

***Just because it came up last week...***



# ***Common Misconceptions***



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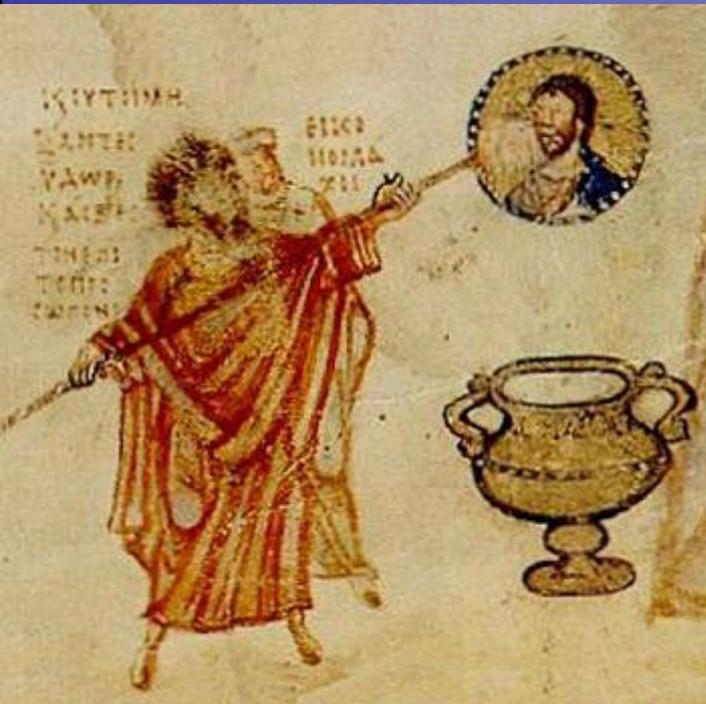
- *Tithing*
- *Cultural Depictions*

*T or F This was Nineveh's sin.*



# *Cultural Depictions*

- Take at least one note from the iconoclasts (the people who argued that all images of God were inherently inaccurate, limited and limiting by definition, and often end up being worshipped themselves instead of pointing people back to the Truth of God)



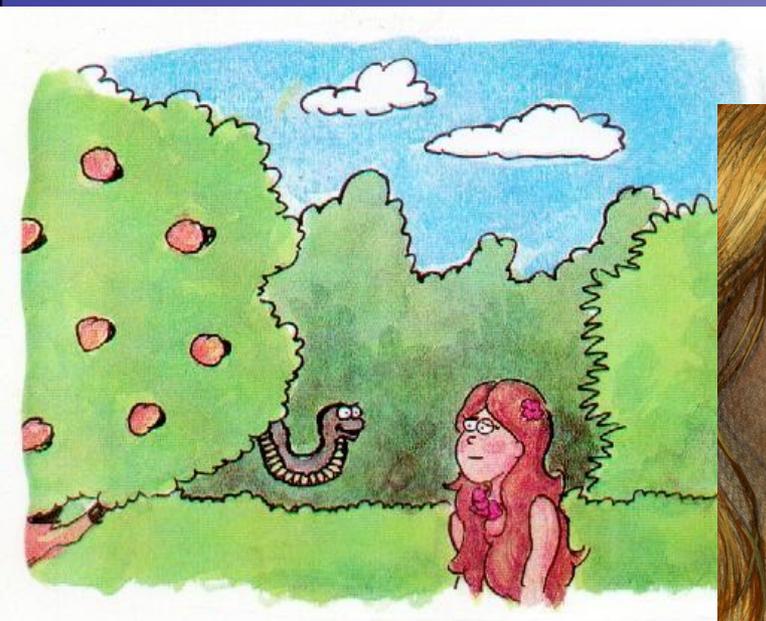
# Cultural Depictions

- Take at least one note from the iconoclasts—depictions are tricky
  - The very simplicity that makes them accessible to people also makes them liable to over-simplify (or even flat-out *change*) their source material
    - That's not a huge deal when film-makers turn the 508-page book, *Ben-Hur*, into an 80-minute cartoon but when people become more familiar with Bible *depictions* than with the Bible itself, then it becomes a problem
      - So when I say “cultural depictions,” I mean movies, television, sculpture, paintings, other books, urban myths—anything that creates or perpetuates inaccurate ideas about the Bible on a cultural level  
(NOTE: Some inaccuracies may not seem like that big a deal, but our commitment needs to be to the Truth, not to familiar stories that “ring true” to us)



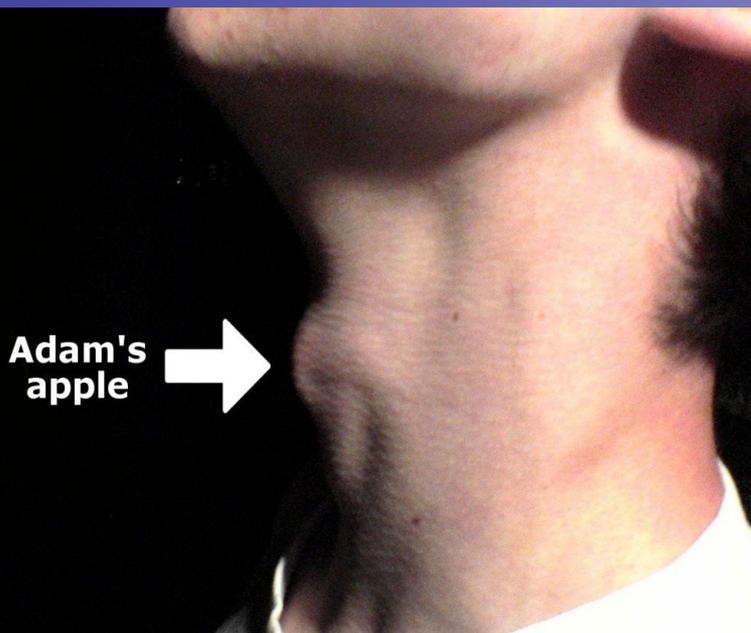
# Cultural Depictions

- Take at least one note from the iconoclasts
- **Adam and Eve**
  - Eve was tempted by the serpent to eat the apple, then went and tempted Adam herself, right?
    - Please read Genesis 2:9, 16-17; and 3:1-6
      - 1) It probably wasn't an apple that they ate
        - But it's a common assumption in European culture
          - It was an *evil* fruit, right? And the Latin word "*malum*" (evil) sure looks a lot like the Latinized Greek word "*malum*" (from *μῆλον*, meaning "apple")  
(NOTE: That's why the disguised queen gives Snow White an evil, poisoned apple in the story...)



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          - It was an *evil* fruit, right? And the Latin word "*malum*" (evil) sure looks a lot like the Latinized Greek word "*malum*" (from *μήλον*, meaning "apple")
          - For that matter, the Old English word for "fruit" was "*æppel*," so that might have confused people as well when they were translating it (NOTE: That's why the English idiomatic name for the *prominentia laryngea* is the "Adam's Apple"—from the folk belief that the bite of apple got stuck in Adam's throat when he ate the fruit that Eve gave him)



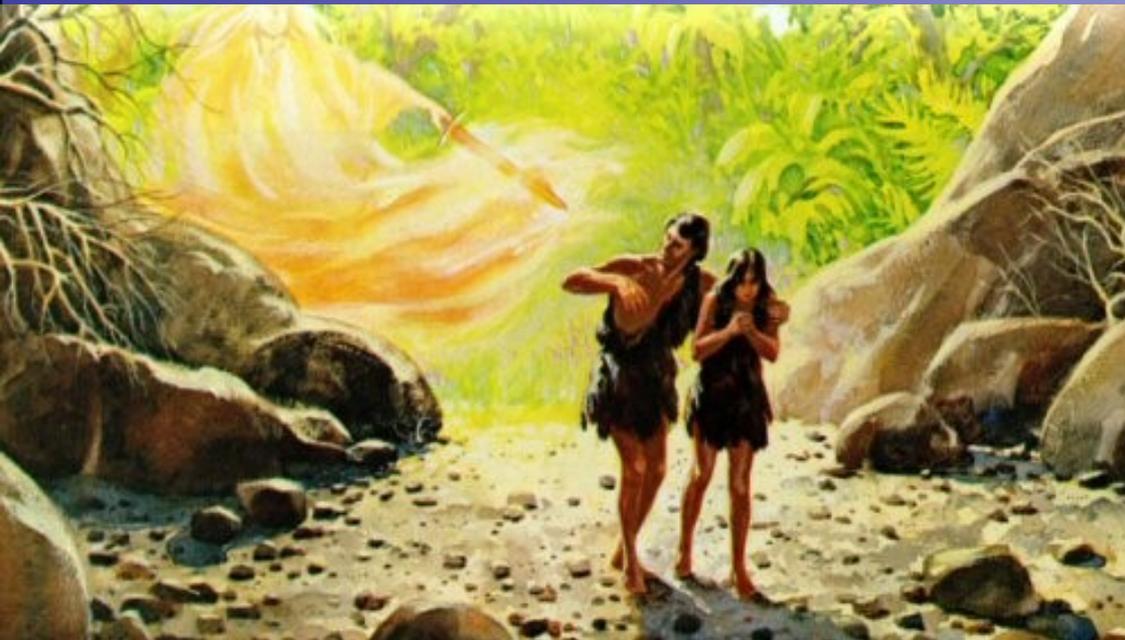
# *Cultural Depictions*

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- **Adam and Eve**
  - Eve was tempted by the serpent to eat the apple, then went and tempted Adam herself, right?
    - Please read Genesis 2:9, 16-17; and 3:1-6
      - 1) It probably wasn't an apple that they ate
      - 2) Adam was *standing right there with Eve* when she took the fruit
        - What kinds of applications can we build from that?



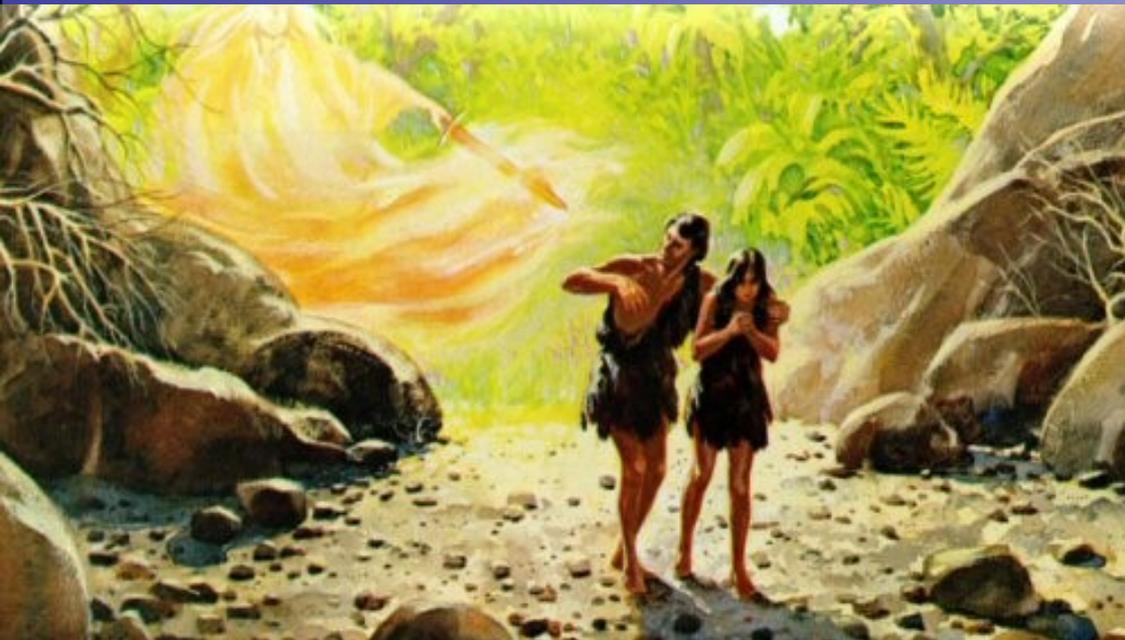
# *Cultural Depictions*

- Take at least one note from the iconoclasts
- **Adam and Eve**
  - Eve was tempted by the serpent to eat the apple, then went and tempted Adam herself, right?
  - **But Adam and Eve were thrown out of Eden as punishment for their sin, right?**
    - Please read Genesis 3:12-19
      - What was their punishment for their sin?
      - How has their sin *already* affected their relationship?



# ***Cultural Depictions***

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- **Adam and Eve**
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  - **But Adam and Eve were thrown out of Eden as punishment for their sin, right?**
    - Please read Genesis 3:12-19
    - **Now read Genesis 3:22-24**
      - **Why were they cast out of Eden?**
        - **What *point* is God making here?**



# *Cultural Depictions*

- Take at least one note from the iconoclasts
- Adam and Eve
- Noah
  - If I were to ask most people—even most church-going Christians—they'd say that Noah collected two of every animal for the ark, wouldn't they?
    - Please read Genesis 6:11-14, 17-21
      - So those people would be correct, right?



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  - If I were to ask most people—even most church-going Christians—they'd say that Noah collected two of every animal for the ark, wouldn't they?
    - Please read Genesis 6:11-14, 17-21
    - Please read Genesis 7:1-5
      - Does this *contradict* the story in chapter 6? Why or why not?



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    - Please read Genesis 6:11-14, 17-21
    - Please read Genesis 7:1-5
    - Please read Genesis 7:8-10
      - So did Noah actually collect them? Or did he just receive them?
        - What application can we make from this?

(NOTE: How long had the slower animals been making their way to the ark at God's command?)

(NOTE<sup>2</sup>: How long ago did God start working on the issues that you've just become aware of?)



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- Noah
  - If I were to ask most people—even most church-going Christians—they'd say that Noah collected two of every animal for the ark, wouldn't they?
  - The Flood lasted for 40 days and nights, right?
    - Please read Genesis 7:11-12
      - It rained for 40 days and nights...  
(NOTE: But was it *just* rain?)



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  - If I were to ask most people—even most church-going Christians—they'd say that Noah collected two of every animal for the ark, wouldn't they?
  - **The Flood lasted for 40 days and nights, right?**
    - Please read Genesis 7:11-12
    - **Please read Genesis 7:18-24**
      - So *how long* was the Flood?  
(NOTE: Was this just a *localized* phenomenon?)



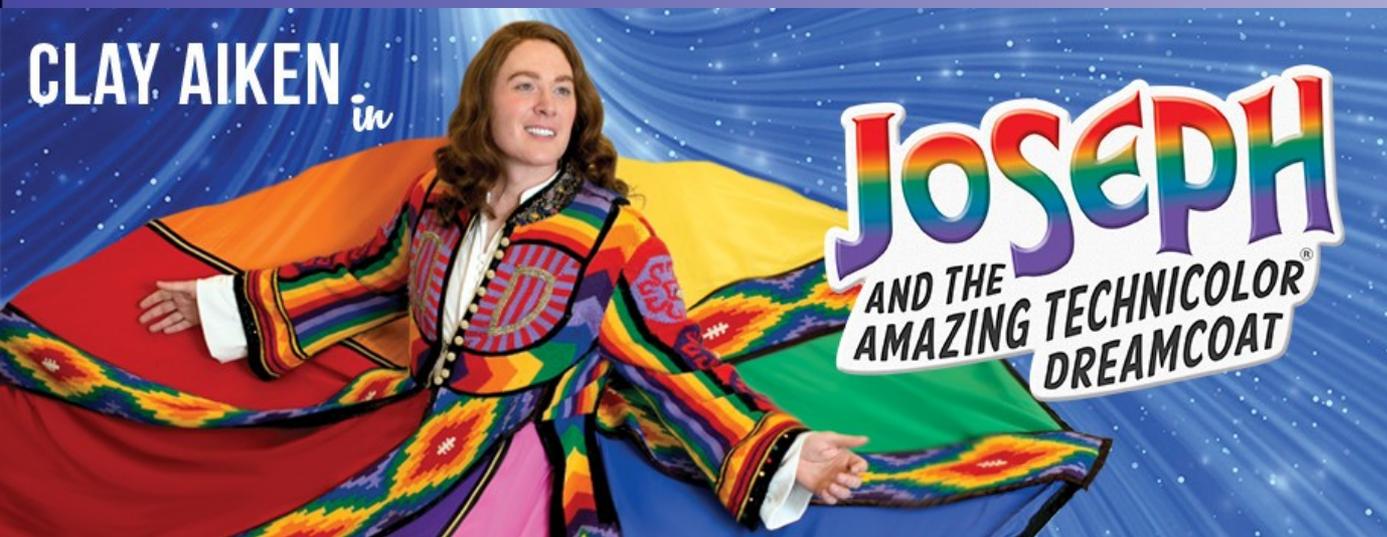
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  - If I were to ask most people—even most church-going Christians—they'd say that Noah collected two of every animal for the ark, wouldn't they?
  - **The Flood lasted for 40 days and nights, right?**
    - Please read Genesis 7:11-12
    - Please read Genesis 7:18-24
    - **Please read Genesis 8:13-17**
      - So how long *did* Noah and his family actually stay in the ark, and why would that be worth knowing?



# Cultural Depictions

- Take at least one note from the iconoclasts
- Adam and Eve
- Noah
- **Joseph**
  - Joseph had a “coat of many colors,” right?
    - Please read Genesis 37:3
      - The Bible describes his coat (or “tunic”) as “פָּס” (“*pac*,” having to do with the hands)
        - So that could've meant “hand-made” (but back then, *everything* was hand-made), or more likely, a tunic that went down to the wrist (i.e.; a fancy tunic that no laborer like Joseph's *brothers* would ever get to wear)



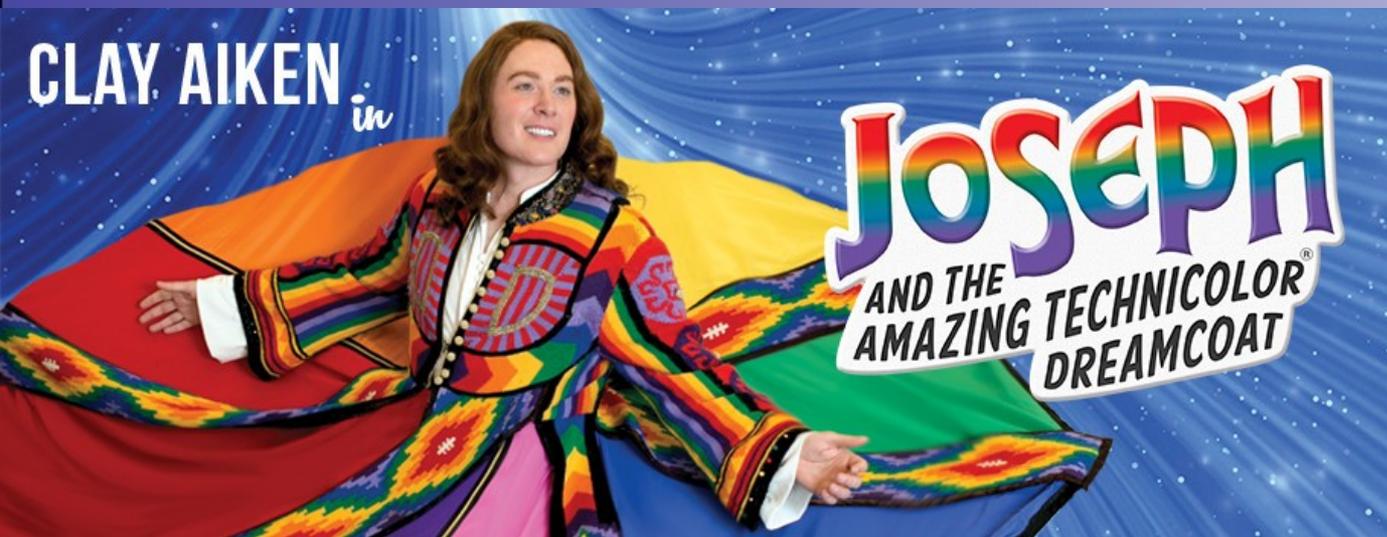
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- Adam and Eve
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- **Joseph**
  - Joseph had a “coat of many colors,” right?
    - Please read Genesis 37:3
      - The Bible describes his coat (or “tunic”) as “**דָּפָ**” (“*pac*,” having to do with the hands)
        - So that could've meant “hand-made” (but back then, *everything* was hand-made), or more likely, a tunic that went down to the wrist... and makes no mention of any colors (or even ornamentation)
        - But the Septuagint translated **דָּפָ** as “**ποικίλον**” (meaning “varied” or “diverse” or “complex”)



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- Adam and Eve
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  - Joseph had a “coat of many colors,” right?
    - Please read Genesis 37:3
      - The Bible describes his coat (or “tunic”) as “**דָּפָד**” (“*pac*,” having to do with the hands)
        - So that could’ve meant “hand-made” (but back then, *everything* was hand-made), or more likely, a tunic that went down to the wrist... and makes no mention of any colors (or even ornamentation)
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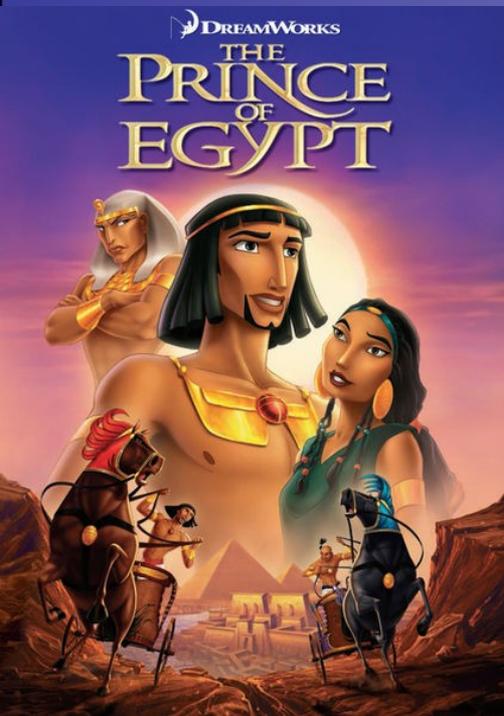


- So it became culturally known as a complex coat... or a coat of various pieces... or a coat of many colors... (even the NAS translates **דָּפָד** today as “varicolored”)



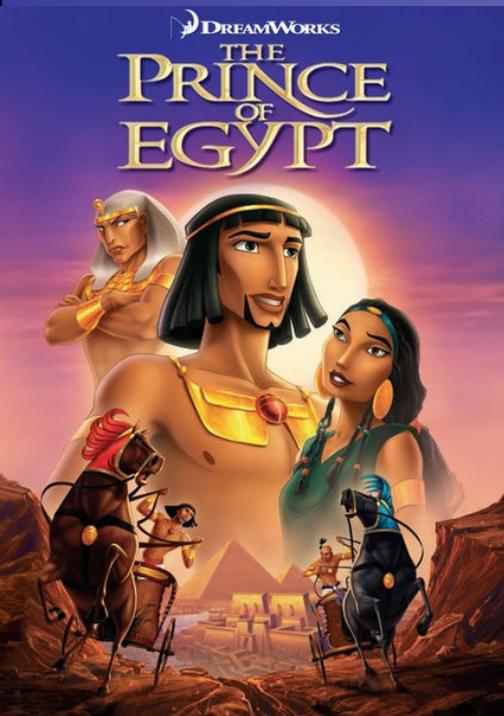
# *Cultural Depictions*

- Take at least one note from the iconoclasts
- Adam and Eve
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- **Moses**
  - Moses was a Prince of Egypt, but didn't know that he was a Jew until he was an adult, right?
    - Please read Exodus 2:1-2
      - Technically speaking, “Jews” are people from the tribe of Judah—and Moses was from the tribe of Levi
      - Thus, Moses was an *Israelite*  
(because he was part of the people of God who descended from Israel—i.e.; Jacob)



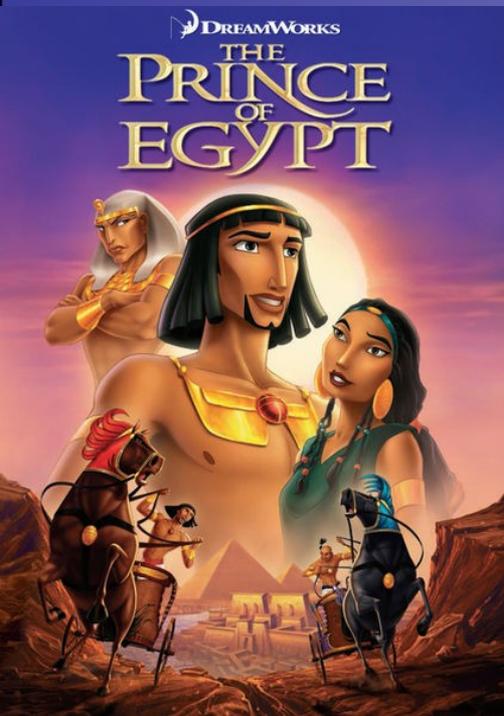
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    - Please read Exodus 2:1-2
      - Technically speaking, “Jews” are people from the tribe of Judah—and Moses was from the tribe of Levi
      - Thus, Moses was an *Israelite* and a *Hebrew* (which is what the Egyptians called all of the Canaanite people who had thrived there and eventually become slaves—the “*habiru*” or “wanderers”)



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    - Please read Exodus 2:1-2
      - Technically speaking, “Jews” are people from the tribe of Judah—and Moses was from the tribe of Levi
        - Thus, Moses was an *Israelite* and a *Hebrew*, but not a *Jew*



# *Cultural Depictions*

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- Adam and Eve
- Noah
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- **Moses**
  - Moses was a Prince of Egypt, but didn't know that he was a Jew until he was an adult, right?
    - Please read Exodus 2:1-2
    - Please read Exodus 2:3-10
    - We're never told that he was ever named a "prince"—in fact, we're never told *any* Egyptian title for him
      - He did grow up in Pharaoh's household after he was weaned, and we was raised as Pharaoh's daughter's own son, but that didn't automatically make him some kind of a prince in the Egyptian sociopolitical structure



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- **Moses**
  - **Moses was a Prince of Egypt, but didn't know that he was a Jew until he was an adult, right?**
    - Please read Exodus 2:1-2
    - Please read Exodus 2:3-10
    - **Please read Exodus 2:11-12**
      - We don't have any reason to believe that he didn't know *exactly* what his real heritage was all along
      - Remember—he was raised in his mother's Hebrew household until he was roughly 2-4 years old, so *why wouldn't* he have known?



# *Cultural Depictions*

- Take at least one note from the iconoclasts
- Adam and Eve
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- **Moses**

- Moses was a Prince of Egypt, but didn't know that he was a Jew until he was an adult, right?
- **But he was cast into the wilderness by Pharaoh because he was a Hebrew, right?**
  - Please read Exodus 2:13-15

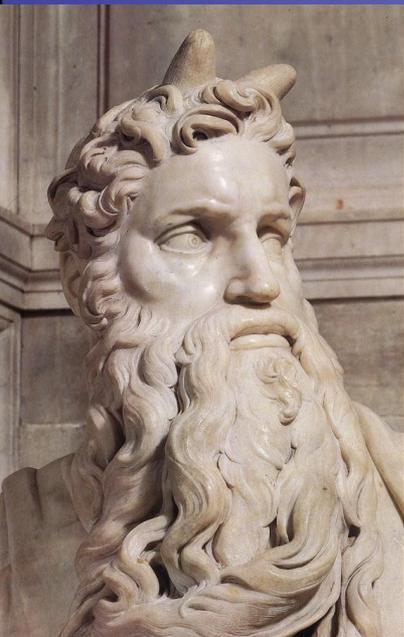


- So why *did* Moses leave Egypt?
  - Why do we feel a need to “hero-ize” Moses... and what do we lose in the process?



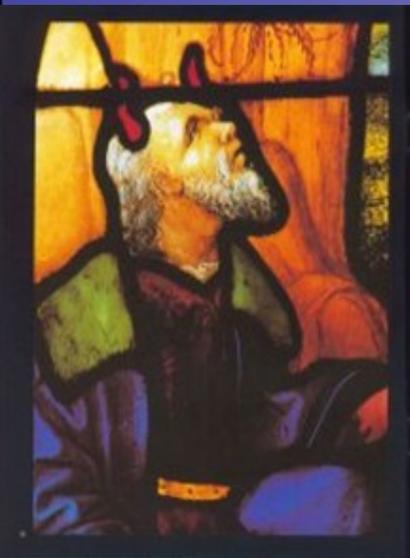
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- **Moses**
  - Moses was a Prince of Egypt, but didn't know that he was a Jew until he was an adult, right?
  - But he was cast into the wilderness by Pharaoh *because* he was a Hebrew, right?
  - **But Moses *did* had horns, right?**
    - In art throughout history, Moses was commonly depicted as having horns... because everyone *knew* that Moses had horns...
    - Please read Exodus 34:29
      - The Latin Vulgate Bible translated that verse as “Cumque descenderet Moses de monte Sinai tenebat duas tabulas testimonii et ignorabat quod cornuta esset facies sua ex consortio sermonis Dei.” —using the Latin word “*cornuta*” or “horned” to translate the Hebrew word קָרַן (“*qaran*,” which means “to radiate out”)



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    - **Please read Exodus 34:29**
      - The Latin Vulgate Bible translated that verse
      - **So the 1609 Douay-Rheims Bible translated that as "When Moses came down from the mount Sinai, he held the two tables of the testimony, and he knew not that his face was *horned* from the conversation of the Lord."**  
(and the mental image stuck in our cultural consciousness, even after translations fixed it)



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    - In art throughout history, Moses was commonly depicted as having horns... because everyone *knew* that Moses had horns...
    - Please read Exodus 34:29
    - **Almost nobody today thinks that Moses had horns, so why is this even worth talking about?**
      - What kinds of cultural depictions of things have formed the bases of *your* personal theology, without you even knowing it?

