

Acts 7 • God's Will for Israel Explained

1. (6:11-14) That **generation** of Jesus' time repeated the same mistakes of previous **generations**.
2. (v.1-8) Their true heritage was not **lineage** to Abraham and Moses, but to **serve** God and be **obedient** to **ALL** His Law and Promises.
3. (v.9-16) Israel's historical pattern is to be **self-seeking** and **disobedient**, always missing what **God** was really doing.
4. (v.17-21) Like Moses, Christ was born under a **death sentence** and at a time when Israel was subjugated to another **ruler**.
5. (v.22-29) Just as Moses was in the right **time** and right **place** but **rejected** the first time by the Jews, so was Christ.
6. (v.30-34) The symbolism of the burning bush – that Israel underwent the fire of **affliction** in Egypt but was not **consumed** by it – is subsequently applied to the **Church** coming out of Israel.
7. (v.35-40) Just as Israel ended up blaspheming **Moses** through their disobedience and unbelief, so they repeat the same in regard to **Christ**.
8. (v.41-43) The true legacy of Israel is consistent **rejection** of Abraham, Moses, the Law, and the Temple in favor of **idolatry** and false **worship**.
9. (v.44-50) The end result was embracing a false **tabernacle** (**Temple**) over the true one.
10. (v.51-53) Israel's chief impediments:
 - a. They were **stiff-necked**.
 - b. They were **uncircumcised** in both their heart **AND** ears.
 - c. They **resisted** the Holy Spirit.
 - d. They followed in the footsteps of their **fathers**.
11. Stephen's "hope" vs. Jewish "hope": one looks **forward**, relinquishing the past and finding its fulfillment in **Christ**; the other clings to the **past** never finding fulfillment because it never really **existed** in the first place.