

Acts 7:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,

Analysis

The 'time of the promise drew nigh' indicates God's perfect timing in fulfilling covenant promises. Four hundred years of Egyptian sojourn (Genesis 15:13) were approaching completion. The people's multiplication demonstrates God's faithfulness despite oppression—pressure increased as blessing increased. God's sovereign timing guarantees that promises will be fulfilled at the appointed moment, though from human perspective the wait seems long.

Historical Context

The 400/430-year Egyptian sojourn (Exodus 12:40) began as welcome settlement but transformed into slavery as Egyptians feared Hebrew population growth. Exodus 1:7 describes their multiplication as explosive: 'the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty.'

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's perfect timing in fulfilling promises encourage patient faith when fulfillment seems delayed?
2. What does Israel's multiplication under oppression teach us about God's blessing working through opposition?

Interlinear Text

Καθὼς δὲ ἤγγιζεν ὁ χρόνος τῆς ἐπαγγελίας ἣς
when But drew nigh the time of the promise which
G2531 G1161 G1448 G3588 G5550 G3588 G1860 G3739

ώμοσεν ὁ θεὸς τῷ Αβραάμ ηὕξησεν ὁ λαὸς καὶ
had sworn God to Abraham grew the people and
G3660 G3588 G2316 G11 G837 G3588 G2992 G2532

ἐπληθύνθη ἐν Αἰγύπτῳ
multiplied in Egypt
G4129 G1722 G125

Additional Cross-References

Acts 7:6 (References God): And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years.

Acts 13:17 (References God): The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it.