

# 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

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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

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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

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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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

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ἀκούσας	δὲ	Ἰακώβ	ὄντα	σῖτά	ἐν	Αἰγύπτῳ
<b>heard</b>	<b>But</b>	<b>when Jacob</b>	<b>that there was</b>	<b>corn</b>	<b>in</b>	<b>Egypt</b>
G191	G1161	G2384	G5607	G4621	G1722	G125
ἐξαπέστειλεν	τοὺς	πατέρας	ἡμῶν	πρῶτον·		
<b>he sent out</b>		<b>fathers</b>	<b>our</b>	<b>first</b>		
G1821	G3588	G3962	G2257	G4412		

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