

IGNITE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

The History of Redemption: The Unfailing, Faithful Love of God!

Sunday, May 21, 2023

Acts 6:8 - 7:53

At this point, Pentecost is in the past, and the Gospel has not yet been preached outside of Jerusalem (so far as we know). Stephen was a man full of the Holy Spirit (6:5), of faith (6:5), of grace and power (6:8). He was probably a Grecian Jew associate with one of the synagogues frequented by Jews from the Dispersion. “The Freedmen” were Jews who once had been slaves or were sons of former slaves. Stephen, one of the seven chosen in Acts 6:1-7, engages in a debate with unbelievers who oppose the preaching of the gospel. Chapter 7 records his speech. Stephen’s message is the longest speech in Acts. He tells the story of Israel, the people of God. He leads the listeners on a journey that ends with the word “you.” Now the question is upon you, what will you do with Jesus?

KEY THOUGHT

The history of redemption reveals God’s faithful love and redemption is found only in the person of Jesus Christ.

The history of redemption is a picture of God’s faithful love. (God’s loyal love)

1. A picture of God’s faithful love (Isaiah 54:10; Lamentations 3:22)

- Patriarchs – (verses 2-16)
- Mosaic period – (verses 17-43)
- Tabernacle and the Temple – (verses 44-50)

2. A picture of man’s inability (7:9, 35, 39, 51-53) (Romans 10:20-21)

Chapter 7 is not so much a defense by Stephen as it is a rehearsal of the history of the nation of Israel and of their resistance and rebellion against God.

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The history of redemption is a person, Jesus Christ.

“Digging Deeper” into Scripture, you’re going to find that all of the Bible—Old Testament as well as New—is about Jesus Christ. Yes, He appears in the Old Testament—if you know how to find Him there. The Lord Jesus, the Second Person of the Trinity, is found throughout the Old Testament in prophecy, types and shadows. – *Adrian Rogers*

Typology:

A type is a divinely purposed illustration of some truth. It may be **1)** a person, Romans 5:14; **2)** an event, 1 Corinthians 10:11; **3)** a thing, Hebrews 10:20; **4)** a ceremonial, 1 Corinthians 5-7. – *Scofield*

- Abraham – never owned anything except a grave in the promise land, because he was looking for a city...
- Isaac – the sacrifice on Mt. Moriah, God whispers, “I myself, will provide for myself, the ram for the burnt offering.”
- Jacob – (Israel)
- Joseph – a type of Christ in the OT
- A wise counselor like Solomon

Jesus says that He’s a greater Solomon (Matthew 12:42), Paul says that the Rock that followed Israel in the wilderness was Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4), and the author of Hebrews recognizes Jesus in Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:1-3).

1. Jesus is God’s provision for man’s inability to redeem himself. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

2. Jesus as God’s provision will either be received or rejected, there is no neutral ground. (Acts 4:12)