



Acts 6:15
 What does he mean?
 All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

The Bible
 Stephen is full of grace and power, and the people in the Sanhedrin were looking at him with great interest.

Stephen's face
 Stephen's face was like the face of an angel.

Argument with the Jews:
 "I am NOT guilty, and you ARE guilty!"
 Your Argument: What is the case of the 12? Luke

12 Apostles
 The 12 apostles were the original disciples of Jesus. They were chosen by Jesus to be his witnesses and to spread the Gospel to all nations.

Stephen
 Stephen was a man full of grace and power. He was a deacon and was responsible for serving the needs of the widows in the church. He was also a powerful preacher and was able to convert many people to Christianity.

The Jews were the original persecutors of the church.
 Stephen's death

You didn't believe Jesus
 Stephen was a powerful preacher and was able to convert many people to Christianity. However, the Jews were resistant to his message and eventually persecuted him to death.

Stephen's death
 Stephen was stoned to death by the Jews. This was a common method of execution at the time.

1. The message stands true (under false and disingenuous accusation)

He was killed, but they were convicted.

2. The *Full Declaration* is needed- even for the most resistant

Declaring Jesus is needed for all.

For the most resistant- we MUST attack their stubbornness.

Book II of Acts:

6:7-9:31

Do you know how it ends?
 How it sets up book III?

3. God the Holy Spirit is Working

(more than you think among the MOST resistant)

A network diagram with various colored nodes (teal, yellow, red, green, purple, orange) connected by thin black lines. The nodes are scattered across the frame, with some having multiple connections radiating from them. The word "ACTS" is centered in a large, bold, teal font.

ACTS

A small, stylized icon of Saint Stephen, showing a head with a halo, partially obscured by the text.

SANT STEPHEN

THE PROTOMARTYR

Acts 6:15

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ACTS

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SANT STEPHEN

THE PROTOMARTYR

Acts 6:15



What
does he
represent?

Acts 6:15

All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

The point:

Stephan is faithfully telling the truth.

Definition of “martyr”: faithful witness

Sharing Jesus is worth the
fullest extent of devotion.

(Phil 3:10)

Declaring Jesus *to the most resistant*
is worth the fullest extent of devotion.

Declaring Jesus *to the most resistant*
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Argument side by side:
"I am NOT guilty, and you ARE guilty."

Track Argument: follow the use of the OT texts.

Speaking against the Law and Customs of Moses

1. Acts 7:57
 57. He said these things and fell on his side. "You will send your people as far as they can go."
 (Acts 7:57)

2. Deuteronomy 16:14-20
 14. At the end of the year you shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks, when you have gathered in the first fruits of wheat and barley. 15. You shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. 16. You shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks as a solemn assembly before the LORD your God. 17. You shall not work for seven days. 18. You shall give to the poor and the needy. 19. You shall not work for seven days. 20. You shall give to the poor and the needy. (Deuteronomy 16:14-20)

Speaking against the Law

Acts 7:58
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1. The message stands true (under false and disingenuous accusation)

He was killed, but they were convicted.

Argument side by side:

“I am NOT guilty, and you ARE guilty.”

Track Argument: follow the use of the OT texts.

Speaking against the Law and customs of Moses

i. **Acts 7:37**

This is that Moses who told the Israelites, "God will send you a prophet like me from your own people." (Deut. 18:15)

ii. **Deuteronomy 18:14-20**

The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so. The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die." The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death.

Speaking against the Temple

Acts 7:44-50

Our forefathers had the tabernacle of the Testimony with them in the desert. It had been made as God directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen. Having received the tabernacle, our fathers 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, who enjoyed God's favor and asked that he might provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built the house for him. "However, the Most High does not live in houses made by men. As the prophet says: "'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? Has not my hand made all these things?' (Isaiah 66:1,2)

Isaiah 66:1-6 This is what the LORD says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?" declares the LORD. "This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word. But whoever sacrifices a bull is like one who kills a man, and whoever offers a lamb, like one who breaks a dog's neck; whoever makes a grain offering is like one who presents pig's blood, and whoever burns memorial incense, like one who worships an idol. They have chosen their own ways, and their souls delight in their abominations; so I also will choose harsh treatment for them and will bring upon them what they dread. For when I called, no one answered, when I spoke, no one listened. They did evil in my sight and chose what displeases me." Hear the word of the LORD, you who tremble at his word: "Your brothers who hate you, and exclude you because of my name, have said, 'Let the LORD be glorified, that we may see your joy!' Yet they will be put to shame. Hear that uproar from the city, hear that noise from the temple! It is the sound of the LORD repaying his enemies all they deserve.

The Law of Moses: You continuously rejected God's first son.

Unexpected Interpretation

You didn't believe Moses

Acts 7:23-28 When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his fellow Israelites. He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not. 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?" But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses aside and said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?" (Exodus 2:14)

You never really believed in the PURPOSE of the Temple

John 2:13-16 At this time the Jews were making a temple for themselves in Jerusalem. Jesus said to them, "You are taking up stones to kill me, though I have said nothing against you. But you are trying to kill me because you do not understand what I am saying. This temple has stood for forty-six years, and I am saying to you, 'Destroy this temple, and I will rebuild it in three days.'"

2. The *Full Declaration* is needed- even for the most resistant

Declaring Jesus is needed for all.

For the most resistant- we MUST attack their stubbornness.

The Law of Moses: You continuously rejected God's first savior.

Unexpected Interpretation

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You never really believed in the PURPOSE of the Temple

Acts 7:41-43 41 That was the time they made an idol in the form of a calf. They brought sacrifices to it and held a celebration in honor of what their hands had made. 42 But God turned away and gave them over to the worship of the heavenly bodies. This agrees with what is written in the book of the prophets: "'Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings forty years in the desert, O house of Israel? 43 You have lifted up the shrine of Molech and the star of your god Rephan, the idols you made to worship. Therefore I will send you into exile' {43 Amos 5:25-27} beyond Babylon.

Amos 5:21-24 (Time of the Exile) 21 "I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies. 22 Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, {22 Traditionally peace offerings} I will have no regard for them. 23 Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. 24 But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

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