

Acts 7:23-34 Study Guide

As we discussed in our 2 previous study guide2, **Acts 7:1-10 and Acts 7:11-22**, 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** will be review of the **first 23 verses of Acts 7**. 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 CSB (Christian Standard Bible). To make things easier, the actual verses will be included in your daily lessons to help you with the missing words.

Day 1 (Review of Acts 7:1-22; and related Scriptures)

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

Read **Acts 7:1-34** out loud and answer the following questions below.

Questions:

- What did the high priest ask Stephen in **Acts 7:1**? _____
 - This would be like today's courts asking a defendant, "how do you plead? Guilty/Not Guilty
- In **Acts 7:2**,
 - How does Stephen address his hearers? _____ and fathers
 - How does Stephen name God in the beginning of his sermon (defense)? The God of _____
 - Reminder - Glory is a term that signifies the "sum" of all of God's attributes
 - What is the definition of an attribute? _____
 - Who does Stephen say that the God of glory appeared to? _____
- In **Acts 7:3**, what did the God of glory tell Abraham to physically do? _____ your country and your _____ and come into the land that _____ will show you.
 - According to **Acts 7:3**, Who would show Abraham the land he was to go to? _____
- According to **Acts 7:4**,
 - what did Abraham do? _____
 - was the country that God moved Abraham to different or the same from where they all now lived? _____
 - Note: this is the promised land for the Jewish nation. This is their heritage. The Jewish nation began with Abraham. Abraham was not a Jewish man because the nation did not exist until God made that promise to him. Abraham was a non-Jew (a Gentile) who God created into a Jew. And Abraham's belief/faith in God was demonstrated by the life actions that he walked out. He did what God said.
 - Write **Genesis 15:6** - _____
- According to **Acts 7:5**,
 - how much of this promised inherited land did God give Abraham? _____
 - God promised that He would give it to not only Abraham, but also Abraham's what? _____
 - Did Abraham even have a child? _____
 - Write out **Hebrews 11:8**: _____
- According to **Acts 7:6**, God told Abraham that his descendants would not only be in a foreign land, but also be enslaved within that land for how many years? _____
- According to **Acts 7:7**,
 - What did Stephen remind these Jewish leaders in this sermon about what would happen to the nation that enslaved Abraham's descendants? _____
 - And after God judged that nation, they would come out of that nation, return to this promised land to do what for God? _____
- According to **Acts 7:8**,
 - What did God give the Jewish nation through Abraham? The covenant of _____
 - Abraham became the father of _____ and Isaac became the father of _____ and Jacob became the father of the _____ patriarchs. (These are the 12 tribes of Israel)
- According to **Acts 7:9-10**,
 - Who did the patriarchs sell into slavery to Egypt? _____
 - Even though Joseph was unjustly sold into slavery, who was with Joseph? _____
 - God rescued Joseph from afflictions, gave Joseph favor and wisdom in the sight of _____ (king of Egypt) and Pharaoh made Joseph _____ over _____ and all of his household.

Day 1 (Review of Acts 7:1-22; and related Scriptures); Cont'd

- According to **Acts 7:11-13**,
 - What came over all of the land? _____
 - Since there was no food in the land where Jacob and his remaining sons lived, where did Jacob send his sons to go get food? _____ where Joseph, their brother and Jacob's son, was ruling as 2nd in command.
 - On the 2nd time that the patriarchs came to Egypt, Joseph made himself known to them and made his family known to _____.
- According to **Acts 7:14-16**,
 - When Joseph brought his entire family to Egypt to survive the famine, how many people were there in all? _____
 - Jacob went down to Egypt with all the rest of the family and all of them _____ there.
- According to **Acts 7:17-18**,
 - As the time of God's promise to Abraham was approaching, what happened to the numbers of Jewish people (Abraham's descendants) in Egypt? Increased and _____ in Egypt
 - there was a king of Egypt who knew nothing about who? _____
- According To **Acts 7:19**, why did this king of Egypt take advantage of Abraham's descendants (which would include Stephen and his hearers) ? So they would _____ survive
- According to **Acts 7:20-22**,
 - It was at that time that who was born? _____
 - Moses was lovely in Whose sight? _____
 - How long was he nurtured in his father's house? _____
 - After Moses was set outside, who took him away and nurtured him as her own son? _____
 - How was Moses educated? _____
 - How does Stephen describe Moses? _____

Note: to a Jewish person, there were two main "patriarchs" or "fathers" of their faith.

- One was Abraham. He was the Father of the nation because he was the one that God made His promise with and all of Abraham's descendants. That is why the Pharisees, in arguments with Jesus, would say "we are Abraham's descendants". There was much pride in that statement and their belief was since they had Abraham's blood, they had Abraham's righteousness. There is not such thing as "inherited faith". This, however, is how a Jewish person regarded their assuredness of going to heaven.
- The second main patriarch was Moses. God used Moses to not only be the physical vessel to lead the Israelites (Jewish people) out of slavery from Egypt, but also was the vessel who God used to write His law. Moses wrote the first 5 books of the Old Testament (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy). These 5 books are also known as the Pentateuch ("Pente" meaning 5).

Every Jewish person was very familiar with both of these men and this is why Stephen is walking them through history in relation to these men. As Stephen recounts this history, he will continue to move them toward the ultimate truth that they will unfortunately reject - Jesus was our Jewish Messiah and you killed Him. They could repent and receive forgiveness by acknowledging the Truth. And if one doesn't acknowledge the Truth, then they will look for ways to silence it.

Day 2 (Acts 7:23-29)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **Acts 7:1-34** out loud and answer the following questions below.

23 “When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his own people, the Israelites. **24** He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. **25** Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not. **26** The next day Moses came upon two Israelites who were fighting. He tried to reconcile them by saying, ‘Men, you are brothers; why do you want to hurt each other? **27** “But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses aside and said, ‘Who made you ruler and judge over us? **28** Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?’ **29** When Moses heard this, he fled to Midian, where he settled as a foreigner and had two sons.

Verse 23:

- When _____ was forty years _____, he decided to _____ his own _____, the Israelites.
- **Questions:**
 - How old was Moses when he decided to visit his own people? _____
 - Who were “his own people”? _____

Reminder: Moses was raised by Pharaoh’s daughter as an Egyptian. He was not raised as a slave, but educated. God will use this privilege to orchestrate His bigger plan of Moses speaking and writing for God.

Verse 24:

- He _____ one of them being _____ by an Egyptian, so he _____ to his defense _____ avenged him by killing the _____.
- **Question:** How did Moses defend one of “them” (“of his own people”) being mistreated by an Egyptian?

Verse 25:

- _____ thought that his own _____ would realize that God was using him _____ rescue them, but they did _____.
- **Questions:**
 - What did Moses expect his own people to realize? _____
 - Did “his own people” (i.e. the Israelites) realize God was using him to rescue them? _____

Verse 26:

- The _____ day Moses came _____ two Israelites who were fighting.
- He _____ to reconcile them by saying, ‘Men, you _____ brothers; why do you _____ to hurt each other?’
- **Questions:**
 - What happened the day (next day) after Moses killed the Egyptian? He came upon _____ Israelites who _____.
 - What did Moses try to do with them? _____ them.
 - What did Moses say to these two Israelites to reconcile them?

Verse 27:

- “But the _____ who was mistreating the other _____ Moses aside and said, ‘Who _____ you ruler and judge over us?’
- **Questions:**
 - Who the man who was mistreating the other push aside? _____
 - What did that man say to Moses? _____

Verse 28:

- “Are you _____ of killing me as you _____ the Egyptian _____?”
- **Question** - what did this man tell Moses that he knew about what he did the day before? _____

Verse 29:

- _____ Moses heard this, he _____ to Midian, where he settled as a _____ and had two sons.
- **Question** - when Moses settled as a foreigner in Midian, how many sons did he have? _____

Day 3 (Exodus 2:11-22)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **Exodus 2** out loud and answer the following questions below.

Exodus 2:11-22:

11 Years later, after Moses had grown up, he went out to his own people and observed their forced labor. He saw an Egyptian striking a Hebrew, one of his people. **12** Looking all around and seeing no one, he struck the Egyptian dead and hid him in the sand. **13** The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you attacking your neighbor?" **14** "Who made you a commander and judge over us?" the man replied. "Are you planning to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses became afraid and thought, "What I did is certainly known." **15** When Pharaoh heard about this, he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in the land of Midian, and sat down by a well. **16** Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. They came to draw water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. **17** Then some shepherds arrived and drove them away, but Moses came to their rescue and watered their flock. **18** When they returned to their father Reuel, he asked, "Why have you come back so quickly today?" **19** They answered, "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock." **20** "So where is he?" he asked his daughters. "Why then did you leave the man behind? Invite him to eat dinner." **21** Moses agreed to stay with the man, and he gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. **22** She gave birth to a son whom he named Gershom, for he said, "I have been a resident alien in a foreign land."

Exodus 2:11-12:

- _____ later, after Moses had _____ up, he went out to _____ own people and _____ their forced labor.
- He _____ an Egyptian _____ a Hebrew, one of his _____.
- _____ all around and _____ no one, he _____ the Egyptian _____ and hid him _____ the sand..
- **Questions:**
 - Who did Moses go down to see years later, after he had grown up? _____
 - Who were "his own people" (according to **Acts 7:23**)? _____
 - What did Moses observe that was happening with "his own people", the Israelites? _____
 - Who did Moses see striking a Hebrew? _____
 - **Note:** Israelites were also referred to as Hebrews. The word "Israelite" means citizens of Israel. This is their connection with Jacob, the grandson of Abraham. In **Genesis 32:28**, God changed Jacob's name to Israel and all of his descendants after him were called Israelites. The word "Hebrew" comes from a connection with Abraham where he was referred to as "Abram the Hebrew" (see **Genesis 14:13**)
 - What did Moses do before he struck the Egyptian dead? _____
 - Why do you think that Moses looked around first? _____
 - What did Moses do with the Egyptian he killed? _____
 - According to **Acts 7:25**, what did Moses think his own people would realize? _____

Exodus 2:13-15:

- The _____ day he went out and saw two _____ fighting. He _____ the one in the _____, "Why _____ you attacking your _____?"
- "Who _____ you a commander and _____ over us?" the man replied. "_____ you planning to _____ me _____ you killed the _____?" Then Moses _____ afraid and thought, "What I did is certainly _____."
- When _____ heard about this, he _____ to kill Moses. But _____ fled from Pharaoh and went to _____ in the _____ of Midian, and _____ down by a well.
- **Questions:**
 - What did Moses ask the "one in the wrong" who was fighting with a fellow Hebrew?

 - How did Moses' fellow Hebrew respond?
 - Who _____ you a _____ and judge _____ us?
 - Are you _____ to _____ me as you killed the _____/
 - Why did Moses become afraid? Because he thought _____
 - What happened when Pharaoh heard about what Moses did? _____
 - Who did Moses flee from? _____
 - Where did Moses go to live? _____
 - What did Moses sit down by? _____

Day 3 (Exodus 2:11-22) Cont'd

Exodus 2:16-22:

- Now _____ priest of Midian _____ seven _____.
- They came to _____ water and filled the _____ to water their father's _____.
- Then some _____ arrived and drove them _____, but Moses came to their _____ and watered their _____.
- When they _____ to their father Reuel, he asked, "Why have you _____ back so quickly _____?"
- They answered, "An _____ rescued us _____ the shepherds.
- He _____ drew water _____ us and _____ the flock."
- "So _____ is he?" he asked _____ daughters. "Why _____ did you _____ the man behind? _____ him to _____ dinner."
- Moses _____ to stay _____ the man, and he _____ his daughter Zipporah _____ Moses in _____.
- _____ gave birth to a _____ whom he named Gershom, for _____ said, "I have been a resident _____ in a foreign _____."

Questions:

- How many daughters did the priest of Midian have? _____
- Why did these 7 daughters come to draw water and fill their troughs? _____
- Who came to the 7 daughters rescue when some shepherds arrived and drove them away? _____
- When the 7 daughters returned to their father, Reuel, what did he ask them? _____
- What was the answer that the 7 daughters told Reuel, their father? _____
- Why do you think that Moses was identified as an Egyptian instead of a Hebrew? (See **Exodus 2:10** for more clarification) _____
- What did the 7 daughters tell their father that Moses did for them? _____
- What did Reuel, their father, ask them?
 - So, _____ is _____?
 - Why then _____ the _____ behind?
- What does Reuel invite Moses to do? _____
- When Moses stays with Reuel, who does he give to Moses in marriage? _____
- Why does Moses name his son, by Zipporah, Gershom? _____
 - **Note:** Gershom means "stranger" or "exile" in the original language.

Day 4 (Exodus 2:23-25 and Exodus 3 and selected Scriptures)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **Exodus 2:23 to Exodus 3:1-22** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

Exodus 2:23-25 - 23 After a long time, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned because of their difficult labor, they cried out, and their cry for help because of the difficult labor ascended to God. **24** God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. **25** God saw the Israelites, and God knew.

Exodus 3:1-6 - 1 Meanwhile, Moses was shepherding the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. **2** Then the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire within a bush. As Moses looked, he saw that the bush was on fire but was not consumed. **3** So Moses thought, "I must go over and look at this remarkable sight. Why isn't the bush burning up?" **4** When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called out to him from the bush, "Moses, Moses!" "Here I am," he answered. **5** "Do not come closer," he said. "Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." **6** Then he continued, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

Note: "Reuel"/"Jethro" - both names for Moses' father in law. Scholars say this could've been a last and then, first name.

Exodus 2:23-25 (fill in blanks & questions):

- After a _____ time, the king _____ Egypt died. The _____ groaned because of their _____ labor, they cried out, and _____ cry for help _____ of the difficult labor _____ to God.
- God _____ their groaning, and God _____ his covenant with Abraham, with _____, and with Jacob.
- _____ saw the Israelites, _____ God knew.
- **Questions:**
- What happened after a long time to the king of Egypt? _____
- Why did the Israelites groan? _____
- When the Israelites cried out for help because of their difficult labor, Who did their cries ascend to? _____
- What did God remember when He heard the Israelites' groaning of their difficult labor? His _____ with Abraham, with _____ and with _____.
- Write out **Genesis 35:12** - _____
- Write out **Proverbs 15:3** - _____
- In light of what we learn about God in **Proverbs 15:3**, what do you think that it meant when God saw the Israelites that He knew? _____

Exodus 3:1-6 (fill in blanks & questions):

- Meanwhile, Moses was _____ the flock _____ his father-in-law _____, the priest of Midian.
- He _____ the flock to the _____ side of the _____ and came to Horeb, the _____ of God.
- Then the _____ of the Lord _____ to him in a flame of _____ within a bush. As _____ looked, he saw _____ the bush was on fire but was _____ consumed.
- So Moses _____, "I must _____ over and look at this _____ sight. Why _____ the bush _____ up?"
- When the _____ saw that he had _____ over to look, God _____ out to him _____ the bush, "Moses, _____!" "_____ I am," he answered.
- "Do _____ come closer," he said. "Remove the sandals _____ your feet, for _____ place where you _____ standing is _____ ground."
- Then he _____, "I am the _____ of your father, the God of _____, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Moses _____ his face because he was _____ to look at _____.
- **Questions:**
- What was the name of the mountain of God where Moses led the flock on the far side of the wilderness? _____
- Who appeared to him in a flame of fire within a bush? _____
- When Moses looked at this bush that was on fire, what did he notice? _____
- What did the Lord God tell Moses when he had gone over to look at the burning bush that wasn't being consumed? Do _____ come _____. Remove the _____ from your feet, for the place _____ you are _____ is _____.
- How did God identify Himself? "I _____ the _____ of your father, the God of _____, the God of _____ and the God of _____.
- Why did Moses hid his face when God spoke to him? _____

Day 5 (Acts 7:30-34)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word. Read **Acts 7:1-22** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

30 “After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush in the desert near Mount Sinai. **31** When he saw this, he was amazed at the sight. As he went over to get a closer look, he heard the Lord say: **32** ‘I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.’ Moses trembled with fear and did not dare to look. **33** “Then the Lord said to him, ‘Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. **34** I have indeed seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groaning and have come down to set them free. Now come, I will send you back to Egypt.’

Verse 30:

- “After forty years had _____, an angel _____ to Moses in the flames of a _____ bush in the desert near _____ Sinai.
- **Questions:**
- How many years passed after Moses fled from Egypt to Midian and when he saw the burning bush that wasn’t consumed? _____
- Where was the burning bush near? The desert near _____

Verse 31-32:

- _____ he saw this, he was amazed at the _____. As he went _____ to get a _____ look, he heard _____ Lord say: ‘I _____ the God of _____ fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and _____.’
- Moses _____ with fear and did _____ dare to _____.
- **Questions:**
- What was Moses reaction when he saw the sight of the burning bush that wasn’t consumed? _____
- What did Moses hear the Lord say when he went over to get a closer look at the burning bush that wasn’t being consumed by the flames? _____
- What was Moses’ reaction when he heard God speak? _____

Verse 33:

- “Then _____ Lord said _____ him, ‘Take off your _____, for the place _____ you are standing is _____ ground.
- **Questions:**
- Why did the Lord tell Moses to take off his sandals? _____

Verse 34:

- I _____ indeed seen the oppression of _____ people in _____.
- I have _____ their groaning and _____ come down to set _____ free.
- Now _____, I will send you _____ to Egypt.’
- **Questions:**
- What did the Lord say that He had seen of His people in Egypt? _____
- What is the Lord going to do as He heard His people’s groaning? _____ down to _____
- Where was God sending Moses? Back to _____
- According to Genesis 15:14, what did the Lord tell Abraham that He would do to the nation that enslaved Abraham’s descendants, the Lord’s people? _____

Think about how you would feel if you were Moses. Forty years before, Moses fled from the anger of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt because he murdered an Egyptian. Would that be easy to return to a place you ran from? The man, Moses, is not the same arrogant man; but one who has been humbled over decades of selfless service in the fields. The Lord will use him mightily - as Scripture shares, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” (**James 4:6**)

Acts 7 interweaves much of history. I pray you will see more of the fullness of God’s plan as it spans all the way from Genesis to Revelation. If you have any questions, let me know when we meet in Sunday School.