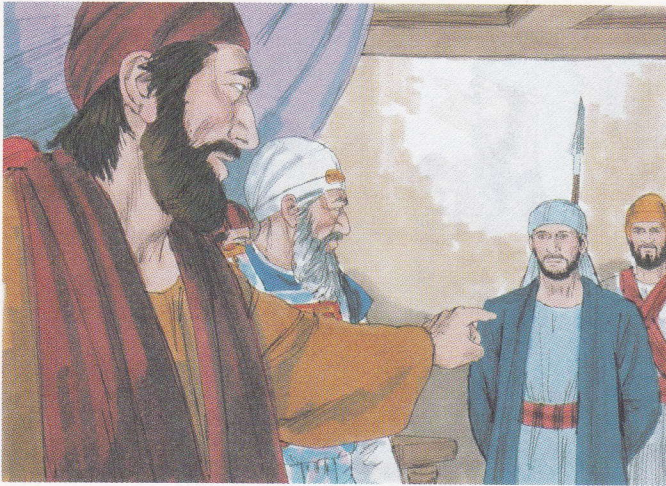
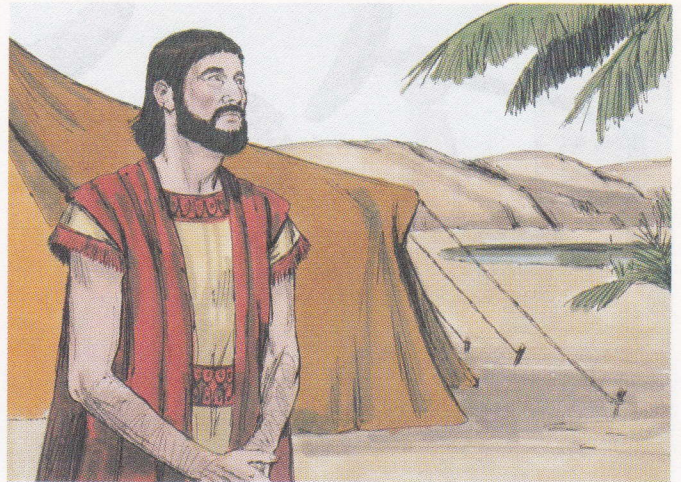


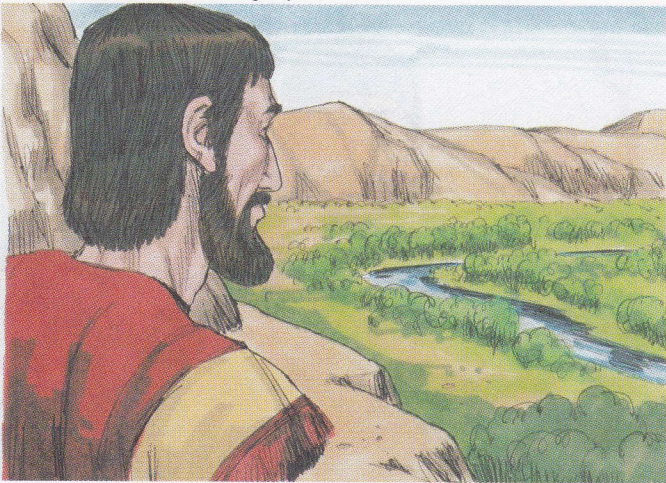
The Death of Stephen



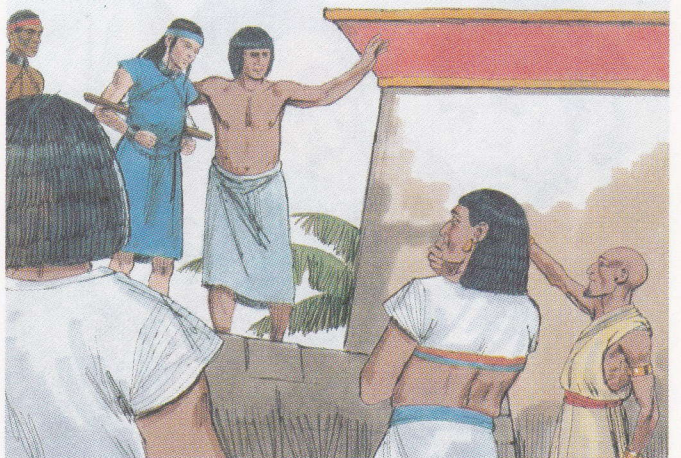
1 Certain Jews had spread lies that Stephen spoke evil of the temple and of Moses. Stephen was arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin. "Are these charges true?" the high priest asked.



2 Stephen replied: "God appeared to our father Abraham while he was in Mesopotamia and said to him, 'Leave your country and go to the land I will show you.'"



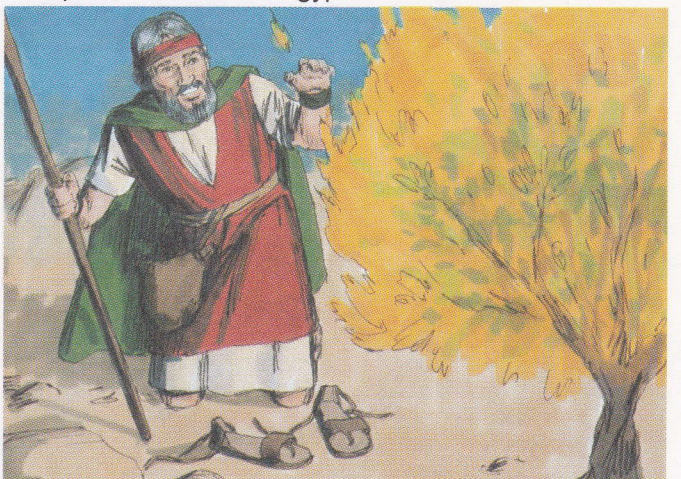
3 "God sent him to this land where you are now living. But he did not give Abraham any of the land. Instead God promised that his descendants would possess the land."



4 "Abraham is the father of Isaac, who became the father of Jacob. Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs. The patriarchs sold their brother Joseph as a slave into Egypt."



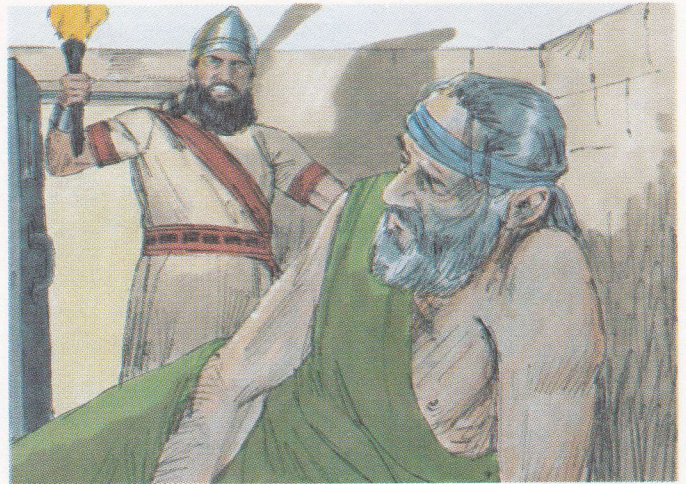
5 "But God was with Joseph. He gave Joseph such wisdom that after a time Joseph became a ruler over Egypt. Then he brought his father Jacob and his brothers to live in Egypt."



6 "Many years later, God was ready to fulfill his promise to Abraham. But then a pharaoh who did not remember Joseph oppressed our people. So God chose Moses to free his people."



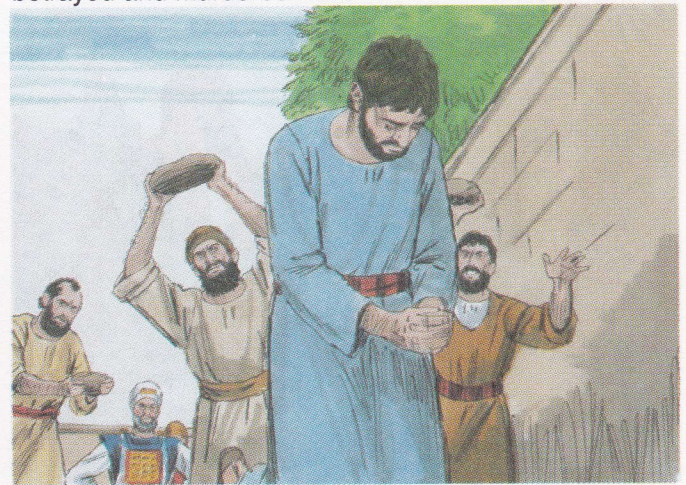
7 “God made Moses, whom his own people had rejected, their ruler and deliverer. And he gave Moses his commandments to pass on to us. But our fathers refused to obey him.”



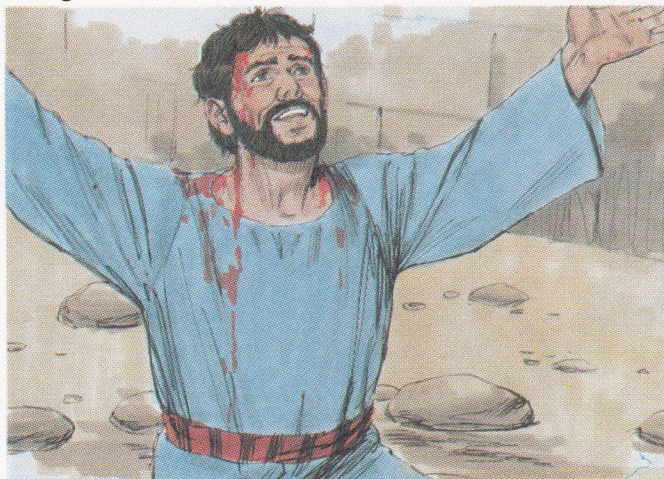
8 “You people are just like your fathers. You resist the Holy Spirit. They killed the prophets who predicted the coming of the Righteous One—and you have betrayed and murdered Him!”



9 These words made the people in the Sanhedrin furious. Then Stephen looked up to heaven and said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”



10 The people covered their ears and yelled at the top of their voices. They rushed at Stephen and dragged him outside of Jerusalem and began to stone him.



11 As they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” Then he fell to his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!”



12 Thus Stephen died. The witnesses against Stephen laid their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. Saul approved of the death of Stephen.