

The Sermon of Stephen

Acts 7:1-8

Introduction:

The purpose of Stephen's rehearsal of the Old Testament is to prove his preaching in the synagogue on the implications of the death of Christ.

He will prove...

1. Blessing came when the people were *outside* the land.
2. Israel *never* kept the law.
3. It had *a bad history* with Saviors, and revealers of truth.

His sermon will walk through...

Abraham	in Ur		
Joseph	in Egypt		
Moses	in Egypt	Midian	Sinai
Joshua	in Canaan		
David	in Israel		
Solomon	in Jerusalem		
The prophets			
Jesus	and now Stephen		

Stephen's sermon ties the Old Testament to Jesus and to the coming of missionary explosion of Ch. 8f.

Acts 6:15

Stephen stands as a divine messenger... an oracle...
Enabled by God in his darkest hour...

Acts 7

- v 2. Abraham... in Ur of Mesopotamia... after Babel...
the word came of God's new work
Because Abraham is of Terah from Shem of Noah
Of whom God promised-Gen. 9:25-27

And Noah is from Methuselah

To Enoch

To Seth

To Adam Of whom is promised the Redeemer (Gen. 3:15)

Abraham is a continuation of the Chosen line.

- v 3. Why must he "leave" Ur? (Joshua 24:2)
Why to Canaan? This is the Abrahamic Covenant. (Gen. 12:1-3)

Canaan is a designated land from Gen. 9:25-27.

It is "the land of milk and honey"

"the best of all lands"

"God's eyes are upon it continually"

...and yet-Leviticus 18- a cursed people

Whom the land has "spewed out."

So there in the "center of the earth" is a colony of heaven

a miracle nation

a nation of truth

a true religion

of the Redeemer

- v 4. "Haran with his father" This is a problem.
Abraham had to wait in Haran till his father dies.
This way there would be no corruption

- v 5. And yet for 25 years there was no child nor possession of the
land. For 25 years he went through trials (Gen. 12-20) until Isaac
was born. (Gen. 21) He learned to rest in God (Gen. 18:1f)

- v 6-7. He would die without seeing the promise fulfilled. Then for 400
years, his descendants would be in Egypt where they would
"incubate." The Exodus would set them free. They had no law,
no temple, no physical land, and yet were blessed.

- v 8. Circumcision was the sign of the covenant.
not the law or the temple, but the coming seed.

Conclusion: