

The Martyrdom of Stephen

Acts 6

1. What was the issue put forth by the Hellenists?
2. What were the criteria for those that were selected to serve tables?
3. Why were people angry with Stephen initially? How about later?
4. What was Stephen charged with?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
5. How was Stephen's face described?

Acts 7:1-16 (refuting the claim of blaspheming against God)

1. How does Stephen address the council?
2. Important characters and events to know to think like a Biblical Jew:
 - a. Most important event:
 - b. Most important person when talking about the promise:
 - c. Most important person when talking about the Law:
 - d. Most important person when talking about the prophets:
3. In verses 2-8 Stephen is just laying out history that they all would have known. However, he's laying the foundation by connecting God with Abraham and the promise.
 - a. God \longrightarrow Abraham \longrightarrow Promise
4. With Joseph and his brothers, we get the first defection from the covenant.
5. Has Stephen said anything contrary to the Scriptures? Has he blasphemed God?

17-43 (refuting the claim of blaspheming the Law)

1. How did Moses see the other Israelites?
2. Here we see the second defection from the covenant.
3. In fact, who is Stephen purposefully comparing Moses to?

4. Notice the emphasis Stephen adds in verse 35. He wants to make it clear that the people rejected Moses. Yet, God called Moses to be their ruler, judge, redeemer, and they knew this by Moses “performing wonders and signs.”
5. In verses 39-40 we get the third defection from the covenant.
6. Stephen connects their breaking of the covenant with the golden calf with the exile by quoting Amos. Thus, he jumps from the Exodus all the way to the divided kingdom when they were still breaking the covenant.
7. Summarize Stephen’s message in this section.

44-50 (refuting blaspheming against the temple)

1. In verses 44-47 Stephen is just recapping this history of the tabernacle/temple.
2. However, what does Stephen claim in verse 48?
3. To back-up his claim Stephen quotes Isaiah 66:1-2. Where does God say his throne is?
4. How does God want us to worship him?
5. How were the Israelites worshipping God?

51-53 (Conclusion)

1. Who does Stephen connect his listeners to?
2. What does Stephen accuse them of?

54-60 (The stoning of Stephen)

1. What did God allow Stephen to see?
2. How did the council take this?
3. Who was present and oversaw the stoning of Stephen?
4. How do we see Stephen point to Christ?