

Chapter 7:1-60

“The First Martyr”

Summary

- Jerusalem, in the Temple grounds then outside the city (Kidron Valley?)
- Around AD 30-32?
- Continuation of events of 6:9-15
- Longest sermon/speech in Acts

Outline

- I. The high priest examines Stephen - vs. 1
- II. Stephen's Sermon - vs. 2-53
 - A. The History of Israel - vs. 2-50
 1. Israel's origins - vs. 2-8
 2. Israel into Egypt - vs. 9-16
 3. Israel out of Egypt - vs. 17-36
 4. Israel was rebellious from the beginning - vs. 37-44
 5. Israel was rebellious in the place of God's blessing - vs. 45-50
 - B. Pointing out the sin of Israel - vs. 51-53
- III. The crowd is enraged against Stephen - vs. 54
- IV. Stephen's Theophany - vs. 55-56
 - A. Saw it - vs. 55
 - B. Said it - vs. 56
- V. The mob stones Stephen, Paul present and consenting - vs. 57-58
- VI. The death of Stephen - vs. 59-60

Notes on Stephen's Sermon

- Contains a historical review of Israel from Abraham to Solomon
- vs. 6-7 - quoted from Genesis 15:13-14
- vs. 25 - this motivation for Moses' actions is not in Exodus
- vs. 42 - quoted from Amos 5:25-26
- vs. 43 - Moloch was a god of the Amorites (Leviticus 18:21, 20:2-5; I Kings 11:7; II Kings 21:3,6) , Remphan is possibly Saturn. The name differs from Amos 5:26 because this quote appears to follow the Greek Septuagint translation of the Old Testament. When translating it appears they went with a equivalent Coptic word.
- vs. 49-50 - quoted from Isaiah 66:1-2

Why Stephen's Sermon Enraged Its Hearers

- It points out Israel's constant failures to serve God - vs. 39-43 for example
- It ties Israel's rejection of Christ to their previous rejections (vs. 51) of Moses (vs. 35) and the prophets (vs. 52)
- It accuses them of not keeping Moses' Law - vs. 53
- It accuses them of rejecting and killing the Messiah - vs. 52
- It echoes Christ's infuriating claims - compare vs. 56 to Matthew 26:64