

Grow. Give. Go.

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

THE ONGOING WORK OF JESUS BY THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

The Book of Acts - Part 15

READY TO GIVE AN ANSWER

Apologetics 101: A Clear and Compelling Witness

(Acts 7:1-53; 1 Peter 3:13-22)

INTRODUCTION:

“...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence...”

—1 Peter 3:15

REVIEWING THE NARRATIVE:

1. **THE STIR STEPHEN CREATED** (6:8-15)
2. **THE SERMON STEPHEN DELIVERED** (7:1-53)
3. **THE STONING STEPHEN SUFFERED** (7:54-8:1)
4. **THE SCATTERING STEPHEN STARTED** (8:2-3)

REVIEWING THE CHALLENGE:

1. **WHEN CALLED TO GIVE ASSISTANCE, STEP UP!** (6:5)

“...and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit...”

2. **WHEN CALLED TO GIVE AN ANSWER, SPEAK UP!** (6:8-7:53)

“Hear me, brethren and fathers! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham...”

3. **WHEN CALLED TO GIVE YOUR ALL, LOOK UP!** (7:54-60)

“But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God...”

REVIEWING THE SERMON:

1. **THE HISTORY OF THE SERMON:** (7:1-47)

“Hear me, brethren and fathers! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham...”

- Regardless of man's opinion to the contrary, history is neither _____ nor _____; it is neither the result of fate, accident, nor coincident.
- Rather, it is guided by God's _____, governed by His _____, and it is going according to His _____.
- Since the Fall, history can properly be called _____ history.

- 1B. _____ and the _____ : (7:2-8)
 2B. _____ and the _____ : (7:9-16)
 3B. _____ and the _____ , the _____
 & the _____ : (7:17-47)

2. THE HEART OF THE SERMON: (7:48-50)

“However, the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands...”

- Jesus did not come to _____ the _____ ,
but to _____ it.
- Jesus did not come to _____ the _____ ,
but to _____ it.

3. THE HAMMER OF THE SERMON: (7:51-53)

“You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.”

CONSIDERING PETER’S COUNSEL: (1 Peter 3:13-22)

1A. THERE IS DIVINE _____ IN SUFFERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE: (v. 13)

“And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?”

2A. THERE IS DIVINE _____ IN SUFFERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE: (v. 14a)

“But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed.”

3A. THERE IS DIVINE _____ IN SUFFERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE: (v. 14b)

“...AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED...”

4A. THERE IS DIVINE _____ IN SUFFERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE: (v. 15-17)

“...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;¹⁶ and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.¹⁷ For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

- To present a _____ , _____ , and _____ Witness to
a _____ and _____ World.

5A. THERE IS DIVINE _____ IN SUFFERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE: (v. 18-22)

“For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.”

CONCLUSION: