

The Story Continues

Acts 7:17-43

Stephen's threefold purpose ...

(1) To defend himself against charges of blasphemy.

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- (1) To defend himself against charges of blasphemy against God, Moses, the Law, and the Temple.
- (2) To confront the Jewish leaders with their sinfulness in rejecting Jesus.
- (3) To proclaim Jesus as the promised Messiah and Savior of the world.

Hebrews 11:24-26

"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; 26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward."

Hebrews 11:27

"By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible."

Deuteronomy 18:15

"The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken."

Acts 3:23

"And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people."

2. Israel's Rejected Law

Hebrews 4:12

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Deuteronomy 32:47a "For it is not a vain thing for you; because it is your life: ..."

Exodus 23:20-21

"Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. 21 Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him."

Exodus 23:22

"But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries."

2. Israel's Rejected Law

1. Don't reject the One God sent to save you.

2. Don't reject the Word God has given to guide you.