



Introduction

Stephen annoys the Jews by summarising their rebellious history (v 2).

They then stone him to death.



Questions

1. What did God tell Abraham about the future of his offspring?
2. How did God help Joseph when he was sold into Egypt?
3. What did the people say to Aaron when they thought that Moses had abandoned them?



Summary Points

- **v 1 to 43** Stephen replies to the high priest by showing that many of God's dealings with the Jews didn't involve the temple and were very often outside the land of Israel:
 - v 2 to 8 God appeared to Abraham in Mesopotamia. After living in Haran, Abraham moved to the land of Israel
 - v 9 to 19 First Joseph and then Jacob's whole family ended up in Egypt. They were eventually mistreated and became slaves
 - v 20 to 43 Moses tried unsuccessfully to deliver them from slavery. God appeared to Moses in the wilderness of Mount Sinai and worked with him to deliver them. They soon, however, rejected Moses and worshipped idols
- **v 44 to 50** Stephen then comments that God doesn't live in man-made structures like Solomon's temple
- **v 51 to 53** He says they are just like their fathers who repeatedly persecuted God's prophets, culminating in their murder of Christ
- **v 54 to 60** Stephen, before being stoned (see theme) sees Jesus in heaven standing at the right hand of God

Timeline AD 60 (see below)



Theme

God's principles can be very unpopular

A selection of verses showing that this theme runs consistently through the Bible.

The psalmist tells us that the righteous can expect problems from the wicked:

Psalm 37 verses 12 to 14, 71 verse 4

Jesus Christ tells us that his followers can expect to be unpopular:

John 15 verses 18 to 20

The apostle Paul says that followers of Jesus should expect persecution:

2 Timothy 3 verse 12

The apostle John says that this unpopularity should not be a surprise:

1 John 3 verse 13 |



LC1 Answers to questions

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 5 and 6, Q 2: v 9 and 10, Q 3: v 40

Bible timeline

