

STEPHEN'S FAITHFUL WITNESS, PART I ACTS 6:8–7:53 JUNE 9, 2024

- I. Stephen's Arrest and Charges (6:8-15)
 - A. Do Not Be Surprised If the World Hates You Like It Hated Christ (John 15:18–21)
 - B. The Charges:
 1. Blasphemy Against God (7:11)
 2. Speaking Against the Temple and Prophesying Its Destruction (7:13-14; Matt 26:59-61)
 3. Blasphemy Against Moses / The Law (7:11, 13)
- II. Stephen's Defense: A Prophetic Lawsuit (7:1-53)
 - A. Throughout Redemptive History God Has Shown That He Is Far Greater than the Temple (1 Sam 4; Jer 7:1-4, 9-10)
 1. Watch Out for Making an Idol of Outward Appearances
 - B. Throughout Redemptive History God Has Shown that the Law is Good but Insufficient, For You Cannot Keep It—You Need a Deliverer (Rom 7:7-13)
 1. Watch Out for Works-Based Righteousness
 2. Do Not Merely Listen to the Word: Believe It and Obey It! (James 1:22-25)
 - C. Stephen's Final Sentence (7:51-53)

Reflection and Application Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

1. What are the main charges brought against Stephen? How does he answer each one?
2. How does this sermon compare to the sermons/defenses given in the previous four chapters (2-5)? In what ways is it similar and different?
3. What warnings can you take away from Stephen's sermon?