

Great Rejections in Israel's History

In Chapter 6:  
Stephen is accused  
by the Sanhedrin  
of blasphemy  
against:

- God -
- Moses -
- Holy Places -
- The Law -



<sup>1</sup>And the high priest said, "***Are these things so?***"

<sup>2</sup>And **Stephen** said: "***Brothers and fathers***, hear me. The **God of glory** appeared to our father **Abraham** when he was in **Mesopotamia**, before he lived in **Haran**,

<sup>3</sup>and said to him, '***Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.***'

<sup>4</sup>Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in **Haran**. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living.

He shows respect for God and Abraham... **Clever defense of charge that Stephen blasphemed God.**

Gen 11:27 - 12:9

<sup>5</sup>Yet **he gave him no inheritance in it**, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him as a possession and **to his offspring after him**, though he had no child.

Gen 13:14-15

<sup>6</sup>And God spoke to this effect—that his offspring would be sojourners in a land belonging to others, who would **enslave them and afflict them four hundred years**.

<sup>7</sup>'But **I will judge the nation that they serve**,' said God, 'and after that they shall come out and worship me in this place.'

Gen 15:13-14

<sup>8</sup>And he gave him the **covenant of circumcision**. And so **Abraham** became the father of **Isaac**, and **circumcised him on the eighth day**, and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and **Jacob of the twelve patriarchs**.

Gen 17:1-14  
Gen 21:1-7  
Gen 25:19-28  
Gen 35:22-26

I. Joseph  
Rejected (9-16)

Gen 27:18-28

<sup>9</sup>"And the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, **sold him into Egypt**; but God was with him

<sup>10</sup>and **rescued him out of all his afflictions** and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who **made him ruler over Egypt and over all his household**.

Gen 41:37-45

No matter what man does, God will pull his plan through. He uses man's roadblocks to further His plan

<sup>11</sup>Now there came a **famine throughout all Egypt and Canaan**, and great affliction, and our fathers could find no food.

<sup>12</sup>But when **Jacob** heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our **fathers** on their first visit.

Gen 42:1-5  
Gen 45:1-20

<sup>13</sup>And on the second visit **Joseph made himself known** to his brothers, and **Joseph's family became known to Pharaoh**.

<sup>14</sup>And **Joseph** sent and summoned Jacob his father and all his kindred, **seventy-five persons in all**.

Gen 46:26-27  
Gen 49:28-33  
Exo 1:5  
Deu 10:22

<sup>15</sup>And **Jacob** went down into Egypt, and he died, he and our fathers,

Josh 24:32

<sup>16</sup>and they were carried back to **Shechem** and *laid in the tomb* that **Abraham** had bought for a sum of silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem.

II. Moses  
Rejected (17-29)

<sup>17</sup>“But as the time of the promise drew near, which God had granted to Abraham, the people increased and multiplied in Egypt

(Defense of charge that Stephen blasphemed Moses)

<sup>18</sup>until there *arose over Egypt another king who did not know Joseph*.

Exo 1:8-22

<sup>19</sup>He dealt shrewdly with our race and *forced our fathers to expose their infants, so that they would not be kept alive*.

God again keeps His plan going in spite of Pharaoh

Exo 2:1-10

<sup>20</sup>At this time **Moses** was born; and he was beautiful in God’s sight. And he was brought up for three months in his father’s house,

<sup>21</sup>and when he was exposed, *Pharaoh’s daughter adopted him* and brought him up as her own son.

<sup>22</sup>And **Moses** was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds.

<sup>23</sup>“When he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>And seeing one of them being wronged, *he defended the oppressed man and avenged him by striking down the Egyptian*.

<sup>25</sup>He supposed that his brothers would understand that God was giving them salvation by his hand, but they did not understand.

<sup>26</sup>And on the following day he appeared to them as they were quarreling and tried to reconcile them, saying, ‘Men, you are brothers. Why do you wrong each other?’

<sup>27</sup>But the man who was wronging his neighbor thrust him aside, saying, ‘*Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?*’

<sup>28</sup>*Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?’*

<sup>29</sup>At this retort *Moses fled and became an exile in the land of Midian*, where he became the father of two sons.

Exo 2:11-22

Moses was rejected by his own people!  
...NOT Stephen

(Defense of charge that Stephen blasphemed Moses)

III. Moses Rejected  
Again (30-50)

<sup>30</sup>“Now when forty years had passed, an *angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush*.

<sup>31</sup>When **Moses** saw it, he was amazed at the sight, and as he drew near to look, *there came the voice of the Lord*:

<sup>32</sup>“**I am** the God of your fathers, the God of **Abraham** and of **Isaac** and of **Jacob**.” And **Moses** trembled and did not dare to look.

<sup>33</sup>Then the Lord said to him, ‘Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.

<sup>34</sup>I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their groaning, and I have come down to deliver them. And now come, *I will send you to Egypt.*’

Exo 3:1-10

<sup>35</sup>“**This Moses, whom they rejected**, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’—this man God sent as both ruler and redeemer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush.

Moses was rejected by his own people!  
...NOT Stephen

<sup>36</sup>**This man** led them out, *performing wonders and signs* in Egypt and at the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years.

<sup>37</sup>**This is the Moses** who said to the Israelites, ‘*God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers.*’

Deut 18:15  
John 5:46  
Acts 3:22

<sup>38</sup>**This is the one** who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. *He received living oracles to give to us.*

Exod 20:1-21

<sup>39</sup>**Our fathers refused to obey him, but thrust him aside**, and in their hearts they turned to Egypt,

<sup>40</sup>saying to Aaron, ‘*Make for us gods who will go before us.*’ As for this Moses who led us out from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’

Moses was rejected by his own people!  
...NOT Stephen

<sup>41</sup>And they *made a calf in those days*, and offered a sacrifice to the idol and were rejoicing in the works of their hands.

Exod 32:1-10

<sup>42</sup>But God turned away and gave them over to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets: “ ‘Did you bring to me slain beasts and sacrifices, during the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?’

<sup>43</sup>You took up the tent of Moloch and the star of your god Rephan, the images that you made to worship; and I will send you into exile beyond Babylon.’

<sup>44</sup>“Our fathers had the tent of witness in the wilderness, just as he who spoke to Moses directed him to make it, according to the pattern that he had seen.

Deut 4:19-20  
Deut 32:17-18  
Amos 5:25-27

<sup>45</sup>Our fathers in turn brought it in with **Joshua** when they *dispossessed the nations* that God drove out before our fathers. So it was until the days of **David**,

<sup>46</sup>who found favor in the sight of God and *asked to find a dwelling place* for the God of **Jacob**.

2Sam 7:1-17

Defense of charge  
that Stephen  
blasphemed the Holy  
Places (temple)

Stephen is showing  
that God's "temple"  
is bigger than any  
structure built  
with hands

<sup>47</sup>But it was **Solomon** who built a house for him.

<sup>48</sup>Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says,

<sup>49</sup>“Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? <- Isa 66:1

<sup>50</sup>Did not my hand make all these things?”

Not willing to  
listen or obey:  
-Rom 2:25-29  
-Phil 3:3  
-Col 2:11

**IV. Prophets  
Rejected (51-53)**

<sup>51</sup>“You *stiff-necked* people, *uncircumcised in heart and ears*, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. <- *Stiff-necked: Exo 32:9; 33:3*

<sup>52</sup>*Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute?* And they killed those who announced beforehand *the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered*,

Stephen puts them  
on trial for  
being just like  
their ancestors.  
Matt 23:29-39

<sup>53</sup>you who received the *law as delivered by angels* and did not keep it.” <- Heb 2:2

Defense of charge  
that Stephen  
blasphemed the Law

<sup>54</sup>Now when they heard these things *they were enraged*, and they ground their teeth at him.

<sup>55</sup>But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the *glory of God*, and **Jesus standing at the right hand of God**.

Matt 26:64  
Acts 5:31

The title frequently  
used by Jesus  
speaking of himself,  
but not by anyone  
else in the NT  
except for Stephen

<sup>56</sup>And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the **Son of Man standing at the right hand of God**.”

<sup>57</sup>But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him.

<sup>58</sup>Then they cast him out of the city and *stoned him*. And the witnesses *laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul*.

Luke 23:34 - Prayer  
similar to that of  
Jesus on the cross.

<sup>59</sup>And as they were stoning **Stephen**, he called out, “**Lord Jesus, receive my spirit**.”

Prayer answered in  
Acts 9 - Conversion  
of Saul

<sup>60</sup>And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “**Lord, do not hold this sin against them**.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

### Abraham’s Call / Move

#### **Genesis 11:27–12:9 (ESV)**

<sup>27</sup> Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. <sup>28</sup> Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans. <sup>29</sup> And Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram’s wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor’s wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. <sup>30</sup> Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

<sup>31</sup> Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram’s wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. <sup>32</sup> The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran.

<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup> And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup> From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. <sup>9</sup> And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

### Land Inheritance

#### **Genesis 13:14–15 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, <sup>15</sup> for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever.

### Enslavement in Egypt

#### **Genesis 15:13–14 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. <sup>14</sup> But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

**Covenant of Circumcision / Birth of Isaac / Birth of Jacob & Esau / Twelve Patriarchs**

**Genesis 17:1–14 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, <sup>2</sup> that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." <sup>3</sup> Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, <sup>4</sup> "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup> And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. <sup>8</sup> And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."

<sup>9</sup> And God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. <sup>10</sup> This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. <sup>11</sup> You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. <sup>12</sup> He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, <sup>13</sup> both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. <sup>14</sup> Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

**Genesis 21:1–7 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. <sup>2</sup> And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. <sup>3</sup> Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. <sup>4</sup> And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. <sup>5</sup> Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. <sup>6</sup> And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me." <sup>7</sup> And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

**Genesis 25:19–28 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> These are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham fathered Isaac, <sup>20</sup> and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife. <sup>21</sup> And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived. <sup>22</sup> The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is thus, why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. <sup>23</sup> And the LORD said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,  
and two peoples from within you shall be divided;  
the one shall be stronger than the other,  
the older shall serve the younger."

<sup>24</sup> When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb. <sup>25</sup> The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. <sup>26</sup> Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

<sup>27</sup> When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents. <sup>28</sup> Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

### **Genesis 35:22–26 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup> While Israel lived in that land, Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine. And Israel heard of it.

Now the sons of Jacob were twelve. <sup>23</sup> The sons of Leah: Reuben (Jacob's firstborn), Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun. <sup>24</sup> The sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin. <sup>25</sup> The sons of Bilhah, Rachel's servant: Dan and Naphtali. <sup>26</sup> The sons of Zilpah, Leah's servant: Gad and Asher. These were the sons of Jacob who were born to him in Paddan-aram.

### **Joseph Sold**

### **Genesis 27:18–28 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> So he went in to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" <sup>19</sup> Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me." <sup>20</sup> But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" He answered, "Because the LORD your God granted me success." <sup>21</sup> Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not." <sup>22</sup> So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." <sup>23</sup> And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands. So he blessed him. <sup>24</sup> He said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He answered, "I am." <sup>25</sup> Then he said, "Bring it near to me, that I may eat of my son's game and bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.

<sup>26</sup> Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near and kiss me, my son." <sup>27</sup> So he came near and kissed him. And Isaac smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him and said,

"See, the smell of my son  
is as the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed!

<sup>28</sup> May God give you of the dew of heaven  
and of the fatness of the earth  
and plenty of grain and wine.

### **Joseph Promoted**

### **Genesis 41:37–45 (ESV)**

<sup>37</sup> This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. <sup>38</sup> And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?" <sup>39</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. <sup>40</sup> You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you." <sup>41</sup> And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." <sup>42</sup> Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's

hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck.<sup>43</sup> And he made him ride in his second chariot. And they called out before him, “Bow the knee!” Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt.<sup>44</sup> Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.”<sup>45</sup> And Pharaoh called Joseph’s name Zaphenath-paneah. And he gave him in marriage Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara priest of On. So Joseph went out over the land of Egypt.

### **Famine / Joseph’s Family**

#### **Genesis 42:1–5 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> When Jacob learned that there was grain for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why do you look at one another?”<sup>2</sup> And he said, “Behold, I have heard that there is grain for sale in Egypt. Go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die.”<sup>3</sup> So ten of Joseph’s brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt.<sup>4</sup> But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph’s brother, with his brothers, for he feared that harm might happen to him.<sup>5</sup> Thus the sons of Israel came to buy among the others who came, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

#### **Genesis 45:1–20 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, “Make everyone go out from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.<sup>2</sup> And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.<sup>3</sup> And Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.”<sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.<sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.<sup>7</sup> And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.<sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.<sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry.’<sup>10</sup> You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.<sup>11</sup> There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.’<sup>12</sup> And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you.<sup>13</sup> You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.’<sup>14</sup> Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck.<sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

<sup>16</sup> When the report was heard in Pharaoh’s house, “Joseph’s brothers have come,” it pleased Pharaoh and his servants.<sup>17</sup> And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Say to your brothers, ‘Do this: load your beasts and go back to the land of Canaan,<sup>18</sup> and take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.’<sup>19</sup> And you, Joseph, are commanded to say, ‘Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come.’<sup>20</sup> Have no concern for your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.’ ”



### 75 Persons / Death of Jacob

#### **Genesis 46:26–27 (ESV)**

<sup>26</sup> All the persons belonging to Jacob who came into Egypt, who were his own descendants, not including Jacob’s sons’ wives, were sixty-six persons in all. <sup>27</sup> And the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt, were two. All the persons of the house of Jacob who came into Egypt were seventy.

#### **Genesis 49:28–33 (ESV)**

<sup>28</sup> All these are the twelve tribes of Israel. This is what their father said to them as he blessed them, blessing each with the blessing suitable to him. <sup>29</sup> Then he commanded them and said to them, “I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, <sup>30</sup> in the cave that is in the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place. <sup>31</sup> There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife. There they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah— <sup>32</sup> the field and the cave that is in it were bought from the Hittites.” <sup>33</sup> When Jacob finished commanding his sons, he drew up his feet into the bed and breathed his last and was gathered to his people.

#### **Exodus 1:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt.

#### **Deuteronomy 10:22 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup> Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.

### Jacob / Joseph Carried Back to Israel

#### **Joshua 24:32 (ESV)**

<sup>32</sup> As for the bones of Joseph, which the people of Israel brought up from Egypt, they buried them at Shechem, in the piece of land that Jacob bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for a hundred pieces of money. It became an inheritance of the descendants of Joseph.

### Pharaoh Kills Infants

#### **Exodus 1:8–22 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. <sup>9</sup> And he said to his people, “Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. <sup>10</sup> Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” <sup>11</sup> Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. <sup>12</sup> But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. <sup>13</sup> So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves <sup>14</sup> and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.

<sup>15</sup> Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, <sup>16</sup> “When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.” <sup>17</sup> But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. <sup>18</sup> So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and let the male children live?” <sup>19</sup> The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” <sup>20</sup> So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. <sup>21</sup> And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. <sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”

### **Birth of Moses**

#### **Exodus 2:1–10 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. <sup>2</sup> The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. <sup>3</sup> When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. <sup>4</sup> And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him. <sup>5</sup> Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. <sup>6</sup> When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’ children.” <sup>7</sup> Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” <sup>8</sup> And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Go.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. <sup>9</sup> And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed him. <sup>10</sup> When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, “Because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

### **Moses Flees Egypt**

#### **Exodus 2:11–22 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. <sup>12</sup> He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. <sup>13</sup> When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, “Why do you strike your companion?” <sup>14</sup> He answered, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid, and thought, “Surely the thing is known.” <sup>15</sup> When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well.

<sup>16</sup> Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father’s flock. <sup>17</sup> The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock. <sup>18</sup> When they came home to their father Reuel, he said, “How is it that you have come home so soon today?” <sup>19</sup> They said, “An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered

the flock.”<sup>20</sup> He said to his daughters, “Then where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread.”<sup>21</sup> And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah.<sup>22</sup> She gave birth to a son, and he called his name Gershom, for he said, “I have been a sojourner in a foreign land.”

### Burning Bush

#### **Exodus 3:1–10 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.<sup>2</sup> And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.<sup>3</sup> And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.”<sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”<sup>5</sup> Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”<sup>6</sup> And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings,<sup>8</sup> and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.<sup>9</sup> And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.<sup>10</sup> Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

### Raise Up a Prophet

#### **Deuteronomy 18:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—

#### **John 5:46 (ESV)**

<sup>46</sup> For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me.

#### **Acts 3:22 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup> Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you.

### Ten Commandments

#### **Exodus 20:1–21 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> And God spoke all these words, saying,

<sup>2</sup> “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

<sup>3</sup> “You shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup> “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup> “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

<sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

<sup>12</sup> “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup> “You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup> “You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup> “You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup> “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

<sup>18</sup> Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off <sup>19</sup> and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” <sup>20</sup> Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.” <sup>21</sup> The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

### **Golden Calf**

#### **Exodus 32:1–10 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, “Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” <sup>2</sup> So Aaron said to them, “Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” <sup>3</sup> So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup> And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” <sup>5</sup> When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD.” <sup>6</sup> And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.

<sup>7</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. <sup>8</sup> They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” <sup>9</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked

people. <sup>10</sup> Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you.”

### **Warnings Against Idolatry**

#### **Deuteronomy 4:19–20 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven. <sup>20</sup> But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day.

#### **Deuteronomy 32:17–18 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> They sacrificed to demons that were no gods,  
to gods they had never known,  
to new gods that had come recently,  
whom your fathers had never dreaded.  
<sup>18</sup> You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you,  
and you forgot the God who gave you birth.

#### **Amos 5:25–27 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> “Did you bring to me sacrifices and offerings during the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel? <sup>26</sup> You shall take up Sikkuth your king, and Kiyun your star-god—your images that you made for yourselves, <sup>27</sup> and I will send you into exile beyond Damascus,” says the LORD, whose name is the God of hosts.

### **David Wants to Build a House for God**

#### **2 Samuel 7:1–17 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup> the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” <sup>3</sup> And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

<sup>4</sup> But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup> “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup> I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup> In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’ <sup>8</sup> Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup> from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>12</sup> When your days are fulfilled and you lie

down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, <sup>15</sup> but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. <sup>16</sup> And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’ ” <sup>17</sup> In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

### **God’s True Temple**

#### **Isaiah 66:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD:

“Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is my footstool;  
what is the house that you would build for me,  
and what is the place of my rest?”

### **Stiff Necked**

#### **Exodus 32:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people.

#### **Exodus 33:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people.”

### **Circumcision**

#### **Romans 2:25-29 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. <sup>26</sup> So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? <sup>27</sup> Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. <sup>28</sup> For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. <sup>29</sup> But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

#### **Philippians 3:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> For we are the real circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—

#### **Colossians 2:6-15 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. <sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in him the

whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,<sup>10</sup> and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.<sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,<sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.<sup>13</sup> And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,<sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.<sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

### **Prophets Rejected**

#### **Matthew 23:29–39 (ESV)**

<sup>29</sup> "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous,<sup>30</sup> saying, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.'<sup>31</sup> Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.<sup>32</sup> Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers.<sup>33</sup> You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?<sup>34</sup> Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town,<sup>35</sup> so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.<sup>36</sup> Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.<sup>37</sup> "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!<sup>38</sup> See, your house is left to you desolate.<sup>39</sup> For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

### **Message Delivered by Angels**

#### **Hebrews 2:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution,

### **Ground Their Teeth**

#### **Acts 5:31-33 (ESV)**

<sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.<sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."<sup>33</sup> When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them.

### **Right-Hand of God**

#### **Matthew 26:64 (ESV)**

<sup>64</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

**Prayer of Stephen**

**Luke 23:34 (ESV)**

<sup>34</sup> And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.