

The Acts of the Apostles

Act 7

Expanding the New Community

The Acts of the Apostles

Review:

- a) Stephen chosen with 6 others to solve issue – protect the Apostles to teach
 - b) Appears he is rapidly moved into a teaching role as well
 - c) Diaspora Jews, perhaps jealous or angry from feeling looked down on in turn try and kick Stephen by false accusations that he is undermining the Torah, the Temple, and the Land of God
 - d) He is brought before the Sanhedrin and the High Priest
 - e) Rather than defending himself, he gives a lengthy sermon of indictment against Israel and its leadership for continually rejecting God when He stands before them
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Review:

- f) First part of the sermon looked at last week he argued:
 - I. God is not confined to the Promised Land and in particular the Temple
 - II. There is a pattern of rejecting God's appointed Leaders and then of God utilizing the rejected servants to save His people



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III. Rejected Moses & the salvation of God's people – 7:17-38

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- Acts 7:17-25



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General Observations:

1. *Passage marks Moses' 1st 40 year phase*
 2. *"...supposed that his brethren understood"*
 3. *Moses had a sense of his calling even
BEFORE the burning bush*
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- Acts 7:26-29

Additional Observations:

1. *Moses' concern was unappreciated*
 2. *AGAIN like Abraham & Joseph God is working OUTSIDE the Land & more importantly outside the Temple*
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- Acts 7:30-37

Deut. 18:15 “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.

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- Acts 7:38



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IV. Rejected Jesus – The continuing pattern of disobedience to God - 7:39-53

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- Acts 7:39-43



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Amos 5:25-27 “Did you present Me with sacrifices and grain offerings in the wilderness for forty years, O house of Israel?

“You also carried along Sikkuth your king and Kiyyun, your images, the star of your gods which you made for yourselves.

“Therefore, I will make you go into exile beyond Damascus,” says the LORD, whose name is the God of hosts.

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- Acts 7:44-53

II Chron. 36:15-16 The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent word to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place; but they continually mocked the messengers of God, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, until there was no remedy.

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Result:

- 1. Not only has Stephen NOT blasphemed God but he stands in line with all the other prophets in his rejection by Israel's Leaders*
 - 2. They have limited God's power & presence to the Temple*
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V. Jesus as the Glorified Son of Man - 7:54-56

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VI. Stephen's martyrdom - 7:57-60

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Closing comments:

1. *God stepping into the darkness and producing light*
 2. *Stephen believes JESUS is The Judge – able to condemn AND forgive*
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