

# Living Between Redemption Accomplished and Redemption Perfected

Singapore Youth For Christ

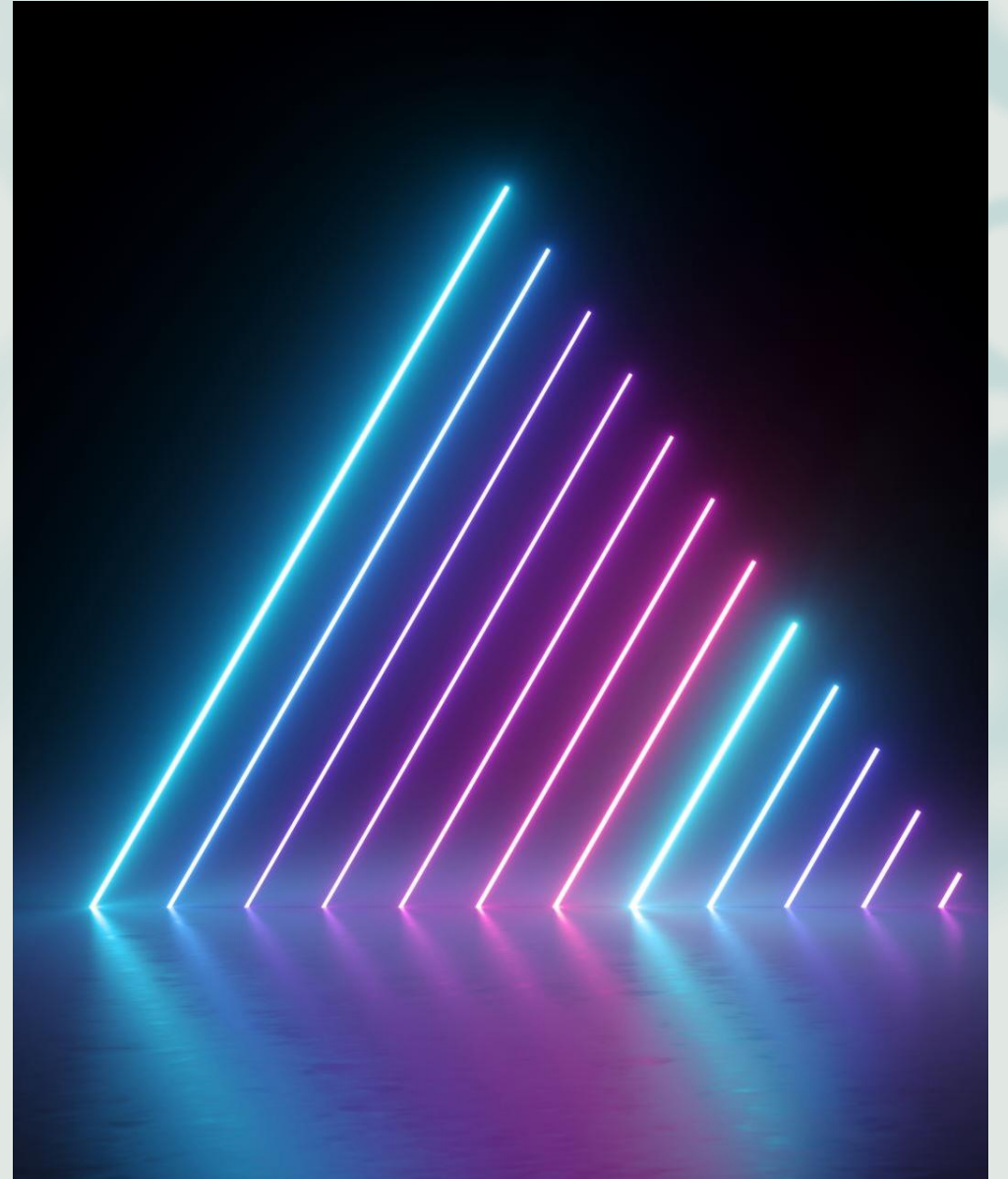
9 July 2024

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# The wilderness years

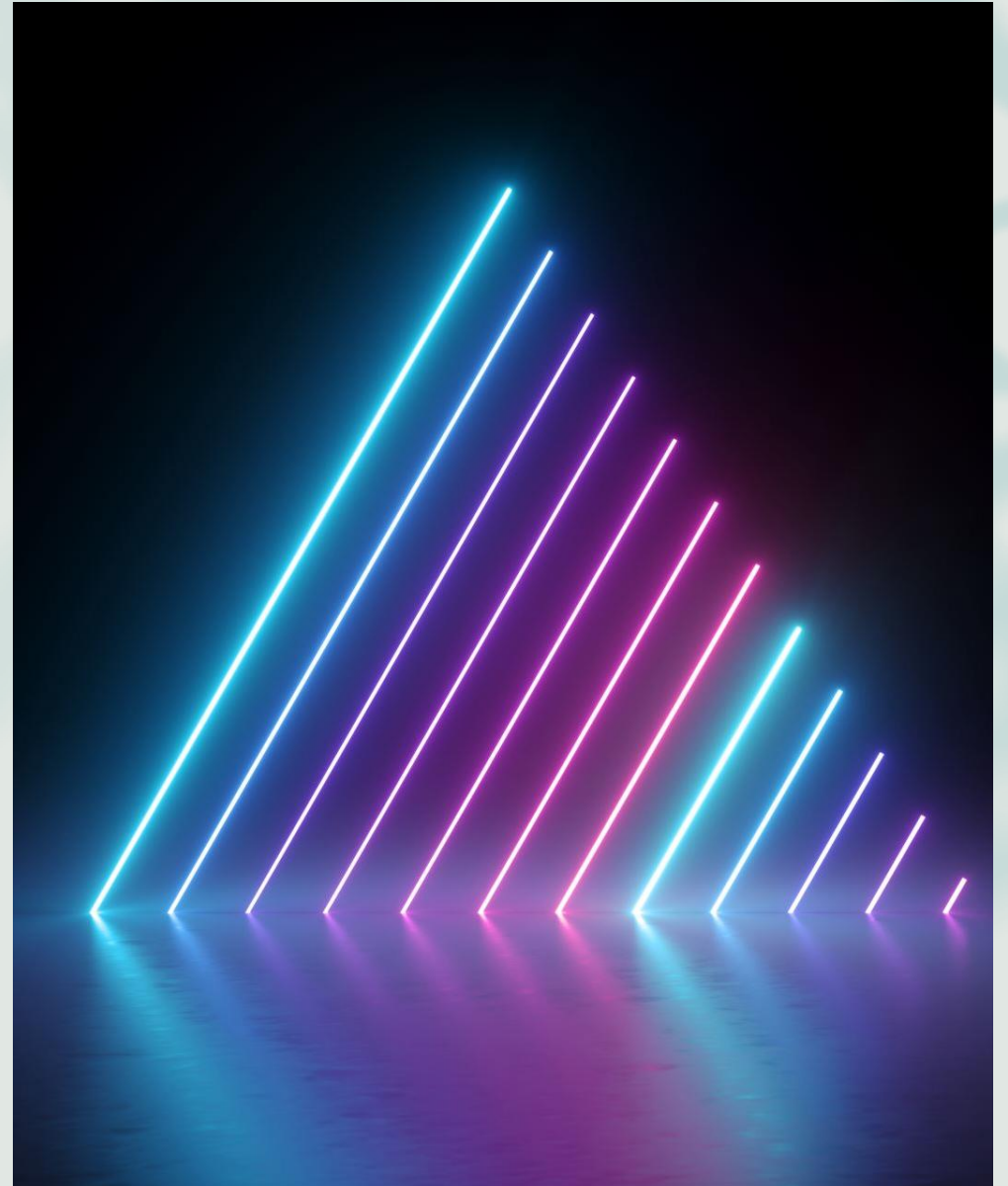
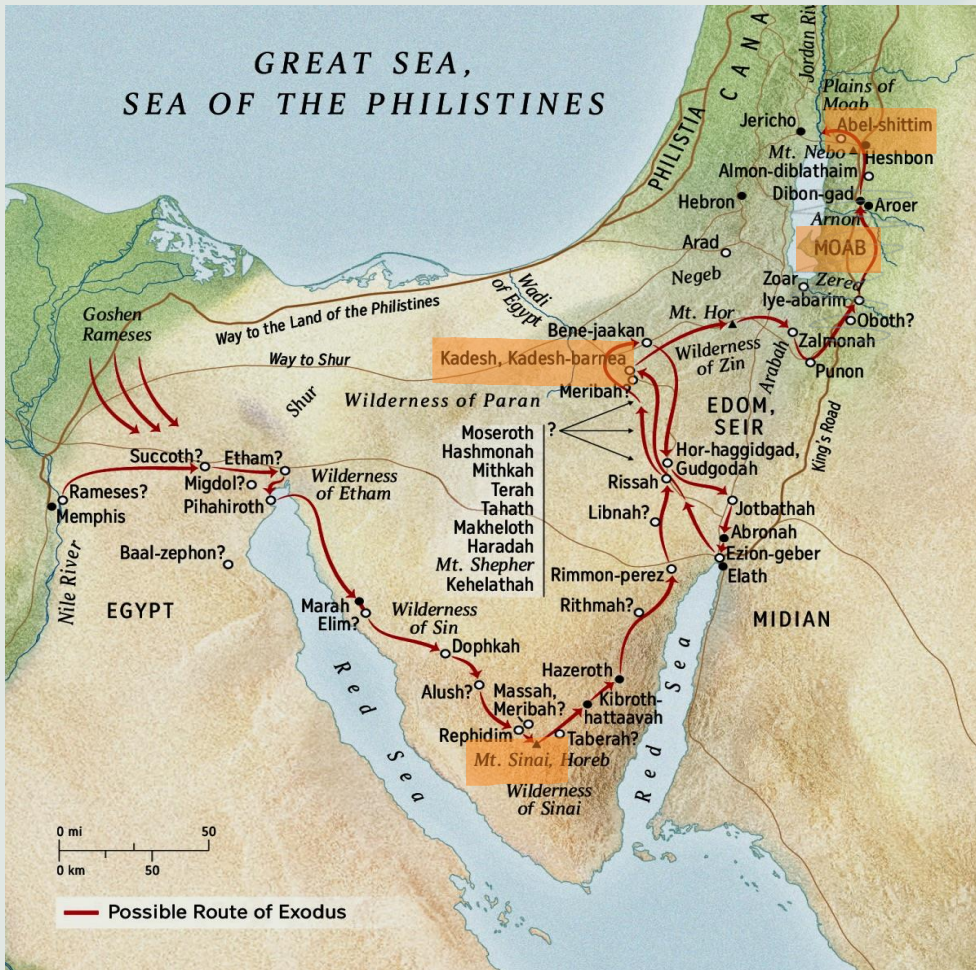
Three main periods

- In Sinai – Num 1:1 – 10:10
- In Kadesh-Barnea – Num 10:11 – 20:1
- In the Plains of Moab – Num 20:1 – 36:13





# The wilderness years



# Two generations

Older generation - Num 1:1 - 25:18

- Characterised by unbelief, rebellion, despair, and death - the unfaithful
- Unable to enter the Promised Land

Younger generation - Num 26.1 - 36:13

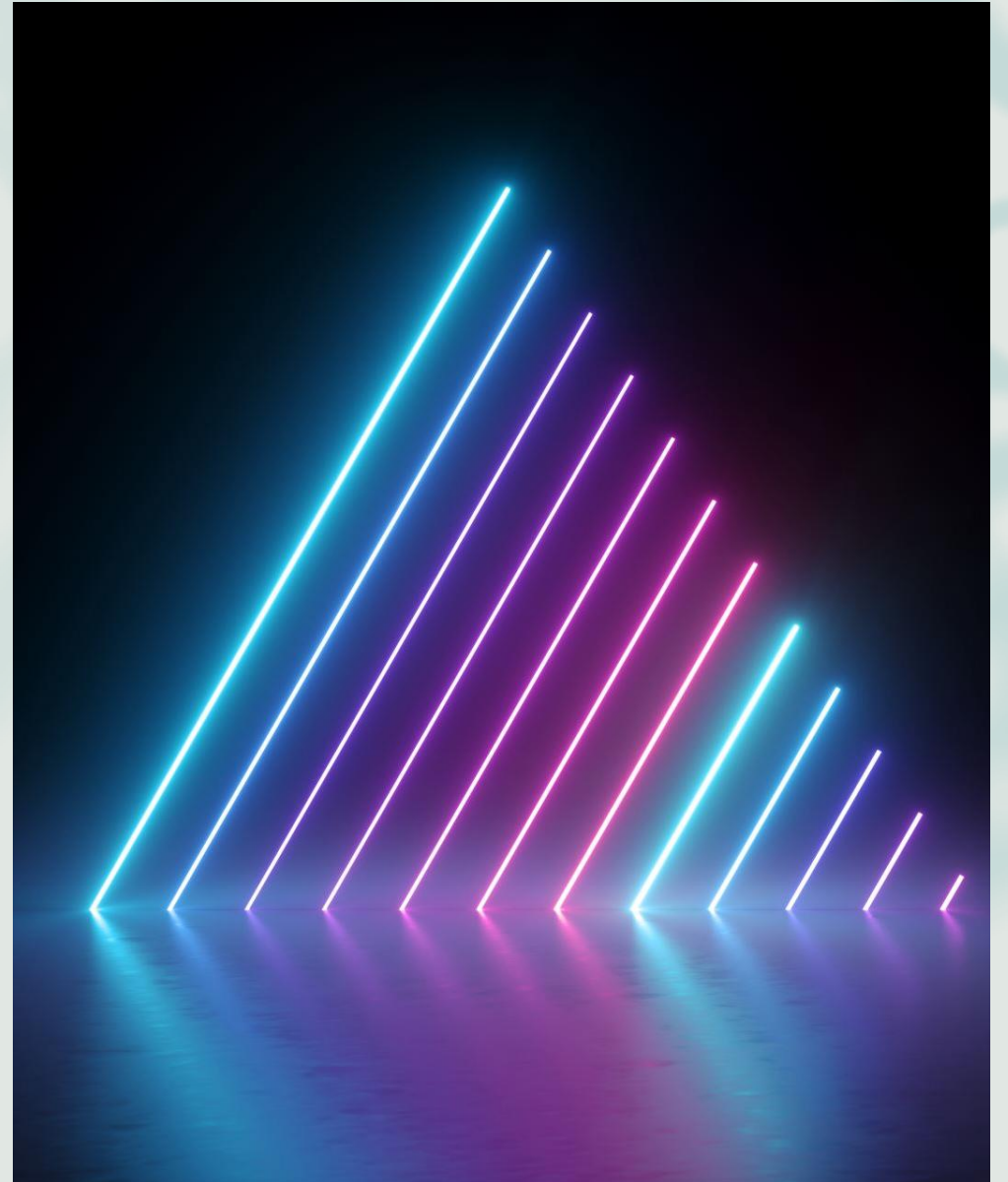
- Characterised by belief, obedience, hope, and life/blessing - the faithful
- Able to enter the Promised Land





# Key events

- First census - Num 1
- The people complain - Num 11
- Spies sent into Canaan - Num 13
- The people rebel - and God's judgement - Num 14
- Korah's rebellion - Num 16
- Defeat of the Amorites - Num 21
- Moab's fear of Israel - Balak and Balaam - Num 22-24

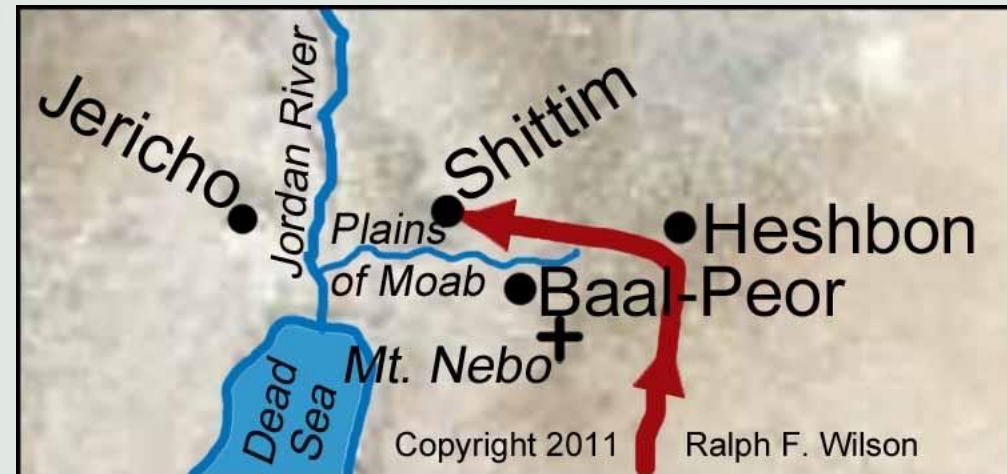


# Focus and approach

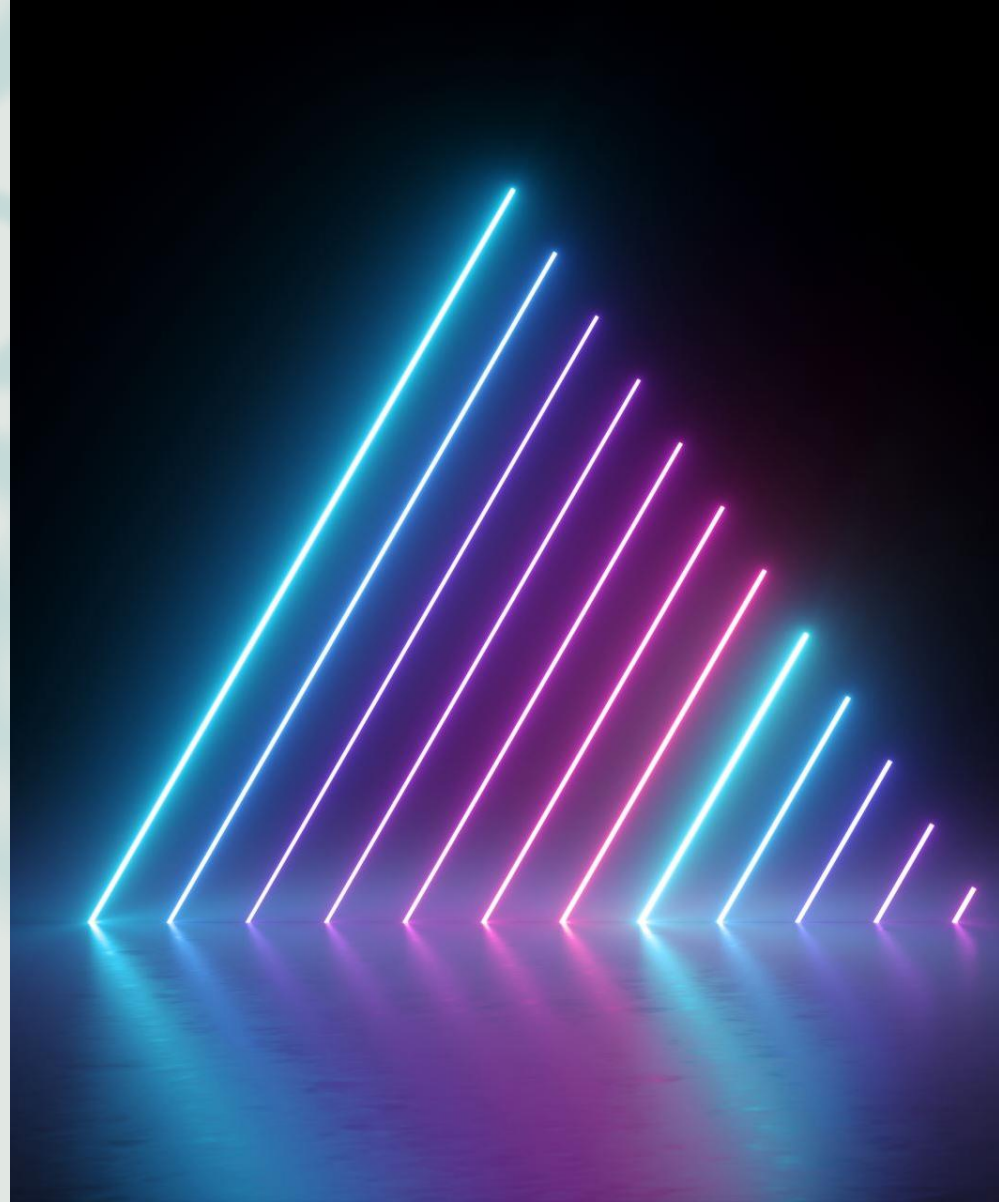
- Focus
  - Being a people living between the first and second comings of Jesus Christ – between salvation accomplished and salvation perfected – of living in the “wilderness”
- Approach
  - Take chapters 25 and 26 together rather than in sequence
  - Today – Look specifically at the text of these two chapters
  - Next week – Look at how the themes of these two chapters relate to us today

# Where the people were

- In Shittim - Num 25:1
- Significance
  - At the end of the wanderings
  - Near the banks of the River Jordan and the Promised Land







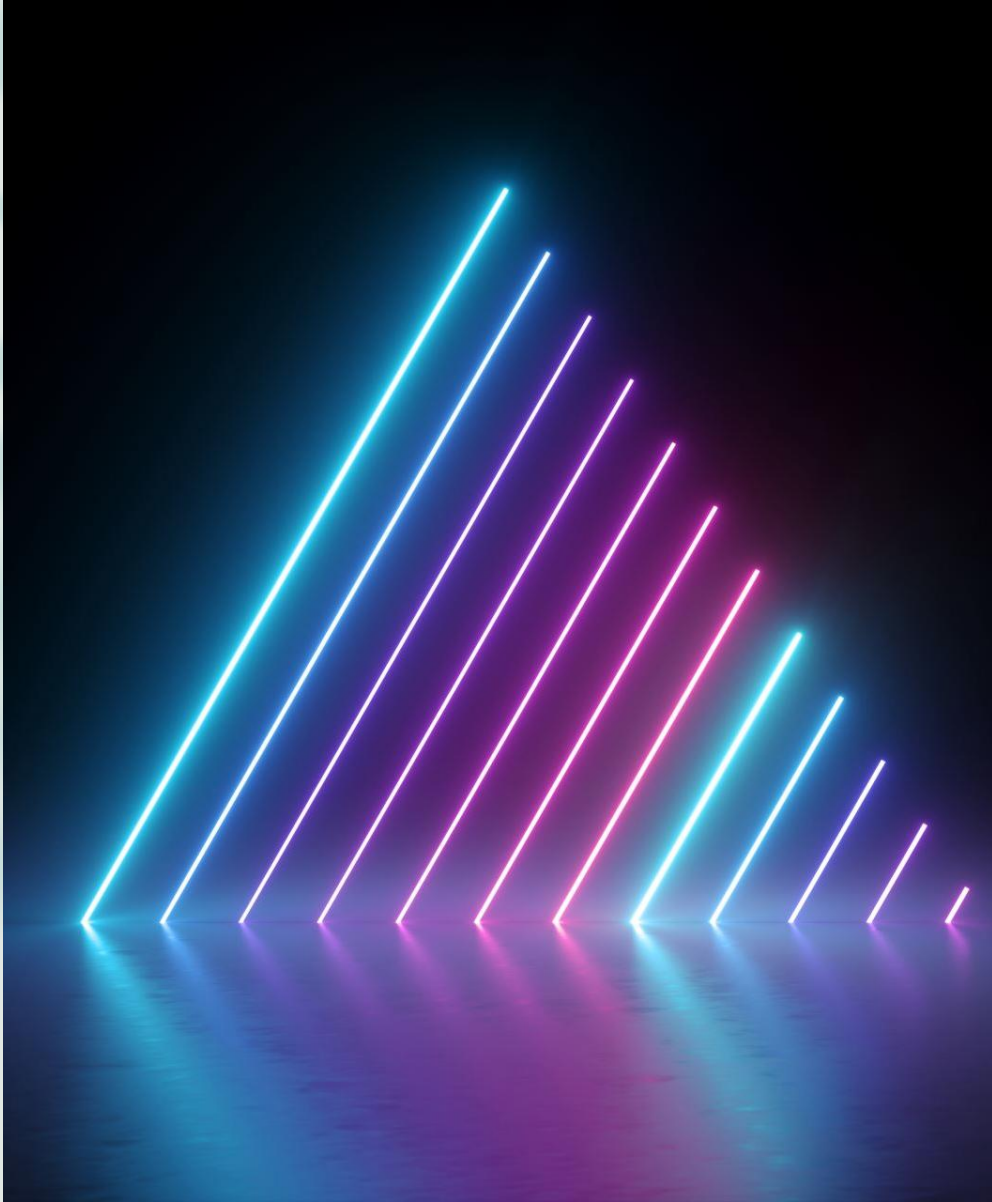
# Who the people were

- The “people” (Num 25:1-2) and “Israel” (Num 25:3)
- Referring to the people of Israel as a whole – not just to individuals
- Corporate responsibility of the Lord’s people to ensure holiness and purity
- The abandonment of their status as the covenant people of God



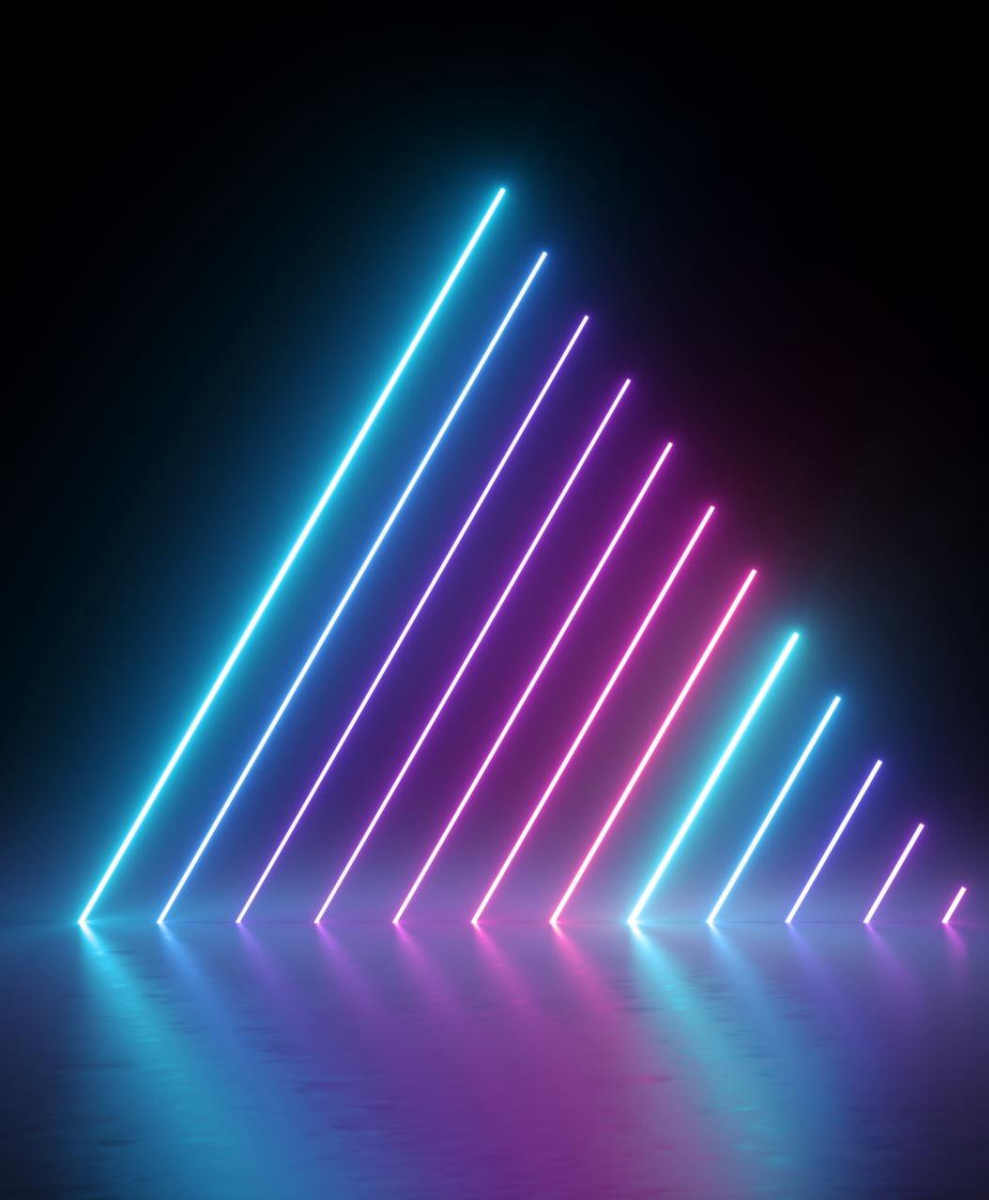
# What the people did

- In heart and deed were:
  - Unfaithful
  - Idolatrous
- “[B]egan to whore with the daughters of Moab
  - Num 25:1
- “[T]he people ate and bowed down to [the Moabite] gods”
  - Num 25:2
- “[Y]oked” themselves to Baal-Peor”
  - Num 25:3
- Demonstrated by how complacent the people had become – Simeonite and the Moabess – Num 25:6



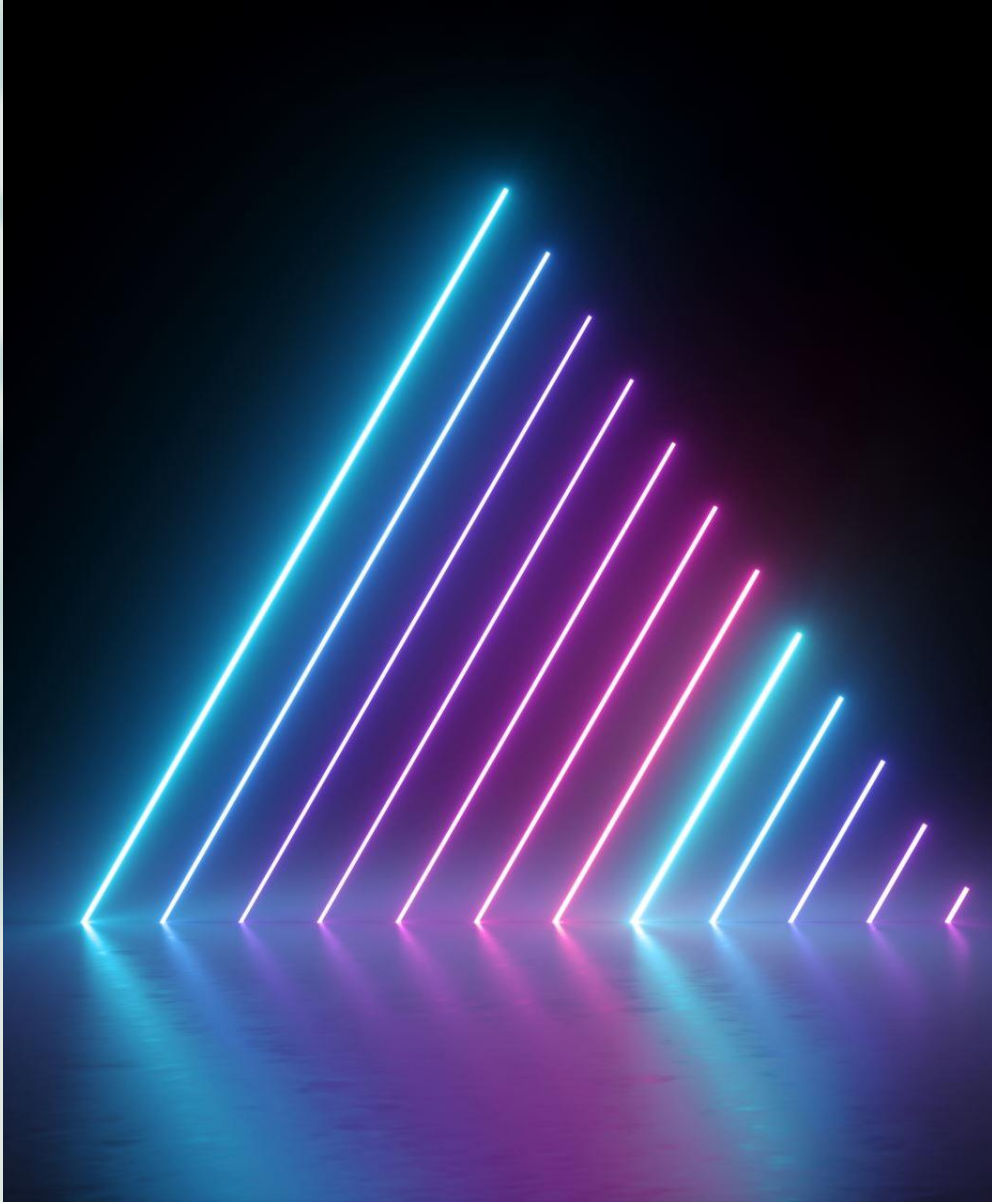
# The Lord's response

- Anger - Num 25:3b
  - "snorting" - intense, burning anger, fury
  - "kindled"
  - This is the sort of response referred to in the context of people following other gods
- Judgment - Num 25:4
  - Uncompromising and absolute
  - Death
  - Targeted at the leadership



# The people's responses

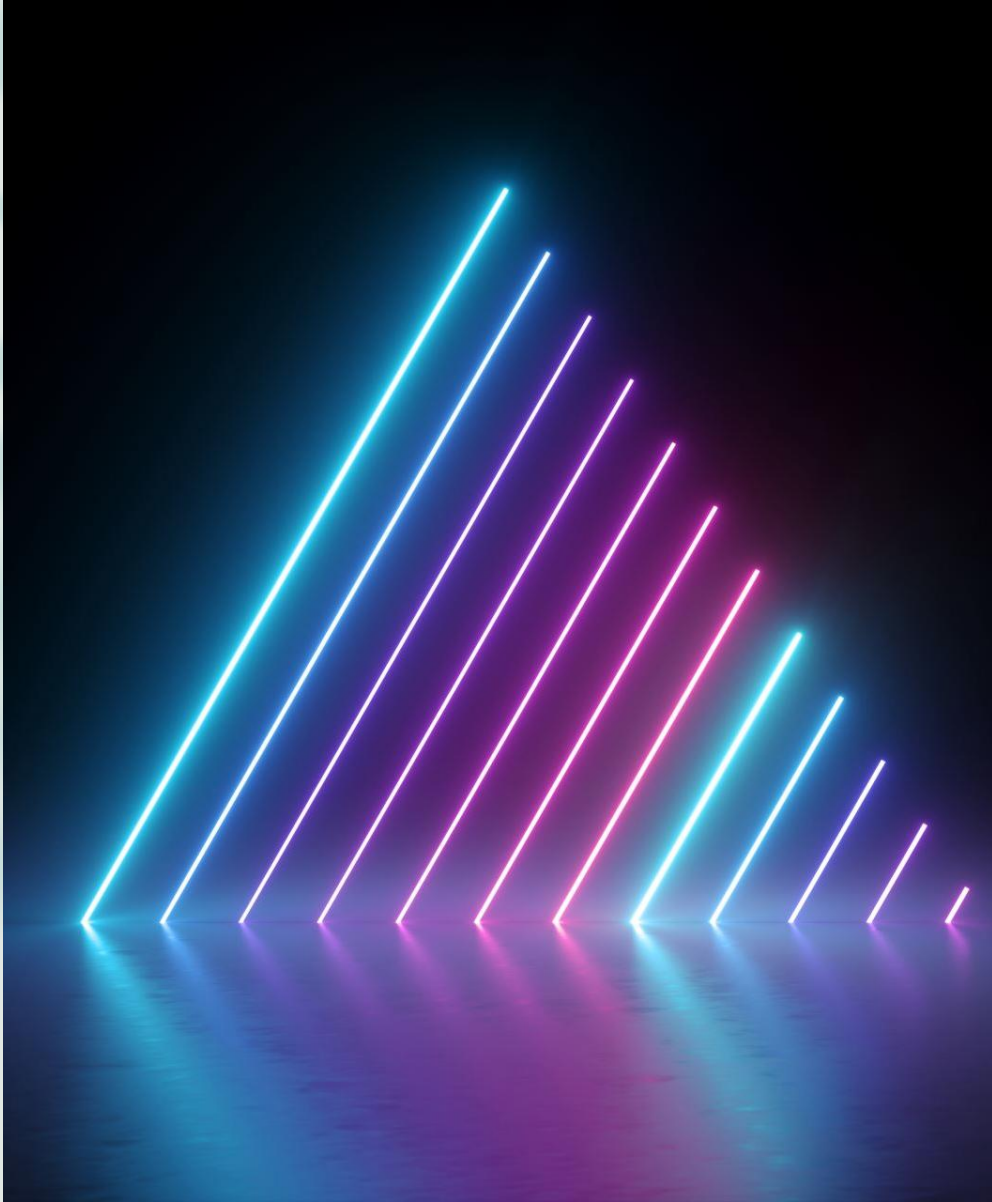
- Response by Moses – Num 25:5
  - Compromising
  - A further plague
- Response by the people – Num 25:6
  - Self-interest
- Response by Phineas – Num 25:7-9
  - As the Lord required – uncompromising, decisive, immediate, and apparent
  - The plague ceases – but at a cost





# The Lord's faithfulness

- Grace - Lifted the plague - Num 25:9-13
  - Judgment was discontinued
  - Covenant relationship was restored
  - Opportunity to enter the Promised Land remained
- Justice
  - Moab would be defeated - Num 25:16-18; Num 31
  - Judgment on first generation still stands - Num 26:63-6
- Faithfulness - Census No 2 (Num 26)
  - Where it took place - Shittim - Num 25:1
  - The total number - 601,730 - Num 26:51
  - Preparing the army to enter the Promised Land - Num 26:2
  - Preparing Levites to protect the Tabernacle - Num 26:57-62
  - Preparing for the allotment of the land - Num 26:52-56



To God be the Glory

The background features a series of parallel diagonal lines in shades of cyan, magenta, and blue, creating a sense of depth and movement. These lines are reflected on a dark, glossy surface at the bottom, enhancing the abstract and futuristic aesthetic.