

***Defended and  
Rejected Promises***

*PASTOR ZAC HESS • ACTS 6:8–8:3*

***ONWARD***  
*THE CHURCH ON MISSION*



**We must accept and defend  
God's promises.**

*And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.*

*Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen.*

*But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.*



*Then they secretly instigated men who said, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.”*

Acts 6:11

*And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council,*

*and they set up false witnesses who said, “This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law,*

Acts 6:13



*for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.”*

*And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.*

*And the high priest said, “Are these things so?”*

God makes and fulfills His  
promises to us. (6:8–7:50)

God promises His covenant and  
fulfills it in Christ. (7:1-16)



*And Stephen said: “Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran,*

*and said to him, 'Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.'*

*Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living.*

*“And the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt;  
but God was with him*

*and rescued him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who made him ruler over Egypt and over all his household.*



*Now there came a famine throughout all Egypt and Canaan, and great affliction, and our fathers could find no food.*

*But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers on their first visit.*

*And on the second visit Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Joseph's family became known to Pharaoh.*

*And Joseph sent and summoned Jacob his father and all his kindred, seventy-five persons in all.*

**God promises His law and  
fulfills it in Christ. (7:17–43)**



*'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob.' And Moses trembled and did not dare to look.*

*Then the Lord said to him, 'Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.'*

Acts 7:33

*I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their groaning, and I have come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send you to Egypt.'*

*“This Moses, whom they rejected, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’—this man God sent as both ruler and redeemer by the hand of the Angel who appeared to him in the bush.*

*This man led them out, performing wonders and signs in Egypt and at the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years.*

Acts 7:36



*This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, 'God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brothers.'*



God promises His temple and  
fulfills it in Christ. (7:44–50)

*“Our fathers had the tent of witness in the wilderness, just as He who spoke to Moses directed him to make it, according to the pattern that he had seen.*”

*Our fathers in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our fathers. So it was until the days of David,*

*who found favor in the sight of God and asked to find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob.*

*But it was Solomon who built a house for Him.*

*Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands,  
as the prophet says,*



*“Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool. What kind of house will you build for Me, says the Lord, or what is the place of My rest?”*

*Did not My hand make all these things?'*

Acts 7:50

We constantly reject  
**God's promises.** (7:51–53)

*“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.*”

Acts 7:51

*Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute?  
And they killed those who announced beforehand the  
coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now  
betrayed and murdered,*

*you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”*



*This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us.*

*Our fathers refused to obey him, but thrust him aside,  
and in their hearts they turned to Egypt,*

Acts 7:39

*saying to Aaron, 'Make for us gods who will go before us. As for this Moses who led us out from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'*

*And they made a calf in those days, and offered a sacrifice to the idol and were rejoicing in the works of their hands.*

*But God turned away and gave them over to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets: “Did you bring to Me slain beasts and sacrifices, during the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?”*

Acts 7:42



**Defending God's promises  
will cost us. (7:54–8:3)**



*Now when they heard these things they were enraged,  
and they ground their teeth at him.*

*But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.*

Acts 7:55

*And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”*

Acts 7:56

*But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him.*

*Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.*

Acts 7:58

*And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”*

Acts 7:59



*And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.*

*And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.*

*Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him.*

*But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.*

**We must accept and defend  
God's promises.**