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Stephen's Speech, Response

Stephen goes into this speech with extraordinary boldness and insight into the word of God and its ancient texts, as he begins to address his hostile audience, he makes excellent allusions to the fathers of Israel's history. Not only did Stephen show a scholarly aptitude for the ancient texts, but he also showed the correct exegesis to the chronological order of his speech. It is as if Stephens was in a meditative inspired trance as he spoke to the potential hostilities that were being breathed towards him as he spoke the revelation that was being developed in their ears and eyes. Stephens was speaking like a fiery sword that was beginning to penetrate the hearts and minds of that present Hebrew culture. Once you stand your ground and begin with Abraham, the father of Israel's faith and you show the clarity of deep understanding that opens the scriptures even to the hardest unbelievers.

The attention given to Stephen from the traditional wisdom culture of Israel was unprecedented. Stephen takes his audience through the most detailed interpretive journey of Scripture that the eyes and minds and ears of all those attentive listeners, trying to find fault in Stephen's words were irresistibly opened to feel and see the revelation of every word Stephens spoke. The attempts to find a fault in his words by the authorities at that time were useless; The Holy Spirit had taken over the atmosphere and the entire arena. He proceeded to build the purpose of his speech by telling his audience the detailed sequence of events that began to penetrate and touch the internal nerves of the authorities of Israel as Stephen continued to speak.

He pointed out the jealousy that Joseph's brothers had against Joseph and how they sold him into Egypt as a slave. But God had other plans for Joseph as God put Joseph in favor of the Pharaoh of Egypt and rose Joseph to prominence for the purpose of the preservation of the nation of Israel. Stephen then leads toward the Prophet Moses and Moses' encounter with God on mount Sinai. He appealed to the scholars and the doctors of the law to remember the ancient texts when Moses said to the Israelites, God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers, this prophecy, Stephen distinctly pointed out to awaken the consciousness of that present audience that Jesus whom they crucified and denied, was and is that Prophet that Moses was talking about. Stephen's methodology and Hermeneutics of scripture were spot-on and powerful, to say the least. Stephen would be considered Wise a man of intense insightful wisdom of the word of God, even if Stephen would have been living in the times of the ancient Torah, the scholars of that time would have considered Stephen a man of great wisdom and knowledge of the ancient texts. He stood his ground and chronologically spoke of The Prophet Joshua, King David, and King Solomon. Stephen spoke of the hardness of the hearts of the people of Israel in the times of the ancient fathers mentioned here, and now he unleashes in the power of the Holy Spirit the Sword that pierces the heart and souls of the people present. "You stiff neck people uncircumcised of heart and ears, you always resist The Holy Spirit as your fathers did so do you". Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the righteous one (Jesus who rose from the dead) whom you have now betrayed and murdered.