

“A Deliverer: Learned Prince & Warrior Recluse!”

Acts 7:17-29

Stephen Continued, “But when the time of the *Promise* drew near which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt till another king arose who did not know Joseph. This man dealt treacherously with our people, and oppressed our forefathers, making them expose their babies, so that they might not live. At this time Moses was born, and was well pleasing to God; and he was brought up in his father's house for three months. But when he was set out, Pharaoh's daughter took him away and brought him up as her own son. And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds. Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the Children of Israel. And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand. And the next day he appeared to two of them as they were fighting, and tried to reconcile them, saying, ‘Men, you are brethren; why do you wrong one another?’ But he who did his neighbor wrong pushed him away, saying, ‘Who made you a Ruler and Judge over us? Do you want to kill me as you did the Egyptian yesterday?’ Then, at this saying, Moses fled and became a dweller in the land of Midian, where he had two sons.”

Acts 7:17-29 (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 "Provider & Sustainer"

Stephen Continued, *"But when the time of the Promise drew near which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt" ...* Acts 7:17

Stephen's Defense – On Our Persecution & Suffering "Faith & Perseverance"

... "Till another king arose who did not know Joseph. This man dealt treacherously with our people, and oppressed our forefathers, making them expose their babies, so that they might not live."

Acts 7:18-19

Stephen's Defense – God's Covenantal Promise Of A Deliverer "Birth & Protection"

"At this time Moses was born, and was well pleasing to God; and he was brought up in his father's house for three months. "But when he was set out, Pharaoh's daughter took him away and brought him up as her own son."

Acts 7:20-21

Stephen's Defense – God's Provision & Timing "Knowledge & Training"

"And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds."

Acts 7:22

Stephen's Defense – On Our Need For Family & Belonging "Growth & Relationship"

"Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel."

Acts 7:23

Stephen's Defense – On Our Need For Defense & Deliverance "Strength & Vengeance"

"And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand."

Acts 7:24-25

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

"And the next day he appeared to two of them as they were fighting, and tried to reconcile them, saying, 'Men, you are brethren; why do you wrong one another?' But he who did his neighbor wrong pushed him away, saying, 'Who made you a Ruler and Judge over us? Do you want to kill me as you did the Egyptian yesterday?'"

Acts 7:26-28

Stephen's Defense – On Our Tendency To Flee Conflict & Trouble "Run & Hide"

"Then, at this saying, Moses fled and became a dweller in the land of Midian" ...

Acts 7:29a

Stephen's Defense – God's Provision & Blessing "Goodness & Faithfulness"

... "Where he had two sons."

Acts 7:29b

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)

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!"

Therefore, Let Us Do The Same Today & Tomorrow!

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