

STEPHEN'S SERMON – RESISTING THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 2 - ACTS 7:17-29

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking, John Stott, Vernon McGee, Warren Wiersbe and others.

THE PERILS OF EGYPT – Acts 7:17-22

Act 7:17 “But when the time of the promise drew near which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt

Act 7:18 till another king arose who did not know Joseph.

Act 7:19 This man dealt treacherously with our people, and oppressed our forefathers, making them expose their babies, so that they might not live.

THE PERILS OF EGYPT – Acts 7:17-22

Gen 15:13 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.

vs. 17, 20a “when the time of the promise drew near...at this time”
- The TIMING of God – Acts 7:17, 20a - We often do not see the hand of God in what is happening! - “time” – “chronos” - (not just the season). God used this trial to bring about His purpose and plan!

v. 18 “till another (another of a different kind!) king arose who did not know Joseph. - The CHANGE in circumstances – Acts 7:18-19 - “another king” – another of a different kind – a new dynasty – committed to military power and building great cities.

v. 19 “This man dealt treacherously with our people, and oppressed our forefathers, making them expose their babies - Probably was Thutmose I. It was Thutmose III, who reigned for over 40 years, probably hated Moses – cf. – Exodus 1:8-22

CHART 2: EXODUS EVENTS AND DYNASTY 18

AHMOSE I	1578–1551	
AMENHOTEP I	1551–1530	
THUTMOSIS I	1530–1517	
THUTMOSIS II	1517–1504	
HATSHEPSUT	1504–1483	MOSES IS BORN
THUTMOSIS III	1504–1450	MOSES GOES TO MIDIAN
AMENHOTEP II	1452–1417	EXODUS
THUTMOSIS IV	1417–1390	CONQUEST
AMENHOTEP III	1390–1352	
AKHENATON	1352–1336	
SMENHARE	1338–1336	
TUTANKHAMON	1336–1327	
AYE	1327–1323	
HOREMHAB	1323–1295	

Dates are those found in P. Ray (1997:4)

The Exodus is believed to have occurred 1446 B.C., which would have been a few year after Thutmose III's reign ended.

“RESISTING THE HOLY SPIRIT – Part 2” - Acts 7:17-29

Key text of Stephen's sermon – Acts 7:51 - “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.”

1 THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM – Acts 7:1-8 (last time)

2 THE PLOT AGAINST JOSEPH – Acts 7:9-16 (last time)

Today: (Third epoch of Stephen's sermon)
Moses is longest period covered in detail.
Possibly because of the charges that Stephen spoke against Moses- Act 6:11 Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God."

3 THE PERILS OF EGYPT (Moses' 1st 40 yrs.)– Acts 7:17-22

4 THE POSITION OF MOSES (2nd 40 years)– Acts 7:23-29

The date of the Exodus can be accurately calculated since the Bible mentions in 1 Kings 6:1 that the fourth year of Solomon's reign was “the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt.”
Surprisingly, there is scholarly agreement about the dates of Solomon's reign, placing his fourth year in the 960s BC. Subtracting 480 years takes us back to a date for the Exodus in the 1440s BC.

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Act 7:20 At this time Moses was born, and was well pleasing to God; and he was brought up in his father's house for three months.

Act 7:21 But when he was set out, Pharaoh's

daughter took him away and brought him up as her own son.

Act 7:22 And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians,

and was mighty in words and deeds.

THE POSITION OF MOSES – Acts 7:23-29

Act 7:23 "Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel.

v. 20 "At this time Moses was born - The NEED for leadership – Acts 7:20-22

v. 20 "well pleasing to God" - His APPEARANCE was pleasing to God - cf. Hebrews 11:23; Exodus 2:1-10 The Egyptians were very impressed with the beauty appearance of their people-youth conscience! Young and beautiful!

v. 21 "brought him up as her own son. - His EXPERIENCE developed his commitment – cf. - Hebrews 11:24-27 – the daughter was most likely Queen Hatshepsut. Her stepson Thutmose III must have hated Moses-a threat to his power! cf. Hebrews 11:24

v. 22 "learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians - His EDUCATION was extensive – we still don't know how the Egyptians did many of the things they did. How they built the pyramids. Their embalming process in preserving the dead!

v. 22 "mighty in words and deeds." - His INFLUENCE was great

THE POSITION OF MOSES – Acts 7:23-29

v. 23 "forty years old" – mid-life crisis – he blew his opportunity? NO! – God used it to develop him further! WOULD YOU HAVE DONE WHAT MOSES DID? Forsaking becoming the ruler of the world to leave and join the children of Israel, who were Pharaoh's slaves? A dilemma or an opportunity? Are you blowing the opportunities that God is giving you?

Queen/King Hatshepsut was the sole child who survived past infancy of the Queen consort, Ahmose, and her Pharaoh father, Thutmose I. Queen Ahmose gave Thutmose I four children, three of whom died in their youth (LoMusio 1989:85). Thus, Hatshepsut was the only woman in 1526 BC who could have had the title "Pharaoh's daughter," the designation given in Exodus to the person who saved Moses and later adopted him.

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Act 7:24 And seeing one of them suffer wrong,

he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian.

Act 7:25 For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver

them by his hand, but they did not understand.

Act 7:26 And the next day he appeared to two of them as they were fighting, and tried to reconcile them, saying, 'Men, you are brethren; why do you wrong one another?'

Act 7:27 But he who did his neighbor wrong pushed him away, saying,

'WHO MADE YOU A RULER AND A JUDGE OVER US?'

Act 7:28 DO YOU WANT TO KILL ME AS YOU DID THE EGYPTIAN YESTERDAY?'

Act 7:29 Then, at this saying, Moses fled and became a dweller in the land of Midian, where he had two sons.

v. 24 “seeing one of them suffer wrong, - His REASON for what he did – Acts 7:23-24

v. 24 “he defended and avenged him - Their RESPONSE was not what he expected – Acts 7:25

v. 25 “but they did not understand” -Their resistance proved Stephen’s point. Here he is making mention, as was in the case of Joseph, they are doing the same thing in the case of Moses – resisting the Spirit by rejecting Moses the first time.

v. 27 “pushed him away, saying, “WHO MADE YOU A RULER AND A JUDGE OVER US?” - Their RESISTANCE proved Stephen’s point – Acts 7:26-28

v. 29 “Moses fled and became a dweller in the land of Midian - His REACTION revealed his need of further training – cf. - Exodus 2:11-15; Hebrews 11:27

God took Moses to the back side of the desert for forty years to develop him. Moses was initially afraid of the Pharaoh but at the end of the forty years in front of Pharaoh, he was no longer afraid. He went out into the desert area of Midian and there married the daughter of one of the priests out there and became just a shepherd watching the sheep of his father Jethro, for the next forty years.

Before the back side of the desert Moses couldn’t effectively kill one Egyptian. But after God’s training and developing for those forty years, in accordance with the will and leading of the Lord, the whole Egyptian army was killed!

Lord I thank You for whatever trial You are giving or will give me. I know it is from You!
May I not resist, grieve, or quench Your Holy Spirit!!

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Act 7:16 And they were carried back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham bought for a sum of money from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem.

1. Jacob himself was buried in the field of Macpelah by Joseph and his brethren, Gen. 1, 13. It is expressly said that the bones of Joseph were carried by the Israelites when they went into the land of Canaan, and buried in Shechem, Joshua 24:32; compare Gen 50:25. No mention is made in the Old Testament of their carrying the bones of any of the other patriarchs, but the thing is highly probable in itself. If the descendants of Joseph carried his bones, it would naturally occur to them to take also the bones of each of the patriarchs, and give them an honorable sepulchre together in the land of promise. Josephus (Antiq., book 2, chapter 8, section 2) says that "the posterity and sons of these men (of the brethren of Joseph), after some time, carried their bodies and buried them in Hebron; but as to the bones of Joseph, they carried them into the land of Canaan afterward, when the Hebrews went out of Egypt." This is in accordance with the common opinion of the Jewish writers, that they were buried in Hebron. Yet the tradition is not uniform. Some of the Jews affirm that they were buried in Sychem (Kuinoel). As the Scriptures do not anywhere deny that the patriarchs were buried in Sychem, it cannot be proved that Stephen was in error. There is one circumstance of strong probability to show that he was correct. At the time when this defense was delivered, "Sychem" was in the hands of the Samaritans, between whom and the Jews there was a violent hostility. Of course, the Jews would not be willing to concede that the Samaritans had the bones of their ancestors, and hence, perhaps the opinion had been maintained that they were buried in Hebron. (Barnes)

2. Of the two burying-places of the patriarchs, one was at Hebron, the cave and field which Abraham purchased of Ephron the Hittite (Gen 23:16, etc.); the other in Sychem, which Jacob (not Abraham) bought of the sons of Emmor (Gen 33:19). To remove this glaring discrepancy, Markland interprets π α ρ α [Strong's G3844], from, as it frequently signifies with a genitive, and renders, "And were carried over to Sychem; and afterwards from among the descendants of Emmor, the father, or son, of Sychem, they were laid in the sepulchre which Abraham bought for a sum of money." This agrees with the account which Josephus gives of the patriarchs; that they were carried out of Egypt, first to Sychem, and then to Hebron, where they were buried. Exo 13:19; Jos 24:32 (Markland)

Questions:

1. Do good sermons always lead to acceptance by the audience? What was the result of Stephen's sermon?
2. At what times in your life do you tend to resist the Holy Spirit?
3. Did Israel come to Egypt in accordance with God's merciful plan? Did their favorable treatment in Egypt last long?
4. Any idea why Pharaoh's daughter named the baby she found in the Nile as "Moses" (to draw out of)?
5. V. 20 – what do you think is meant by "well pleasing to God"? Do you think Pharaoh's daughter would have taken Moses, if he had been really ugly? Could she have been Hatshepsut?
6. Could Moses have been the ruler of the then known world as Pharaoh, if he would have only said that Hatshepsut was his mother? Could you have done what Moses did?
7. Vs. 22 says Moses was mighty in words and deeds-why do you think Moses told God that "I am slow of speech and slow of tongue"?
8. Do you see so far in Stephen's sermon how because of their resistance to the Holy Spirit, just as their fathers did, they rejected Joseph the first time then accepted him the second time; and how here they are rejecting Moses (the first time)?