

Acts 7

Questions

1. What history did Stephen retell in his defense concerning the following individuals? (Briefly summarize.)

Abraham (7:1-8) –

Jacob and Joseph (7:9-16) –

Moses in Egypt (7:17-28) –

Moses in Midian (7:29-35) –

Moses in the wilderness (7:36-44) –

Joshua (7:45) –

David and Solomon (7:46-47) –

2. What point did Stephen make about God and the temple (7:48-50)?

3. What charges did Stephen make against the high priest and the Jewish council (7:51-53)?

4. How did the Jewish council react to Stephen's defense and what did they do to him (7:54, 57-59)?

5. What was Stephen doing while the Jewish council was reacting negatively toward him (7:55-56, 59-60)?

Digging Deeper

1. What did Stephen say in his sermon that answered the charges brought against him in Acts 6:11-15?
2. What OT scripture did Stephen reference in 7:37 and who was the prophet that God raised up (see 3:22-23)?
3. What OT scripture did Stephen quote in 7:42-43 and 7:49-50?
4. What (or who) is “the church in the wilderness” (7:38; KJV, ASV)?
5. How were the charges of Stephen (7:51-53) similar to those of the apostles earlier in the book of Acts (2:22-24; 3:13-15; 4:10-11; 5:30-31)?
6. What does “gnashing” of the teeth mean (7:54)?
7. Who would the “young man named Saul” later become (7:58)?

Applications for Today

1. Let us always be ready to give an answer for what we believe and teach (7:1; 1 Pet. 3:15).
2. Being moved with jealousy against another can cause a person to do terrible things (7:9; Acts 5:17; 13:35; 17:5; Jas. 3:14, 16).

3. God will deliver us out of our afflictions (7:10, 34; Psa. 34:19).
4. God always keeps his promises (7:17; 2 Chron. 6:14-15).
5. Do we tremble in the presence of a holy God (7:31-33; Isa. 6:1-5)?
6. We need to be careful that we do not turn back in our hearts to the world, but keep pressing on to our promised land (7:39; Rom. 12:1; Jas. 4:4; 1 Jn. 2:15-17).
7. Idolatry is a constant temptation for God's people (7:40-41; Col. 3:5; 1 Jn. 5:21).
8. Let us never rejoice in what we make, but rejoice in what the Lord makes (7:41; Rom. 1:25).
9. It is important to always follow the pattern of God's word (7:44; 2 Tim. 1:13).
10. We resist the Holy Spirit himself when we harden our hearts against his word, refuse to hear it, and do not obey it (7:51, 54, 57; 1 Thess. 5:19-20).
11. Some people are "pricked in the heart" and obey (Acts 2:37) while others are "cut to the heart" and disobey (7:54; Acts 5:33).
12. It may be difficult, but like Jesus and Stephen, we must always have a forgiving attitude toward those who persecute us (7:60; Lk. 23:34; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13).