

THE BOOK OF ACTS – CHAPTER 7

V.2

To this he (Stephen) replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me!

He is the _____ of all who defend the Biblical faith against those who oppose or distort its teaching and he is _____.

He didn't really defend himself. However, _____, using the opportunity to summarize his teaching about Jesus.

What does this tell us we should do when we witness for Christ?

V. 8

Then he gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. And Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him eight days after his birth.

Circumcision was a sign of the _____ made between God, Abraham, and the entire nation of Israel (Genesis 17:9-13)

Stephen's speech _____ and pointed out that God always had kept his side of the promise, but Israel failed many times to uphold their end.

V. 17

"As the time drew near for God to fulfill his promise to Abraham, the number of our people in Egypt had greatly increased.

Stephen's review of Jewish history _____
and sovereignty.

Despite the failures of his chosen people, God was working out his plan.

When faced with confusing or difficult circumstances, what are some things we should remember?

V.38

He was in the assembly in the wilderness,

The assembly in the wilderness refers _____.

In Hebrew the word translated "*assembly*" is _____ and in the Greek is _____

Just like Moses led the assembly of the OT, Jesus leads the assembly "*_____*" of the NT

V.42

But God turned away from them and gave them over

Those words reflect a _____.

Those with hardened hearts resist to the Spirit will _____

(Rom 2:4-6,8)

V. 43

You have taken up the tabernacle of Molek...

These were _____ Israel during their time in the desert (Exodus 32:4)

Molek was the god associated with _____, and Rephan was an _____

V.44

... according to the pattern he had seen.

God has always had a divine pattern he desired His people to follow

1. God had a pattern for Moses that served as the standard under the old covenant
Exodus 12

Exodus 20

Exodus 25

2. Just as God set the pattern for the tabernacle under the old covenant, he also has a pattern for his church under the new covenant.

3. We will notice that by the first century the church began to depart from divine revelation and to modify God's pattern by accommodating itself culturally and organizationally according to human, earthly ideas.

4. If the church is to experience once again the full plan, power and presence of God, she must _____ and once again embrace the NT apostolic pattern as God's standard for his church.

V. 51

You always resist the Holy Spirit!

Israel's history is a story of people who _____
and his revealed Word

They killed the prophets who called them to repentance and who prophesied about the coming of Christ. _____

(Rom 11:20-22)

V.55

... Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

We normally hear of Jesus _____
(Acts 2:34, Mk 14:62, Lk 22:69, Col 3:1)

Here, Jesus stood _____

V. 59

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

The penalty for blasphemy was _____ (Leviticus 24:14)

The religious leaders had Stephen stoned _____.

They did not understand that Stephen's words were true, because they were not seeking the truth. _____.

V.60

When he had said this, he fell asleep.

As Stephen died, he spoke words very similar to Jesus' words on the cross (Luke 23:34)

SOURCES:

1. Life Application Study Bible – NIV
2. Life In The Spirit Study Bible- NIV
3. The Jeremiah Study Bible -NKJV

THE BOOK OF ACTS – CHAPTER 7

V.2

To this he (Stephen) replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me!"

Stephen's speech before the Sanhedrin is a defense of the faith.

He is the forerunner of all who defend the Biblical faith against those who oppose or distort its teaching and he is the first to be martyred.

He didn't really defend himself. However, he took the offensive, using the opportunity to summarize his teaching about Jesus.

Stephen accused the religious leaders of failing to obey God's laws-the very same laws they prided themselves in following

This was the same accusation that Jesus had leveled against them.

What does this tell us we should do when we witness for Christ?

(Not be on the defensive. Instead, simply share our faith)

V. 8

Then he gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. And Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him eight days after his birth.

Circumcision was a sign of the promise or covenant made between God, Abraham, and the entire nation of Israel (Genesis 17:9-13)

Stephen's speech summarized Israel's history and pointed out that God always had kept his side of the promise, but Israel failed many times to uphold their end.

The Jews in Stephen's day still circumcised their baby boys, but they failed to obey God.

V. 17

"As the time drew near for God to fulfill his promise to Abraham, the number of our people in Egypt had greatly increased.

Stephen's review of Jewish history testifies of God's faithfulness and sovereignty.

Despite the failures of his chosen people, God was working out his plan.

Wednesday, November 8, 2022

When faced with confusing or difficult circumstances, what are some things we should remember?

1. God is in control-nothing surprises him
2. This world is not all there is- it will pass away, but God is eternal
3. God is just, and he will make things right. He punishes the wicked and rewards the faithful
4. God wants to use you (like Stephen) to make a difference in the world

V.38

He was in the assembly in the wilderness,

The assembly in the wilderness refers to Israel as the people of God.

In Hebrew the word translated "assembly" is *qahal* and in the Greek is *ekklesia*

Just like Moses led the assembly of the OT, Jesus leads the assembly "church" of the NT

The NT church, designated "Abraham's seed" (Gal 3:29, Ro 4:11-18) and the Israel of God (Gal 6:16), stand in continuity with the assembly of the OT

Like the OT assembly, the church of the NT is "in the desert," i.e., it is a pilgrim church on a journey of faith to the promise land (Heb 11:6-16).

For this reason, we must never become too comfortable with life here on this earth.

V.42

But God turned away from them and gave them over

Those words reflect a redemptive history.

When people continually resist and disobey God, they will eventually be given over to evil influences (Rom 1:24,28)

God does not forgive when there is no response of faith on our part. He forgives only those who respond to him by turning their hearts to him in sincere repentance, true faith and humble obedience.

Those with hardened hearts resist to the Spirit will receive wrath (Rom 2:4-6,8)

V. 43

You have taken up the tabernacle of Molek...

Stephen gave more details of the idolatry referred to in 7:40

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These were idols worshiped by Israel during their time in the desert (Exodus 32:4)

Molek was the god associated with child sacrifice, and Rephan was an Egyptian god

V.44

... according to the pattern he had seen.

God has always had a divine pattern he desired His people to follow

5. God had a pattern for Moses that served as the standard under the old covenant
 - Exodus 12: God gave Moses specific instructions for the original Passover in Egypt. It became a pattern for all future generations of Israelites to follow
 - Exodus 20: God gave Moses the Ten Commandments as the pattern and moral standard for all future generations
 - Exodus 25: God instructed Moses to set up a tabernacle as a copy and shadow of heavenly things and redemption that God planned to accomplish through Jesus Christ

Moses was careful to make the tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern God set before him.

6. Just as God set the pattern for the tabernacle under the old covenant, he also has a pattern for his church under the new covenant.
 - The NT apostles did not randomly decide how the church was to be organized
 - The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit established the pattern (Rev 2-3)
7. We will notice that by the first century the church began to depart from divine revelation and to modify God's pattern by accommodating itself culturally and organizationally according to human, earthly ideas.
 - This resulted in spread of man-made patterns of the church
8. If the church is to experience once again the full plan, power and presence of God, she must turn from her own ways and once again embrace the NT apostolic pattern as God's standard for his church.

V. 51

You always resist the Holy Spirit!

Israel's history is a story of people who repeatedly refused to obey God and his revealed Word

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Instead of submitting to the restraints of his law, the hearts of the people turned toward the ways of the ungodly nations around them.

They killed the prophets who called them to repentance and who prophesied about the coming of Christ. This was resisting the Holy Spirit.

In the same way, the Israel of the new covenant must be aware of its tendency to live the same way as the Israel of the old covenant.

If the church can turn from him and his Word and refuse to heed the voice of the Holy Spirit, this will lead to judgment from God (Rom 11:20-22)

V.55

... Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

We normally hear of Jesus seated at the right hand of God (Acts 2:34, Mk 14:62, Lk 22:69, Col 3:1)

Here, Jesus stood in order to welcome his first martyr

Stephen had confessed Jesus Christ before others and defended the faith

Now Jesus, in honour of his servant, confesses him before his heavenly Father.

V. 59

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

The penalty for blasphemy was death (Leviticus 24:14)

The religious leaders had Stephen stoned without a trial.

They did not understand that Stephen's words were true, because they were not seeking the truth. They only wanted support for their own views.

V.60

When he had said this, he fell asleep.

As Stephen died, he spoke words very similar to Jesus' words on the cross (Luke 23:34)

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