

Acts 7

King James Version (KJV)

The teaching of Stephen in the Sanhedrin

7 Then said the high priest, Are these things so?

²And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran, (This is when he lived in Ur. His name was Abram, then)

³And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee. (Leave the land of the heathen)

⁴Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell. (God made a covenant with Abram and changed his name to Abraham. God changed his wife Sarai to Sarah) (The Chaldeans later became Babylon) (The new land would later become Israel)

⁵And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child. (He was 100, Sarah was 90. They had a child Isaac, a few years after this) (Abraham's son Isaac means laughter)

⁶And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years. (When Jacob's son Joseph brought them into Egypt to escape famine; they were there 400 years until God liberated them from Egypt through Moses)

⁷And the nation to whom they shall be in bondage will I judge, said God: and after that shall they come forth, and serve me in this place. Exodus-3:12 (The Egyptians were judged because they had become very cruel to the Israelites over the years. Israel went from being welcome guests to slaves within those 400 years)

⁸And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac begat

Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs. (The founders of the 12 tribes of Israel)

⁹ And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him, (Joseph told them his dreams and that made them envious of him. The dreams turned out to be prophecy from God)

¹⁰ And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house. (Joseph became 2nd in command, just under Pharaoh)

¹¹ Now there came a dearth over all the land of Egypt and Chanaan, and great affliction: and our fathers found no sustenance. (God used Joseph to save Egypt and the Patriarchs from a 7 year famine. Pharaoh loved Joseph because he knew that he was blessed by God)

¹² But when Jacob heard that there was corn in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first. (To barter for food)

¹³ And at the second time Joseph was made known to his brethren; and Joseph's kindred was made known unto Pharaoh. (He was testing them to see if they were repentant for having sold Joseph)

¹⁴ Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to him, and all his kindred, threescore and fifteen souls. (75 people – the family of Jacob. Pharaoh welcomed them as guests because of what Joseph had done for Egypt)

¹⁵ So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers, (They were 400 years in Egypt)

¹⁶ And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem. Genesis-23

In John-4:5 (This is also the place where Jesus met the woman at Jacob's well, and converted the whole town through her)

¹⁷ But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt, (They went from 75 souls to over 2 million. This caused Egypt to fear them for their huge numbers)

¹⁸ Till another king arose, which knew not Joseph. (They enslaved Israel to ensure that they would not rebel and take over Egypt)

¹⁹ The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live.

(Under following Pharaohs, over the years, the Israelites were reduced to slaves. In Moses' days, the Egyptians were killing Israelite babies because God had blessed them. They had multiplied over the years so much that the Egyptians feared that they could be overthrown by the Israelites)

²⁰ In which time Moses was born, and was exceeding fair, and nourished up in his father's house three months: (God knew Moses from the First Age. HE would use Moses to fulfill His plan to free Israel from Egypt. Moses would become a type for Jesus as savior of Israel)

²¹ And when he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son. (Moses means– drawn from the water) (He was rescued from the Nile River and raised by the sister of Pharaoh, in the palace)

²² And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds. (Yet later, Moses would tell God that he wasn't a good speaker, when God recruited him to speak to Pharaoh to free Israel. God knew better. HE understood that Moses was just fearful of Pharaoh. God's Holy Spirit gave Moses tremendous courage to accomplish his task)

²³ And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel. (God inspired him)

²⁴ And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian: (Moses defended the Israelite against the slave driver. Moses knew who he was – an Israelite)

²⁵ For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not. (They turned on Moses for fear of the Egyptians)

²⁶ And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another? (Moses tried to reason with them)

²⁷ But he that did his neighbour wrong thrust him away, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us? (God did)

²⁸ Wilt thou kill me, as thou diddest the Egyptian yesterday? (The word's out – if Moses is caught by the Egyptians, he will be executed)

²⁹ Then fled Moses at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of Madian, where he begat two sons. (Moses fled Egypt. He married the daughter of Jethro, a Median, who lived in a land populated by Kenites. Jethro was no Kenite, but rather a Median priest. Medan was the son of Abraham and Katura, his second wife, after Sarah died. See Genesis-25)

³⁰ And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush. (The flame burned, but did not consume the bush) (Mount Sina = Mount Sinai)

³¹ When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold it, the voice of the LORD came unto him, (God spoke to him. It was time to deliver Israel out of Egypt)

³² Saying, I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold. (The presence of God is awesome to people. They are permanently changed by being in God's presence) (I am = Yah <Hebrew> – God's name as HE stated to Moses. I am that I am = Yahoveh) (Not Allah, or Buddha or anything else)

³³ Then said the Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground. (Because God was there)

³⁴ I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send thee into Egypt. (Twice for emphasis; God hears all of our prayers) (God delivered them, through Moses; Moses didn't do it)

³⁵ This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the

hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush. (The angel was the Angel of God – God appearing as an angel)

(God has many offices – the Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Angel of God, Melchisedek, etc. One God, many offices)

³⁶ He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years. (10 plagues on Egypt, parting the Red Sea, food and protection for 40 years for 2 million people)

³⁷ This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear. (Moses was a type for the one that would deliver all those who choose to follow Him. This is Jesus – Emanuel- God with us) Deuteronomy-18:15, Isaiah-7:14

³⁸ This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us: (mount Sina = Mount Sinai- in the Hebrew; lively oracles = the 10 Commandments)

³⁹ To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt, (They turned against God, generation after generation – chasing idol worship and perversion)

⁴⁰ Saying unto Aaron, Make us gods to go before us: for as for this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. (The high priest, Aaron, made them a golden calf to worship, at their request. They were ready to turn around and return to slavery in Egypt)

⁴¹ And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands. (This is why they spent 40 years in the wilderness. God let that generation die before bringing their children into the Promised Land)

⁴² Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness? (They worshipped God, but not exclusively. They also worshipped the idols of the heathen)

⁴³ Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon. (In Moloch worship, they sacrificed their own children by fire. The star mentioned here is Saturn – Satan’s planet <the beautiful no 6 planet>; Remphan, (hrem-fan') is the King James Version of the Bible's rendering of the Greek word ρεμφαν. Various manuscripts offer variations such as Ρομφα, Ρεμφάν, Ρεμφαμ, Ραιφαν, and Ρεφαν. It is part of a reference to Amos-5:26 which reads in Hebrew as Chiun or Kewan. These names represent the star-god Saturn or Moloch.)

⁴⁴ Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the fashion that he had seen. (God told Moses how to make the tabernacle)

⁴⁵ Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David; (Jesus= Joshua – better translation; Joshua was the successor of Moses – it is the same word as Jesus in the Hebrew)

⁴⁶ Who found favour before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob. (God allowed King David to gather the materials for the temple, but it was Solomon who built it)

⁴⁷ But Solomon built him an house. (God chose Solomon to build the temple. HE didn't need it, but the people really wanted a temple)

⁴⁸ Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, (God doesn't need a temple built by man)

⁴⁹ Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?
Isaiah-66:1-4 (God's temple is the universe itself; which He created)

⁵⁰ Hath not my hand made all these things? (God created everything)

(This ends Stephen's Bible lesson)

⁵¹ Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. (Stephen is now speaking to the Kenites that want to stone him. This is the same bunch that falsely accused Jesus and set Him up for crucifixion)

⁵² Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: **Mathew-23:31**

(Steven was calling them out as the murderers of Jesus. They won't let him live to tell about it)

⁵³ Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it. (Rather than receiving the teachings of Jesus, they murdered Him)

⁵⁴ When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. (The truth hurts. They have been found out by Stephen as the murderers of Jesus. That could get them executed by the Romans)

⁵⁵ But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, (Jesus is the son of man – HE is God in the flesh)

⁵⁶ And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. (God allowed Steven to see Him, to show him approved and to strengthen his courage)

⁵⁷ Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, (They intended to kill him –this is the so-called "religious community")

(The lesson to us is: don't put your faith in organized religion or anyone who claims to be a preacher – unless he or she teaches directly from the Bible, properly translated, chapter by chapter, verse by verse. Most preachers today "teach" by writing sermons right out of their own imaginations)

⁵⁸ And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. (This is Paul, to later be converted into an Apostle. Although Saul didn't actually kill Stephen, he was there when they did) (Saul = desired; Paul = small; Paul never fully forgave himself for being at Stephen's stoning; although he didn't do it, he didn't try to stop it either)

⁵⁹ And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. **Ecclesiastes-12:6-7**

⁶⁰ And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep. (He died)