

**April 30, 2023**  
**Acts 7:1-36**  
**“From Accusations To Indictment”**

GOD’S GRACE IS MET BY ISRAEL’S  
DISOBEDIENCE

- I. *God’s grace manifested in Abraham and the disobedience of the patriarchs. The emphasis is on God.*
- II. *God’s grace manifested in Moses and the disobedience of Israel. The emphasis is strongly on Moses.*
- III. *God’s grace manifested in David and in Solomon. The emphasis is on the Temple.*

Conclusion: The present disobedience. (*This outline given by R. C. H. Lenski*)

This is the longest recorded message in the book of Acts. The only conclusion one can come to is that this message is of utmost importance. *Stanley D. Toussaint*

In this discourse there are three ideas that run like cords throughout a fabric.

1. There is a progression and change in God’s program.
2. The blessings are not limited to the land of Israel and the temple area.
3. Israel in its past always evidenced a pattern of opposition to God’s plan and His men. This is the main point of Steven’s discourse. Gleaned from *Stanley D. Toussaint*

Stephen’s defense before the Sanhedrin **vv 2-53**.

His defense was not given in such a way as to calculate an acquittal. Rather, it was an indictment against the Jewish leaders for failing to recognize Jesus as the Messiah and rejecting His salvation provided to them by Jesus. Jews were all puffed up over the: **(1)**Land, **(2)**Law, **(3)**and the Temple. Ultimately, all of these would prove to be temporal. God’s redemptive plan culminates in Jesus Christ, the Messiah, salvation through Jesus is eternal. Gleaned from *Richard N. Longenecker*

Note five sections of the structure of the speech:

1. The promises of Abraham, **vv 2-8**.
2. The deliverance through Joseph, **vv 9-16**.

3. The deliverance through Moses, vv 17-34.
4. The apostasy of Israel vv 35-50.
5. The rejection of the Messiah vv 51-53. Gleaned from *John B. Polhill*

Steven does not build a defense for himself, instead he makes a case of indictment against the Jewish rulers before him for rejecting the Messiah. This case is rooted in past history pointing out how the Jews had a history of rejecting God's messengers, namely: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and David, now they are rejecting Jesus, the Righteous One. They had not appreciated God's leaders and now they did not accept His Savior of the world, Jesus. Gleaned from *John MacArthur*.

Steven does not go after his false accusers. Instead he goes to the Word. He was accused of speaking against God, Moses, the Temple, and the law and customs. He speaks at length revealing how he really feels about them all. In his address he will weave the old disobedience and unbelief of Israel into the fabric of his defense. He will go from accusation to indictment of his accusers. Gleaned from *R. C. H. Lenski*.

**Application:**

God's own people have a long history of rejecting His plan of redemption. Nothing has changed, the very people Jesus died for vehemently reject Him. Here's a word of encouragement, don't give up! Continue being a witness for Jesus and live out your Christian life to the fullest. You never know who is watching. That old saying is true, you may be the only Jesus some people see all day long, let your little light shine. Here is another word of encouragement, be reminded that in the face of this severe persecution of God's people, the church was growing! They were adding to the church and by now we will read that it is multiplying! Share your testimony, live for the Lord, serve Him with your whole heart, share His story of redemption, people need the Lord!