



BIBLE STUDY

August 1, 2023

Scripture: Acts 7:1-2

(1 Peter 3:15-16, KJV)

Topic: Knowing and Defending Our Faith!

- I. The Persecution of Stephen (6:11-15 & 7:1)
 - a. False Accusations (Acts 6:11-15)
 - b. Why were they after Stephen?
 - c. This was not ultimately about Stephen. This was about Jesus the Christ!
 - i. Nothing can stop the power of Jesus Christ!
- II. Stephen's "Reply" (Acts 7:2)
 - a. Stephen's Reply was really a Sermon
 - b. Stephen's Reply was actually an Apology
 - i. An Apology is a defense of a position or against accusations.
 - ii. Apologetics is a defense of the faith.
 - iii. Stephen countered their lies and false accusations with truth and explanation.
 - c. Stephen's Reply was Purposeful
 - i. It was not meant to condemn but to teach and explain God's plan of salvation I'm Jesus Christ.
 - d. Stephen's Reply was Powerful
 - i. Delivered in the Power of the Holy Spirit (6:5)
 - ii. Delivered with Boldness
 - iii. Delivered with Knowledge
 1. We have to know our faith!

III. Examples of Apology in Faith History

- a. Stephen provides examples of Patriarchs who were rejected and falsely accused.
 - i. Example of Joseph (7:9)
 1. Rejected by his own family
 2. Falsely accused and placed in prison
 3. God vindicated him
 - ii. Example of Moses (7:20-29)
 1. Rejected by the very people he tried to help
 2. Falsely accused and fled from Egypt
 3. God used Moses to lead the people out of bondage
- b. Stephen is a parallel to Joseph & Moses
 - i. Stephen was a representative of God who was rejected
 - ii. Stephen was falsely accused and arrested
 - iii. God was using Stephen to present the message of hope and salvation that will be rejected by his audience.

