

Full of Grace & Power: Exalting Christ in Stephen's Sermon

God reveals. People resist. God redeems.

Acts 7:8-18

Preliminary Matters

Luke as the Author of Luke-Acts

The Theological Unity of Luke-Acts

The Different Genres of Luke (Biography) and Acts (History)

The Dates of Luke-Acts

Marty Lasley considers Luke-Acts to have been completed in the mid-60s, Many Evangelical Scholars put the date post-70 AD, and running as late as about 85-90 AD. A few Evangelicals and Most Secular Academic scholars, Nonevangelical scholars and Skeptics/Pagans/Heathens put the date into the second century.....

Post-teaching questions for discussion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Timeline Within Luke-Acts

Birth of Jesus, 3-4 BC
Execution of John the Baptist, 27/28 AD
Ministry of Jesus Begins, 27/28 AD
Crucifixion of Jesus, April 7, 30 AD
Stoning of Stephen, 31/32 AD (Acts 7)
Execution of James, brother of John, in Jerusalem, 41/42 AD,
by Herod Agrippa (Acts 12)
Execution of James, Brother of Jesus, 62 AD
Paul imprisoned in Rome, about 62 AD
Execution of Paul, maybe 64 AD
Execution of Peter in Rome, maybe 64 AD
Jewish Revolt in Jerusalem (and Israel), 66 AD
Siege of Jerusalem and Destruction of the Temple, 70 AD
Capture of Masada by the Romans, 73 AD

The Structure of Stephen's Speech, Acts 7:2-53

History of the Patriarchs, 2-16

Story of Abraham, 2-8
Story of Joseph, 9-16

History of Moses, 17-34

Hebrews in Egypt, 17-19
Moses prior to Sinai Event, 20-29
Theophany & Mission, 30-34

Thematic Section, 35-50

Moses and the Fathers, 35-50
God and the Fathers, 42-50

Invective against Audience, 51-53

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- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Preliminary Matters Regarding Stephen's Speech

Luke is a Major Theologian of the Early Church AND its Only Historian

Speeches make up a large chunk of Acts

Does Stephen even really address/answer the charges against him?

Charges:

- 1) Blasphemous words against Moses and God.
- 2) Continuous speaking of words against this holy place (the Temple) and the law.
- 3) Jesus will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.

Helpful Concepts/Terms to Know: Summaries of Israel's Story (SIS), Septuagint, Sanhedrin, Hellenist/Hellenism, Second Temple Judaism, the Temple, Typology, Parable of the Wicked Tenants (Luke 20:9-18/Matthew 21:33-46/Mark 12:1-23), Naboth's Vineyard story in 1 Kings 21:1-29, and the Epistle to the Hebrews

The recitation of the Joseph story is used to point out that God reveals Himself and works outside the boundaries of Israel, that God provides a Deliverer for his people, but God's intended people sometime reject the deliverer and then find themselves outside and in dire circumstances/punished.....

Post-teaching questions for discussion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.