

## Power to Witness in Word and Deed

*The Book of Acts*

### Acts 7:20–43

The first part of Stephen’s sermon (Acts 7:1–19) covers centuries of Israel’s national history. The second part of his sermon covers a mere eighty years of one man’s life: the life of Moses.

#### Read Acts 7:20–43.

1. One of the charges against Stephen is “blasphemy against Moses” (6:11). While Stephen’s purpose is not to defend himself, how do his words show his respect for Moses?

Stephen gives significant attention to the life of Moses to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of Moses’ prophecy, “God will send you a prophet like me from your own people” (v. 37).

2. Use the chart below to see how God uses the life and ministry of Moses, Israel’s deliverer, to point forward to Jesus, the ultimate deliverer.

	Moses	Jesus Christ
Into what political situation was the deliverer born?	7:18	Lk. 2:1–5
How does God feel about his people and their situation?	7:34	Gal. 4:4–7
Surprisingly, “out of” what country did the deliverer come?	7:17, 20–22	Mt. 2:13–15
What horrific event threatened the life of the newborn deliverer?	7:19	Mt. 2:13–18
How was the deliverer uniquely prepared for his role?	7:20b–22	Luke 2:39–41, 52

	Moses	Jesus Christ
Where did the deliverer have to go to be prepared for his ministry?	7:29–30	Mt. 4:1–2
What redemption was the deliverer to bring?	7:34, 36	Gal. 4:4–7; Col. 1:13–14
What accompanied the deliverer's ministry that verified he was sent by God?	7:36	Acts 2:22
What did the deliverer bring to the people?	7:38	Jn. 6:63, 68
What kind of reception did the deliverer receive when he stepped into his role?	7:25–28, 35, 39	Jn. 1:11
How did Israel mistreat and reject the deliverer?	7:38–41; Ex. 32:7-9	Acts 7:51-53

3. Moses fulfilled his role as deliverer. What spiritual problem does Stephen highlight that shows the need for an ultimate deliverer? (vv. 39-43; Jn. 7:19a)
  
4. In the lives of both Moses and Jesus, we see God fulfilling his promises and working out his plan in the midst of painful/tragic circumstances, serious failure, and overwhelming odds. In hindsight we can see that God used the very things that looked like deterrents to his plan to actually bring it about. How do these stories about God's faithfulness encourage you in your own story?