

ACTS: PRACTICING CHRISTIANITY

THE BIRTH, DEVELOPMENT & EXPANSION OF CHRIST'S CHURCH

SUPPLEMENT "B" – STEPHEN'S BRIEF MINISTRY

SECTION BREAKDOWN: (See K, L, M)

III. THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (3-7) A.D. 30-35?

- A. (3:1-8) Another amazing SIGN (miracle)!
 - B. (3:9-11) Another astonished CROWD!
 - C. (3:12-26) Another inspired SERMON!
 - D. (4:1-22) Peter and John arrested and THREATENED
 - E. (4:23-31) The church's prayer for CONTINUED boldness
 - F. (4:32-37) The church's caring and SHARING
 - G. (5:1-11) Two "BAD APPLES" in the church
 - H. (5:12-16) More ministry, more growth
 - I. (5:17-42) The 12 arrested, BEATEN and released
 - J. (6:1-7) INTERNAL conflict and resolution
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- K. (6:8-15) Stephen's brief ministry ends in his arrest
 - 1) Before the laying on of the apostles' hands, Stephen was full of FAITH and the HOLY SPIRIT¹. Afterward, he was also full of GRACE² and POWER!³
 - 2) According to vv 9-10, what two things did Stephen's ministry consist of? TEACHING WITH GREAT WISDOM & MIRACULOUS SIGNS AND WONDERS
 - 3) What did his opponents do? FIRST, THEY TRIED TO DEBATE HIM, BUT FAILED. SECOND, THEY SET UP LYING WITNESSES; THIRD, THEY STIRRED UP THE PEOPLE AND THE LEADERS, WHO ARRESTED HIM AND TOOK HIM BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN.

- L. (7:1-53) Stephen's speech: Not a defense, but an INDICTMENT!
 - 1) How does Stephen initially address the members of the Sanhedrin?
 - 2) His synopsis of Israel's history begins with the GOD of GLORY and ends with the RIGHTEOUS One (JESUS CHRIST!)

¹ Acts 6:5 and v3

² Ephesians 3:1-3,7-8; 4:7-12; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11

³ Acts 8:4-23

3) What important ancestors are referenced in Stephen's discourse (Write them in order): ABRAHAM, ISAAC, JACOB, 12 PATRIARCHS (tribes), JOSEPH (Pharaoh), MOSES, (Pharaoh's daughter), AARON, JOSHUA, DAVID, SOLOMON, THE PROPHETS, JESUS CHRIST!

4) What main events in Israel's history does Stephen reference? (7:2-50) _____

5) What specific "charges" does Stephen makes against the Jewish high council? (7:51-53) _____

M. (7:54-60) First _____: Stephen is martyred by the high council!

1) What were their hostile acts against Stephen?⁴

2) How did Stephen respond to their hostilities?⁵

3) How does the world today show its hostility to Christ and to His followers?

⁴ Acts 22:19-20

⁵ Luke 23:34; 1 Peter 2:21-23; 3:9; 2 Tim 3:12; Mat 24:9; John 15:18-20