**“YOU ALWAYS RESIST THE HOLY SPIRIT!”**

Acts 6:8-7:60 (51)

“You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised.

You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit!

1. What kind of man was Stephen[[1]](#footnote-2)? (6:3, 5, 8) However, who arose to oppose Stephen? (6:9a) Why and how did they begin to oppose Stephen? (9b-14) Why was their charge against Stephen before the Sanhedrin serious? (Lev 24:16[[2]](#footnote-3)) Yet, what does it mean, Stephen’s ‘face was like the face of an angel?’ (6:15)
2. What history lesson did Stephen share when the High Priest asked him if the charges were true? (7:1-50) Who was Abraham and what did God promise him? (2b-8) Explain how God fulfilled His promise to Abraham through Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses? (9-34) What can you learn about God from Stephen’s history lesson?
3. What did Moses do as a ruler and deliverer? (35-38) How did the Israelites disobey and reject Moses? (39-41) How did this continue and what was the tragic result (42-43)? How did the rejection of Moses in the desert parallel with the religious leaders’ rejection of Jesus?
4. What was contained in the tabernacle? (44; Ex. 25:16, 21[[3]](#footnote-4)) What does this teach us about the real purpose of the tabernacle and the temple? What did the prophet say about God and the temple? (45-50) Yet why do you think the religious leaders failed to understand this?
5. How did Stephen rebuke them? (51-53) What does ‘stiff-necked people’ mean? What does “uncircumcised hearts and ears” mean? How did this cause the religious leaders to resist the Holy Spirit? What was the main point of Stephen’s message? (53) How did they respond to Stephen’s rebuke? (54)
6. Yet what did Stephen do and see? (55) How could he behave in this manner? How did he testify about Jesus? (55-56) What was their response to his testimony? (57) While he was being stoned, what did Stephen amazingly do? (59-60) Where did Stephen’s spirit go and what does it mean “he fell asleep?” How can we be full of the Spirit, like Stephen, instead of resisting it like the religious leaders?

1. ‘Stephen’ (Greek, Stephanos) means, ‘wreath’ or ‘crown’. His name suggests he was a Grecian Jew. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Lev 24:16 Anyone who blasphemes the name of the Lord must be put to death. The entire assembly must stone him. Whether an alien or native-born, when he blasphemes the Name, he must be put to death. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Ex 25:16Then put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law, which I will give you…..25 Place the cover on top of the ark and put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law that I will give you. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)