

We will now begin the eighth lecture of Acts. /Today we will begin from Acts 7:25.

/The deacon Stephen continued to testify to the Jews about Jesus using the Old Testament.

/Read 7:25. /Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not.

/Here, it talks about Moses. /Moses killed an Egyptian man in order to help the Israelite people.

/The Israelites should have realized that God was using Moses to save them, /but they did not.

/They could not understand that God was using Moses to save the Israelites.

/Verses 26-28. /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?'

/When Moses went outside the next day, two Israelites were fighting each other. /Moses rebuked them saying, "You are brothers; why do you want to hurt each other?"

/Then the men who were fighting protested, "Who made you ruler and judge over us?"

/Moses had killed an Egyptian earlier for the Israelite people.

/However, the Israelites refused to acknowledge Moses as the judge. /The men then went on to protest, "Are you thinking of killing me as well?"

/Verse 29. /When Moses heard this, he fled to Midian, where he settled as a foreigner and had two sons.

/Moses was wanted as a murderer. /Therefore, he fled. /It was revealed that he had killed an Egyptian. /Thus, he went to Midian and herded sheep there for forty years.

/What did Moses do in the Midian wilderness for forty years? /Of course, he herded sheep.

/However, Moses did not merely raise sheep, but he prayed before God in secret. /He entered the secret world. /He engaged in fellowship with God. /He discovered the deeply hidden truth. /Hebrews 11:26

/He chose disgrace over Egypt's treasures for Christ. /He looked upon Christ who was to come. /He decided he would be persecuted for Christ.

/He considered that to be his joy. /He understood that this had everlasting worth. /Therefore, Moses was determined to sacrifice his life for Christ. /He decided to work for God's people.

/Moses had two sons there. /His sons' names were Gershom and Eliezer. /Exodus 18:2-4

/Verses 30-32. /"After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush in the desert near Mount Sinai. When he saw this, he was amazed at the sight. As he went over to look more closely, he heard the Lord's voice:' I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.' Moses trembled with fear and did not dare to look.

/After forty years, an angel appeared to Moses. /He appeared in the flames of a burning bush. /At that time, Moses was eighty years old. /Exodus 3:1-2 /God appeared to Moses at Mount Horeb.

/God appeared among the flames of a burning bush. /The bush is not a good tree. /This represents the Israelite people. /Compared to the Egyptians, the Israelites were a wretched

people.

/They lived a life of slavery. /God appeared to the Israelites in the midst of their wretchedness. /The “flames” represent God’s presence. /God appeared as flames at Mount Sinai as well. /Exodus 19:18

/The bush was nothing to begin with, but it became beautiful by God’s presence. /Believers today are not special beings. /They are not worthy.

/Yet, if God is with us, we become glorified beings. /If God is with us, we become beautiful instruments.

/Verse 33. /"Then the Lord said to him, 'Take off your sandals; the place where you are standing is holy ground.

/God appeared as an angel. /He said to Moses, “Take off your sandals.” /In ancient times, slaves walked without shoes. /To take off one’s shoes meant to become a slave.

/This meant to become God’s slave. /It meant to repent of being one’s own master in the past. /Second, it meant to get rid of one’s own ways and tricks.

/Next, to take off one’s sandals also meant to throw away one’s sins. /Those used by sin were to now get rid of sin.

/Verse 34. /I have indeed seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groaning and have come down to set them free. Now come, I will send you back to Egypt.'

/God listened to and knew of the pains of the Israelites’ slavery. /Exodus 3:7-9 /He sent Moses to save them.

/Verse 35. /"This is the same Moses whom they had rejected with the words, 'Who made you ruler and judge?' He was sent to be their ruler and deliverer by God himself, through the angel who appeared to him in the bush.

/Forty years ago, the Israelites rejected Moses. /They rejected him. /However, God would now send Moses to the Israelites after forty years.

/People rejected him but God used Moses. /If we possess the truth and if God works, God will surely use us. /People may reject us, but God will surely use us.

/Verse 36. /He led them out of Egypt and did wonders and miraculous signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea and for forty years in the desert.

/Moses rescued the Israelites from Egypt. /He saved the Israelites by the power of God. /He crossed the Red Sea. /He performed miraculous signs and wonders.

/This testified that Christ would save us. /Here, the deacon Stephen testified to Christ.

/Verse 37. /"This is that Moses who told the Israelites, 'God will send you a prophet like me from your own people.'

/"God will send you a prophet like me from your own people." /Moses said to the Israelites, "God will send you a prophet like me." /Deuteronomy 18:15

/This was a prophecy of Christ. /Jesus is Prophet of the prophets. /The one whom Moses prophesied about is Christ. /Therefore, Moses had accepted Jesus.

/We must not reject Christ who Moses prophesied about. /We must accept Christ who Moses

prophesied about.

/Verse 38. /He was in the assembly in the desert, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers; and he received living words to pass on to us.

/Here, “the angel” represents Jesus Christ. /God gave the Law through the angel. /There was a church in the desert there. /That church in the desert represented today’s New Testament church.

/Through this church in the wilderness of the Old Testament, the work of salvation was carried out. /“Living words” symbolize the Ten Commandments and the Law. /God used Moses to give the people the Ten Commandments. /He gave them the Law. /That Law introduced the coming Christ.

/Verse 39. /“But our fathers refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt.

/Yet, the Israelite people rebelled against Moses. /They refused to obey. /There were some evil people who raised up a minister to claim, “Let us return to Egypt.”

/The deacon Stephen said this. /The Jews at that time /rejected Stephen, just as the Israelites rejected Moses in the past.

/At this time, Stephen criticized the Israelites who were listening to his sermon for being disobedient.

/Verses 40-41. /They told Aaron, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who led us out of Egypt-- we don't know what has happened to him!' 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.

/Moses went up Mount Sinai and received the Ten Commandments while praying. /Yet, at the bottom of the mountain, the people, centered around Aaron, built a golden calf. /They served the calf as their idol.

/They praised the golden calf, claiming that the golden calf had led them out of Egypt. /This was the moment the Israelites became corrupt. /The Israelites attempted to create a visible god to worship.

/They tried to believe in a visible god. /God is present in the entire universe. /He cannot be seen with the human eye. /This golden calf had eyes, but could not see. /It had ears, but could not hear. /It had a mouth, but could not speak.

/In this way, idols are foolish, and those who worship idols are foolish as well. /We serve the one true God.

/Verses 42-43. /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? 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' beyond Babylon.

/The deacon Stephen continued to emphasize that the Israelites served idols. /Here, the "heavenly bodies" refer to the sun, moon, and stars. /The Israelites worshipped the stars of the sky. /They served them as idols.

/Next, they served the shrine of Molech. /In addition, they worshipped the god Rephan as their idol. /Here, the "god Rephan" refers to Saturn. /It is said that this was an idol that the Babylonians worshipped.

/In Amos 5:25, it is called a shrine. /This also can mean, tent. /This was also an idol that the Babylonians worshipped. /Likewise, the Israelite people worshipped idols that the Babylonians used to worship.

/They worshipped then sun, moon, and stars. /Amos 5:25-27 /He quoted these verses. /The Israelites also worshipped the sun, moon, and stars that the Egyptians served.

/Thus, this “Rephan” refers to Saturn that the Assyrians served. /In this way, the Israelites worshipped the gods of the Gentiles.

/Verses 44-45. /"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,

/Here, the “tabernacle of the Testimony” refers to the tabernacle that Moses built. /The people carried this tabernacle around in the wilderness. /Then later, Solomon built his temple.

/Verse 46. /who enjoyed God's favor and asked that he might provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob.

/David's son Solomon built a dwelling place for God.

/Verses 47-50. /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?"

/Until David's time, people served God with tabernacles. /During Solomon's time, they built the temple. /The texts here are from Isaiah 66:1. /Heaven is God's throne. /The earth is God's footstool.

/God is not a God who only resides in the tabernacles that men build. /God is omnipresent throughout the entire universe. /1 Chronicles 29:10-19 /The Israelites also sometimes worshipped the tabernacle as an idol.

/The tabernacle is indeed important. /However, our God is not a God who only resides in temples. /People must not worship the temple as an idol. /Also, what is far more important than the temple is Christ.

/Our Jesus is the one who built the temple. /He also created the temple. /He teaches us through the temple of the Old Testament how to serve God.

/Verse 51. /"You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!

/The deacon Stephen rebuked the Jews standing in front of him. /He said that they were as stiff-necked as their ancestors. /The Jews' problem was that they were stiff-necked. /They carried on with their own stubbornness.

/They disobeyed God. /Their hearts were hardened. /They walked the wrong path. /They could not receive circumcision of the heart and ear. /This means that their hearts were filled with greed.

/Because they followed this greed, they could not receive the touch of the Holy Spirit. /They resisted the Holy Spirit.



/The meaning of circumcision is to get rid of greed. /Physical circumcision is not what is important. /Circumcision of the heart is what is important. /Jeremiah 4:4 /It is important to throw away greed.

/Verse 52. /Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him--

/The Jews' forefathers persecuted and killed prophets. /The prophets of the Old Testaments prophesied, "The Righteous One will come soon. Christ will come soon." /Here, the "Righteous One" refers to the Messiah, or Christ.

/Jesus has no sin. /Still the Jews captured Jesus and crucified Him on the cross. /The Jews of the Old Testament killed prophets. /The Jews in Jesus' time killed Jesus. /Matthew 23:29-36 / Matthew 21:33

/In this way, the deacon Stephen rebuked the people, saying, "You have betrayed and murdered Christ."

/Verse 53. /you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it."

/Stephen said, "You who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it." /The Law was given through angels. /Hebrews 2:2 /Galatians 3:19 /The "angels" symbolizes Jesus.

/In the Old Testament, it was Christ who gave the Law. /However, the Jews rejected the Law that taught about Jesus. /They rejected Christ whom the Law prophesied about.

/If they truly knew the Law, they could believe in Christ as Moses did. /Moses received

insults for Christ. /He said, "God will raise up for you a prophet like me."

/If the people truly knew the Law, they would believe in Jesus. /The Law leads us to realize our sins. /Romans 3:20 /The Law is the teacher that guides us to Christ. /Galatians 3:24 /Like this, the Jews rejected Jesus.

/Verse 54. /When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. /The Jews were pierced to their hearts when they heard Stephen speak.

/The people's hearts were pierced when Peter preached. /Acts 2:37-42 /Peoples' hearts were pierced after they heard Stephen's sermon. /However, they did not repent.

/When Peter preached, there were people who repented. /Here, the listeners' hearts were hardened. /Their hearts were dull. /They did not listen to Stephen's encouragement. /They did not repent, even when their hearts were pierced.

/Instead, they became furious and gnashed their teeth. /If they had repented, they would have received salvation. /However, they did not repent.

/Verses 55-56. /But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

/The deacon Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit. /Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit when he became a deacon. /6:3-5 /To be filled with the Holy Spirit means to be filled with truth. /The Holy Spirit guides us to the truth. /John 16:13

/In this way, Stephen received complete guidance and rule of the Holy Spirit. /He waited upon God and looked upon him. /Isaiah 45:22 /When he looked up to heaven, Jesus was

standing at the right hand of God. /Mark 16:19

/Here, it says that Jesus was seated at the right hand of God. /Jesus is usually seated. /Yet, when Stephen was martyred, Jesus was standing.

/Why? /Jesus was standing to help the deacon Stephen. /When a believer is persecuted, Jesus helps them. /Jesus was standing so that Stephen could keep his faith.

/When Stephen was martyred, he looked up to heaven. /Isaiah 40:31 /Stephen looked upon God's glory. /In addition, Stephen saw that Jesus was standing at the right hand of God.

/Through this, Stephen was martyred joyfully amidst glory. /It says that his face was like that of an angel.

/Verses 57-58. /At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

/The Jews yelled at the top of their voices. /They rushed at Stephen and seized him. /They dragged him out of the city. /Then they stoned him to death. /The witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

/This was Paul before he repented. /Paul gave his approval when Stephen was being stoned / Here it says that the witnesses laid their clothes before Saul, and this means he was a witness.

/The Jews did not listen to Stephen's sermon. /They covered their ears. /They refused to repent. /They were pitiful people.

/Verse 59. /While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

/The deacon Stephen called upon the Lord. /He cried, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." /This meant that he had hope. /He believed that his spirit would go to heaven when he died.

/He looked to what was above. /His life became Christ's. /Philippians 1:21 /1 Peter 4:19 /We must look upon the Lord and not fear death. /Believers from the past were martyred while keeping their faith. /Matthew 10:28

/They thought that if their lives were shortened one day in this world, their lives in heaven would increase by one day. /Stephen believed it to be glorious to be martyred while keeping his faith. /Here, the young man named Saul saw Stephen being martyred.

/Saul heard Stephen's sermon. /Saul's heart may have been touched while Stephen was preaching and being martyred. /Later on, Saul repented on the road to Damascus. /Hence, Saul is a fruit of the deacon Stephen's martyrdom.

/Verse 60. /Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." /When he had said this, he fell asleep.

/The deacon Stephen truly loved those who were stoning him. /He asked God to forgive them of their sins. /Stephen became like Jesus.

/When Jesus was dying on the cross, He prayed to God asking him to forgive those who crucified Him. /Luke 23:34 /Stephen became more like Jesus. /Stephen was filled with love.

/Stephen truly loved his enemies. /He truly forgave his enemies. /In conclusion, we will now examine Stephen's faith.

/First, Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit. /Verse 55. /Second, he was filled with faith.

/Verses 55-56. /Stephen believed that Jesus stood at the right hand of God. /He believed in Jesus. /He believed in heaven.

/He believed that God would love us until the end. /Romans 8:35 /Thus, second, Stephen was filled with faith. /Third, he was filled with Jesus. /Verses 55-56.

/Fourth, he was filled with hope. /Verse 59. /If I die, I will go to heaven. /There is eternal life. /Like so, he looked to heaven. /He looked to what was above.

/Fifth, he was filled with love. /Verse 60. /He truly loved his enemies. /We must also love our enemies, and truly forgive our enemies wrongdoings towards us.

/We will now conclude the eighth lecture of Acts. /Thank you.