

“Presence, Prophet, Deliverer, Provision, & Rebellion!”

Acts 7:30-42

Stephen Continued, “And when forty years had passed, the **Angel of the Lord** appeared to **Moses** in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of **Mount Sinai**. When **Moses** saw it, he marveled at the sight; and as he drew near to observe, the **Voice of the Lord** came to him, saying, ‘**I AM the God of Your Fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.**’ And **Moses** trembled and dared not look. Then the **Lord** Said to him, ‘Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is **Holy Ground**. I have surely seen the oppression of **My People** who are in Egypt; I have heard their groaning & have come down to deliver them. And now come, **I Will Send You to Egypt.**’ This **Moses** whom they rejected, saying, ‘**Who made you a ruler and a judge?**’ is the one **God Sent to be a Ruler and a Deliverer** by the **Hand of the Angel Who appeared to him in the bush**. He brought them out, after he had shown **Wonders & Signs** in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years. This is that **Moses** who said to the **Children of Israel**, ‘**The Lord Your God will raise up for you A Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you Shall Hear.**’ This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the **Angel Who Spoke to him on Mount Sinai**, and with **Our Fathers**, the one who received the living oracles to give to us, **Whom Our Fathers would not obey, but rejected**. And in their hearts, they turned back to Egypt, saying to **Aaron**, ‘**Make us gods to go before us; as for this Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.**’ And they made a calf in those days, offered sacrifices to the idol, and **rejoiced in the works of their own hands**. Then **God** turned and gave them up to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the **Book of the Prophets**: ‘**Did you offer me slaughtered animals and sacrifices during forty years in the wilderness, O House of Israel?**’” **Acts 7:30-42 (NKJV)**

Q: “What Were The Supposed Evil & Crimes That Stephen Had Done?”

A: Blaspheming - Speaking Untruths Concerning:

- 1) Interpretation of Scripture** (God’s Word)
- 2) Title of Prophet** (Given By God To Moses)
- 3) Temple & Traditions** (Significance & Sacredness)
- 4) Commandments** (Covenant Of The Law)

A: Insurrection, Desecration, & Heresy Concerning:

- 1) Temple Mount**
- 2) Religious Authority** Of Priests & Sanhedrin Council
- 3) Heretical & Profane Teaching**
Jesus of Nazareth – **Son of Man**
Christ / Messiah – **Son of God**

**Stephen Begins His Defense By Going Back To God’s Prophetic Word
Concerning God’s Direct Involvement In The History Of Humanity!**

Stephen Teaches

- 1) That God Is To Be Obeyed At Any Cost.**
- 2) That We Need To Be Ready To Respond To God’s Leading.**
- 3) That We Need To Be Pliable In Mind,
Spirit, & Body To Follow His Direction,
& Not Tradition Or Our Own Understanding!**

**Stephen's Defense Of The Gospel Highlights God's Direction, Will,
& Intervention With Humanity In History Around A Theme:**

***"God's Plan & Purpose, Calling & Covenantal Promise
To Send A Deliverer, Prophet & Messiah!"***

**Stephen's Defense Of The Gospel Highlights God's Direction, Will,
& Intervention With Humanity In History Concerning:**

- 1) Fall, Sin, & Purpose of the Law.
- 2) Role of the Priesthood.
- 3) Purpose Of The Temple & The True Worship of God.
- 4) Mission of The Coming Messiah To Set All People Free!

Stephen's Defense – God's Faithfulness & Promise *"Presence & Holiness"*

Stephen Continued, *"And when forty years had passed, the Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai. When Moses saw it, he marveled at the sight; and as he drew near to observe, The Voice of the Lord came to him, saying, 'I AM the God of Your Fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses trembled and dared not look. Then the Lord Said to him, 'Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is Holy Ground.'"* Acts 7:30-33

Stephen's Defense – God's Compassion & Care *"Deliverer & Prophet"*

"I have surely seen the oppression of My People who are in Egypt; I have heard their groaning and have come down to deliver them. And now come, I Will Send You to Egypt." Acts 7:34

Stephen's Defense – God's Covenantal Promise Of A Deliverer *"Presence & Signs & Wonders"*

But Whose Presence & Provision God's People Rejected

"This Moses whom they rejected, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge?' is the one God Sent to be a Ruler and a Deliverer by the Hand of the Angel Who appeared to him in the bush. He brought them out, after he had shown Wonders & Signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years." Acts 7:35-36

Stephen's Defense – God's Prophet Announces God's Son As The Prophet *"Deliverer & Prophet"*

But Whose Covenant & Law God's People Profaned & Rejected

"This is that Moses who said to the Children of Israel, 'The Lord Your God will raise up for you A Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you Shall Hear.' This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel Who Spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with Our Fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us, whom Our Fathers would not obey, but rejected." Acts 7:37-39a

Stephen's Defense – On Our Rebellious & Selfish Nature *"Fallen Nature & Sin"*

"And in their hearts, they turned back to Egypt, saying to Aaron, 'Make us gods to go before us; as for this Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' And they made a calf in those days, offered sacrifices to the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands." Acts 7:39b-41

Stephen's Defense – On Our Ultimate Betrayal & Idolatrous Spirit *"Selfish & Self-Centeredness"*

Our Pagan Worship & Abandonment Of True Faith & Exhortation Of False Belief & Teaching Instead ... *"Then God turned and gave them up to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the Book of the Prophets: 'Did you offer me slaughtered animals and sacrifices during forty years in the wilderness, O House of Israel?'"* Acts 7:42

Remember All The Accusations Brought Against Stephen!

A: Blaspheming - Speaking Untruths Concerning:

- 1) Interpretation of Scripture (God's Word)**
- 2) Title of Prophet (Given By God To Moses)**
- 3) Temple & Traditions (Significance & Sacredness)**
- 4) Commandments (Covenant Of The Law)**

Stephen Has Laid Instead The Foundation For

"A Promise, A Covenant, & A Vision Of A Future Deliverer.

And Although That Deliverer Is A Learned Prince Of Egypt,

He Is Also A Warrior Recluse Running From God, His Calling, & His People.

But God Provides His Own Presence, His Prophet, His Deliverer, & His Provision.

However, His Own People Continue To Act In A Spirit Of Betrayal, Idolatry,

False Teaching, & Rebellion Against The God Who Has Saved Them!"

Therefore, Let Us Do The Same Today & Tomorrow!

***"Let Us Rise Now & Pray & Re-Commit Ourselves Today
To Follow The Example Of Stephen!"***