

## Acts Chapter 7 Study Guide

Chapter 7 recounts a great deal of Jewish history, all of which is worth our attention. We also want to keep striving to understand the challenges of the early church and how they overcame those challenges as an example for us, the church, today. We encourage you to study the aspects of the Old Testament history shown in chapter 7 so that our study time on Wednesday nights can focus on the importance of this history and how it is used in this chapter of Acts.

- 1) As we begin to study this chapter and speech, consider Acts 6:15. What do you think the Sanhedrin saw?
- 2) Before delving deeper into verses 2 through 47, please read Acts 7:48-53 and Hebrews chapter 11. Summarize your thoughts on these verses and chapter 11 of Hebrews.  
With these scriptures in mind, in what ways do the following people and events relate to verses Acts 7:51-53?
  - A) Acts 7:2-8: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. What else stands out?
  - B) Acts 7:9-16: The patriarchs and Joseph. What else stands out?
  - C) Acts 7:17-29: The Egyptian bondage and Moses. Does anything else stand out?
  - D) Acts 7:30-41: Moses and the Hebrews in the wilderness. Does anything else stand out in Stephen's account?
- 3) Notice the time that passes between the events in verse 41 and those in verses 42-43. Briefly describe what happened in Israel during that time period.

### Verses 44-49

- 4) Stephen made God's relationship to the Temple clear to his accusers.
  - A) What is important about the Tabernacle in the wilderness?
  - B) Why was the Temple built by Solomon instead of David?
  - C) What should we understand about God's relationship to the Temple from these verses? What do these verses mean for us today?

### Verses 51-53

- 5) What charges does Stephen lay against the council? What do "stiffnecked" and "uncircumcised in heart and ears" mean in Scripture?
- 6) How do people resist the Holy Ghost?

### Verses 54-60

- 7) What reaction(s) did the council have to what Stephen said to them?
- 8) Stephen became the first martyr of the dispensation of grace. What does the example teach us? How else does Scripture say about martyrs?