



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

National Sins Require National Judgment

FEBRUARY 5, 2015

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Acts 7:30-43 *“Now when forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. 31) When Moses saw it, he was amazed at the sight, and as he drew near to look, there came the voice of the Lord; 32) I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob. And Moses trembled and did not dare to look. 33) Then the Lord said to him, ‘Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. 34) I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their groaning, and I have come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send you to Egypt.’ 35) This Moses, whom they rejected, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’—This man God sent as both ruler and redeemer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush. 36) This man led them out, performing wonders and signs in Egypt and at the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years. 37) This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, ‘God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers.’ 38) This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us. 39) Our fathers refused to obey him, but thrust him aside, and in their hearts they returned to Egypt, 40) Saying to Aaron, ‘Make for us gods who will go before us. As for this Moses who led us out from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ 41) And they made a calf in those days, and offered a sacrifice to the idol and were rejoicing in the works of their hands. 42) But God turned away and gave them over to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets: ‘Did you*

bring to Me victims and sacrifices, during the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel? 43) You took up the tent of Moloch and the star of Rephan, the images that you made to worship; and I will send you beyond Babylon.” (ESV & NASB)

“STEPHEN'S USE OF THAT PROPHECY SUCCINCTLY SUMMARIZES THE SAD, IDOLATROUS HISTORY OF ISRAEL (CF. DEUT 17:3, 2 KINGS 17:16; 21:3; JER. 8:2; 19:13), WHICH CULMINATED IN THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY.”

JOHN MACARTHUR

Who was this “Angel” causing Moses part in the deliverance Israel? Can anyone ever have a vision of God and not “tremble?” Where do we find “holy ground?” Why did his people constantly reject their deliverer? What word is used 6x with Moses? How could those delivered, again wish for the cruel bondage of Egypt? Why would the word “victims” fit the worship of Moloch? Does their murder of their own people cause them to be destroyed and deported as slaves to Babylon?

FOCUS ON FUTURE EVENTS / BIBLE STUDIES:

- FEBRUARY 12: ACTS 7:44-53 *THE THIRD SERMON IN THE CAPITOL: JUST LIKE YOUR FATHERS!*
- FEBRUARY 19: SELECTED SCRIPTURES *THE BIBLE STUDY TAUGHT BY DELEGATE KIRK COX*

Little does this distinguished assembly of representatives leading the nation realize, but they are listening to their last sermon! Never again would this Congress of Israel reconvene to hear a message of warning regarding their most evil national sins. They are dramatically sinning away their last opportunity to repent as a nation and seek God in humble prayer, and most importantly turn from their wicked ways that they might be forgiven (2 Chron. 7:14). Instead, even while under the tyranny of Rome, they again murderously reject their delivering Messiah, and when faced their heinous crime, they repeat it!

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30 AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 4:30 PM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB ROOM 330 - SENATOR CARRICO'S OFFICE

Virginia

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“THIS WAS THE SAME ANGEL THROUGH WHOSE ASSISTANCE AND GUIDING MOSES DELIVERED THE PEOPLE: AND PAUL, IN (1 COR. X:4), DOTH AFFIRM THAT CHRIST WAS THAT GUIDE, THERE IS NO CAUSE WHY WE SHOULD NOW WONDER THAT THE ANGEL TAKETH TO HIMSELF THAT WHICH IS PROPER TO GOD ALONE.”

JOHN CALVIN

I. THE REJECTED RULER RULES ACTS 7:30-35

Not only is Jesus Christ the angel who appeared to Moses and commissioned him, He brought the plagues upon Egypt by him, delivering him through the Red Sea and constantly protected the assembly as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. He even made Moses the **first legislator**, credited with the eternal Law of God in drafting the Bible’s first five books. Both Moses and Christ begin their ministry among their people after being in the desert where both had visited a mountain. Both were on intimate terms with the Living God. They were both sent miraculously by God to deliver their people. They represented and were sent by the same God of their forefathers. And sadly, both were continually despised by their own people in a specific rejection of their authority (Mt. 21:23-27, Mk. 11:28-33, Lk. 20:2-8, Jn. 19:15).

“THEY WOULD HAVE OBEYED MOSES IF A TYRANT HAD APPOINTED HIM TO BE A JUDGE, BUT THEY CONDEMN HIM PROUDLY, AND REFUSE HIM DISTAINFULLY, BEING APPOINTED BY GOD, AND THAT TO BE A DELIVERER. THEREFORE, IN DESPISING HIM, THEY WERE WICKED; AND IN REJECTING GRACE, UNTHANKFUL.” JOHN CALVIN

II. THE REJECTED REDEEMER RULES ACTS 7:35-38

As the life of the firstborn in Egypt was the price paid for their redemption through Moses, so the price was paid by God in giving his “*only begotten Son*” as our Redeemer, in

Christ paying the price of our sin by suffering the wrath of God and men upon the cross. The word, “*this*” is used six times specifically emphasizing the amazing exaltation of the one whom they continually despised, no matter what wonders, signs, miracles, deliverance, provision, escape, or protection was provided on their behalf, they still haughtily and ungratefully despised their deliverer, just as these wicked legislators were currently rejecting Jesus Christ as they listened to their final sermon by Stephen. In case they might possibly be missing the parallels of Moses and Jesus, Stephen now forces their criminal minds to remember the Scripture, “*this is the Moses who said to the Israelites, ‘God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers’*” (Dt. 18:15). Just as Moses’ “*living oracles*” are the foundation for the entire Old Testament, so the “*living water*” (Jn. 4) springing from Jesus Christ is the fountain of the entire New Testament.

“NOW THE SPEECH OF STEPHEN BEGINS TO ACCELERATE. ALL THE TIME BY IMPLICATION IT HAS BEEN CONDEMNING THE WHOLE ATTITUDE OF THE JEWS; AND NOW THAT IMPLICIT CONDEMNATION BECOMES EXPLICIT.”

WILLIAM BARCLAY

III. THE REJECT NATION RELINQUISHED ACTS 7:39-43

Now their evil hearts of unbelief and disobedience are taking them too far, passing the brink of no return in their ungrateful abandonment of their deliverers they had “*thrust*” away. Their abandonment by God is revealed in the passive tense of the next verb, “*their hearts were turned to Egypt*.” Their slavery to sin now exceeded their desire to be released from the cruel tyranny of 440 years of hard bondage in Egypt! This nation, past oppressed by forced abortion, here choose to murder their own babies in the worship of Moloch and Rephan, causing God to deport them, now murder their own Messiah and His preacher!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Have you obeyed the law of the First Legislator and received Jesus as your Lord and Savior from sin?
- 2) Is your life lived in gratitude to Christ for paying your debt upon the cross to free you from the power and penalty of sin?
- 3) Are you a leader like those hearing Stephen who sin against themselves, their people and nation by accelerating in sin?