

To the Ends of the Earth: Session 11
Stoned
Acts 6:8-7:60

Questions

1. We are introduced to Stephen in Acts 6. What do we learn about Stephen from verses 6 and 8?

2. When the Jews could not get the best of Stephen in debates at the local synagogues, what false accusation did they make against Stephen in verses 13-14?

3. What does the holy place refer to in verse 13?

4. Besides the temple and law, what else was important to the Jews?

5. According to verse 15, who did Stephen appear before for his trial?

6. Chapter 7 is Stephen's defense before the Sanhedrin. Stephen's defense is a masterpiece. Let's look carefully at Stephen's defense. Stephen starts with Abraham. Where was Abraham when God first spoke to him? What subtle message is this sending to Jewish leaders?

7. Verse 5 makes it clear that Abraham lived as a pilgrim in the Promised Land. But according to Hebrews 11:10, what inheritance was Abraham looking forward to?

8. Next Stephen moves to Joseph. What is the message that Stephen sent to the Jewish leaders when talking about Joseph? See verses 9-16.

9. Stephen then moves on to Moses. What does Stephen emphasize about Moses, and what is the message for the Jewish leaders? See verses 20-29.

10. When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, God told Moses to take off his sandals because he was standing on Holy Ground. What subtle message is Stephen saying about the Jewish temple?

11. Moses was rejected a second time when the Jews turned to idolatry by worshipping the golden calves. Stephen then turned his attention to the tabernacle and the temple. But what did Stephen say in verse 48? If God doesn't dwell in the temple, where does He dwell?

12. In verses 51-53, Stephen is no longer subtle in his defense. He directly confronts the Jewish leaders with their sin. What did Stephen say to the Jewish leaders?

13. What is the Jewish leader's response to Stephen, and what did they do to him?

14. Who are we introduced to in verse 58?