

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

Psalm 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

ο δὲ ἔφη Ἄνδρες ἀδελφοὶ καὶ πατρὶ ἀκούσατε Ο
G3588 And he said Men brethren and father hearken G3588
G1161 G5346 G435 G80 G2532 G3962 G191
θεὸς τῆς δόξης ὥφθη τῷ πατρὶ ἡμῶν Ἀβραὰμ
The God G3588 of glory appeared father unto our Abraham
G2316 G1391 G3700 G3588 G3962 G2257 G11
οὗτι ἐν τῇ Μεσοποταμίᾳ πρὶν ἦ 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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