"In Defense of the Faith" Acts 7:1-53

- I. The God of Glory revealed to Abraham (v. 1-8)
 - A. Abraham's relationship with God was by grace
 - B. Abraham's relationship with God was by faith

"Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness." (Genesis 15:6)

- II. Joseph was a foreshadowing of Jesus (v. 9-16)
 - A. Like Joseph, Jesus was betrayed
 - B. Like Joseph, Jesus was rescued by God
 - C. Like Joseph, Jesus was given a place of honor
 - D. Like Joseph, Jesus the source of <u>salvation</u>
- III. Moses predicting the coming prophet like himself (v. 17-40)
 - A. Like Moses, Jesus was born at a time of <u>distress</u>

"The people walking in the darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the shadow of death, a light has dawned." (Isaiah 9:2)

- B. Like Moses, Jesus was saved as an infant
- C. Like Moses, Jesus ministry began with God's presence

"And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17)

- D. Like Moses, Jesus was sent to save people from slavery
- E. Like Moses, Jesus is the mediator between God and man

"Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them." (Hebrews 7:25)

F. Like Moses, Jesus was rejected by his own people

"He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:11-12)

- IV. The people of Israel despised the temple they loved (v. 41-50)
 - A. They turned to idol worship
 - B. They revered the temple more than <u>God</u>

C. They settled for ritualistic worship

"He replied, 'Isaiah was right when he prophesied about your hypocrites; as it is written: 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men." (Mark 7:6-7)

- V. The people of Israel stubbornly resisted God (v. 51-53)
 - A. They refused to <u>listen</u> to the Holy Spirit
 - B. They rejected Jesus, the Messiah

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." (Acts 2:36)

C. They disobeyed the law of God

"And he said to them, 'You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!" (Mark 7:9)