



STEPHEN'S MESSAGE

ACTS 7:1-53
PASTOR JOSE PRADO



False Accusations against Stephen:

¹¹ Then they secretly instigated men who said, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.”

¹³ and they set up false witnesses who said, “This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, ¹⁴ for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.”

The Council's Interrogation

¹And the high priest said,
“Are these things so?”

The Summary of Stephen's Message

51 “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, 53 you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

Theme 1: Israel's history reveals God's sovereign, abundant grace.

(7:2) And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran.

Theme 2: Israel's history reveals their own stubborn, rebellious propensity to reject God's gracious dealings with them.

"Our fathers refused to obey him (Moses), but thrust him aside, and in their hearts they turned to Egypt, saying to Aaron, 'Make for us gods to go before us; as for this Moses who led us out from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' And they made a calf in those days, and offered a sacrifice to the idol and rejoiced in the works of their hands."

Theme 3: Israel's history reveals their pattern of limiting worship to a sacred place, rather than to a sacred Person, who made all that is.

"Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands."

John 4

¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet."²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship."²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father."²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him."²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things."²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

Have you forgotten?

- o His Abundant Sovereign Grace in your life*
- o Your rebellious, idolatrous ways*
- o The person you turn to in repentance and worship*