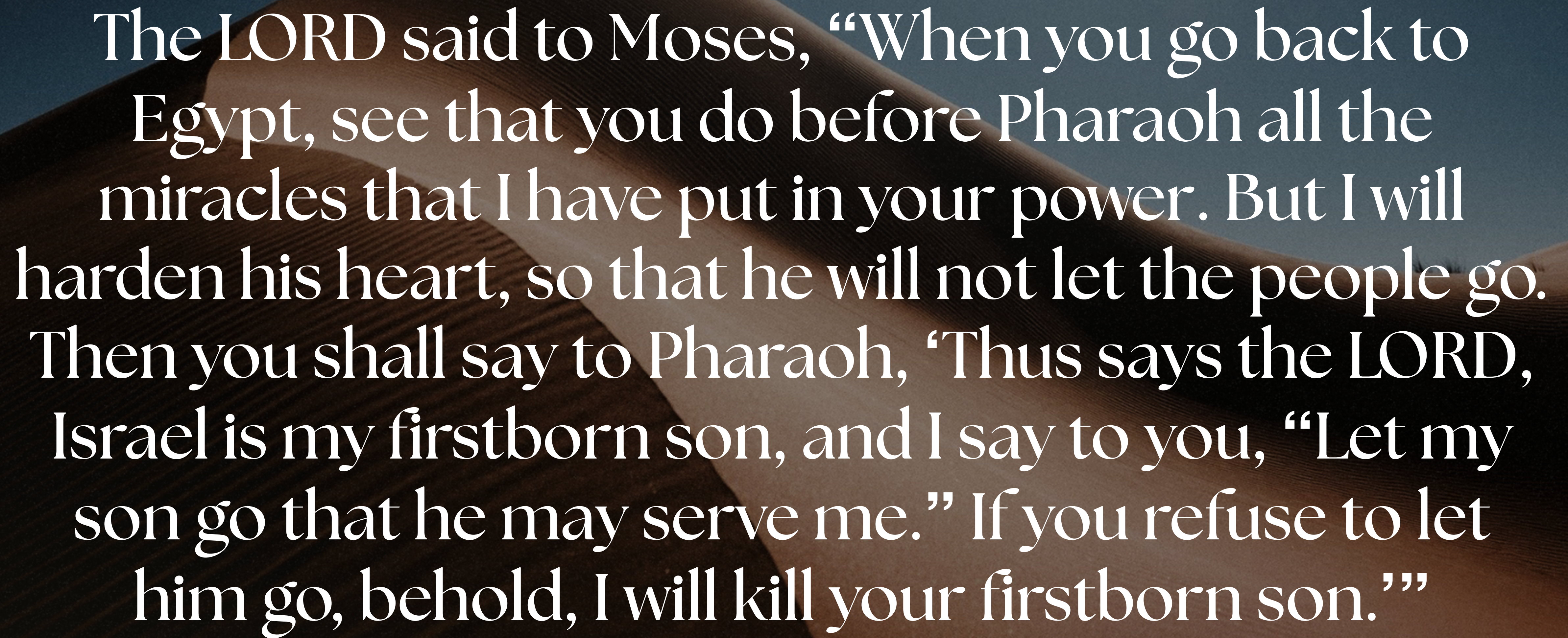


Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, "Please let me go back to my brothers in Egypt to see whether they are still alive." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace." And the LORD said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead." So Moses took his wife and his sons and had them ride on a donkey, and went back to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the staff of God in his hand.

Exodus 4:18-31

The background of the image is a photograph of a desert landscape. It features rolling sand dunes in shades of brown and tan, set against a clear, pale blue sky. The dunes are smooth and undulating, creating a sense of vastness and tranquility. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day, with soft shadows cast across the sand.

The LORD said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son, and I say to you, “Let my son go that he may serve me.”’ If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.””

Exodus 4:18-31

At a lodging place on the way the LORD met him and sought to put him to death. Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and touched Moses' feet with it and said, "Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me!" So he let him alone. It was then that she said, "A bridegroom of blood," because of the circumcision. The LORD said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him.

Exodus 4:18-31

And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD with which he had sent him to speak, and all the signs that he had commanded him to do. Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. Aaron spoke all the words that the LORD had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people. And the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

Exodus 4:18-31

A photograph of a desert landscape featuring rolling sand dunes. The sun is high in the sky, creating a bright glow and casting long shadows across the dunes. The sky is a clear, deep blue. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

GOD'S SERIOUS BUSINESS

EXODUS 4:18-31



Genesis 22:18

“and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Isaiah 56:7

“these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.”

A photograph of a desert landscape featuring rolling sand dunes. The dunes are illuminated by warm, golden light, likely from a low sun, creating soft shadows and highlighting the texture of the sand. The sky is a clear, deep blue. The text is centered over the dunes.

God calls us into His very own
purpose and identity...

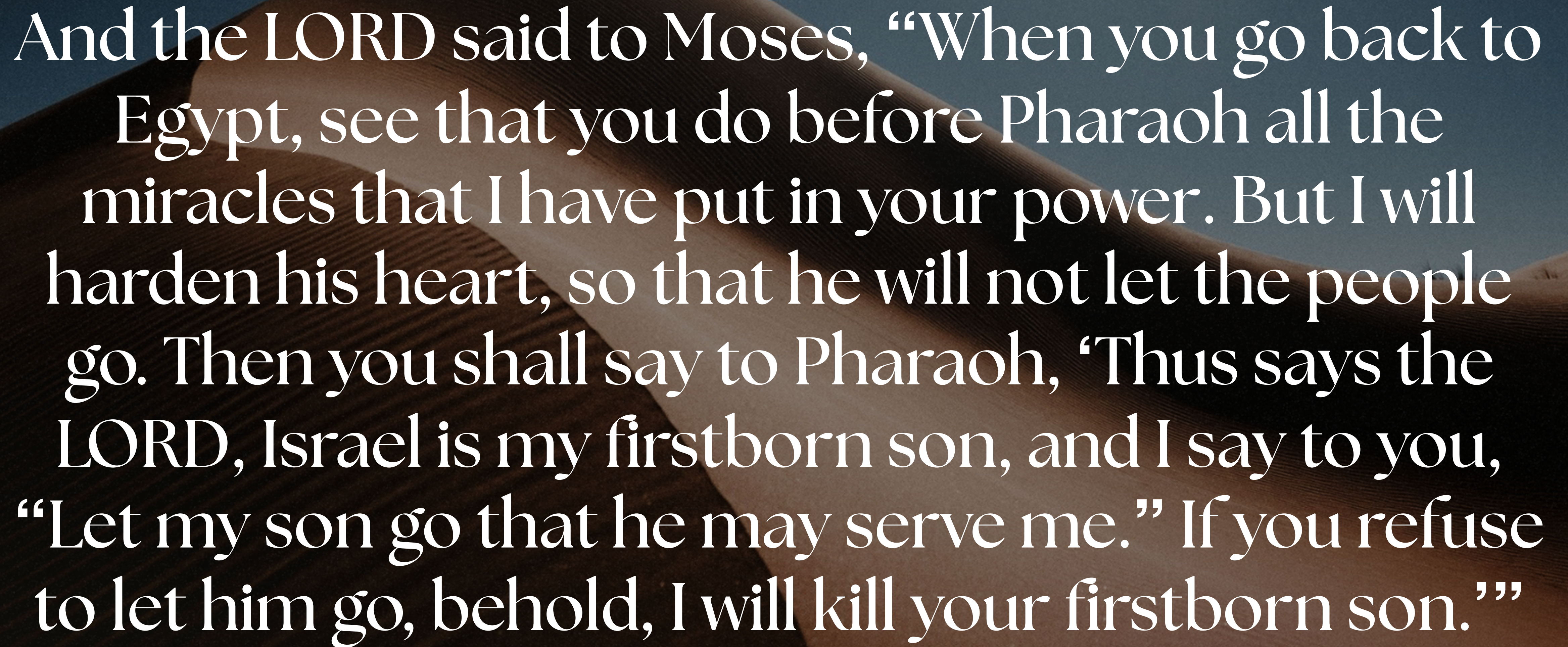
Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, "Please let me go back to my brothers in Egypt to see whether they are still alive." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace." And the LORD said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead." So Moses took his wife and his sons and had them ride on a donkey, and went back to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the staff of God in his hand.

Exodus 4:18-20

A photograph of a desert landscape featuring rolling sand dunes. The dunes are illuminated from the side, creating soft shadows and highlighting the fine texture of the sand. The sky is a clear, deep blue. The text is overlaid on the dunes in a white, serif font.

God calls us into his very own purpose
and identity...

...BUT our fear and comfort keep us
trapped in the life we had.

A photograph of a desert landscape with rolling sand dunes under a clear blue sky. The dunes are in the foreground and middle ground, creating a sense of depth. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

And the LORD said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son, and I say to you, “Let my son go that he may serve me.” If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.’”

Exodus 4:21-23

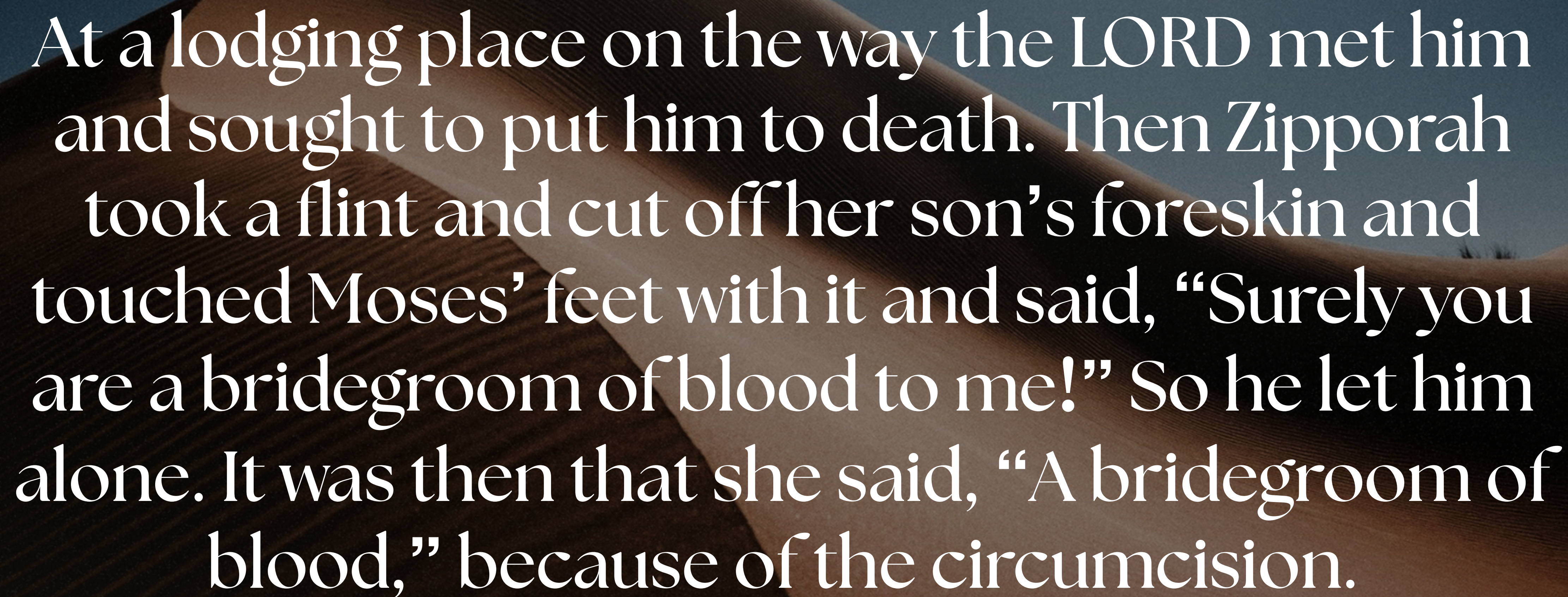
“Hardening His Heart”

What Hardening Doesn't Mean

Transforming his heart into something new
Making Pharaoh bitter/spiteful/aggressive
Preventing Pharaoh from Changing

What Hardening Does Mean

Strengthening/restoring Pharaoh's will
Hurrying the process that was already happening
Encouraging Pharaoh to be his best self

A photograph of a desert landscape featuring rolling sand dunes. The dunes are a warm, golden-brown color and are set against a clear, deep blue sky. The lighting suggests it might be late afternoon or early morning, with soft shadows and highlights on the sand. The overall mood is serene and vast.

At a lodging place on the way the LORD met him and sought to put him to death. Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and touched Moses' feet with it and said, "Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me!" So he let him alone. It was then that she said, "A bridegroom of blood," because of the circumcision.

Exodus 4:24-26

A photograph of a desert landscape featuring rolling sand dunes. The dunes are illuminated from the side, creating soft shadows and highlighting the texture of the sand. The sky is a deep, clear blue. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

Bridegroom of Blood: A Transformative
Relationship purchased through blood.



God Takes Both Salvation and Justice Seriously

The LORD said to Aaron, “Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.” So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him. And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD with which he had sent him to speak, and all the signs that he had commanded him to do. Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. Aaron spoke all the words that the LORD had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people. And the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

Exodus 4:27-31

God's Serious Business

- God See's and Know's
- God Does Not Leave
- God Brings the Broken to Him

How then shall we live?

- Trust God's plan and accept His identity for you by faithfully living the life Jesus modeled for us.
- Stop looking at others as possible enemies and start looking at them as possible converts.
- Take your sin seriously by confessing your sin to one-another that its power might be negated.
- Read God's Word as truthful eye-witness accounts meant to portray who God is and what He does instead of reading it as philosophical/religious musings.