

Acts 7:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But he that did his neighbour wrong thrust him away, saying,
Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us?

Analysis

The wrongdoer's rejection of Moses' authority ('Who made you a ruler and judge?') reveals humanity's natural rebellion against God-appointed leadership. This question would be ironically answered forty years later when God Himself appointed Moses at the burning bush. Stephen's speech emphasizes Israel's pattern of rejecting God's chosen leaders - Moses, the prophets, and ultimately Jesus Christ. The Reformed view sees total depravity manifested in mankind's resistance to divine authority, even when exercised for their deliverance.

Historical Context

This confrontation forced Moses to flee Egypt, becoming a fugitive. The rejection by his own people, whom he sought to help, must have been particularly bitter, yet it was part of God's sovereign preparation.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does this question anticipate Israel's later rejection of judges, prophets, and Christ?
2. What does human rejection of God-appointed authority reveal about the fallen heart?
3. How should we respond when our service for others meets with ingratitude or rejection?

Interlinear Text

ό	δὲ	ἀδικῶν	τὸν	πλησίον	ἀπώσατο	αὐτὸν	εἰπών
G3588	But	he that did	G3588	his neighbour			
	G1161	G91		G4139		G683	G2036
Τίς	σε	κατέστησεν	ἄρχοντα	καὶ	δικαστὴν	ἐφ'	ἡμᾶς
Who	thee	made	a ruler	and	a judge	over	us
G5101	G4571	G2525	G758	G2532	G1348	G1909	G2248

Additional Cross-References

Acts 7:35 (Judgment): This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush.

Luke 12:14 (Judgment): And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?