Acts 7:1-10 Ladies Study Guide

Acts 7 is the continuation of the opposition of Stephen (beginning in **Acts 6:9**). In the same way that God used the opposition of Jesus' teachings to propel His plan when He bodily walked this earth (**John Chapters 7-11** provides pictures of persecution of Jesus with the final plot to silence Him forming in **John 11:53**), so will Christ's followers face push back when they must stand up for God's truth. Truth is not fluid and cannot be created by a human person. Truth flows from it's Source; Who is God (**Titus 1:2**). Truth does not shift nor does it change **(James 1:17**). And every believer must come to an understanding of God's Truth so that they can be ready to "give an answer" (**1 Peter 3:15**). And that understanding which is demonstrated in our faith comes from our study of God's Word (**Romans 10:17**). His Word is where He meets us (**James 4:4**).

Since there will be much cross referencing with OT Scriptures to gain full understanding, our journey through **Acts 7** will be take us a few weeks This is a precious chapter as we not only see the fullness of God's redemptive plan from Scripture (there was no "plan B", there has always been a "plan A"; **Genesis 3:15**), but also how we can learn how to stand firm God's way in the midst of opposition.

Day 1 (Acts 6:1-3)

Today, we are going to **review portions of Acts 6** to refamiliarize ourselves with Stephen. Giving you a heads up that today **isn't a "typo"** about us being in **Acts 6 JUST for today**. You will need your own Bible for today.

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word. Read **Acts 6:1-15** out loud again and answer the following questions below.

Questions:

- In **Acts 6:3**, what were the requirements for the deacons in the newly formed church?
  _____
- In **Acts 6:4**, what were the primary duties of these men?_____
- In **Acts 6:5**, how is Stephen described? _____
- In **Acts 6:7**, what happens to the church after these men are added to support the apostles' preaching and teaching of God's Word? _____
- What other areas do we learn about Stephen in **Acts 6:8**? _____
- Whose attention do these signs and wonders get in **Acts 6:9**? _____
- In **Acts 6:10**, what do we learn about the effectiveness of the Jewish leaders' arguments against what Stephen was teaching?
  _____
- Since the Jewish leaders could not effectively intimidate Stephen, what does **Acts 6:11** say that they did?
  _____
- In **Acts 6:12**, when these Jewish leaders were able to stir up others, where did they take Stephen to after they seized him?
  _____.
  *__Note__: remember that the Sanhedrin was the "highest Jewish court" at this time; made up of 70 Jewish leaders (Pharisees and Sadducees) and led by the high priest.
- According to **Acts 6:13-14**, what were the slanted charges that they brought against Stephen?
  _____
- Who, in **Acts 6:15**, were looking intently at Stephen? _____
- How is Stephen's face described in **Acts 6:15**? _____
- How would you summarize what is going on in **Acts 6**:

_____
_____
_____

Day 2 begins on the next page

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 2 (Acts 7: 1-3)

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

7 "Are these things true?" the high priest asked. **2** "Brothers and fathers," he replied, "listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he settled in Haran, **3** and said to him: Leave your country and relatives, and come to the land that I will show you.

Verse 1:

- "Are _____ things _____?" the high _____ asked.
- **Question -** Looking back to **Acts 6:13-14, l**ist the charges (these are the "things" the high priest is referring to in **Acts 7:1**) against Stephen: _____

Verse 2:

- "Brothers and _____," he replied, "listen: The God of _____ appeared to _____ father Abraham when he _____ in Mesopotamia, _____ he settled in Haran,

***Note:** "he" in **Acts 7:2**, refers to Stephen. Stephen is beginning his defense (which is actually a defense for the gospel)

Questions:

- How does Stephen address the Sanhedrin? _____and _____
  ***Note:** As Stephen addresses the Sanhedrin as "brothers" and "fathers", he is identifying himself as a fellow Jewish man in addition to being a believer in Jesus Christ. Stephen's belief in Jesus Christ as the Messiah did not empty out his Jewish heritage. He begins from that point within the Scriptures.
- What does Stephen say these "brothers and fathers" need to do? _____
- How does a person listen? _____
- According to **Romans 10:17**, how does faith come by? _____ of the Word of God.
- Who does Stephen say appeared to "our" father Abraham? _____
- Where was Abraham in before he settled in Haran? _____

Verse 3:

- and said ___ him: _____ your country and _____, and come _____ the land that ___ will show you.

Questions:

- What did the "God of glory" say Abraham had to leave? _____
- Where did the "God of glory" say Abraham need to go to? _____
- Who was going to show Abraham this land? _____
- Write out **Genesis 12:1** -

  _____

  _____

***Note:** "Abraham's name is "Abram" until God changes it to "Abraham" in **Genesis 17:5** when God makes His covenant with him. In **Genesis 17**, the nation of Israel is birthed and all Jewish people are "birthed" from Abraham. That is why a Jewish person refers to Abraham as their "father".

- What does God promise Abram that He will do for him according to **Genesis 12:2**?

  _____

- According to **Genesis 12:3**, what was Abram's response to God's command in Genesis 12:1?

  _____

- According to **Genesis 12:1**, God commanded Abram to leave his "country", "people", and "his father's household". As we look at **Genesis 12:5**, did Abram fully follow God's command? (Of course, he would take his wife, Sarai)? What/who did he take that he was instructed to leave?

  _____

Day 3 (Acts 7:4-7)

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

4 "Then he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. From there, after his father died, God had him move to this land in which you are now living. **5** He didn't give him an inheritance in it—not even a foot of ground—but he promised to give it to him as a possession, and to his descendants after him, even though he was childless. **6** God spoke in this way: His descendants would be strangers in a foreign country, and they would enslave and oppress them for four hundred years. **7** I will judge the nation that they will serve as slaves, God said. After this, they will come out and worship me in this place.

Review from yesterday: Summarize what Stephen said about Abraham in **Acts 7:2-3**:

_____

_____

***Note:** Remember that the Bible is a history book of God's people. And through that history, God is revealed to us. Stephen's sermon offers us the continuation of this history as he will connect it to the crucifixion of Jesus.

Verse 4:

- "Then he _____ the land of _____ Chaldeans and _____ in Haran.
- From _____, after_____ father died, God had him _____ to this land in which you are _____ living.
- **Questions:**
- Who left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran? (Hint: see **Acts 7:2**): _____
- From Haran, Who moved Abraham to this land "which you are now living"? _____
- Since Abraham's father died in Haran, after he left the "land of the Chaldeans" (which would've been Mesopotamia), did Abraham fully obey what God commanded him to do in **Genesis 12:1**? _____
- Was his father his family? _____
- According to **Genesis 11:27**, who was the father of Abraham? _____
- According to **Joshua 24:2,** what did Abraham's father, Terah, serve? _____
- Write out **Exodus 20:3** - _____
- According to **Joshua 24:14**, what did God say that the Israelites (Jewish people; God's people) suppose to throw away that their ancestors worshipped? _____
- Write out **Joshua 24:23** -

  _____

  _____

***Note:** Since Terah continued in his Idol worship of other gods and Abraham brought his father with him, God paused the progression of His promise until after Terah's passing.

Verse 5:

- He didn't _____ him an _____ in it—not _____ a foot of ground—but he _____ to give it to him _____ a possession, _____ to his descendants _____ him, even _____ he was childless.
- **Questions**:
- How much of his inheritance did Abraham get that God promised him? _____
- How did God promise that He would give it to Abraham? As a _____
- Who would receive this promised possession? Abraham's _____ after _____.
- When God gave Abraham this promise to give to his descendants, did Abraham have any children (heirs)? _____.
- Write out **Hebrews 11:1** -

  _____

  _____

Day 3 continues on the next page

Day 3 cont'd (Acts 7:4-7)

***Note**: At times, we may wonder "how" a person could be "saved" (their sins paid for) before the cross. Abraham demonstrates that for us in **Genesis 15:6** in that Abraham "believed" God. He believed God's Word. And how do we know? Because he physically went. And Abraham's belief was "counted as righteousness". His actions did not save him. His actions manifested Who he believed. And his "righteousness" was "credited" to him - put on account - until Jesus Christ went to the cross. When Jesus died and said "it is finished" (meaning all is paid in "full"), that meant EVERY sin that was (from the beginning of time) and would be committed until His return was paid for completely. And when a person believes on faith that Jesus is the Son of God and His death on the cross for that sin payment, then they become a child of God and Christ's righteousness is "counted" to or "credited" to them.

Verse 6:

- God _____ in this way: His descendants would be _____ in a foreign country, _____ they would enslave and_____ them for _____ hundred years.
- **Questions -** What did God tell Abraham that would happen to his descendants? They would be:
  - _____ in a _____ country
  - That foreign country would _____ and oppress them for four _____ years.
- Write out **Genesis 15:13** -

  _____

  _____

Verse 7:

- I _____ judge the nation _____ they will _____ as slaves, God _____.
- _____ this, they will _____ out and worship me in _____ place.
- **Questions -**
- What does God say He will do to the nation that they will serve as slaves? _____

  ***Note:** the nation that enslaved them would be Egypt. As we progress through Stephen's sermon before the Sanhedrin, he will go into more detail. God did judge Egypt when He freed them from their captivity through Moses. And that judgement was in the form of the 10 plagues. Each plague was a judgement on each of the Egyptian gods to show that they were not really God.

- What would the Israelites (Jewish people; God's people) do after God judged that nation that enslaved them? "They will come out and _____ _____ in this place."

Day 4 begins on the next page

Day 4 (Acts 7:8)

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

8 And so he gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. After this, he fathered Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day. Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs. The Patriarchs in Egypt.

Verse 8:

- And ___ he gave _____ the covenant ____ circumcision.
- After this, he _____ Isaac and circumcised him ____ the eighth day. Isaac _____ the father of Jacob, and _____ became the father of _____ twelve patriarchs. The Patriarchs _____ Egypt.
- **Questions:**
- Who gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision? **(See Acts 7:6**) _____**.**
- Write out **Genesis 17:9 -**

  _____

  _____
- Write out **Genesis 17:13-**

  _____

  _____
- What does the phrase "after this" in **Acts 7:8** refer to? The covenant of _____
- Who, according to **Acts 7:8**, did Abraham "father" after the covenant of circumcision was established by God for Abraham and his descendants? _____
- What did Abraham do to Isaac on the 8th day of Isaac's life?

  _____
- According to **Genesis 17:12**, how old was a male born within a Jewish household suppose to be when they were circumcised? _____
- Who, according to **Acts 7:8**, did Isaac become the father of? _____
- Who, according to **Acts 7:8**, did Jacob become the father of? _____
- How are these "Patriarchs" identified as being "in" _____.

  ***Note:** The "twelve patriarchs" refer to the 12 tribes of Israel. The names of each of these 12 sons of Jacob are the names of the tribes that make up the nation of Israel. For the remainder of our study today, we will learn about how these tribes began. We will learn more about their significance in the midst of Jewish history. For our study, at this point, we are going to mainly become familiar with their names.

- Turn to **Genesis 49** and write the name in the verse listed below:
- **Genesis 49:3** - _____
- **Genesis 49:5** - _____ and _____
- **Genesis 49:8** - _____
- **Genesis 49:12** - _____
- **Genesis 49:13** - _____
- **Genesis 49:14** - _____
- **Genesis 49:16** - _____
- **Genesis 49:19** - _____
- **Genesis 49:20** - _____
- **Genesis 49:22** - _____
- **Genesis 49:27** - _____
- According to **Genesis 49:28**, what do these are "the _____ _____ of Israel."

***Note:** "Patriarchs" refers to the "foundational fathers" from whom all of the Jewish people have descended. Stephen, in his sermon, is beginning with the establishment of God's covenant with Abraham that birthed the Jewish nation. Remember, Stephen is before the Jewish council, the Sanhedrin. These are Jews Stephen is speaking to and has been accused of going against Jewish customs and laws. Stephen will demonstrate not only his knowledge of his and their Jewish heritage; but he will eventually (in direct detail) prove Jesus Christ their Messiah through Old Testament Scriptures and prophecy as well as their guilt of killing Him. For today, become familiar with the "names" of these "12 sons of Jacob/12 tribes of Israel'. We will build on that knowledge in tomorrow's study. **Day 4 (cont'd)**

Day 5 (Acts 7:9-10)

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

Yesterday, Stephen ended **verse 8** of **Acts 7** with the statement that the Patriarchs were in Egypt. Today, he will continue to connect the Old Testament history of God's people of how they moved from the land God called Abraham to - to Egypt. Again, this is all part of God's Sovereign plan from the beginning.

9 "The patriarchs became jealous of Joseph and sold him into Egypt, but God was with him **10** and rescued him out of all his troubles. He gave him favor and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who appointed him ruler over Egypt and over his whole household.

Review questions from yesterday:

- From **Day 4** study guide **questions**, list the 12 sons of Jacob: (**hint:** you listed them from **Genesis 49** yesterday)

  _____
- Who was the father of these 12 sons you just listed? _____
- Who was the father of Jacob? (**hint: Acts 7:8)** _____
- Who was the father of Isaac? (**hint: Acts 7:8**) _____
- Look up **Genesis 32:28** and write what Jacob's new name would be: _____

  ***Note:** this is where the nation gets its name of Israel and this is why the 12 sons of Jacob are known as the "12 tribes of Israel".
- According to **Acts 7:8**, Stephen refers to Jacob as the father of the _____.
- ***Note:** Remember that Stephen is establishing their shared Jewish heritage. When Stephen says "Patriarchs", he is also referring to the "12 tribes".
- Where were the Patriarchs? In _____ (**see Acts 7:8**)

Verse 9-10:

- "The patriarchs _____ jealous of Joseph and sold _____ into Egypt,
- but God was _____ him and rescued him _____ of all his _____.
- He _____ him favor and wisdom in the _____ of Pharaoh, _____ of Egypt, who _____ him ruler over Egypt and _____ his whole household.
- **Questions:**
- Who did the patriarchs become jealous of? _____
- What did the patriarch do to Joseph? _____
- Who was with Joseph and rescued him out of all his troubles? _____
- According to the following Scriptures, why were Joseph's brothers (the Patriarchs) jealous of him?
- **Genesis 37:3-4**, - _____
- _____
- **Genesis 37:5-11 -** _____
- Joseph is sent by his father, Jacob to check on his brothers. According to **Genesis 37:18**, what did Joseph's brothers want to do to him? _____.
- Reuben, the oldest of the 12 sons, tried to protect Joseph's life by suggesting what in **Genesis 37:22?**

  _____
- Before Joseph's brothers threw him down into the dry well, what did they take off of him? (see **Genesis 37:23**)? _____
- According to **Genesis 37:25-28,** where did the people (to whom Joseph's brothers sold him) take Joseph? _____
- According to **Genesis 37:29**, was Reuben a part of selling Joseph to the people who took him to Egypt? _____
- According to **Genesis 37:31-33**, how did Jacob's sons explain Joseph not coming back with them?

  _____

Day 5 continues on the next page

***Notes and Questions:**

- Joseph, as an Egyptian slave, had favor with his first Egyptian owner (Potiphar) until Potiphar's wife falsely accused Joseph (see **Genesis 39:1-20**). As a result, Joseph was thrown into an Egyptian prison. In the midst of Joseph's hardship, God's plan was still moving forward because this was a prison where the "king's prisoners" were housed. (see **Genesis 39:20**).
- While in the prison with the "king's prisoners", Joseph's life intersects with two men, the king's (Pharaoh) cupbearer and baker. Both of these men have disturbing dreams that God allows Joseph to interpret for them (see **Genesis 40:1-23**).
- Those dream interpretations come to pass and the cupbearer forgets about Joseph until Pharaoh, himself, has disturbing dreams. (**see Genesis 41:1-13**)

- **Questions:**
  - How many years passed, according to **Genesis 41:1**, before the cupbearer remembers Joseph? ____
  - According to **Genesis 41:14,** where did Pharaoh bring Joseph out of? _____
  - God interprets Pharaoh's dreams through Joseph (see **Genesis 41:15-36**) and as a result, what does Pharaoh make Joseph in **Genesis 41:41**? _____
  - According to **Acts 7:10**,
    - what did God give Joseph, in the sight of Pharaoh? _____ and _____
    - what country was Pharaoh the king over? _____
    - What did Pharaoh appoint Joseph (the son of Jacob and brother of the Patriarchs) over? _____ over Egypt and over his _____ household.

As we end today, let's pause on **Acts 7:9, "God was with him"**. Notice that Joseph received unjust treatment from his brothers as well as from strangers. God's plan to elevate Joseph to this position of authority did not happen overnight for Joseph. He was 17 years old when he was thrown into the well and then sold. Thirteen years would pass (he would be 30 years old) before Joseph would be put in the position as 2nd in command of Egypt. Another 9 years before he would be reunited with his family. And that "plan" would be ultimately for the preservation of the Jewish nation so that their and our Messiah could be born to die for us.

- **Write out Genesis 50:20** -

_____

_____

Sometimes in life, as we go through trials, it is tempting for us to look at how that trial is only affecting us. And we can see some of Joseph's frustration in his own situation (see **Genesis 40:14-15**). There is nothing, however, that Joseph can do to change what is happening other than leaning on God for strength to endure as God unfolds His plan. We are 'a part" of God's plan. We are **<u>not</u>** the whole plan. Once we receive that truth, we lean on God to endure whatever we must walk through and trust Him as we are conformed into the image of Jesus Christ.

- **Write out Romans 8:28-29** -

_____

_____

According to **Romans 8:28**, God work all things out for the good of who? _____
What have those "who love Him" been called according to? _____
According to **Romans 8:29**, Who does this "work of God" within those He loves conform them to?

_____

Nothing is wasted - all has a purpose. As author Timothy Witmer shares regarding these verses, God not only causes bad things to work together for good but He also causes good things to work together for something better. (Witmer, T. Z. (2025). God is God and I'm not: How God's sovereignty matters every day. Ligonier Ministries)