INTRODUCTION:
A. Most heresy arises from an improper interpretation and application of the Bible.
   1) The Jewish leadership had missed the signs that Jesus had given.
   2) They would not listen.

B. The defense of Stephen puts together, in a condensation, the intent and plan of God.
   1) Stephen begins with Abraham
   2) He concludes with David

I. Our Father Abraham         Vs. 2
   A. God appeared unto Abraham       Vs. 2
      1) "appeared" = hoptoma = "to look", "to see"
      2) He was not in Harran, but Mesopotamia

   B. God spoke to him            Vs. 3
      1) There were three dimensions to his command
      2) Country, kindred, come into a land

   C. Abraham obeyed God          Vs. 4
      1) "He came out of the land of the chaldeans"
      2) He removed him to this place
      3) "removed" = meitoikizo = "to lead to another abode"

   D. Abraham never received the inheritance   Vs. 5
      1) Heb. 11:13, "Not so much as one foot"

   E. God had a plan foreordained and predestined.
      1) Vs. 6, They would live in a strange land
      2) Vs. 7, God would judge that nation
Gen. 17:10
      3) Vs. 8, The covenant of circumcision was a sign between God and Abraham. It was not a sign that they were subject to the law
Ex. 31:13
      4) Their sign of subjection to the law was the keeping of the Sabbath. This was a public sign, the other private.

II. The Sons of Abraham         Vs. 8b
   A. Isaac begat Jacob
      1) Jacob begat the patriarchs
      2) Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs
B. Joseph, sold into Egypt  Vs. 9
   1) "envy" = xeloo = "to be jealous"
   2) Emphasis on God's protection  Vs. 10
   3) God's providence  Vs. 11-17
   4) "The time of the promise drew near, God multiplied His people in Egypt. Why?"
   5) It created a crisis  Vs. 18-19

III. Moses Was Born  Vs. 20
A. Moses was born in a time of crisis
   1) God created the crisis, by multiplying the Jews and Pharoah's death.
   2) At the same time He was preparing the one who would solve it.
   3) God is not ignorant of any situation, He prepares men and people for His work.

B. Moses was cared for providentially  Vs. 21
   1) "Pharoah's daughter took him up"
   2) "nourished him for her own son"

C. Moses was learned  Vs. 22
   1) "learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians"
   2) "mighty in words and deeds"

D. Moses was aware of his people  Vs. 23
   1) "when he was full forty years old"
   2) "it came into his heart to visit his brethren"

E. Moses was aware of his purpose  Vs. 24-28
   1) He saw one of his brethren suffer wrong
   2) Moses defended him and killed the Egyptian
   3) He thought they knew his purpose  Vs. 25
   4) They resented and rejected him  Vs. 26-28

F. Moses fled from Egypt  Vs. 29
   1) Moses fled to the land of Midian
   2) He began his family there

IV. The Beginning of Moses' Ministry  Vs. 30
A. God appeared to him in the burning bush
   1) It was in the wilderness of Sinai
   2) He had been out of Egypt forty years
   3) This gave time for his brethren to forget

B. God spoke to Moses  Vs. 31
   1) "the voice of the Lord came unto him"
   2) "He saw the burning bush"
   3) God used, "signs and wonders"

C. God identified Himself  Vs. 32
   1) "I am the God of thy fathers"
   2) Abraham, Isaac & Jacob
   3) He was a Holy God  Vs. 33
D. God had seen His people suffer  Vs. 34a
   1) "I have seen"
   2) "I have seen the affliction of my people"
   3) "I have heard their groaning"

E. God commissioned Moses  Vs. 34b
   1) "And now come and I will send thee to Egypt"
   2) "to be a ruler and a deliverer"  Vs. 35

F. God used Moses  Vs. 36
   1) "He brought them out"
   2) There were, "signs and wonders"

G. Moses wrote of Jesus  Vs. 37
   1) He was to be like unto Moses
   2) He would do, "signs and wonders"
   3) He would be a deliverer and a ruler

H. God gave the law through Moses  Vs. 38
   1) The messenger spoke on Mount Sinai
   2) "who received the living oracles to give unto us"

V. Israel's Response to the Ministry of Moses  Vs. 39
A. They would not accept his work
   1) "To whom our fathers would not obey"
   2) "thrust him from them"
   3) "and in their hearts turned back to Egypt"

B. They took up idolatry  Vs. 40-41
   1) They requested Aaro to lead them
   2) They made a calf
VI. God's Response to Israel    Vs. 42
A. God turned from them
   1) "Then God turned"
   2) "And gave them up to worship the host of heaven"
   3) The prophets wrote of it
   4) Amos 5:25

B. God carried them into captivity    Vs. 43
   1) "I will carry you away beyond Babylon"
   2) We have not escaped God's judgment"

VII. Israel Had a Witness to God    Vs. 44
A. They had the tabernacle in the wilderness
   1) They could not say they had no witness
   2) "Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness
   3) "as he had appointed"
   4) "according to the fashion he had seen"

B. They had a witness in the promised land    Vs. 45
   1) Joshua brought it into the land
   2) God drove out the Gentiles

C. Under the Kings they had a witness
   1) David desired to build the Temple    45b-46
   2) Solomon built it    Vs. 47

VIII. God Did Not Dwell in the Temple    Vs. 48-50
A. Hands cannot fashion a dwelling place for almighty God!
   1) Vs. 48
   2) God's dwelling is the universe    Vs. 49

B. God had prepared all things
   1) Vs. 50
   2) How could you possibly believe that God is threatened by what
      Stephen is preaching?    Acts 6:14