

Sabbath School Stories

Passover



This Book
Belongs To:



A long time ago, Jacob and his big family, the Israelites, went to live in Egypt. Remember Joseph? He was the reason they went, and at first they were treated very well. Over time, the family grew and had lots of children, because that is what God promised Abraham he would do for his people. Then, a new king called Pharaoh, became the ruler of Egypt. He didn't know Joseph, and he didn't like how much the Israelites were growing.

Pharaoh got scared that they were getting too big and strong. He thought, "What if they join our enemies and fight against us?" So he made the Israelites work very hard, building up cities and working as slaves. Pharaoh wanted to make their lives miserable so they wouldn't continue to grow. He wanted to make them weak. Pharaoh was very mean, and the Israelites were very sad.



Pharaoh was still worried about the Israelites having too many babies, so he came up with an even worse plan. He called the women who helped deliver babies and told them, "When you help the Israelite women, if it's a boy you must kill him, and if it's a girl she may live." He wanted to stop them from having boys so their family wouldn't get bigger and stronger.

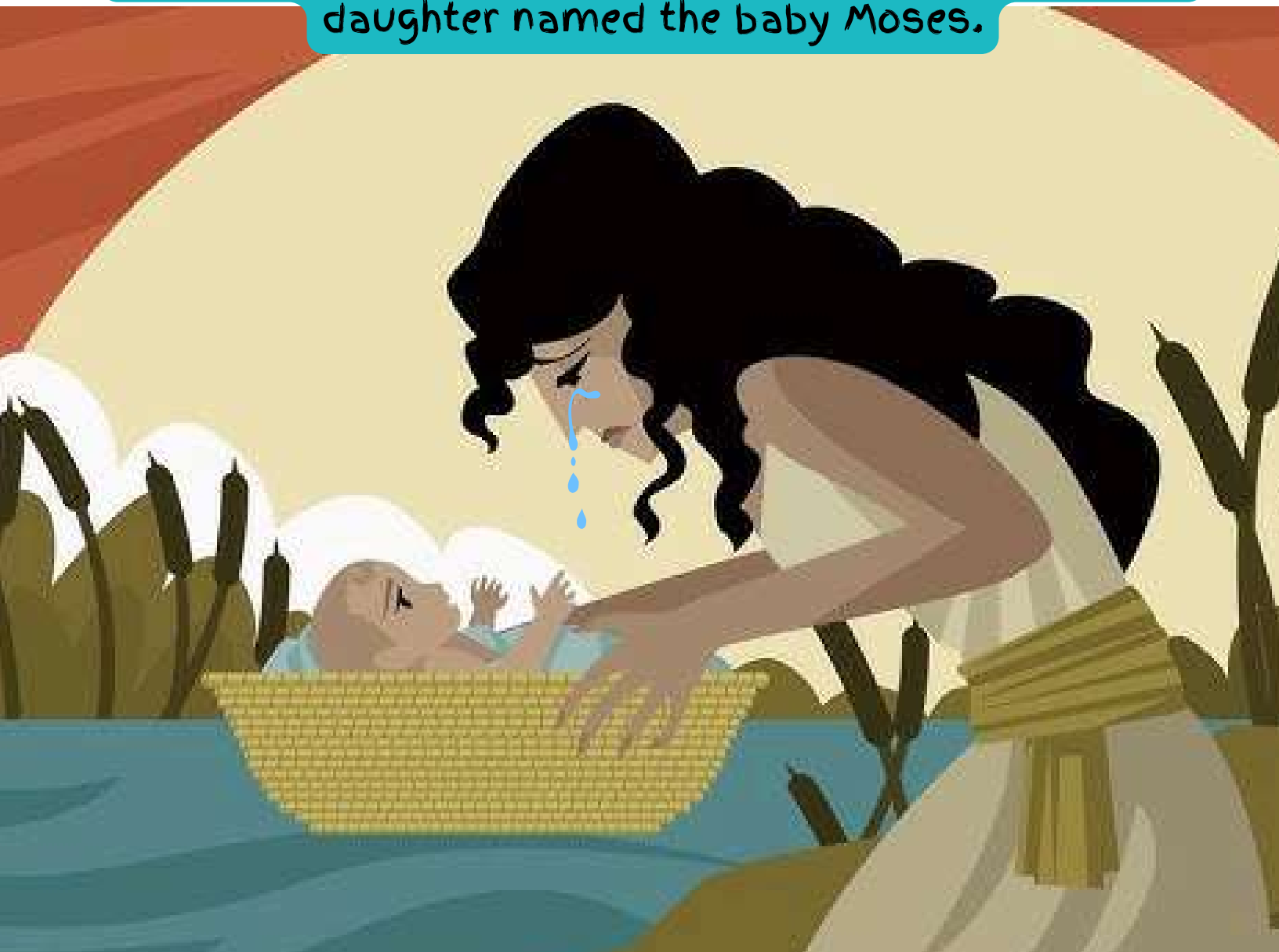
But they were good women, who feared God more than Pharaoh, and they let the boys live!

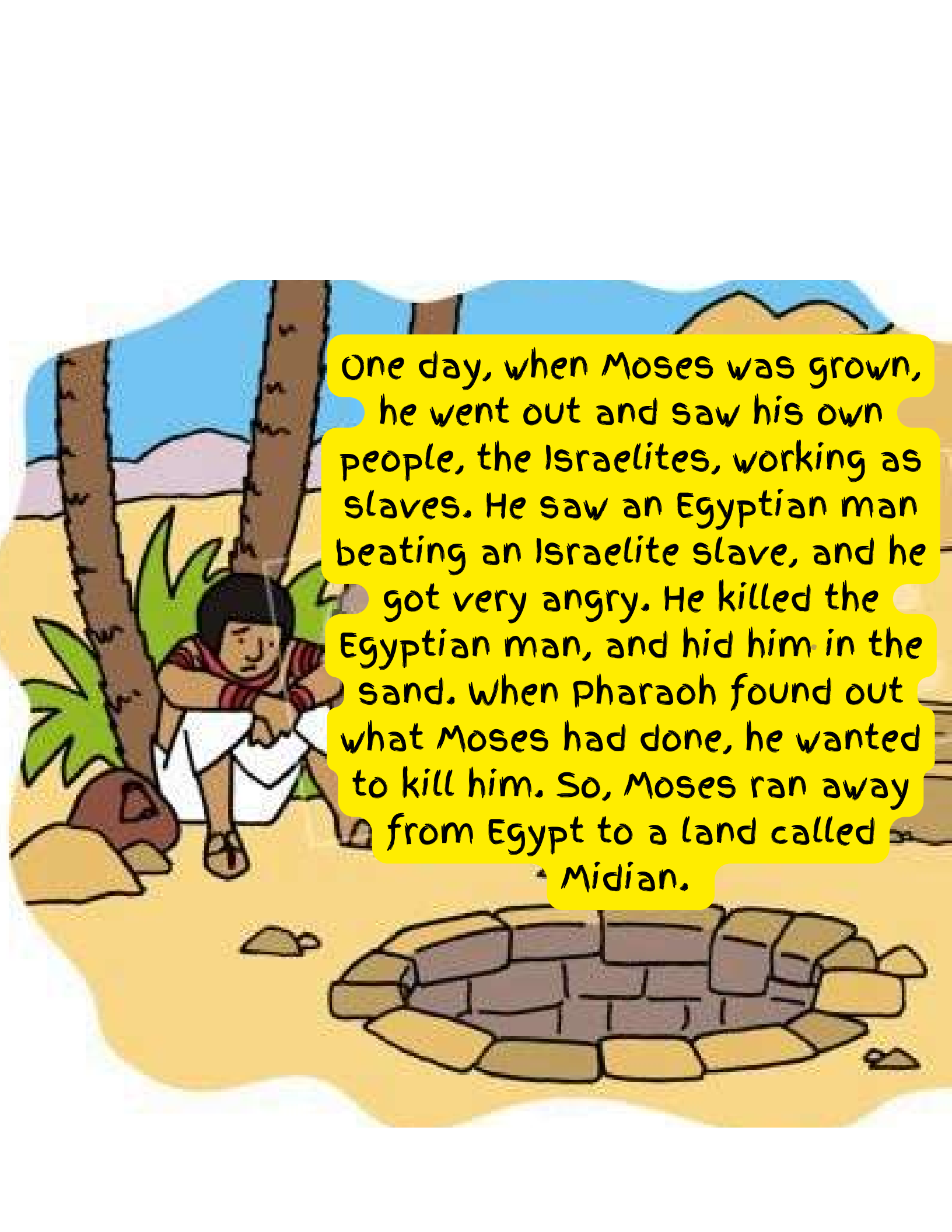


This made Pharaoh very angry, and he gave a new order to all his people: "Every time an Israelite boy is born, throw him into the Nile River!" This made the Israelites very scared and sad.



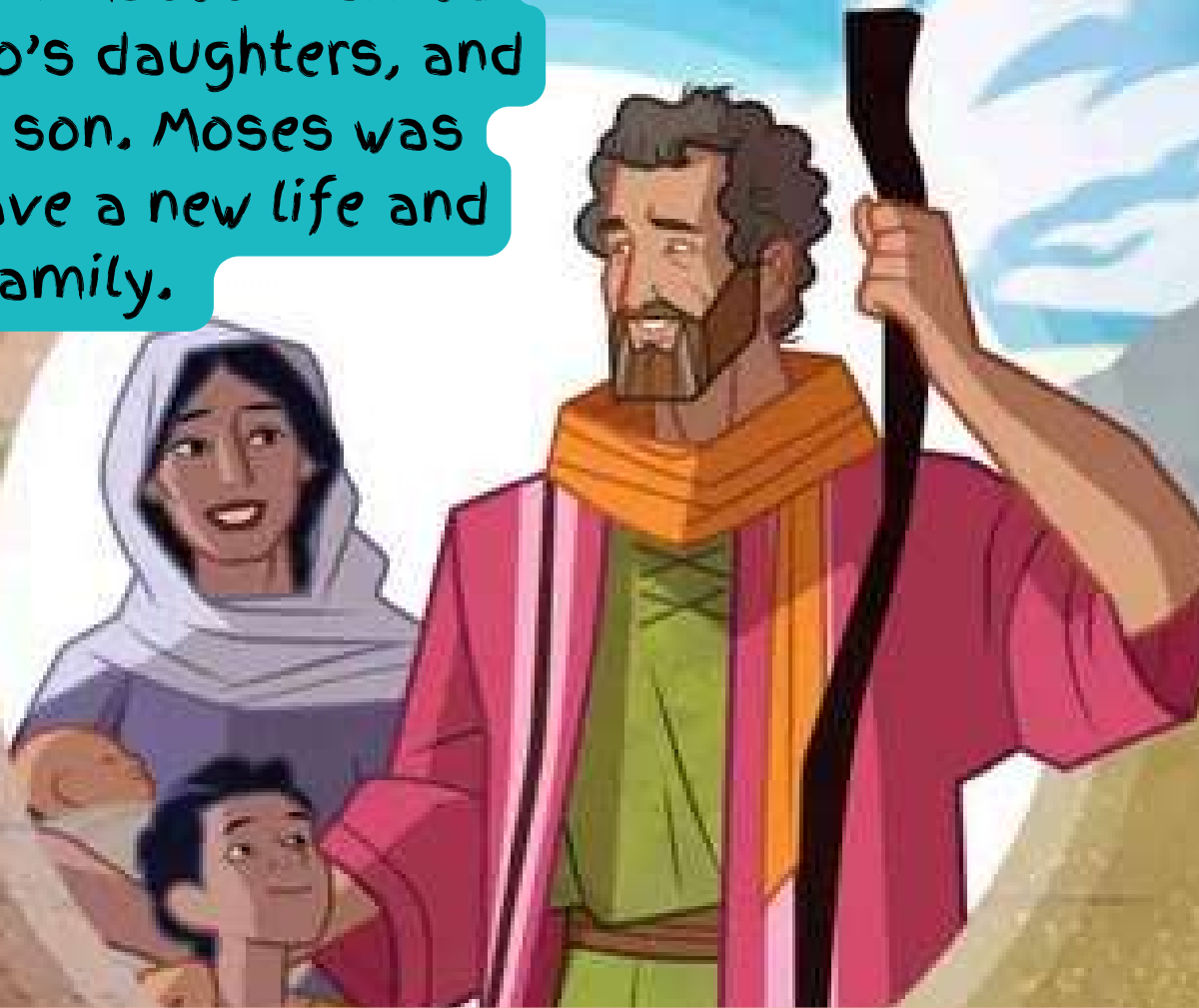
There was an Israelite woman who had a baby boy, and she loved him very much. She hid him for three months because she didn't want him to get hurt. When she couldn't hide him anymore, she made a special waterproof basket for him, and placed him inside and set it in the Nile river. He floated down the river to where Pharaoh's daughter was taking a bath, and she saw him. She felt sorry for the baby and decided to raise him as her son. The baby's sister was watching close by, and asked Pharaoh's daughter if she wanted to get an Israelite woman to help with him. She said yes, and so the baby's mother was able to come and care for him. Pharaoh's daughter named the baby Moses.



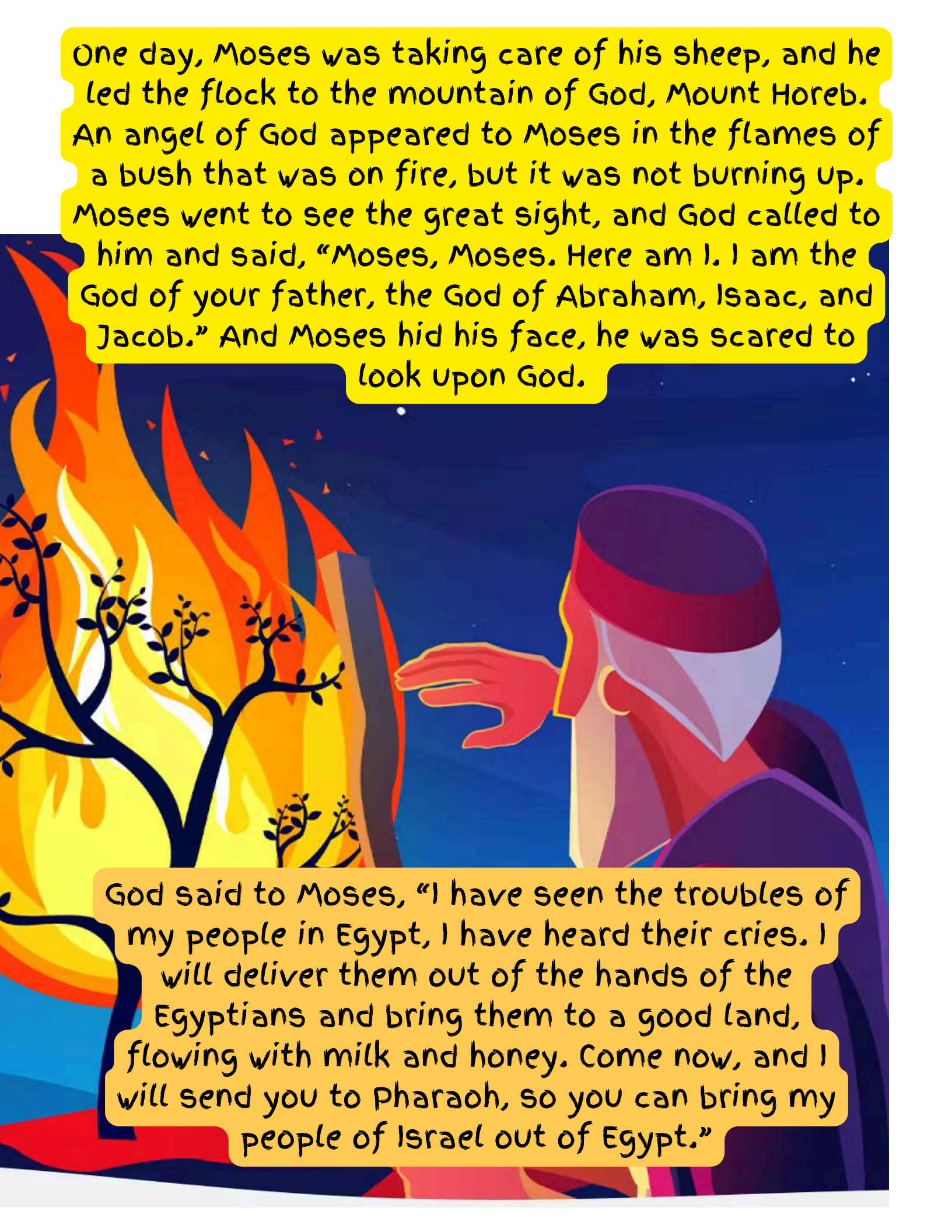


One day, when Moses was grown, he went out and saw his own people, the Israelites, working as slaves. He saw an Egyptian man beating an Israelite slave, and he got very angry. He killed the Egyptian man, and hid him in the sand. When Pharaoh found out what Moses had done, he wanted to kill him. So, Moses ran away from Egypt to a land called Midian.

After Moses got to Midian, he saved some girls who were trying to give water to their sheep from some mean shepherds. Their father, Jethro, was very thankful to Moses for helping them. Moses married one of Jethro's daughters, and they had a son. Moses was happy to have a new life and family.



But while Moses was living his new life, his people back in Egypt were still having a very hard time. They cried out to God for help, and God remembered his promise to help them.

An illustration of Moses, an elderly man with a long white beard, wearing a purple robe and a purple turban. He is shown from the chest up, looking towards a large, intense fire on the left. The fire is bright yellow and orange, with dark, leafless branches reaching into it. The background is a dark blue night sky with a few small white stars. The text is presented in two yellow speech bubbles. The first bubble contains the first paragraph, and the second bubble contains the second paragraph.

One day, Moses was taking care of his sheep, and he led the flock to the mountain of God, Mount Horeb. An angel of God appeared to Moses in the flames of a bush that was on fire, but it was not burning up. Moses went to see the great sight, and God called to him and said, "Moses, Moses. Here am I. I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." And Moses hid his face, he was scared to look upon God.

God said to Moses, "I have seen the troubles of my people in Egypt, I have heard their cries. I will deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them to a good land, flowing with milk and honey. Come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so you can bring my people of Israel out of Egypt."

And Moses was a little scared, and said to God, "Who am I, that I should go and talk to Pharaoh, and lead the people out of Egypt? But God said, "Don't worry, I'll be with you. And when you bring the people out of Egypt, you'll come back to this mountain and worship me.

That's how you'll know I sent you."

Moses asked God, "But what if they ask me, 'who sent you?' what should I say?" And God said, "Tell them, 'Yehovah sent me. That's my name. Tell them the God of their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, sent you. Tell them God has seen their sadness and wants to bring them to a land with lots of good things, like milk and honey! Ask Pharaoh to let them go on a three day journey into the desert to offer their sacrifices to God."



God also said, "I know that Pharaoh won't let you go unless I stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all my wonders, which I will do, and after that he will let you go. I will make the Egyptians be generous to you, and when you leave ask them for silver and gold and clothing. They will give it to you, and you won't leave empty handed."



Moses was worried that the people would not believe that God sent him. God told him to throw his staff on the ground, so he did, and it turned into a snake. Then God told him to pick it up, and it turned back into a staff. This was a sign to show Moses God's power.

Moses was still concerned because he was not a good speaker, so God told him that He would help Moses, and teach him what he needed to say. He also said that Moses' brother Aaron could go with him and help do the talking. Aaron went with Moses to Egypt and talked to the elders of the people of Israel, and told them all about what God said, and they believed them and began to worship God.



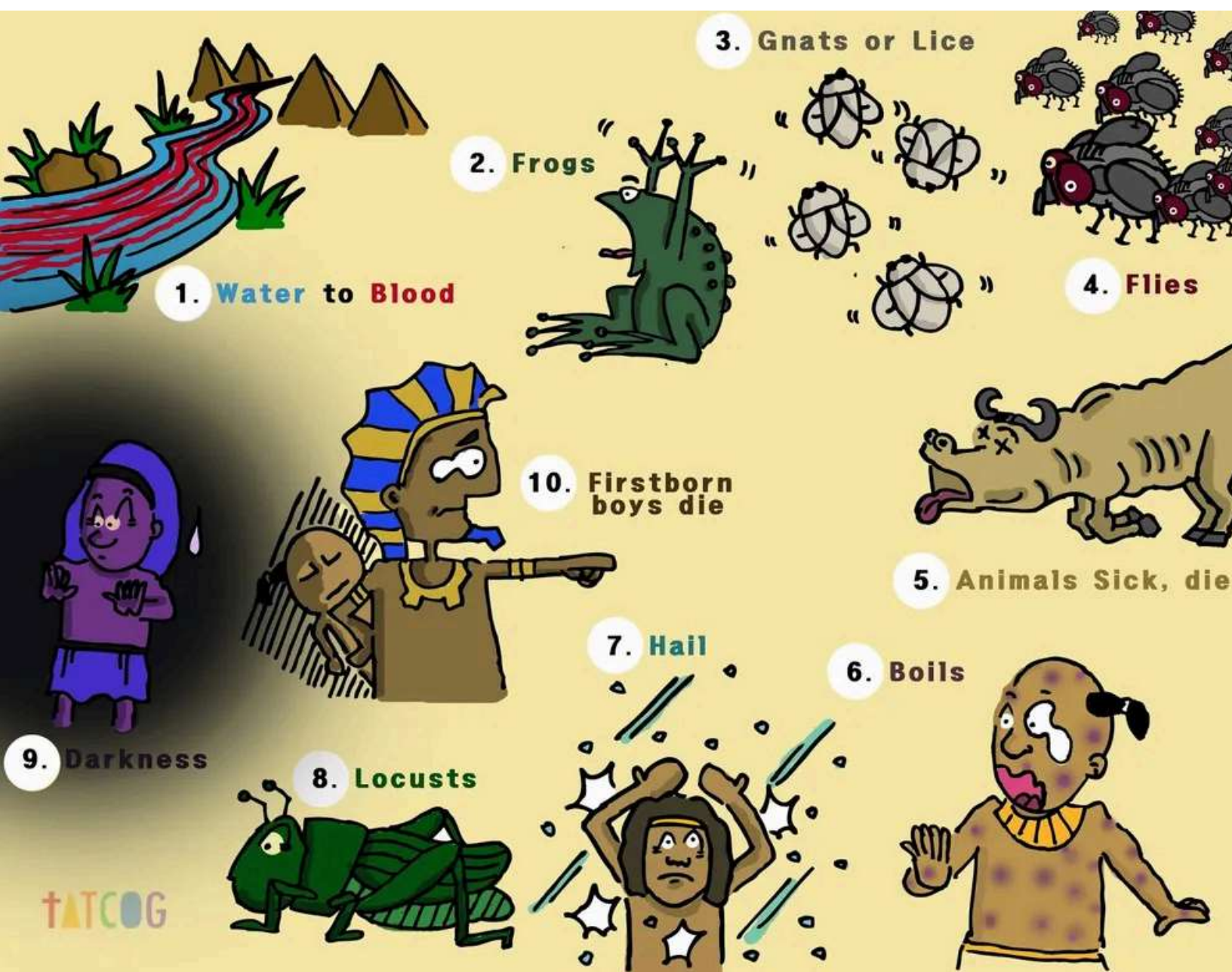
Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "Yehovah, God of Israel says, 'Let my people go, so they can come and worship me.'"

Pharaoh was angry, and said, "Who is this God? I don't know him, and I'm not going to let the people go!" Pharaoh tried to make the people work even harder. Things got worse for them and they started to get upset. Moses was confused, and he asked God why this was happening when they were supposed to be delivered from their trouble.

But God told Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh! Because of my powerful hand, he will let my people go! I have remembered my covenant with my people, and I will free you from this slavery!"



God sent ten big troubles, called plagues, to Egypt. Pharaoh was so angry and didn't want to let the people go. The last one was the scariest. God sent an angel through Egypt, where ever the angel went, the firstborn child would be killed. But God gave the Israelites a way to stay safe. He told them to sacrifice a lamb and put the lamb's blood over their door frames, and the angel would "pass over" that house and no one would get hurt. That night Pharaoh's son got killed, and he was finally scared enough to let the people go.



So the Israelites packed up all their things in a hurry and left Egypt. They left so quickly they didn't even have time to let their bread rise, and so they had "unleavened bread." Pharaoh got angry again and changed his mind, so he sent an army after the people. They got to the Red Sea, and they were trapped, and they got really scared. But God showed his great power again! He told Moses to hold out his staff, and the sea split in two! The Israelites were able to walk across to escape! The army tried to follow them, but God made the water come crashing back together, and they got washed away. The Israelites were saved from Egypt and headed to the land God promised them.



When God set his people free, it wasn't so they could serve themselves, but so they could serve him. The Israelites were God's chosen people, and he needed to teach them how to worship him. God cannot be seen, but he wanted them to hear his voice. He brought them to Mount Horeb, so they could hear what he had to say. He gave Moses two tablets of stone, with the ten commandments (God's Law) written by the finger of God. These were the rules God wanted his people to follow. He made a covenant with them, which is a promise, to bless the people who obeyed his law, so they could receive the blessings of his promises, and have eternal life in his kingdom.



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

(The Holy Covenant)

1. Do not have any gods before Yehovah

2. Do not worship idols or graven images

3. Do not take Yehovah's name in vain

4. Remember the Sabbath (Saturday), and keep it holy

5. Honor your father and your mother

6. Do not murder

7. Do not commit adultery

8. Do not steal

9. Do not lie

10. Do not be jealous

The first five are how we love God with all our heart, mind, and soul.

The last five are how we can love our neighbors as ourselves

The ten commandments can be simplified into two commandments:

1. Love God with all your heart, mind, and soul

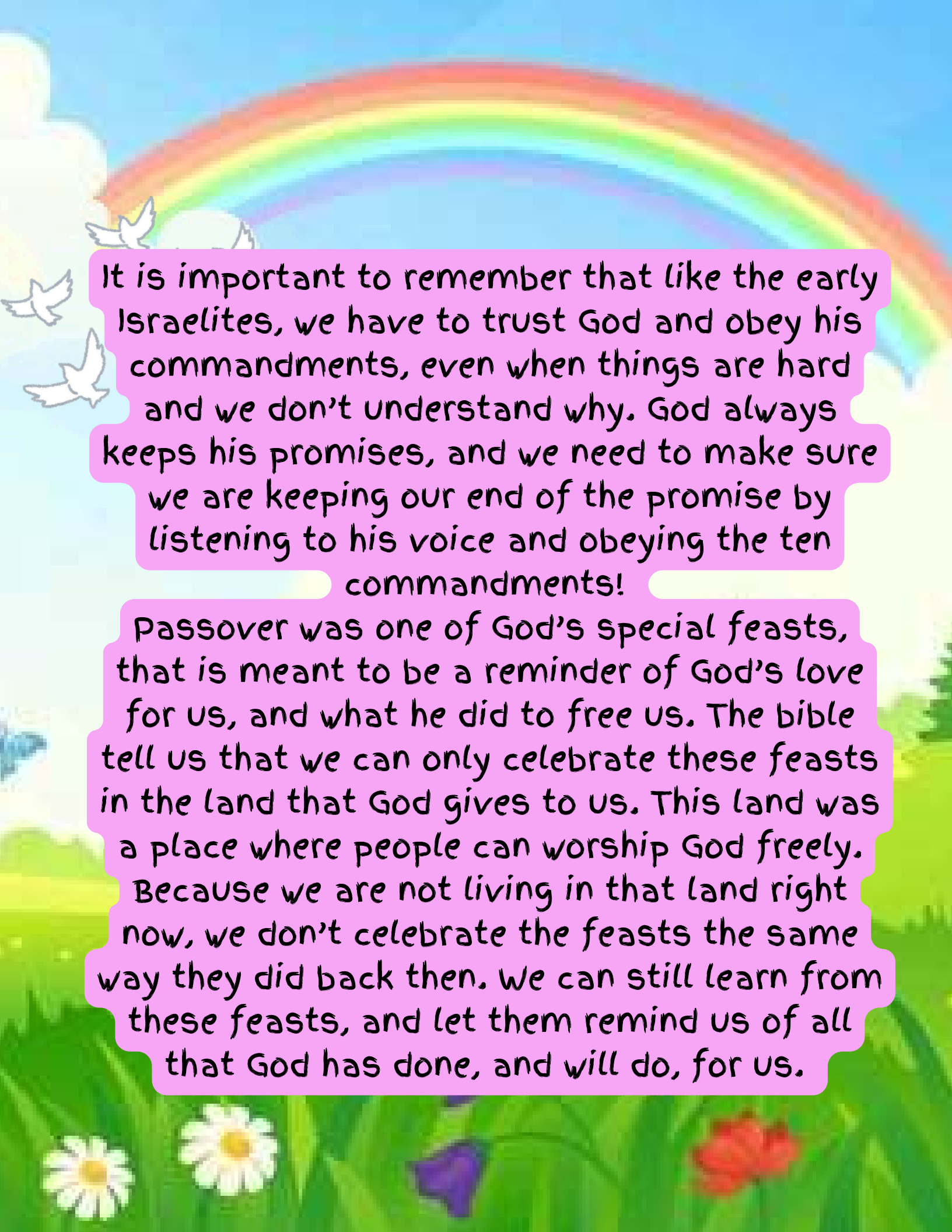
2. Love your neighbor as yourself

Unfortunately, the Israelites tried to worship God in their own way, instead of the way God wanted them to. They ended up breaking God's Law (the holy covenant) by making a golden calf and worshiping it as an idol. This broke God's heart, because he wants his people to show that they love him by obeying his commandments. As a punishment, God had Moses write down a long list of other rules that they would have to follow, known as the sacrificial law, for a time, until it was finished and the holy covenant would be refreshed.





Many years later, God sent his son, Yeshua, to refresh the holy covenant (God's ten commandments) and finish the sacrificial law. God loved the world so much that he wanted to give the people another chance to have eternal life in God's kingdom. Yeshua sacrificed his life for us, so that we were not under the sacrificial law anymore. He paved the way for us to go back to obeying God's law, the ten commandments. Just like the blood of the lamb protected God's children from death during the Passover, Yeshua's blood was spilled so that we are no longer under the law of sin and death (sacrificial law).



It is important to remember that like the early Israelites, we have to trust God and obey his commandments, even when things are hard and we don't understand why. God always keeps his promises, and we need to make sure we are keeping our end of the promise by listening to his voice and obeying the ten commandments!


Passover was one of God's special feasts, that is meant to be a reminder of God's love for us, and what he did to free us. The bible tell us that we can only celebrate these feasts in the land that God gives to us. This land was a place where people can worship God freely. Because we are not living in that land right now, we don't celebrate the feasts the same way they did back then. We can still learn from these feasts, and let them remind us of all that God has done, and will do, for us.

Thank you, God, for hearing our cries,
caring about our troubles, and saving us
from our enemies. O, great God, we praise
you for setting us free and giving us a new
start in Yeshua. Thank you for your word.
Help us to walk in your ways. For your
glory, and for our good.
Amen.

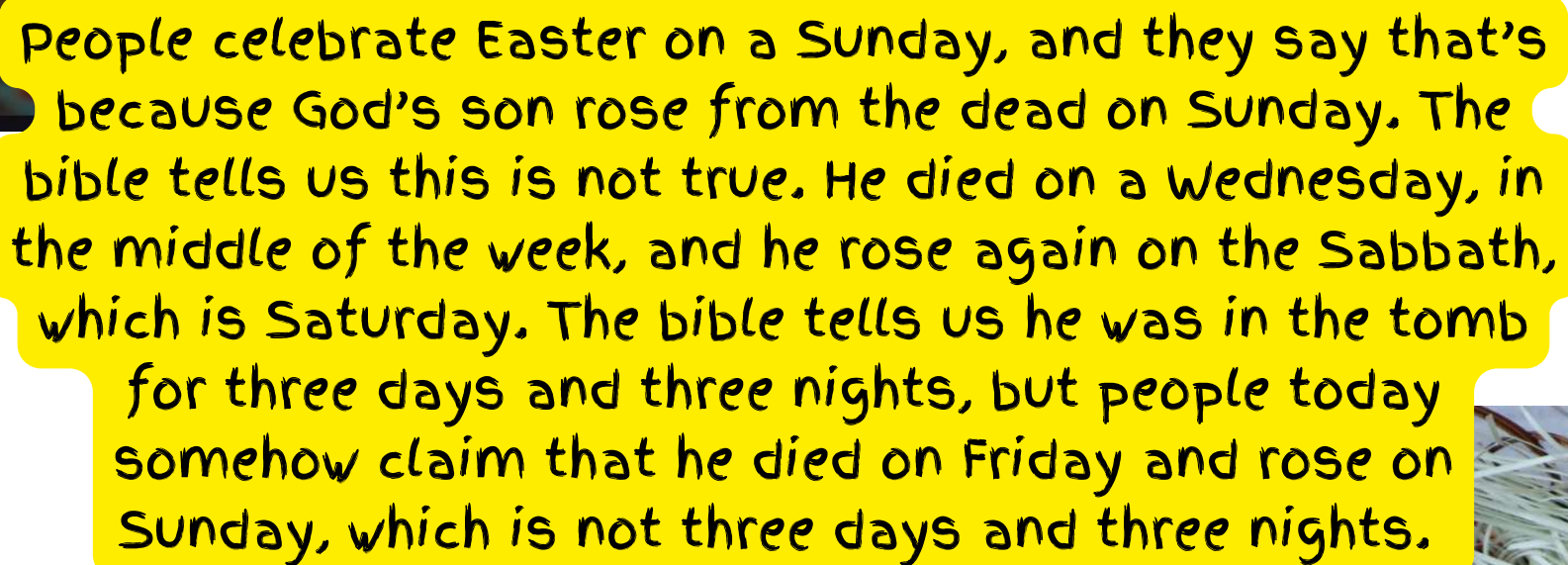


Do you remember how the Israelites broke God's commandments by worshiping the golden calf? This broke the second commandment: do not have any idols or graven images. Today, people try and take things that have nothing to do with God, and make it into a way to worship him. He hates this just as much as he did back then! People try to say they celebrate Easter in honor of the Passover, but that is a bunch of lies. Do eggs and bunnies have anything to do with the bible story? Nope. People use eggs and rabbits as symbols for fertility, celebrating a fake goddess "Eostre/Ishtar/Ostara" (Easter) instead of the one true God (Yehovah)

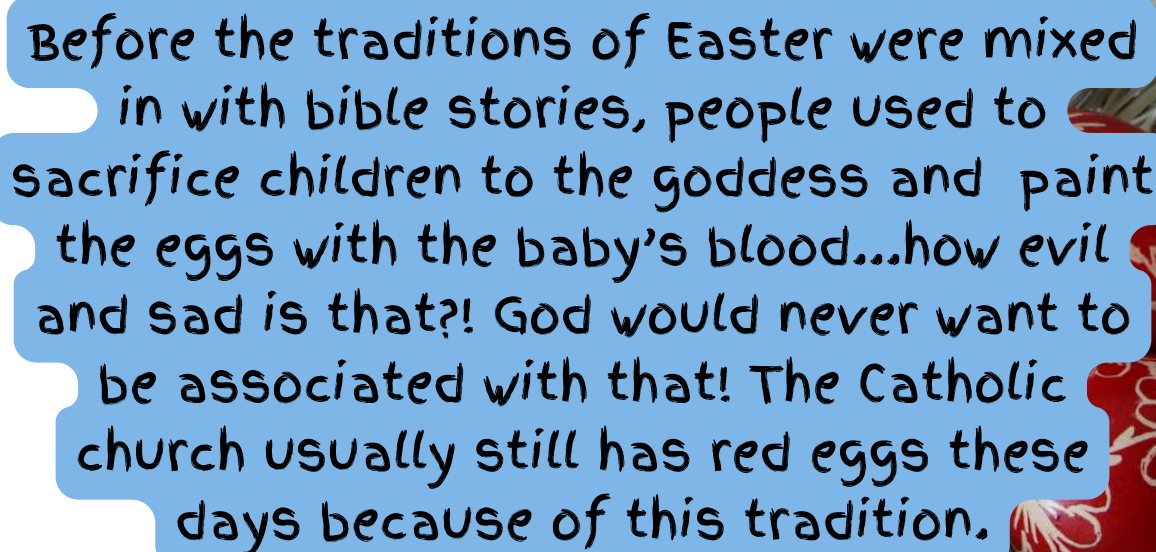




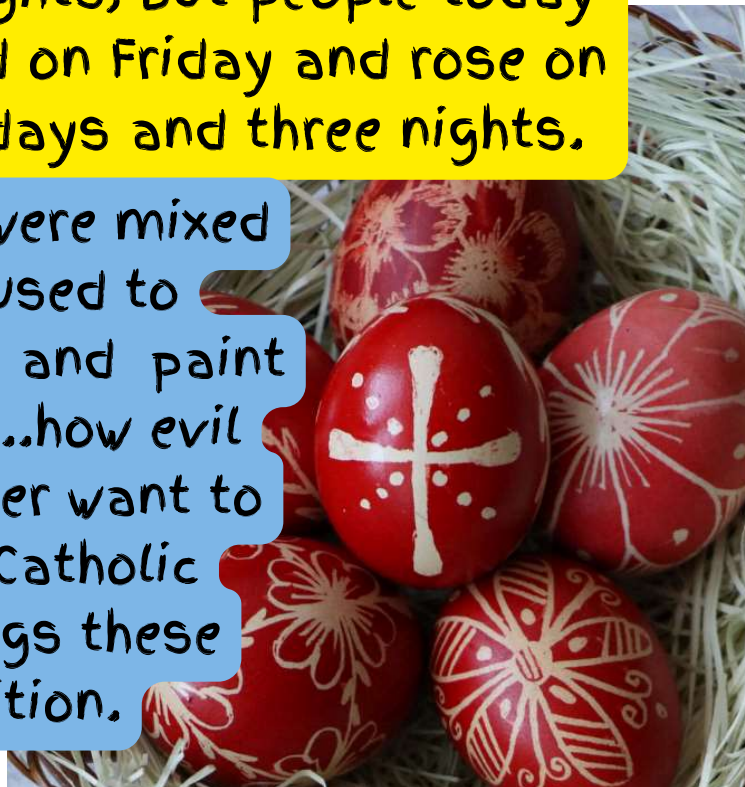
Easter is not something God wants us to celebrate. The word "Easter" comes from the name of a pagan (false/fake) goddess, Eostre. She was associated with spring and eggs and rabbits, and other symbols of new life. People started mixing these symbols with stories from the bible, to try and mix evil with good. Only God and Yeshua's sacrifice for us can give us new life, and we should not honor pagan idolatry as a replacement.



People celebrate Easter on a Sunday, and they say that's because God's son rose from the dead on Sunday. The bible tells us this is not true. He died on a Wednesday, in the middle of the week, and he rose again on the Sabbath, which is Saturday. The bible tells us he was in the tomb for three days and three nights, but people today somehow claim that he died on Friday and rose on Sunday, which is not three days and three nights.



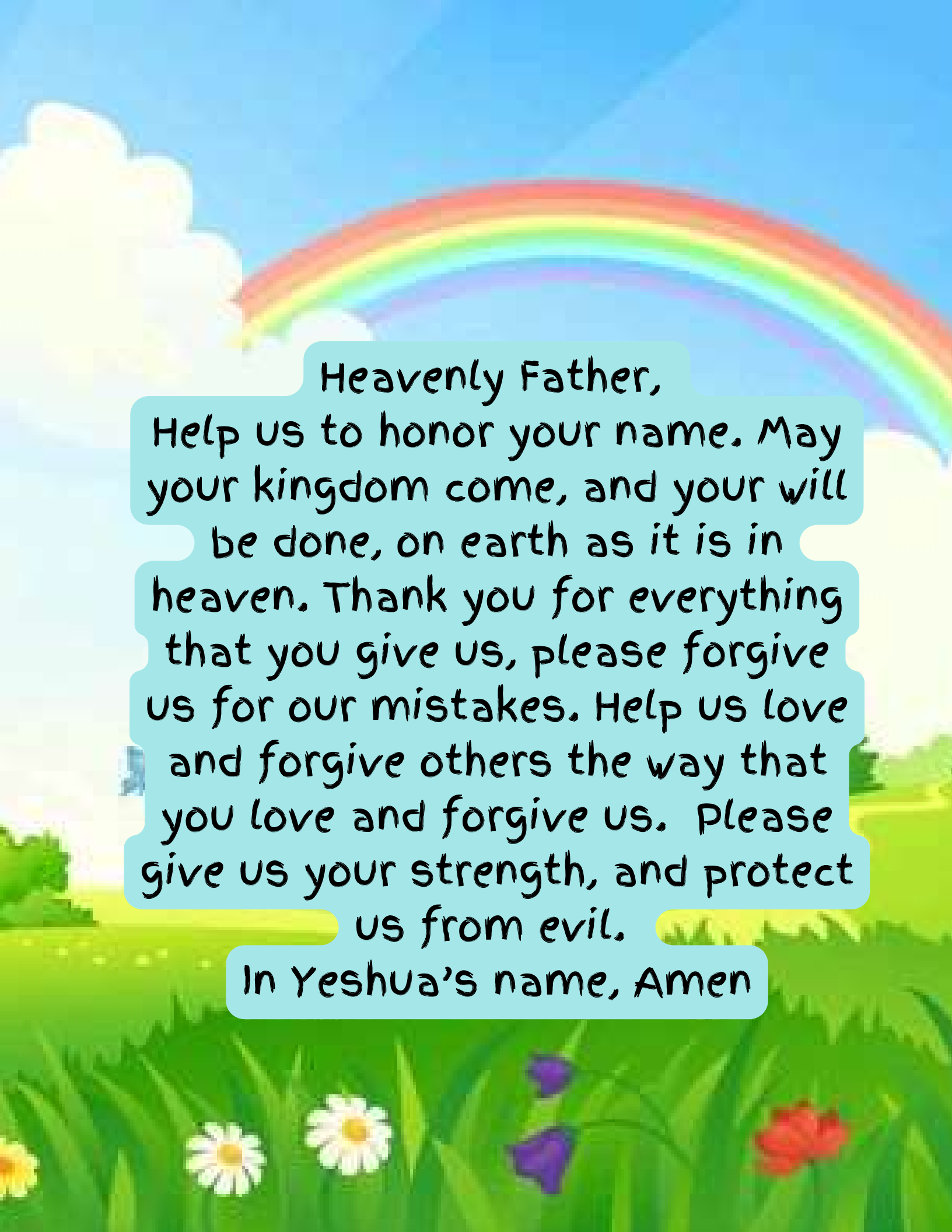
Before the traditions of Easter were mixed in with bible stories, people used to sacrifice children to the goddess and paint the eggs with the baby's blood...how evil and sad is that?! God would never want to be associated with that! The Catholic church usually still has red eggs these days because of this tradition.



Satan, the enemy of God and his people, is always trying to lie and cause people to sin. We have to be careful that we search out God's truth through his word, and pray daily for protection.



Easter is one of the things Satan has used to try and deceive God's people, and cause them to break the ten commandments. It is important to remember that we have to worship God in spirit and in truth, and not in the ways of the world.



Heavenly Father,
Help us to honor your name. May
your kingdom come, and your will
be done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Thank you for everything
that you give us, please forgive
us for our mistakes. Help us love
and forgive others the way that
you love and forgive us. Please
give us your strength, and protect
us from evil.

In Yeshua's name, Amen