



## **“Victory Thru Christ!”**

### **Acts Chapter 7**

Intro: Acts 6:5-15 – Stephen a man full of faith, the Holy Spirit, power and was a doer of God’s Word! Acts 6:15 –Stephen’s face as an angel – Moses Exodus 34:29-35

Acts chapter 7 – Stephen studied, learned, and declared Jesus through the Word of God!

#### **> Let us applaud Stephen’s Testimony of Jewish History & the Lord Jesus!**

##### **(v1-8) The Life of Abraham**

- Check this out – Adam was alive when Methuselah was born & Noah was born during Methuselah’s life & Abraham was born while Noah was alive. A life of faith –Hebrews 11:8-19

(v8) A type of the virgin birth of Christ – Abraham/Sarah beyond childbearing years miraculously conceive Isaac (Laughter) (Genesis Ch. 21). (Insight – The land was given to Abraham & his descendants – The Promise Land – Gen. 12:1-7); Reaffirmed – Gen. 15:1-17; Affirmed Again – Gen. 17:1-8)

##### **(v9-19) Journey of the Patriarchs (12 tribes of Israel)**

– The life of Joseph – The brothers were envious of Joseph, beware of the sin of envy – James 3:14-18. Jesus was crucified because of envy (Mt. 27:28).

##### **(v20-44) Moses the Deliverer (Hebrews 11:24-29)**

(v23) Moses’ life may be divided into three 40-year periods. The first 40 years encompassed his birth and life in Pharaoh’s court; the second his exile in Midian (vv29, 30); and the third revolved around the events of the Exodus and the years of Israel’s wilderness wandering (v. 36).

(v35) Stephen displays Israel’s history of rejecting God’s deliverers. Jesus shared the same in Mt. 21:33-45

(v43) Molech – A Semitic deity honored by sacrifice of children, in which they were caused to pass through or into the fire. Palestinian excavations have uncovered evidence of infant skeletons in burial places around heathen shrines. Ammonites revered Molech as a protecting father. Worship of Molech was stringently prohibited by Hebrew law (Lev 18:21; 20:1-5). Solomon built an altar to Molech at Topheth in the valley of Hinnom. Manasseh (c. 696-642 B.C.), in his idolatrous orgy, also honored this deity. Josiah desecrated the Hinnom valley altar, but Jehoiakim revived the cult. The prophets sternly denounced this form of heathen worship (Jer 7:29-34; Ezek 16:20-22; 23:37-39; Amos 5:26, marg.). No form of ancient Semitic idolatry was more abhorrent than Molech worship. Remphan – also called CHIUN. Amos 5:26-27, “ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god which ye made to yourselves.” Acts 7:42-43 from the Septuagint of Amos, “ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them.” Israel secretly carried on idolatry in the wilderness, with a small shrine escaping Moses’ observation (Ezek 20:7-8. 39; 23:3; Josh 24:14).

### (v45-53) From Joshua to Jesus

– The Promise Land, The Tabernacle, The Temple – God’s witness – Pillar of fire by night, a cloud by day, God’s glory in the temple, the holiest of holies.

(v51-53) The characteristics of the false religious leaders – Stiff-necked, Carnal heart, Will not listen, Resist the Holy Spirit, Betrayers & Murders, Will not keep the Law, Full of Hate toward Jesus Christ and His Body of Believers.

– Saul (later Paul) authorized Stephen’s death – Acts 22:20 – *“And when the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him*

### (v54-60) Stephen’s Aloha!

– Stephen received His “Victor’s Crown!” – Jesus said in Matthew 5:10-12 - *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

Jesus said in Matthew 25:21-23 - *'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

> Where did Stephen go when he died?

- Paul writes about life death for the believer in 2 Corinthians 5:1-8

- Philippians 3:20-21 – *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

- 2 Timothy 4:6-8 – *For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

- Romans 8:35-39 – *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or a sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

- How to have a bold witness like Stephen? Check your commitments:

Prayer - \_\_\_\_

*Full of faith - \_\_\_\_*

*Full of the Holy Spirit - \_\_\_\_*

*Lifestyle changes - \_\_\_\_*

*Learn the Word - \_\_\_\_*

*Trust & Obey - \_\_\_\_*

*Witness to people - \_\_\_\_*

*Boldness - \_\_\_\_*

*Practice God's Power - \_\_\_\_*

*Commitment to the Great Commission - \_\_\_\_*

*This week count how many times you share your faith with someone: \_\_\_\_\_*

*(Seed planting, watering, harvest!)*

*Make the changes & go for the gold! Be a Stephen and receive the "Victor's Crown!"*