

Acts 7:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Till another king arose, which knew not Joseph.

Analysis

The new king 'which knew not Joseph' represents generational spiritual amnesia and the danger of forgetting God's providence. This Pharaoh's ignorance (whether literal or willful) led to oppression of God's people, demonstrating how rejection of truth produces injustice. The irony: Egypt benefited immeasurably from Joseph's wisdom, yet his memory was erased. Worldly powers quickly forget God's servants when their usefulness ends.

Historical Context

This new dynasty (likely beginning Egypt's 18th Dynasty after Hyksos expulsion, c. 1550 BC) represents political change eliminating Hebrew favor. 'Knew not Joseph' may indicate deliberate rejection of Hyksos-era history. The shift from welcomed guests to enslaved laborers illustrates political pragmatism overriding moral debt.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does worldly power's quick forgetting of God's servants warn us against seeking lasting recognition from this world?

2. What dangers exist when societies deliberately forget God's providence in their past?

Interlinear Text

ἄχρις	ὅς	ἀνέστη	βασιλεὺς	ἔτερος	ὅς	οὐκ	ἔδει	τὸν
Till	which	arose	king	another	which	not	knew	
G891	G3739	G450	G935	G2087	G3739	G3756	G1492	G3588

Ἰωσήφ

Joseph
G2501

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 1:8 (Kingdom): Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.

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