



THE PURSUIT
**Beyond
Borders**
DAILY DEVOTION BASED ON
ACTS 7-10

— Week 2 —

**The Rejected Deliverer
(Acts 7:17-36)**

Highlights God's pursuit of Israel through Moses,
despite their repeated rejection of His chosen leaders.

Day 8: Timing and Growth (Acts 7:17-19)

Principle: God's plan matures even under oppression.

“As the time drew near for God to fulfill his promise to Abraham, the number of our people in Egypt had greatly increased. Then ‘a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt.’ 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 7:17-19 (NIV)

There is a strange paradox in God's economy: His promises often reach their highest velocity just as our circumstances reach their greatest intensity.

In Acts 7:17, we see that the time of the promise was approaching—the 400-year mark God had spoken to Abraham centuries earlier. You might expect this approach to look like a smooth runway of favor. Instead, it was marked by a new king who did not know Joseph, a regime of exploitation, and a horrific decree against the next generation.

Yet, verse 17 tells us that even under this tightening grip of oppression, the people “*greatly* increased.” God's plan was not just surviving the hardship; it was maturing through it.

We often fear that opposition will derail God's purpose for us. We think, "If this were God's timing, wouldn't it be easier?" But the history of Israel shows that God uses the shrewdness of our enemies to position us for His power. The very pressure intended to crush the people only served to expand them until they were large enough to occupy a nation.

Reflection: Growth in the dark is still growth. If you feel oppressed by your schedule, your finances, or your health, remember that your current season is not a detour—it is a divine appointment. God's promise is not waiting for your circumstances to improve; it is being fulfilled right in the middle of them.

Prayer: Lord, thank You that Your timing is not hindered by human opposition. When the "king" of my circumstances seems to ignore my past faithfulness, remind me that You are still multiplying my strength. Help me to trust that even in the pressure, You are growing and maturing me. Amen.

Day 9: Set Apart for a Purpose (Acts 7:20-22)

Principle: God preserves the "unlikely" for His mission.

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

— Acts 7:20-22 (NIV)

God’s timing is rarely convenient, and His methods are rarely conventional. Moses was born at the absolute worst possible moment for a Hebrew boy—under a death decree from a king who wanted him erased. Yet, Acts 7:20 tells us he was “no ordinary child.” Before Moses had done anything, God saw purpose in him.

Look at the irony of God’s preservation:

God didn't just hide Moses; He placed him in the very palace that was trying to destroy his people. God used the enemy’s resources to feed, clothe, and educate His chosen deliverer.

Moses was "educated in all the wisdom of Egypt." God was using a secular, pagan environment to equip Moses with the leadership, law, and administrative skills he would eventually need to lead a nation through the wilderness.

Reflection: You may feel like you are in an unlikely or even unfriendly environment—a job that challenges your faith, a family that doesn't understand your walk, or a season that feels secular and dry. But God is a master of dual-purpose seasons. He can use the "Egyptian wisdom" of your current situation to prepare you for an "Exodus" mission you can't yet see.

Nothing is wasted. Being set apart doesn't always mean being taken out of the world; often, it means being preserved in the midst of it until the moment you are called to lead.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for seeing beauty and purpose in me even when I feel out of place. Thank You for using every circumstance—even the ones that seem contrary to my faith—to train me. Help me to trust Your preservation while I wait for Your timing. Amen.

Day 10: Mistaken Identity (Acts 7:23-25)

Principle: God's people often miss His rescue at first.

“When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his own people, the Israelites. He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not.”

— Acts 7:23-25 (NIV)

Timing is everything, but perception is the runner-up. Moses stepped out with a heart full of zeal, ready to be the hero. He assumed that because he knew his calling, everyone else would see it too. Instead, he met a wall of confusion. His brothers didn't see a deliverer; they saw a murderer or a meddling Egyptian prince.

This mistaken identity reveals a sobering truth: God's rescue often arrives in a package we don't recognize.

We often pray for deliverance but reject the deliverer God sends because it doesn't fit our expectations. We look for a miracle, but God sends a mentor who challenges us. We look for a sudden exit, but God sends a process that humbles us. Like the Israelites, we can be so blinded by our own pain and survival tactics that we mistake God's hand of help for another source of hurt.

We pray for patience, and God sends a frustrating coworker.

We pray for growth, and God introduces a season of pruning and loss.

We pray for closeness, and God allows a storm that forces us to our knees.

We often build a specific picture of what help should look like. When God answers our prayers in an unexpected package, we risk missing His provision.

The beauty of this story is that human rejection cannot cancel God's affection. The Israelites rejected Moses, and Moses fled to the desert for forty years. It seemed like the rescue mission was a total failure.

But God does not abandon His chase. Decades later, God cornered Moses in a burning bush and sent him right back to the people who rejected him.

God's pursuit of you is relentless. He does not stop chasing you when you misinterpret His actions. He does not pack up and leave when you push Him away out of fear or ignorance. He is patient enough to wait out your confusion, and He is powerful enough to break through your blindness. Jesus experienced the ultimate mistaken identity—He came to save the world, and the world crucified Him. Yet, through that very misunderstanding, our permanent rescue was secured.

Reflection: When people don't understand your intentions or actions right away, it isn't always a sign of failure. Sometimes it's a sign that the vision hasn't caught up to the provision. Moses had the right mission but the wrong momentum. God's rescue was certain, but the people weren't ready to be rescued, and Moses wasn't yet ready to lead.

What current trial or disruption in your life might actually be God's rescue in disguise?

In what areas of your life are you resisting change because the familiar bondages feel safer than God's freedom?

Prayer: Lord, forgive me for the times I've missed Your hand because I was looking for a different kind of help. Open my eyes to see Your hand at work in the unexpected, chaotic areas of my life today. Thank You for never giving up on me, even when I fail to recognize You. Give me the patience to wait for Your clarity when I feel misunderstood. Amen.

Day 11: The Long Wait in Midian (Acts 7:26-29)

Principle: God doesn't forget us in the wilderness.

"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?'

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

— Acts 7:29 (NIV)

Between the palace of promise and the mountain of manifestation, there is almost always a Midian.

Moses spent forty years in the wilderness. Forty years is not a weekend retreat—it's a lifetime. In Egypt, he was a prince of power; in Midian, he was a fugitive shepherd. The man who was "powerful in speech and action" (Acts 7:22) was reduced to tending someone else's sheep in a land that wasn't his own.

It is easy to assume that the "Midian seasons" of our lives—the years spent in a dead-end job, the decades of raising a family in obscurity, or the long wait for a dream to resurface—are wasted time. We feel forgotten by God, as if our flight from our mistakes has put us out of His reach.

But God doesn't forget us in the wilderness; He reforms us there. In Egypt, Moses was a man of fleshly strength who killed to get justice. In Midian, God stripped away the Egyptian prince to reveal the humble shepherd. The wilderness wasn't a punishment; it was the preparation required for the magnitude of the mission ahead.

Reflection: Your "Midian" is not a cemetery for your calling; it is the soil where your character is strengthened for the weight of the promise. God knows exactly which desert bush you are sitting under today.

Prayer: Lord, thank You that You are the God of the wilderness. When I feel like I'm in exile or that my best years are behind me, remind me that You are working in the silence. Use this long wait to make me the kind of person who can carry Your glory. Amen.

Day 12: Holy Ground in Nowhere (Acts 7:30-33)

Principle: God's presence isn't confined to a Temple.

“After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush in the desert near Mount Sinai. When he saw this, he was amazed at the sight. As he went over to get a closer look, he heard the Lord say: ‘I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.’ Moses trembled with fear and did not dare to look.

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

— Acts 7:30-33 (NIV)

We often think we have to travel to a specific temple or wait for a spiritual peak to experience God. But Moses was in the wilderness—a place of dust, sheep, and mundane routine—when he stumbled into the glory of God.

Stephen's point to his audience was radical: God is not a local deity. He wasn't confined to the Temple in Jerusalem then, and He isn't confined to a church building now.

“Holy ground” wasn't holy because of the soil; it was holy because of God's Presence.

This means that nowhere is off-limits. God can turn a hospital room, a quiet kitchen, or a stressful office into a sanctuary. God used a common desert bush—not a majestic cedar—to manifest His fire. He loves to use the ordinary parts of your life to show His extraordinary power.

Reflection: If you feel like you're in the middle of nowhere spiritually, look closer. The ground you are standing on right now—in the middle of your mess or your waiting—is exactly where God wants to meet you. You don't need to change your location to find God; you only need to take off your sandals (surrender your agenda) and acknowledge Him.

Prayer: Lord, thank You that I don't have to go to a special place to find You. You are here, in the middle of my wilderness. Open my eyes to Your extraordinary power in my life today. Help me to treat every moment as holy ground because You are always with me. Amen.

Day 13: I Have Heard Their Groaning (Acts 7:34)

Principle: God's pursuit is fueled by His compassion.

"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 7:34 (NIV)

Sometimes the most painful part of suffering isn't the hardship itself—it's the fear that our cries are disappearing into a vacuum. We wonder if the Creator of the universe is too busy managing galaxies to notice the groaning of a single soul in a difficult season.

In Acts 7:34, God uses four powerful verbs: **See, Hear, Come Down and Send.**

Before Moses ever felt ready to return to Egypt, God was already moved by the sound of the people's pain. God didn't say, "I have heard their perfect, theological prayers." He said, "*I have heard their groaning.*" Groaning is the language of the exhausted and frustrated. It's the prayer you pray when you don't have words left—just a heavy heart and a weary spirit.

Reflection: God's pursuit of you is not fueled by your performance or your ability to keep it together. It is fueled by His compassion. He doesn't look down with judgment at your struggle; He comes down to meet you in it. Your pain is not a signal that God has left the room; it is the very thing that draws Him closer.

Prayer: Lord, thank You that my groans are a language You understand. Thank You for not being a distant God, but one who sees my affliction and hears my heart. I trust that because You have heard me, You are already in the process of delivering me. Amen.

Day 14: The One You Rejected (Acts 7:35-36)

Principle: God vindicates those the world casts aside.

“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. 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 7:35-36 (NIV)

There is a holy irony in the way God works. The very man the Israelites shoved away in the heat of a desert argument was the one God hand-selected to lead them to the Promised Land.

We often fear that being rejected by "the many" or "the experts" is a disqualification. We think if people don't recognize our value, then perhaps we don't have any. But Acts 7:35 shows us that God's validation is the only one that truly carries weight.

Notice the shift in titles:

- The World's View: A murderer, an exile, and a nobody.
- God's View: A ruler and a redeemer.

God loves to vindicate the castaways. He takes the person the world shoved aside and places the keys of the kingdom in their hand. This isn't just about Moses; it's a pattern that points directly to Jesus, the ultimate rejected cornerstone.

Reflection: If you have been cast aside, overlooked, or told you aren't "the one," take heart. Your identity is not found in the consensus of the crowd, but in the calling of the Creator. When God sends you, the same people who have questioned your authority will eventually witness the wonders and signs of God working through your life.

Prayer: Lord, heal the sting of rejection. Help me to stop looking for my worth in the eyes of those who don't see Your plan for me. I thank You that You are my Vindicator. If You have sent me, I have all the authority I need. Amen.