

ACTS OF GOD

Acts 7:1-53

Let's See the Past for What It Is
and People for Who They Need

*Three lessons learned from the ministry
and martyrdom of Stephen*

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Acts 7:51-53

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.”

1. Our past is very imperfect, and we shouldn't expect our future to be any different when left to our own devices.

- Throughout their history, Israel had a habit of rejecting God's messenger to them.
- As they had rejected God's prophets before, now they had rejected the Messiah.
- Stephen's point is: Your past will be your future if your heart never changes. SO, WE ALL NEED JESUS!

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2. God had a perfect plan to redeem us long before our imperfect lives even began.

- God had a plan for redemption long before His people rebelled and long before mankind fell into sin.
- Revelation 13:8 tells us that the plan for Jesus to die for us even preexisted the creation of the world.

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3. Let's, as Stephen did, courageously tell lost people they are in trouble and then graciously point them to Jesus, the Savior.

- Acts 6:8 tells us that Stephen was full of grace... So, his very direct message was full of courage and grace.
- Stephen was just being directly honest about who the people were and who they needed; they were sinners in need of a Savior.
- We are all sinners, and we all need Jesus.

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