

INTRO:

**CHAD**

Good Morning Arising Church! Today is May 10th 2026 and we live in extraordinary times. We are coming off the back of 3 incredible messages that are helping us understand the times, and know what to do concerning Israel.

We had the message, Your Bible is Zionist!

**(READ SLIDE)**



Followed by, "wait, I thought I was Israel...?"

**(READ SLIDE)**

WAIT, I THOUGHT I WAS ISRAEL...?

☆ THE POINT OF TODAY'S MESSAGE: ☆

1. SPEAK THE TRUTH ABOUT ISRAEL AND GOD'S PROMISES REGARDLESS OF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCE  
→ a. LEVITICUS 5:1

2. COMMIT TO KNOW THE SCRIPTURES MORE SO YOU CAN TEACH THE TRUTH TO THE SAINTS  
→ a. DANIEL 11:32  
→ b. 2 THESSALONIANS 2:9-12,15



And last week we reviewed the unforgettable song in Deuteronomy 32 in the message, *America First...?* Possibly the most important chapter to understand your Bible. You will remember this slide from last week:

**(READ SLIDE)**

# TODAY'S MESSAGE ADDRESSES

- ☆ The character of Adonai and His love for His people
- ☆ Israel's past, present, and future destiny
- ☆ Clarity on the difference between an entire nation and a generation
- ☆ A warning to Christian nationalism
- ☆ The cycle of Israel's chastisement to salvation
- ☆ Proper perspective on Jew and Gentile relationships

These messages were deep, dense, and filled with revelation. They were designed this way intentionally! And we hope they have served you in your study and conversations about Israel! They certainly have for us.

You all know that we are in the year of the sword and the bow. Adonai has been faithful to pour out revelation to this body, and He has been faithful to walk with us every step of the way.

Look at what Proverbs 16 says..

**Proverbs 16:9 (LSB)**

9 The heart of man plans his way,  
But Yahweh directs his steps.

**LUKE**

We have truly seen the Lord directing our steps as a body. Last week, we had the privilege of celebrating another ordination in this house, marking

the 11th and 12th pastoral ordinations since this body's inception. And there is still so much more to come.

Today, we want to bring a very practical message. By now, you're familiar with the concept of the sword and the bow—this is the vision the Lord has given our body. We've described the sword as the close-range work in front of us here at home, and the bow as the long-range work of the nations, specifically aiming at Israel. While that is true, this metaphor is not limited to those categories alone and today we are going to expound on this concept of Sword and Bow.

With that in mind, turn in your physical bibles to Ecclesiastes 7:18.....Caleb we're waiting on you...

- **Ecclesiastes 7:18 (LSB)**

18 It is good that you seize one thing and also not let go of the other; for the one who fears God comes forth with both of them.

It is essential that we grasp this concept. So often, when new revelation comes, we can be tempted to direct all of our energy, attention, and expectation toward the future promise. But in doing so, we can neglect the assignment that is right in front of us. And become ill equipped to inherit promises God has given us.

Take Elgin, for example. At one point, it was this body's bow—a promise and assignment for the future. But now, for those pastors, it has become their sword—the work right in front of them. And when they were sent, they knew what to do because they had already learned to use the sword here, at Arising. **The sword and the bow work in a cycle.**

How many of you have been greatly impacted by those men? They are doing the same thing there, that they did here.

**Chad**

The same is true now for Rockford. Although our brothers have affirmed the leading of the Lord that we plant there, for us, Rockford is still the bow--It is a promise and assignment that is ahead of us. AND Until the Lord sends us, we remain fully committed to the work here. We are excited about Rockford, and we are already meeting and talking with people there. At the same time, we are committed to working alongside the entirety of the body here, with all of our strength. But once we are in Rockford, that will be the Sword.

We must all become skilled in wielding both the sword and the bow. We must learn how to hold firmly to the promises of God while also giving ourselves fully to the work He has placed directly in front of us.

The sword and bow concept is not solely concerning church plants —it's something that applies to each of us personally. We want you to see the *sword as the work the Lord has placed right in front of you, and the bow as the promises, hopes, and assignments He is still bringing about in your life.*

For each of us we have work right in front of us, in our families, in this body, and in the places where the Lord has planted you. AND each one of you also has promises, hopes, and future assignments that have not yet been fulfilled.

**The call is not to choose one and neglect the other. The call is to grasp the one and not let go of the other. Hold the bow with faith, and wield the sword with diligence.**

## **ASA**

With that being said, are you guys ready to dive into our message for today?

Today, our message is titled:



Have any of you received a calling or promise of God regarding what your life is supposed to be or what your supposed to do? Maybe even early in your faith!

(Give them time)

How many of you have been stirred by the last several messages and desire to see Israel's reconciliation by being quality gentiles!

(Give them time)

- Bridge last three sermons and today's
  - Quality gentiles — fulfilling the good works

Today we want to help you practically so that the things God has spoken will come about. We are going to dive into the Word and extract principles that have become convictions in our life and have helped us walk in accordance with God's will.

## CHAD

We're going to walk through the lives of Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and David to highlight how they held both the **sword**—the work in front of them—and the **bow**—the work God was preparing ahead. And our goal is that we will do the same!

These men wielded the sword with diligence and held the bow with faith.

### Sword Bow Slide with principle



We are going to start in Genesis 12:1-3. This should be an incredibly familiar passage to all at this point. It is the foundation of the promises given to Abraham.

#### Genesis 12:1–3 (ESV)

12 Now the LORD said to Abram,

“Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.

2 And I will make of you a great nation,  
and I will bless you and make your name great,

so that you will be a blessing.

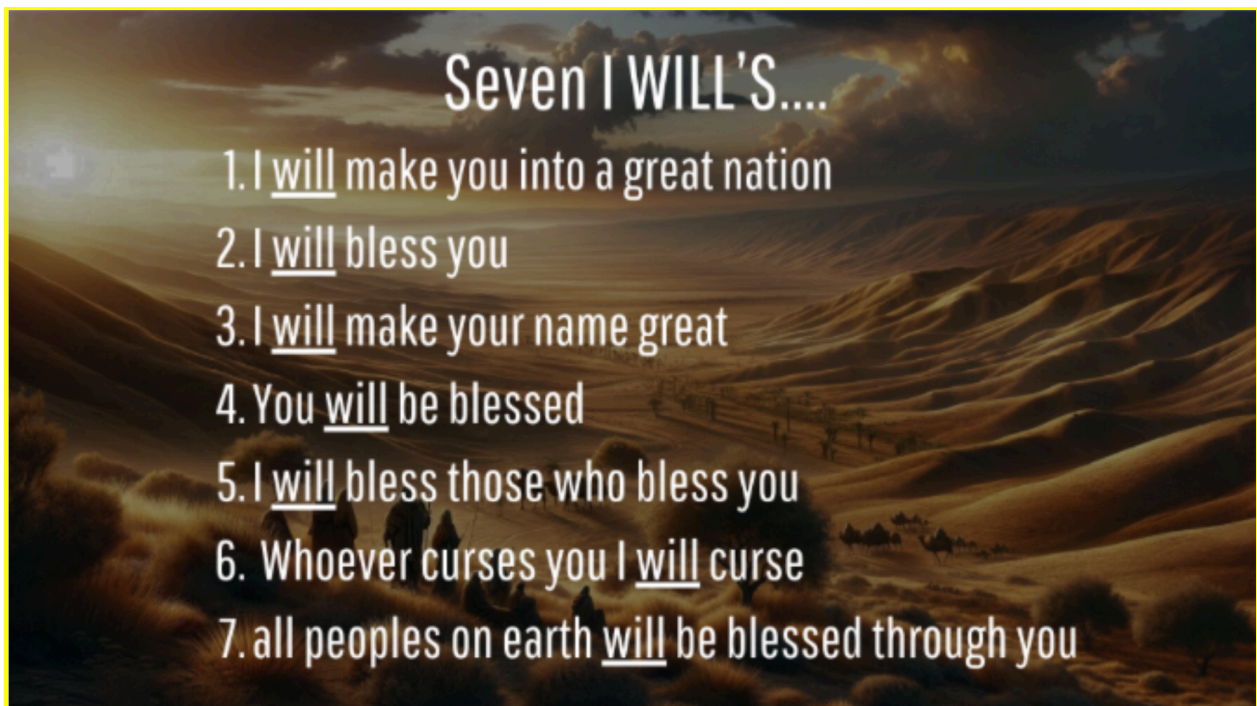
3 I will bless those who bless you,  
and him who dishonors you I will curse,  
and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

What a promise!

Consider the expectations that Abraham would be carrying!

You should all be familiar with the seven-fold promise to Abraham.

**(DO NOT READ)**



This is who Abraham would become—the ultimate aim of his life and what God called him to be on the earth. This is the bow, the aim set before him. But did this all happen in Genesis 12? (NO!)

It required Abraham to have faith in the word that God had given, to continually engage with the word and live according to it.

We've just examined the bow process in Abraham's life—how God gave him promises and a vision for the future that would not only bless him and

his family, but would ultimately bring salvation to the whole world. Are you guys ready to see the process of the Sword in the life of Abraham?

### **Genesis 18:19 (ESV)**

19 For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, **so that** the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.”

You should be familiar with this passage, and yet, look at it right now as if you are reading it for the very first time, because there are some beautiful things to discover. As Abraham is in the council of God — it says that God has Chosen him, because he would command his children and his household after him, **so that** Adonai would bring about the promises. This required Abraham to have a deep relationship with the Word to do what the Word instructed.

### **LUKE**

Lets take this passage and its context seriously. In Genesis 12, we saw the vision of Abraham’s future work—the bow. But now, in Genesis 18, we see Abraham holding both the sword and the bow, grasping one without letting go of the other. The work directly in front of Abraham—the sword he is called to wield with diligence—is the ministry to his own family. He is called to command his children and his household after him, not only to know the ways of the Lord, but to keep them by doing righteousness and justice.

- And this wasn’t based on Abraham’s location, but on his identity.
  - Whether he was in the land, in a tent, or on the move, he lead his household in the ways of the Lord.
  - The assignment didn’t change with his circumstance!
  - This was his identity

And why is this so important? Because the promises God spoke over Abraham were not separate from his obedience in his own house. The Lord said this is how He would bring about all that He had promised him.

So for us, this means we don't wait for the "future" to walk in what God has spoken. We take hold of the sword right now. We lead our homes, we obey in the small things, we practice righteousness and justice in our daily lives. And at the same time, we don't let go of the bow—we hold onto the promises with faith.

Think about this practically for your own life. You might have promises or hopes for your children. But what brings these about is daily shepherding and disciplining of them.

We cannot divorce the promises of God, from the means in which he brings his promises to pass.

This is how we live: faithful in what is in front of us, while trusting God for what is ahead—holding both the sword and the bow.

There was a necessary step in Abraham's development with what was right in front of him (the sword), that would bring about what Abraham would become (the bow)!

## ASA

Again in Genesis 26

- Genesis 26:4–5 (LSB)
  - 4 “And I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and I will give your seed all these lands; and by your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;
  - 5 **because** Abraham listened to My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.”
- Because Abraham listened...
  - The daily discipline is causing the next generation to inherit promises

As Abraham is taking whatever the next step is in front of him, **did this diminish the promises God made?**

Of course not!

Abraham was able to grasp that there was work in front of him to do — and the promises of God to become all he was called to, would come to pass.

As we have read through these passages — all this work in front of him required Abraham to have a deep relationship with the word and cause it to direct his convictions to wield the sword with diligence and the bow with faith.

## CHAD

We want to look at one more story from Abraham's life.

- Genesis 13:9–12 (LSB)

9 “Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me; if *to* the left, then I will go to the right; or if *to* the right, then I will go to the left.”

10 Then Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere—*this was* before Yahweh destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—like the garden of Yahweh, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar.

11 So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other.

12 Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived in the cities of the valley and moved his tents as far as Sodom.

Abraham was given promises of Land. Wouldn't it be tempting to fight for what looked like the best land? Instead Abraham allows Lot to choose that land, and Abraham wanders to the land of Canaan.

This passage speaks to Abraham's identity he had with the Lord. He wasn't worried about the apparent success of others taking away from what God

had promised, but was willing to cultivate any land he went to, into something beautiful.

- Think about Abrahams promise of land. Would he want the better?
- Does the apparent success of others make you less confident in what God has promised you?
- Does comparison and jealousy rob you of joy and faithfulness?

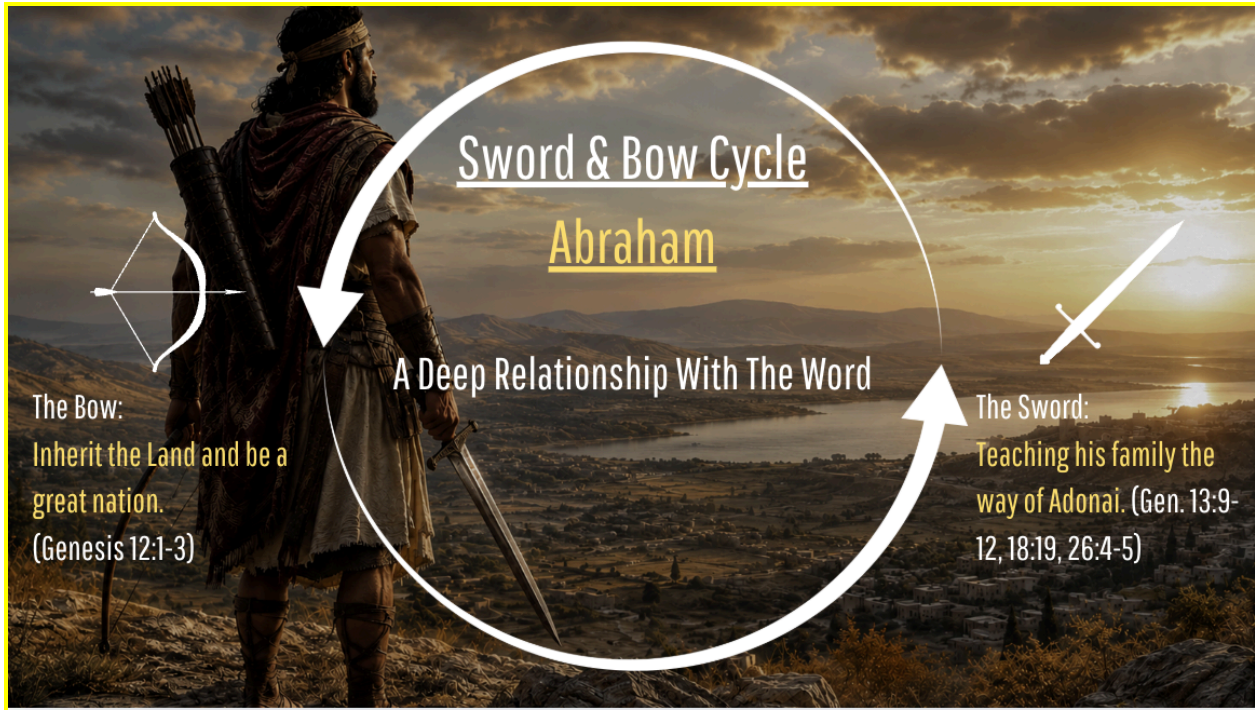
\*Abraham was confident the grass was always greener where he watered it. We need to get away from the thinking that 'over there' or 'once this happens' will thrive.\*

His deep relationship with the Word gave him an identity that was not in a location, or apparent success. Nothing could steal him away from diligently wielding the sword wherever he went.

And we know the end of the story, Sodom would eventually become a wasteland, and Canaan would be the Land flowing with milk and honey.

We must be like Abraham and have a **deep relationship with the Word** so we will wield the sword with diligence and hold the bow with faith!

**(RECAP)**



## LUKE

### Slide sword and bow with principle

Church, we've just looked at the life of Abraham—the father of faith. Now let's turn to his great great grandson, **Joseph** and see how he also held both the sword with diligence and the bow with faith.

What we are about to see is not a different story, but a continuation. Joseph is of Abraham's line, and the same call given to Abraham, to keep the ways of the Lord, is now being carried forward in the life of Joseph.

Let's turn in our bibles to Genesis 37, we will first examine the bow process in Joseph's life.

- **Genesis 37:5–11 (ESV)**

5 Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. 6 He said to them, **“Hear this dream that I have dreamed:** 7 Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold,

your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.” 8 His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?” So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

9 Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, “**Behold, I have dreamed another dream.** Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” 10 But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?” 11 And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

Again, we are familiar with these passages from our sermons and Foundations studies. The Lord has given Joseph dreams—visions filled with great promise—not only concerning his own life, but also his family, AND even pointing to something greater: a picture of Messiah and His nation bowing in reverence before him.

Can you see clearly in Genesis 37 that God is giving Joseph a long-range vision—a picture of the bow that he must grasp by faith?

### **ASA**

Joseph is receiving this promise of the work of the bow...

- At this point, he is the youngest in his family, the one loved by his father Jacob.
- But because of the dreams he received, the story tells us that his brothers hated him even more.
  - They could not speak peaceably to him.
  - Jealousy grew in them, and eventually, they plotted against him and sold him into slavery.

### **CHAD**

Church, you know the story—but let’s ask the question: does it look like Joseph is moving closer to what was promised, or further away?

(FURTHER AWAY) We must remember what the bow process teaches us as we look at the life of Joseph.

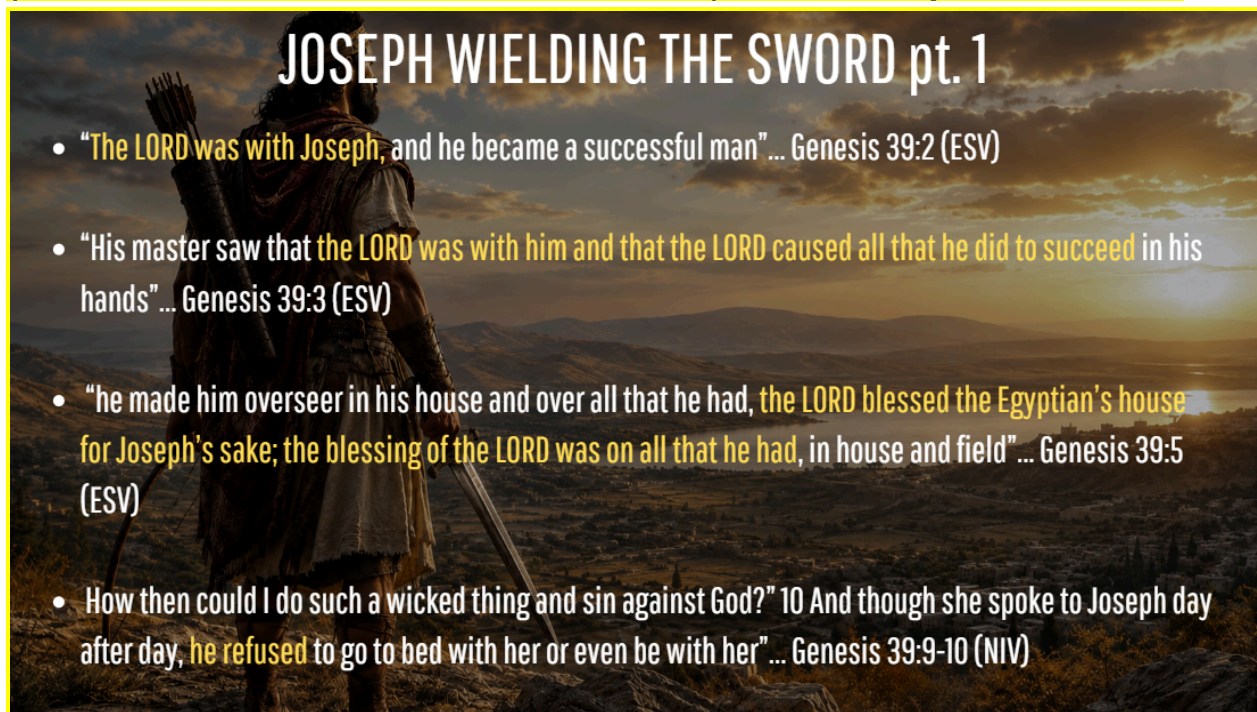
- To hit a target you must pull the bow further back.
- Think about this with your life.
- Afflictions, hardship=Gods divine preparation to be launched to hit the target.

Feels like moving backwards but may be the very way God is positioning you to bring His promise forward.

And we can clearly see this in Joseph's life. Though he has been wronged time and again, it was actually God's divine positioning in his life. The Lord is not only preparing Joseph to hit the mark of the promise, but is also being *glorified* through Joseph's faithfulness and diligence with the sword—the work that is right in front of him.

## LUKE

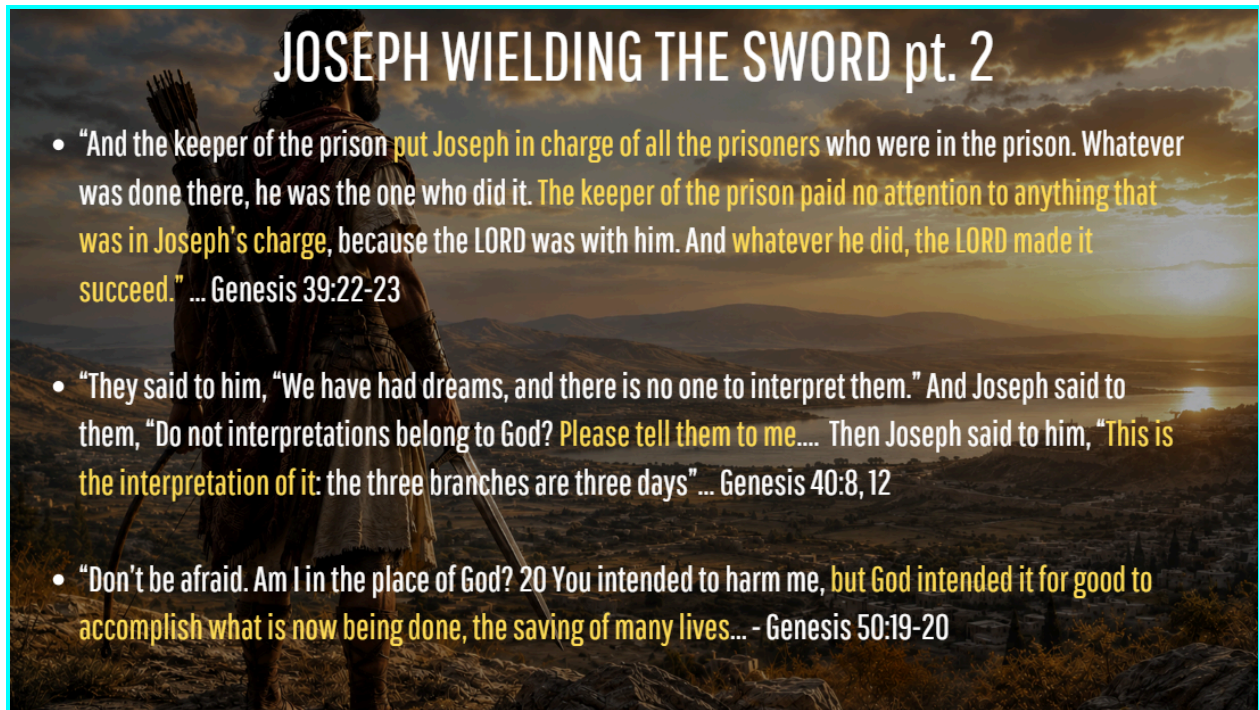
(READ SLIDES AND PREACH ON THEM) \* Ownership of the house



### JOSEPH WIELDING THE SWORD pt. 1

- “The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man” ... Genesis 39:2 (ESV)
- “His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands” ... Genesis 39:3 (ESV)
- “he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field” ... Genesis 39:5 (ESV)
- How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?” 10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her” ... Genesis 39:9-10 (NIV)

## ASA



## CHAD

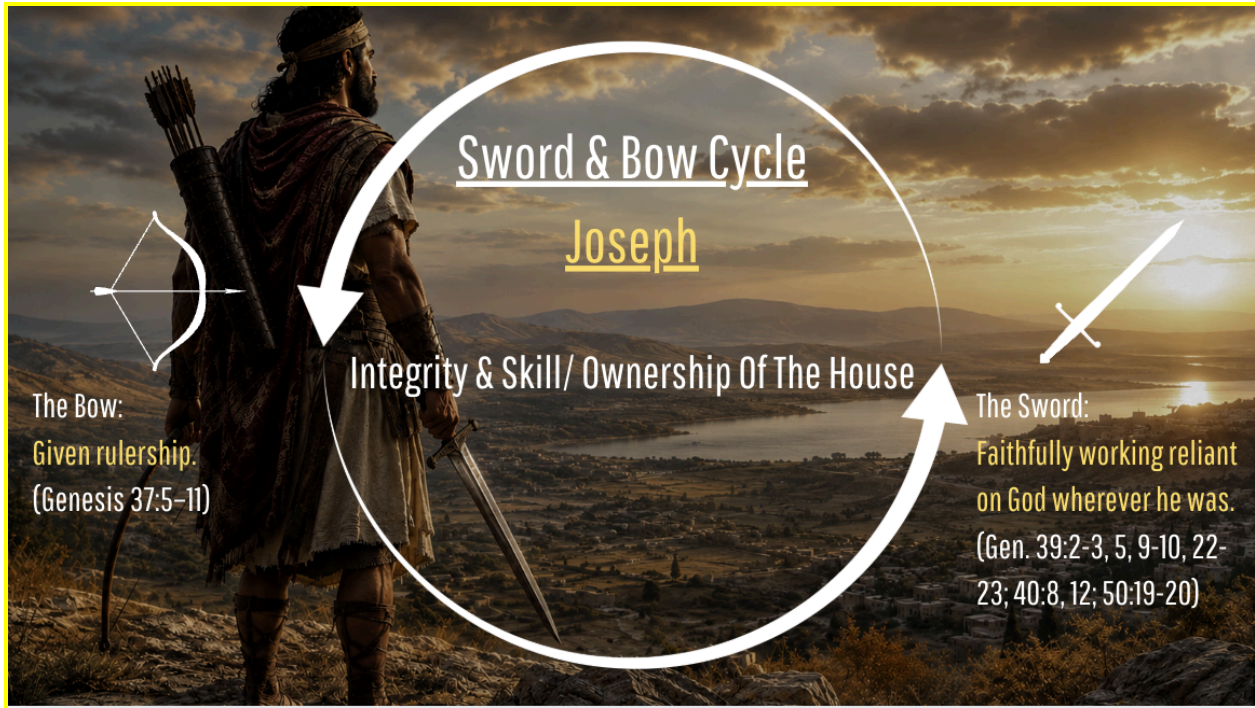
No matter where Joseph was, he took ownership of the house he was in.

- Prison: walked with integrity and skill. Guard entrusted him with responsibility
- Before Pharaoh, interpreted his dream by the power of God. Spoke exactly what God told him to say.

In every place he found himself, he remained faithful in what was in front of him, while holding firmly to what God had spoken.

- **(Practical Application)**

## (RECAP)



## LUKE

Moses is a man who exemplifies faithfulness over time. Look at Acts 7 to see how early on Moses saw himself as a deliverer of Israel.

- **Acts 7:25 (LSB)**

25 “And he supposed that his brothers understood that God was granting them salvation through him, but they did not understand.

Even from the time Moses killed the Egyptian, he saw himself as a deliverer who would bring Salvation to the people of Israel. Yet was rejected by people he was born to save. This was the identity that Moses walked in.

How tempting would it be to doubt his identity as a deliverer? Yet we see the exact opposite response from Moses. Once Moses fled to Midian, he continued to walk as a deliverer. Let's look at Exodus chapter 2:

- **Exodus 2:16–19 (ESV)**

16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. 17 The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock. 18 When they came home to their father Reuel, he said, "How is it that you have come home so soon today?" 19 They said, "An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock."

He acted as a deliverer to the people of Midian — the sword, the work right in front of him. And he would end up staying there for 40 years. Becoming a husband, a father, and a shepherd of his father's sheep.

## ASA

Lets turn to Exodus 3 to see how Moses faithfulness overtime brought about the promises of God in his life.

- **Exodus 3:1–2 (ESV)**

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.

Moses' *faithfulness* to diligently wield the sword in the work right in front of him is where God engaged Moses to lead him to the promises of being a deliverer to the people of Israel.

Imagine 40 years of your life just being faithful with the work right in front of you, never having long term promises come to pass. Or maybe just imagine 4 months!

- How quickly do you doubt your identity or the calling and promises of God when people do not immediately recognize it?

- Or when it doesn't fit your expectations of how things would look?

It is a real temptation for us to start to **renegotiate** holding the bow with faith when our expectations are not met. Or to **renegotiate** if its worth wielding the sword with diligence when the work your doing seems monotonous.

## **CHAD**

No outward response could deter Moses from being faithful right where he was at. *This conviction needs to be forged into your lives as well.*

- **Exodus 3:8-10 (ESV)**

8 and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9 And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

Even after 40 years, Gods purposes and promises to Moses would come about. He would in the following chapters deliver Israel out of Egypt. However, Moses would not be the one to take them into the promised land. That work would be the sword for by Joshua.

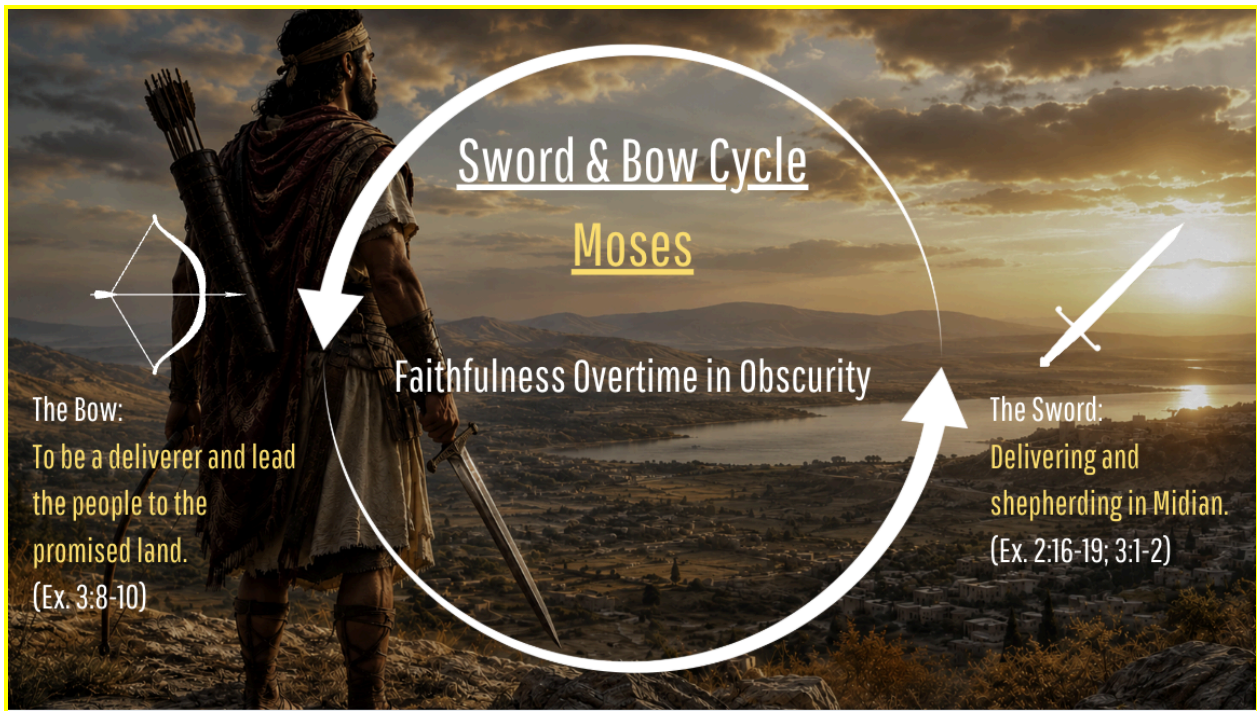
Do you see the cycle of the sword and bow in the life of Moses? His faithfulness to what was right in front of him (the work of the sword) is exemplary. It was what brought about the deliverance of Israel, and raised up Joshua who would fulfil the promise.

Moses' faithfulness overtime led to the deliverance of a Nation.

- Walking in your identity with faithfulness over time will produce the same fruit.
- When plans fail, when you receive rejection, or when there seems to be a delay in your calling, faithfulness in your identity is what is necessary.

**We must be men who are faithful overtime in obscurity; completely secure in our identity—doing what God has called us to do everywhere we are!**

**(RECAP)**



**LUKE**

David was a man who had great plans and desires to magnify the name of Adonai!

Let's start in 2 Samuel 7.

- **2 Samuel 7:11–13 (LSB)**

11 even from the day that I commanded judges *to be* over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Yahweh also declares to you that Yahweh will make a house for you.

12 “When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up *one of* your seed after you, who will come forth from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 “He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

David had a deep desire to build a dwelling place for God. In Psalm 132 David even vows not to rest until he has done it! But in 2 Samuel 7, The Lord tells David that this promise will be fulfilled, and shows that it would be done through his son.

So did David give up on the vision? Or alleviate himself from responsibility? NO!

## **ASA**

Look at what David *does* in 1 Kings 15:5

- **1 Kings 15:5 (LSB)**

5 because David did what was right in the sight of Yahweh, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life...

Does this sound like a man wasting time hoping that one day the work of the bow would be done? NO! He continued to obey all that God has said, and did not depart from his Word all the days of his life.

- **1 Chronicles 28:19 (LSB)**

19 “All *this*,” said David, “has been granted to me as insight in writing by the hand of Yahweh, all the **details of this pattern.**”

He responds with Willingness and Eagerness to seek out the **Lord for the pattern of the temple** to pass on to his son who would build this after David had died!

- **1 Chronicles 29:1–5 (LSB)**

1 Then King David said to the entire assembly, “My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is still young and inexperienced and the work is great; for the temple is not for man, but for Yahweh God.

2 “Now with all my power I have prepared for the house of my God the gold for the *things of gold*, and the silver for the *things of silver*, and the bronze for the *things of bronze*, the iron for the *things of iron*, and wood for the *things of wood*, onyx stones and inlaid *stones*, stones of antimony and stones of various colors, and all kinds of precious stones and alabaster in abundance.

3 “Moreover, in my pleasure in the house of my God, the treasure I have of gold and silver, I give to the house of my God, over and above all that I have already prepared for the holy house,

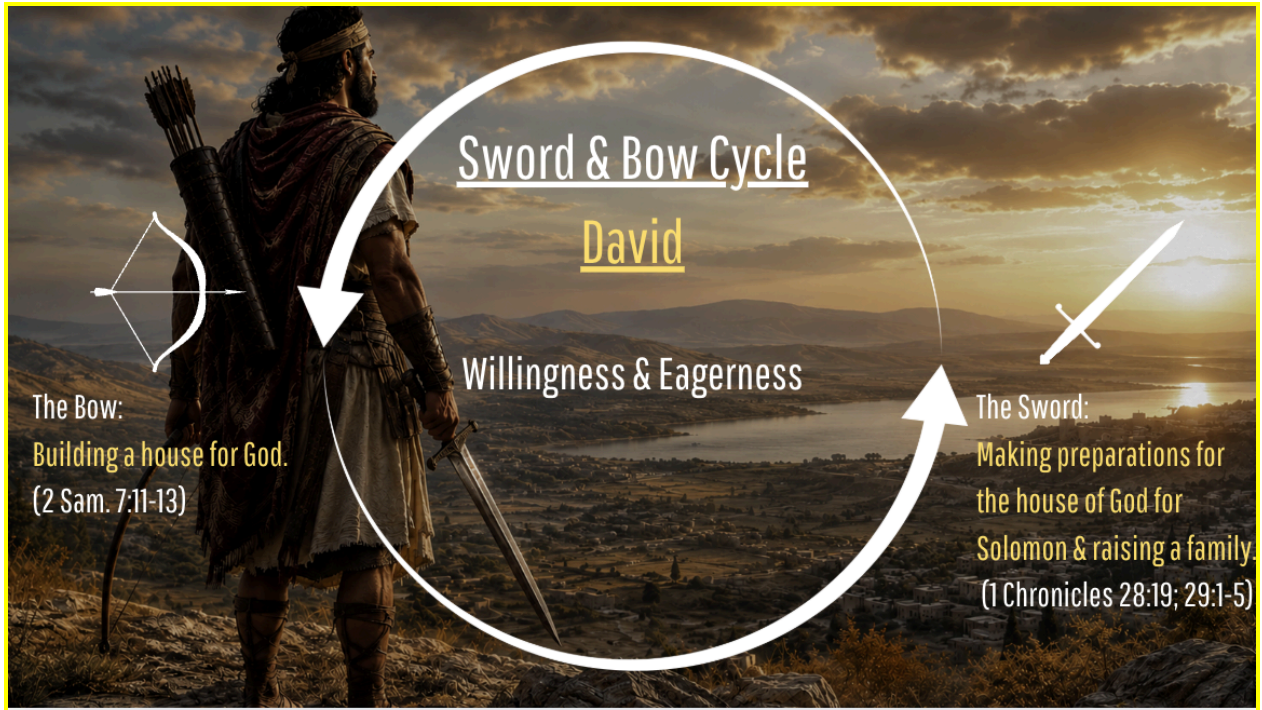
4 *namely*, 3,000 talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and 7,000 talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the buildings;

5 of gold for the *things of gold* and of silver for the *things of silver*, that is, for all the work *done* by the hand of craftsmen. Who then would offer willingly to ordain himself this day to Yahweh?”

David did all he could to prepare his son for the work of the bow!

We see the cycle of what was the work of the bow for David becomes the work of the sword for Solomon. But only through Davids faithfulness to the work of the sword in his own life is Solomon setup to build the Temple according to the pattern of God!

**(RECAP)**



## CHAD

Now let's turn to the New Testament for one more example and to bring this point home. In Acts 1:8 the disciples were given a long range vision (the work of the bow)—to take the gospel from Jerusalem, to Judeah, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. And a pivotal part of this vision was the work of Stephen.

We will not be going through the entire story of Stephen, but you should go back and read Acts 6-7 later today!

Let's look at Acts 6

- **Acts 6:1-5 (ESV)**

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the **Hellenists** arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. 2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you

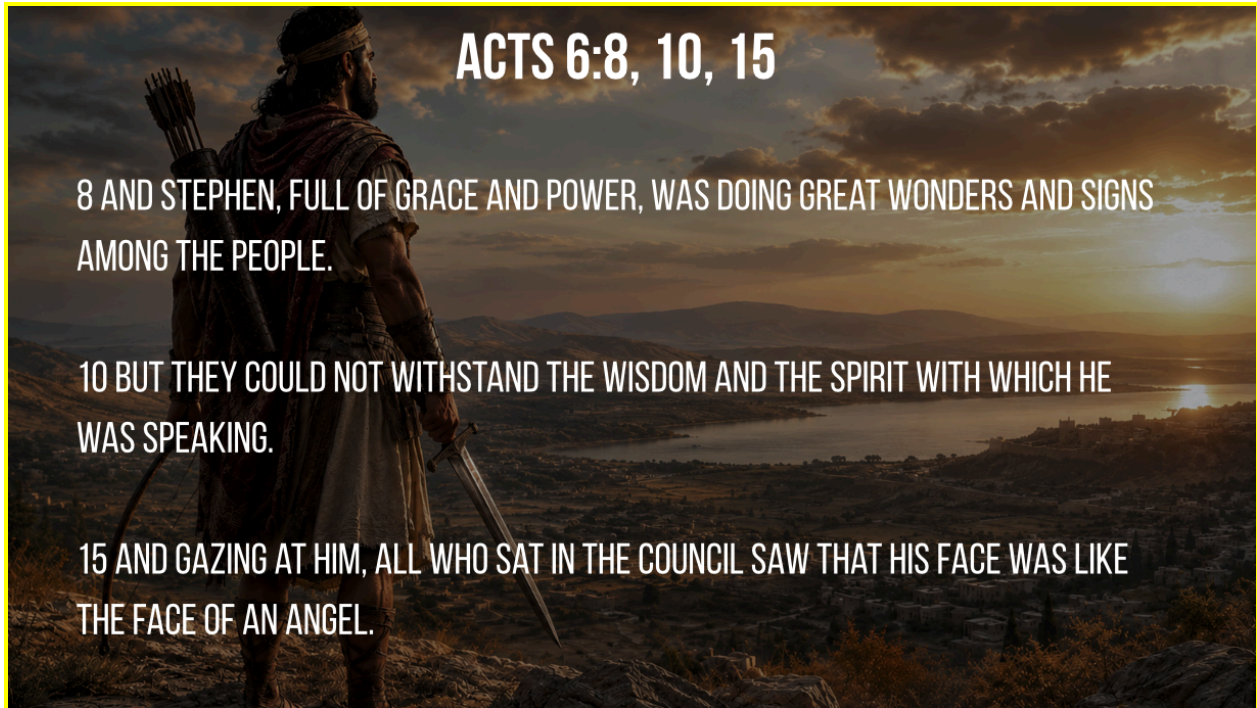
seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” 5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, **a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit**, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.

We all remember Stephen as the martyr, but he was given the task of being a table waiter. Maybe called Stephen the table waiter... Can you imagine being told this?

"There is work of studying the word and prayer, that needs to be done, and you're appointed to distribute food... to gentile widows."

Did you notice that this was what the entire congregation approved? In our day and age this would seem like the most inglorious job to be given. But Stephen was a man FULL OF FAITH and FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. Stephen was not swayed by this at all, check out what comes next:

**(READ SLIDE)**



## LUKE

Stephens "sword" is not glamorous or important in the sight of most men. But it was precious to him. He excelled at the work that was put before him. He made table waiting into a place of miraculous ministry. Stephen was a man who could wield the sword diligently by the Holy Spirit.

So much that he was hated by many, and brought before the Sanhedrin.

Can you imagine — Waiting on tables SO WELL... that other people drag you before judges and falsely accuse you... That is pretty insane!

Before we move on check out:

- **Proverbs 22:19 (ESV)**

29 Do you see a man skillful in his work?

He will stand before kings;

he will not stand before obscure men.

Stephen was so full of the Spirit, skilled at a seemingly meaningless task that he was brought forth to the most important person amongst the Jews. Table waiting, led him to testify to the Gospel at the highest level.

## (RECAP)



How did Stephen become this type of man? Well, the word doesn't show us in detail, but in his speech before the high priest, he recounts Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and David. Could it be that he learned from these men's lives how to diligently wield the sword while he held the bow in faith? We are presenting to you that Stephen was a master of the old treasures of his faith. That his forefathers example formed Stephens identity to the point that he could thrive when waiting tables, as well as before kings.

## ASA

This is where we are heading as a church! Becoming masters of old treasures is essential. Teaching, a way of life, and imitating the faith of your fathers.

Stephen was not trying to invent something new, or make sure people saw him as important. He mastered the treasures of old, and lived them out in similar fashion.

In Stephens recounting of Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and David, he finishes his discourse in Acts 7:51

- **Acts 7:51 (ESV)**

51 “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.

Why does Stephen say this?

If you were standing there listening to Stephen's speech, is this the point you would have expected it to culminate with???

Why would Stephen walk through the recount the hero's of Israel and highlight some of their most inglorious moments.

To Stephen this was the Holy Spirits work in the lives of these men.

Consider:

- Abraham — He never received one foot of the land, but stood in the council of God
- Joseph — despised by his brothers and rejected, but became Zaphenath-Paneah
- Moses — rejected by his brothers and lived a simple life shepherding his fathers sheep in the wilderness, and encountered the Living God!
- David — He had great desires for the House of God! But was told no... And yet Adonai gave him the plans for the house of God to give to his son!

The work of the Holy Spirit in your life will always lead to opposition from the world, and possibly even those espousing the name of "Christian".

## **CHAD**

Lets finish the story of Stephen. Look back to Acts 7

- **Acts 7:59-61, 8:1 (ESV)**

59 And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

And Saul approved of his execution.

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Stephen finishes his battle with the sword by being stoned and asking God to forgive his killers--lets just pause there because that's exemplary. But this was not the end of Stephens work.

Remember back to Acts 1:8 and the bow vision of: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. Acts 8 details that on the day of Stephens death, great persecution led to the scattering of the church TO the regions of Judea and Samaria.

- Philip proclaims Christ in Samaria, many there believe and are filled with the Holy Spirit
- An Ethiopian Eunuch is baptized!

The Bow vision of Gospel expansion given to the apostles was actually furthered by Stephens faithful work with the Sword!

**CLOSE**

**(RECAP WORK OF SWORD AND BOW)**

## The Bow

### Abraham

Inherit the Land and be a great nation... (Genesis 12:1-3)

### Joseph

Given Rulership... (Genesis 37:5-11)

### Moses

Deliverer & lead the people to the promised land...

(Ex. 3:8-10)

### David

Building a house for God... (2 Sam. 7:11-13)

### Stephen

Witness in Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth...

(Acts 1:8)

## The Sword

Teaching his family the way of Adonai... (Gen. 13:9-12, 18:19, 26:4-5)

Faithfully working reliant on God wherever he was...

(Gen. 39:2-3, 5, 9-10, 22-23; 40:8, 12; 50:19-20)

Delivering and shepherding in Midian... (Ex. 2:16-19; 3:1-2)

Making preparations for the house of God for Solomon and raising a family... (1 Chronicles 28:19; 29:1-5)

Serving tables of gentile widows & walking in the supernatural...

(Acts 6:1-8)

## **(GO OVER PRINCIPLES)**

## Principles Of Development

### Abraham

Deep Relationship With The Word... (Gen. 13:9-12, 18:19, 26:4-5)

### Joseph

Ownership Of The House/ Integrity & Skill... (Gen. 39:2-3, 5, 9-10, 22-23; 40:8, 12; 50:19-20)

### Moses

Faithfulness Overtime In Obscurity... (Ex. 2:16-19; 3:1-2)

### David

Willingness & Eagerness... (1 Chronicles 28:19; 29:1-5)

### Stephen

Mastery Of The Old Treasures... (Acts 7)

We are charging you all to develop these convictions. To hold on diligently to the work of the Sword right here at the Arising Church and to not neglect

the going out, doing the work of the bow by ministering to the areas that the Lord has spoken to you about!

Do not neglect the work of the Holy Spirit in you while you are here. This is the sword which you are being developed and trained by to engage with the cycle of the sword and bow.

As you are faithful here with what God has put in front of you--I mean giving it your all--God will bring about what is to come! And as weve said, you will only do there, what you do here.

So we say again, **Be faithfully diligent here to wield the sword so you may be fruitful out there!**

- **Ecclesiastes 7:18 (LSB)**

18 It is good that you seize one thing and also not let go of the other; for the one who fears God comes forth with both of them.