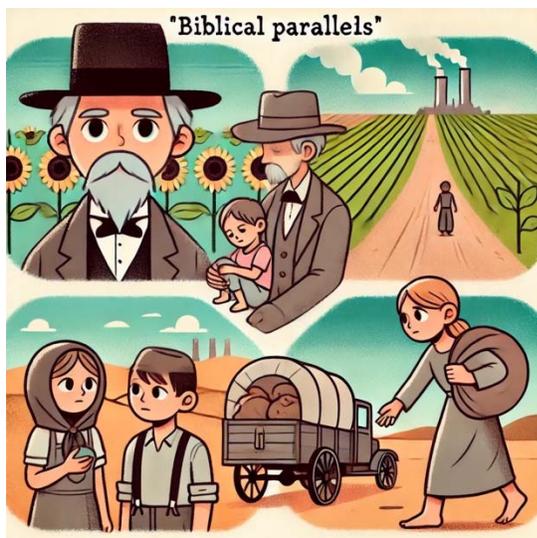


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Biblical Parallels

In *The Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck tells the story of the Joad family's difficult journey during the Great Depression. But the novel is more than just a tale of struggle—it also includes references to the Bible, helping readers understand the deeper meaning of the story. Steinbeck uses biblical allusions to show suffering, hope, and redemption.

One major biblical reference is the character of Jim Casy. His name sounds like "Jesus Christ," and, like Jesus, he is a leader who believes in helping others. Before the journey to California, Casy is a preacher, but he later gives up his church to help workers fight for fair treatment. He teaches Tom Joad that people must work together and sacrifice for the good of others. Just as Jesus was killed for his beliefs, Casy is murdered for standing up for the poor. His last words—"You don't know what you're doing"—are similar to what Jesus says on the cross.

Another biblical allusion is the Joad family's journey. Their travels from Oklahoma to California resemble the story of the Israelites in the Bible, who left Egypt to find the Promised Land. The Joads leave their home in search of a better life, just as the Israelites searched for Canaan. However, like the Israelites, they face hardships, hunger, and betrayal. Instead of a land of opportunity, they find a place where people are treated unfairly and must struggle to survive.

Steinbeck also uses biblical imagery in the final scene of the novel. Rose of Sharon, a young woman in the Joad family, loses her baby because of the poor conditions they live in. However, in an act of kindness, she helps save a starving man by feeding him with her own milk. This moment is similar to Christian ideas of sacrifice and giving to those in need. It shows that even in suffering, people can still find ways to help one another.

By including these biblical references, Steinbeck connects the struggles of the Joad family to powerful stories of suffering and hope. These allusions help readers see the novel not just as a story of hardship but as a lesson about kindness, sacrifice, and redemption.