

Acts 6:8-7:60 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Based on Acts 7:9-17 how did the patriarchs treat Joseph (v9) and how did God respond (v9-10)? How did this bless Israel (v11-14) and position them for God's plan (v15-17)? Apply.

5. In 7:18-29 what happened to Israel next and why (v18-19)? How did God respond (v20)? Describe Moses' life in Egypt (v21-22) and why he left (v23-29). What do you think Stephen's point was?

6. According to 7:30-36 what led Moses back to Egypt (v30-31, 32-34) and what did God reveal about Himself (v32, 34)? What did Moses do (v35-36) and why was this significant (v35)?

7. Read 7:37-43. What was Moses' prophecy (v37) and who fulfilled this? What else did Moses do (v38) and how did Israel react (v39, 40-41)? What did God then do (v42-43)?

8. Using 7:44-50 where had God dwelt with Israel (v44-45, 46-47) and why (v44)? Where does God really live (v48-49) and why (v50)? Why did Stephen mention this (see 6:13-14)?

9. From 7:51-53 what was Stephen's threefold indictment against the Jews (v51, 52, 53) and why do you think he was so direct? When should we follow this example?

10. In 7:54-60 how did this affect the Jews (v54)? What happened next to Stephen (v55-56) and what did the Jews then do (v57-58)? What was Stephen's response (v59-60)?

11. Reviewing this study what 2 things made Stephen so irrefutable (6:10; 7:1-53)? What did the historical facts reveal about the Jews and why did they react to Stephen as they did? What should they have done? Apply to today.

Scripture to Remember

“But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.”

Acts 7:55 (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

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Life Group Questions—Happy Trials to You (2 Cor 4:7-18)

(Using questions from Sunday's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Share with the group what some of your typical responses are when you encounter a trial. How would you define a “trial”?
2. Read 2 Cor 4:7-15. How would you describe our “earthly” condition and what should that do for our perspective as Christians? What “power” do we have to deal with this?
3. Discuss what it means that “the difference between a mountain and a molehill is perspective”. Why do we over-dramatize trials at times (or all the time)?
4. Talk about the purpose of our trials from v11-15. How do trials “manifest the life of Jesus” in us? How do they operate in our lives for others' sakes (v15)?
5. Think of a recent trial you endured—did you try to go around it, or did you patiently go through it? How can we train ourselves to go through them, not around them—what techniques can we employ?
6. Read 2 Cor 4:16-18. How does the fact that these trials are “temporary” and that they are producing an “eternal weight of glory” help us to endure them? Does that work for you—why or why not? How can it?
7. Share about anything else meaningful from the message if you have time.



MANIFEST DESTINY

Studies in Acts

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Those Stubborn Facts Acts 6:8-7:60

In 1770 John Adams, later the second president of the United States, said “facts are stubborn things”, as he argued for the defense of some who had been unjustly accused. Today, the “fact checkers” are always present to analyze political speeches because the “spin” machine is constantly operating. In this week’s study the first Christian martyr, Stephen, made an irrefutable stand, arguing the facts supporting Jesus’ claims so forcefully that his opponents felt compelled to kill him. Like the apostles he was performed miracles and engaged people with the message of Christ. As members of various synagogues argued with him to no avail, they resorted to falsely accusing him of cursing God and Moses. They used false witnesses for support, just as they had

against Jesus. They took Stephen before the Jewish Council but he delivered an “in-your-face” sermon in his defense. His sermon revolved around Abraham, Joseph, Moses and God’s “house”.

First, he rehearsed God’s call to Abraham as the father of the Jews and of their future deliverer. He told them that God had promised bondage in Egypt, followed by deliverance, and that He would use Joseph, whom the twelve patriarchs rejected, to deliver them as he saved his family from starvation. Stephen then outlined how Israel had become enslaved to Egypt but were delivered by Moses, who grew up in Pharaoh’s court. However, he, too, had been rejected by his people. Further, God used Moses to provide His law, but they rejected it as well, and wor-



The manifest destiny of disciples is to recapture the world for Jesus.

shipped false gods. Finally, Stephen explained that even the temple wasn’t that important because God did not live just in houses made by human hands. He then exposed Israel’s rejection and murder of the prophets and of Jesus, their Messiah. This angered them so much that they executed an ineffective solution—they fatally stoned Stephen while Saul watched. Meanwhile, Stephen prayed that the Lord not hold this sin against them and then gave up his spirit to the Lord. He prevailed because the truth was on his side; facts are stubborn things.

Study Questions for Acts 6:8-7:60

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study%20questions))

1. Read Acts 6:8-10. Who was Stephen and what was he like (see 6:5)? What was he doing (v8) and what did this cause (v9)? What was the result (v10)? How can we follow this example?	
2. From 6:11-15 what did Stephen’s opponents do (v11, 12, 13) and what were the false accusations (v11, 13-14)? To what did this lead (v12) and how did Stephen respond (v15)?	
3. Using 7:1-8 where did Stephen begin his explanation (v1-2) and why was this a good strategy for his audience? What were the elements of Abraham’s story (v2-3, 4, 5, 6-7, 8)?	

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