

**Series "The Acts Of God"**  
**"The First Martyr"**  
**Acts 6:8-7:60**  
**Study-13**

**Acts 6:8**

**Martyr** – is a person who dies for his or her beliefs; 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 where we get our word martyr from.

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

- 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 Stephen,"; "Victor's crown" Acts 6:5-7

Verse 8 – Stephen's Works: "full of grace" – "unmerited favor or riches from God, beauty, symmetry, elegance, loveliness"

Acts 6:9

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

Verse 10 – Stephen's Word's:

Luke 21:15

Verse 11 – Slandering of Stephen:

Verse 11 – Accusation: Blasphemy Against Moses and God:

Verse 12 – Violence Against Stephen:

Verses 13-14 – Accusation: Blasphemy Against the Temple and The Law:

Mark 12:6

“the Law;” Matt 5:17-20

Acts 6:14-15

Ex. 34:29-30

## **2. Acts 7:1-36 The Land:**

Acts 7:1

Stephen Knows the Word:

Verses 2-8 – Abraham Met God Outside The Land:

“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.”

“Mesopotamia,” the heart of the middle East, Babylon.

“before he lived in Haran,” modern day Iraq

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 13:14-18, Genesis 15; 17

Verses 9-16 – The Sons of Jacob Blessed Through Egypt:

Egypt – used 6X in 7 verses.

Acts 7:10-13

Zac 12:10

Acts 7:14-16

Verses 17-36 – Moses And Israel Blessed Outside the Land:

Acts 7:18-21

Ex 2:2 "and when she saw that he was beautiful,"

Acts 7:22

"We must recognize that a big head without the helmet of salvation is worthless!"

Acts 7:23-24

Moses Failure Was Being Repeated By The Present Leaders Of Israel Which Was The Focus of The Nationalism of Israel.

Acts 7:25-28

Verse 29 – Moses Was Trained Outside Israel:

Verses 30-36 – Moses Was Commissioned Near Mount Sinai:

Acts 7:30-35

Israel claimed to honor Moses highly but the reality is they were really bad in their treatment of Him!

Acts 7:36

The only one worth following is God!

### **3. Acts 7:37-45 The Law:**

Acts 7:37

The Hope of Israel was not the Law but the deliverer Jesus Christ. Deut 18:15

Acts 7:38-39

Verses 40-43 – Israel Worshiped Idols: Amos 5:25-27 and Isa. 66:1-2

Israel thought that because they had their tabernacle, they were safe from harm, and God had to bless them.

Acts 7:44-45

#### **4. Acts 7:46-50 The Temple:**

Acts 7:46-50

Isa 66:1-2

Israel erred in that they tried to confine God.

#### **5. Acts 7:51-60 The Response:**

Acts 7:51

Observation and Interpretation leads to Application:

Acts 7:52-56

“Son of Man” – Ezekiel passages signaled that God’s Messiah would save all men not just Jews.

Acts 7:57-60

#### **Application:**

1. History reveals that God’s presence and glory cannot be confined to any one place no matter how sacred. It’s not about structures or systems.
2. We, like Israel, suffer from spiritual blindness and are constantly tempted and sin through resisting God and His chosen instruments.
3. The Law and the Temple and every sacred institution are capable of abuse; The Spirit and truth being infinitely more important than external rites and ordinances.
4. Jesus Christ the Messiah is the goal of the law and the prophets, and that, in accepting Him, the true Jew fulfills the purpose of the God of His fathers and the sacred destiny of His race.
5. God wants nothing less than a personal relationship with Himself.