

# Deuteronomy 4:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Or hath God assayed to go and take him a nation from the midst of another nation, by temptations, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand, and by a stretched out arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?

## Analysis

**Or hath God assayed to go and take him a nation from the midst of another nation, by temptations, by signs, and by wonders...**

Moses catalogues seven ways God delivered Israel, each term highlighting a different aspect of divine power. Bemassot (בְּמִסּוֹת, 'temptations/trials') refers to the testing of Egypt through plagues. Be'otot (בְּאֹתֹת, 'signs') and bemophetim (בְּמוֹפְתִים, 'wonders') describe miraculous attestation. Bemilchamah (בְּמִלְחָמָה, 'war') recalls the conflict with Pharaoh's army. Beyad chazakah (בְּיַד חִזְקָה, 'mighty hand') and bizeroa netuyah (בְּזַרְעוֹנָה נְטוּיָה, 'stretched out arm') are anthropomorphic expressions of divine power. Uvemora'im gedolim (עֲמֹדִים גָּדוֹלִים, 'great terrors') evokes the fear that fell upon Egypt.

The unique phrase laqachat lo goy miqqerev goy (לִקְחַת לוֹ גּוֹי מִקְרֵב גּוֹי), 'to take a nation from within another nation') describes an extraction unprecedented in history. Israel was not merely liberated from foreign soil but surgically removed from Egypt's very midst. No human military operation accomplishes this; only divine intervention explains Israel's existence.

The final phrase le'enekha (לְעֵינֶךָ), 'before your eyes') grounds everything in

eyewitness testimony. The audience includes those who witnessed these events as children. Moses appeals to living memory, not ancient legend. The Exodus is historical fact, not mythological speculation.

## Historical Context

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Moses recounts the unprecedented Exodus deliverance with its signs, wonders, mighty hand, and outstretched arm. These events occurred approximately 40 years earlier (c. 1446 BC in early dating), including the ten plagues, Red Sea crossing, and wilderness provisions. No other nation could claim such dramatic divine intervention in their national origin.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the comprehensive nature of God's deliverance of Israel—using every means necessary—encourage you regarding His commitment to His people?
2. What 'mighty acts' of God in your own life or in church history strengthen your confidence in His power to deliver?

## Interlinear Text

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גָּוֹן לֹא לְקַח מֵת לְבָוֹא אֱלֹהִים מִבְּנֵי הָאָרֶץ  
H176 assayed H5254 Or hath God H430 to go H935 and take H3947 H0 him a nation H1471

וּבְמִזְרָחִים יְמִינָה מִקְרָב גָּוֹן בְּמִזְרָחִים בְּאֶתְתְּמִימָן  
from the midst H7130 him a nation H1471 by temptations H4531 by signs H226 and by wonders H4159

גָּוֹן הַמְּלֹאָת וְבְּמִלְחָמָה וְבְּיָד וְבְּזָרָע וְעַל סִקְקָה  
and by war H4421 hand H3027 and by a mighty H2389 arm H2220 and by a stretched out H5186

לְקַח מֵעֶשֶׂת הַאֲשֶׁר בְּכָל גָּדוֹל יְמִינָה וּבְמִזְרָחִים  
terrors H4172 and by great H1419 H3605 H834 did H6213 H0

לְעִינֵיכֶם בְּמִצְבָּה יְמִינָה אֱלֹהִים מִבְּנֵי הָאָרֶץ  
according to all that the LORD H3068 Or hath God H430 for you in Egypt H4714 before your eyes H5869

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 26:8** (References Lord): And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders:

**Exodus 6:6** (References Lord): Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:

**Deuteronomy 5:15** (References God): And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.

**Deuteronomy 7:19** (References God): The great temptations which thine eyes saw, and the signs, and the wonders, and the mighty hand, and the stretched out arm, whereby the LORD thy God brought thee out: so shall the LORD thy God do unto all the people of whom thou art afraid.

**Jeremiah 32:21** (References Egypt): And hast brought forth thy people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs, and with wonders, and with a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with great terror;

**Deuteronomy 6:21** (References Lord): Then thou shalt say unto thy son, We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand:

**Exodus 13:3** (References Lord): And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten.

**Deuteronomy 34:12** (Parallel theme): And in all that mighty hand, and in all the great terror which Moses shewed in the sight of all Israel.

**Exodus 3:10** (References Egypt): Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

**Exodus 10:7** (References God): And Pharaoh's servants said unto him, How long shall this man be a snare unto us? let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God: knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed?