

Acts 7:44-60 Study Guide

As we discussed in our 5 previous study guide, **Acts 7:1-10, Acts 7:11-22, Acts 7:23-34, Acts 7:35-36a and Acts 7:37-43**, our journey through **Acts 7** would 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 7:1-43** - to pull all of these biblical historical events together as Stephen turns to show them their own rebellious part in God's redemption plan through Jesus Christ. **Day 3-5** will cover **Acts 7:44-60**, where we will finish this chapter and meet a very integral person that God will use to propel His gospel. We will learn how God uses us, as His children, to speak His gospel to others without us even knowing it at times. Keep your Bible close to look up other Scriptures within your study guide.

Scriptures in Study Guide:

Scriptures included are in the NIV (New International Version). To make things easier, the actual verses from **Acts 44-60** will be included in your daily lessons (**Days 3-5**) to help you with the missing words.

Day 1 (Review of Acts 7:1-16 and related Scriptures)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **Acts 7:1-16** out loud and answer the following questions below.

Questions:

- As the trial begins in **Acts 7:1**, what does the high priest ask Stephen? _____
- In **Acts 7:2**,
 - how does Stephen address the Council? _____ and _____
 - Who appeared to their father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran? The _____ of _____.
 - Reminder: "The God of glory" is a description of God in His fullness - the "sum" of all of His attributes.
- What did the God of glory tell their father Abraham to do? (**See Acts 7:3**) _____
- According to **Acts 7:3**, Who would show their father Abraham the land? _____
- Summarize the journey that their father Abraham made from the land of the Chaldeans (Ur); refer to **Acts 7:4**:
• _____
- When God gave their father Abraham His promise of land possession and descendants, how much land did Abraham possess and how many children did he have (see **Acts 7:5**)? _____
- Write out **Hebrews 11:1** - _____
- In **Acts 7:6**, what did Stephen say that God told their father Abraham would happen to his descendants for 400 years? _____
- According to **Acts 7:7**, what did Stephen say God told Abraham would happen after these 400 years to:
 - The nation that held Abraham's descendants in slavery? _____
 - Abraham's descendants? (What would they do? _____)
- According to **Acts 7:8**,
 - What did God give their father, Abraham? The _____ of _____
 - Who did their father Abraham become the father of? _____
 - When was Isaac circumcised? On the _____ day
 - Write out **Genesis 17:12** - _____
- Who did Isaac become the father of? _____
- Jacob was the father of how many patriarchs? _____ - (these are the tribes of Israel)
- According to **Genesis 32:28**, what did God change Jacob's name to? _____

Day 1 (Review of Acts 7:1-16 and related Scriptures); (cont'd)

- According to **Acts 7:9**,
 - what did the “patriarchs” do to Joseph, their brother, because they were jealous of him? They _____ him into _____.
 - Who was with Joseph even though his brothers sold him into Egypt? _____
 - Describe all that God did for Joseph (**see Acts 7:10**) :
- **Summarize Acts 7:11-16** here to describe what happened to their ancestors and how they ended up in Egypt:

Tomorrow, we will finish our review of all we learned. You are becoming quite the Jewish scholar. ;D

Day 2 (Review of Acts 7:17-43 and related Scriptures)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **Acts 7:17-43** out loud and answer the following questions below.

- As Stephen continues his sermon defense before the Sanhedrin (Council), he moves through their ancestors' Egyptian slavery and into their deliverance. All was by God's hand. Let's review.

Questions:

- According to **Acts 7:17**, what happened to Abraham's descendants? _____
- Reviewing **Acts 7:18-19**,
 - How is the "king of Egypt" described in regard to knowing Joseph? _____
 - Describe how this Egyptian king took advantage of their ancestors?

- According to **Acts 7:20**, who was born and nurtured in his own father's home for 3 months? _____
- Why, in **Acts 7:21**, did Moses' parents set him outside (**see Acts 7:19**)? _____
- As you **review Acts 7:21-22**, describe what happened to Moses?

- When Moses was 40, describe what Stephen recounts to the Sanhedrin what Moses did? (**Refer to Acts 7:22-29**)

- According to **Acts 7:29**, when Moses became an "alien" (or foreigner) in the land of Midian, he became the father of how many sons? _____
- Summarize the events of **Acts 7:30-31**:

- How does Stephen remind the Sanhedrin that God identified Himself to Moses (**see Acts 7:32**)?
 - What did Stephen say was Moses reaction to God speaking to him? (**see Acts 7:32**)

- According to **Acts 7:32-34**, what does Stephen remind the Sanhedrin that the Lord said to Moses from the burning bush? _____

- What does Stephen say, in **Acts 7:35**, that their ancestors did to Moses by saying "Who made you a ruler and a judge?" _____
- According to **Acts 7:35**, Who sent Moses to be a ruler and a deliverer with the "help of the angel who appeared to him in the thorn bush"? _____
 - **Notes:**
 - this "angel" would've been the pre-incarnate Christ. Remember, Moses hid his face when God spoke from the bush.
 - Stephen is beginning to make his point of how they, like their ancestors, rejected the Deliverer that God sent.
- What did Stephen recount to the Sanhedrin, in **Acts 7:36**, that "this man" (Moses) did?

- According to **Acts 7:37**, Who did Moses tell their ancestors that God would raise up?

- What are the other ways, according to **Acts 7:38**, that Stephen identifies Moses and his relationship to the Israel nation?

- How did Stephen, in **Acts 7:39**, describe "their fathers'" treatment of Moses?

Day 2 (Review of Acts 7:17-43 and related Scriptures); (cont'd)

- Describe Stephen's account of Israel's disobedience (see **Acts 7:40-43**):

So what is Stephen doing here?

He's showing them, by their ancestor's history, how they are no different than those before them.

Their system of religion would not save them.

They, like their ancestors, are continually disobeying God and going after other gods.

To finish today, write out the words of Jesus in **Matthew 23:37-38**:

The rest of your study guide this week will finish Stephen's sermon before the Sanhedrin. Hang in there! :)

Day 3 (Acts 7:44 and related scriptures)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **Acts 7:44-50** out loud and answer the following questions below.

44 “Our ancestors had the tabernacle of the covenant law with them in the wilderness. It had been made as God directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen.

Acts 7:44:

- Our _____ had the tabernacle of the _____ law with them _____ the _____.
- It _____ been made as _____ directed Moses, according _____ the pattern he had _____.
- **Questions:**
 - What did Stephen remind his fellow Jewish brethren that their ancestors had with them in the wilderness?
_____ of the _____.
 - Stephen remind his listeners that Who made this “tabernacle of the covenant law”? _____
 - And who did God direct to make this “tabernacle of the covenant law”? _____
 - How was Moses suppose to make the “tabernacle of the covenant law” according to?
 - The _____ he had _____.
 - Briefly **read Exodus 26** and then write out **Exodus 26:30** below:

 - According to **Acts 7:44**, Stephen reminds his fellow Jewish brethren that God instructed Moses to do this while their ancestors were still where? In the _____.
 - **Briefly read Numbers 13 and answer the following questions:**
 - In Numbers 13, we learn of God, through Moses, sending 12 men (one from each tribe) out to survey the promised land. They found that the land was plentiful for them, yet was inhabited by many enemies.
According to **Numbers 13:25**, how many days did these 12 men survey the promised land? _____
 - Ten of the 12 men sent out confirmed the land was plentiful, but the enemies were great. What does Caleb, one of the 2 men say to the Israelites to calm them down (in **Numbers 13:30**)? _____
 - **Summarize Numbers 13:31-32** of what the other 10 men (who went out with Caleb and Joshua to survey the land) say about the inhabitants of the promised land?

 - In **Numbers 14**, we learn of how Israel rejected God’s Word through doubt and fear. What do they say, in **Numbers 14:4**, they want to do? _____
 - **Summarize Numbers 14:5-6** to describe Moses, Aaron’s, Caleb’s, and Joshua’s reaction to them wanting to return to Egypt:

 - As we move through **Numbers 14**, we learn of Israel’s rebellion against not only God, but His vessels of His Word - what does the nation want to do with Moses, Aaron, Caleb, and Joshua (since they are against the majority wanting to go back to Egypt)? (See **Numbers 14:10**) _____
 - As the people want to stone these men who are trying to convince them to follow God’s Word, what does the Lord God do in **Numbers 14:10**? _____

God will, in **Numbers 14**, move to punish them and Moses will intercede to God on their behalf. Moses recounts to God that His Name is at stake since they are His people. Moses appeals to God for mercy based upon God’s character and not on their deeds.

Day 3 continues on the next page...

Day 3 (Acts 7:44 and related scriptures); (cont'd)

As we finish today, let's look at this:

- From **Numbers 14:18**, list all that Moses states about Who God is and what His character is like:

- What does Moses ask God to do for the Israelites in **Numbers 14:19**?

- How does Moses ask God to do this? According to God's _____
- The Lord God does pardon the Israelites by mercifully not destroying them. They do, though, have a consequence for their lack of faith in God (remember these are people who saw the plagues and the parting of the Red Sea as well as God giving them water and food in the wilderness thus far). Looking at the following verses, what were God's judgements for these people's individual choices?:
 - In **Numbers 14:22-23**, what will these people who disbelieved God not see? _____
 - What will happen to all those who murmured against God (by murmuring against God's chosen leaders)? (See **Numbers 14:29**) _____

- Write out **Romans 13:1-2** -

- What will happen with Caleb and Joshua since they did believe God's Word through Moses by wanting to go and take the promised land? (See **Numbers 14:24** & **Numbers 14:30**)?

- God's plan will continue, but through the generation after (see **Numbers 14:31-35**) the denying generation dies. According to **Numbers 14:33**, summarize what the younger generation will have to do because of the Israelites' unbelief? _____
- Write out God's judgement (see **Numbers 14:34**) for Israel's disbelief?

- How many years, according to **Numbers 14:34**, would the Israelite nation have to wander in the wilderness? _____ years

Note: Again, Stephen is reminding his fellow Jewish brothers of their history and pattern of rejecting God's Word through His prophets and making idols of the world's ways instead. They are accusing Stephen of "blaspheming" against Moses and the Law. He, by their own history, is one more time indicting them of following the blasphemous behavior of their ancestors by rejecting God's Word and killing His messengers.

Tomorrow, we will move into Joshua, to David and then Solomon.
You're doing great. Let me know if you have any questions.

Day 4 (Acts 7:45-50; selected Scriptures)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **Acts 7:1-50** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

45 After receiving the tabernacle, our ancestors under Joshua brought it with them when they took the land from the nations God drove out before them. It remained in the land until the time of David, **46** who enjoyed God's favor and asked that he might provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. **47** But it was Solomon who built a house for him. **48** "However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands. As the prophet says: **49** "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord. Or where will my resting place be? **50** Has not my hand made all these things?"

Acts 7:45-46:

- After _____ the tabernacle, our ancestors under _____ brought it with them _____ they took the land _____ the nations God _____ out before them. It remained in the land _____ the time of _____,
- who enjoyed God's _____ and asked that he might provide a _____ place _____ the God of Jacob..
- **Questions:**

- According to **Acts 7:45**,
 - After their ancestors received the tabernacle in the wilderness (and the 40 years had passed of God's judgement on the nation), who did God have bring them into the land? _____
 - Who drove out the nations from before them when, under Joshua, they took the land? _____
 - Where does Stephen state God was in this driving out of their enemies? Before/behind them? _____
 - **Write out Deuteronomy 31:8:**

- How long did Stephen note that their ancestors stayed in this land that God gave them?
 - Until the time of _____
 - **Rough Timeline:** Israelites began entering/conquering the promised land around 1484 BC and David reigned until around 970 BC. This would mean that the Israelites had possession of the promised land about 514 years.

- According to **Acts 7:46**,
 - Whose favor did David enjoy? _____
 - What did David ask that he might provide for the "God of Jacob"? _____
 - Reminder "Jacob" was the grandson of Abraham, renamed "Israel" by God, and had 12 sons who became the 12 patriarchs/tribes of Israel.

- Who was David? (**see 2 Samuel 5:1-5**) _____
- **Read 2 Samuel 7:12-13** and summarize what you learn about David and his relationship to Messianic prophecy:

- How long will David's throne last (**see 2 Samuel 7:13**)? _____

• Read Daniel 7:13-14 and answer the following questions:

- How did Daniel describe Who he saw coming with the clouds of heaven? _____
- Who did Daniel see the "Son of Man" approach? _____ of Days*
 - *this is God the Father on His throne
- According to Daniel's vision in **Daniel 7:14**, what do you learn about the endurance of the dominion and kingdom given to the "Son of Man" by the "Ancient of Days"? _____

Note: This is the David that Stephen is referring to in his sermon. His hearers know that David was God's king over Israel and they know that their Messiah will come from David's line.

Acts 7:47:

- But it was _____ who built a _____ for him.

• Questions:

- According to **Acts 7:47**, Stephen reminds his hearers that who was it that built a house for God?

- **Summarize 1 Chronicles 22:7-10 -**

Day 4 (Acts 7:45-50; selected Scriptures); (cont'd)

Note: David, when Israel's king, fought many battles and was known as a "man of blood" (see 1 Chronicles 28:3) and God told him that he was not allowed to build His physical temple. God told David, as you just read in 1 Chronicles 22, that it would be his son, Solomon. Stephen transitions at this point as he begins to make his final indictment to his prideful listeners. He will move from the physical to the spiritual. God gives us "glimpses" of the spiritual realm in the midst of our physical. This temple that God had Solomon built was a physical "type" of God's spiritual temple. This is what Stephen will end on in **Acts 7:48-50**.

Write out 1 Corinthians 13:12 -

Acts 7:48-50:

- "However, the _____ High does _____ live in _____ made by _____ hands.
- As the prophet _____: "'Heaven is my _____, and the earth is my _____.
- What _____ of house will you _____ for me? _____ the Lord.
- Or _____ will my resting _____ be?
- Has not _____ hand made _____ these things?'
- **Questions:**
 - According to **Acts 7:48**, Stephen points out that the "Most High" does not live in houses made by what? _____
 - Stephen quotes in **Acts 7:49** the prophet (Isaiah) that
 - What is God's throne? _____
 - What is God's footstool? _____
 - What are the questions that God asks?
 - What _____ of _____ will you _____ for me?
 - Or _____ will my _____ be?
 - In **Acts 7:50**, Whose hand has made "all" these things? _____

As we near the end of Stephen's sermon before the Sanhedrin and move toward his direct indictment of their actions against God of crucifying their Messiah, God's Son, we see Stephen making the point that the created is not sufficient to make something for the Creator. This is why "works" and "good deeds" don't save us. Only God could pay our penalty and nothing that we do could be greater than His Work on the cross.

Let me know if you have any questions. I'm here. I'm praying for you.

Day 5 - 6 (Acts 7:51-60; Selected Scriptures)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **Acts 7:1-60** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

51 “You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! **52** Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— **53** you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.” **54** When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. **55** But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. **56** “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” **57** At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, **58** dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. **59** While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” **60** Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 7:51:

- “You stiff-necked _____! Your hearts and _____ are _____ uncircumcised.
- You _____ just like _____ ancestors: You always _____ the Holy Spirit!
- **Questions:**
 - What kind of “people” does Stephen call his Jewish brothers of the Sanhedrin? _____-necked.
 - What does Stephen say their hearts and ears are? Still _____
 - Who does Stephen say that his Jewish brothers are just like? Your _____
 - Who are they resisting that their ancestors also resisted? The _____
 - Summarize **2 Kings 17:13-14:**

- Write out **2 Chronicles 30:8** -

Acts 7:52-53:

- Was there _____ a prophet your _____ did not persecute?
- They even _____ those who predicted the _____ of the Righteous One.
- And _____ you have betrayed and _____ him—
- you who have _____ the law that was given _____ angels but _____ not obeyed it.”
- **Questions:**
 - What did their ancestors do to every prophet that God sent to them? _____
 - Their ancestors even killed those who predicted what? The _____ of the _____
 - And what does Stephen say that they, themselves, have now done to him (the Righteous One)? _____ and _____ him
 - In **Acts 7:53**,
 - Stephen says that they did this even though they received the law given through who? _____
 - And what have they not done with that law? They have _____

Day 5-6 continues on the next page...

Day 5 - 6 (Acts 7:51-60; Selected Scriptures); cont'd

As we move through these final verses, we will compare the same indictment and different responses. When we studied Acts 2, we saw Peter indicting his Jewish listeners with the same charges.

Questions:

- In **Acts 2:36**, what does Peter indict (charge) his Jewish listeners (and all of the nation of Israel) of?

- What, in **Acts 2:37**, was the response of those Jewish listeners (what did they ask Peter)?

- Summarize Peter's response in **Acts 2:38-39**:

Write out **1 John 1:9** -

Note: Anyone can repent when they hear the truth - God will not turn away from a truly repentant heart. That message is very clear in how God relented in His judgement toward Nineveh in the book of Jonah. If a person, though, hardens their heart (many times through fleshly pride), the message will only fan the flames. This is what we will see in these final verses of **Acts 7**.

Acts 7:54:

- _____ the members of the _____ heard this, they _____ furious and gnashed their teeth _____ him.
- **Questions:**
- What was the Sanhedrin members reaction when they heard this?
_____ and _____

Acts 7:55:

- But _____, full of the _____ Spirit, looked _____ to heaven and saw the _____ of God, and Jesus _____ at the right _____ of God.
- **Questions:**
- Who is Stephen full of? _____
- Where did Stephen look up to? _____
- What are the 2 things that Stephen saw?
 - The _____ of _____
 - _____ standing at the _____ hand of _____

Acts 7:56:

- _____, he said, "I see heaven _____ and the Son of Man _____ at the right _____ of God."
- **Questions:**
- When Stephen says "look", what does he say that he see opened up? _____
- And Who is standing at the right hand of God that he tells them that he sees? _____ of _____
 - Reminder: "Son of Man" is a name for the Messiah. Their following reaction will show their rejection of Jesus as their Messiah.

Day 5-6 continues on the next page...

Day 5 - 6 (Acts 7:51-60; Selected Scriptures); cont'd

Acts 7:57-58:

- At _____ they covered _____ ears and, yelling ____ the top of _____ voices, they all _____ at him,
- dragged him _____ of the city and _____ to stone him.
- _____, the witnesses _____ their coats at the _____ of a _____ man named _____.
- **Questions:**
- Once they heard Stephen's indictment of their guilty in crucifying their Messiah, what did they do?
 - _____ their ears
 - _____ at the _____ of their _____
 - they _____ at him (Stephen).
- Where did they drag Stephen out of? _____
- Once they drug Stephen out of the city, what did they begin to do to him? _____ him
- Who did the witnesses lay their coats at the feet of? A young _____ named _____

Note: This is a pivotal moment in church history in many ways.

- It will move the church out and spread the gospel.
 - **Remember, in Acts 1:8**, Jesus told His disciples that they would be His "witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." In **Acts 5:28**, the apostles were criticized with "filling Jerusalem with their teaching". In **Acts 8:2**, we will learn that the apostles will stay in Jerusalem while the rest of the church will be scattered throughout Judea and Samaria" due to the "great persecution that broke out against the church in Jerusalem.
- It will allow for a "new convert" who Jesus will call directly in **Acts 9**.
 - This Saul will become the Apostle Paul who will write the largest portion of the New Testament.

Acts 7:59:

- While _____ were stoning him, Stephen _____, "Lord Jesus, receive my _____."
- **Questions:**
- While they were stoning Stephen, what did he pray for the Lord Jesus to do? _____
- Write out **2 Corinthians 5:8** - _____

Acts 7:60:

- Then he _____ on his knees and _____ out, "Lord, do not _____ this sin against _____."
- When he had _____ this, he fell _____.
- **Questions:**
- When Stephen fell on his knees before he died, what did he pray for the Lord to do to those who were killing him? _____
- What did Jesus pray from His cross for His own murderers? (**see Luke 23:34**) _____
- What happened after Stephen said this prayer for his enemies? _____

Note the power of forgiveness (for it truly is the foundation of Christly love): Jesus prayed for his enemies and the thief on the cross was saved (**see Luke 23:42**) and here Stephen prays for his killers and God will mercifully save Saul (who will be Paul) in **Acts 9**.

Write out Colossians 3:13 - _____

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks for hanging in there.
We start Acts 8 next week. :) You're in my prayers.