

# FROM THE PALACE TO THE PROMISE

The 120-Year Journey of  
Leadership, Surrender, and Faith

A STUDY OF THE LIFE OF MOSES



- Think of the greatest biographical epics you've ever read or watched. They usually involve a rise to power, a tragic fall, a period of exile, and a triumphant, yet costly, return.
- Today, we are looking at a life that defines that narrative: the life of Moses.

The great evangelist D.L. Moody once summarized it like this:

In the first 40 years, Moses learned he was a  
**somebody.**

In the second 40 years, Moses learned he was a  
**nobody.**

In the third 40 years, Moses learned **what God  
can do with a nobody.**

# LIFE OF MOSES: THE BIG PICTURE

## PRINCE OF EGYPT



BIRTH & RESCUE

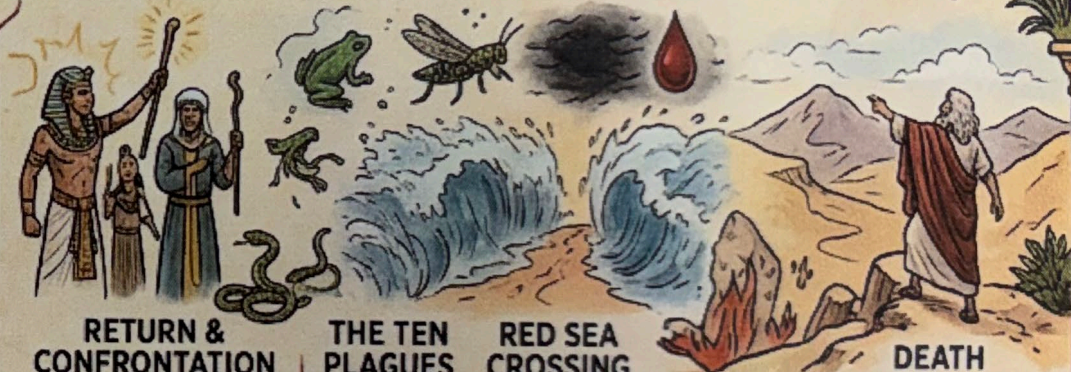
LIFE IN THE PALACE

## SHEPHERD OF MIDIAN



FLEEING EGYPT

## DELIVERER & LEADER



RETURN & CONFRONTATION

THE TEN PLAGUES

RED SEA CROSSING

DEATH

0 YEARS

40 YEARS

80 YEARS

120 YEARS

BIRTH

ISOLATION & MARRIAGE

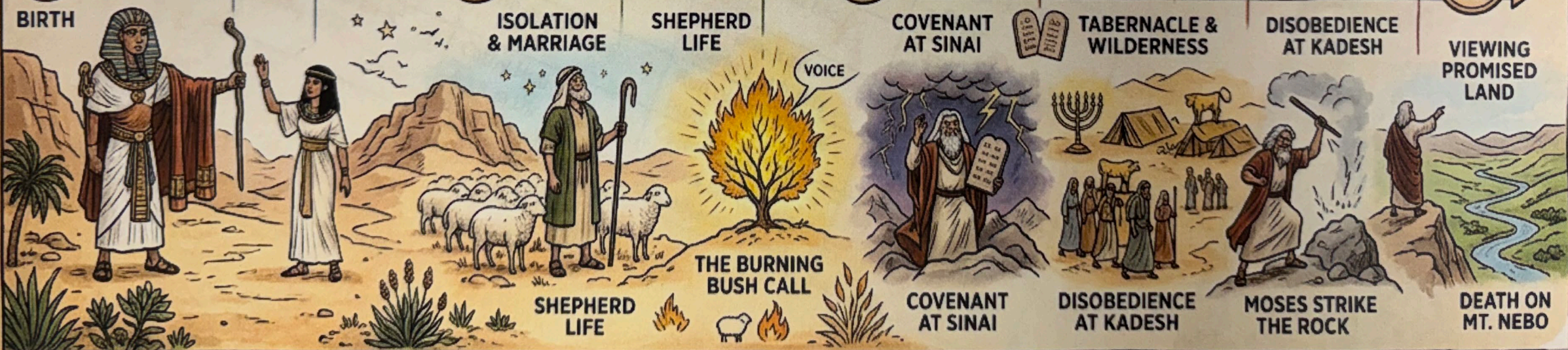
SHEPHERD LIFE

COVENANT AT SINAI

TABERNACLE & WILDERNESS

DISOBEDIENCE AT KADESH

VIEWING PROMISED LAND



THE BURNING BUSH CALL

SHEPHERD LIFE

COVENANT AT SINAI

DISOBEDIENCE AT KADESH

MOSES STRIKE THE ROCK

DEATH ON MT. NEBO

# Act I: The Prince of Egypt (Years 1–40)

"Moses' story begins in the darkest of times. The Hebrew people are enslaved, and a genocide is ordered against their infant boys. Yet, through the desperate faith of his mother and the providence of God, Moses isn't just saved—he is adopted into the very household of the Pharaoh who ordered the execution. (*Exodus 2:1–10*)

# 1. Birth and Rescue Exodus 2:1–10.

## God's Providence.

God is often working behind the scenes in seemingly impossible, dark situations. What looks like an end can be the exact mechanism God uses for a rescue.

**Where are you asking  
God to provide a Rescue?**





For 40 years,  
Moses is a prince.

He has wealth,  
education, and power.

But he also has a burning sense of justice for his biological people.

- One day, he sees an Egyptian beating a Hebrew. In a flash of anger and a misguided attempt at justice, Moses takes matters into his own hands. He kills the Egyptian and buries him in the sand. (*Exodus 2:11–15*)



## 2.The Murder and the Flight - Exodus 2:11–15

### Patience vs. Force.

*Instead of sparking a revolution, he sparks a manhunt. Moses has to flee for his life.”*

**Anywhere in your life you are trying to force an outcome?**



- "How often do we try to force a good outcome through our own strength, our own timing, or our own anger? Moses had the right burden — delivering his people — but the wrong method.
- **Key Takeaway:** Trying to force a good outcome through our own strength, timing, or anger usually leads to disaster.

## **Act II: The Shepherd in Midian (Years 40–80)**

"Moses trades the palace of Egypt for the dust of Midian. For 40 years, he leads sheep. He goes from being the prince of the greatest empire on earth to an anonymous shepherd in the back side of the desert.

**Fleeing Egypt:** Moses flees to the desert to escape Pharaoh.

**Isolation & Marriage:** He settles in Midian, marries Zipporah, and starts a family.

**Shepherd Life:** He spends four decades working as a humble shepherd.



Many of us are living in 'Midian' right now. We feel overlooked, stuck in mundane routines, defining ourselves by our past failures. But God often uses seasons of isolation to forge our greatest strengths.

**Ever been there?**

But it is exactly there, in the mundane, quiet obscurity that a bush catches fire but doesn't burn up. God speaks. He tells Moses that the cries of the Israelites have been heard, and He is sending him.



God speaks to Moses from a burning bush,  
commissioning him to free the Israelites.



### 3. The Burning Bush - Exodus 3:1–10

#### Divine Timing

God often uses seasons of isolation and mundane work to prepare us for our greatest tasks. He reveals Himself when the time is right, not always when we feel ready.

How does Moses respond?

With a resume of failure. He gives God five distinct excuses: *“Who am I? What if they don't believe me? I'm not a good speaker!* He essentially begs God to send someone else.”

**What is it God is asking you to do?**

God

“So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring the Israelites out of Egypt.”

Moses

“Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

# God

“I will be with you.  
And this will be the  
sign to you that it is I  
who have sent you:  
When you have  
brought the people  
out of Egypt, you will  
worship God on this  
mountain.”

# Moses

“Suppose I go to the  
Israelites and say to  
them, ‘the God of your  
fathers has sent me to  
you,’ and they ask me,  
‘What is his name?’  
Then what shall I tell  
them?”

# God

“I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

# Moses

“What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘the LORD did not appear to you’?”

# God

“What is that in  
your hand?  
Put your hand  
inside your  
cloak.”

# Moses

“Pardon your  
servant, Lord. I have  
never been eloquent,  
neither in the past  
nor since you have  
spoken to your  
servant. I am slow of  
speech and tongue.”

God

“Who gave human  
beings their mouths?  
Who makes them deaf  
or mute?  
Who gives them sight  
or makes them blind?  
Is it not I, the LORD?”  
Now go; I will help  
you speak and will  
teach you what to say.”

Moses

“Pardon your  
servant, Lord.  
Please send  
someone else to do  
it.”

**“If you really want to do something, you'll find a way. If you don't, you'll find an excuse.”**

**Jim Rohn**

# 4. The Excuses and the Equipping: Exodus 3:11–4:17

## God Equips the Called.

“He doesn’t just call the equipped”

Our insecurities and past failures do not disqualify us. God doesn't demand perfect ability, but rather availability and obedience to what He asks.

**Are you in a 'Midian' season in your life? How is God using it?**

## **Exodus 4:14-17**

*<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD's anger burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. <sup>15</sup> You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do.*

## **Exodus 4:14-17**

*<sup>16</sup> He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. <sup>17</sup> But take this staff in your hand so you can perform the signs with it."*

God provides Moses with a partner and the power to accomplish His mission.

## **Exodus 4:19-20**

*19 Now the LORD had said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, for all those who wanted to kill you are dead." 20 So Moses took his wife and sons, put them on a donkey and started back to Egypt. And he took the staff of God in his hand.*

God frees Moses from his fear of rejection and sense of inadequacy.

# Act III: The Deliverer and Leader (Years 80–120)

## **(The Setup)**

"Moses returns to Egypt at 80 years old, armed with nothing but a wooden staff and the word of God. What follows is the birth of a nation. Let's look at a few rapid-fire moments from this monumental final act:

# MOSES RETURNS TO EGYPT





**Waters Turn to Blood**  
Exodus 7:14-25



**Amphibians (Frogs)**  
Exodus 7:26-8:11



**Gnats (Lice)**  
Exodus 8:12-15



**Flies**  
Exodus 8:16-28



**Disease on Livestock**  
Exodus 9:1-7

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# The Ten Plagues of Egypt

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**Unhealable Boils**  
Exodus 9:8-12



**Hail and Fire**  
Exodus 9:13-35



**Locusts**  
Exodus 10:1-20



**Darkness**  
Exodus 10:21-29



**Death of First-Born**  
Exodus 11:1-12:36



## 5. The Plagues and the Passover - Exodus 5–12

### Salvation and Protection.

The Passover is a profound picture of redemption: protection comes not from personal goodness, but from taking cover under the provided sacrifice.

**Who in your life needs Jesus to be their  
Passover lamb?**



## 6. Crossing the Red Sea - Exodus 14

### Trusting in the Trap.

**The Red Sea (*Exodus 14*)** Trapped between the Egyptian army and the ocean, the people panic. Moses tells them to 'stand firm.'

**The Lesson:** When you are caught in a trap, faith requires standing still and trusting God to open a way you cannot make for yourself.

Where are you are caught in a trap?



## 7. Receiving the Law at Sinai - Exodus 19–20

### Boundaries for Freedom.

True freedom isn't the absence of rules; it's living within the healthy boundaries God sets for human flourishing and relationship with Him.

**Are you receiving Gods' Word and using it in your life?**

# The Golden Calf (*Exodus 32*)



## 8. The Golden Calf and Intercession - Exodus 32

### The Power of Intercession.

While Moses is receiving the Ten Commandments, the people build an idol. God threatens to wipe them out, but Moses steps in and pleads for their lives.

**The Lesson:** True leaders don't just lead; they intercede. They stand in the gap for the broken people they are called to serve.

**Who are you interceding for?**



Moses striking the rock

## 9. Striking the Rock - Numbers 20:1–13

### The Weight of Obedience.

Amid the complaints and quarrels, Moses disobeys God. Told to *speak* to a rock to provide water for the complaining Israelites, Moses angrily strikes the rock twice.

Because he misrepresented God's holiness to the people, he loses the right to enter the Promised Land.

**Familiarity with God should never breed contempt for His exact instructions.**



## 10. Death on Mount Nebo - Deuteronomy. 34

### Faithfulness to the End.

Success isn't always about crossing the finish line into the "promised land" yourself; sometimes it's about faithfully playing your part so the next generation can step into the promise.

**How can I be more faithful where I am now?**

Moses

“Sovereign Lord...let me go over and see the good land beyond the Jordan — that fine hill country and Lebanon.”

God

“That is enough. Do not speak to me anymore about this matter.”

"At 120 years old, Moses climbs Mount Nebo. (*Deuteronomy 34*). He looks out over the Jordan River and sees the Promised Land—the destination he has worked toward for 40 years.

He knows he will not cross the river. He commissions Joshua to lead the next generation, lays down his staff, and breathes his last.

Was his life a failure because he didn't step foot in Canaan?

**Absolutely not.**

Moses teaches us that success isn't always about crossing the finish line yourself.

Sometimes, success is faithfully playing your part, surviving the wilderness, and handing the baton to the next generation so *they* can step into the promise."

**Faithfulness is the ultimate success.**

“We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.”

Psalm 78:4

Moses is celebrated as a great leader

## **Deuteronomy 34:10-12**

*<sup>10</sup> Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, <sup>11</sup> who did all those signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do in Egypt — to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. <sup>12</sup> For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.*

Moses is honored as a person of great faith

## **Hebrews 11:23-29**

*24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.*

## **Hebrews 11:23-29**

*27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.*

*28 By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.*

*29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.*



# Moses participates in Jesus' Transfiguration

*Luke 9:28*

*About eight days  
after Jesus said  
this, he took Peter,  
John and  
James with him  
and went up onto a  
mountain to pray.*



## **Luke 9:28-31**

*As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. <sup>30</sup> Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. <sup>31</sup> They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.*



When Jesus was "Transfigured" on the mountain, one of the two people who spoke with Jesus was Moses. Moses had been resurrected and taken to heaven.

He represents God's people who will die and then be resurrected and taken to heaven when Jesus returns.

(The other person that spoke to Jesus on the "Mount of Transfiguration" was Elijah who had never died and had been taken to heaven-[2 Kings 2:11](#).)

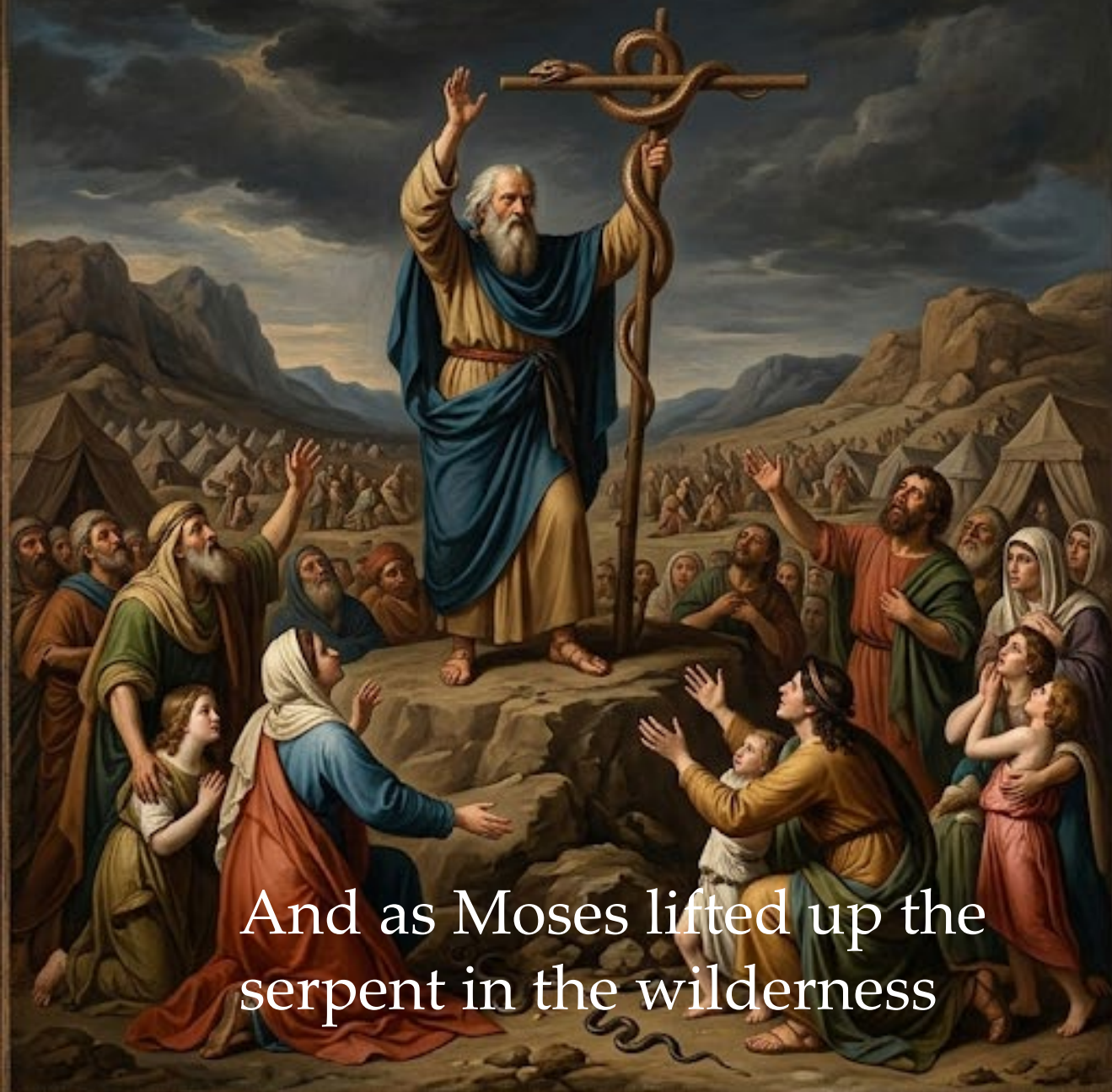
Elijah represents God's people who will be translated meaning that they will be taken to heaven, when Jesus returns, without ever dying.)

Moses' action previews Jesus' **sacrifice**.

### **John 3:14-16**

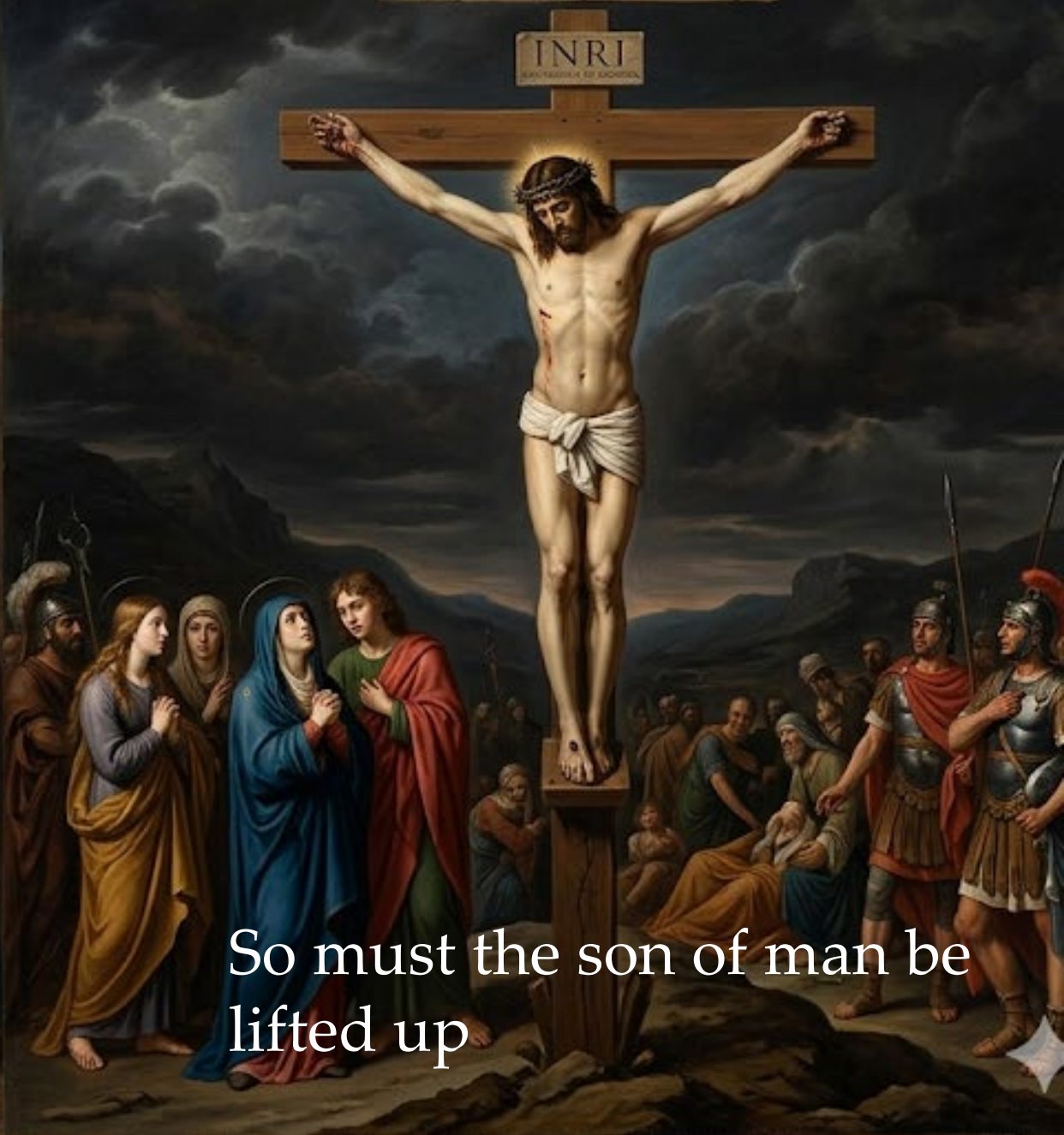
*<sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

"AND AS MOSES LIFTED UP THE SERPENT  
IN THE WILDERNESS"



And as Moses lifted up the  
serpent in the wilderness

"SO MUST THE SON OF MAN  
BE LIFTED UP"



So must the son of man be  
lifted up

## **Let' review some Applications:**

- God's Providence. God is often working behind the scenes in seemingly impossible, dark situations. What looks like an end can be the exact mechanism God uses for a rescue.
- God equips the called; He doesn't just call the equipped.
- Your “Midian” is not wasted. It is prep time.

True leaders don't just lead; they intercede. They stand in the gap for the broken people they are called to serve.

- **Who are you interceding for?**

When you are caught in a trap, faith requires standing still and trusting God to open a way you cannot build yourself.

- **What are you asking God to open up for you?**

Faithfulness is the ultimate success.

- **How can I be more faithful where I am now?**

Find us Faithful  
Steve Green

Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful  
May the fire of our devotion light their way  
May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe  
And the lives we live inspire them to obey

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