

## Chapter 7

Stephen is full of the Holy Spirit, wisdom, faith, and power

*Heb 11:1-2 (NKJV) 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.*

*Luke 12:11-12 (NKJV) 11 “Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. 12 “For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”*

v.1 Are these things so, the fact that you say them, the thing themselves

- same high priest who presided at Jesus trial –Annas or Caiaphas
- keep in mind that *many of the priests were obedient to the faith-6:7*

Read v.2-8 The beginning of what becomes Israel as reflected by how God dealt with Abraham

- ***the God of Glory- it begins and ends with God’s glory- always look first at***

***Who God Is***

- God gave Abraham a promise to possess the land but he did not in fact possess it
- God prophesies about the bondage and institutes circumcision- relationship

Read v.9-16 patriarchs (leaders) became envious and rejected Joseph

Joseph- rejected, sold into slavery, falsely accused by Potiphar’s wife

In prison with king’s servants, interpreting dreams for pharaoh

- rejected first time by brethren but accepted as deliver second time

v.17 **when the time of the promise drew near**

v.18 another king who did not know Joseph

Read v.17-36 Moses

v.20 Moses was pleasing to God when as yet he had done nothing

- Stephen answers first accusation about customs of Moses by showing what Moses taught
- Stephen shows that if anyone spoke against Moses, it was the leadership in rejecting his teaching and prophesy

v.39 even though they had the living oracles, the living Word of God they turned back in their hearts to Egypt- to the world

**are the Scriptures living oracles to us or just words and stories?**

*John 5:39-40 (NKJV) 39 "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 "But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. ....there is one who accuses you— Moses, in whom you trust. 46 "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. 47 "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"*

v.39 in their hearts they turned back to Egypt- didn't actually go back but that is where their heart is, where is ours?

v.44 Stephen answers 2<sup>nd</sup> accusation about Temple- a place to reflect God's glory, not contain it

v.51 you always resist the Holy Spirit

Israel had never fully received and was not now receiving

v.54 cut to the heart- totally different result to Peter's sermon

*Acts 2:37-39 (NKJV) 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."*

the Word cuts to the heart for the good or bad

v.55 Stephen saw the glory of God and Jesus

it is one thing to see the Holy of Holies opened but now Stephen sees heaven itself open- and what he sees is Jesus ready to receive him

- Did they look when Stephen told them to? What was Saul/Paul's attitude during this time

v.56-60 we see the dying witness of Stephen, no real fruit visible here, could have been considered a waste but Saul, soon to be Paul, was touched by grace here. He couldn't get it out of his mind.

