

خطاب استغفانوس

¹فَسَالَ رَّيْسُ الْكَهَنَةِ: أُنَرَى هَذِهِ الْأُمُورَ هَكَذَا هِيَ؟ ²فَقَالَ: أَيُّهَا الرِّجَالُ الْإِخْوَةُ وَالْآبَاءُ، اسْمَعُوا. طَهَرَ إِلَهُ الْمَجْدِ لَأَبِينَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَهُوَ فِي مَا بَيْنَ النَّهْرَيْنِ، قَبْلَمَا سَكَنَ فِي خَارَانَ، ³وَقَالَ لَهُ: اخْرُجْ مِنْ أَرْضِكَ وَمِنْ عَشِيرَتِكَ وَهَلِّمْ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ الَّتِي أَرِيكَ. ⁴فَخَرَجَ حَبِيزٌ مِنْ أَرْضِ الْكَلْدَانِيِّينَ وَسَكَنَ فِي خَارَانَ، وَمِنْ هُنَاكَ تَقَلُّهُ بَعْدَ مَا مَاتَ أَبُوهُ إِلَى هَذِهِ الْأَرْضِ الَّتِي أَنْتُمْ الْآنَ سَاكِنُونَ فِيهَا. ⁵وَلَمْ يُعْطِهِ فِيهَا مِيرَاثًا وَلَا وَطَاءً قَدَمَ وَلَكِنْ وَعَدَ أَنْ يُعْطِيَهَا مُلْكًا لَهُ وَلِتَسْلِيَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ بَعْدَ وَلَدٍ. ⁶وَتَكَلَّمَ اللَّهُ هَكَذَا: "أَنْ يَكُونَ تَسْلُهُ مُتَعَرِّبًا فِي أَرْضِ غَرِبَةٍ فَيَسْتَعْبِدُوهُ وَيُسَيِّبُوا إِلَيْهِ أَرْبَعَ مِائَةِ سَنَةٍ. وَالْأُمَّةُ الَّتِي يُسْتَعْبِدُونَ لَهَا سَادِيئُهَا أَنَا، يَقُولُ اللَّهُ، وَبَعْدَ ذَلِكَ يَخْرُجُونَ وَيَعْبُدُونِي فِي هَذَا الْمَكَانِ". ⁸وَأَعْطَاهُ عَهْدَ الْجَنَانِ وَهَكَذَا وَلَدَ إِسْحَاقَ وَحَتَّه فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّامِنِ، وَإِسْحَاقَ وَلَدَ يَعْقُوبَ وَيَعْقُوبَ وَلَدَ رُؤُسَاءَ الْآبَاءِ الْإِسْنِيِّ عَشَرَ. ⁹وَرُؤُسَاءُ الْآبَاءِ حَسَدُوا يُوسُفَ وَتَابَعُوهُ إِلَى مِصْرَ، وَكَانَ اللَّهُ مَعَهُ ¹⁰وَأَقَدَّهُ مِنْ جَمِيعِ ضَيْقَانِهِ وَأَعْطَاهُ نِعْمَةً وَحُكْمَةً أَمَامَ فِرْعَوْنَ، مَلِكِ مِصْرَ، فَأَقَامَهُ مُدَبِّرًا عَلَى مِصْرَ وَعَلَى كُلِّ بَيْتِهِ.

¹¹ثُمَّ أَتَى جُوعٌ عَلَى كُلِّ أَرْضٍ مِصْرَ وَكَنْعَانَ وَضِيقٌ عَظِيمٌ فَكَانَ آبَاؤُنَا لَا يَجِدُونَ قُوتًا. ¹²وَلَمَّا سَمِعَ يَعْقُوبُ أَنَّ فِي مِصْرَ قَمْحًا أَرْسَلَ آبَاءَنَا أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ، ¹³وَفِي الْمَرَّةِ الثَّانِيَةِ اسْتَعْرِفَ يُوسُفَ إِلَى إِخْوَتِهِ وَاسْتَعْلَتْ عَشِيرَةُ يُوسُفَ لِفِرْعَوْنَ. ¹⁴فَأَرْسَلَ يُوسُفَ وَاسْتَدْعَى أَبَاهُ يَعْقُوبَ وَجَمِيعَ عَشِيرَتِهِ، خَمْسَةَ وَسَبْعِينَ نَفْسًا. ¹⁵فَنَزَلَ يَعْقُوبُ إِلَى مِصْرَ وَهَاتَ هُوَ وَآبَاؤُنَا وَنُفِلُوا إِلَى شَكِيمَ وَوَضَعُوا فِي الْقَبْرِ الَّذِي اشْتَرَاهُ إِبْرَاهِيمُ بَنَمَنَ فَصَّةٍ مِنْ بَنِي خَمُورَ أَبِي شَكِيمَ. ¹⁷وَكَمَا كَانَ يَقْرُبُ وَقْتُ الْمَوْعِدِ الَّذِي أَقْسَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ كَانَ الشَّعْبُ يَنْمُو وَيَكْثُرُ فِي مِصْرَ ¹⁸إِلَى أَنْ قَامَ مَلِكٌ آخَرُ لَمْ يَكُنْ يَعْرِفُ يُوسُفَ. ¹⁹فَاخْتَالَ هَذَا عَلَى جَنَسِنَا وَأَسَاءَ إِلَى آبَائِنَا حَتَّى جَعَلُوا أَطْفَالَهُمْ مَتَبُودِينَ لِكَيْ لَا يَعِيشُوا.

²⁰وَفِي ذَلِكَ الْوَقْتِ وُلِدَ مُوسَى، وَكَانَ جَمِيلًا جَدًّا، قَرَّبِي هَذَا ثَلَاثَةَ أَشْهُرٍ فِي بَيْتِ أَبِيهِ. ²¹وَلَمَّا بُدِّدَ اتَّخَذَتْهُ ابْنَةً فِرْعَوْنَ وَرَبَّتْهُ لِنَفْسِهَا ابْنًا. ²²فَتَهَدَّبَ مُوسَى بِكُلِّ حُكْمَةِ الْمِصْرِيِّينَ وَكَانَ مُقْتَدِرًا فِي الْأَقْوَالِ وَالْأَعْمَالِ. ²³وَلَمَّا كَمَلَتْ لَهُ مُدَّةُ أَرْبَعِينَ سَنَةً حَظَرَ عَلَى بَالِهِ أَنْ يَفْقِدَ

¹Then said the high priest, Are these things so? ²And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran, ³And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee. ⁴Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell. ⁵And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child. ⁶And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years. ⁷And the nation to whom they shall be in bondage will I judge, said God: and after that shall they come forth, and serve me in this place. ⁸And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs. ⁹And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him, ¹⁰And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house. ¹¹Now there came a dearth over all the land of Egypt and Chanaan, and great affliction: and our fathers found no sustenance. ¹²But when Jacob heard that

إِخْوَتَهُ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ. ²⁴وَإِذْ رَأَى وَاحِداً مَظْلوماً حَامِيَ عَنْهُ وَأَنْصَفَ الْمَغْلُوبَ إِذْ قَتَلَ الْمِصْرِيَّ. ²⁵فَطَلَسَ أَنَّ إِخْوَتَهُ يَفْقَهُمُونَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَى يَدِهِ يُعْطِيهِمْ نَجَاةً، وَأَمَّا هُمْ فَلَمْ يَفْقَهُمُوا. ²⁶وَفِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّانِي طَهَّرَ لَهُمْ وَهُمْ يَتَخَصَّمُونَ فَسَاقَهُمْ إِلَى السَّلَامَةِ قَائِلًا: أَيُّهَا الرِّجَالُ، أَنْتُمْ إِخْوَةٌ، لِمَاذَا تَطْلُمُونَ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا؟ ²⁷فَالَّذِي كَانَ يَطْلُمُ قَرِيبَهُ دَفَعَهُ قَائِلًا: مَنْ أَقَامَكَ رَئِيسًا وَقَاضِيًا عَلَيْنَا؟ ²⁸أَتُرِيدُ أَنْ تَقْتُلَنِي كَمَا قَتَلْتَ أَمْسَ الْمِصْرِيَّ؟ فَهَرَبَ مُوسَى بِسَبَبِ هَذِهِ الْكَلِمَةِ وَصَارَ غَرِيباً فِي أَرْضِ مَدْيَانَ حَيْثُ وَلَدَ اثْنَيْنِ.

³⁰وَلَمَّا كَمَلَتْ أَرْبَعُونَ سَنَةً طَهَّرَ لَهُ مَلَاكُ الرَّبِّ فِي بَرِّيَّةِ جَبَلٍ سَيِّئَةٍ فِي لَهْيَبٍ تَارٍ عُثْيَقَةٍ. ³¹فَلَمَّا رَأَى مُوسَى ذَلِكَ تَعَجَّبَ مِنَ الْمَنْظَرِ، وَفِيمَا هُوَ يَتَقَدَّمُ لِيَتَطَّلَعَ صَارَ إِلَيْهِ صَوْتُ الرَّبِّ: ³²"أَنَا إِلَهُ آبَائِكَ، إِلَهُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِلَهُ إِسْحَاقَ وَإِلَهُ يَعْقُوبَ". فَارْتَدَّ مُوسَى وَلَمْ يَجْسُرْ أَنْ يَتَطَّلَعَ. ³³فَقَالَ لَهُ الرَّبُّ: "اخْلَعْ نَعْلَ رَجُلِكَ لِأَنَّ الْمَوْضِعَ الَّذِي أَنْتَ وَاقِفٌ عَلَيْهِ أَرْضٌ مُقَدَّسَةٌ. ³⁴إِنِّي رَأَيْتُ مَسَقَّةَ سَعْيِي الَّذِينَ فِي مِصْرَ وَسَمِعْتُ أُنْيَتَهُمْ وَتَرَلْتُ لِأَتَقْدِمُهُمْ، فَهَلُمَّ الْآنَ أُرْسِلْكَ إِلَى مِصْرَ".

³⁵هَذَا مُوسَى الَّذِي أَنْكَرُوهُ قَائِلِينَ: "مَنْ أَقَامَكَ رَئِيسًا وَقَاضِيًا؟" هَذَا أُرْسِلَهُ اللَّهُ رَئِيسًا وَقَادِيًا بِيَدِ الْمَلَاكِ الَّذِي طَهَّرَ لَهُ فِي الْعُثْيَقَةِ. ³⁶هَذَا أَخْرَجَهُمْ صَانِعاً عَجَائِبَ وَأَيَاتٍ فِي أَرْضِ مِصْرَ وَفِي الْبَحْرِ الْأَحْمَرِ وَفِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ أَرْبَعِينَ سَنَةً.

³⁷هَذَا هُوَ مُوسَى الَّذِي قَالَ لِبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ: "تَبَيَّنْ مِثْلِي سَيِّئِيمَ لَكُمْ الرَّبِّ إِلَهُكُمْ مِنْ إِخْوَتِكُمْ، لَهُ تَسْمَعُونَ". ³⁸هَذَا هُوَ الَّذِي كَانَ فِي الْكَنِيسَةِ فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ مَعَ الْمَلَاكِ الَّذِي كَانَ يُكَلِّمُهُ فِي جَبَلٍ سَيِّئَةٍ وَمَعَ آبَائِنَا، الَّذِي قَبْلَ أَقْوَالِ حَبَّةٍ لِيُعْطِيَنَا إِيَّاهَا، ³⁹الَّذِي لَمْ يَسَأْ آبَاؤُنَا أَنْ يَكُونُوا طَائِعِينَ لَهُ بَلْ دَفَعُوهُ وَرَجَعُوا يَقُولُهُمْ إِلَى مِصْرَ قَائِلِينَ لِهَارُونَ: "اعْمَلْ لَنَا إِلَهَةً تَتَقَدَّمُ أَمَامَنَا، لِأَنَّ هَذَا مُوسَى الَّذِي أَخْرَجَنَا مِنْ أَرْضِ مِصْرَ لَا نَعْلَمُ مَاذَا أَصَابَهُ". ⁴⁰فَعَمِلُوا عَجَلًا فِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ وَأَضَعُوا دَبِيحَةً لِلصَّيْمِ وَقَرَّحُوا بِأَعْمَالِ أَيْدِيهِمْ. ⁴¹فَرَجَعَ اللَّهُ وَأَسْلَمَهُمْ لِيَعْبُدُوا جَنْدَ السَّمَاءِ كَمَا هُوَ مَكْتُوبٌ فِي كِتَابِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ: "هَلْ قَرَّبْتُمْ لِي ذَبَائِحَ وَقَرَّبِينَ أَرْبَعِينَ سَنَةً فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ، يَا بَيْتَ إِسْرَائِيلَ؟ ⁴²بَلْ حَمَلْتُمْ حَيْمَةً مُوَلُوكَ وَجَمَّ إِلَهُكُمْ رَمَقَانِ، التَّمَاثِيلَ الَّتِي صَنَعْتُمُوهَا، لِتَسْجُدُوا لَهَا، فَأَنْفَلَكُمْ

there was corn in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first. ¹³And at the second time Joseph was made known to his brethren; and Joseph's kindred was made known unto Pharaoh. ¹⁴Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to him, and all his kindred, threescore and fifteen souls. ¹⁵So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers, ¹⁶And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem. ¹⁷But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt, ¹⁸Till another king arose, which knew not Joseph. ¹⁹The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live. ²⁰In which time Moses was born, and was exceeding fair, and nourished up in his father's house three months: ²¹And when he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son. ²²And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds. ²³And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel. ²⁴And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian: ²⁵For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not. ²⁶And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are

brethren; why do ye wrong one to another?²⁷ But he that did his neighbour wrong thrust him away, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us?²⁸ Wilt thou kill me, as thou diddest the Egyptian yesterday?²⁹ Then fled Moses at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of Madian, where he begat two sons.³⁰ And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.³¹ When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold it, the voice of the Lord came unto him,³² Saying, I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold.³³ Then said the Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground.³⁴ I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send thee into Egypt.³⁵ This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush.³⁶ He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years.³⁷ This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.³⁸ This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake

إِلَى مَا وَرَاءَ بَابِلَ".⁴⁴ وَأَمَّا حَيَمُّ الشَّهَادَةِ فَكَانَتْ مَعَ آبَائِنَا فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ كَمَا أَمَرَ الَّذِي كَلَّمَ مُوسَى أَنْ يَعْمَلَهَا عَلَى الْمِثَالِ الَّذِي كَانَ قَدْ رَأَى،⁴⁵ الَّتِي أَدْخَلَهَا أَيْضًا آبَاؤُنَا إِذْ تَخَلَّفُوا عَلَيْهَا مَعَ يَسُوعَ فِي مُلْكِ الْأَمَمِ، الَّذِينَ طَرَدَهُمُ اللَّهُ مِنْ وَجْهِ آبَائِنَا، إِلَى أَيَّامِ دَاوُدَ،⁴⁶ الَّذِي وَجَدَ نِعْمَةً أَمَامَ اللَّهِ، وَالتَّمَسَّ أَنْ يَجِدَ مَسْكَنًا لِلَّهِ يَعْشُبُ،⁴⁷ وَلَكِنَّ سُلَيْمَانَ بَنَى لَهُ بَيْتًا. لَكِنَّ الْعَلِيِّ لَا يَسْكُنُ فِي هَيْكَلٍ مَصْنُوعَةٍ بِالْأَيْدِي، كَمَا يَقُولُ النَّبِيُّ:⁴⁸ "السَّمَاءُ كُرْسِيُّ لِي وَالْأَرْضُ مَوْطِئُ لِقَدَمَيَّ. أَيَّ بَيْتٍ تَبْنُونَ لِي، يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ، وَأَيُّ هُوَ مَكَانٌ رَاخَتِي؟"⁴⁹ أَلَيْسَتْ يَدِي صَنَعَتْ هَذِهِ الْأَشْيَاءَ كُلَّهَا؟"⁵¹ يَا فُسَاةَ الرِّقَابِ وَغَيْرَ الْمَحْنُونِينَ بِالْقُلُوبِ وَالْأَذَانِ، أَنْتُمْ دَائِمًا تُقَاوِمُونَ الرُّوحَ الْقُدُسَ، كَمَا كَانَ آبَاؤُكُمْ كَذَلِكَ أَنْتُمْ.⁵² أَيُّ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ لَمْ يَصْطَهَرُوا آبَاؤُكُمْ؟ وَقَدْ قَتَلُوا الَّذِينَ سَبَقُوا قَاتِلُوا بِمَجْهِيءِ الْبَارِّ الَّذِي أَنْتُمْ الْآنَ صِرْتُمْ مُسْلِمِيهِ وَقَاتِلِيهِ،⁵³ الَّذِينَ أَحَدْتُمْ التَّامُوسَ بِتَرْتِيبِ مَلَائِكَةِ وَلَمْ تَحْقُطُوهُ.

استشهاد استفانوس

⁵⁴ فَلَمَّا سَمِعُوا هَذَا خَنَفُوا يَقْلُوبُهُمْ وَصَرُّوا بِأَسْتَانِهِمْ عَلَيْهِ.⁵⁵ وَأَمَّا هُوَ فَسَخَّصَ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَهُوَ مُمْتَلِئٌ مِنَ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ فَرَأَى مَجْدَ اللَّهِ وَيَسُوعَ قَائِمًا عَنْ يَمِينِ اللَّهِ،⁵⁶ فَقَالَ: هَا أَنَا أَنْظُرُ السَّمَاوَاتِ مَفْتُوحَةً وَابْنَ الْإِنْسَانِ قَائِمًا عَنْ يَمِينِ اللَّهِ.⁵⁷ فَصَاحُوا بِصَوْتٍ عَظِيمٍ وَسَدُّوا أَذَانَهُمْ وَهَجَمُوا عَلَيْهِ بِنَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ،⁵⁸ وَأَخْرَجُوهُ خَارِجَ الْمَدِينَةِ وَرَجَمُوهُ. وَالشُّهُودُ خَلَعُوا ثِيَابَهُمْ عِنْدَ رِجْلَيْ سَابِّ يُقَالُ لَهُ سَاوُلُ.⁵⁹ فَكَانُوا يَرْجُمُونَ اسْتِقَائُوسَ وَهُوَ يَدْعُو وَيَقُولُ: أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ، اقْبَلْ رُوحِي. ثُمَّ جَنَّا عَلَى رُكْبَتَيْهِ وَصَرَخَ بِصَوْتٍ عَظِيمٍ: يَا رَبُّ، لَا تُقِمَ لَهُمْ هَذِهِ الْحَطِيئَةَ. وَإِذْ قَالَ هَذَا رَقَدَ.

to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:³⁹ To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt,⁴⁰ Saying unto Aaron, Make us gods to go before us: for as for this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.⁴¹ And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.⁴² Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness?⁴³ Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.⁴⁴ Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the fashion that he had seen.⁴⁵ Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David;⁴⁶ Who found favour before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob.⁴⁷ But Solomon built him an house.⁴⁸ Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,⁴⁹ Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?⁵⁰ Hath not my hand made all these

things?⁵¹ Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.⁵² Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:⁵³ Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.⁵⁴ When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.⁵⁵ But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,⁵⁶ And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.⁵⁷ Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,⁵⁸ And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.⁵⁹ And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.⁶⁰ And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.