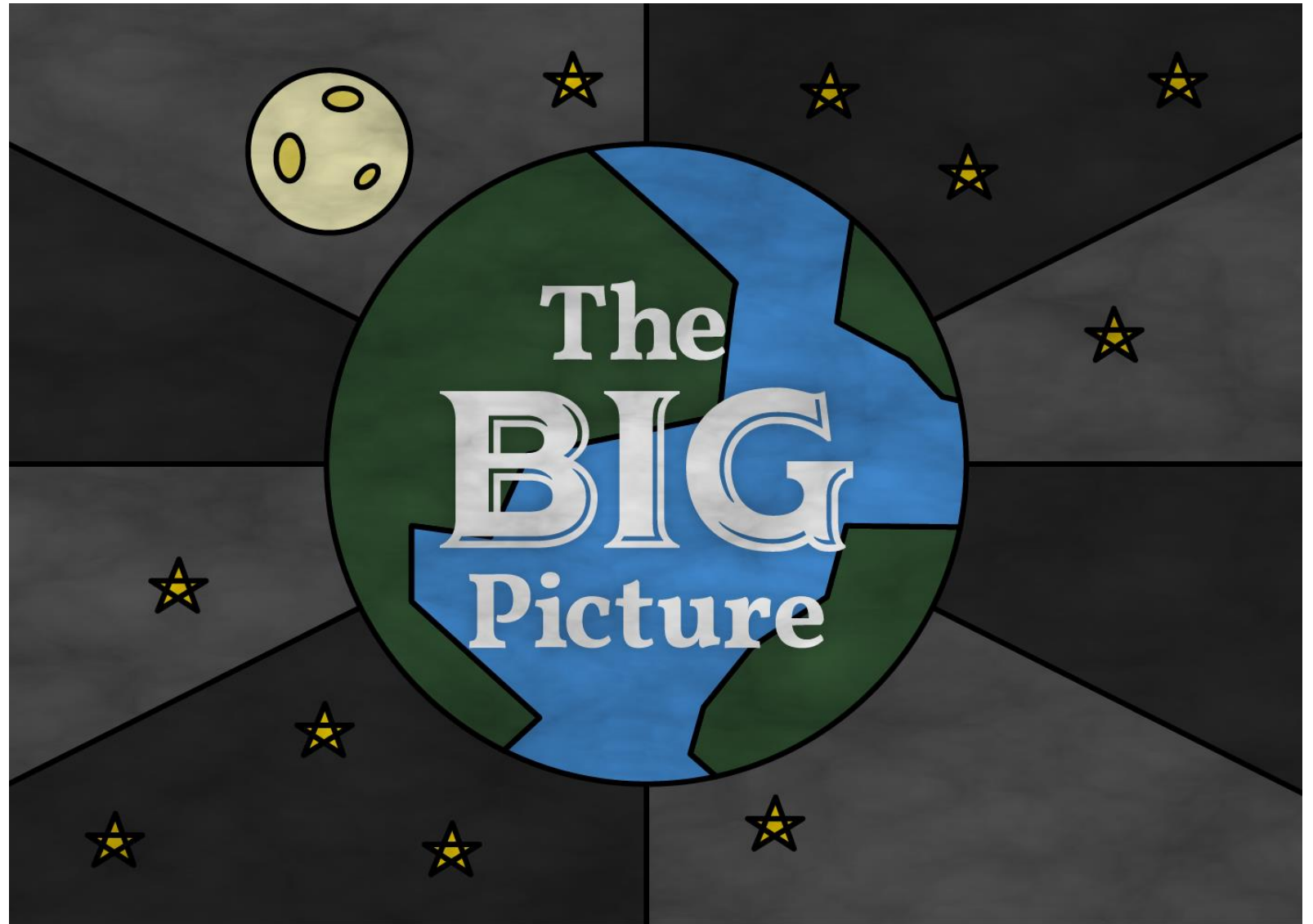
God is protecting us even if we don't know it – Isaiah 54:17

Even though our situation might be hard, God is still blessing us -
James 1:17

God has raised up a solution for us, that is always available for us
– John 3:16

God's Master Plan

To restore
people back to
Him, by
overcoming sin,
so that we could
be close to Him





Questions