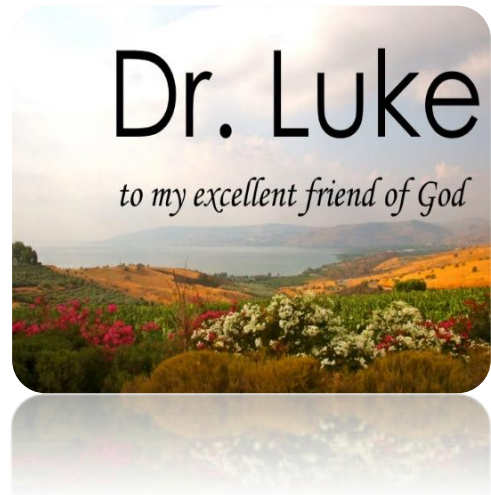


# ACTS 7 vs 37

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We know Luke, the physician was a disciple of Paul, and we know these events are written in detail shortly after they occurred. Luke begins this book he made... by addressing Theophilus. From history, we know Theophilus was the third son of Annas, Caiaphas was the husband of the daughter of Annas; we also know papa Annas, exhibiting his finest nepotism, appointed all his sons to serve as high priest... until around 42AD, when king Agrippa and Bernice came to power... and replaced the household of Annas with suitors of their own. Sometime after, Luke wrote these stunning, arresting words which ended in the sudden martyrdom of Stephen...



Stephen pounds on their eardrums again... **Point #5:**

<sup>37</sup> **This is that Moses**, who said to the Israelites, the Lord your God will raise up a prophet like me, among your brothers and sisters;

**Listen to Him** / hear what He has to say to you. Moses was quite hopeful, wasn't he?.

Stephen pounds again using their word... **Point #6:**

<sup>38</sup> **This is he**, who was in the church / in Greeks: **ekklesia**... the **out-called-ones**. In every generation, the Spirit of the Lord has been calling out those who will walk with Him on a journey of a lifetime: a journey, almost unbelievable... and out of this world.

**in the wilderness, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai** / which is in Arabia,

**and with our ancestors** / unsophisticated men; who never sharpened a No.#2 pencil; uneducated shepherds and farmers; never having attended even one seminary lecture at any venerable, fully accredited school... of higher learning:

**he received living oracles** / even though romans still insist that the Word of God is a dead letter... unless they tell us what it means. Apparently, they do not think the One God who created heaven and earth, and all things visible or microscopic, has that ability! But they think they do;

**Point #7:** Stephen is inspired to call the Word of God:

**the living logion given to us:** / Stephen says, they were given the living words, that is what Jesus repeatedly told his disciples... the night He was betrayed; **keep my words**; guard my instructions to love God our Father, and to love one another. the responsibility of God's people in every generation, to share what He said with the sons and daughters of the next. Stephen's generation sounds like ours 2000 years later; things don't change much;

Point #8:

<sup>39</sup> **To whom our ancestors would not obey, but pushed him aside** / they did not want to listen to what God already promised, they still do not want to listen; they want to do their own thing, because it's fun; so they resented and rejected this man Moses... Point #9;

**and in their hearts turned back again to Egypt.**

<sup>40</sup> **They told Aaron, Make us gods to go before us:** / Point #10: Stephen pounds that man's name on the hard heads of his accusers,

**as for this Moses** who brought us from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him / what? Those rebellious fools saw Moses ascend Mount Sinai in Arabia, and no helicopter, or alien space craft came and took him.

<sup>41</sup> **And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice to the idol** / brazenly dismissing and violating the instructions of God – Deut. 5-12,

**and rejoiced in the works of their own hands** / these people who say: **my church...** and it probably is their church; certainly it is not the one the Lord is building; it is produced by their hands; and they are rejoicing: so they have their reward, nothing else needed; which is good, because nothing else will be coming.

<sup>42</sup> **Then God turned away, and gave them up to worship the stars of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O house of Israel** / you oikos, did you bring Me offerings and sacrifices for forty years in the wilderness?

<sup>43</sup> **You took up the tent of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan:** the images that you made to worship: / Point #11: it appears, they all came out of Egypt dragging their junk with them; traditions die hard, don't they? ;it is sobering to know: that 6-pointed star we see in the news today, is what Stephen was talking about! Things don't change much. Paul reminds us, when the time of the Gentiles comes to an end, then the house of Judah will once again be grafted on to the vine in the Lord's vineyard; until then, we in the Gentile church can respect the elder Jewish people;



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though we can always be amazed, they seem to still have a difficulty with OT verses like prophet Malachi who declared: **thus says the Lord: from the rising of the sun even to the going down of the same my name will be great among the Gentiles**; for My name will be great among the Gentiles, **so I will send you away beyond Babylon.**

**44 Our ancestors had a tabernacle of witness in the wilderness / a temporary tent, just as He who spoke to Moses, had him make according to the design he had seen,**

**45 and our patriarchs who came after brought it with Joshua when they disposed the nations, that God drove out before them, until the days of David / still the beloved king; and a man in pursuit of knowing God;**

**46 He found favor in God's sight, and desired to provide a dwelling for the God of Jacob /** read about it in: **2 Samuel 7.**

**47 But Solomon built him a house** / by the way when you read this, it just means he took the credit. Solomon probably never even lifted a hammer. Read: **1 Kings 2–11**. If Solomon was the smartest guy in the whole world, then he was definitely an idiot; a recalcitrant jackass, rebellious even to the Lord twice ignoring what the Lord told him; Solomon, who did evil in the sight of the Lord, finally died....

**Point #12: God built an oikos for David, and Solomon grew up in it.** Now we read, **Solomon built God a house...** an **oikos**. Of these verses, Professor Blaiklock of University College, Auckland, New Zealand wrote: That lovely tent, with its empty holy place... had been God's answer to the rebellion of Exodus 32, and was exquisite symbolism of all Stephen was preaching.

Stephen implies:

**Point #13: the temple was a royal whim,** tolerated by God. Such was the story of the people and their leaders, and resistance to God, persecution of the prophets; and violation of the real spirit of the Law ran like a muddy trail from one end to the other end of it.

**Point #14: Joseph, Moses, and the prophets have been rejected,** even as they rejected the Just One. The Hellenistic Jew had spoken.

**Point #15: NO holy land... NO holy house...** gave any men or women void of spiritual insight... the right to a higher claim of privilege. Again hear what Jesus said: **Your house is left to you desolate** – **Matthew 23.**

The night He was betrayed, Jesus said: In my Father's house are many dwelling places.

Said differently, we could say: **If anyone thinks that place is His Father's house, think again!**

Said differently, **Stephen says something like:**

**If there is a holy land, it ain't here; if there is a holy house, it ain't this!**

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By now, Stephen must have sensed he was not gaining anybody's favor, but was Theophilus still paying attention? Stephen continues... **Point #16:**

<sup>48</sup> **However the most High dwells not in naos made with hands** / to the end of the book of Revelation, the word: hieron: = the temple buildings: where Jesus taught; that word is **no** longer used. in Paul's letter: **Do you not know, you are the naos of the living God, and the Spirit of God dwells in you?** . John writes: **And I saw no naos therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the naos of it;**

as says the prophet **Point #17,**

<sup>49</sup> **Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what sort of house / what oikos... will you build Me? says the Lord: Point #18:**

**Or what will be My resting place / the topos ? -- Isaiah 66:1-2**

<sup>50</sup> **Did not My hand make all things?** / having answered all his accusers and peeling off their religious facade, and like the prophets of old, Stephen knows he was not going home... and courageously, yet respectfully erupts like a volcano, and incriminates them...



<sup>51</sup> **You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears, Point #19: you always resist the Holy Spirit: as your ancestors did, so you do also.**

<sup>52</sup> **Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecuted? They killed those who in the past showed of the coming of the Righteous One whose betrayers and murderers you are / now killing the Messiah who came: / remember, Luke wrote this, he was Jewish.**

<sup>53</sup> **who received the law by the direction of angels, Point #20: and did not guard it /** they neglected the job God assigned them to do;

<sup>54</sup> **When they heard these things, they were enraged, and gnashed their teeth at him.**

<sup>55</sup> **But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed firmly to heaven, and saw the Glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God / suddenly Stephen saw what Abraham saw,**

<sup>56</sup> **and Stephen said, Look, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right of God.**

<sup>57</sup> **Then the enraged religious mob, yelling insanely loud, covered their ears, and together rushed against him.**



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<sup>58</sup> They dragged him out of the city, and stoned him as the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man, whose name was Saul.

<sup>59</sup> And they stoned Stephen, as he called on God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

<sup>60</sup> And he knelt down, and shouted with his last breath,

Lord, do **not** hold **this sin** against them.

And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

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