

Series "God At Work" Book Of Acts
"Church's 1st Martyr"
Acts 6:8-7:60
Study 13

Acts 7:52-60

"Apostolic Helpers" Acts 6:1-7 Luke says of Stephen, **Acts 6:8.**

Martyr: A person who dies for his or her beliefs. A Christian Martyr is a person who is killed because of his or her witness to Jesus Christ. **Acts 1:8 You shall be my witnesses** – The Greek word is **mar'-toos** we get our word martyr from.

Acts 7 records the longest single speech in the Book of Acts as well as the turning point in Israel's spiritual history.

History is **"His - Story"** Israel has had a history with a relationship with God.

OT Scripture to reveal that the real problem was the religious; their hearts were unconverted, they had never known God!

Thought Of The Passage: The World's Response To A Man Consecrated Exposing Sin And Filled With Wisdom Of The Spirit Is To Silence Him.

- 1. Acts 6:8-15 The Life**
- 2. Acts 7:1-36 The Land**
- 3. Acts 7:37-45 The Law**
- 4. Acts 7:46-50 The Temple**
- 5. Acts 7:51-60 The Response**

1. Acts 6:8-15 The Life:

Acts 6:8 And [Context] Church was growing, experiencing "Growing Pains." God directed them to choose seven men, **Stephen**, "*Victor's crown.*" Servant **Acts 6:5-7**

Verse 8 Stephen's Works: full of grace – "*unmerited favor or riches from God*" **and power**, - This man was a man of the Word, Spirit, prayer and was yielded to the Lord.

was performing great wonders and signs among the people. This is the first time someone other than the apostles is performing wonders.

Acts 6:9 Synagogue of the Freedmen probably Jews that were formerly slaves.

Argued Against the Truth: rose up and argued with Stephen.

Verse 10 Stephen's Words: Acts 6:10 wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. power of the Holy Spirit. **Luke 21:15**

Verse 11 Slandering of Stephen: Acts 6:11 Then they secretly induced men to say, Started a smear campaign:

Verse 11 Accusation: Blasphemy Against Moses and God: "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God."

Verse 12 Violence Against Stephen: Acts 6:12 dragged him away

Verses 13-14 Accusation: Blasphemy Against the Temple and The Law: Acts 6:13, Mark 12:6

and the Law; Matthew 5:17-20 Jesus came to fulfill the Law.

Acts 6:14-15 face like the face of an angel. Why was his face glowing?
Exodus 34:29-30

There should be no break between **Acts 6:15** and **Acts 7:1** it is a continuation.

2. Acts 7:1-36 The Land:

Acts 7:1 The high priest said, "Are these things so?" Opportunity to share.

Stephen Knows the Word: Shares from the time of Abraham to Solomon.

Verses 2-8 Abraham Met God Outside The Land: Acts 7:2 The God of glory - Note where Stephen starts is with God! *"The starting point of salvation is not man's search for God, but God's search for man."*

appeared to our father Abraham - This information is not in the **Genesis** account.

when he was in Mesopotamia, the heart of the middle East, Babylon.
before he lived in Haran, modern-day Iraq.

Abraham came from a family of idolaters, **Joshua 24:2**

Acts 7:3-5 Abraham saw Canaan as a land he was passing through:

Acts 7:6-8 The covenant with Abraham is recorded in **Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-18**, as well as in **Genesis 15 and 17**. It included the ownership by Abraham's seed.

Verses 9-16 The Sons of Jacob Blessed Through Egypt: Acts 7:9
"The patriarchs became jealous of Joseph and sold him into Egypt.
Israel's track-record.

Egypt – used **six times** in **seven verses**. His blessings were outside of Israel.

And yet God was with him, (God's Doing) Outside the land of promise

Acts 7:10-13 Jesus will be revealed at the second coming.
Zacariah 12:10

Acts 7:14-16 Joseph the rejected deliverer that saved Israel and the Egyptians .

Verses 17-36 Moses And Israel Blessed Outside the Land: Acts 7:17.

Acts 7:18-21, Exodus 2:2 and when she saw that he was beautiful,

Acts 7:22-25 Moses was rejected by the Jewish People:

Acts 7:26-28 Moses was rejected as the deliverer of Israel.

Verse 29 Moses Was Trained Outside Israel: Acts 7:29 Heathen country.

Verses 30-36 Moses Was Commissioned Near Mount Sinai: Acts 7:30

forty years had passed "Suffering Is The Price Of Leadership."

Acts 7:31-36 Israel claimed to honor Moses highly, but the reality is they were really bad in their treatment of Him!

3. Acts 7:37-45 The Law:

Acts 7:37 The Hope of Israel was not the Law but the deliverer, Jesus Christ. Deuteronomy 18:15

Acts 7:38-39 Israel Disobeyed Moses: our fathers were unwilling to be obedient to him Before the Exodus and After the Exodus.

Verses 40-43 Israel Worshiped Idols: **Acts 7:40-43** In these verses Stephen refers to **Amos 5:25-27** and **Isaiah 66:1-2**.

Acts 7:44-45 "Our fathers had the tabernacle of testimony Most Privilege of people:

4. Acts 7:46-50 The Temple:

Acts 7:46-50 Israel erred in that they tried to confine God.

5. Acts 7:51-60 The Response:

Acts 7:51 Inductive Bible Study: Observation, Interpretation leads to Application – Stephen now applies the message.

resisting the Holy Spirit; Israel had committed two murders and was about to commit the third.

Acts 7:52-55 But being full of the Holy Spirit, Being filled again. He needed a filling!

Acts 7:56 Son of Man – Ezekiel passages signaled that God's Messiah would save all men not just Jews.

Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." God is standing for Stephen?

Acts 7:57-58 a young man named Saul. introduced to soon to be Apostle Paul.

Acts 7:59-60 Here is a man that is being sinned against, and he is not bitter but is praying for those that are treating him wrongly. Jesus did the same thing on the cross!

he fell asleep. Not confused with the false doctrine of (Soul Sleep) the Jehovah's Witness and Seventh Day Adventist. The soul is the personality the real you, **1 Corinthians 11:30; 15:51; 1 Thessalonians 4:13** always refers to the body. Sleeps from the death until the resurrection.

2 Corinthians 5:8

Application:

- 1.** History Reveals God's Presence And Glory Cannot Be Confined To Any One Place No Matter How Sacred. It's Not About Structures Or Systems.
- 2.** God Wants Nothing Less Than A Personal Relationship With Him.
- 3.** Jesus Christ, The Messiah, Is The Goal Of The Law And The Prophets For Israel. That, In Receiving Jesus Christ, They Fulfill God's Purpose And Destiny Of The Jewish Nation.
- 4.** A Warning That We, Like Israel, Can Suffer From Spiritual Blindness And The Temptation Of The Sin Of Resisting God And His Chosen Instruments.