

Study Guide for Sept. 19th, 2004 The Indictment – Acts 7:37-53 (Stephen’s Speech II)

Introduction: When have you heard or read about an **indictment** against an individual? What would a prosecuting attorney have to prove for a conviction? God used Stephen...

- I. One mediator. (vs. 37-38)
 - A. Read Deut. 18:14-22. What does Moses predict? How should Israel respond?
 - B. What is said about **the Prophet** in the following references?
(John 1:21, 25, 45, 5:45-46, 6:14, 7:37-40, and Acts 3:22-24)
 - C. Reflect I Tim. 2:5-6, “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time.”
 - 1) What was the significance of this truth for Stephen as he gave his defense?
 - 2) What is the significance of this truth for us as we present the gospel?
- II. Idolatry leads to Exile. (vs. 39-43)
 - A. According to Stephen, what fact of history have those accusing him forgotten?
 - B. Reflect and comment on the statement in vs. 42, “God turned away and **gave them over** to the worship of the heavenly bodies.” (see also Rom. 1:18-32)
 - C. Stephen supports his charge of idolatry by quoting Amos 5:25-27. Look at the larger context in Amos 5 (vs. 18-27). Describe God’s attitude toward Israel?
- III. God cannot be put in a box. (vs. 44-50)
 - A. Why might the Jews look with pride to the temple? What is wrong with that?
 - B. According to Stephen’s quote from Isaiah, all creation is God’s temple. How might we be in danger of limiting God today?
- IV . Guilty of rebellion and murder. (vs. 51-53)
 - A. Describe the charge Stephen makes against his accusers? Was he too harsh?
 - B. Reflect on the words of Rev. 2:10, “Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.” How can you be a faithful witness?