

Assignments on Acts 7

Read Acts 7 then answer these questions:

Note: To understand the points Stephen makes in his sermon, it will help significantly if you first read the whole chapter to get an overview.

1. Where did Stephen begin in making his defense – 7:1? (Think: Why was this a wise beginning point?)

2. Where did God appear to Abraham? What command did He give him – 7:2,3?

3. Give **book/chapter/verse** elsewhere that describes God's call of Abraham, and explain why this was a difficult challenge to Abraham's faith.

4. How much of the land of Canaan did Abraham personally possess – 7:4,5?

5. To whom did God promise to give the land, and what was difficult or confusing about this promise (give **book/chapter/verse** where this is originally recorded)?

6. What did God predict about Abraham's descendants – 7:6,7? How was this fulfilled?

7. **Define** "covenant" and "patriarch."

8. Describe the covenant (7:8) made with Abraham and give **book/chapter/verse** from the Old Testament.

9. List Abraham's descendants from Abraham to the twelve patriarchs.

10. Describe how Joseph ended up in Egypt and what happened to him there – 7:9,10 (give **book/chapter/verse** from the Old Testament).

11. What problem occurred and where did it occur – 7:11? (Think: What connection did Joseph have with this problem?)

12. What problem did Jacob's family have and what did they do about it – 7:11,12?

13. What happened to Joseph and his brothers as a result – 7:13 (give Old Testament reference where this is found)?

14. **Special Assignment:** From this story, what lessons can we learn about forgiveness and God's providence (it may help to read the Old Testament story)?

15. How did Joseph provide for Jacob and his family – 7:14?

16. Where did Jacob die and in what tomb was he buried – 7:15,16?

17. Who had bought this tomb, when, and why (see the Old Testament references)?

18. What happened to the people in Egypt (7:17)? What promise to Abraham did this fulfill?

19. What change in the Egyptian government affected Jacob's descendants – 7:18?

20. How were the Israelites treated as a result – 7:19? (Think: What modern practice is similar to that of v19, and what can we learn?) Note: keep in mind the overview of chap. 7. What is Stephen's point, and what is this historical review supposed to prove?

21. When Israel was mistreated, who was born and where did he first live – 7:20?

22. **Special Assignment:** Tell the story of how he came to be raised by Pharaoh's daughter, and give Old Testament **book/chapter/verse**.

23. How is his education described – 7:22?

24. What event occurred when he was about 40 years old – 7:23,24?

25. What reason is given why Moses did this – 7:25? (Think: Why might Moses have thought this? How would he have known his connection to the Israelites? From human advantages did he have that might have led him to think he could help the Israelites?)

26. Where are the events of Acts 7:23-29 recorded in the Old Testament, and what other New Testament passage refers to them?

27. What problem did Moses next observe? How did he try to solve it – 7:26?

28. What reaction did he receive to his effort – 7:27,28? (Think: Stephen is beginning to bring out his main conclusion. What does this story show about the Israelites, and how does it support Stephen's main theme?)

29. How did Moses respond to this treatment by an Israelite – 7:29? (Think: What can we learn from the fact that God did not at this time use Moses to lead Israel from bondage?)

30. Where did Moses go, and what happened to him there (use Old Testament passages to help you understand better)?

31. Where and how did God speak to Moses, and how long was this after Moses had left Egypt – 7:30? (Think: Approximately how old would Moses have been at this time?)

32. Where is this event recorded in the Old Testament? What was unusual about the bush? (Think: Why would God choose such a method to speak to Moses?)

33. How did God identify Himself – 7:32? (Think: What is the significance of v33?)

34. What did God plan to do for Israel? What would be Moses' role – 7:33,34?

35. According to the Old Testament account, how did Moses react when God gave Him this job? (Think: Contrast this to vv 23-29. What lesson can we learn?)

36. According to 7:35, how had the people treated Moses, but how did God view him? (Think: How did the attitude of the Israelites fit into Stephen's main theme?)

37. How did Stephen describe Moses' success in accomplishing God's purpose – 7:36?

38. **Special Assignment:** List some of the signs and wonders done through Moses, and give b/c/v for them.

39. What had Moses predicted (7:37)? Where is this found in the Old Testament?

40. Where else in Acts have we read about this same prediction?

41. **Special Assignment:** List at least three ways Jesus was similar to Moses.

42. What were the “lively (or living) oracles” that Moses received, and where did he receive them – 7:38? (Think: What does “oracle” mean?)

43. How did the people treat Moses during his lifetime (7:39), and how did this differ from how the first-century Jews viewed him?

44. What example illustrates the attitude of people in Moses’ day – 7:40,41?

45. Where do we read of this event in the Old Testament, where was Moses when it happened, and what punishment came on the people for it? (Think: What lesson did Stephen expect this to teach his audience?)

46. What are the “host of heaven” (7:42), and what was God’s attitude when His people worshiped them?

47. What passage is quoted in 7:42,43?

48. Special Assignment: Who were Moloch and Rephan (Remphan)?

49. What consequence did God predict would come – 7:43? How did this occur?

50. Name something else that Moses provided the people (7:44), and briefly describe it (give Old Testament **book/chapter/verse**).

51. Who brought the tabernacle into Canaan? What promise did this fulfill – 7:45?

52. What did David ask to be able to do for God – 7:46? (Think: What is the significance of this request? Note 7:47 and run cross-references.)

53. Who built the temple – 7:47 (give Old Testament **book/chapter/verse**)?

54. Acts 7:49,50 is a quotation of what passage?

55. What evidence is given to show that God does not dwell in physical buildings? (Think: What did this discussion of the temple have to do with Stephen's topic?)

56. What did Stephen mean by calling them "stiff-necked and uncircumcised" – 7:51? (Think: why would these statements offend Jews?)

57. What does it mean to resist the Holy Spirit?

58. How had their fathers treated the prophets – 7:52? Name some examples.

59. How was Stephen's audience like their fathers? What had they done?

60. What had they received and what had they done with it – 7:53?

61. Though Stephen was interrupted, what conclusions can be reached from his sermon?

<p>62. Special Assignment: Explain in what sense Stephen had answered the accusations made against him.</p>

63. Describe the initial reaction of the people to Stephen's sermon – 7:54.

64. List some similarities between Stephen's sermon in Acts 7 and Peter's in Acts 2, then describe the difference in the reactions of the hearers. (Think: What explains the different reactions? Was it the preacher? The message?)

65. What did Stephen see – 7:55,56? (Think: What can we learn from the fact Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit?)

66. Where else have we read about Jesus being on God's right hand, and what is the significance? (Think: Why would God allow Stephen to see Jesus at this time?)

67. How did people react to Stephen's vision – 7:57,58? (Think: Why do people react like this?)

68. **Application:** In what ways are the reactions of people today sometimes similar to the reactions of Stephen's audience?

69. What Bible character is introduced in 7:58? What role did he have later in Acts?

70. What reference did Saul later make to this event? What does this demonstrate?

71. What request did Stephen make in 7:59?

72. What request did he make in 7:60, and who else made a similar request?

73. **Special Assignment:** List at least 4 characteristics of Stephen that are worthy of our respect and imitation.

Assignments on Acts 8

Read Acts 8 then answer these questions:

1. What problem did the church have? What was its effect? Who was **not** scattered – 8:1?
2. What final information are we given about Stephen's death – 8:2? (Think: Is it wrong to sorrow when Christians die? Explain.)
3. Describe Saul's involvement in the persecution – 8:3.
4. What did the scattered Christians do? Who was involved in this work – 8:4 (cf. v1)?
5. **Application:** What can we learn from this about the importance of preaching?
6. Who preached in Samaria and where have we already read about this man – 8:5?
7. Read Acts 1:8. What new stage has the spread of the gospel reached according to Acts 8:1-5. (Think: What was unique about the Samaritans compared to other people?)
8. What attitude did the people have toward the gospel – 8:6-8?
9. List some of the miracles Philip did.
10. **Define** sorcery. List **passages** that discuss it or other aspects of the occult.
11. What methods did Simon use? What effect did they have on the people – 8:9-11?
12. **Application:** Name some lessons we learn about sorcery from this passage.