

خطاب استغفانوس

¹فَسَأَلَ رَئِيسُ الْكَهَنَةِ: أَتَرَى هَذِهِ الْأُمُورَ هَكَذَا هِيَ؟ ²فَقَالَ: أَيُّهَا الرِّجَالُ الْإِخْوَةُ وَالْآبَاءُ، اسْمَعُوا. ظَهَرَ إِلَهُ الْمَجْدِ لَأَبِينَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَهُوَ فِي مَا بَيْنَ النَّهْرَيْنِ، قَبْلَمَا سَكَنَ فِي خَارَانَ، ³وَقَالَ لَهُ: اجْرُؤْ مِنْ أَرْضِكَ وَمِنْ عَشِيرَتِكَ وَهَلِّمْ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ الَّتِي أَرِيكَ. ⁴فَخَرَجَ حَيثُذِي مِنْ أَرْضِ الْكِلْدَانِيِّينَ وَسَكَنَ فِي خَارَانَ، وَمِنْ هُنَاكَ تَقَلَّهَ بَعْدَ مَا مَاتَ أَبُوهُ إِلَى هَذِهِ الْأَرْضِ الَّتِي أَنْتُمْ الْآنَ سَاكِنُونَ فِيهَا. ⁵وَلَمْ يُعْطِ فِيهَا مِيرَاثًا وَلَا وَطَاءَةً قَدَمٍ وَلَكِنْ وَعَدَ أَنْ يُعْطِيَهَا مُلْكًا لَهُ وَلِتَسْلِيَهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ بَعْدَ وَلَدٍ. ⁶وَتَكَلَّمَ اللَّهُ هَكَذَا: "أَنْ يَكُونَ تَسْلُهُ مُتَعَرِّبًا فِي أَرْضِ غَرِيبَةٍ فَيَسْتَعِيدُوهُ وَيُسَيِّئُوا إِلَيْهِ أَرْبَعَ مِئَةِ سَنَةٍ. ⁷وَالْأُمَّةُ الَّتِي يُسْتَعِيدُونَ لَهَا سَادِبُهَا أَنَا، يَقُولُ اللَّهُ، وَبَعْدَ ذَلِكَ يَخْرُجُونَ وَيَعْبُدُونِي فِي هَذَا الْمَكَانِ". ⁸وَأَعْطَاهُ عَهْدَ الْخِتَانِ وَهَكَذَا وَلَدَ إِسْحَاقَ وَحَتَّتَهُ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّامِنِ، وَإِسْحَاقُ وَلَدَ يَعْقُوبَ وَيَعْقُوبُ وَلَدَ رُؤُسَاءَ الْآبَاءِ الْإِسْنِيِّ عَشَرَ. ⁹وَرُؤُسَاءُ الْآبَاءِ حَسَدُوا يُوسُفَ وَتَأَعَّوْهُ إِلَى مِصْرَ، وَكَانَ اللَّهُ مَعَهُ ¹⁰وَأَنْقَذَهُ مِنْ جَمِيعِ ضَيْقَانِهِ وَأَعْطَاهُ نِعْمَةً وَحِكْمَةً 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. ¹⁵فَتَرَلَّ يَعْقُوبُ إِلَى مِصْرَ وَمَاتَ هُوَ وَآبَاؤُنَا ¹⁶وَوُضِعُوا إِلَى سَكِيمَ وَوُضِعُوا فِي الْقَبْرِ الَّذِي اشْتَرَاهُ إِبْرَاهِيمُ بِتَمَنٍ فَصَّةٍ مِنْ بَنِي حَمُورَ أَبِي سَكِيمَ. 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 مَبْنُودِينَ لِكَيْ لَا يَعِيشُوا.

²⁰وَفِي ذَلِكَ الْوَقْتِ وُلِدَ مُوسَى، وَكَانَ جَمِيلًا جِدًّا، فَرَبَّيَ هَذَا ثَلَاثَةَ أَشْهُرٍ فِي بَيْتِ أَبِيهِ. ²¹وَلَمَّا نُيِّدَ اتَّخَذَتْهُ ابْنَةً فِرْعَوْنَ وَرَبَّتْهُ لِنَفْسِهَا ابْنًا. ²²فَتَهَدَّبَ مُوسَى بِكُلِّ حِكْمَةِ الْمِصْرِيِّينَ وَكَانَ مُفْتَدِرًا فِي الْأَقْوَالِ وَالْأَعْمَالِ. ²³وَلَمَّا كَمَلَتْ لَهُ مُدَّةُ أَرْبَعِينَ سَنَةً خَطَرَ عَلَى بَالِهِ أَنْ يُعْتَقَدَ

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

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

إِخْوَتُهُ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ.²⁴ وَإِذْ رَأَى وَاحِدًا مَظْلُومًا حَامَى عَنْهُ وَأَنْصَفَ الْمَغْلُوبَ إِذْ قَتَلَ الْمِصْرِيَّ.²⁵ فَطَنَّ أَنْ إِخْوَتَهُ يَفْهَمُونَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَى يَدِهِ يُعْطِيهِمْ نَجَاةً، وَأَمَّا هُمْ فَلَمْ يَفْهَمُوا.²⁶ وَفِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّانِي طَهَّرَ لَهُمْ وَهُمْ يَتَخَصَّمُونَ فَسَاقَهُمْ إِلَى السَّلَامَةِ قَائِلًا: أَيُّهَا الرِّجَالُ، أَنْتُمْ إِخْوَةُ، لِمَاذَا تَطْلُمُونَ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا؟²⁷ قَالَذِي كَانَ يَطْلُمُ قَرِيْبَهُ دَفَعَهُ قَائِلًا: مَنْ أَقَامَكَ رَئِيسًا وَقَاضِيًا عَلَيْنَا؟²⁸ أَتُرِيدُ أَنْ تَقْتُلَنِي كَمَا قَتَلْتَ أَمْسَ الْمِصْرِيَّ؟²⁹ فَهَرَبَ مُوسَى بِسَبَبِ هَذِهِ الْكَلِمَةِ وَصَارَ غَرِيبًا فِي أَرْضٍ مَدْيَانَ حَيْثُ وَلَدَ ابْنَيْنِ.

³⁰ وَلَمَّا كَمَلَتْ أَرْبَعُونَ سَنَةً طَهَّرَ لَهُ مَلَكُ الرَّبِّ فِي بَرِّيَّةِ جَبَلِ سِينَاءَ فِي لَهْيَبٍ تَارٍ عَلِيْقَةً.³¹ فَلَمَّا رَأَى مُوسَى ذَلِكَ تَعَجَّبَ مِنَ الْمُنْظَرِ، وَفِيمَا هُوَ يَتَقَدَّمُ لِيَتَطَلَّعَ صَارَ إِلَيْهِ صَوْتُ الرَّبِّ: ³²"أَنَا إِلَهُ آبَائِكَ، إِلَهُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِلَهُ إِسْحَاقَ وَإِلَهُ يَعْقُوبَ". فَأَرْتَدَّ مُوسَى وَلَمْ يَجْسُرْ أَنْ يَتَطَلَّعَ.³³ فَقَالَ لَهُ الرَّبُّ: "اخْلَعْ نَعْلَ رِجْلَيْكَ لِأَنَّ الْمَوْضِعَ الَّذِي أَنْتَ وَاقِفٌ عَلَيْهِ أَرْضٌ مُقَدَّسَةٌ."³⁴ إِنِّي رَأَيْتُ مَسَقَّةَ شَعْبِي الَّذِينَ فِي مِصْرَ وَسَمِعْتُ أَيْتَهُمْ وَتَرَلْتُ لِأَنْقَذَهُمْ، فَهَلُمَّ الْآنَ أَرْسِلْكَ إِلَى مِصْرَ.

³⁵ هَذَا مُوسَى الَّذِي أَنْكَرُوهُ قَائِلِينَ: "مَنْ أَقَامَكَ رَئِيسًا وَقَاضِيًا؟" هَذَا أَرْسَلَهُ اللَّهُ رَئِيسًا وَقَادِيًا بَيْنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ الَّذِينَ طَهَّرَ لَهُ فِي الْعُلْيَقَةِ.³⁶ هَذَا أَخْرَجَهُمْ صَانِعًا عَجَائِبَ وَآيَاتٍ فِي أَرْضِ مِصْرَ وَفِي الْبَحْرِ الْأَخْضَرِ وَفِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ أَرْبَعِينَ سَنَةً.

³⁷ هَذَا هُوَ مُوسَى الَّذِي قَالَ لِبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ: "تَبَيَّنَّا مِثْلِي سَبْقِيْمٌ لَكُمْ الرَّبُّ إِلَهُكُمْ مِنْ إِخْوَتِكُمْ، لَهُ تَسْمَعُونَ".³⁸ هَذَا هُوَ الَّذِي كَانَ فِي الْكَنِيسَةِ فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ مَعَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ الَّذِينَ كَانَ يُكَلِّمُهُ فِي جَبَلِ سِينَاءَ وَمَعَ آبَائِنَا، الَّذِي قِيلَ أَقْوَالًا حَيَّةً لِنُعْطِيَنَّا إِيَّاهَا،³⁹ الَّذِي لَمْ يَسَأْ آبَاؤُنَا أَنْ يَكُونُوا طَائِعِينَ لَهُ بَلْ دَفَعُوهُ وَرَجَعُوا بِقُلُوبِهِمْ إِلَى مِصْرَ قَائِلِينَ لِهَارُونَ: "اعْمَلْ لَنَا إِلَهَةً تَتَقَدَّمُ أَمَامَنَا، لِأَنَّ هَذَا مُوسَى الَّذِي أَخْرَجَنَا مِنْ أَرْضِ مِصْرَ لَا نَعْلَمُ مَاذَا أَصَابَهُ".⁴¹ فَعَمِلُوا عِجْلًا فِي تِلْكَ الْيَّامِ وَأَصْعَدُوا دَبِيحَةً لِلصَّتَمِ وَقَرَحُوا بِأَعْمَالِ أَيْدِيهِمْ.⁴² فَرَجَعَ اللَّهُ وَأَسْلَمَهُمْ لِيَعْبُدُوا جُنْدَ السَّمَاءِ كَمَا هُوَ مَكْتُوبٌ فِي كِتَابِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ: "هَلْ قَرَّبْتُمْ لِي دَبَائِحَ وَقَرَّابِينَ أَرْبَعِينَ سَنَةً فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ، يَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ؟" بَلْ خَمَلْتُمْ خِيْمَةَ مُوَلُوكَ وَتَجَمَّ إِلَهُكُمْ رَمْقَانِ، التَّمَاثِيلَ الَّتِي صَنَعْتُمُوهَا، لَتَسْجُدُوا لَهَا، فَأَنْقَلَكُمُ

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 حَيْمَةُ الشَّهَادَةِ فَكَانَتْ مَعَ آبَائِنَا فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ كَمَا أَمَرَ الَّذِي كَلَّمَ مُوسَى أَنْ يَعْمَلَهَا عَلَى الْمِثَالِ الَّذِي كَانَ قَدْ رَأَاهُ،⁴⁵ الَّتِي أَدْخَلَهَا أَيْضًا آبَاؤُنَا إِذْ تَخَلَّفُوا عَلَيْهَا مَعَ يَسُوعَ فِي مُلْكِ الْأَمَمِ،⁴⁶ الَّذِي وَجَدَ نِعْمَةً أَمَامَ اللَّهِ مِنْ وَجْهِ آبَائِنَا، إِلَى أَيَّامِ دَاوُدَ،⁴⁷ الَّذِي وَجَدَ نِعْمَةً أَمَامَ اللَّهِ، وَالتَّمَسَّ أَنْ يَجِدَ مَسْكَنًا لِإِلَهِهِ بِعُقُوبٍ،⁴⁸ وَلَكِنَّ سُلَيْمَانَ بَنَى لَهُ بَيْتًا. لَكِنَّ الْعَلِيِّ لَا يَسْكُنُ فِي هَيْكَلٍ مَصْنُوعَةٍ بِالْأَيْدِي، كَمَا يَقُولُ النَّبِيُّ:⁴⁹ "السَّمَاءُ كُرْسِيُّ لِي وَالْأَرْضُ مَوْطِئٌ لِقَدَمَيَّ. أَيُّ بَيْتٍ تَبْنُونَ لِي، يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ، وَأَيُّ هُوَ مَكَانٌ رَاحَتِي؟⁵⁰ أَلَيْسَتْ يَدَيَّ صَنَعَتْ هَذِهِ الْأَشْيَاءَ كُلَّهَا؟"⁵¹ يَا فُسَاةَ الرِّقَابِ وَغَيْرَ الْمُخْتُونِينَ بِالْقُلُوبِ وَالْآذَانِ، أَنْتُمْ دَائِمًا تُقَاوِمُونَ الرُّوحَ الْقُدُسَ، كَمَا كَانَ آبَاؤُكُمْ كَذَلِكَ أَنْتُمْ.⁵² أَيُّ الْإِنْبِيَاءِ لَمْ يَصْطَلِّهِمْ آبَاؤُكُمْ؟ وَقَدْ قَتَلُوا الَّذِينَ سَبَقُوا قَاتِلُوا بِمَجِيءِ الْبَارِّ الَّذِي أَنْتُمْ الْآنَ صِرْتُمْ مُسْلِمِيهِ وَقَاتِلِيهِ،⁵³ الَّذِينَ أَحَدْتُمْ التَّامُوسَ بِتَرْتِيبِ مَلَائِكَةٍ وَلَمْ تَحْفَظُوهُ.

استشهاد استفانوس

⁵⁴ فَلَمَّا سَمِعُوا هَذَا خَنِقُوا يَفْلُوبِهِمْ وَصَرُّوا بِأَسْنَانِهِمْ 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 وَابْنِ الْإِنْسَانِ قَائِمًا عَنْ يَمِينِ اللَّهِ.⁵⁷ فَصَاحُوا بِصَوْتٍ عَظِيمٍ وَسَدُّوا آذَانَهُمْ وَهَجَمُوا عَلَيْهِ بِنَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ،⁵⁸ وَأَخْرَجُوهُ خَارِجَ الْمَدِينَةِ وَرَجَمُوهُ. وَالشُّهُودُ خَلَعُوا ثِيَابَهُمْ عِنْدَ رِجْلَيْ سَابِّ يَقَالُ لَهُ سَأُولُ.⁵⁹ فَكَانُوا يَرْجُمُونَ اسْتِفَانُوسَ وَهُوَ يَدْعُو وَيَقُولُ: أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ، اقْبَلْ رُوحِي. ثُمَّ جَنَأَ 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.