Witnesses to Christ

Resisting the Holy Spirit
Lesson 6
Acts 7

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
February 7, 2016
The Everlasting Covenant

- The eternal plan of God
- God the Creator (Genesis 1:1; 14:19; Acts 4:24)
- Christ the Savior (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 53; Hebrews 13:20-21)
- Christ, the Eternal King (Psa. 2:6-8; Jude 14-15; Zech. 9:9-11)
- The nation Israel – the Law of Moses – the throne of David
- The incarnation, death and resurrection; rejected by Israel

- What is next?
  - The Kingdom of God?
  - A new age
The Age of the Holy Spirit/Church

- Universal proclamation of the Gospel
- Israel set aside
- Law of Moses replaced
- An outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- The Messiah – Jesus Christ – the Cornerstone
Acts – Transition

- The place for the nation Israel
- The place for the Law of Moses
- The structure of the believers – the Church
- The content of the Gospel
The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 1 – The new age introduced to the disciples
- Acts 2 – The coming of the Holy Spirit
- Acts 3-4 – Opposition to the resurrection and Jesus
- Acts 4:32-35; 5:12-16 – Snapshots of the Church
- Acts 5:1-11 – Ananias and Saphira
- Acts 5:12-8:3 – Persecution begins
- Acts 6:1-7 – Trouble in the Church
- Acts 6:8-7:60 – Stephen's ministry and death
Stephen (6:8-7:60)

- One of the “deacons” – served tables
- Full of grace and power; wisdom and the Spirit
- Opponents cannot refute from Scripture
- False accusations:
  - Blasphemes God
  - Blasphemes Moses
  - Speaks against this Temple and the Law
- Stephen answers his accusers (7:1-53)
- Stephen's death (7:54-60)
Stephen’s Sermon (Acts 7)

- Against God? (7:1-16)
- Against Moses? (7:17-43)
- Against this Temple and the Law? (7:44-50)
- Resisting the Holy Spirit (7:51-53)
- Stephen’s death (7:54-60)
Did Stephen Speak Against God? (7:1-16)

- “Are these things true?”
- “Brethren and fathers”
- “The God of the glory”
- The Promise of God to Abraham – Israel
- The unfulfilled Promise – “not even a foot of ground”
- Covenant of circumcision
- Faith of Abraham
Did Stephen Speak Against God? (7:1-16)

- The patriarchs became jealous of Joseph
- Joseph – God was with him
- God rescued him
- Joseph invited his family to Egypt
- Only possession – a family tomb
Did Stephen Speak Against Moses? (7:17-43)

- The time of the Promise was approaching
- Enslaved and mistreated
- Moses rescued and protected in Pharaoh’s house
- It entered his mind to visit his brethren (v.23)
- Rejected as ruler and judge by Israel
- The burning bush
- The God of your fathers . . . come to rescue Israel
Did Stephen Speak Against Moses? (7:17-43)

- 35 – This Moses – disowned as ruler and judge
- 35 – This one – God sent to be ruler and deliverer
- 36 – This man – led them out with wonders and signs
- 37 – This is the Moses – prophesied of a Prophet
- 38 – This is the one – mediated the living oracles
- 39 – Our fathers repudiated him; preferred Egypt
- 40-43 – the golden calf – the works of their hands
- 44 – “I will also remove you beyond Babylon”
Did Stephen Speak Against the Temple and the Law? (7:44-50)

- No place for God and no Law until the wilderness
- God did not ask for the Temple
- A dwelling place for God – not of human construction
- Christ dwells in us – Colossians 1:27
- Christ is the Temple and the Glory – Revelation 21:3; 22-23
Stephen Answers the Question (7:51-53)

- Stiff-necked
- Uncircumcised in heart and ears (Deut 10:16; 30:6; Jer 6:10)
- Always resisting the Holy Spirit
The Death of Stephen (7:54-60)

- Premature ending to the sermon
- Full of the Holy Spirit – saw the glory of God
- Stoned to death
- The conclusion to the sermon – hope in Christ
- The continuing hand of God – a young man named Saul
Stephen’s Answer

- The God of the glory
- Always resisting the Holy Spirit
- Hope in “this Nazarene, Jesus” – this Righteous One