

LESSON 7

ACTS 6:8 - 7:60

- 1. As you have contemplated the apostles' joy in suffering persecution from our study of **Acts 5:17-6-7**, what truth or verse helped you face the ups and downs of your week?
- 2. Prayerfully read through **Acts 6:8-7:60.** List the names of the men of faith from Stephen's survey of the history of **God** and His people. Which person most interests you and why?

- 3. Read Acts 6:8-15.
 - a) From **V8-10**, write a description of Stephen, his character and his current situation. See also **Acts 6:5**.

b) Describe the opposition's tactics and the accusations against Stephen in **V11-15**. What strikes you about this scene?

4. The high priest questions Stephen about the truth of the charges leveled against him and Stephen responds with the story of God's faithfulness to His people in Acts 7:1-8. What incidents from Genesis does he summarize and what did God promise? See Genesis 15:13-14.

5. In Acts 7:9-16, what events are recalled and what attributes of God do you see on display?

6. Review the course of Moses' life according to **V17-38**. What details stand out to you from how **God** uses Moses to protect and free His people?

7. According to **V39-43**, what happened in the spiritual life of the people and how did **God** deal with them?

8. What do you learn about the significance of the tabernacle and the temple in connection with worship from **V44-50**? What is Stephen's main point in citing the prophet Isaiah?

9. Note the shift from "our" to "you" and "your" in V51-53. In your own words, what is Stephen's accusation against the religious leaders and where do you see spiritual stubbornness in your own heart?

10. According to **V54-60**, how did the Sanhedrin react to Stephen's sermon and his vision? How are you inspired by Stephen's final words?

11. REFLECT ON THE WORDS OF JESUS

Stephen was martyred for his faith in Jesus and faced his death with courage and grace. Jesus said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it." Luke 9:23-24. Spend some time prayerfully considering the implications of denying yourself and taking up your cross, what that meant for Stephen, and what that means for you.

<u>NAME</u>

PRAYER REQUEST