

Acts of the Apostles 6:8-7:1 __ Lesson 17

Stephen Full of Faith and Power

1. Acts 6:7-10 – A Growing Problem

- a. *“word of God increased”* – The kingdom group was not failing, Israel was
- b. *“full of faith and power”* – Mt 17:20, see also 1 Cor 12:9, 13:2; Heb 11:1
- c. His fullness of faith and power was from the Holy Ghost kingdom ministry!
- d. Our being full of faith has changed where we pray and study – Col 1:9, Ro 10:17
- e. *“disputing with Stephen”* – but Christ keeps his promise of Luke 21:15

2. Acts 6:10-15 – Stephen Falsely Accused

- a. The charges: blasphemy against the temple, law, God
- b. These are accusations from the Jews against all believers in Christ.
- c. Compare to the false accusations against Christ: Mt 26:61 and Paul Acts 21:28
 - i. The accusations are all false (even with Paul Acts 26:22, 28:17, 23)
- d. *“Jesus shall destroy”* – Not exactly – Matt 24:1-2; John 2:19; Act 3:23
- e. *“change the customs”* - This is not mystery, but Mt 5:3-4; 15:2-3; 1 Pet 1:18
- f. *“looked steadfastly on him”* – We have the Holy Spirit’s witness face to face here
 - i. Angels faces can shine – Rev 10:1 – or not – Heb 13:2
- g. Israel could not look at Moses’ face, Saul saw Stephen’s – 2 Cor 3:7-15, Exo 34:30
- h. There is no fear of God in their eyes at this point – Rom 3:18

3. Acts 7:1

- a. The longest chapter in Acts, longest sermon in the NT, most important for Israel
 - i. Note: Moses mentioned more in this chapter than in all Paul’s epistles.
 - ii. Hebrews parallels the parallel of Moses and Christ – Heb 3:3
- b. Stephen’s message was not another accusation against Israel – Acts 7:51-52
- c. Stephen’s message is a history of Israel depicting their historical rejection of God
 - i. His message is the precursor to the judgment against Israel.
 - ii. See the parable of the nobleman - Luke 19:11-14, 27
- d. *“are these things so?”* – Stephen a servant full of faith and power preaches Christ
- e. The law, temple, prophets all spoke of Christ – Luke 24:47
- f. He speaks of Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, Solomon, b/c all are types of Christ
- g. Jesus is greater than Abraham John 8:53-58; Jacob/Joseph – John 4:9-16; the temple – Matt 12:6-8; Solomon – Matt 12:41-42; David – Mark 12:35-37, Acts 2:29
- h. He is greater than Moses – John 1:17, 3:14, 5:46, 6:39; Heb 3:3 – also Acts 3:22-23