



## SERMON NOTES

# Book of Acts

## Acts 6 - HIStory

Acts 7:1-17

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*History is a story written by the finger of God.*

C. S. Lewis

The Hebrews saw history as meaningful, providential, hopeful and a linear series of chronological events leading up to a divine conclusion.

### **Revelation 1:8, 11a (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

<sup>11</sup> "...the First and the Last..."

*God orders history for the good of the elect.*

Robert A. Morey

JESUS stands at the center of all time past, present and future.

*The name of Jesus is not so much written as plowed into the history of the world.*

—Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

**STEPHEN, IN CHAPTER SEVEN OF ACTS, EXPLAINS HISTORY AND THEN HE MAKES HISTORY!!!!!!**

**STEPHEN GIVES A SUMMARY OF ISRAEL'S HISTORY – IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU CAME FROM YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING!**

### **Acts 7:1-5 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> Then the high priest asked Stephen, "Are these accusations true?" <sup>2</sup> This was Stephen's reply: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me. Our glorious God appeared to our ancestor Abraham in Mesopotamia before he settled in Haran. <sup>3</sup> God told him, 'Leave your native land and your relatives, and come into the land that I will show you.' <sup>4</sup> So Abraham left the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran until his father died. Then God brought him here to the land where you now live. <sup>5</sup> "But God gave him no inheritance here, not even one square foot of land. God did promise, however, that eventually the whole land would belong to Abraham and his descendants—even though he had no children yet.

### **ABRAHAM**

Abraham had no Jerusalem to worship in or a Temple to worship at. He was a sojourner/traveler. He had a mobile altar of worship. God is not confined to one geographical location.

Abraham was "**Looking for that city with foundations whose architect and builder is God**" (Heb. 11:10 NIV).

One verse sums up the whole of Abraham's life:

### **Romans 4:3 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

So many today believe in...astrology, believe in luck, believe in karma, reincarnation, evolution...etc.

### **Acts 7:6-8 (NLT)**

<sup>6</sup> God also told him that his descendants would live in a foreign land, where they would be oppressed as slaves for 400 years. <sup>7</sup> 'But I will punish the nation that enslaves them,' God said, 'and in the end they will come out and worship me here in this place.' <sup>8</sup> "God also gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision at that time. So when Abraham became the father of Isaac, he circumcised him on the eighth day. And the practice was continued when Isaac became the father of Jacob, and when Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs of the Israelite nation.

85 times the word circumcision, in one form or the other, appears in Scripture. It is fascinating that God gave the Hebrew people the sign of circumcision.

### **Genesis 17:11 (NJB)**

<sup>11</sup> You must circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and that will be the sign of the covenant between myself and you.

### **THE BIG QUESTION IS WHY?**

To show that the organ of procreation was consecrated to HIM.

Circumcision is not mandated in the New Testament (**Gal. 6:15**). Yet Timothy was circumcised (**Acts 16:3**). Titus was not (**Gal. 2:3-5**).

In the Old Testament, a spiritual idea is attached to circumcision. It was the symbol of purity (**Isaiah 52:1**).

### **The Bible Address**

uncircumcised lips (**Exodus 6:12,30**)

ears (**Jeremiah 6:10**)

hearts (**Leviticus 26:41**).

For a deeper understanding go to my Youtube page.

**Youtube: Sexual Sanity in a Confused World**

<https://youtu.be/SaD3RkVLIw>

### **JOSEPH**

#### **Acts 7:9-17 (NLT)**

<sup>9</sup> "These patriarchs were jealous of their brother Joseph, and they sold him to be a slave in Egypt. But God was with him <sup>10</sup> and rescued him from all his troubles. And God gave him favor before Pharaoh, king of Egypt. God also gave Joseph unusual wisdom, so that Pharaoh appointed him governor over all of Egypt and put him in charge of the palace. <sup>11</sup> "But a famine came upon Egypt and Canaan. There was great misery, and our ancestors ran out of food. <sup>12</sup> Jacob heard that there was still grain in Egypt, so he sent his sons—our ancestors—to buy some. <sup>13</sup> The second time they went, Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers, and they were introduced to Pharaoh. <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph sent for his father, Jacob, and all his relatives to come to Egypt, seventy-five persons in all. <sup>15</sup> So Jacob went to Egypt. He died there, as did our ancestors. <sup>16</sup> Their bodies were taken to Shechem and buried in the tomb Abraham had bought for a certain price from Hamor's sons in Shechem. <sup>17</sup> "As the time drew near when God would fulfill his promise to Abraham, the number of our people in Egypt greatly increased.

Joseph is a type of Jesus. Mistreated in a foreign land yet became the salvation of his people. Joseph served God in a godless and foreign land. He didn't have Jerusalem, the Temple or the Torah. God's Word was orally translated yet he stayed true to God.

If Abraham was famous for his FAITH, Joseph was famous for his DREAMS. Do you have a God-given dream for your life? Jacob had a dream (**Gen. 28**). Abraham had a dream (**Gen. 15**). Daniel had dreams! Joel said, "**Your old men shall dream dreams your young men shall see visions.**" (**Joel 2:28 NLT**)

### **WHAT TO DO WITH A DREAM –**

**1. Decide It** – Decide if it is worth keeping.

**2. Document It** – Once you wake up; jot it down or it will dissipate.

**3. Discuss It** – cautiously, with people who won't judge you or won't try to interpret it but will simply listen.

**4. Discard It** – Not all dreams are from God. Keep the good ones; discard the bad ones. Don't over think or analyze your dreams. They are by nature irrational and illogical. No dream from God would violate God's Word.