

THE MAN LIKE CHRIST: STEPHEN'S MINISTRY, MESSAGE, & MARTYRDOM (Acts 6:9–7:60)

- Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 4:19; Philippians 3:10

I. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JERUSALEM (1–7)

A. The BIRTH of the CHURCH in JERUSALEM (1–2)

B. The INFANCY & GROWTH of the CHURCH in JERUSALEM (3–7)

- 1. The Powerful Miracle and Message of Peter in Jesus' Name (3:1-26)**
- 2. The Persecution, Witness, and Prayer of the Early Church (4:1-31)**
- 3. The Great and Dynamic Early Church (4:32–5:16)**
- 4. The Second Persecution of the Early Church (5:17-42)**
- 5. The Origin of Deacons & Church Unity Preserved (6:1-8)**
- 6. The Man Like Christ: Stephen the Servant (6:9–7:60)**

a) Stephen's Ministry to the Church & Synagogue in Jerusalem (6:9-15)

- 1) Regarding Stephen's ministry to the Jerusalem church, he was a _____ Jewish believer chosen by his fellow believers and confirmed by the apostles to _____ in the daily distribution to the Hellenistic widows of the church. (6:1-6)
- 2) Regarding Stephen personally, he was a man of God _____ of the Holy Spirit, wisdom, faith, and God's grace and power. (6:3, 5, 8, 10; 7:55)
- 3) Regarding Stephen's ministry to the lost, he _____ to his fellow Greek-speaking Jews about _____, but he was resisted, falsely accused, arrested, and arraigned before the Sanhedrin. (6:9-15)

- *What was the Synagogue of the Freedmen? What does this say about religion?*
- *What were the charges against Stephen & what did he emphasize to the council in 7:2-53?*
- *What was Stephen's appearance like at this time and who is this reminiscent of?*
- *How might Luke have known what exactly Stephen said to the Sanhedrin in 7:2-53?*
- *What purpose might the case of Stephen serve for the historical purpose of Luke-Acts?*

b) Stephen's Message to the Sanhedrin (7:1-53)

- 1) Stephen's testimony of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in verses 2-16 showed that God was with the patriarchs _____ the land of Israel and Joseph was a _____ of his brethren who was _____ by them, like Jesus Christ.

- 2) Stephen's testimony about Moses and the Exodus generation in verses 17-50 showed that he was _____ Moses as he was falsely charged, but instead that:
 - God was with Moses and Israel as they worshiped God _____ the promised land.
 - Moses was a _____ to his people (7:23), who did signs and wonders before them, but they _____ him (7:35, 39), like Jesus Christ.
 - Moses in the Law, which they claimed to follow, predicted the coming of _____ as the prophet _____ (Deut. 18:15-18). (7:37)
 - Israel had a pattern of _____ the Law and practicing _____ from the very beginning and trusting in the _____ of their own hands (7:40-43).
 - Israel worshiped God via the _____ for 500 years before the _____ was built by Solomon. (7:44-47)
 - Even the _____ itself teaches that God cannot be _____ in a temple. (7:48-50)

- 3) Stephen's testimony in verses 51-53 changed from _____ himself to _____ the council for _____ the Law of Moses by murdering their Messiah.

c) Stephen's Martyrdom for Christ (7:54-60)

- 1) The members of the Sanhedrin were _____ by Stephen's testimony, being "cut to the heart" (Acts 2:37), and _____ as "they gnashed at him with their teeth."

- 2) Stephen saw Jesus and proclaimed Him to be the _____ at God's right Hand, repeating the messianic prophecy of _____.
 - *Is it wrong to address Jesus Christ directly in prayer (Acts 2:21; 9:14; Rom. 10:12-14; 1 Cor. 1:2; 16:22; Rev. 22:20) vs. God the Father (John 15:16; 16:23; Eph. 3:14)?*
 - *How was Stephen like his Savior?*