

Acts #42

“A True Disciple Speaks
Like His Teacher”

Acts 7:1-60

The Sanhedrin will not understand at first but as they become aware that Stephen is speaking of the God of glory revealed in Jesus Christ, the One who founded the Jewish race, the One Moses prophesied about, they will become infuriated and escort Stephen outside to stone him to death.

To make his point, Stephen must give a synopsis of Jewish history to demonstrate that he's not speaking against the temple but for the temple because the temple reveals the Person and work of Jesus Christ.

God promised Abraham the land and all he had to do was recognize that it was the land God promised and then stand on the promises of God by faith and that's the point; Every time Abraham acted on his own apart from faith, he failed but when he trusted God, it was magnificent and so it is with you Sanhedrin, you must humble yourselves and approach God the only way He can be approached, by faith alone in Christ alone.

If the Israelites were going to occupy the land and become missionaries for Jesus Christ, they must be properly prepared and for that to happen because of their rebellious attitude, they'll have to go to Egypt for 400 years of slavery.

One day Abraham like all mature believers realized that behind the great promises, is the Greater Promiser!

Usually when a nation goes into slavery, it declines and dissolves.

One thing is obvious: people don't live normal lives in slavery; they live lives of pressure, tragedy and difficulty and yet here, in 400 years, there are not only many more people than the original 75 but there are people who have become very strong and have developed certain characteristics which are not known to be developed in slavery.

They are not only very strong but they are hard-headed, very independent and the most difficult people in the history of the human race to lead.

The living of a normal life in abnormal conditions with a population explosion can only be explained on the basis of the use of the Word of God as God intended.

A person who's oriented to the plan of God develops through pressure.

Moses was born under the edict of destroying the male children but God's plan is greater than man's devices.

The worst thing that can happen to a believer in Jesus Christ is to continue not understanding the Word. The greatest hindrance to the plan of God among believers is arrogant ignorance and the cover for that is false sincerity.

If you don't have the Word of God in your soul, you can't stand power in anyone else.

Stephen is saying to the Sanhedrin, “Look who is bullying the Jewish people; you Sanhedrin.”

In other words, the Sanhedrin wants to rule and Stephen is standing before the supreme court and saying, “You bullies killed the Lord of glory.”

Because they wanted to rule due to their power lust, God is showing them through Stephen that the one

who is being judged is actually doing the judging.

It wasn't Stephen who was blaspheming Moses, it was the Sanhedrin who were abusing the Law.

The Sanhedrin was filled with hatred and envy but Stephen was filled with the Spirit, wisdom, grace and power because he loved the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sanhedrin used Moses as their front man and yet they were inconsistent with the humble attitude of Moses who became terrified in the presence of God, so he trembled.

The principle here is obvious: The Sanhedrin is the supreme court of the land, the judges who are now being judged but they don't know it yet.

This is the only court in the land that stands for law and order and yet because they are religious and so filled with hypocrisy and legalism and because they have rejected Jesus Christ as Savior, they are going to get rid of Stephen.

The priests were famous for taking off their sandals before they entered the temple because the temple was holy ground and yet out in the desert, Moses took off his sandals because holy ground is any ground where Jesus Christ is.

This is a powerful jolt to the Sanhedrin and they begin to get the point of what Stephen is saying; they've accused Stephen but he is actually judging them for the crimes they say he committed.