

## **Lesson 17: Acts 7:1-52 Stephen's Speech**

Background: Steven before the Jewish council.

**Acts 7:1-8** Why did Stephen remind the high priest and the whole council of Jewish elders about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the twelve tribes of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Acts 7:9-29** Why did Stephen remind the council about Joseph and Moses? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Acts 7:30-52** Who is the prophet that Moses said God would raise up from the people of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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4 Prize dollars if an adult reads the Bible passage with the student and helps them fill out their Study Sheet.

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## **Acts 7:1-52 Question Answers**

**Acts 7:1-8** When God spoke to Abraham and chose to make him into a great nation of people, Abraham had no children. God promised that he and his wife Sarah would have a son, so when Abraham was 100 and his wife was 90, God gave them a son, Isaac, which means laughter, because Sarah laughed when she heard that she would have a child when she was 90 years old. Isaac grew up and had two sons, Esau, which means hairy, and Jacob, which means heel catcher, because when the two boys were born, Jacob came out of his mother holding onto his brother's foot, like he was trying to keep him from being the first born son. In their culture, the eldest son would receive a bigger inheritance from their parents. Because Esau was the oldest, he was going to inherit a bigger portion of their father, Isaac's property when he died. One day though, Esau was very hungry and foolishly traded his rights as the oldest son to Jacob for a bowl of stew. Then, when Isaac was old and about to die, he called for his son Esau to come so he could give him a blessing. Isaac could not see very well, so Jacob dressed up in his brother's cloths so he would look like Esau to his father. Doing this, Jacob tricked his father and stole his brother's blessing. Later on, Jacob would be given the new name Israel and he would have 12 sons. These 12 sons would become the 12 tribes of Israel. Stephen said this to the council **to remind them that God kept His promise to give Abraham a son**, even though He knew that Jacob would be deceiver.

**Acts 7:9-29** When Jacob's 12 sons were young men, he favored his son Joseph. Because of this, Joseph's jealous brothers sold him into slavery in Egypt and pretended that he had been killed by a lion. In Egypt, God gave Joseph the power to interpret the dreams of the Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and Joseph became the second most powerful man in the land. Through Joseph, Egypt was able to store up lots of food in preparation for a famine. During this famine, Joseph's brothers had to go to Egypt to get food for their families and through this, God reunited Joseph, his brothers, and their father Jacob in Egypt. When the pharaoh who knew Joseph died, a new pharaoh came to power and decided to enslave all of the Israelites, the Hebrew people, and have all of their boy children killed. One woman though put her son in a basket and floated him down the Nile river, where he was found by the pharaoh's daughter. This child, Moses, grew up in the pharaoh's house, but because God was working all things together according to His plans, Moses still got to be raised by his Hebrew birth mother. One day, Moses saw one of his Hebrew brothers being beaten by an Egyptian, so Moses murdered the Egyptian and hid his body in the sand. The next day, Moses saw two Hebrew men fighting and he told them to stop, so one of them asked, "Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?" Hearing this, Moses ran away from Egypt for forty years. Finally, God spoke to him, saying that He would use Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and into the land God promised to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all of their family. Stephen reminded the council of this because even though their ancestors betrayed Joseph and rejected Moses, **God still used Joseph and Moses to save His chosen people.**

**Acts 7:30-52** Even though God's chosen people, the Israelites, did evil against God and the individuals He chose to use, God promised that He would raise up a prophet like Moses, a prophet that God would use to save His people again. Stephen was reminding the council that Jesus spoke as a prophet for God the Father and that **Jesus was the One sent by God the Father, and yet they rejected Him like they rejected Moses.**

## ***Lesson 18: Acts 7:54-60 The Stoning of Stephen***

Background: Steven before the Jewish council and their witnesses.

**Acts 7:54-56** Why did the Jewish council grind their teeth at Stephen? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Acts 7:57-58** What happened when Stephen saw the heavens opened? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Acts 7:59-60** What did Stephen cry out before he died? \_\_\_\_\_

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4 Prize dollars if an adult reads the Bible passage with the student and helps them fill out their Study Sheet.

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## **Acts 7:54-60 Question Answers**

**Acts 7:54-56** Stephen had been arrested and brought before the council of Jewish leaders in Jerusalem for healing people and casting out evil spirits in the name of Jesus of Nazareth. When he was questioned by the council, Stephen reminded them of how a long time ago when God has given Joseph a dream, his brothers rejected him and sold him into slavery. Stephen went on to remind them of how in the past, God spoke to Moses, and how the Jewish people rejected him too. Finally, Stephen reminded them that Moses said, “God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. This prophet Moses spoke of was Jesus, Who was not just a messenger for God, but God the Son in human flesh. Stephen was saying that the Jews, the chosen family of God, had never listened to God’s prophets, but instead did evil in God’s sight. **Because Stephen was saying that Jesus was God the Son,** the Jewish council ground their teeth at him in anger.

**Acts 7:57-58** When Stephen looked up into the sky he saw the heavens opened and Jesus, the Son of Man, standing at the right hand of God the Father. Jesus’ title, Son of Man, comes from the book of Daniel chapter 7, which describes someone who looks like a man riding on the clouds of heaven, who comes to God and is given authority to rule the whole earth. Because only God rides on the clouds of heaven, when Jesus called Himself the Son of Man, He was calling Himself God the Son. Because God the Father loves everyone who follows Jesus, God the Son, Stephen was given a vision of heaven. Seeing where he would soon be going gave Stephen great joy, even while under arrest. When the council heard Stephen crying out about Jesus, they rushed together to drag him out of the city where **they threw stones at him.** As the council threw stones, Saul of Tarsus watched their coats for them.

**Acts 7:59-60** Stephen knew he would soon be with Jesus, God the Son, so before dying, Stephen cried out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” This was like what Jesus cried out to God the Father while He was on the cross. Finally, Stephen yelled, **“Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”** Just as Jesus had asked God the Father not to hold the sins of the people against them for crucifying Him, out of love, Stephen asked God to forgive the Jewish council for stoning him.