

STPEHEN'S SERMON – RESISTING THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 1 -- ACTS 7:1-16

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking, John Stott, Vernon McGee, Warren Wiersbe and others.

THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM – Acts 7:1-8

Acts 7:1 Then the high priest said, "Are these things so?"

Act 7:2 And he said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,

Act 7:3 and said to him, 'GET OUT OF YOUR COUNTRY AND FROM YOUR RELATIVES, AND COME TO A LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU.'

Act 7:4 Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell.

Act 7:5 And God gave him no inheritance in it, not even enough to set his foot on. But even when Abraham had no child, He promised to give it to him for a possession, and to his descendants after him.

Key text of Stephen's sermon – Acts 7:51 - “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.”

THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM – Acts 7:1-8

v. 2 “God of glory appeared” – “THE glory” - Psalm 29:1-3, 9b; 96:7-8; 19:1

v. 3 'GET OUT OF YOUR COUNTRY AND FROM YOUR RELATIVES, AND COME TO A LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU.' - It required OBEDIENCE to the Word of God – Acts 7:2-4 What did Abram know about the land? “Not the words in Gen 12:1 for they were said in Haran, these in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt there, and besides, these are different from them; no mention is here made of getting out from his father's house, as there; because his father's house sent along with him, or rather he with them from Mesopotamia to Haran” (Gill)

v. 7 God gave him no inheritance in it, not even enough to set his foot on. But even when Abraham had no child, He promised to give it to him for a possession, and to his descendants after him. - It demanded FAITH in God, not in circumstances – Acts 7:5 Did Abram know the land? Did he have any inheritance in the land? Did he have any kids at this point?

“RESISTING THE HOLY SPIRIT – Part 1” - Acts 7:1-16

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Act 7:6 But God spoke in this way: that his descendants would dwell in a foreign land, and that they would bring them into bondage and oppress them four hundred years.

Act 7:7 'AND THE NATION TO WHOM THEY WILL BE IN BONDAGE I WILL JUDGE,' said God, 'AND AFTER THAT THEY SHALL COME OUT AND SERVE ME IN THIS PLACE.'

Act 7:8 Then He gave him the covenant of circumcision; and so Abraham begot Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot the twelve patriarchs.

v. 6 “they would bring them into bondage and oppress them four hundred years.” - It included TRIALS – Gen. 15:13

v. 8 “Then He gave him the covenant of circumcision; and so Abraham begot Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot the twelve patriarchs. - It required CIRCUMCISION as evidence of faith – Acts 7:8 - cf - Acts 7:51 – “uncircumcised in heart and ears” Does circumcision save the child? But in your heart you are not obedient to the Holy Spirit, but you did not recognize the Messiah, but crucified Him!

Is it 400 years (Acts 7:6) or 430 years (Gal. 3:17)?

What is the context?

Gal 3:16-17 - 430 years later than Isaac.

From Abraham at 75 years of age to Isaac –	25 years
From birth of Isaac to birth of Jacob –	60 years
From birth of Jacob to removal to Egypt –	130 years
Totals =	215 years

From arrival in Egypt to death of Joseph –	71 years
From death of Joseph to birth of Moses -	64 years
Moses at time of Exodus -	80 years
Totals =	215 years
Overall total =	430 years

Note: Ex. 12:40-41 (“on that very same day”)

From Stephen’s context-(Gen. 15:13)

From time after the birth of Isaac - subtract 25 years Paul from the giving of the law; they are already there. Many believe it was 5 years from the Exodus to the giving of the law. So 430 – 25 - 5 = 400 years

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OBSERVATION

THE PLOT AGAINST JOSEPH – Acts 7:9-16

Act 7:9 "And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt."

But God was with him

Act 7:10 and delivered him out of all his troubles, and gave him favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

IT ACCOMPLISHED THE PLAN OF GOD – Acts 7:11-16

Act 7:11 Now a famine and great trouble came over all the land of Egypt and Canaan, and our fathers found no sustenance.

Act 7:12 But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first.

Act 7:13 And the second time Joseph was made known to his brothers, and Joseph's family became known to the Pharaoh.

Act 7:14 Then Joseph sent and called his father Jacob and all his relatives to him, seventy-five people.

Act 7:15 So Jacob went down to Egypt; and he died, he and our fathers.

Act 7:16 And they were carried back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham bought for a sum of money from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem.

INTERPRETATION

THE PLOT AGAINST JOSEPH – Acts 7:9-16

v. 9 "the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt" cf - Genesis 37:3-11, 18 ff. - It revealed the POINT of Stephen's sermon - cf - Acts 7:9, 51, 52

v. 9b, 10 "But God was with him Act 7:10 and delivered him out of all his troubles, and gave him favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house." - It demonstrated the FAITHFULNESS of God –

It accomplished the PLAN of God – Acts 7:11-16 cf – Acts 7:6-7; Genesis 50:20

v. 13 "the second time Joseph was made known to his brothers, and Joseph's family became known to the Pharaoh."

Vs. 14, 15 "Joseph sent and called his father Jacob and all his relatives to him, seventy-five people. [15] So Jacob went down to Egypt; and he died, he and our fathers." – cf. Gen. 46:26; Acts. 7:14 "Here it says seventy five. The seventy five were the children of Joseph who were already in the land so there is really no discrepancy. The seventy who came down from the land of Canaan into Egypt with Jacob and then, the family of Joseph that was already there. So Stephen here refers to the seventy five." (Chuck Smith); "The Septuagint makes them seventy-five, and Stephen follows them (Act 7:14), the reason of which we leave to the conjecture of the critics;" (Matthew Henry)

APPLICATION

Envy and jealousy are still the main reason today even as Joseph's brothers were!!! But look at the faithfulness of God!!

Don't we have a tendency to do the same thing? Resist the Holy Spirit and do the wrong thing! Even when the circumstances don't show you what you are to do!

Another major point to Stephen's sermon – resisting the Holy Spirit and rejecting the first time, but accepting the second!

HOW ABOUT YOU? DO YOU HAVE THE SAME RESISTANCE THAT THE ISRAELITES HAD? OR WILL YOU SHOW OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WILL REGARDLES OF CIRCUMSTANCES?

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		<p><u>Questions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is the main theme of Stephen's sermon? (Acts 7:51)2. Stephen said that the audience had the same problem we often have—that of obeying God when they don't understand. Does that fit you?3. Are you a responder or a resistor to the Holy Spirit?4. What passage in the Bible is one of the most frequent one that Bible critics often refer to?5. From what city or location does the Bible say that God told Abraham to leave his family and go to Canaan? Was Abraham disobedient in going with his father, Terah? Explain. (Gen. 12:1; Acts 7:2; Heb. 11:8)6. How old was Terah when he died. What city was he in at that time? (Gen. 11:32)7. How old was Abraham when he left his father's house? Were Abram, Nahor, and Haran triplets? Who was the oldest? The youngest? (Gen. 11:26; 12:4; 24:15) What was Terah's age when Abraham was born - (205-75)?8. Can you think of at least two most remarkable reasons that "Abraham believed and it was accounted to him for righteousness"?9. How many years does the Bible say the children of Israel would be in bondage in Egypt? (Gen. 15:13; Acts 7:6; Ex. 12:40-41; Gal. 3:17)10. What was the number of Jacob and his descendants that went down to Egypt? (Gen. 46:26; Acts. 7:14)
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