

## UNSTOPPABLE: Daring to Be the Church On Mission

Lesson Fourteen • Acts 7:1-53

### Standing Up and Speaking Out

#### The Charges

Stephen is accused of speaking BLASPHEMOUS words against God and the Temple and Moses and the Law.

*Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." They also set up false witnesses who said, "This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us." Acts 6:11, 13-14*

#### The Defense

Stephen defends the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ by retelling the redemptive history of Israel to show that Jesus replaces the temple and fulfills the law.

### Standing Up and Speaking Out

## 1. In the Gospel, Jesus Replaces the TEMPLE!

#### Four Major Periods in Israel's History:

- Abraham: God was present with Abraham in MESOPOTAMIA. vs. 2-8
- Joseph: God was present with Joseph in EGYPT. vs. 9-16
- Moses: God was present with Moses in the WILDERNESS. vs. 17-43
- David and Solomon: God is not confined to ONE PLACE. vs. 44-50

#### Stephen's Point:

You are guilty of worshipping the TEMPLE "made with hands" instead of Jesus Christ the Messiah sent by God.

*"But Solomon built Him a house. However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands." Acts 7:47-48*

*"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You; how much less this house that I have built!" 1Kings 8:27*

*For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Hebrews 9:24*

## 2. In the Gospel, Jesus Fulfills the LAW!

*"You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it." Acts 7:51-53*

#### The Climax of Stephen's Defense:

- You stiff-necked—you are guilty of BREAKING the Law.
- You stiff-necked—you are guilty of REJECTING the Messiah.

#### In the Gospel, Only JESUS Saves!

Who or what am I trusting in for my salvation?  
Am I trusting in Jesus Christ alone to forgive me and save me?

*But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. Romans 3:21-24*

*He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:11-13*