

As it is written in the book of the **prophets**...

Amos 5:25-27 (1446 BC > 755 BC > AD 35)

They forgot the reality of “this place” (vv. 44-50).

^{ESV} **Acts 7:44** "Our fathers had the tent of witness in the wilderness, just as he who spoke to Moses directed him to make it, according to the pattern that he had seen. ⁴⁵ Our fathers in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our fathers. So it was until the days of David, ⁴⁶ who found favor in the sight of God and asked to find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. ^{1 47} But it was Solomon who built a house for him.

What was true about the tent?

They had the tent of witness (cf. “living oracles,” v. 38) directed by God...

They had it in the wilderness and they brought it with them when they possessed the land of Canaan...

They had it up to and even in the days of David when he wanted to find a dwelling place for God...

They had it transitioned to a house which was built by Solomon...

What is true about God?

He does not dwell in houses made by hands (cf. v. 41)...

As the **prophet** says...

Isaiah 66:1-2

You are no different than your fathers by being against Jesus Christ. (vv. 51-53)

^{ESV} **Acts 7:51** "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵² Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³ you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

Sunday, September 27, 2026
Danny Capon, *Pastor*

ACTS—The Confident Witness of Jesus Christ
No. 18 | Witnessing in Jerusalem, pt. 10

Acts 7:2-53 (vv. 35-53)

Review

Acts depicts the *continuing* ministry of Jesus Christ. Though he has ascended, the witness of Jesus continues by the power of the Spirit through the spread of the gospel for the growth of the church. Those who hear and believe the witness of Jesus Christ can and should be confident following his way.

(1:1-26) Waiting for the Spirit—Confirming the Twelve Apostles

(2:1-47) Receiving of the Spirit—Birthing the Church

What then do we see in Acts 3 and following?

The witness of Jesus Christ goes from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. How?

What did the witness (and witnesses) of Jesus Christ encounter?

How did the witness (and witnesses) of Jesus Christ prevail?

Witnessing in Jerusalem, pt. 9

7:2-53 (vv. 35-53)

Overview

(3:1-8:3) Witnessing in Jerusalem

(3:1-4:31) Boldness in Opposition

(4:32-5:16) Esteem in Community

(5:17-42) Obedience in Suffering

(6:1-7) Wisdom in Decision-making

(6:8-8:3) Faithfulness in Death

Stephen demonstrates that a believer who isn't an apostle can faithfully minister among the disciples and speak the word of God with boldness.

Summary

(6:8-7:1) Stephen faithfully proclaimed Jesus and was opposed.

(7:2-53) Stephen faithfully defended Scripture and challenged his opposition.

(7:54-8:3) Stephen faithfully endured death and motivated the spread of the word.

^{ESV} **Acts 7:2** And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me...."

Stephen faithfully defended Scripture and challenged his opposition.

How does Stephen respond?

(7:2b-34) **Stephen sets up his response to their charges by reminding them of their history.**

(7:35-52) **Stephen responds to their charges and charges them with their own unfaithfulness.**

Remember...

Stephen had been charged that he had spoken “blasphemous **words against Moses** and God.” (6:12)

But...

What has Stephen reminded them about **Moses**?

- Moses was “beautiful in God’s sight,” and he spared his life as he anticipated “the time of the promise” drawing near (vv. 17-22).
- Moses was chosen by God to give “salvation” to his brother by his hand, though they didn’t understand this (vv. 23-29).
- Moses was personally commissioned and sent by God to Egypt to “deliver” his people from their affliction (vv. 30-34).

Your fathers demonstrated regular obstinance against God. (vv. 35-50)

ESV **Acts 7:35** "This Moses, whom they rejected, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge?' - this man God sent as both ruler and redeemer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush. ³⁶ This man led them out, performing wonders and signs in Egypt and at the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years. ³⁷ This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, 'God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers.' ³⁸ This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us.

What happened to “this Moses”?

They “rejected” (cf. 3:13, 14) “**this**” Moses (cf. v. 40).

Why did they reject him? Why did their rejection of him matter?

But...

- God sent “**this**” man as both ruler and redeemer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush (v.35).
- “**This**” man led them out performing wonders and signs in Egypt and at the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years (v. 36).
- “**This**” Moses had said to the Israelites, ‘God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers.’ (v. 37)

See Deuteronomy 18:15

ESV **Acts 3:22** Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. ²³ And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.'

- “**This**” is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us (v. 38).

“the angel...**spoke** to him” > “he received **living** (words) to give to us” > ?

What happened to “our fathers”?

They forsook the authority of “the law” of God (vv. 39-43).

ESV **Acts 7:39** Our fathers refused to obey him, but thrust him aside, and in their hearts they turned to Egypt, ⁴⁰ saying to Aaron, 'Make for us gods who will go before us. As for this Moses who led us out from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' ⁴¹ And they made a calf in those days, and offered a sacrifice to the idol and were rejoicing in the works of their hands.

What was true about them?

They *didn't* obey him (lit. did not will to become obedient)...

“refused to obey **him**” < who “received living (words)” from **God**

They thrust (him, it) aside (cf. 7:27; 13:46)...

They turned in their hearts to Egypt...

exterior and interior, negative and positive

How did they demonstrate this?

They said to Aaron...

They made a calf in those days and

offered a sacrifice to the idol and

rejoiced in the work of their hands

What is true about God?

He turned (cf. v. 39) away...

He gave them over to worship the host of heaven...

ESV **Acts 7:7** 'But I will judge the nation that they serve,' said God, 'and after that they shall come out and worship me in this place.'