

Acts 7:30-60 2026 – Stephen's Address: Israel Rebels Against God; God's True Tabernacle; Israel Resists the Holy Spirit; Stephen the Martyr

7/18/26 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com <https://www.ptwente.com>

ACTS 7:30-60: - Stephen's Speech – [30] "And when forty years had passed, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai. [31] When Moses saw it, he marveled at the sight; and as he drew near to observe, the voice of the Lord came to him, [32] saying, 'I AM THE GOD OF YOUR FATHERS—THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB.' And Moses trembled and dared not look. [33] 'Then the LORD said to him, "TAKE YOUR SANDALS OFF YOUR FEET, FOR THE PLACE WHERE YOU STAND IS HOLY GROUND. [34] I HAVE SURELY SEEN THE OPPRESSION OF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE IN EGYPT; I HAVE HEARD THEIR GROANING AND HAVE COME DOWN TO DELIVER THEM. AND NOW COME, I WILL SEND YOU TO EGYPT."
' [35] "This Moses whom they rejected, saying, 'WHO MADE YOU A RULER AND A JUDGE?' is the one God sent to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the Angel who appeared to him in the bush. [36] He brought them out, after he had shown wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years. [37] "This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, 'THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN. HIM YOU SHALL HEAR.' [38] "This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us, [39] whom our fathers would not obey, but rejected. And in their hearts they turned back to Egypt, [40] saying to Aaron, 'MAKE US GODS TO GO BEFORE US; AS FOR THIS MOSES WHO BROUGHT US OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT HAS BECOME OF HIM.' [41] And they made a calf in those days, offered sacrifices to the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands. [42] Then God turned and gave them up to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the Prophets: 'DID YOU OFFER ME SLAUGHTERED ANIMALS AND SACRIFICES DURING FORTY YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS, O HOUSE OF ISRAEL? [43] YOU ALSO TOOK UP THE TABERNACLE OF MOLOCH, AND THE STAR OF YOUR GOD REMPHAN, IMAGES WHICH YOU MADE TO WORSHIP; AND I WILL CARRY YOU AWAY BEYOND BABYLON.' [44] "Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as He appointed, instructing Moses to make it according to the pattern that he had seen, [45] which our fathers, having received it in turn, also brought with Joshua into the land possessed by the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers until the days of David, [46] who found favor before God and asked to find a dwelling for the God of Jacob. [47] But Solomon built Him a house. [48] "However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: [49] 'HEAVEN IS MY THRONE, AND EARTH IS MY FOOTSTOOL. WHAT HOUSE WILL YOU BUILD FOR ME? SAYS THE LORD, OR WHAT IS THE PLACE OF MY REST? [50] HAS MY HAND NOT MADE ALL THESE THINGS?' [51] "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. [52] Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, [53] who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it."

The Stoning of Stephen - [54] When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. [55] But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, [56] and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" [57] Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; [58] and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man

named Saul. [59] And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." [60] Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

SUMMARY:

- **Moses needed further preparation by God.** Are you ready to serve the Lord? To go off half-cocked in our flesh to do things our way? We need to learn deep issues of commitment in our own heart.
- **TAKE YOUR SANDALS OFF YOUR FEET, FOR THE PLACE WHERE YOU STAND IS HOLY GROUND.** Does that apply to us? Why does God tell us that before He tells us what to do? Until we recognize who God is, He will not work through us. What would You have me to do? Humility:
- **I HAVE SURELY SEEN THE OPPRESSION OF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE IN EGYPT; I HAVE HEARD THEIR GROANING AND HAVE COME DOWN TO DELIVER THEM. AND NOW COME, I WILL SEND YOU TO EGYPT.** Do we understand that we are being sent to deliver?
- **The return of Moses to Egypt – How did Moses respond?** – Notice his excuses. Prone to make excuses?
- **Their resistance to Moses shows the problem was in their hearts – Idolatry and worldliness.** How much in me?
- **You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.** – Their attitude - “resisting” – “stiff-necked” – “hard,” “dry” “callous” Me too?
- **We can see how God’s providence used Stephen’s testimony, in word and deed, through life and death, to promote the church’s mission.** -- What will be done for Christ through your life? Your death?
- **Can you see how God used the faithfulness and willingness of Stephen to accomplish God’s providence?**
- **How faithful and willing are you? Am I?**

PRAY TODAY FOR: (1Ti 2:1-4) *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, [2] for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. [3] For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, [4] who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

OH LORD, YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL written and sung by Kieth Green (5:35)

“On Monday night, this week, about midnight I wrote a letter to the Lord. I didn’t know where to mail it, so I put it in my Bible I asked Him when are You going to do something about my heart? You know a lot of time has gone by since I met You. It’s starting to harden up. You know, it’s just kind of natural. I want to have baby skin, Lord. I want to act again like a baby on my heart. I’m starting to get old and wrinkled, and calloused. It’s not that anything I’m doing, it’s because of a lot of things I’m not doing. I stayed up to about 2am in the morning writing this song.” Oh Lord, You're beautiful, Your face is all I seek, For when Your eyes are on this child, Your love abounds to me Oh Lord my body’s tired, but You keep reminding me of many holy, tireless men, who spilt their blood for Thee. I want to take your word and shine it all around But first help me to just, to live it Lord And if I’m doing well, help me to never to make a sound, except to give all the glory to You Oh Lord my faith is small, and I need a touch from You Your Book of Books lies on this dirt and the prayers of me to You. Oh Lord, please light the fire That once burned bright and clear Replace the lamp of my first love That fueled with holy fear I want to take Your word and shine it all around But first help me just, live it Lord And if I’m doing good, please help me to never make a sound, except to give all the glory to You Oh Lord, You're beautiful Your face is all I seek For when your eyes are on this child Your faith abounds to me. To me....