

THE MIRACULOUS MINISTRY OF STEPHEN AND HIS ARREST

(Acts 6:8-7:1)

I. THE INFANCY AND THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (3-7)

A. A Problem Arises that has the Potential to be Very Divisive in the Church (6:1)

B. The Apostles Appoint the First Deacons in A Local Church (6:2-7)

C. Stephen's Spirit Empowered Ministry (6:8-11)

1. Stephen was a _____ Jew who had been chosen by the apostles to _____ in the local church in Jerusalem. (vv. 3-6)

2. Several things are stated about his character and giftedness: "*a man full of _____ and the Holy Spirit*" (v. 5); he was full of _____ and "*did great wonders and signs among the people.*" (v. 8)

* What was the "*Synagogue of the Freedmen,*" and who might attend this Synagogue? (v. 9)

3. Stephen ministered to his fellow _____ - _____ Jews about the Lord Jesus, but they disputed with him; and they secretly _____ men to bear false witness against him. (vv. 9-11)

* Why were they ultimately not able to resist him?

D. Stephen's Arrest and the False Accusations by the Sanhedrin (6:12-7:1)

1. These men who gave false testimony _____ up the people and the religious leaders, and they finally _____ Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin council. (v. 12)

2. The two crimes that Stephen was being accused of (vv. 11, 13-14) were ...
 - a. blaspheming _____ and the _____
 - b. speaking against the _____ (which they idolized)

3. As the entire Sanhedrin council looked intently at Stephen, his _____ was like that of an _____. (v. 15)

* Ironically, who does this remind you of from the Old Testament?

4. The high priest (most likely Caiaphas) asked him to _____ a _____ to the trumped-up charges. (7:1)

E. Some Preliminary Observations Regarding Stephen's Message (7:2-53)

1. Verses 2 thru 53 record the _____ major speech by a _____ - _____ in the book of Acts.

2. Stephen's message to the Jewish leaders of Israel is the _____ by anyone in the book of Acts.

3. Stephen used several Old Testament examples to demonstrate that their forefathers had rejected _____, _____ and now even the _____ Himself!

* What can you personally apply from this passage in your own life?