

Stephen's Masterful Defense of the Gospel

Acts 7

PART TWO

Introduction

blaspheming Moses and God (6:11); speaking against the temple and the law: (6:13).

Against a barrage of disputation, Stephen does a masterful job of making his defense from Scripture.

"These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth." Hebrews 11:13

I. Laying the groundwork: establishing identity and orthodoxy

vv. 2-8

1. Find common ground. Be respectful, not contentious. Confidently gain their attention:
"Brothers and fathers, hear me."
2. Start with knowledge you can assume is widely accepted by your audience. *"The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham..."*

II. Make a compelling case from Scripture: Joseph as an OT type of Christ

vv. 9-16

"And the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; but God was with him" (v9).

III. Make a compelling case from Scripture: Moses as an OT type of Christ

vv. 17-43

Moses' birth and upbringing: Acts 7:17-22

Exodus 4:10-13

Moses as a Hebrew-Egyptian prince: Acts 7:23-29

"the following day" This was a turning point for Moses.

"reconcile" Gk *eis eirene*; 'one,' 'peace,' 'to set at one again'; to unify.

Like Jesus, Moses came to bring peace and unity through the reconciliation of brothers.

Exodus 2:21-22

“Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.” (Numbers 12:3).

Moses’ divine call to deliver the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt: Acts 7:30-34

Moses time spent exiled in Midian as a shepherd was part of God’s plan to deliver His people from Egypt.

It was “holy ground” for the sole reason that God manifested Himself there.

It was not the ground that was holy, but God’s presence being manifested there that made it holy.

This is God’s faithfulness to fulfill His promise. He had not forgotten His covenant with the patriarchs.

Moses as God’s *deliverer* of Israel from Egypt, and the wilderness wanderings: Acts 7:35-43

“But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel” (Luke 24:21).

Stephen’s point: God’s people continue to reject the ones, authenticated by miracles, that God sends to deliver them.

Deuteronomy 18:17-19

Peter repeated this important OT prophetic messianic truth earlier in Solomon’s Portico:

“Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you.’” Acts 3:22

- 1) Moses was saved from infanticide by decree from a wicked king. So was Jesus.
- 2) Moses was raised in royalty the prince of Egypt. Jesus was Royalty, the Prince of Peace.
- 3) Moses came from the lineage of the people he came to rescue. Jesus did too.
- 4) Moses came to his people out of love and concern for them and they rejected him.
- 5) Moses verified his role as God-sent deliverer by “performing signs and wonders.” So did Jesus.
- 6) Moses was a shepherd in Midian. Jesus is the Chief Shepherd of His people.
- 7) Moses was a prophet after whom God would send another prophet like him to speak His Words.
- 8) Moses was “a ruler and a redeemer.” So is Jesus.
- 9) Moses returned a second time to lead his people to the promised land, so will Jesus.

The similarities and parallels between Moses and Jesus are striking and unmistakable.