

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
αὐτὸ	πάροικον	ἐν	γῇ	ἀλλοτρίᾳ	καὶ	δουλώσουσιν	αὐτὸ	
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.