



## Tell Me the Story of Jesus

## Lesson 31 – Acts 07

### People — Who is involved?

*The High Priests allows Stephen to speak to the Council.*

*Stephen addresses the Council and is stoned.*

*Jesus stands at the right hand of God*

*Saul is introduced at Stephen's execution.*

### Places — Where does it happen?

*Jerusalem*

### Pearls — What information will help me to understand better?

*Vs 1 – The story of Abraham's life is found in Genesis 11:27 – 25:11.*

*Vs 9 – The story of Joseph and the salvation of Jacob's family from famine is found in Genesis 37-50.*

*Vs 17 – The story of Israel's bondage in Egypt and deliverance under Moses is found in Exodus 1-20.*

*Vs 30 – Moses was in Egypt forty years; in Midian forty years; and in the Wilderness forty years.*

*Vs 37 – This is recorded in Deuteronomy 18:15-19 (see also Acts 3:22).*

*Vs 40 – The story of the golden calf is found in Exodus 32 (see also Deut. 9; esp. v. 16).*

*Vs 42 – Notice how Stephen returns to how the Israelites failed God by not worshiping properly.*

*Vs 44 – This begins Stephen's summary and application to these present religious leaders.*

*Vs 48 – This verse is the theme statement of Stephen's sermon (see Acts 17:24-29 and John 4:21-24).*

*Vs 49 – This quotation is from Isaiah 66:1-2.*

*Vs 51 – "Stiff-necked" equals stubborn. They were circumcised in flesh but not in their hearts; i.e., they would not pay attention to God and allow all else to be excised from their minds.*

*Vs 54 – They were angered and bared their teeth (figuratively, like animals) in rage.*

*Vs 55 – This is the only time the Bible speaks of Jesus "standing" at God's right hand.*

*He apparently does it here to show approval of a faithful servant's defense of Him.*

*Vs 56 – Stephen is allowed to see Jesus and tell the people. That further angers them.*

*Vs 57 – After this, they take him out of the city and stone him.*

*Vs 58 – Saul is the Saul of Tarsus, later the apostle Paul, who will be a leading figure in the story.*

*Vs 60 – Stephen's words are reminiscent of Jesus' words of forgiveness on the cross (Luke 23:34) and Paul's later forgiveness of those who forsook him (2 Tim. 4:16).*

### Perspectives — What may I learn from this chapter?

- 1. The history of the Jews points to God's fulfillment of all His promises in Jesus Christ.*
- 2. Even religious people may become hard hearted and refuse to hear the word of God.*
- 3. In following Jesus' and Stephen's example, we should forgive our enemies (Matt. 5:44).*