



A Tour of the Torah

Mark Scarlata

How the Story Unfolds

- Begins with creation and ends with Moses' death outside of the Promised Land. Why?

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- Begins with creation and ends with Moses' death outside of the Promised Land. Why?
- 'The promise or blessing is both the divine initiative in a world where human initiatives always lead to disaster, and are an affirmation of the primal divine intentions for humanity' David Clines, Themes of the Pentateuch

Three Core Themes of Torah

Promise/Blessing

Divine Presence

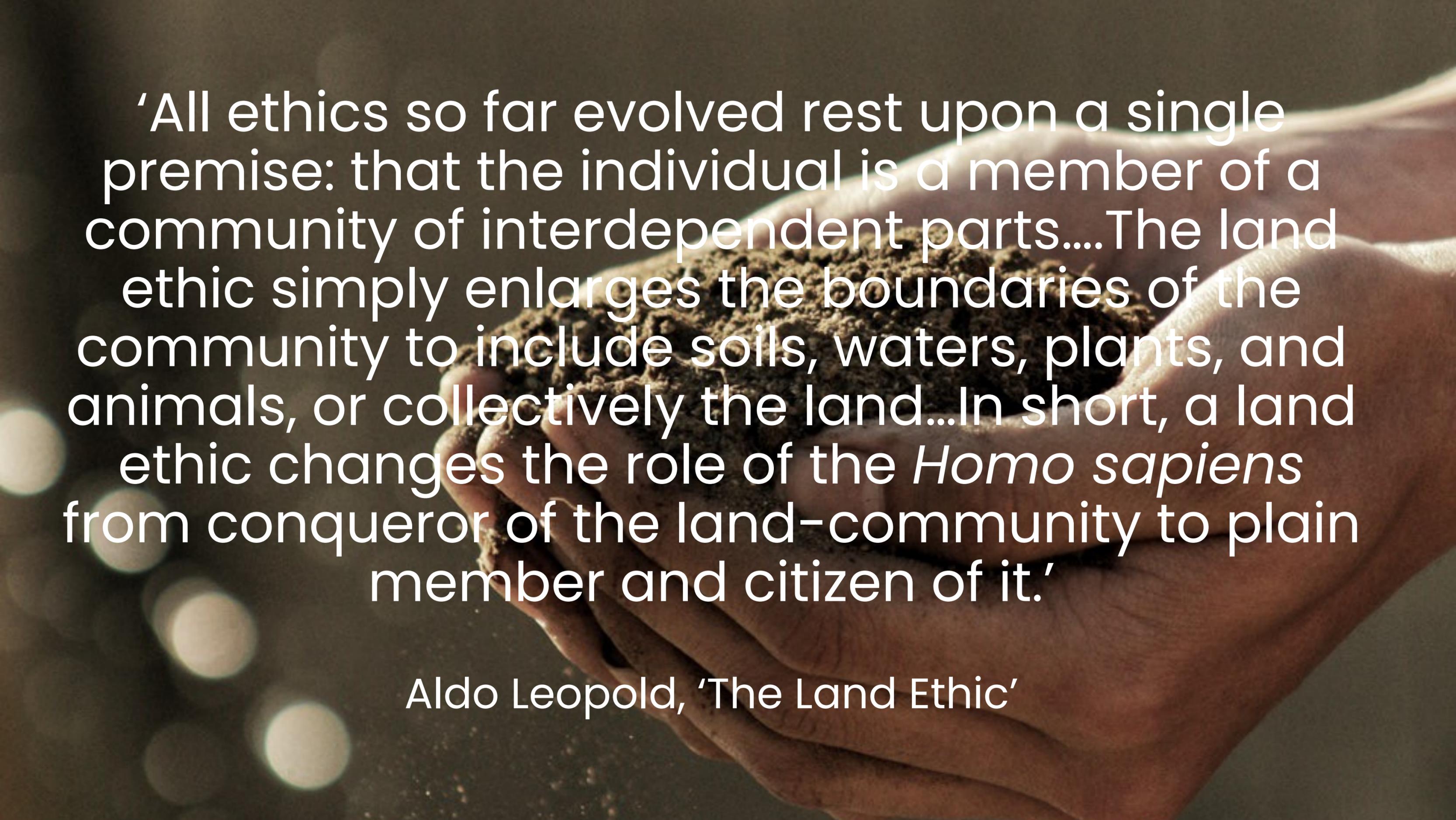
Land

A satellite view of Earth showing the Americas, with the title 'Genesis: Creation and the Patriarchs' overlaid in white text.

Genesis: Creation and the Patriarchs

The *'adamah*
(soil) of Eden
and *adam*
(humankind)



A pair of hands is shown cupping a mound of dark, rich soil. The background is dark with several out-of-focus, circular light spots (bokeh) in shades of yellow and white. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

'All ethics so far evolved rest upon a single premise: that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts...The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively the land..In short, a land ethic changes the role of the *Homo sapiens* from conqueror of the land-community to plain member and citizen of it.'

Aldo Leopold, 'The Land Ethic'



Disobedience and Disaster



MEDITERRANEAN SEA

GREAT SEA

RED SEA

MEDIA

ELAM

ARABIA

CYPRUS

SINAI

CANAAN

ARABIA

MIDIAN

LEVANON

ISRAEL

NEGEV

Ephesus

Laodicea

Antioch

Hamath

Tadmor

Damascus

Tyre

Megiddo

Samaria

Shechem

Jericho

Ashdod

Gaza

Lachish

Beer-sheba

Alexandria

Nile R.

Memphis

Balikh R.

Habor R.

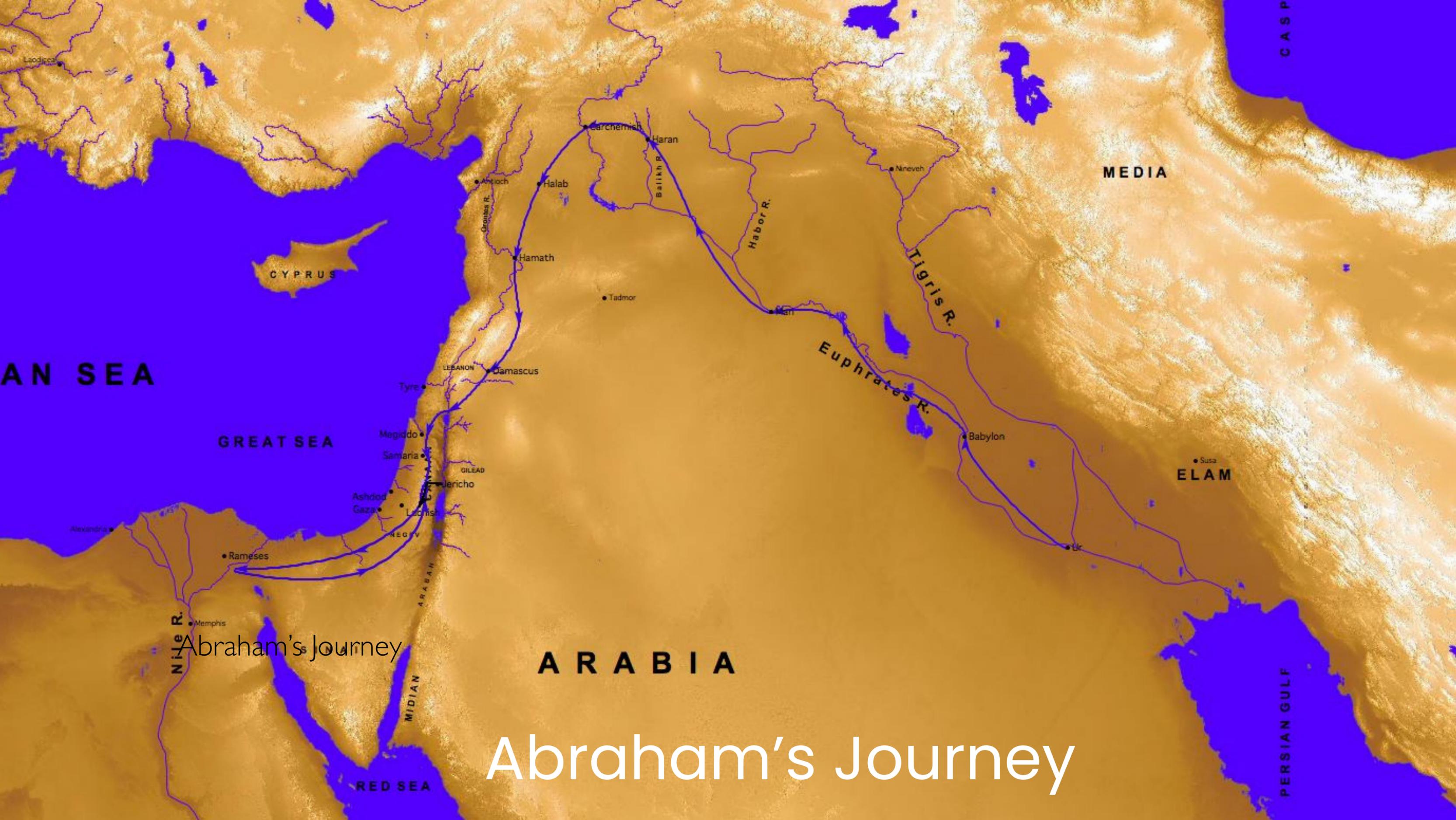
Tigris R.

Euphrates R.

Nineveh

Babylon

Susa



Abraham's Journey

Abraham's Journey

Laodicea

CYPRUS

AN SEA

GREAT SEA

Alexandria

Rameses

Nile R.

Memphis

RED SEA

MIDIAN

ARABIA

ARABIA

Megiddo

Samaria

Ashdod

Gaza

Lachish

NEGIV

Tyre

LEBANON

Damascus

Hamath

Halab

Antioch

Tadmor

Haran

Ballikh R.

Earchemish

Habor R.

Mar

Tigris R.

Euphrates R.

Babylon

MEDIA

ELAM

Susa

Ur

PERSIAN GULF

CASP

Genesis 12:1-3

Go by yourself from your country, your clan and your father's house to the country that I will show you. Then I will make you into a great nation and **ble**ss you and make your name great. You shall be a **ble**ssing, and I will **ble**ss those who **ble**ss you, but the one who disdains you I will curse. And all the families of the earth will find **ble**ssing in you.

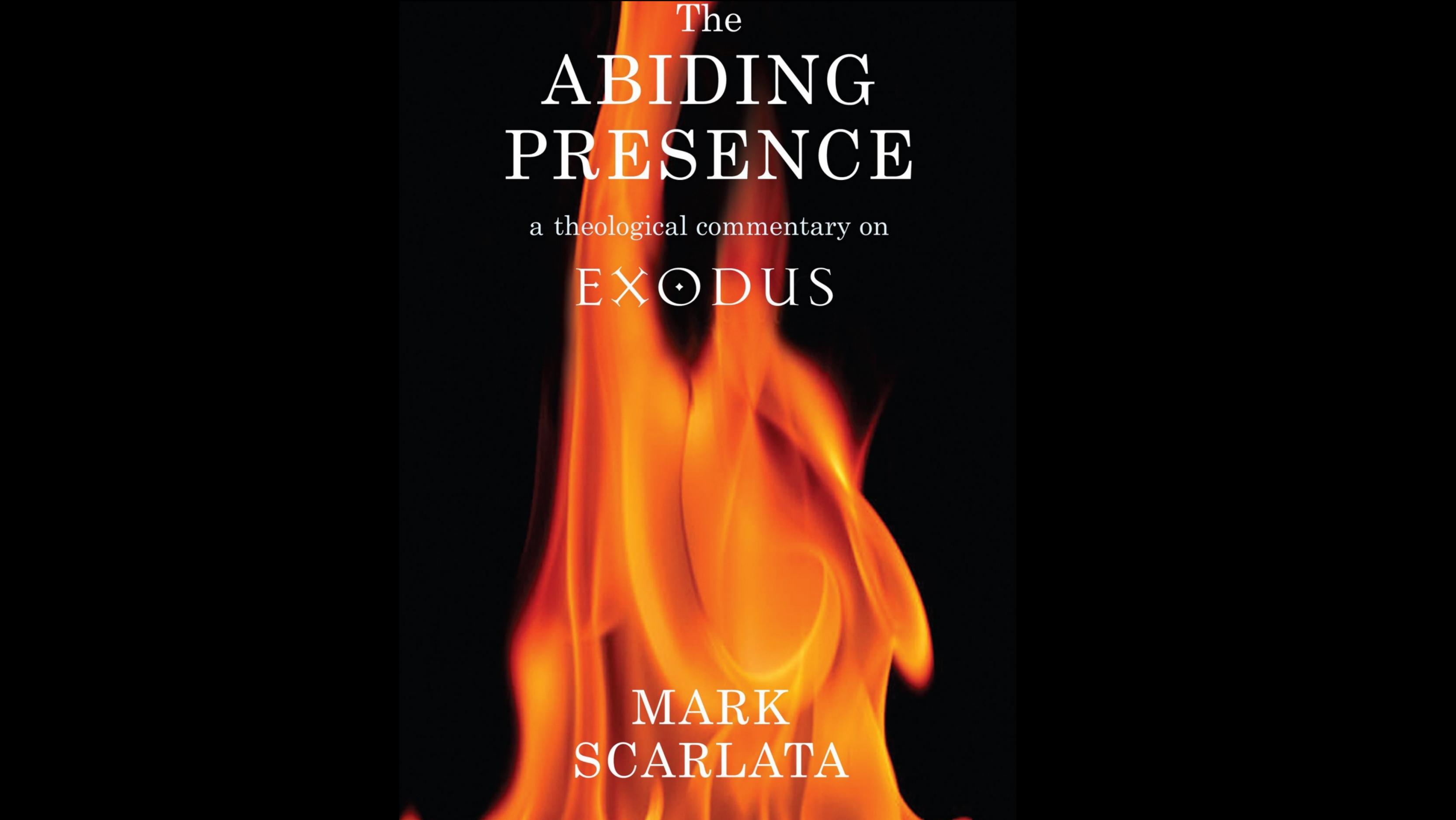
Question:

How do you think the promises to Abraham (blessing, land and descendants) are fulfilled in the New Testament?



The Journey Continues

Exodus and Leviticus



The
ABIDING
PRESENCE

a theological commentary on

EXODUS

MARK
SCARLATA

Moses as the Shepherd of Israel



Israel: The People of God

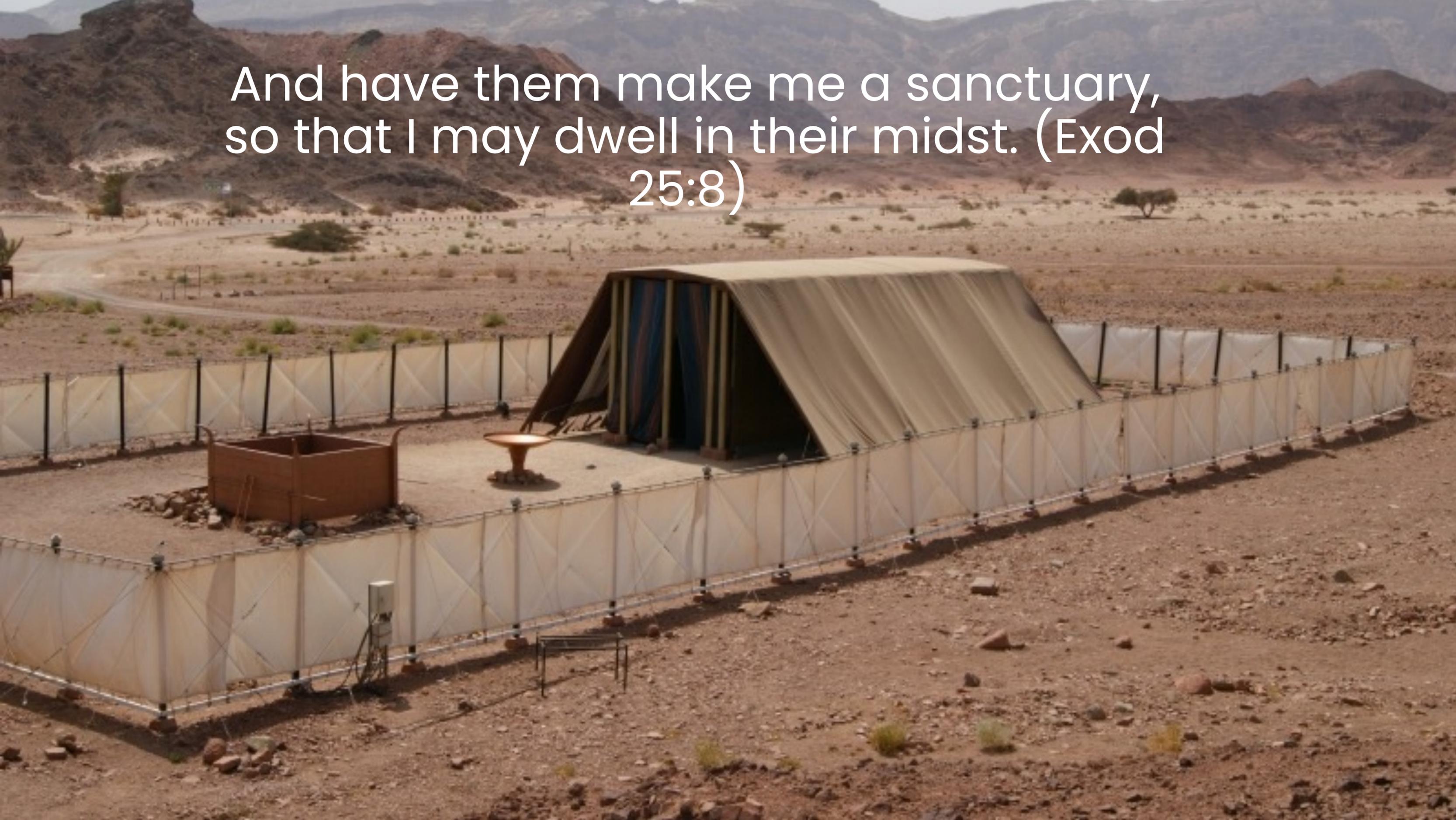


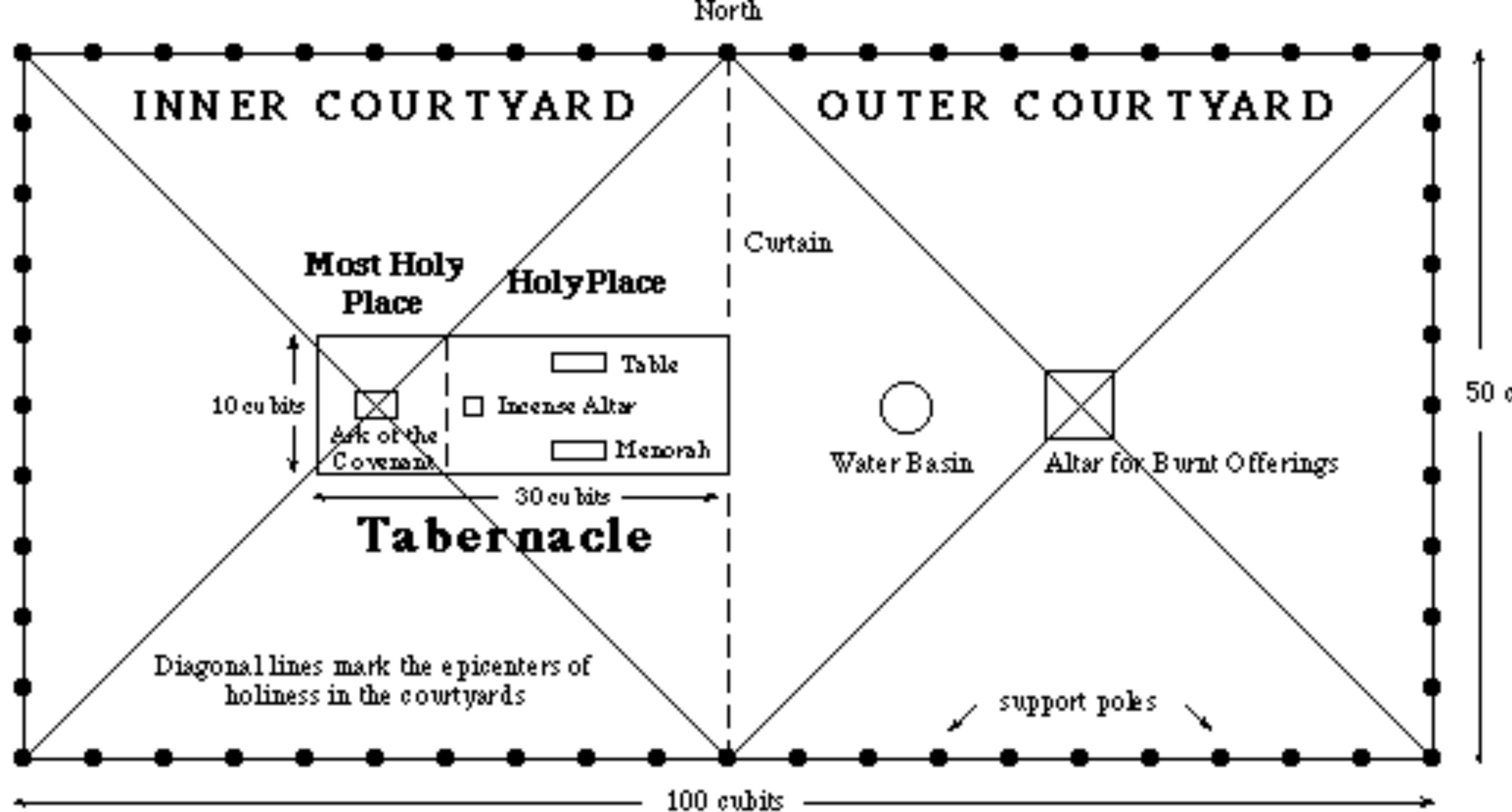


A Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation

Ex. 19:4-6 You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession (*segulah*) out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites

And have them make me a sanctuary,
so that I may dwell in their midst. (Exod
25:8)





Note: a cubit = approximately 18 inches

Mark W. Scarlata

A Journey through the World of
LEVITICUS

Holiness, Sacrifice, and the Rock Badger



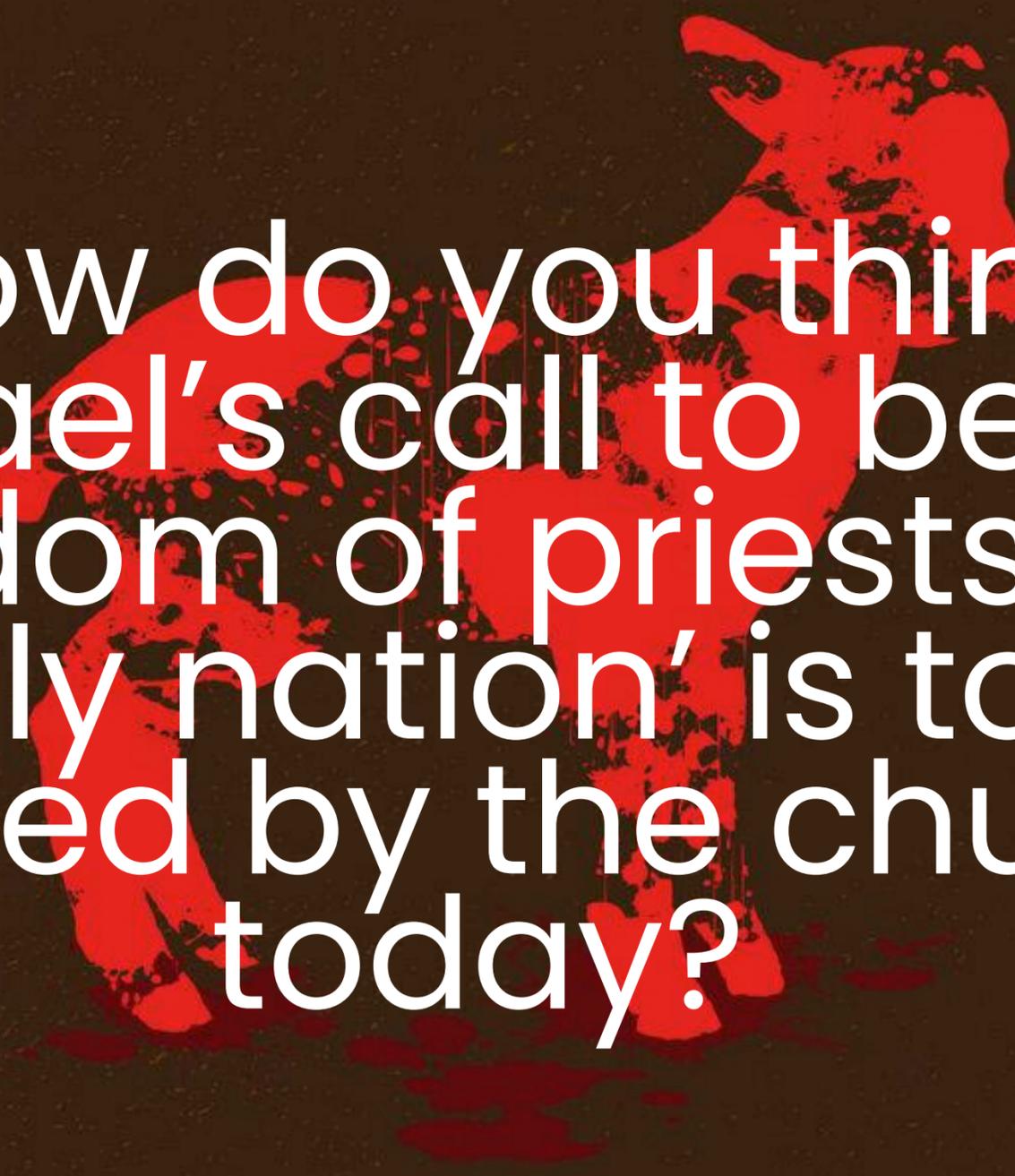


'You Shall Be Holy, for I
the LORD your God am
Holy'
Lev 19:2



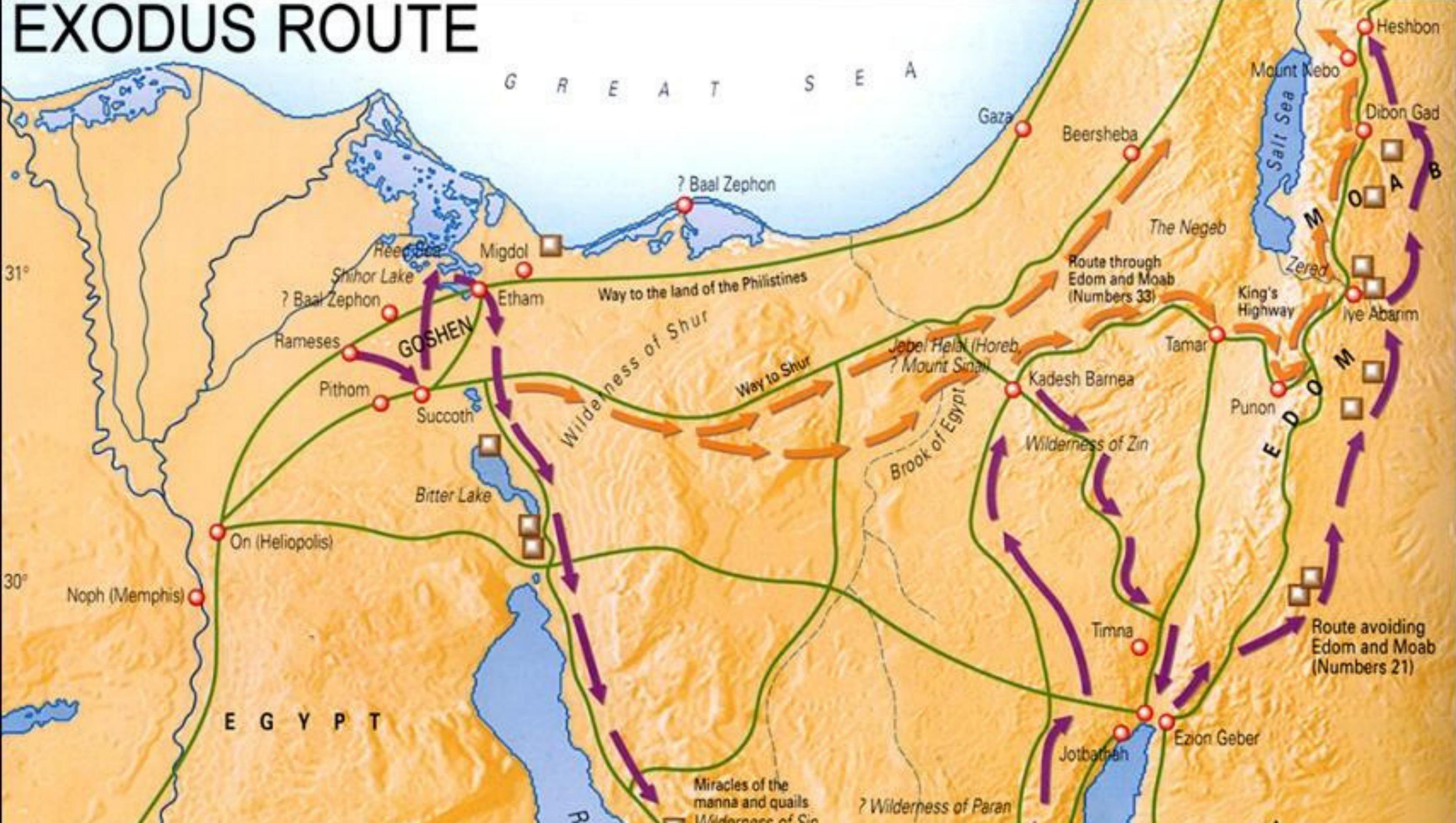
'You shall
love your
neighbour
as yourself'
Lev 19:18

Rabbi Hillel said: "Be
among the disciples of
Aaron, loving peace
and pursuing peace,
loving humanity and
bringing them near to
the Torah."—Mishnah



How do you think
Israel's call to be a
'kingdom of priests and
a holy nation' is to be
fulfilled by the church
today?

EXODUS ROUTE



Deuteronomy

A photograph of an ancient scroll, likely made of papyrus or parchment, resting on a textured, light-colored surface. The scroll is partially unrolled, revealing several lines of Hebrew text. The word "Deuteronomy" is overlaid in white, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

The Shema

Deut. 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. 6 Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.



7 Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

The Love of God in Deuteronomy



Themes in Deuteronomy – Monotheism



Themes in Deuteronomy

Land



The Death of Moses

(Deut 34:5-12)

Question:

Why does the Torah finish outside
the Promised Land?
What does this tell us
about the Torah?