

Acts of the Apostles 7:1-54 __ Lesson 18

Stephen's Final Testimony

1. Acts 7:1-8 – Abraham's Seed

- a. We learn many things in this chapter about the OT, much like Hebrews 11
- b. *"are these things so?"* - blasphemy against the holy place, the law, Moses, God
- c. God gave the promise to Abram before the law outside the land
- d. He had no possession of it, and he had no seed, but he had a promise
- e. Jesus could be the promised Messiah without conquering the land

2. Acts 7:8-16 – Rejection of Joseph

- a. Joseph is a type of Christ as evident from this chapter and Genesis
- b. The patriarchs tried to rid themselves of Joseph, but God was with him
- c. It was the second time that they knew Joseph and he delivered them
- d. 7:16 – Why is burial important? The hope of resurrection.

3. Acts 7:17-41 – Rejection of Moses

- a. 7:22 – Moses was mighty in words and deeds, just as Jesus – Luke 24:19; Ac 2:22
- b. The first time Moses went to his brothers, they refused him.
- c. *"forty years"* – a time of judgement/trial; 40 yrs in wilderness, 40 days temptation
- d. Jesus came out of the wilderness from John the Baptist – Matt 3:1
- e. 7:37 – *"like unto me"* - Deu 18:18 – his birth, his growth, his deeds, rejection, wilderness, a ruler, deliverer, avenger (Luk 1:74), with wonders and signs
- f. Jesus is greater than Moses – John 5:46. 6:49
- g. 7:38 – *"church in the wilderness"* – This was Israel called out – Exo 4:22

4. Acts 7:42-50 – The Temple and the Prophets

- a. *"tabernacle of witness"* - For all this, they did not obey Moses
- b. *"with Jesus into the possession"* – This tells us Joshua is the same as Jesus
- c. *"most High dwelleth not"* – 1 Kings 8:27, 2 Chron 2:6, 6:18; Isa 66:1-2

5. Acts 7:51-60 – Stephen's Indictment of Israel

- a. *"ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised"* – This is a legal condemnation
- b. The sequence is rejection of the Spirit, the Just One, the law of Moses
- c. They killed Jesus when he said the same thing – Matt 23:29-38
- d. 7:53 – Zacharias said the same thing as Stephen in 2 Chron 24:19-22
- e. Stephen saw the vision Jesus predicted in Mark 14:57-64
- f. This is the first time we see the Lord described after his ascension in glory
- g. Peter preached a condemnation and thousands believed, but Stephen is killed