

The Extraordinary Church A Biblical Church

I. Introduction

- A. Acts 6:8-7:1 (NAS) ⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹But some men from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, rose up and argued with Stephen. ¹⁰But they were unable to cope with the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. ¹¹Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God." ¹²And they stirred up the people, the elders and the scribes, and they came up to him and dragged him away and brought him before the Council. ¹³They put forward false witnesses who said, "This man incessantly speaks against this holy place and the Law; ¹⁴for we have heard him say that this Nazarene, Jesus, will destroy this place and alter the customs which Moses handed down to us." ¹⁵And fixing their gaze on him, all who were sitting in the Council saw his face like the face of an angel. ¹The high priest said, "Are these things so?"

II. Keys to Interpreting the Bible Correctly

- A. The Bible is incorrectly interpreted when God is reduced to a particular place, or nation, or thing.
1. Acts 7:1-5 (NAS) ¹The high priest said, "Are these things so?" ²And he said, "Hear me, brethren and fathers! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, ³and said to him, 'LEAVE YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR RELATIVES, AND COME INTO THE LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU.' ⁴Then he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. From there, after his father died, God had him move to this country in which you are now living. ⁵But He gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot of ground, and yet, even when he had no child, He promised that He WOULD GIVE IT TO HIM AS A POSSESSION, AND TO HIS DESCENDANTS AFTER HIM."
 2. Acts 7:9-10 (NAS) ⁹"The patriarchs became jealous of Joseph and sold him into Egypt. Yet God was with him, ¹⁰and rescued him from all his afflictions, and granted him favor and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he made him governor over Egypt and all his household."
 3. Acts 7:16 (NAS) "From there they were removed to Shechem and laid in the tomb which Abraham had purchased for a sum of money from the sons of Hamor in Shechem."
 4. Acts 7:30-33 (NAS) ³⁰"After forty years had passed, AN ANGEL APPEARED TO HIM IN THE WILDERNESS OF MOUNT SINAI, IN THE FLAME OF A BURNING THORN BUSH. ³¹When Moses saw it, he marveled at the sight; and as he approached to look more closely, there came the voice of the Lord: ³²'I AM THE GOD OF YOUR FATHERS, THE GOD OF ABRAHAM AND ISAAC AND JACOB.' Moses shook with fear and would not venture to look. ³³BUT THE LORD SAID TO HIM, 'TAKE OFF THE SANDALS FROM YOUR FEET, FOR THE PLACE ON WHICH YOU ARE STANDING IS HOLY GROUND.'"
 5. Acts 7:48-50 (NAS) ⁴⁸"However, the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands; as the prophet says: ⁴⁹'HEAVEN IS MY THRONE, AND EARTH IS THE FOOTSTOOL OF MY FEET; WHAT KIND OF HOUSE WILL YOU BUILD FOR ME?' says the Lord, 'OR WHAT PLACE IS THERE FOR MY REPOSE? ⁵⁰'WAS IT NOT MY HAND WHICH MADE ALL THESE THINGS?'"
- B. The Bible is incorrectly interpreted when we don't see our own sin and limitations.
1. Acts 7:9 (NAS) "The patriarchs became jealous of Joseph and sold him into Egypt. Yet God was with him."
 2. Acts 7:25-27 (NAS) ²⁵"And he supposed that his brethren understood that God was granting them deliverance through him, but they did not understand. ²⁶On the following day he appeared to them as they were fighting together, and he tried to reconcile them in peace, saying, 'Men, you are brethren, why do you injure one another?' ²⁷But the one who was injuring his neighbor pushed him away, saying, 'WHO MADE YOU A RULER AND JUDGE OVER US?'"
 3. Acts 7:51 (NAS) "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did."
- C. The Bible is correctly interpreted when we read it as a pointer to Jesus Christ!
1. Luke 24:27 (NAS) Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.
 2. Acts 7:9-10 (NAS) ⁹"The patriarchs became jealous of Joseph and sold him into Egypt. Yet God was with him, ¹⁰and rescued him from all his afflictions, and granted him favor and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he made him governor over Egypt and all his household."
 3. Acts 7:13a (NAS) "On the second visit Joseph made himself known to his brothers."
 4. The whole Bible is meant to point us to Jesus.

5. Acts 7:54-60 (NAS) ⁵⁴Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; ⁵⁶and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. ⁵⁸When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" ⁶⁰Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.
6. A biblical church is a church where the Bible is actually written on the hearts of the people!

III. Conclusion