

Acts 7:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt:
but God was with him,

Analysis

The patriarchs 'moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt' - yet 'God was with him.' Human sin couldn't thwart divine purpose. Stephen highlights the pattern: Israel's leaders rejected God's chosen deliverer, as they now rejected Jesus.

Historical Context

Joseph's brothers' jealousy (Genesis 37) led to his Egyptian slavery. Yet this apparent tragedy positioned him for Israel's later preservation during famine.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Joseph's story illustrate God's sovereignty over human evil?
2. What pattern of rejecting deliverers does Stephen trace through Israel's history?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	οἱ	πατριάρχαι	ζηλώσαντες	τὸν	Ἰωσήφ	ἀπέδοντο
And	G3588	the patriarchs	moved with envy	G3588	Joseph	sold
G2532		G3966	G2206		G2501	G591
εἰς	Αἴγυπτον·	καὶ	ἦν	ὁ	θεὸς	μετ' αὐτοῦ
into	Egypt	And	was	G3588	God	with him
G1519	G125	G2532	G2258		G2316	G3326 G846

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 39:2 (References Egypt): And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

Psalms 105:17 (Parallel theme): He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant:

Isaiah 43:2 (Parallel theme): When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Genesis 45:4 (References Egypt): And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.

Isaiah 41:10 (References God): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Matthew 27:18 (Parallel theme): For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

Genesis 39:5 (References Egypt): And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.

