

Study Notes and Questions for Acts 6: (Part 2) and Acts 7

- Notes: ***Blasphemous words against Moses and against God*** (6:11). Specifically, 6:13–14 says they accused Stephen of speaking against the temple (saying that Jesus would destroy it and end its sacrifices and rites) and against the Law (saying that the commands given to Moses need no longer be obeyed).
- The Hellenistic Jews accused Stephen of speaking against the temple and the Law. Were these accusations true (see 6:11, 13–14)? What does Luke say?
- Stephen answered the charges and gave his testimony in 7:2–53. What pattern in Jewish history did Stephen trace through Joseph (see 7:9–16), Moses (see 7:17–39), and Jesus (see 7:51–52)? What was similar about these men and their experiences with the Jews?
- What did Stephen's comments about the tabernacle (see 7:44–47) have to do with his criticism of the Jewish attitude toward the temple?
- The Jews thought their temple in the Holy City was the holiest place on earth, the center of God's dealings with His people. How did Stephen's account of Israel's history subtly explode that belief?
- How were the Jews disobeying the Law (see 7:53)?
- What were Stephen's beliefs about Moses and the Law (see 7:22, 35–39, 53) and the temple (see 7:41–50)?
- Stephen did not just answer the charges against him; he responded with charges of his own (see 7:51–53). What were his accusations and assertions that roused the Jews to fury?
- Stoning is an agonizing death. What is significant about Stephen's response to it (see 7:59–60)?
- What is the difference between suffering due to living in a fallen world and suffering for being a follower of Christ?
- Describe in your own words what it means to be given grace to suffer for Christ?
- Why is it important to have a biblical perspective on suffering for the name of Jesus?
- What signs do you see in the world today that tell you to prepare for suffering as a believer?