

Acts 7:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran,

Analysis

Stephen addresses them as 'Men, brethren, and fathers' - respectful terms despite their hostility. 'The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham' emphasizes God's initiative in revelation. The phrase 'before he dwelt in Charran' notes Abraham's obedience began before settling in Haran.

Historical Context

Genesis 11:31-12:1 records Abraham's call, which Stephen dates to Ur, before Haran. Some see two calls; Stephen emphasizes God's sovereign initiative in choosing Abraham.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God's initiative in calling Abraham inform your understanding of salvation?
2. What does 'the God of glory' reveal about who initiated the covenant?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	ἔφη	Ἄνδρες	ἀδελφοὶ	καὶ	πατρί	ἀκούσατε	Ὁ
G3588	And	he said	Men	brethren	and	father	hearken	G3588
	G1161	G5346	G435	G80	G2532	G3962	G191	
θεὸς	τῆς	δόξης	ὤφθη	τῷ	πατρί	ἡμῶν	Ἀβραὰμ	
The God	G3588	of glory	appeared	G3588	father	unto our	Abraham	
G2316		G1391	G3700		G3962	G2257	G11	
ὄντι	ἐν	τῇ	Μεσοποταμίᾳ	πρὶν	ἢ	κατοικῆσαι		
when he was	in	G3588	Mesopotamia	before	G2228	he dwelt		
G5607	G1722		G3318	G4250		G2730		
αὐτὸν	ἐν	Χαρράν						
G846	in	Charran						
	G1722	G5488						

Additional Cross-References

Acts 22:1 (Parallel theme): Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defence which I make now unto you.

Genesis 11:31 (Parallel theme): And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there.

Psalms 29:3 (Glory): The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters.

Hebrews 1:3 (Glory): Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Nehemiah 9:7 (References God): Thou art the LORD the God, who didst choose Abram, and broughtest him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gavest him the name of Abraham;

John 1:14 (Glory): And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Genesis 15:7 (Parallel theme): And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.

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