

NOON BIBLE STUDY: ACTS 6 & 7

ACTS 6:1-6 - NEED ARISES, 7 MEN CALLED

- GOOD REPUTATION
- FULL OF THE SPIRIT - FULL OF WISDOM

V. 7 - "WORD OF GOD KEPT SPREADING. NUMBER OF DISCIPLES CONTINUED TO INCREASE GREATLY IN JERUSALEM, A GREAT MANY OF THE PRIESTS WERE BECOMING OBEDIENT TO THE FAITH"

ACTS 6:8-15 - STEPHEN (ONE OF THE SEVEN) SPEAKING POWERFULLY AND PERFORMING GREAT SIGNS.

V. 11 - IT WAS ONLY THROUGH DECEIT THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO OPPOSE HIM (CP. ACTS 6:3)

V. 14 - ACCUSATION: JESUS WILL DESTROY THIS PLACE (MATTHEW 26:61) AND ALTER CUSTOMS WHICH MOSES HANDED DOWN TO US (MATTHEW 5:17-20)

ACTS 7:1-50 — STEPHEN'S DEFENSE BEFORE THE COUNCIL

V. 2-8 - ABRAHAM (GENESIS)

V. 9-16 - JOSEPH & CHILDREN OF ISRAEL IN EGYPT (GENESIS)

V. 17-42 - MOSES (EXODUS-DEUTERONOMY)

V. 44-45 - JOSHUA (DEUTERONOMY & JOSHUA)

V. 46-47 - DAVID & SOLOMON (SAMUEL, KINGS & PSALMS)

V. 48-50 - ISAIAH (ISAIAH)



A MAJOR THEME OF STEPHEN'S DEFENSE IS THAT THE GREAT MEN OF FAITH IN THE OT WERE CALLED BY GOD, BUT OFTEN REJECTED BY THE PEOPLE.

V. 51 - "YOU MEN...ARE ALWAYS RESISTING THE HOLY SPIRIT;

ACTS 7:51-53 - STEPHEN TURNS TOWARDS COUNCIL

- STEPHEN TURNS FROM WHAT THE COUNCIL WOULD HAVE THEOLOGICALLY AGREED WITH TO A PERSONAL CONVICTION OF THEIR ROLE IN OPPOSING GOD.
- AT THIS STAGE IN ACTS THIS COUNCIL WOULD HAVE HEARD THAT THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REJECTION AND DEATH OF JESUS MULTIPLE TIMES!

ACTS 2:22-24 - PETER TO CROWD ON PENTECOST

ACTS 3:13-23 - PETER TO CROWD AFTER HEALING LAME MAN IN TEMPLE

ACTS 4:8-12 - PETER TO HIGH PRIEST AND COUNCIL

ACTS 5:27-33 - PETER BEFORE THE COUNCIL

ACTS 7:54 - COUNCIL CONVICTED

ACTS 7:54 (NLT) - THE JEWISH LEADERS WERE INFURIATED BY STEPHEN'S ACCUSATION, AND THEY SHOOK THEIR FISTS AT HIM IN RAGE.

ACTS 7:55-56 - STEPHEN SEE'S "GLORY OF GOD & JESUS STANDING AT RIGHT HAND." & SAID THAT OUTLOUD!

ACTS 7:57-60 - COUNCIL ENRAGED. STEPHEN CHASED OUT OF CITY, STONED.

V. 58 — "LAID ASIDE THEIR ROBES". SAUL" WAS HOLDING THEIR ROBES, ENABLING THEM TO STONE.

V. 59-60 - STEPHEN IS FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR.

- HE APPEALS TO JESUS AS HE IS DYING - HE PRAYS FOR FORGIVENESS FOR THOSE KILLING HIM!
- CP. THIS TO WHAT JESUS SAID ON CROSS "FATHER INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT" (LUKE 23:46) AND "FORGIVE THEM FATHER (LUKE 23:34)

"FELL ASLEEP" IS BIBLICAL LANGUAGE FOR DEATH - BECAUSE AS CHRISTIANS WE BELIEVE IN RESURRECTION, SO FOR US, DEATH IS LIKE SLEEP - SOMETHING WE WILL ONE DAY WAKE UP FROM.