

*ACTS

The Continuing Work of Jesus

*Stephen's Apology

Acts 7:1-53

⁵¹ "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.

⁵² Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become;

⁵³ you who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it."

(Acts 7:51-53)

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Q: Why a historical review?

- Stephen and the followers of Jesus share this common history of God's people
- Jesus and His followers are the one's faithful to God and His *progressive* revelation

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Overview:

1. Foundational Promises to Abraham
2. Fulfillment through Joseph in Egypt
3. Fulfillment through Moses out of Egypt
4. Fulfillment through the tabernacle/temple in the land of promise

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Two Themes:

1. The presence of God is not restricted to any one place or building
 - the temple cannot be permanent but was only a temporary, outward symbol of God's presence with His people

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Two Themes:

2. Israel's pattern of rejecting God and His appointed deliverers
 - Joseph was rejected but God was with Him
 - Moses was disowned and rejected yet he was God's sent ruler and redeemer

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Two Themes:

- *Moses as a type of Christ*
 - Moses was God's deliverer who was rejected
 - Moses performed great wonders and signs
 - Moses was God's unique prophet
 - Moses formed the "church" in the wilderness

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Application

1. By rejecting Jesus the Jewish leaders were repeating the pattern of their fathers
2. They had rejected God and disobeyed the Law by not believing in the One to whom Moses pointed