

### **Acts 7:36b-43 Study Guide (with Exodus Scriptures)**

As we discussed in our 4 previous study guide, **Acts 7:1-10, Acts 7:11-22, Acts 7:23-34 and Acts 7:35-36a**, our journey through **Acts 7** will take us a few weeks to theologically study what God is teaching us through His Scriptures. To keep areas within context, **Day 1 and 2** will be a review of **Acts 7:36a** - the judgement on Egypt (the foreign land that enslaved Abraham's descendants, Israel, for over 400 years) as well as finishing up **Acts 7:36b** (the Red Sea and the 40 years in the wilderness. **Day 3-5** will cover **Acts 7:37-43**. Keep your Bible handy because you will also delve into different areas of the Scripture to continue to deepen your understanding about what Stephen is saying.

#### **Scriptures in Study Guide:**

Scriptures included are in the NIV (New International Version). To make things easier, the actual verses will be included in your daily lessons to help you with the missing words.

#### **Day 1-2 (Review of Acts 7:36a and Study of Acts 7:36b; and related Scriptures)**

**Pray** God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.

Read **Acts 7:1-43** out loud and answer the following questions below.

#### **Questions:**

- Write out **Acts 7:36** - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- List the 3 things, from **Acts 7:36** that you just wrote above, that "this man" (Moses) did "wonders and signs" in:
  - In the land of \_\_\_\_\_
  - In the \_\_\_\_\_
  - In the \_\_\_\_\_ for forty years
- **Skim Exodus 7-12** to answer the following questions about the 10 plagues:
  - 1st plague (see **Exodus 7:17**): \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2nd plague (see **Exodus 8:6**): \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3rd plague (see **Exodus 8:17**): \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4th plague (see **Exodus 8:24**): \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5th plague (see **Exodus 9:6**): \_\_\_\_\_
  - 6th plague (see **Exodus 9:10**): \_\_\_\_\_
  - 7th plague (see **Exodus 9:23**): \_\_\_\_\_
  - 8th plague (see **Exodus 10:13**): \_\_\_\_\_
  - 9th plague (see **Exodus 10:22**): \_\_\_\_\_
  - 10th plague (see **Exodus 12:29**): \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** As we studied in last week's study guide, each plague was a judgement on Egypt's gods. God showed, by this judgement that they weren't really gods at all.

Write out **Isaiah 44:9-10** - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

By each plague (judgement), what would all know? (**Exodus 6:6-7**). Then you will know that I am the \_\_\_\_\_.

The 10th plague, Passover, was to be remembered annually. A lamb was sacrificed and this pointed to God's sacrificial lamb, Jesus (His Son), to take away our sins. Jesus died on Passover and by His death on the cross, paid for our sin. In the same way that the angel of death, "passed over" and those who followed God's Word were spared, so is every child of God who believes in Jesus as the Son of God.

Write out **1 Corinthians 5:7** - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Day 1-2 (Review of Acts 7:36a and Study of Acts 7:36b; and related Scriptures)**

As we move through **Acts 7:36**, Stephen notes about the wonders and signs in the Red Sea. Let's turn to Exodus:

### **Questions:**

- What does **Exodus 12:33** record that the Egyptians wanted the Israelites to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
Background: When the Israelites fled Egypt, God had Moses to go by the way of the sea. There was still more judgement coming for Egypt.
- According to **Exodus 14:4**, what does God do to Pharaoh's heart? \_\_\_\_\_
- This hardening of Pharaoh's heart will cause he and his armies to pursue the Israelites. God will glorify Himself through Pharaoh and his army so that the Egyptians will know what? "That I am \_\_\_\_\_."
- As we look at **Exodus 14:21**, what happens to the sea (Red) when Moses stretches forth his hand? The Lord seeps the sea back by a strong east \_\_\_\_\_ night and made the sea into dry \_\_\_\_\_ so that the waters were \_\_\_\_\_.
- Write out **Exodus 14:22** - \_\_\_\_\_
- **Exodus 14:23-25** shares that Pharaoh and his armies follow Israel into the divided Red Sea and God puts the Egyptians in confusion. What did God tell Moses to do in Exodus 14:26? "Stretch out your hand over the \_\_\_\_\_ so that the waters may flow back over the \_\_\_\_\_ and their \_\_\_\_\_ and horsemen."
- According to **Exodus 14:28**, how many of Pharaoh's army that had gone into the sea remained? \_\_\_\_\_
- Write out **Exodus 14:30** - \_\_\_\_\_

This is what Stephen is referring to in his sermon about the Red Sea - how God protected His nation, Israel, as He protected the Messianic line to move to fulfillment of His promise.

Now let's move to the last of the 3 "wonders and signs" Stephen refers to that involved the "wilderness for forty years (**Acts 7:36b**).

### **Questions:**

- What does God do for Israel to give them fresh water? (See **Exodus 15:25**) "Then Moses cried out to the \_\_\_\_\_, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He \_\_\_\_\_ it into the water, and the water became fit to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Write out **Exodus 16:12** - "I have \_\_\_\_\_ the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat \_\_\_\_\_, and in the morning you will be filled with \_\_\_\_\_. Then you \_\_\_\_\_ know that I am the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ God.'"
- According to **Exodus 16:13**, what came and covered the camp in the evening? \_\_\_\_\_
- According to **Exodus 16:14**, what was left after the dew evaporated on the wilderness surface?
  - thin \_\_\_\_\_ like frost on the ground \_\_\_\_\_ on the desert floor.
- According to **Exodus 16:15**, what did Moses tell them that this was?
  - "It is the \_\_\_\_\_ the LORD has given you to eat.
- Once more this is a physical need pointing to how eventually a spiritual one was satisfied through Jesus. According to **John 6:51**, what type of bread did Jesus say that He was? "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ bread that came down from heaven."
- Write out **Deuteronomy 29:5**: \_\_\_\_\_

These, that you have studied, are the provisions that God did through Moses to preserve His people, Israel. This is all that Stephen is referring to in **Acts 7:36**.

### **Day 3 (Acts 7:37-38; related scriptures)**

**Pray** God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.  
Read **Acts 7:1-43** out loud and answer the following questions below.

**37** “This is the Moses who told the Israelites, ‘God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your own people.’

**38** He was in the assembly in the wilderness, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our ancestors; and he received living words to pass on to us.

#### **Acts 7:37:**

- “This is the \_\_\_\_\_ who told the Israelites, ‘\_\_\_\_\_ will raise up for you a prophet \_\_\_\_\_ me from your own people.’

#### **Questions:**

- What did Moses tell the Israelites about what God would do? \_\_\_\_\_
- Where was this “prophet” from? \_\_\_\_\_
- Write out **John 4:19**: \_\_\_\_\_
- According to **John 4:25**, Who does the woman tell Jesus that she knows is coming? \_\_\_\_\_
- Write out Jesus’ answer to this woman, from **John 4:26** - \_\_\_\_\_
- Write out **Deuteronomy 18:15**: \_\_\_\_\_
  - According to **Deuteronomy 18:15**, what did Moses say Israel must do when this “prophet” like Moses was risen up? \_\_\_\_\_ to him.
- Write out **Luke 9:35**: \_\_\_\_\_
- Write out **Matthew 17:5**: \_\_\_\_\_
- What did God instruct us to do with His beloved Son (in **Luke 9:35** and **Matthew 17:5**)? \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.
- In **Deuteronomy 18:15**, what did Moses tell the Israelites to do when God raised up for them “a prophet like” Moses from their people? To \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.

**Note:** Stephen continues to make his point within this sermon as he indicts them with their own charges against Stephen. They say that Stephen is speaking against Moses and the Law, but he is showing them that by not listening to Jesus they, themselves are in violation of God’s direction through Moses.

#### **Acts 7:38:**

- He was \_\_\_\_\_ the assembly in the \_\_\_\_\_, with the angel who \_\_\_\_\_ to him on Mount \_\_\_\_\_, and with \_\_\_\_\_ ancestors; and he received \_\_\_\_\_ words to pass on to us.
- **Questions:**
  - When Moses was in the assembly in the wilderness, who spoke with Moses on Mount Sinai? \_\_\_\_\_
  - What did Moses receive on Mount Sinai that he passed on to the Israel nation (and in turn, us)? \_\_\_\_\_ words.
- Write out **Exodus 19:20** - \_\_\_\_\_
- Where did God call Moses to come to Him on in **Exodus 19:20**? \_\_\_\_\_
- According to **Acts 6:14**, Who did Stephen’s accusers say Stephen said would “alter” the customs handed down by Moses? \_\_\_\_\_
- Looking back at our questions under **Acts 7:37**, Who did we say the “Prophet” was Who God raised up like Moses? (See also **John 4:26**) \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** What Stephen is showing them through the Pentateuch writings, which Moses wrote, points to Jesus. And Jesus, Who was the Prophet that God raise up from among them was actually on Mount Sinai in His “pre-incarnate” (before He was in the flesh) form. And it was that “pre-incarnate” Jesus - the “angel” who spoke with Moses on Mount Sinai and spoke to their ancestors from Mt. Sinai (see **Exodus 19:9**). And the “living words that were passed on to “us” (meaning Stephen and every Jewish person) were given to Moses by the “Pre-incarnate” Jesus.

- Write out **John 1:3** - \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Day 4 (Acts 7:39-41; selected Scriptures)**

**Pray** God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.  
Read **Acts 7:1-43** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

**39** “But our ancestors refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt.

**40** They told Aaron, ‘Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who led us out of Egypt—we

don’t know what has happened to him!’ **41** That was the time they made an idol in the form of a calf. They brought sacrifices to it and reveled in what their own hands had made.

#### **Verse 39:**

- But \_\_\_\_\_ ancestors refused to \_\_\_\_\_ him. Instead, they \_\_\_\_\_ him and in their hearts \_\_\_\_\_ back to \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Questions:**

- According to **Acts 7:39**,
  - What did their ancestors refuse to do? \_\_\_\_\_
  - What did their ancestors do instead? \_\_\_\_\_
  - How did their ancestors reject him? \_\_\_\_\_
- Write out **Acts 7:38** - \_\_\_\_\_
- According to **Acts 7:38**,
  - when Moses was up on Mount Sinai and was with the pre-incarnate Jesus, what did Moses receive that was passed along to future generations? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Who, then, was giving these living words to Moses’ generation and the generations after? \_\_\_\_\_
- Based upon what you learned of Whose words these were, Who is the “him” referring to in Acts 7:39? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is blasphemy (This is what they were accusing Stephen of)? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who is Stephen saying, in **Acts 7:39**, that is refusing to obey God’s word through Moses and rejecting God? \_\_\_\_\_
- **Note:** These Jewish leaders pride themselves on their Jewish lineage of Abraham and Moses. Stephen is pointing out here that their ancestors before them rejected God’s plan and messenger, who was Moses and the pre-incarnate Jesus, the same way they did Jesus Christ, the very Prophet that Moses spoke to their ancestors about.
- Write out **Deuteronomy 18:15** - \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Verse 40:**

- They \_\_\_\_\_ Aaron, ‘Make \_\_\_\_\_ gods who will go \_\_\_\_\_ us.
- As for this fellow \_\_\_\_\_ who led us \_\_\_\_\_ of Egypt—we don’t know what has \_\_\_\_\_ to him!’
- **Questions:**
- What does Stephen say that the Israelites, who are in the wilderness, tell Aaron (this is Moses’ brother) to do? \_\_\_\_\_
- Why did they want Aaron to make gods who will go before them? \_\_\_\_\_
- **Note:** Moses’ brother, Aaron was left in charge while Moses met with God on Mount Sinai.

#### **Verse 41:**

- That \_\_\_\_\_ the time they made an \_\_\_\_\_ in the form of a calf.
- They \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifices to it and \_\_\_\_\_ in what their \_\_\_\_\_ hands had \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Questions:**
- **Note:** When he begins **verse 14**, “That was the time”, Stephen reminds them about what their rejection of God and His plan drove their ancestors to do.
- What did they make an idol in the form of? \_\_\_\_\_
- What did they bring to this “calf idol”? \_\_\_\_\_
- Note: Stephen says they “reveled in what their own hands had made. Here they’re worshipping what they created.
- Write out **Romans 1:25**: \_\_\_\_\_
- Write out **Exodus 20:3-4**: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Day 5 (Acts 7:42-43; Selected Scriptures)**

**Pray** God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.  
Read **Acts 7:1-43** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

**42** But God turned away from them and gave them over to the worship of the sun, moon and stars. This agrees with what is written in the book of the prophets: “Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings forty years in the wilderness, people of Israel? **43** You have taken up the tabernacle of Molek and the star of your god Rephan, the idols you made to worship. Therefore I will send you into exile’ beyond Babylon.

#### **Verse 42:**

- But \_\_\_\_\_ turned away from them and \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_ to the worship of the sun, moon and stars.
- This agrees \_\_\_\_\_ what is \_\_\_\_\_ in the book of the \_\_\_\_\_: “Did you bring me \_\_\_\_\_ and offerings forty years in the \_\_\_\_\_, people of Israel?
- **Questions:**
- What did God do?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ from them
  - \_\_\_\_\_ over to the worship of \_\_\_\_\_
- Write out **Romans 1: 28** - \_\_\_\_\_
- What does Stephen say, in **Acts 7:42**, that their actions of making this golden calf and worshipping creation agrees with? Agrees with what is \_\_\_\_\_
- Read Amos 5:25-27 (**note:** Amos was a prophet for God) and answer the following questions:
  - What does God question His people about in **Amos 5:25**? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Who did they make these idols for according to **Amos 5:26**? \_\_\_\_\_
  - According to **Amos 5:27**, where does God send them as a result of their idolatry? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Verse 43:**

- You have \_\_\_\_\_ up the tabernacle of Molek and the star of \_\_\_\_\_ god Rephan, the \_\_\_\_\_ you made to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ will send you \_\_\_\_\_ exile’ beyond Babylon.
- **Questions:**
- What were the “tabernacle of Molek and star of you god Rephan? The \_\_\_\_\_ they made to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Where did Stephen remind his Jewish listeners that God said He would send them? Into \_\_\_\_\_ beyond \_\_\_\_\_.
- Read **Deuteronomy 31:15-29** and answer the following questions:
  - In **Deuteronomy 31:16**, what does God tell Moses that the people will do when they enter the land? \_\_\_\_\_
  - In **Deuteronomy 31:17**, what does God tell Moses will come upon His people when they reject Him for other gods? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Why does God in **Deuteronomy 31:18**, hid His face? \_\_\_\_\_
  - When God tells Moses, in **Deuteronomy 31:21**, to write down a song about what His people will do when they possess the promised land, what does He say this song will do against them? \_\_\_\_\_
  - What does it mean to “testify against someone”? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Who, according to **Deuteronomy 31:21**, is this song written down for? \_\_\_\_\_ generations
  - According to **Deuteronomy 31:27**, how does Moses describe God’s people? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Write out **Deuteronomy 31:29** - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Stephen will continue to show these Jewish leaders the truth of how they have always wanted their way over God’s way. As they lean into listen to a very familiar history, Stephen will indict them of their guilty of rejecting the true Messiah, Jesus Christ. Their reaction will be quite the opposite than those in **Acts 2:36-41**.

Next week, we will move into the last portion of Stephen's defense, the blasphemy of "this Holy Place" (the temple). You're doing good. Hang in there. I'm praying for you.