

## Acts 7

### CHAPTER SEVEN

#### Stephen's Sermon and Defense

##### Overview

##### 1. Stephen Testifies: (Verses 1-50)

In response to the false accusations of the high priest and religious council, Stephen preaches a sermon reminding them of those who preceded them. He talked of Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, and Solomon all pointing to the Messiah, whom they had crucified. Through recounting the history of Israel, the Holy Spirit through Stephen is revealing to the council that God cannot be confined to a temple made with the hands of men.

##### 2. Stephen Accuses the Council: (Verses 51-53)

Upon the conclusion of his sermon, Stephen accuses the council of being hardened against God and His Word even as their fathers had been. He boldly charges them guilty of killing the Messiah and not keeping the law because of their rejection of Him.

##### 3. The Sanhedrin's Reaction: (Verses 54-60)

The council was so convicted and angered by what Stephen had said, they determined to stone him. But Stephen was not moved by their reaction. His eyes were opened to the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Stephen was dragged outside the city and stoned. While being stoned, he interceded for all those responsible for his death.

#### The Challenge of Chapter Seven:

Regardless of the circumstances we may face in life, we must always keep our eyes fixed on God's Word. The Word will give us boldness in the face of religion, false accusations, and even death. The last enemy to be destroyed will be death (1 Corinthians 15:26). But as believers, we should not fear death. 1 Corinthians 15:55 says, "*O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*" Just as Stephen's eyes were opened to the spirit realm, heaven, and Jesus awaiting him when facing death, the same is true for every child of God. We must not fear death, but live our lives fearlessly proclaiming God's Word even when confronted with the severest opposition.