

Digging Deeper: Acts 7:1–53

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Day 1

When you pray, praise God. Thank Him for all He has done for you. Read Acts 7:1–53. Stephen is accused of speaking against the Jewish temple and against God. Does he defend himself? What does Stephen do? God promised Abraham that he would inherit all the land, yet over his entire life, he never set foot in it. Neither did his descendants for several hundred years. What does this tell us about Abraham? What does this tell us about God?

Day 2

Pray to God for forgiveness, asking Him to forgive your sins, and for help reminding you to forgive others, as He has forgiven you. Read Acts 7:1–53. Stephen reminds the Jewish leaders that previously God had raised up Moses, and they rejected Moses. Then Moses predicted Jesus (check out Deuteronomy 18:15–22) and when He came, they rejected Jesus, just like they had previously rejected Moses. If Jesus came back today, would you recognize Him? How would Jesus act? How would He behave; what would He be saying? What kinds of things will blind us from seeing Jesus when He comes back?

Day 3

Find a quiet place. Settle your mind and spirit. Make time and space to listen to the Holy Spirit and for understanding God's word. Read Acts 7:1–53. The Jewish leaders accused Stephen of preaching against the temple. Why was this a silly accusation? King David's son Solomon built the temple. What did he have to say about it? Check out 1 Kings 8:27. Stephen also quotes the prophet, Isaiah. Read Isaiah 66:1–2. Do we worship the building/temple? What does this say about someone who thinks the church building/temple is most important?

Day 4

When you pray, use a journal to write down your thoughts and ideas before, during and after your digging deeper/bible study time. Read Acts 7:1–53. Stephen reminds the Jewish leaders about how their ancestors made gods and idols, demanding these things from their leaders under Moses (see Exodus 32:1–6, Amos 5:25–27). What are things we are clamoring for in today's world that keep our focus away from God and Jesus? What can you do this week to get your mind right with God, and find ways to worship and serve Jesus?

Day 5

Pray and ask God who it is you are supposed to encourage today. Call or text and send an encouraging word. Read Acts 7:1–53. Stephen reminds the Jewish leaders about how frequently they (the historic Jewish leaders) rejected and often killed God's prophets in the past. For validation and deeper understanding, check out these passages: Jeremiah 26:20–23, Jeremiah 38:1–6, 2 Kings 21:10–18, Amos 7:10–13 (honestly, pretty much the whole book of Amos), 2 Chronicles 24:20–22, 1 Kings 19:1–2. Lastly, read this summary from Jesus: Luke 20:9–19. Does this parable in Luke make more sense now?

Day 6

As you pray, reflect and discuss with the Holy Spirit about the past days. Write down in your journal how you can apply what you learned this week for His glory. Read Acts 7:1–53 one last time. Now that you have read the story of Stephen addressing the Jewish Council six times this week, you have strong knowledge of the mission and purpose of our savior Jesus Christ, expertly summarized by Stephen. Do you think you could share the mission and purpose of Jesus with others when the occasion occurs? When was the last time you shared your faith in Jesus with someone?