

# **The Acts of the Apostles**

## **Act 7**

### **Expanding the New Community**

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# The Acts of the Apostles

## More expanded structure:

- I. An Introduction to Acts (1:1-14)
- II. The Word in Jerusalem (1:15-6:7)
- III. The Word goes out from Jerusalem (6:8-9:31)
- IV. The Word Advances in Judea & Syria (9:32-12:25)
- V. The Word goes to Cyprus & Asia Minor (13:1-16:5)
- VI. The Word goes to Europe (16:6-18:22)
- VII. The Word in Ephesus: Climax of Paul's Mission as free man  
(18:23-20:38)
- VIII. Paul's Final Missionary Journey: To Jerusalem & Rome (21:1-  
28:31)

# The Acts of the Apostles

*Acts 9:31*

*“So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.”*

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# The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 6:7-10



# The Acts of the Apostles

*Luke 21:12-15*

*“But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name’s sake.*

*It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony.*

*So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves;*

*for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute.”*

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# The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 6:11-15



# The Acts of the Apostles

Stephen has several options:

1. *He can defend himself*
  2. *He can just speak of the realities of Jesus*
  3. *Instead Stephen decides to give them the BIG Story picture*
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# The Acts of the Apostles

Stephen will address 3 audiences:

1. *The Diaspora Jews*

2. *The Jerusalem Leadership*

3. *Luke's audience that needs shoring up in their faith*

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# The Acts of the Apostles

Stephen addresses the 3 great pillars of the Jewish people:

1. *Land*

2. *Law*

3. *Temple*

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# **The Acts of the Apostles**

## **I. The Foundational Promises to Abraham (Chapter 7:2-8)**

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# The Acts of the Apostles

## II. Rejected Joseph & salvation of God's People (Chapter 7:9-16)

### Stephen's goal is obvious

- Joseph was rejected by his brothers, the very patriarchs of Israel BTW
  - God then vindicates the rejected Joseph by saving Israel through him
  - Joseph's very rejection was God's divine means of saving His people
  - Sounds a lot like Stephen! Sounds even more like Jesus!!!
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# The Acts of the Apostles

## Review:

1. *God is not confined to the Promised Land & in particular the Temple*
  2. *There is a pattern of rejecting God's appointed people and then of God utilizing the rejected servant to aide His people*
  3. *Stephen signed up for one thing & yet now finds himself being used for another*
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