

Stephen

Acts: 6:8-7:60

Acts: The Real Church

Pastor Phil Winfield

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There are at least two major messages in this passage.

- The Jews had elevated Jerusalem and its' temple to **idol status**.
- The Jews always rejected **God's messengers**.

Markers of rejection:

1. Like Jesus, Stephen was **falsely accused** 6:8-16 What were the accusations against him?
 - a. He blasphemes our **holy place**, the Temple v.13.
 - b. He blasphemes our **holy prophet** Moses and the law and God himself. V.11,13.
 - c. He calls for the **destruction** of our Temple and **changing our customs** v.14.
2. Like Jesus, Stephen was **mighty** in the scriptures 7:1-50
 - a. They **misunderstood** Abraham their Father (7:2-8).
 - b. They rejected God's servant **Joseph** (9-16).
 - c. They rejected God's servant **Moses** (17-43).
 - d. They worshipped the house of God not the **God of the house** (v.44-50)
3. Like Jesus Stephen's words brought deep **conviction** 7:51-54.
4. Like Jesus, Stephen was **exalted** in his death 7:54-60.
 - a. He looked to Jesus
 - b. He believed in forgiveness
 - c. He fell asleep.

Make a decision:

- Our message of salvation is so important that it requires us to take **a stand**.
- Our message of salvation will be often rejected – sometimes **viciously**.
- Our message of salvation must be clear. You can't substitute a religious tradition for a **relationship** with the Father through his Son Jesus.
- Our witness of God's grace and salvation will always be accompanied by Holy Spirit's presence and it will be **noticed** in heaven (v.55).