

Acts 7:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when Jacob heard that there was corn in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first.

Analysis

Jacob's hearing of corn in Egypt (Genesis 42:1-2) demonstrates God's providential provision through previous planning. God had positioned Joseph as Egypt's administrator years earlier, preparing deliverance before the need arose. Jacob's sending 'our fathers' (the eleven brothers) initiates the family's migration, fulfilling God's prophecy to Abraham (Gen. 15:13-14). This 'first' time sets up their later return and permanent settlement.

Historical Context

Egypt's grain storage during seven abundant years created surplus for the subsequent famine years. Egypt's Nile-based irrigation made it less vulnerable to regional droughts affecting Canaan. Ancient trade networks would have spread news of available grain, reaching Jacob in Canaan. The journey from Hebron to Egypt took several weeks.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God's preparation of Joseph before the famine demonstrates His foreknowledge and provision for His people?
2. What does Jacob's immediate response to news of provision teach us about taking action on God's provision?

Interlinear Text

ἀκούσας δὲ Ἰακὼβ ὅντα σῖτά ἐν Αἰγύπτῳ

heard But when Jacob that there was corn in Egypt

G191 G1161

G2384

G5607

G4621

G1722

G125

ἐξαπέστειλεν τοὺς πατέρας ἡμῶν πρῶτον·

he sent out fathers our first

G1821

G3588

G3962

G2257

G4412

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