



Acts 7:9-16

⁹ “Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him ¹⁰ and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt. So, Pharaoh made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace.

¹¹ “Then a famine struck all Egypt and Canaan, bringing great suffering, and our ancestors could not find food. ¹² When Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our forefathers on their first visit. ¹³ On their second visit, Joseph told his brothers who he was, and Pharaoh learned about Joseph’s family. ¹⁴ After this, Joseph sent for his father Jacob and his whole family, seventy-five in all. ¹⁵ Then Jacob went down to Egypt, where he and our ancestors died. ¹⁶ Their bodies were brought back to Shechem and placed in the tomb that Abraham had bought from the sons of Hamor at Shechem for a certain sum of money.

- As Stephen reviews the history of the Israelites in Egypt, we see that when trauma happens to his people, God will follow them wherever they might be taken.
- Joseph was sold by his own brothers into Egyptian slavery, but God proved that humans cannot foil the will of God. Not only did God rescue Joseph, but Joseph managed to become a ruler of Egypt.
- When famine came to Israel, Joseph was well set up to help. Isn't it great that we have a nomadic God who meets us wherever we are?
- ❖ In 7:9-10, what did Stephen say about Joseph and the patriarchs and what was the response of the people in 7:54-60?
- ❖ Name the ways that God took Joseph's bad situations and turned them into good (Genesis 39:1-23).
- ❖ Can you think of a time that someone intended evil against you, but God turned it into good?

Acts 7:17-22

¹⁷ “As the time drew near for God to fulfill his promise to Abraham, the number of our people in Egypt had greatly increased. ¹⁸ Then ‘a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt.’ ¹⁹ He dealt treacherously with our people and oppressed our ancestors by forcing them to throw out their newborn babies so that they would die.

²⁰ “At that time Moses was born, and he was no ordinary child. For three months he was cared for by his family. ²¹ When he was placed outside, Pharaoh’s daughter took him and brought him up as her own son. ²² Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.

- Fear and jealousy is a terrible thing. The Jewish families were multiplying much faster than the Egyptians, so Egypt felt the need to use their military might to try and stop this progression.
- Fortunately, God never forgets his people! He gave the midwives the ability to save many of the children (Exodus 1:15-21), one of whom God would raise up to save his people. Once again, God used evil for good. Moses was intended to die, but instead, God worked it so that he would be raised in Pharaoh's own household and known as a son of Pharaoh's daughter!
- Stephen is setting the stage for the idea that the Jewish leaders have many similarities to the fearful and jealous Egyptians. We should beware when we try to foil God's plans!
- ❖ How does the rise of a new king in 7:18, who did not know Joseph, illustrate the importance of God's sovereignty and how does this event connect to the Israelites' eventual deliverance?
- ❖ What lessons can we learn from Israel's experience under a new king in Egypt?
- ❖ What does the description of Moses as "no ordinary child" mean in this context of 7:20? <https://biblehub.com/greek/791.htm>
- ❖ Stephen states Moses was "mighty in words" (Acts 7:22), but Exodus 4:10 depicts Moses as slow of speech. How do we reconcile these descriptions?
- ❖ How can we apply the lessons from Moses' early life to our own lives? For example, how do we respond when we feel inadequate or unprepared, as Moses initially did?

Acts 7:23-29

²³ “When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his own people, the Israelites. ²⁴ He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. ²⁵ Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not. ²⁶ The next day Moses came upon two Israelites who were fighting. He tried to reconcile them by saying, ‘Men, you are brothers; why do you want to hurt each other?’

²⁷ “But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses aside and said, ‘Who made you ruler and judge over us? ²⁸ Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?’ ²⁹ When Moses heard this, he fled to Midian, where he settled as a foreigner and had two sons.

- Even though Moses was raised in Pharaoh's household, he did not forget his roots. The evil he saw being wielded against the Israelites was painful to his soul.
- One day, he killed an Egyptian for mistreating one of his fellow Israelites. Rather than showing gratitude for salvation and asking Moses to do more, the Israelites caused Moses to flee from Pharaoh.
- This is a striking parallel with the Jewish leader's inability to recognize the promised Messiah. God wants to rescue his people, but sometimes, we won't let Him.
- ❖ What does the text reveal about Moses' identity and purpose when he was 40 years old?
- ❖ How did Moses' exile in Midian prepare him for his future role?
- ❖ How does Stephen use the story of Moses to make his defense?
- ❖ What can we learn about timing from the story of Moses?

Acts 7:30-43

³⁰ “After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush in the desert near Mount Sinai. ³¹ When he saw this, he was amazed at the sight. As he went over to get a closer look, he heard the Lord say: ³² ‘I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.’ Moses trembled with fear and did not dare to look. ³³ “Then the Lord said to him, ‘Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. ³⁴ I have indeed seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groaning and have come down to set them free. Now come, I will send you back to Egypt.’ ³⁵ “This is the same Moses they had rejected with the words, ‘Who made you ruler and judge?’ He was sent to be their ruler and deliverer by God himself, through the angel who appeared to him in the bush. ³⁶ He led them out of Egypt and performed wonders and signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea and for forty years in the wilderness. ³⁷ “This is the Moses who told the Israelites, ‘God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your own people.’ ³⁸ He was in the assembly in the wilderness, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our ancestors; and he received living words to pass on to us. ³⁹ “But our ancestors refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and, in their hearts, turned back to Egypt. ⁴⁰ They told Aaron, ‘Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who led us out of Egypt—we don’t know what has happened to him!’ ⁴¹ That was the time they made an idol in the form of a calf. They brought sacrifices to it and reveled in what their own hands had made. ⁴² But God turned away from them and gave them over to the worship of the sun, moon and stars. This agrees with what is written in the book of the prophets: “‘Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings forty years in the wilderness, people of Israel? ⁴³ You have taken up the tabernacle of Molek and the star of your god Rephan, the idols you made to worship. Therefore, I will send you into exile’ beyond Babylon.