

Sermon Handout

Redemption History

Acts 7:1-53

I. Stephen's "Trial"

- a. Stephen brought before the Sanhedrin 6:12
Accused of blasphemy against **the temple** and the Law 6:13b
- b. Perjured testimony 6:11, 13
- c. "Diligent inquisition?" Dt 19:16-21
 - i. The question is raised 7:1
 - ii. The issue is ultimately dropped 7:54, 57

II. Stephen's Sermon

- a. Begins with Abram (Gen 11 & 12) "**Get out** of that country."
- b. Comes to Moses (Ex 3:10) "**Bring my people out** of Egypt." *cf.* Acts 7:36
 - i. The people would not obey Moses, but wanted to go back to Egypt v. 39
Note: Jesus is the Prophet Like Moses of v. 37 (*cf.* I Cor 10:1-4)
 - ii. They rejected true worship of God vv. 40-43 *cf.* Amos 5:25-27
 - iii. Yet they had the tabernacle of witness vv. 44-46
Brought into the land of Gentiles by Joshua v. 45
- c. Then Solomon built a House for God v. 47
 - i. Yet that House cannot be a permanent residence for the Almighty
II Chron 2:5-6; Is 66:1-2
 - ii. Early church's affinity for the Temple – Mt 24:1; Acts 1:6; 2:46; 3:1
But see Micah 4:1-3 (*cf.* Mt 21:21; 24:2)
- d. Stephen's accusation against the Sanhedrin
 - i. You resist the Holy Spirit v. 51
 - ii. You reject the Prophets v. 52
 - iii. You rebel against the Law v. 53

III. The Response to Stephen's Lecture

- a. The Sanhedrin condemns him to death vv. 57-60
- b. The church is scattered throughout Judea, Samaria & beyond 8:1; 11:19-21
Except the Apostles! 8:1
- c. The evangelistic effort is now spearheaded by Philip 8:5-40
- d. Then comes the conversion of Saul (Paul) Ch 9ff