

STEPHEN'S BOLD INDICTMENT OF THE SANHEDRIN

(Acts 7:2-53)

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)

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

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

F. Stephen's Prosecuting Message to the Sanhedrin (7:2-53)

1. Stephen responded to the charges of blasphemy against God. (vv. 1-16)

- a. He demonstrated in his testimony that he _____ the sovereignty of God, and that the Lord was with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob _____ the land of Israel.

- b. Rather than Joseph's 11 brothers accept him as their _____, they _____ him, and allowed the Gentiles to take him into slavery.

* Who does this remind you of in the New Testament?

2. Stephen responded to the charges of blasphemy against Moses. (vv. 17-37)

- a. He demonstrated in further testimony from the Scriptures that while Israel was enslaved in Egypt, the Lord _____ and _____ up a deliverer at the appointed time, Moses who was "*well pleasing to God.*"

* Who does this remind you of in the New Testament?

- b. Stephen explained that Moses was raised and educated by the _____; and when he tried to help Israelites they said: "*Who made you a _____ and a _____ over us?*"

- c. The revered patriarch Moses predicted the coming of _____ as a prophet like himself and said: "*Him you shall hear.*" (v. 37, cf. Acts 3:20-23; Deut. 18:15)

3. Stephen responded to the charges of blasphemy against the Law. (vv. 38-43)

- a. Even though Moses did great “_____ and _____ in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea” (v. 36), Stephen explained “our fathers would _____ obey, but rejected” him. (v. 39)
- b. While Moses was receiving the Law from Jehovah on Mt. Sinai, Israel decided to break the Law before they received it; and _____ a golden calf that _____ had made.

* Who does this remind you of in the New Testament?

4. Stephen responded to the charges of speaking against the temple. (vv. 44-50)

- a. Israel worshipped God via the _____ for 500 years before the _____ was built by Solomon.
- b. Even the Old Testament itself teaches that Jehovah _____ be _____ in a temple building. (I Kings 8:27; Isa. 66:1)

5. Stephen’s indictment against the religious leaders for their rejection of their Messiah (vv. 51-53)

- a. Stephen charged them with being _____, just like their forefathers who had killed the prophets; only they had done _____ - they had killed their own Jewish Messiah!
- b. These religious leaders demonstrated that they had _____ for Moses nor the Law (Gen. 49:10); or they never would have _____ the One Moses promised (Deut. 18:15).

* What can you personally apply from Stephen’s message to the Sanhedrin?