

ACTIONS OF THE APOSTLES:

Chapter 6:8-7:60

Stephen

Having dealt with the neglected widows in chapter 6, Acts follows two of the seven men that were chosen to help with that situation: Stephen (6:8-7:60), and, Philip (chapter 8).

- God uses the death of Stephen to springboard the spread of the Gospel (8:1,4; 11:19; the fulfillment of 1:8)

Four Firsts

1. First non-apostle in Acts to do _____
2. First Christian _____
3. First time we see someone praying to _____ (7:59)
4. First introduction to _____ (7:58; 22:20)



A. The Back Story (Acts 6:8-15)

- Stephen was performing _____ (6:8, like Moses: 7:36, Jesus: 2:22)
- Stephen was powerfully _____ (6:10)
- Stephen was _____
 - They _____ with him (9)
 - They _____ about him (11)
 - They were _____ towards him (12)
 - They _____ charged him (13)

What were the charges against Stephen?

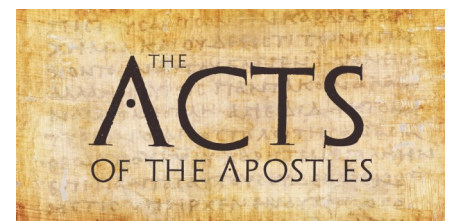
B. Acts 7 is Stephen's defense

- it is the longest sermon in the book of Acts and one of the best historical accounts of the O.T.
- the section begins and ends with the Glory of God (2, 55)
- Stephen does not directly answer the charges against him

Stephen's Historical Picture of OT

Abraham (2-8)	Does not mention Jesus by name Nothing said about the resurrection
Joseph (8-18)	
Moses (18-45)	
David (45-50)	

Joseph was rejected (9)
Moses was rejected (39)
The prophets were rejected (52)
You rejected the Righteous One (52)



Stephen accused the Jewish leaders of:

1. Stiff necked: which means what?
2. Uncircumcised heart: which means what?
3. Resisting the Holy Spirit: which means what?
4. Being disobedient to God's word: in what way?

What was the response of the Jewish leaders?

Was Stephen too harsh and pointed towards the Jewish leaders?

Lessons we see here:

1. Moses built the tabernacle according to the pattern of God (7:44; Exodus 25:9; Gen 6:22; Phil 3:17)
2. Stephen was killed without Rome's involvement
3. Stephen had the face of an angel (6:15)
4. Stephen died seeing Jesus stand (7:56; Eph 1:20)

Why is it so hard for some to believe Jesus?

