

Acts 7:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian:

Analysis

Moses' defense of his Hebrew brother demonstrates early signs of his calling as deliverer, yet his fleshly zeal preceded God's timing. The Reformed understanding emphasizes that even our righteous acts apart from divine commission can miss God's purposes. Moses would spend forty years in the wilderness before God's proper call came (Acts 7:30), illustrating that human initiative, even with good intentions, must yield to divine sovereignty and timing.

Historical Context

This event from Exodus 2:11-12 occurred when Moses was forty years old (Acts 7:23), during Egypt's New Kingdom period. Moses had been raised with full Egyptian education and privilege, creating internal tension between his Hebrew identity and Egyptian upbringing.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Moses' premature action warn against acting on God's behalf without His clear calling?
2. What does forty years of waiting teach us about God's patient preparation of His servants?
3. In what areas might you be running ahead of God's timing despite good intentions?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἰδών	τινα	ἀδικούμενον	ήμύνατο	καὶ	ἐποίησεν	
And	seeing	one	of them suffer wrong	he defended	And		G4160
G2532	G1492	G5100	G91	G292	G2532		
ἐκδίκησιν	τῷ	καταπονουμένῳ	πατάξας	τὸν	Αἰγύπτιον		
avenged	G3588	him that was oppressed	and smote	G3588	the Egyptian		
G1557		G2669	G3960		G124		

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