

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 22ND, 2026 // BOOK OF ACTS

ABRAHAM: CALLED (ACTS 7:1-8) "ARE THESE THINGS TRUE?"

The high priest asked Stephen to respond to the accusations from Acts 6. Stephen was accused of speaking blasphemous words against Moses and God. He was also accused of speaking against the temple and the law.

- When the gospel confronts deeply held traditions or comforts, people can become defensive. **Hold tightly to God's Word.**

STEPHEN'S SERMON

Many Jews believed God's blessing was tied to the land. Stephen reminds them that God met and blessed His people far beyond it. God is not limited to one place. **He is far too great to be confined to a geographical location**, and Stephen points to Abraham, Joseph, and Moses as proof.

LET'S START WITH ABRAHAM

Stephen emphasized that "the God of glory" appeared to Abraham before he even reached the Promised Land. God called Abraham before the law existed, while he lived in a Gentile land.

- **God doesn't live in buildings or within borders.** We need to not limit God's presence to only certain places. **He's everywhere.**

ABRAHAM'S FAITH

God commands Abraham to leave everything. He was promised both land and descendants, but he had no outward proof of either. He partially obeyed at first but would grow in faith and obedience to God during his journey.

- **Our faith and obedience should continue to grow each day. Is our faith in God or in the things we get from God?**

GOD'S WARNING AND COVENANT TO ABRAHAM

Stephen points back to Genesis 15:13-14, where God foretold that Abraham's descendants would suffer in a foreign land before entering the Promised Land. God's promise came with a certain season of suffering.

- **Following God does not mean an easy path. We can trust that God is still working even in seasons of hardship.**

JOSEPH: RESCUED (ACTS 7:9-16) "BUT GOD WAS WITH HIM"

Stephen emphasized that God was continually with Joseph. There was no temple, yet Joseph did not lack God's presence: "but God was with him and rescued him out of all his troubles" (v. 9).

- Joseph experienced some of life's deepest valleys (he was betrayed, sold, and imprisoned), **but God was still with him. We are never alone, even in our lowest moments.**

"HE GAVE HIM FAVOR AND WISDOM"

God rescued Joseph and gave him wisdom and favor before Pharaoh. As a result, Pharaoh made him his right-hand man, positioning Joseph to lead during the coming famine.

- **Our workplace is a mission field.** We are all in "full-time ministry." **Does our attitude, work ethic, and level of excellence bring glory to Christ?**

"A FAMINE AND GREAT SUFFERING CAME"

A famine struck Egypt and Canaan, yet God's patience and mercy prevailed. Though His people ignored His message (through Joseph's dreams), He used Joseph to save them. Nothing caught God by surprise. He's in control.

- **Life can feel chaotic. We can rest in God's control, knowing He is orchestrating all things for His purposes.**

MOSES: REJECTED (ACTS 7:17-28) NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT MOSES

The next example Stephen uses is Moses, whom God raised up to deliver His oppressed people in Egypt. Like Abraham and Joseph, Moses was chosen and blessed by God, even without the temple, Promised Land, or established religious traditions.

- **God uses ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary work for His Kingdom.**

MOSES'S CHILDHOOD

Moses was supposed to be one of the children killed by Pharaoh's order, but his mother sent him down the Nile, where he was found by Pharaoh's daughter who raised him as her own. He was brought up and instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians.

- **God can turn hopeless situations into opportunities for His plan.**

MOSES IS REJECTED

When Moses came to deliver Israel, he was rejected—with hostility. The people denied his right to lead and judge them. Perhaps Stephen mentions this to challenge Israel; if they had been wrong about Moses, could they also be wrong about Jesus?

- **When we are confronted by God, do we respond with humility or resistance?**

MOSES: DELIVERER (ACTS 7:29-36) MOSES FLEES TO MIDIAN

The Israelites rejected Moses, forcing him to flee into the wilderness, where he spent the next 40 years. There, God revealed Himself through the burning bush. Again, God appeared to Moses, even before a temple existed.

- **God meets us in our wilderness seasons. Nothing in our journey is wasted.**

"HOLY GROUND"

This "holy ground" was not Jerusalem; it was in Gentile territory. Yet, because God was present, the ground was holy. Once again, Stephen emphasizes that God isn't confined to the temple or the city. **He is the God of all peoples, nations, and tribes.**

- **Don't limit God with human expectations. He exceeds our boundaries and expectations.**

MOSES: RULER AND DELIVERER

Israel rejected Moses, yet God affirmed him with clear signs. Though he was rejected at his "first coming," Moses remained God's appointed deliverer and would set Israel free.

- Even when people reject us or misjudge our calling, God can still use us to accomplish His purposes. **These three examples all point to Jesus, our ultimate deliverer.**

RELIGION VS. RELATIONSHIP

- Be careful not to idolize what God has given. Land, buildings, and traditions were never meant to be the foundation. **Don't anchor our faith to temporary things.**
- Do we have an authentic relationship with Jesus? Do we have a desire for more of Him?
- **Is our view of God big enough?** Or have we confined God to a box?

WHAT IS GOD CALLING YOU TO DO?

- God called Abraham to go, not to fully understand. **Sometimes obedience requires stepping forward without clarity.**
- Abraham, Joseph, and Moses were ordinary people whose obedience affected countless lives. God can use us to impact generations.
- What is God specifically calling you to do?

WHAT DO PEOPLE SEE IN YOU?

- What are we filling our lives with? What are we being disciplined by? Are we being conformed to this world? Do we blend in?
- **Excellence and integrity are evangelism in action.** Our work ethic and attitude can demonstrate God to others.
- **God's glory is made known when His people live faithfully.**