

The Sermon of Stephen II

Acts 7:5-16

Introduction:

Let's review Abraham:

- v 5. He had no child, nor foot of land for 25 years.
Only trials (Gen. 12-20)
Why? "Quality control" of the "father of a multitude"
But he keeps trusting, waiting...even failing
But God was true
And he became the "father of a multitude"
- in salvation
 - in life
 - in death
 - and beyond...
- v 6. Because 400 years later God will care for Israel in Egypt
- Why Egypt?
1. for purity
 2. for incubation
 3. for testing (Ezek. 20:7-8)
 4. for a demonstration of God's sovereignty
 5. ...and faithfulness (Passover)
 6. for a lasting picture of redemption
 7. and a Just destruction of Canaan (Ge. 15:12-15)
- v 8. "circumcision" Why?
- a sign of the covenant
 - a seal or assurance of the "seed" of the covenant (Rom. 4:11)

- v 9. Joseph Why were the brothers jealous?
1. he was born of Rachel
 2. he was faithful... a good shepherd
 3. ...who brought a bad report of his brothers to the father
 4. he was treated as a firstborn
 5. and he had "dreams"- Prophetic revelations of his exaltation.
- v 9b. God was faithful
- v 10. and God raised him (Ps. 105:16-24)
- v 11. 7 years of blessing were followed by
7 years of tribulation
The Jewish "nation" now came calling for mercy
...to one they did not recognize
- v 12. First time
- v 13. Second time
- v 14. Goshen for 400 years
- v 15-16. The Patriarchs were returned home for burial

Conclusion: