

IN THE BEGINNING

GOD



The symbols of creation and Adam and Eve.

God planted a garden and placed there a man and woman formed by and in the image of the Creator.

All pray: Thank you, God, for loving the world and giving us Jesus.



The symbols of Noah.

**God told Noah to build an ark.
God's promised to be with Noah
and all people always.**

All pray: Thank you, God, for loving the world and giving us Jesus.



The symbols for Abraham and Sarah.

God promised Abraham that He would be the father of a great nation. Abraham and Sarah's son, Isaac, was a surprise gift from God.

All pray: Thank you, God, for loving the world and giving us Jesus.



The symbols for Isaac and Rebekah.

The love story between Isaac and Rebekah is a reminder of the love of God toward his people.

All pray: Thank you, God, for loving the world and giving us Jesus.



The symbols for Jacob, Rachel and Leah.

Isaac had a son, Jacob. Jacob and Rachel's and Leah's sons became leaders of the twelve tribes of Israel from which Jesus came.

All pray: Thank you, God, for loving the world and giving us Jesus.



The symbols for Joseph.

Joseph's father, Jacob, had a colorful coat made for him. Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery because of jealousy. When the famine came, Joseph forgave them. Jacob and his sons took their families to Egypt to be with Joseph.

All pray: Thank you, God, for loving the world and giving us Jesus.



The symbols for Shiphra and Puah.

Shiphrah and Puah were brave midwives who put their lives at risk by defying the pharaoh's law of death in order to obey God's law of life and save Moses.

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The symbols for Jochebed, Miriam and Moses.

**Jochebed was the mother of
Moses; Miriam was Moses' sister.**

**Moses led the Israelites out of
slavery in Egypt and to freedom in
God's land.**

All pray: Thank you, God, for loving the world and giving us Jesus.



The symbols for Joshua and Rahab.

Joshua led the Israelites to God's promised land. Joshua sent spies to Jericho to gain information. Rahab hid them in her inn. The LORD told Joshua to have the priests carry the Ark of the LORD and blow trumpets around the walled city of Jericho. They marched around the city for seven days. On the seventh day the walls fell, as according to the LORD, and the Israelites conquered the city.

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The symbols for Deborah.

Deborah, a prophet and ruler of the people of Israel, was the only woman among the twelve judges. She brought the nation of Israel 40 years of peace because of her faith-filled leadership.

All pray: Thank you, God, for loving the world and giving us Jesus.



The symbols for Naomi and Ruth.

After much hardship, Ruth left the land of her people and went with Naomi because she came to believe in Naomi's God, the God of Israel. The story of Naomi and Ruth is one of deep love and friendship, courage, self-sacrifice and faithfulness.

All pray: Thank you, God, for loving the world and giving us Jesus.



The symbols for Hannah and Samuel.

Hannah was faithful to God. As mother of Samuel, she gave him to the Lord, just as she promised. The prophet Samuel was an honest and fair judge, delivering God's law with fairness for many years.

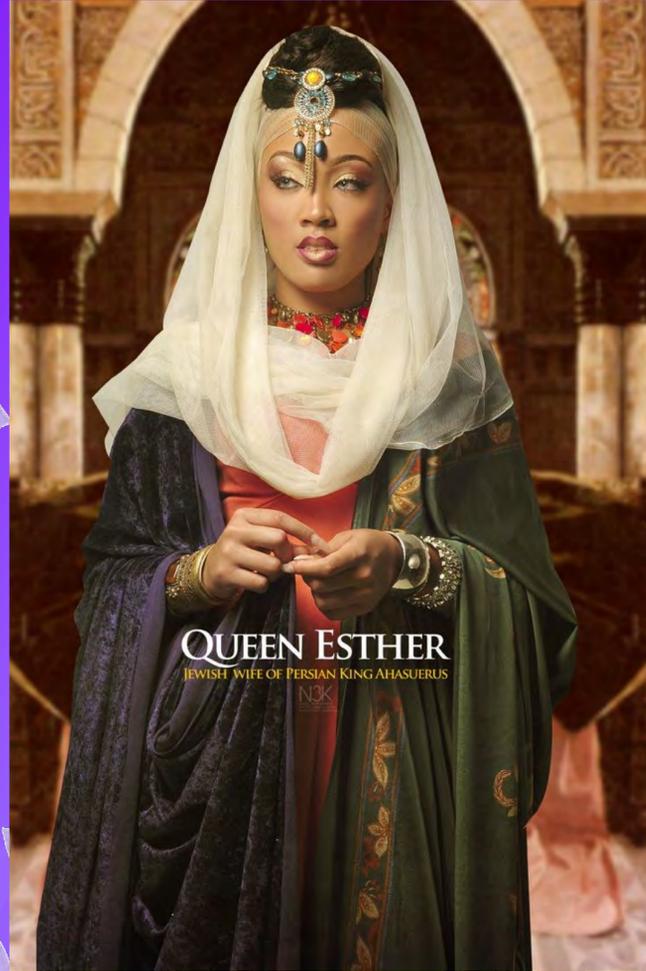
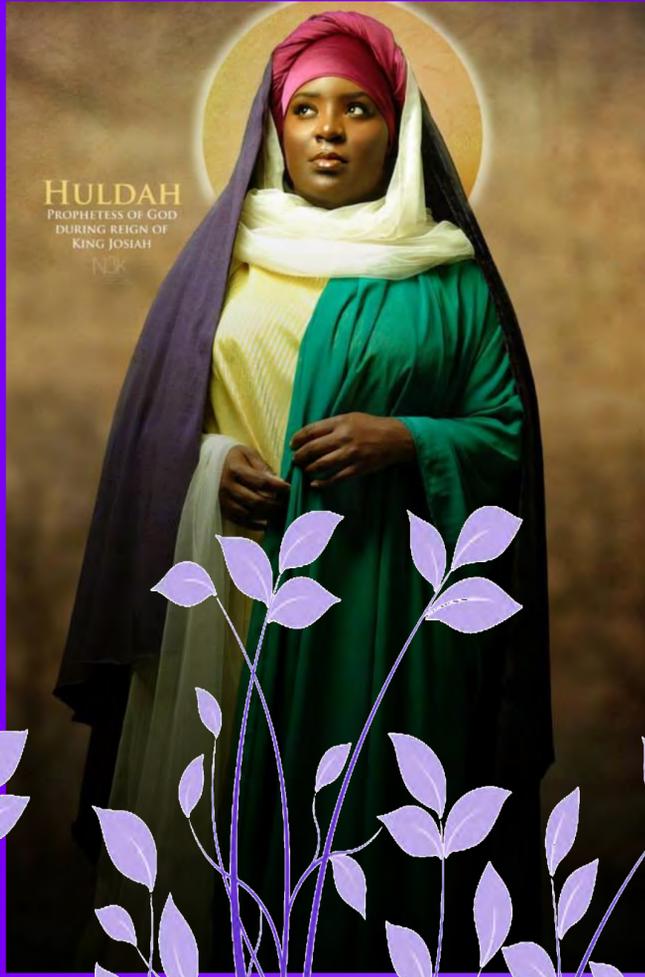
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The symbols for Jesse and David.

Jesse's youngest son, David, became King of Israel. David was a shepherd until the prophet Samuel anointed him. David's prayer describes God as a rock, fortress, deliverer, shield, horn, stronghold and refuge.

All pray: Thank you, God, for loving the world and giving us Jesus.



The symbols for Huldah and Esther.

**Huldah was a prophet who spoke
the words of God.**

**Esther, queen of Persia, saved
the Israelites from a plot to be
destroyed.**

All pray: Thank you, God, for loving the world and giving us Jesus.



The symbols for Isaiah and Jeremiah.

Isaiah and Jeremiah were important prophets in the Old Testament. Isaiah spoke of an ideal world when “wolves and sheep will live together in peace, ...Calves and lion cubs will feed together, and little children will take care of them.”

Jeremiah taught that the people could not faithfully pray if they oppressed the weak, the immigrants, the orphans and the widows.

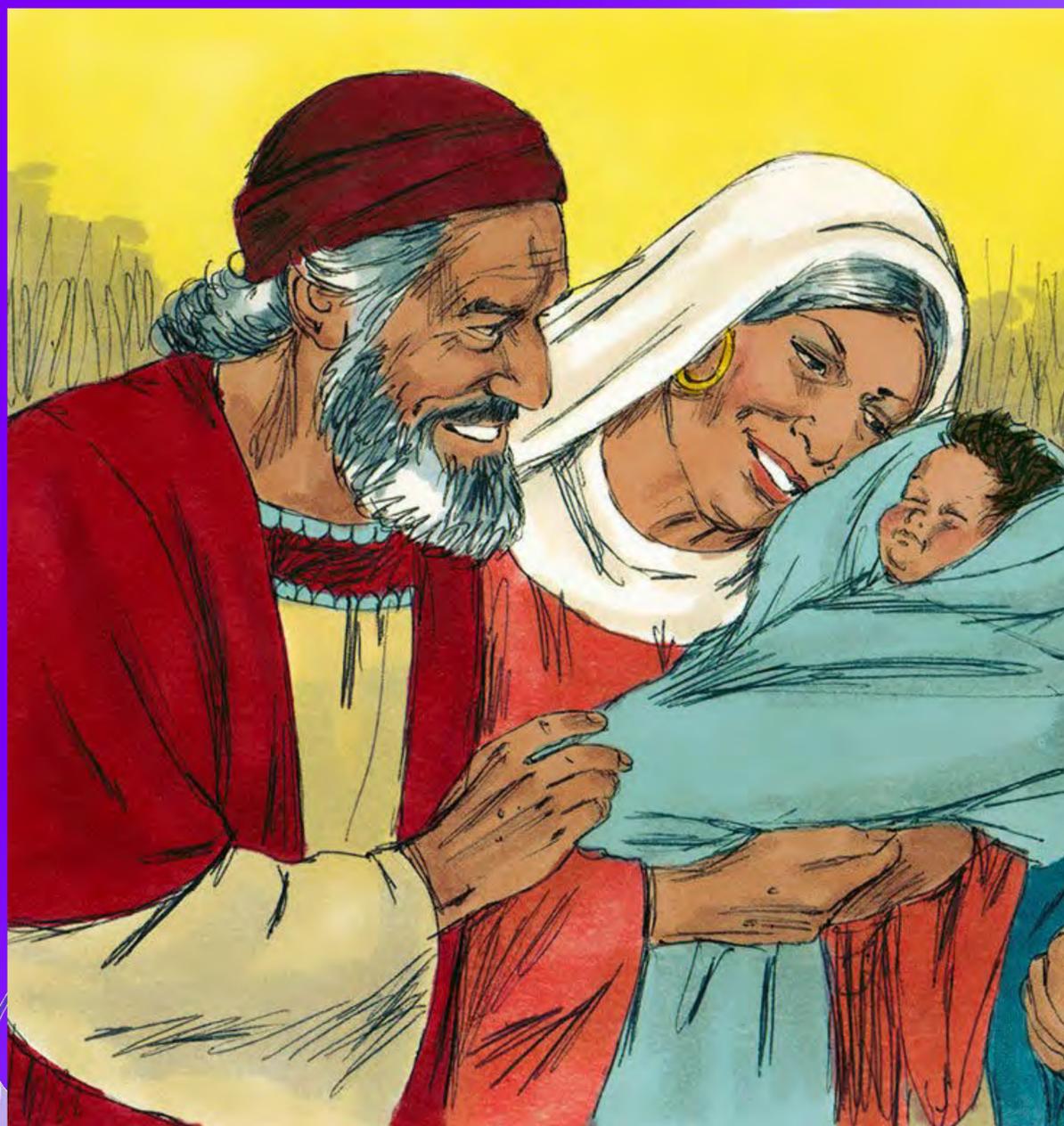
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The symbols for Daniel.

God gave Daniel the ability to understand and interpret dreams. His enemies put him in a lion's den because of his faithfulness to God. But, God sent an angel that "shut the lions' mouths" (Daniel 6:22) and Daniel was miraculously spared.

All pray: Thank you, God, for loving the world and giving us Jesus.



The symbols for Elizabeth, Zechariah and John the Baptist.

Zechariah and Elizabeth were blessed by God to be the parents of John the Baptist. John, Jesus' cousin, was a preacher who prepared the way for Jesus. He asked people to repent; to always be prepared for God. He baptized people who wanted to be ready when the Lord came.

All pray: Thank you, God, for loving the world and giving us Jesus.



The symbols for Mary and Joseph.

The angel Gabriel told Mary that she was going to have a baby by the power and grace of the Holy Spirit. Mary was engaged to a man named Joseph of the family of David. When Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant he was troubled, until the angel told him it was God's will.

All pray: Thank you, God, for loving the world and giving us Jesus.



The symbols for Jesus.

Jesus became human to live with us and to teach us about God's unconditional love; to show us how to live and love on our journey with God.

All pray: Thank you, God, for loving the world and giving us Jesus.



The symbols for the shepherds.

**Shepherds, watching their sheep
one night, were startled by
angels telling them good news—
a savior had been born for them
in Bethlehem.**

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