



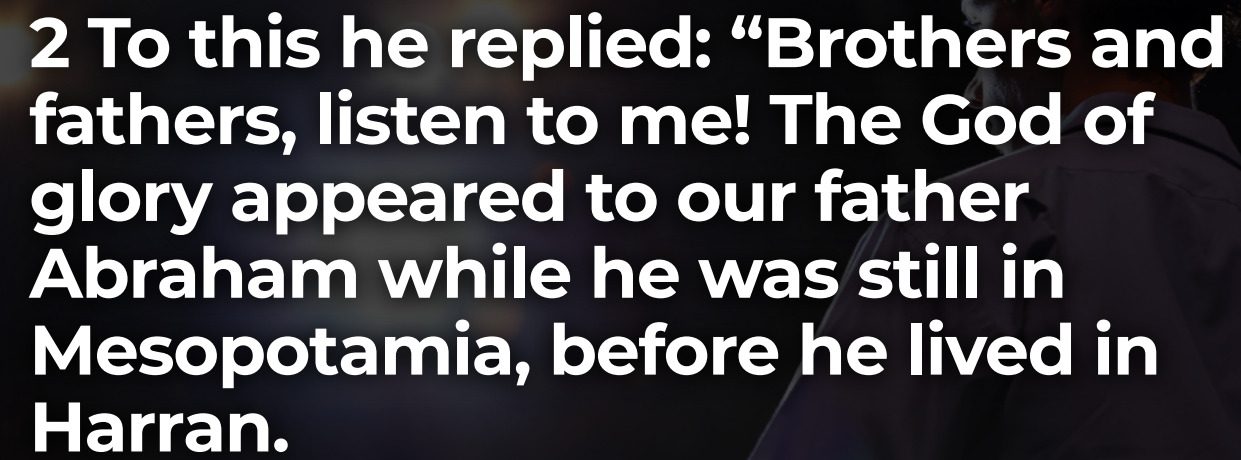
- When I was growing up I used to hate going to the front of the classroom and being the one to talk.
- In fact, I was so shy and embarrassed I would purposefully miss school on those days.
- Not only did I hate public speaking, but I couldn't memorize a thing!
- We all remember group project day where a group all worked on something and then one person got chosen to present, well anytime that was the case my finger would point towards someone else!
- And what we see tonight is that out of this now increasing group of disciples, there is a man in Scripture who is confident in stepping up and being the leader.



- The title for tonight is "SPEAK UP, STEPHEN"
- We will be in Acts 7:2-50. And I know this is a ton of verses so what we are going to do is read through them all at once then we will dig into what these verses mean and how we can apply this speech to our life.
- SCRIPTURE:



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**2 To this he replied: “Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Harran.**

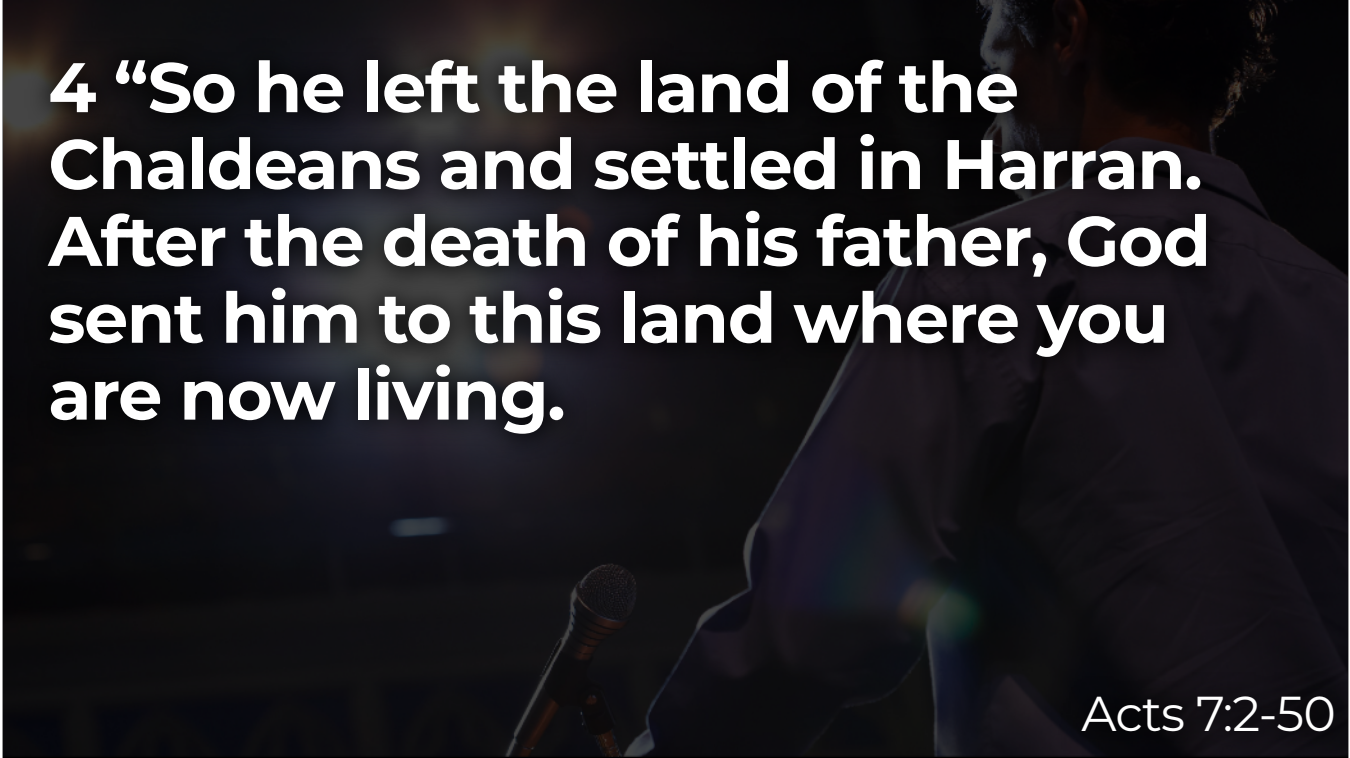
Acts 7:2-50

**3 'Leave your country and your people,' God said, 'and go to the land I will show you.'**

Acts 7:2-50

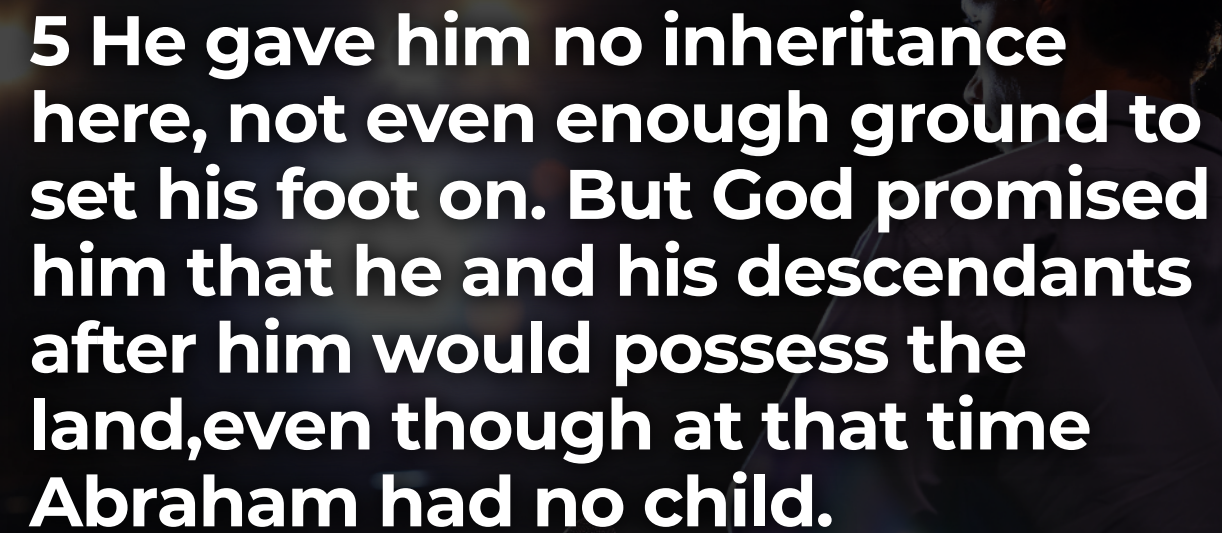
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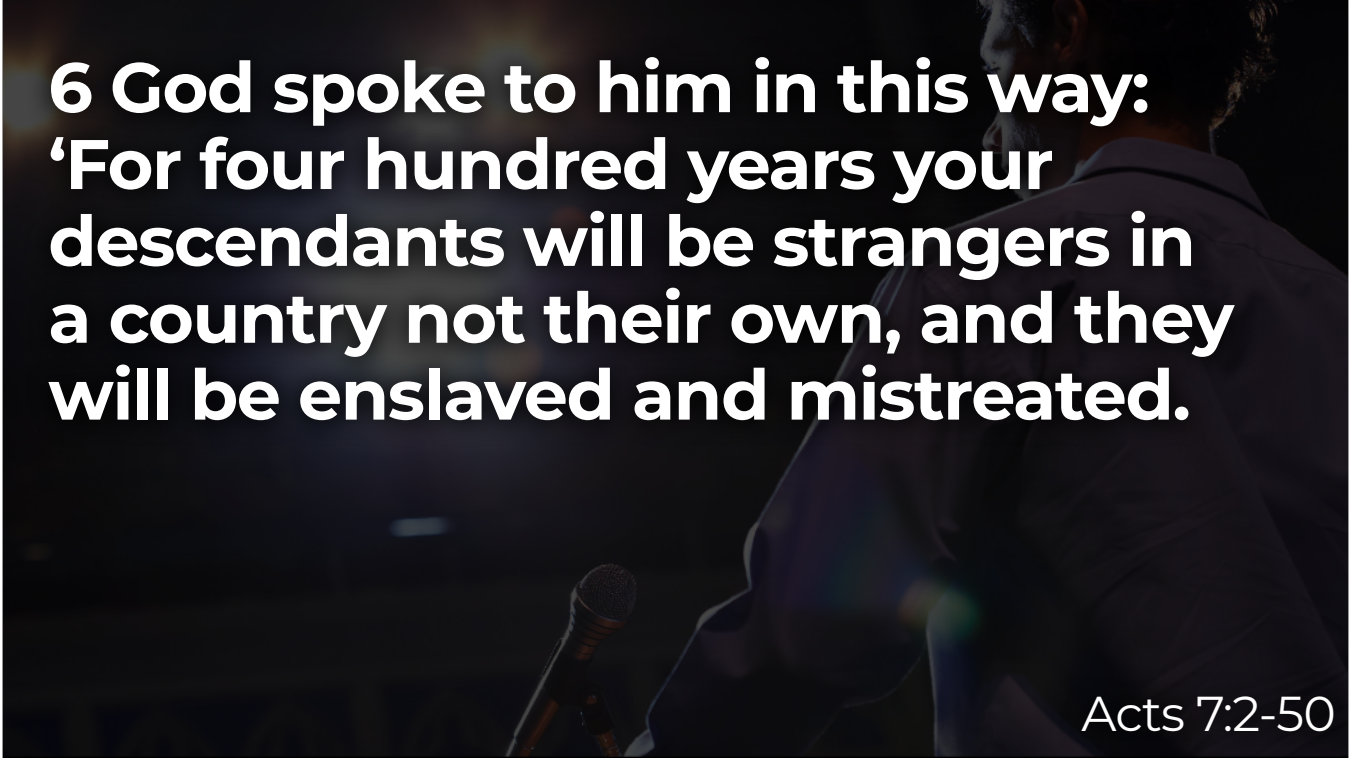
**4 “So he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Harran. After the death of his father, God sent him to this land where you are now living.**

Acts 7:2-50



**5 He gave him no inheritance here, not even enough ground to set his foot on. But God promised him that he and his descendants after him would possess the land, even though at that time Abraham had no child.**

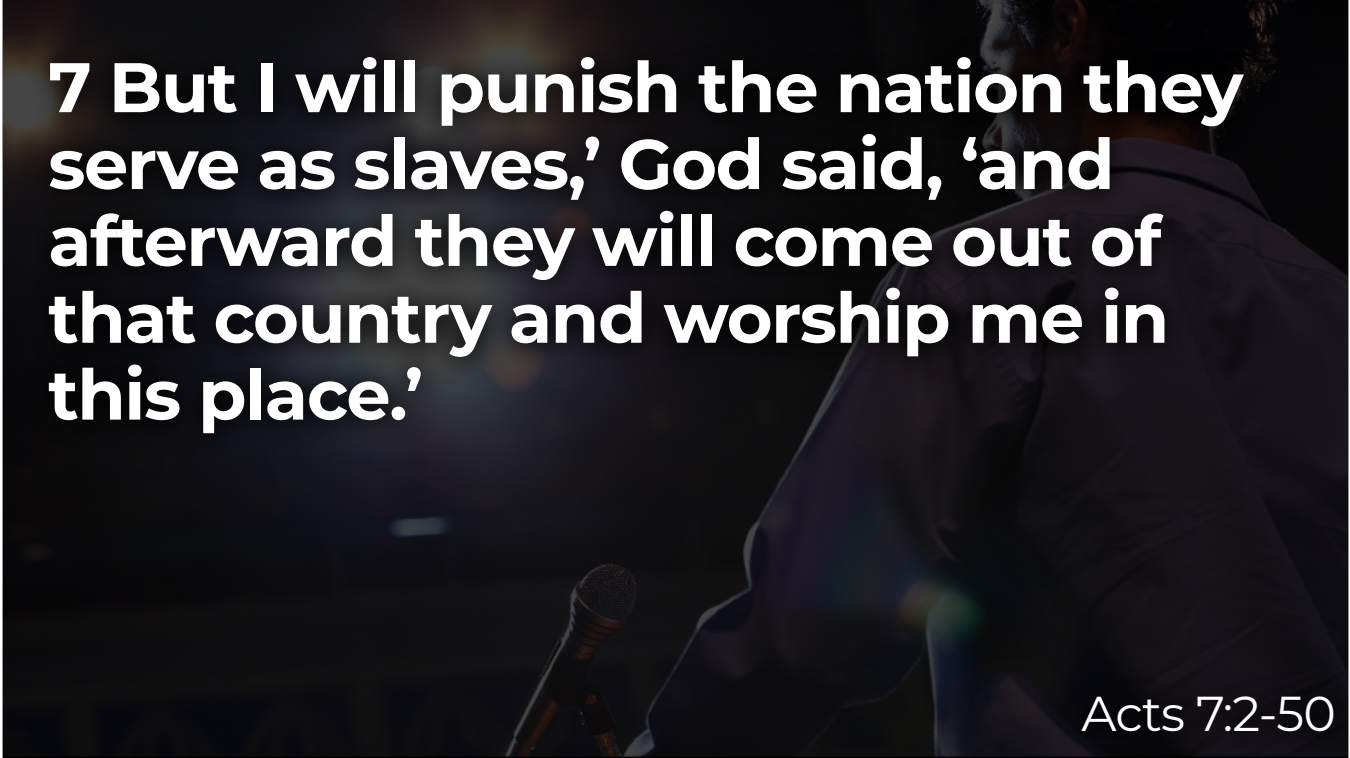
Acts 7:2-50



**6 God spoke to him in this way:  
'For four hundred years your  
descendants will be strangers in  
a country not their own, and they  
will be enslaved and mistreated.**

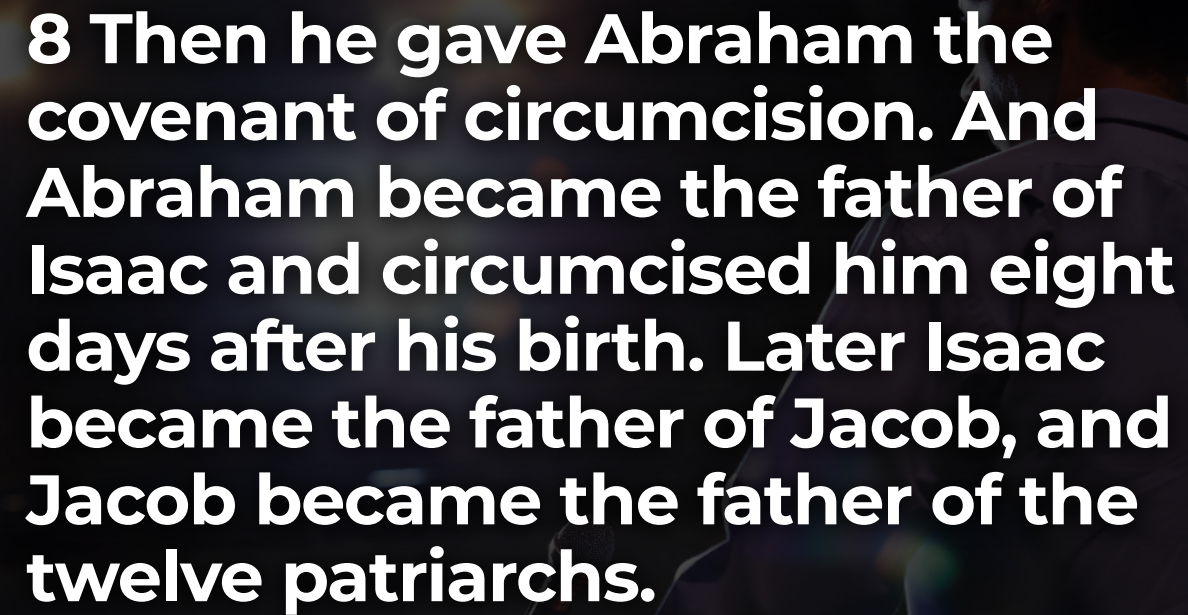
Acts 7:2-50





**7 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves,' God said, 'and afterward they will come out of that country and worship me in this place.'**

Acts 7:2-50



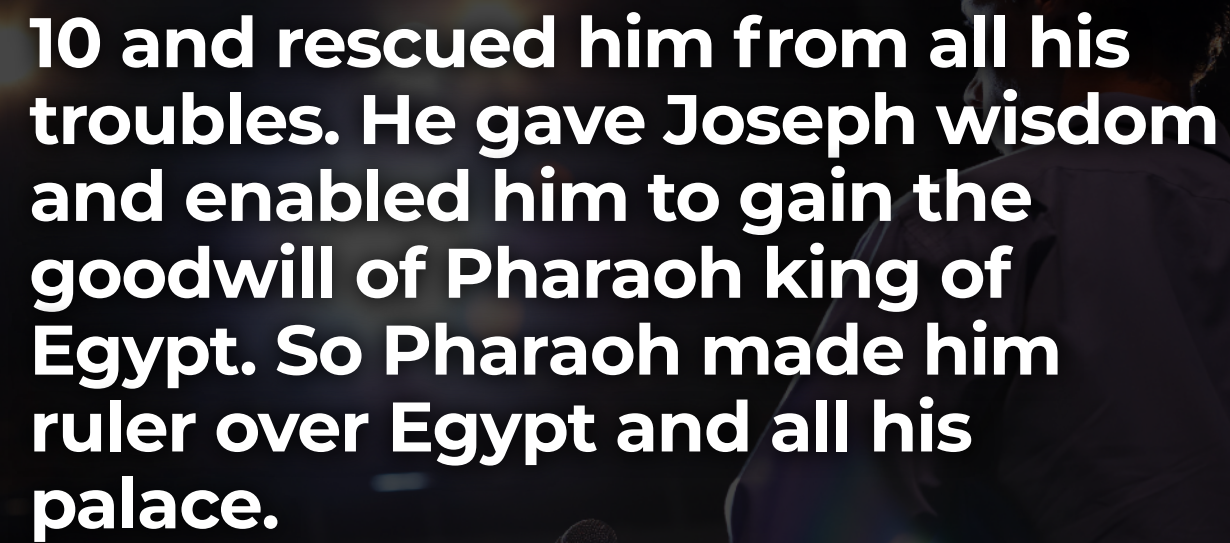
**8 Then he gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. And Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him eight days after his birth. Later Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs.**

Acts 7:2-50

A person wearing a white robe is shown from the chest up, speaking into a microphone. The background is dark and out of focus.

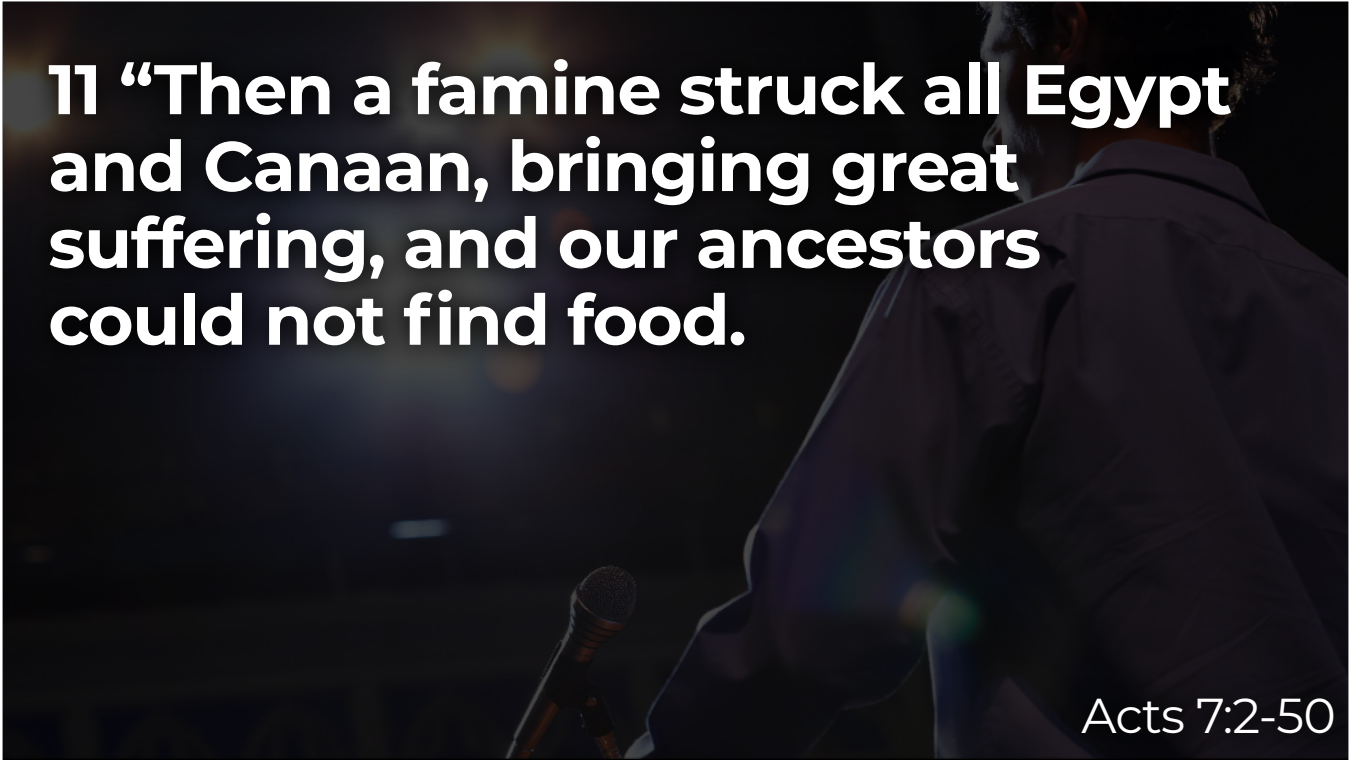
**9 “Because the patriarchs were  
jealous of Joseph, they sold him  
as a slave into Egypt. But God  
was with him**

Acts 7:2-50



**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.**

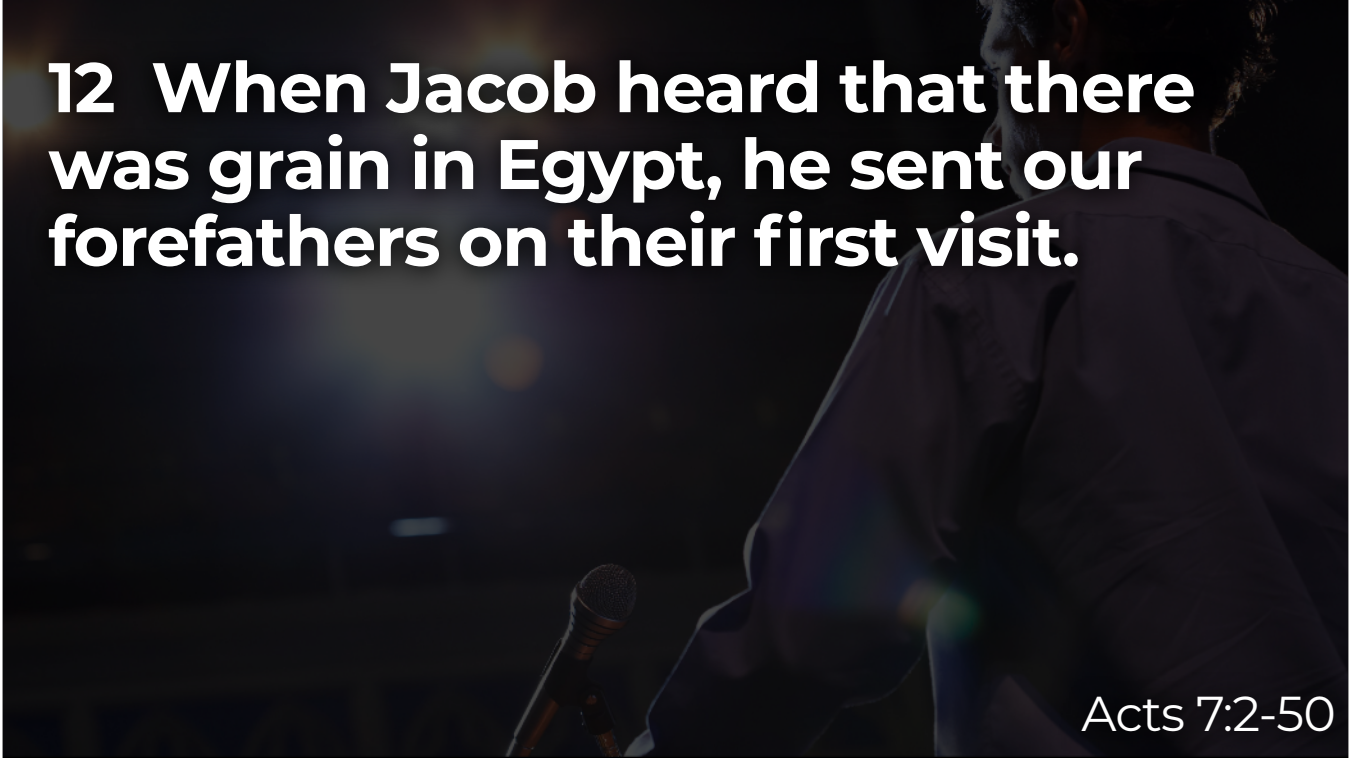
Acts 7:2-50

A man in a dark suit is seen from the side, speaking into a microphone at a podium. The background is dark with some blurred lights.

**11 “Then a famine struck all Egypt and Canaan, bringing great suffering, and our ancestors could not find food.**

Acts 7:2-50





**12 When Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our forefathers on their first visit.**

Acts 7:2-50

**13 On their second visit, Joseph told his brothers who he was, and Pharaoh learned about Joseph's family.**

Acts 7:2-50

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**14 After this, Joseph sent for his father Jacob and his whole family, seventy-five in all.**

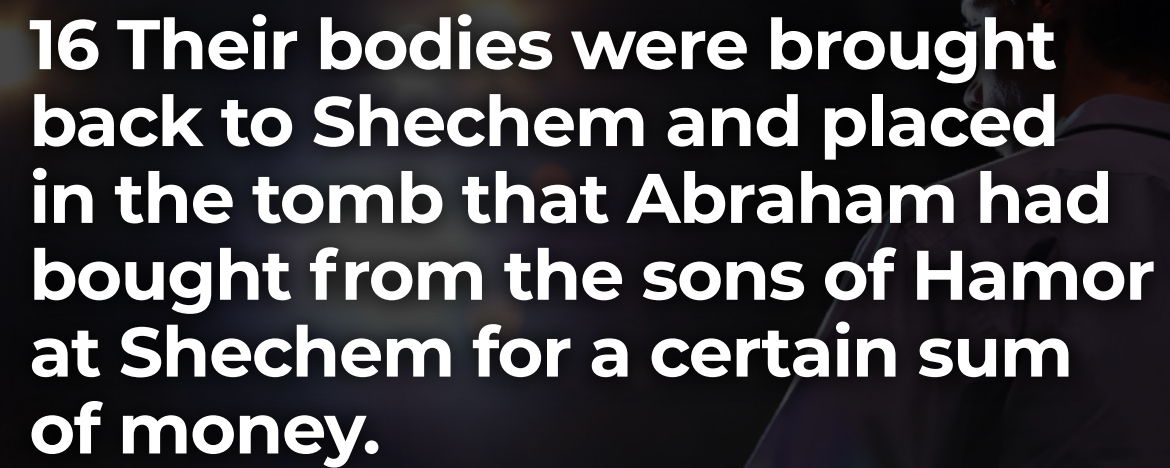
Acts 7:2-50

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**15 Then Jacob went down to Egypt, where he and our ancestors died.**

Acts 7:2-50

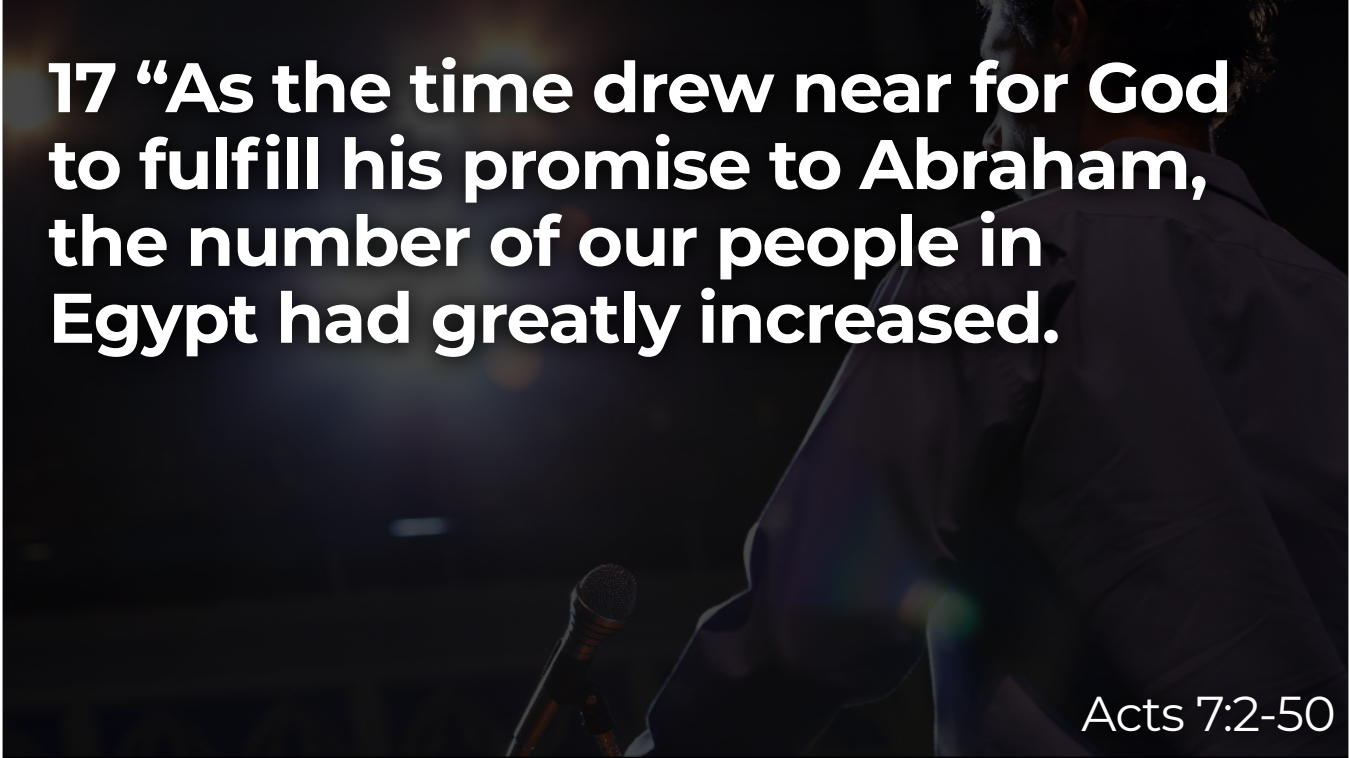
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**16 Their bodies were brought back to Shechem and placed in the tomb that Abraham had bought from the sons of Hamor at Shechem for a certain sum of money.**

Acts 7:2-50





**17 “As the time drew near for God to fulfill his promise to Abraham, the number of our people in Egypt had greatly increased.**

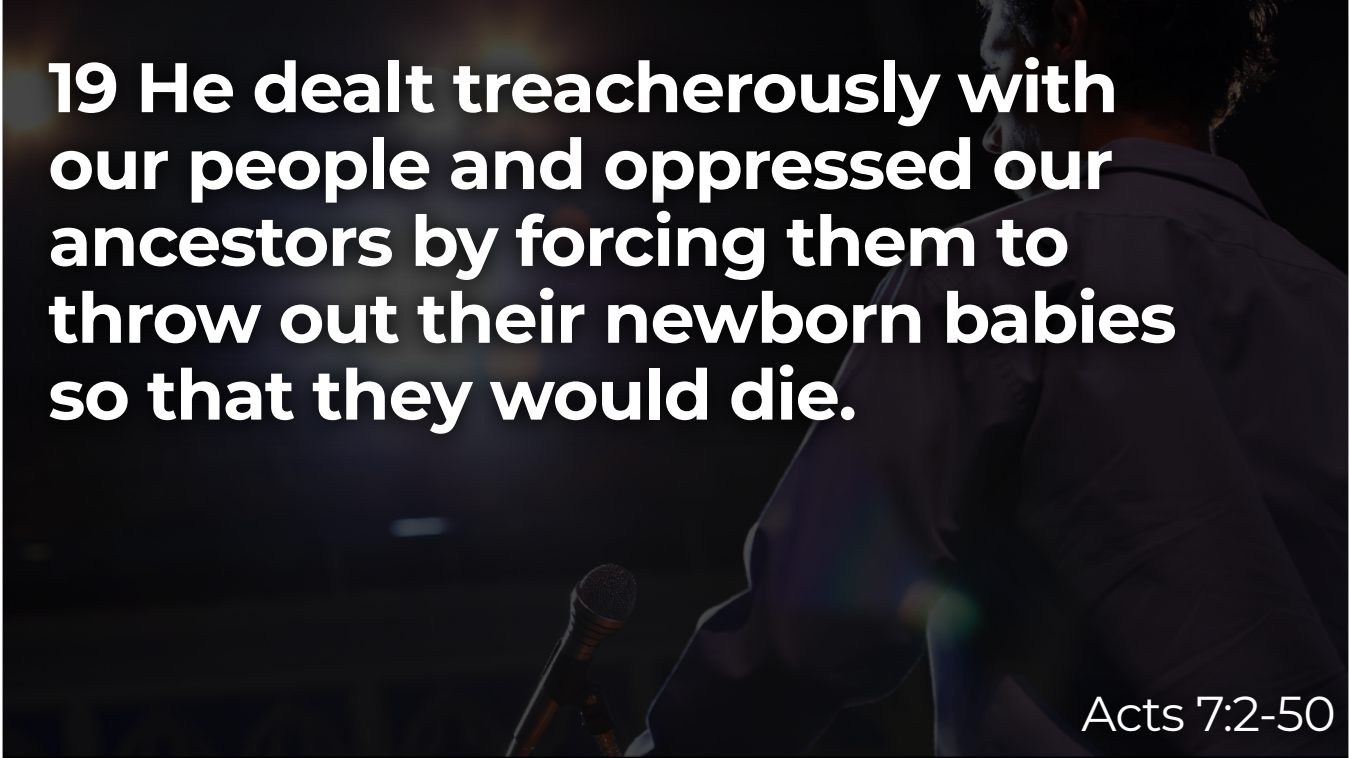
Acts 7:2-50

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**18 Then 'a new king, to whom  
Joseph meant nothing, came to  
power in Egypt.'**

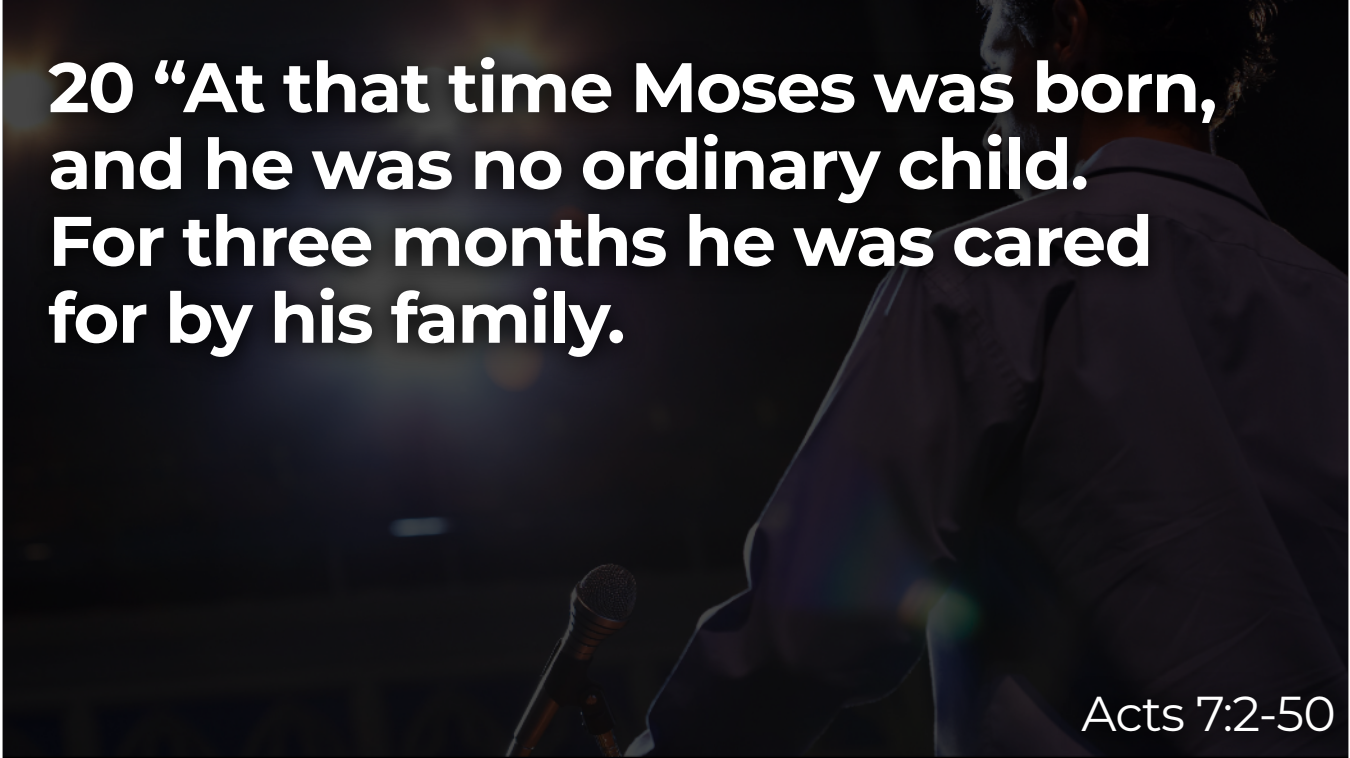
Acts 7:2-50

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**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.**

Acts 7:2-50



**20 “At that time Moses was born,  
and he was no ordinary child.  
For three months he was cared  
for by his family.**

Acts 7:2-50

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**21 When he was placed outside,  
Pharaoh's daughter took him and  
brought him up as her own son.**

Acts 7:2-50





**22 Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.**

Acts 7:2-50

**23 “When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his own people, the Israelites.**

Acts 7:2-50

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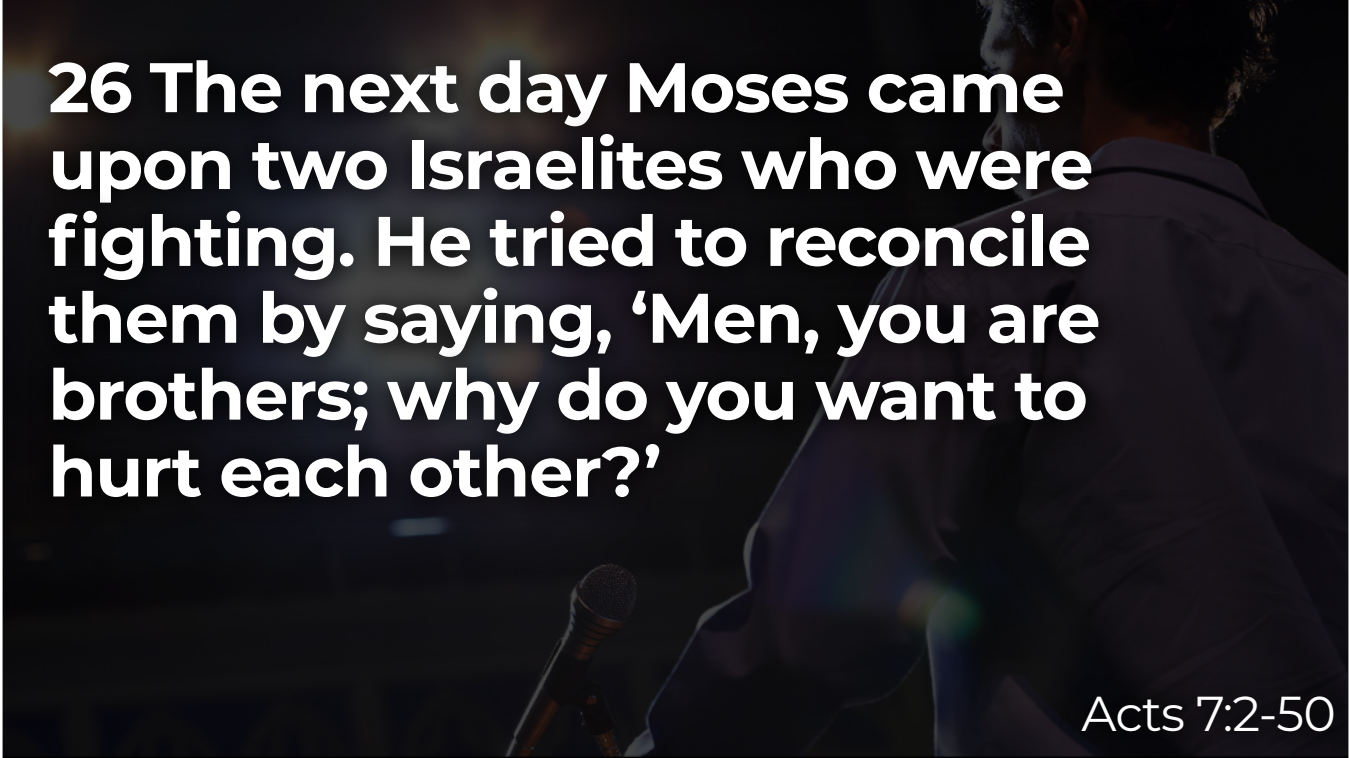
**24 He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian.**

Acts 7:2-50

**25 Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not.**

Acts 7:2-50

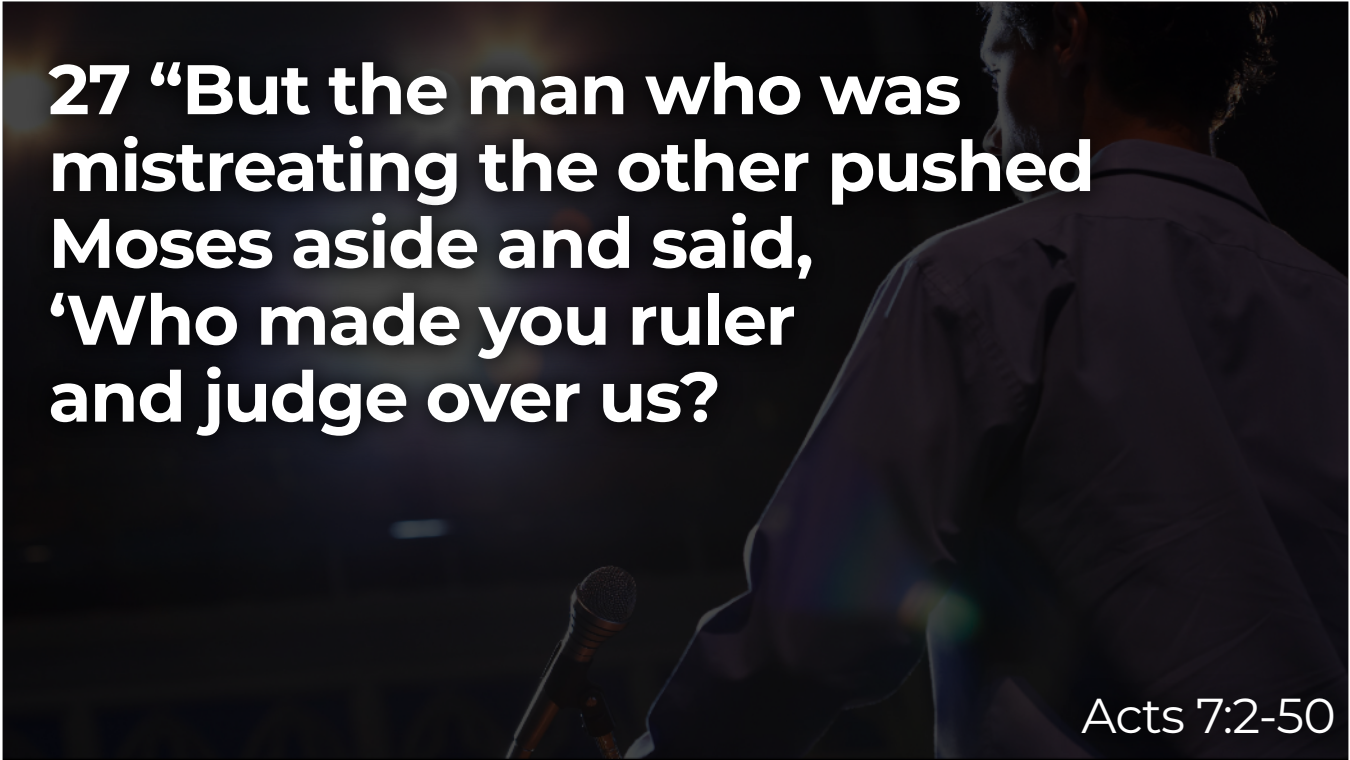
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**26 The next day Moses came upon two Israelites who were fighting. He tried to reconcile them by saying, 'Men, you are brothers; why do you want to hurt each other?'**

Acts 7:2-50



A man with a beard, wearing a light-colored shirt, is seen from the side, speaking into a microphone. The background is dark and out of focus.

**27 “But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses aside and said, ‘Who made you ruler and judge over us?’**

Acts 7:2-50

**28 Are you thinking of killing  
me as you killed the Egyptian  
yesterday?’**

Acts 7:2-50

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**29 When Moses heard this, he fled to Midian, where he settled as a foreigner and had two sons.**

Acts 7:2-50

**30 After forty years had passed,  
an angel appeared to Moses in  
the flames of a burning bush in  
the desert near Mount Sinai.**

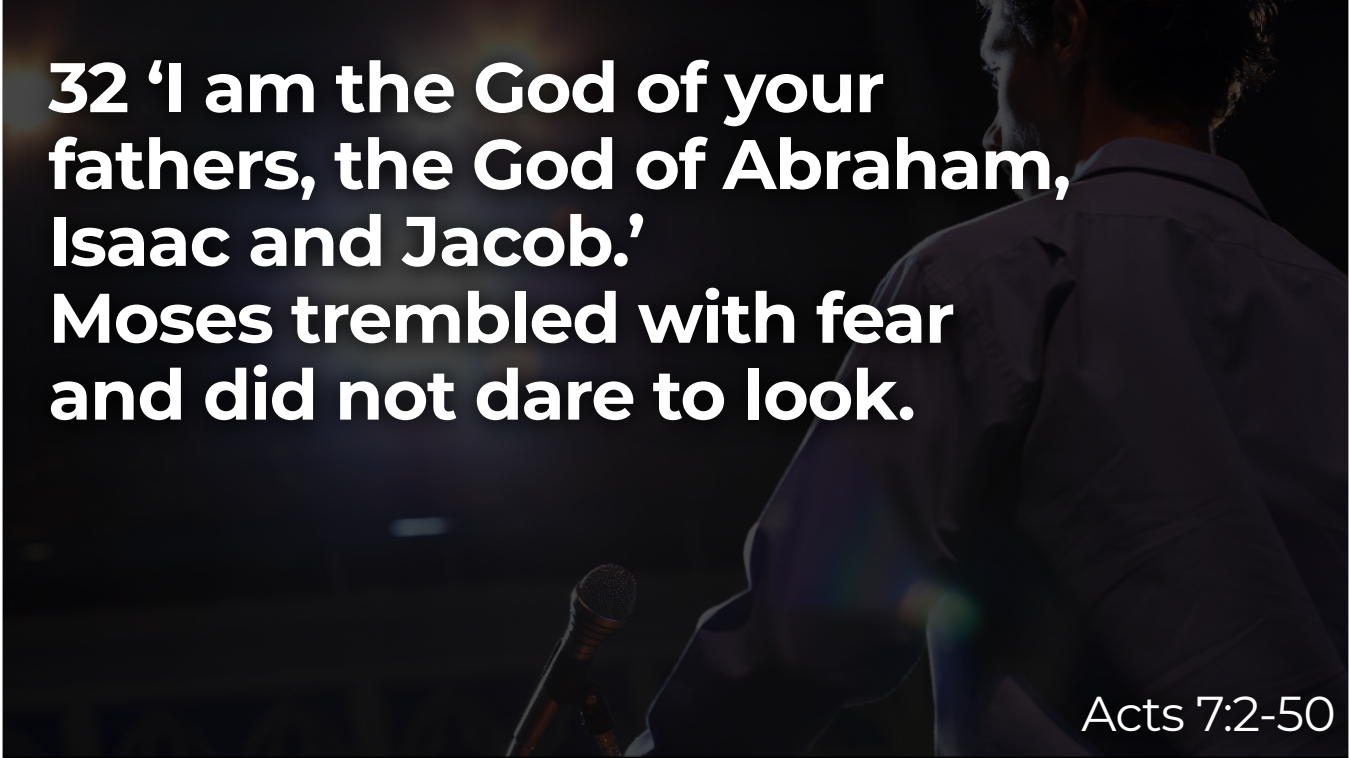
Acts 7:2-50

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**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:**

Acts 7:2-50

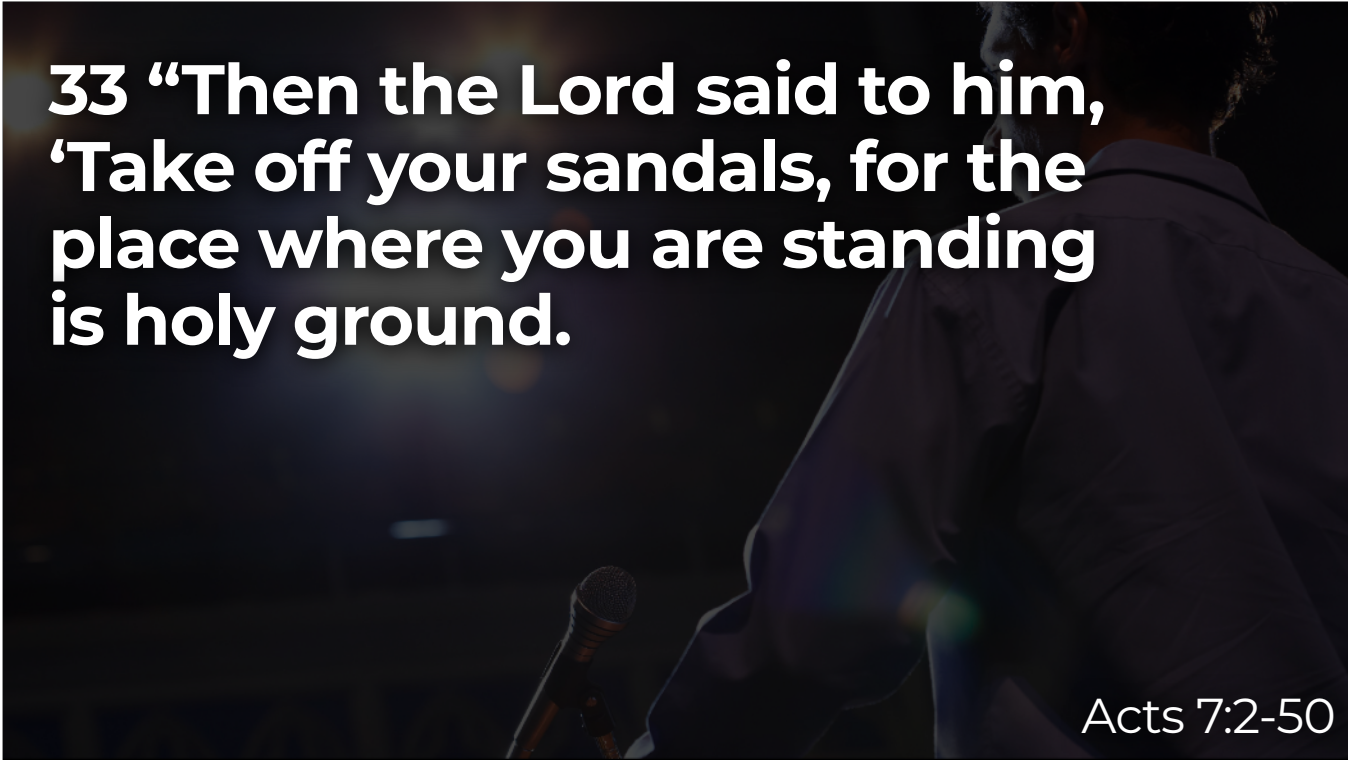
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**32 'I am the God of your  
fathers, the God of Abraham,  
Isaac and Jacob.'  
Moses trembled with fear  
and did not dare to look.**

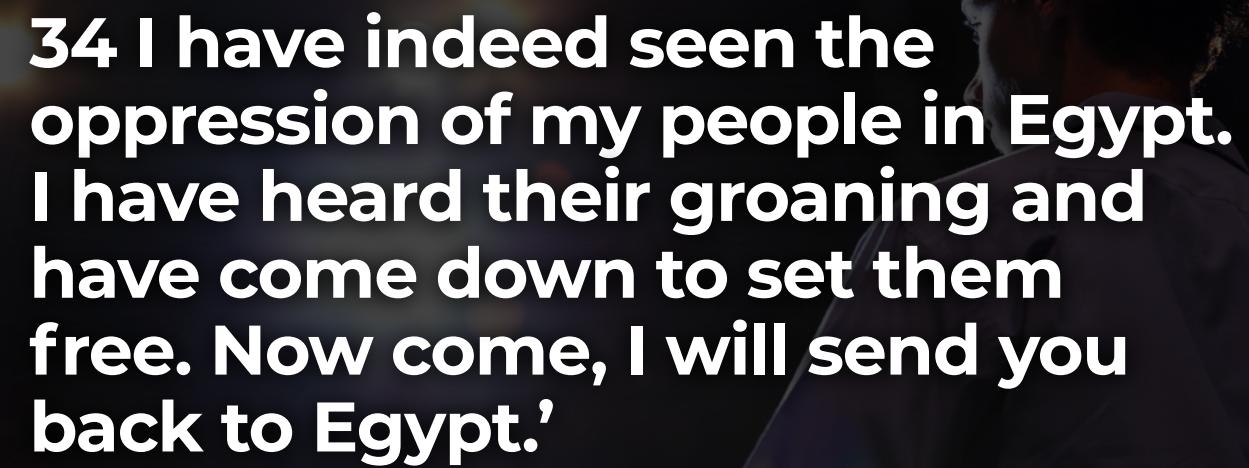
Acts 7:2-50





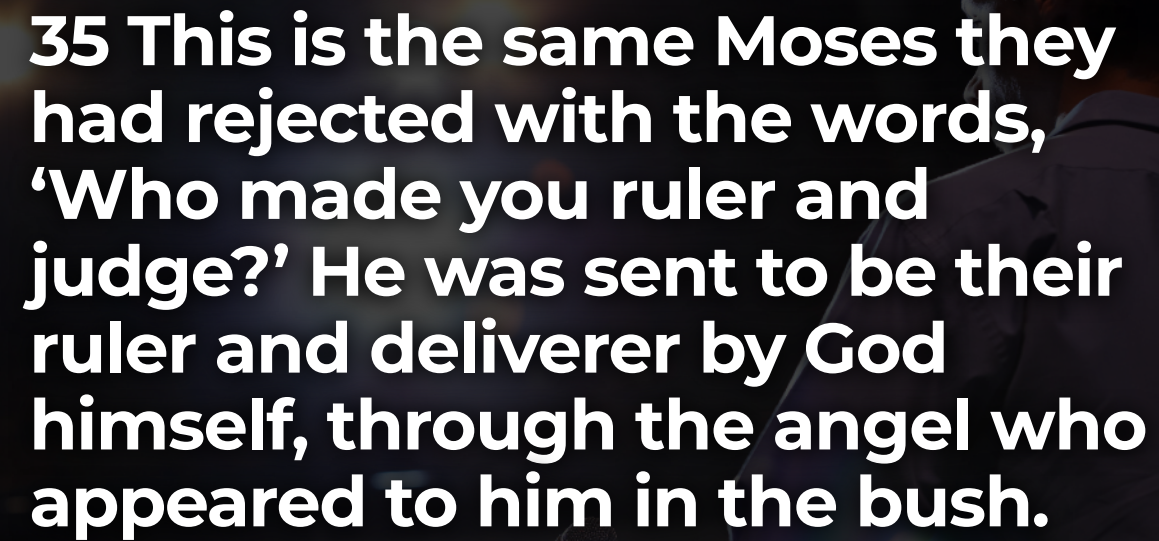
**33 “Then the Lord said to him,  
‘Take off your sandals, for the  
place where you are standing  
is holy ground.**

Acts 7:2-50

A dark, low-key photograph of a person from the chest up, facing slightly to the right. They are wearing a dark jacket and speaking into a microphone. The background is dark with some light bokeh.

**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.'**

Acts 7:2-50



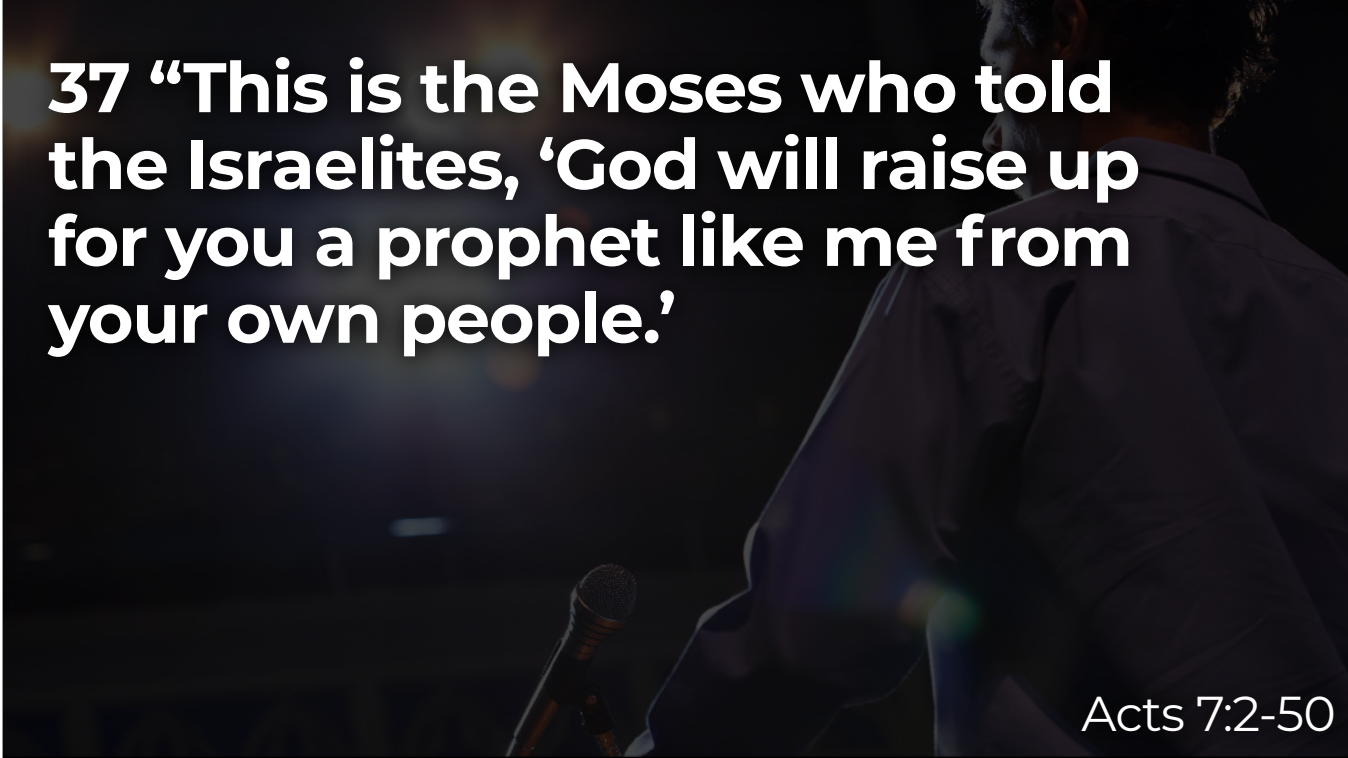
**35 This is the same Moses they had rejected with the words, 'Who made you ruler and judge?' He was sent to be their ruler and deliverer by God himself, through the angel who appeared to him in the bush.**

Acts 7:2-50



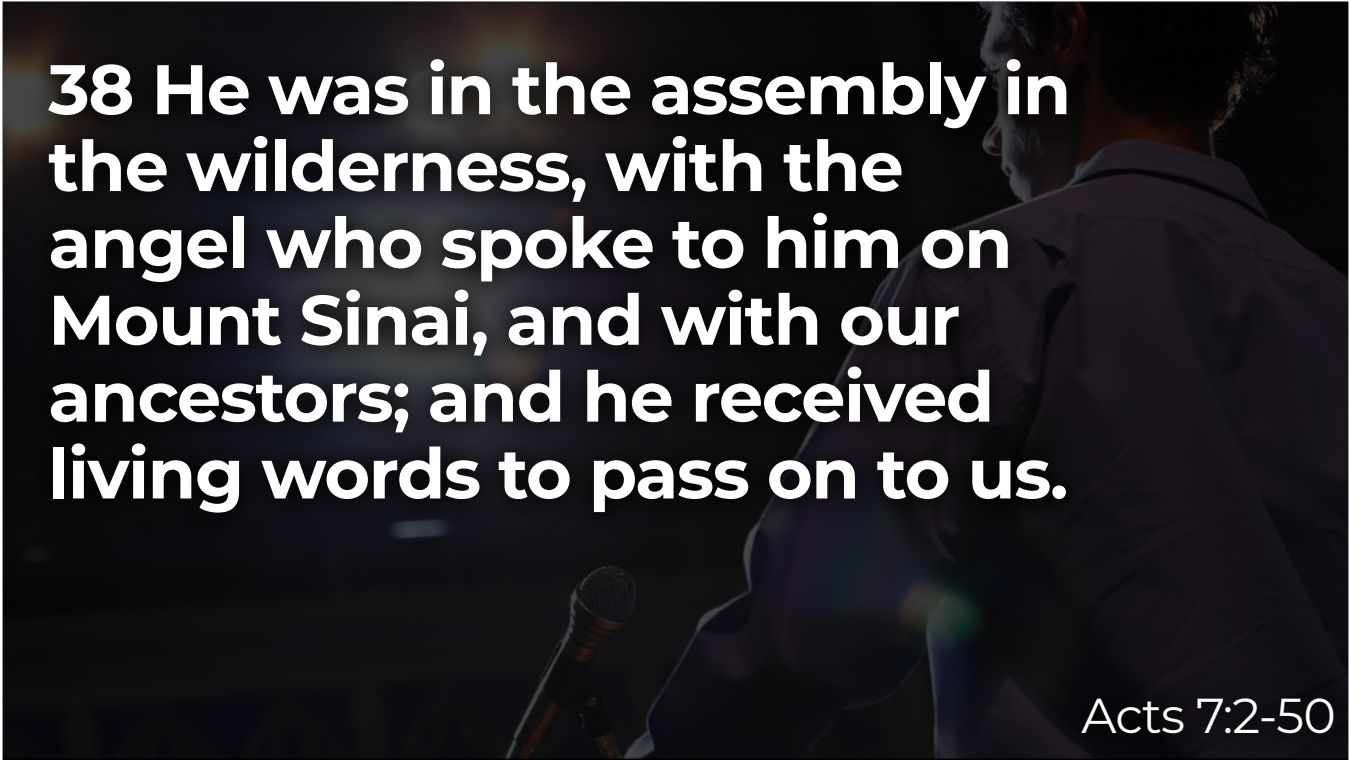
**36 He led them out of Egypt and performed wonders and signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea and for forty years in the wilderness.**

Acts 7:2-50

A man in a dark suit is seen from the side, speaking into a microphone at a podium. The background is dark and out of focus.

**37 “This is the Moses who told  
the Israelites, ‘God will raise up  
for you a prophet like me from  
your own people.’**

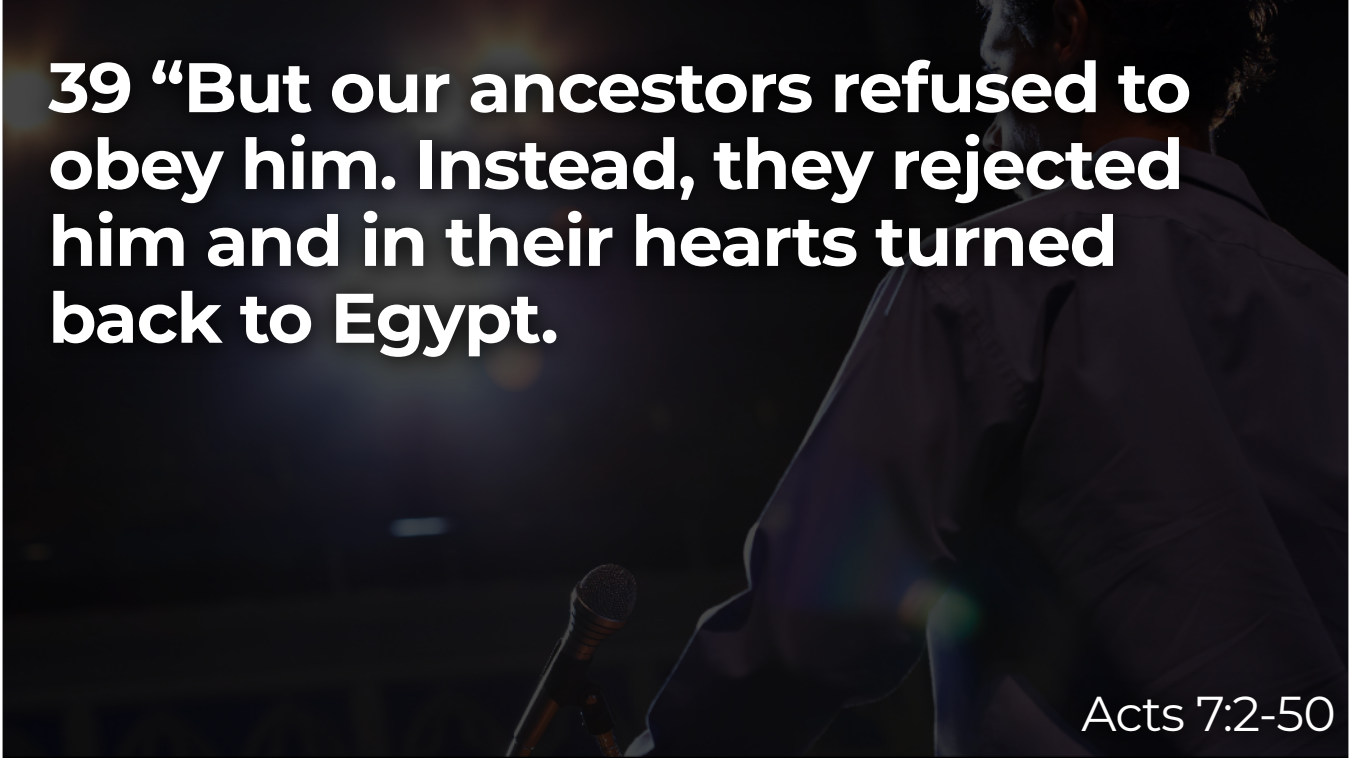
Acts 7:2-50

A dark, low-key photograph of a person from the chest up, seen from the side and slightly from behind. They are wearing a light-colored shirt and are speaking into a microphone that is visible in the lower-left foreground. The background is dark and out of focus.

**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.**

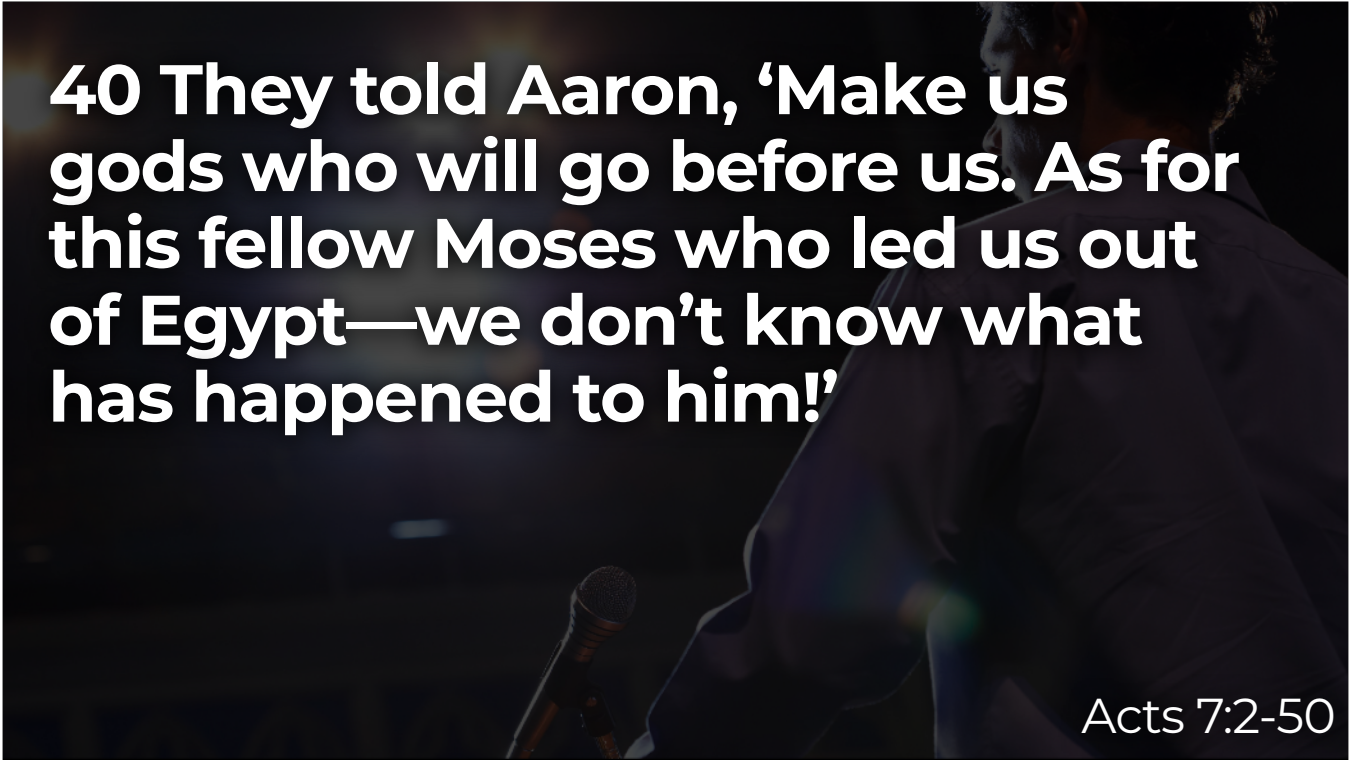
Acts 7:2-50





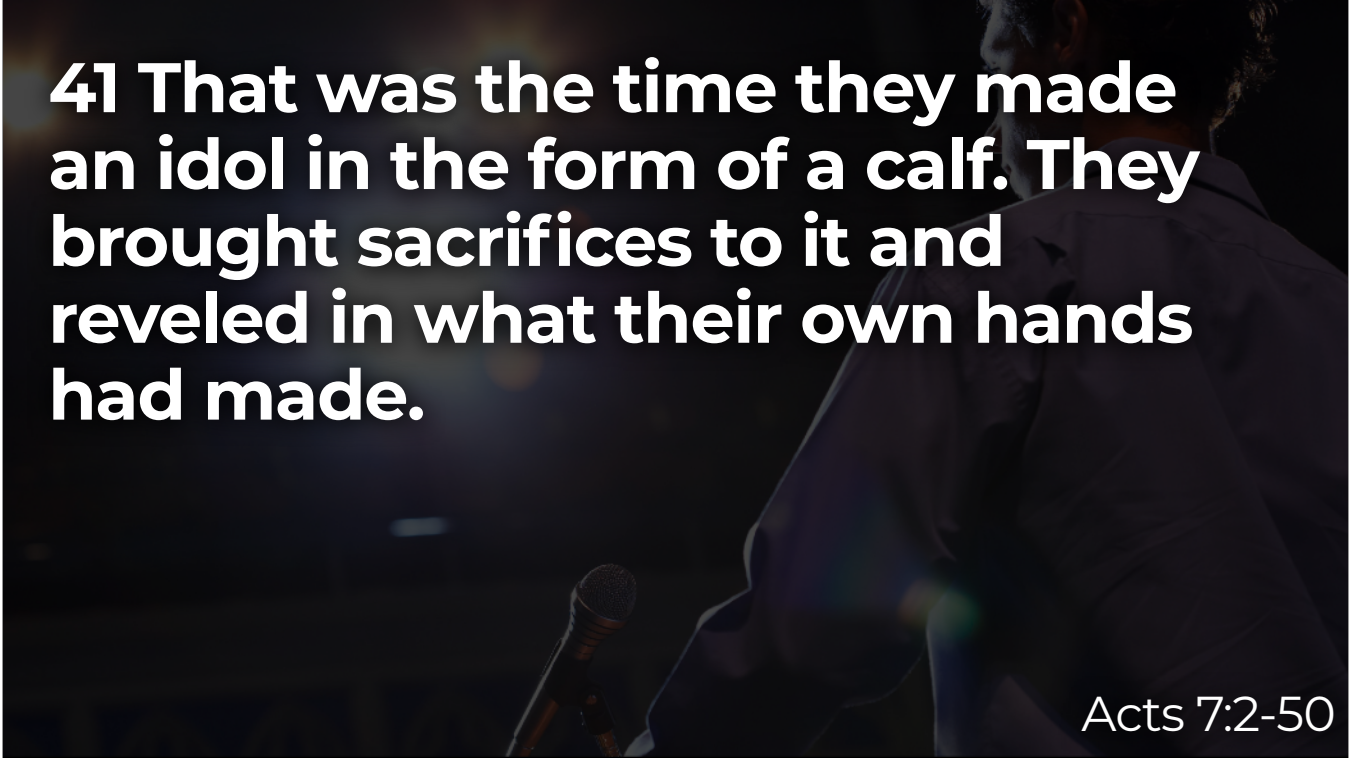
**39 “But our ancestors refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt.**

Acts 7:2-50

A dark, low-key photograph of a person from the chest up, wearing a dark suit and speaking into a microphone. The person's face is partially visible in profile, looking towards the left. The background is dark and out of focus.

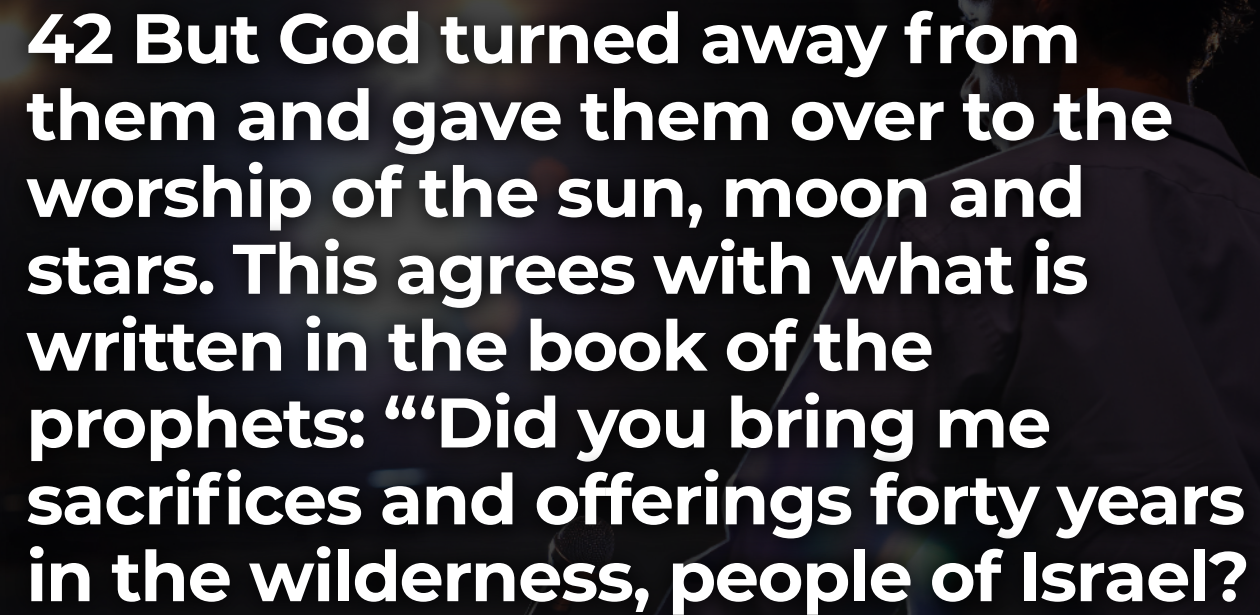
**40 They told Aaron, ‘Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who led us out of Egypt—we don’t know what has happened to him!’**

Acts 7:2-50



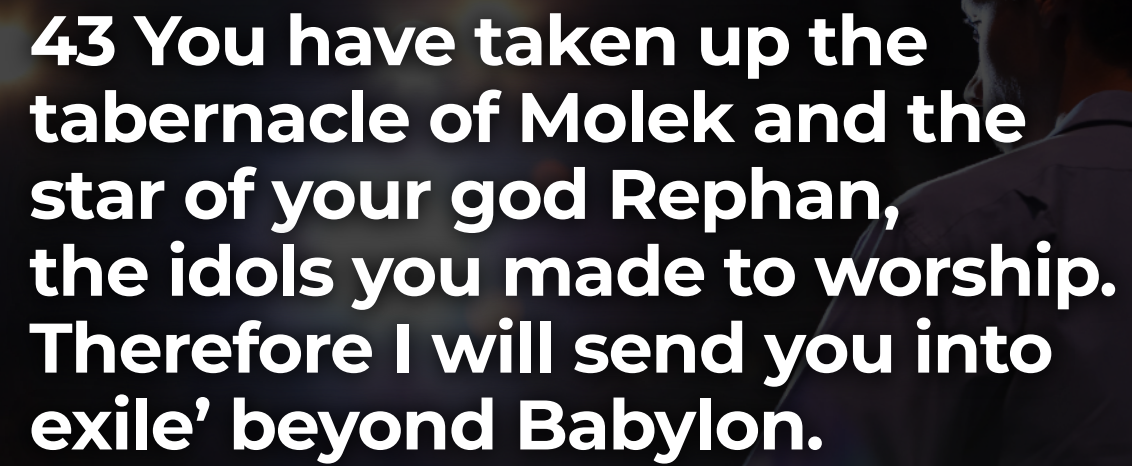
**41 That was the time they made an idol in the form of a calf. They brought sacrifices to it and reveled in what their own hands had made.**

Acts 7:2-50



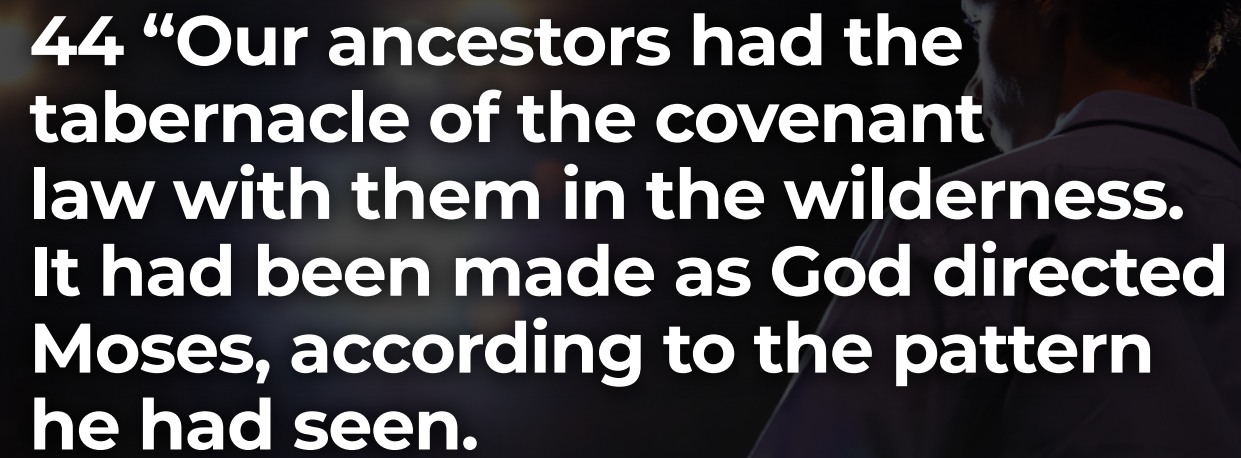
**42 But God turned away from them and gave them over to the worship of the sun, moon and stars. This agrees with what is written in the book of the prophets: “Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings forty years in the wilderness, people of Israel?**

*Acts 7:2-50*



**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.**

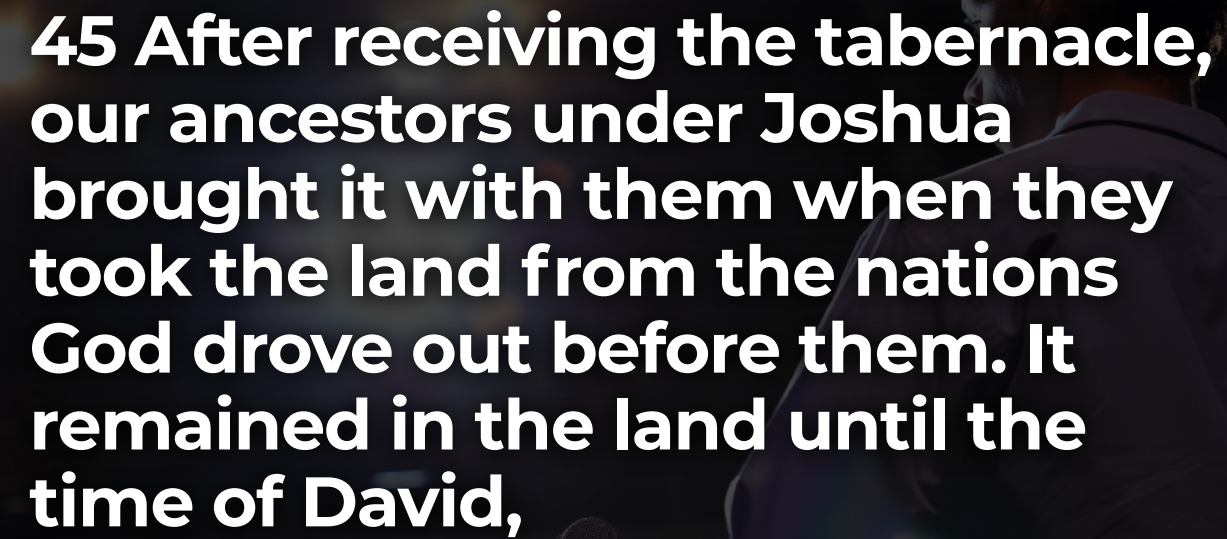
Acts 7:2-50



**44 “Our ancestors had the  
tabernacle of the covenant  
law with them in the wilderness.  
It had been made as God directed  
Moses, according to the pattern  
he had seen.**

Acts 7:2-50





**45 After receiving the tabernacle,  
our ancestors under Joshua  
brought it with them when they  
took the land from the nations  
God drove out before them. It  
remained in the land until the  
time of David,**

Acts 7:2-50

**46 who enjoyed God's favor and asked that he might provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob.**

Acts 7:2-50

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**47 But it was Solomon who  
built a house for him.**

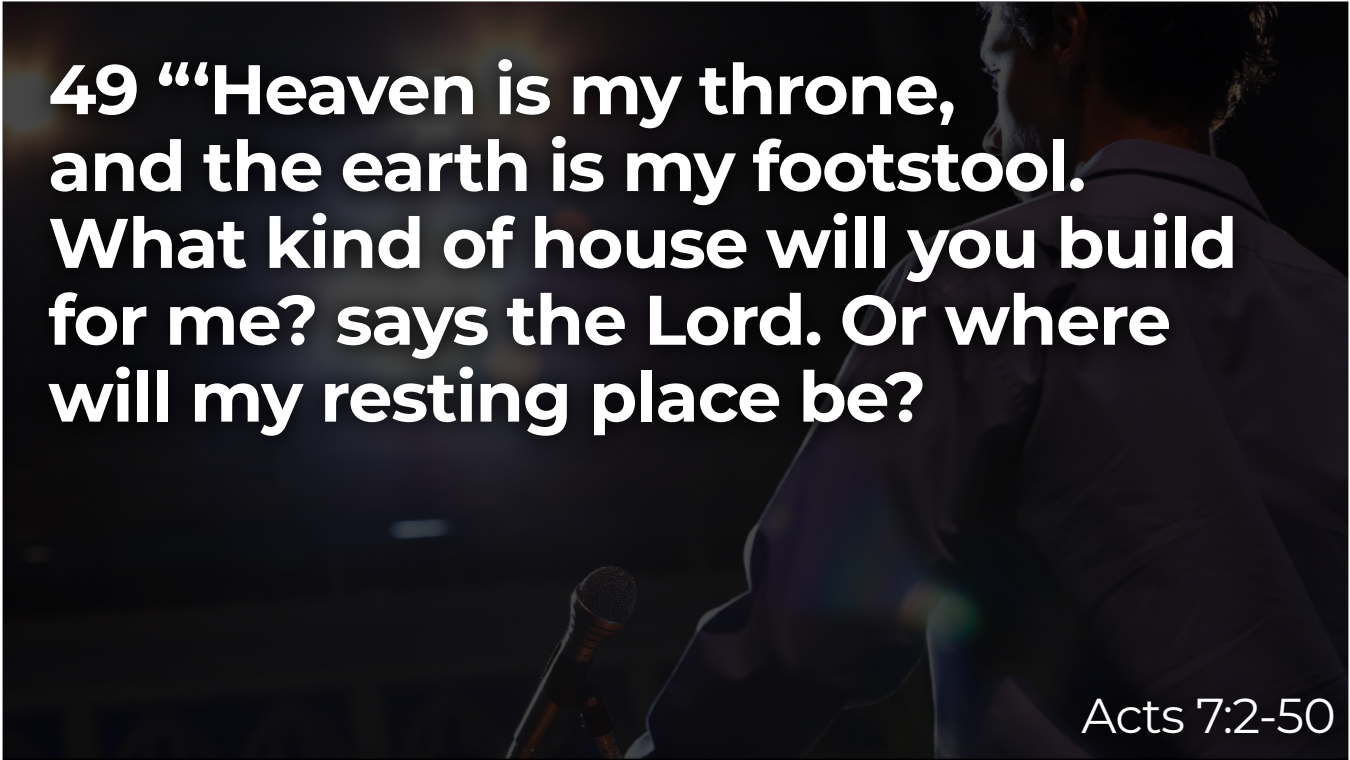
Acts 7:2-50

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A person wearing a white robe is shown from the chest up, speaking into a microphone. The background is dark with some stage lights visible. The text is overlaid on the top left of the image.

**48 “However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands. As the prophet says:**

Acts 7:2-50

A dark, moody photograph of a man with a beard, seen from the side, speaking into a microphone. The background is dark with some blurred lights.

**49 “Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is my footstool.  
What kind of house will you build  
for me? says the Lord. Or where  
will my resting place be?**

Acts 7:2-50

**50 Has not my hand made  
all these things?"**

Acts 7:2-50

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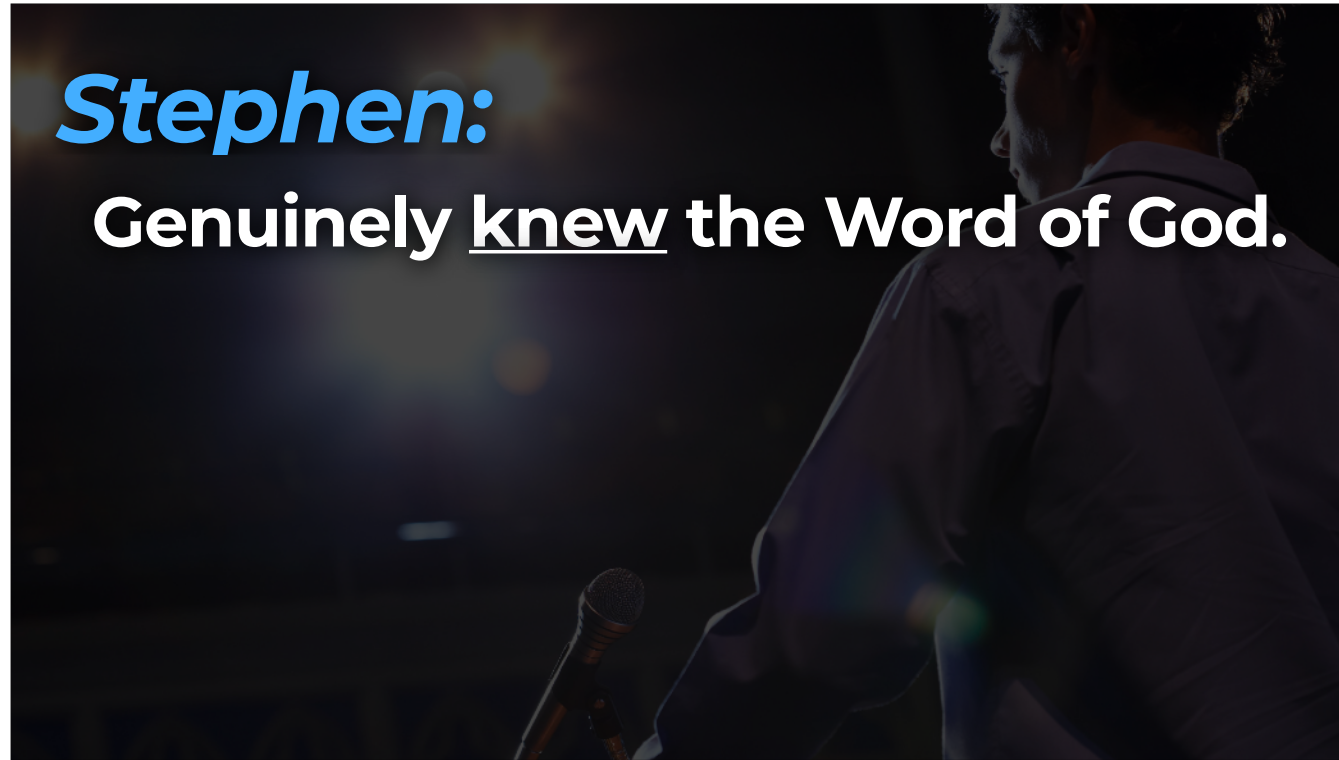




- Phew! I know what you are thinking. That was the longest speech ive ever heard ... and you are actually correct. This is in fact the longest speech throughout the book of Acts.
- If you didn't catch on to this, Stephen just laid out 48 verses worth of knowing and recalling Scripture from the OT in a zip of a moment. Before the high priest? Doesn't matter - he knew the word like it was on the back of his hand.
- What this moment reveals is that this is more than just a historical reiteration - we see that the disciples (specifically

***Stephen:***

**Genuinely knew the Word of God.**



A man in a white shirt is seen from the side, speaking into a microphone on a stage. The background is dark with some stage lights visible.

***Stephen:***

Genuinely knew the Word of God.

**Was living out Psalm 119:11.**

A man in a white shirt is shown from the chest up, speaking into a microphone. The background is dark and out of focus.

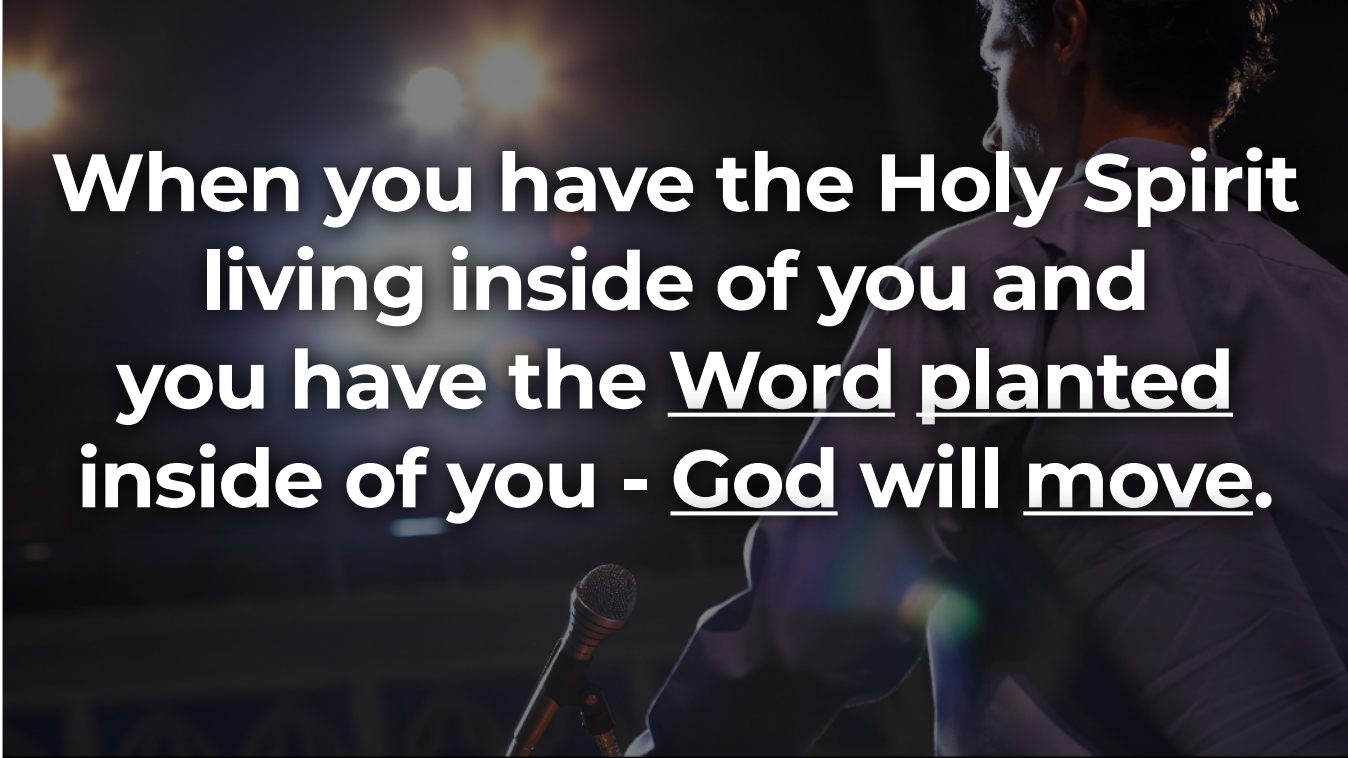
**Stephen:**

Genuinely knew the Word of God.

Was living out Psalm 119:11.

**He had truly hidden the Word of  
God in his heart.**

- Something to make us think about: In the heat of a moment, would you be able to share God's word to someone?
- We know the Holy Spirit was working in Stephen's life because the last few chapters would say, "Stephen, a man full of faith and the Spirit." and we also know he knew the Word - this speech reveals that.
- Stephen was a dangerous man to the devil. Satan wanted to stop him because he was a threat.
- You say what do you mean Ryan?

A man with a beard, wearing a dark shirt, is shown from the chest up, speaking into a microphone. The background is dark with some blurred lights. Overlaid on the image is white text.

**When you have the Holy Spirit  
living inside of you and  
you have the Word planted  
inside of you - God will move.**

- and for this Scripture, we see God move through Stephen by being able to share the Lord's Sovereignty.
- Now these 48 verses can actually be broken down into five parts that cover some of Israel's history:



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# 1. Abrahams Calling (2-8)

*Stephen's Speech*

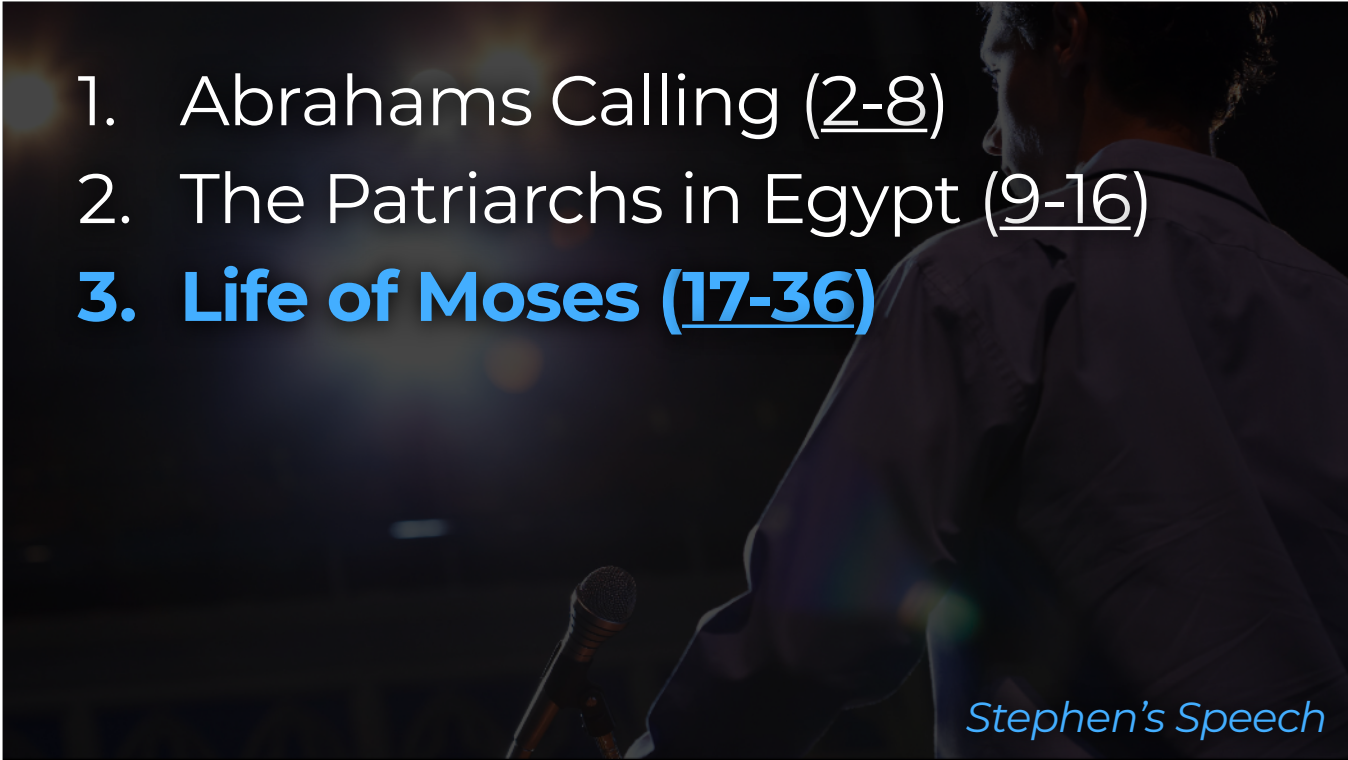
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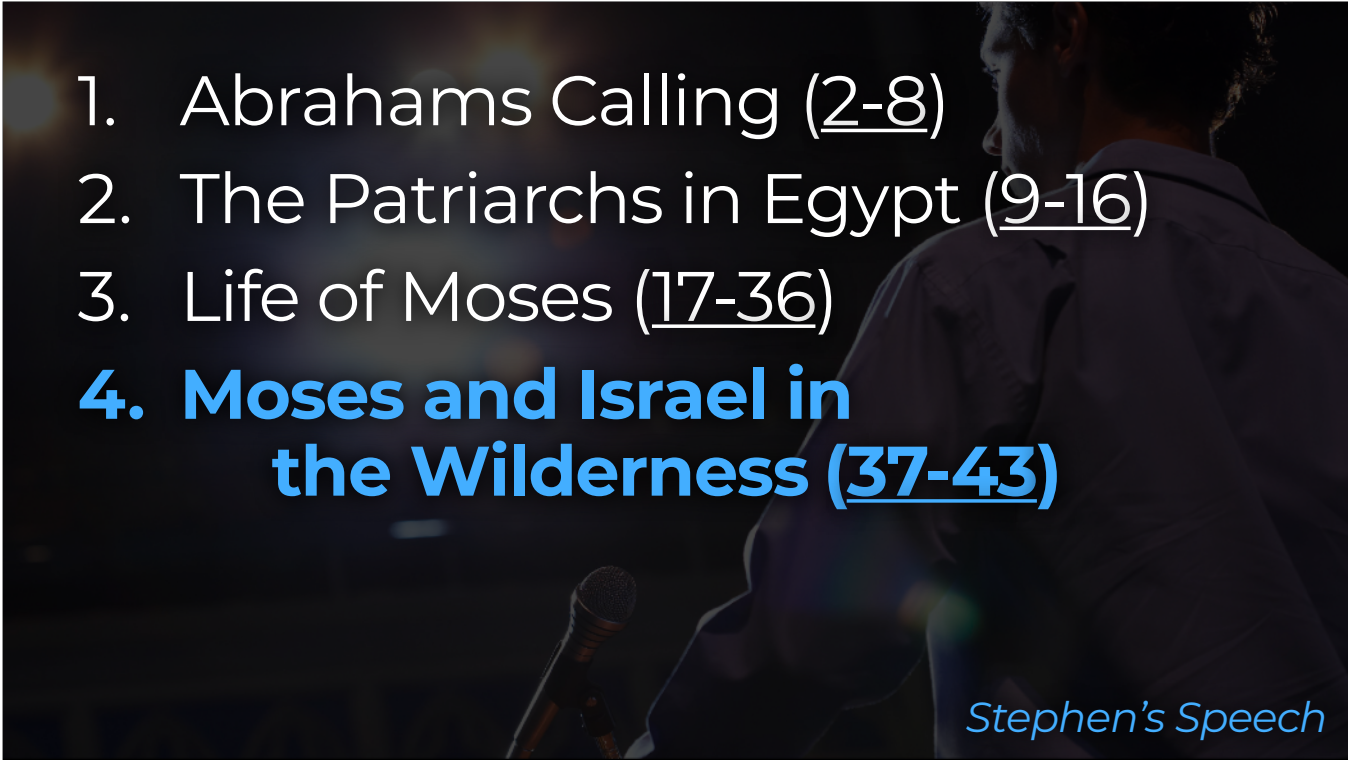
1. Abrahams Calling (2-8)

**2. The Patriarchs in Egypt (9-16)**

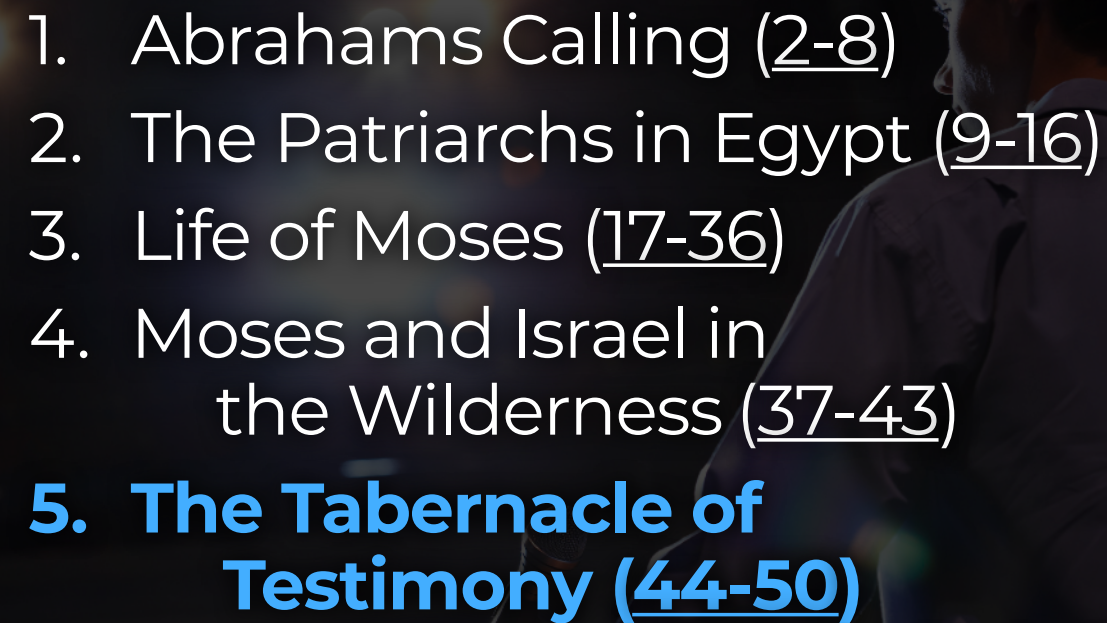
*Stephen's Speech*

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1. Abrahams Calling (2-8)
2. The Patriarchs in Egypt (9-16)
- 3. Life of Moses (17-36)**

*Stephen's Speech*

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- A man with a beard, wearing a dark shirt, is seen from the side, speaking into a microphone. The background is dark with some light flares.
1. Abrahams Calling (2-8)
  2. The Patriarchs in Egypt (9-16)
  3. Life of Moses (17-36)
  - 4. Moses and Israel in  
the Wilderness (37-43)**

*Stephen's Speech*

- 
1. Abrahams Calling (2-8)
  2. The Patriarchs in Egypt (9-16)
  3. Life of Moses (17-36)
  4. Moses and Israel in  
the Wilderness (37-43)
  - 5. The Tabernacle of  
Testimony (44-50)**

*Stephen's Speech*

- Why this speech?
- The reason for this speech is that Stephen has just been falsely accused of blasphemy for his knowledge of the OT, so he takes this opportunity to speak to his accuser, the Sanhedrin.
- And what he is doing is sharing with them the TRUE teachings and prophecies from the Old Testament - even though he knows they won't agree with it.
- Main Idea from Stephen's speech:>>>

A photograph of a man in a light blue shirt speaking at a podium with a microphone. The background is dark with some stage lights visible. Overlaid on the image is the text "Israel had a long history of rejecting God and His chosen prophets." in white, bold font. At the bottom right of the image, there is a line of text in blue: "Main Idea from Stephen's Speech".

## Israel had a long history of rejecting God and His chosen prophets.

*Main Idea from Stephen's Speech*

- Time after time God would provide for the Israelites and they would deny Him.
- And as we see in this context, history right here is being repeated.
- What the Jewish leaders had done in the past by rejecting God's appointed leaders, these current Jewish leaders have been rejecting Jesus, the ultimate deliverer.
- This is why rather than a defense, Stephen saw this speech as an opportunity for them to hear the Christian message.



A photograph of a man in a white shirt speaking at a podium with a microphone. The background is dark with some stage lights visible. Overlaid on the image is the text: 

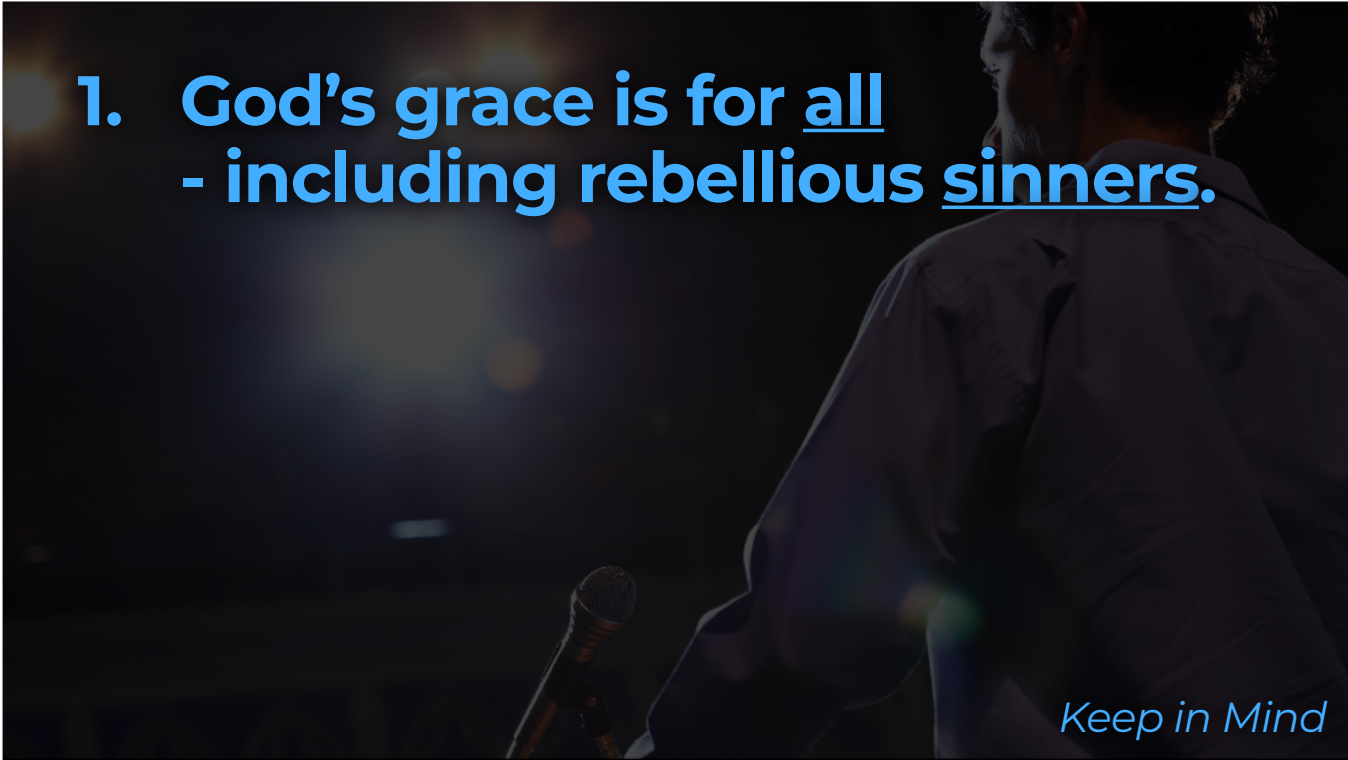
**Stephen is not on defense;  
he is on the offense!**

- He knew the cost of standing up for his faith in Jesus and speaking the Truth. He would be stoned right after this for speaking “lies” (according to the Sanhedrin).
- Regardless of the cost, he was faithful to speak the absolute Truth.

# ***Keep In Mind:***

A photograph of a person from the back, wearing a light-colored shirt, standing at a podium with a microphone. The background is dark with some blurred lights. The text 'Keep In Mind:' is overlaid in a bright blue, bold, italicized font.

- There's two points from this passage I want us to look at.



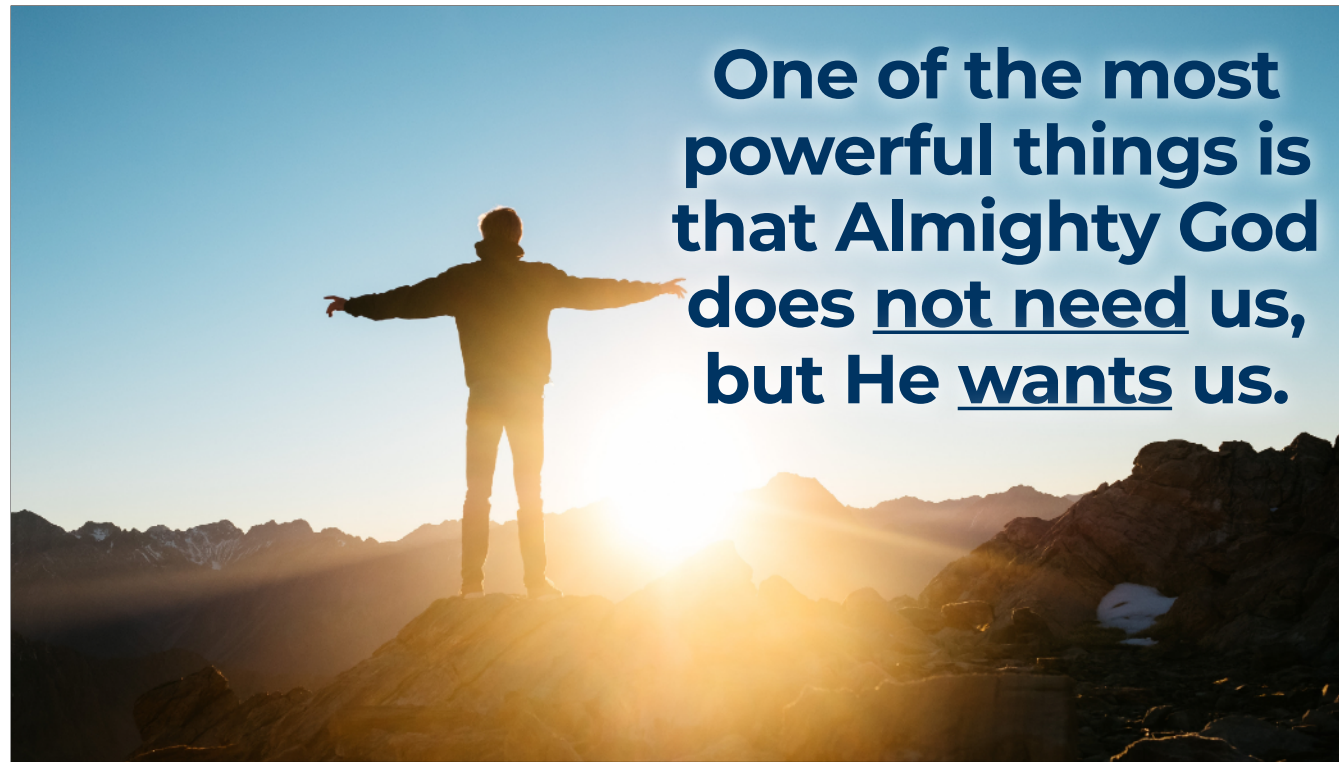
# 1. God's grace is for all - including rebellious sinners.

*Keep in Mind*

- As Stephen points out different times in history of people rejecting God, we see He still made a way for them to find a way back to Him. God desired all to seek Him.
- In Romans 4:16 Paul writes, "Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all."
- You see when the Bible says that God's grace is available to all, it gives no preconditions.



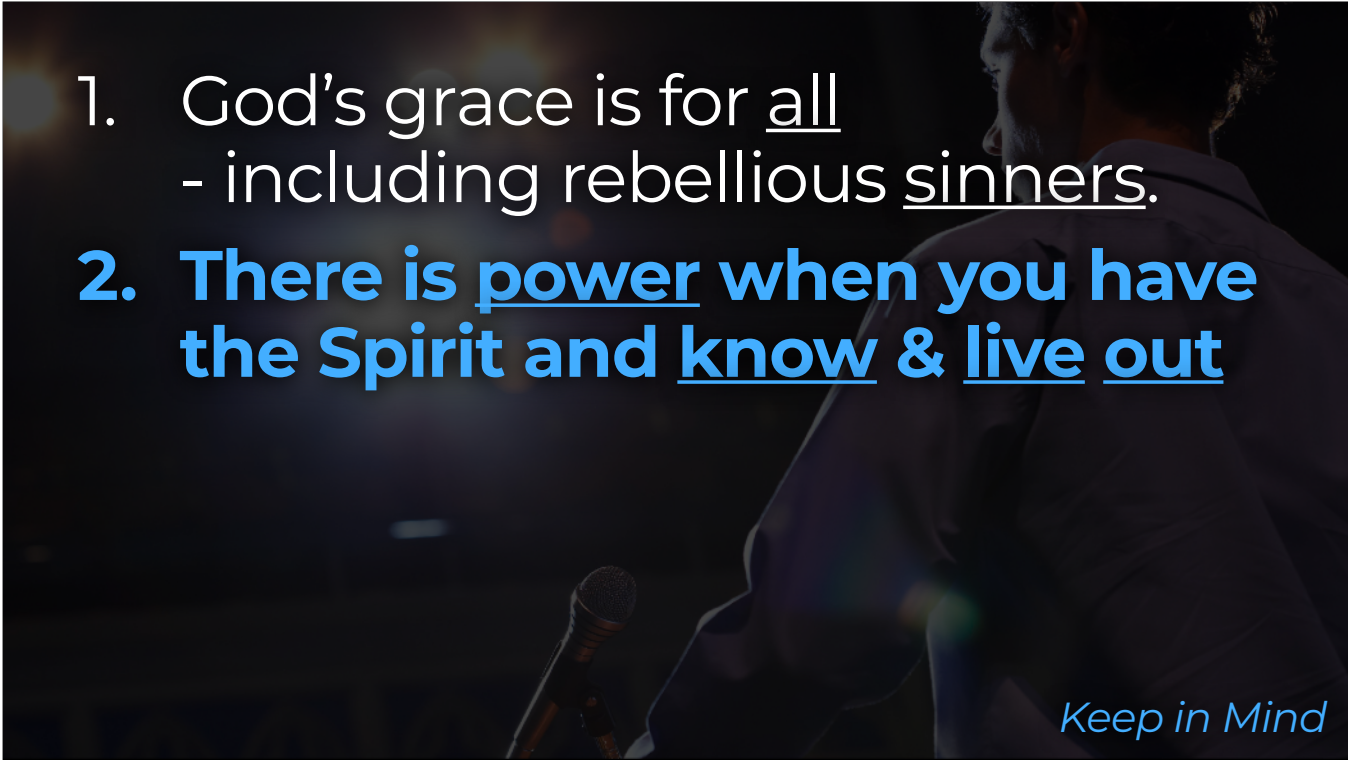
- Meaning God's grace is available to you whether you have been walking with God for awhile, have fallen away, are stuck in a sin, whatever the case may be, God's grace is available to you by faith.
- Think about it this way - you'll never set eyes on someone who Jesus didn't die for. Whether that's on someone else - or on yourself and your past.
- God's grace is for everyone.
- When God sent his Son to die on a cross, he did it for everyone.
- No matter how many times a person rejects him -
- He still relentlessly pursues them.



One of the most powerful things is that Almighty God does not need us, but He wants us.

- And isn't it even more special when someone doesn't just need you, but when they want you?
- God's grace is for everyone.

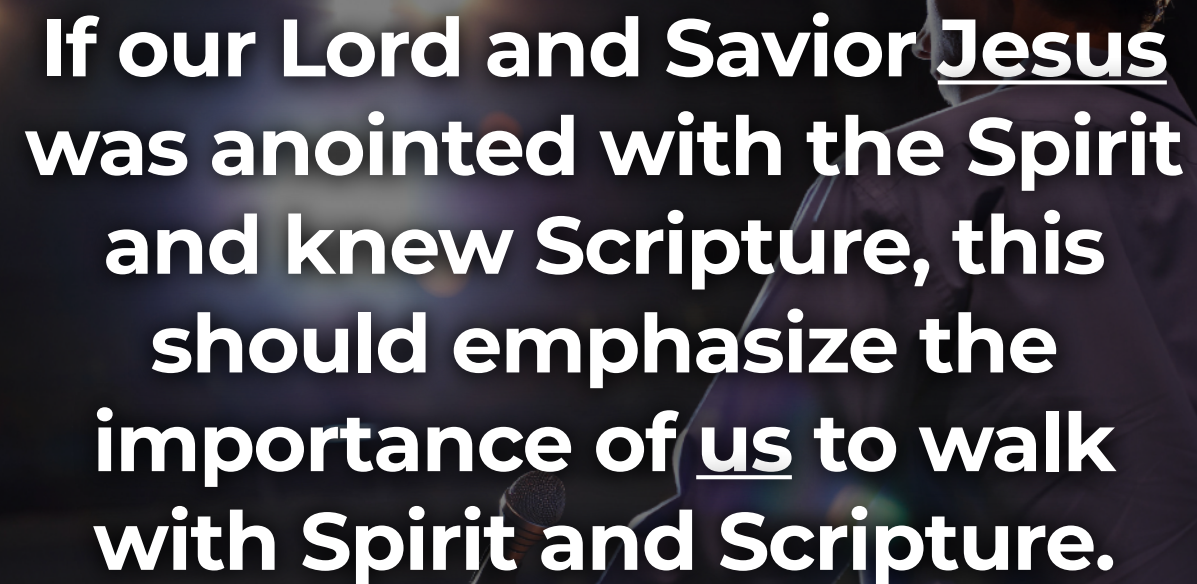


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- A man in a dark suit is seen from the side, speaking into a microphone. The background is dark with some light bokeh. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.
1. God's grace is for all  
- including rebellious sinners.
  2. There is power when you have  
the Spirit and know & live out

*Keep in Mind*

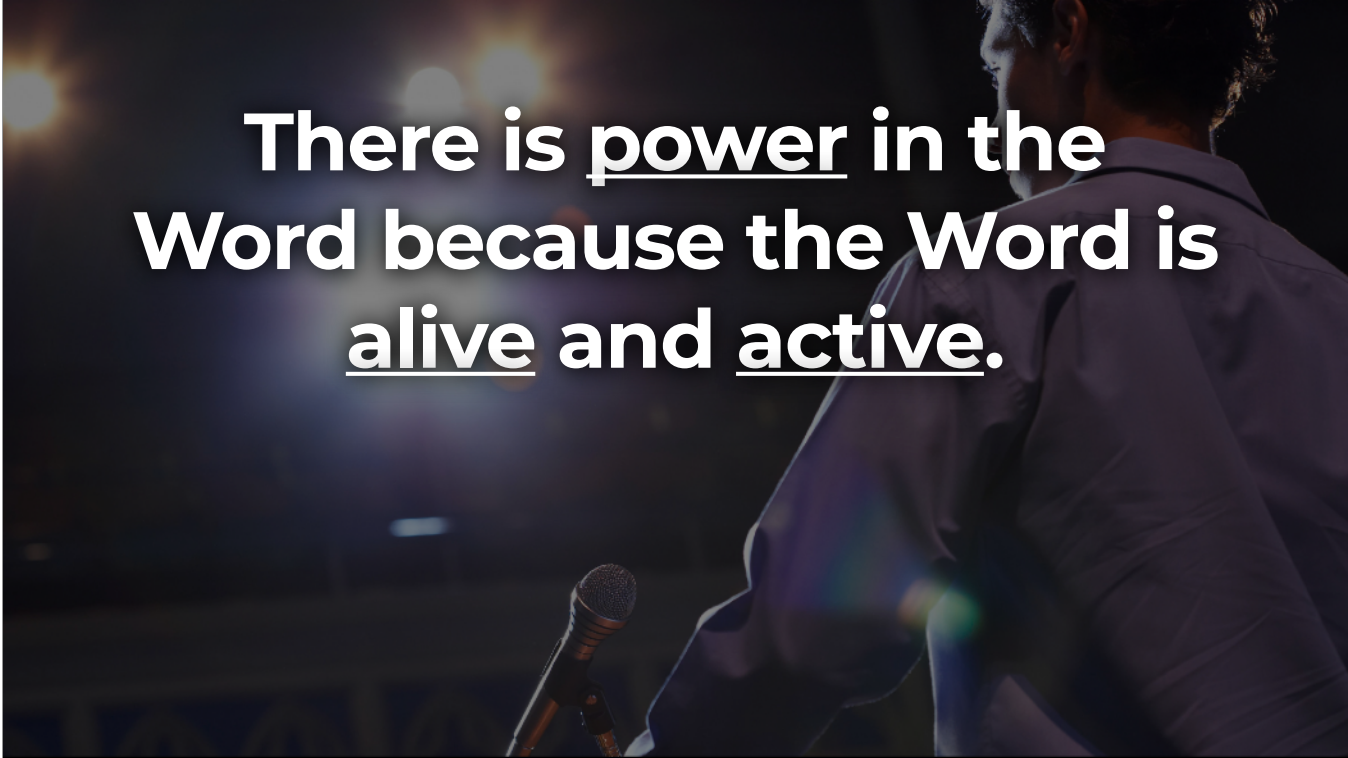
- Stephen was in a difficult situation where he could've just not spoken up and shared the true message of God's Sovereignty – but because he had the Spirit and knew Scripture, we see the message go out.
- And for you and I, we can see the power of God in our lives if we abide in these two things.
- Jesus said in John 15:4 to abide in Him and He would abide in us.
- Well, Jesus Himself abided in the Holy Spirit and the Word.
- Acts 10:38 says, *"how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him."*
- And Jesus in 11 different historical occasions quoted Scripture.



A person is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark shirt, speaking into a microphone. The background is dark with some light bokeh. Overlaid on the image is white text.

**If our Lord and Savior Jesus  
was anointed with the Spirit  
and knew Scripture, this  
should emphasize the  
importance of us to walk  
with Spirit and Scripture.**

- And we get to see the power that is within that!
- God has called every single one of us to walk in the Spirit. And when you do that, you begin to see the power of God in display for whatever that moment may be.
- For you, it may not be giving a speech to a high priest like Stephen did, it can be a number of things. But when that time comes to stand up for the word of God or for you to fight for your flesh - remember that the power is in the Spirit and the Word of God.

A person is seen from the side, wearing a light-colored shirt, speaking into a microphone on a stage. The background is dark with bright, out-of-focus stage lights creating a bokeh effect. The text is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**There is power in the  
Word because the Word is  
alive and active.**

- Let's Pray.