

Acts 7:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years.

Analysis

God prophesied that Abraham's seed would be 'strangers in a land that is not theirs' for four hundred years. The prediction of affliction before inheritance shows God's plan includes suffering before glory. Divine foreknowledge of difficulty doesn't prevent but purposes through it.

Historical Context

The 400 years (round number; Exodus 12:40 says 430) of Egyptian bondage fulfilled this prophecy. Stephen reminds his audience that suffering preceded Israel's possession of the land.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does knowing God foresees and purposes through suffering affect your response to hardship?

2. What does this teach about the relationship between divine promise and present difficulty?

Interlinear Text

ἐλάλησεν δὲ οὕτως ὁ θεὸς ὅτι ἔσται τὸ σπέρμα
spake And on this wise G3588 God That should G3588 seed
G2980 G1161 G3779 G2316 G3754 G2071 G4690

αὐτὸς πάροικον ἐν γῇ ἀλλοτρίᾳ καὶ δουλώσουσιν αὐτὸς
his sojourn in land a strange and into bondage his
G846 G3941 G1722 G1093 G245 G2532 G1402 G846

καὶ κακώσουσιν ἔτη τετρακόσια.
and entreat them evil years four hundred
G2532 G2559 G2094 G5071

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 15:13 (Parallel theme): And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not their's, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;

Galatians 3:17 (References God): And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.