

Acts 7:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers,

Analysis

Jacob and 'our fathers' dying in Egypt fulfilled God's prophecy that Abraham's descendants would be strangers in a foreign land (Genesis 15:13). Yet their deaths were not the end—God's covenant transcends individual lifespans, being 'the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,' the God of the living (Mark 12:26-27). The patriarchs' faith persisted through death, trusting in resurrection and ultimate covenant fulfillment.

Historical Context

Jacob died at 147 years (Genesis 47:28), having lived in Egypt seventeen years. Joseph died at 110 years (Genesis 50:26). The other brothers' deaths are not individually recorded but occurred during the 400-year Egyptian sojourn. Ancient Near Eastern practice honored the dying with burial in ancestral lands when possible.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the patriarchs' death in a foreign land teach us that God's promises often transcend our earthly lifetimes?
2. What comfort does covenant faithfulness across generations provide to believers who may not see promised blessings fulfilled in their lifetimes?

Interlinear Text

κατέβη δὲ Ἰακώβ εἰς Αἴγυπτον καὶ ἐτελεύτησεν αὐτὸς
went down **So** **Jacob** **into** **Egypt** **and** **died** **he**
G2597 G1161 G2384 G1519 G125 G2532 G5053 G846

καὶ οἱ πατέρες ἡμῶν
and **fathers** **our**
G2532 G3588 G3962 G2257

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 1:6 (Parallel theme): And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation.

Genesis 49:33 (Parallel theme): And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people.