

STEPHEN'S MARTYRDOM

Acts 6:8-8:40

Key Verse: 7:59

“While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’”

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read 6:8-15. How is Stephen described? What charges were brought against him? Why? What was his attitude before the Sanhedrin?
2. Read 7:2-8. How did God call and train Abraham? How did God fulfill his promise? What was God's purpose in choosing Abraham? (Ge 12:3b; 22:18) How can we see God's providence in the life of Joseph? (9-16)
3. How did Israel's situation in Egypt worsen? (17-19) Read verses 20-29. How and why was Moses saved and trained? Why did he flee from Egypt? Read verses 30-34. How and why did God call Moses? What is holy ground?
4. What was God's great purpose in training and delivering his people? (Ex.19:5,6) Read verses 35-38. What was the living word and the promise which Moses received and passed on to his people?
5. How did the people of Moses' time and those of Jesus' time reveal their lack of a sense of history and their failure to understand God's purposes? How did God punish Israel? (39-43) What is the purpose of the temple? (44-50) Mk 11:17)?
6. Read verses 51-54. How did Stephen rebuke them? How did they respond? Read 55-60. How did Stephen testify to Jesus? What was his prayer? (Lk 23:34) What do you think was the point of his whole sermon?
7. Who was Saul and what did he do? Why? How did God answer Stephen's prayer? How did God use the blood of Stephen to spread the gospel? What is the spirit of martyrdom?

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8. Who was Philip? Describe his evangelistic ministry in Samaria? What can we learn through the Apostles' encounter with Simon? Why did Philip leave a large ministry and go to the desert? Describe Philip's one-to-one Bible study. (26-40)