

Stephen's Defence: The Call of Abraham

Acts 07:01–08

1 *Stephen on trial —
defended himself*

2 *The birth of Israel:
The promise to Abraham —
an inheritance and a possession*

- a. The God of glory called Abraham
- b. God promised a land for an eternal inheritance — if Abraham would give up his old life for the “promised land”
- c. God promised the land, but as a future inheritance not a present possession
 - 1) God never gave Abraham any land
 - 2) God did not give Abraham a son until he was 100 years old
- d. God told Abraham “his descendants” would be “strangers” on earth
 - 1) Would be enslaved
 - 2) Mistreated for 400 years
- e. Abraham's faith would be rewarded: God would deliver “his descendants” and bring them to the promised land to serve God
- f. God assured Abraham with a covenant, with the covenant of circumcision

- 1 Then the high priest asked him, “Are these charges true?”
- 2 To this he replied: “Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran.
- 3 ‘Leave your country and your people,’ God said, ‘and go to the land I will show you.’
- 4 “So he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. After the death of his father, God sent him to this land where you are now living.
- 5 He gave him no inheritance here, not even a foot of ground. But God promised him that he and his descendants after him would possess the land, even though at that time Abraham had no child.
- 6 God spoke to him in this way: ‘Your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years.
- 7 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves,’ God said, ‘and afterward they will come out of that country and worship me in this place.’
- 8 Then he gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. And Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him eight days after his birth. Later Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs.