



SERMON NOTES

Sunday, March 14, 2021 | Pastor Scott Boerckel

“Stephen’s Speech: The Lesson of the Patriarchs”

Acts 7:1-16

1. Stephen's view of the law is consistent with God's work with Abraham. (Acts 7:1- 5)

2. Stephen's view of the law is consistent with God's working with the Patriarchs. (Acts 7:6-16)

Table Talk

- 1) Why do you think Stephen begins his defense with Abraham? (vv 2-5) How does Stephen look at Abraham's staying in Haran a bit negatively? (vv. 4-5) Why are followers of the Lord tempted to begin well and then trail off in their faith?
- 2) How do the patriarchs reveal that Stephen is not speaking against the law of God? (vv 6-16) In what way did the patriarchs fail (v. 9)? What judgment does this failure produce (vv. 11-16)?
- 3) What promises does Stephen emphasize in the lives of Abraham and the patriarchs? (v. 5 and 9-10) How is a knowledge of the cycle of revelation, command, failure, judgment, and promise helpful to show that Stephen is not speaking against the law of Moses? At this moment of Stephen's speech, where in this cycle are those who have spoken out against Stephen?
- 4) How does Stephen reveal that his focus is to be a worshiper of the living God as measured by the vital sign of being rooted in scripture? Why is it important to know the larger story of the Bible as well as study the details in specific portions of scripture? What are you doing to grow in your knowledge of the Bible?