

Witnesses to Christ
Studies in the Acts of the Apostles

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