

JOSEPH

God's Plan and Purpose

Lesson 7

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum • Summer 2020

No part of this curriculum may be republished without permission. Please feel free to copy for classroom use.

www.missionarlington.org

JOSEPH: God's Plan and Purpose Kept

Lesson 7

Genesis 46-50

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture is from the New Living Translation of the book of Genesis

Memory Verse: Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, My thoughts and My ways are higher than yours. Isaiah 55:9 CEV

Can you believe we are on the last lesson about Joseph? What do you remember? (Prompt students to respond: begin with the family Joseph was born into and the promises God made to Abraham, then move right through to the brothers telling their father that Joseph was alive.)

So, when Jacob knew that Joseph was alive and ruling in Egypt, Jacob and all his family packed their belongings, gathered their flocks and headed for Egypt. When they stopped that first night, God spoke to Jacob in a vision and told him not to be afraid to go to Egypt. God even promised him that his descendants would return to Canaan again. God also reassured Jacob saying, "I will go with you down to Egypt...you will die in Egypt, but Joseph will be with you to close your eyes." (46:4) It seems odd to talk about death, but Jacob was 130 years old by now!

They traveled the 200 miles again. When they arrived in Egypt and Joseph saw his father, they hugged and cried and held on to each other for a long time. Then Joseph presented his family to Pharaoh. First, Joseph introduced his brothers. Pharaoh welcomed them and offered them the best land in Egypt. Then, Joseph introduced his father, Jacob, who blessed Pharaoh. Joseph helped settle his brothers in the land of Goshen from the region of Rameses and provided them all with food, from his father, the oldest, to the smallest children.

As Joseph had predicted, the famine continued for five more years. When the people ran out of money to buy grain, they paid with their flocks and herds. When their animals were gone, they paid with their land until Pharaoh owned it all. The people continued to live on the land and plant crops, but from now on would give one-fifth of what they harvested to Pharaoh. It sounds like a cruel plan, but the people were thankful to be alive! During this time, in the land of Goshen, the people of Israel multiplied.

The time drew near for Jacob to die and he made Joseph swear not to bury him in Egypt. Jacob wanted to be buried where his

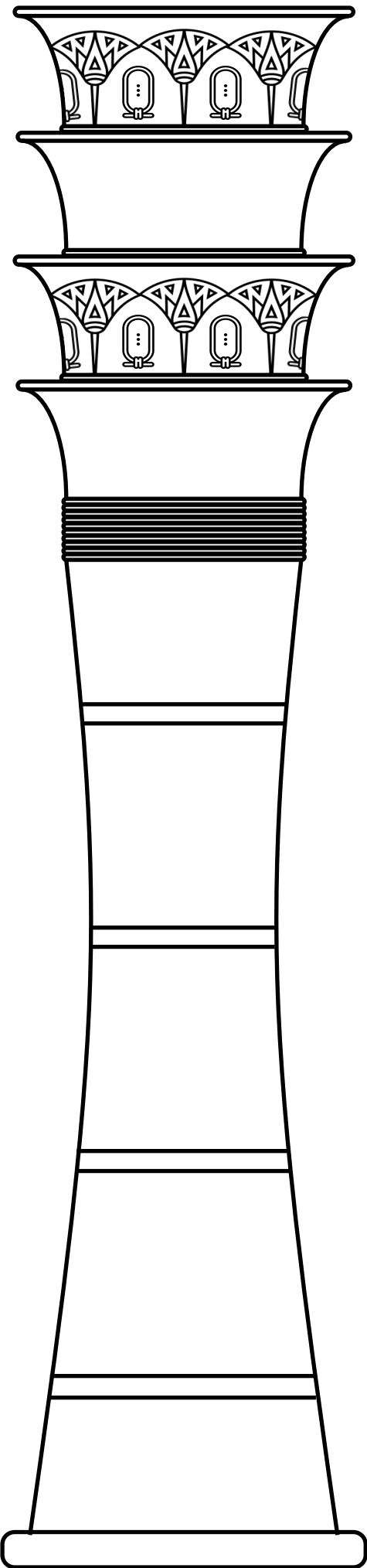
father, Isaac, and his grandfather, Abraham, were buried. Not long after that, Jacob's health began to fail and he wanted to bless Joseph's sons; Manasseh would be great, but Ephraim, the younger, would be even greater and an extra portion of the land they would return to was promised to them both. Then Jacob told them, "May the God before whom my grandfather Abraham and my father, Isaac, walked —the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this very day...may he bless these boys." (48:15-16)

Then Jacob called all of his sons in. He spoke to each one personally with a message that was just for them. He spoke of their strengths and their faults and then he told them good-bye, while reminding them where he wanted to be buried. "When Jacob had finished this charge to his sons, he drew his feet into the bed, breathed his last, and joined his ancestors in death." (49:33) You can imagine the grief and tears!

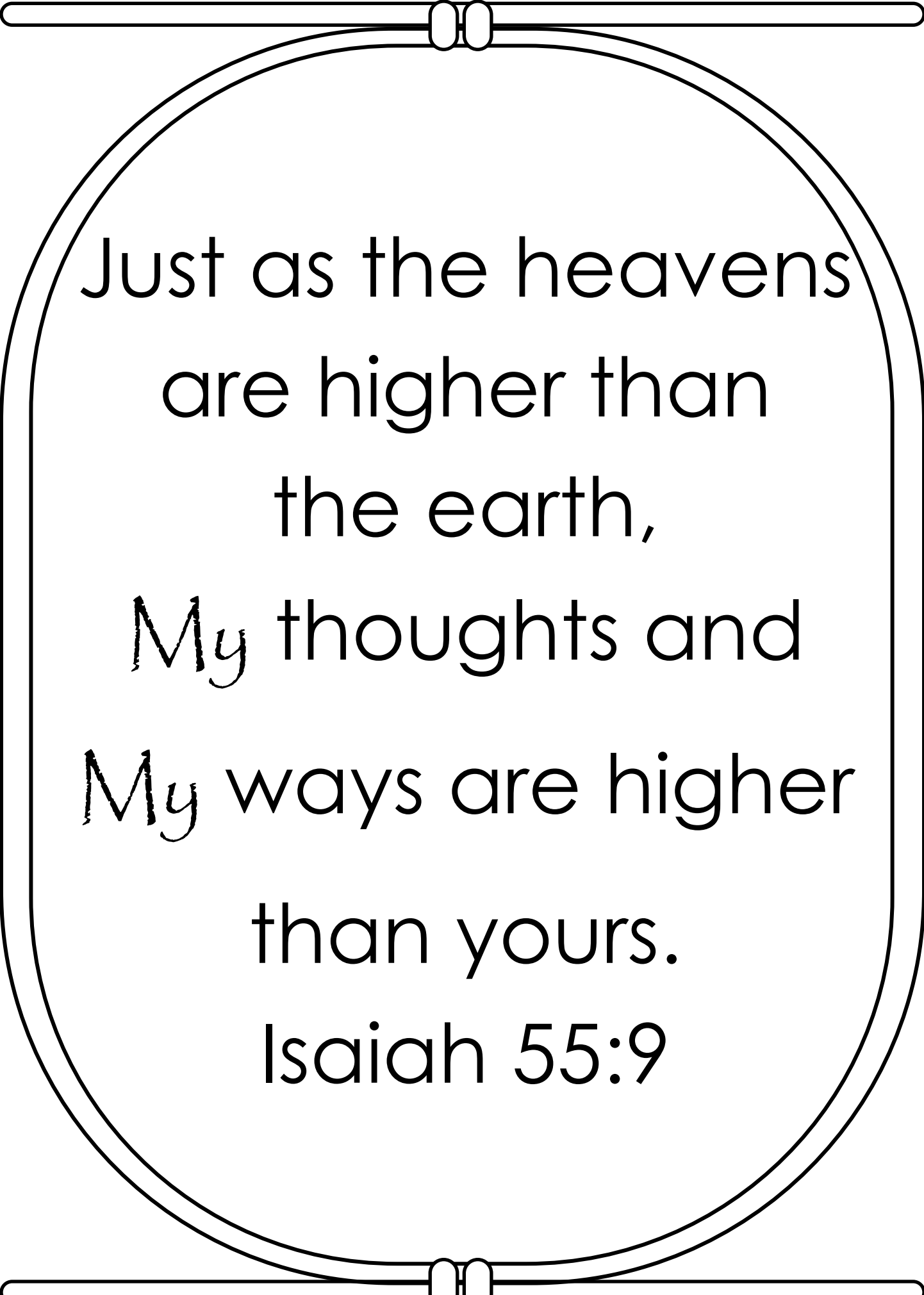
In order to keep his promise to his father to be able to travel for the burial, Joseph did two things. He had his father embalmed according to the customs of the Egyptians. This took forty days! Then there were seventy days of mourning and all of Egypt mourned with Joseph. After the time of mourning was completed, Joseph asked Pharaoh's permission to leave and bury his father in the land of Canaan. Pharaoh agreed, but when they returned from Canaan, Joseph's brothers were afraid that he would now seek revenge. They even sent a message to Joseph and offered to be his slaves! Joseph, however, replied "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. No, don't be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children." And that is exactly what Joseph did! He and his brothers continued living in Egypt. Joseph lived to the ripe old age of 110, but before he died he spoke to his brothers. He reminded them that, one day, God would take the people of Israel back to the land he promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He also made them promise to take his bones with them when they finally left Egypt. So the Egyptians embalmed Joseph and placed his body in a coffin.

Our memory verse tells us something about God. "Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, My thoughts and My ways are higher than yours." (Isaiah 55:9) If you had been planning to save your family, would you have ever had one of them sold into slavery, jailed and then promoted to second-in-command? Me either. But I sure am glad that God is the one in control, with a good plan, working everything out for good even when the circumstances aren't good! He is able to do that because his thoughts and ways are higher than yours and mine. What you and I are called to do is to trust in this amazing God and walk in His ways faithfully the way Joseph did. Have you ever given your life to God to be born again into His family? If not, let's talk. And if so, what's stopping you from stepping out in faith for the great plan and purpose God has just for you?

ACTIVITIES



- ◇ Memory Verse Activity: Print each word of the verse on a small card. Mix up the cards and encourage your students to put the cards in order.
- ◇ Make houses out of cardstock to represent the homes where Jacob and his sons lived in Egypt.
- ◇ Make mummies! Also make a sarcophagus for the mummy. Encourage your students to be creative! Jacob and Joseph were both embalmed, like the Pharaohs of Egypt.
- ◇ Give each student 15-25 paper or Styrofoam cups. Encourage them to build pyramids, beginning big at the base and smaller at the top. After your students have practiced, have them race against each other to build a pyramid. Then, have them all work together and build one giant pyramid.
- ◇ Provide pictures of Egyptian mummies. Talk about how Jacob and Joseph were embalmed.
- ◇ Provide coloring pages of Jacob and his family traveling to Egypt and Jacob blessing his sons and grandsons.
- ◇ Provide a map of Goshen where the people of Israel lived in Egypt. Also provide a map of the Cave of Machpelah where Jacob was buried and where Joseph would be buried hundreds of years later. Talk about the faith of Joseph when he asked that his bones be taken when they finally left Egypt. He trusted that God would bring them back to the promised land.

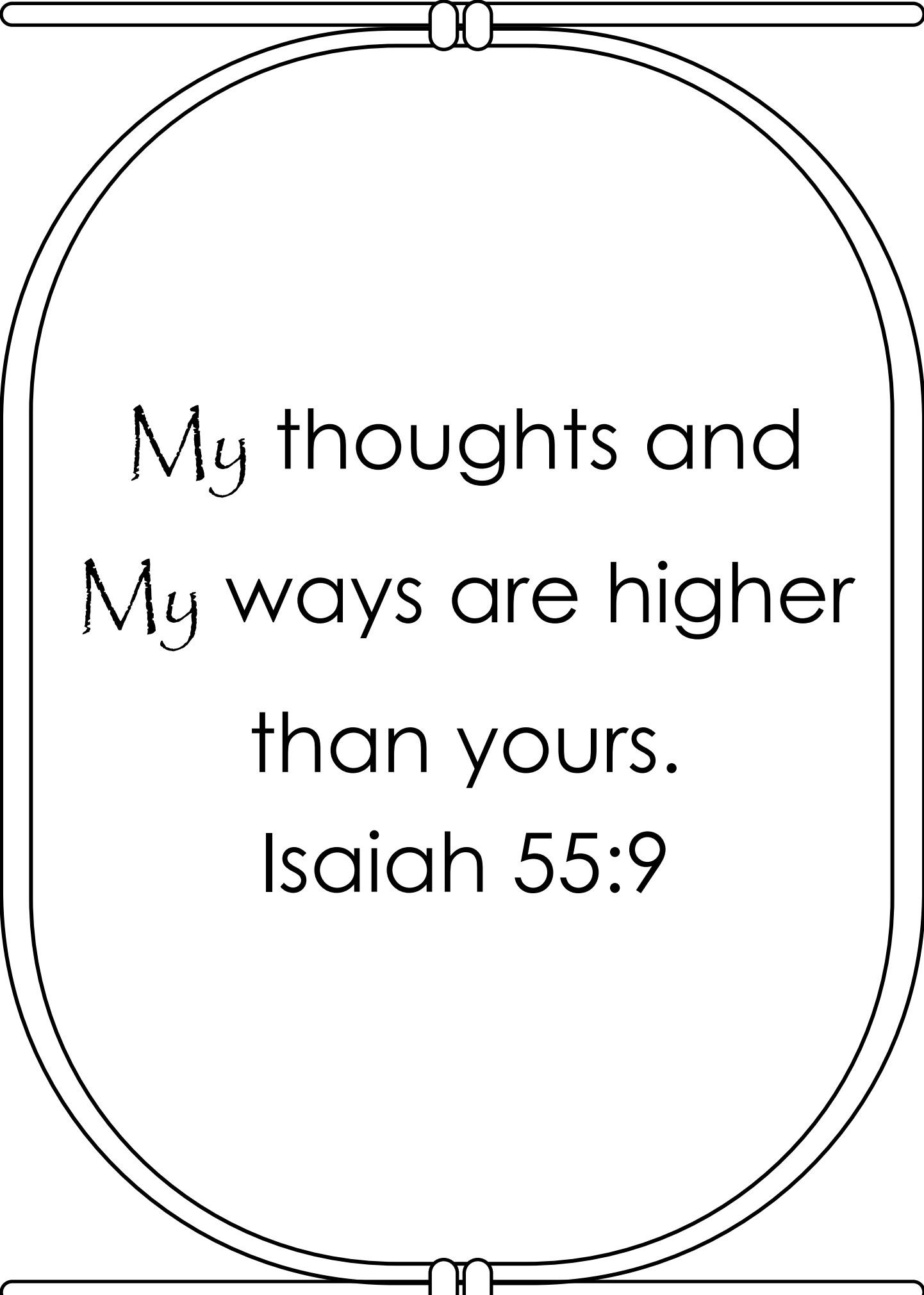


Just as the heavens
are higher than
the earth,

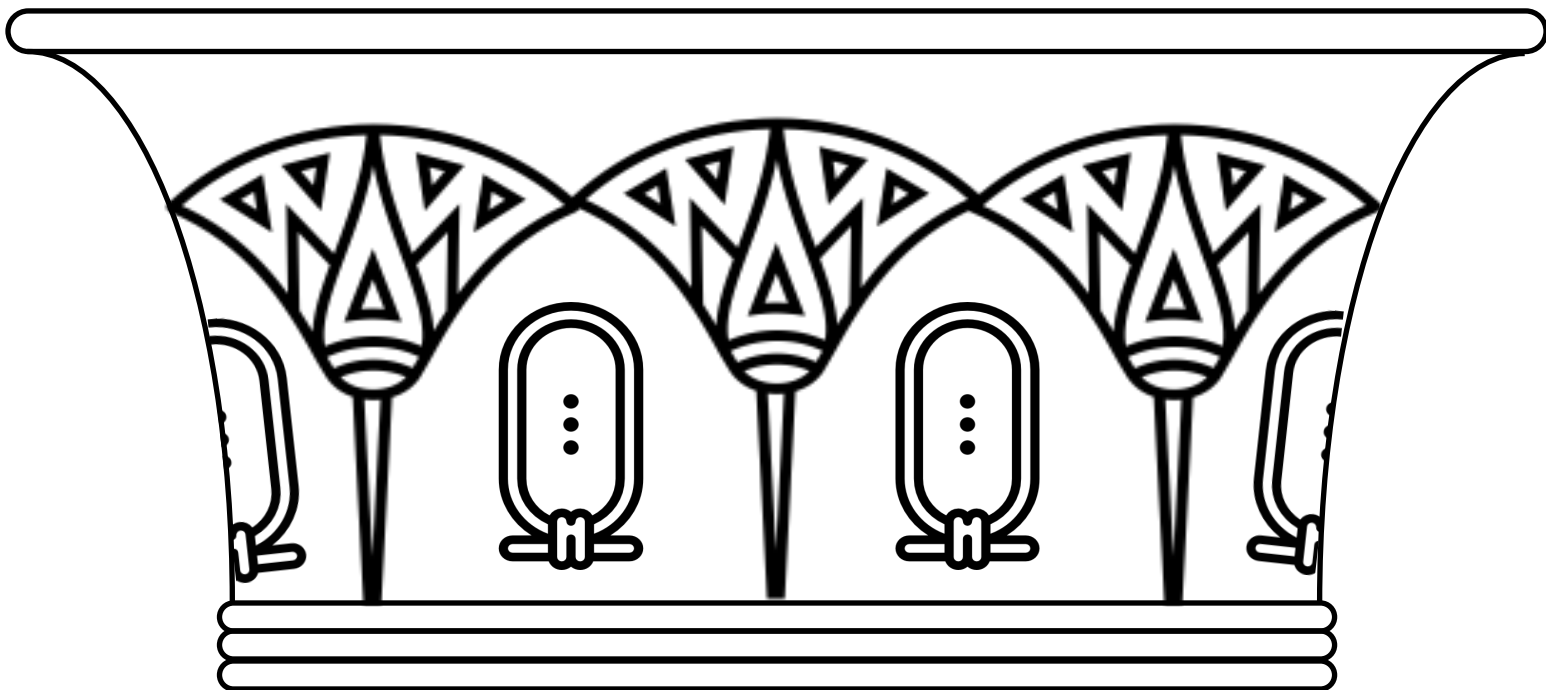
My thoughts and

My ways are higher
than yours.

Isaiah 55:9



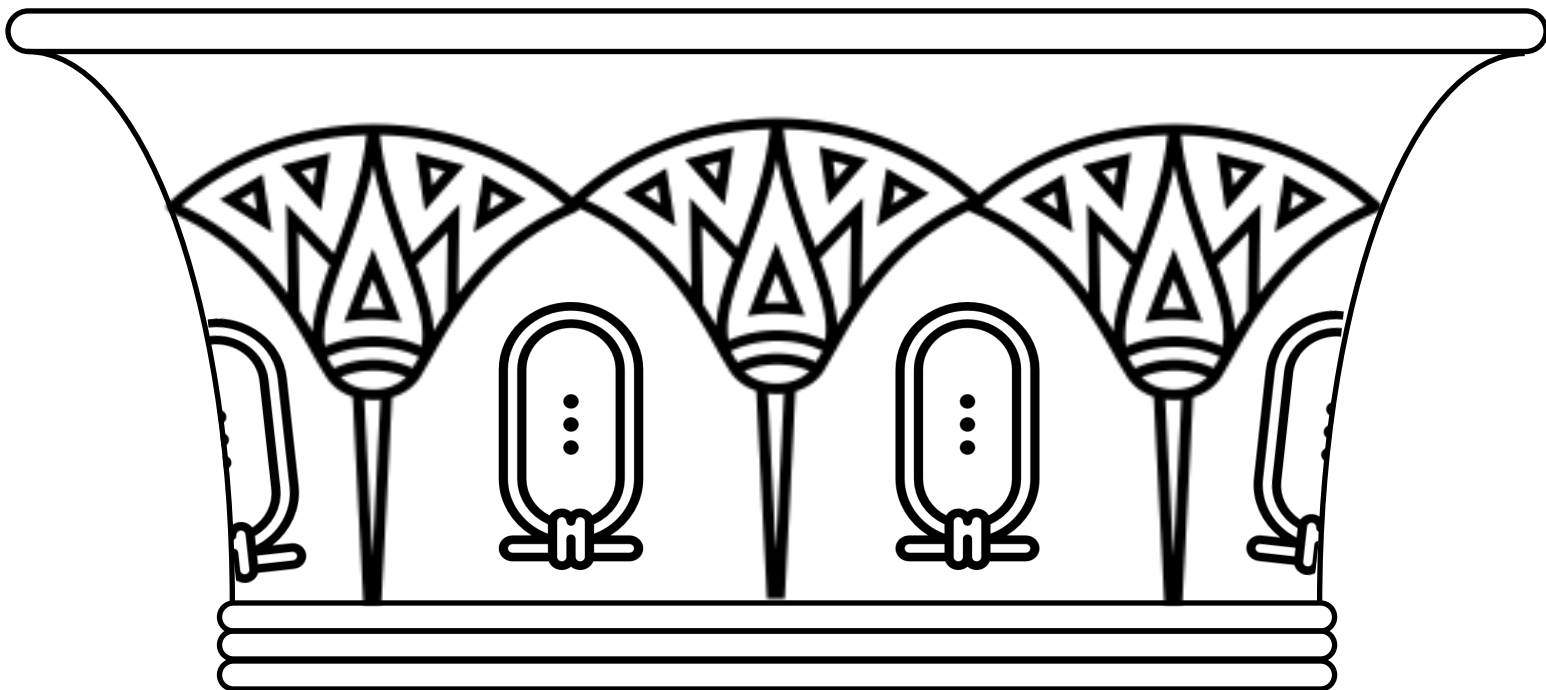
My thoughts and
My ways are higher
than yours.
Isaiah 55:9



WORD SEARCH

j	o	m	e	p	h	h	d	l	o	c	a
i	h	e	i	o	c	h	a	r	f	s	t
m	l	a	b	m	e	i	n	g	a	r	g
s	l	n	r	n	i	m	a	o	n	e	b
b	n	t	g	i	w	n	t	d	i	h	m
m	p	f	t	s	v	t	e	t	n	t	s
e	b	o	c	a	j	e	s	o	j	o	u
c	s	r	s	e	e	r	c	u	o	r	n
h	i	g	h	e	r	w	a	y	s	b	n
g	o	o	s	g	o	o	d	p	e	a	n
n	r	o	h	t	a	f	g	n	p	r	b
p	l	d	c	k	l	t	r	a	h	e	m

Jacob	Joseph	embalm
God	meant for good	higher ways



WORD SEARCH

j	o	m	e	p	h	h	d	l	o	c	a
i	h	e	i	o	c	h	a	r	f	s	t
m	l	a	b	m	e	i	n	g	a	r	g
s	l	n	r	n	i	m	a	o	n	e	b
b	n	t	g	i	w	n	t	d	i	h	m
m	p	f	t	s	v	t	e	t	n	t	s
e	b	o	c	a	j	e	s	o	j	o	u
c	s	r	s	e	e	r	c	u	o	r	n
h	i	g	h	e	r	w	a	y	s	b	n
g	o	o	s	g	o	o	d	p	e	a	n
n	r	o	h	t	a	f	g	n	p	r	b
p	l	d	c	k	l	t	r	a	h	e	m

Jacob	Joseph	embalm
God	meant for good	higher ways