

Notes on the Greek New Testament Day 160 – June 9th – Acts 7:1-29

Works frequently referenced in these notes on Acts

Bruce, FF, *The Acts of the Apostles*, London, 2nd ed. 1952

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Acts 7:1

Εἶπεν δὲ ὁ ἀρχιερεύς· Εἰ ταῦτα οὕτως ἔχει;
ἀρχιερεὺς, εὐς m high priest, member of
high priestly family
Εἰ ταῦτα οὕτως ἔχει 'are these things so?'

Verses 2ff. – Stephen's Speech

The themes of Stephen's speech are:

- i) God cannot be tied down to any particular land or place. His people are closest to him when they are a 'pilgrim people'.
- ii) The OT portrays God's people constantly turning away from him. This rebellion has reached its climax in the rejection of Christ, both in his crucifixion and now in the continuing opposition of the Jewish leaders to the gospel.
- iii) God fulfils his word and promises despite the failures of his people.

Verse 2

ὁ δὲ ἔφη· Ἄνδρες ἀδελφοὶ καὶ πατέρες,
ἀκούσατε· Ὁ θεὸς τῆς δόξης ὤφθη τῷ πατρὶ
ἡμῶν Ἀβραάμ ὄντι ἐν τῇ Μεσοποταμίᾳ πρὶν ἢ
κατοικῆσαι αὐτὸν ἐν Χαρράν,

ἔφη Verb, imperf act ind, 3s φημι say
δοξα, ης f glory

Ὁ θεὸς τῆς δόξης see Ps 29:3 (LXX 28).

ὤφθη Verb, aor pass indic, 3s ὄραω trans
see; pass. appear

πρὶν and πρὶν ἢ before
κατοικεω live, settle, inhabit
Χαρραν f Haran

Compare Gen 15:7 with Gen 11:31-12:5.

Verse 3

καὶ εἶπεν πρὸς αὐτόν· Ἐξέλθε ἐκ τῆς γῆς σου
καὶ ἐκ τῆς συγγενείας σου, καὶ δεῦρο εἰς τὴν
γῆν ἣν ἄν σοι δείξω.

Quotation from Gen 12:1.

συγγενεια, ας f kindred, relatives
δεῦρο adv. come, come here

The adverb δεῦρο is commonly used as a verb,
cf. v.34 and the plural formation δευτε Mt
11:28 etc.

δείξω Verb, fut act indic, 3s δεικνυμι
show, reveal

Verse 4

τότε ἐξελθὼν ἐκ γῆς Χαλδαίων κατόκησεν ἐν
Χαρράν. κάκειθεν μετὰ τὸ ἀποθανεῖν τὸν
πατέρα αὐτοῦ μετόκισεν αὐτὸν εἰς τὴν γῆν
ταύτην εἰς ἣν ὑμεῖς νῦν κατοικεῖτε,

τοτε then, at that time
ἐξελθων Verb, aor act ptc, nom m s
ἐξερχομαι

"In Gen 11:27-12:5 Terah is represented as the
leader of the expedition from Ur to Haran.
Terah would be the recognised leader while he
lived, even though Abraham was the moving
spirit." Bruce.

κάκειθεν and from there – formed from
καὶ ἐκειθεν
ἀποθανειν aor infin ἀποθνησκω die
μετοικίζω make to move, send off

Understand ὁ θεος as subject.

Verse 5

καὶ οὐκ ἔδωκεν αὐτῷ κληρονομίαν ἐν αὐτῇ
οὐδὲ βῆμα ποδός, καὶ ἐπηγγείλατο δοῦναι
αὐτῷ εἰς κατάσχεσιν αὐτὴν καὶ τῷ σπέρματι
αὐτοῦ μετ' αὐτόν, οὐκ ὄντος αὐτῷ τέκνου.

ἔδωκεν Verb, aor act indic, 3s δίδωμι
κληρονομια, ας f inheritance, what is
promised

βημα, τος n judicial bench; β. ποδος
space enough for a foot

The wording here reflects Dt 2:5

ἐπηγγείλατο Verb, aor midd dep indic, 3s
ἐπαγγελλομαι promise, profess, claim
δοῦναι verb, aor act infin δίδωμι
κατάσχεσις, εὐς f possession, taking
possession

σπερμα, τος n seed, offspring
τεκνον, ου n child; pl descendants

The quotation here is from Gen 17:8, cf. Gen
48:4; Dt 32:49.

Verse 6

ἐλάλησεν δὲ οὕτως ὁ θεὸς ὅτι ἔσται τὸ σπέρμα αὐτοῦ πάροικον ἐν γῆ ἄλλοτρία, καὶ δουλώσουσιν αὐτὸ καὶ κακώσουσιν ἔτη τετρακόσια·

οὕτως adv. thus

ἔσται Verb, fut indic, 2 s εἰμι

Quotation from Gen 15:13,14.

παροικος, ου m stranger, exile
 ἄλλοτριος, α, ον belonging to another
 δουλωσουσιν Verb, fut act indic, 3 pl
 δουλωω enslave, make (someone) a slave

κακωσουσιν Verb, fut act indic, 3 pl κακωω

treat badly, be cruel to,

ἔτη Noun, nom & acc pl ἔτος, ους n year

τετρακοσιοι, αι, α four hundred

Verse 7

καὶ τὸ ἔθνος ᾧ ἐὰν δουλεύουσιν κρινῶ ἐγώ, ὁ θεὸς εἶπεν, καὶ μετὰ ταῦτα ἐξελεύσονται καὶ λατρεύουσίν μοι ἐν τῷ τόπῳ τούτῳ.

ἔθνος, ους n nation, people

κρινῶ Verb, fut act indic, 1 s κρινω judge

ἐξελεύσονται Verb, fut midd dep indic, 3 pl

ἐξερχομαι

λατρευω serve, worship

See Ex 3:12. The place referred to in Exodus was Sinai. Here Stephen applies it to Jerusalem as the place of God's dwelling with his people.

Verse 8

καὶ ἔδωκεν αὐτῷ διαθήκην περιτομῆς· καὶ οὕτως ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἰσαὰκ καὶ περιέτεμεν αὐτὸν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ ὀγδόῃ, καὶ Ἰσαὰκ τὸν Ἰακώβ, καὶ Ἰακώβ τοὺς δώδεκα πατριάρχας.

διαθηκη, ης covenant, will, testament

περιτομη, ης f circumcision

See Gen 17:10.

οὕτως Bruce suggests here means 'in this situation' i.e. "thus, while there was still no holy place, all the essential conditions for the religion of Israel were fulfilled."

γενναω be father of, bear, give birth to;

pass be born, cause

περιέτεμεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s περιτεμνω

circumcise

ὀγδοος, η, ον eighth

Cf. Gen 21:4.

δώδεκα twelve

πατριαρχης, ου m patriarch (one of the noted ancestors of the Jewish nation)

Verse 9

Καὶ οἱ πατριάρχαι ζηλώσαντες τὸν Ἰωσήφ ἀπέδοντο εἰς Αἴγυπτον· καὶ ἦν ὁ θεὸς μετ' αὐτοῦ,

ζηλωω be jealous of

ἀπέδοντο Verb, aor midd indic, 3 pl

ἀποδοιδωμι give, pay; midd sell

Cf. Gen 37:11; 45:4.

καὶ ἦν ὁ θεὸς μετ' αὐτοῦ cf. Gen 39:2,3,21. God was with Joseph in Egypt (without Jerusalem and Temple) as he had been with Abraham in Mesopotamia.

Verse 10

καὶ ἐξείλατο αὐτὸν ἐκ πασῶν τῶν θλίψεων αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἔδωκεν αὐτῷ χάριν καὶ σοφίαν ἐναντίον Φαραῶ βασιλέως Αἰγύπτου, καὶ κατέστησεν αὐτὸν ἡγούμενον ἐπ' Αἴγυπτον καὶ ὅλον τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ.

ἐξείλατο Verb, aor midd indic, 3 s ἐξαιρεω

pull out, midd rescue, deliver, save

θλιψις, εως f trouble, suffering

ἔδωκεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s διδωμι

Cf. Gen 39:21.

σοφια, ας f wisdom

ἐναντιον before, in the judgement of

βασιλευς, εως m king

Cf. Gen 41:46. The first part of the verse relates in a matter-of-fact way the history of many years. This *is* what God did. But it may not have *appeared* like this to Joseph (καὶ ἐξείλατο αὐτὸν ἐκ πασῶν τῶν θλίψεων αὐτοῦ) while he languished seemingly forgotten in prison. We need a larger perspective when we are tempted to think that God is not fulfilling the promises of his word in his dealings with us.

καθιστημι put in charge, appoint

ἡγεομαι think, consider; lead, rule (ὁ ἡ.

leader, ruler)

Cf. Gen 41:40f.,43; 45:8.

Verse 11

ἦλθεν δὲ λιμὸς ἐφ' ὅλην τὴν Αἴγυπτον καὶ Χανάαν καὶ θλίψις μεγάλη, καὶ οὐχ ἠῦρισκον χορτάσματα οἱ πατέρες ἡμῶν·

λιμος, ου m & f famine, hunger

Cf. Gen 41:54ff.; 42:5.

μεγας, μεγαλη, μεγα large, great

χορτασμα, τος n food

Verse 12

ἀκούσας δὲ Ἰακώβ ὄντα σιτία εἰς Αἴγυπτον ἐξαπέστειλεν τοὺς πατέρας ἡμῶν πρῶτον·

σιτιον, ου n grain; pl food

Cf. Gen 42:1f.

ἐξαπέστειλεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s
ἐξαποστελλω send out
πρωτον adv first, first of all

Verse 13

καὶ ἐν τῷ δευτέρῳ ἀνεγνωρίσθη Ἰωσήφ τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς αὐτοῦ, καὶ φανερόν ἐγένετο τῷ Φαραὼ τὸ γένος Ἰωσήφ.

δευτερος, α, ον second
ἀνεγνωρίσθη Verb, aor pass indic, 3 s
ἀναγνωρίζομαι make oneself known (to someone) again

ἀναγνωσκω = distinguish between, know accurately. It is commonly used in the NT in its secondary sense 'read'. Its use here in some MSS (following the LXX of Gen 45:1) is in its primary sense. The aorist passive means, 'showed plainly who he was'.

φανερος, α, ον known, evident, plain
γενος, ους n family

Verse 14

ἀποστείλας δὲ Ἰωσήφ μετεκαλέσατο Ἰακώβ τὸν πατέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ πᾶσαν τὴν συγγένειαν ἐν ψυχαῖς ἑβδομήκοντα πέντε,

μετακαλεομαι send for, summon, invite
συγγενεια, ας f kindred, relatives
ψυχη, ης f 'soul', living being, person
ἑβδομηκοντα seventy
πεντε (indeclinable) five

"The MT of Gen 46:27; Ex 1:5; Dt 10:22 says seventy persons (including Jacob, and Joseph and his two sons); the LXX of Gen 46:27 and Ex 1:5 says seventy-five persons, omitting Jacob and Joseph, but giving Joseph *nine* sons, instead of the two of MT (Gen 46:27)." Bruce.

Verse 15

καὶ κατέβη Ἰακώβ εἰς Αἴγυπτον. καὶ ἐτελεύτησεν αὐτὸς καὶ οἱ πατέρες ἡμῶν,

καταβαινω come or go down, descend
τελευταω die

Cf. Gen 49:33; Ex 1:6.

Verse 16

καὶ μετετέθησαν εἰς Συχέμ καὶ ἐτέθησαν ἐν τῷ μνήματι ᾧ ὠνήσατο Ἀβραὰμ τιμῆς ἀργυρίου παρὰ τῶν υἱῶν Ἐμμώρ ἐν Συχέμ.

μετετέθησαν Verb, aor pass indic, 3 pl
μετατιθημι remove, take back
Συχεμ Shechem
ἐτέθησαν Verb, aor pass indic, 3 pl τιθημι
place
μνημα, τος f tomb, grave
ὠνεομαι buy, purchase
τιμη, ης f price

ἀργυριον, ου n silver coin, money, silver
Ἐμμωρ m Hamor

"Jacob was buried at Hebron, in the cave of Machpelah, which Abraham had bought for 400 silver shekels from Ephron the Hittite (Gen. 23:16; 49:29ff.; 50:13). Joseph was buried at Shechem, in the piece of ground which Jacob had bought for 100 pieces of silver from the sons of Hamor (Josh 24:32). Josephus (*Ant* 2:8.2) says that Jacob's other sons were buried at Hebron. The telescoping of two transactions in this verse may be compared with other examples of compression in this speech, e.g. the apparent telescoping of two calls of Abraham in v.2, and the two quotations in v.7." Bruce. The conflating of two events has led to a number of textual variants.

Verse 17

Καθὼς δὲ ἤγγιζεν ὁ χρόνος τῆς ἐπαγγελίας ἧς ὠμολόγησεν ὁ θεὸς τῷ Ἀβραάμ, ἠΰζησεν ὁ λαὸς καὶ ἐπληθύνθη ἐν Αἰγύπτῳ,

ἔγγιζω approach, draw near
χρονος, ου m time, period of time
ἐπαγγελια, ας f promise, what is promised
ὁμολογεω confess, declare

Many MSS read ὠμοσεν.

αὐξανω and αὐξω grow, spread, increase
λαος, ου m people, a people
ἐπληθύνθη Verb, aor pass indic, 3 s πληθυνω
increase, multiply

Cf. Ex 1:7. The promise of many descendants was being fulfilled and the promise of the land was about to be realised – though only after a painful period of life in the desert.

Verse 18

ἄχρι οὗ ἀνέστη βασιλεὺς ἕτερος ἐπ' Αἴγυπτον, ὃς οὐκ ᾔδει τὸν Ἰωσήφ.

ἄχρι until
ἀνέστη Verb, 2 aor act indic, 3 s ἀνιστημι
rise

βασιλευς, εως m king
ἕτερος, α, ον other, another, different
ᾔδει Verb, pluperf act indic, 3 s οἶδα (verb perf in form but with present meaning)
know, understand

See Exodus 1:8.

Bruce says that the reference is to "the Eighteenth Dynasty, founded by Aahmes (1567 B.C.), who expelled the Asiatic Hyksos rulers, or else to the Nineteenth Dynasty which followed it (1319 B.C.). It is usually thought that Joseph's patron was a Hyksos king (so, e.g. W.F. Albright); A.S. Yahuda, however, thinks that he was a native Egyptian king of pre-Hyksos times (*The Accuracy of the Bible* [1934], pp. 41ff.), while H.H. Rowley argues that he was Iknaton, c. 1377-1360 (*From Joseph to Joshua* [1950], pp. 116 ff.)."

Verse 19

οὗτος κατασοφισάμενος τὸ γένος ἡμῶν ἐκάκωσεν τοὺς πατέρας τοῦ ποιεῖν τὰ βρέφη ἔκθετα αὐτῶν εἰς τὸ μὴ ζωογονεῖσθαι.

κατασοφισάμενος Verb, aor midd dep ptc, m nom s κατασοφίζομαι take advantage by deception or trickery

Cf. Ex 1:10.

γένος, ους n family, race, people
κακῶ treat badly, be cruel to

"The word occurs in Ex 1:11, in connection with the tasks imposed on them." Bruce.

βρέφος, ους n baby, infant
ἔκθετος, ον abandoned out of doors
ζωογονεῖσθαι Verb, pres pass infin
ζωογονεῶ save life; pass stay alive

Cf. Ex. 1:18.

Verse 20

ἐν ᾧ καιρῷ ἐγεννήθη Μωϋσῆς, καὶ ἦν ἄστειος τῷ θεῷ· ὃς ἀνετράφη μῆνας τρεῖς ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ τοῦ πατρὸς·

ἐγεννήθη Verb, aor pass indic, 3s γενναῶ be father of, bear

ἄστειος, α, ον pleasing, beautiful

Cf. Ex. 2:2; Heb 11:23.

ἀνετράφη Verb, aor pass indic, 3s ἀνατρέφω bring up, rear

μην, μηνος m month

Verse 21

ἐκτεθέντος δὲ αὐτοῦ ἀνείλατο αὐτὸν ἡ θυγάτηρ Φαραῶ καὶ ἀνεθρέψατο αὐτὸν ἑαυτῇ εἰς υἰόν.

ἐκτεθέντος Verb, aor pass dep ptc, m nom s ἐκτιθεμαι be abandoned or left out of doors

ἀνείλατο Verb, aor midd indic, 3s ἀναιρεῶ midd adopt

θυγάτηρ, τρος f daughter

ἀνεθρέψατο Verb, aor midd indic, 3s ἀνατρέφω see v.20

Verse 22

καὶ ἐπαιδεύθη Μωϋσῆς πάσῃ σοφίᾳ Αἰγυπτίων, ἣν δὲ δυνατὸς ἐν λόγοις καὶ ἔργοις αὐτοῦ.

παιδεύω instruct, train, teach
σοφία, ας f wisdom, intelligence
Αἰγύπτιος, α, ον Egyptian

"Stephen's pointing to Moses' upbringing in Egyptian wisdom was perhaps his reminder to the Sanhedrin that God could work through others than the Jews. He could use the wisdom of Egypt to prepare Moses as deliverer of his people." Polhill.

δυνατός, η, ον strong, powerful

"That Moses was δυνατὸς ἐν λόγοις may seem to contradict Ex. 4:10, but the reference may be to written words." Bruce.

Verse 23

Ὡς δὲ ἐπληροῦτο αὐτῷ τεσσαρακονταετῆς χρόνος, ἀνέβη ἐπὶ τὴν καρδίαν αὐτοῦ ἐπισκέμασθαι τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς αὐτοῦ τοὺς υἰοὺς Ἰσραήλ.

πληρῶ fill, make full, fulfill
τεσσαρακονταετής, ες forty years

ὡς δὲ ἐπληροῦτο αὐτῷ τεσσαρακονταετῆς χρόνος 'when he was about 40 years old'.

ἀνέβη Verb, aor act indic, 3s ἀναβαίνω go up, come up

ἀνέβη ἐπὶ τὴν καρδίαν αὐτοῦ a Semitism, cf. Isa 45:16; Jer 3:16; 44:21; 51:50; Ezek 38:10; 1 Cor 2:9.

ἐπισκεπτομαι visit

τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς αὐτοῦ τοὺς υἰοὺς Ἰσραήλ cf. Ex 2:11.

Verse 24

καὶ ἰδὼν τινα ἀδικούμενον ἡμίνατο καὶ ἐποίησεν ἐκδίκησιν τῷ καταπονουμένῳ πατάξας τὸν Αἰγύπτιον.

ἰδὼν Verb, aor ptc, m nom s ὄραω see, observe

ἀδικεῶ wrong, treat unjustly, harm

ἀμνομαι come to help

ἐκδικησις, εως f retribution, punishment

καταπονεῶ mistreat, trouble

πατασσω strike, strike down

Cf. Ex 2:12.

Verse 25

ἐνόμιζεν δὲ συνιέναι τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς ὅτι ὁ θεὸς διὰ χειρὸς αὐτοῦ δίδωσιν σωτηρίαν αὐτοῖς, οἱ δὲ οὐ συνήκαν.

νομίζω think, suppose

συνιέναι Verb, pres act infin συνημι understand, comprehend

χειρ, χειρος f hand, power
 σωτηρια, ας f salvation
 συνήκαν Verb, aor act indic, 3 pl συνιημι

"Verse 25 is totally unparalleled in Ex 2:11-15 and is Stephen's reflection on the account." Polhill.

"Note the parallel; Moses appeared as a messenger of peace, and was rejected; the same happened to Christ." Bruce.

Verse 26

τῇ τε ἐπιούσῃ ἡμέρᾳ ὤφθη αὐτοῖς μαχομένοις
 καὶ συνήλλασσεν αὐτοὺς εἰς εἰρήνην εἰπών·
 Ἄνδρες, ἀδελφοί ἐστε· ἵνατί ἀδικεῖτε
 ἀλλήλους;

ἐπιουσα, ης f the next day
 ὤφθη Verb, aor pass indic, 3 s ὄραω see
 v.24

μαχομαι quarrel, fight
 συνήλλασσεν Verb, imperf act indic, 3 s
 συναλλασσω reconcile

συνήλλασσεν αὐτοὺς εἰς εἰρήνην he tried to
 make peace between them. The imperfect here,
 'was reconciling', has the force of 'tried to
 reconcile'.

ἵνατι why? for what reason?
 ἀδικεω see v.24
 ἀλληλων, οἰς, οὖς reciprocal pronoun one
 another

Verse 27

ὁ δὲ ἀδικῶν τὸν πλησίον ἀπόσατο αὐτὸν
 εἰπών· Τίς σε κατέστησεν ἄρχοντα καὶ
 δικαστὴν ἐφ' ἡμῶν;

πλησιον near; ὁ π. neighbour
 ἀποσατο Verb, aor midd dep indic, 3 s
 ἀποθεομαι push aside, reject, fail to
 listen to

καθιστημι put in charge, appoint
 ἄρχων, οντος m ruler, official
 δικαστης, ου m judge

Verse 28

μὴ ἀνελεῖν με σὺ θέλεις ὄν τρόπον ἀνεῖλες
 ἐχθὲς τὸν Αἰγύπτιον;

ἀνελεῖν Verb, aor act infin ἀναιρεω do
 away with, kill
 θελω wish, will
 τροπος, ου m way, manner; ὄν τ. in the
 same way as
 ἀνεῖλες Verb, aor act infin ἀναιρεω
 ἐχθες adv yesterday

Cf. Ex 2:14.

Verse 29

ἔφυγεν δὲ Μωϋσῆς ἐν τῷ λόγῳ τούτῳ, καὶ
 ἐγένετο πάροικος ἐν γῆ Μαδιάμ, οὗ ἐγέννησεν
 υἱοὺς δύο.

ἔφυγεν aor φευγω flee, run away from,
 avoid
 παροικος, ου m stranger, exile

Cf. Ex 2:22. See on vv. 6,44,47 for Stephen's
 stress on the 'pilgrim' theme.
 "By emphasising Moses' pilgrim status,
 Stephen clarified that God cannot be tied down
 to a single place or people." Polhill.

γη, γης f earth
 γενναω be father of, bear, give birth to