

⁸ Stephen, full of generosity and power, began doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Some from among the synagogue called Freedmen, those from the province of Cyrene, the city of Alexandria, the province of Cilicia, and the province of Asia, stood up, seeking together for Stephen. ¹⁰ They were not strong enough to withstand the wisdom and the Breath with which Stephen was speaking. ¹¹ Then they set up some men saying,

“We have heard him saying slanderous things about Moses and the Creator!”

¹² They moved the people, the elders, and the writers together and apprehended Stephen and brought him to the Sanhedrin.

¹³ They stood misrepresenting testimonies before them, saying,

“This person does not stop saying things against the divine place and the Torah! ¹⁴ For we have heard him saying that this Jesus of Nazareth will dismantle this place and will change the customs which Moses gave over to us!”

¹⁵ Gazing at Stephen, all those sitting in the Sanhedrin perceived his face as the face of a messenger. ^{7.1} The leader of the temple-caretakers said,

“Are these things as they say?”

² Stephen enlightened,

“Men! Brothers and fathers! Listen!

The the Creator of triumph was seen by our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia before he dwelled in Haran, ³ and said to him,

‘Come out from your land and from your family and come into whatever land I will show you!’

⁴ Then, after coming out from the land of Chaldea, he dwelled in Haran. After his father died, the Creator relocated Abraham into this land, into the one in which you are now dwelling. ⁵ He did not give him an inheritance in it, nor even a foot of a judgment seat. But the Creator committed to give the land to Abraham and his seed to occupy, even though he had no children. ⁶ The Creator declared that Abraham’s seed would be foreigners on another’s land and they would be enslaved and harmed for four hundred years. ⁷ The Creator said,

‘I will judge whichever nation they are enslaved by and, after these things, they will come out and give allegiance to me in this place.’

⁸ The Creator gave a covenant of circumcision to Abraham and thus, when Abraham had Isaac, he circumcised him on the eighth day. And Isaac had Jacob, and Jacob the twelve father-leaders.

⁹ Being jealous, the father-leaders gave Joseph to Egypt. The Creator was with him, ¹⁰ delivered him from all of his oppressions, and gave him generosity and wisdom in the view of Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, who then put him as a guide over Egypt and all his house. ¹¹ Then a famine and great oppression came upon all of Egypt and Canaan and the fathers could not find food. ¹² Hearing that there was grain, Jacob first sent our fathers into Egypt. ¹³ Then during the second time, Joseph recognized his brothers and the birth of Joseph became clear to Pharaoh. ¹⁴ Joseph called for his father Jacob and all seventy-five of the living family members. ¹⁵ Then Jacob went down into Egypt and he and our fathers came to an end ¹⁶ and were later put in Shechem—put in the tomb which Abraham purchased in Shechem with the value of silver from the children of Hamor.

¹⁷ As the time of the commitment, by which the Creator had declared loyalty to Abraham, was within grasp, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt ¹⁸ till ‘another ruler stood up over Egypt which did not know Joseph.’ ¹⁹ This one, being wise about our birth, harmed our fathers and threw out their infants so they would not live. ²⁰ In that season, Moses was born and was appealing to the Creator. He was nurtured for three months in the house of his father. ²¹ After he was thrown out, the daughter of Pharaoh took him and nurtured him as her own child. ²² There, Moses was disciplined with all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in his words and works. ²³ As he approached the age of forty years, it came upon Moses’s heart to look upon his brothers, the children of Israel. ²⁴ Seeing someone being treated unjustly, Moses assisted and brought justice to the one being subjugated by striking down the Egyptian. ²⁵ He supposed his brothers would understand that the Creator was giving rescue to them through his hand, but they did not understand. ²⁶ On the next day, he saw some of them fighting and began driving them to harmony, saying,

‘Men! You are brothers! Why are you being unjust to one another?’

²⁷ The one being unjust to his fellow creature, pushed Moses away, saying,

‘Who put you as leader and bringer of justice over us? ²⁸ Do you want to execute me like you executed the Egyptian?’

²⁹ Moses fled at this word and became a foreigner in Midian, where he bore two sons. ³⁰ When forty more years had been fulfilled, a messenger appeared to Moses in the wilderness of Mount Sinai in the flame of a bush on fire.

³¹ Seeing this, Moses began marveling at the vision and, while he was observing it, the voice of the Lord declared,

³² ‘I am the Creator of your fathers, the Creator of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.’

Trembling, Moses was not daring to observe the bush. ³³ The Lord said to him,

‘Release the sandals from your feet, for the place upon which you stand is divine earth. ³⁴ I have perceived the harming of my people in Egypt and heard of their struggle and I have come down to deliver them. Now come, so I may send you into Egypt!’

³⁵ So this Moses, whom they said ‘no’ to, saying, ‘Who put you as leader and bringer of justice?’ this one, the Creator sent, with the hand of the messenger which had been seen by him in the bush, to be leader and bringer of release from slavery. ³⁶ Moses brought them out, doing wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, the Red Sea, and in the wilderness for forty years. ³⁷ This is the Moses who said to the children of Israel,

‘The Creator will make a prophet stand up for you from among your brothers, like me.’

³⁸ This Moses is the one who was in the community in the wilderness with the messenger speaking to him on Mount Sinai. With our fathers, Moses received the living words to give to you. ³⁹ Our fathers were not willing to listen, but were pushing away from the Creator and turning with their hearts to Egypt, ⁴⁰ saying to Aaron,

‘Make for us the Creators, which will go in front of us! For this Moses, who brought us out from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him!’

⁴¹ They made a calf in those days and they brought a sacrificial-victim up to the human-made god and began celebrating at the works of their hands. ⁴² The Creator turned and gave them over to give allegiance to the army of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets,

‘House of Israel! It was not to me that you brought butchered animals and sacrificial-victims for forty years in the wilderness! ⁴³ You took up the tent of Moloch and the star of the Creator, Saturn, the designs which you made in order to bow down to them! Therefore, I will relocate you to the far side of Babylon!’

⁴⁴ This tent of testimony was with our fathers in the wilderness—as the one who was speaking to Moses ordered him to make it, according to the design which was seen. ⁴⁵ After receiving it, our fathers brought it in with Jesus, the child of Nun, during the occupation of the nations—the nations which the Creator expelled from the face of our fathers till the days of David. ⁴⁶ David found generosity in the sight of the Creator and asked to find a tent for the house of Jacob. ⁴⁷ So Solomon built a house for the Creator. ⁴⁸ But the highest does not dwell in things made by hands! As the prophet says,

⁴⁹ “Heaven is my throne! The earth is the footstool for my feet! What kind of house will you build for me?” says the Lord, “Where is the place of my stopping? ⁵⁰ Did not my hand make all these things?”

⁵¹ You are stiff-necked, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are constantly falling away from the Divine Breath, like your fathers! ⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not hunt down? They killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the one of justice, whose traitors and killers you have now become! ⁵³ You received the Torah through the orders of messengers, but you did not guard it!”

⁵⁴ Listening to these things, their hearts were enraged and they were grinding their teeth at Stephen. ⁵⁵ Being fully possessed by the Divine Breath and gazing into heaven, Stephen saw the triumph of the Creator and Jesus at the right hand of the Creator. ⁵⁶ He said,

“Look! I am seeing the heavens opened and the Child of Humanity standing at the Creator’s right hand!”

⁵⁷ Shouting with a great voice, they gripped their ears and communally charged at him. ⁵⁸ Casting him out of the city, they began throwing stones and those testifying put aside their garments near the feet of a young man called Saul. ⁵⁹ They were throwing stones at Stephen, while Stephen was calling and saying,

“Lord Jesus, receive my breath!”

⁶⁰ On his knees, Stephen shouted with a great voice,

“Lord! Do not stand this rebellion against them!”

After saying this, he laid down. ^{8.1} Saul was approving of his execution and a great hunting down of the community in Jerusalem happened on that day and all, except the representatives, were scattered throughout the lands of Judea and Samaria. ² Attentive men took Stephen and made a great lament over him. ³ But Saul began eliminating the community by going into the houses, dragging off men and women, and giving them over to be put under guard.