

Acts 7:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live.

Analysis

Pharaoh's 'subtil' dealings (Greek: *katasophizomai*, outwitting through cunning) reveal satanic opposition to God's covenant people. The evil treatment—forcing Hebrews to cast out infants—represents demonic attack on covenant seed, paralleling Herod's later infanticide targeting Christ. Satan consistently attacks God's promises through destroying covenant children. Yet God's purposes cannot be thwarted; Moses survived, and Israel multiplied despite genocide.

Historical Context

Exodus 1:15-22 details Pharaoh's genocidal policy: first commanding Hebrew midwives to kill male infants at birth, then ordering all Hebrew boys cast into the Nile. This combined population control with religious terrorism (the Nile was deified in Egyptian religion). Archaeological evidence shows harsh labor conditions for Semitic slaves in Egypt during this period.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Pharaoh's infanticide reveal Satan's consistent strategy of attacking covenant promises through destroying children?
2. What encouragement does God's preservation of Moses despite genocide give us when facing overwhelming opposition?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-------|---------|--------------|--------------------|-------|----------------|
| οὗτος | κατασοφισάμενος | τὸ | γένος | ἡμῶν | ἐκάκωσεν | | |
| The same | dealt subtilly | G3588 | kindred | our | and evil entreated | | |
| G3778 | G2686 | | G1085 | G2257 | G2559 | | |
| τοὺς | πατέρας | ἡμῶν | τοῦ | ποιεῖν | ἔκθετα | τὰ | βρέφη |
| G3588 | fathers | our | G3588 | so that | they cast out | G3588 | young children |
| | G3962 | G2257 | | G4160 | G1570 | | G1025 |
| αὐτῶν | εἰς | τὸ | μὴ | ζωογονεῖσθαι | | | |
| G846 | to the end | G3588 | not | live | | | |
| | G1519 | | G3361 | G2225 | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 105:25 (Parallel theme): He turned their heart to hate his people, to deal subtilly with his servants.