



Stephen's Defense

Acts 6:8 – 7:60

Stephen – Acts 6:8-15

- **A spiritual giant – “full of...”**
 - *Holy Spirit (v. 3,5)*
 - *Wisdom (v. 3)*
 - *Faith (v. 5)*
 - *Grace and power (v. 8)*
 - *A formidable force in the spread of the gospel (v. 8,10)!*

Stephen – Acts 6:8-15

- **A disciple following in Jesus' footsteps**
 - *Charged with blasphemy (v. 11, Matt. 26:65)*
 - *Faced a stirred-up crowd (v. 12, Matt. 27:30)*
 - *Suffered false testimony (v. 13, Matt. 59-60)*
 - *Charged with speaking against temple (v. 13, Matt. 26:61)*
 - *Courage and serenity at trial (v. 15, Matt. 27:14)*
 - *Committed his spirit to God (7:59, Luke 23:46)*
 - *Asked forgiveness for enemies (7:60, Luke 23:34)*

Stephen's Defense – Acts 7

- **Abraham – a promised land of rest (v. 1-8)**
 - *The people live in the Promised Land (v. 4), but do they rest?*
 - *Jesus is our Promised Land of rest (Heb. 3:17-4:1)*

Stephen's Defense – Acts 7

- **Abraham – a promised land of rest (v. 1-8)**
- **Joseph – a reject become ruler (v. 9-16)**
 - *Jesus was rejected by His brethren, only to become their merciful King (Acts 2:36)*

Stephen's Defense – Acts 7

- **Abraham – a promised land of rest (v. 1-8)**
- **Joseph – a reject become ruler (v. 9-16)**
- **Moses – another reject becomes ruler / deliverer (v. 17-43)**
 - *Jesus was powerful in word and deed (v. 22, Luke 24:19)*
 - *Jesus was disowned by His own people (v. 35, Acts 3:14)*
 - *Jesus did signs and wonders as proof (v. 36, Acts 22:22)*
 - *And still, some continue to reject Jesus! (v. 39-43)*

Stephen's Defense – Acts 7

- **Abraham – a promised land of rest (v. 1-8)**
- **Joseph – a reject become ruler (v. 9-16)**
- **Moses – another reject becomes ruler / deliverer (v. 17-43)**
- **Tabernacle – God dwells with His people (v. 44-50)**
 - *Jews rejected the real temple (Jesus) in favor of the provisional temple (John 2:18-21)*

Application

- The danger of forgetfulness
- The danger of focusing on the physical over the spiritual
- The danger of stubbornness (Acts 7:51-54)
- The blessing of dying in Christ (Acts 7:55-60)