Verse 15

Hosea 11:1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son.

Exodus 4:22-23 "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says Adonai, Israel is My firstborn son, and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve Me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.'"

Verse 16

Exodus 1:15-16,22 Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." ... Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."

Verse 18

Genesis 35:16-20 Then they journeyed from Bethel. When they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel went into labor, and she had hard labor. And when her labor was at its hardest, the midwife said to her, "Do not fear, for you have another son." And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name *Ben-oni*; but his father called him *Benjamin*. So Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem), and Jacob set up a pillar over her tomb. It is the pillar of Rachel's tomb, which is there to this day.

Jeremiah 31:15-17 Thus says Adonai: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more." Thus says Adonai: "Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares Adonai, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. There is hope for your future, declares Adonai, and your children shall come back to their own country."

Verse 20

Exodus 4:19 And Adonai said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead."

Verse 23

Judges 13:7 "But he said to me, 'Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite [נזיר, *nazir*] to God from the womb to the day of his death.'"

Isaiah 11:1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch [נצר, *netzer*] from his roots shall bear fruit.

Exodus 34:6-7 Adonai passed before him and proclaimed, "Adonai, Adonai, God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in *chesed* and truth, keeping *chesed* [נצר חסד, *notzer chesed*] for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

> **נצר** – in the phrase נצר חסד (*Shemot* 34:7) – comes from נצר (a bud, which protectively encloses and matures the blossom and fruit seed within it). Thus, נצר חסד in *Shemos* 34:7 means Hashem allows the good a man does (or the highest love of Hashem that he has won) to become a "bud" of blessing for all his descendants.
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