



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## The Third Sermon in the Capitol: Picturing King Jesus

JANUARY 15, 2015

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### Acts 7:11-20

*“Now a famine and great trouble came over all the land of Egypt and Canaan, and our forefathers found no sustenance. 12) But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our fathers first. 13) And the second time Joseph was made known to his brothers, and Joseph’s family became known to Pharaoh. 14) Then Joseph sent and called his father Jacob and all his relatives to him, seventy-five people. 15) So Jacob went down to Egypt; and he died, he and our fathers. 16) And they were carried back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham bought for a sum of money from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem. 17) But when the time of promise drew near which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt 18) Till another king arose who did not know Joseph. 19) This man dealt treacherously with our people, and oppressed our forefathers, making them expose their babies, so that they might not live. 20) At this time Moses was born and was well pleasing to God; and he was brought up in his father’s house for three months.” (NKJV)*

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“TODAY WE WILL BE WITH STEPHEN AS HE GOES TO COURT, ACCUSED BY THE LEADERS OF HIS OWN NATION. . . STEPHEN, CHARGED BEFORE THE NATIONAL TRIBUNAL, DOES NOT ACT LIKE THE ACCUSED. RATHER, HE SWITCHES ROLES AND BECOMES THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY WITH HIS ACCUSERS IN THE BOX.” DAVID COOK

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How many parallels are there in this passage to the life of Jesus Christ? Is Stephen in fact doing the same as Peter had done before the Congress of Israel in the two previous sermons by bringing his accusers before the bar of Justice? What legal evil of our day surrounded both Moses and Jesus in their birth?

### FOCUS ON FUTURE EVENTS / BIBLE STUDIES:

- > JANUARY 22: THE NINTH BIENNIAL PASTORS' COMMISSION TO THE CAPITOL 7-7:30AM HR 1
- > JANUARY 29: ACTS 7:21-29 THE THIRD SERMON IN THE CAPITOL: MISUNDERSTANDING MOSES

Stephen had so perfectly mastered the Old Testament Scriptures and was preaching it so powerfully in the “Synagogue of the Freedmen” that “they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke” (Acts 6:9-10). So they summoned false witnesses to accuse him of saying that “Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us” (Acts 6:14). Jesus had prophesied perfectly regarding the most beautiful religious edifice of the world of His day in the religious capital of the world, “There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down” (Mt. 24:2, Mk. 13:2, Lk. 19:44, 21:6) and the evidence of that prophecy, fulfilled forty years later in 70 AD, is still obvious today. But Jesus never said He would personally do it and we know the Romans did it. Regarding the progressive spiritual change from their ungodly customs supposedly derived from the Old Testament, Christ had already addressed it in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5-7). But Stephen was so focused on the reality of Jesus pictured throughout the Old Testament that he chose to confound them through the Scriptures in the path of their greatest pride—their God, Patriarchs, Law, and Temple. So he reminds them of their history with an emphasis on the truths specifically overturning and condemning their false delusions and rejection of Christ.

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“HE WAS SO UTTERLY LOST IN THE SENSE OF GOD, AND THE SPACIOUSNESS OF HIS OUTLOOK IN JESUS CHRIST, THAT HE DID NOT SEEM TO THINK IT WORTH WHILE TO REPLY TO THEIR ACTUAL WORDS OF THE CHARGE MADE AGAINST HIM.” G. CAMPBELL MORGAN

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### BIBLE STUDIES

- THURSDAY @ 6:30 AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM
- THURSDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM
- THURSDAY @ 4:30 PM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB ROOM 330 - SENATOR CARRICO’S OFFICE

# Virginia

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### I. REJECTORS SUFFER SPIRITUAL FAMINE 7:11-12

With the glory of God on his face, Stephen appealed to them to “listen” to “the God of Glory” in the picture of the glory of Jesus Christ in their history. As Abraham their father and often his offspring would leave their secure dwellings to live among strangers in a strange land, so Christ as God was sent from the glories of Heaven to dwell among those who would constantly treat Him as a stranger. Just as Joseph, because of envy, had been sold by those of his twelve brothers as a slave (v. 9), so Jesus, because of envy, had been sold by Judas, one of His twelve disciples, for the price of a slave. As Joseph had been condemned by the false witness of Potiphar’s wife, so Jesus had been condemned because of false witnesses. Both were descendants of Abraham. Just as Jesus was freed from the prison of the grave and exalted in His resurrection over all things, so Joseph had left the prison to be exalted over all Egypt. As Joseph was not first recognized by his brothers (v. 12), so Jesus was not recognized by His brothers in Israel at His first coming. And just as Joseph’s brothers who had rejected him and suffered “famine” (v. 11), so those who reject Jesus Christ suffer spiritual famine, now and throughout all eternity. Stephen, as is proclaimed at the end of his sermon, was warning them concerning their rejection of their Messiah, so that they would flee to Jesus Christ for forgiveness.

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“THOUGH THE NAME OF THE CHRIST IS NOT ONCE MENTIONED, STEPHEN IS ALL THE TIME ‘PREACHING JESUS.’ HE PREACHES HIM IN TYPES, ESPECIALLY IN JOSEPH (V. 9-16) AND MOSES (20-43).”  
RICHARD RACKHAM

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### II. RECEIVERS IN FAITH MULTIPLY ACTS 7:13-17

As God delivered Joseph “from all his troubles” (v. 10) caused by his own brothers, in order to rescue them from “great trouble” (v. 11), so Jesus Christ was delivered by God from every trouble caused by His own people when

He was exalted to God’s right hand as the Savior of His people. “The second time” Joseph’s sinful brothers came to Egypt, he revealed himself to them and they received his gracious care and authority as they trusted his word and were saved from physical death. Jesus revealed Himself again to those same sinners on the day of Pentecost, and those who receive His gracious care and authority are still saved from eternal death. Jacob, Joseph’s father, and his family went down to Egypt to be with Joseph, whom they had considered to be dead, as those of Jesus family and nation came to Him whom they had considered to be dead. When in Egypt, they demonstrated that they were strangers in a strange land but believed the promise of God to return them home to their promised land by being buried there in Shechem (v. 15-16), just as Jesus believed God would return Him to His exalted home in heaven. For those sinners who had trusted their deliverer “when the time of the promise drew near . . . the people grew and multiplied,” so those sinners who trusted their Savior, when the time of the promise drew near and the Holy Spirit was given, the people of God grew and multiplied, as is clear in Acts. And that multiplying continues today!

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“AT WHICH TIME, WHEN THE CRAFTY AND CRUEL PERSECUTION OF THE ISRAELITES BY THE EGYPTIANS WAS AT ITS HEIGHT. IT WAS AT THIS CRISIS IN THE HISTORY OF THE CHOSEN PEOPLE, THAT THEIR GREAT DELIVERER CAME INTO THE WORLD.” J. A. ALEXANDER

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### III. RUTHLESS ABORTION SURROUNDED THE SAVIOR ACTS 7:18-20

Just as ruthless government approved and even enforced legal murder of their innocent children and selecting which babies would be “exposed” or aborted, from which Moses, their deliverer escaped, so in the same way the government enforced legal murder, in aborting select innocent Bethlehem babies, from which Jesus escaped!

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#### Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Are you willing to suffer in spiritual famine now and forever because of a willful rejection of Jesus Christ, the only Savior?
- 2) Does your life demonstrate that you have received Christ in faith by your witness in seeking to multiply His Kingdom?
- 3) Is there a great leader who should be born in our nation today but for the ruthless, approved legal murder of abortion?