



Acts 6:8-7:8 Stephen (Part 1) Speaker: Jeff Thompson

...select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and wisdom... - Acts 6:3

So they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit...
- Acts 6:5

The boy (Jesus) grew up and became strong, filled with wisdom, and God's grace was on him. - Luke 2:40

Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people. - Luke 2:52

"I tell you that something greater than the temple is here."
- Matthew 12:6 (Jesus speaking of Himself)

C.6.V.9: The world is _____ by the _____ of the Gospel and the Word of God.

The instruction of the LORD is perfect, renewing one's life; the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise. - Psalm 19:7

...make up your minds not to prepare your defense ahead of time, for I will give you such words and a wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. - Luke 21:14-15

C.6.VV.13-14 list the charges against Stephen:

..."This man never stops speaking against this holy place and the law. For we heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place (the Temple) and change the customs that Moses handed down to us."

...two (false witnesses) who came forward stated, "This man said, 'I can destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'" - Matthew 26:60-61 (the trial of Jesus)

Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days." Therefore the Jews said, "This temple took forty-six years to build, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. So when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the statement Jesus had made.
- John 2:19-22

Points from Stephen's Speech (C.7.VV.2-8):

- God has never needed a holy _____, _____, or _____ to meet with His people.

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and set out for a place that he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he stayed as a foreigner in the land of promise, living in tents as did Isaac and Jacob, coheirs of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. - Hebrews 11:8-10

- God gives His people promises that necessitate faith, action, and a willingness to follow wherever He leads.

The one who has seen me has seen the Father. - John 14:9

- Those who follow God cannot dictate _____ He fulfills His _____.

Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. - Genesis 15:6

- Israel was founded on faith.

Reminders for Us from Stephen's Speech:

- Like Abraham, we are able to _____
with God _____.

...there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all... - 1 Timothy 2:5-6

...we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need. - Hebrews 4:15-16

- Like Abraham, we have been given a promise that we will not see fulfilled during our earthly lives, and we have been called to follow God toward it by faith.

*...our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body...
- Philippians 3:20-21*

...because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." - John 20:29

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. - 1 John 3:1-2

- Like Abraham, we must be ready to _____
the Lord wherever He _____ us.

- Like Abraham, we must not dictate to the Lord the manner in which He fulfills His promises to us.

- Like Abraham, God has _____ us as His _____.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith - the salvation of your souls. - 1 Peter 1:3-9

What no eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no human heart has conceived - God has prepared these things for those who love him. - 1 Corinthians 2:9